

# CERAMIC ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

*Ethnoarchaeology:*

*Use of living traditions to shed light on archaeological evidence.*

*Add a behavioural dimension to archaeological interpretation*

*How to use ethnoarchaeology:*

*Find patterns of behaviour which can be correlated with material remains*

*e.g. distinguish between potters/centres by fabric or forming techniques;*

*Identification of production locations*

# POTTERY-MAKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

*Three main traditions are usually defined according to the technology used to form vessels:*

*Non-wheel (with and without moulds)*

*Hand-wheel*

*Foot-wheel*



# POTTERY-MAKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

*This system provides a useful starting point for discussion, but is otherwise of dubious validity*

*e.g. Malesici (foot-wheel used to make coarse pottery)*

*& Visnjica (hand-wheel used to make fine pottery)*

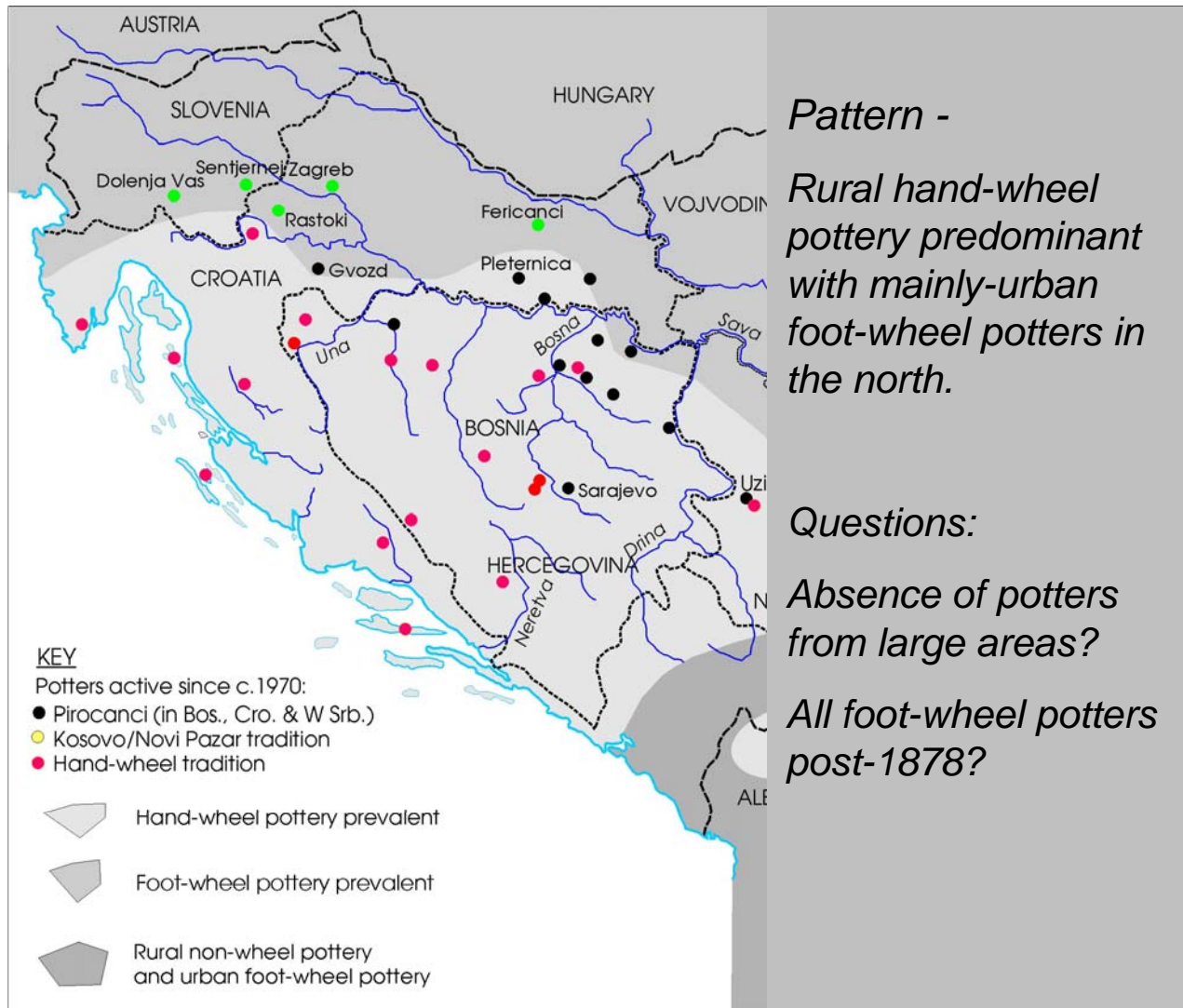
*and tends to suggest a kind of evolutionary hierarchy.*

