

¹PETROLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF ARRETINE FROM PISA

for Geoff Donnell and
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3093
Petrol.

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Eight small samples of arretine ware considered to have been made by the Ateius workshop in Pisa (Marchini, 1974) were submitted for thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope. The results are as follows:

1. Fr. Piatti impilati e parzialmente fusi. Saggio 1, Strato 2e.
2. " " " " " "

Both samples have been subjected to a great heat, and this has considerably altered the texture of the clay matrix. As a result of this it is difficult to characterize the fabric of the pottery. However, Sample 1 does appear to contain a number of largish 'reaction rims' suggesting carbonate inclusions which have fired or weathered out. This particular feature has not been noted by the writer in arretine from Arezzo (Williams, 1978).

3. Fr. matrice. Saggio 1, Strato 2e.

Thin sectioning shows a fine clay matrix containing a little quartz, flecks of mica and some cryptocrystalline limestone. This appears to be a different fabric to that normally associated with Arezzo.

4. Fr. matrice. Saggio 1, Strato 2e (Marchini, 1974, Tav 1, no. 8).

Unfortunately, this sample proved to be too small for thin section purposes.

¹This work was done as part of a current programme of petrological analysis of arretine and early samian.

5. Fr. matrice. Saggio 1n, Taglio 2 (Marchini, 1974, Tav 1, no. 7).

Thin sectioning of this sample from a (?) mould shows a fine clay matrix containing a little quartz and numerous flecks of mica. Possibly slightly more micaceous than the normal Arezzo fabric, but the clay for a mould may have received less attention than that intended for the vessels.

6. Fr. matrice. Saggio 1n, Taglio 2.

7. Scarto di fornace. Saggio 1, Strato 2a.

In thin section both samples appear similar to arretine from Arezzo, and to the Pisa Group I previously examined. Either these vessels were made in Arezzo and brought to Pisa, or else they were made of local Pisan clay very similar in composition to that available at Arezzo (transportation of clay from Arezzo to Pisa seems unlikely). It will be interesting to compare the forthcoming chemical results on this pottery currently being analyzed by M. Picon at the Laboratoire de Ceramologie of the C.N.R.S. at Lyons.

8. Probabile Fr. scoria terracotta. Saggio 2, Taglio 1.

In thin section this appears coarser than the rest of the material studied. Quartz grains up to 0.40mm in size are scattered throughout the clay matrix together with flecks of mica and a little red iron ore.

Marchini, P.T. (1974) 'La fabbrica Pisana di Ateio', Antichita Pisane, (1974), 3-9.

Williams, D.F. (1978) 'Petrological analysis of arretine and early samian: a preliminary report', in Arthur, P. and Marsh, G. (eds.), Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain, B.A.R. 57 (1978), 5-12.