NEW PETROGRAPHIC DATA ON THE LATE PHASE OF THE LAECANIUS WORKSHOP

Tamás Bezeczky[1] – Maria A. Mange[2]

[1]*Institute for Studies of Ancient Culture, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Bäckerstrasse 13, PF 8 1010 Vienna, Austria*
[2]*Department of Geology, UC Davis, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA*

Dressel 6B amphorae, manufactured in the Laecanius workshop between 10-5 B.C. and 78 A.D. in Fažana (Istria, Croatia), producing about 10,000 to 12,000 amphorae annually, were analysed integrating archaeological and geological laboratory methods. Results were published recently by Mange and Bezeczky (2006, 2007).

There are three known phases of the figlina at Fažana, and its whole history can be read from the amphora stamps, from the stone inscriptions and from ancient written sources (Bezeczky, 1998; Tassaux, 2001): (1) From the end of the first century B.C. to A.D. 78 it belonged to the Laecanius family; (2) During the reign of Emperor Vespasian (A.D. 69-79) the last Laecanius died without an heir and the ownership was taken over by the Emperor Vespasian and there is record of its use during Hadrian; (3) Around the last third of the second century A.D. it is presumed that M. Aurelius Iustus rented the workshop.

Petrological analyses characterised the fabric, defined fabric categories, and identified the source of the raw material used in the manufacturing of the Laecanius amphorae during the first phase of the workshop (Mange and Bezeczky, 2006). The aim of our present study is to investigate the nature of amphorae produced during the late phases of the workshop. We continue employing the methods used in our previous study that includes macroscopic description, thin section petrography and heavy mineral analyses.

References

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