

# ROMAN-PERIOD POTTERY FROM THE EASTERN PART OF THE HELLENISTIC HOUSE, NEA PAPHOS 2006

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Pottery from the eastern part of the Hellenistic House, discovered in the 2006 campaign, is for the most part Early Roman in date. Hellenistic ceramics (including fairly numerous stamped Rhodian amphora handles) and a few Late Classical pieces, which are obviously residual in the mixed Hellenistic-Roman layers, constitute a mere few percent of the material. Late Roman vessels are also rare, while pottery from the 3rd century AD was totally absent. The Early Roman ceramics are dated en masse to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

Trench Sq. 1/06 was opened east of Rooms 9E and 10E of the Hellenistic House. The topsoil was removed, revealing a layer of fill superposed on a late dust floor (= Floor I). This fill contained, among others, fragments of an African Red Slip Ware vessel from the 4th century AD and a piece from the bottom of a plate of Cypriot Red Slip Ware with impressed decoration on the floor, dated to the 5th-6th century AD (on CRSW, see Meyza 2007) [Fig. 3]. This material confirms the late date for the floor and its connection with the “Byzantine” wall.

Below Floor I in Room 14 the fill, which is dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD, was of considerable thickness. Its lowermost part (1.85-2.04/2.17 m below the level of datum point A on the

“Byzantine” wall) is made up of a very compact layer of shattered vessels, large pieces of which can be reconstructed. On the level at which the first sherds of this deposit were recorded (1.85 m), some remains of a human skeleton (a few teeth), victim of a quake, were found. Most of the deposit still needs to be reconstructed and analyzed, but it has already yielded a fragment of an Eastern Sigillata A plate with *planta pedis* stamp [Fig. 4], possibly of Late Hellenistic date, and a fragment of a big plate of Italian terra sigillata from the early Augustan period. The deposit, however, comprised mostly amphorae with a decidedly small share of tableware.



Fig. 1. Neck of pseudo-Kos/Dressel 2-4 amphora in situ, c. 125-150 AD (Photo W. Jerke)



Fig. 2. Zoomorphic vessel FR 18/06  
(Photo W. Jerke)



Fig. 3. CRSW plate fragment with impressed decoration, 5th-6th century AD  
(Photo W. Jerke)



Fig. 4. Fragment of ESA plate with planta pedis stamp, second half of 1st century AD  
(Photo W. Jerke)



Fig. 5. Unguentarium, 1st century AD  
(Photo W. Jerke)

Meriting attention are the well preserved upper parts of two amphorae of the pseudo-Kos/Dressel 2-4 type [*Fig. 1*], representing Hayes type XI dated to c. 125-150 AD (Hayes 1991:Fig. 70:21, 94, 197f., Well 13 no. 10). The deposit also yielded amphorae of the same kind as found previously in rubble layers excavated in the eastern part of the Hellenistic House, e.g. Mau 27/28 (=Hayes type III, Hayes 1991:91f., Pl. 24:3-4) and Hayes type I (Sub-Koan shape, imitating the Roman version of Dressel 2-4?) dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD (Hayes 1991:90f., Pl. 24:1,5; Papuci-Władyka 1997:53f.). Therefore, this deposit is most likely post-quake rubble from the times of Hadrian when the Hellenistic House was destroyed.

The rubble layer in Room 15, c. 2 m thick, yielded a pottery assemblage typical of the first half of the 2nd century AD, including the rim of a CS f.40 krater and a Hayes type I amphora (see above). A rare find in this group is an almost whole bulbous unguentarium [*Fig. 5*], which can be dated to the 1st century AD (Robinson 1959:15, F 50; Vesberg and Westholm 1956:68, Fig. 30:16; Anderson-Stojanović 1987:110ff., shape 2; see also Camilli 1999: Fig. 12: tipo C.1.11; Vesberg and Westholm 1956: 68, Fig. 30:16); most of the unguentaria uncovered so far on this

site originated from the Hellenistic period (cf. Papuci-Władyka 1995:66-68; the same goes for the House of Dionysus: Hayes 1991:68ff.). Lamps FR 14/06 and FR 15/06 were discovered in the same context and at approximately the same depth.

The fill of Room 16, which also contained the portrait head and pithos (see above, 514 and *Fig. 9*), yielded a fragmentarily preserved zoomorphic vessel in the shape of a dog [*Fig. 2*]. The fill here contained pottery material also mainly of Early Roman date (very little Hellenistic pieces), including dating fragments, such as Mau 27/28 amphorae (=Hayes type III) of the same kind as described above, and sherds of Cypriot Sigillata f. P 11 and P 12 (Hayes 1991:40f.).

A rubble layer of similar thickness was accumulated in Room 17. It yielded dating fragments of Cypriot Sigillata, including a large krater f. P 40, which was extremely common in the first half of the 2nd century AD, not only in the area excavated by the Polish Archaeological Mission, but also in the House of Dionysus (Hayes 1991: 45). This kind of krater but of smaller size was found imbedded in the lime-gypsum mortar around the stone "quern", on the same level and near where the candelabrum was found (see above, 517).

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