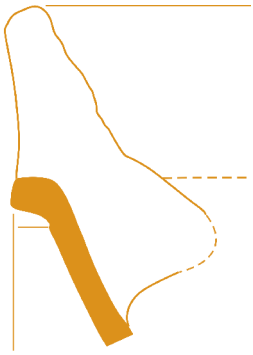
Nea Paphos as a center of pottery production in the Hellenistic period: the contribution of Polish research in Maloutena and the Agora



Abstract: The issue of the existence of local ceramics production in the ancient city of Nea Paphos in the Hellenistic period has been a subject of scientific discussion since the 1980s. The first programs for archaeometric analysis of ceramic samples were also implemented at that time, but unfortunately, for various reasons, they were discontinued. The program of archaeometric analyses was resumed on a large scale as part of the Paphos Agora Project and other Polish research initiatives implemented in Paphos. Samples of various categories of ceramics, analyzed at the Fitch Laboratory of the British School at Athens, were taken both from material collected during the research of the University of Warsaw conducted since 1965 in the area of Maloutena (i.a. Villa of Theseus, House of Aion, "Hellenistic" House), as well as from finds from excavations conducted by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków since 2011 in the Agora. The article discusses the prerequisites for the existence of ceramic production in Paphos and the surrounding area and summarizes the results of macroscopic, physio-chemical, and petrographic analyses, which confirm the local production of ceramics in Paphos and the surrounding area in the Hellenistic period. The produced categories of pottery are briefly presented.

Keywords: Nea Paphos, Cyprus, Hellenistic period, Hellenistic pottery, pottery production, archaeometric pottery analysis, macroscopic pottery analysis, Color-Coated Ware

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The first version of this paper was presented at a symposium organized in Nicosia in honor of Professor Michaelides in 2021, but the materials have not been published until now.

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INTRODUCTION

Western Cyprus, and especially Nea Paphos, benefitted greatly from the fall of the Cypriot kingdoms and the advent of a new Hellenistic order (see recently e.g. Keen 2012; Michaelides and Papantoniou 2018; Balandier and Raptou 2019). Nea Paphos was probably founded by Nicocles, the last king of Old (*Palaea/Palaia/Pale*) Paphos, at the end of the 4th century BC [*Fig. 1*]. In terms of administrative functions, Nea Paphos replaced Palepaphos, which remained a religious center connected with the cult of Aphrodite (for the foundation of the city, see Lund 2015: 20, note 8; Papuci-Władyka 2020b: 73, note 2; for the development of the city of Nea Paphos, see e.g. Maier and Karageorghis 1984; Młynarczyk 1990; Balandier 2016; Balandier and Raptou 2019; Papuci-Władyka 2020a; Balandier, Michaelides, and Raptou forthcoming; Papuci-Władyka forthcoming). The new city grew quickly and from the end of the 3rd century BC became the headquarters of the *strategos* (governor) — the *de facto* capital of Cyprus (see e.g. Lund 2015: 20, note 17, 238). In the beginning of the 3rd century BC, a theater was built on the slopes of Fabrika Hill; later, the city was surrounded by walls. Public spaces included the imposing Agora, erected in the 2nd century BC, and Fanari Hill, considered an Acropolis. The residential parts were in the areas of Ktisto and Maloutena. The city featured a modern port, that, from the 2nd century BC, served as a base for the Ptolemaic fleet. This port established Nea Paphos as an important economic center, functioning as a marketplace as well as a hub for transshipment and distribution.

Polish research in Nea Paphos has been conducted in two areas: the residential quarter of Maloutena, situated in the southwestern part of the city (cf. summary with bibliography in Papuci-Władyka and Miszk 2020a: 94–97), and the Agora (cf. Papuci-Władyka 2018; 2020a) [see *Fig. 1*].[1]

Already in the 1980s, it was suggested that Hellenistic and Roman pottery in Cyprus exhibited regional variations and that some of it was likely produced in different parts of the island (Lund 2015: 40). In the 1990s, John W. Hayes, followed by the present author and more recently by other scholars, put forward the hypothesis that Nea Paphos served as a production center for pottery during the Hellenistic period, primarily catering to local and regional consumption (see e.g. Hayes 1991; Papuci-Władyka 1995a; Młynarczyk 2005; Marzec 2017; Salles 1993 for Kition-Bamboula).

1 Research of the Polish Centre of the Mediterranean Archaeology, University of Warsaw, has been conducted in the Maloutena area since 1965 under the direction of Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski and, subsequently, Wiktor A. Daszewski and Henryk Meyza (see *Nea Paphos* 2024). Since 2011, a Polish mission of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków —the Paphos Agora Project directed by the present author— has been operating in the Agora area (PAP 2024). From 2019, the two Polish missions have been jointly led by the present author, and a new project, "MA-P Maloutena and Agora in the layout of Paphos: Modelling the cityscape of the Hellenistic and Roman capital of Cyprus", has been implemented (see MA-P 2024).

