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“Aspects of Life in the Thermaic Gulf through Pottery Production, during the Iron Age”

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Abstract

This dissertation was written as part of the MSc in the Classical Archaeology and the Ancient History of Macedonia at the International Hellenic University.

My dissertation will focus on the area of the Thermaic Gulf during Iron Age and how pottery production contributed to the life of the residents. As pottery is one of the main archaeological evidence which enlightens us on the lifestyle and the evolution of society over the years, it has drawn my attention already from my undergraduate studies and therefore I decided to focus on this aspect of ancient life in my master dissertation.-The region of the Thermaic Gulf was chosen as an area that over the last decades has been continuously attracting the interest of new researchers. Ever more, each year the archaeological data reveal the cultural and social wealth of the region from the prehistoric years until today. On a second level, I was motivated by my direct connection with this place as I was born and grew up in Thessaloniki.

The aim of the work is not only to carry out research on the pottery production during the Iron Age, but also to outline some aspects of the daily life of the inhabitants around the Thermaic Gulf, the evolution of the Gulf through the years and the creation of organized societies within it. Firstly, there is an introduction of the region with the trade in the area of the Thermaic Gulf, the “social life” that has developed during the course of this period, the influences and the relationship between the inhabitants within and beyond the Thermaic Gulf.

Keywords: Iron Age, Macedonia, Thermaic Gulf, settlements, local pottery, of Macedonia and more specifically in the area of the Thermaic Gulf. The dissertation focuses on the ancient settlements around the Gulf and the position that they held within archeological research in the Iron Age. The research extends to pottery categories from specific ancient settlements and cemeteries of the area, while grave offerings are a very good source of information for the residents of the area and their beliefs about life and death. A large part of the dissertation is dedicated to the discovery of the local pottery of the area. Particular attention is paid to the types of local pottery, the settlements or the cemeteries that we can find the shapes of vessels and the local workshops that were operated throughout the centuries in the area. As a result of this research, we will come into contact imported pottery, local workshops.

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Map of the areas mentioned in the text. (Hatzopoulos 1996)

Introduction

Pottery has always dominated the life of human beings. Not only to cover his/her everyday needs; such as household, food and drink, as well as transporting and storing raw materials. Also, the implementation of man's artistic expression occurred very quickly. Even in the present, it is quite common to decorate houses with elaborate vases. This is how it happened in antiquity as well. There were not only vases for daily needs, but also the so-called "luxury" vases which were used for special occasions. Death is regarded as being such a case. In ancient Greece, there was a belief in life after death, so as a result, people wanted their favorite objects (like jewels, weapons and vessels) with them. As archaeological evidence, pottery provides us with valuable information in archaeological study, helping us in practical things such as establishing the dates but also to understand the way of life and the community of our ancestors.

Ancient Macedonia and, more specifically, the area of the Thermaic Gulf as a meeting place of different cultures, due to the settlements established by the Greek colonists and the harbors that facilitated imports and exports of goods, ideas and people plays an important role in attaining knowledge of the region. Ancient Macedonia has been connected to the public consciousness mainly as a kingdom from the Classical Period onwards, especially during the Hellenistic Period and the reign of Alexander the Great. However, the area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. More specifically, during the Iron Age, it appears that there was a particular social, political and artistic evolution in the Thermaic Gulf with pottery production emerging as a great development. Categories of local traditions, as well as imitations of imported groups or influences of pottery appear to be popular and widespread covering the entire area. The continuous discovery of new data combined with the historical significance of the region has created fertile ground for scientific study.

The Iron Age in Macedonia differs from the rest of Greece, both to the extent of the chronological period and concerning the amount of the excavated data. Often the Iron Age is unified with the Geometric Period (1050-700 BC) and the Archaic Period (700-480 BC), so sometimes the separation is particularly difficult. Many scholars

choose not to distinguish the periods in Macedonia chronologically, as it is customary in southern Greece and they perceive it as pertaining to one period. As Professor M. Tiverios mentioned, the Iron Age in Macedonia and particularly in the inland area, is dated from 1050 BC until 480 BC. Nevertheless, many times, when referring to the coastline of Macedonia, the Iron Age is divided into Protogeometric (1020-900 BC), Geometric (900-700 BC) and Archaic (700-480 BC)¹. In this essay, I will follow this way of chronology, choosing to unite the Iron Age and the Archaic Period as a single chronological framework, as often these two eras are ambiguous in the area of Macedonia. However, in terms of pottery, I will use the separation of Protogeometric, Geometric and the Archaic, wherever it is deemed useful and helps in the analysis of pottery.

In order to set the framework of research at hand, I will start with a brief reference to the region of Macedonia, to the settlements around the Thermaic Gulf, along with the impact of the Greek colonization during the Iron Age. Proceeding to the aspects of life in the Thermaic Gulf, they are not limited only to the settlements but extend to the cemeteries and the sanctuaries. All three sources gather and represent the social life of the residents. Also these three categories collect quantities of pottery that helped us to understand both their function and the way people expressed themselves through pottery. The decision has been made in this work to be limited to settlements and cemeteries, considering that these two are interrelated. Life and death cannot be separated. In ancient Greece, death had the same importance as life, and this is reflected by the care that they showed to their dead. Besides, the burial offerings that were often discovered in the graves, there were usually beloved objects that people had in their lives as well. On the other hand, sanctuaries alone, constitute a category which has nothing to do with the earthly life as with their gods and something more superior than human nature. Moreover in this text we will see some aspects of people's life through pottery production, not the systematic and detailed study of people's life in the Thermaic Gulf. Then there will be a separate section separately dealing with specific settlements and cemeteries of the Gulf. The selection of specific areas of Thermaic Gulf was mainly based on the following

¹Tiverios 2017, p.46 (footnote)

criteria: a) The quantity and variety of pottery, b) The connection of the settlements among them (perhaps with relations of trade) c) My personal choice to vary the characteristics of the settlements, for example having a port or being a colony, d) Furthermore, in some regions it might be a mistake to omit a settlement. In the case of Toumba-Polichni-Karabournaki, as mentioned below, it has not yet been proven if there were three individual settlements (*polisma*) or there were settlements which belonged to another larger city as a main residential center (*komedon*), like ancient Thermi. In the case of cemeteries, the initial assessment was that they should not be separate from the settlements, however, it was considered to be appropriate to mention it in a separate chapter where these three cemeteries serve as representative examples of the perception of the people of life after death.

Afterwards the production of the pottery and its classification will be dealt with in various categories. The main distinction that is usually made is the local and the imported pottery. Indicative categories of the local pottery and its subcategories will be analyzed. The choice of these categories is not random. The goal is to deal with the types of pottery that have been excavated in the settlements and in the cemeteries that I will mention in the text. Here, I must point out that my goal is not the detailed description of the vessels or the presentation of all pottery production of each settlement. Moreover, this would not be feasible. My aim is to outline the life of the inhabitants of Thermaic Gulf through pottery production. Nevertheless, there will also be reference made to the influences that local pottery received from other workshops outside the Thermaic Gulf (like Euboea), as well as the important role that it played in trade and the connection with south Greece. To achieve this, it is considered useful to mention two other settlements on the eastern side of Thermaic Gulf, in the area of Chalcidice, Mende and Potidaea. These settlements were selected due to the local pottery workshops that were operating there and for which they would be investigated if there were trade or influence relations with other areas of Thermaic Gulf.

Another aspect of the work is to examine the use of these vessels and what needs they covered within the society. Not all kinds of pottery will be mentioned in the text. For example, cooking pots are not part of this work. Mainly it relates to

tableware, vessels that contributed to the trade, vessels related to communal drinking and pottery that we find mainly as funeral offerings in graves. All these categories have a particular interest and probably can provide us with further information for the organization of the community and the social relations of its inhabitants. Also, it is an important source that will help us to understand how our ancestors faced death, their perceptions and traditions. Last but not least I will deal with areas of the Thermaic Gulf in which there are indications where there were local pottery workshops operating and the kind of pottery that they produced. These are some of the aspects that will be investigated, analyzed and drawn some conclusions from.

The Region

Macedonia (fig.1) was an area with great natural resources as it was surrounded by mountains, rich in ore mines, and rivers. Initially the geographical boundaries of ancient Macedonia were as follows: In the south, the Mountain Olympus, in the west the mountain range of Pindus, in the north, Mountain Orvilos and in the east, Pangaeon Hills. Nonetheless, it should be mentioned that through the centuries and after the formation of Macedonian Kingdom around 700 BC until the Roman domination in 168 BC, those boundaries were changed many times². This geomorphology of ancient Macedonia and its climate favored especially agricultural, livestock, but also other activities (like fishing). The archaeological finds confirm that there were animals bred such as sheep, goats, cows and pigs. In the plains of central Macedonia, near the Axios River (fig. 2), we already know from Homer that when the river was overflowing, the area was filled with water and that caused the increase in agricultural production.³ Macedonia was known since Homer's period and more specifically in Homeric poems (Hom. Il. XIV 225-230) the area of Pieria is mentioned. Macedonia was not known either by its present name or by the geographical position it acquired in the following centuries. In the catalogues of Iliad (Hom. Il. II 680-685, 749-759, and 846-850) the area from northeast close to the Axios River, which was inhabited by Paeonians, to the south between Thessaly and Pieria there is the distinctive name "no man's land".⁴

The region has been inhabited since prehistoric times. However, an important chronological starting point was the Iron Age (1050-480 BC), during which the two phases of the Greek colonization and the creation of the Macedonian kingdom took place. The area consisted of many nations and tribes, which can be divided into three categories.⁵

²Hatzopoulos 2011, p.43.

³Girtzy 2011, pp.38-40, Hammond 2007, p. 136. Casson 1919-1921.

⁴ Mari 2011, p. 79.

⁵Tsetskhladze 2006, pp. xlvii-xlviii. See also Tiverios 2007, pp. 46-55.

The first category is that of the Greek colonists of southern Greece. The Macedonian colonies settled mainly from Euboeans (Eretria and Chalkis), Corinthians, from Attica (Megara) and from Ionia (Miletus and Phocaea). In Macedonia Eretrians made colonies in Methone, Mende and Scione. Euboeans from Chalkis were settled in Torone and Corinthians in Potidaea. The reasons for this expansion are still uncertain. Some assumptions are overpopulation, lack of resources (raw materials, food etc.) or even being expelled from their homelands for political reasons. Based on inscriptions, we get some information on the procedure of founding a colony. The mother city used to choose a colonist (oikist), who sometimes belonged to a high social class, in order to lead the group of colonists and in general the whole operation. His duty before the departure was to visit the Delphic Oracle and to get the permission (the oracle) from "the gods" to settle in the new colony. He was responsible for finding the exact region, the division of the land, the guidance of the construction of the city and the naming of the new colony. However, it is not known whether the establishment of the new city took place both by men and women or whether they chose to crew the operation only with men, who afterwards made families with natives.⁶

The second category consisted of various tribes like Mygdones, Phrygians, Paeonians, Illyrians and mostly Thracians.⁷ The third and last group was encompassed by the Macedonians. They originated from the same ethnic group as the Dorians and other tribes of Pindus that were the ancestors of the Epirotes or the Molossians.⁸ They were a Greek tribe who Age lived near the mountain range of Pindus during the Late Bronze. In the Iron Age, they migrated to the east. One group of these migrants, the so-called Argeads or Temenids occupied the region around the Mountain Olympus and on the foothills of Pierian Mountains, where they founded the capital of their Kingdom, the ancient city of Aegae (today Vergina).⁹

The genealogy of the Macedonian tribe has many mythological versions. One of the earliest sources for the descent of the Macedonians comes from the Woman's

⁶ Ibid, pp. lxiii, lxv, xxviii-xxx, xlvii-xlviii.

⁷ Tiverios 2017, p.46.

⁸ Borza 1982, p. 7.

⁹ Tiverios 2017, p.47.

Catalogue which is contained in Hesiodic corpus (Hes. Cat.fr.7). The Catalogue was created most likely between Late 7th – Early 6th century BC. The text informs us that Thyia the daughter of Deucalion and Pyrrha had two sons with god Zeus. Their names were Macedon and Magnes. Macedon was a warrior- horseman and he must have inhabited the area between Pierian Mountains and Olympus.¹⁰

As a region, ancient Macedonia was divided into Upper and Lower Macedonia. In Upper Macedonia were the areas of Elimeia, Eordaea, Orestis, Lyncestis and Pelagonia. While in Lower Macedonia there were towns such as Pieria, Bottiaea, Emathia, Amphraxis and Mygdonia. All the above regions were gradually conquered by the Macedonian kings, through the years. Many local tribes were united with the kingdom while others were expelled (like the Pierians or the Bottiaeans).¹¹ During the Late Bronze Age, after the end of the Mycenaean civilization there is a decrease of the settlements in general in the area of Macedonia. However, even at that time ~~that~~ it has been characterized as being the Dark Ages for all ancient Greece, the coastal areas of Macedonia continued to have contacts with the rest of Southern Greece.¹²

Furthermore, the area of the Thermaic Gulf was part of the Macedonian land with commercial importance and strategic position. It is defined as being from the estuary of Peneus River in Pieria to the west, to the ancient Mende in Chalcidice to the east. The Gulf was divided into five regions: Chalcidice, Anthemus Valley, ancient Mygdonia, ancient Bottiaea and Pieria which consisted of small cities. Some of these regions were already settled by the colonists from Iron Age. The coastline of the Thermaic Gulf played an important role in the evolution of Greek history and culture. The strategic significance of this Gulf proved to be during the Persian War, when Xerxes chose this area to camp with his army, but also due to the persistence of Athens to dominate the colonies of the area (during the 5th century BC) against the Macedonian Kingdom, which was becoming more and more powerful. Moreover, the cities which enclosed the inner part of the Thermaic Gulf, were unitized

¹⁰Mallios 2011, pp.105-106.

¹¹Tiverios 2017, p.47.

¹² Mari 2011, p. 80.

(synoecised) by Kassander for the foundation of the Macedonian capital, Thessaloniki, in 315 BC.¹³

The ancient settlements around the Thermaic Gulf had direct access to the sea, a similar type of space-organization (trapeza or toumba¹⁴) and the economy was mainly based on agriculture and livestock. Furthermore, the habitants close to the rivers Axios and Echedoros engaged in metallurgy. Generally, there is uniformity in the customs of the settlements although we often see diversification in the wealth of each region. For example, the cemeteries from Sindos, Therme (Sedes) and Agia Paraskevi suggest the development of an economically strong social class.¹⁵

Some cities settled before the Iron Age and they continued to be inhabited during the centuries. Starting from the west, the first city was Pydna which emerged around the Late Bronze Age, but we have no certain information about the origin of the settlers. The next important city is the ancient Methone in Pieria, which was a colony of Euboeans and more specifically of the Eretrians in the late 8th century BC.¹⁶ Perhaps it was already, a trading post (*emporio*) since the Iron Age of Euboeans who had a very active presence in Thermaic Gulf by that time.¹⁷ Ancient Ichnai was a city between Pella and Axios River. Possibly this area may be identified along with the region of Koufalia in the municipality of Chalkidona. As Pella, Ichnai was near the coastline in ancient times, but due to geological changes, the sea today has subsided. Archaeological evidence (inscription fragments) has confirmed the commercial relationship between Ichnai and Dikaia, which was an Eretrian colony of the Gulf.¹⁸ Ichnai, like other settlements such as Pella, Chalastra, Sindos and Thermi, it is not certain nonetheless, if it was a colony or not. It is possible that it consisted of a mixed population of Greeks with other unknown tribes.¹⁹ Another coastal settlement was Chalastra. A Mygdonian settlement which Hecataeus (FGrH1 F 146) informed us about of its Thracian origin of the inhabitants. The ancient settlement of Chalastra

¹³Soueref 1998a, pp. 27-31, 35. Tiverios 2008, p.24.

¹⁴Toumba: See the chapter about Toumba Thessaloniki. Further bibliography: Andreou a 2017, pp.38-39.

¹⁵Soueref 2000a, pp.477-478,480.

¹⁶Tiverios 2008, pp. 17, 19.

¹⁷Besios 2010, p. 105.

¹⁸Soueref 1998a, p. 39.

