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The Pottery from Zaraka (Stymphalos, Greece)

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This is a work in progress on the medieval pottery from the Canadian excavations at the Cistercian monastery at Zaraka in Stymphalos, Greece. The publication, *The Cistercian Monastery of Zaraka, Greece*, edited by Sheila Campbell, is forthcoming; this chapter will be chapter 7.



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Zaraka Medieval Pottery
Camilla MacKay
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The medieval pottery from Zaraka dates not only from the Cistercian monastic period of the site, but to an even greater extent from the later occupation of the site. Almost all the pottery found seems to date from the 13th through 15th centuries, so the range extends at the very least somewhat over a century after the Cistercians left the site. The pottery is extremely fragmentary, and diagnostic material from only a few trenches was found in sufficient quantities to allow reasonably close dating by comparanda and by coins. There are relatively few pieces that can be firmly identified, many of which are represented in the catalogue.

It is not surprising to find at Zaraka modest pottery of the 13th century, befitting a Cistercian establishment. The pottery is fairly typical of the rural Peloponnese in the 13th century in that there are few imports and few glazed pieces.¹ Nothing about the pottery betrays the western origins of the monks. The glazed wares, both sgraffito and glaze- and slip-painted, are minimally decorated. Notable among the 13th-century pottery are fragments of four glazed bowls featuring sgraffito birds that were all apparently decorated by the same hand.² Either these bowls were brought to Zaraka together, or perhaps more likely (since the shapes of the bowls are all somewhat different), there were limited sources of glazed wares nearby, and this artist's workshop was one of them.

But a significant amount of the Zaraka pottery dates from the 14th century and into the 15th century. Italian imports, the presence of handmade cooking vessels, and associated finds like the coins all confirm these dates. In southern Greece, pottery of the 14th and 15th century is best-known from populous centers like Athens, Thebes, Clarentza, and Isthmia, but the period is far less well documented in the archaeological record than that of the earlier Frankish period.³ The Zaraka material is also quite different from those places.⁴ I suspect that it will not turn out to be exceptional, however. Medieval pottery of the same general period from the mountaintop village of Agios Elias above the Asea Valley in Arcadia—a remote location—has both Italian imported pottery and handmade cooking pots. By the 14th and 15th centuries, Italian imports are no longer the markers of cultural ties with Italy that they were in the 13th century when cities with strong historical and geographic ties to the west (Corinth, Epirote sites on the Tyrrhenian Sea) imported and used Italian pottery.⁵ This material is often a tantalizing indication of the

¹ In keeping with Sanders's (2000) argument that widespread use of glazed pottery in Greece began in the 12th century in urban centers, and was used in rural areas only later.

² These bowls may well date from the post-monastic period of Zaraka. This the only pottery with figural decoration from Zaraka, in contrast to larger urban sites. The style of the bird itself is by no means unusual: see Shear 1997, pl. 104a,b.

³ For some of the typical glazed pottery from Athens, see Waagé 1933. For Thebes, see Vroom 2006 and Armstrong 1993; Isthmia: Gregory 1989 and Gregory 1993; Clarentza: Athanasoulis 2005. The Corinth excavations have not yielded significant material from the 15th century.

⁴ For an overview of the period from all published Greek sites, see Vroom 2005.

⁵ See, in general, Gelichi 1993.

new directions that a broader knowledge of the pottery of this period may lead scholars in terms of trade, production, or consumption.

I present here a brief discussion of the assemblages from the trenches with the most (and most diagnostic) pottery, Trenches 3, 4, 5, and 10, followed by a catalogue of the glazed, coarse, and cooking wares (most of which come from one of these four trenches). The catalogue represents both examples of the typical pottery found at this site and other contemporary sites, but also includes some of the more extraordinary pieces. In some cases, no specific date has been assigned to individual catalogued items, but a general sense of the range of dates can be gleaned from the discussion of the trenches.

