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Eastern Imports in the Marche Region during the Roman Age

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Abstract: Recent studies of Roman pottery led in various contexts of the Marche region (Italy) have certainly enriched the cognitive heritage. Nevertheless, many gaps remain, due to the lack of publication of key sites (e.g. Ancona). This contribution aims to outline, without pretensions of exhaustiveness, the state of studies on imports of eastern pottery in the Marche region from 3th BC to 7th century AD, using well-known studies, such as those of Liliana Mercado, but also data provided by the most recent searches in this field.

Keywords: Italy, Marche, pottery, eastern imports.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, publications of ceramic materials from territorial surveys and individual sites have contributed to a greater knowledge of the production and imports of pottery in the Marche region during the Roman era.

A fundamental contribution is that of all the dense materials, as well as glass, of the 'Domus of the Coiedii' of Suasa¹: it is the first time, after the publication of the farm of Monte Torto² and the works of Liliana Mercado³, that a systematic study has been addressed.

In the region, next to Suasa, two territorial projects have significantly increased the knowledge of two territories of ancient Piceno, focusing on the material evidence for the study of the population: 'The Potenza Valley Survey'⁴ and the 'Pisa South Picenum Survey Project'⁵.

There is no lack of other ceramic studies⁶, mostly preliminary, on various regional sites; however, it should be noted that many locations, known for several excavations, still have several gaps in the study of the *instrumentum domesticum*. A special case is the excavation of the Lungomare Vanvitelli in Ancona, where so far, only preliminary data have been published⁷, which certainly do not give an idea of the immense amount of materials recovered during the investigation.

¹MAZZEO SARRACINO 2014.

²Monte Torto 2001. Indeed, the amphorae are missing.

³MERCANDO 1974; MERCANDO 1979; MERCANDO 1982.

⁴VERMEULEN *et alii* 2017 with bibliography.

⁵Now *Pisa South Picenum Survey Project II*, see MENCHELLI, IACOPINI 2016 with bibliography.

⁶FABRINI *et alii* 2006; GIULIODORI *et alii* 2007; CINGOLANI, TUBALDI 2015 for Urbisaglia. ERMETI 2012; LEONE 2012; DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020 for *Forum Sempronii*. FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015; FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2019 for Cupra Marittima. DALL'AGLIO *et alii* 2018 for Ostra. DALL'AGLIO-VERGARI 2001, DALL'AGLIO *et alii* 2019 for Colombarone.

⁷SALVINI 2001; FORTI 2011; PALERMO, SALVINI 2017.

The scarcity of data has caused disinterest on the part of scholars dealing with imports to the Adriatic from other Mediterranean regions. The Marche, as well as the entire mid-Adriatic area, are in fact excluded from studies that focus almost exclusively on the high and low Adriatic. The framework of the studies, although enriched in the last decade, is therefore rather patchy, both for some periods and for many areas and cities of the region.

In this rather fragmented context, a preliminary study will be carried out on imports of oriental dense products (fine ware, cooking ware and amphorae) in the Marche region, dividing the long period between the 3rd century BC and the 7th century AD into three paragraphs.

1. PERIOD I (3RD-1ST CENTURY BC)

Commercial contacts with the East are attested by numerous finds found in Marche territory from the Orientalizing period⁸. The Picene tombs, especially from the second half of the 6th century BC, begin to fill with Attic black and red-figured vases⁹. From the imitation of Attic ceramics was born the figurative high-Adriatic ceramic, produced in Piceno in addition to the centers of Padania, and called *ceramica picena a figure rosse*¹⁰. Forms attributable to Attic black-gloss ware are also present, particularly from the beginning of the 5th to the beginning of the 2nd century BC¹¹.

⁸COEN 2012. Indeed, much older contacts with Mycenaeans are also attested, see LUNI 2004, p. 15.

⁹On imports of black and red figure pottery in the Marche region, see PARIBENI 1992 and LUNI 1992 for the Northern area.

¹⁰There is also the ceramic in Vernice Rossa Protopicena, see LANDOLFI 2000.

¹¹See, for example, tomb 407 of Sirolo at the end of 5th century BC in LANDOLFI 1992, pp. 312–325. On the most recent finds in Marche see: UTTOVEGGIO 2012 for the site of Monte della Conserva (Urbino); CIUCCARELLI 2018, p. 35, No. 24 for the finds on the hill of Ghettaello (Ancona). For Hellenistic black-gloss ware see BRECCIAROLI TABORELLI 2020 for the pottery of the style “West Slope” found in the hellenistic-roman necropolis and MORSIANI 2018 for the new data in Ascoli Piceno.

