

MARIA TRAPICHLER

Fabrics of Attic Black Glaze Ware

Sampling strategy

The definition of fabrics of the Attic black glaze ware is based upon the observation of the black glaze ware of different contexts of the Austrian excavations in Velia with the aid of a binocular microscope with a 40 × magnification.¹ Originally, four fabrics could be identified which went with specific Attic forms and often were connected with an extremely brilliant black glaze, and thus were supposed by archaeological considerations to be Attic. The previously distinguished fabrics are reorganized in **FACEM** as ATH-G-1 to ATH-G-3.²

The results of the archaeometrical investigations of 20 samples (thin section and heavy mineral analysis) showed a coherent group in two varieties which differed clearly from the local production of Velia and other Western Greek fabrics, like Paestum.

Description of observed fabrics

Most common among the observed fabrics is **ATH-G-1**. It is characterized by a fine yellowish red matrix, which is riddled with very small and regular carbonate-pseudomorphoses, sometimes visible only as tiny white spots; occasionally very tiny quartz particles and small black or red inclusions (iron oxide concretions) occur, the appearance of mica is not prominent.

ATH-G-2 (M 2/67) differs from the former fabric only by its larger and therefore better distinguishable carbonate pseudomorphoses.

ATH-G-3 stands out due to its very fine pale brown carbonatic matrix (M 2/21), in which the individual carbonate-pseudomorphoses are only occasionally distinguishable with some larger specimens, while some tiny orange-brown particles appear within the matrix (biotite?).

References

- Gassner V. 2003. Materielle Kultur und kulturelle Identität in Elea in spätarchaisch-frühklassischer Zeit. Untersuchungen zur Gefäß- und Baukeramik aus der Unterstadt (Grabungen 1987–1994). Archäologische Forschungen 8 = Velia-Studien 2, Wien: Verlag Akademie der Wissenschaften
- Trapichler M.E. 2003a. "Glanztonware klassischer Zeit aus der Unterstadt von Elea – Form und Produktion". In: Akten des 9. Österreichischen Archäologentages Salzburg, 6. –8. Dezember 2001, edited by B. Asamer, and W. Wohlmayer, 215–20. Wien: Phoibos.
- Trapichler M. 2003b. "Ceramica a vernice nera da Elea. Produzione locale ed importazioni". In Elea – Velia, Le Nuove Ricerche, Atti del Convegno di studi, Napoli, 14 dicembre 2001, edited by G. Greco, 199–210. Quaderni del Centro Studi Magna Grecia I. Naples: Naus.

This article should be cited as: M. Trapichler, "Fabrics of Attic Black Glaze Ware". In **FACEM** (version 06/06/2011) (<http://www.facem.at/project-papers.php>)

¹ For the applied method and some of the fabrics (published as G 2 and G 5) see also Gassner 2003, 39–40.

² Fabric G 5 published by Gassner 2003, table p. 346 color pl. 1 and fabric G 11 published by Trapichler 2003a, 208 were merged into ATH-G-1, recognized as varieties in color. Trapichler 2003b.