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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# A Comparative Study of Tis Port Pottery in Islamic Period and its Place in the Region

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**Abstract:** Tis was one of the most important commercial ports of Iran in the early and middle centuries of the Islamic era. It played an important role in maritime or caravan export and import. Not only is this port less mentioned in historical sources, but also little research has been done on it. One of the archaeological findings of this region is various ceramics from Islamic periods, which are distributed on different parts of the site. Except for brief references in a few sources, there has been no independent research on ceramics of Islamic periods of Tis. Accordingly, the main purpose of this study is to know the economic and social life of Tis port in the Islamic era through study, analysis, and chronology of pottery. The method of this research is descriptive-analytical. The information is collected through field and library studies. According to research, the ceramics of the Islamic periods of Tis, probably belong to the 7-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, but most of them date back to the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. During this period, various types of glazed and unglazed ceramics were used in this area, some of which, such as unglazed red ware and Celadon, were probably imported from near and far areas such as India, China, and others like a group of Sgraffito were domestically produced.

**Keywords:** Tis Port; Pottery; Islamic Period; Archaeology.

## Introduction

Tis port is not only one of the most important ancient sites in Sistan and Baluchistan province, but also the most important historical port of the Makran Coast. The ancient site is located 5 km north of Chabahar port, and its relics are scattered in an area of 2500 hectares. However, this large area and its proximity to the developing city of Chabahar and the free trade zone have caused many parts of this ancient port to expose to destruction and encroachment of new urban facilities over time. In the meantime, the very little attention of researchers and a lack of public awareness of the importance of this site accelerate the process of its destruction. Despite the historical importance of Tis, there have been a few independent researches about its history and remains. Among independent researches related to the port, we can mention several historical articles that have discussed the maritime trade of Tis in the Islamic period and related topics (Kheirandish and Khalifeh, 2007; Safarzaei and Sepahi, 2012; Mahboob and Elahi, 2013). In addition, several archaeological field studies were also conducted in Tis, including the archaeological

survey of the old port of Tis by Stein in 1937 in the form of a study project of the northwestern coast of India to Iran (Stein, 1937: 87-95) and the sounding of the Portuguese fort (Heidary, 2009), surveying troglodytic structures of Tis (Sarhaddi Dadian et al., 2016), a study of historical remains of Tis as an archaeological survey of Chabahar county (Shirazi, 2010), and the studies of historical monuments of Baluchistan (Mirfatah, 1997; Karimian and Saadatian, 2015; Seyyed Sajjadi, 1995). Furthermore, there is also a book on ceramics of the Islamic period of Sistan and Baluchistan that only studies regional ceramics of Zabol basin and does not discuss other areas such as Tis (Mousavi Haji and Attaei, 2010). Also, some samples of Tis are mentioned in an article on Islamic ceramics of Baluchistan (Hashemi Zarj-Abad et al., 2015). Considering the aforementioned cases, it can be said that, at present, despite some researches, there are still many ambiguities about ceramics of the Islamic period in southeastern Iran, especially the pottery of the Baluchistan region due to a lack of information. It was necessary to study

the Islamic ceramics of this area in an independent way and hence, Tis site was selected. However, at a field project as “determination of archaeological sites of Tis boundaries” (Saadatian, 2018), many ceramic pieces were obtained from the historical and Islamic periods in which the samples of the Islamic era have been studied in the present paper. The main questions of the study include the following: What time did the port of Tis flourish in the Islamic era? What kind of pottery has been produced or used in Tis during different Islamic centuries? What is the period of these ceramics, and what is the peak period of it? What have been the regional and trans-regional connections of Tis based on its pottery, and in what centuries? Accordingly, the main objectives of this article are to study and analyze the ceramics of the Islamic period in the port of Tis; with this approach, not only the different samples of ceramics are studied, analyzed, and compared chronologically, but the analysis of the pottery products and the related regional and trans-regional connections are discussed. The present study is a descriptive-analytical one, and the method of gathering data and sources is the result of

field studies, including archaeological survey and excavation, as well as studies of documents and textual sources. In this article, first, a description of the Tis is given, and then the types of glazed and unglazed ceramics are examined and analyzed.

### **Geographical Location and Historical Background of Tis**

The site of Tis is located at Tis village of Chabahar County and 5<sup>km</sup> from the north of Chabahar port in South-east of Iran (Fig. 1); (Salnameh Amari-i-Sistan and Baluchistan, 2016: 35). Considering archaeological research, the history of settlement at the port dates back to the Paleolithic period (Seyyed Sajjadi, 1995: 44; Seyyed Sajjadi, 2017: 13; Saadatian, 2018). The process continued and flourished during Islamic periods; despite long or short-term intervals. Tis flourished during the same time and changed to the most important site of Makran coast in the Gulf of Oman (Maqdasi, 1982: 125; Kheirandish and Khalifeh, 2007: 80). Considering the maritime trade, it was even more advanced than Hormoz in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Lestrange, 2004: 353). Cargos were imported from China,

