

THE TWO SIDES OF THE GUADIANA: INLAYED POTTERY FROM 3RD MILLENNIUM BC ALONGSIDE THE GUADIANA RIVER (SPAIN AND PORTUGAL)

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Traditionally little attention has been paid to the decorating inlays of the 3rd millennium BC vessel (Bell Beakers within many other varieties of decorative motifs and themes are inlaid). Recently these inlays have awakened scholars interest as the result of new discoveries and methodologies applied to their study, which includes the proposals of production models and the estimation of firing temperatures of the vessels based on the physico-chemical transformations of the inlaid material (Odriozola and Hurtado, 2007; Odriozola and Martínez-Blanes, 2007).

Pottery inlays can be made of several raw materials *-ie.* Bone, calcium carbonates (limestone, shells), kaolinite, etc.-, till nowadays the distribution of this *fashioning techniques* are restricted to differentiated geographical areas in Iberia, whereas calcium carbonate is distributed in the Meseta Central, Meseta Norte, and Guadalquivir Valley, and bone in the Spanish Guadiana River Middle Basin.

Along the Iberian Copper Age period several social or settlement networks have been proposed *-ie.* Perdigões, Reguengos de Monsaraz, Portugal (Valera, 2006) or Tierra de Barros, Badajoz, Spain (Hurtado, 1995, 1999). Our goal will be to determine the technological relationships between them based on the study of pottery inlays, as apart of a larger research project (GRICES-CSIC a collaborative research framework between Spain (CSIC) and Portugal (GRICES)) focus on technology production and consumption in both sides of the Middle Guadiana Basin that is actually under development.

In this paper we study the technological choices referred to inlay processes by physico-chemical analysis (micro-XRF, XRD, and FTIR) in order to explore collective technical identity patterns alongside the Guadiana River *-ie.* raw material selection and firing modes-, comparing the production technology choose by these two geographically constraint neighbour settlement networks of Perdigões and Tierra de Barros (Our case study Perdigões and Tierra de Barros neighbour settlement networks are facing one to another and separated by the Guadiana River). As a result of the study of technical identity we can engage the result of these fashioning techniques with social boundaries within the archaeologies of landscapes.

References

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