¹⁹Hatzopoulos 1996, pp. 106-107.

has not been associated yet with a modern settlement, however there are some assumptions like modern Agios Athanasios (the most likely), Anchialos, Nea Philadelphia and Gefyra.²⁰ Close to Chalastra was the settlement of Anchialos-Sindos which had developed in the Archaic Period. Sindos was probably a trading post and a meeting point for traders of different origins.²¹

Therme is the name of the city for which the Gulf was named. It is most likely the region of ancient Therme that consisted of other small settlements (*komedon*), including the modern Toumba and the Karabournaki. The archaeological data indicates that the region was established before the 8th century BC. It was undoubtedly a settlement of great importance which had intense commercial activity through its port Karabournaki.²² The Anthemus valley (probably modern Agia Paraskevi) may have also been important ports in ancient times since the estuary of the river was communicating with Thermaic Gulf. Another evidence of the area is the important archaic cemetery of Agia Paraskevi.²³

The head of the Thermaic Gulf had many ancient settlements that we know from literature sources but unfortunately many of them have not identified or their location is a controversial issue. One example is ancient Rhaikelos, which was founded by Peisistratos in the middle of 6th century BC and perhaps it was a port of Anthemus valley. The scholars speculate that Rhaikelos is close to the modern seaside village of Peraia. A little further to the east is a promontory called “Big Karabournou” (Karabournaki is the little one). The ancient city of Aineia was located (modern Nea Michaniona) near to this area which was also an important city which participated in the foundation of the capital Thessaloniki in 315 BC. Aineia and Karabournaki, despite their significance in the Gulf, were not inhabited by Euboeans. The archaeological data revealed that the city was settled approximately in Early Iron Age.²⁴ It is important to mention that the reason the ancient Aineia is not included in the settlements that are discussed below is the lack of pottery data during the Iron

²⁰Manakidou 2017, pp. 3, 5.

²¹Tiverios 2008, p.21.

²²Tiverios 2008, pp. 21, 24, 26-27.

²³Soueref 1998a, pp. 35-36.

²⁴Tiverios 2008, pp. 26, 28, 31.

Age²⁵. The archaeological discoveries that were made in the region where coins of the area of the 6th and 5th century BC were brought to light. Furthermore, a significant discovery was the ancient cemetery whereby the findings are mainly from 6th to 5th century BC.²⁶

Another significant factor that has not been clarified, is the ancient temple of Aphrodite, whose archaeological pieces are placed in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki and are dated in the early 5th century BC. According to Professor M. Voutiras, the temple should be identified as being the lost archaic temple of Aphrodite in the ancient settlement of Aineia. The ancient settlement was named after its mythical founder Aineas, who was also founder of Rome and son of Aphrodite. The people of the region may continue the worship of the two gods during the Roman Period, when the Aphrodite's temple was transferred to Thessaloniki during the creation of the new capital. The temple was used for the Imperial Cult and most likely to honor Julius Caesar, as a continuation of his mythical ancestor Aineas.²⁷

Continuing with the ancient settlements of the Gulf, the Eretrian colony Dikaia that was mentioned before (see Ichnai) was settled may be during the First Greek colonization in 11th century BC. The location of the city has not been officially confirmed so far, but thanks to recent excavation, it is more likely to be in today's area of Nea Kallikratia in Chalcidice. The region presents common features, mainly geological, with those in Methone which was also an Eretrian colony.²⁸

Reaching the end of the Thermaic Gulf and on the west of the first peninsula of Chalcidice (Pallene), the two last cities should be mentioned. The first one is Potidaea which was a Corinthian colony and dated around the end of 7th century BC. Its isthmus helped in achieving faster and easier transportation of the ships. And last is the third Eretrian colony of the Gulf, ancient Mende (modern Poseidi). The settlement had very active trade with the Aegean Sea, due to its convenient location.

²⁵ Though the ancient cemetery has been excavated and the research has been published. Votokopoulou 1990.

²⁶ Tsigarida 2017, pp. 344, 346.

²⁷ Voutiras 1999 p. 1331-1341

²⁸ Kefalidou 2012, p. 101.

It was well known for its wine production and the archaeological excavation has revealed the sanctuary of Poseidon in the west of the cape, outside the city²⁹ (the only sanctuary in north Greece, which was outside the settlement).

Settlements

There are several reasons the following settlements have been selected. Firstly, it was preferable to approach the Thermaic Gulf around its coastline. In this way, the focus was not only on the inner most part of the Gulf, while its coastline extends from Pieria to the western part of Chalcidice peninsula. This is instrumental in proving the contacts between the settlements and the influences they have had on each other. Another important criterion was the variety in the types of settlements. Some of these were definitely colonies, like the case of Methone and for some other settlements the research has not provided us with safe evidence of their origin, like Nea Kallikratia (ancient Dikaia). Other settlements were probably a trade-post (Sindos) or important harbors (Karabournaki, Methone). As already mentioned in the introduction, there were small settlements, sparsely arranged around a central core, a larger city (*komedon*). That case was ancient Therme. Based on the assumptions that Toumba-Polichni-Karabournaki were settlements which belonged to the ancient city of Therme, all were included in the chapter of the settlements in order not to separate them. However, the main reason for choosing all these settlements and the cemeteries, was the pottery. Each settlement that is dealt with in the chapter, contains at least two of the pottery categories that will be cited below in the pottery chapter.

Methone:

Starting from the east of the Gulf, we find one of the largest settlements of the Iron Age, Methone (fig.3). The name Methone is connected with many possible origins. In

²⁹Soueref 1998a, pp. 33-34.

Greek mythology Methone was one of the seven nymphs-Alkyonides. Methon was also called a mythological hero, who was the ancestor of Orpheus and for whom the city was named. The name Methone itself derives from the Greek word “μεθώ” which means to become intoxicated and perhaps the name indicated the high production of wine in the area.³⁰

Before the 8th century BC, the region of Pieria was probably settled by Thracians who were expelled by Macedonians and later on settled in the area of Mt Pangaeon. The colonists from Eretria initially moved to the island Corfu, but unfortunately, they were not accepted by the inhabitants, so they returned to Euboea (fig.4). When their ships reached the shores of their homeland, they were repulsed with sling-bullets by the Eretrians. Being unwanted for a second time, they decided to go to the region of Pieria which at that time was called “Thrace”.³¹It is not certain at which time the Eretrians colonized Methone, probably in 733/32 BC. However, the establishment of the Eretrians in the area of Methone cannot be accidental. Perhaps the region was already known, as trading post. During the archaic period there was immense development in the settlement and the colonists succeeded in creating one of the most important and safe ports in the Thermaic Gulf. Many other settlements of Pieria which were known since the Iron Age, were gradually abandoned. Methone was also important during the Classical Period but after the expansion of the Macedonians under Philip II, the settlement was destroyed.³²

The archaeological excavation in Methone started in 2003, north of the modern Nea Agathoupoli and was divided into six land parcels (274,229,245,208,225,278). The settlement (fig.5) has two hills, in west and in east. The one in the west, which is the highest, was the so called “Acropolis” of the settlement and perhaps surrounded by a wall. On the eastern slope (in parcel 274), there is an indication of continuous habitation from Late Neolithic until the destruction of the settlement (354 BC). The archaic settlement had been extended to the shores of the eastern slope (parcel 278), but the creation of a harbor there would have been unsafe due to the wind. On

³⁰Tsifopoulos 2012a, p. 15.

³¹Hammond 1989, pp. 7-8.

³²Besios 2017, p.162. Tsifopoulos 2012a, p.20. Besios 2010, pp. 94-95,105.

the contrary, the harbor in the north was the safest in the whole gulf and the geographical position of Methone made trade easier.³³

In the middle of the two hills, the so called “Agora” (the market) of the settlement is located. On the eastern hill (parcel 274) a district discovered. The buildings that have been found are located around a central square. They were probably public buildings, due to their large size and they most likely served as local workshops. To the south and to the north of this square are the buildings A and B, respectively. The first building (fig.6) is dated in the second quarter of 6th century BC and the second in the late 6th century BC.³⁴ The archaeological evidences like ceramic ovens (building A), moulds, funnels for metal injections and fragments from the processing of various materials, prove that these buildings were workshops. Considering their sizes, the production is estimated as being quite big at that time. Methone influenced the rest region of the gulf with its pottery and had certainly contacts with the Aegean and the Mediterranean Sea.³⁵

“Ypogeio” (the basement) (fig.7), is a conventional name for a construction, on top of the eastern hill, which provides us with many indications of the settlement and the trade, especially during the archaic period. This construction dated around the 8th century BC when the city was colonized by Eretrians and its initial function was probably a basement of a building of great importance. The construction of the basement was most likely canceled because the soil had stability problems. Consequently, they covered it rashly with building material which derived from a discarded area³⁶. Thusly, the basement was full of pottery and other small objects.

Consequently, the pottery is divided into two main categories: those ceramics which were made in the Thermaic Gulf and the ceramics which were imported from different places in the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean Sea. The pottery is differentiated into various types: thin or coarse pottery with decoration or without and ashly or ash coating pottery. One type of the “local” production was created with a different technique which is reminiscent of Euboeotian style. Perhaps, they were

³³Besios et al. 2011, p 241.

³⁴Athanasiadou 2015, p 173.

³⁵Besios and Noulas 2012, pp. 399-400.

³⁶ Probably from workshops.

Euboeans potters who settled in Methone or other places like Anchialos-Sindos and they shared their knowledge on ceramics with the locals. It should also be mentioned that in the basement 191 incised objects³⁷ with symbols, owner's mark, trademark or marks of the craftsman and inscriptions were found. The most impressive is the cup of Acesandros, which is incised in euboic alphabet combined with ionic dialect. This is one of the first pieces in iambic poetry. The incised ceramic dated around the end of the 8th century and it is very important because Macedonia has very little incised data from this period.³⁸

Anchialos-Sindos:

Sindos is located in the western suburbs of Thessaloniki, in the industrial area. In 1990s, the area was originally excavated by Aristotle University, at the initiative of the archaeologist Votokopoulou. The ancient settlement (fig.8) was found on top of a "double trapeza"³⁹. Trapeza is a hill with a flat and large surface. Sindos has two hills, one in the south which is the upperhill and one in north which is the lower⁴⁰. The settlement should be identified with the ancient Sindos and not with the ancient Chalastra as it used to be in the past. Chalastra was a Thracian settlement and in this settlement, there is no specific evidence about its origin.⁴¹

The place was settled continuously from Late Bronze Age until the early 5th century BC. In the upper trapeze a two- story oven from 12th-11th century BC was found, remains from a building, from a metals workshop of the 9th century BC and another workshop from 6th century BC, hearths and a storage room with big jars (pithoi). In the 8th century pottery import started. One type of grey-pottery that has been found was indicated as having its origin from Asia Minor. Information about the settlement and the inhabitants is also provided by botanical evidences. The inhabitants were involved agriculture, farming and fishing. A little eastward from the previous section, remains of workshops from 6th century BC and imported pottery

³⁷ The majority were amphorae.

³⁸Besios 2012, pp. 43-48, 57-58, Tsifopoulos 2012b, pp. 307-310, Kotsonas 2012, pp.118, 120, 127, Besios et al. 2012, p. 326.

³⁹Tiverios 2009, p.397.

⁴⁰Gimatidis 2010, p. 59.

⁴¹Tiverios 2009, p. 406.

from Euboea (8th century BC), were also found. In the northern area of the upper trapeze another storage room from archaic period and remains of a monumental structure of 7th century BC were detected.⁴²

The excavation in the lower trapeza revealed some waste pits from 5th- 4th century BC. Building remains originated from Geometric period (fig.9), like workshops, storage room and cook equipment (ovens). In a large square space, fragments of burned pottery both imported (Euboea) and “local”, from 8th century BC—were excavated. A substantial amount of the “local” pottery was made on a wheel and not handmade. Another “local” type of pottery is the so called “silver-slipped” ware (fig.10), which was produced in large quantities and it should be made in Sindos. Evidences that perhaps Sindos had pottery workshops were the tools which were used to decorate the vases. Euboeans must have developed trade with Sindos (*emporio*) and they probably exploited gold from the river Echedorus⁴³, which means “the one who bears gifts”. In case that Sindos was a trading post, the population was most likely mixed with locals and Euboeans.⁴⁴

The imported pottery was discovered both in ancient settlements (fig.11) and in the cemetery which had been excavated in early 80s by archaeologist Despini. The fragments of ceramics that were found are from various places like Mycenae, Attic, Euboea, Asia Minor (Ionia), Boeotia, Thessaly etc. Some of these ceramics have “graffito” (fig.12) or “dipinto” on them as trademarks. During the 7th century BC, the import from Euboea was reduced, probably due to the Lelantine War⁴⁵. From the 6th century BC, the Corinthian ceramics appeared dynamically, after their colonization in Potidaea (in the end of 7th century BC). During the same period (6th century BC) many Attic vessels have been observed, this event can be also connected with the foundation of Rhaikelos from Peisistratos with the help of Eretrians, who knew the area from the past. Some Attic kraters of the area are a little different as usual. Possibly due to the fact that Peisistratos had brought with him potters from Attic in order to produce or even to teach the Attic type of pottery to the locals. The

⁴² Ibid, pp. 398-400.

⁴³ Today's Gallikos River.

⁴⁴ Tiverios 2009, pp. 400-404.

⁴⁵ Between Chalcis and Eretria in Euboea.

amphorae provide us with ample information about the trade. For example, some fragments from amphorae with pointed base which is a typical style Chian trade amphora (fig.13) have been found⁴⁶. Furthermore, fragments from Egyptian faience (fig.14) both in Sindos (cemetery) and in the region of Therme, could be evidence for contacts between Egypt and Macedonia during the archaic period.⁴⁷

Toumba – Thessaloniki:

Toumba⁴⁸ and trapeza, are an artificial hill and a flat plate on a hill, respectively (fig.15). They are the two basic residential motifs that have been found since prehistoric times in Macedonia. It is common for people to confuse tumuli that covered ancient tombs with toumba. However, toumba is the result of the accumulation of many different residential phases over the years. One generation after the other building at the same site, and that practice led to the creation of an artificial hill.⁴⁹

Toumba of Thessaloniki (fig.16) is located at the northeastern tip of Thermaic Gulf. The history of the settlement started from prehistoric times and more specifically from the end of Early Bronze Age (2100 BC). It is a hill about 20 m high that has been created after consecutive layers of habitation.⁵⁰ Between those layers, the areas of the so-called “Upper and Lower trapeza” and the highest point of the hill, the toumba stands out.⁵¹ Toumba of Thessaloniki was already known since the 19th century AD. The first one who excavated in the area was Th. Makridis-Bey believing incorrectly that it was a Macedonian tomb. In the next few years toumba commanded the attention of other researchers too but the first who made a correct and detailed description of the hill was archaeologist L. Rey.⁵² Nevertheless, the systematic excavation of the site began in 1984 by Professor Hourmouziadis.⁵³

⁴⁶Tiverios 1993, pp. 553-559.

⁴⁷Tiverios 1994, pp. 1487-1488.

⁴⁸ Also known as “Macedonian tell”.

⁴⁹Palli 2012, p. 99.

⁵⁰Andreou 2017b, p. 334.

⁵¹Soueref 1996, p. 390. Soueref 2017, p. 336.

⁵² Rey 1917, pp. 100-105. Palli 2012, pp. 99-100.

⁵³Hourmouziadis 1987, p. 219.

The building remains of the Bronze Age (1700-1400 BC) testify to the existence of brick houses that were separated by narrow streets and the habitation on the toulba was extensive. From 13th until 11th century BC building remains were found mainly on top of the hill, the houses are rectangular with several rooms inside. These rooms had many uses such as weaving, jewelry making, food preparation and storage.⁵⁴ In addition, in terms of storage spaces, it should be mentioned that in 1990, semi-subterranean pits carved in natural soil which serve for storage of purposes (fig.17) at the eastern foothills of toulba (in Kalavriton Street) were found. These circular pits have diameter 1-1, 5 m and inside had shells mainly from 7th century BC. Their exact use has not been confirmed yet. However, the way they were constructed and the shells inside the pits suggests that they may have been used to store food or even liquids, since the fact that they are built in the natural soil would provide coolness to the products.⁵⁵ Semi-subterranean structures were also found in Karabournaki.⁵⁶ Also the discovery of metal ware having burning traces makes possible the assumption of the existence of a hearth (*optanon*) or even a local workshop.⁵⁷

Unlike prehistoric times, from Iron Age until 4th century BC, the habitation is most pronounced in "Upper and Lower trapeza", even though the top of the hill remains an inextricable part of the settlement. Between 6th and 4th century BC its use can be changed over the years, while the storage rooms that were found might have been there in a state of emergency.⁵⁸

Seemingly, the pottery from Bronze Age consists of open vases with incised or engraved decoration, jugs, cups, amphorae and others. During the Early Iron Age the pottery was influenced by two different traditions, the Mycenaean from southern Greece and the Balkan. The dominant style in this period is the matt-painted pottery. In 7th century BC making their appearance on vessels imported (or not) similar to other major workshops from Corinth, Aegean and Asia Minor. Simultaneously, there

⁵⁴Andreou2017b, pp. 334-335.

⁵⁵Soueref 1994, pp. 190.192.

⁵⁶ See below the chapter about Karabournaki.

⁵⁷Soueref 1999, p. 181.

