

Prehistoric Pottery of the Ancient Near East

2 – History of Pottery Study

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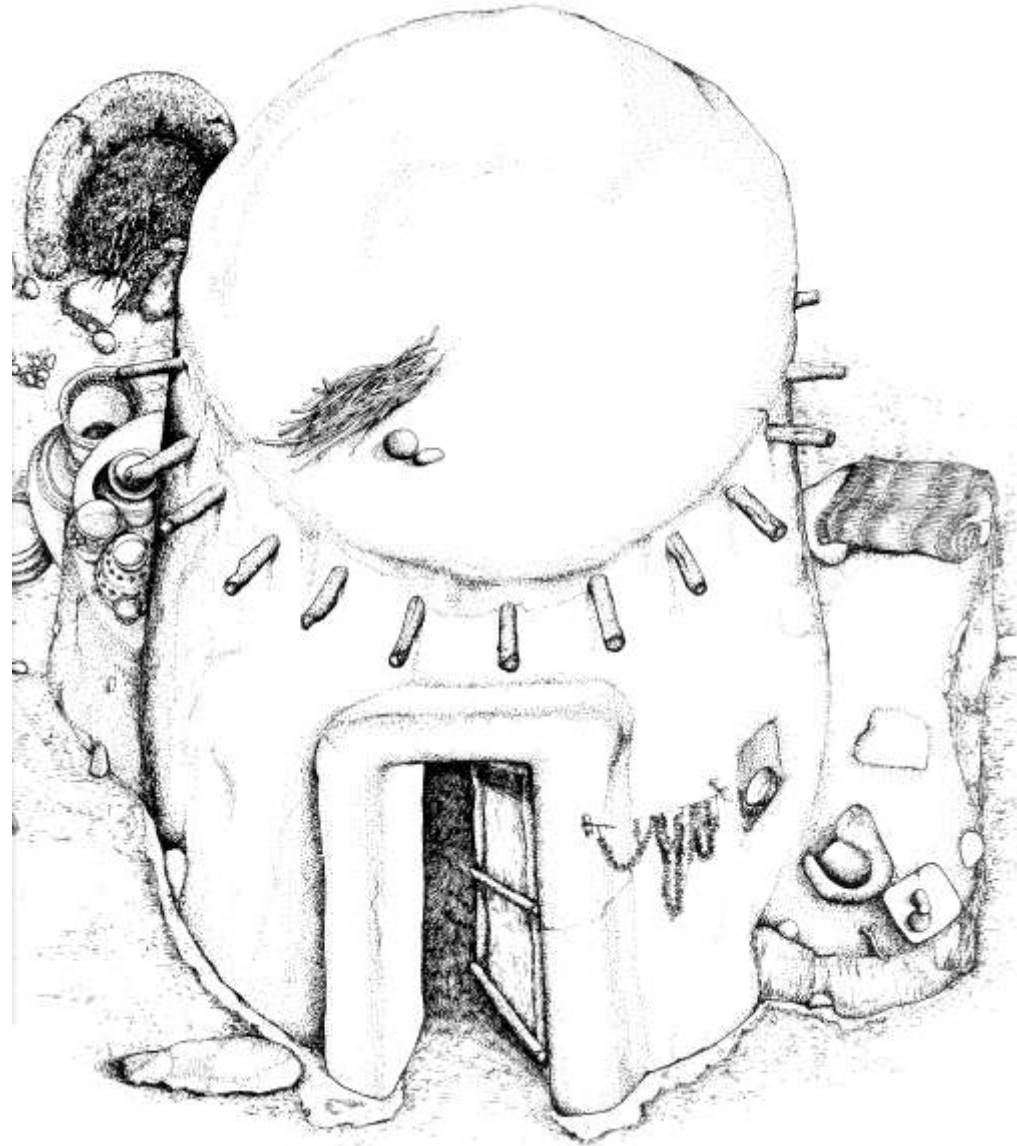
Brno April 2011



