

Hellenistic tableware from Well S.50 in the Agora of Nea Paphos (Cyprus)



Abstract: The paper presents tableware (TW) from a Hellenistic deposit found in Well S.50 located in the Agora of Nea Paphos, a city situated on the southwest coast of Cyprus. Based on TW pottery, this closed deposit is dated from approximately the mid-2nd century to 30 BC. The data obtained permitted to observe a three-stage process of backfilling the well in the Hellenistic period. In the second phase, it probably served as a burial place, as human remains intentionally deposited in the well may attest. The TW pottery was examined using a macroscopic method based on fabric characteristics and typology. The assemblage was divided into groups according to function, ware, and macroscopic characteristics. In addition, statistical analysis was applied to calculate the Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV) and the Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE), and the CReA-Patrimoine web application was used for estimating the capacity of selected vessels. The results suggest a dominant role of local Color-coated Ware (CCW) produced in the Paphos region. The recurrence of forms, the quantitative share of specific shapes within functional categories, and the capacity measurements form a basis for preliminary observations concerning the eating and drinking habits in the Hellenistic city.

Keywords: Agora of Nea Paphos, Hellenistic period, tableware pottery, closed well deposit, macroscopic analysis of fabric, pottery function, vessel capacity, eating and drinking habits

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The Paphos Agora Project (PAP) has been conducted since 2011 by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus. The expedition, initiated and directed by Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, focuses on the discovery and exploration of the cultural heritage of Paphos and the introduction and use of modern research methods in archaeology.

I am grateful to Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka for the opportunity to study the tableware pottery found in Well S.50 in the Agora. This research was conducted in 2016–2019 as part of my master's thesis, under a National Science Centre Grant 2014/14/A/HS3/00283 (MAESTRO 6, Principal Investigator Prof. Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka).

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INTRODUCTION

The 2016 campaign of the Jagiellonian University expedition, conducted within the framework of the Paphos Agora Project (PAP), included the excavation of a Hellenistic well.¹ This structure, labeled with number 50 (S.50), contained a significant quantity of movable finds forming a deposit that has not been analyzed in detail thus far.

This paper focuses on tableware (TW), which accounts for 53% of all pottery fragments found in Well S.50. It begins with a brief presentation of the archaeological context followed by a broader discussion of the methodology applied in the study of the TW pottery. The detailed analysis

of the pottery centers on the typology and fabrics, which have allowed division of the assemblage into six groups related to technological features of the vessels, and into 14 macroscopic groups (MGs) based on fabric characteristics. In addition, four groups have been distinguished based on the vessels' functions. Lastly, the Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV) in the assemblage and the Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) have been calculated, along with the capacities of selected specimens. The results have been discussed in the context of eating habits² and supplemented with a preliminary interpretation of the entire deposit.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT: WELL S.50

Well S.50 is located in the southeastern part of Trench I, in the central part of the Agora of Nea Paphos [Fig. 1]. The relationship of S.50 to other structures uncovered within the Agora is currently impossible to determine beyond the fact that it was later than Building A.³ The well was carved in bedrock to a depth of 0.52 m above sea level. It is thought to have initially served as a source of

drinking water (cf. Michalik 2019). After falling out of use around the mid-1st century BC, the well was backfilled in three phases, the most significant being the middle phase, when human remains were deposited inside (Niziołek 2019: 93; cf. Misk 2020: 137; 2021: 217–218). The resulting closed deposit⁴ included a variety of materials with a dating span from approximately the mid-2nd century to

1 For more information, see <https://paphos-agora.archeo.uj.edu.pl/>. For the chronology, see Papuci-Władyka 2020: 80, Table 1; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 238, Table 1: phases 3 and 4.

2 The issue of what should be considered “food” is very complex, but for the purposes of this article “food”, “foodways” and “eating” refer to solid food and beverages as an integral part of the meal. For more about definitional issues in the archaeology of food, see Twiss 2015: 92–98.

3 The issues of the chronology and function of Building A remain open (for more information, see Misk 2020; Rosińska-Balik 2020).

4 The term “closed deposit” refers to all three stages of backfilling the well and is used to designate a group of vessels and their fragments deposited on purpose or accidentally, simultaneously or gradually over a limited period (cf. Papuci-Władyka 1995: 25 after Drougou, Touratoglou 1994: 128–129).

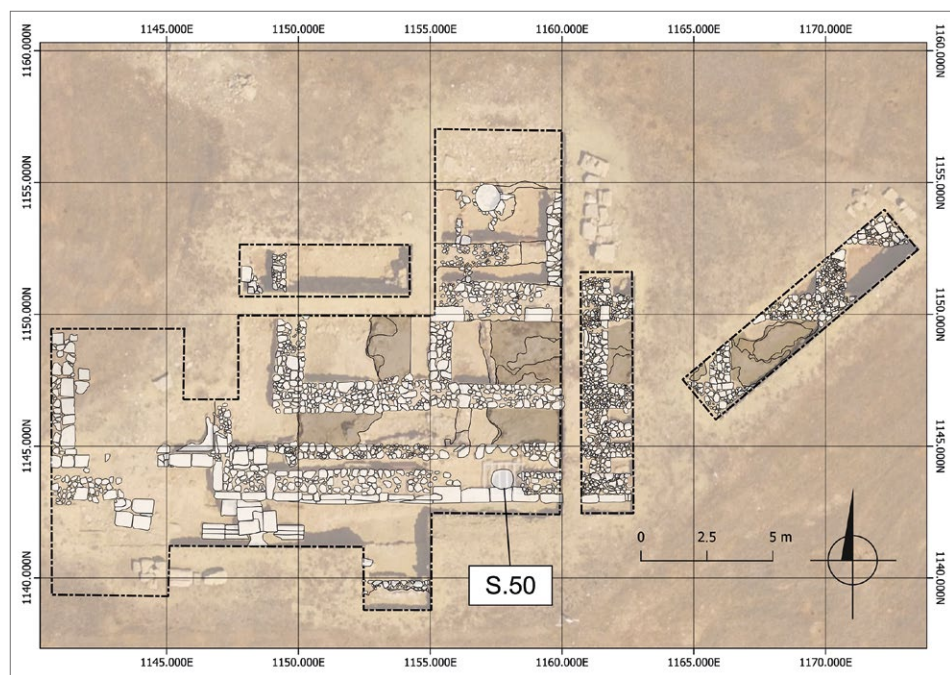


Fig. 1. Location of Well S.50 within Trench I. The well was dug into the inner face of the southern wall of Building A (Paphos Agora Project | orthophoto W. Ostrowski; processing M. Michalik)

30 BC. The chronology is mainly based on pottery, in particular on the TW. Apart from this category, the pottery assemblage included kitchenware, amphorae, plain wares, storage vessels, and lamps. In addition, the deposit contained other

objects, i.e. ceramic building materials, plaster fragments, coins, other metal items, glass objects, and animal bones. The presence of human remains inside Well S.50 is unusual⁵ and is discussed in detail below (see Discussion).

