



University
of Cyprus

International workshop organized within the framework of ARIEL

**CERAMIC IDENTITIES AND AFFINITIES OF THE REGION OF
PAPHOS DURING THE BRONZE AGE
(3rd and 2nd millennia BC)**

Archaeological Research Unit, University of Cyprus
Saturday, 19 September 2015

LIST OF ABSTRACTS

PULP (2006 -) and ARIEL (2013-2017): Developments in the context of an evolving landscape project

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The purpose of the opening lecture is to situate the ARIEL WORKSHOP within the framework of the Palaepaphos Urban Landscape Project (PULP). As a multi-disciplinary project, PULP, which was initiated in 2006, has become an arena where many young scholars can apply their scientific expertise in a collaborative environment.

The PULP's original goal was to define the structure of the primary center of Ancient Paphos in the second and first millennia BC. It soon became apparent that, from the horizon of the site's foundation as a Late Cypriot gateway to the end of Antiquity (when it had shrunk around the pilgrims' facilities of the sanctuary), the changing pattern of its site structure responded to economic transformations that were, in fact, reshaping site distribution and site function in the entire Paphian region, from the southern foothills of the Troodos to the coast.

The lecture will provide an abbreviated 'diary' of PULP's history of research as it has developed in the course of a decade (2006-2015) in order to explain how landscape analysis led to short-term, targeted field projects that have increased monument visibility and our understanding of the functional identity of different urban components, as well as to specialized projects (e.g. coring, mapping of slag distribution and cult sites) in the macro-scale of the hydrological region of Paphos.

Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age in Paphos: Social Transformations through the Ceramic Evidence

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Up to the mid-1970s the region of Paphos had virtually been a terra incognita for the prehistoric archaeology of Cyprus and the majority of information for sites dating prior to the Bronze Age derived from small scale soundings, chance and often non-provenanced surface finds and the illicit excavation of tombs. However, since the 1970s a number of survey (CPSP, WCS, WCP, KDP, DAP, PPAP) and excavation (KMyI, KM, LL, SL, KS) projects have altered our views of the region, which is today one of the most thoroughly surveyed and excavated territories of the island. Despite this wealth of information, an important and as of yet not definitively answered question remains: When and how does the Bronze Age start at Paphos? To begin exploring this complex matter, it is not only needed to compare evidence across space, but also in time, as it

appears that the existing models of internal evolution and/or external migration at the beginning of the Bronze Age in Cyprus do not sufficiently represent archaeological reality in this region. A more nuanced approach and a deeper understanding of the region's pre-Bronze Age past is necessary. This presentation aims at bringing together published and unpublished survey and excavation ceramic data from the region of Paphos and more broadly Cyprus from the beginning of the Late Chalcolithic to the Early Bronze Age and discuss the possibilities for a different social history for this region.

Ceramics and People in western Cyprus during the Prehistoric Bronze Age

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Paphos district was meant to be the last region to enter the archaeology of the Cypriot Bronze Age. The majority of known Bronze Age sites located in the north, eastern and central parts of the island had already been discovered during the first half of the 20th century. In contrast, the majority of known Bronze Age sites in the western part of the island were discovered during the period after 1960. Moreover, most of these sites are still known only by surface finds or small scale salvage excavations. The results of surface survey projects in the region are very poorly published, while the great majority of excavated tombs remain unpublished. Until less than a decade ago no settlement site had been excavated in the western part of the island, resulting to a complete lack of stratified ceramic sequences. The systematic excavation projects at two settlement sites that have been inaugurated during the last few years may hopefully shed light to the Bronze Age history of a region which until now remains *terra incognita*.

This presentation will attempt an overview of the information archaeological work has managed to accumulate until now about the ceramics of western Cyprus during the prehistoric Bronze Age. What seems to be the relation of the ceramic production of Paphos region with the ceramics of the neighbouring regions of Chrysochou to the north and the island's south coast to the east? What progress has been achieved during the last few years in our understanding of relative chronology of different western ceramic types? Most importantly, how the developing knowledge about ceramics can help us understand more the societies that produced them? The theoretical proposals that have sought to move from ceramic typologies to social meaning and identities will also be examined.

Something Borrowed, Something Blue: Drab Polished (Blue Core) ware in south-west Cyprus

Lisa Graham

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The Early Cypriot-Middle Cypriot cemetery of Kissonerga-*Ammoudhia* has revealed a very large number of Drab Polished (DP) vessels. The ceramic analysis from a number of these tombs has recently been completed and the findings are presented here. The sub-ware Drab Polished (Blue Core) is an idiosyncratic and therefore easily identifiable ware, making it a useful research tool. As well providing information regarding the manufacturing traditions of Drab Polished and how these might compare to the more common Red Polished wares, this paper also examines how Drab Polished from other sites, in particular that of the inland settlement of Prastio-*Mesorotsos*, compare and what this might tell us regarding how and when this technology was transmitted to other sites on the island.