India, and even Africa, while other items, including sugarcane and one kind of white sugar called Phaniz were exported during the period (Afshar Sistani, 2011: 308; Marquart, 1994: 43). Tis flourished commercially in maritime trade in the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Kermani, 1994: 12). Tis maintained importance in Caravan trade as much as maritime trade. Because during the Islamic Period important caravan routes led to Tis from the cities of Makran region and even Kandahar and Kerman; it redoubled regional development (Marquart, 1994: 86; Istakhri, 1994: 181; Maqdadi, 1982: 704; Kermani, 1994: 109). According to the available historical evidence, it seems that the period of the decline of Tis began from the 15<sup>th</sup> century because of wars (Mahboob and Elahi 2013: 114). Tis declined so far that only its ruins remained in the Qajar period (Etemad al-Saltanah, 1915: 279). The ancient remains of the old city are now scattered around a small village called Tis.

### The Serial Novel in Iran: Genre Review

Offering a detailed history of the serial novel in Iran is neither the subject of this research,

nor is possible, unless the archives of Persian journals and newspapers are fully organized. The authors have tried to trace the emergence of the serial novel—which is surely a historical phenomenon, influenced by various internal and external factors—in order to show that the origins of this type of novels are linked to modernity. The Iranians' acquaintance with modernity was through a serious and painful confrontation between Persia and the West in the nineteenth century; suffering heavy defeats from Russia and the pressure imposed by imperial countries awakened the Iranian society to the backwardness of their country (Talattof, 2006). To remedying such backwardness, the Iranians thought of spreading knowledge amongst the public. They imported printing press.

The first type-metal printing press in Iran was founded in Tabriz in 1811, and it reached Tehran in about 1825. Lithographic printing was installed in Tabriz in the years 1826 to 1845, and it was immediately welcomed by the Iranians because it preserved the style of Persian writing. Lead printing came to Tehran more than a decade later, but it was not until the 1870s that the reproduction of material in

many numbers became necessary and with it came the need for printing houses (Balay & Cuypers, 1983).



Fig.1. Location of Tis Village in Central district of Chabahar (Provincial Govt. Portal of Sistan and Baluchistan)

### Islamic Ceramics of Tis

During the archaeological survey and determination of archaeological boundaries, various types of glazed and unglazed ceramics were found that mainly belonged to historical and Islamic periods. Considering the great variety of these ceramics, the present study has examined only the samples that may have been produced and used in the Islamic era.

These ceramics were first divided into two groups, glazed and unglazed, for better classification, and then each group is studied separately as follows:

- **Unglazed Pottery of Tis**

Unglazed pottery has buff, reddish buff, red and grey paste, and in some samples, a layer of red or dark brown slip covers the pottery. The

temper of these ceramics is sand and most of them are technically wheel-made. In terms of shape, ceramics generally have a round or square rim, with a flat or concave bottom. The identified forms of these ceramics are large or small jugs, storage jars, and somewhat bowls. Most of these are plain without decoration, but there are decorations such as incised, relief, and molded decoration. These ceramics are divided into several groups, including 1- Plain or decorated with grey paste. 2- Plain ceramic with buff paste. 3- Plain ceramic with reddish buff paste. 4- Plain ceramic with red paste. 5- buff or reddish buff paste ceramic with incised, relief, or applied decorations. 6- Ceramic with buff paste, reddish buff paste, or red paste with molded decoration. One of the oldest groups of unglazed Islamic ceramics of Tis are samples with gray paste and sand temper. These are closed mouth with inverted rims and some of them were designed with strip decorations such as relief or applied decoration on the outer surface of the vessel body (Fig. 2). Similar to the pottery found during the excavations of Siraf (Whitehouse, et.al. 2009: 151) and Ras al-Khaimah (Kennet, 2004: 161, Fig. 37) that dated from the late

Sassanid to the early Islamic period. Williamson believes that this type of pottery was produced and used in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and in the strata of the Umayyad period of Siraf (Williamson, 1972: 147).

Furthermore, different ceramics of plain unglazed wares with buff, reddish buff, and red paste were identified in the site that all of which have closed mouths and inverted rim. All of the samples are wheel-made, properly produced, with a temper of sand (Figs. 3-4). Some of the reddish buff and buff wares, in terms of body shape, rim, and color of the paste are similar to productions of Kush, and some samples of the northern coast of the Persian Gulf of the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. These ceramics are probably produced in India and exported to other areas (Kennet, 2004: 66; Priestman, 2013: 542 & Plate 54). Furthermore, other samples of red plain wares with reverted rim and closed mouth were identified at the site. These ceramics are mostly unslipped and unlike the samples in the previous group, their outer surfaces are black or gray. They have a fine temper and sometimes their texture becomes brittle because of overheating or exposure to

