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Pottery Production in the Bay of Naples

THE IONIC CUPS

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

The basis for the definition of the *fabrics* of the Ionic cups is the examination of 28 samples deriving from various contexts from the excavations in 2001 in the area of the “tempio con portico” conducted by the Università di Studi Federico II in Naples.¹

As expected, among the fragments of this late archaic, highly prestigious tableware a number of imports were found.² A local production at Cuma or in the Bay of Naples can only be assumed on the basis of technical and typological features³ and by comparison with *fabrics* of contemporaneous Banded Ware and Black Glaze Ware from Cuma.

Thus three different *fabrics* have been distinguished which can be attributed with some certainty to the area of the Bay of Naples. CU-IC-1 with characteristic bioclastic grains and foraminifera shows close resemblance to one of the most frequently observed *fabrics* of Fine Banded Ware of Cuma (CU-F-1),⁴ which belongs to the archaic period.

The light brown fabric CU-IC-2, which is riddled with carbonate-pseudomorph moulds, is comparable to the Black Glaze fabric BNAP-G-4, for which the archaeometric analyses, conducted on material from Cuma, made the provenance of the group from the volcanic area of the Bay of Naples very likely.⁵

The likewise light brown fabric CU-IC-3 can be compared to BNAP-G-9 which is characterized by the absence of carbonate-pseudomorphoses and by a high content of dark mica. Archaeometric analyses of BNAP-G-9 also suggest a provenance from the Bay of Naples.⁶

As the samples from Black Glaze Ware appear in contexts as late as the fourth/early third centuries B.C.E., the occurrence of comparable *fabrics* with Ionic cups would prove the continuity of the production and use of the same raw material from archaic to late Classical/early Hellenistic period.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OBSERVED *FABRICS*

BNAP-IC-1

¹ For contexts and shapes, see Tomeo 2009, 54–6; and Tomeo in this edition of **FACEM**.

² The greater part of the imported examples could be identified by means of comparison of *fabrics* established originally for Black Glaze Ware as import from Paestum (Facem Codes PAE-G-5 und PAE-G-7).

³ For a local production of Ionic cups in Cuma, see also Tubelli 2006, 50–1.

⁴ Archaeometric analyses (thin sections) were conducted by R. Sauer, for the description of BNAP-F-1 see Pottery Production in the Gulf of Naples, The Fine Banded Ware in this edition of **FACEM**.

⁵ The archaeometric analyses were conducted by V. Morra and his team, for the description of BNAP-G-4 see Pottery Production in the Gulf of Naples, The Black Glaze Ware in this edition of **FACEM**.

⁶ The archaeometric analyses were conducted by V. Morra and his team.

Reference sample: M 144/8; *further examples and variations:* M 144/12, M 144/13, M 144/25

Matrix: The fabric is light reddish brown (5YR6/4) with a light gray core (7.5YR-N/5), the fracture surface is smooth. The matrix contains a high amount of white and dark mica, which is recognisable in its characteristic cross-sectioned, very elongate shape, measuring up to 0,12 mm. Voids are comparatively frequent (estimated at 5%) and mostly irregular in shape, less frequent channel shaped, only singular examples measuring up to 0,7 mm.

Temper: Inclusions are rare (estimated at 2,5%). Characteristic are some fine to mid-sized white rounded, spherical to sub-elongate particles, measuring up to 0,5 mm, and singularly recognisable foraminifera (0,25mm). Black, and infrequently reddish brown, rounded and spherical to subspherical particles (probably iron oxide concretions) frequently occur. Small (max. 0,12 mm) dark and glassy particles (probably volcanic glass) are only sporadically visible.

Shape: Ionic Cup, type B 2

Chronology: sixth century B.C.E.

BNAP-IC-2

Reference sample: M 144/5

Matrix: The fabric is light brown (7.5YR6/4) and fine grained. The matrix is riddled with carbonate-pseudomorphoses (0,02 – 0,08mm) and dark mica, the very elongated bar-shaped cross section of which form a characteristic pattern. Voids are comparatively infrequent (estimated at 2,5 and 5%) and mostly irregular in shape (“vughy”) or channel shaped, some of them measuring up to 0,4 mm.

Temper: Inclusions are rare (estimated at 1%). Rounded spherical to subspherical white particles (probably precipitated calcite), measuring up to 0,15 mm occur infrequently. Fine spherical to subspherical, rounded to subrounded reddish brown and black subrounded to angular particles (probably iron oxide concretions) occur rarely. Individual rounded elongate bioclastic grains (0,42 mm) are also observable.

Shape: Ionic Cup

Chronology: sixth century B.C.E.

BNAP-IC-3

Reference sample: M 144/23

Matrix: The fabric is light brown (7.5YR6/4) and fine grained, the fracture surface is irregular. Voids are comparatively frequent (estimated at 5 to 7,5%) and mostly irregular in shape (“vughy”) and less frequently channel-shaped. The matrix is riddled with very fine black particles and contains a high amount of white and dark mica.

Temper: Inclusions are generally rare (estimated at 2,5%), their standard size being very small (only a few particles up to 0,2 mm). They consist of rounded, spherical to subspherical mostly black particles (probably iron oxide concretions). Very rare is clear angular and spherical quartz.

Shapes: Ionic Cup type B 2

Chronology: sixth century B.C.E.

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- Tomeo, A. 2009. "La ristrutturazione dell'area sacra a O del Tempio con Portico". In *Cuma. Indagini archeologiche e nuove scoperte*. *Atti della Giornata di Stud, Napoli, 12 dicembre 2007*, edited by C. Gasparri, and G. Greco, 43–72. Quaderni del Centro Studi Magna Grecia, 7. Studi Cumani, 2. Pozzuoli: Naus.

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