Trenches

Most of the pottery in Trenches 3 and 4 would suggest a date in the 13th into 14th century, with most of the fill of Trench 3 probably predating Trench 4 by a few decades. (There are a very few 12th-century sgraffito sherds.) Trench 10 probably spans a longer period; while it includes material that probably dates from the 15th century, as a whole, it probably ranges from the late 13th century through the 15th century. Trench 5, from which came some of the most interesting pottery, probably dates into the 15th century.

Identifiable coarsewares (matt-painted jars, incised decorated coarse jars) and hand- and wheelmade cooking wares are not out of line with these dates.

Trench 3

Catalogue numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 23, 31, 32.

Trench 3 abuts the end of the abbey church; the pottery from this part of the site includes material which must have been used during the Cistercian period. Pottery from this trench includes a few 12th- and earlier 13th-century sherds (sgraffito and incised wares, and slip-painted wares which may date to the 13th or into the 14th century). Most sgraffito wares are non-figural late sgraffito.⁶ Glaze-painted bowls also occur. There are no obvious Italian imports. Most of the glazed pottery is undistinguished, and may have been made fairly locally; unusual (but unidentifiable) are at least two pieces of bowls similar to **9**, a glaze-painted bowl with thick, glassy glaze.

Coarsewares too include decoration typical of the period, such as several coarse jars with crosshatched matt paint decoration, either black on grey or red on brown.

There was virtually no cooking ware from Trench 3.

Trench 4

Material from Trench 4, adjacent to the gatehouse, appears to date from the 13th and 14th century; no individual pieces were catalogued. Pottery from Trench 4 is most similar to pottery from Trench 3, despite the coin evidence, which groups Trenches 4 and 5 (**ref. to**

⁶For shapes, cf. Sanders 1987, pp. 165-166, nos. 1-3; Gregory 1993, p. 288, nos. 4, 5.

Julian's paper). If the fill in Trenches 4 and 5 was dumped fill, then the material either came from two different places or, more likely, given the coin evidence, was dumped at different times.

Several pieces of sgraffito bowls should date from the 13th century; likewise a few small fragments of Italian lead-glazed and maiolica bowls and jugs. At least two sgraffito bowls decorated with birds by the same hand as **3** and **4**) were found in Trench 4.

From Trench 4 came many fragments of matt-painted coarseware jars, both black on grey and red on orange or brown clay. Cooking wares are either wheel- or handmade, with wheelmade predominating, unlike the trenches with later material (5, 10) where handmade cooking wares are abundant.

Trench 5

Catalogue numbers 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35.

Trench 5, although adjacent to the gatehouse like Trench 4, yielded material that appears to date from the 14th and into the 15th century. Southern Italian “RMR” bowls (in particular **18**) are paralleled by bowls from Otranto in southern Italy; the Otranto bowls date from the 15th century. RMR bowls are mostly otherwise known from contexts in Greece in the 13th and 14th centuries. A handled RMR bowl like the Otranto and Zaraka examples has also been found at Chlemoutsi; this and the Zaraka pieces probably indicate that these vessels were imported to southern Greece into the fifteenth century.⁷ A base of a fine green-glazed pitcher (**20**) is metallic ware, similar to pitchers from Corinth that date from the early 14th century.

Several glazed pieces are unparalleled and are mostly too small to allow reconstruction of their shape. A type of fine bowl with an out-turned rim that occurs in both green and yellow glaze (**15**) is a probable import (from Italy?). Some very small pieces preserve bright blue and white decoration, or a lustre-like glaze (see **19**, from Trench 10).

