POTTERY BASICS

A Brief Primer for Pottery Identification
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Clay fabrics

- Mineral sediment with silicones
- Deposited in estuaries
- Constraints: form vs. drying time
- Finer clays, more elasticity, easier to mold, but harder to dry (cracking etc)
- Coarser clays, with added inclusions for “temper” wick moister from interior wall, but are difficult to shape into form
FORM – start from the top

- Rim, lip, mouth
- Neck
- Handle
- body – shoulder, piriform, bag shaped, carinated
- Foot – ring foot, chalice foot, flat base
- Toe
- Large/Small – open/closed
TYPOLOGIES

- FINEWARES
- COMMON WARES
- COARSEWARES
- COOKING WARES
- AMPHORAS
FINEWARES

- BLACK SLIPPED – RED SLIPPED
- PAINTED
- MOLDED
- STAMPED
- SURFACE TREATMENT – ROULETTING, INCISION, BARBOTINE (APPLIQUE), ETC
finewares
COMMON WARES

➤ LOCALLY PRODUCED PITCHERS, MUGS, BOWLS, MEANT TO BE USED IN FOOD SERVING
COARSE WARES

• MAINLY STORAGE JARS, BASINS, MIXING BOWLS, PITHOI, AND FORMS USED FOR FOOD PREPARATION – FABRIC COARSE WITH LARGE INCLUSIONS
COOKING WARES

- STEWPOTS
- FRY PANS
- CASSAROLES
AMPHORAS

- TRANSPORT JARS USED FORM MARITIME SHIPPING
- TOES RATHER THAN FEET
- LARGE FORMS
OTHER FORMS

- LOOMWEIGHTS
- PITHOI
- LAMPS
- ROOF TILES