METHODOLOGY

The TW pottery was examined using a macroscopic method consisting of several steps. The first step focused on technological features, permitting division of the pottery into groups, e.g. Color-coated Ware (CCW) or Eastern Sigillata. This classification was based on publications devoted to Hellenistic ta-

bleware (cf. Hayes 1991; Papuci-Władyka 1995; Marzec and Kajzer 2020). Secondly, the MGs were distinguished through fabric examination (cf. Marzec, Kajzer, and Noćniak 2020). The observations were carried out in natural light, using the naked eye and a handheld magnifying glass (10x). The characterization of MGs

⁵ In the area of ancient Nea Paphos, finds of human remains outside the necropolis are rare. One other example related to an earthquake is known from the residential area of Maloutena (Daszewski 1993: 88–89).

was based on macroscopic descriptions published by Marzec and Kajzer (2020) in a work devoted to investigations in the Agora of Nea Paphos. When possible, specific groups were associated with a probable provenance on the basis of macroscopic descriptions of fabrics in published typological studies. Following assignment to the above groups, the vessels were categorized according to shape and function. The functional classification adopted was principally the one applied in the Athenian Agora by S.I. Rotroff (1997). The main classes included vessels for food service, drinking cups, vessels for wine service, and vessels for pouring other liquids. Particular shapes were distinguished relying on Rotroff's typology (1997) and publications from the excavations at Nea Paphos (Hayes 1991; Papuci-Władyka 1995; Marzec 2018) [see below, *Table 2*].

In addition, quantitative methods were applied to assess the number of vessels present in the well (Orton and Hughes 2013: 203–218; Banning 2020: 105–128). Although fraught with a number of limitations, e.g. differential preservation, vessels' lifespans, etc. (see, e.g., Orton and Hughes 2013; Banning 2020), quantification remains critical for the assessment of the frequency of occurrence of particular shapes, fabrics, etc. However, in order to obtain meaningful results, one must carefully choose the quantitative method best suited to the particular research problem (Banning 2020: 106). One of the ways to estimate the number of whole specimens in the assemblage is to calculate the Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV), which involves counting the most frequently

occurring parts of vessels, usually the rims. In order to establish the MNV, it is necessary to calculate the proportions of the rim circumference for all rim sherds, taking into consideration the vessel diameters measured using a rim chart, and to add them, rounding up fractional values (Banning 2020: 109–110). However, if one wishes to establish the proportions of different shapes in the assemblage, the Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE) seems better suited, since the proportions based on minimum numbers are biased and sensitive to the sample size and aggregation (Banning 2020: 110, 116). The initial steps are identical to those in the MNV, except that the EVE does not require rounding up fractional values (Banning 2020: 116). The main difference between the MNV and the EVE is, therefore, that in the first method calculations are based on whole vessels, and in the second on their fractions. The paper presents results calculated using both methods; however, the final calculations are based on the EVE.

Finally, keeping in mind that capacity is crucial to the determination of vessel use and function, the maximum and optimum capacities of selected specimens from the assemblage have been calculated. For this purpose, CReA-Patrimoine, an online tool requiring scale drawings of pottery, was used (see Engels et al. 2009). The maximum capacity was measured from the bottom to the top of the rim, and the optimum capacity from the bottom to a level considered as optimal to keep the content of the vessel from spilling. The calculated results are presented and discussed below (see Results: Capacity and *Table 5* below).

RESULTS

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND MACROSCOPIC GROUPS

The initial stage of macroscopic analysis led to a division of the pottery into smaller groups reflecting the technology of vessel manufacture, i.e. Black Gloss Ware (BG), Color-coated Ware (CCW), Red Slip (RS), and Eastern Sigillata (ESA and ESD).⁶ Subsequently, 14 MGs were recognized within these categories. Most of these groups correspond to Hellenistic Tableware MGs (HTW MGs) distinguished by Marzec and Kajzer (2020). The wares and MGs are presented in *Table 1* together with the proposed provenance, EVE, and MNV.

SHAPE AND FUNCTION ANALYSIS

Following assignment to technological and macroscopic groups, the vessels were classified according to shape and function. The classification applied at the

Athenian Agora by S.I. Rotroff (1997) was first adopted to divide the assemblage into basic functional categories: vessels for food service, drinking cups, vessels for wine service, and vessels for pouring other liquids. According to Rotroff (1997), such a classification may provide indications of the pottery users' diet and eating habits. Within these categories, 28 vessel forms were identified, the most numerous being rolled rim plates and incurved rim bowls. All the shapes are described below and shown in *Table 2*.

Vessels for food service

The large group of vessels for food service included various plates, CCW outturned rim bowls, and a large ESA bowl form 5.

Arguably, the most common shape of Hellenistic TW, especially within the CCW category, is the plate. Based on the

Table 1. Pottery categories according to manufacturing technique, proposed provenance, MNV, and EVE. N/A (=not applicable) indicates that the identified MG finds no parallels in Marzec and Kajzer 2020, and/or no provenance has been suggested

Ware	MG in Marzec and Kajzer 2020 (HTW MG)	Proposed provenance	MNV	MNV [%]	EVE	EVE [%]
BG	N/A	N/A	1	0.8	0.02	0
CCW	9	Paphos	61	50.4	33.54	75.4
CCW	10	Cyprus	7	5.8	0.83	1.9
CCW	11	N/A	3	2.5	0.66	1.5
CCW	12	Levant	6	5.0	0.3	0.7
CCW	13	Rhodes	5	4.1	1.26	2.8
CCW	14	Knidos	2	1.7	0.02	0
CCW	7	Egypt	1	0.8	0.01	0
CCW	16	Ephesos	4	3.3	0.41	0.9
ESA/RS	N/A	Levant?	1	0.8	0.01	0
RS	N/A	Cyprus?	2	1.7	0.19	0.4
ESA	18	N. Levant	16	13.2	4.61	10.4
ESD	19	Cyprus	1	0.8	0.01	0




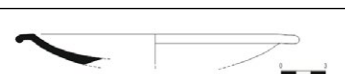
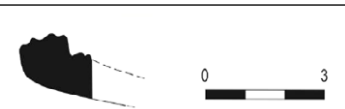
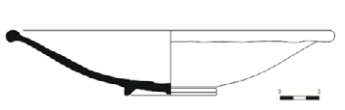


6 The terms ESA and ESD, widely used in publications, follow K.M. Kenyon (1957) and R. Rosenthal (1978); compare Marzec and Kajzer 2020.


