

PREHISTORIK POTTERY COLLECTED FROM PROJEKTI ARKEOLOGJIK SHKODER.

Anisa Buzo

Brunilda Sinani

University of Tirana

Faculty of History – Philology

Department of History

Rr. Elbasanit - Tiranë, info.fhf@edu.al

Abstract

In this paper will relate the collection by 248 fragments of prehistoric pottery collected from Projekti Arkeologjik Shkoder in Zagoria, Kullaj, Koder Boks, Boks, Kratul i Madh, Dragac, Mes, Drisht, Vrake, Vorfe. The material is described, classified and analyzed in texture, clay, techniques, the method of baking, similarities with other sites, associated facilities, color, the main forms of vessels, handles, bottom, rim, system decoration and surface treatment. Through the study of ceramics we can understand a lot of phenomena that happened in prehistoric societies, how are the relations manufacturer – user and how reflected this relation in pottery production, how many workshop existed for pottery production, its only one or some and how is the difference with family pottery. How was the economic level of the societies that lived in this region. Which are the conceptions of the societies above arts of decorations and the traditions. Which are the techniques and theoretical elements in quality pottery production and how group up in generation. How was the cultural level and how reflect in pottery. The objective was to take in evidence which was the workshop for producing pottery. Which was the most important center and which was her role in the distribution of pottery in the whole area. The prehistoric sites have been in close relationship with each others. Its necessary for further studies about absolute dating and chemical analysis of pottery. Preservation and conservation is another problem of the pottery. Also the presentation in museum and informations of inhabitants will increase the protection level of cultural inheritance.

The prehistoric ceramics collected from Projekti Arkeologjik Shkodër.

Prehistoric Period occupies an important place in archaeological studies as there are no written sources and study spaces. Therefore archaeological surveys, ethnographic, environmental, and especially technological advances (which have provided great results) are widely used. The reconstruction of the lifestyle of ancient inhabitants is made only through the study of human remains. These residues are divided into ecofacts and artifacts. All artifacts are objects produced by the human hand found in primary contexts (in situ) and secondary contexts changed by man or by natural agents. Pottery is one of the artifacts produced by mankind that lasts in time. Its discovery contains great potential information that explains various aspects of human life. The study of prehistoric pottery is important because it helps us to partially reconstruct the lifestyle in the absence of other data. Pottery is a good indicator for a specific time in history. Placing the object in time and space, which is related to other aspects of material culture, we can somehow understand the outlook of the ancient people in terms of art and traditions, we can understand the economic progress and somehow the accumulated knowledge from generation to generation bringing a qualitative transformation of ceramics production. Through ceramic study we can observe the increased level of technical and theoretical elements in manufacturing and the relationship between the manufacturer and user. Ceramics belonging to Neolithic period (Zagora) were found for the first time in Shkodra district.

In this period we are dealing with the disintegration of Neolithic societies caused primarily by domestic and economic development, social progress and the invasions of nomadic tribes to the east. The influx of these tribes caused the transformation of local and foreign culture bringing new cultural forms. So we have a cultural diffusion from one population to another and vice versa. When it comes to the area of Shkodra the situation is not completely clear because we are not very well acquainted with the previous period and the culture this social groups may carry.

Since 2010 Shkodra Archaeological Project has conducted systematic survey in Shkodra and has accumulated a significant amount of prehistoric pottery shard (248 frag.). This amount takes 9.8% of the ceramic material ever found there. This study intended to help clarify the cultural landscape of the prehistoric period in

Shkodra. The heavy fragmentation in most of the ceramic material limits the study of it.

The analyzed fragments cover the period from the Eneolithic to the late Iron Age. Most of them belong to the Bronze Age and have a wider distribution.

