

## Greek Aryballoi in Etruria

The presence of perfume vessels, especially Corinthian aryballoi, in Etruria provides an informative record of Greek and Etruscan trade tendencies as well as local absorption of the aryballos as a pottery style and a cultural item. In this paper, I begin by examining the surviving archaeological evidence which demonstrates a wide range of functions and distributions for aryballoi in Etruscan Italy. Aryballoi most certainly contained perfume, but may have also held products such as cleansing oils, insect repellent, and embalming ointment. Unless further scientific work is done to elucidate the identifications of vase contents, it is not yet possible to determine whether aryballoi found in Greece tended to hold substances differing from those discovered in Etruria.

Next I survey the location and the density of placement of aryballoi at multiple Etruscan sites. Burials are the primary source for these findings, and in my study include the cemeteries at Pithekoussai and Tarquinia, as well as a site that performed other functions, Poggio Civitate. These locations are appropriate samples for this study as they offer a range of population ethnicity, purpose, and location: Pithekoussai as a southern Greek site with an Etruscan presence, Tarquinia as a major Etruscan city near a trade center, and Poggio Civitate as a more domestic site, located further north and inland. Coastal cities like Pithekoussai received a great number of imports, including Corinth, the leader of aryballoi production in the Mediterranean. Northern cities may have had more difficulty acquiring imported Greek pottery and produced both imitations of the Corinthian style, referred to as Italo-Corinthian or Etrusco-Corinthian, and also simpler impasto versions. At Pithekoussai, although hundreds of aryballoi are found in burials, very few are found within the settlement itself while also at Tarquinia the great majority of oil flasks are found within the necropolis. In contrast, the site of Poggio Civitate provides an

interesting example of aryballoi found at a lived-in site, inside one of the main building complexes. It is interesting to note that while the aryballoi found at Poggio Civitate have been interpreted as a traded commodity at an inland settlement, at a much more populous and multicultural trade center, Pithekoussai, there are very few examples of the flasks within the settlement.

While I'm not able to conclude that the Etruscans strictly aligned or deviated from Greek aryballoi function (whether for perfumes or for other oils), especially since the Greeks themselves did not rely on one distinct function, aryballoi do appear in settlements and as grave goods in burials in both Greece and Etruria. In addition, the collection I examine demonstrates a continued use of the aryballoi at settlements in northern Italy, but there is a marked change in material and provenance. While the Etruscans already had a strong cultural identity that often used incoming Greek styles in their own way, they did also adopt some Greek cultural ideas. This paper aims to determine how the trade of Greek aryballoi relates to this relationship.