

## A POST 79 A.D. COMMON WARE PRODUCTION FROM POMPEII (ITALY)

Grifa C.<sup>1</sup>, -- Langella A.<sup>1</sup> -- Morra V.<sup>2</sup> -- Soricelli G.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dipartimento di Studi Geologici ed Ambientali, Università del Sannio, Via dei Mulini 59/A  
82100, Benevento (Italia)

<sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, Università Federico II, Via Mezzocannone, 8 80134  
Napoli (Italia)

<sup>3</sup>Dipartimento di Scienze Umane, Storiche e Sociali, Università del Molise, Via de Sanctis,  
86100 Campobasso (Italia)

*Via Lepanto* site is one of the best examples showing how the *Pompeii* region was partially reconstructed, and early re-occupied, after the Vesuvius eruption of 79 A.D. This rural site was occupied from the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> until 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. The intense volcanism between late 5<sup>th</sup> early 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. could have caused a dramatic change in the settling patterns of this region, although literary sources indicate that this did not provoke any radical breaking off with the previous landscape.

The large amount of ceramic findings displayed the typology in use in this area between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.; most of the *amphorae* found in recent excavations came from North Africa, Spain and Eastern countries; the fine ware of local productions was an imitation of African ceramics; analyses were focused on two common ware ceramic productions: a table ware (28 samples) and a cooking ware production (23 samples); archaeometrical data were obtained using chemical and mineralo-petrographical methods (OM, XRD, XRF and SEM).

The common ware production was represented by food and storage sherds including the *Steccata*, *Dipinta* and the so-called *Pseudo-Sigillata* ware, the latter being a ceramic typology that maintained the stylistic pattern (shape and colour) of more ancient and valuable *Terra Sigillata* ware. Cooking ware production included shards of covers, pots and saucepans.

All the samples were manufactured using a non-calcareous clay (each table and cooking ware) with different proportion of volcanic temper in function of its domestic use; the only exception was represented by the *Dipinta* ware, characterized by a calcareous paste and no temper addition.

Volcanic temper was constituted by calcic clinopyroxene (diopside and salite), potassic feldspar (sanidine), pumices, scoriae; the latter sometimes showed leucititic modal composition.

Only one sample of cooking ware contained exotic volcanics in the clay matrix, constituted by large crystals of quartz, anorthoclase and sodic clinopyroxene (aegirinae); this sample belongs to the well-known *Pantellerian Ware* ceramic class, found and studied by the authors in other Late Roman sites of Campanian area.

Firing temperatures were estimated using either mineralogical or micro-textural methods; as far as illite-bearing samples are considered, a low stage of vitrification allowed to hypothesize a firing temperature of about 850°C. The occurrence of secondary diopside along with a continuous vitrification of the clay matrix (also showing small rounded pores) indicated higher firing temperatures (900°C).

Reference groups for all ceramic production can be attested comparing chemical data of the shards with some kiln refuses from a pompeian Roman furnace using bi- and multivariate data treatment.