

16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES LEAD GLAZES FROM CARNIDE (LISBON)

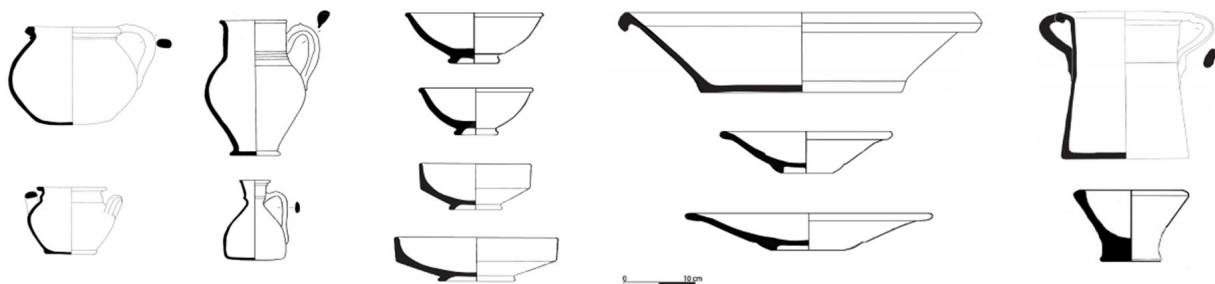
In 1572 the Lisbon Potters' Regulation divides the craft officials between redware, green glazed, white glazed and roof tile officials (*louça vermelha*, *louça verde vidrada*, *louça branca vidrada* and *telheiros*). This is one of the first documents in Lisbon mentioning the production of lead glazed wares. Based on archaeological evidence the production and widespread consumption of Lisbon lead glaze may have started during the second half of the 15th century. The 1572 document, possibly not the first to be made but the one which survived, can in fact give us important information about craft organization and the importance of lead glaze production. All the objects produced in Lisbon had a red micaceous fabric varying from light red (2.5 YR 2/4 MSCC) to dark brown (5YR 5/4 MSCC) in colour. The sherds present a homogenous fabric with small-medium quartz, lime and micaceous inclusions. The pots were all wheel thrown showing rilling marks on the interior surfaces. This

document is also very specific concerning what type of objects the potters had to do in order to pass the exam: *alguidares grandes e pequenos* (large and small flared bowls), *frigideiras* (frying pans) and *tijellas de fogo* (cooking bowls), but also *panellas de mea arroba cada hua* (large boiling pans) *panellas mais pequenas e de toda a sorte* (smaller boiling pans) *almotolias grandes e pequenas* (large and small bottles), *tachos* (cooking pots) *enfusas de toda a sorte* (all types of jars) *pratos de toda a sorte* (all types of plates) *canos para telhados de cinco palmos* (pipes to be used in roofs), *malegas grandes que chamão vermelha* (large bowls), *escudelas de feição de porcelana* (bowls shaped as porcelain) and *hu servidor* (a pot which could have many functions including being used as a chamber pot). All of these forms and even others were found in Carnide.



The excavation of an area in order to replace sewer systems and general refurbish of a city square in Carnide lead to the discovery of more than one hundred medieval storage pits transformed into dumpsters in the 16th and 17th centuries (1550-1650 approx.). These reflect the daily use of ceramics and other material culture elements used by that population in what can already be considered a rural area, although associated to important religious houses. Literally thousands of objects, in different stages of conservation, were found inside those abandoned storage pits. In Carnide, glazed and tin glazed objects, either imported or produced in Portugal, correspond

approximately to two thousand recipients. In spite of this large number this does not correspond to more than 10% of the overall collection thus unglazed ceramics seem to correspond to around 90%. The conclusions related to these numbers must bear in mind social and economic background of that population and always aware that this is a dumpster site and reflects the use of ceramics for almost a century in an area in the outskirts of the city. These numbers although corresponding to what people consumed in their households does not mark a specific moment in time and can only be used to state a consumption tendency.



The purpose of this paper was to discuss the production and consumption of lead glazed ceramics in Carnide domestic environments in Early Modern Age. The majority of the finds has the surface covered with green glaze, although bowls and plates are most of the times covered with yellow. Glazed wares are a constant presence in all post medieval archaeological contexts since at least late 15th century. However the amounts of their presence are quite variable. Not many excavations have a full account of all the ceramics found on site, however the ones who have it demonstrate that lead glazes are never the majority of ceramics, a role which is occupied by unglazed redwares. When analysing numbers we should also have in mind that each

site corresponds to a specific social and economic background and not all of them can be interpreted the same way. Wealthy sites consume high quality products and the number of glazed wares, based in the available evidence seems to be higher in wealthier contexts, possibly indicating that these were more expensive than non-glazed objects. Unfortunately it is not easy to understand the value of objects in early modern Lisbon and except for a few documents there are no references to these daily wares. Nevertheless a major conclusion has to be drawn and lead glazed ceramics, although in different amounts, were present in poor and rich homes.