

KARIN SCHMIDT

Fabrics of Pantelleria (Cossyra)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The study of local pottery production on Pantelleria is still incomplete. Although a wide array of articles dealing with morphology, function, production, fabrics and archaeometry of the island's ceramics have been published since the 1980s, particularly during the last ten years,¹ almost all concern production during the Roman period (after 217 B.C.E.). We still lack the local production series from the Punic period.²

On Pantelleria pottery production has a long tradition. Excavations of Bronze Age settlements (e.g. Buggeber and Mursia) have yielded significant ceramic manufacture, but not wheel-made.³ Recent archaeological excavations at the top of the Acropolis of Pantelleria (S. Teresa)⁴ provide evidences for local pottery production on the island since around the mid 7th century B.C.E.⁵ The lack of pottery from the 15th to the 8th century B.C.E. seems to suggest a break in the local production between the Late Bronze Age and earliest Punic occupation of this island, i.e. the late 8th century B.C.E.⁶

The term of *Pantellerian Ware* was introduced in 1984 by P.D.S. Peacock for a Late Roman handmade ceramic class found in Carthage/Salammbô with petrographical, mineralogical and chemical clay-characteristics of this island:⁷ *"The ware is black, sometimes varying to reddish buff (Munsell 5YR5/3) inside. The surfaces are smooth and sometimes show evidence of weak burnishing. The fracture is markedly hackly with numerous ill-assorted angular inclusions of feldspar ranging up to about 1mm across. In thin section, the field is dominated by angular fragments of feldspar which was identified as sodic microcline, a variety of anorthoclase. In addition occasional rounded fragments of lava with a trachytic texture, and some greenish obsidian are present. Ferromagnesian minerals are rather rare but a few small grains of aegirine were observed."* This pottery assemblage, from the 4th and 5th century C.E. at Carthage, refers to kitchen wares with a very limited morphological repertoire consisting of pots, pans, casseroles, bowls and lids.

Archaeological evidence from the underwater site 1 of Cala Tramontana⁸ at Pantelleria and from Sabratha⁹ (late 3rd and 2nd century B.C.E.) have shown that Pantellerian Ware was exported to the Central and Western Mediterranean from no later than the late-3rd century B.C.E. onwards. Their export increases in the late 1st century B.C.E. and culminates somewhere in the 4th to 6th century C.E. (North Africa, Spain and Balearic Islands, France, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Italy and Malta).¹⁰ In particular the finds from Sabratha show quite a large morphological repertoire of handmade wares and also wares made by the use of a slow turntable, once again consisting mainly of cooking vessels.¹¹ The clay, when mixed with

¹ For an overview and further references see: Peacock 1984, 8–10; Santoro Bianchi et al. 2003, esp. 61–70; Santoro Bianchi 2005a; 2005b; Baldassari 2009a–c; 2012; Schmidt 2013a; 2013b. For the archaeometric research, see: Montana et al. 2005a; 2005b; 2007; Grifa et al. 2005.

² Santoro Bianchi 1998.

³ Santoro Bianchi et al. 2003, 15–18.

⁴ University of Tübingen and Matera in cooperation with Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali ed Ambientali di Trapani. Excavation: Schäfer et al. 2013; Survey: Almonte 2013.

⁵ Schmidt 2013b, cat. 5–6, regarding fragments of *tabouna* and pans/pots.

⁶ Contributions of Bechtold 2013a, 2013b and Schmidt 2013a, 2013b.

⁷ Peacock 1982, 78–80; Peacock 1984, 8–10 fig. 3; Fulford 1984, 155–59 figg. 55–6. For discussion of the date see 157–8.

⁸ Baldassari 2012, 194. 199 fig. 1; 9, 32–4, Pantelleria, Cala Tramontana.

⁹ Dore 1989, 215–30.

¹⁰ For a distribution-card see Peacock 1984, fig. 3. For more finds from Carthage from an Early Imperial deposit see Ortisi 1999, 449. 476 fig. 15, 319–29. For Pantellerian Ware from Sabratha dating to the mid 2nd to 1st century B.C.E. and later see Dore 1989, 216–30 figs. 59–66.

