



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Pottery and society at Mersin-Yumuktepe, Turkey, between the seventh and the fifth mill. BC

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Abstract

Ceramic vessels incorporate different skills related to their technical production, functions and stylistic features. These elements should be comprehensively analysed to interpret phases, territories and social relations in a way that transcends the simple dichotomy of imported or local production. Data from the site of Yumuktepe, Turkey, are used here to define the different role of pottery vessels in the Early Neolithic, Middle Chalcolithic and Late Chalcolithic settlements. In these three phases, pottery vessels were the diagnostic element that was most sensitive to the external influences and internal social variations at the start of each new phase highlighted by the architecture. In general terms, a growing degree of standardisation could be observed in the pottery production in every new phase, as regards the decoration and the range of shapes and sizes, elements that converge upon a few distinct classes. As for style, the type of tableware changed each time in a somewhat radical and showy way while maintaining the same representation rates in the respective repertoires. This trend is interpreted as a symptom of an increasingly organised production associated with a steadily decreasing domestic connotation.

Keywords

pottery, Neolithic, Turkey, society

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