continuous heat. Similar to this pottery was found in archaeological surveys of northern coasts of the Persian Gulf, known as Kitchen wares. These ceramics were mainly produced in the 8 to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries and their production center is attributed to India (Priestman, 2013: 548 & plate 57). In addition to the samples with plain wares, there are varieties of decorations at some of the unglazed ceramics of Tis, including incised, grooved, relief, and molded (Figs. 5-6). Ceramics with an applied rope-like decoration on parts of the body is one of the unglazed decorations of Islamic Tis that dated to 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, regarding the comparative chronology of other sites such as Susa I (Kervran & Rougelle, 1984:78, Fig. 5). Furthermore, ceramics with grooved decoration are among other regional ancient samples that were produced from historical eras to early Islamic periods (Fairservis, 1961: 89). A similar decoration method is seen at sites such as Pishavaran, Zahedan Kohneh, and Zabol, which usually indicates decorations in the Sistan and Baluchistan region (Mousavi Haji, 2003: Plate 6, Fig. 18; Mousavi Haji & Ataei, 2010: 290-291, No. 12-13; Fairservis, 1961: 116, I-K). Linear or

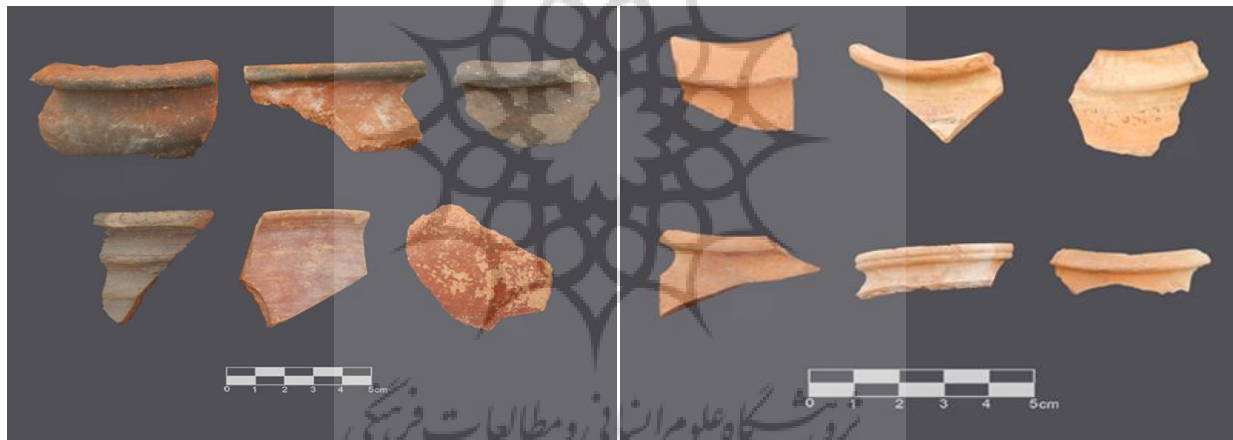
geometrical combed incised decorations are among the most diverse decoration of unglazed ceramics of Tis. The method was common in different historical and Islamic periods; however, Tis's samples are similar to ceramics of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries of the old city of Sirjan (Leatherby, 1987: Fig. 39), Ghubaira of Kerman (Bivar, 2000: 442; N: b71-68) and Susa (Morgan & Kervran, 1977: Fig. 22). The other decorated unglazed ceramics are stamped ones. They are buff, reddish buff, and red ware decorated to only different geometrical forms. The decorations are mainly comparable to samples dated to 11 and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries from Jiroft (Chubak, 2012: 89), Madabad Marvdasht (Rajabi, 2015: 189), Istakhr (Khanipur and Mahjur, 2013: 14), Ghubaira (Bivar, 2000: 444), Nishapur (Wilkinson, 1973: 356-357), and Qasr-i Abu-Nasr or Old Shiraz (Whitcomb, 1985: 84), however, with more similarity to Jiroft and Nishapur's. Regarding the lack of any cast from the surveys of Tis and similarities to Jiroft and Nishapur's, it is probable that regional ceramics are partially imported items from the latter regions. However, a molded pottery with a red paste from surveys of Tis

was recovered that decorated to geometrical designs including some small filled circles (Fig. 6). There was no similar pottery

identified from Iranian pottery production centers. But may be imported this pottery from other lands such as India.



Fig. 2. Grey Unglazed Ceramics of Tis



Figs. 3-4. Reddish Buff Wares & Dark Red or Dark Brown



Figs. 5-6. Unglazed Ceramics with Incised, Grooved, Applied and Molded Decorations