*Other divisions could be based on techniques of forming, types of inclusions, range of products, etc.*

# POTTERY-MAKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



# POTTERY-MAKING IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



*Pattern -*

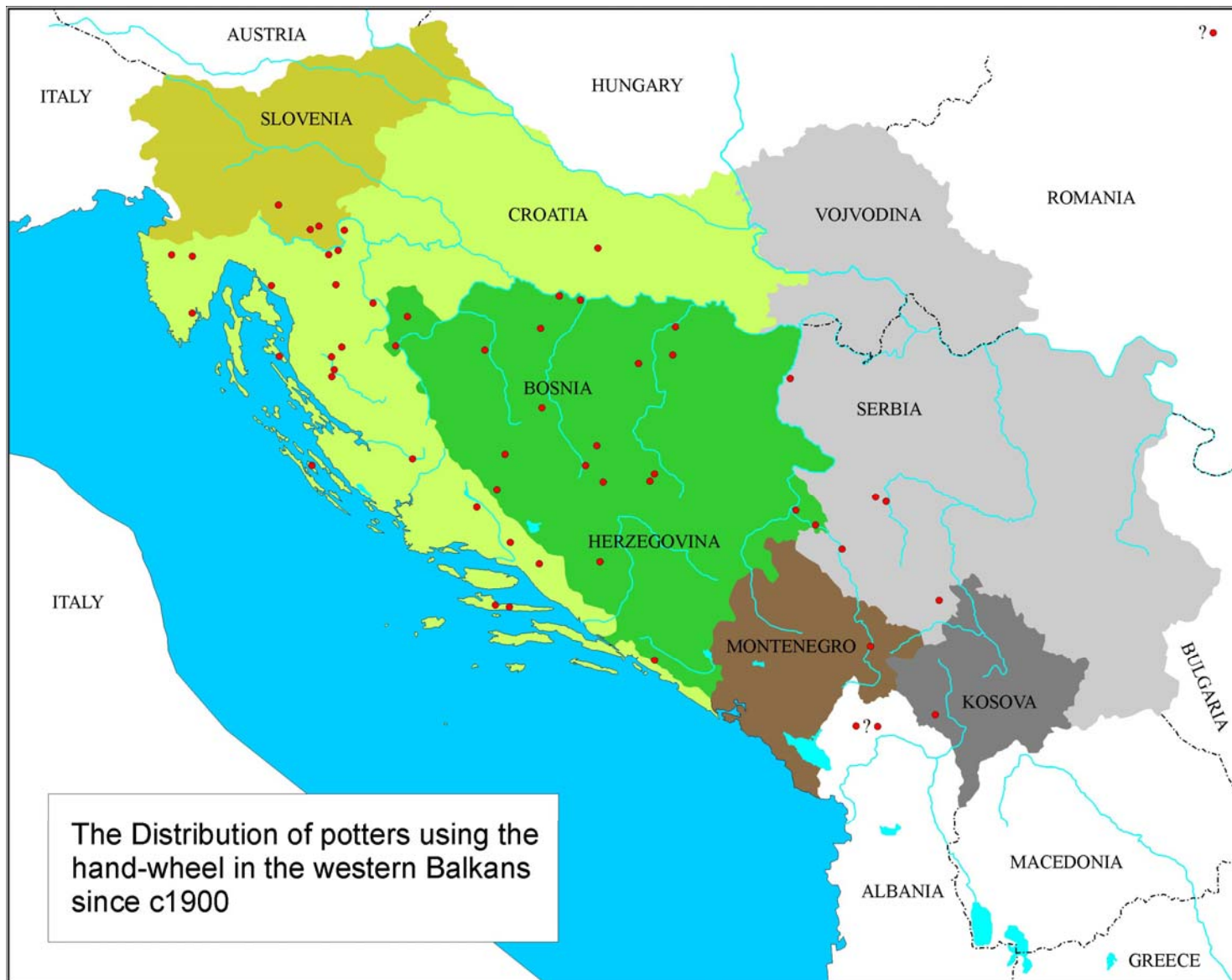
*Rural hand-wheel pottery predominant with mainly-urban foot-wheel potters in the north.*