Period	Ph	Ene	Ene-EBr	Ene-LBr	LEne	LEne-EBr	Br	EBr	EBr-MBr	M Br	Br-I	LBr	LBr-I	I	IA	IA-DIA	DIA
Nr.	95	18	2	1	1	4	63	25	2	1	2	24	2	3	1	1	3
Localit y	Boks, K.Boks, Kullaj, Bleran, Zag.	Zag	Zag.	Zag.	Zag.	Zag.	K. Madh, Kull, Vrak, Vorf, Zag. K.Boks, Bleran,	Kullaj, Kratul Madh Zag.	Zag.	Zag.	Kull	Kratul Madh Zag, Vrakë	Kratul Madh Boks.	Boks, Kullaj, Dragaç.	Drag.	Boks.	K. Madh Boks, Vrakë

Tab.nr.1 Periods pottery localization.

Classes of Clay	Nr. Frag.	%	Locality
Clay with white inclusions (limestone)	84 frag.	33.9%	Zag. Kratul, Kullaj, Vrakë, Vorfë, K. Boks
Clay with ceramic inclusions	42 frag.	17%	Zag. Kullaj, Vrakë, Vorfë, K. Boks
Clay with gray inclusions	10 frag	4%	Zag. Kratul, Kullaj,
Clay with brown inclusions	4 frag	1.6%	Zag. Kullaj, K. Boks
Clay with dark inclusions	3 frag	1.2%	Zag.
Clay with being inclusions	1 frag	0.4%	Zag.
Clay with yellow inclusions	1 frag	0.4%	Zag.
Clay with pebble inclusions	11 frag	4.4%	Zag., Kullaj, Vorfë, K. Boks
Clay with send inclusions	3 frag	1.2%	Kullaj, K. Boks
Clay with coal inclusions	1 frag	0.4%	Zag.
Clay with organic and slag inclusions	2 frag	0.8%	Zag.
Clay with minerals inclusions	4 frag	1.6%	Zag., Kullaj.
Clay with inclusions	49 frag	17.9%	Kullaj, Vorfë, K. Boks
Clay with holes	27 frag	10.9%	Kullaj, K. Boks, Boks
Clear clay	8 frag	3.2%	Zag. Kullaj.

Tab. No.2. localization of clay classes.

The pottery fragments that were collected are mainly medium texture (123 frag.). While the rest is made from large width ceramics (112 frag.) and small width ceramics (11 frag.). This indicates that the community produced containers for everyday use with average and large width. The pastry composition depends on the country where the clay is taken, the decision of the manufacturer, the size and the function of the container. It is mainly clay mixed with several ingredients such as pebbles, bits of lime, crushed pottery, coal, organic matter and hull. Constituent components alternate with each other depending on their properties and function of each container. It is interesting that the mixture of several components are mechanically crushed. Pure clay is not frequent; there is only a 3.2 percentage with large size width pots found in Zagora and Kullaj.

The ceramics taken under consideration are produced by hand and have no difference from the pottery collected by systematic excavations.

In fragments collected from Shkodra Archaeological Project is difficult to determine the function because they were collected on the surface, without a proper historical and social context. However most of the vessels are of daily use. Some of them are used in the kitchen and some are used to contain and conserve goods. The ceramic fragments found near the tumuli may have been used for ritual purposes. However the function of the ceramic pots is not clear till this day.

The gross pottery of the daily use have a weak baking and baking good and strong for fine pottery.

The prehistoric fragments of vessel are accompaniment with diversely objects of different periods like: flint of forefather periods and ceramic and metallic objects of the after periods, until in nowadays. This fact means for a continuity of life in the observed land.

The color of prehistoric pottery that is collected from Projekti Arkeologjik Shkodër is decided in surface of shard after baking and using. The coarse pottery of the daily using have light nuance of brown, ruddy, ochre. While, the fine pottery characterized by the dark color, grey, grey-black, grey-ruddy. Tab. Nr.3.

In general the surface of pottery is coarse and damaged by the atmospheric factor because it is collected in field by the survey. Sometime the surface of pottery is with calcareous incrustations.

	Bro wn	Gra yis h Bro wn	Bro wn Cop per-	Red dish Bro wn.	Yello wish Brow n	Red	Cop per	Yello wish Red	Grey	Grey in Blac k	Grey in Cop per	Red dish Gray	Reddi sh Yello w	Brow nish Yello w	Pink
Boks	3	1											1		
Kodër Boks	8			7	2	3	5	3			2		5		
Kullaj	19	2	8	4	1	5	4	6		4	2	1	1	1	2
Dragoç		2						1							
Vorfë	13	2		6	3	7		4	3	1	2		2		
Vrakë								1		2			1		
Kratul i Madh	2	1		1	1	1		1		2					
Zagorë	27	1	1	7	1	7	3	14					16		
Bleran	1			2		1		2					2		

Tab.no.3. Kind of pottery color.

