

Pottery Production and Supply at Bronze Age Kolonna, Aegina

An Integrated Archaeological and Scientific Study of a Ceramic Landscape

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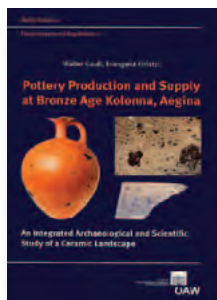
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Aegina has long been recognised as a major production centre of ceramic containers. These were exported widely, not only in the relatively recent past, but also during Classical Antiquity and, especially, the Middle and Late Bronze Age. In recent scholarship dealing with the rise of complex societies in the Aegean world during the 2nd millennium BC, the prehistoric ceramic industry based

on the island of Aegina has become an increasingly important object of study. It is clear that pottery production on Aegina, which continued for centuries, was due to a combination of factors. These included socio-economic, historical and geographical aspects, as well as the raw materials being locally available and the popularity of Aeginetan ceramics in other parts of the ancient world. These factors must be taken into consideration when addressing the development and specialization of pottery production on the island. This is the first study to look comprehensively at the Aeginetan ceramic industry during a major part of the Bronze Age (ca. 2500-1200 BC). It has aimed at illuminating the factors that influenced transformations in potting traditions on Aegina and the growth and decline of its specialised pottery production. This has been done from a broad perspective, not only examining production, but also the supply and use of ceramic vessels on the island itself. A systematic stylistic study of the formal attributes of local products and imports from the site of Kolonna has been undertaken,