

SUMMARY

This book discusses the internal organisation and structures of the huge Roman potteries of decorated Samian. The Samian industries in Arezzo and Rheinzabern serve as starting points because of the very well documented finds. Methodologically, two different and independent approaches are taken: statistical research and interpretation of the documentary and literary sources. The results of both approaches are compared with each other.

This research is based on the material from the production centres themselves as well as their products found in different parts of the Roman Empire. Starting from this material, different groups are established by using multivariate correspondence analysis of the combinations of figure types of the Samian ware made in moulds. In both the Italian manufacturing centres and the potteries in the Roman Provinces, several consistent groups are found. Within these groups, many individual potters are known by name: Although one name with different subordinated potters is found within each Italian group, the consortia in manufactures north of the Alps are anonymous. In many cases, the same names of mouldmakers are found in different groups. The potters as well were occasionally attached to different groups.

The question of the chronology of the potters at Rheinzabern was clarified by analysing the sequences of broken figure types in combination with dated finds in the distribution area.

The distribution patterns of Samian ware are to be analysed mainly on the basis of the production at Rheinzabern. A strong relationship between distribution of products and internal organisations within the production centres can be shown. The question whether e.g. a low frequency within a certain area, such as Jaccard-group 2 within the province of Raetia, is to be explained by economic structures characteristic for the specific region or by internal distribution mechanisms within the pottery itself could not be solved. The dating of findings of the 2nd and 3rd cent. AD is strongly dependent on the Samian ware from Rheinzabern; as a result, one should beware of any final conclusions in this matter.

The second approach takes into account the relevant Egyptian papyri and the sources of Roman Law. The documentary evidence from Egypt supplies us with detailed information on leases and organisation of labour within those potteries. Both groups, potters of amphorae as well as of fine ware, are well documented and have many aspects in common. Leases of parts of potteries, changing lessees and specialised organisation of work can be traced using the documentary evidence available. This picture is in many aspects comparable to the results based on the statistic analysis of production centres of Samian ware in the western part of the Roman Empire.

As closing section, the new insights into the organisation of potters at Rheinzabern are incorporated into the discussions of individual potters. Additionally, the relevant documentary and literary sources are catalogued and presented in German.