During the Roman age (fig. 3), particularly from the 2nd century BC, are attested Rhodian and Cnidian amphorae, Oriental lamps and Megarian cups¹².

Of particular interest is the import of *lagynos*, one of the most exported forms from the Aegean area in the late Hellenistic age. In the West, there are numerous sites where they are present, and there are several places in Marche where they have been found. Most of the specimens come from tomb contexts: Ancona, Porto Recanati, and from the villas of Castelfidardo and San Benedetto del Tronto. In all cases, excluding the *lagynoi* of Ancona, they are attributable to the class of 'Coarse or Household Ware', perhaps produced and exported together with the wine amphorae of Chios and Rhodes. The *lagynoi* of the necropolis of the Marche's main town belongs to several classes, such as the refined Faience Ware of Alexandrian production, the Red Slip Ware and the Banded Ware. The XXVI tomb of Porto Recanati returns, in addition to several *balsamaria*, two *lagynoi* attributable to the class of the Hellenistic Mouldmade Relief Ware¹³; the latter class is produced in both the Aegean and Italic areas. The two specimens of the Marche necropolis have elegant relief decorations that do not find precise comparisons.

Finally, there is a rather rare class present in Suasa in the *Domus* of the *Coiedii*, the Gray Glazed Ware C², of which only one plate is preserved¹⁴.

2. PERIOD II (1ST-4TH CENTURY AD)

More data is available for the imperial age, where oriental products seem to be well present in various Marche sites (fig. 4).

¹²COLIVICCHI 2002 on the various import classes found in the necropolis of Ancona. On the Megarian cups, see MORSIANI 2014.

¹³MERCANDO 1974, Fig. 328.

¹⁴BIONDANI 2014a.

The Eastern Sigillata A was produced along the micro-Asian coasts between the 2nd and early 3rd century BC, with an apex of exports between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. In the Marche region¹⁵, this is well attested in various places, and it is present in abundance in the port of Ancona. Among the reported types there are: the Hayes 4A form, well attested in Suasa, Urbisaglia, Sentino, Jesi and Porto Recanati; the Hayes 28 dish, present with a small fragment of rim found on a farm near Potentia; the Hayes 37A dish from the Roman villa of Castelfidardo, produced and exported from the flavian age (60–100 AD), is so far the only known fragment in the region. The Eastern Sigillata B is particularly widespread in the Marche region¹⁶, where it is present in several centers. Produced in the Ephesus area, it was exported to the Mediterranean more in the fourth quarter of 2nd century AD. However, it is also found in more recent contexts in the region, from the second half of 1st century AD to the first half of 2nd century AD. The shapes are limited to the Hayes 62A dishes, the Hayes 60 bowl, the Hayes 80 and Hayes 71 dishes, and the Hayes 74 A, 80 and 76 A and B bowls. Another class, which until now had never been considered in the Marche field, is the Eastern Sigillata C or Çandarli Ware; the only form attested would appear to be two cups (L 19) found in tomb 81 of the necropoli della Croce dei Missionari in Urbino (fig. 2.1) and in a rural settlement near Loreto (La Banderuola)¹⁷. In the region, the Eastern Sigillata C does not seem to be attested elsewhere; however, it is well present in Adriatic Italy, especially in Brindisi¹⁸, with different forms: the Hayes 4 plate, the Hayes 3 cup, and the Hayes 2 dish are the most common. It would therefore not be possible to exclude a greater presence of ESC, even in the Marche region.

¹⁵ BIONDANI 2014b with bibliography.

¹⁶ BIONDANI 2014c with bibliography.

¹⁷ GIULIODORI (in press).

¹⁸ DE MITRI 2013.

Produced from the second half of the 2nd AD to the final years of the 3rd, the Corinthian Relief Ware are only attested at Suasa¹⁹ and Sant'Angelo in Vado²⁰.

As for the lamps, only two examples of the Corinthian production that come from the necropolis of Porto Recanati are known.