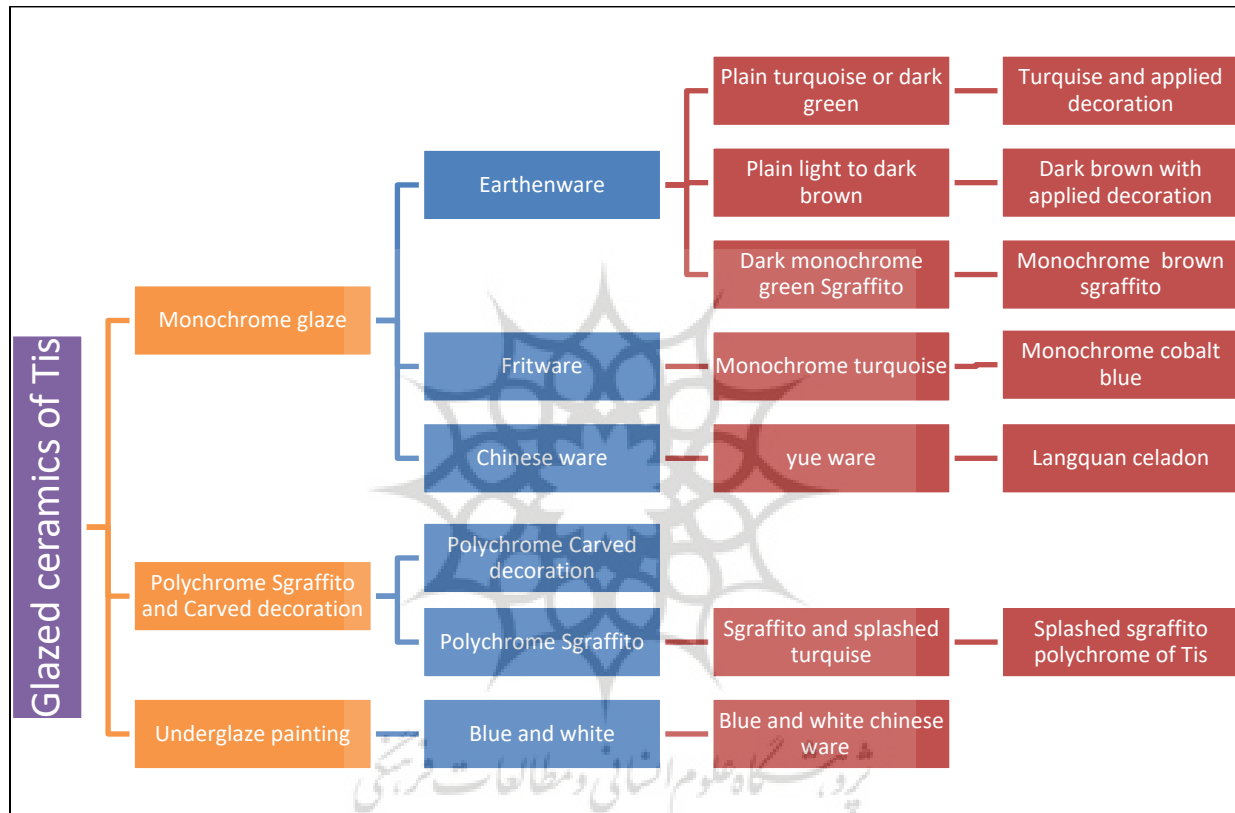


• **Glazed Pottery of Tis**

Glazed pottery with a lower frequency than unglazed ones are other samples of Tis Islamic ceramics. As a general classification, the

glazed pottery includes monochrome, polychrome Sgraffito & carved decorations, and under glaze painting (Table 1).

**Table1. Types of Glazed Pottery of Tis**



**Monochrome Glazed Pottery:** They have a various paste such as earthenware, fritware & grey or white porcelain. In terms of shape, open mouth and rarely closed containers include bowls, plates, and jars. Technically they are wheel-made and well fired. Most of Tis ceramics are wheel made and fine temper. Glazed monochrome pottery is one of the

most common ceramics produced in the Islamic period (Karimi & Kiani, 1985: 30). Accordingly, it is difficult to determine the chronology of pottery. Recognized colors of Tis’s earthenware include turquoise, dark green, and light to dark brown. Clay paste pottery can be categorized into seven groups based on the type of decoration: 1- Plain

turquoise monochrome 2- Turquoise monochrome with applied decoration 3- Plain monochrome green 4- Monochrome dark green Sgraffito 5- Plain light to dark brown 6- Dark brown monochrome with applied decoration 6-Dark brown monochrome with applied decoration 7- Monochrome brown Sgraffito.

Monochrome turquoise earthenware of Tis are less scattered and are mostly plain without motifs, but some samples are decorated with applied decorations such as rope-like decorations. They have alkaline glaze with open and closed mouth forms. These ceramics are very diverse in terms of location and time, and their comparative dating is difficult. But some decorative samples are comparable to the ceramics of the 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century of Siraf and northern shores of the Persian Gulf (Priestman, 2013: Plates 64-65). Another group of monochrome glazed wares of Tis includes samples with a dark green lead glaze. There are a few plain ceramics. Some of these ceramics are simple without motif but most of them are decorated with underglaze decorations. The incision decorations of these ceramics are geometrical

