

La céramique médiévale en Albanie: relations entre les productions byzantine et italienne.

Medieval pottery takes an important place in Albanian finds. In this paper I will discuss some pottery types belonging to the byzantine production as well as those of Italian origin, well present during the period between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. This assemblage includes unglazed common wares and glazed table wares found during old and recent excavations conducted in the port-cities of Durrës, Butrint and Vlorë. The selection has to do on one hand with the diversity and significant quantity, as well as distinctive techniques associated especially with glazed pottery, and on the other hand with the contacts that these cities have with the main production-centers of Byzantine Empire and several regions of the Mediterranean. The aim is to present the divers types of wares clearly defined and to determine some of the differences between Byzantine and Italian productions. Furthermore, this would allow comparing the supply of Albania with other sites in the Adriatic. In that period one should not deny even the possibility of a local production, nevertheless till now exist few indications.

The medieval pottery discovered in Albanian sites is characterized by the presence of two important groups: unglazed and glazed wares. Both comprise domestic assemblages used for cooking, serving, preserving or transporting. The first group includes mostly common ware and amphorae. The second group consist mostly of table wares used for food consumption and serving represented by : Byzantine production as Sgraffito ware and its variants (Painted Fine Sgraffito, Developed style, Incised Sgraffito), Champlevé ware, Measles ware ; and Italian production such as Protomaiolica and RMR ware. These categories of ceramics provide new evidences that intended to contribute to the typo-chronological and socio-cultural study of medieval pottery not only in Albania but in the whole Balkans. The range of ceramics related with the geographical position of port-cities, deserves a great interest as a witness of import routes and the existence of a relatively developed commerce, showing close connections between east and west.