⁵⁸Soueref 1996, p. 392. Soueref 2017, p. 336.

are also examples of local workshops such as the Silver-slipped Ware. In the 6th century BC, we found the same typology of vessels (Cycladic vessels, Ionic, Ionizing, black glaze, red and black-figured) both in Chalcidice and the Northern Aegean.⁵⁹

Of particular interest are the ceramics from the cemetery of the area. Just outside the settlement the remains of the ancient cemetery, dating from the 8th to 3rd century BC have been found.⁶⁰ The ceramics-grave offerings were usually placed under or above the head (fig.18). They are found more rarely near the knees and hands of the deceased. The pottery of the 8th- 6th century BC consists mainly of one- handle vases, skyphoi (fig.19) with orange-red, light black or brown glaze.⁶¹ Vessels from 6th- 5th century BC are numerous. These are both local and imported. From the local pottery there are egg-shelled vessels or one-handle wheel-made gray ware. Usually they bear the same glaze already mentioned before. Shapes often encountered from this period are *kylix*, cups and skyphoi. Imported pottery is derived from encountering vessels from Corinth, such as skyphos and aryballos. After 6th century BC imported pottery derives mainly from Athens with black-figure (fig.20) and black-glazed vessels.⁶²

Polichni:

In the area of Polichni, in the northwest of Thessaloniki, there is an ancient settlement called "Lembet Table (or Lembet Trapeza) (fig.21). The settlement was located during World War I from an archaeologist and member of Allied forces L. Rey⁶³. However, the systematic excavation of the area began in 1993. There are two residential phases, the first one started from Bronze Age until the Early Iron Age and it was placed on a tomba, where there were remains of houses as well as part of an arched building found. The second one was transferred approximately 270m southern on a trapeza, the well-known Lembet Table. In the trapeza there were

⁵⁹Soueref 1996, pp. 396-397.

⁶⁰Chavela 2012a, p. 179.

⁶¹Soueref 1998b, pp. 198-199.

⁶²Soueref 1999, p. 183. Soueref 2000b, pp. 216-220.

⁶³ Rey 1917-1919, pp. 108-109. No. 5, pic. 85-88.

consecutive phases of habitation from the Iron Age to the end of the Classical Period, with several houses (made by stone and brick) and pottery remains to be testified.⁶⁴

Through the years there were some assumptions about the identification of the settlement. Suggestions that it is the ancient Dikaia or Pylorus have not been proven yet. The suggestion that Lembet Table can be identified with the ancient Pylorus, was given by the archaeologist K. Romiopoulou during excavations in the area in 1974⁶⁵. According to Professor M. Tiverios⁶⁶ Polichni as well as Toumba, Karabournaki and Therme (Sedes) may not be individual settlements but parts (*polismata*) of the ancient city of Therme (*komedon*). We hope that in the future the archaeological excavations will give more clear evidence about the identity of the area.⁶⁷

The earliest pottery remains that were found are dated in the Iron Age. They follow the style of the local handmade and wheel-made pottery of the Thermaic Gulf, with Geometric decoration on them. Imported vases from Euboea were also detected in the early phase of 8th century BC. This is all despite the fact that it has not yet been proven whether were just imported commercial vases or if there were Euboeans colonists in the area who made this kind of pottery. Apart from the pottery with Geometric decoration, there are other types of pottery that were found both in Polichni and other nearby settlements of the Gulf.⁶⁸ The well-known 'Silver-slipped' Ware it has also discovered in other settlements of Thermaic Gulf like Anchialos-Sindos, Toumba, Karabournaki and Mende.⁶⁹ The shapes of the vessels of this category are mainly for the transport of liquids, like hydria or jug, as well as storage vessels such as pithoi (fig.22).⁷⁰ Another category that will be seen extensively in follow chapters is the 'Egg-shelled' Ware⁷¹. That kind of pottery, very popular at the Karabournaki settlement, is mainly represented by stemless cups and oinochoe.⁷² A special finding is a Carian *graffito* on a black-glazed skyphos. The vessel is dated

⁶⁴Tzanavari and Lioutas 1993, pp.265-266, 273. Lioutas and Gimatzidis 2017, p. 338.

⁶⁵Lioutas and Gioura 1997, pp.317- 320.

⁶⁶Tiverios 1995-2000, p. 315. Tiverios 2009, p.394.

⁶⁷Tzanavari 2013, p. 207.

⁶⁸ Ibid, p. 208. Tzanavari and Lioutas 1993, p. 271.

⁶⁹ See the chapter below about pottery categories. Further bibliography: Gimatzidis 1997. Panti 2008, pp. 86-88.

⁷⁰Tzanavari 2013, pp.208-209.

⁷¹ See the chapters about Karabournaki and pottery categories. Further bibliography:

⁷²Tzanavari 2013, p. 210.

around the third quarter of 5th century BC. It was incised on top of the base and it is very likely to the name of a person.⁷³ Maybe the name of the owner of the cup or the potter himself.

Not far from Lembet Table are the two necropolises of the settlement. The first one is dated from Late Iron Age until Geometric Era and it is located around 300 m west of the settlement. The second one is dated from Archaic until Hellenistic Period and it is on the eastern side, around 100 m far from the Table. The type of graves varies. The most of them are pit graves (fig.23) but the cist graves with vertical limestone plaques are not missing either. The grave offerings are also many and are divided into ceramics, metals (like weapons) and artifacts made of glass, bone or stone.⁷⁴

In the west cemetery, which is located in modern Stavroupolis, there are a number of ceramic grave offerings of the Iron Age that were collected from over 700 burials. The majority of them were plain vessels like amphorae or jugs with cut-away neck that were used for the *egxytrismoι* (fig.24)⁷⁵. The handmade pottery is also present with multiple shapes and types like *phialai*. The pottery is local and dated between 10th and 9th century BC, though the handmade *phialai* continue to be produced as grave offerings until the 7th century BC.⁷⁶

Karabournaki:

The ancient settlement of Karabournaki (fig.25) is known since the 19th century AD. In 1930 the first excavation from Aristotle University with the archaeologist K. Romaios took place. In 1954 the new road near the coast of Kalamaria and the settlement was divided in two places was constructed. The archaeological evidences that were found were transferred in the archaeological museum of Thessaloniki. In 1994 the second excavation of the settlement undertaken by the Aristotle University has begun which is still in progress. The University has also excavated the cemetery

⁷³Tzanavari and Christidis 1995, pp. 13-15.

⁷⁴Lioutas et al. 2003, pp.299-301.

⁷⁵ Pot burials usually for infants and more rarely for adults.

⁷⁶Lioutas 2013, pp. 213-215.

except for the settlement. Parts of the ancient settlement and its port have disappeared a long time ago.⁷⁷

As mentioned in a previous chapter, Karabournaki is a promontory at the head of Thermaic Gulf, which was probably part of the ancient Therme (komedon) and it was a harbor of great importance in ancient times. Some remains of its harbor are still visible under the water near the place “kyverneion”. It consisted of a low Toumba on top of a small peninsula which ends at the promontory. The settlement dated from Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age and was inhabited continuously until the Roman era.⁷⁸

The low Toumba has no evidence of fortification wall, perhaps because it was part of a bigger settlement (*polis*), the ancient Therme. The houses had an orientation northwest to southwest and they were so close to each other that sometimes only a small corridor separated them. It is not clear yet if the houses were constructed having a certain type of house in mind and the exact number of the rooms they consisted of. The buildings were made of stones (in foundations) and mud-bricks. Perhaps they supported two floors, the roof had clay roof-tiles (most likely Laconian type) and there is an indication that some of the houses also had a courtyard. They had beaten earth floors and in some cases, were covered with pebbles or seashells. It is quite interesting that inside the settlement many store-rooms with big storage jars (*pithoi*) placed one next to the other and inside the ground were found. These jars, as well as the trade amphorae, were mainly used to storage cereals, wheats, grain, olive oil and wine. The archaeological data indicates that the households were also equipped with hearths, stone mills and looms. Some architectural remains had painted decoration on them which may be evidence of buildings with a special function, perhaps as public buildings. Workshops for metals and pottery were also operated inside the settlement. Moreover, it is worth mentioning, that there were also some peculiar structures which are the most characteristic of the settlement. These semi-subterranean structures had a beehive shape and dated from 8th-7th

⁷⁷Tiverios 1995-2000, pp. 297-299.

⁷⁸Manakidou, Tsiadaki 2017, p. 340.

century BC⁷⁹. Their use is yet uncertain, but probably they served as waste pits of a pottery workshop (fig.26).⁸⁰

On the north trapeze, there were two underground structures⁸¹ on bedrock, one next to the other, with remains of clay and bricks. On the floor, there were circular “holes” which were probably filled with beams or storage vessels. A third underground rectangular structure is the finest and located under the area of tumba. It has 4 steps in the end, there are remains of a possible entrance. Similar construction has also been found in settlements like Tumba in Thessaloniki, Nea Kallikratia, Pieria and Sindos. Moreover, it was well-known in the region of Black Sea. The sherds that were found in the first two constructions are both from local and imported pottery. From the local area the Geometric pottery is derived, the Iron Age pottery and the Monochrome with thick walls. The imported pottery is from Euboea and dated in the early 8th century BC. The dominant shape for imported pottery was *skyphos* (fig.27). For Geometric pottery the trade amphora was found.⁸² For the Iron Age pottery, the jug with cut-away neck or *kantharos* is identified. And for Monochrome the *kylix* with outturned rim and ring foot (fig.28) was excavated.⁸³

The waste pits⁸⁴ were circular (and one rectangular) with stones, bones, bricks, shellfish and pottery sherds from Iron Age and Archaic Period. They contained pottery from Euboea, like *skyphoi*, trade amphorae from Chios and amphorae SOS (fig.29). From local pottery there were oinochoae with banded decoration and white slip. The monochrome pottery with thick walls is represented by *kylix* and fish-plates. We gradually witness the appearance of the ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware (fig.30), while the influence from eastern Ionia is intense.⁸⁵

The pottery that has been collected both inside the waste pits and the surrounding area is effectively informative about the life and the activity of the settlement. It was used for many reasons in everyday life (domestic), storage purposes or special

⁷⁹Tsiafaki 2010, pp. 380-384. More about those structures in the chapter of Local Workshops.

⁸⁰Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, p. 74.

⁸¹ For underground structures in Karabournaki see also Panti 2009, pp.273-278.

⁸² Probably from workshops in Anchialos-Sindos.

⁸³Panti 2009, pp. 273,275-277.

⁸⁴ For waste pits see also Monaco 2000, Hasaki 2002, pp. 257-258. Papadopoulos 2003.

⁸⁵ Ibid, pp. 278,281.

occasions (like communal drinking). There are painted and unpainted vessels, as well as hand-made or wheel-made pottery. A division may be made into two big categories, the “local” and the imported pottery. The so-called “local” pottery started from the Iron Age and flourished particularly in 7th-6th century BC. The most characteristic types are the ‘Silver-slipped’ Ware and the ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware⁸⁶. Also some types of the “local” pottery imitated the imported vessels. The imported pottery is our main evidence concerning the trade contacts. The older vessels (around 8th century BC) are from Euboea, Attic (SOS) and Eastern Greece.⁸⁷ From Eastern Greece the trade amphorae from Chios, Clazomenae (fig.31), Miletus, Lesbos and Samos (fig.32) should be mentioned. These amphorae have been dated in the archaic period (7th-6th century BC) and probably were used for carrying olive oil and wine.⁸⁸ Corinthian small-size vessels and Kraters were identified from various fragments. Some of them (Corinthian kraters) were made from very popular potters, while simultaneously there were “local” vessels that imitated the Corinthian style. The black-figure pottery started from the late 6th century BC according to the Attic type of style.⁸⁹ The Phoenician presence has been also determined by a fragment of the upper part of an oinochoe from the late 8th century- early 7th century BC. Many vessels had also “graffito” or “dipinto” symbols on them. Most likely there were trade symbols and in one case there was the name of the trader.⁹⁰ Another interesting inscription came from a Carian closed vessel and a roof tile (fig.33). These objects are dated in the Late Archaic Period (5th century BC), during the period when Xerxes was in the Thermaic Gulf with also Carian soldiers.⁹¹

Nea Kallikratia:

Nea Kallikratia is located in the eastern part of the Thermaic Gulf near to Chalcidice. To the south, there is access to Thermaic Gulf and to the north to the mountainous area of Chalcidice.⁹² The excavated area was identified from L. Rey since 1917. It

⁸⁶ See below pp.

⁸⁷ Tiverios et al. 2004, pp. 338,339,343,344.

⁸⁸ Tsiafaki 2012, p. 235.

⁸⁹ Tiverios et al. 2004, pp. 341,343.

⁹⁰ Tiverios 2004, p.297.

⁹¹ Adiego et al. 2012, pp. 195-196.

⁹² Bilouka et al. 2000, p. 299.

consists of a trapeza, which had been razed during 1966 and a Toumba. The excavation started in 1977 at Lot 851. The main archaeological data covers a period from Late Bronze Age to the Late Archaic Period. The habitation in the area started from the Toumba and then expanded to trapeza until the early 5th century BC. In the opposite site, on the west, there was another hill which also was inhabited from Iron Age. The settlement is located in the area of ancient Krousis and according to one theory maybe Nea Kallikratia is the ancient Dikaia, the third Eretrian colony of the Thermaic Gulf after Mende and Methone. The ancient settlements of Kallikratia and Methone have also the same city planning with a valley in the middle and two hills in each side with a similar chronology. Furthermore, in the site semi-underground structures, like those in Karabournaki or Toumba at Thessaloniki and graves from Iron Age to Archaic period were discovered. The settlement on the western hill has a fortification wall which is dated in the mid-5th century BC was formed. The habitation most likely stopped in the 4th century after the destruction of the nearby city Olynthus.⁹³ The western area (Lot 344) is located near the sea and during Iron Age – Archaic Period was used as a cemetery.⁹⁴

The settlement has an extensive cemetery deriving from different chronological phases. More specifically, it is divided into four parts: in the south, which is close to the sea and dated back to the Archaic and Classical Period. In the east, there are the burial sites from Iron Age to Classical Period. In the west with burials of Iron, Archaic and Late Roman times. And finally, alongside the fortification wall burial sites of the Classical Period were found. In the eastern cemetery many burial sites of different chronological phases were found around. There is an assumption that the burial sites were covered under a small tomb. The Iron Age burial sites are mainly pit graves, covered with stone, in the axis east-west for both men and women. Also, they bear grave offerings.⁹⁵ The pottery is mainly *phialai* (fig. 34) and *skyphoi* with red or black glaze.⁹⁶

⁹³Kefalidou 2012, pp.91, 100-101.

⁹⁴Bilouka and Graikos 2003, p.379-380.

⁹⁵Bilouka and Graikos 2001, pp. 279, 280,285. Bilouka et al. 2005, p. 240.

⁹⁶Bilouka et al. 2004, p. 110.

The numerous potsherds that had been found were mostly from local pottery and some of them imported. Important pottery groups are the following. : a) In the late or final Neolithic belongs a shell from the lip of a black polished open-vessel. b) In the Late Bronze Age there are shells of polished open-vessels (fig.35), mainly phialai and one shell from the lip and the neck of a polished amphora. c) From the Iron Age until the early Archaic Period there are hand-made or wheel-made pottery, some of these were glazed, polished or burnished, plain ware and Grey-Ware (fig.36). Two of the fragments were handles of “Egg-shelled” Ware that were probably made in Karabournaki. d) Between late 8th century BC and early 7th century BC we found trade amphoras from a local category the Sub-Geometric Type II. This type of amphora has vertical handles with flat base and a short-wide neck. Usually, there are two sizes (small and big amphora) decorated with triangles on the shoulder or with multiple concentric circles. It seems that this type of amphora was very famous in the North Aegean and the various fragments in the most part of the Thermaic Gulf indicates that their workshop was somewhere in the area (perhaps Sindos). e) Another group of trade amphora the Chian amphorae (fig.37) which dated from late 7th century until early 6th century BC and they were also very popular to North and Eastern Aegean. f) The last category is the largest from Nea Kallikratia and consists of local pottery with large vessels in the majority, the so called “Silver-slipped” Ware (fig.38).⁹⁷

Cemeteries

The way a human is buried has been an important element of ancient societies since ancient times that helps us to understand the perception of ancient people about death, life after death, and the social- economic parameters that prevailed in every society. The need for people to honor the dead is a widespread custom in the ancient world and has been known to us since the Homeric times. The entrance of

⁹⁷Kefalidou 2012, pp. 92-99.

the deceased in the world of deaths was accomplished with great care by his family. The burial process was a ritual focusing on the body's exposure (*prothesis*) which aimed at the mourning phase and anxiety arising from the separation from the dead. Then it was the time of carrying the body to the grave (*ekfora*) and finally the stage of inhumation or the cremation of the deceased.⁹⁸

The burial methods differ throughout the Iron Age and Archaic Period, whether it is inhumation or cremation.⁹⁹ As we see below in the cemeteries of Thermaic Gulf, in Macedonia during Iron Age there was a preference towards inhumation instead of cremation but in general both ways were used in Macedonia. The dead were mostly buried in pit or cist graves. During the Late Archaic Period the stone sarcophagi became more frequent, as we see in the area of Nea Philadelphia and Sindos. Also important is the grave offerings. In the Iron Age, the grave offerings are not so rich and the pottery is mostly local. Moving to the Archaic Period there are wealthier graves and the imported vessels from south and eastern Greece are more frequent. Another feature of the cemeteries in the area of Thermaic Gulf during Iron Age is the lack of weapons in male burials. However, like the case of imported pottery, weapons began to appear in 6th century BC. It is obvious that at that time there were population upheavals, apparently after the arrival of the colonists, which changed the social structure of the area.¹⁰⁰

In this chapter, some of the most important cemeteries of the Thermaic Gulf will be focused on. The selection of these cemeteries was mainly based on the pottery found in them. Both the local and the imported pottery, which is often the most prevalent, show us a lot about their perceptions about death and their society at that time. The majority of the cemeteries is rich in pottery as burial offerings and includes at least two categories of local pottery. There are also some exceptions which are good to mention. Such an example is the cemetery of Agia Paraskevi, in which there are several popular categories of local pottery missing, which are found in abundance in other nearby cemeteries (like Therme).

