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THE LOCAL PRODUCTION OF FINEWARE TABLEWARE CERAMICS IN HISTRIA (DOBROGEA, ROMANIA) IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF ARCHAEOMETRIC RESEARCH. THE PRELIMINARY STUDY

Abstract: The article presents the results of petrographic, chemical (SEM-BSE, EDX) and isotopic (Sm-Nd isotopes) analyses of twelve samples of ceramics from Histria. The samples were selected from examples of vessels exhibiting comparable macroscopic characteristics to those observed in ceramic matzo. The group comprised examples of vessels identified in the literature as potential local examples and others exhibiting clay features combined with the aforementioned group, which had not previously been indicated as products of the Histria workshops. The research yielded insights into the characteristics of the clay mass of the vessels. Furthermore, an attempt was made to relate the results to previous work conducted in this field in Histria. The research conducted on a limited test group was preliminary and aimed to ascertain whether the petrographic and chemical characteristics corroborate the standard features documented at the macroscopic level and to evaluate how the archaeometric analyses may shed new light on the subject of local pottery production in Histria. The applied methods enabled the characterisation of the raw material and the distinction of two groups of ceramic mass, designated as A and B, which suggests disparate sources of clay acquisition.