¹¹ Dore 1989, 216–30 figs. 59–66.

volcanic sand, becomes resistant, which explains its special affinity for this category of pottery.¹²

While the island's ancient clay sources are known (Contrada Serraglio, Fossa del Russo, and Favara Grande for reddish clay; Mount Gibeles for whitish clay), so far no Punic kiln has been found, although excavations in Scauri, a small settlement of the 2nd to early 6th century C.E. on the south-western coast of Pantelleria, yielded a pottery kiln of the Roman period. The relevant quantities of local pottery dating from the 4th to 6th century C.E. from the settlement and from underwater sites excavated in the harbour (e.g. a shipwreck of the first half of the 5th century C.E.) clearly demonstrates that Scauri was an important center for the production and export of cooking vessels, i.e. Baldassari's *Scauri Ware*.¹³

Finds from the Cossyra Acropolis Excavation and Survey (supra n. 2) now allow us to define a broader morphological repertoire, mostly produced by the use of the slow wheel. In addition to well-known cooking ware forms, we find imitations of North African and Italian casserole, plate and lid form types (Hayes form 194, *orlo bifido* form¹⁴, Pompeian Red Ware). Other sherds relate to domestic and fine wares –e.g. plates, bowls, beakers, small and large jugs, sometimes covered by with a thin red or reddish-brown slip (e.g. jugs may be imitations of *terra sigillata* or African Red Slip). We also find imitations of Thin Walled and Black Glazed Wares (without slip, but plain or smoothed surfaces), in addition to coarse ware shapes –e.g. *pithoi/dolia*, *tabouna* (ovens), small and large braziers and *thymiateria*. By contrast, they seem to have produced amphorae only occasionally,¹⁵ preferring instead locally made lamps, plates, or cups, as well as imported items.

Moreover, the variety of fabrics appears to be more widespread than previously thought. Apart from the distinctive shared mineralogical temper of Pantellerian clay (supra), its texture, structure, colour and surface treatment all can differ.¹⁶ While the research program of the German-Italian Mission is still in its initial stages, we will eventually add to our knowledge of Pantellerian fabrics and types¹⁷.

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

Transport amphorae (COS-A-1)

COS-A-1 (M 119/125) shows a yellowish-red matrix with grey core. The texture is granular and very coarse, characterized by the presence of fine to large inclusions, white mica and vughy shaped voids. Specifically, we find rounded to very angular, elongated clear and white particles, black, grey and greenish volcanic inclusions, reddish-brown and black iron oxid concretions, small to large, rounded to subrounded, whitish calcareous inclusions and a few pseudomorphoses. It has been identified in one amphora probably derived from Ramón's T-7.1.1.1 from a mid 3rd century B.C.E. level excavated on the Acropolis. A very similar fabric has been used for COS-C-1 (infra).

¹² Baldassari 2009, 92.

¹³ Baldassari 2007a, 41–51; 2007b, 107–25; 2009a, 91–106; 2009b, 125–36; 2009c, 361–68; Santoro Bianchi et al. 2003, 35–51; Montana et al. 2007, 460 Abb. 1–3; Marazzi and Tusa 2007; Tusa et al. 2009. The ancient settlement of Scauri is situated not far from the clay sources.

¹⁴ For Early Roman Cooking and Black Top Ware see Hayes 1972, 207 fig. 36; 1976, 93–5; Massa 2013.

¹⁵ See FACEM – <http://facem.at/cos-a-1>, M 119/125. See also Bechtold 2013b, cat. 52 for an example from a mid 3rd century B.C.E. context.

¹⁶ Descriptions of fabric type A from Scauri (4th to 5th century C.E.) and fabric B from the Acropolis (Roman Imperial contexts) can be found in Santoro Bianchi 2005b, 329. See also the results of archaeometric analysis of finds from Misenum/Italy, where 'different fabrics' belong to the 'Pantellerian-clay-group' Grifa et al. 2005, 69. 75. 83 (group 1). For samples from Pantelleria itself see Montana et al. 2007, 455–81.

¹⁷ A detailed article on the Pantellerian Ware from the Acropolis excavations is planned for vol. III of the Cossyra series.

Coarse wares (COS-C-1 to COS-C-3)

The microscopic analysis of seven samples from the Acropolis Excavations and from the Survey in the suburban territory at Pantelleria has led to the distinction of four fabrics which differ basically by their texture.¹⁸

COS-C-1 (M 171/20) corresponds to the characteristics established for COS-A-1. COS-C-1 has been observed in a base fragment of a cooking vessel from an Augustan context, excavated on the Acropolis.

COS-C-2 (M 171/4.8.12.13.18) shows a reddish to reddish-brown, sometimes very pale grey or pink matrix. The texture is middle fine to very coarse with numerous fine to large inclusions: mica and voids (vughy- and channel shaped), frequent clear, whitish or greyish, angular, elongated particles. Furthermore, black and grey, angular volcanic inclusions are frequent. Infrequent to frequent appear to be roundish, reddish-brown or blackish iron oxid concretions. Infrequent to very frequent are white and/or yellowish calcium carbonates and single to sporadic pseudomorphoses.

