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Pottery to the people. The producttion, distribution and consumption of decorated pottery in the Greek world in the Archaic period (650-480 BC)

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Introduction to the Tables to chapters XV, XVI and XVII

The graphs in the following tables offer a synthetic presentation of often large pottery assemblages from clear spatial and functional contexts. Every presentation of this kind involves leaving out and simplifying of information, and placing items in strict categories, which do not always fit perfectly. On this page and the next, I will introduce some of my choices and categories, and give an impression of what these tables do and do not show.

Apart from a few special cases, every assemblage is presented by at least two general graphs, showing the total pottery finds, divided by use of vessels and kinds of decoration. The material from larger, multi-period assemblages is also presented in 50 year-blocks, and sometimes information about provenances is included as well, in separate graphs. It should be noted that the superimposed pairs of graphs with, respectively, 'decoration' and 'function' on their horizontal axes, offer exactly the same information, but from a different perspective.

The detailed data for each assemblage, to the level of single items, can be found on the CD-rom in the back cover of this volume (format MS Excel 2000). Many of these catalogues also include (a part of) the non-ceramic items from the same assemblages, and pottery from periods not or only partly shown in the printed graphs. In addition, the CD-rom offers the printed tables in pdf/Adobe Acrobat format.

The pottery in my tables can be classified according to provenance, date, form of decoration and function of the vessel (based on its shape). In the following I will list the possibilities and their meaning.

Provenance

Attic and Corinthian should be self-evident. Other includes both imports (often East Greek wares) and local fabrics. In the detailed catalogues on CD-rom, specific provenances are noted.

Dating

Dates are of course approximate, and the use of standard 25 (in the catalogues) and 50 year periods can lead to crude simplifications. I have place items in the block that covers them best, down-dating if they fall exactly in the middle. So 540-520 ends up in 550-525 or 550-500, but 530-520 in 525-500 (or 550-500), just like 525. To put it differently, the category 550-525 really means 550-526, and 550-500, 550-501.
LG = Late Geometric, PA is Proto-Attic, PC = Protocorinthian, EC is Early Corinthian, MC Middle Corinthian, LC Late Corinthian. For convinience's sake, I have used Payne's dates for the Corinthian periods, which makes them fall into neat quarter centuries. In reality, these dates are at least five or ten years too early.

Decoration

I have used the following abbreviations:

WG	white ground polychrome decoration
BF	black figure, with depictions of human or animal figures
RF	red figure, with depictions of human or animal figures
si	simple decoration: floral or abstract (geometric) patterns, without figures
BG	black gloss and banded pottery, including those with rays around the base
co	plain and coarse pottery, and banded or simply decorated transport amphorai
?	unclear or unknown

Plastic vessels or vessels with figurative relief decoration are classified with black or red figure.
West Slope pottery (WS) is classified with simple decoration, unless figured.
Argive Monochrome and bucchero are classified as plain, unless they have an elaborate incised decoration (simple or figured).
Stamped black gloss pottery with shallow patterns is classified with black gloss.
Vessels decorated in red, white or black paint on the gloss (Six-technique, added white etc.) are classified in the category whick looks most similar, black figure, red figure or simple decoration.

Function/use

As also explained in section XV.3, I have grouped specific shapes in groups of vessels with a similar function, using the following categories:

drinking; associated with drinking; eating; associated with eating; luxury household; small oil containers; ritual; light; kitchen equipment; cooking pottery; washing; various; unknown

On the following page, I list some examples of typical shapes for each category. It should be noted that some less definite shapes, like bowls, can occur in different categories depending on details of shape and decoration or find context,

Shape and function, some examples:

drinking	associated with drinking	eating	associated with eating	luxury household
mug	amphora	one handler	stemmed dish	kotyle pyxis
skyphos/kotyle	stamnos	plate	saltcellar	lekanis pyxis
kyathos	pelike	fish plate	small bowl/dish	pyxis
mastos	psykter	bowl	saucer	pyxis lid
cup	hydria		large bowl	tripod pyxis
cup-skyphos	krater		tray	kothon/exaleiptron
bolsal	column krater		lekanis	epinetron
stemless	calyx krater		lekanis lid	kalathos
one handled cup	volute krater		fruit stand	
kantharos	bell krater			
cup-kantharos	dinos			
bowl	oinochoe			
chalice	olpe			
lakaina	jug			
rhyton	stand			
small oil containers	**ritual**	**light**	**kitchen equipment**	**cooking pottery**
lekythos	phiale	lamp	lekane	chytra
squat lekythos	thurible	multiple lamp	lekane stand	stew pot
conical oinochoe	plaque/pinax		bowl	griddle
plastic vase	miniature vessels		wide bowl	lopas
alabastron	Panathenaic amphora		carinated bowl	lopas lid
aryballos	louterion		basin	eschara
amphoriskos	loutrophoros		spouted lebes	eschara stand
askos	lebes gamikos		hydria	frying pan
	altar		kados	shallow brazier
	ring askos		strainer	deep brazier
	kernos		funnel	barrel cooker
			pestle	cooking plate
			mortar	cooking stand
			bean parcher	prop/lasana
storage pottery	**washing**	**various**	**unknown**	
transport/storage amphora	bath tub	stand	fragment	
pithos	louterion	baby feeder	small vessel	
storage bin	louterion stand	baby's commode	wall fr.	
storage bin lid		lid	rims	
storage jar		spool	handles	
storage jar lid			bases	
			shoulder/neck	
			spout	

IMPORTANT FINAL NOTE: most of the following graphs were designed in full colour. Due to the high expense of colour printing, most of the copies of this study are in black and white. In this black and white version, many details of the graphs do not appear clearly. I apologise for this, and note again that the full colour versions of the graphs can be found on the enclosed CD-rom, in both MS Excel 2000 and Acrobat/pdf format.