

Pottery, peoples and places: the late Hellenistic period, c. 200-50 BC between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

International conference at
Sandbjerg Manor House, Denmark, 27-29 November 2008

In recent decades there has been considerable debate as to the extent of cultural globalization (whether as Hellenisation or Romanisation). However, the late Hellenistic world of antiquity is probably one of the best candidates of a pre-modern, self-conscious, globalized world, if one such ever existed. This world had moved beyond the narrow world of the Greek *polis*. Peoples and goods travelled across vast geographical expanses and connected India to the east and Spain to the west, Scythia to the north and Africa to the South. Resulting cross-cultural connections prompted negotiation of identity and power. It was during this same century that the Hellenistic kingdoms one by one succumbed to the emerging power of Rome. We can observe that between the outbreak of the Second Macedonian War (200-197 BC) and the sack of Corinth and Carthage in 146 BC, Rome altered the political and cultural landscape of the Mediterranean and far beyond. In the Black Sea region, new tribes challenged the old colonial powers of the Mediterranean: the Scythians of Skiluros' clan, the Sarmatians and the Getes. But which impact did major and minor political events have on the archaeological record?

With this background in mind, we have proposed a conference to address the following issues:

1. bring up to date the discussions of various late Hellenistic fine ware, plain ware and commercial transport vessel productions in the Black Sea and Aegean regions
2. reconsider the major chronological fixed points in late Hellenistic ceramics
3. explore questions of the extent of economic and social integration in trade, eating and drinking practices, burial practices, artistic choices, etc. between the Pontic region, the Aegean basin and the Mediterranean as informed by ceramic studies

We have invited a group of c. 35 pottery specialists from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States.

The conference will take place at Sandbjerg Manor House, Denmark, 27-29 November 2008. The organisers are Pia Guldager Bilde, Director of the Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Black Sea Studies and Mark Lawall, Associate Professor at the Department of Classics, University of Manitoba.