

PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE CERAMIC TYPES
OF THE SITE AT FELŐVADÁSZ-VÁRDOMB
FROM THE NEOLITHIC AND THE BRONZE AGE

Eight pottery samples from Felsővadász-Várdomb were studied in thin sections by petrographic (polarising) microscope. Six samples belong to the Neolithic Bükk Culture, coarse (domestic) ware and fine ware respectively, moreover two samples represent the Bronze Age coarse ware with broomed decoration. The textural-structural characteristics of the samples have been determined, and detailed description of the mineralogical-petrological composition of the samples, which characterise the temper were given.

The temper of the „D” type Neolithic coarse pottery has hiatal distribution of the grain size, and predominantly consists of coarse-grained metamorphic rock clasts, first of all phyllite and connected quartzite. As a consequence we can suppose that the temper was added to the groundmass. It is worth to mention that there are no older pottery clasts in this type of the pottery (*chamotte*). The source of the raw material of this ceramic type is local, perhaps the clasts of the rock types of the Szendrő Phyllite Formation.

The clasts of the „A” type Neolithic coarse pottery has a little bit mixed material. There are a lot of argillaceous inclusions and grog in this type of pottery, together with an inhomogenous matrix. The few clasts represent mainly quartz, poliquartz, micrite, and some phyllite. On the basis of the inhomogeneity of the raw material, and the composition of the clasts, we assume that the ceramic was manufactured with the loam of the creek, in a nearby territory where the „D” type ceramic was made.

We have studied under polarising microscope two samples of the „a” type Neolithic fine pottery. The two samples are different, however they have a lot of similarities. Both of them consist of predominantly fine-grained quartz and quartzite, and there is K-feldspar, too. There is a thin, fine-grained rim on the exterior of both of the samples, which formed before the firing of the vessels. We assume that this type of rim made from decanted clay and represents an intentional finish of the vessels.

There are some differences between the „b” type Neolithic fine ware and the other ceramics. There is thin, fine-grained rim inside or both sides of the vessels, which contains a lot of fine-grained clasts. The clasts are a little bit different in each samples, but there are a few ones which have same characteristics, for example the K-feldspar, plagioclase and granitoids (it is worth to mention that these clasts are in the „a” type, too). There are a lot of argillaceous inclusions and older ceramic clasts in the fabric of this pottery type.

The Bronze age domestic pottery type is represented by two samples. Their clasts composition is very similar, and the predominantly components are micrite, moreover there are a lot of poliquartz. They both contain only some quartz, but the very characteristic phyllite clasts appear in the samples (similar to the studied Neolithic sherds). It is worth to mention the similarities of the temper of the Bronze Age fragments and of the Neolithic „b” type ceramics, in particular the features of the micrite which are very similar. On the basis of the hiatal distribution of the grain size, we can suppose that the temper (or a part of the temper) was added to the groundmass.

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