The massive ceramic have the coarse surface. Exist, the shard with coarse surface inside and smooth outside and conversely. There are porous fragments that are made from baking or from disintegration of clay components by atmospheric reasons. The fine glossy pottery is very rare and founded in Dragaç and Zagorë.

The pottery is very fragmented and is difficult to describe the forms or handles.

The numbers of handles is limitary, (27 frag.) and classified into several types.

-Handles in chin form are appeared flat or diluted. They are found in the ceramic material collected in Zagora and have similarity with the handles founded in Gajtan I, Shkodra Castel Ib. - Handles in lug form are founded in Zagora settlement and have similarity with handles in Gajtan I, Shkodra Castel Ib, Beltojë. -Handles in tongue form are found in Kullaj. A fragment of them have a hole in over for thumb. They find analogies with handles founded in Shkodra Castel, Gajtan, Beltojë, the graves of tumuli II of Shtoj. -Oval vertical strep-handle are founded in Boks, Kullaj, Kratul i Madh and Zagorë. They have similarity with handles form of Gajtan I, II, Beltojë, Ganjollë, the graves of tumuli II of Shtoj and the graves of Shkrel's tumuli. Vertical strep-handle in D shaped is found in Kullaj and has similarity with handles form of graves of tumuli VI of Shtoj. Upswing triangular vertical handles that belonging almost complete kantharos is found in Dragaç. Strap vertical handle starting from the rim of a kantharos is found in Kullaj. -Oval horizontal strep-handle is found in Dragaç. A horizontal handle elbow shaped is found in Vrakë. They have similarity with handles form in Shkodra Castel Ib and Gajtan II. - Brow form handles are found in Kullaj and Kratul i Madh. The handle that is found in Kratul i Madh is wavy brow handle. They have similarity with handles that are found in Ganjollë. -Nipple handles founded in Zagora appertain of small or medium bowl. Sometime they are decorated with shallow squared and have similarity with form found in Shkodra Castel and Gajtan.

In the pottery collected include a few numbers of bases. There are 14 fragments, four by those are found in Zagora. In generally they have flat base. The flat base with right develop are found in Kullaj and Kodër Boks and found analogy with bases form of Ganjolla. The flat base that

joined with body shard are found in Kullaj and Kodër Boks, they have similarity with bases found in Shkodra Castel, Gajtan, graves of tumuli VI of Shtoj and tumuli of Shkrel. The flat bases that have a building distinguish clear the base by body shard. They are found in Zagora, Kullaj and have similarity with bases form of Shkodra Castel, Gajtan, Beltojë graves of tumuli VI of Shtoj and tumuli of Shkrel. In Kullaj is found a base in peg form that appertain a massive vessel and found analogy with bases form in Shkodra Castel Ia, Ib. The upswing annular base that stay over low conical leg are found in Kullaj and have similarity with bases form of Beltoja and graves of tumuli II of Shtoj. Whiles, the kantharos that is found in Dragaç have an upswing flat base.

In ceramic material include 17 fragments of rim. They have diversity forms like: -Rounded outturned rims are found in Kullaj, Zagorë, and have similarity with rims form of Gajtan, Beltojë, the graves of tumuli II and IV of Shtoj. -Flat outturned rims are found in Zagora and have similarity with rims form of Gajtan, the graves of tumuli IV of Shtoj. -Rounded rims with a right develop are found in Zagorë, Kratul i Madh. They have similarity with fragments of rim that are found in Shkodra Castel, the graves of tumuli IV of Shtoj. -Rounded inward rims are found in Kratul i Madh, Kullaj, Zagorë and have similarity with rims found in Gajtan and Shkodra Castel. -Rounded swollen rims with a right develop are found in Zagorë, Vorfë and have similarity with forms found in Shkodra Castle and Gajtan. -Right angle inward rims are found in Zagora and have similarity with forms found in Gajtan, Shkodra Castle, Beltojë. -Splay extending rims are found in Kodwr Boks and have similarity with fragments founded in Gajtan, Beltojë, the graves of tumuli II and IV of Shtoj, tumuli of Shkrel.

