
‘To Each His Own’. The Pottery Production of the Bronze Age site of Mursia (Pantelleria, Sicily). Some Technological and Functional assessments.

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Abstract

This poster aims to show the preliminary results of a techno-functional analysis of the pottery assemblages identified in the Bronze Age settlement of Mursia (island of Pantelleria, Sicily) (1750-1450 B.C.).

The material culture of the settlement is mostly represented by handmade and unpainted ceramic artifacts. In this work, among the large amount of vessels, with different sizes and shapes, only three pottery categories have been selected as representative case-studies: *cups*, *handled goblets and ladle cups* (drinking vessels), *pedestal bowls* (table vessels) and *jars* (storage or cooking ware).

To overcome the traditional typological classification based on the shape of the vessels, specific technological and morphometrics parameters have been considered in order to highlight the variability and the possible function of the vessels.

The technological aspect has been focused on the description of fabrics, modes of manufacturing, surface treatment and cooking conditions; whereas the morphometric parameters concern the ratio between diameter and height of the vessel (Index of Depth), the presence, type and position of the handles, the profile of the rim, the configuration of the bottom, etc. The analysis took into consideration only the vessels preserved in a way to define the entire shape, in order to evaluate their dimensional and measurable attributes and their capacities. The construction of different capacity classes allowed the identification of different groups of vessels that share similar features and thus are suitable for similar purposes.

This new approach will allow to enhance the *multi-functionality* of wares (one single vessel can be used for different purposes), and their *interchangeability* (the single action can be realized using different vessels).

Pottery assemblages and their location in the domestic spaces are important evidence that allow the identification of different activities, the reconstruction of daily life and deeper insight into the cultural identity of the inhabitants of Pantelleria in the Bronze Age.

Keywords: Bronze Age, Pottery Production, Functional Analysis, Technological Analysis, Vessels, Mursia, Island of Pantelleria, Cultural Identity

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