

A NEW DATABASE OF ANCIENT POTTERY PRODUCED IN ITALY

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The aim of this poster is to inform in outline about a project recently set up, and still under way, concerning the creation of an integrated multimedia **database**, gathering archaeological and archaeometric data (chemical, XRF –X-ray Fluorescence- and mineralogical, polarization microscope) **on ancient pottery produced in Italy**: a fundamental tool for researchers to be consulted on-line as a web application (structure by CILEA, Milan).

The main objective of the data bank is to make the archaeological and archaeometric researches, concerning the production and diffusion of Italic pottery, in Italy and out of Italy, easier.

The data bank consists therefore of data non accidentally assembled, but drawn from targeted researches aiming at the solution of archaeological questions concerning production and diffusion.

Main themes of the data bank are:

- the production and technology of the fine Roman wares in the Mediterranean, in particular the black gloss ware; or the production of some groups of common ware, whose diffusion goes beyond the local/regional area;
- the production and diffusion of Italic amphorae in the Mediterranean in the Hellenistic and Roman period.

It also attests the will to deepen the knowledge of key areas (**Etruria, Latium, Campania and Sicily**) for the hellenistic and Roman period. Thus most of the data concern these very areas.

Therefore, to summarise the new data bank features:

- it centres on ceramics of Italic production and production sites (4th century BC – 2nd century AD)
- it is being progressively broadened, as very specific archaeological problems are being tackled

- it aims at the investigation of subjects of research which remain constant in different periods and geographical areas (study of the production areas, the establishment and organisation of workshops, the diffusion of wares with peculiar technological features).