The most comprehensive recent study embracing a regional approach to ceramic studies was conducted by John Lund (2015). In his assessment of pottery circulation on the island, Lund distinguished several ceramic regions, including the Western Region (Region A) with Nea Paphos as the principal city. He noted that some distinctive types of pottery were found exclusively in this area (Lund 2015: 154 and Fig. 236). Nea Paphos was considered the region's primary distribution center. To address the question of whether pottery production occurred in Nea Paphos and its surroundings, it is essential to evaluate the feasibility of such manufacturing activity in this area.

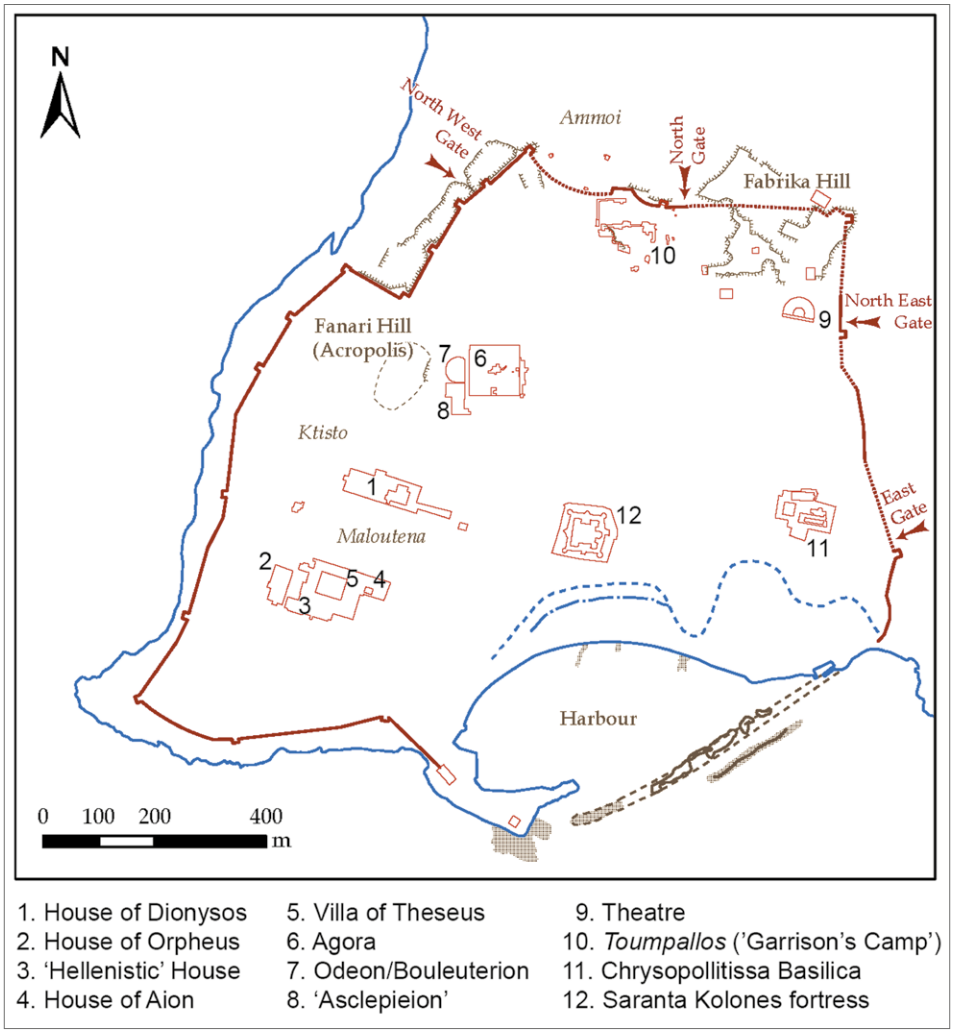

Fig. 1. Map of Nea Paphos (After Papuci-Władyka 2021: Fig. 2)

PREMISES FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL CERAMIC PRODUCTION

The prerequisites for ceramic production in a given region include the availability of essential raw materials, such as clay deposits, water, and fuel, along with indicators of workshop activity, such as kilns, potter's tools, misfired pottery, inscriptions referring to potters, or depictions of potters (Lund 2015: 50–56).

The map of modern clayey earth deposits in Cyprus published by Lund (2015: 51, Fig. 11) shows no such deposits close to Nea Paphos. However, Edyta Marzec, who conducted archaeometric analyses of Hellenistic pottery from Maloutena and the Agora (see below), collected several geological samples from this area. One of these samples was found to be consistent with the chemical composition of the tested pottery (see below, p. 70 and Marzec et al. 2019: 4110, Fig. 2, No. 1, 4116 and Table 6). Thus, clay deposits likely existed near Nea Paphos. Wood, essential as fuel for pottery kilns, was abundant in western Cyprus. Written sources indicate that timber, along with mineral ores, was an important component of the ancient Cypriot economy, with the Ptolemaic kings showing particular interest in the island's shipbuilding industry (Maier and Karageorghis 1984: 230–231; Młynarczyk 1990: 129–130). Water resources were also available, although their supply may have been occasionally hindered by the frequent droughts that continue to affect the island even today.

