

Pottery from the Church Area of the *Satyros* Monastery in Küçükyalı, Istanbul

Introduction:

This poster presents preliminary data from a large-scale project aimed at a comprehensive study and publication of the ceramics from the monastery of *Satyros/Anatellon* of Middle Byzantine Constantinople, nowadays – the Maltepe Municipality part of Istanbul. Several texts indicate that the patriarch of Constantinople, Ignatios, built a monastery with a *katholikon* dedicated to the Archangel Michael on the Bithynian mainland by the Marmara seashore during his second patriarchate between 864-877CE. The ceramic study examines the archaeological contexts in the excavated areas of this important site and following the field archaeological documentation and observations over the stratigraphy it is preparing a scientific classification and typology sequence of the material.

More specifically the poster draws attention to the ceramic finds from one of the most important sectors of the monastery – the Church area consisting of a constructed earthen platform with buttressed retaining walls measuring 69 x 57 m circa that formed a rectangular-in-plan perimeter with visible extensions of the same to the north-west (fig. 1). On the platform and above the section of the cistern that retained its roof, are the remains of the monastic *katholikon*. Here, to the southeast of the *katholikon*, the remains of a masonry burial identified as that of Ignatios was excavated with more burials in the northeastern area. The stratigraphic units yielded kitchenware, cargo amphorae categories and a variety of white and red glazed tableware attributed to the Middle and Late Byzantine periods. These are discussed in direct relation to the archaeological contexts and thus enable some conclusions to be drawn about the periods of habitation and changes in the character of occupation during different times.

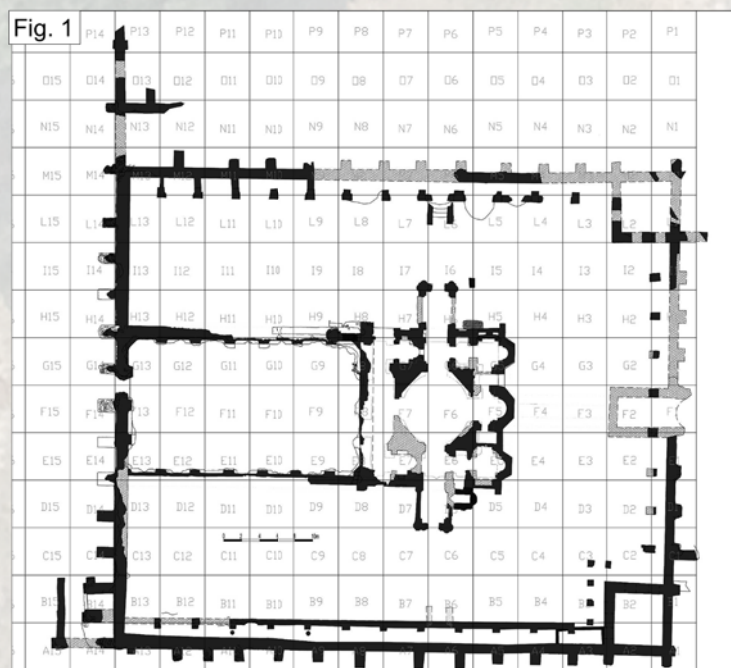


Fig. 1 Küçükyalı ArkeoPark Project 2018 Excavation Season Site plan with grid (Drawing by A. Ozsavasci, KYAP Archive)

An Insight into the Ceramic Finds from the Church Area:

The pottery that was found while revealing the church and its close area corresponds to its history. In the period between 2014 – 2018 the archaeological excavations have revealed numerous sequential stratigraphic contexts, unfortunately not all of them yielded diagnostic ceramic sherds.

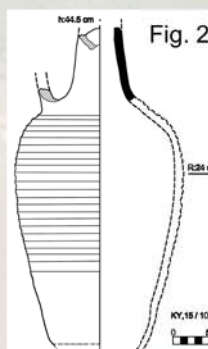


Fig. 2 Church Interior:

Sherds from the body of an amphora, whose mouth and handles are missing (fig. 2), were found together with pieces of the marble decoration in US2006. The amphora is similar to others datable to the late 9th – 10th c. containers known from Veliki Preslav, Bulgaria, or Crimean Cherson. The circumstances of its discovery lead us to believe that it may have been used in the construction of the church and at some time collapsed together with the wall and its marble decoration.

The latest evidence from the church interior, from the on-going excavations could be considered a fragment from a vessel of a deep bowl or beaker, decorated with a stylized, cypress tree, as well as a geometrized quatrefoil rosette inscribed in the pattern "Solomon's Knot" (fig. 3). These representatives of the class Elaborate Incised Ware belong to US2051, quadr. G6, and therefore set the chronology of the context not earlier than the late 13th - 14th c.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

In the narthex area, on a piece of preserved part from the church mortar floor (US2472 and US2473), sherds from 4 dishes were found in situ. One of them is a sgraffito ware with green glaze (fig. 4). The other one belongs to Spatter Painted Ware attested in Aegean Thrace and Western Black sea coast after the beginning of the 13th c. (fig. 5). These are accompanied by sherds of two dishes with yellow green and intense green glaze on the interior. The chronology of the pottery doesn't exceed early 13th c.

Outside the church:

More intensive were the occupation remains and ceramic evidence outside the church where successive late byzantine layers have been explored in US2612, US2627, US 2634/2636 and US2650. The units yielded a lot of ceramics. Some of the sherds, such as the piece of a wine-thief handle, are remains of the earlier monastery's pottery. Others present late sgraffito ware, unglazed kitchen pottery and can be dated to the 14th c. Among the most characteristic pieces are larger parts of jugs and bowls with rich incised and in champlévé style decoration, covered with dark yellow glaze (fig. 6). These are luxurious vessels, products of a highly specialized Palaiologan Sgraffito workshop, that probably could be located in the area of Constantinople. Their stratigraphic position above the masonry grave and the fact they are presented by larger parts of vessels connect them with the final occupation of the monastery area during 14th c.



Fig. 6

The stratigraphic unit US2604 against the W wall of the N entrance that was constructed together with the church, yielded fragmentary pottery. i.e. is not a primary refuse but is transported from somewhere nearby. It may be part of the monastery's pottery as pieces of kitchen and tableware are presented – a lot of GWWIV, plain glazed and unglazed pottery (fig. 7), and only a few sgraffito sherds. The deposition took place not later than the late 13th c.



Fig. 7