⁹⁸Misailidou–Despotidou 2018, pp.111-112.

⁹⁹Kurtz and Boardman 1971, pp. 33, 49-55, 71-74.

¹⁰⁰Misailidou – Despotidou 2018, pp. 114,116-118.

Nea Philadelphia:

Starting from the west towards the east, just like the case of settlements, an extended cemetery of Iron Age, in Nea Philadelphia is found. The area is located in the northwest of the regional unit of Thessaloniki, close to Gallikos River and before the establishment of refugees from Asia Minor (in 1922) the area was called Naresh. The ancient settlement consisted of a *toumba* and a *trapeza* (fig.39). “*Toumba Naresh*” was inhabited during the Bronze Age and the “*Trapeza Naresh*” from Iron Age until Early Hellenistic Period. Archaeologically, the area was already known since the beginning of the 20th century AD, when it was recorded from archaeologist L. Rey.¹⁰¹ However, the systematic excavation started in 1995 on the occasion of the opening of Thessaloniki-Alexandroupoli railway line.¹⁰²

Near by the *trapeza* lying in the ancient cemetery of Iron Age (fig.40). Not far from there (about 100 m.) is the Archaic and Classical cemetery of the area.¹⁰³ The number of burial sites in the Iron Age cemetery is over 2200. The burial sites are mainly pit and cist graves, densely packed (fig. 41) and they usually contained only one burial as the inhabitants did not follow the practice of the repeated use of a grave. The graves are dated between 9th and early 6th century BC.¹⁰⁴ There are also some burial sites inside pithoi and cinerary vessels (fig.42). About half of the graves were brought grave offerings like clay vessels, jewelry and tools made of copper or iron.¹⁰⁵ It is characteristic that weapons are missing from the men's graves, while small knives were found in both men's and women's graves. Also, women's graves are richly furnished with jewelries like gilded ornaments (*omphalia*) or bronze bracelets (*pselia*) (fig.43).¹⁰⁶ Rare and unique types of funerary furnishings are the ten bronze small double axes (fig.44) that were found in female burial sites. The double axe usually

¹⁰¹Misailidou - Despotidou 2008, p. 25 and footnote 2.

¹⁰²Misailidou – Despotidou 1995, p. 311.

¹⁰³Misailidou – Despotidou 1998, p. 263.

¹⁰⁴Misailidou – Despotidou 2013, p. 225.

¹⁰⁵Misailidou-Despotidou 2012, p. 471, Misailidou – Despotidou 1998, p. 264.

¹⁰⁶Misailidou - Despotidou 2008, p. 41. For Bronze jewelries in Nea Philadelphia see also Misailidou-Despotidou 2011.

refers to Cretan tradition and art. Without this being confirmed, in a Macedonian cemetery their presence may indicate contacts between Macedonia and Crete.¹⁰⁷

The pottery of the cemetery is mainly local. The Gray ware is prevalent. Often shapes from 9th -8th century BC are krater, *kantharoid* or one-handled cups (with red clay), jugs and feeders (in infant graves) (fig.45). The painted pottery is very limited and usually is found in bigger vessels. From 7th century BC the 'Egg-shelled' Ware is present mostly with *kylikai* and one-handled cups. Similar pottery we found all over the Thermaic Gulf. Shapes of vessels like *kylix* or *olpe* are common in the cemetery of Sindos and Nea Philadelphia. In the middle of 6th century BC there is a tendency for imported pottery from Athens and Corinth. Imported vessels are *kantharoid kotylai*, grey ware *lebes*, Corinthian *aryballoi* or *exaleiptra* and jugs with cut-away neck (fig.46).¹⁰⁸

Anchialos-Sindos:

The ancient cemetery of Anchialos-Sindos is located in the southern part of the ancient settlement and dated from the Archaic until the Classic Period. It consists of 123 graves of which the majority were found looted.¹⁰⁹ The grave offerings reveal the wealth and social status of the people in the area. Both the vessels (about 263 vessels) and the gold jewelries that were found are of high quality.¹¹⁰ The pottery is represented mainly by imported vessels from Corinth, Boeotia, Attica, Eastern Greece and Euboea.¹¹¹

From Attica the main shapes are *kylix* and *skyphoi* (fig.47). The dating of the Attic pottery began in the second quarter of the 6th century BC and continue until the 5th century BC where the black-glaze pottery appears with the same shapes but also some additional, like the column krater. The dating of the Corinthian pottery is

¹⁰⁷Misailidou-Despotidou 2012, p. 479.

¹⁰⁸Misailidou-Despotidou 2013, pp. 225-229. For Sindos see also Tiverios 1996, p. 414 and for 'Egg-shelled' Ware Tsiafaki, Manakidou 2013.

¹⁰⁹Saripanidi 2013a, p.217.

¹¹⁰Panti 2006, p. 301.

¹¹¹Saripanidi 2013a, p.217.

classified, according to the Corinthian dating system, in the middle Corinthian period¹¹² and it has a wide range of vessels: *exaleiptra*, miniature *amphorae*, *oinochoe*, *lekythos* and black-glaze *skyphoi* (fig.48). From Eastern Greece *phialai buccero*, *alabastra buccero*, *oinochoai buccero*, *kylikai* and *skyphoi* (fig.49) have been identified. All are dated in 6th century BC. The only pottery findings from Euboea, are four vessels of the 6th century BC. Two *oinochoai*, a *hydria* and a *lekythos* (fig.50). Unfortunately, their origins cannot be accurately certified, as they can be originated from Attica. In the third quarter of 6th century BC there is a miniature *kotylai*, the only vessel from Boeotia.¹¹³

The local pottery is the second big group of the cemetery, although it contains a relatively small number of vases, 38 vessels approximately. From the second half of 6th century BC and they are grey burnished vessels like a *lebes*, four *kantharoid kotylai* and three *exaleiptra*. The last type of vessel is apparently a new shape while it has appeared in the late 6th century BC as a result of influences from Southern Greece (Corinth). The painted pottery is also present with 17 vessels (*exaleiptra*, *column krater*, and jug with cut-away neck or *Kanastron*, from middle 6th century until the middle 5th century BC with horizontal straight or corrugated bands, sometimes combined with zones of linear or floral motifs. The last 13 vessels are glazed or semi-glazed. In this type of vessels and those ones which are strongly affected by the Attic black-glazed pottery, from second quarter of 5th century BC until second quarter of 4th century BC. The main shape is *skyphos* of Type A or handleless or on Type of Bolsal.¹¹⁴In general, the pottery of the cemetery is clearly wealthier in the Archaic Period than in the Classical Period. Therefore, the fine Attic ware is more infrequent after 480 BC.¹¹⁵

Therme (Sedes):

Therme is a small town in the southeast of the city Thessaloniki and it is inhabited since the Neolithic Era. In the Bronze Age the inhabitants moved to a near tomba

¹¹² Between early and middle 6th century BC.

¹¹³ Despini 2016, pp. 15-18.

¹¹⁴ Saripanidi 2013a, pp.217-219.

¹¹⁵ Despini 2016, p. 19.

and later on to a lower hill, the so-called trapeza.¹¹⁶ On the southeast of the trapeze the cemetery and the excavation started in 1988 is located.¹¹⁷ The cemetery (fig.51) dated from 7th century BC and is used throughout the Archaic and Classical Period. Then the burial sites are more limited until 1st century AD. In total there have been more than 6000 graves found.¹¹⁸ The majority of them are cist graves and many of them belong to children. Next in quantity are the pit graves and some of these had “gravestones” on top as *sema*. Other kinds of graves were sarcophagus or inside *pithoi* but these are very limited.¹¹⁹

As already noted, the pottery of the cemetery is divided into two main categories, the local vessels and the imported ones, as well as a sub-category with copies of the imported vessels. The local vessels from the 7th century BC are usually plain pottery, with one-handle with or without spout. Sometimes they bear decoration with concentric circles.¹²⁰ Both sub-categories of Monochrome pottery are dominant here, the ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware and the Monochrome with thick walls, as well as the Grey Wheel-Made Ware (fig.52).¹²¹

It is noteworthy that, in fact some vessels were placed under the head of the dead, which is most likely a burial ritual. From 6th century BC, the grave offerings are more expensive and started the import with vessels from Attica or Corinth (fig.53).¹²² The vessels are mainly painted or black-glaze. However, there are also some black-figure shapes like column krater, *lekythos*, *skyphos* and *kylix* that are decorated with mythological scenes.¹²³ Another impressive vessel is a hydria with two sphinxes and floral decoration.¹²⁴ Vessels CHC (*skyphos* or *kylix*) with mythological scenes are more common in the end of the century (fig.54). The black-glazed pottery is represented by Attic, Ionian and Laconian vessels. Moreover, those vessels can be copies of imported pottery and were produced from a local pottery workshop. This also

¹¹⁶Skarlatidou 2017, p. 342.

¹¹⁷Moschonisiotou 1988, p. 283.

¹¹⁸Skarlatidou 2017, pp. 342-343.

¹¹⁹Moschonisioti 1988, pp. 283-285.

¹²⁰Allamani et al. 1999, p. 155.

¹²¹Skarlatidou et al. 2012, pp. 466,468.

¹²²Allamani et al. 1999, p. 155.

¹²³Skarlatidou et al. 2012, p. 461.

¹²⁴Allamani et al. 1999, p. 157.

appears in the case of four *kylikai* of type C where only one of them is certain that it belongs in an Attic workshop. The Corinthian pottery lasted from the middle of 6th century BC until the Early 5th century BC. Various open vessels have been found but the most common and famous Corinthian shape is undoubtedly the *exaleiptron* (fig.55).¹²⁵ A last group of pottery belongs to the end of 6th century BC and consists of Cycladic krateroid *skyphoi*, which most likely originated from a Thacian pottery workshop.¹²⁶

Agia Paraskevi (Vasilika):

The region of Agia Paraskevi is located on top of a tomba, in the north-west of the village Vasilika. The cemetery was discovered after the construction of a canal near the modern road of Thessaloniki-Polygyros.¹²⁷ The excavation of the archaic cemetery¹²⁸ started in the early 1980s and divided into five excavations, which brought to the light 435 burials from the early 6th century BC until the early 5th century BC. The type of graves, as well as the cemetery of Therme consisted mainly of cist graves, apart from few pit graves and monolithic sarcophagus. The pottery of the cemetery is both local and imported.¹²⁹

The imported pottery is mainly from Attic and Corinth. Some distinct Attic vessels are the following: a black-figure column krater (520-510 BC) which depicts a pair of warriors. A black-figure *skyphos* (500 BC) with banded decoration and on the central scene depicts an erotic conversation between two men. Another black-figure *skyphos* (early 5th century BC) with banded decoration and a mythological scene. A black-figure *oinochoe* dated in the end of 6th century BC which belongs to the group of Vatican G 52. A black-figure *kylix* also of the Vatican G 52 group (around 540-30 BC) depicts an erotic scene on it. And a black-figure *kylix* (around 540-30 BC) illustrates an animal.¹³⁰

¹²⁵Skarlatidou et al. 2012, pp. 462,464-465.

¹²⁶Allamani et al. 1999, p. 158.

¹²⁷Pappa and Nanoglou 2016, p. 279.

¹²⁸Sismanidis 1986.

¹²⁹Papakostas 2013, p. 167.

¹³⁰Sismanidis 2000, pp. 453-461.

The local pottery is quite limited in shapes and categories compared to other cemeteries of the area (like Anchialos-Sindos or Therme). Among the favorite local categories of the Thermaic Gulf, the 'Silver-slipped' Ware and the 'Egg-shelled' Ware, are totally absent. Grey Ware is the most preferable category in this cemetery and the common shapes are the *exaleiptra* (over 100) and the *kantharoid kotylai* (around 90) (fig.56). Other shapes are the column krater or *skyphos*, which are usually imitations of the imported pottery and the "gourd jug" (fig.57). The local vessels are not carefully made and are of lower quality than imported ones. They barely have any decoration on the surface apart from some exceptions with incised or painted linear motifs.¹³¹

Pottery

Local pottery:

Before starting the presentation of the local pottery, I will briefly explain what the word "local" delineates for the Macedonian pottery and how this pottery is classified in categories and sub-categories.

For the classification of the Macedonian pottery the distinction that was made by Professor M. Tiverios in four groups will be followed. Firstly, the so-called 'colonial' vessels which were made in Macedonia by ceramists who learned their art in big workshops of the ancient Greek world and not in Macedonia are described. The next group is the so-called 'semi-colonial' which were also vessels that are imitating those from ancient Greek workshops but were made by local ceramists, with a local aesthetic approach.¹³²

According to professor Tiverios, the Macedonian pottery cannot be characterized entirely as being local. This has to do mainly with the population that settled, after

¹³¹Papakostas 2013, pp. 167-171.

¹³²Tiverios 2013, pp. 15-18, Tiverios 2012, pp. 172-177.

the second Great Colonization, in the region.¹³³These people most likely (like Euboeans or Corinthians) brought with them new customs, ideas and technical knowledge.¹³⁴ So for example local vessels emerge from Karabournaki which are imitations of the Corinthian vessels, but they have different shapes, decoration and clay composition.¹³⁵The workshop of this type of pottery could be located in the near Potidaea (Chalcidice) which was a Corinthian colony from 7th century BC. Moreover, many Attic column kraters which seem to belong in the workshop of Lydos have been found around the Thermaic Gulf. However, they are also developed with the same differences as the Corinthian vessels (shape, decoration and clay). That fact can be associated with the presence of the Athenian Peisistratos¹³⁶ in the Thermaic Gulf (around the middle of 6th century BC). He probably brought with him Athenian craftsmen who worked or even “taught” new techniques to the inhabitants of the area.¹³⁷Wheel-made trade amphorae with geometric decoration belong to the ‘colonial’ pottery and dated in the 8th century BC. These amphorae were found in Anchialos-Sindos but perhaps they were also made in other settlements of the Thermaic Gulf.¹³⁸

A third distinction is the indigenous pottery which is derived from the regional pottery tradition. And the last one, the local pottery is a mix of indigenous and ‘colonial’ pottery.¹³⁹ In the indigenous pottery category there are vessels with silver-gold slip, the so called ‘silver-slipped’ ware, which was found in huge quantities in Anchialos-Sindos, the Iron Age hand-made pottery, a very famous pottery category in Macedonia and the matt-painted pottery with geometric motifs which was found in Karabournaki. The local pottery contains the Chalcidian pottery which was produced mainly in Chalcidice, the ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware and the Gray wheel-made pottery.¹⁴⁰ A further discussion of aforementioned categories follows below.

¹³³ See p. 3.

¹³⁴Tiverios 2012, pp. 172-174.

¹³⁵Tiverios et al. 2003, pp. 341.

¹³⁶ See p. 6.

¹³⁷Tiverios 1993, pp. 557-558.

¹³⁸Tiverios 2012, pp. 178-180.

¹³⁹Tiverios 2013, pp. 19-22.

¹⁴⁰Tiverios 2012, pp. 176-185, Tiverios 2013, pp. 19-22.

The settlements of the Thermaic Gulf already from 8th century BC had their own pottery workshops where they produced the so-called handmade pottery of Iron Age and other categories of decorated pottery which resembled those of the sub-Proto-Geometric and Geometric. The two main categories are the “Pottery with sub-Proto-Geometric decoration” and the “Monochrome pottery”. The “Monochrome pottery” has also two subcategories: the pottery with thick walls and the ‘egg-shelled’ ware. In this separation it decisively contributed to the pottery from Toumba at Thessaloniki, both from the settlement and the cemetery, leading to a complete picture of the life in the Thermaic Gulf.¹⁴¹

Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery:

The Sub-Proto-Geometric (fig.58), painted, wheel-made pottery has a wide spread in the northeastern Aegean and consisted of different pottery styles. These styles were created in the 9th century BC in Euboea and they slowly expanded to the Aegean. In Macedonia and in general in the North Aegean they appeared in the 8th century BC and they remained until 7th century BC. Some of these styles are the Catling’s type II amphorae and the silver-slipped ware which will be discussed in more detail below, as sub-categories of the Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery. Two other pottery styles are the *skyphoi* with hanging semi-circles and the G2-3 Ware¹⁴². However, I will not focus on these two last groups of pottery as there is not enough archaeological evidence to confirm their production inside the Thermaic Gulf. Although the G2-3 Ware¹⁴³ has been found in Karabournaki, like the case of a drinking vessel (*kantharos*) which is dated in the first half of 7th century BC. The body is decorated with vertical wavy lines and the lip has a relief decoration with snakes.¹⁴⁴ Despite the quantity and the number of areas which have been found G2-3 Ware. Even today, we cannot be sure

¹⁴¹Chavela 2012b, p.247.