Coarse and cooking wares likewise may date from the 14th into the 15th century; there are many examples of unusual shapes and decorative techniques, like coarseware with elaborate incised decoration (**26**).⁸ Three extremely fine-walled cooking pots with glazed interiors and high-slung strap handles are particularly distinctive and quite unlike any earlier cooking wares found in Greece (**35, 36**); only one other example from the excavations at Clarentza has been published, but undoubtedly these cooking pots were used in other parts of the northern and western Peloponnese, at least.⁹ Apart from these glazed cooking pots, quantities of handmade cooking wares (**33, 34**) were found in Trench 5; handmade cooking pots were certainly widely used in the 14th century, and here, at least, probably into the 15th century.

⁷ Skartsis 2009. On “RMR” pottery (and the inadequacy of the term, for which no useful substitute has been suggested) see Dufournier, Flambard, and Noyé 1996.

⁸ Similar to unpublished jars from Agios Elias above Asea in Arcadia; datable pottery from this excavation includes fourteenth-fifteenth-century Italian imports.

⁹ Athanasoulis 2005, p. 44.

Although most of the pottery from Trench 5 is unidentifiable coarseware, there are a number of intriguing (and sometimes unparalleled) pieces, which may date to the same period. Because of the lack of published pottery from the later 14th and 15th centuries in Greece, this material may provide valuable comparanda as more sites of the later medieval period are investigated.

Trench 10/10A
Catalogue number 19.

Trench 10 near the gatehouse, like Trench 5, yielded pottery from the 14th into the 15th century. Southern Italian lead-glazed bowls with handles are like the Otranto 15th-century bowls. There are other examples of Italian imports, perhaps both protomaiolica and archaic maiolica; they occur both as bowls and as pitchers.

Some pieces are unusual, like **19**, which is a small piece of a squared, offset bowl rim, with black and white stripes and added blue. There are several green or yellow sgraffito bowls, and a yellow glazed bowl with a tripod mark.

From Trench 10 are also jars that are not found in Trench 5, like matt-paint decorated jars. Cooking wares are both hand- and wheelmade.

Glazed wares

1. 96-C-7. Glaze-painted sgraffito bowl. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.027, est. diam. 0.236. Small piece of rim preserved. Shallowly flaring bowl with square rim. White slip on interior and over edge of rim; sgraffito design of three lines just below rim and two curved lines below. Thin clear glaze on interior with stripes of green glaze radiating from rim on interior.

Medium hard light brown (10YR 6/4-7/4) with rare small white inclusions; sparkling inclusions.

One of the earliest pieces; possibly 12th century.

2. 94-C-6. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.049, est. diam. 0.18.

Two joining pieces preserve small part of rim and body; also four additional non-joining pieces. Bowl with carination, small pointed lip. Ridged on outside on vertical part of body. Grayish slip on inside and top of outside. Sgraffito design of uneven free-hand straight and wavy lines around body. Yellowish-green glaze over slip.

Medium hard light brown clay (10YR 6/4), frequent small gray inclusions and sparkles.

3. 97-C-1. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 22.¹⁰ H. 0.072, diam. (rim) 0.173, diam. (base) 0.068. Most of bowl preserved. Low ring foot with flat resting surface. Flaring wall,

¹⁰ Trench 22: archaic? maiolica, glaze-painted (13th-14th century)

pared lower body, wheel-ridged upper body ending in carination and rounded lip. Pinkish white slip on inside and over edge of rim on outside. Sgraffito lines around rim and carination, bird in center bottom. Thin light green glaze unevenly applied over slip, with patches of thicker dark green. Hard light brown clay (7.5YR 6/6-7/6) with sparkling and tiny dark inclusions. Few very large white chalky inclusions. Shape similar to Sanders 1987, pp. 165-166, no. 1; Gregory 1993, p. 288, nos. 4, 5.

4. 95-C-2. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 3. H. 0.060, diam. (base) 0.050, est. diam. (rim) 0.156.

All of base and small part of wall and rim preserved. Vertical ring base with flat resting surface and conical undersurface. Body turns up vertically at rim, rounded lip. Foot unevenly pared; exterior pared above foot, wheel-ridged above. Light grayish slip covers inside and thinly covers exterior. Sgraffito lines circle upper body; bird in center bottom. Light green glaze on inside and top of rim on outside.

