



**INTERPRETING THE POTTERY RECORD FROM
GEOMETRIC AND ARCHAIC SANCTUARIES
IN THE NORTHERN PELOPONNESE
CULT AND VOTIVE PRACTICES, PROVENANCE,
AND PRODUCTION METHODS**

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ABSTRACTS TO THE SYMPOSIUM

Georgia Alexopoulou | Patras

«TRACED VIA THEIR GIFTS». CULTS IN THE ANCIENT REGION OF KALAVRYTA

In this paper we concentrate on finds of the Geometric and the Archaic period, located in the NW Peloponnese and specifically in the region of Kalavryta, which—in antiquity together with Pheneos and Stymhalos—formed the nation (*ἔθνος*) of Azanes of Arcadia.

We present not only excavational findings, but also antiquities collected during surveying in the aforementioned area. Beyond their typological and chronological evaluation, of particular interest in their context (temples, fortified citadel/acropolis, peak/height where probably cult was practiced, fountain house) and spread or, in other cases, their dense concentration, as for example the spearheads in the temple at Gremoulias (with implication for the identification of the deity worshipped there). Some fragmentary preserved finds are possibly interpreted as parts/remains of either votive or ritual bronze vessels (see handles of hydriae possibly having functioned as prizes), whereas an additional category represented here is that of miniature vases (numerous at Gremoulias, as much as in Psophis).

An evaluation of the votive offerings is possible only through their topographical approach, which offers the framework of cult and religion in the nation of Azanes.

Signe Barfoed | Oslo

TRACING RELIGIOUS NETWORKS ACROSS THE CORINTHIAN GULF THROUGH MINIATURE POTTERY

The role of miniature pottery in ancient Greek ritual practice has gained increased scholarly attention and interest in the past decade, and a recent increase in publications of miniature pottery from various sites now enables us to propose new frameworks for the practical use of miniature vessels in sanctuary contexts. Miniature vessels are often understood as symbolic and non-functional votive offerings, but they might also have served as receptacles for the dedication of small perishable consumables, such as wheat and barley grains associated with the dedication of first fruit offerings. Such suggestive interpretations could potentially result in novel hypotheses concerning the participants and the specifics of the rituals. In this paper I will use Corinthian miniature pottery and terracotta figurines found in ancient Kalydon in Aitolia as a starting point for developing a new conceptual framework for the distribution and function of miniature pottery in the ancient Greek world.

Gunnel Ekroth | Uppsala

»SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT«. EXPLORING VARIATIONS IN THE MINIATURE POTTERY REPERTOIRE OF THE ARCHAIC ARGOLID

Miniature pottery plays an important role in the ceramic production of the Archaic Argolid. Still, this material has received only limited interest among scholars, partly since these vessels occur in large quantities and are of simple design and manufacture. Therefore, they have often only received partial and perfunctorily publication.

This paper will address some trends in the miniature repertoire of the region focusing primarily on dinoi or cauldrons, which represent miniature versions of large vessels of metal or clay. Of interest is how various production centres tackled the challenges of miniaturization by rendering and abbreviating crucial elements of the larger shapes in the miniature versions, as well as variations between handmade and wheel-made examples of the same miniature shapes. In spite of the differences in execution, it is evident that these miniatures refer back to the same types of objects. By orienting these vessels within the wider miniature production it will be discussed to what extent the distinctions are to be linked to site-specific and local manufacturing traditions.

Pamela Fragnoli | Vienna

COMPOSITIONAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF GEOMETRIC AND ARCHAIC POTTERY FROM THE SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS HEMERA IN LOUSOI

Since written sources on the Sanctuary of Artemis Hemera in Lousoi are scarce, the study of the material culture is crucial to reconstruct the regional and supra-regional network that the sanctuary was embedded in. In particular, petrographic and geochemical analyses are powerful tools to identify distinct production sites and possible exchanges between them. By coupling petrographic and geochemical analyses with macroscopic observations, this research also aims at assessing how the local pottery production of Lousoi was organized throughout the chaîne opératoire as well as at investigating whether vessels with clear ritual connotations show different manufacturing procedures to those without such associations.

