

LA FORNACE DA VASAIO TM IB DI HAGHIA TRIADA.  
UNA RICONSIDERAZIONE DELLA TAVOLETTA HT 31

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ABSTRACT

Of the many studies dedicated to tablet HT 31 the one conducted by Duhoux has certainly solved the largest number of questions, with the exception of a precise identification of the types of vases represented. This paper tackles this issue with a structuralist approach and starts from a comparison with the LM I formal repertoire which was actually used at AyiaTriada. The structural analysis of the tablet underlines the presence of two sections: the first is characterised by the ideogram of the tripod and by ideograms of larger dimensions and by small quantities (maximum a few tents); the second is characterised by smaller ideograms and by large quantities (hundreds and thousands). The starting point for an adequate understanding are the vases of the second section, which are clearly identifiable as conical cups and small bowls, with a ratio of 1:10. The vases of the first section are certainly storage and pouring vases of medium dimension, probably stamnoi, pithoid amphorae, spouted jars, and less probably cylindrical pithos, globular pithos and pithoid jar. It remains in doubt whether the assemblage was in bronze, as suggested by the ideogram of the tripod, or ceramic, as suggested by the large quantities.

As far as the content is concerned, the tablet does not seem to record existing goods, but rather it seems to be a sort of order of products either to acquire, as already proposed by Duhoux, or to give away.

Regarding the use destination of the assemblage, the most probable interpretation is that the vases were necessary for preparing an event of conspicuous consumption and therefore recorded the bronze vases destined for the elite and the ceramic ones destined for a larger public, or, in the second hypothesis a set destined for the mass of participants, comprised of storage vases and fine table wares. The quantity of vases could have been satisfied by a kiln as large as the one uncovered at Ayia Triada, even though the presence of the tripod does not allow us to hypothesise that the table was some sort of order for the kiln or some sort of receipt.