¹⁴² Kourou 2014, pp. 63-64.

¹⁴³ For G2-3 Ware see also: Boardman 1998, p. 52. Cook and Dupont 1998, p. 25. Ilieva 2013, pp. 123-129.

¹⁴⁴Tiverios et al. 2001, p. 259.

of either its origins or the precise chronological framework that surrounds this style of pottery.¹⁴⁵

In some cases, instead of the term Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery the name Geometric handmade pottery or "Matt-painted Ware" may be used. The latter term cannot be regarded as official terminology as it may be mistakenly associated with the "Iron Age Matt-painted Ware", which has been a continuation of the "Matt-painted Ware" of Bronze Age and appears mainly in Western Macedonia but also in other places such as Thessaly, Epirus and Southern Albania.¹⁴⁶

For the record, it is important to mention that the Proto-Geometric (1050-900 BC) and Geometric style began in Athens and they were characterized by the abstract design. The most common designs were concentric circles or semicircles, drawn with multiple brush and compass. During the 8th century BC vase painting was already a well-known form of art in contrast with other kind of arts, such as the monumental sculpture. Even in the previous period in the so-called "Greek Dark Ages" the vessels have always been part of human everyday life and they were used in their burial practices.¹⁴⁷

In Macedonia, the concentric circles appeared both in Thermaic Gulf and Chalcidice almost the same time that Proto-Geometric style (fig.59) started in Southern Greece. From 9th century until 7th century BC a similar tradition was followed. The pottery with Sub-Proto-Geometric decoration suddenly developed in Macedonia and was undoubtedly influenced by southern Greece. According to archaeological data there is a difference between the Proto-Geometric pottery in Central Macedonia and Athens or Euboea. That led to the assumption that the "Sub-Mycenaean period" is totally absent from the region.¹⁴⁸ The case of Kastanas at Thessaloniki is particularly interesting. During the excavation (1975-1979) by Freie Universität of Berlin, it was found that the Proto-Geometric pottery was totally different from the Attic style but very similar to Central and Southern Greece. The potters of Northern Greece followed the "trends" of their times and sometimes were even more innovative. For

¹⁴⁵Gimatidis 2002, p. 73.

¹⁴⁶Saripanidi 2013b, p. 246.

¹⁴⁷ Coldstream 1997, pp.52, 57, 62.

¹⁴⁸Chavela 2012b, p.248.

example, the introduction of concentric circles in Macedonia was developed during the Early Proto-Geometric period in contrast to Euboea which started in Middle Proto-Geometric. Another innovation that was probably launched in Macedonia during Late Bronze Age and continued to exist in the Proto-Geometric, was the motif of “hanging horns”. All these motifs like concentric circles, semicircles, hanging horns as well as the tassel, characterized the Macedonian Proto-Geometric pottery.¹⁴⁹

In the Thermaic Gulf the Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery with its sub-categories has been found in several places. Below I will abstract some of the settlements already mentioned in previous chapters. In the Toumba of Thessaloniki in Phase 2 of the Prehistoric settlement, which is dated at the beginning of the Iron Age, a few vases (*skyphoi*) were found decorated with concentric circles designed with diabetes, which refer to the Proto-Geometric style.¹⁵⁰ Also later findings like sherds with Geometric painted decoration of the 8th century BC suggests the existence of a pottery with Geometric style in the area.¹⁵¹ From the ancient settlement of Therme, during the excavation of the trapeza (in the sections B, Γ, E, ΣΤ) plenty of Sub-Protogeometric pottery and its sub-categories like the ‘Silver-slipped’ Ware were found/.¹⁵² Similar decoration with concentric circles brought one- handled vessels without spout from the ancient cemetery of Therme.¹⁵³ Sindos has also a wide range of vessels with Sub-Protogeometric pottery with painted Geometric motifs and the well-known ‘Silver-slipped’ Ware.¹⁵⁴ Polichni is another settlement that has provided examples of vessels with a Geometric decoration of the 8th century BC with shapes such as jugs.¹⁵⁵ Last but not least is the settlement of Karabournaki which the term Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery is confused with the term ‘Matt-painted Ware’ but has nothing to do with the pottery of the Late Bronze Age that was previously referred to. The shapes that we found in this category are two, *phialai* (usually with two handles) and pithoid-amphorae. *Phialai* were used not only in daily life but also as grave offerings. The decoration on the lip is usually with oblique or straight lines,

¹⁴⁹Gimatidis 2012b, pp.232-233.

¹⁵⁰Chavela 2012b, p.248.Andreou and Kotsakis1996, pp. 371-372.

¹⁵¹Soueref 1996, p.396.

¹⁵²Skarlatidou et al. 2011, pp. 425.

¹⁵³Allamani et al.1999, pp.155, 158.

¹⁵⁴Tiverios 1996, p. 414.Tiverios 1990, p.322.

¹⁵⁵Tzanavari 2013, p. 208.

while the body has hanging semicircles. The pithoid-amphorae are hand-made, with collar neck, oval body and flat base. Their decoration consists of three groups of concentric circles on the shoulder and underneath each handle there are vertical stripes. This type of amphora is similar with the wheel-made amphora that are popular in North Aegean and will discuss below.¹⁵⁶ Sub-Proto-geometric pithoid amphorae have also been found in Sindos and Toumba Thessaloniki.¹⁵⁷

“Catling’s type II amphora”

Before beginning with this sub-category of Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery, it is important to place importance on the terminology used. The names that have received this particular category of ware are many and can often cause confusion between the terms. This is due to the fact that this style of ware is still under investigation and there are disagreements between the archaeologists about the terminology. Also there are so many categories of trade amphorae which were produced in the North Aegean with similar characteristics that it is easy to be confused. Consequently, this term has been selected conventionally as the first “name” that had been given in this ware after R. Catling who first discerned this category¹⁵⁸.

This group of amphora is a trade amphora that was found all over the Thermaic Gulf and in North-eastern Aegean (Thasos and Troy). It is dated from 8th to 7th century BC and it is decorated with three groups of concentric circles on the shoulder and horizontal belly strips. Often these are referred to other names such as “North-Greek” or “Thermaic amphorae”.¹⁵⁹ Additionally, we can find terms such as “North-Aegean amphorae”¹⁶⁰ or “Geometric amphorae with concentric circles”¹⁶¹. The name “Geometric amphorae with concentric circles” cannot be an acceptable term as concentric circles are also present to other types of amphorae, like the SOS type of amphorae. On the other hand the term “north-Aegean amphorae” is quite unclear. In

¹⁵⁶Chatzis 2008, pp. 96-99.

¹⁵⁷Gimatidis 2006, p. 249.

¹⁵⁸Catling 1998. Gimatidis 2010, pp. 253-268. Gimatidis 2017, pp. 271-276. Kourou 2014, pp. 63-64.

¹⁵⁹ Kourou 2014, pp. 63-64. Gimatidis 2017, p. 271.

¹⁶⁰ Papadopoulos 2005, p. 576. Gimatidis 2010, pp. 252-274. Gimatidis 2011, p. 101.

¹⁶¹Tiverios et al. 2004, p. 341.

fact, there is not only one type of amphora that was produced in northern Greece.¹⁶² So, the terms “Catling’s type II amphorae” and “Thermaic amphorae” are preferable.

However, the opinions on this particular group are still open to question. Scholars like A. Kotsonas and Professor M. Tiverios quote different views on whether there are exclusively north-Greek amphorae and if their production center was the Thermaic Gulf. According to Professor M. Tiverios, this group was probably created through the influence of the Euboeans colonists in the area and therefore he classifies the group to semi-colonial pottery. From the other hand A. Kotsonas considers that these amphorae are a Macedonian type and are not related to Euboea while accordingly the type was not found in Euboea.¹⁶³ However, it is good not to ignore the case of this type of amphora from Lefkandi in Euboea.¹⁶⁴

This type of amphora is wheel-made, quite big (about 60 cm) with oval shape and short-collar neck. It has a horizontal or flaring rim. The body is usually oval shaped with ring base. It bears paint inside and outside the rim and the neck. The shoulder usually has one group of four stripes (one wide and three smaller) and three big groups with concentric circles. On the body there are two groups with three horizontal stripes (Fig.60). This type of amphora has been found in many settlements of Thermaic Gulf, such as: Methone, Nea Philadelphia¹⁶⁵, Sindos¹⁶⁶, Polichni¹⁶⁷, Toumba-Thessaloniki¹⁶⁸, Therme¹⁶⁹, Karabournaki¹⁷⁰, Nea Kallikratia¹⁷¹ and Mende¹⁷². However from region to region there may be variations. For example, in case of Methone and Sindos there are some differences in the composition of the clay, which can be explained by the fact that each region has a dissimilar soil composition, even the process of vase construction can be different, especially during firing. Also 9

¹⁶²Kotsonas 2012, p. 155.

¹⁶³Tiverios 2013, pp. 16-17, Kotsonas 2012, p. 161.

¹⁶⁴Lemos 2012.

¹⁶⁵Misailidou-Despotidou 1998, p.260.

¹⁶⁶Gimatidis 2006, pp.258-264.

¹⁶⁷Tzanavari, Lioutas 1993, p. 271.

¹⁶⁸Chavela 2007, pp.42-46.

¹⁶⁹Skarlatidou et al. 2011, p.425.

¹⁷⁰Tiverios et al. 2007, p. 266.

¹⁷¹Kefalidou and Nazlis 2013, p.173, 179.

¹⁷²Moschonissioti 2004, pp.282-283. Moschonissioti et al. 2005, pp.251, 260-261,266.

of these amphorae from Methone carry *graffito* over them or other (trade) marks.¹⁷³ Other variations we can find in the amphora of this category from Karabournaki, although the rim sometimes has a different decoration, like a polygonal stripe.¹⁷⁴

Moreover it is important to clarify that there is another type of amphora that is very similar to Catling's type II and it is a transitional type of the previous Proto-Geometric amphora, Catling type I¹⁷⁵. That type has vertical handles from neck to shoulder, a collar neck and the base is usually flat, contrary to type II which has a ring base. Also, it varies widely in size. It is also found in several settlements of the Thermaic Gulf, such as: Sindos, Polichni, Kastanas, Therme, Toumba and Mende.¹⁷⁶

'Silver-slipped' Ware:

The 'silver-slipped' ware (or K 22 ware)¹⁷⁷ was found for the first time by W. Heurtley in Axiochori (village of Kilkis) but the name was given by professor Tiverios during the first excavation¹⁷⁸ in the ancient settlement of Anchialos-Sindos, wherein it is abundant. That category was mainly used during the second half of the 8th and the 7th century BC, however its subcategories continue to exist until the 6th century BC. 'Silver-slipped' ware was usually found in settlements around the coast of the Thermaic Gulf, but also in eastern Macedonia (Strymon River) and in southern Greece, like Euboea.¹⁷⁹

Moreover, 'silver-slipped ware' has been found in Thasos and Bulgaria. This subcategory of the Sub-Protogeometric style, consisted mainly of large hand-made vessels, it has a silver color and it is decorated with geometric motifs (like concentric circles or rhombs), corrugated and rectangular motifs, which were painted with violet color (fig.61).¹⁸⁰ The clay has high content in isinglass (mica) and the special slip is the

¹⁷³Gimatidis 2017, pp. 274-276. Kotsonas 2012, pp.156-157. For Sindos see also Gimatidis 2010, pp. 99-100.

¹⁷⁴Chatzis 2008, pp.69-70.

¹⁷⁵Catling 1998. For this transitional type of amphora see also Gimatidis 2010, pp.254-258.

¹⁷⁶Gimatidis 2017, pp.273-274 (and footnote 86).

¹⁷⁷Gimatidis 1997.

¹⁷⁸Tiverios 1990, p. 322.

¹⁷⁹Kefalidou 2012, pp. 95-96.

¹⁸⁰Tiverios 1996, p.414, Tiverios 2012, p. 178.

combination for this appearance.¹⁸¹There were also wheel –made vessels (on the tournette) and the decoration was made with a compass and a double brush.¹⁸²After the application of the slip with the brush, the final “shade” of the surface depends on the procedure of firing and the color of the clay.¹⁸³In Late Geometric Period the area all over the Aegean Sea, had gradually started to change the pottery style, however in Macedonia the ‘Silver-slipped’ ware continued to exist as the most typical Sub-Protogeometric style of pottery in Macedonia.¹⁸⁴

More specifically from the settlements that are referred to in the text, this ware, as we shall see, is found in large quantities in the settlements near the rivers Axios and Gallikos, as well as in the eastern part of Thermaic Gulf in the coastal area of Chalcidice. Initially, the center of production of this particular group of ware is considered to be the ancient Sindos, but the production inside the Thermaic Gulf should not be restricted here. This is evident from the variations that occur in the slip. Sometimes it may be more yellowish, brownish or red. Sometimes it is totally absent. Also, the clay due to firing can be grayer. This probably occurs because the same ware was produced in different pottery workshops, or perhaps during the years the ware has evolved and diverged from the previous type. Another hypothesis that this pottery was produced in the different workshops inside the settlements of the Thermaic Gulf, is that many vessels of this category are quite large storage vessels which sometimes can be over 1 meter high, as we understand it would make it difficult to transport them.¹⁸⁵

Apart from the ancient settlement of Sindos¹⁸⁶, commented upon earlier that it was found in large quantities, this pottery is also found in Therme¹⁸⁷, Nea Philadelphia¹⁸⁸, Toumba-Thessaloniki¹⁸⁹, Polichni¹⁹⁰, Mende¹⁹¹, Nea Kallikratia¹⁹² and

¹⁸¹Saripanidi 2013b, p. 247.

¹⁸²Kourou 2014, p. 64.

¹⁸³Kefalidou, Nazlis 201, p.174.

¹⁸⁴Gimatidis 2012b, p. 237.

¹⁸⁵Saripanidi 2013b, p. 247. Gimatidis 2010, p. 250.

¹⁸⁶Tiverios 1996, p. 414.

¹⁸⁷Skarlatidou et al. 2011, p.425.

¹⁸⁸Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 33. Gimatidis 2006, p. 86.

¹⁸⁹Soueref 1992, pp. 277,279,282.

¹⁹⁰Tzanavari 2013, p. 208-210. Gimatidis 2006, p.86.

¹⁹¹Moschonissiotti 2004, p. 283.

Karabournaki¹⁹³. In Karabournaki there are variations in the ware in comparison with the same type of ware from Sindos. In Karabournaki the glaze and the slip have a better quality. Also the sherds that were found in Karabournaki have traces of the wheel, something we do not find in Sindos. Something similar also occurs in the case of the settlement of Nea Kallikratia, where the slip of the ware presents variations in color and sometimes it is completely absent. This fact strengthens further the assumption of the existence of various pottery workshops of 'Silver-slipped' Ware in the area of the Thermaic Gulf.¹⁹⁴

Monochrome pottery with thick walls:

This kind of pottery is recognized from the color that covers all the outer and inner surface. That color can be red or brown with dilute glaze or even in rare cases black with dilute glaze. Moreover, sometimes the area around the handles can bear only the color of the clay. Its production most likely was started in 8th century BC and was preserved until the early 7th century BC, when probably produced together with the 'Egg-shelled' Ware. In some cases, like the settlement of Sindos the Monochrome pottery is valued as a single category and there is no separation between thick walls and 'Egg-shelled'.¹⁹⁵ The influences that led the local potters to the use of monochrome color on the surface of the vessels may be due to another type of Sub-Geometric pottery, the so-called 'glazed-ware'¹⁹⁶, which is inspired by the Late-Mycenaean and Sub-Mycenaean *skyphos*. On the other hand, maybe this new "trend" has been created through the contacts of the inhabitants of Thermaic Gulf with the settlers from Euboea during the 8th century BC. Moreover, from time to time, Monochrome vessels from Euboea or Thessaly in the area of the Thermaic Gulf and Chalcidice have been found.¹⁹⁷

¹⁹²Kefalidou and Nazlis 2013, pp.173-180.

¹⁹³Tiverios et al. 2006, p.267.

¹⁹⁴Chatzis 2008, p. 60. Kefalidou and Nazlis 2013, p. 180.

¹⁹⁵Chavela 2012b, p.252. For Monochrome pottery of Sindos see also Gimatzidis 2010, pp. 210-218.

¹⁹⁶Votokopoulou 1990, p.96.

¹⁹⁷Panti 2012, p. 259. Panti 2006, p. 360.