COS-C-2 has been observed in a pot (M 171/12), a jug (M 171/18) and a deep bowl (M 171/13) from a deposit attributed to the Augustan period (Acropolis) and, finally, in a deep bowl (M 171/4) and a casserole of 'orlo bifido' type (M 171/8) from the Survey.

COS-C-3 (M 171/25) differs from COS-C-1 and COS-C-2 basically in the absence of white calcium carbonate and pseudomorphoses. It shows a reddish to reddish-brown colour and a quite fine texture with very frequent black rounded to subangular volcanic inclusions, frequent clear particles, infrequent red or black rounded iron oxid concretions and singular yellowish inclusions. COS-C-3 has been observed in an undiagnostic fragment from a deposit dated to the middle of the 3rd century B.C.E. (Acropolis excavation).

REFERENCES

- Almonte, M. 2013. *Cossyra II. Ricognizione topografica. Storia di un paesaggio mediterraneo*, edited by Th. Schäfer, K. Schmidt, and M. Osanna. Tübinger Archäologische Forschungen 11. Rahden/Westfalen: Verlag Marie Leidorf.
- Baldassari, R. 2007. "I porti dell'isola di Pantelleria dall'età Punica al tardo antica; considerazioni e analisi dei materiali rinvenuti indagini subacquee." In Marazzi and Tusa 2007, 41-51.
- Baldassari, R. 2007. "L'insediamento tardo romano della baia di Scauri: prima analisi dei materiali rinvenuti." In Marazzi and Tusa 2007, 107-25.
- Baldassari, R. 2009a. "Il materiale del carico del relitto: analisi tipologica e quantitativa della ceramica locale da fuoco." In Tusa et al. 2009, 91-106.
- Baldassari, R. 2009b. "La ceramica comune da mensa e da fuoco." In Tusa et al. 2009, 125-36.
- Baldassari, R. 2009c. "Analisi della frequentazione del porto di Scauri nella prima e media età imperiale sulla base dei materiali ceramici rinvenuti." In Tusa et al. 2009, 361-68.

¹⁸ I am very indebted to the Soprintendenza BB.CC.AA. di Trapani for the sampling authorization.

- Baldassari, R. 2012. "Le anfore da trasporto e la ceramica." In *Archeologia subacquea a Pantelleria. "... de Cossurensibus et Poenis navalem egit ..."*, edited by L. Abelli, 191–211. Ricerche Series maior 3. Bologna: Ante Quem.
- Bechtold, B. 2013a. "Le anfore da trasporto da Cossyra: un'analisi diacronica (VIII sec. a.C. - VI sec. d.C. attraverso lo studio del materiale della ricognizione)." In *Almonte 2013*, 409–517.
- Bechtold, B. 2013b. "Evidenze materiali del coinvolgimento di Pantelleria nei traffici mediterranei in età preromana: Le anfore del saggio I (2005–2007)." In Schäfer et al. 2013.
- Dore, J.N. 1988. "Pottery and the History of Roman Tripolitania: Evidence from Sabratha and the UNESCO Libyan Valleys Survey." *LibSt* 19:61–85.
- Dore, J. 1989. "Part II: The Coarse Pottery." In *Excavations at Sabratha 1948-1951. The Finds II:1. The Amphorae, Coarse Pottery and Building Materials*, edited by M.G. Fulford and M. Hall, 87–248. Tripoli, London: Society for Libyan Studies.
- Fulford, M.C., and D.P.S. Peacock. 1984. *Excavations at Carthage: The British Mission I:2. The Avenue du President Habib Bourguiba, Salammbô. The Pottery and other Ceramic Objects from the Site*. Sheffield: JSOT Press, H. Charlesworth Ltd, Huddersfield.
- Fulford, M.G. 1984. "The Coarse (Kitchen and Domestic) and Painted Wares." In Fulford and Peacock 1984, 155-231.
- Grifa, C., A. Langella, V. Morra, and G. Soricelli. 2005. ">Pantellerian Ware< from Miseno (Campi Flegrei, Naples)." *Periodico di Mineralogia* 74:69–86.
- Hayes, J.W. 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*. London: The British School at Rome.
- Hayes, J.W. 1976. "Pottery: Stratified Groups." In *Excavations at Carthage 1975. Conducted by the University of Michigan I (1976)*, edited by J.H. Humphrey, 47-123. Tunis: Cérés Production.
- Marazzi, M., and S. Tusa. 2007. *Pantelleria I*. Salerno: Editrice Gaia.
- Massa, S. 2013. "Pantellerian Fine Ware e Pantellerian Cooking Ware 2000-2007." In Schäfer et al. 2013.
- Montana, G., I. Iliopoulos, and R. Giarrusso. 2005. "Pantellerian Ware: New Data on Petrography, Chemistry and Technological Properties." In *LRCW I. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry*, edited by J.M. Gurt i Esparraguera, J. Buxeda I Garrigós, and M.A. Cau Ontiveros, 425–35. *BAR-IS* 1340
- Montana, G., I. Iliopoulos, and M. Tantillo. 2005. "Establishing a 'Recipe' for Pantellerian Ware: Raw Materials Field Survey, Analysis and Experimental Reproduction." In *LRCW I. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry*, edited by J.M. Gurt i Esparraguera, J. Buxeda I Garrigós, and M.A. Cau Ontiveros, 437–50. *BAR- IS* 1340.
- Montana, G., B. Fabbri, S. Santoro, S. Gualtieri, I. Iliopoulos, G. Guiducci, and S. Mini. 2007. "Pantellerian Ware: A Comprehensive Archaeometric Review." *Archaeometry* 49:3:455–81.

