Call for Papers

Workshop, 14th – 15th of June 2024, University of Vienna

Terra Sigillata in pre-consumption deposits: characteristics and aspects of production and trade

Terra Sigillata is one of the most and best-studied ceramic wares of the Roman Period as it can be found all over the former regions of the Roman Empire. It enables the dating of strata and sites due to the potters’ stamps, the typology of the pottery and its decoration, allowing us to associate the red-slipped sherds with specific production sites. The focus of the workshop is on Terra Sigillata from so-called pre-consumption deposits describing pottery assemblages documenting the steps between production and consumption; broadly speaking, the pottery ended up in the soil unused by the customer. There are different types of pre-consumption deposits such as shipwrecks, quay-side dumps and warehouses, pottery shops and magazines. This topic offers a huge scientific potential that has not yet been fully exploited regarding pottery’s production and trade. The aim of the workshop is to present and discuss the characteristics of Terra Sigillata from pre-consumption deposits and to gather new ideas and insights regarding the different steps from the production of Terra Sigillata to its final destination point, the customer. Contributions are welcome on both pre-consumption deposits already known in the field and "new", (largely) unpublished ones, with preference given to the latter.

Topics of interest include:

- Characteristics of Terra Sigillata from pre-consumption deposits: limited type variety with a high number of individuals, a large number of (near-)complete vessels, a large number of stamps of a limited variety of potters, the lack of signs of wear and ownership marks, differences to contemporaneous consumption assemblages
- Scientific investigations of Terra Sigillata from pre-consumption deposits: chemical and petrographic analyses, fabric determinations
- Production of Terra Sigillata: traces of production (firing support marks, sand traces from stacking in the kiln, fingernail traces, fingerprints), standardisation of pottery, composition of kiln loads, connections of potters
- Exportation of Terra Sigillata: composition of production batch/export batch, portioning of kiln loads, differences in the composition depending on land or water transport, differences in between the different types of pre-consumption deposits (shipwrecks, quay-side dumps/warehouses, shops), regional differences, tracing potters’ stamps
Duration of the presentation: 30 min

Languages: English (preferred) or German

Authors are invited to submit an abstract of no longer than 300 words at the following email address: marina.palmieri@univie.ac.at

**Deadline: 31st of October 2023**

Notification of selected topics: 30th of November 2023

The accommodation costs (2 nights) of accepted speakers will be covered.

The workshop is organised within the scope of the FWF-Der Wissenschaftsfonds project (P 34600-G) “Bedeutsame Scherben: Sigillata aus pre-consumption deposits” (*Meaningful sherds: sigillata from pre-consumption deposits*) and is held at the Department of Classical Archaeology (Franz-Klein-Gasse 1, A-1190 Wien) of the University of Vienna.

For further information, please contact Marina Palmieri (marina.palmieri@univie.ac.at) or Julia Kopf (Julia.Kopf@univie.ac.at).