The most common vessel of the Monochrome pottery with thick walls is a drinking vessel, the *skyphos* (fig.62).¹⁹⁸ However, the potters were also influenced by other regions like Euboea, Thessaly or Ionia and “adopted” vessels such as the kylix with flaring rim and the ‘fish-plate’.¹⁹⁹ Two other very common vessels in Monochrome pottery are the one-handle vases with spout and the *kanastron* which was a shallow vessel, with semi-globular shape and horizontal, strip handle.²⁰⁰

The Monochrome pottery with thick walls is found both in settlements and even more frequently in the cemeteries of the Thermaic Gulf. The ancient settlement of Karabournaki, as we shall see below pertains to the production of Monochrome pottery, especially the ‘Egg-shelled’. However, the Monochrome vessels with thick walls are also presenting Karabournaki and most likely they were produced inside the settlement.²⁰¹ Other areas inside the Thermaic Gulf with Monochrome pottery with thick walls are the ancient cemetery of Therme²⁰² and Toumba-Thessaloniki²⁰³.

‘Egg-shelled’ Ware:

The other category of the Monochrome pottery is the ‘Egg-shelled’, it is characterized by the overly thin walls and was named by Professor Tiverios.²⁰⁴ More specifically, Professor M. Tiverios prefers the term ‘Ionicizing Egg-shelled’ Ware because they are similar to vessels with red (or black) glaze from Ionia.²⁰⁵ Instead, K. Chavela suggests the term Monochrome ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware as a sub-category of the Monochrome tradition that pre-exists in the Macedonia territory and was not influenced by Ionia.²⁰⁶ The vessels are covered mostly with red color or red-brown color and sometimes after the firing bear a more grayish color. Moreover the ‘Egg-shelled’ ware has a shiny glaze, contrary to previous category (with thick walls) that has a dull glaze, although both categories belong to the local pottery. Usually we find

¹⁹⁸Chavela 2012b, p.252.

¹⁹⁹Panti 2006, p. 360.

²⁰⁰Chavela 2012b, p.253.

²⁰¹Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, p.85.Chatzis 2008, pp. 72-74.

²⁰²Skarlatidou et al. 2012, p.466.

²⁰³Soueref 1998b, p. 198-199.Soueref 2000b, p.216.

²⁰⁴ Like the case of the ‘silver-slipped’ ware at the same excavated area of Anchialos-Sindos. Tiverios 1990, pp. 315-322.

²⁰⁵Tiverios 1996, pp.414, Tiverios 2012, pp. 179-180.

²⁰⁶Chavela 2012b, p. 255.

'Egg-shelled' in Central Macedonia, especially in the Thermaic Gulf and more rarely in Chalcidice.²⁰⁷ The huge number of sherds in Karabournaki leads to the assumption that there was a local workshop of 'Egg-shelled' Ware.²⁰⁸

The most common shapes regarding this kind of pottery are the non-stemmed kylix and the phialai with one-handle or with spout. Some other shapes of closed vessels are olpai and jug with cut-away neck (fig.63). As mentioned before at some point, the two categories of Monochrome pottery should co-exist. However this is not confirmed, while the 'Egg-shelled' Ware is present during the Archaic Period mostly in cemeteries whereas in settlements it is at a premium.²⁰⁹ For example in Karabournaki, the local pottery from the settlement is represented mainly by Iron Age pottery, Geometric and Monochrome with thick walls inside the underground constructions, while the 'Egg-shelled' Ware is detected inside the waste pits.²¹⁰ Perhaps the two categories of Monochrome pottery co-existed around the end of the 8th century BC and then only the 'Egg-shelled' Ware prevailed until the late Archaic Period. Although the 'Egg-shelled' Ware belongs in the Monochrome category, there are cases like this from the cemetery on Themistokli Sofouli Street that showing a different picture. At the burial 18, a one-handled spouted phiale was found which was decorated with hanging semicircles. This motif was common in the open vessels of the Late Geometric period, which proves that the production of the 'Egg-shelled' Ware began during this period and it was not only monochrome but also with a painted decoration.²¹¹

The significant amount of 'Egg-shelled' Ware that was found in Karabournaki and especially inside the waste pits suggests that this type of ware was produced inside the settlement in a local workshop. The sizes of the vessels differ, however there is uniformity in terms of the shape, like the flat base and the slightly raised horizontal handles. The vessels are also coated with a brown or red slip.²¹² Apart from

²⁰⁷Panti 2012, pp. 257,258.

²⁰⁸Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, p.72.

²⁰⁹Panti 2012, p. 258.

²¹⁰Panti 2009, pp. 275-278,281.

²¹¹Panti 2012, pp. 258,260,262.

²¹²Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, p.78. See below about the local Workshop in Karabournaki in the chapter of Local Workshops.

Karabournaki, 'Egg-shelled' Ware was found in Toumba-Thessaloniki both in the settlement and in the cemetery. The shapes and the glaze are slightly different from those in Karabournaki. Usually the ware in Toumba is presented by small one-handled cups with globular body and it has an orange-red glaze.²¹³In the cemetery of Therme²¹⁴ the 'Egg-shelled' Ware is plentiful with dominant shape the *kylix*, having a wide range in typology. The most common type is the *kylix* with a plain or slightly inverted rim. Yet another popular shape is the one-handled *phiale* with inverted rim and strip handle²¹⁵.Sherds of 'Egg-shelled' vessels like *kylix* and *oinochoe* were also present in the trapeza Lembet in Polichni²¹⁶.One- handled 'Egg-shelled' cups and *kylix* with horizontal handles were also found in the cemetery of Nea Philadelphia.²¹⁷

Wheel-made Grey Ware:

Wheel-made Grey Ware is a type of pottery discovered in Central Macedonia, especially close to Echedoros and Axios River and it is characterized by its grey color. It is common for vessels of this category to bear marks on the surface due to the burnishing or from the wheel.They are also polished and sometimes have a shiny surface. ²¹⁸ The production of this type of pottery is mainly found in the area of Thermaic Gulf and more rarely in other regions like Chalcidice. ²¹⁹Probably it was originated in the Late Bronze Age or in Early Iron Age and it was the result of the contact between the local potters with the Late Mycenaean pottery.A sub-category of this pottery is the Grey Ware which survives from the Archaic Period until the Hellenistic Era.²²⁰ During the Archaic Period, the two most common shapes were *kantharoid cotylae*, *exaleiptra* and *kraters* (fig.64).*Exaleiptra* (fig.65) are vessels that were used as grave offerings and were very famous in Macedonia during the late 6th century and the early 5th century BC. Apparently, they would contain some kind of aromatic oil that was applied on the dead bodies. *Exaleiptra* is the most popular

²¹³Soueref2000b, p.218. Soueref 1999, p.183.

²¹⁴Skarlatidou et al. 2012, p.466-467.

²¹⁵ The same type is also common in Monochrome with thick walls.

²¹⁶Tzanavari 2013, p. 210.

²¹⁷Misailidou-Despotidou2013, p. 227. Misailidou-Despotidou 1998, p.265.

²¹⁸ Jung R, (Aegean and Balkan Prehistory, 2007), http://www.aegeobalkanprehistory.net/article.php?id_art=4.

²¹⁹Panti 2006, pp. 363,367.

²²⁰Saripanidi 2013b, p.248.

shape encompassing this type of ware and there is a large quantity at the cemetery of Agia Paraskevi. Usually they have grey color or bear painted decoration and are sometimes glazed. With the exception of the local *exaleiptra*, there were some imported pieces from Corinth, Attica and Ionia. The *kantharoid cotylae*, on the other hand, probably had a double use as big drinking vessels in daily life and also as grave offerings.²²¹

We found Grey Ware in the cemeteries around the Thermaic Gulf like Sindos with common shapes of this category, like *kotylai* and *exaleiptra*²²². In the cemetery of Agia Paraskevi, the Grey Ware is the dominant type of pottery with a wide variety of shapes, such as *exaleiptra*, *kantharoid kotylai*, *oinochoe*, *hydriai*, column kraters and cups.²²³ From the cemetery of Toumba-Thessaloniki, the shapes are limited, there are mostly one-handled cups²²⁴. In the cemetery of Nea Philadelphia the Grey Ware, one-handled cups or fluted cups, jugs and feeding bottles are represented²²⁵. Last but not least, in the ancient settlement of Methone a significant amount of Grey Ware in an area was found that can be considered as a pottery workshop and inside the well-known “Ypogeio” (the basement), however, so far only one sherd has been published from the “Ypogeio” of Methone with a *graffito* on it and this is very rare seen in this type of pottery²²⁶.

Local Workshops

After analyzing some types of the local pottery production and its subcategories, it is also worth mentioning the origin of these vessels and more specifically, the pottery workshops that flourished in the region. Before initiating the discussion on this topic,

²²¹Tsougaris 2011, pp. 12-15, 24.

²²²Panti 2006, p. 363.

²²³Papakostas 2013, p. 170.

²²⁴Soueref 1999, pp. 183, 185.

²²⁵Misailidou-Despotidou 2013, p.225.

²²⁶Besios 2013, p.92. Kotsonas 2012, p. 148.

it is important to mention the criteria that was used to designate an area as a center of pottery production. The most important and reliable criterion is the archaeological data. The number of vessels, kilns²²⁷, waste pits²²⁸ and the number of vessels from a particular category are the basic evidence of the existence of a pottery workshop in a settlement. Another criterion that should be taken into consideration, but without having the validity of the former criterion, is the geographical position of each settlement. Regions with pottery workshops are usually cities with constant residence, “well organized” societies (in later periods), having commercial contacts and were located close to the water (sea, rivers or lakes) most of the time.²²⁹ Such examples are found all over the ancient Greece.

Additionally, important pottery workshops in Greece have been found since the Early Iron Age. Athens was the main center for the production of vessels with a Geometrical decoration. Other workshops were those of Corinth, Euboea, Argos and Crete. During the Archaic Period Corinth dominated with the so-called “Oriental pottery”, as well as Cycladic pottery workshops.²³⁰

Unfortunately, for many years, archeology in northern Greece was not as active as in southern Greece. This has definitely changed over the last few decades and has brought to light important archaeological findings concerning the Greek civilization. Pottery, as previously mentioned, is the main source that gives us important information about a settlement. The pottery production in northern Greece had started during Bronze Age. Certainly, at this time “well organized” city-states in the form that will take from the Classical Period onwards do not prevail. The reason for their existence is mainly based on covering the daily needs in the household. During the Iron Age though, the needs of the society grew and the pots were also used for commercial purposes. The pottery workshops from the Iron Age- Archaic Period that have been uncovered in the North Greece so far are: in Fari of Thasos Island, in Chalcidice peninsula such as Mende, Toroni and Potidaea, in the region of Vermio with two kilns one in Leukopetra and the other in Krioneri. In the area of our

²²⁷For Ceramic kilns further bibliography: Hasaki 2002.

²²⁸For waste pits further bibliography: Monaco 2000, Papadopoulos 2003.

²²⁹Tsiafaki 2013, p. 11.

²³⁰Plantzos 2011, pp. 46,47,65,67.

interest, the Thermaic Gulf, apart from possible workshops in settlements already noted in previous chapters, such as Karabournaki and Methone, it is considered to be necessary to refer below to both the Potidaea and Mende's pottery workshops as areas which communicate directly with the Thermaic Gulf.²³¹

The chronological period in which these pottery workshops are being developed in the Thermaic Gulf is between 8th and 5th century BC. However, pottery kilns were found in Macedonia from prehistoric times. A notable example of Bronze Age is the ancient settlement of Apsalos in modern Aridaia. A ceramic kiln (fig.66) combined with waste pits and plenty of pottery sherds were found. The waste pits were circular structures curved in natural soil, like the case of Karabournaki and Toumba-Thessaloniki.²³²

Methone:

As already specified in the chapter of settlements²³³, in the ancient settlement of Methone, the remains of public buildings were found. More specifically they were discovered in the eastern slope (in parcel 274), most likely the area of the ancient Agora of the Archaic and Classical period.²³⁴ In buildings A and B, pieces of two archaic pottery kilns were discovered, for which we unfortunately have no further information as pertinent research has not been completed. Other workshops were also found in the parcel 229. The building remains are dated between Late 7th and 6th century BC and traces of fire have been observed. There is an assumption that the fire was caused due to intense workshop activity and the use of fire. In the area was also found pottery fragments, pieces of copper and stone molds. This may indicate the existence of multiple workshops, such as pottery and metal workshops. Moreover in the building A of parcel 229 were found two other kilns. The room is quite big and close to kilns were sherds of imported pottery (probably from Attic, Corinth and eastern Aegean) as well as Grey Ware.²³⁵

²³¹Tsiafaki 2013, pp.9- 11.

²³²Chrysostomou et al. 2000, pp. 498-499.

²³³See above Methone.

²³⁴Besios et al. 2004, pp. 369-373.

²³⁵Besios 2013, pp.89-92.

Karabournaki:

The next possible pottery workshop is in the ancient settlement of Karabournaki which was already mentioned in a previous chapter²³⁶. In the northwest of the settlement, as it has previously been touched upon, semi-subterranean structures that had a beehive shape²³⁷ used most likely as waste pits were found. Someone can come to this conclusion from the content of the pits. The pits were divided into two layers that contained clay-earth, burned, semi-fired or raw fragments of pottery. The majority of pottery is the so-called 'Egg-shelled' or 'Ionizing eggshell' Ware. However, in the upper layer of the pits the pottery was mixed with 'Egg-shelled' Ware, other types of local pottery and very few imported vessels. Traces of fire were also evident which reinforces the view that they are waste pits. On the other hand, the lower layer contained almost exclusively sherds of 'egg-shelled' pottery and in huge quantities. Some of these sherds were joined and thusly highlighted the deformation they had suffered during the firing. After that they were probably thrown into the waste pits as failed pottery products. Some of the vessels were almost intact. The sizes are mainly small or medium vessels for food or drinking (tableware). The most common type of vessels is the *kylix* (cup) and the second one is the *phiale*. The decoration of the vessels is characterized by uniformity. Almost all of them have a red or light brown slip with a sleek surface which sometimes the potter's brush strokes are distinguished. Moreover, both the pottery and the 'earth-clay' were analyzed in chemical tests, which showed that they all have a homogeneous composition and come from the same raw materials. All these data have scientifically intensified the existence of a pottery workshop in the settlement, which most likely was located inside the settlement, on top of the tomb. There are neither building remains nor pottery kilns to certify the existence of the workshop. Nevertheless, the workshops could have been outdoors and the kilns either destroyed or the firing was undertaken in an open fire. That workshop also dated between 7th-6th century BC and maybe covered local needs. The vessels were

²³⁶ See above Karabournaki.

²³⁷ The so-called "yposkapta".

probably used for everyday life while the 'Egg-shelled' Ware is minimal in the cemetery unlike the imported pottery which is plenty.²³⁸

Mende:

Ancient Mende is located in the western most part of Chalcidice's peninsula, close to the sea, southern from the modern village Kalandra. The first person who identified the ancient city with the area was W.Leake²³⁹ and the excavation in the area started in 1986 (until 1994) from the archaeologist I. Votokopoulou²⁴⁰. As Thucydides mentioned (4.123) Mende was founded by Eretrian colonists and the name of the settlement is derived from a plant similar to mint (*μίνθη*) which was planted in the area probably by the Eretrians.²⁴¹

The main areas that were excavated were two: the sanctuary of Poseidon in the modern coastal settlement of Poseidi, outside of the ancient city (*extra urban*) and the hill where the ancient city was. The settlement was fortified and at the highest point of the hill was the acropolis. Very close to the settlement lies the ancient cemetery. The settlement was inhabited for centuries, most likely from the end of the 13th century until the 4th century BC. In 2002 a second excavation phase had started by the archaeologist S. Moschonissioti in the coastal area. There were workshop facilities for pottery production found.²⁴² This coastal area, at the time of Iron Age, was used for residential and burial purposes. At the end of the Archaic period, a pottery workshop was established, which was in operation until the Hellenistic period. However, the lack of further information, like waste pits, leaves the topic of dating and the time limits of the workshop open. The excavation brought to light 5 kilns and plenty of pottery. The pottery is mainly painted and influenced by eastern Greece. Plain pottery consists of vessels of everyday use, while bases and lips of amphorae (5th century B.C) renders a commercial relationship between Mende and other Greek places possible like Chios, Corinth, Thasos or even Samos. The communication of course with all these places has not yet been

²³⁸Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, pp. 74-84.

²³⁹Leake 1835, pp.156-157.

²⁴⁰Votokopoulou 1987, pp. 280-282.

²⁴¹Moschonissioti 2017, p.378.

