

The sigillata manufactories of Pergamon and Sagalassos

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Eastern sigillata (J.P.)

The Late Hellenistic period saw the intensification of pottery mass-production processes, of which Eastern Sigillata may be considered the pearl in the crown. Reddish tableware had a long tradition in the Levant¹ and its evolution culminated around 150 B.C.,² in the region between Tarsos and Laodikeia,³ with the production of Eastern Sigillata A (ESA). More or less simultaneously, but independently, the manufacturing of Eastern Sigillata C (ESC) was initiated at Pergamon.⁴ Within a couple of decades the new range of tableware would establish itself in both regions of production, and other pottery production centres picked up the trend with, for instance, the production of Eastern Sigillata D (ESD)⁵ in SW Cyprus and the Late Hellenistic predecessor of Sagalassos red slip ware (SRSW)⁶ at Pisidian Sagalassos. No doubt, many more regional centres followed suit.

The new tableware only gradually made its way, starting to replace other common Late Hellenistic types of fine ware.⁷ Only by the end of the Hellenistic period did sigillata become common on most Eastern tables. ESA was clearly in a league of its own, predominating through-

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- 1 L. Hannestad, *The Hellenistic pottery from Failaka, Ikaros 2.1: The Hellenistic settlements* (Aarhus 1983) 85-86.
 - 2 K. W. Slane, "The fine wares," in S. C. Herbert (ed.), *Tel Anafa 2.1: The Hellenistic and Roman pottery* (JRA Suppl. 10.2, 1997) 257-64.
 - 3 G. Schneider, "La situazione delle ricerche archeometriche sulla sigillata orientale e sulle ceramiche fini di epoca tardo antica," in G. Olcese (ed.), *Ceramica romana e archeometria: Lo stato degli studi* (Florence 1994) 63; id., "Roman red and black slipped pottery from NE-Syria and Jordan: First results of chemical analysis," in H. Meyza and J. Młynarczyk (edd.), *Hellenistic and Roman pottery in the eastern Mediterranean: Advances in scientific studies* (Warsaw 1995) 415-17; id., "Chemical grouping of Roman terra sigillata finds from Turkey, Jordan, and Syria," in Ş. Demirci, A. M. Özer, and G. D. Summers (edd.), *Archaeometry 94* (Ankara 1996) 192-94; id., "Chemische und mineralogische Untersuchungen von Keramik der hellenistischen bis frühislamischen Zeit in Nordost-Syrien," in K. Bartl and S. R. Hauser (edd.), *Continuity and change in northern Mesopotamia from the Hellenistic to the early Islamic period* (Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient 17, 1996) 127-36; id., "Chemical and mineralogical studies of Late Hellenistic to Byzantine pottery production in the eastern Mediterranean," *RCRFActa* 36 (2000) 527. See also Slane (supra n.2) 272.
 - 4 C. Meyer-Schlichtmann, *Die pergamenische Sigillata aus der Stadtgrabung von Pergamon* (Perg. Forsch. 6, 1988). In her review of this book, K. W. Slane (*Gnomon* 63 [1991] 150-54) argued against the use of the term sigillata in the case of Pergamon before about the middle of the 1st c. B.C. Although it is clear that the Pergamene sigillata production gathered momentum at that moment, the evidence available from Assos and now from Pergamon indicates that the lines may not be drawn too sharply. M. Zelle (*Die Terra Sigillata aus der Westtor-Nekropole in Assos* [Asia Minor Studien 27, Bonn 1997] 22-23), for instance, rightly argued to incorporate the *Applikenkeramik* into the discussion. The issue may be resolved only when more stratigraphically reliable data becomes available (as at Tel Anafa), documenting the second half of the 2nd and the first half of the 1st c. B.C., both from Pergamon and consumer sites.
 - 5 J. W. Hayes, "Cypriot sigillata," *RDAC* 1967, 65-77; id., *Paphos 3: The Hellenistic and Roman pottery* (Nicosia 1991) 37-50; J. Lund, "The distribution of Cypriot sigillata as evidence of sea-trade involving Cyprus," in S. Swiny, R. L. Hohlfelder, and H. W. Swiny (edd.), *Res maritimae: Cyprus and the eastern Mediterranean from prehistory to late antiquity* (CAARI Monog. 1, 1997) 201-15.
 - 6 J. Poblome, *Sagalassos red slip ware: Typology and chronology* (Studies in Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology 2, 1999) 314.
 - 7 For an interesting regional contrast see S. Ladstätter and C. Lang-Auinger in F. Krinzinger (ed.), *Studien zur Hellenistischen Keramik in Ephesos* (Vienna 2001) 71-81, and S. Elaigne in *Topoi* 9 (1999) 219-28.