LATE HALAF POTTERY PRODUCTIONS IN SYRIA: EVIDENCES FROM TELL HALULA (EUPHRATES VALLEY)

TELL HALULA

Tell Halula is located in the right bank of the middle Euphrates river valley, in the region of Duhok in northern Syria. The site is situated between two small oases on a seasonal river, which used to be a marshland but later turned into the Tell site. The site with 300 to 1600 m in length and 11 m in height corresponds to two Earlier Neolithic deposits, excavated by the University of Autònoma of Barcelona and funded by the Spanish Ministry since 1999 until nowadays.

The archaeological sequence belongs to the Early Neolithic Stufe B, with continuous layers over Cerámica Neáltica levels (Pre-Halal and Halal) with a timeline covering from 7,000 to 5,300 BC Cal. The levels for the late Halaf (III/V) come from levels 26, 22, 20, 18 and dating from 5500-3500 BC Cal, in some of the local ceramic chronology, for the site (Crusnell, 2005).

THE "CHANE OPERATOR"

In the set of operations that translates a raw material into a finished product we found four main stages: manufacturing and paste preparation, decoration, finishing (including dressing) and firing. The process reveals cultural traditions which are continuous concerning of production units belonging to one tradition and which can be later identified by analysis of pottery (those that in Tell Halula are in process).

Consistent patterns of nature, which are being consolidated into a single one which flows into the present. The production stages are usually identified by the presence of different techniques and methods of manufacture. Each technological group has a morphological and stylistic typology was established, and with this they try to make an approach to their future.

The morphological factors, to describe the type of vessel, are the in the following typological work the parameters are the: Volume of the vessel, rim type and neck height are used to identify different morphological types and let us to approach the typological corpus.

In general, there is a predominance of slightly incomplete vessels, and strongly incompletely existing, with a minor inclusion for fine wares and incompletely unheard for coarse ware with a mineral and vegetal (5%) inclusion. Most of the pieces have their surfaces finished with a slip (5%), followed by smoothing, burnished and hand-rolled treatments.

WHAT ABOUT FUNCTION?

At the same time, in late Halaf we report an increase in complex shapes from the free rim jar or jar neck arch shaped and shapes with a fine base. Also some middle Halaf shapes increase the number as the cholesterol bowls and bowls of globular constriction, lidded, and other ones, as the so-called "ocean bowls", appears with less frequency and becomes circular shaped that shows in a clear community. This new type of trade could be interesting to understand the Late Halaf function, so we can think of a new trend and to the same timeline related to the dynamics of change connections.

The production of painted decorative motif (in quantity and quality), and especially the polychrome examples, seems to refer to the consolidation of social and economic power in the Halaf World. These communities manage their resources, consolidating and socially assimilating the influence of Uruk is another major outstanding issue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


