

#### 4.E CONCLUSION

After having presented and discussed the petrographic results in detail, it is crucial to briefly come back to the initial archaeological questions raised before having started the natural-scientific investigation.

Ionia in the Archaic period demonstrably was involved in the cultural and economic interaction with other parts of Western Asia Minor and was, furthermore, integrated in international trade or exchange systems. Of 22 petrographic fabric groups identified, nine can be addressed as being related to local respective regional clay sources. Imported ceramics have been traced back to broadly two cultural areas: Cyprus and Northern Ionia/Aeolis/Lydia. Ceramics of local provenance reflect their Ephesian origin also stylistically, as following the common shapes of utilitarian wares. For several of the samples, which typologically have been linked to Ephesos, this identification has been confirmed petrographically. The analysed vessels confirm that kitchen ware particularly was in the focus of local production forming excellent reference groups, but that at the same time, cooking pots had also been imported from Northern Ionia. Cultural interaction of the west coast of Asia Minor with the Aegean is also evident through the imitation of Cypriot mortaria in Northern Ionia<sup>1703</sup>, which consequently had been transferred to Ephesos, but simultaneously the city had been supplied widely with the original Cypriot prototypes.

Ephesos from the 8<sup>th</sup> century onwards is an emerging city, being self-sufficient in ceramic production focusing solely on the import of specialised vessel shapes or pottery of a specific quality. Diachronic developments between the Geometric and Archaic periods are not obvious based on the analysed ceramic assemblage<sup>1704</sup>, apart from the fact that contacts to Cyprus seem to concentrate on the Archaic periods exclusively. The exploitation of raw materials for local pottery manufacture can be examined in a wider chronological perspective and is revealing. Based on our current state of knowledge, compositionally highly variable clay pastes so far are primarily known from the prehistoric periods in Ephesos, while in post-Archaic periods, they have not been commonly recognised<sup>1705</sup>. Aesthetical or functional reasons, or the availability of the raw materials influenced by environmental changes might be responsible for this shift. Future studies will clarify if the use of specific clay pastes in Ephesos is a reliable chronological marker.

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<sup>1703</sup> Petrofabric EPH-VOLC\_01.

<sup>1704</sup> Possibly also due to the low quantity of Geometric vessels analysed.

<sup>1705</sup> An exception is the petrofabric EPH-METAMORPHIC\_01.