Reddish brown clay (5YR 6/6). Rare large white inclusions, rough break.

Bird similar to **3** although the shape of bowl is different; also two more sherds with similar birds from Trench 4.

5. 96-C-6. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.051; est. diam. 0.27.

Small piece of rim of very thick, large bowl. Rounded lip. Grayish white slip thickly applied on interior and top of exterior. Thickly incised crosshatched design around rim. Pale greenish yellow glaze on inside; darker yellow on top of rim.

Very hard gray-brown clay (10YR 4/2) with few large white inclusions.

6. 96-C-3. Glazed bowl. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.039, est. diam. (rim) 0.12.

Full profile preserved from small part of base and about 1/6 of rim. Low ring foot. Offset rim flares out shallowly from body at about half the bowl's height. Rounded lip. White slip on inside, covered with pale yellow glaze. Drips of yellow on outside. Soft powdery orange-brown clay (5YR 6/6). Many sparkling and few small white inclusions.

7. 97-C-4. Glazed bowl with offset rim. From Trench 3. H. 0.041, est. diam. (rim) 0.116, diam. (base) 0.045.

Base and 1/4 of body and rim preserved. Small flat ring base, body flares up and turns out horizontally to upturned rounded lip. Heavily encrusted. White slip and thin green glaze inside and on top of outside; glaze pooled in center.

Medium pinkish brown clay (close to 5YR 5/6 at core), rare small to very large white inclusions; light gray sparkling inclusions. Common small pores, smooth break.

8. 96-C-4. Glaze-painted bowl. From Trench 3. P.H. (rim) 0.032, P.H. (base) 0.037, diam. (base) 0.074, est. diam. (rim) 0.17.

Base and non-joining piece of rim. Ring foot with beveled edge and conical undersurface. Shallowly flaring walls. Rim has squared lip. Interior center wheel-ridged. Grayish slip applied to inside and top of outside. Thin murky green glaze applied over interior. Splotch of dark murky green around rim and in center bottom.

Medium orange brown (7.5YR 6/6) with frequent large chalky white inclusions and sparkles. Very hard. Rough break.

9. 97-C-6. Glaze-painted bowl. From Trench 17.¹¹ P.H. 0.030, est. diam. (base) 0.08. About half of base and small part of wall preserved. Bevelled ring foot, flat undersurface, shallowly flaring wall. White slip on inside. Glossy pale yellow-green glaze with added design of circles in green and brown glaze of same consistency. Tripod marks.

Light orange-brown fabric (5-7.5YR 6/6), with no sparkles. Small pores; no other inclusions.

10. 97-C-2. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 23. P.H. 0.041, diam. (base) 0.056. Base and part of wall preserved. Sharply flaring ring foot with slightly indented smooth undersurface. Smooth wall. Tan slip on inside and outside to top of ring foot. Thick glossy glaze with dark orange appearance applied over inside and covering most of outside, including foot. Two incised sgraffito circles in center bottom. Tripod marks. Cross and letters inscribed on undersurface of base after firing.

Hard fine brownish-red clay (5YR 5/6) with sparkling inclusions. Rough break.

11. 93-C-12. Sgraffito bowl. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.049, est. diam. 0.210.

About 1/3 of rim in pieces and some non-joining sherds (drawing is only of rim sherds). Base not preserved. Flaring body, carination, vertical to plain rounded rim. Tan slip over inside and 0.028 down outside of rim. Sgraffito design of thick line around body at carination and zigzag lines around body with gouged dots.

Pinkish brown sparkly clay (7.5YR 5/6) with few very large exploded inclusions.