Defining Late Bronze Age Cooking Pot Identities in the Region of Paphos. The Case studies of Maa-Palaeokastro and Palaepaphos-Evreti

Maria Dikomitou-Eliadou, Artemis Georgiou and Athanasios Vionis

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This paper discusses the results of a typological and petrographic study conducted on Late Bronze Age cooking pots from the settlement at Maa-Palaeokastro and the wells at Palaepaphos-Evreti, in the region of Paphos. The main objective of this study is the typological and compositional characterisation of the cooking pots at the two sites and their comparative assessment with contemporary cooking pots deriving from sites outside the region of Paphos, namely Kalavastos-Ayios Demetrios and Pyla-Kokkinokremmos.

Beyond the typo-compositional assessment of the cooking pots under study, this paper will address the inter-type and inter-site typological and compositional variability and/or similarities in an attempt to associate them with regional geology, the production and distribution of cooking pots, the character of the settlements, ultimately contextualising this Paphian ceramic corpus within their physical, social and historical milieu.

Production and technology of manufacture of storage vessels in south-central and southwestern Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age: a brief account of the archaeometric analysis

Eleni Nodarou

INSTAP Study Center for East Crete

A program of archaeometric analysis of pithoi from south central and southwestern Cyprus was undertaken in 2011 involving mineralogical and chemical characterization of the clay fabrics through the application of thin section petrography and the use of pXRF respectively. The project was complemented with a brief geological survey for the collection of raw materials and the manufacture of experimental briquettes that were also subjected to analysis.

Following Keswani's typological classification, a number of samples were selected varying in size, macroscopic fabric characteristics, and surface treatment/decoration. The aim of the project was a) to characterize the fabrics of the storage vessels and investigate potential recipes of manufacture b) to compare the typological/stylistic attributes with the technological characteristics, and c) to examine the distribution of the final product. The sites incorporated in the analysis were *Alassa Paliotaverna* and *Pano Mandilaris*, *Episkopi Bamboula*, *Kouklia Hadjiabdoulla* and *Evreti*, and *Maa Palaeokastro* in the southwestern region as well as *Kalavastos Agios Dimitrios* and *Maroni* in the south central part of the island.

The aim of this presentation is twofold: a) to present a comparative account of the analytical results for all the sites studied and to consider the implications of their similarities and differences and b) to discuss the samples from the Kouklia area that have been analyzed to date in the context of broader regional patterns of pithos production.

Pithos Production in Southwestern Cyprus: Perspectives from Palaepaphos

Priscilla Keswani

Independent Scholar

A comparative study of the pithoi from Late Bronze Age sites in southwestern Cyprus was initiated in 2011 by the author and Eleni Nodarou in order to develop a better understanding of the organization of pithos production and sociopolitical relationships among the major settlements of this region. Detailed compositional, technological, and stylistic analyses of the pithos assemblages from *Alassa Paliotaverna* and *Pano Mandilaris*, *Episkopi Bamboula*, *Kouklia Hadjiabdoulla* and *Evreti*, and *Maa Palaeokastro* are being undertaken with the objective of identifying regional similarities and variations that relate to shared as well as idiosyncratic practices of pithos

manufacturing. Nodarou's petrographic research and analyses of pXRF results have elucidated compositional variations in pithos fabrics among these sites that attest to the potters' utilization of local clay types and sources, even as they employed paste recipes that were often similar, particularly in the addition of mudstone temper. In this presentation I discuss the general characteristics of pithos fabrics and styles in the relatively small assemblages of material that have been available for study to date from localities around Kouklia-Palaepaphos. I then compare and contrast this material with the finds from Alassa, Episkopi, and Maa, and I attempt to situate developments in pithos manufacture in the Kouklia area within the context of broader diachronic and regional trends. Of particular interest are a number of Late Cypriot and possibly earlier pithos finds from the *Evreti* wells that are closely linked to the Drab Polished Blue Core ware tradition prevalent in southwestern Cyprus in earlier periods of the Bronze Age and apparently continuing well into the Late Cypriot period. Other pithos finds from both *Evreti* and *Hadjiabdoulla* share varying degrees of technological and stylistic similarity with Late Cypriot IIC-III A pithoi from Alassa and Maa, suggesting that the potters serving these communities participated in a fluid network of interaction and communication.

Characterizing and Delineating the Idiosyncratic Ceramic Industry of Finewares in Southwestern Cyprus during the Late Bronze Age

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The objective of this presentation is to elaborate on the regional ceramic idiosyncrasies of the island's production of finewares during the Late Bronze Age, bringing to the fore the particular case of the Paphos region.

The contribution accumulates the evidence for the highly regional character of southwestern Cyprus, through the examination of the ceramic wares or the variations of ceramic wares that are particular to the area. Such idiosyncratic ceramic wares include the so-called Teratsoudhia (or Splash) ware and the regional variation of White Slip ware, known as White Slip IIA. The study will also discuss the regional traits of the wheelmade production of finewares during the 13th and 12th centuries BC, conventionally termed White Painted Wheelmade III ware. The extent of the Paphian ceramic idiosyncrasies within and beyond the urban centre of Palaepaphos will be also addressed. It is anticipated that the examination of the ceramic correlations between the polity of Paphos and other Late Cypriot centres, with particular reference to the neighbouring area of the Kouris River, will shed light on inter-site connections and, by extension, on the economic, social, and political landscape of the island during the latter part of the second millennium BC.