Anastasia Gadolou | Athens

INTERPRETING THE POTTERY RECORD FROM THE EARLY IRON AGE SANCTUARY OF POSEIDON HELICONIUS OF ANCIENT HELIKE IN ACHAEA: CULT AND VOTIVE PRACTICES BEFORE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE APSIDAL TEMPLE

The main aim of the paper is the presentation and discussion of the pottery record that has been derived from the excavation of the mud brick altar that had formed the focus of the cult before the construction of the apsidal temple in the Early Iron Age sanctuary site of Poseidon Heliconius of Ancient Helike. The variation and combination of the pottery, concerning the type of the vases, and its association with the stratigraphic consequence of the altar will hopefully lead to the identification of the biographical characteristics of the pots and their significance towards the identification of the ritual activity on the site in the period span from the introduction of the cult until the construction of the apsidal temple.

Another aspect that hopefully will be clarified is if the pottery record reflects any special activity such as feasting, an activity the character of which is among other characteristics defined by the type of clay vases. Quite significant and illuminating will be the juxtaposition of the pottery record of the present site to the one from the sanctuary of Artemis Aontia in Ano Mazaraki, and the sanctuary of Athena in Trapeza, both also in Achaea.

The ritual activity reflected by the pottery record will also provide us with the data required in order certain characteristics of the social groups involved in the organization of cult activities during the Early Iron Age Achaea to be illuminated.

Walter Gauß | Athens – Florian Ruppenstein | Freiburg

NEW RESEARCH AT THE GEOMETRIC AND ARCHAIC SANCTUARY AT THE ACROPOLIS OF AIGEIRA

Our presentation introduces new research at the Geometric and Archaic sanctuary at the acropolis of Aigeira and is structured in two parts. The first part evaluates the evidence for the early sanctuary known so far, the second part discusses the ceramic finds associated with the Geometric and Archaic sanctuary.

The excavations of the mid 1970s interpreted two superimposed structures, discovered at the western part of the acropolis of Aigeira, as remains of early Greek cult buildings at Aigeira. A number of votive finds were particularly associated with the older structure, however, their reevaluation shows that they actually were not found inside the building but at different locations of the acropolis plateau and even beyond. This is especially true for a metal hoard, whose stratigraphic as well as functional interpretation need revision.

Furthermore, an overview about the pottery assemblage from the sanctuary will be presented. Typology, chronology and provenance are the main issues that will be addressed. Based on that, some preliminary conclusions regarding the cult praxis will be drawn.

Carlotta Gardner – Evangelia Kiriati – Noémi S. Müller | Athens

CERAMIC TECHNOLOGY AND PROVENANCE STUDIES IN THE NORTHERN PELOPONNESE: CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The production of ceramics and issues of provenance have been a long-standing talking point in the study of the archaeology of the northern Peloponnese. In the past Corinth has received the most attention, but lately scholars working at other sites in the region have been adding to our understanding, and to the complexity, of production technology and provenance. Science-based archaeological studies of pottery spanning multiple periods and geographic locations across the region have been taking place since the early 70s. A new wave of research appears to have begun more recently which utilises a new range of scientific techniques and more holistic approaches. Moreover, due to continued archaeological excavations in the region and a better understanding of the archaeology it addresses more informed questions. This paper will focus on how past and present archaeometric studies of pottery and raw materials have contributed to our understanding of ceramic production within the northern Peloponnese, discussing the potential to differentiate between production centres on the basis of fabric composition or clay paste preparation technology and addressing future perspectives for such research in the region.

Ioannis Iliopoulos | Patras

SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE CLAYEY RESOURCES IN NORTHERN PELOPONNESE FOR CERAMIC MANUFACTURE

Northern Peloponnese is renowned for its rich archaeological record. Since Early Bronze Age the ceramic production has played an important role in the local and regional social and economic evolution. Particularly in Corinth, its ample natural resources have lead early settlers to establish a long-lasting ceramic legacy, recognizable until modern times. A similar setting is coming in light for the area of Achaia through recent studies concerning Roman times.

The aim of this study is to examine possible sources of clayey raw materials cropping out in the territory of northern Peloponnese, which were potentially used for ceramic production during antiquity and provide a detailed characterization and comparative study in terms of their compositional and technological properties. This was accomplished by the systematic sampling of clayey raw materials from a wide area spanning all over the Northern Peloponnese, extending from the region of Aigialeia (northwestern Peloponnese) to the region of Corinth (northeastern Peloponnese).