12. 95-C-4. Glaze-painted bowl. From Trench 15.¹² H. 0.070, est. diam. (rim) 0.179, diam. (base) 0.086. Base and about 1/4 of body preserved. Rounded ring foot with conical undersurface. Rounded body rising to very slight carination at rounded lip. Lower exterior wall pored; upper part wheel-ridged. Light tan slip. Dark green and brown glaze radiating stripes on interior; drips on outside wall.

Medium-hard light brown clay (7.5YR 6/6 surface; 5YR 5/8 at break). Rare large white inclusions; sparkling inclusions.

Thirteenth century; cf. Athanassopoulos forthcoming, no. 704-2-487 (which she relates to Morgan's [1942] Green and Brown Painted Wares, Group V).

13. 93-C-1. Glazed bowl. From Trench 5.

H. 0.056, diam. (base) 0.053, est. diam. 0.118. Very hard dark orange clay with sparkling inclusions. 2.5-5YR 5/8. Fairly smooth break.

About half of bowl preserved. Vertical ring foot with flat resting surface and flat undersurface. Clear or yellowish glaze with no slip over inside and most of outside. Tripod marks in center bottom.

¹¹ Trench 17: maiolica, glaze-painted (13th-14th century)

¹² Trench 15: glaze- and slip-painted bowls (13th-14th century)

Probably from Italy; fabric suggests it is related to roulette/Veneto ware? See Vroom 2005, pp. 132-133.

14. 93-C-10. Carinated glossy orange bowl. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.038, est. diam. 0.14. Small piece of rim and top of body and three other non-joining sherds. Flaring walls with carination 0.019 below rounded lip. Thick glossy orange glaze inside and out. Hard, pink clay (10R 6/8). Some sparkling inclusions; no other visible inclusions. Rough break.

15. 93-C-6a,b. Glazed bowl. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.038, est. diam. (int.) 0.20. Two non-joining sections of rim preserve about half circumference. Shallowly flaring lower body turns up vertically below rim. Four grooves around body below rim. Rim turns out horizontally, slightly thickened at interior. Outwardly sloping rounded lip. No slip, mottled dark yellow glaze inside and outside. Orange red clay (5YR 6/8). Rough break. From Italy? There is an exact duplicate of this rim in shape, dimensions, and fabric, also from Trench 5, except that the glaze is green rather than yellow.

16. 94-C-1. "RMR" bowl. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.021, diam. (base) 0.047. Bevelled, unevenly trimmed ring foot with conical undersurface. Dark brown shield design painted in center, with traces of green glaze around edges of break. Sandy, light tan clay (2.5Y 5/3), darker gray at core (10YR 6/3). Tiny dark inclusions, no sparkling inclusions. Similar to Oikonomou-Laniado 1993, no. 4, fig. 6; Skartsis 2009, p. 427, pl. 52 (from Elis); Mastrokostas 1960, p. 141, pl. 120 α and Athanasoulis 2002, p. 344-345, pl. 112 α - β (from Patras). See also Vroom 2005, 128-129.

17. 94-C-2 "RMR" bowl. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.046, est. diam. 0.15. About one quarter of rim preserved. Shallowly flaring wall turns up below rim to form carination. Outwardly thickened rim with outward sloping flat surface. Slightly pinkish opaque glaze on inside and tip of rim; band of black around middle of body, band of pinkish red at point of carination, a wavy black line on top of rim, and a black band around exterior below rim. Hard light yellow clay, 10YR 7/3 at break, 2.5Y 8/2 at surface. Tiny dark inclusions and a few sparkling inclusions. Frequent long pores. See Vroom 2005, 128-129; from Chlemoutsi, Skartsis 2009, p. 97, no. 650a, pls. 17, 37; from Polyphengi (Nemea), Athanassopoulos forthcoming, no. 910-2-25.

18. 93-C-4. "RMR" bowl with handle. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.077, est. diam. 0.21. Long sliver of bowl preserved, with one handle. Rounded body, out-turned thickened squared rim, flattened oval handle attaches at rim and just below rim. Glaze inside and on top of rim and handle, very encrusted. Thick black lines with green and red added on body. Red on top of rim and four short horizontal dark brown lines on top of handle. Grayish white clay (10YR 8/2) with frequent tiny black inclusions and some sparkles. Rough break.