Regarding production facilities, no workshops or work areas associated with local ceramic production from the Hellenistic period have been identified thus far. A kiln for producing Late Roman 1 amphorae was discovered in Paphos (Demesticha and Michaelides 2001, for other kilns in Cyprus, see Lund 2015: 50), and evidence suggests that various types of pottery were produced in the Medieval period (see below and note 2). For the Hellenistic period, evidence of local production remains indirect, including misfired pottery recovered from Maloutena (see below).

Hints of earlier production may also be drawn from evidence of local manufacturing in the Early Roman period. In Trench A on Fabrika Hill, French Ma*f*aP excavations in 2010 uncovered a large assemblage of cracked or blistered (overfired) pottery in a leveling layer of a Roman house with painted decoration (Balandier 2018). This assemblage, preliminarily published by Sandrine Élaigne (2014) and dated to the Tiberian period, was very homogeneous, consisting of numerous fragmentarily preserved vessels and production waste. Only three shapes were identified, all made in the same fabric: two types of thin-walled cups imitating Italian products, and small casseroles (*lopades*) referred to as "cassolettes" due to their small size. Although no structures related to ceramic production have been discovered, the evidence strongly suggests that this deposit originated from within the hill site itself (Élaigne 2014: 24).[2] This localized production in the Early Roman

2 The production of the Medieval Glazed Wares is confirmed at Fabrika (cf. Cook and Green 2002). The broader Paphos region also produced Medieval ceramics known as "Lemba ware". Their fabric, according to Élaigne (2014: 24 and note 44), has the same characteristics as the fabric of the thin-walled cups from the Fabrika deposit.

period supports the possibility that similar activity may have taken place also during the Hellenistic period.

In addition, with regard to the ceramic finds from the island of Geronisos (Yeronisos), situated approximately 18 km north of Paphos, Jolanta Młynarczyk put forward the hypothesis that pottery of the Color-Coated Ware (CCW, see below) category was locally produced. She named it Pink Powdery Ware (PPW) and dated it to the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (Młynarczyk 2005; 2010; see also below, p. 70[3].

POTTERY CATEGORIES PRODUCED (OR POSSIBLY PRODUCED) LOCALLY IN THE PAPHOS REGION

Research on the various categories of ceramics discovered in Cyprus and dated to the Hellenistic and Roman periods has gained momentum since the 1990s. Macroscopic observation of the material has led to a hypothesis that multiple pottery production centers existed in Cyprus in the Hellenistic period. For example, ceramics from Kition-Bamboula (Larnaca), which can be considered local products, were evidently made of a different clay than the predominant local "Paphos material". The same was noted for the clay of potentially local Amathus or Kourion pottery. The need to verify these observations led to the launch of a research program devoted to petrographic and physio-chemical analyses of pottery finds.

The first study, comprising 18 samples (including eight CCW vessels) selected and described by the present author, was performed and published by Małgorzata Daszkiewicz and Jerzy Raabe (1995; Papuci-Władyka 1995a). The results indicated a possibility that some of the tested materials were produced locally (Papuci-Władyka 1995a: 252–253). A program launched by the French researchers Françoise Alabe and Jean-François Salles included analyses of ceramics from Polish excavations selected by the author of this article. Its aims were to identify Late Classical and Hellenistic table pottery production centers operating in Cyprus and to trace the circulation of this pottery on the island (Salles 1993: 166–167; Papuci-Władyka 1995b: 26–27). The initial analyses of ceramics from Nea Paphos, Kition, and Amathus were conducted at the Laboratoire de Céramologie in Lyon and published by Maurice Picon and Francine Blondé (2002). Three clay groups were identified: calcareous, non-calcareous, and intermediate. The non-calcareous group included braziers, cooking ware, and thin-walled ware, while the calcareous group comprised lamps and tableware. The intermediate group was not Paphian, but rather originated from Kition, as suggested by Élaigne (Élaigne and Lemaître 2014: 573) and proved by Sandrine Marquié and Valérie Thirion-Merle (2018).

3 Cypriot Late Hellenistic Early Roman Pink Powdery Ware (LCP Ware ID438). For other possible Cypriot pink ware, Early Roman Eastern Pink Ware (LCP Ware ID1076).

Since the above programs were not developed further,[4] and it was deemed imperative to resume archaeometric research on Hellenistic ceramics from the Paphos region, new studies were initiated. Their promising preliminary outcomes are summarized herein.

Hellenistic ceramics of various categories, discovered in Nea Paphos in huge amounts, have been a focus of investigation for years. The Paphos Agora Project (PAP), directed by the present author, was designed to ensure their particularly meticulous exploration and analysis: all the soil from the excavations was sifted, and all pottery fragments (as well as other artifacts) were collected and stored (PAP 2024; for the methodology of the PAP research, see Papuci-Władyka 2020b: 76–79; Miszk 2020: 127–128). A uniform methodology, elaborated by Edyta Marzec, Małgorzata Kajzer, and Kamila Nocoń (2020), was applied particularly to table wares, cooking pottery, and lamps (Kajzer et al. 2021: 295–301 for lamps; Nocoń 2022: 264–266 for braziers from the Agora; Marzec et al. 2024 for cooking ware).[5] Macroscopic groups (MGs) were distinguished, the typological and chronological development of the selected groups was traced, and carefully selected samples were subjected to a series of archaeometric analyses at the Fitch Laboratory of the British School at Athens.[6] Part of the results has already been published (Marzec et al. 2018; 2019; 2024; Kajzer et al. 2021; Nocoń and Marzec 2023), while further analyses are ongoing and their publication is pending. The overarching goal of the research has been to investigate a possible existence of local Paphian pottery production. In the case of some macroscopic groups identified, the answer was positive, and the defined production groups are briefly presented below.