The suitability of the sampled clays for use in the ceramic manufacture was assessed by determining several of the most important parameters which prescribe the transformation of a clayey material to a ceramic object, such as their granulometry, chemical composition, mineralogy and plasticity. Experimental firing of molded briquettes prepared from the sampled material in various temperatures under oxidizing condition gave important insight into the newly developed mineral phases and the textural transformations occurred due to thermal response of the clayey materials. The differences revealed between the clay deposits of Achaia and Corinth raised the query if these clays are equally suitable for the production of ceramic artifacts and if this might be impressed in the ancient ceramic manufacture.

Agathi Karadima | London

INTERREGIONAL MOBILITY IN THE SEASCAPE OF SOUTHEAST KEPHALLONIA, COASTAL ACHAEA AND ELIS

Located to the exit of the Corinthian gulf, Poros is one of the first natural harbours for the passing ships. The sanctuary of Drakaina cave is overlooking the Corinthian gulf and was an ancient meeting point for local and probably interregional communities. The most popular class of pottery for the Archaic period is imported or locally imitated vessels from Achaea and Elis.

I will attempt to address various problems and questions that arise from this thesis.

Is the use and dedication of Elean pottery a local phenomenon? People travel and exchange goods strictly in this regional unit or as part of a western Greek milieu? Are the Elean type of kantharoi produced locally or are they imports from Elis? I will examine if the vessels were produced synchronically or in a different time period and if the very small variations indicate different workshops. Finally, I will investigate if the archaic Corinthian type of pottery that was dedicated to the cave sanctuary, was imported from Elis.

The Archaic history of the Peloponnese is known very little and the available evidence offer uneven information. Achaea, Corinth and Elis founded colonies to the west (Achaea, Corinth) and north (Elis). The assemblage in the cave is probably reflecting this northern Peloponnesian mobility.

I will examine if the choice of specific vessels like the Elean type of kantharos, reflects similar cults that adopt related symbols as a way to demonstrate alliances and display their stature in the Greek world?

Christina Katsarou | Patras

ANCIENT PHELLOE'S APSIDAL BUILDING: AN ATTEMPT TO INTERPRET THE DEBATABLE IDENTITY OF THE APSIDAL STRUCTURE LOCATED IN THE LATE GEOMETRIC CEMETERY

Ancient Phelloe was located in the mountainous borders of three prefectures: Corinth, Achaia and Arcadia, in the SE slope of the valley of Krios river, 12 km SE of ancient Aigeira, in the village of Seliana, of the municipality of Aigialeia of Achaia.

The first rescue excavation was conducted within predated archaeological site. The rich findings and the architectural remains (dating from the Geometric to the Hellenistic times), revealed a thriving and economically strong society, which had contacts with the rest of the world.

The apsidal building was uncovered in the burial ground of the cemetery. It is thought to had been used as a residence, initially at least, by some obviously important personage, probably the ruler of the region, since a very luxurious double burial 'Auch im Tod Vereint' was discovered some metres to the west, with costly grave goods some of which had been imported from Eastern Mediterranean lands.

What still remains difficult to explain, however, is the location of the building. If the apsidal building was originally the ruler's residence, then it is an example of a building outside the fortified settlement and raises a series of questions about its placement in the cemetery: should this vestige be explained as normal house, or should it be considered as structure associated with the funerary ceremonies or with the cult of the dead or the veneration of ancestors?

This paper attempts to trace from the scattered archaeological evidence the identification of this building, although it is a hazardous undertaking, when dealing with 'silent' material'...

Gudrun Klebinder-Gauß | Salzburg

THE ‘WESTKOMPLEX’ IN AEGINA-KOLONNA: A DIACHRONIC VIEW OF ITS HISTORY AND FUNCTION

This paper presents a diachronic view of the function and history of the so-called ‘Westkomplex’ at Kolonna on Aegina. The building complex is situated at the western edge of the sanctuary of Apollo. Its foundation can be dated in Late Archaic times, even though the area has a long history reaching back in proto- and early Geometric times when it was used as a burial ground.