Among the common ceramics, there are the single-handed mugs with thin walls Marabini LXVIII/Ricci 1/122, found in great quantity in the necropolis of Porto Recanati²¹ and, to a lesser extent, those of Urbino²² (fig. 1). This form knows many variants and multiple production centers, both in the West and in the East. It is commonly believed that the form was born in Italy between the end of 1st century AD and the beginning of 2nd century AD and was then imitated between 2nd and 3rd century AD in the East, where production centers in Tracia and Corinth are assumed; Pellegrino²³ also assumes production in the Linguadoca. The Gallic clay is very similar macroscopically to the eastern type, and therefore it is not possible to distinguish it with the naked eye. The scholar does not rule out that the many single-handed mugs found in the Adriatic can therefore be of both Gallic and Aegean production, and in some cases, local. Nevertheless, I believe that we can exclude Gallic origin and consider Aegean production, since different forms of Aegean Cooking Ware appear in the same necropolis, as well as the Eastern Sigillata B and the amphorae Knossos 19 and AC4c, while there are no elements attributable to Gallic workshops. Generally, the single-handed mugs Marabini LXVII/Ricci 1/122, found in contexts of Adriatic Italy, are lately attributed to the eastern area.

¹⁹BIONDANI 2014e.

²⁰PALERMO 2006.

²¹MERCANDO 1974.

²²MERCANDO 1982.

²³PELLEGRINO 2009.

In addition to the thin-walled pottery, the Aegean Cooking Ware were found in the necropolis of Porto Recanati, Urbino and the *ager Firmanus*²⁴. The set consists of Knossos type 2 pots with their lids, Knossos type 4 olla (fig. 2.2), and Knossos type 2 pans. The olla Knossos type 2 are present in tombs 16, 140 and 128 of Porto Recanati, and in tomb 56 of the necropolis of Urbino (fig. 2.3), in the rural site of La Banderuola (Loreto), as well as perhaps on the farm of Cone di Arcevia²⁵ and that of Porto Recanati. It is among the most common forms found in Adriatic contexts: Aquileia, Iulium Carnicum, Trieste and several Puglian sites, such as Brindisi and S. Foca. It is generally exported between the Augustan age and the middle of 3rd century AD, according to data from Knossos and Athens. However, in Aquileia it is also present in contexts of IV century AD. The three ollas of Porto Recanati and Urbino are all dated to 2nd century AD; another specimen from Urbino has a horizontal rim, unlike the known types with raised rims, and is comparable to the Ladstätter 2010 type, Taf. 113, AK 896. The pan Knossos type 2 is attested only in Urbino (fig. 2.3). From tomb 215 of Porto Recanati comes an Aegean olla similar to the type 4 of Hayes (1st - 3rd century AD), although there are several differences in the shape of the body and the rim. The shape is widespread throughout the Adriatic basin, so much so that are known some imitations on the eastern shore. The olla of Urbino's tomb, with a pink ceramic body, could also be an imitation. Finally, there is a biconic olla from the tomb of the necropolis of St. Donato of Urbino. Within the same class, although not used for cooking, there is the Agora G188 jug, which can be seen in tomb 155 of Porto Recanati, at Loreto and at *Forum Sempronii*²⁶.

²⁴PICCHI, MENCHELLI 2012.

²⁵MERCANDO 1979.

²⁶Unpublished.

With regard to the import of eastern amphorae of imperial age, the data, derived from a few contexts, are roughly in line with those of other Italian regions, with some exceptions. The most common amphora is in fact the Rhodian Camuludonum 184, present in Suasa²⁷, Ostra²⁸, Potenza valley²⁹, *Urbs Salvia*³⁰ and *Forum Sempronii*³¹; in the latter site is the most attested Aegean-Eastern amphora. Note also the presence of the wine containers of Koan tradition that are traced to Suasa, Urbino, and *Forum Sempronii*; the Urbinate specimen³² has a particular shape that cannot be framed in the type recently proposed by Giorgio Rizzo. Among the amphorae found inside the tombs of the necropolis of Porto Recanati are five Knossos 19 (fig. 2.4), Aegean containers of Koan tradition, but with a characteristic high neck separated from the shoulder by an obvious step; from the same context comes a single specimen of Mau XXVIII, misidentified with a Dressel 35, and two Cretan amphorae of the type AC4c. Cretan amphorae are perhaps the most present transport containers after the Camuludonum 184; in fact, they are also attested to by Suasa³³, *Urbs Salvia*³⁴, Fano³⁵, Potenza valley³⁶ and *Forum Sempronii*³⁷. In the latter city there is a later type, probably fully 3rd century AD, related to the type MRC2b. Commercial contacts were not only active with the Aegean islands, but also with the Ephesian area, where the four Agora F65–66 specimens found in Suasa³⁸ and Urbisaglia were produced. Of unknown origin, but likely

²⁷MORSIANI 2014, pp. 562-564, Fig. 17.3-8.

