

CERAMIC TECHNOLOGICAL TRADITION: WHAT FOR?

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This study examines the relationship between technology and social organisation. By the means of macroscopic, microscopic, ceramic petrological, X-ray diffraction, X-ray fluorescence and cathodoluminescence analyses this study investigates the relationship between ceramic technological practices and the possible ways that technological choices and the use of raw materials may be used to assess social relationships between people. Through the concept of technological style, this study aims to break boundaries between the functional and social nature of technology and argues that the two are inseparable and that together they form a culturally accepted product. The concept of technological style incorporates material selection, preparation and manufacturing and highlights the relationship between technology, manufacturing sequences and social production. The raw materials and techniques used during potting are considered to acquire a wide range of meaning during their manufacture and use. Ceramic technology is viewed as a process in which different social practices produce different kinds of social relations. It is through this process of interaction that technologies may be considered to create different categories of social relations. The technological choices and the possible meaning of these choices are investigated through Early and Middle Bronze Age ceramic technologies at a tell settlement of Százhalombatta, Hungary.