*Questions:*

*Absence of potters from large areas?*

*All foot-wheel potters post-1878?*

# 'HAND-WHEEL' POTTERY-MAKING IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



# 'HAND-WHEEL' POTTERY-MAKING IN BiH

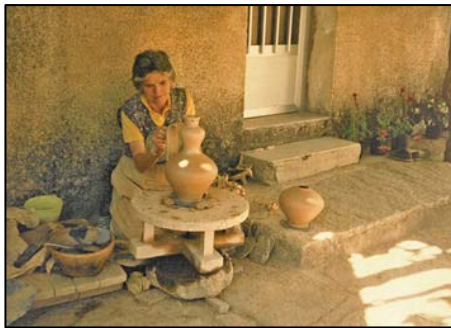
Most locations known from studies in the 1950s (Kalmeta & Popovic)

Little work since then (except TV reports on Malesici)

About 20 groups, widely distributed.

Others to be discovered (e.g. 'Loncari' place-names)

Further afield: found elsewhere in the Balkans and in Belorus, N Spain, Portugal, Cyprus, etc



# 'HAND-WHEEL' POTTERY-MAKING IN BIH

*Vrkasic, Kralji, Zegar (Bihac)*

*Brezova Kosa, Skokovi (Cazin)*

*Demisevci, D Kamengrad, Husimovci, Podbrezje, Trnovo, Tomina....(Sanski Most)*

*D & G Rujani (Livno)*

*Krasinac (Glamoc)*

*Mrkonjic Grad*

*Dvorani, Masenac, Milosevici, Misin Han, Tomisici, Zabari... (Ivanjska)*

*Glavica (Bugojno)*

*D Dobrkovici, D Gradac, Gostusa - Siroki Brijeg*

*Bistrica, Batusa, Vrse, Zdrimce (G Vakuf)*

*Pulac, Bijelobuce (Travnik)*

*Baljivac (Popovo Polje)*

*Ularice, Omanjska, Sivsa (Doboj)*

*Visnjica, Gromiljak (Kiseljak)*

*Lijeseva (Visoko)*

*Malesici, Stjepan Polje (Gracanica)*

*Dobrinja (Modrica)*

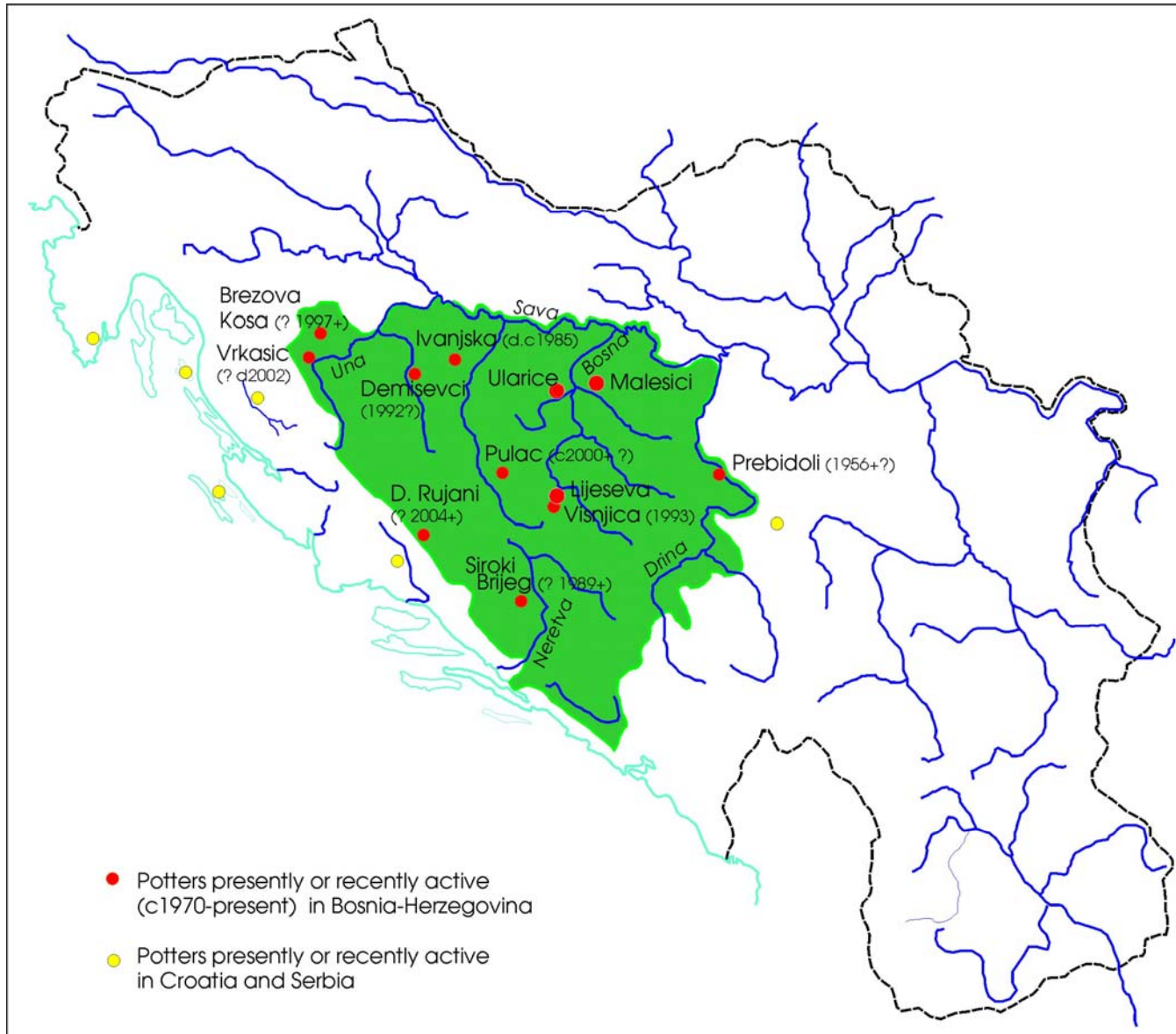
*Korenita (Drina valley)*

*Drinjsko (Visegrad, Drina valley)*

*Prebidoli, Mokronozi (Priboj)*



# 'HAND-WHEEL' POTTERY-MAKING IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



# HAND-WHEEL POTTERY

*Defined by use of the hand-wheel*