²⁴² Ibid pp.381, Anagnostopoulou- Chatzipolychroni 2004, pp. 133-134.

confirmed. Perhaps the craftsmen of Mende copied the same amphora pattern from other known pottery workshops of the time.²⁴³

Potidaea:

Potidaea is located at the beginning of Chalcidice's first peninsula (Pallene). The first inhabitants of the area were Corinthian colonists, who arrived there around 600 B.C. Potidaea was a very important settlement of Chalcidice and for the rest of Macedonia, while it played an important role both in Persian Wars (5th century BC) as well as in the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC). Its strategic position has been a pole of attraction for the Greeks of southern Greece (Athens, Sparta). In 356 BC Phillip II destroyed the city and fifty years later, in 316 BC Kassander built a new one named Kassandreia upon the ruins of the old city. Nevertheless, the initial name of the city, Potidaea, was given by Corinthians in honor of god Poseidon. As Herodotus informs us (8.129) outside²⁴⁴ the settlement of Potidaea there was the sanctuary of Poseidon.²⁴⁵

In 1984, the excavation was initiated in the area of modern Potidaea after the accidental discovery of a looted Macedonian tomb.²⁴⁶ The next few years the excavation brought to light workshop remains from Classical and Hellenistic period. However, a kiln from the Archaic Period survived, though not in such good condition, and continue to be used until the Roman era. The types of pottery that were found in the surrounding area, were mainly plain pottery and some sherds of painted vessels. It is likely some of these painted vessels were imported from Corinth whereas some others were have made by the Corinthian colonists in Potidaea. Some of the oldest surviving pieces of pottery are two aryballoi, most likely imported from Corinth. The first one is a globular aryballos, from which only the bottom is saved, and it is dated around 590-580 BC. From the second one, a piece from the shoulder was saved and also from the body. It has a painted quatrefoil ornament on it and it is dated probably around 580-560/55 BC. Both aryballoi must have been imported

²⁴³Anagnostopoulou- Chatzipolychroni 2013, pp.51, 62,63,65,66.

²⁴⁴ Like Mende, an *extra urban* sanctuary.

²⁴⁵Kousoulakou 2017, pp. 370-371.

²⁴⁶Sismanidis 1989, pp. 357-358. Further bibliography for Potidaea: Kousoulakou 2000, Kousoulakou and Misailidou- Despotidou 2006, Kousoulakou and Kousoulakou 2007.

from Corinth. Also, as mentioned before there are local vessels that were made in the area by Corinthians and they are dated in the middle of 6th century BC.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁷Kousoulakou 2013, pp.69-71.

Conclusions

To conclude, Thermaic Gulf is the largest gulf in Greece and one of the largest harbors of the country. It has been inhabited since the prehistoric times and continues to be a pole of attraction for many people until today.

In ancient times it was a region that quickly attracted the attention both due to its prosperous land, the good climate and to its proximity to the sea. The sea was a source of life for the inhabitants of the area, through fishing and navigation. Trade and communication were not limited only inside the Gulf, but as we already have seen in previous chapters, there were also contacts with other regions of ancient Greek world. Maybe these contacts were the “harbinger” of other great events that took place during Iron Age, the First and the Second Greek Colonization, together with the creation of Macedonian Kingdom. However, postulating an interrelation between the two Greek Colonization with the arrival of the Macedonian tribe is neither correct nor safe. The Genealogy of the Macedonians as one of the tribes that have inhabited the Macedonian land is so far unclear and lacking in information.

On the other hand, the colonists were those who played perhaps the most important role in the formation and the cultural development of the area. The reasons that led them to the abandonment of their homeland and by extension to immigration are uncertain. Maybe of them were expelled from their homes for political reasons or they were simply looking for better living conditions.²⁴⁸ A characteristic example was the Eretrian colonists of Methone who were expelled twice from their homeland by their fellow citizens with sling-bullets.²⁴⁹

Furthermore, the actual number of ancient settlements along the Thermaic Gulf is not delineated with certainty, however, with the help of the archaeology and historical sources, over the years some of these settlements were able to be identified or at least to be defined geographically. The settlements that we can safely confirm that were colonies, are those who were inhabited by the Eretrians like Methone, ancient Dikaia (probably today Nea Kallikratia) and Mendi (today Poseidi).

²⁴⁸See above p.4

²⁴⁹See above p.9

Moreover, Potidaea was also a Corinthian colony and the ancient Rhaikelos (probably modern Peraia) was founded by Athenian Peisistratos. The rest of the settlements that have been mentioned in the text are still questionable about their origin.²⁵⁰

Additionally, there are some similarities and differences between the settlements. This perhaps is happening on the ground that the origin of residents varies from region to region. A common element is their morphology. The two basic residential motifs in Macedonia are *toumba* and a *trapeza*.²⁵¹ The majority of the settlements that we have seen had both residential motifs. Usually *toumba* was more common in Bronze Age and during the Iron Age, the settlement was moved to the neighboring *trapeza*, as the case of Nea Philadelphia or Sindos. Another common element is the existence of a harbor. As it has already been construed, navigation was dominant in the area. Methone and Karabournaki were probably the most important harbors of the time. But also other places like Aineia, Potidaea and Mende had a direct contact with the sea. Another source of wealth was Echedoros River (today Gallikos River) which was close to Nea Philadelphia and Sindos.²⁵²

As we proceed to the pottery, we observe the coexistence of local and imported pottery both in the settlements and in the cemeteries during the Iron Age. Through pottery categories and its sub-categories one can also observe the evolution of society itself. Some of them were loaned from Southern or Eastern Greece²⁵³ and some others were advanced forms of existing pottery categories that had developed already from the earlier period, the Bronze Age²⁵⁴. The local pottery was developed this period to an important degree. On the one hand, in order to cover the human needs that were becoming more and more demanding and on the other hand as a result of the determining role that new colonists played in the region.

In terms of local workshops, the existence of some peculiar structures should be duly noted. These encompass semi-subterranean pits carved in natural soil which were

²⁵⁰See above pp.6-9.

²⁵¹See above pp.13-14.

²⁵²See above the chapter for Settlements.

²⁵³ See above Sub-Proto-Geometric pottery.

²⁵⁴See above Monochrome pottery with thick walls and Wheel-Made Grey Ware.

found both in Karabournaki, Toumba-Thessaloniki and perhaps in the ancient settlement of Thermi²⁵⁵. They were probably used as storage rooms or like the case of Karabournaki as waste pits while inside them an important amount of pottery fragments was found. The so-called “Ypogeio” in Methone must have been used similarly. These extra quantities of sherds may indicate the existence of a pottery workshop. Although pottery workshops are difficult to be identified without the existence of an important archaeological evidence, like a pottery kiln or building remains, there is some other evidence which indicate their presence and that is the pottery itself. In the first case we have kilns in ancient Methone, Mende and Potidaea. In the other case such as Karabournaki or Toumba- Thessaloniki there is the prospect of the existence of a pottery workshop. The waste pits and the huge amount of specific types of local pottery constituting such an assumption. Likewise, the proximity of some settlements with big harbors classifies them as being in privileged areas with intense trade. Perhaps the demand and the consumption of pottery either from their own residents or from traders was such that it would lead to the creation of a ceramic workshop.²⁵⁶ Certainly we cannot confirm that these local workshops were so extensive that in addition to the local needs they could export their pottery to southern Greece.

Conjointly, the areas mentioned had been continuously inhabited for many years and most of them had confirmed contacts with areas outside Macedonia, as indicated by the number of imported vessels. Besides, many of these vessels that belonged to the category of imitations either from workshops of southern or eastern Greece. So, it is understood that there was a need for the inhabitants of Macedonia to adopt new types of types, styles and techniques. The Iron Age was a period of evolution, cultural and social change for both Macedonia and the rest of Greece. The needs of people have become more demanding as societies grew larger and people began to travel more and more by exchanging knowledge and cultures.

It is commonly accepted that man's vanity and curiosity about the “different” was a feature that has not changed through the centuries until today. People always

²⁵⁵Skarlatidou et al. 2011, pp. 429-430.

²⁵⁶Tsiafaki and Manakidou 2013, pp.74-84.

wanted to get the rare, the prettiest and the most expensive. They have the need to show their supremacy and their social position. This is also evident in the ancient Theraic Gulf and especially from the cemeteries of the area. The preference for imported vessels as grave offerings cannot be a coincidence. People always kept valuable items for special occasions, such the death. After all, in ancient Greece there was the belief for life after death, so the dead had to travel with his/her beloved and most precious possessions. Similarly, imported pottery would have a similar position in their life. They would use it in their “expensive” and distinctive vessels from southern Greece for special occasions and their celebrations.

On the other hand, Macedonia was not a region that only accepted influences. As it appears from local pottery it has developed its own styles of pottery throughout the long period of the Iron Age. Types of pottery like Sub-Proto-Geometric, Catling’s type II amphora, ‘Silver-slipped’ Ware, Monochrome with thick walls or ‘Egg-shelled’ and Wheel-made Grey Ware are only some types of pottery that were found in the settlements. ‘Silver-slipped’ Ware was found all over the Theraic Gulf and especially in Sindos²⁵⁷ in huge quantities and that leads to the hypothesis that Sindos maybe had a pottery workshop as well where it produced this type of Ware. Similar is the case of Karabournaki, while the majority sherds in the waste pits along with the pottery that have been found in the settlement indicate the existence of pottery workshop of ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware. Another feature of pottery workshops, particularly in the case of Karabournaki, is the type of pots that have been found. The majority is tableware. If we consider that a huge quantity of these pottery was found in waste pits, it means that there was a prerequisite for evaluation of these vessels and an intention to produce fine Ware. Besides, the ritual of eating and drinking in ancient Greece was not a simple matter. From prehistoric times, people used to get together in order to eat their prey. During Late Neolithic food has become a means of socializing for people²⁵⁸. Socialization through food is a great step in the evolution of human being, which later on changed form (*symposium*) and gained even more importance.

²⁵⁷See above the chapters about Sindos and ‘Egg-shelled’ Ware.

²⁵⁸Urem- Kotsou, Fotiadis 2017, pp.35-36. See also Pappa 2017, pp.154-155.

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FIGURES



Fig. 1: Geophysical map of ancient Macedonia (Tiverios 2017, p. 46)



Fig.2: Delta of Axios River (Roisman J. and Worthington I. 2010, plate 12)

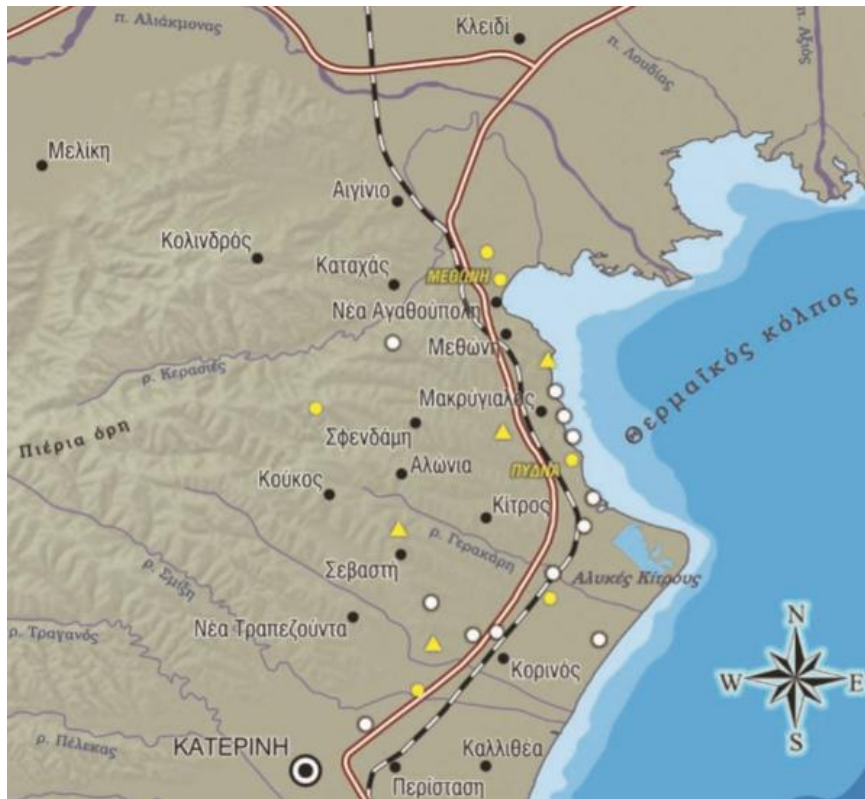


Fig. 3: Map of the western side of Thermaic Gulf with the locations of Pydna and Methone (Besios 2012, p. 42)

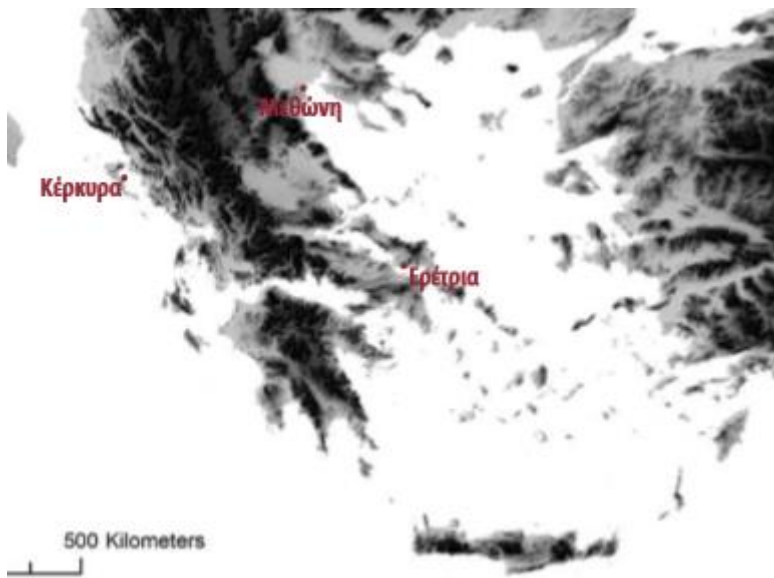


Fig. 4: Map of Greece with the three areas of Methone, Corfu and Euboea (Tsifopoulos 2012, p. 18)



Fig. 5: Ancient settlement of Methone (Besios 2017, p. 162)



Fig.6: Building A of Methone (Besios 2010, p. 106)



Fig.7: The later phase of the "basement" of Methone (Besios 2010, p. 108)



Fig. 8: The double trapeza of Anchialos-Sindos (Tiverios 1998, p. 245)



Fig. 9: Building remains of Geometric Period (Tiverios 2009, p.401)



Ware. (Tiverios 2009, p. 404)

Fig. 10: 'Silver-slipped'



Fig. 11: Imported

Geometric pottery from Euboea (Tiverios 2009, p.402)



Fig. 12: Handle with *graffito* (Tiverios 1998, p. 252)



Fig. 13: Fragments of Chian

trade amphorae from Sindos (Tiverios 1993, pic. 10)



Fig. 14: Vessel from Egyptian faience that was found in Sindos (Tiverios 1994, p. 1493)



Fig. 15: The two basic residential motifs: Toumba and Trapeza from Pentelofos B (Gimatidis 2010, p.60)



Fig. 16: Toumba Thessaloniki. Aerial photography of the hill (Andreou 2017b, p. 334)



Fig.17: Semi-subterranean pits carved in natural soil which serve for storage of purposes (Krachtopoulou and Touloumis 1990, p. 297)



Fig. 18: A grave from the cemetery of Toumba with grave offerings above the head (Soueref 1998, p. 203)



Fig. 19: Skyphoi from Toumba Thessaloniki (Soueref 1998, p. 203)



Fig. 20: Attic black figure pottery from Toumba Thessaloniki (Chavela 2012a, p. 180)



Fig. 21: Aerial photograph of the excavated area in Lembet Table-Polichni (Lioutas et al. 2003, p. 307)



Fig. 22: 'Silver-slipped' Ware from Lembet Table. On the left is pithos and on the right hydria (Tzanavari 2013, p.209)



Fig. 23: Pit grave with grave offerings from Lembet Table. On the left an 'Egg-shelled phiale and on the right a jug (Lioutas and Gimatzidis 2012, p.344)

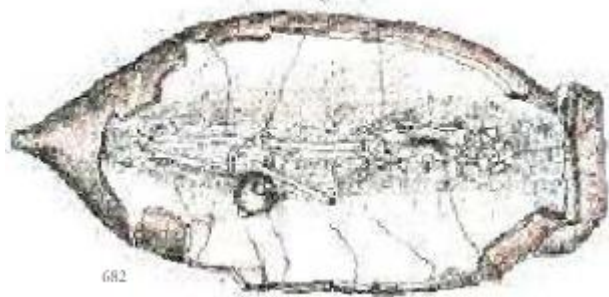


Fig. 24: Adult burial inside of a pithos during Iron Age in the ancient settlement of Polichni (Lioutas and Gimatzidis 2017, p. 338)



Fig. 25: Air view from ancient settlement of Karabournaki (Soueref 1998a, p. 75)



Fig. 26: The semi-subterranean structures of Karabournaki (Manakidou and Tsiadaki 2017, p. 340)



Fig. 27: Fragments of skyphoi with hanging semi-circles from Karabournaki (Panti 2009, p. 276)

