



mines as well as in the living quarters, a cistern and on the Velatouri, strongly suggesting resumed mining activities in late antiquity. Such a revival is supported by results from the excavation of a nearby basilica, yielding a wider ceramic repertory. Finally, even if the Slavic invasion of 582/583 AD doubtless had an impact on Thorikos, cooking wares and amphoras from the 7th century AD indicate continued occupation.

AK, PM, CH

References: Robinson 1959; Perlzweig 1961; Spitaels 1978; Butcher 1982; Bingen 1990b; Karivieri 1996; Pieri 2005; Monsieur 2008; Docter, Monsieur *et al.* 2010; Docter, Monsieur and van de Put 2011; Konstantinidou, forthcoming.



*Globular amphora of probable Cretan origin,
Tower Compound 1, 7th century AD?
(TC73.187, Thorikos archive).*

24. The Finds Laboratory

All archaeological fieldwork yields enormous masses of finds, mainly ceramics, and the Thorikos Project is no exception. The finds are processed in a laboratory, which during the early Belgian excavations was situated near the site in a house known as the Kephalaou Melatron. Since the start of new fieldwork in 2004, however, materials are instead processed on the premises of the Lavrion Museum, where the laboratory is set up seasonally. It is staffed by both specialists and students, partly within the framework of a Fieldschool of Greek Material Culture





promoted by the U4 Network (universities of Ghent, Göttingen, Groningen and Uppsala). As finds come in from surveys or excavations, they are first washed, set to dry in sieves, and bagged. In a second stage, they are studied per archeological context, as a basic inventory of every sherd and other find is created, detailing f.ex. ceramic fabric, shape, decoration, likely provenance and chronology. A third phase consists of the description of select finds, and restoration if necessary, and the preparation of accurate line-drawings, photographs and macro-photographs of ceramic fabrics. An accurate photographic record allows us to share and compare the data, and the macro-images are relevant for studying how the vessels were made – and where, as clay can be regionally distinct. Finally, a last phase takes place in one of the institutions participating in the Thorikos Project and is in the hands of its more than 40 collaborators. This entails digitization of the line-drawings and further study of select finds and their contexts with a view to publication.

RFD, AnP, SoD, MN, SM, ERA, CH, SDS, AA, WvdP, AB

Finds processing (above and below from left to right). Washing; drying (survey context T12-104-1-1); inventory; photographing; pencil drawing and object description of a rim fragment of a probably Laconian wash-basin or lekane (TC12.631, context T12-104-1-1); digitized drawing of item TC12.631 (drawing: J. Angenon; photos RFD).

