

## Fake It to Make it: Skeuomorphs in Early Helladic III Lerna

Fine Gray Burnished ware, sometimes known as Proto-Gray Minyan ware, is an unusual class in the pottery of many sites across southern Greece during the Early Helladic III (EH III) period that displays several unique characteristics within the assemblages, including the use of wheel fashioning, reduction firing, and a limited repertoire of forms. While pottery classes that diverge dramatically from other material at a site can frequently be attributed to importation, Fine Gray Burnished ware has been found to be made with local clays by potters with a range of skill levels, and otherwise it is characteristic of the other pottery found in this period (Attas 1982; Rutter 1983; Choleva 2012). This suggests that these specific qualities arose from social or economic factors rather than at this time. Through an study of the Fine Gray Burnished ware at Lerna, an important site within the Argolid, and ethnographic comparisons, this paper will examine the implications of such a discrete class of pottery and its possible role as a skeuomorph, social designator, and status symbol.

### Bibliography

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