²⁸ROVERSI 2020, p. 295, Fig. 16.

²⁹MONSIEUR, CARBONI 2017, p. 191.

³⁰GIULIODORI *et alii* 2007, p. 418.

³¹DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020, p.134, Fig. 4.17.

³²DI MICHELE 2019, p.237, Fig. 4.4.

³³MORSIANI 2014, p. 562, Fig. 17.1-2.

³⁴GIULIODORI *et alii* 2007, pp. 418-419.

³⁵Unpublished.

³⁶MONSIEUR, CARBONI 2017, p. 191.

³⁷DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020, pp. 137.138, Fig. 5.21-22.

³⁸MORSIANI 2014, p. 564, Fig. 18.1. Probably also present at *Forum Sempronii*.

Aegean-Eastern, is the Corinth 243, found in the excavations of the 'Domus of the Coiedii' in Suasa³⁹. Another interesting trade relationship is with the Pontic regions. For now, the data are derived only from the preliminary study on amphorae from the 'Domus of Europa' of *Forum Sempronii*⁴⁰: it is a BSnP III, probably produced in the Demirci atelier between 2nd and 3rd AD, and a bottom with a button tip, perhaps attributable to a Knossos 39⁴¹. As regards the Levantine amphorae, very little data has been produced for this period. Also, the study conducted at *Forum Sempronii* shows the presence of a probable Agora M54 of Cilician production and an amphora of Gaza⁴².

3. PERIOD III (5TH-7TH CENTURY AD)

During the late ancient period, there was a greater preponderance, compared to previous centuries, of commercial contacts with the East (fig. 5).

In the excavations of the *Palatium* and the basilica of San Cristoforo in *Aquilam*, in the locality of Colombarone (Pesaro), a small child burial was found in 2003. Among the amphorae found are two containers of the Aegean bag-shaped amphorae, one of which has been defined by the writer as Agora M 273 *similis*⁴³, while the other has been traced back to the family of type Ephesus 56⁴⁴.

Also from the Aegean area should come two shoulder fragments decorated with deep engravings, found at *Forum Sempronii*: it is likely an

³⁹MORSIANI 2014, p. 564, Fig. 18.2.

⁴⁰DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020, p. 138, Fig. 5.24.

⁴¹DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020, pp. 138-139, Fig. 6.25.

⁴²DI MICHELE, VENTURINI 2020, p. 135, Fig. 5.20 and p. 139, Fig. 6.26.

⁴³I would like to thank Andrei Opaït for valuable advice. Another specimen of Agora M273 comes from Cupra Marittima, see FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 150, Fig. 18. 65. Another amphora interpreted as an Agora M 273 came from the tomb 12, see Frapiccini *et alii* 2019, p. 388, Fig.3.1. The latter later type, the Samos Cistern type, is found only in Ancona.

⁴⁴GAMBERINI 2015, p. 247 still believes that it is of Italian production.

Agora M235/M327⁴⁵. In addition to these, there were other more common amphoras, such as the LRA 1⁴⁶, widely spread throughout the Adriatic basin. In the Marche region, it is known at Colombarone (LRA 1 transition), in several locations of the Potenza valley⁴⁷, in Ancona⁴⁸, Ostra⁴⁹ Mondolfo⁵⁰ and in the Chienti valley⁵¹. The other eastern amphora most attested in the West is the LRA 2; the two oldest variants (A and B) are attested at Colombarone⁵², Mondolfo⁵³, Senigallia⁵⁴, in the *ager Firmanus*⁵⁵, in the Potenza valley⁵⁶, in Cupra Marittima⁵⁷ and in Ancona⁵⁸. As for type C, some of the funds stored in the warehouses of Pesaro⁵⁹ are known and perhaps a rim from the villa of Cupra Marittima believed by the author to be of 5th–6th century AD⁶⁰. From the valleys of Meander and Hermos comes the LRA 3, which from the 4th century AD onward replaces the Agora F65–66. The small container is attested in Colombarone⁶¹, Ancona⁶², *Urbs Salvia*⁶³,

⁴⁵According to OPAIT 2014, p. 47, it should be a Peloponnesian transport container, while REYNOLDS 2020, p. 249, Fig. A.13 raises the possibility that specimens of the early years of the 6th century AD were a precursors of the Cretan globular amphora.