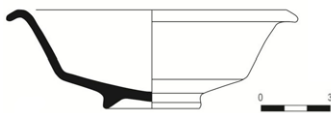


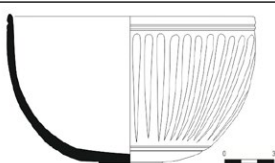




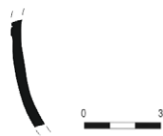

form of the rim, several variants of the shape may be distinguished: rolled, flaring or outturned, thickened, projecting, and rilled. The most popular variant appears to be the plate with a rolled rim, produced in the Paphos region [Fig. 2:a]. The shape, common during the Hellenistic period and even later, was particularly popular in the 2nd and 1st centuries BC (Papuci-Władyka 1995: 50). Classic fishplates, a trademark of the Hellenistic period (cf. Papuci-Władyka 1995: 48), were not found in the assemblage from the well. Instead, the set contained locally produced vessels with slightly concave


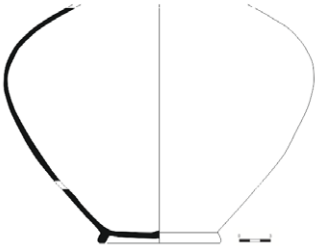
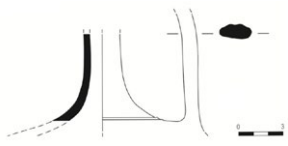
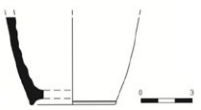



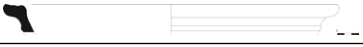
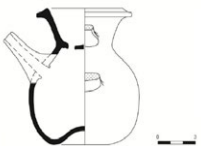
bottom centers, which seem to represent a degenerate variant of this form.

In addition, ESA plate forms 2, 4, and 6 were recorded. Plate or platter form 2 has an inturned rim and a projecting ring foot. Its dating spans from around the 2nd century BC until the mid-1st century BC (Hayes 1985; 2008). Plate form 4, usually quite large in diameter (14–29 cm), has a slightly incurved rim and a wide ring foot. The thickness of the walls increases towards the bottom of the vessel. The plate is characterized by decoration in the form of grooves and wheel bands on the bottom, as well as stamped deco-

Table 2. Functional categories, shapes, wares and MGs of vessels documented in Well S.50

Function	Shape (form/type)	Ware	MG(s)	Drawing	Photo
food service	plate (rolled rim)	CCW	9, 10, 12, 16		Fig. 2:a
	plate (flaring/ outturned rim)	CCW	9, 12		N/A
	plate (thickened rim)	CCW	9		N/A
	plate (projecting rim)	CCW	12		N/A
	plate (rilled rim)	CCW	7		N/A
	degenerate fishplate	CCW	9		N/A
	plate (form 2)	ESA	18		N/A
	plate (form 4)	ESA	18		N/A

Function	Shape (form/type)	Ware	MG(s)	Drawing	Photo
food service	plate (form 6)	ESA	18		N/A
	bowl (outturned rim)	CCW	9		<i>Fig. 2:b</i>
	bowl with flaring wall (form 5)	ESA	18		<i>Fig. 2:c</i>
drinking cup?	bowl (incurved rim/echinus bowl)	CCW	9, 10, 11		<i>Fig. 3</i>
	bowl (incurved rim/echinus bowl; form P 17?)	ESD	19	N/A	<i>Fig. 4:a</i>
drinking cup	hemispherical bowl/cup	CCW	9		N/A
		RS	N/A		N/A
	hemispherical bowl/cup (mold-made relief bowl)	CCW	16		<i>Fig. 4:b</i>
	"Palestinian bowl/cup"	CCW	13		<i>Fig. 5:a</i>
	parabolic cup (form 18)	ESA	18		N/A
	form 19	ESA	18		N/A
	hemispherical footed cup/bowl (form 22)	ESA	18		N/A

Function	Shape (form/type)	Ware	MG(s)	Drawing	Photo
drinking cup	footed bell-shaped cup (form 23)	ESA	18		<i>Fig. 5:b</i>
	jug	CCW	9, 7		N/A
wine service	lagynos	RS	N/A		<i>Fig. 6:a</i>
		ESA/RS	N/A	N/A	N/A
	olpe	CCW	9		N/A
	juglet	CCW	12, 14		N/A
	kyathos	CCW	14		<i>Fig. 6:d</i>
pouring other liquids	krater	BG	N/A		<i>Fig. 6:b</i>
		CCW	10		N/A
	strainer jug	CCW	13		<i>Fig. 7</i>

ration in the form of palmettes, usually three to five, sometimes together with a small rosette in the center. ESA plate form 4, together with the very similar form 3 (not recorded within the deposit),⁷ are the most popular shapes among plates throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, with a date span from around the late 2nd to the last decade of the 1st century BC (Hayes 1985: 15–16; 2008: 23–24).

The large plate form 6 is characterized by an offset rim, slightly molded and grooved on top. The decoration of the bottom is very similar to form 4, mentioned above. This form, which was among the most popular during the first half of the 1st century BC, occurred from the late 2nd century BC until about 50 BC (Hayes 1985: 17–18; 2008: 25).

