

**PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF ROMAN AND LATE
ROMAN AFRICAN COOKWARES**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a comprehensive investigation of Roman African cookwares that examines their contribution to studies on the consequences of the incorporation of Africa into the Roman imperial economy. It aims to synthesise and analyse the most significant evidence and examines how the flow of capital, technical knowledge and people, between provinces and regions, affected production, trade and distribution trends.

The technology and organisation of Roman African cookware production are examined first, in order to create a solid foundation for the following distribution study. Scientific analyses of African cookware samples from production and consumption sites offer important additions to our knowledge of the fabric composition, technical superiority, provenance and movement of these wares around the Mediterranean. The key discussion focuses on the commercial dynamics of Roman African cookwares from local, regional and Mediterranean-wide perspectives. Beginning at the production sites, the research investigates the management and transportation of these wares from major ports in Africa Proconsularis to Mediterranean ports, and beyond. A chronological assessment of the evolution of cookware production and trade in relation to periods of political and economic change reveals the significant contribution these wares can make towards tracing and even anticipating major stages in the evolution and eventual decline of Roman economic systems. Other key achievements include the creation of a new illustrated typology with profile drawings of all the cookware forms; a gazetteer of all known African cookware production sites and the forms they produced; and a synthesis and catalogue of African cookware fabrics.

The importance of this research lies in the fact that although the abundance of Roman African cookwares on Mediterranean sites is well recognised, a catalogue and analysis of production and trade has never previously been attempted.

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