

CREATING NEW STYLES FOR CLIENTS: USAGE AND CLASSIFICATION OF POTS AMONG THE ARI IN SOUTHWESTERN ETHIOPIA

KANEKO Morie

JSPS Research Fellow

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8501, Japan

E-mail: kaneko@jambo.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp

This paper aims to classify Ari pots by examining their usage, and to describe the process of creating new styles of Ari pots by looking at the social relationships between potters and users. Ari people use at least 50 kinds of cooking pots in different shapes and sizes. Housewives, the main users, are able to identify different pots by height, circumference, and mouth diameter. Potters are conscious of the common forms and sizes of pots, which are often sold in local markets. In addition, potters create pots with unique forms and sizes, as ordered by clients, who seek cooking pots that are easy to use. The creation of new styles in Ari pottery, which integrates unique forms and sizes of pottery with unusual methods of pottery making, was found to be achieved through the interactive social process between clients and potters.

Keywords: Classification, Creativity, Ethiopia, Pot, Style