⁴⁶PIERI 2005, pp. 70–77.

⁴⁷MONSIEUR, CARBONI 2017, p. 192, n. 5.71.

⁴⁸SALVINI, PALERMO 2017, p. 166 e pp. 174–175.

⁴⁹ROVERSI 2020b, p. 304, Figg. 22 and 23.13–14.

⁵⁰DI MICHELE (in preparation).

⁵¹KONESTRA, VIRGILI 2015, p. 314, Tav. 1.1.

⁵²DALL'AGLIO, VERGARI 2001, p. 147, Fig. 60 and DALL'AGLIO *et alii* 2019, p. 260. According to the authors, the amphora of Figure 2.6 should be an Adriatic container that takes up LRA 2; CIRELLI 2018, p. 40 suggests, on the basis of archaeometric analyses provided by the authors themselves, an oriental production identifiable with the Bozburum amphora.

⁵³DI MICHELE (in preparation).

⁵⁴GALAZZI 2015.

⁵⁵MENCHELLI, PICCHI 2016, p. 17.

⁵⁶MONSIEUR, CARBONI 2017, p. 192, n. 5.72.

⁵⁷FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 150.

⁵⁸PALERMO, SALVINI 2017, p. 180.

⁵⁹ERMETI 1998, p. 612 argues that they are typical of late 7th AD. In the mid-Adriatic coast another specimen is known, indeed unpublished, found in Pescara in association with a background fragment referring to a *Samos Cistern Type*, see SIENA *et alii* 1998, p. 691.

⁶⁰FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 150, Fig. 18.68. A small fragment of a wall from Mondolfo could also be attributed to this amphora, see DI MICHELE (in preparation).

⁶¹DALL'AGLIO *et alii* 2019, p. 260, Fig. 2.7.

⁶²SALVINI, PALERMO 2017, Fig. 9.

⁶³FABRINI *et alii* 2006, pp. 358–359 Fig. 19.

Corinaldo⁶⁴, Mondolfo⁶⁵ and Cupra Marittima⁶⁶. The Gazan amphora or LRA 4 replaced Zemer 36 from the 4th century AD and was produced until the second half of 7th AD⁶⁷ in many forms; Dominique Pieri⁶⁸ offers five: LRA 4A1, 4A2, 4B1 and 4B2. Another type was recently proposed by Andrei Sazanov⁶⁹, which divides the Palestinian amphora into four macro-groups, in turn divided into different subgroups. This new type is particularly useful. In the region, it is present at the church of , in *Forum Sempronii*⁷⁰, Corinaldo⁷¹, Ostra⁷², in the Potenza valley⁷³, Montecorsaro (Contrada Cavallino)⁷⁴, Ancona⁷⁵, Mondolfo⁷⁶ and in Cupra Marittima⁷⁷. The LRA 5 and LRA 6 were produced from the Syrian-Palestinian area⁷⁸. These two types are attested in the large Adriatic ports, but in very low percentages, and only in the contexts of Ravenna does it reach 4–6%⁷⁹. They were found in Ancona⁸⁰, *Forum Sempronii*⁸¹ and Colombarone⁸²; and a small fragment of corrugated wall, cautiously attributable to an LRA 6, was found in the territory of the lower Cesano valley, perhaps around the church of San Gervasio⁸³. The only type of late ancient pontic amphora in the Adriatic is

⁶⁴ASSENTI 2015.

⁶⁵DI MICHELE (in preparation).

⁶⁶FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 150.

⁶⁷The later amphora was found in Ramla in a context dating back to the second half of the 7th and early 8th AD, see SHMUELLI, ARTZI 2006, p. 7, Figure 2.

⁶⁸PIERI 2005, pp. 101–114.

⁶⁹SAZANOV 2017.

⁷⁰GAMBERINI 2015 with bibliography; ERMETI 2012, pp. 372–374, fig. 35–37.

⁷¹ASSENTI 2015. However, the fragment appears to be a LRA 2 B.

⁷²In the museum of Ostra Vetere a LRA 4 is visible, which can be associated with the Pieri variant B2 (7th-8th AD).

⁷³MONSIEUR, CARBONI 2017, p. 192, n. 5.73.

⁷⁴ANTONGIROLAMI, MARCHETTA 2021, p. 260, Fig. 4.

⁷⁵SALVINI, PALERMO 2017, p. 175.

⁷⁶DI MICHELE (in preparation).