Southern Italian; probably 15th century. Similar bowls found at Otranto date to the 15th century; see Patterson and Whitehouse 1992, p. 151, no. 661, fig. 6.22. A similar bowl was found at Chlemoutsi Castle: Skartsis 2009, p. 99, no. 84, pls. 17, 37.

19. 96-C-9. Maiolica (?) rim. From Trench 10. Dim. 0.020 x 0.030.

Very small piece of rim. Flat out-turned rim with square lip with rounded edges. Upper part decorated with opaque, iridescent bluish white glaze; stripes of opaque (manganese?) black diagonally around rim. Outside glazed in glossy clear glaze.

Hard, fine dark red clay (2.5YR 5/6). Rare tiny white inclusions. Smooth break.

Interesting because this tiny fragment seems unparalleled.

20. 93-C-5. Metallic ware pitcher. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.046, est. diam. (rim) 0.093.

Small part of base and lower wall preserved. Flat base bowed up in middle, trimmed 0.012 from edge. Vertical, slightly flaring wall, wheel-ridged interior. No slip, fine green glaze covers walls and undersurface.

Dark orange clay (2.5YR 6/8) with sparkles, rare small white inclusions.

Williams and Zervos 1992, pp. 156-157, no. 19, fig. 10; Williams 1993, p. 273, nos. 13-15. 14th century?

21. 95-C-5. Glazed jug. From Trench 14.¹³ Two pieces. P.H. 0.039, est. diam. 0.076; (body) P.H. 0.090.

Whole circumference of part of neck, a non-joining piece of rim, and two non-joining body sherds. Tall neck sloping smoothly from shoulder. Rim flares out shallowly, turns up at edge to rounded lip. Interior wheel-ridged. Thick glossy green glaze on exterior; thinner green glaze on interior.

Gray-light brown (10YR 6/4; 7/5YR 6.2); few small-large white inclusions, very few sparkling inclusions. Frequent small pores. Smooth break.

22. 97-C-5. Jar with interior green wash. From Trench 19.¹⁴ P.H. 0.050, diam. (base) 0.039.

Base and small part of lower wall preserved. Flat base, unevenly trimmed, rises vertically and flares up and out to form rounded body. Interior wheel-ridged, with cone of clay in center bottom. Traces of green glaze on upper part of body; interior washed thinly with green glaze. Yellow-white clay (2.5Y 8/2) with few large dark brown and light brown inclusions. Common tiny dark and sparkling inclusions.

Coarse wares

23. 96-C-5. Matt-painted wide-mouthed jar. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.036, est. diam. 0.185. About 1/3 of rim and a short part of one handle preserved. Triangular, in-sloping rim. Flat strap handle. Black matt paint covering top of rim and five black extensions down handle. Very hard, coarse, fabric, common medium white and rare large dark gray inclusions. Greyish white at surface (10YR 7/2), reddish brown core (5YR 5/6).

¹³ Trench 14: glaze- and slip-painted, sgraffito (one 12th-century piece, the rest mostly 13th century).

¹⁴ Trench 19: glaze- and slip-painted; matt-painted wares like those from Trenches 3 and 4.

24. 95-C-1. Matt-painted jar. From Trench 5. H. 0.229, diam. (base) 0.065, diam. (rim) 0.057.

Base, one handle, about half of body and rim preserved. Flat base, slightly rounded body, narrow neck flaring out at offset rim. Handles attached at rim and at point of maximum diameter. Slightly wheel-ridged inner body. Dark brown matt paint around top of rim inside and out; circles around body at shoulder, stripe down handle.

10YR 6/4-7/4.