Deutsches Archäologisches Institut



Leiden University



Early beginnings ... Reuse of ancient stuff



Early Pottery Neolithic - 6400 BC

Halaf period – 5700 BC

Early beginnings ... Pottery repair



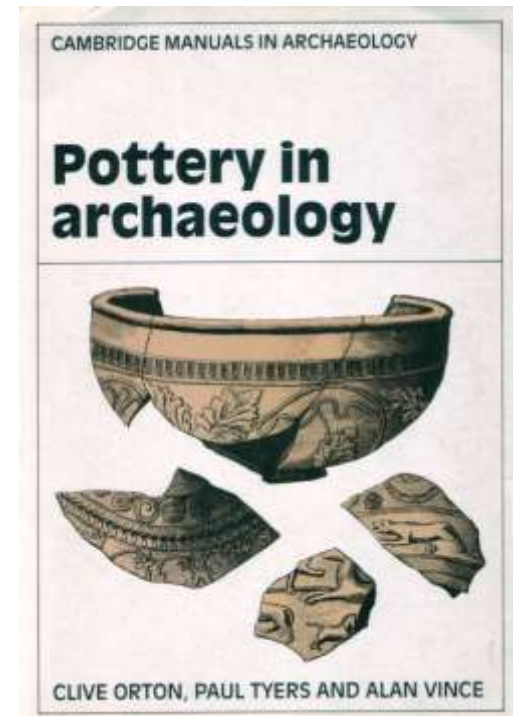
Throughout human history ... Reuse of ancient stuff



Middle Ages ... A never-changing world

Clive, Orton and Vince:

1. Art-historical phase = 1500 – ca. 1880
2. Typological phase = ca. 1880 - 1960
3. Contextual phase = 1960 - today



Rise of modern science – pottery studies

Ground-breaking new insights & methods:

- * Ancient pottery sherds made by *humans*
- * Human history is long-term; old artifacts are *old*
- * Classifying material, classifying cultures
- * Emphasis on 'high art', Fine Ware, example for western art

Art-historical phase 1500 – ca. 1880



Introducing:
Sir William Hamilton



Art-historical phase

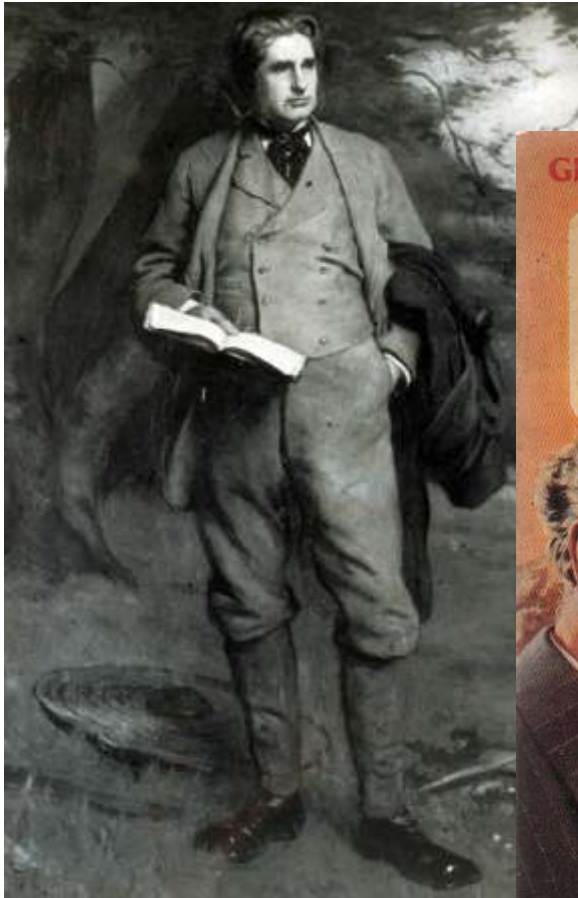
Ground-breaking new insights & methods:

- * Human history and artifacts are *much, much older*
- * Emphasis on vertical stratigraphy (time) and regional distributions (relative chronology)
- * The basis for our current classification schemes
- * Pottery as the most important tool for dating and comparing
- * Emphasis on pottery shape and decoration

