



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Provenance analyses of pottery based on sherds found in Tell Saq (al-Ula), Tayma and Qurayyah (NW Arabia)

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Abstract

Laboratory analyses were carried out to produce a precise description of the ceramic fabric and to classify pottery in terms of provenance as produced locally at al-Ula, at Tayma or at Qurayyah, or made at regional workshops, or acquired through long-distance trade. Laboratory analyses also aimed to recreate certain aspects of ceramic technology (recipes used in ceramic body preparation, original firing temperature and surface treatment).

The next step was to create a catalogue of lab-fabrics that would allow us to assess whether there is a specific macroscopic diagnostic parameter (or parameters) which could be used to distinguish pottery groups identified based on the results of laboratory analyses.

Laboratory analyses consisted of chemical analysis by WD-XRF, MGR-analysis and macroscopic classification of clastic material before and after refiring. Selected samples were subjected to thin-section studies in a polarising microscope, and a scanning electron microscope. Analysis of mineralogical phases was done by Raman and X-ray diffraction. Additionally, physical ceramic properties were estimated and original firing temperatures were determined using K-H analysis.

The analysed pottery originates from collaborative projects of the German Archaeological Institute at the sites of Tayma, Qurayyah, and Tell Saq with the Heritage Commission respectively the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU).

Keywords

archaeometry, provenance, pottery

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