Chapter 4

Palace Ware from the Annexed Provinces: Dur-Katlimmu & Guzana

As discussed in chapter 2, core-periphery models of empire, while convenient, are not consistent with Neo-Assyrian imperial ideology, nor do they reflect the complexity of the political relationships established and maintained during the Late Assyrian period. Arguably, the etic nature of the models is not sufficient cause, in and of itself, to abandon them, however the terminology is problematic. ‘Peripheral’ implies marginality. As we have seen, the non-central provinces in the Neo-Assyrian empire are both powerful and important political and economic entities, therefore, we avoid even an unconscious association with subordination. Annexed, the term adopted in this study, is perhaps a more accurate description of these non-central provinces because not all provinces were ceded to the empire through treaty. The implication imbedded in the term ‘annexed’ is one of inclusion into a more powerful, but not necessarily larger, entity rather than inferiority; a more accurate reflection of Neo-Assyrian foreign relationships.

When selecting a site or sites from among the Annexed Provinces it is important that the site be: (a) positively and indisputably identified as occupied during the Late Assyrian period; (b) that the site be excavated rather than simply surveyed; and (c) that the material culture from the site be available for analysis. Although many excavated sites are within the identified Neo-Assyrian Annexed Provinces, most are in modern Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Iran, which makes it difficult to find sites which meet all of the above criteria. Dur-Katlimmu, modern Tall Šēḥ Ḥamad, and Guzana, modern Tell Halaf, were selected to represent the Annexed Provinces because they both met the selection criteria and served as Neo-Assyrian provincial capitals.

Palace Ware from a coastal province would have been an ideal addition to this study. Unfortunately, Palace Ware from the capital city of the Neo-Assyrian province Magiddû (Meggido), excavated in the early 20th century, has been lost and, therefore, unavailable for study. We hoped the recent excavations at Ashdod-North, in the Neo-Assyrian province of Asdudu, conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority, would yield Palace Ware. However, when we examined the ceramic assemblage, no Assyrian-style vessels were present. One possible piece of Palace Ware from the Ashdod province was excavated at Ekron
(Gitin 1997, figure 12). However, this vessel was misplaced and unavailable for analysis. Published Assyrian-style ceramics from Dor have been interpreted as Palace Ware (e.g. Gilboa 1996), which is interesting since Dor was never annexed into the Neo-Assyrian administrative structure (Radner 2006; however confer Na‘aman 2009). Our examination of the Assyrian-style vessels at Dor did not reveal Palace Ware in the assemblage and the Assyrian-style vessels were not available for detailed and/or destructive analysis.

The Palace Ware populations from Dur-Katlimmu and Guzana, were identified as Palace Ware in the field according to Oates’ definition (1959). Palace Ware from Dur-Katlimmu comes from the monumental structure referred to as the Red House rather than from the Neo-Assyrian residences, and was previously published by Kreppner (2006) as ‘ware B’. Since the majority of these vessels are housed in Syria, in a number of cases we were required to work from the published drawings, which are detailed and to-scale, photographs and measurements taken by Kreppner. This means that while our information about the Dur-Katlimmu assemblage is relatively complete, we do not have all measurements from every vessel and, as a result, the number of cases for each attribute analysis may vary from the total number of vessels in the Palace Ware assemblage.

Palace Ware from Guzana, housed in the Vorderasiatisches Museum, is composed primarily of complete vessels. It was not possible to take samples for petrographic and chemical analysis and so, our study of the Palace Ware from Guzana does not include fabric characterisation or a discussion of raw material provenance. Since fabric fineness is one of the key definitional criteria for classifying vessels as Palace Ware, we were unable to conclusively identify these vessels as Palace Ware. However, we were able to conduct a complete morphometric and typological analysis to assess whether their form, shape and style are consistent with Palace Ware from the Central Polity. Several of the vessels are incomplete, and so the number of cases in a given attribute analysis may vary.

**Dur-Katlimmu**

Dur-Katlimmu was located in the Rasapa (Nergal-eresh) province of the Neo-Assyrian empire until the reign of Tiglath-pileser III in the late 8th century when, to redistribute power in an attempt to stabilise the southern empire, Rasapa was divided and Dur-Katlimmu became part of the Laqe province (map 4.1) (Radner 2002). The city itself served as a provincial capital during the