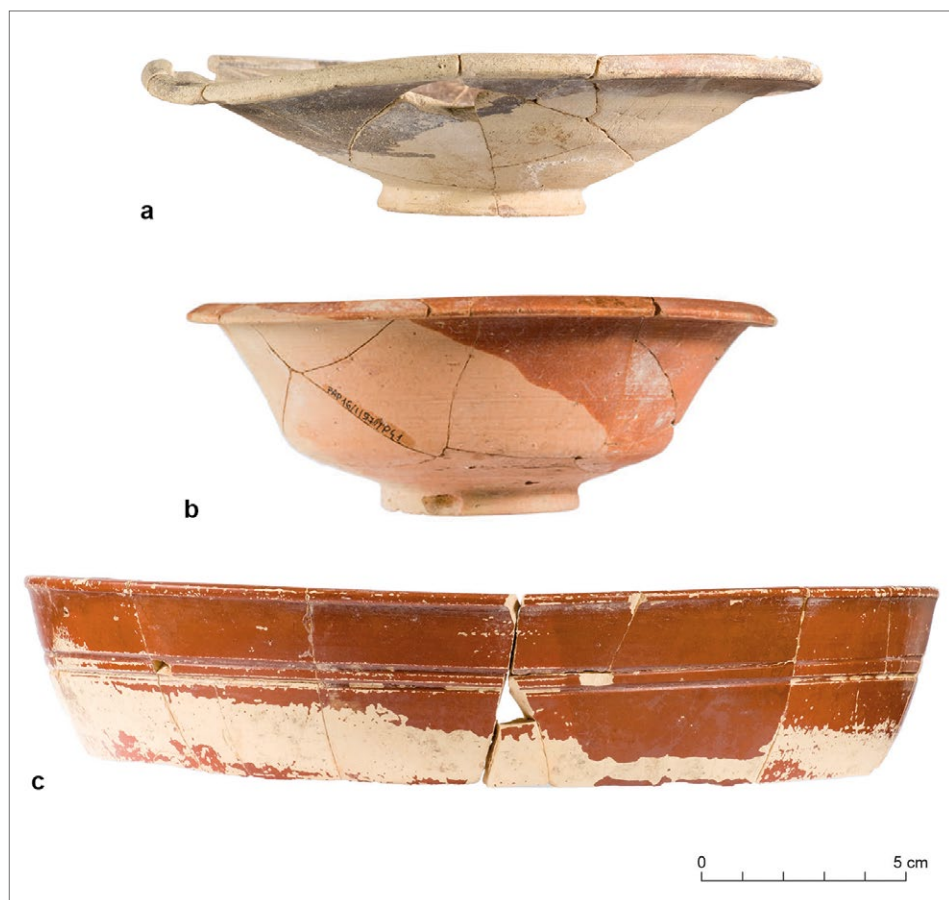


Fig. 2. Vessels for food service: a – locally produced rolled rim plate; b – locally produced CCW out-turned rim bowl; c – ESA form 5 (Paphos Agora Project | photos A. Oleksiak)

7 ESA plate form 4 is very similar to form 3, usually larger in diameter (26–40 cm), with a narrow and projecting ring foot. Forms 3 and 4 cannot be distinguished from each other on the basis of rims, therefore the term “form 3/4” is often used.

Only a few examples of local CCW outturned rim bowls were found in the well [Fig. 2:b]. Characteristic features of this shape are convex lower and concave upper walls. The origins of the outturned rim bowl date back to the Classical period (cf. Marzec 2018: 67, Table 4.2).

The large bowl with flaring walls, ESA form 5 [Fig. 2:c], is characterized by a wide foot, oblique walls, and a slightly inturned rim. It was produced from the late 2nd century BC until the beginning of the 1st century AD (Hayes 1985: 17; 2008: 26).

Drinking cups

The following shapes were classified as drinking vessels: incurved rim bowls (or echinus bowls), various cups including so-called “Palestinian bowls/cups”, and ESA bowl or cup forms 18 and 22.

The assemblage from the well included numerous echinus bowls belonging to the CCW category, mostly of local production [Fig. 3], and one rim fragment of an ESD echinus bowl [Fig. 4:a], likely form P17 (Hayes 1985: 83). The echinus bowl, a small handleless vessel with incurved rim, a prevalent CCW form common in the Mediterranean, is a problematic

shape in terms of vessel function. Due to their small diameter (about 10–13 cm), echinus bowls have been classified as drinking vessels (cf. e.g. Marzec 2018: 144). This assumption is supported by a remarkable scarcity of drinking vessels in the assemblage. However, according to some researchers, incurved rim bowls were used for individual servings of food, especially wet foodstuffs, including soups, stews, and mashers, as well as side dishes of fruits and nuts (cf. Rotroff 1997: 161; Daems et al. 2019: 84–85). It has been suggested that an incurved rim may have facilitated scooping out the content of the bowl using a piece of bread, while experiments have shown that the shape is ill-suited for drinking (Cleymans et al. 2017).

A few fragments of cups found in the well belonged to handleless cups, hemispherical in cross-section, with a flat or slightly concave foot. Among CCW hemispherical bowls, an already published example (Marzec and Kajzer 2019) with shallow, vertical incised decoration deserves particular attention. This kind of vessel has been attested on several sites in Cyprus (cf. Pieridou 1969; Młynarczyk 2005; 2010; Lund 2015: 115–117; Marzec and Kajzer 2020) and is dated to the Hellenistic period. A very similar shape was produced in ESA, form 19B, and in ESD, form 18A, both occurring in chronologically similar contexts (Marzec and Kajzer 2019: 317). One fragmentarily preserved rim found in the well represents a cup of this type manufactured in RS ware.

Another form variant that combines production technology with a specific shape is the mold-made relief bowl. It was made by pressing the vessel's external sur-



Fig. 3. Locally produced CCW echinus bowl (Paphos Agora Project | photo A. Oleksiak)

face into a mold covered with floral and/or figural decoration and subsequently applying slip or gloss. Relief bowls were likely first produced in Athens at the beginning of the last quarter of the 3rd century BC, but the production technology soon spread throughout the Mediterranean (Hayes 1991:

13–17; Papuci-Władyka 1995: 41–42; Rotroff 2018; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 233). A small sherd of the relief bowl found in Well S.50 represents CCW likely manufactured in Ephesos and is decorated with a leaf motif [Fig. 4:b]. It broadens the repertoire of vessel shapes in the assemblage.

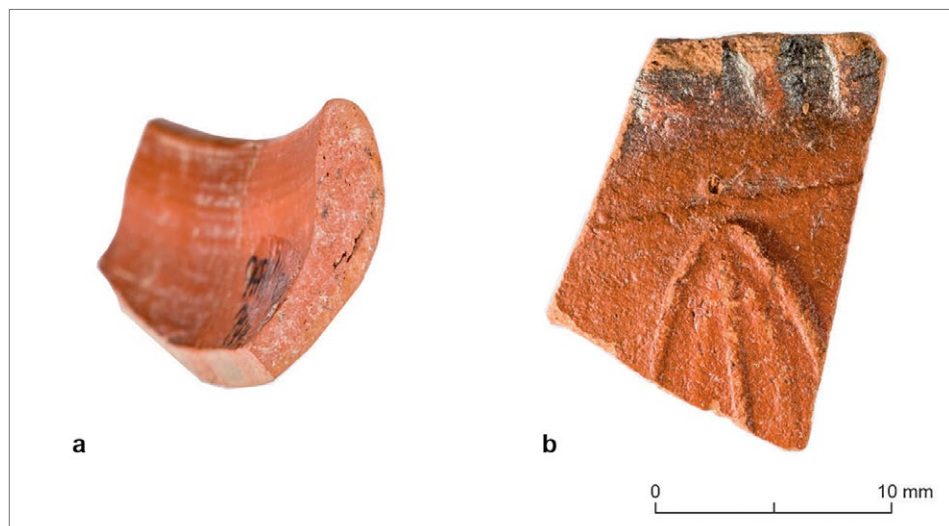


Fig. 4. Drinking cups: a – fragment of an ESD echinus bowl; b – fragment of an Ephesian CCW relief bowl (Paphos Agora Project | photos A. Oleksiak)

