



## How to find us

The conference will be held in the lecture hall of the Austrian Archaeological Institute at Athens

Sponsored and organized by:



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Photo on front page  
K.-V. von Eickstedt, Potter at Siphnos 1992

## The Distribution of Technological Knowledge in the Production of Ancient Mediterranean Pottery

Pottery is generally considered as one of the most important and fruitful sources of archaeological research. But it is often merely confined to a categorization in terms of shape, function, and origin, thus reducing pottery to a marker of chronological sequences or trade. In this way pottery is hardly connected to human practise and human-ceramic-interaction and its implications are rarely considered. In the last twenty years or so, technological studies of pottery have flourished but the social dimensions of its production (and its links to circulation and consumption) are still underdeveloped. By tracing changes in technological knowledges and choices, a praxis-oriented study of pottery can allow significant insights into non-material aspects of the different life worlds, mutual influences, and interactions.

The conference aims to examine closely the dynamic object-human-interaction in the production and consumption of pottery by tracing changes of technological choices in the archaeological record. We believe that more light can be thrown on the human actor behind the pot by analysing the use of knowledge necessary to manufacture pottery (e.g. the acquisition of appropriate raw materials or the accomplishment of certain procedures), or by reconstructing habitualized processes and their implicit knowledge in production and consumption. On the basis of concrete examples from the ancient Mediterranean and beyond we want to discuss how and by whom knowledge is distributed and adopted, under which political, ideological, social, cultural, and economic conditions such a process can happen or is rejected, to what extent the diverse corpora of knowledge may have influenced each other, and how changes may or may not be related to external inspirations. Change, emulation or modification should hereby not be viewed only in light of evolutionary-progressive or functionalistic profit-orientated paradigms. Only under specific conditions changes in the technological choice or habitualized consumption depend on factors such as efficiency or competitive capability, while social and cultural concepts and needs often play a far more essential role. An interaction of social, ecological, economic, and political parameters, therefore, has to be taken into account. The analysis of specific case studies will hopefully illustrate how technological innovations in pottery production were dealt with in the specific contexts and whether uniform patterns or general schemes exist, bridging geographical, chronological or political boundaries.

By a balanced presentation of theoretical aspects and a critical examination of case studies, we hope to better understand the dynamics and the settings of changes of technological knowledge in the pottery production, the way potters were dealing with external or internal inspirations, and how local corpora of pottery knowledge might have interacted in the world of the Ancient Mediterranean and beyond.

# Programme

## Friday, 23rd November

09:00 - 09:45 Registration

Kilns

09:45 - 10:00 Welcoming (Georg Ladstätter)

14:30 - 15:00 Ian K. Whitebread/David Dawson: Kiln Construction and Use in Greece: Communicating Technical Knowledge

10:00 - 10:30 Introduction (Walter Gauß/Gudrun Klebinder-Gauß/  
Constance von Rüden )

15:00 - 15:30 Anno Hein/Susanne Prillwitz: Kilns and Firing Technology in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: Evidence from Tiryns and Comparable Kiln Sites

10:30 - 11:00 Break

Theory, Historical Background, and Ethnoarchaeology

11:00 - 11:30 Constance von Rüden: Embodied Knowledge, Skill, and Materiality

15:30 - 16:00 Break

Wheel, Networks, and Mobility

11:30 - 12:00 Helmut Schneider: Innovations in Ancient Technology: Preconditions and Contexts

16:00 - 16:30 Valentine Roux: Craft Specialization: The Necessary Condition for the Adoption of the Potter's Wheel

12:00 - 12:30 Olivier Gosselain: Shaping a Technical Tradition in South-Central Niger: Social, Historical, and Ecological Factors

16:30 - 17:00 Ina Berg: Skill and Learning Networks: Acquisition, Maintenance, and Transmission of Technological Knowledge in Bronze Age Aegean

12:30 - 14:30 Break

17:00 - 17:30 Notes/Comments/Discussion (Chair: Susan Pollock)

## Saturday, 24th November

Levant - Middle Bronze to Early Iron Age

14:30 - 15:00 Sarah Strack: The Post-palatial World of Potting: Regional Responses to Changing Social Frameworks

09:00 - 09:30 Marco Iamoni: Pottery Production during the Third and Second Millennium BC in Western Syria: The Development of the Ceramic Technology as a Result of the Rise of Qatna as Regional Capital

15:00 - 15:30 Break

Aegean and Egypt - Archaic to Roman

09:30 - 10:00 Ann Killebrew: Early Philistine Aegean-Style Pottery Technology: Implications for the Transmission of Technical Knowledge during the Late Bronze - Early Iron Age Transition in the Eastern Mediterranean

15:30 - 16:00 Gudrun Klebinder-Gauß/Sarah Strack: 'An Aeginetan Potters' Workshop in Athens?

10:00 - 10:30 Ariane Jacobs: Plain Ware Technology: Mass Production and Regionalism in Late Bronze Age Cyprus

16:00 - 16:30 Connor Trainor/Peter Stone: Winners, Losers, and Survivors of Roman Imperialism: A Case Study from the Northern Peloponnese

10:30 - 11:00 Break

Aegean - Middle Bronze to Early Iron Age

16:30 - 17:00 Mandy Mamedow: Imports and Imitations: Greek Presence in Egypt and Greek Influence on Local Pottery Industries in Hellenistic Times

11:00 - 11:30 Walter Gauß/Evangelia Kiriatzi/Michael Lindblom: Ceramic Technology Transfer in the Middle and Early Late Bronze Age at Kolonna, Kythera, and Lerna

17:00 - 17:30 Break

Italy - Late Bronze and Early Iron Age

11:30 - 12:00 Jeremy B. Rutter: Ceramic Technology in Rapid Transition: The Evidence from Settlement Deposits of the Shaft Grave Era at Tsoungiza (Corinthia)

17:30 - 18:00 Elisabetta Borgna/Sara T. Levi: Handmade and Plain Wares in Late Bronze Age Italy and the Aegean: A Comparative Evaluation of their Technology, Modes of Production, and Social Contexts

12:00 - 12:30 Maria Choleva/Bartolomej Lis/Štěpán Růckl: Mobility in the Bronze Age Aegean: The Case of Aeginetan Potters

18:00 - 18:30 Alessandro Quercia: Production and Distribution of Greek-Style Cooking Wares in Areas of Colonial Contacts: The South Italy and Sicily Case

12:30 - 14:00 Break

14:00 - 14:30 Evangelia Kiriatzi: Technological Transfer and Craftspeople Mobility in Late Bronze Age Mediterranean: Beyond the Distinction of Local or Imported "Mycenaean" Pottery

18:30 - 19:00 Notes/Comments/Discussion (Chair: Susan Pollock)

## Sunday, 25th November

The Western Mediterranean and the North

09:00 - 09:30 Ines Balzer: Technological Innovations in Pottery: Examples from Celtic "Princely Sites" (6th-4th Century BC) of Continental Europe

10:00 - 10:30 Dirk Paul Mielke: Between Transfer and Interaction: Phoenician Pottery Technology on the Iberian Peninsula

10:30 - 11:00 Break

09:30 - 10:00 Anne-Marie Curé: Wheel-made Pottery and Socio-economic Changes in Indigenous Societies of Mediterranean Gaul during the Early Iron Age

11:00 - 13:00 Final Discussion (Chair: Susan Pollock)