

WEST-PONTOS BLACK-GLAZED AND RED-FIGURED WARES: TOWARDS THE END OF THE ILLUSIVE ATTIC SUPREMACY?

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Keywords: Apollonia Pontica, Bulgaria, Greek pottery, black-glazed, red-figured, Kerch style, Classical period, Hellenistic period, determination of origin, lab results

Summary: A programme of XRF-analyses performed on a selection of b.g. and r.f. fine wares from Apollonia Pontica and from some other representative West-Pontic settlements has evidenced a far less dominant position of Attic imports than generally assumed as well as a redistribution of the other ones into several separate units. The most significant one predominantly gathers finds from the Kalfata necropolis and thus might well be ascribable to local or regional manufacture.

Cuvinte-cheie: Apollonia Pontica, Bulgaria, ceramică greacă, firnis negru, figuri roșii, stil Kerch, perioada clasică, perioada elenistică, determinarea surselor, rezultate de laborator

Rezumat: Un program de analize XRF făcut pe o serie de fragmente ceramice cu figuri negre și cu figuri roșii de la Apollonia Pontica și din câteva alte așezări nord-pontice reprezentative, a pus în evidență o poziție mai puțin dominantă decât cea acceptată în general pentru importurile atice, cât și o redistribuire a altor importuri în mai multe unități distincte; cea mai semnificativă adună în principal descoperiri din necropola Kalfata și, prin urmare, ar putea fi atribuită producției locale sau regionale.

The archaeometrical data already obtained on our range of ceramic products of West-Pontic Hellenic settlements, focused on the area Apollonia-Mesambria and extended northwards to Istros and Callatis¹, have been carried on and now include among the analysed samples some 161 specimens of black-glazed fine wares of Attic type, completed by some additional more elaborate ones of red-figured, West-Slope and even Kerch styles, covering the late Classical and Hellenistic periods. Measurements were performed by X-ray fluorescence analysis in the Lab for Archaeometry of the Maison de l'Orient in Lyon (CNRS-ArAr Lab) and the results obtained were submitted to comparative tests with those of both Attic and East-Greek references. The Attic ones amounted to 81 samples from both the Athenian Agora (21) and two external sites, viz. Megara Hyblaea (32) and Xanthos (28). As for the East-Greek range of local references, those from Ephesus, Pergamon, Çandarlı and Propontis were mainly involved due to the late Classical / Hellenistic date of our range of fine wares from the Apollonia-Mesambria area. The whole research programme was promoted by the French Archaeological expedition in Apollonia Pontica, headed by Dr. A. Baralis, under the *aegis* of the Musée du Louvre.

In the light of the data processing, it immediately appeared that, out of some 161 samples of black-glazed finds from the Apollonia-Mesambria area, 70 only proved to fit with our Attic references, that means 43.47% only.

On the dendrogramme of classification of chemical data (Pl. I), our Attic references appear, as usual, scattered unequally into several clusters [A-C, G] due to the fact that they cover a large interval of time, ranging from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period and also to the somewhat artificial clustering in the case of a too large dispersion of chemical pattern for a single element, as it is the case for the high calcium content in cluster G. Except a single one within cluster C, the majority of the Attic black- and red-figured samples are included within our main clusters A² and B, whereas most simple black-glazed ones are concentrated within cluster C with higher aluminium contents. Most of them were brought to light in urban contexts.

As for the remaining ones, they split into several distinct clusters of various origins. The most extensive one [E] gathers 30 samples, all from Apollonia, among which finds from the Kalfata necropolis, obviously intended as funerary offerings, are mostly represented³. The inclusion within it of an erratic sample from Megara Hyblaea appears by no means significant. Even if the chemical pattern of this cluster differs from the one gathering our samples of locally

¹ Dupont, Baralis 2014.

² Ending our cluster A on the right, there is still some doubt about the case in a marginal position of our samples APO 34 and 116 (= r.f. lekythoi), which may well in fact correspond to Pergamene imports, judging on the results of a further cross-checking with our Pergamon reference.

³ On the finds of painted pottery, see Hermary 2010; on those of black-glaze wares, Riapov, Damianov 2010.