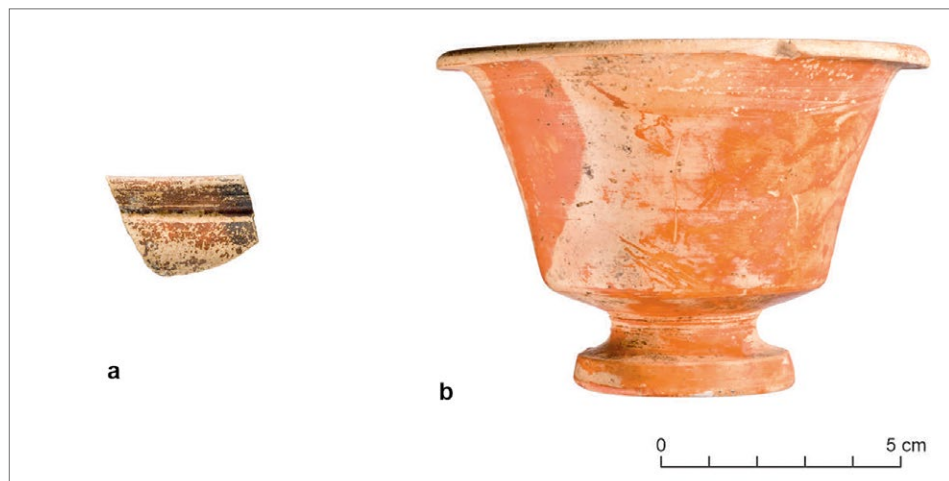


Fig. 5. Drinking cups, continued: a – fragment of a so-called Rhodian CCW “Palestinian bowl/cup”; b – ESA form 23 (Paphos Agora Project | photos A. Oleksiak)

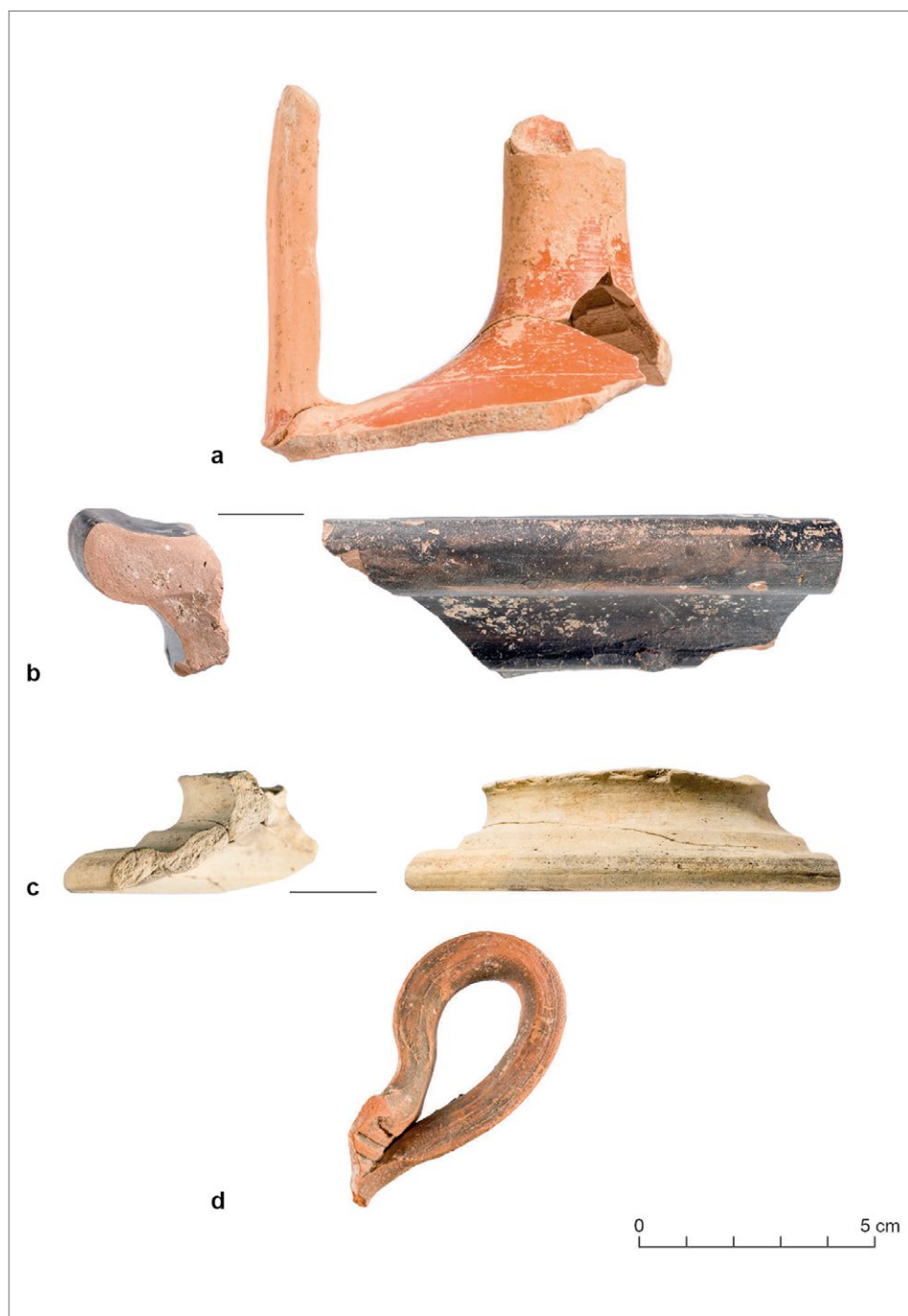


Fig. 6. Vessels for wine service: a – RS lagynos; b – fragment of a CCW krater in the so-called Standard Early Hellenistic fabric; c – molded foot of a krater or krater-bowl of unknown provenance; d – handle of a Knidian kyathos (Paphos Agora Project | photos A. Oleksiak)

Two fragmentarily preserved rims indicate the presence of the so-called Rhodian CCW⁸ “Palestinian bowl/cup” in the assemblage [Fig. 5:a]. The form is relatively broad, the upper body is incurved and the rim everted. The cup has two small handles in the form of horizontal loops pinched back against the rim. The “Palestinian bowl”, known throughout the Mediterranean (Hayes 1991: 23–24; Papuci-Władyka 1995: 45; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 231), was produced in the Eastern Mediterranean from the early 3rd century BC (Marzec 2018: 142; cf. Kögler 2011: 1129). In Nea Paphos, this form presumably appeared in the middle of the century and lasted until the end of the 2nd century BC (Papuci-Władyka 1995: 46; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 231).

