



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Fifteen Years of Excavations by the Saudi-French Project in Hegra: An Overview of Local Ceramic Production

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Abstract

The site of Hegra was excavated between 2008 and 2023 by a Saudi-French team. The results highlighted the long occupation of the site, from the mid-first millennium BCE to the mid-first millennium CE. The study of the ceramic material has yielded a collection of over 120,000 sherds, including more than 4,200 diagnostic sherds. Based on a technical analysis of the fabrics (macroscopic examination) and a typological study, it was possible to determine that more than 90% of the assemblage was produced locally. During the whole occupation period, local ceramic production followed a strong local tradition. Although Nabataean influence is detectable during a short period through the production of fine wares, common productions continue to evolve following the local typology. As a result, an unbroken typo-chronology has been established, showing how the local vessel types evolved autochthonously through times. The evolution of fabrics has also been observed, from red and porous in the early periods to reddish-brown and sandy during the Nabataean period, gradually changing to the distinctive greenish fabric of the later periods. This paper will present an overview of these local productions, from the Lihyanite occupation of the site to its abandonment around the late 4th-early 5th century CE.

Keywords

Northwestern Arabia, Hegra, Local pottery production, Fabrics, Typology

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