The focus of this paper is primarily on vessels whose local/regional production in Nea Paphos and its surroundings has either been proved by archaeometric analyses or remains highly probable. Presented below is a review and summary of the research conducted to date. All technical details concerning the discussed categories of vessels, macroscopic groups, and production groups can be found in the works cited.

4 For other laboratory analyses of clay of Hellenistic and Roman pottery from Cyprus, see Lund 2015: 58–61.

5 On the methodology applied in the amphora research, see Dobosz 2020: 323; Hein et al. 2021.

6 The analyses were carried out within the framework of several research projects (see Acknowledgments), with the majority, as many as 90 samples, studied under an NCN "Maestro 6" grant. The latter group of samples included 20 amphorae and 58 cooking wares recovered from the Agora and dated to the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods, comprising wares of presumed Cypriot origin and imports (Marzec et al. 2024). The rest were domed-mouth unguentaria and roof tiles. The other projects included the "Mobility Plus" project No. 1065/MOB/2013/0 funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland, directed by Marzec, a "Preludium 10" project No. 2015/19/N/HS3/01810 funded by the National Science Centre, Poland, directed by Kajzer, and a project devoted to amphorae, for more on which see below.

Fig. 2. Examples of Late Hellenistic CCW pottery, Hellenistic lamps, and terracottas produced in Nea Paphos: 1. Echinus bowl (Inv. No. PAP14/II/300); 2. Plate with rolled rim (Inv. No. PAP14/II/289); 3. Unguentarium with red slip (Inv. No. PAP14/II/300/P1); 4. Wheel-made closed lamp, late 4th–early 2nd century BC (Inv. No. PAP14/II/286/L2); 5. Mold-made closed lamp (Inv. No. PAP14/II/300/L2); 6. Wheel-made open lamp, end of 4th–end of 3rd century BC (Inv. No. PAP13/III/332/L2); 7. Terracotta figurine of standing dressed woman, probably produced in Nea Paphos, H. 10 cm (Inv. No. PAP/FR 91/2014) (Paphos Agora Project)

TABLE WARE — COLOR-COATED WARE (CCW)

One of the most interesting and largest fine pottery categories is the CCW, first distinguished by Hayes (1991: 23–31, Pls 14–16), which constitutes the main fine ware of Nea Paphos in the Hellenistic period (Papuci-Władyka 1995b: 47–54).[7] Although this pottery was initially deemed homogeneous, the progress of research has proved its internal diversity. The origins of CCW reach the second half of the 4th century BC, but their production peaked in the 2nd century BC, when Nea Paphos had already established its position as the capital of the island and when the representative Agora was in use. The production tapered off in the 1st century AD or even in the 2nd century AD (Hayes 1991: 180–187, 191; Marzec 2017; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 227–229, Pls 70–73; Papuci-Władyka and Miszk 2020b: 510–511, Table 1; for the chronology, see Papuci-Władyka 2020b: 79–80, Table 1). In the Levantine Ceramics Project (LCP) database, this pottery group is referred to as Southwestern Cypriot Hellenistic Color Coated Ware (LCP Ware ID443).[8]

The Nea Paphos CCW from both Maloutena and Agora were examined in detail in an unpublished doctoral dissertation by Marzec (2017), who selected 164 samples for archaeometric analyses. Her main goal was to investigate local production, so most samples were selected from the allegedly varied local material, while a smaller group of samples representing presumable imports was distinguished for comparison. The integration of macroscopic and laboratory methods resulted in the identification of local CCW production (Marzec et al. 2019; Marzec and Kajzer 2020). The macroscopic descriptions of the fabric and its typological classification as Hellenistic Table Ware (H TW) MG 9 were published in the first volume of the Paphos Agora Project results (Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 227–229, Pls 70–73). Importantly, fabric H TW MG 9 is identical to a later local fabric known as Roman Table Ware (R TW) MG 5 (Kajzer and Marzec 2020: 254, Pl. 85), lending support to the hypothesis of the existence of local production in the Hellenistic period. Continuity in the production of CCW into the Early Roman period was confirmed by material from the Agora (Kajzer and Marzec 2020: 254 and note 22). In addition, the H TW MG 9 fabric was also recognized in Hellenistic unguentaria (Unguentaria MG 1) and lamps (Lamps MG 5, see below) (Marzec 2020: 280; Kajzer 2020: 296–297). Ultimately, however, the MGs initially distinguished on the basis of macroscopic observation were dismissed, as only some

7 In other regions this pottery category is called semi-glazed ware, e.g. in the Athenian Agora by Susan Rotroff, or semi-fine ware in the Levant by Andrea Berlin.