⁷⁷FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 150, Fig. 69.

⁷⁸PIERI 2005, pp. 114–127.

⁷⁹CIRELLI 2014, p. 543 with bibliography.

⁸⁰SALVINI, PALERMO 2017, p. 175.

⁸¹DI MICHELE, VENTRURINI 2020, p. 140.

⁸²DALL'AGLIO *et alii* 2019, p. 269, Fig. 2.9.

⁸³DI MICHELE (in preparation).

the C Snp I–II–III, attested in Italy only in Treviso, Padua and Verona⁸⁴. An almost intact specimen is preserved in the small civic museum of Mondolfo, along with an Agora M334⁸⁵ and a Lamboglia 2; unfortunately, it is not known where they came from. Finally, the Egyptian amphora LRA 7 was found only in the port of Ancona⁸⁶.

With regard to fine pottery, a quantity of data has been provided, in particular, by the most recent studies; the Phocian Sigillata, produced between 360 and 7th AD is the only one so far attested⁸⁷. The attested shape is the Hayes 3 bowl in its variants B,C, E, F and H.

Oriental lights of this period are known in Suasa, where oriental lamps are recovered from the 'Domus dei Coiedii'⁸⁸.

Among the late ancient cooking pottery is the Aegean Micaceous Cooking Ware. The olla biansata, Type 5 of Classe⁸⁹, is perhaps the most present⁹⁰: Castelfidardo⁹¹, Porto Recanati⁹², in the *ager Firmanus*⁹³ and at Mondolfo⁹⁴. According to Simonetta Menchelli and Giulia Picchi, it would date between 5th and 7th century AD, but perhaps it is plausible to limit

⁸⁴DOBREVA 2017, p. 268, Fig. 183.

⁸⁵On the Palestinian amphorae Agora M334 see lastly PIAZZINI 2015, where, however, the exemplar world is not included in the list of claims.

⁸⁶SALVINI, PALERMO 2017, p. 175. Two flasks of San Mena are preserved in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale delle Marche in Ancona, but the provenance is not known, see PROFUMO 1995, p. 1. Recently, in the middle-adriatic city of Rimini, was found

⁸⁷MARTIN 1998; BIONDANI 2014d; BIONDANI 2015, p. 269, Tabella 4 with bibliography; SALVINI-PALERMO 2017, p. 175; CARBONI 2017a. Indeed, there may also be the Cypriot Red Slip Ware or LRD/E in the villa of Castelfidardo, see Mercando 1979, p. 14, Fig. 17.f. The doubt that this is not an African production in C5 is due to the fact that the rim has only one furrow as in some variants of the Hayes 2 in LRD, while the Hayes 84 has at least two, see HAYES 1972, p. 131. See also *Pella II*, Pl. 90B.1224 and REYNOLDS 2011, Figure 2.18 for two comparisons.

⁸⁸BIONDANI 2014f, pp. 381-382, Fig.23 and BIONDANI 2019, p. 341-342, Figg. 1.6 and 1.7.

⁸⁹CAVALAZZI, FABBRI 2015, p. 22, Tav. 4. 8–9.

⁹⁰In the Potenza valley, the Albarella 1-3 forms and a pan are attested, see CARBONI 2017b, p. 182, n. 4.84-85; see also VERMEULEN *et alii* 2015, p. 344, Tav. 5.1-7.

⁹¹MERCANDO 1979, p. 153, Fig. 64.w.

⁹²MERCANDO 1979, p. 255, Fig. 162.o

⁹³MENCHELLI, PICCHI 2015, p. 335, Tav. 3. 28. Other forms are also attested, see, for example, FRAPICCINI *et alii* 2015, p. 148, Fig. 17.50-51.

⁹⁴DI MICHELE (in preparation).

production and diffusion more between the end of 5th and the first half of 6th AD, as shown by the excavation data of the port of Ravenna. There is no shortage of common Palestinian ceramics present in Colombarone⁹⁵ with a CATHMA 16 pot and in Mondolfo, where a small corrugated fragment comes from. Finally, there is the possible presence of the Epirote Cooking Ware in Mondolfo, where a fragment of rim that approaches some pots of 6th century AD was found in Butrinto⁹⁶.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The commercial and cultural links between the Marche region and the Eastern Mediterranean have ancient origins. Starting from the first sporadic contacts with the Mycenaeans, we have a strong relationship that will last throughout antiquity and touch both coastal and internal areas. The data provided, although certainly few and insufficient to clarify this centuries-old commercial network, can constitute the premise of a story that will have to be told fragment by fragment.

