

VERENA GASSNER – MARIA TRAPICHLER

Fabrics of Korinthos (Corinth)

Introductory Note

For the definition of the fabrics attributed to the pottery production of Corinth we could rely exclusively on finds from the distribution area, in particular on samples from Velia on the Tyrrhenian Coast, comprising mortaria and amphorae. The provenience from Corinth has been contested by archaeometric analyses by Roman Sauer who compared the samples with the analyses of Whitbread.¹

(V. G.)

Coarse Ware

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

COR-C-1 The fabric is characterized by its pink, fine grained calcareous matrix. The inclusions consist of large angular dark gray particles as well as rust-colored and white particles in varying amounts.

Shapes: Mortaria (Gassner 2003, cat. no. IIa.190, pl. 23)

Chronology: Early Classical

(M. T.)

Transport Amphorae

Amphorae from Corinth were imported to Velia from the sixth to the fourth centuries B.C.E., to a minor degree also until the first half of the third century B.C.E.²

FABRIC DESCRIPTION

COR-A-1 The fabric shows a pink, fine grained calcareous matrix with smooth break. Most characteristic are large angular red and dark gray particles (clay clasts) that make the fabric easy to recognize. To a minor degree we also see white inclusions. Fabric COR-A-1 corresponds to the fabric COR-C-1 and has been correlated by Roman Sauer with Whitbread's fabric 'Corinthian A'.³

COR-A-2 This fabric has been identified in amphorae from Buthrotum that can be dated to the Archaic and classical period according to their morphological characteristics. It is very similar to COR-A-1, differing mainly in the brick red color of the matrix. The clay clasts are not so frequent and more often gray or grayish red instead of dark red like in fabric COR-A-1.

COR-A-3 The fabric corresponds to COR-A-1 in regard to the pink, fine grained calcareous matrix with a smooth break. It is, however, dominated by numerous white carbonate inclu-

¹ Whitbread 1995, 255–346.

² See Gassner 2003, 119–20; Gassner and Trapichler 2010, 164, 168, fig. 113.

³ See Whitbread 1995, 268–9. COR-A-1 corresponds to fabric A8 in Gassner 2003, 119–20.

sions, the angular gray and red particles being clearly visible, but much less frequent. Sauer compared the fabric to Whitbread's class 2 of the Corinthian A' amphorae.⁴

COR-A-4 The fabric is characterized by a fine calcareous matrix with poorly sorted inclusions. Among these we see small quartz inclusions and rather large angular inclusions in gray, black and red which show a very elongated form. According to the analyses of Roman Sauer, the fabric corresponds to Whitbread's class 2 of Corinthian A' amphorae.⁵ At Velia it was determined in an amphora from the second half of the fifth century B.C.E.⁶

COR-A-5 The fabric of COR-A-5 shows a fine, but whitish matrix and a very dense tempering, consisting of quartz and dominant dark gray inclusions. The representative sample M 6/104 comes from a Corinthian A amphorae of the Classical period.

The fabric has been attributed to the Corinthian production by the petrographic analysis of Roman Sauer.

(V. G.)

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 der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
- Gassner V., and M. Trapichler. 2010. "La ceramica di Velia nel IV e III sec. a.C.". In *Greco et indigènes de la Catalogne à la mer Noire*. Actes des Rencontres du Programme Européen Ramses 2 (2006–2008), edited by H. Tréziny, 159–66. Bibliothèque d'Archéologie Méditerranéenne et Africaines 3, Paris: Édition Errance.
- Koehler C.G. 1981. "Corinthian Developments in the Study of Trade in the Fifth Century", *Hesperia* 50:449–58.
- Marter J., and J. R. Leonard 1998. Storage Amphorae, in: J. C. Carter, *The Chora of Metaponto. The necropoleis II* Texas Press 1998, 731–55.
- Van der Mersch Ch. 1989. "Le matériel amphorique". In *Kaulonia Vol. 1. Sondages sur la fortification nord, 1982–1985*, edited by H. Tréziny, 90–109. Cahiers du Centre Jean Bérard 13. Naples: École Française de Rome.
- Whitbread I. 1995, *Greek Transport Amphorae: A Petrological and Archaeological Study*. Fitch Laboratory Occasional Papers 4. London: British School at Athens.

This article should be cited as: V. Gassner & M. Trapicler, "Fabrics from Korinthos (Corinth)". In **FACEM** (version 06/06/2011) (<http://www.facem.at/project-papers.php>)

⁴ Whitbread 1995, 272–3.

⁵ Whitbread 1995, , 272–3. The fabric has been published as A 22 in Gassner 2003, 346 annex 1.

⁶ M 6/14 comes from the theatre at Velia and can be dated by its morphological characteristics to the period of 460–440, see Koehler 1981, 456, pl. 99g; Van der Mersch 1989, nos. 492-93, fig. 65; Marter and Leonard 1998, 731–55, T 207-11; T 324-1, fig. 17,3. See also Gassner 2003, 113, Illa.27, pl. 42 for its appearance in a MGS I type.