The range of finds from the Late Archaic-Classical building complex and the combination of drinking- and table-ware, cooking pots, storage vessels, miniature vessels, lamps and terracottas clearly indicate a non-private, probably cultic function of the building in combination with collective drinking and dining happenings. Furthermore, the conscious reference of the structure to the earlier burials also suggests that ancestor veneration might have taken place at the ‘Westkomplex’.

Erofilii-Iris Kolia | Olympia

PRESENTATION OF THE STRATIGRAPHY OF THE EARLY IRON AGE SANCTUARY OF POSEIDON HELICONIUS IN ACHAEA

Recent excavations conducted in the region of Eastern Aigialeia have brought to light the sanctuary of Poseidon Heliconius at Nikoleika, in the *chora* of Ancient Helike. An apsidal temple was erected at the end of the 8th century, which presumably was succeeded in the mid 6th century by a Doric temple, as it is indicated by the architectural terracottas from its pediment found to the north of the apsidal temple.

Beneath the floor of the geometric temple a mudbrick altar was excavated. The layers related to the altar contained offerings and faunal remains, thus providing evidence to ritual dining. Its construction should be dated on the basis of the recovered pottery in the first half of the 8th century. Moreover, the archaeological data attest to the beginning of the cult already in the Protogeometric period. This paper will present the stratigraphy of the Early Iron Age phase prior to the construction of the apsidal temple and an attempt will be made to reconstruct the cult practices and rituals of this period of the sanctuary.

Georg Ladstätter | Athens – Nora Voß | Vienna

ANCIENT LOUSOI IN THE GEOMETRIC AND THE EARLY ARCHAIC PERIOD: TOPOGRAPHY, ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

The excavations of the Austrian Archaeological Institute from 1898 to 1899 and intensively from 1983 to 2010 at ancient Lousoi, northwest Arcadia, have provided impressive results of the monumental development and usage in the public spaces of the Hellenistic polis. The fieldwork has concentrated - beside uncovering domestic architecture - on the civic center of the polis and on the peri-urban sanctuary of Artemis.

In addition to that the excavations have brought to light numerous selective evidence for Lousoi in the pre-hellenistic time, respectively for the beginning of public and sacred activities starting at the Geometric period. The following paper will focus on the presentation and interpretation of archeological evidences of the Geometric and early Archaic periods as results of selective deep soundings and limited square excavations.

These evidences representing the early periods of ancient Lousoi can be categorized as follows:

Firstly the excavations have uncovered in situ evidences of floor levels of the Geometric period and of architecture, respectively two small apsidial buildings of the early Archaic period in the area of the Hellenistic city center.

Secondly in the sanctuary of Artemis an extensive layer of Geometric and Archaic votive material has been excavated, which was intentionally deposited during the late Archaic period related to a retaining construction of the sloping terrain in the north east.

Thirdly the excavations have revealed in both of the researched areas strata with Geometric and Archaic findings as a result of later interventions in the terrain or of Hellenistic building activities.

Although the archeological record remains selective these results offer a relevant insight in the settlement topography and in the differentiated sacred and public spheres of Ancient Lousoi during the Geometric and early Archaic period.

Franziska Lang | Darmstadt – Christina Rathossi | Patras

ARCHAEOMETRIC INVESTIGATION OF GEOMETRIC AND ARCHAIC POTTERY UNEARTHED AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF ANCIENT OLYMPIA

The sanctuary at Olympia is without doubt one of the most important ones in the ancient Greek world. It is a well-documented archaeological site where a huge amount of finds was excavated, particularly pottery. Ceramic research in Olympia has a long history and the archaeological results have become important reference works as they cover a wide range of typology and provenance.

This project was focused on the archaeometric study of geometric and archaic pottery unearthed at Ancient Olympia, representing different types (i.e. amphora, kylix, krater, aryballos, oinochoe, pyxis, jug, cup, bowl, plate, lamps etc) and different provenance according to the archaeological interpretation (i.e. local, Attic, Corinthian, Laconian, Sicilian, Asia Minor).

The analyzed ceramics derived from old excavations conducted by German archaeologists as well as from the Olympia Environ Survey Project which is carried out since 2015 by German universities (Darmstadt, Freiburg, Mainz) in cooperation with the German Archaeological Institute, the Greek Department of Antiquities and the Austrian Academy.