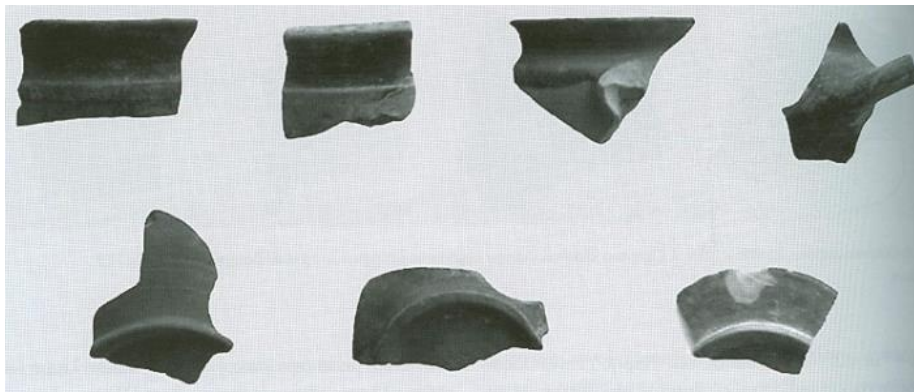


Fig. 28: Fragments of monochrome kylix with thick walls from Karabournaki (Panti 2009, p. 278)



Fig. 29: Two pieces of trade amphorae from Karabournaki. On the left a trade amphora from Chios and on the right a type S.O.S from Attic (Panti 2009, p. 279)



Fig. 30: 'Egg-shelled' pottery from Karabournaki. On the left a monochrome olpe and on the right fragments of phiale (Panti 2009, p.282)



Fig. 31: Trade amphorae from Karabournaki. On the left from Chios and on the right from Klazomenes (Filis 2012 p. 311)

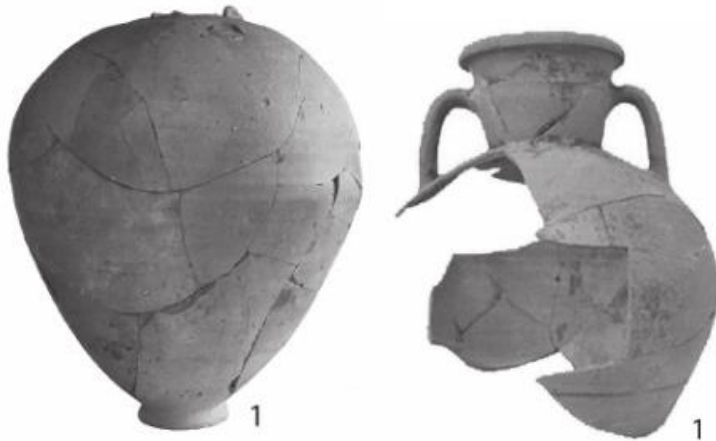


Fig. 32: Trade amphorae from Karabournaki. On the left from Samos and on the right from Milos (Filis 2012 p. 313)

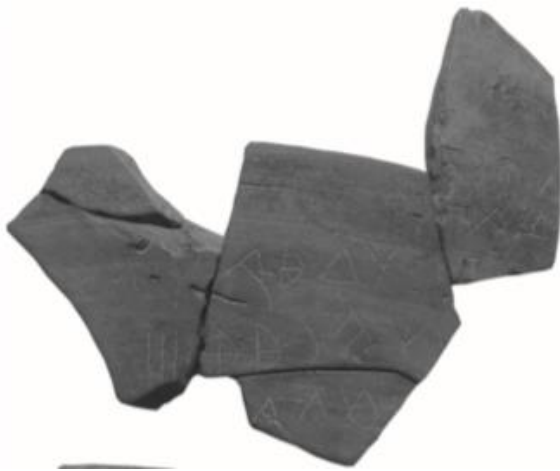


Fig. 33: Fragments from closed vessel with Carian inscription (Adiego et al. 2012, p. 197)



Fig.34: Topographic diagram of N. Kallikrateia (Bilouka et al. 2005, p. 240)



Fig. 35: Lips and handles of Bronze and Iron Age from Nea Kallikrateia. (Kefalidou 2012, p. 93)



Fig. 36: Fragments of Iron Age and Archaic Period from Nea Kallikrateia. (Kefalidou 2012, p.94)



Fig. 37: Fragments of Chian trade amphorae from Nea Kallikrateia (Kefalidou 2012, p.95)

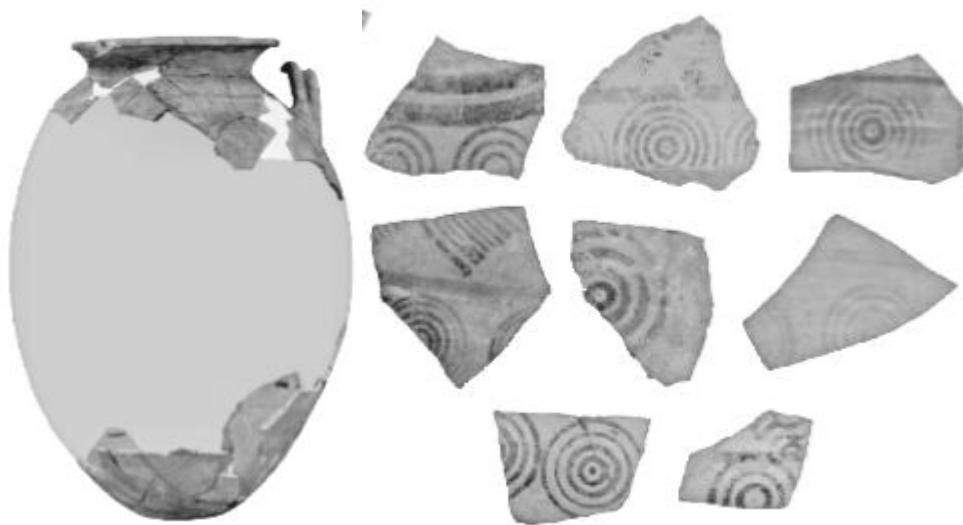


Fig. 38: 'Silver-slipped' Ware from Nea Kallikrateia. On the left pithos and on the right fragments of vessel with concentric circles (Kefalidou 2012, pp. 97-98)



Fig. 39: The tomb and the trapeza of Nea Philadelphia (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 29.)



Fig. 40: The cemetery of Iron Age and on the left the trapeza of the settlement (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 37)



Cemetery of Nea Philadelphia (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 36)

Fig. 41: Part of Iron Age



Fig. 42: Three types of burial from Iron Age cemetery of Nea Philadelphia. Up and left a pit grave with grave offerings inside, on the right a cist grave and down a burial inside a pithos (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, pp. 38-40)



Fig. 43: Bronze bracelets as grave offerings from Iron Age cemetery on Nea Philadelphia (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 41)



Fig. 44: Double axes from Iron Age cemetery of Nea Philadelphia (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 44)



Fig. 45: krater cup, one-handed kantharos, feeder and a jug from Iron Age cemetery of Nea Philadelphia (Misailidou-Despotidou 2008, p. 41)





Fig.46: Pottery from Nea Philadelphia. Up: an 'Egg-shelled' *kylix*, one-handed cup and *kantharoid kotyle*. Down: a grey ware *lebes*, corintian *aryballos* and jug with cut-away neck (Misailidou-Despotidou 2013, pp. 227,230,231)



Fig. 47: Attic *kylix* from Anchialos-Sindos (Sarapanidi 2012, plate 21, nr. 104)



Fig.48: Corinthian *oinochoe*, *miniature amphora* and *exaleiptron* from Anchialos-Sindos (Sarapanidi 2012, plate 3-nr. 14, plate 7-nr. 41 and plate 11-nr. 55)



Fig. 49: Eastern Greece *miniature oinochoe*, *alabastron* and *kylix* from Anchialos- Sindos (Saripanidi 2012, plate 1-nr.1, plate 2-nr. 2 and plate 2-nr.11)



Fig. 50: Maybe a Euboean *hydria*, *oinochoe* and *lekythos* from Anchialos-Sindos (Sarapanidi 2012, plate 49-nr. 224,nr. 225 and nr. 227)



Fig.51: Part of the ancient cemetery of Therme (Sedes) (Ignatiadou and Chatzinikolaou 2002, p. 58)



Fig. 52: Local pottery from the cemetery of Thermi (Sedes). A monochrome *kylix* with thick walls, a 'Egg-shelled' *kylix* and a grey jar with cut-away neck (Skarlatidou et al. 2012, pp. 467,469)



Fig. 53: Imported pottery from the cemetery of Thermi (Sedes). An Attic *kylix* and a Corinthian *Kotyle* (Skarlatidou et al. 2012, pp.462,466)



Fig.54: An Attic black-figured *skyphos* of the group CHC with mythological scene of mermaid and two sphinxes from cemetery of Thermi(Sedes) (Skarlatidou et al. 2012, p. 462)

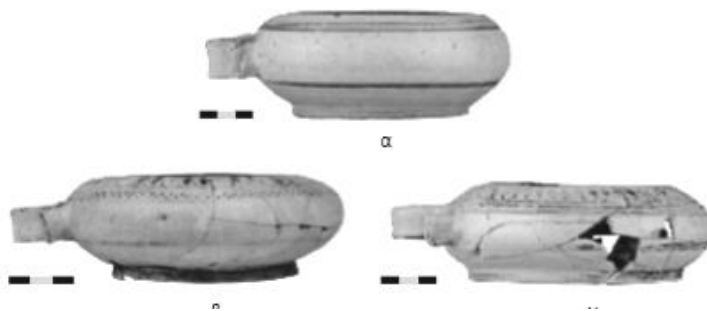


Fig.55: Corinthian *exaleiptra* from the cemetery of Thermi(Sedes) (Skarlatidou et al. 2012, p. 465)



(Papakostas 2013, p. 168)

Fig.56: Local pottery from Agia Paraskevi (Vasilika) cemetery: An *exaleiptron* and a *kantharoid kotyle*



Fig. 57: Imitations of imported pottery from Agia Paraskevi (Vasilika) cemetery: A *skyphos* and a *column krater* (Papakostas 2013, p. 169)



Fig.58: Sub-(proto) Geometric pottery with concentric circles (Panti 2012, p.114)

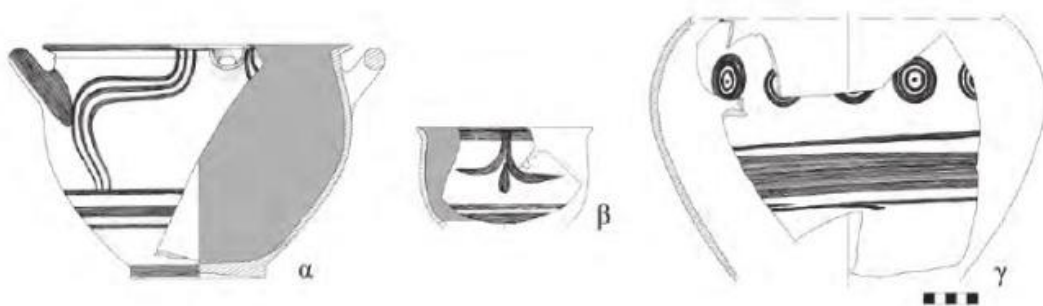


Fig.59: Macedonian Proto-Geometric style of pottery from Kastanas (Gimatidis 2012, p.233)

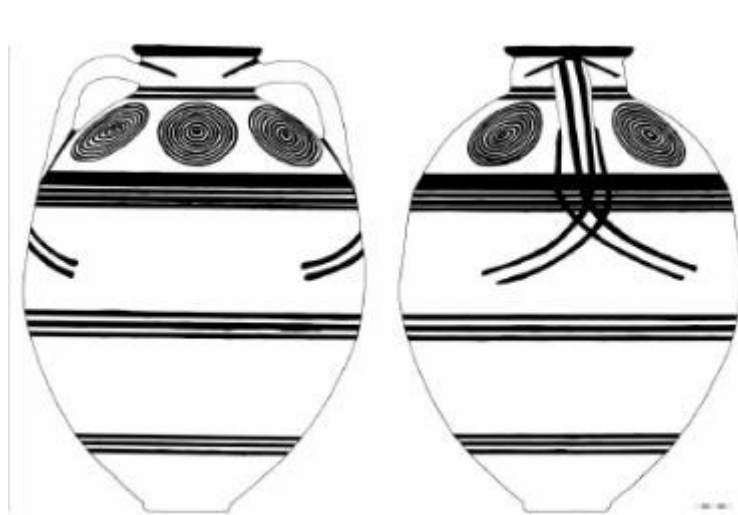


Fig. 60: Design representation of the Sub-Proto-Geometric amphora, Catling's type II (Gimatidis 2017, p.291)

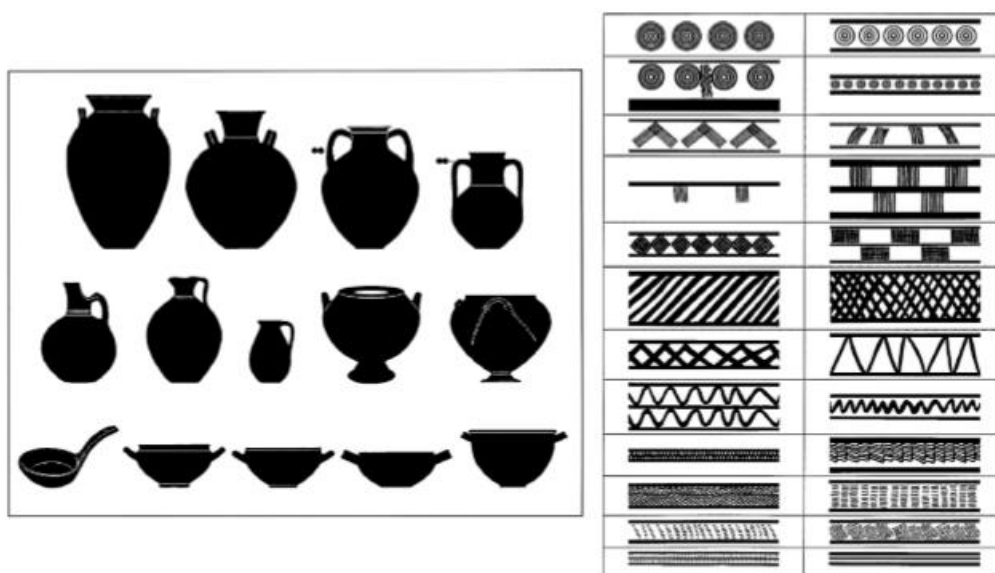


Fig. 61: Shapes and decoration motifs of 'Silver-slipped' Ware (Kefalidou 2012, p.96)

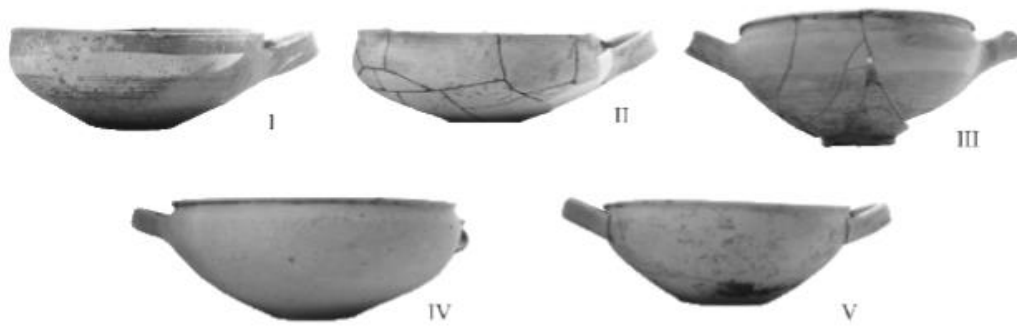


Fig. 62: Monochrome pottery with thick walls from the ancient cemetery of Toumba-Thessaloniki (Chavela 2012a p.254)



Fig. 63: 'Egg-shelled' Ware from Karabournaki: *kylix*, *phiale* and *prochous* (Tsifaki and Manakidou 2013 pp.79-80)

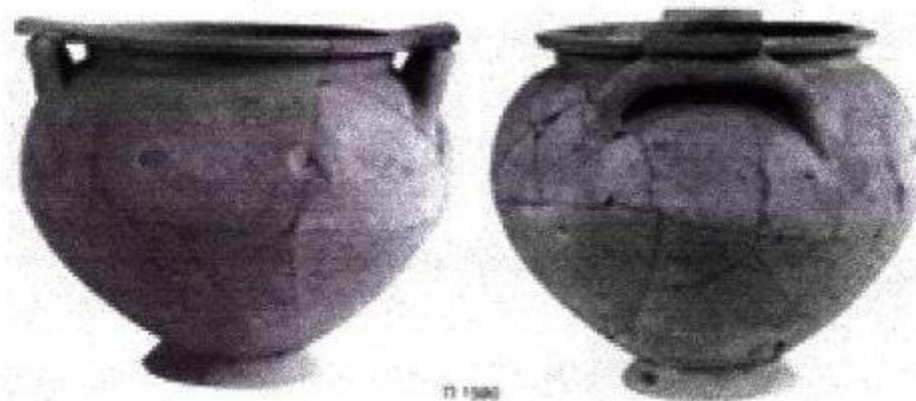


Fig. 64: Wheel-made Gray Ware: *column krater* (Panti 2006, plate 116 ε)



Fig. 65: Wheel-made Gray Ware: *exaleiptron* (Tsougaris 2011, p.33)



Fig. 66: Ceramic Kiln from ancient settlement of Apsalos (Chrysostomou 2017, p. 243)