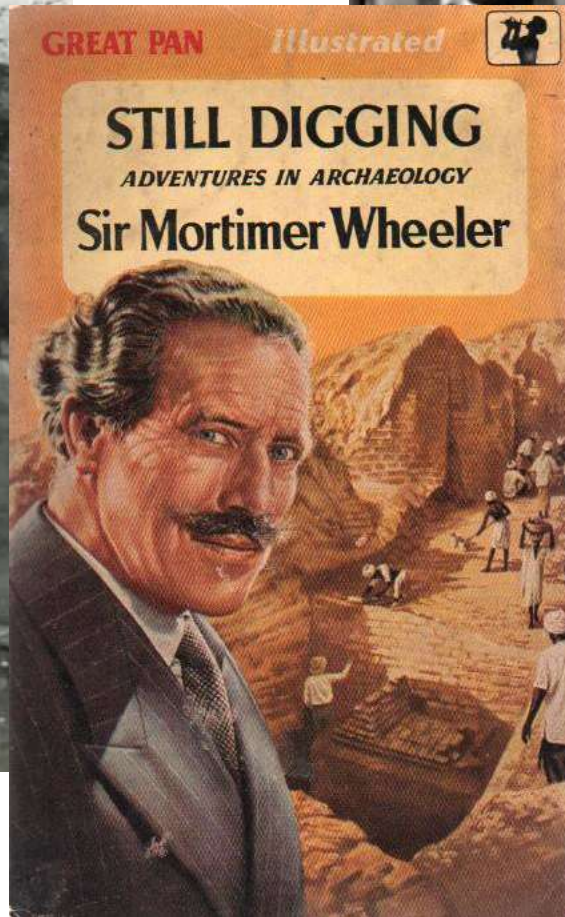


Thomson 1836

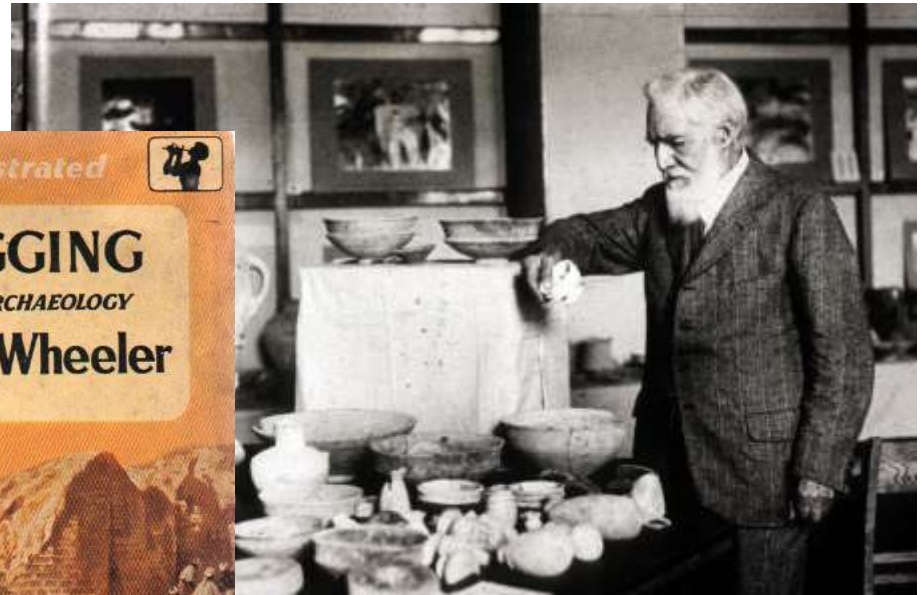
Typological phase - ca. 1880 - 1960



Pitt Rivers