The pottery material collected from PASH is very fragmentary and difficult to reproduce the full forms of vessels. Only few fragments allow for their partial graphic reconstructions. In generally, there are the simple vessels and represented by:

-Bowl. The fragments of rims bowl are found in Zagora and only one fragment is found in Kullaj. The bowls of Zagora are with funnel form neck, right angle inward rims. The other type of bowls characterized by half-spherical body and inward rims. The bowls small or medium and sometime with nipples or chin form handles. They found similarity with bowls of Beltoja and Gajtan. The bowl that is found in Kullaj has conical body and outturned rim. It has similarity with bowls founded in Beltojë, Gajtan, the graves of tumuli II and IV of Shtoj, tumuli of Shkrel.

-Cup. Fragments of cups are founded in Zagora, Vorfa and Kodër Boks. They have closely neckband, right develop of rim, outturned or ring thickened rim. Thy found analogy with cups found in Shkodra Castle, Gajtan, the graves of tumuli II and IV of Shtoj, Beltoja.

-Tall-neck vessels. Those vessels are found in Zagora and have funnel form neck, widen thickened rims or cylindrical form neck, with flat and right develop rims. They found analogy with vessels found in Shkodra Castle, Gajtan, graves materials of tumuli II of Shtoj.

-Spherical vessel. This type of vessels is found in Zagora and have spherical body, inward or right develop rim. They have relative similarity with ceramic material that is collected outside the graves of tumuli II of Shtoj.

-Half-spherical vessels. And those are found in Zagora. They have half-spherical body, wide neck and ajar or right develop rims. They have similarity with ceramic material that is collected outside graves of tumuli VI of Shtoj.

-Jug. The ceramic material of Kratul i Madh reproduce the graphic forms of jug with spherical body, cylindrical neck and flat rim. They found analogy with jug found in grave no. 11 and 12 of tumuli II of Shtoj, and with jug found in tumuli of Shkrel.

-Vessels with S-form profile. Those vessels are found in Zagora and Kullaj. They are characterized by swollen body, closely neckband and outturned rim, creating the S-form profile. They have similarity with vessels found in graves of tumuli II and VI of Shtoj, Beltojë, Gajtan.

-Swollen-body vessels. Those vessels are found in Zagora, Kratul i Madh, Kullaj, Vorfë, Vrakë, Kodër Boks. They have rounded and swollen body, sometime with upward shoulders, closely neckband and outturned or right develop rim. There are a lot of fragments with cambered form that be able pertain swollen-body vessels. They have similarity with vessels found in grave of Shkrel's tumuli and Gajtan.

-Cylindrical-body vessel. Vessels of this category are found in Zagorë, Vrakë, Kullaj. They have the right develop of body, neck and rim. A lot of fragments with right develop be able pertain cylindrical-body vessels.

-Biconical-body vessels. Those vessels are found in Vorfë, and Kodër Boks. They have biconical body, closely or wide neck and outturned or right develop rim. The vessels found analogy with ceramic material of central grave of tumuli VI of Shtoj, Shkodra Castle.

-Vessels with handle. Vessels with handle are found everywhere in Vrakë, Kullaj, Kratul i Madh, Zagorë. There are a few wall with handle and are very fragmented, so is difficult to understand that the vessels was with one or two handles. Those vessels have rounded and swollen body, outturned or right develop rim, sometime with upward shoulders and with handles to develop upward or downward the rim. This type of vessels is characteristic in Bronze Age and is found in all over the settlements of Shkodra Region that are identified until now. They have close similarity with local difference between them.

-Amphora. It is primitive form of amphora with horizontal handle elbow founded in Vrakë. It has similarity with amphora of Shkodra Castle, Gajtan, graves of tumuli II of Shtoj.

