

# THE OLD POTTER'S ALMANACK

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this issue of *The Old Potter's Almanack*, which includes papers focusing on Bronze Age ceramics, technological ceramics and historic clay tobacco pipes.

In the first paper, Van Thienen and Herremans discuss European clay tobacco pipes from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Using a new approach, they emphasise the importance of polarised light microscopy in examining the technological aspects of clay pipe production, and how scientific evidence can complement historical and archaeological sources.

In the second paper, Korokhina focuses on Late Bronze Age ceramics from two sites, Hlyboke Ozero-2 and Bondarykha-2, in the Siverskyi Donets River region, in Eastern Ukraine. She discusses forming techniques and clay processing, using macro- and microscopic analyses. Her results show both change and continuity in technological tradition, which she interprets as evidence of possible migrations and contacts with distant communities.

In the third paper, Dong, Ma and Wang discuss the results of thin section, SEM-EDX and CT scanning of technical ceramics, soils, and sherds, collected at the recently discovered casting workshop at Yaoheyuan (Pengyang, Ningxia province, China). As well as opening new questions, the analytical results suggest that the moulding technique might have been adapted to the locally available soils.

Finally, Cartwright, Freestone and Middleton write a heartfelt obituary for Ann Woods, sharing stories and recounting her impact on ceramic studies and the Ceramic Petrology Group. Ann was a passionate scholar of archaeological pottery, who founded the Experimental Firing Group, wrote a variety of articles and a seminal work for archaeologists, *Prehistoric Pottery for the Archaeologist* (with Alex Gibson 1990; 1997).

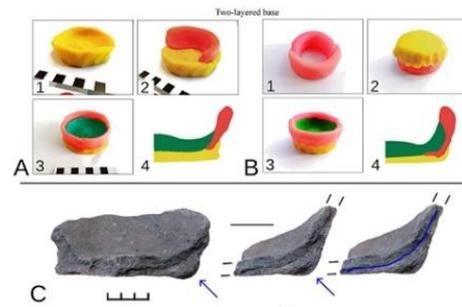
Michela Spataro

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Reconstructing the production process of clay tobacco pipes with thin section petrography*  
Vincent Van Thienen and Davy Herremans Page 2



*Notes on the cultural process in the Late Bronze Age final stage in Eastern Ukraine. Insights from ceramic technology*  
Anastasiia Korokhina Page 12



*Scientific analyses on technical ceramics from Yaoheyuan, Ningxia. The approach of understanding technological choices in a remote bronze-casting workshop*  
Yiyan Dong, Qiang Ma and Quanyu Wang Page 27



## OBITUARY: Ann Woods

Caroline Cartwright, Ian Freestone and Andrew Middleton Page 36

## CONFERENCE DIARY

Page 38