Several forms of ESA intended for drinking were also found in the well. A hemispherical cup classifiable as ESA form 18, with thin walls and two grooves that often appear on the rounded bottom, is dated to the late 2nd or early 1st century BC (Hayes 1985: 22). Another hemispherical cup, probably ESA form 19 represented by a wall fragment, is distinguished by incised decoration that covers the external walls and part of the bottom of the vessel (Hayes 1985: 22; Marzec and Kajzer 2019: 314). Examples of a popular ESA hemispherical footed cup/bowl form 22 (Hayes 1985: 23–24; Bes and Stone 2020: 655–656) were also identified in the assemblage. The ring foot of this cup is usually molded and the interior features

grooves or wheel bands. The shape was very common in the 1st century BC, appearing alongside ESA cups and plates forms 3–4, with which it may form a kind of serving set (Hayes 2008: 23). It was produced from the late 2nd century BC to about 10 AD (Hayes 1985: 23–24; 2008: 27). The assemblage also included a footed bell-shaped cup, ESA form 23 with a narrow, molded foot, dated to around 100–50 BC (Hayes 1985: 24; 2008: 28) [Fig. 5:b].

Vessels for wine service

Another group comprises vessels for wine service, which include the following shapes: jugs, lagynoi, olpai, juglets, kraters, and a kyathos.

None of the jugs found in the assemblage were complete. However, partly reconstructed shapes, as well as fragments of rims and feet may indicate the presence of at least a few types.

The presence of lagynoi, which are among the most popular Hellenistic shapes commonly found in Cyprus (Hayes 1991: 18; Papuci-Władyka 1995: 59), is also confirmed in the well. This kind of jug has a characteristic carinated shape, a narrow neck, and a handle attached almost perpendicular to the body. In the assemblage, it is represented by a preserved upper part of a body and handle of a vessel produced in the RS technology [Fig. 6:a], and by an unidentified vessel, possibly RS or ESA.⁹

The most popular form of Hellenistic jug is the olpe (Hayes 1991: 28). Its

8 Color-coated Ware A according to Hayes (1991).

9 Sometimes fragments of RS and ESA vessels are difficult to distinguish due to macroscopic similarities, particularly in the case of closed forms, i.e. jugs. ESA jugs seem to have been produced in a slightly coarser fabric variant (compare Schneider 2000: 532).

distinctive features include small size, slender form, and lack of foot. Two locally produced olpai with slightly concave bottoms were found in the assemblage.

Two fragments of small, wide-mouthed juglets were also identified in Well S.50. Both were probably imported, one from Knidos, and the other from the Levant.

Only a few small fragments of BG and CCW (so-called Standard Early Hellenistic fabric) kraters were found in the assemblage [Fig. 6:b]. The deep vase with horizontal handles and small projecting rim, used for mixing wine with water, is uncommon in the Hellenistic period (cf. Rotroff 1997: 135). A poorly preserved

molded foot of unknown provenance [Fig. 6:c] could also be considered as part of a krater or krater-bowl.

In addition, one looped handle with a rim fragment was found to be of Knidian provenance. It is probably part of a small, deep, open vessel – a kyathos, a kind of dipper [Fig. 6:d].

Pouring vessels for other liquids

Fragments of three Rhodian CCW small jugs with long tubular spout and strainer were also found in the well [Fig. 7]. These vessels feature a deep, funnel-like mouth and an integrated, small side handle. Due to the uncertain function of strainer jugs, they were assigned to a separate group of pouring vessels for other or unknown liquids. The appearance of this shape takes place no earlier than the 3rd century BC (cf. Rotroff 1997: 180–183; Papuci-Władyka 2011).

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

The performed quantitative analyses yielded a Minimum Number of Vessels equal to 121 and an Estimated Vessel Equivalent of 44.51. The results for vessels with established functions are presented in Table 3 and Fig. 8 below. Although these figures do not reflect the real number of vessels, they provide an indication of the shares of vessels of different functions within the TW pottery group.

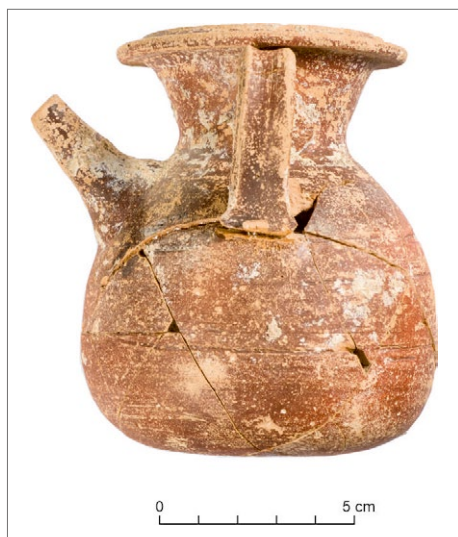


Fig. 7. Rhodian CCW strainer jug (Paphos Agora Project | photo A. Oleksiak)

Table 3. Results of quantitative analysis of vessels grouped according to function

Function	Food service	Drinking cup	Wine service	Pouring vessel for other liquids
MNV	64	37	17	3
MNV [%]	52.9	30.6	14	2.5
EVE	24.09	17.91	1.27	1.24
EVE [%]	54.1	40.2	2.9	2.8

The largest group of forms comprises vessels used for serving food [Table 4]. Dominant among them are plates with various rim shapes. The rims are rolled, flaring or outturned, thickened, projecting, and rilled. A degenerate variant of fishplate was also recognized. Moreover, there are several examples of ESA plates representing forms

2, 4, and 6. The group also includes bowls with outturned rims. The vast majority of vessels for serving food was classified as CCW produced locally, in the Paphos region. Documented among imported CCW plates was also one vessel with a massive rolled rim and one with a rilled rim, both produced perhaps in Ephesian workshops.

Table 4. Results of quantitative analysis (MNV and ESV) of vessels divided according to function, shape, and ware