designs and include parallel designs and curved spirals. All of these ceramics are open mouth and wheel made which include various shapes of bowls or beakers. Their rims are rounded or slightly diverge while they have a flat or round base. Similar pottery has been found in many parts of Iran and abroad, the most prominent of them are from Sirjan (Morgan & Leathetby, 1987: 74), Siraf (Priestman, 2013: 593 & plate 98), the Northern shores of the Persian Gulf (Priestman, 2005: Plate 95 & 97), Ghubaira (Bivar et al. 2000: 138-140), Kush of Emirate (Kennet, 1997: 294, Fig. 9; Kennet, 2004: 35 & 174, CP4-6), and even Shanga in Eastern Africa (Horton, 1996: 284, 286). The date considered for these ceramics in Iran is the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries and in other lands is 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The last group of Tis monochrome earthenware is pottery with light to dark brown glaze. They are all wheel-made and open-mouth that include various shapes of a bowl. The glaze is dark brown or greenish-brown that covers the inner and outer surface of the vessels. Similar these ceramics have been found in the survey of the northern shore of the Persian Gulf and some

of the ancient sites of Oman that are known as Khonj or Bahleh pottery. The date considered for these ceramics is 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century and their possible production center has been introduced as the Khonj site of Kang Port (Priestman, 2005: Plate124; Ibid, 2008: 277-78; Ibid, 2013: 631-632; Hansman, 1985: 52-53 & Whitehouse, 1975: 129). Other samples of light to dark brown glazed pottery with reddish buff paste are comparable to some samples of Zabol and the samples in the Tariq-Rajab museum and the Khalili collections that dated back to 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Mousavi Haji and Ataei, 2010: 298, No. 28; Grube, 1994: 171, No. 162 & Fehervari, 2000 134, No. 160). In the ceramics of this group, samples were also identified with a decoration of brown or dark green monochrome Sgraffito with lead glaze and reddish buff paste (Figs. 9-10). These ceramics were made entirely by wheel made technique and the open mouth type includes different shapes of bowls. Similar Sgraffito pottery has been obtained in Sirjan (Morgan & Leathetby, 1987: 74), northern shores of Persian Gulf (Priestman, 2005: 257 & Ibid, 2013: Plate100),

and Kush of Emirates (Kennet, 2004: 36) and could be dated to 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Another group of monochrome glazed pottery of Tis is fritware that consists of two spectra of turquoise and cobalt-blue glaze (Fig. 11). The distribution of these ceramics in Tis is less than the samples of earthenwares and they are probably considered as imported goods to this region. This type of pottery has been identified in many ancient sites related to the 12 to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries of Iran. However, Jiroft (Chubak, 2012: 109), Moshkoye (Mahjoor and Sedighian, 2009: 109), Zolf-Abad (Nemati et al., 2012: 133), and Nishapur (Wilkinson, 1973: 288) are its most well-known production centers. Considering the proximity of the ancient site of Jiroft to Tis, the caravan connection between two regions, and the high amount of pottery production in it, these ceramics were probably produced in Jiroft and exported to Tis. It should be noted that this pottery has been identified in sites outside of Iran, in which the most characteristic is Kush, dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Kennet, 2004: 101). Also, this ceramic was produced in Iran imitating Chinese porcelain in the 12th and 13th

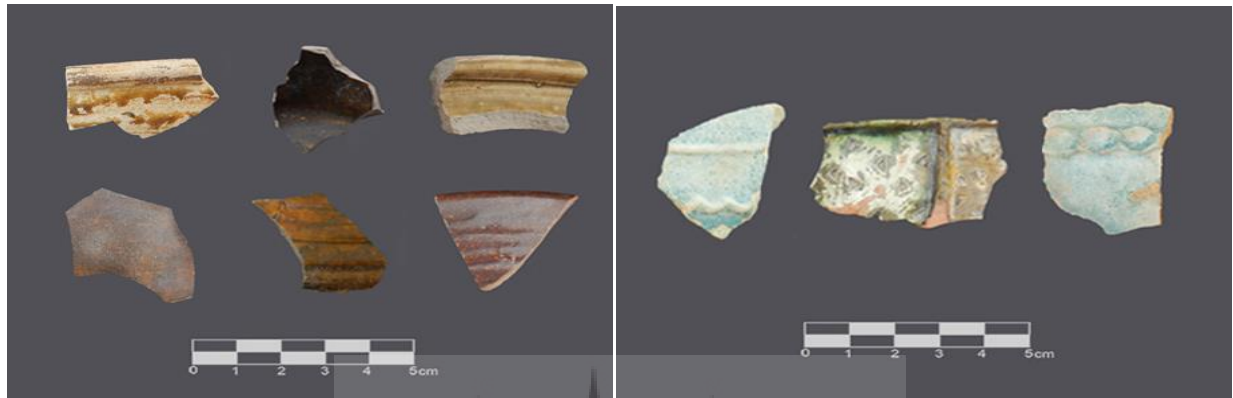
centuries (Mason, 2004: 123 ‘Mason & Tite, 1994: 77; Watson, 1999: 302).

