

Up till now Corinth has been the centre for pottery - big export market especially to Etruria in Italy. Athens still concentrating on the home market.

Corinth had specialised in animals - neat little animals in procession, purely decorative, gradually becoming more gaudy and hastily drawn; and in small pots, scent bottles for example; precise drawing was the rule.

Corinthian ware is easily recognizable from its pale clay as well as its style - occasional mythological scenes with meticulous "miniaturist" figures; decorative zones/bands human figures 2/3 inches high.

c.630 In Athens imitated Corinthian style to some extent, but experimented on the grand scale more. Moved late from silhouette and outline painting to introduction of incised lines. But within the next 150 years won the Greek export market.

3. ABOUT 600 BC

Lots of cities had their "potters" quarter. Various "schools" of potters sprang up, each with distinguishing features.

Eg. Rhodes - Pot-bellied jugs : miniaturist detail : grazing animals
Chios - weak - poor imitation
Laconia - influence soon cut short because of segregation policy.

Eventually Corinth and Athens become prone to influence each other - perhaps because of Athenian trade growth. Both cities eager to attract clientele of rival school.

Hence:

1. Corinth still producing scent bottles with traditional patterns but also large mixing bowls, with the bodies decorated with banquets, battles, and grotesque Dionysian dances - the sort of thing that was popular in Athens.

But the arrangements were different:

Athens had a broad scheme - space usually filled with single object.
Corinth had a variety of themes in narrow lines/zones.

NB The Françoise Vase is not typical of Athenian style - it marks a transition though.

2. Athenians imitated Corinthian cups.

3. There was a transference of themes and motifs between the two cities. Palmettes - radiating petals like a palm leaf, lotus flowers, chains. Athens adopted a fashion for lions, wolves, sirens and sphinxes - but fashion disappeared about 575 after a final phase when Corinth adopted a reddish slip which made clay look like Athenian earthenware and replaced their traditional dance and banquet scenes with Athenian legends. About 550 Corinthian ware stops: Athens had virtual **export** monopoly.