1827-1900



Mortimer Wheeler
1890-1976



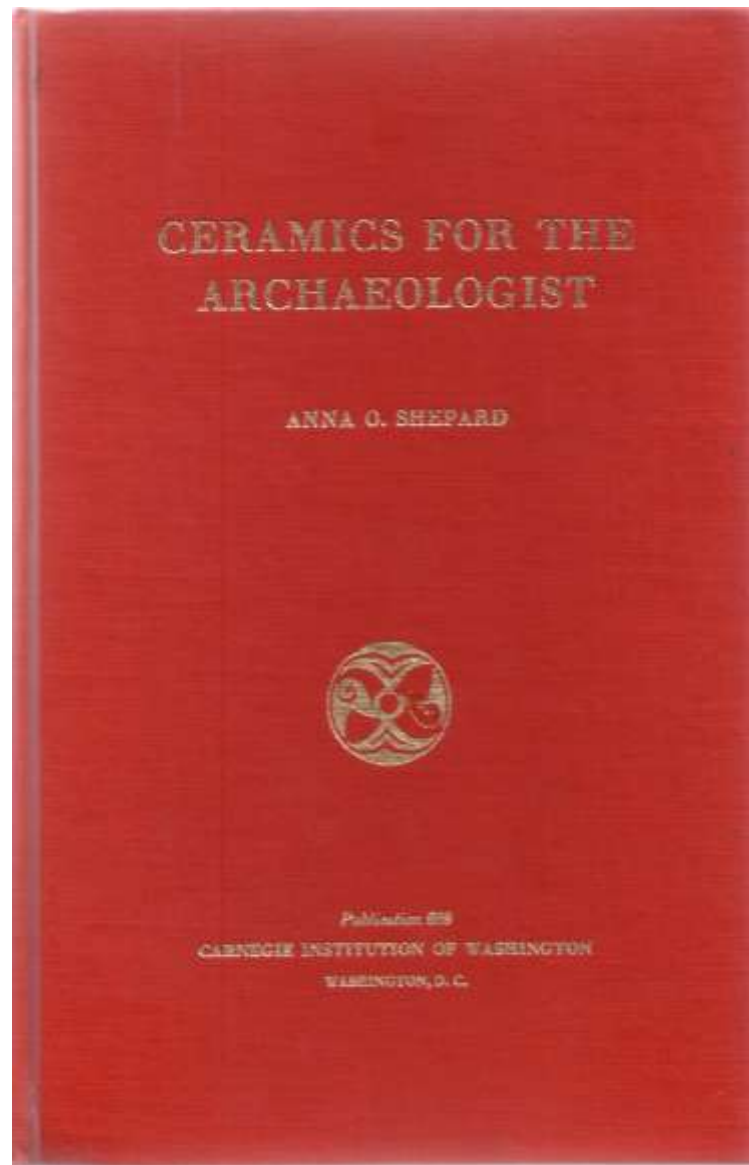
Flinders-Petrie
1853-1942

Typological pioneers

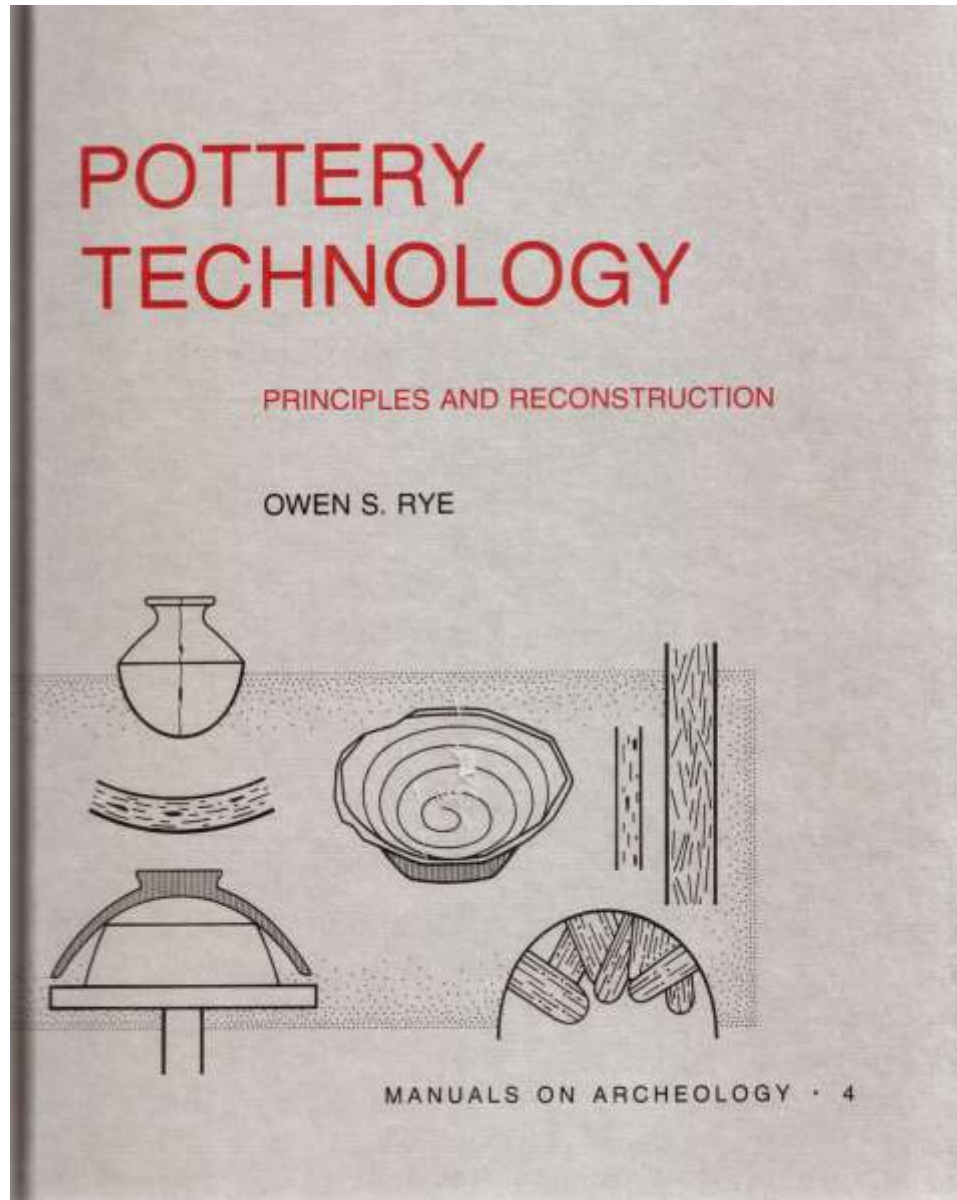