8 The LCP Ware ID443 requires additions and revisions, e.g. the entry dates this pottery group to the Hellenistic period, while the research of Marzec and Kajzer has shown that its production continued in Paphos up to the 2nd century AD (see herein, p. 69); furthermore, some vessels have been incorrectly assigned to this group, e.g. the bowl Paphos Agora PAP14/I/604/P5, which is classified in the publication of the Paphos Agora Project as Red Slip ware (MG 2), not as CCW. For other groups of presumed Cypriot CCW, see the Southeastern Cypriot Hellenistic Color Coated Ware Family (LCP Ware ID1130).

were confirmed through archaeometric analyses, while others were either rejected altogether or merged with other groups. In their place, production groups (PGs) with confirmed local provenance were introduced as a more convincing alternative (as the case of lamps clearly showed; see Kajzer et al. 2021: 295ff, esp. 300, Fig. 4 and note 7; for cooking wares, see Marzec et al. 2024).

As stated above, the archaeometric analyses of CCW, implemented and published by Marzec and colleagues (2019), concerned mainly pottery from the Late Hellenistic period. Fifty-three samples were selected for a detailed study combining refiring tests, chemical analysis, thin section petrography, and scanning electron microscopy. The material came from a closed well (S.173) in the Paphos Agora, from a deposit dated to the late second–third quarter of the 1st century BC [*Fig. 2:1, 2*] (on the well, see Papuci-Władyka and Miszk 2020b: 508 and notes 18–21). About 1000 whole vessels and fragments discovered in the well underwent macroscopic analysis (Marzec et al. 2019). Most of the CCW vessels were assigned to four macroscopic groups, from which the 53 samples were then selected for detailed archaeometric analysis. The results showed that the Late Hellenistic CCW generally formed one fabric group in two variants, designated as PG 1A and 1B. The macroscopically observable variations should, according to the researchers, be explained by differences in the firing process rather than in the composition of the ceramic paste. The results were also compared with four clay samples collected by Marzec from the Paphos region. One of these samples, from the Ezousa River area approximately 5 km from the ancient city, showed notable similarity, indicating that the raw materials used for CCW were consistent with the geology of that area (Marzec et al. 2019: 4110, Fig. 2, No. 1, 4116 and Table 6). The researchers also compared the chemical composition of the investigated CCW ceramics with that of the Medieval sugar molds and molasses jugs produced in Kouklia (ancient Palaeapaphos/Palaiapaphos) and Lemba. Similarities between these products were observed, confirming the locality of the CCW production (Marzec et al. 2019: 4118, Table 6, 4120; see also above, note 2, on Medieval "Lemba ware" of probable local origin). To summarize, the research indicated that most of the analyzed samples likely represented locally produced ceramics (Marzec et al. 2019: 4120). Interestingly, some vessels appeared to be associated with the aforementioned PPW (Marzec et al. 2019: 4108; on PPW, see above). This suggests that PPW was not a distinct group, but was instead produced in the Paphos region during the Late Hellenistic period. However, this hypothesis requires further research and archaeometric analyses of the PPW ceramics for confirmation.

The pottery subjected to the archaeometric analyses included a group of earlier CCW ceramics distinguished by Hayes and referred to as Standard Early Hellenistic Ware (Hayes 1991: 26–28; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 229–230, Pl. 73). This CCW group, the second largest identified in Nea Paphos, is dated to the period from the end of 4th to the end of 2nd century BC and is distinguished by the quality of its slip. Visually it resembles a ceramic group from Kition-Bamboula as well as ceramics from Akko and other

sites in Israel (Marzec et al. 2018: 1037, Fig. 4, cf. Salles 1993: 197–198 *hellénistique chypriote*; Berlin and Stone 2016: 140, Gray Brown Cypriot Ware (LCP Ware ID451)). Marzec, who selected 35 samples (33 from Maloutena and two from the Agora) for refiring, petrographic, and chemical analyses, found them to be very homogeneous. The origin of this group has not been specified, but their distribution indicates either Cyprus (but not the Paphos region) or the Levant (Marzec et al. 2018: 1041 and Fig. 4).

In addition to locally produced items, the Paphos Agora material includes imported CCW ceramics, most certainly from Knidos and likely from centers such as Rhodes, Ephesus, Iskenderun Bay, and others yet to be identified (Marzec and Kajzer 2020; Papuci-Władyka and Miszk 2020b: 510–511, Table 1).

UNGUENTARIA

Local production of unguentaria in Nea Paphos was indicated by Hayes and the present author (Hayes 1991: 68, 70: fusiform, dark slipped, Nos 32–40, late group from late 2nd–1st century BC; Papuci-Władyka 1995b: 68, Nos 51, 73, 74, 98, 440, 441 with dark or red slip, dated mainly to the 2nd century BC). Recently, while examining the Agora material, Marzec (2020: 280) distinguished Unguentaria MG 1, whose fabric corresponds to the locally produced H TW MG 9 group discussed above [*Fig. 2:3*].