⁹⁵Unpublished but visible in the new *antiquarium*.

⁹⁶REYNOLDS 2020, p. 106, Fig.5.6.14.

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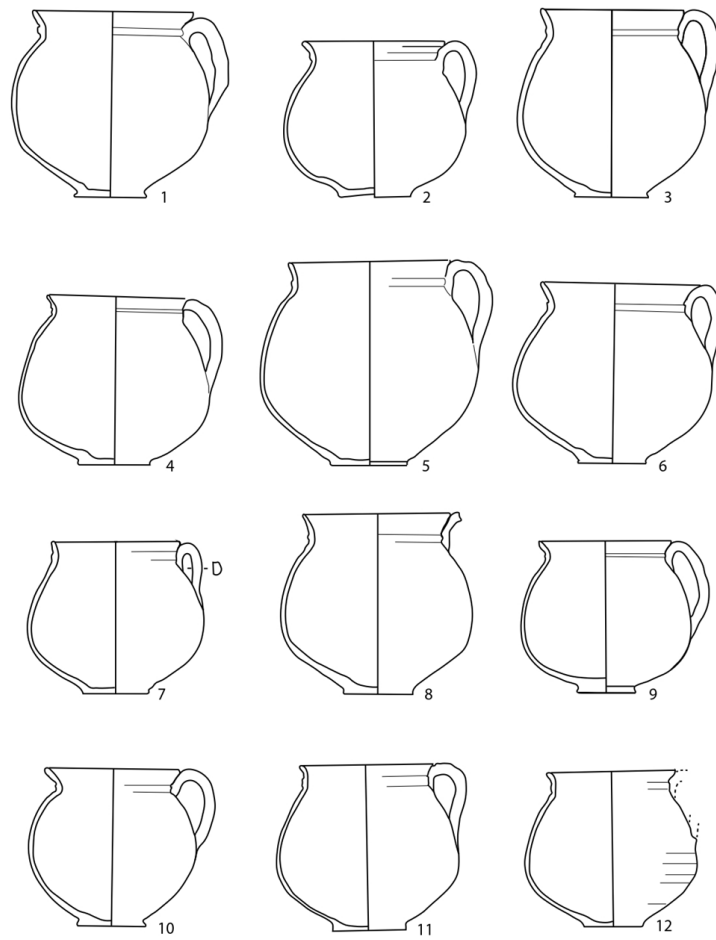


Fig. 1. Some specimens of the single-handed mug found in the necropolis of Porto Recanati (reworking from Mercado 1974).

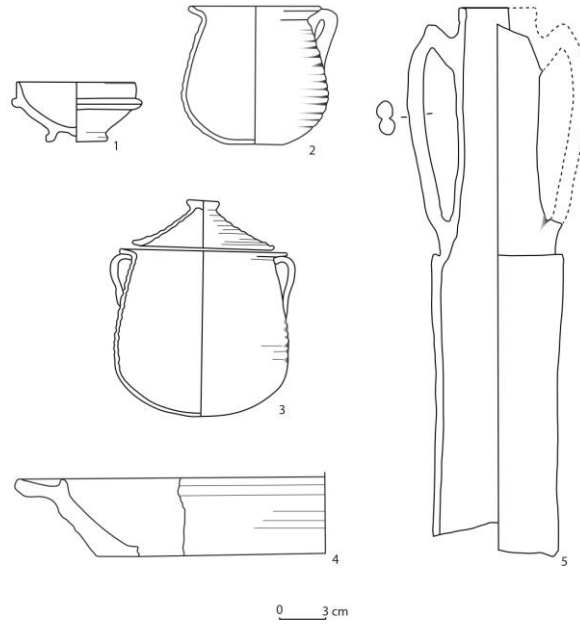


Fig. 2. 1. L19 cup in ESC (?); 2. Olla Knossos 4; 3. Olla Knossos 2; 4. Amphora Knossos 19 (reworking from MERCANDO 1982).



Fig. 3. 1. Pian Volpello (Castelleone di Suasa); 2. Ancona; 3. Castelfidardo; 4. Porto Recanati; 5. Colle Aquilino (San Benedetto del Tronto); 6. Ascoli Piceno (Google Earth 2020).