Kathleen Kenyon
1906 - 1978

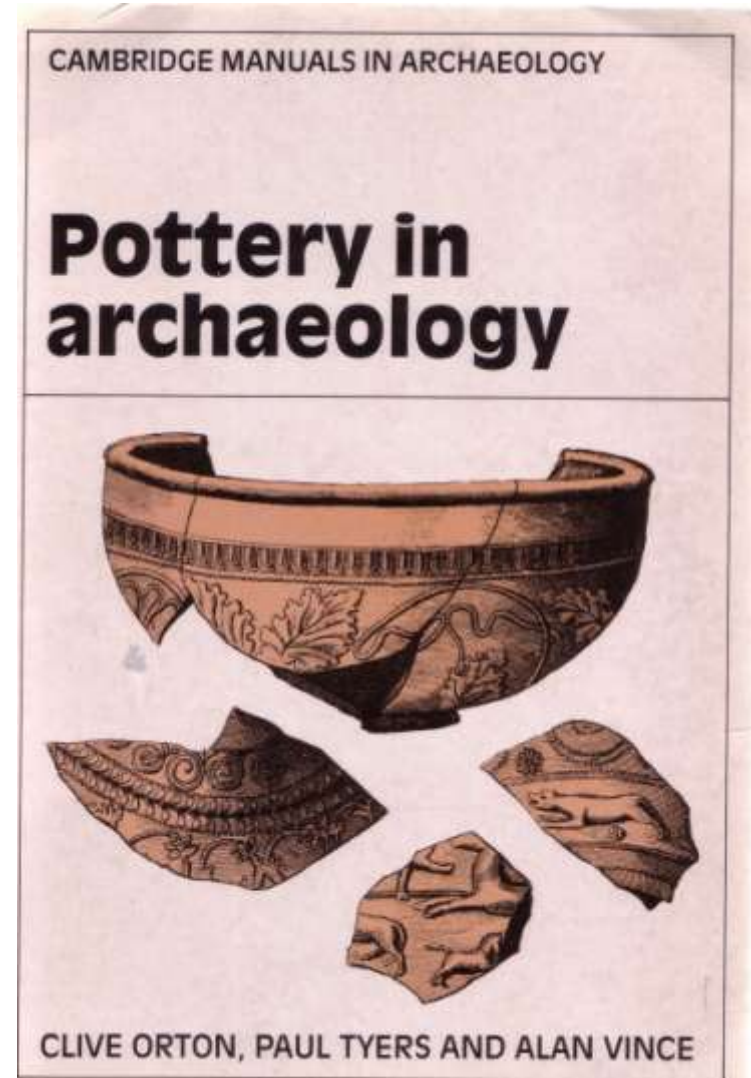
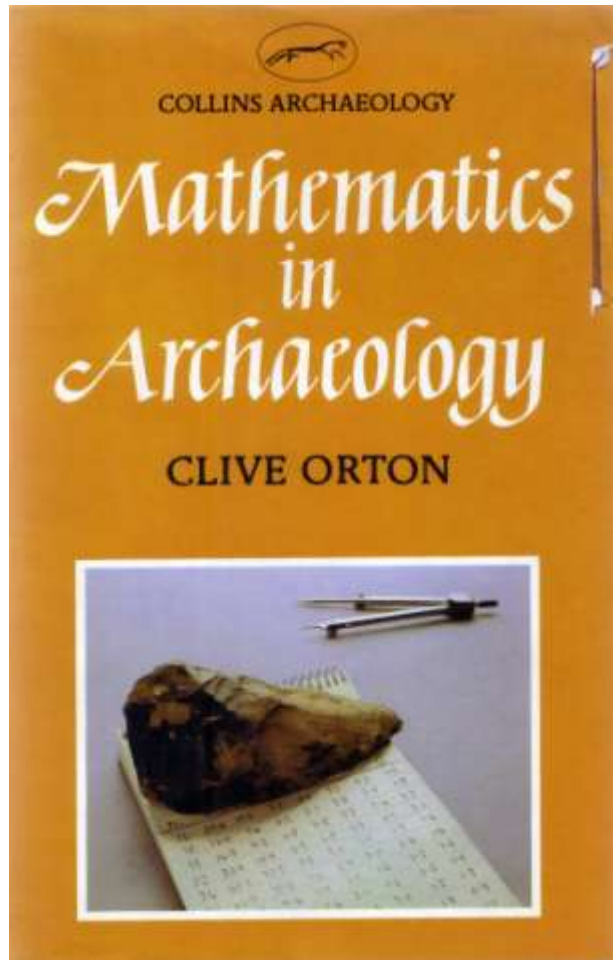
Typological pioneers



