

Investigation of Chemical and Mineralogical/Phase Composition of Hellenistic Period Ceramic Bodies from the Seyitömer Mound (Kütahya)

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From ancient times to the present, Anatolia has hosted many civilizations. There are many settlements belonging to past civilizations. One of them is the Seyitömer Mound. The Seyitömer Mound is located 25 km northwest of Kütahya. It is a 5000 year-old mound. The archaeological excavations in the mound have been started in 1989 for a while. Again in 2006, the archaeological excavations have started under the leadership of Prof. Dr. A. Nejat Bilgen from Dept. of Archaeology, Kütahya. It has been enlightened that the Seyitömer Mound has been inhabited by civilizations in the Bronze Age, Achaemenid, Hellenistic and Roman periods. From the excavations performed between 2006 and 2013, over 7000 inventorial and 20000 finds to be examined have been delivered to the Archaeological Museum of Kütahya and 1381 artifacts have been exhibited in one of the first private museums belonging to archaeological excavation sites in Turkey at Dumlupınar University. In this study, chemical and mineralogical/phase composition of 30 pottery body sherds unearthed in the Seyitömer Mound belonging to the Hellenistic Period (334-30 BC) have been investigated. Chemical analysis of samples was performed by wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WDXRF) and mineralogical/phase composition analysis was performed by X-ray diffraction (XRD). From the results obtained, ceramic bodies have been produced from clay deposits rich in iron, containing illitic type minerals and carbonated minerals such as calcite and dolomite.

Keywords: Seyitömer Mound, Hellenistic Period, Ceramic Artifact, Characterization, Archaeometry.