

NOTE ON THE COMMON WARES FROM “PISTIROS”

Pierre DUPONT^a, Alexandre BARALIS^b, Alexey GOTSEV^c, Emil NANKOV^c,
Vyara PETROVA^d, Tsvetelina SLAVKOVA^d

^a ArAr Lab, Maison de l'Orient, Lyon, France ; e-mail : pierre.dupont15@orange.fr

^b Musée du Louvre, Department of Greek, Etruscan and Roman Antiquities, Paris, France; e-mail: Alexandre.Baralis@louvre.fr

^c National Archaeological Institute and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria; e-mails: alexaim@abv.bg, eh2@cornell.edu

^d Archaeological Museum of Septemvri, Bulgaria; e-mails: vp_m@abv.bg, tsveta_slavkova@abv.bg

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Abstract: Among the Greek pottery finds from the alleged Pistiros emporion, lab results have evidenced a Thasian origin for one half of the common wares brought to light.

Cuvinte-cheie: Pistiros, Tracia, ceramică greacă, secolul IV BC, articole de uz curent, determinarea originii, rezultate XRF

Rezumat: Printre descoperirile de ceramică greacă provenite din ceea ce se presupune a fi emporionul de la Pistiros, rezultatele analizelor de laborator au evidențiat o origine thasiană pentru jumătate din obiectele de uz curent scoase la lumină.

In a recent paper¹, having obtained a selection of samples of fine wares and transport amphoras from the alleged “Pistiros” emporion, we have indicated, through archaeometric data, their predominantly Attic (black-glaze) and North-Aegean (trade-amphoras) origin rather than that of a West-Pontic *facies*.

Thus, it appeared it would be advisable to extend these preliminary inquiries to the case of common wares brought to light concurrently, thus increasing the number of samples to 66 items. The aim of this enlargement was to test the share of those *a priori* of local manufacture, as interpreted by Jan Bouzek himself² and evidenced by the discovery of only one potter's kiln³.

Now, as reflected by the general dendrogram of the XRF analysed samples (Pl. I), the share of actual common wares themselves separated into two clusters [B] and [C], the chemical patterns of which appear *a priori* noncomplementary. Do we face here two distinct locally made variants or, at least one of them is an imported group? The question had at once to be asked, due to the inclusion within the largest of these two clusters of common wares ([C]), of two samples of roof-tiles (PST 15–16) for which a North Aegean chemical pattern had already been previously evidenced, as well as a third one from the upper part of an amphora of Thasian Circle aspect (PST 12)⁴, all three considered *a priori* by the excavators as locally made common wares.

Having obtained none of the samples of sherds collected from the context of the excavated kiln, and no samples from the local clay beds, we had to rely on comparisons with external reference groups, to determine the exact share of possibly imported groups in comparison with locally made ones.

Considering the dominant Attic share already obtained in the light of the data-processing of fine wares, we have also submitted common wares from Pistiros⁵ to comparisons with our references for Thasos and Maroneia.

The obtained comparative results, illustrated by the dendrogram (Pl. II), revealed for our samples of common wares from Pistiros a distribution into three separate entities. The first cluster [A] associates a little more than half of them with one of our Thasian reference-groups, also including some specimens of roof-tiles and architectural terracottas, thus gathering the imports from the North-Aegean sphere. It is also the case of a only one of our samples which has joined cluster [D3] gathering references for Maroneia.

Conversely, the remaining of our wheel-made common wares distributed between clusters [C] and [E], and including none of our reference samples from the North-Aegean sphere, may well be interpreted either as grouping locally made vessels or imported ones from an undetermined origin. As for the last small cluster of common wares [E], also not associated with any of our North-Aegean references, it consists of coarse cooking

¹ Dupont *et alii* 2025.

² Bouzek 2007.

³ Taneva 2013.

⁴ The fact that this upper part of an amphora was found within the remains of the only potter's kiln brought to light (Taneva 2013) cannot be considered as plainly conclusive, because such a find can well

be posterior to the period of activity of this potter's workshop and consequently not necessarily ranging among the local products.

⁵ Bouzek, 2010b.