The archaeometric characterization, based on a multi-analytical approach including geochemical, petrographic and mineralogical methods, focused on the establishment of the provenance and production process of ceramic samples. The main purpose of defining the provenance of ceramic materials is the possibility of characterizing local, regional and imported wares according to their archaeometric features which will lead to the mapping of production and circulation of local pottery of Ancient Olympia as this archaeological site situated in regions which do not show strongly contrasting geology with other archaeological sites situated in Western Greece.

The archaeometric analysis was separated in two steps. Firstly, the geochemical composition of 400 ceramic sherds was analyzed using a non-destructive technique: a portable Thermo Scientific NITON XL3t EDXRF analyser. Variation diagrams (bivariate plots) and principal component analysis (PCA) were applied on the chemical data of ceramics in order to obtain information about their similarity and clustering and indications for their provenance. Secondly, a smaller number of samples were selected for laboratory analysis with destructive analytical techniques such as: optical microscopy for petrographic fabric, x-ray diffraction for mineralogical analysis and inductively coupled plasma spectrometry (ICP-MS) for trace and rare element analysis in order to establish the provenance and elucidate the pottery technology.

Katherine Morgan | Oxford

THIRTY YEARS ON: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN THE STUDY OF CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGES FROM GREEK SANCTUARIES

The wealth of new data presented at this conference raises larger questions of the direction of travel in sanctuary studies. To what extent have we met the objectives defined over the past thirty years or so, since the rich potential of pottery assemblages began to be recognised, what remains to be delivered or can now be approached differently, and in which new directions may we usefully move?

In this paper, I review a range of themes, focusing on the need to embed Geometric and Archaic evidence into larger, longue durée studies, and to benefit from innovations arising from work in other periods. These include sanctuary economies (fiscal and social) – the commissioning, supply, and use of pottery, and questions surrounding ceramic technology and morphology. Spatial and functional analyses of ceramic deposition cover questions of use, storage, and the intent behind different patterns of deposition. By contrast with later periods, iconography remains poorly integrated into thinking about religious practice in sanctuaries: to what extent can we detect long term trends and innovation in the use of images? Finally, I consider methodological questions including desiderata for different forms of analysis, approaches to recording, and the use of old records.

Stella Nestoridou | Patras – Christina Rathossi | Patras

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE AND PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOMETRIC RESULTS FOR THE DEMETER TEMPLE IN THEA, PATRAS (ACHAEA PREFECTURE)

In a rescue excavation implemented in the community of Thea, Prefecture of Achaia, part of a sanctuary of Demeter was revealed. The architectural remains consist of a rough stone altar constructed in the 6th century B.C. on a preexistent ash altar and a double-chamber building. The excavation yielded numerous finds, collected by the successive deposits all over the area and five pits which brought to light vessels and remains of animal bones. The votive debris consists of a great number of miniature vessels, black glazed pottery, cooking pots, cult vessels, jewelry and a great variety of clay hand-made and mould made figurines that can be dated from the Early Archaic period until the middle of the 3rd century B.C. The topic of the presentation will focus on some aspects of the worship attested in the sanctuary and the evidence (archaeological and archaeometric) indicating the local workshop production of the ceramic finds.

The archaeometric approach was based on the study of a small number of samples among them clay figurines and miniature vessels, integrating analytical methods such as: optical microscopy, x-ray powder diffraction and ICP-MS analysis in order to investigate the petrographic, mineralogical and geochemical features of fabrics which can provide indication for their production centers.

The preliminary results determine that the majority of analyzed samples were produced by the local sedimentary outcrops well-exposed in the surrounding area of the excavation site. Ancient potters seem to have *prepared* the clay paste without having applied any specific processing to raw materials while the wide range of firing temperature which has been estimated, between ≈ 600 and $\approx 1050^\circ\text{C}$ might imply different workshop activities.

Michalis Petropoulos | Patras – Konstantina Aktypi | Patras

ARTEMIS AONTIA: A GEOMETRIC SANCTUARY IN THE HEART OF ACHAEA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER REGIONS

The sanctuary of Artemis Aontia, at an altitude of 1,100m on Mt. Panachaikon, was an important location for the people using the route from Achaia towards Arcadia and the rest of the Peloponnese during the Geometric and Archaic periods. The surviving architectural features provide fundamental information concerning the evolution of temple construction in mainland Greece, while the numerous small finds collected from the *apothetes* as well as from the temple interior manifest its relation predominantly with northeastern Peloponnese and to a lesser extend with western Achaia. Votive offerings were found in their hundreds: figurines, ceramic pots, knives, tools, sealstones, coins and various other artefacts, which reflect their relations with their origin and their workshop of manufacture. In our presentation we will attempt to highlight these features, based on the study of all kinds of artefacts.