Among the identified Tis monochrome glazed pottery, various types of imported Chinese Celadon were also identified. The paste of these ceramics is pale to light gray porcelain that in some samples is orange-brown (Fig. 12). This type of paste color was common in the making of some pottery of the Yuan period (13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century), which are known as Longquan Ware (Barnes et al., 2010: 336). It should be noted that the production of Longquan Ware continued until about the 15<sup>th</sup> century during the Ming dynasty era. However, the color of the glaze became darker and more decorated with incision designs (Valenstein, 1988: 203). A similar type of Celadon with orangey-brown paste has been found in the excavations of Qaleh-Sang of Sirjan that dated back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Amirhajloo and Sedighian, 2020: 166). In addition to the paste, the form of all identified Celadon pieces of Tis is open-mouth and include various shapes of bowls. The rims are round or inverted outside and the identified bases are circular or ring-like. The glazes identified in these ceramics are alkaline and

their color is in the range from light green to yellowish-green. Many of these ceramics are plain without design, but some of them have decorations such as grooved incision, combed incision, and under glaze impressions. Similar to plain pottery and samples with under glaze incision from excavations of other sites such as Siraf, which is known as “Yue type” and dated to the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (Whitehouse, 1968: 17&21; Tampeo, 1989: 313 & Esmaeili-Jelodar, 2010: 202). In Tis, some Celadons decorated with comb design or paralleled lines incisions that are drawn inside an underglaze leaf-like frame. A similar decoration method can be seen in some pottery of the Yue Sung period (Takahito, 1988: 25). Besides, there is an almost identical sample of this pottery in particular samples with a grooved body and under glazed incisions that have been obtained in some sites of southern Iran include Harireh of Kish and Minab (Moosavi, 1997: 232 & Morgan, 1991: 73-77). As well as some samples of Celadon of Tis, decorations such as underglaze pseudo arabesques or stamped flowers can be seen. This method of decoration was also used in the 13-14<sup>th</sup> century and some Longquan Wares are known as

“Dehua”, that its similar findings can be seen in the excavations of Harireh of Kish and Kush of Ras Al-Khaimah (Mousavi, 1997: 222 & Kennet, 2004: 144). Accordingly, the

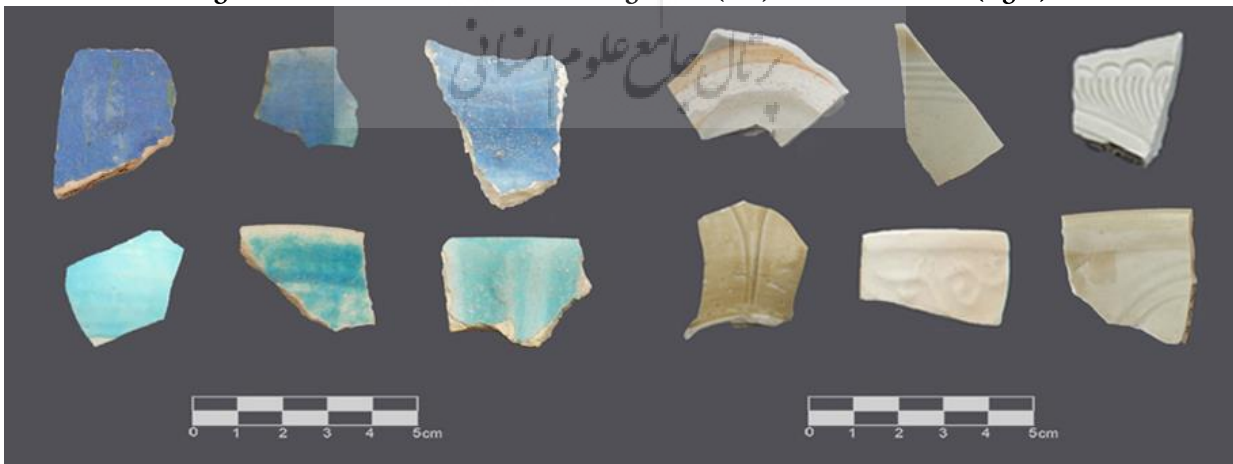
Celadons identified in Tis can be dated to the 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries that are all imported from China.



