



Editorial Announcements

While many previous articles in *JAETI* have included discussions of pottery among other artifacts in reconstructing the various ways in which Egypt participated in an interregional network that involved goods, ideas, and people, the current fascicle –edited by Mary Ownby – aims to highlight the contribution of in-depth ceramic studies to our understanding of the interconnections between Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean.

The importance of ceramics in studying Egyptian interconnections cannot be overstated. For most excavations, ceramics provide an important clue to the date of the site, its function, and connections to other areas within and outside of Egypt. Many ceramists are adept at identifying a foreign fired pottery paste (i.e., fabric), vessel form, and technology, although it is a substantial undertaking to learn to identify foreign vessels from only small sherds when the types can come from 3,000 years of history and a large area stretching from Italy, Greece, the Levant, Nubia, and even as far as India. While many Egyptologists have a specialization, all appreciate the utility of pottery for providing insight into the past, how cultures interacted, the importance of such economic activity, and the transfer of technological knowledge.

These themes are present in the current set of three articles. The first by Květa Smoláriková examines east Greek imports in the funerary complexes at Abusir dating to the 6th century BC. Their presence highlights the importance of wine and oil to Egypt from places in Greece and the economic benefit of such trade, certainly promoted by the presence of mercenaries, that related to Egypt's increased interest in this area.

The second article, by Mary Ownby, Henning Franzmeier, Sabine Laemmel, and Edgar Pusch, discusses the petrographic analysis of LBA imports found at Qantir. While highlighting the continuity of trade from the 18th to 19th Dynasties despite political changes, the article also discusses a methodological issue, namely the importance of relating detailed scientific analyses to the larger corpus of pottery. Such approaches provide significant information on who the key trade partners were and how changing Egyptian attitudes towards the Levant may have had an economic impact.

Finally, Katia Nataf examines the other side of LBA interaction through an examination of the Egyptian-style pottery from several non-garrison sites in Palestine. Her meticulous analysis indicates that some sites in the Palestinian hinterland appeared to have direct contact with Egyptian potters, while others made Egyptian vessels using local knowledge.

Collectively, these articles show the different ways that ceramics can be studied and the directions the field is taking, something also illustrated by a short pottery bibliography included in the issue. Far from just general catalogues of artifacts, the presented research is applying advances in theory, method, and interpretation to create a more complete and nuanced understanding of Egypt's interaction with, and impacts on her neighbors.

Mary F. Ownby, Fascicle Editor