
THE OLD POTTER'S ALMANACK

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This October issue of *The Old Potter's Almanack* presents two stimulating papers. The first, by Ester Lunardon, unveils the chaîne opératoire of the Iron Age potters at the northern Italian site of Castion Di Erbè. The second, by Cristian Eduard Ștefan, focuses on the rare evidence of ceramic bases with vegetal impressions at Neolithic archaeological sites.

Lunardon applies a systematic approach, using traditional and scientific techniques (macro-observation and X-ray radiography), to examine the forming techniques of a variety of Iron Age ceramic shapes, always considering the morphology and possible vessel function. The author discusses in detail the importance of using the two methods, and in particular how X-ray radiography can detect precisely the coils and joints, and help in identifying the primary forming techniques of the pots, in contrast with secondary forming techniques. Finally, she also illustrates how to identify the paddle-and-anvil technique, and its 'technical continuity' with metallurgical production.

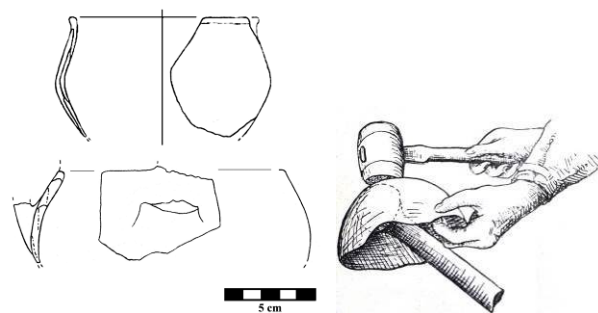
The second paper presents macroscopic analyses of the vegetal impressed patterns on vessel bases from the Romanian site of Șoimuș-La Avicola (Ferma 2). To try to identify the plant species used to make the mat on which the pots were probably dried, the author undertook an experiment using local club-rush. Although the patterns obtained through this experiment do not match the Neolithic weaving patterns, the author widens the case-study, noting that similar weaving patterns were detected at other sites of the 6th and 5th millennia BC. Some of these patterns are surprisingly complex. This indirect evidence of weaving is particularly significant in the Balkans; although Neolithic spindle-whorls are recurrent finds, organic material (including textiles) is almost entirely absent.

I hope you will enjoy this issue.

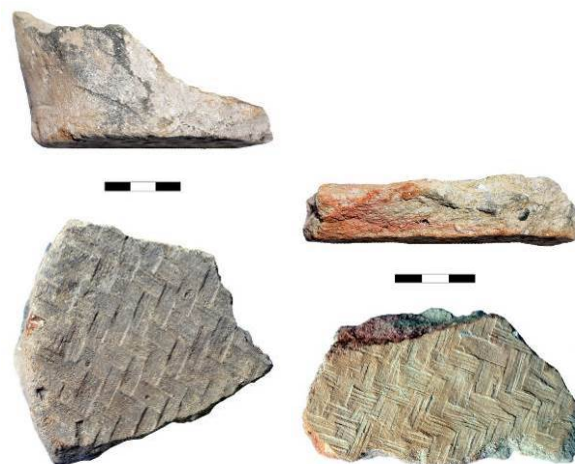
Michela Spataro

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