LAMPS

Lamps excavated in the Agora of Nea Paphos underwent both typological and chronological studies, as well as archaeometric analyses (Kajzer 2020: 286–287). The Lamps MG 5 fabric was described as akin to abovementioned H TW MG 9, which is suggested to be of local production. Similarly, Lamps MG 7 was identified as potentially locally produced, with a fabric comparable to that of Lamps MG 5 (Kajzer 2020: 287; Kajzer et al. 2021). Selected samples were analyzed using WD-XRF spectroscopy and thin-section petrography, complemented by refiring tests (Kajzer et al. 2021). The integrated results confirmed the existence of local production of lamps in the Hellenistic period. Several production groups (PGs) have been distinguished. PG 1 and PG 2, i.e. wheel-made open lamps [*Fig. 2:6*] (Kajzer et al. 2021: 304, Fig. 6), as well as PG 8 — wheel-made closed lamps [*Fig. 2:4*] (Kajzer 2019: 121, Fig. 3), and PG 10 — mold-made closed lamps [*Fig. 2:5*] (Kajzer 2019: 122, Fig. 11) have been attributed to the Nea Paphos region. This production changed over time in terms of lamp shapes, manufacturing techniques, and clay recipes (Kajzer et al. 2021: 330–331, Table 12, 344, Table A1). Locally produced lamps typically formed part of a set of Hellenistic lamps, the most numerous among them being PG 10 lamps dating back to the Late Hellenistic period (Kajzer et al. 2021: 332 and Fig. 26).

TERRACOTTAS

Many terracottas have been found during the Polish excavations at Maloutena, but most remain unpublished. A smaller assemblage from the Agora was partly published by Meike Droste (2020), who recognized a fabric similar to the local H TW MG 9 in this material. An example is a partly preserved statuette of a woman clad in a chiton, found in the closed de-

