

WORKSHOP

Pottery in Archaeology. From archaeometric analysis to social aspects of Bronze and Iron Age Pottery in Northern Oman

June 4th, 2024

PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

10.30–11.00 Piotr Bieliński,
"Pots and People" – The Social Aspect of Pottery Production and Usage

The development of archaeometric ceramology over the past decade has significantly enhanced our understanding of the various technological and material aspects of pottery production in the past. However, research on pottery, especially concerning "illiterate cultures," has not fully utilized this category of archaeological sources to gain a better understanding of the culture of the producers and users, primarily of ceramic vessels. A good example of this can be seen in the metrology of vessels, which includes not only their capacity but also their basic dimensions. Such studies can enable attempts to identify local or regional forms of "standardization" of dimensions and capacities (if such existed within the studied communities) as well as to establish the territorial ranges of such standardization patterns. There is also considerable informational potential in creating categories of vessels from the perspective of their presumed functional uses at the household level and determining the degree of typological complexity within the studied community. These purely archaeological activities, which naturally include the analysis of possible decorations, when combined with archaeometric data, will enrich our understanding of the ancient communities we study.

11.00–11.30 Maciej Sobczak,
Macroscopic analysis of Umm an-Nar pottery from Ain bani Saidah Bronze Age settlement

Pottery material from Ayn Bani Sa'dah from early bronze age sites obtained during excavation in 2016-2022 was analyzed macroscopically. The material has been analysed in terms of macroscopic, metric, basic petrographic, technological and decorative aspects. This allowed the characterisation of the pottery assemblage from the Umm an-Nar period at the site.



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11.30–12.00 Łukasz Rutkowski,

Preliminary Analysis of Pottery from an Umm an-Nar Period Tomb (QA 1-1) at Ayn Bani Saidah, Oman

This presentation offers a preliminary analysis of pottery excavated from the Umm an-Nar period tomb QA 1-1, located near the village of Ayn Bani Saidah in northwestern Oman. The study is in its early stages, focusing on the morphological and technological characteristics of the ceramic assemblage recovered from half of the tomb. The presentation will showcase the types of pottery identified so far, highlighting interesting cases of painted decoration and differences in surface treatment among the vessels.

12.00–12.30 Samiya al Sakshi,

Bronze Age sites from Sultanate of Oman: pottery of Umm an Nar period from Dahwa settlement

12.30–13.00 Mateusz Iskra, Barbara Woronko, Katarzyna Zalewska, Tomasz M. Kossowski,
Results of archaeometric analysis of Iron age pottery from Ain Bani Sa'dah QA 20 and QA 21 sites

Two sites that were part of a larger settlement complex located close to Ayn Bani Sa'dah village provided a rich and diverse ceramic assemblage that was used for further analytical studies. Twenty-seven sherds representing all the macroscopic groups found at the site were selected for the analysis. The aim of the petrographic and geochemical investigations was to determine and characterise local ceramic products and to estimate the scale of pottery import.