Gerald P. Schaus | Waterloo / Athens

PRE-CLASSICAL POTTERY IN SANCTUARIES OF STYMPHALIA

Only two sanctuaries have produced any quantity of pottery in the region of ancient Stymphalos. The first was explored by A. Orlandos in the 1920s and associated with Athena Polias, but in subsequent excavations directed by Hector Williams (Univ. of British Columbia) in the 1990s, its more likely identification is to Eileithyia. A few scraps of very late Archaic and early Classical pottery were found, despite the discovery of a late Archaic marble kore within the temple. The statue might have been brought from the earlier town of Stymphalos mentioned by Pausanias (8.22.1). This earlier town had three sanctuaries of Hera (Paus. 8.22.2), but neither the town nor the sanctuaries have been located, accounting for the lack of Archaic material generally around Stymphalia.

The picture is different for a much-looted rock shelter sanctuary, perhaps to the nymphs, high in a mountain pass between Stymphalos and Pheneos. The site, Tria Goupata, was sampled by the Corinth ephoreia, with finds deposited in the Nemea Museum. Surface finds are also in Lafka's ethnographic museum. Black-figure and Conventionalizing Corinthian, as well as some Attic black-figure perhaps reaching the mid-sixth century, together with many miniature vessels and terracotta figurines attest to activity in the Archaic period.

Vicky Vlachou | Athens

POTTERY AND THE HYAKINTHIA FESTIVAL. INTERPRETING THE POTTERY DEPOSITS FROM THE SPARTAN AMYKLAION

The *Hyakinthia* festival was celebrated annually at the sanctuary of Apollo *Hyakinthos* at Amykles. The earliest testimony for the festival that was named after *Hyakinthos* has been dated to the late 8th century BC, while details regarding the celebrations and large scale feasts that took place at the site are much later and do not antedate the 5th century BC. This paper shall focus on the examination of the numerous pottery deposits from the sanctuary area in relation to the beginnings of the cult and the festival at the site. What pottery can reveal on cult and votive practices? Our approach shall take under consideration the quantity and quality of the pottery, the material aspects and breakage patterns of selected pots, the function of certain forms and their potential use as ritual utensils, votive offerings or consumption receptacles. We shall argue that by the mid-10th century BC drinking and dining activities were integrated into a cultic context that equally involved the dedication of specific categories of pottery, miniature vessels, terracotta loom weights and other artifacts closely related to the character of the cult. Furthermore, the homogeneity of the ceramic material, regarding the production methods, the forms and their distinctive decoration, demonstrates the local character of the activities and presumably also of the participants. Significant changes seem to have taken place during the second half of the 8th century BC, at the same time of the annexation of Amykles into the Spartan *polis*.

Nora Voß | Vienna

CULT AND VOTIVE PRACTICES AT GEOMETRIC AND ARCHAIC LOUSOI: ANALYSING CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGES FROM THE SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS HEMERA AND FROM THE TOWN CENTRE

Two ceramic assemblages provide insight into the cult and votive practice in Geometric and Archaic Lousoi: one from the peri-urban sanctuary of Artemis Hemera, the other from apsidal buildings in the civic centre. The Sanctuary of Artemis Hemera is located on a rocky plateau in the vicinity of the settlement. The most important deposit of the Geometric and Archaic periods is a rubble embankment at the northern fringe of the temenos. Besides vessels for ritual dining, this deposit contained also numerous miniature vessels and a hitherto unique class of votive vessels, the pseudo-pyxides. The second deposit analysed in this paper is connected with two apsidal buildings excavated beneath the Hellenistic peripteral temple in the civic centre. The functional analysis of this ceramic assemblage suggests that it was used in communal dining, which may have been in a ritual context as is implied by the location directly beneath the later temple. This paper focusses on the functional analysis of the vessel forms in these two deposits. Another important aspect is the distribution of imported vessels. On the basis of this analysis, the function and chronology of both ceramic assemblages will be discussed.