

INKA CERAMIC MANUFACTURE: IMPERIAL STANDARDIZATION, LOCAL PARTICULARITY AND IMPORTATION

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This archaeometrical research deals with the investigation of Inka Period (A.C. 1450—1535) pottery from Paria, an Inka administrative centre in Department of Oruro, Western Bolivia. Since this settlement was found in the Southern part of the great Inka Empire which is much less known than the heart of the empire (vicinity of Cuzco) the archaeological excavation going on here requires special attention. Paria was established at the intersection of two important imperial roads so it could play a significant role in the Inka Empire.

During the field excavations different archaeological types of pottery were found. There could be distinguished a classical Inka imperial type, a lower-quality type (Inka local and late pre-Inka style) and an outsider type of ceramics with different appearance.

The three years term archaeometrical investigation fulfilled a comprehensive petrological-mineralogical-geochemical analysis of a representative part (more than 300 pieces of pottery) of the ceramic assemblage. The main goal of the research was the comparison of ceramic types from the point of view of provenance and technology (fashioning, surface treatment, firing). It was an important question that it is possible or not to catch differences in the material of the archaeologically separated ceramics. This part of the study could provide information about the local and non-local raw materials of pottery and some potential sources in the vicinity of the archaeological site.

During the petro-mineralogical research there archaeological finds and local alluvial sediments and hard rocks (45 geological samples) were investigated. On the base of these fundamental results and applying a statistically valuable sample amount it was possible to utilize comparative geochemical (INAA, XRF) methods to confirm the petrographic classification. Investigation of technological aspects was fulfilled by XRD, SEM and EMPA methods.

On the basis of the petrographic observation of the Inka Period ceramics we could create three main petrographic group of pottery: the (1) volcanic/volcanoclastic derived type, the (2) sedimentary derived type and the (3) metamorphic derived type. The (1) petrographic type covers the Inka

imperial type ceramics, while the (2) group shows identity with the lower-quantity type and the (3) group with the outsider (non-local, imported?) type ceramics. According to their provenance it can be stated that the near-local volcanic/volcanoclastic formations of the area (5-30 km from the site) could be raw materials of the (1) petrographic ceramic group. The local (1-5 km from the site) Palaeozoic shales-siltstones-sandstones could serve to provide raw material for the (2) petrographic ceramic group. While the absence of really metamorphic rocks in the vicinity of Paria suggests that the (3) petrographic ceramic group could get here by commercial way.

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