

THE NON HOMOGENEOUS RAW MATERIALS IN PROTOHISTORIC POTTERY: THE IMOLA CASE STUDY COMPARED WITH OTHER PRODUCTION

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Prehistoric and protohistoric pottery is characterized by the abundance of temper and the non homogeneous composition. This coarse pottery, the so-called “impasto”, is the main production from Neolithic to Early Iron Age.

Archaeometric analyses of Bronze Age pottery (2nd millennium B.C.) from San Giuliano di Toscanella e Monte Castellaccio (Imola) show the use of very coarse raw materials with calcareous fragments, “Argillaceous Rock Fragments”, “Clay Pellets”, siltstones, and “grog”. This compositions appear mainly the result of the use of alluvial soils and no levigation.

We present the results of the comparison between Imola pottery composition and other the pottery produced in other contemporary Italian sites. The discussion focus of the similarities and the differences in these coarse productions. The other materials are from Broglio di Trebisacce (CS), Coppa Nevigata (FG) e Malta: they are produced in different geological areas but all characterized by a prevalent sedimentary composition.

The most common tempers are sedimentary rocks (siltstone, sandstone, calcite) e at Broglio di Trebisacce and Monte Castellaccio, Argillaceous Rock Fragments, at Coppa Nevigata, Malta, San Giuliano di Toscanella and Monte Castellaccio. Grog is abundant at Malta, San Giuliano di Toscanella and Coppa Nevigata.

We conclude with a discussion about a specific methodology for the study of compositional and structural aspects of these production, so different from the finer production of the historical phases.