

Population Change in the Southern Levant as Reflected in Ceramic Production and Consumption from the Fatimid to the Crusader Periods

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In this paper the production and consumption of some ceramic wares commonly found at excavations in the Levant will be examined, utilizing petrographic and chemical analyses. The ceramic evidence will be used as another source of information for detecting the cultural continuity and discontinuity due to population changes that took place in this region between the eleventh to thirteenth centuries. This period covers the Fatimid rule of the region (with its capital in Egypt) that ended with the establishment of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem and the arrival of new population from Europe. The ceramic consumption during the Crusader period by the different populations (Franks and indigenous population) will also be examined. Unglazed wares for dining and storage produced at Acre and other regional production centers, cooking ware and glazed bowls for dining produced at Beirut and other regional production center/s are the ceramic types that were analyzed. These were found at various sites including the rural sites of el-Kabri, Horbat'Uza, Horbat Manot, Horbat Bet Zeneta, and the towns Apollonia, Tiberias as well as the coastal harbour cities Acre and Jaffa.