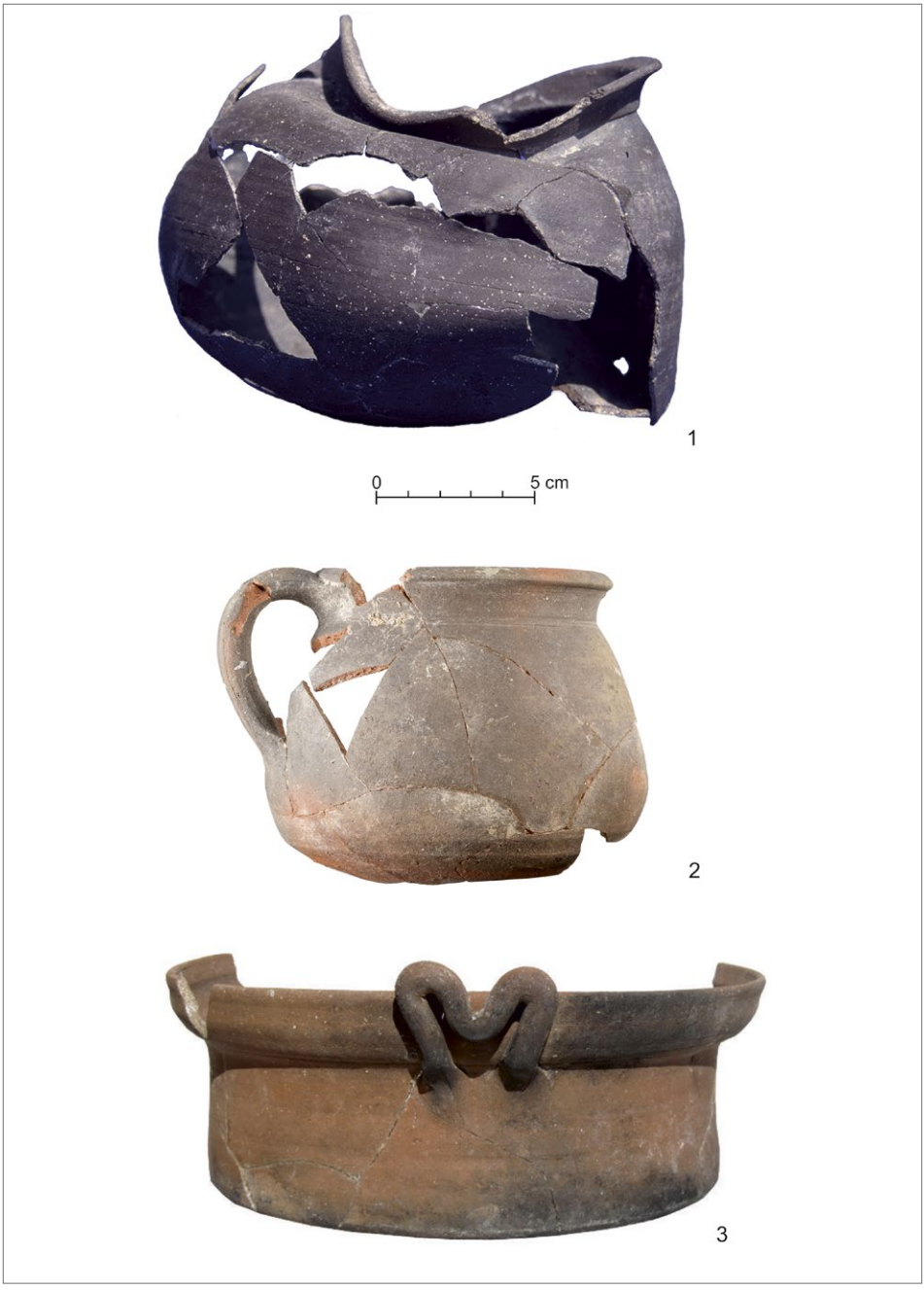

Fig. 3. 1. Misfired cooking pot (chytra) from cistern Str. 96–97 in Maloutena, probably of local production, Late Hellenistic period (PCMA UW | photo E. Papuci-Władyka); 2. Cooking pot (chytra), locally made (Inv. No. PAP13/II/229/P13), Late Hellenistic period (Paphos Agora Project | photo A. Oleksiak); 3. Cooking casserole, locally made (Inv. No. PAP14/II/298/P68), Late Hellenistic period (Paphos Agora Project | photo K. Nocoń)

posit of Well S.173 [*Fig. 2:7*] (Droste 2020: 364, note 8, Pl. 118: 5; for other possible examples, see Droste 2020: 364, notes 5–7, 9–11).

COOKING WARE

The local production of cooking wares is indirectly confirmed by the presence of misfired pottery. One example was found in 1996–1997 during the University of Warsaw excavations in a Maloutena cistern (Papuci-Władyka 1998; Meyza and Papuci-Władyka 1999). The dating of the pottery from the cistern spanned from the late 3rd/early 2nd century BC through the later 2nd and the first decades of the 1st century BC, with the prevailing number of vessels attributed to the latter period. The material was thrown inside probably between 50 and 30 BC, and subsequently the cistern was reused as a bin in the Augustan and Tiberian period, between 30 BC and AD 25/20, which constitutes the *terminus ante quem* for the fill. The workshop that produced the misfired vessel —a cooking chytra [*Fig. 3:1*]— must have been located somewhere nearby, as the transport of a misfired pot from a greater distance in order to deposit it in a cistern seems unlikely.

Integrated macroscopic and laboratory analyses conducted by Nocoń and Marzec resulted in the identification of local cooking pottery referred to as Cooking Ware Production Group 1 (CW PG 1) dated to the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (Nocoń and Marzec 2023; Marzec et al. 2024).[9] Among the vessels of this group, the Early and Middle Hellenistic periods (CP PG 1/EH-MH) are mainly represented by cooking pots, casseroles, jugs, and lids, with the repertoire of shapes expanding in the Late Hellenistic period (CP PG 1/LH) [*Fig. 3:2, 3*] (Nocoń 2019: 520–521, Figs 3:a–c, 4:a–d; 2020: 298–301, Pl. 97: KW 1–KW 8, Pl. 98: KW 11, KW 12 [see *Fig. 3:2* herein], KW 18, KW 19; Nocoń and Marzec 2023).

Kitchen utensils also included braziers, a number of which have been discovered in Cyprus, especially in Nea Paphos (though they are not as numerous here as in other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean). Already Hayes (1991: 75–77) indicated a Cypriot origin for some braziers discovered in the House of Dionysus, namely his Wares I, II, V, and VI. However, recent studies have revealed the limited volume of this production, as macroscopic analysis has confirmed the local origin of only a small number of fragments that Hayes had assigned to Ware I (Papuci-Władyka 2021: 209–211, 224–226). Studying braziers from the Maloutena area, the present author distinguished Braziers MG 1 [*Fig. 4:1*], presumably akin to Hayes' Ware I (Papuci-Władyka 2021: 213–214, Cat. No. 1; Hayes 1991: 75–76, esp. No. 8; for braziers from the Agora excavations, see Nocoń 2022). This group was also macroscopically very similar to the Kitchen Ware (KW) MG 1 variant 2 (Western Cypriot) from the Agora, dated to the Late Hellenistic period, distinguished by Nocoń (2020) and archaeometrically confirmed to be of local origin. Braziers MG 2, also identified by the present author among the

9 See also Southwestern Cypriot Hellenistic Roman Cooking Ware (LCP Ware ID442); for possible Early Roman production in Paphos or the region, see Cypriot Cooking Ware, Early Roman (LCP Ware ID159).

Fig. 4. 1. Brazier attachment from Maloutena (Inv. No. FR 16/86), presumably of local production, end of 2nd–beginning of 1st century BC (PCMA UW | drawing and photo E. Papuci-Władyka; matrix U. Wicenciak-Nuñez); 2. Amphora from the Agora, Paphos production, late 4th–early 3rd century BC (Inv. Nos PAP 15/I/946/P2+P4 and PAP14/I/84/P4) (Paphos Agora Project | photo A. Oleksiak)

Maloutena material, could have been produced in Paphos as well (Papuci-Władyka 2021: 214, Cat. No. 2, Fig. 4).

