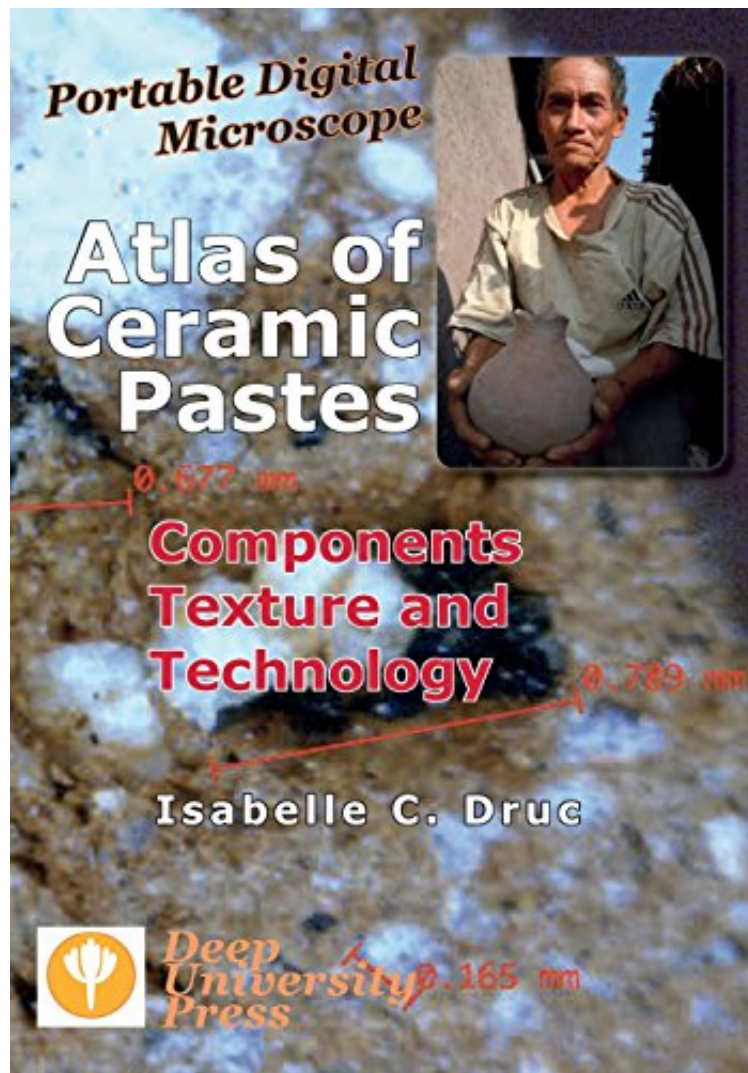


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## Portable Digital Microscope: Atlas of Ceramic Pastes - Components, Texture and Technology

Isabelle C. Druc

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This manual is the first of its sort describing the use of the new portable digital microscope for analysis of

archaeological ceramics in the field or in the laboratory. It is presented like a geological atlas with a description of the most common minerals and lithic fragments found in ancient ceramic pastes to help archaeologists identify what they see under the microscope. Identification of manufacture and technological features are also addressed. An analysis protocol is proposed, along with suggestions for granulometric and digital image analyses to help with the constitution of groups of similar composition and paste texture. The manual is abundantly illustrated with color pictures of archaeological and ethnographic ceramic pastes as well as raw materials. It is a reference book for all involved in the analysis of archaeological ceramics and a major tool to help study, classify and choose the best fragments for archaeometric analysis.

"This practical guide to macroscopic ceramic analysis will be of great value to many archaeologists. The detailed descriptions and illustrations should be particularly helpful in the initial stages of analysis by facilitating the definition of paste groups; inferences about production techniques; and the selection of meaningful samples for more detailed petrographic and chemical studies." - Jason Sherman, Dept of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA. "This handy guide will be useful for both students and professionals interested in learning to investigate, with precision, the composition of raw materials and their transformation by people. It enables the identification and description of their choices that inform about the critical stuff (techniques, identity, values, landscape) of ancient cultures." - George Lau, Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia, UK. "A milestone manual for the analysis of ceramic technology in the field and in the laboratory. This book, thanks to an excellent corpus of illustrations, provides useful tools for quantitative and qualitative identification of macro- components in the ceramic paste." Carolina Orsini, Curator, Museo delle Culture, Milano, Italy "Given the increased accessibility of tools such as portable microscopes, this book provides timely and very useful guidelines for macroscopic analysis of ceramic paste. With its detailed illustrations, descriptions of diagnostic features for different kinds of minerals, and holistic approach to systems of ceramic production, I believe the book will be regarded as essential to consult for initial research on paste composition in many areas." Anne Underhill, Yale University. From the Author This book is an expanded version of the 2014 Spanish edition, with additional examples and updated appendix and glossary. It benefitted the advice and review of geologists Bruce Velde and Lisenia Chavez.