*BUT great variety in the form of wheels and in the techniques used to prepare clay, form pots and fire them*

# RAW MATERIALS PREPERATION

## CLAY

*Glina/zemlja/ilovaca*

*Choice depends on availability and products*

*Prepared by drying, crushing & soaking*

*Jure Knezevic, Potravlje*



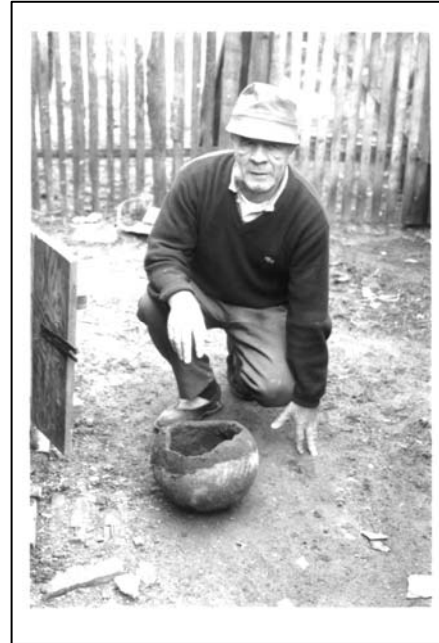
# RAW MATERIALS PREPERATION

## *ADDITIONS*

*Calcite (vrsta) and/or sand*

*Prepared by crushing, grinding  
and/or sieving*

*Choice depends on availability,  
vessel use, firing technology.*



*Implications for archaeology?*

# VESSEL FORMING

## WHEELS

*Composite & non-composite*

*High momentum & Low momentum*

*Set in bases of stone, wooden boards, branches, etc*

## METHODS

*Forming the base*

*Building the walls – coiling-scraping  
and/or lifting*

*Shaping – by hand & wooden tools*

*Removing by cutting around the base*





# VESSEL FORMING



*Demisevci*



*Ivanjska*

# VESSEL FORMING



*Pulac*

# VESSEL FORMING



*Krasinac*



*Ularica*



# VESSEL FORMING



*Maria Medic, Gric*



*Meho Begovic, Visnjica*

*Technique of forming not fully determined by size or type of wheel*

*Some potters use different techniques according to size/shape of pot*

# SECONDARY FORMING AND DRYING



*Ularica*



# FIRING

## 1. *Open firing*



# FIRING

2. *Enclosed open firing (e.g. Ularica)*
3. *Oven firing (e.g. Brezova Kosa, Krasinac)*





