

Thesis abstract

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*Provenance and Technology of Colour-coated Ware Pottery from Nea Paphos on Cyprus
(from the late 4th to the 1st century BCE)*

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Colour-coated ware (CCW) comprises the dominant type of Hellenistic fine ware pottery unearthed during the excavations in Nea Paphos. A number of different forms and fabrics can be distinguished within this category based on macroscopic examination. This differentiation has been assumed to reflect various production centres on the island and beyond. The preliminary archaeological and chemical analyses suggested that CCW was produced in Nea Paphos during the Hellenistic period. The aim of this dissertation was to verify this hypothesis and to distinguish local and imported fabrics. Moreover, in order to investigate the links between the organisation of production and manufacturing technology and social, economic and cultural factors, this research focused on the reconstruction of the manufacturing processes involved in the production. These objectives were achieved by combination and integration of the macroscopic and typological analysis with the archaeometric analysis. A total of 164 samples were subjected for the following laboratory analyses: refiring tests, chemical and petrographic analyses, and scanning electron microscopy.

This research demonstrated that one group of CCW pottery was produced in the Paphos region. The presumed local production shows several variants of the same fabric and high variability of forms repertoire. The vessels assigned to this group dominate the pottery assemblage in Nea Paphos and they are also found at other sites in the region. Moreover, this study confirmed that similar CCW vessels forms were available in different fabrics at the same time. It was possible to define seven major Fabric Groups, characterise them and to propose production centres for most of them. Furthermore, the results of this research indicated links between the changes identified within the local CCW production and the fine ware distribution to political, cultural and social changes, as well as technological advancements.

This study not only presents new important information relating to the production and distribution of CCW in Nea Paphos, but also demonstrates the advantage of the integration of the traditional approach to pottery studies with laboratory analyses and shows what kind of questions can be answered through this methodology.

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