

Iċ-ċeramika u x-xhieda arkeoloġika

Iċ-ċeramika hi prodotta mit-tafal, l-aktar depożitu ġeoloġiku komuni fuq wiċċ id-dinja. It-tafal hu flessibbli u jista' jiġi mmudellat f'diversi forum, li huma mbagħad imsajra ġewwa forn biex tiġi prodotta ċ-ċeramika - reċipjenti tat-tisjir, vażetti tal-ħażna, amfori tat-trasport, oġġetti tal-mejda, materjali tal-kostruzzjoni, biċċiet ta' skultura, eċċ.

Iċ-ċeramika tista' tiġi prodotta relattivament b'mod irħis u għalhekk fi kwantitajiet kbar. Għalkemm titkisser, iċ-ċeramika hija madankollu prattikament impossibbli biex tinqered, u tissopravvi fid-depożiti arkeoloġiċi għal millenji.

Is-siti arkeoloġiċi medjevali għandhom tendenza li jkun fihom varjetà rikka ta' ċeramika, li ħafna minnha kienet importata minn barra. Ċeramika oħra kienet prodotta lokalment mill-industriji fuq skala żgħira.

Iċ-ċeramika hija għalhekk arkivju kbir ta' informazzjoni li qed jistenna li jiġi interpretat mill-arkeologu medjevali ... iżda b'liema mod?

Ceramics and the archaeological record

Ceramics are produced from clay, the most common geological deposit on the earth's surface. Clay is pliable and can be modelled into countless forms, which are then fired in a kiln to produce ceramics - cooking vessels, storage jars, transport amphorae, table ware, construction materials, sculptural pieces, etc.

Ceramics can be produced relatively cheaply and therefore in great quantities. Although breakable, ceramics are otherwise virtually indestructible, surviving in archaeological deposits for millennia.

Medieval archaeological sites tend to contain a rich variety of ceramics, many of which were imported from abroad. Others were produced locally by small-scale industries.

Ceramics are therefore a great archive of information waiting to be interpreted by the medieval archaeologist ... but in what way?

Iċ-ċeramika hija GĦODDA TAJBA:

fil-fehim tal-ekonomiji tal-qedem - għar-rikostruzzjoni tal-kummerċ jew ix-xejriet tal-iskambji tas-suq

fil-fehim ta' strutturi soċjali tal-passat - sabiex tiġi kkonfermata klassifikazzjoni u l-istatus soċjali ta' sit, il-prattiċi tad-dieta ta' komunità jew il-funzjoni tal-bini qadim.

F'xiex MHIJIEX TAJBA ċ-ċeramika:

fil-provvista ta' datar preċiż tas-siti - iċ-ċeramika normalment tista' tipprovdi biss evidenza approssimattiva ta' dati.

fl-indikazzjoni tal-isfond kulturali, reliġjuż jew lingwistiku ta' komunità - pereżempju l-preżenza ta' ċeramika Bizantina fuq sit ma jfissirx li n-nies kienu jtkellmu bil-Grieg.

Ceramics are GREAT TOOLS at:

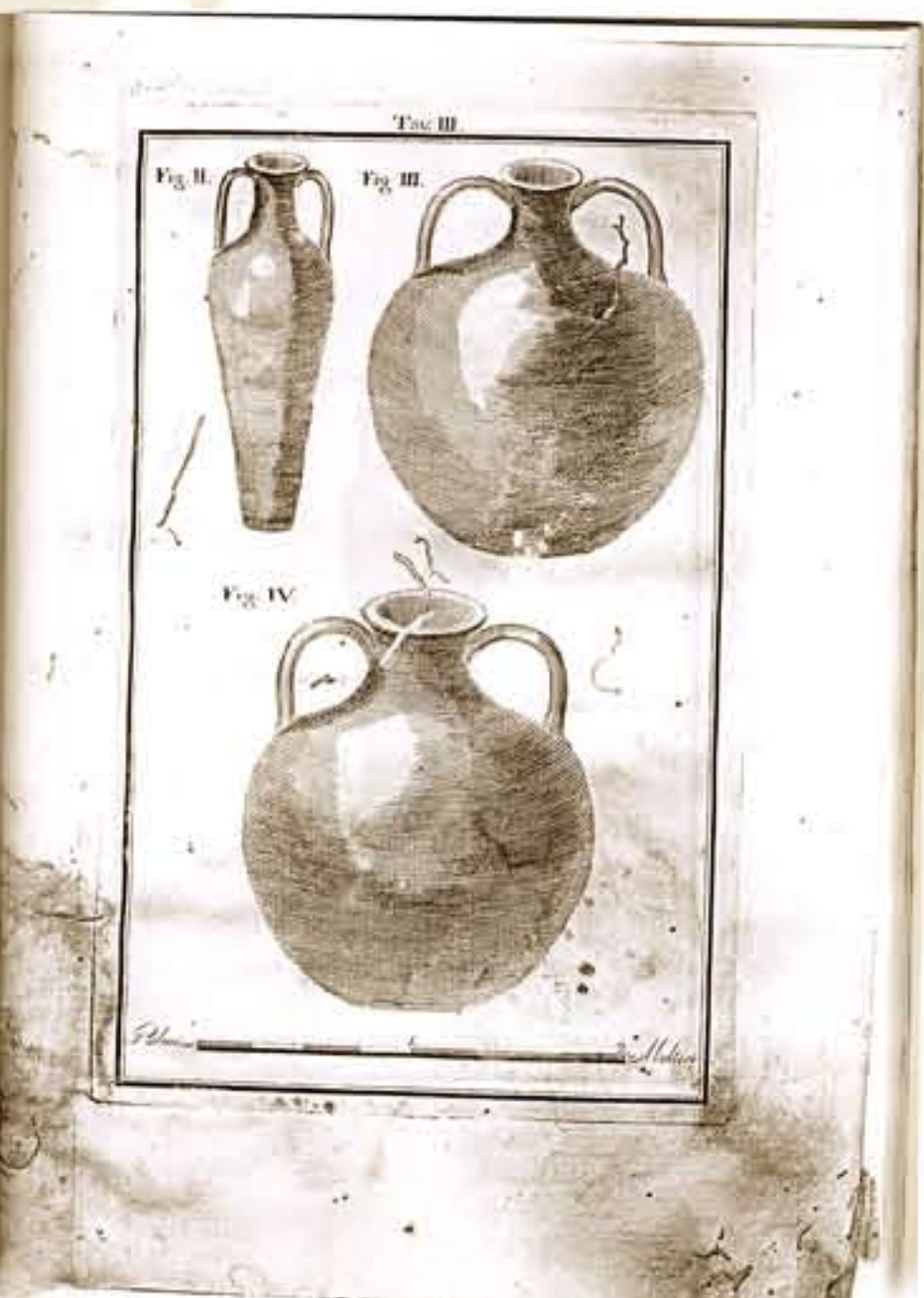
understanding ancient economies - as in reconstructing trade or market exchange patterns

understanding past social structures - as in establishing a site's social ranking and status, a community's dietary practices or the function of ancient buildings.

What ceramics are NOT GOOD at:

providing precise dating of sites - ceramics usually can only provide approximate dating evidence.

indicating a community's cultural, religious or linguistic background - for example the presence of Byzantine ceramics on a site does not mean that its users were Greek speaking.



Illustrazzjonijiet tal-iskoperta tal-1768 fil-port tal-Marsa, li kienet tinkludi kumpless ta' mħazen b'iktar minn 260 amfora Bizantina intatta, li ħafna minnhom kien għad kellihom ittri Griegi mnaqqxin fuqhom. Fi kliem il-markiż Barbaro:

Illustrations from a 1768 discovery in Marsa harbour of a warehouse complex containing over 260 intact Byzantine amphorae, various of which still had Greek letters scratched into them. In Marchese Barbaro's own words:

In uno dei sotterranei fu trovato un gran numero di vasellame ...uno straordinario ammasso di vasi.....Tutte le altre, che ammontano a dugento e sessanta sono tante anfore della stessa capacità, grandezza e figura.....Ventiquattro si distinguono dalle altre per alcune lettere incise



Għadd kbir ta' ċeramika tal-medjuevu bikri li qed jinkixfu waqt l-iskavi fl-Imdina.



Large numbers of Early Medieval ceramics as they are being uncovered during archaeological excavations at Mdina.