

Preface

The 7th European Meeting on Ancient Ceramics (EMAC'03), under the general title "Understanding people through their pottery", was held in Lisbon, Portugal, from the 27th to the 31st October 2003. These EMAC meetings organized on a biennial basis provide important exchange of experiences between scientists of different fields, with an interdisciplinary approach involving archaeologists, historians, geologists, chemists and physicists.

The meeting was organized by Doctor M. I. Prudêncio, Doctor M.I. Dias and Doctor J. C. Waerenborgh, from Instituto Tecnológico e Nuclear, Portugal. This institute, during the last thirty years, has been applying nuclear techniques, geochemical, chemical and mineralogical methods to research and conservation of cultural heritage.

Eighty specialists from Europe and overseas attended the meeting. The main topics addressed were A - Characterization of Material Culture, technologies and organization of pottery production, resource exploitation strategies and spatial interaction patterns through time; B - Dating ceramics; C - The importance of ceramic materials to metallurgy; D - Anthropological approaches for a better understanding of the social rules of ancient potters; E - Ethnoarchaeology applied to ancient ceramic studies. Forty-two oral presentations and forty-six posters were presented, of which thirty-three are published in this volume.

The Proceedings of EMAC'03 are edited by Doctor M. I. Prudêncio, Doctor M. I. Dias and Doctor J. C. Waerenborgh, and are published in this special edition of a monograph series from Instituto Português de Arqueologia, the national council responsible for research in archaeology and archaeosciences.

We are especially grateful to the institutions that helped in making this symposium possible. Particularly we would like to thank Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian for providing the location for the Conference as well as technical manpower to assist the oral presentations, IPA Instituto Português de Arqueologia, FCT Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Era Arqueologia, Conservação e Gestão de Património, João Mata, Lda., Corretores e Consultores de Seguros, Metropolitano de Lisboa, E. P.(ML), Barraqueiro Transportes SA, and Saniepec, Produtos para Pecuária, Lda., for financial support.

Finally we would like to thank all speakers and poster presenters for their contributions. We hope that this volume will be profitable to the interdisciplinary community working on Ancient Ceramics.

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