Lastly, among 27 fragments of braziers discovered during excavations on the Paphian Agora, Nocoń distinguished her Braziers MG 1, a group defined as a probable "Western Cypriot" production, represented by one small fragment (Nocoń 2020: 309, Pl. 106: KW 115; 2022: 264, Fig. 2a).[10] Nocoń concurred with the present author that this fabric matched Hayes' Ware I and was comparable to her KW MG 1 variant 2 (Nocoń 2020: 300; 2022: 264).

Braziers of the MG 1 group, probably made locally in Nea Paphos or its vicinity, are so far represented by a modest number of fragments. However, given that many braziers from Maloutena remain unpublished (under study by Monika Miziołek *de domo* Więch, see Papuci-Władyka 2021: 212, note 9), the size of this group may yet increase. To be sure, further archaeometric analyses are needed to confirm or reject the hypothesis of the local origin of the Braziers MG 1 and MG 2.

AMPHORAE

According to Agata Dobosz (2020), who studied the amphorae from the Paphos Agora Project, some Hellenistic groups, namely Amphorae MG 21 and MG 48, may be of Cypriot production. Amphorae of these groups have been assigned to the Transitional and Early Hellenistic periods dated from the end of the 4th century BC to the second quarter of the 3rd century BC (see Papuci-Władyka 2020b: 80, Table 1, for the chronology of PAP). Besides Nea Paphos, examples of the former group have been found in Alexandria, Egypt, while the latter group is unattested anywhere else in Cyprus or the Mediterranean (Dobosz 2020: 325–326 and Pl. 107). Further research on these amphorae has been conducted within the framework of the project "With Dionysus and Hermes in ancient Nea Paphos — transport amphorae and their contents and regional production and economy of the city in the Hellenistic period" (Dobosz, personal communication; for the project see Amphorae Paphos 2024). Preliminary results of archaeometric analyses carried out using a handheld portable energy dispersive XRF system (pXRF), coupled with neutron activation analysis (NAA) for selected samples, confirmed that group A of MG 21 originated in the Paphos region [***Fig. 4:2***] (Dobosz 2020: 325, Pl. 107: 1), while petrographic analysis linked group A of MG 48 with the central Troodos ophiolite complex of southwestern Cyprus (Hein et al. 2021: 10).[11] The Paphian origin of Late Hellenistic amphorae with bifid handles imitating the Koan amphora type awaits confirmation, but Dobosz (personal communication) surmises that some of these vessels might belong to group A of MG 9, which includes Early Roman amphorae of the Nea Paphos I type produced in the Paphos region (Dobosz 2020: 327–328).

10 Notably, Nocoń (2022: 278, Fig. 6, 279, Table 4) underestimated the number of braziers discovered in Cyprus, as a query by the present author (Papuci-Władyka 2021: 209) identified about 90 objects. Fragments from the Agora amounted to 27 (Nocoń 2022), not 20 as stated in my publication, so the total number of braziers found in Cyprus is about 100.

11 Dobosz (personal communication) has informed me that the identification was based on the results of petrographic analysis by David Williams.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The issue of whether Nea Paphos was a center of pottery production in the Hellenistic period has long been the focus of Polish long-term research at Maloutena and the Agora, with the initial hypotheses put forward as early as the 1990s. Confirmation of such production requires the prerequisite occurrence of appropriate raw materials, such as clay deposits, water, and fuel, as well as the presence of workshops. While regarding the availability of raw materials all conditions were met, no Hellenistic ceramic workshops have been discovered thus far in Nea Paphos. Nonetheless, strong indirect evidence, such as the misfired kitchen pot of Hellenistic date from Maloutena, or the secondary deposit of discarded waste from the Early Roman Paphian pottery workshop on Fabrika Hill, indicates that such workshops indeed existed.

The archaeometric analyses program implemented within the framework of the Paphos Agora Project and other Polish research initiatives is, to our knowledge, the most extensive program undertaken to date on pottery excavated in the Paphos region. Designed to explore the existence of local pottery production during the Hellenistic period, this program has successfully combined archaeometric studies with typological and chronological analyses, yielding compelling evidence that such production did indeed take place. Nea Paphos (or the Paphos region) produced various categories of pottery: CCW ceramics, especially during the Middle and Late Hellenistic period (and up to the Early Roman period), as well as oil lamps, kitchen pottery, and amphorae [see *Figs 2:1–6, 3, 4:2*]. Based on macroscopic analyses, the local production of CCW unguentaria, terracottas, and braziers has been suggested [see *Figs 2:3, 7* and *4:1*], but a program of archaeometric analyses is necessary to confirm or refute this hypothesis. The promising results of the research conducted thus far confirm the effectiveness of integrating typo-chronological and provenance studies and provide a strong incentive to expand such investigations.

Extensive geophysical research undertaken as part of the Paphos Agora Project has not revealed the existence of pottery kilns within the city walls, contrary to expectations.[12] In the author's view, surface and non-invasive geophysical prospections in the areas surrounding the ancient city of Nea Paphos are urgently needed, as they may uncover remains associated with ceramic production.

12 At the Archaeological Site of Kato Paphos, an area of approximately 18 ha has been surveyed from 2015 to 2019, see Seifert, Antonakis, and Babucic 2020; Papuci-Władyka and Miszk forthcoming; Miszk et al. forthcoming.

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