

The possibilities of PC utilization for archeological pottery and potsherds reconstruction/evaluation
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In 1995 the Archeological Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences decided to establish the so called descriptive laboratory. The main target was to apply new methods and use the advantages and features of PCs for research of ancient pottery or its potsherds in a close co-operation with the usual ceramics laboratory.

Every ceramic piece is very carefully cleaned, weighted, measured (length and thickness) and labelled with unique identification code tag. All obtained data including the descriptive features are loaded in the computer. After that all the pieces are given to the ceramics laboratory to perform their usual traditional work. All the resulting reconstructed pottery or its parts are then documented graphically and mathematically by descriptive laboratory again.

Descriptive laboratory therefore performs and supports the systematic acquisition, saving, back-up and statistical evaluation of the data files (both text and graphical) in order to enable studies, comparisons and archeological evaluation of source files.

The basic outputs of the descriptive laboratory:

1/ Measured and calculated parameters of the potsherds and the pottery.

- a) Pottery dimensions like height, upper, mid and bottom diameters, wall thickness.
- b) Potsherds calculated area.
- c) Pottery calculated surface area.
- d) Pottery and other round objects calculated volume.

2/ Drawings

- a) Preserved or restored pottery drawings.
- b) Preserved or restored pottery drawings based on parts only, but with the full shape line available.
- c) Preserved or restored pottery drafts based on parts only, where the full shape line is not available
- d) Potsherds or their assembly profile and surface drawings.

3/ Data files and their evaluation

- a) Pottery Fragmentation (how many parts are from one pottery piece?).
- b) Relational Space Identification of potsherds (where were found the parts and how the pottery broke down?).