- Ortisi, S. 1999. "Ein frühkaiserzeitlicher Keramikkomplex aus einem Schöpfbrunnen in Insula E117 West in Karthago." *RM* 106:439–93.
- Peacock, D.P.S. 1982. *Pottery in the Roman World: an Ethnoarchaeological approach*. London, New York: Longman.
- Peacock, D.P.S. 1984. "Petrology and Origins." In Fulford and Peacock 1984, 6–28.
- Santoro Bianchi, S. 1998. "La tradizione fenicio-punica nella Pantellerian Ware: il progetto di ricerca 1998-2000." In *Produzione e circolazione della ceramica fenicia e punica nel Mediterraneo: Contributo delle analisi archeometriche*, edited by E. Acquaro and B. Fabbri, 117–20. *Atti della 2 Giornata di archeometria della ceramica, Ravenna, 14 maggio 1998*. Bologna: University Press.
- Santoro Bianchi, S. 2000. "Pantellerian Ware: Il progetto di ricerca (1998-200)." *RCRFActa* 36:561-66.
- Santoro Bianchi, S. 2002. "Pantellerian Ware: aspetti della diffusione di una ceramica da fuoco nel Mediterraneo." *AfrRom* 37:990–1004.
- Santoro Bianchi, S. 2005a. "Ceramica di Pantelleria ("Pantellerian Ware")." In *La ceramica e i materiali di età Romana. Classi, produzioni, commerci e consumi*, edited by D. Gandolfi, 339-48. Bordighera: Istituto Internazionale di Studi Liguri.
- Santoro Bianchi, S. 2005b. "The Informative Potential of Archaeometric and Archaeological Cooking Ware Studies: The case of Pantellerian Ware." In *LRCW I. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry*, edited by J.M. Gurt i Esparraguera, J. Buxeda I Garrigós, and M.A. Cau Ontiveros, 327–39. *BAR- IS* 1340.
- Santoro Bianchi, S., and G. Guiducci. 2001. "Pantellerian Ware a Pantelleria: il problema morfologico." *RCRFActa* 37:171–75.
- Santoro Bianchi, S., G. Guiducci, and S. Tusa. 2003. *Pantelleria Ware. Archeologia subacquea e ceramiche da fuoco a Pantelleria*. Trapani/Palermo: Dario Flaccovio Editore.
- Schäfer, Th., K. Schmidt, and M. Osanna, eds. 2013. *Cossyra I. Ergebnisse der Grabungen auf der Akropolis von S. Teresa/Pantelleria. Der Sakralbereich*. Tübinger Archäologische Forschungen 12. Rahden/Westfahlen: Verlag Marie Leidorf.
- Schmidt, K. 2013a. "Importierte und lokale Gebrauchskeramik." In Almonte 2013, 531–610.
- Schmidt, K. 2013b. "Zur Chronologie des Sakralbereiches. Ausgewählte Fundkomplexe aus den Schnitten I und VIII." In Schäfer et al. 2013.
- Schmidt, K. 2013c. "Allgemeines zu den Keramikfunden von der Akropolis/S. Teresa." In Schäfer et al. 2013.
- Tusa, S., St. Zangara, and R. La Rocca, eds. 2009. *Il relitto tardo-antico di Scauri a Pantelleria*. Palermo: Regione Siciliana.

This paper should be quoted as K. SCHMIDT. 'Fabrics of Pantelleria (Cossyra)'. In FACEM (version 06/12/2013) (<http://www.facem.at/project-papers.php>)