

POTTERY AND PIGMENTS FROM THE I.E. EXCAVATIONS IN THE FORUM OF POMPEI

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Over the last few years, the University of Venice has been involved in the study of the finds retrieved by 1980/1981 stratigraphic excavations carried out in the eastern side of the forum of Pompei (so called i.e. excavations). While study of the bulk of the ceramic material is still in progress, an interesting group of complete vessels, still containing abundant quantity of different pigments, has been object of interdisciplinary research. A typochronological approach to the study of these ceramic containers has been combined with chemical analysis and scientific characterization of their fabric and content.

In addition a comparison has been made between the identified pigments and the analyzed traces of ancient colourings found on some ceramic objects (from the same excavation area) such as terracotta figurines, moulded tiles and architectonic decorative elements. The final aim was to understand to what purpose the pigments were used and why they were contained in small ceramic vessels (in back glaze and plain coarse ware) normally used in religious rituals, or as table ware. The data acquired throw interesting light on local production of painted decorative objects and technologies employed and the results of integrated research will be fully presented and discussed within their context.