

## TH1-09 Abstract 11

**Sandwich gold-glass: elitist glass production in Hellenistic Mediterranean**

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**Keywords:** Hellenistic glass, Mediterranean, Sandwich gold-glass

**Presentation Preference** - Poster

Sandwich gold-glass is a particular technique, employed between the 3rd and the 2nd century BCE to produce some of the most precious and rare glass bowls ever realized. This production is testified by about 20 specimens, which were found among Southern Italy, Rhodes, Anatolia, Syria-Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Black Sea, Caucasus...

The technique consists in assembling two colourless glass vessels (obtained by slumping, grinding and polishing), which fit perfectly one into the other. Between them, a gold-leaf decoration is sandwiched.

These artifacts belong to the so called "Canosa Group", which was attributed to Alexandria of Egypt and includes several glass techniques.

My interest in the Sandwich gold-glass production started with the purpose to define "Alexandrian glass", strongly celebrated by the written sources. Through a preliminary investigation it was possible to understand that "Alexandrian glass" was an archaeological common place, still in the latest decades. The only group unanimously recognized as Alexandrian, though not basing on solid archaeological evidence, appeared to be the Sandwich gold-glass. This became the topic of my Master thesis in Classical Archaeology at the University of Padua (2012).

The study revealed also a great variety of gold-glass techniques, before and after this particular and limited production, from the second half of the 4th century BCE, and spread around the Mediterranean basin in the following ages.

The main aim of the project was to conduct a comprehensive analysis, combining different approaches, starting from the written sources. They constituted in fact the principal clue for an Alexandrian attribution (in particular Athenaeus of Naucratis).

An important step consisted in the creation of a catalogue, obtaining a clear and reliable morphological classification. The comparative analysis on morphology and decoration revealed a correlation among shapes (mostly hemispherical, ovoid or shallow bowls), technical details and subdivision of the decorated surface.

The decorative motives, mostly geometric and vegetal, were classified. Since they are widespread in the Mediterranean and beyond, they cannot provide significant help in localizing the workshops. Only the two specimens with figurative scene (a sacred landscape and a hunting scene) permit to lean toward Egypt.

The recognition of the workshops location on archaeological basis, also through the comparison with other contemporary productions (such as silverware, faience, pottery), remains difficult. Nevertheless, the presence of few highly specialized workshops in the Eastern Mediterranean basin (Alexandria, Aegean, Syria-Palestine) seems the most reliable hypothesis. The particular lavishness and rarity of these vessels and their meaning as status-symbol allowed also an analysis of the socio-economical dynamics, related to the diffusion and consumption of these luxury items, expression of an extremely restricted élite.

## TH1-10

**EXPLOITATION STRATEGIES OF THE ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE LAST HUNTER-GATHERERS AND FIRST FARMERS IN EUROPE**

**Saturday, 3 September 2016, 09:00-13:00**

**Faculty of History, Room 218**

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**Keywords:** animal environment, Early Neolithic, Mesolithic

**Presentation Preference** - Regular session

The profound climatic changes and the need to identify solutions for the survival of humankind represent major topics of debate in contemporary society. Throughout their 200,000-year history modern humans have been faced with climatic changes some of them radical, which had a significant impact on the strategies employed for the exploitation and management of the environment, especially the animal life, and were reflected in the types of economic practices.

Through this session proposal, we will analyze, quantify and compare the effects of this phenomenon and provide an integrated view of the ways in which the animal environment was exploited by prehistoric communities at the transition from hunter-gatherer to farmer-stockbreeder, identifying and comparing different eco-cultural models developed across Europe. The investigations will cover two priority domains: biodiversity evolution (e.g., taxonomic richness; magnitude of faunal turnover) and correlative human societal transformations, especially in animal management and techniques of exploitation (bone manufacturing). Among others, the aim of our session includes the identification of the modifications that intervened in the relation between the exploitation of the animal environment and the way in which it was reflected in palaeo-economy, habitat, social or spiritual organization. We invite speakers to discuss these topics from different perspectives; both theoretical and practical approaches are encouraged.

## TH1-10 Abstract 01

**Transition to Holocene in the hinterland of eastern Adriatic: Archaeofauna of Zemunica cave, Croatia**

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**Keywords:** Pleistocene-Holocene transition, mammal remains, bird remains

**Presentation Preference** - Oral

The archaeozoology of the eastern Adriatic region is well documented through studies of faunal remains from coastal and island sites. However, hinterland is still 'shadowed' due to very little information available, mostly because of lack of explored sites. Zemunica cave is situated in the Middle Dalmatia around 35 km northeast of Split, near the village of Bisko. It was excavated in 2005 during rescue archaeological excavations, revealing a stratigraphic sequence from the Late Upper Palaeolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Here we focus on the archaeofaunal material recovered from the deposits dated to the Pleistocene-Holocene transition and the Early Holocene.

The vertebrate faunal assemblage comprising large mammal and bird remains shows interesting temporal trends in its taxonomic composition as well as in surface bone modification, indicating changes in the surrounding environment and corresponding subsistence strategies. The results of this study present interesting new data and contribute to our knowledge of the exploitation strategies practised by people living in the hinterland of the eastern Adriatic as adaptations to the climatic and environmental changes of the Pleistocene-Holocene transition.