Function	Shape (form/type)	Ware	MNV	MNV [%]	EVE	EVE [%]
food service	plate (rolled rim)	CCW	22	18.2	10.65	23.9
	plate (flaring/outturned rim)	CCW	12	9.9	4.73	10.6
	plate (thickened rim)	CCW	4	3.3	1.47	3.3
	plate (projecting rim)	CCW	1	0.8	0.1	0.2
	plate (fishplate)	CCW	3	2.5	1.02	2.3
	plate (rilled rim)	CCW	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	plate (type not specified)	CCW	10	8.3	1.81	4.1
	plate (form 2)	ESA	2	1.7	0.31	0.7
	plate (form 4)	ESA	4	3.3	1.3	2.9
	plate (form 6)	ESA	1	0.8	0.2	0.4
	bowl (outturned rim)	CCW	3	2.5	1.91	4.3
	bowl (large bowl form 5)	ESA	1	0.8	0.58	1.3
drinking cup	bowl (inturned rim)	CCW	21	17.4	15	33.7
	bowl (inturned rim)	ESD	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	bowl/cup (hemispherical)	CCW	2	1.7	0.09	0.2
	bowl/cup (hemispherical)	RS	1	0.8	0.18	0.4
	bowl/cup (hemispherical, relief)	CCW	2	1.7	0.39	0.9
	cup ("Palestinian bowl/cup")	CCW	2	1.7	0.02	0.0
	cup (form 18)	ESA	1	0.8	0.27	0.6
	cup (form 19)	ESA	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	cup (form 22)	ESA	2	1.7	0.5	0.1
	cup (form 23)	ESA	4	1.7	1.44	3.2
wine service	jug	CCW	7	5.8	1.16	2.6
	lagynos	RS	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	lagynos	ESA/RS	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	olpe	CCW	2	1.7	0.02	0.0
	juglet	CCW	2	1.7	0.02	0.0
	krater	BG	1	0.8	0.02	0.0
	krater	CCW	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
	kyathos	CCW	1	0.8	0.01	0.0
pouring other liquids	strainer jug	CCW	3	2.5	1.24	2.8

A smaller group comprises drinking cups. The most popular shape among them is the bowl with an incurved rim (although it is still undetermined if it was used for drinking). Nearly all vessels were likely produced in the Paphos region. Also present are various forms of bowls and cups, such as the hemispherical cup/bowl, the relief bowl, the “Palestinian bowl/cup”, as well as ESA cups representing forms 18, 22, 23, and most likely 19 (identified in a body fragment with incised decoration) produced in various centers, both locally and abroad.

Other vessels for wine service form a small group comprising various jugs, lagynoi, olpai, juglets, kraters, and a kya-*thos*. The majority of the jugs, lagynoi, and olpai were presumably produced in the Paphos region. Among the remaining shapes are also some imports, e.g. from

Rhodes or Knidos. Two lagynoi found in the well were produced in the RS technology, although in one case whether it was indeed the RS or ESA technology is difficult to determine.

The last identified group of tableware, pouring vessels used for other liquids or unknown substances, comprises strainer jugs. All these vessels were made in a fabric defined as Rhodian (Élaigne 2002: 161–162; Domžalski 2007: 166; Marzec and Kajzer 2020: 231).

CAPACITY

Capacity was calculated for 37 selected specimens, either with reconstructed profiles or preserved completely. The vast majority of them were plates and bowls, but two strainer jugs were also included. For each vessel, the maximum and optimum capacities were indicated [Table 5].

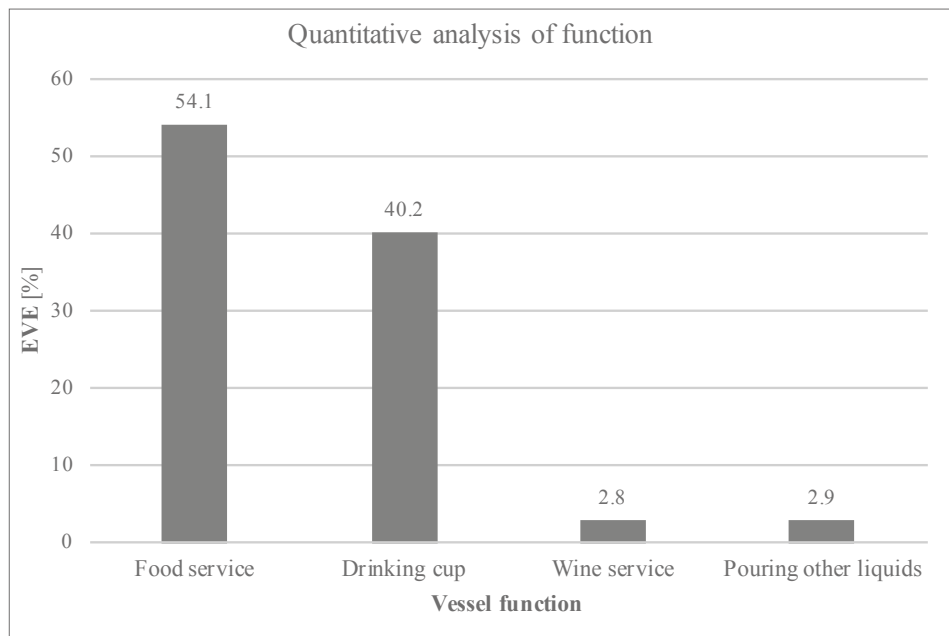


Fig. 8. Results of quantitative analysis of vessels divided according to function (K. Niziołek)

Table 5. Maximum and optimum capacities of 37 selected vessels. N/A (=not applicable) indicates that calculation of capacity proved impossible

	Ware	Shape	Type	Function	Maximum capacity (L)	Optimum capacity (L)
1	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.73	0.55
2	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.83	0.63
3	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.83	0.68
4	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	1.01	0.81
5	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.25	0.21
6	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.65	0.41
7	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.26	0.22
8	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.83	0.63
9	CCW	plate	rolled rim	vessel for food service	0.42	0.32
10	CCW	plate	flaring/outturned rim	vessel for food service	0.95	0.70
11	CCW	plate	flaring/outturned rim	vessel for food service	1.24	0.92
12	CCW	plate	flaring/outturned rim	vessel for food service	1.52	1.18
13	CCW	plate	flaring/outturned rim	vessel for food service	1.38	1.11
14	CCW	plate	flaring/outturned rim	vessel for food service	0.91	0.65
15	CCW	plate	thickened rim	vessel for food service	0.40	0.35
16	CCW	plate	thickened rim	vessel for food service	0.72	0.5
17	CCW	plate	thickened rim	vessel for food service	1.60	1.17
18	ESA	plate	form 4	vessel for food service	0.26	0.19
19	ESA	plate	form 4	vessel for food service	1.07	0.76
20	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.19	0.16
21	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.28	0.23
22	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.25	0.20
23	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.29	0.23
24	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.24	0.19
25	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.23	0.18
26	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.25	0.19
27	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.22	0.18
28	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.17	0.14
29	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.19	0.15
30	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.20	0.17
31	CCW	bowl	incurved rim	drinking cup?	0.20	0.17
32	CCW	bowl	outturned rim	drinking cup?	0.37	0.33
33	CCW	bowl	outturned rim	drinking cup?	0.51	0.45
34	CCW	bowl	hemispherical	drinking cup	0.95	0.82
35	ESA	cup	form 23	drinking cup	0.16	0.13
36	CCW	strainer jug	not applicable	pouring vessel for other liquids	0.23	N/A
37	CCW	strainer jug	not applicable	pouring vessel for other liquids	0.30	N/A

Plates displayed a variety in terms of capacity. The variant seems to be of secondary importance in this case, although some trends could be observed. The largest and most diverse group were the rolled rim plates, whose capacity varied from 0.25 L to 1.01 L. Flaring and outturned rim plates tended to be larger, their maximum capacities ranging from 0.9 L to 1.52 L. Each of the thickened rim plates had a different size, i.e. small 0.40 L, medium 0.72 L, and large 1.60 L. ESA plates were equally diverse.