Williams and Zervos 1992, p. 162-163, no. 32, fig. 13. Cf. trefoil-mouthed matt-painted jugs from Corinth; see Williams, Barnes, and Snyder 1997, p. 17, no. 3.

13th, into 14th century.

25. 97-C-8. Matt-painted jar. From Trench 27.¹⁵ P.H. 0.037. Small part of rim and part of one handle with oval cross-section. Slightly bulging neck at upper handle attachment and inwardly sloping thickened triangular rim. Stripes of black matt paint on rim, stripes across handle.

Medium hard slightly yellowish gray fabric (2.5Y 7/3), abundant tiny-large dark gray and brown inclusions. Common pores. Very rough break.

26. 94-C-4. Incised glazed jar. From Trench 5. Max. dim. 0.079.

Small part of rounded shoulder and two small non-joining body fragments. Incised decoration formed with a three-toothed comb. Straight lines project radially from neck and encircle body; wavy vertical lines fill in the spaces between. Tan slip, green glaze over all on exterior. Thin yellow glaze on interior.

7.5YR 6/6; common small-medium light inclusions, some sparkles. Rough break.

27. 93-C-3. Jar with pouring spout. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.044, est. diam. 0.078. About 1/4 of neck preserved. Vertical, inwardly concave at rim. Four grooves around neck at top; incised wavy line below. Beginning of flare for pouring spout.

Light brownish orange clay (7.5YR 6/6) with rare small white inclusions. Sparkling inclusions, few pores at surface.

28. 96-C-1. Jar with high-slung handles. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.104, est. diam. (rim) 0.06.

One handle and about half of rim, small part of body almost to point of lower handle attachment. High-slung strap handle attaches at neck. Vertical rounded rim slightly offset from shoulder. Body ridged; non-joining pieces of body have deep rounded ridges. Very hard pinkish tan clay (7.5YR 6/4 at surface, 5YR 6/6 at core). Very large chalky and large dark brown inclusions. Few long pores and frequent small pores. Clean break.

29. 97-C-3. Coarse jar. From Trench 19. P.H. 0.065, est. diam. (rim) 0.22. Small part of rim and upper part of one handle preserved. Body flares out from thickened, in-sloping, triangular rim. Strap handle.

Coarse hard red-brown fabric (5YR 5/6 surface; 2.5YR 5/6 at break). Abundant large white and gray sandy inclusions; sparkling inclusions. Rough break.

¹⁵ Trench 27: 12th-century sgraffito, 13th-century matt-painted

30. 93-C-7. Narrow-necked coarse jar. From Trench 8.¹⁶ P.H. 0.053, est. diam. 0.039. About 1/3 of rim and part of one handle preserved. Vertical neck set off from shoulder by two ridges. Handle oval in section; attached at neck just below rim. Round lip. Hard light brown clay (7.5-10YR 6/6) with frequent very large white and small-medium dark and light brown inclusions. Sparkling inclusions. Smooth break.

31. 97-C-7. Pithos. From Trench 3. P.H. 0.071, diam. undetermined. Small piece of rim, exterior surface preserved, interior mostly chipped away. Slanting thickened rim, with two rows of three ridges on exterior. Flat, inwardly sloping top surface. Light brown clay (7.5YR 6/4) with abundant big chunks of ceramic temper and small-large white inclusions. Some large pores.

Cooking wares

The cooking wares, although particularly fragmentary, are among the most interesting types of pottery found at Zaraka. Most of the cooking vessels were found in Trench 5, adjacent to the gatehouse, and two types are prominently represented in this trench: many thick-walled handmade vessels, and a few examples of a very thin-walled (and easily broken) interior glazed flat-bottomed pot with thin, high-slung thin strap handles.