-Kantharos. Almost complete kantharos with raised flat base, rounded body, upswing triangular vertical handles and straight rim is found in Dragaç. In Kullaj is founded a strap vertical handle starting from the rim of a kantharos.

-Massive vessels. Fragments of massive vessels are found in Kullaj, Zagorë, Boks. In general they used for accumulated and conserved of the goods.

Fragments that are collected from PASH, in general are not decorated. Very few fragments are decorated. Same decorations are distinguished in reljev with motives of ribbons set that are found in Vorfë, Kodër Boks (Box hill), Zagorë that have similarity decoration of vessels that are found in the Castle of Shkodra, Gajtan, Ganjollë, Beltojë, Tumulus of Shtoi, Nezir Illia, Maliq Illia.

Besides of simple ribbons motive we have and another ribbons motive with dimply that are found in Vorfë and they have similarity with decoration in Castle of Shkodra, Gajtan, Shpella e Nezirrit (cave Nezirrit), decoration in reljev with plastic riddons is forming the letter M, cik-cak (since fragment of ceramic is small, he don't give the passibilty to understand the decoration), that are found in Zagora and they have similarities with vessels decorated in Castle of Shkodra IB, Beltojë, gajtan, Shpella e Nezirrit (cave Nezirrit). Also decoration in relievwith plastic ribbons in different directions that from geometrical figures are like triangles that are found in Zagoria and and they have similarities decorations with castle of Shkodra, Shpella e Nezirrit (caves Nezirrit).

Another decorations is with flutings with spine shape found in Kodër Boks (Box hill) and Vorfë, they find analogies with vessels, decorated with the same motive in Tumulus VI of Shtoi and Shpella e Nezirrit (cave Nezirrit). The technique of applying scratch is found in a fragment coming from Zagora. It is decorated with batches line slanting and parallel of alternating to each other in

different directions, which find similarities with decorations found in Gajtan, Castle of Shkodra, tumulus of Shtoi, with the same technique is also decorated in Dragaç.

In the generations are applied scratches lines of oblique on triangles filled with oblique lines in the opposite on the shoulder of the kantari. Oblique line to the top of the weaver and horizontal lines to the bottom of it.

From the examination of the ceramic the material is collected from Projekti Arkeologjik Shkodër (PASH), we reach the conclusion that this material is used from one society with a very high level, not economic-social as much of fragment belong to medium vessels are gross and not worked well with poor baking and different mixture of pebbles. The vessels used everyday for cooking and canning of food that are produced by hand in the craft by members of social groups to meet the needs of the group. While, the fragments that belong probably fine vessels are produced in larger centre's as Gajtan or Zagora or the Castle of Shkodra.

Determination of dough ceramic, about the types of clay, close to settlements is not possible because the geological is missing. The ceramic that is collected on the surface is difficult determination of the own production in a settlement near or distant. To further studies and archaeological excavations will give answers to those questions. Also interesting is the relationship between producers and users.

The produced vessels by the same person they have different shapes and sizes of different decorations that besides from function of the users preference.

In the repertory of ceramic material, is increasing observed of theoretical and technical level in chronological order. So the lifestyle and cultural level is social groups come in pendants.

In ceramic production producer is also self-understanding of people from that period about the art, life, beyond the world and other natural phenomena. Those concepts are observed more in the different ways of decoration. Ceramic material has similarity with others prehistoric centers of Shkodra region but also the local characteristic and particulars of the social group that has produced is saved.

In addition to this study, ceramic material should be analyzed in laboratory conditions to have absolute dating. Necessary are the chemical analysis of the inner surface of the vessels to determine the correct position of the vessel.

The excavation and the archaeological studies will help in rebuilding the lifestyle of prehistoric societies in the Shkoder region.

Restoration and conservation are necessary element that does not allow the duration of ceramic. Also presentation in the museums is very important because is though the informing visitors and students.

The prehistoric sites have been in close relationship with each others. Its necessary for further studies about absolute dating and chemical analysis of pottery. Preservation and conservation is another problem of the pottery. Also the presentation in museum and informations of inhabitants will increase the protection level of cultural inheritance.

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