Bowls constituted the more homogenous group. Outturned rim bowls had

capacities of 0.37 L and 0.51 L, proving them to be significantly larger than the incurved rim specimens. Within one variant represented by 12 bowls with incurved rims, the maximum capacities ranged from 0.17 L to 0.29 L. The hemispherical bowl with a maximum capacity of 0.95 L could be classified as a large drinking vessel, while a small ESA cup form 23 could only hold 0.16 L.

Strainer jugs found in the assemblage had similar capacities of approximately 0.23 L and 0.30 L (measured to the level of the spout).

DISCUSSION

The results of macroscopic analysis indicate that the Hellenistic TW assemblage found in Well S.50 in the Agora of Nea Paphos contained vessels belonging to four technological categories (wares) related to their manufacturing technique: BG, CCW, RS, and Eastern Sigillata (ESA and ESD). These categories comprised 14 MGs defined on the basis of fabric characteristics. The calculations of the MNV and the EVE, combined with the macroscopic study, show that the vast majority of the TW consists of CCW pottery presumably produced in the Paphos region. This indicates that the inhabitants of the city in the Hellenistic period may have preferred locally produced pottery, probably a cheaper and more easily accessible product manufactured on a significant scale at that time (Marzec 2018: 249). By comparison, imported vessels constitute about 15% of all TW found in the deposit.

28 different forms of vessels were identified within the four main classes

(vessels for food service, drinking cups, vessels for wine service, and pouring vessels for other or unknown liquids). These results should be taken into account when considering eating habits. During the Hellenistic period, in Cyprus, as in the entire Eastern Mediterranean, the Classical symposium was most likely replaced with a kind of banquet (Rotroff 1996: 25). Wine consumption continued to occupy a prominent place at these feasts, but the importance of the meals consumed significantly increased. The archaeological record shows that large vessels used for serving wine were replaced with small jugs with a capacity suited to the needs of one person. At the same time, the number of serving vessels of a capacity corresponding to a single portion increased (cf. Rotroff 1996: 18). In the case of the assemblage from Well S.50 in the Agora of Nea Paphos, specific types of plates in different sizes could be associated with various foods served in them, not necessarily in the form of individual

portions. Meanwhile, the similar capacity of bowls may suggest that the portions served in single vessels were more or less equal in size (regardless of whether it was food or drink). However, to learn more about eating and drinking habits, the function of the incurved rim bowls requires clarification. As in the case of ESA, it can be assumed that some forms found together could constitute a serving set. Plates forms 3, 4, and bowl form 22, often found together, may be an example (compare Bes and Stone 2020: 655–656).

At this stage of research, nothing contradicts the preliminary assumption that the deposit was created around the mid-1st century BC. The three above-mentioned phases of the backfilling of the well, recognized on the basis of stratigraphic analysis (Miszczak 2021: 217–218), can also be applied to the pottery. The TW found at the bottom of the well and slightly above it,¹⁰ in contexts attributable to the first phase of backfilling, may be associated with the functioning of the structure as a source of drinking water and is most probably mixed with material thrown into the well during this phase. In the next phase, human remains were dumped into the well. According to preliminary anthropological analyses carried out by Michelle Gamble,¹¹ they

belonged to more than one individual, including a child. This unusual discovery could be a result of some dramatic events or a testimony to unusual social practices targeting individuals “othered” by the society.¹² Special burial practices for infants are a widespread phenomenon supported by ample ethnographic and archaeological evidence. They include, for example, burial outside the necropolis or according to a different ritual (Liston et al. 2018: 105–106). The causes of death and reasons for infant burial in the well may be multifold, including sacrifice, plague, infanticide, or normal mortality of infants (Liston et al. 2018: 116). With the scant information available, the reasons for such behavior are hard to determine. The presence of adult individuals in the well adds to the complexity of the situation. It may be linked with a kind of “otherness”, which stems from unusual behavior during life, circumstances of death, or lack of membership in the community (Liston et al. 2018: 132).¹³ It is also impossible to determine whether the deposition was a one-time act or an ephemeral but regular practice. Nevertheless, certain unusual TW shapes found at this level, for example strainer jugs, could have been placed in the well intentionally, as a kind of grave goods.

10 During this phase and the successive stages of the backfilling of the well, several interesting vessels and objects that could inform the understanding of the nature of this deposit were found and are still under examination.

11 This information was obtained courtesy of Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, based on correspondence with Michelle Gamble, Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice Ltd. (HARP).

12 For such unusual practices, the Agora Bone Well in Athens could be a good analogy (Liston et al. 2018).

13 The issue of physical and mental “otherness” in past societies was widely discussed during the symposium “The Archaeology and Anthropology of Madness, Disability, and Social Exclusion” (Hubert 2013).

The third phase of backfilling is separated from the previous one by a stratum devoid of archaeological materials. In contrast to the other two, this last phase of deposition included some shapes unique to this part of the assemblage, for

example a kyathos and a krater. A more detailed analysis of all materials found in the well, currently in preparation, should help verify the hypotheses presented above and assist in the interpretation of the deposit as a whole.

CONCLUSION

While the Hellenistic deposit found in the well in the Agora of Nea Paphos is still not fully understood, and a further study of all the finds is needed, the analysis of TW pottery leads to several observations. The vast majority of vessels belonging to this category, used in the Agora during the Hellenistic period, were produced locally, within the city limits or in the vicinity (Marzec 2018: 235–238; Marzec et al. 2019). Shapes used for serving food and drink are both equally common, and some serving sets can be recognized. That said, it is necessary to acknowledge the problematic issue of the interpretation of the function of incurved rim bowls. The applied research methodology provides a good starting point for using pottery studies to explore social questions. However, there is no certainty that the interpretation of this pottery

assemblage is correct, i.e., we do not know whether the vessels recovered during the excavations formed a set, and whether they were used at the same time, by the same people, in the same space. Moreover, it is worth remembering that the public nature of the Agora may have had an impact on the character of tableware assemblages found in this area, and that the pottery presented herein is not necessarily the same as in the private areas of the city. In spite of these reservations, the results obtained help improve our understanding of the eating and drinking habits of the inhabitants of Hellenistic Nea Paphos and, more broadly, add to our knowledge on serving food and drink in the Eastern Mediterranean world. Future studies on tableware from the site will undoubtedly aid in exploring these issues further.

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