# FIRING

## 4. *Kiln Firing*



*Visnjica*

# FIRING

*Kiln Firing at Visnjica*



# FIRING

*Kiln Firing at Visnjica & Lijeseva*





# THE PRODUCTS



*Ularica*



*Pulac*

*Malesici*





# THE PRODUCTS



*Visnjica*



# SALE



*Malesici*



*Ularica*

# VESSEL USE

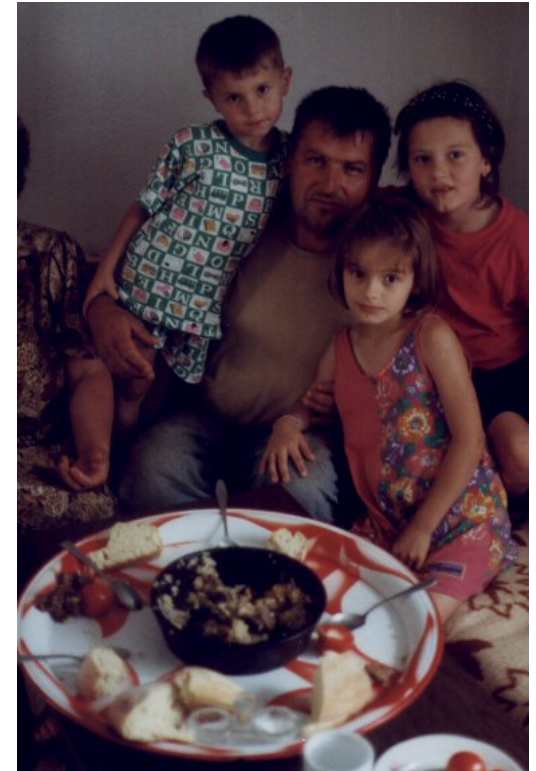
*Cooking & Baking*

*Food preparation*

*Storage*

*Pourers*

*Display.....etc*





# FOOT-WHEEL POTTERS



# PERSPECTIVES

## 1. POTTERY-MAKING in BiH

*Continuity at Malesici (& Gracanica), Ularica and Lijeseva*

*Revival - ?Visnjica, ?Brezova Kosa, ?Pulac*

*Problems – lack of ambition, Lijeseva/Ularica poor quality,*

*Malesici/Gracanica confusion*

## 2. ETHNOARCHAEOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITY

*Chart locations/identities of foot-wheel potters*

*Interviews with consumers*

*Excavation/sampling*

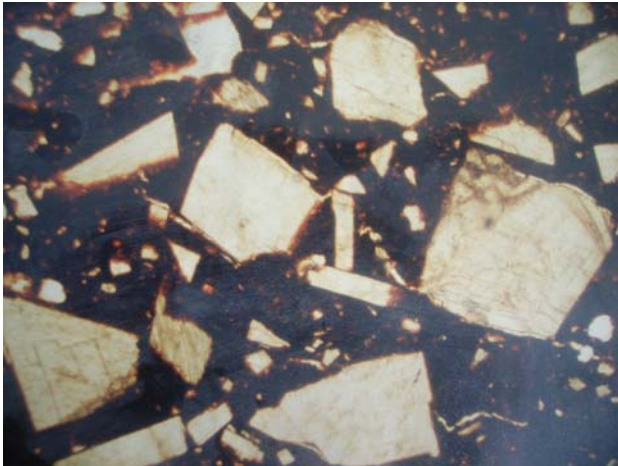
*Experiment*



# PERSPECTIVES

*Example 1: Firing experiments*

*Question: Why add calcite;  
what is the effect of particle size,  
why quenching?*



# PERSPECTIVES

*Example 1: Archaeological and ethnographic study of pottery-making and trade in the Bihacka Krajina*

*Evidence – pottery-making locations and pottery from excavation*

*What we would like to know – where does the archaeological pottery come from*

*How to find out – Define differences in fabric at source; test against archaeological pottery*