**Figs 7-8. Monochrome Glazed Green or Turquoise (left) and Glazed Monochrome Light to Dark Brown (right)**



**Figs. 9-10. Monochrome Dark Green Sgraffito (left) and Brown Ware (right)**



**Figs. 11-12. Celadon (left) and Glazed Fritware (right)**

**Polychrome Sgraffito and Carved (champlevé) Decoration:** They have reddish buff clay and fine temper. These ceramics are made with the wheel made technique and their open mouth form includes different shapes of bowls and cups. The pottery identified in this group contains several white slip ceramics decorated with a combination of Sgraffito-champlevé and Sgraffito-splashed turquoise. A small number of champlevé wares were found on the site. These ceramics have lead glaze and decorated with plain geometric designs. Similar ceramics have been obtained in the survey of the northern shores of the Persian Gulf and dated to 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Priestman, 2005: Plate103 & Priestman, 2013: 586 & Plate 92). Regarding the production center of this pottery, it should be stated that according to Stein's research in Sistan and Baluchistan province, the Tis site is probably one of the production centers of this pottery (Stein, 1937: 90). In addition to several pieces of Tis Sgraffito-splashed turquoise ware were recovered at the site. But so far, we're not found similar pottery in the other sites. Probably this type of pottery was produced in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The most abundant glazed pottery on the surface of Tis site is Polychrome Sgraffito with incised decoration and bichrome splashed glaze. Polychrome Sgraffito decoration has been identified in many sites of the 10 to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries sites inside and outside of Iran (For example see: Chubak, 2012: 92; Morgan & Leatherby, 1987: 75; Whitehouse, 1979: 58; Tampoe, 1989: 39; Horton, 1996: 248 & Kiani, 1984: 46). The thing about the splashed Sgraffito technique of Tis is that it has a different decorative style from other regions. Having reddish buff clay, white slip, lead glaze, incised and splashed decorations, dark green and brown, is the common feature of this pottery with samples from other regions. But in all samples of polychrome Sgraffito pottery of Tis, the incised decorations that are used to fill a space inside the motif are created in the form of comb or hachured designs. In such a way that the inside of a design is filled with vertical or diagonal incised lines. This decoration method is specific to Tis, and according to numerous evidence such as melted pottery, tripods, and even the remains of several pottery kilns in the southern part of Tis and the area known as "Kalandi", this type

of ceramic, along with other glazed or unglazed ceramics, was probably produced in this site. In addition to Tis, few similar ceramics have been identified in some other areas such as Siraf (Whitehouse, 1979: 58 & plate IVb), Kush (Kennet, 1997: 293, Fig. 8), etc. (Rougeulle, 2005; Williamson, 1974: 91; Kennet, 2004: 43 & 174, CP3). As can be seen, so far, this ceramic has been identified only in the southern half of Iran and Kush in the UAE. So it is probably a unique style in this region that is different from the samples of other areas of Iran. Therefore, it can be introduced as a different style in the Sgraffito

technique. Almost similar to this decoration method can be seen in a group of Sgraffito of Bamian of Afghanistan (Grube, 2005: Fig. 363). The difference is that not only is the color variation of the Tis samples, but also the hachured in it are created with less distance and more elegance. Based on the available evidence and laboratory studies on the findings of Siraf, it has been determined that these ceramics are also known as “Sgraffito style 3”, were not produced in the site and were probably exported to Siraf through maritime trade (Whitehouse, 1968: 15 & Michel et al., 1975: 3).



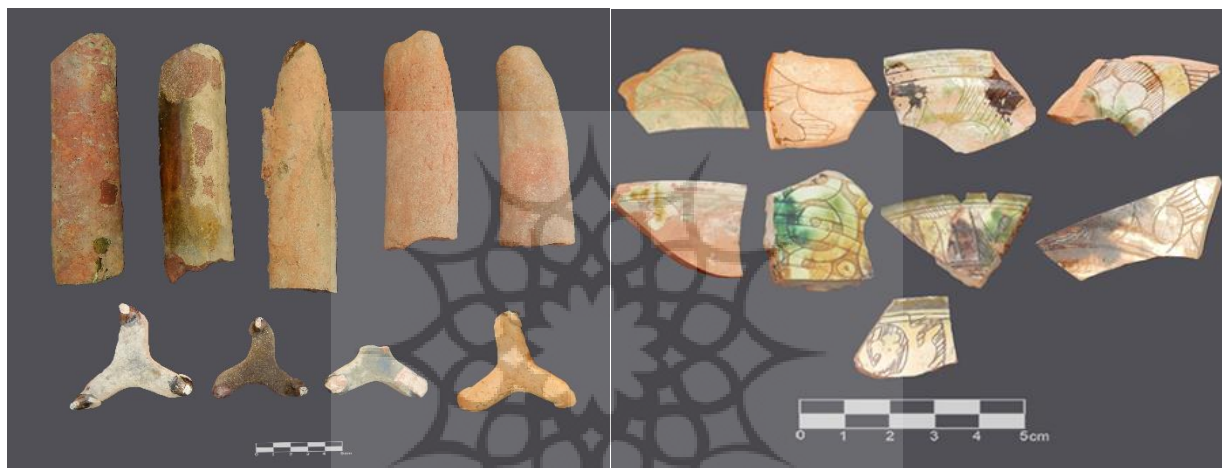
Figs. 13-14. Incised Pottery or Champlevéware (left) and Slipware with Splashed Sgraffito (right)

**Underglaze Painting:** The last group of identified glazed pottery of Tis includes samples of underglaze painting that are mainly decorated with blue and white

decorations. These ceramics are obtained in small quantities and in the number of pieces on the surface of the site that have white porcelain paste. Considering the small size of

findings obtained in the site, their designs are not recognizable, however, in some pieces vegetal motifs are recognizable. Regarding the type of porcelain paste, probably all of these ceramics were imported from other countries such as China, which were produced in the center of Jing-Dezen between the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>

centuries (Pope, 1956: 44; Fehervari, 1998: 281; Golombek et al., 1996: 52 & Priestman 2013: 678). Similar pottery has been identified in many sites like Ghubaira and Kush (Kennet, 2004: 38 & Bivar et al., 2000: 162-163).