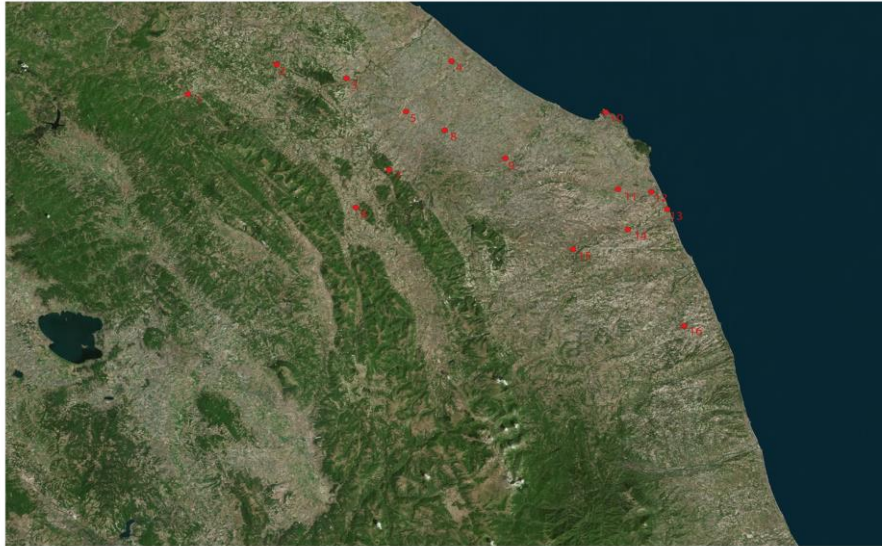


Fig. 4. 1. Sant'Angelo in Vado; 2. Urbino; 3. San Martino del Piano (Fossombrone); 4. Centocroci (Mondolfo); 5. Suasa; 6. Santa Lucia e Civita (Sassoferrato); 7. Cone (Arcevia); 8. Piano (Ostra Vetere); 9. Jesi; 10. Ancona; 11. Castelfidardo; 12. La Banderuola (Loreto); 13. Porto Recanti; 14. Valle del Potenza; 15. Villa Potenza (Macerata); 16. *ager Firmanus* (Google Earth 2020).

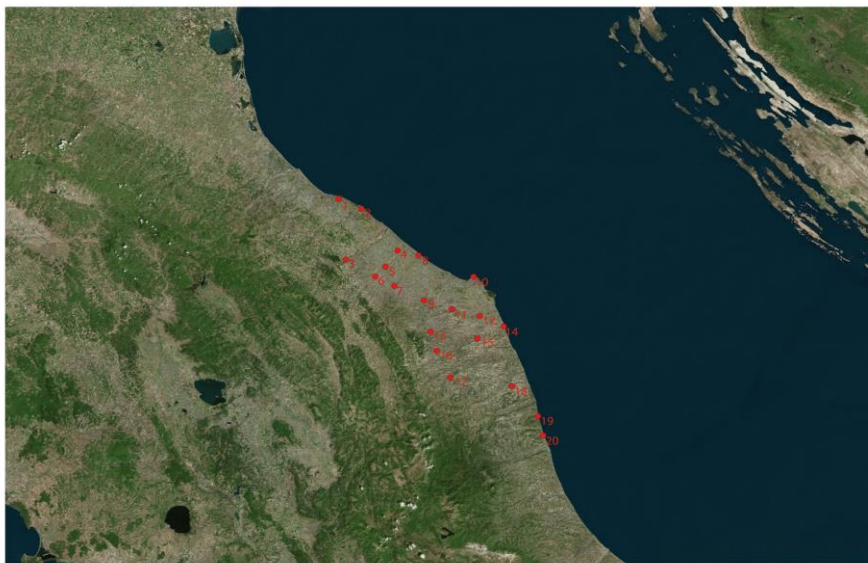


Fig. 5. 1. Colombarone (Pesaro); 2. Pesaro; 3. San Martino del Piano (Fossombrone); 4. Centocroci (Mondolfo); 5. Madonna del Piano (San Lorenzo in Campo); 6. Pian Volpello (Castelleone di suasa); 7. Piano (Ostra Vetere); 8. Senigallia; 9. Jesi; 10. Ancona; 11. Monte Torto (Osimo); 12. Castelfidardo; 13. Troviggiano, Pian della Pieve (Cingoli); 14. Porto Recanati; 15. Valle del Potenza; 16. Treia; 17. Urbisaglia; 18. *ager Firmanus*; 19. Cupra Marittima; 20. San Benedetto del Tronto. (Google Earth 2020).