Handmade pots were widely used in southern Greece in the later medieval period,¹⁷ and the finds from Trench 5 simply confirm this. Reconstruction of an entire vessel was not possible, but the pots probably had a flattish base and one or two handles, and their closed and rounded shapes indicate they were used for wet dishes like stews.¹⁸

The fine-walled wheelmade cooking vessels, on the other hand, are relatively unknown, although they have been found at Clarentza.¹⁹ They are strikingly different from the thick and heavy handmade stewpots, with their thin walls, glazed interiors, and thin strap handles; the blackened exteriors clearly show they were cooking pots. From uncatalogued sherds at Zaraka and the published Clarentza example, it is clear that these vessels were made with flat bases. They are clearly the product of professional workshops, unlike the handmade pots. Likewise these must have been used for cooking stews or soups.

32. 96-C-8. Cooking pot (?). From Trench 3. P.H. 0.037, est. diam. 0.16. Small piece of rim preserved. Thickened, rounded triangular rim, outwardly thickened and slanting in, groove around rim on outside. Lightly ridged body. Coarse red clay (2.5YR 5/8) with gray core, common small to large white and gray inclusions, no sparkles. Very rough break. Like cooking fabric, but no sign of blackening.

¹⁶ Trench 8: Imports from Italy (and elsewhere?); 14th-15th century? Coin 93-4: Republic of Venice, 1368-1382.

¹⁷ Sanders 1993, 277-281, for Sparta; Sanders 2008, pp. 400-401, fig. 7.8, for Ayios Stephanos in Laconia; MacKay 2004, p. 296, no. 490, for Asea. See also Vroom 2004, 287 for handmade medieval "Unglazed Kitchen Wares" from Butrint.

¹⁸ On stewpots and diet, see most recently Vionis 2010, pp. 454-460.

¹⁹ I have also seen an unpublished sherd from a very similar vessel in the Corinth storerooms.

Like the Byzantine-early Frankish forms from Corinth in Joyner 2007, p. 187, fig. 4, A-F.

33. 94-C-3. Handmade cooking pot. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.12, diam. (rim) 0.165. One handle and about 1/4 of rim and body down to lower handle attachment. Vertical, slightly rounded walls, plain rounded rim flares out slightly at upper handle attachment. Strap handle attached at rim, rim pulled out where handle attaches.

Heavy coarse dark red/gray clay (2.5YR 4/6) with abundant small-medium sandy inclusions. Some sparkling inclusions. White incrustation on inside, very rough break. This pot might have had one or two handles. Cf. Kontogiannis 2008, pp. 516–518, no. 15, fig. 19; a handmade flat bottomed pot dated to the mid-13th to mid-14th century, restored with one handle.

34. 93-C-8. Handmade cooking pot with applied decoration. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.036, est. diam. 0.20.

Small piece of rim of handmade cooking pot. Almost vertical walls, slightly out-turned squared rim. Applied decoration of a pinched raised band of clay around rim.

Very coarse, gritty dark red fabric (2.5YR 5/6) with abundant large white inclusions. Very rough break.

35. 93-C-9. Interior-glazed cooking pot. From Trench 5. About half body, no base, most of one handle preserved. Tall, rounded, ridged body, five grooves below neck on body, inwardly concave neck with rounded lip. Very thin strap handle attaches at lip and at point of maximum diameter. Handle slants up from rim and turns down sharply to join body. Clear glaze on interior and top of handle.

Coarse dark red fabric (2.5YR 5/8), gritty feel, rough break. Rare medium white and tan inclusions, tiny sparkling inclusions. Very similar rim: **35**.

Cf. Athanasoulis 2005, photo p. 44.

36. 93-C-2. Interior-glazed cooking pot. From Trench 5. P.H. 0.054, est. diam. 0.11. Small part of rim and beginning of shoulder of cooking pot. Thin walls, vertical neck offset from shoulder by thickened band, three grooves below. Neck inwardly concave with rounded lip. Very similar to **35**; this pot probably had a very thin strap handle attached to the lip and a flat base. Interior and top of rim on outside glazed with clear glaze.

Coarse dark reddish very hard clay (5YR 5/6).

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