Figs. 15-16. Polychrome Splashed-Sgraffito of Tis (left) and Residue of Pottery Production with Splashes of Glaze in Tis (right)



Fig. 17. Porcelain with Underglaze Painting Pottery of Tis



## Conclusion

Tis was one of the important ports of Makran during the Islamic period that in its time had commercial exchanges with centers such as China and India. According to historical sources, this port was of special importance until the 14<sup>th</sup> century and then declined. Archaeological evidence has not yet confirmed or corrected these references to historical sources. However, in this study and based on studies on pottery, references to historical sources have been largely confirmed. According to studies done on the unglazed characteristic findings of Tis, which could be compared chronologically, it was determined that these ceramics were probably produced and used in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some pottery such as samples of gray paste or grooved incised ones may have been produced before the Islamic period and especially during the Sassanid era. As archaeological excavations related to the industrial activities of pottery production have not been carried out in this site so far, it is not possible to attribute the production of all these pottery to Tis with certainty. These ceramics are very similar to centers such as Siraf, Jiroft,

Nishapur inside Iran, and Indian outside Iran. Accordingly, it is possible that at least some of these ceramics were produced in these centers and exported to Tis.

Furthermore, what has been obtained in the study of Tis glazed pottery shows the widespread distribution of some types such as monochrome turquoise and dark green, in a way that similar samples have been identified and some have been produced in many lands inside and outside Iran. Although, some samples were probably produced in one or two centers and had less distribution, such as the well-known samples of Bahleh or Khonj style. Tis itself was one of the characteristic producers of glazed pottery between the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, and at least a group of incised and polychrome Sgraffito types can be attributed to this city. These ceramics have not only been used by the local people but have also been exported to other regions such as Siraf and Kush of Emirate. According to such comparative chronologies, it was determined that the glazed pottery identified during the Islamic period of Tis dates back to the 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. But most of these ceramics belong to before the 14<sup>th</sup> century and

the later findings are in a few pieces. According to studies and evidence such as pottery kiln residues, it is likely that part of the glazed wares of Tis was produced in the site itself and another part has been produced and exported to this site from other areas such as Jiroft and areas outside of Iran such as Longquan and Jing-dezen of China.

Another point that can be deduced from the study of the ceramics of the Islamic period of Tis is the life and prosperity of the city from the beginning of Islam to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Because not only the most pottery findings were found in this period, but also the greatest

variety and evidence of commercial connections was observed in the pottery of these centuries. Besides, according to the same pottery evidence, it was determined that during the prosperity of the port of Tis, there were the most internal trade relations with Siraf and Jiroft and foreign trade with India and China, which is fully confirmed by historical sources. On the other hand, there is very little evidence of pottery after the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which is also consistent with the references in historical sources to the decline of the city from this century onwards.

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## مطالعه تطبیقی سفال بندر تیس در دوره اسلامی و مکان آن در منطقه

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چکیده: تیس یکی از بندرهای تجاری مهم ایران در فاصله قرون اولیه و میانی اسلامی بود که در امر صادرات و واردات دریایی یا کاروانی کالاهای مختلف نقش داشت. از این بندر نه تنها در منابع تاریخی کمتر سخن به میان آمده، بلکه پژوهش‌های صورت گرفته در مورد آن نیز اندک است. بر همین اساس ضرورت دارد که هم‌چنان آثار تاریخی و یافته‌های باستانی این شهر مورد مطالعه قرار گیرد. یکی از یافته‌های باستان‌شناسی این منطقه سفالینه‌های متنوعی از دوران اسلامی است که در قسمت‌های مختلف آن پراکنده هستند. در مورد سفال‌های دوران اسلامی تیس به‌جز اشارات مختصری در چند منبع، پژوهش مستقلی انجام نشده است. بر همین اساس ضرورت داشت که در یک مقاله مستقل به این آثار پرداخته شده و بر اساس منابع موجود بررسی و تحلیل شوند. با توجه به این موارد هدف اصلی پژوهش حاضر بررسی، طبقه‌بندی و گاهنگاری نسبی و مقایسه‌ای سفال‌های دوران اسلامی تیس است. براساس مطالعات صورت گرفته چنین مشخص شد که به‌احتمال سفال‌های دوران اسلامی تیس متعلق به قرون اول تا یازدهم هجری بوده اما بیشترین فراوانی آنها به قرون سه تا شش هجری بازمی‌گردد. در این مدت انواع سفالینه‌های لعاب‌دار و بدون لعاب در این محوطه استفاده شده که برخی از آنها همانند نمونه‌های بدون لعاب خمیره قرمز و سلاذن به‌احتمال وارداتی از مناطق دور و نزدیکی همچون هند و چین بوده و برخی دیگر همانند گروهی از اسگرافیاتوها، تولید داخل هستند.

واژه‌های کلیدی: بندر تیس، سفال، دوران اسلامی، باستان‌شناسی.

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