



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Across the River, into the Oasis. The ceramic production of the Middle Amu Darya and Bukhara Oasis in the Late Antiquity

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Abstract

The region of Transoxiana is referenced in a number of official inscriptions as a territory that was incorporated into the conquests of the first rulers of the Sassanid dynasty. The consolidation of central Sassanid authority, if it ever occurred, was inherently unstable. The region was subject to the same dynamics that affected Central Asia during the Late Antique period. Local polities and nomadic populations emerged, as did the Chionite, Kindarite, Hephtalite and Western Turkic political formations, with which the Sassanid rulers were often in conflict.

This paper will examine the impact of these dynamics in the Middle Oxus Valley and the Bukhara Oasis, adopting a material culture perspective with a particular focus on ceramic production. The study will commence with an examination of the current state of archaeological research and ceramic production in the region. It will then focus on the ceramic corpus from the MAFOUB excavations in the Bukhara oasis, which have yielded ceramic assemblages from contexts dating back to the Late Antiquity. Subsequently, the principal characteristics of these repertoires, as well as the potential cultural contacts they reflect and their relationships with the productions of neighbouring areas during the Late Antiquity period, will be outlined.

Keywords

Bukhara Oasis, Middle Amu Darya, Material Culture, Pottery, Late Antiquity

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