Starting the contextual phase: Anne Shepard 1956



Ceramic ethnography – Owen Rye 1981



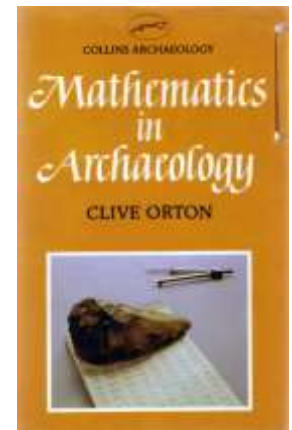
Master of quantification – Clive Orton



POTTERY ANALYSIS

A Sourcebook

PRUDENCE M. RICE



The *Bible* – Prudence Rice 1987

Stage 1 – before WW I:

Almost no archaeological interest whatsoever
Broad arm-chair speculation

Stage 2 – interbellum:

Culture-historical definitions

Stage 3 – post WW II to 1980's:

Slow advance, limited field projects, key-sites
Shift culture-history – systems approach

Stage 4 – 1980's to present:

Rapid increase fieldwork
Methodological & theoretical diversification

Some legendary ancestors



History pottery studies in the Near East

Stage 1 – before WW I:

Almost no archaeological interest whatsoever →
Broad arm-chair speculation

Prehistoric pottery
practically unknown

Stage 2 – interbellum:

Culture-historical definitions

Prehistoric pottery

tool for dating,
classifying, systemic
comparisons

Stage 3 – post WW II to 1980's:

Slow advance, limited field projects, key-sites
Shift culture-history – systems approach

Prehistoric pottery

intensely studied

Stage 4 – 1980's to present:

Rapid increase fieldwork →
Methodological & theoretical diversification

History pottery studies in the Near East



A pioneer from Leiden: Henk Franken

“Unless ceramic studies lead to a better understanding of the cultural context in which the objects were made and used, they form a sterile record of limited worth” (F. Matson 1965: 202)



A legendary Founding Father: Frederick Matson



Let's talk sherds...