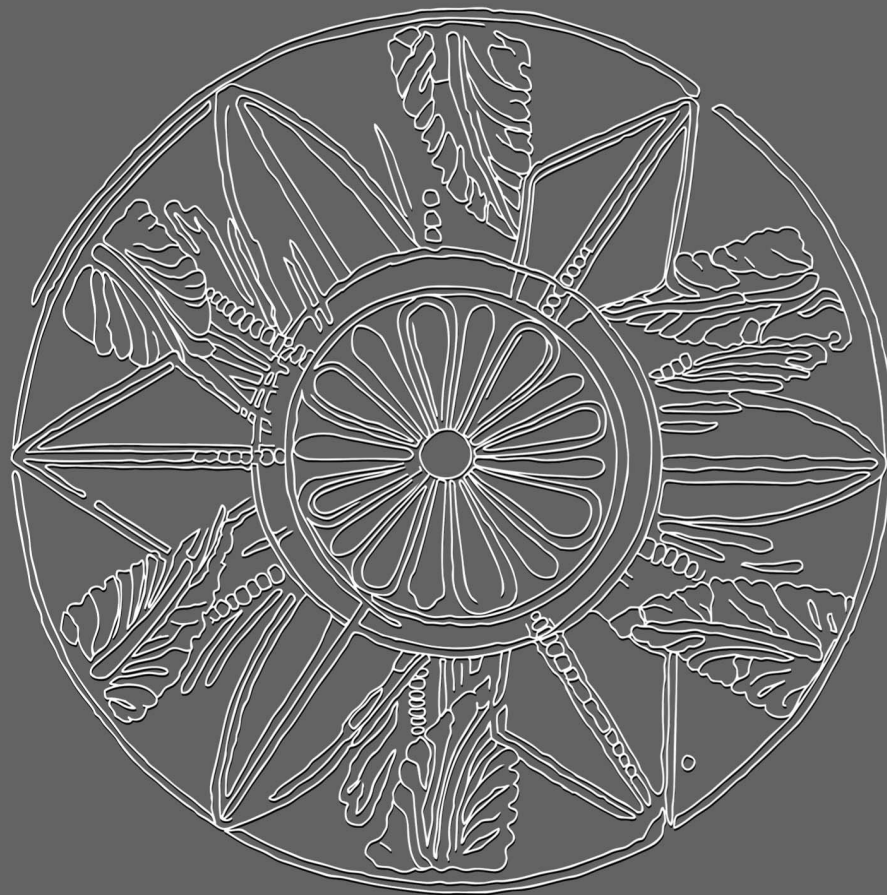


# IARPotHP

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH  
ON POTTERY OF THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD E. V.



Exploring the Neighborhood

The Role of Ceramics in Understanding Place in the  
Hellenistic World

*Edited by Ivanka Kamenjarin and Marina Ugarković*

Wien 2020

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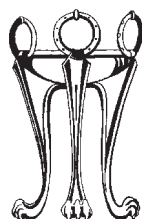
## EXPLORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Role of Ceramics in Understanding Place in the Hellenistic World

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# Continuity and Change in Central Anatolia: An Overview of the Fine Wares from the Konya Plain Survey Project

Daniela Cottica – Alessandro Sanavia

## Abstract

This preliminary overview of the fine wares collected during a survey of the Konya plain, around the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük, proclaims the vitality of the area in pre-Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic/Early Roman periods, which is well represented by a heterogeneous group of fragmentary ceramics. These results also offer clear evidence that this part of the southern Anatolian plateau was already settled in this period and shared in some of the wider trends in tableware with other Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic-Roman sites in Asia Minor.

The Konya Plain Regional Survey Project (KPS) was directed by D. Baird of the University of Liverpool, with the collaboration of the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA)<sup>1</sup>. Campaigns were conducted from 1995 until 2002 to produce a diachronic overview of the region surrounding the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük (fig. 1). The principal aim was to investigate the historical dynamics of settlements and their frequency in the plain by conducting an intensive and controlled pedestrian survey with the assistance of such techniques as remote sensing and satellite imagery, which proved helpful in finding previously unknown sites<sup>2</sup>.

By 1997, the survey area comprised approximately 450 km<sup>2</sup> of the land around the Çarsamba alluvial fan and 74 sites had been identified, many of which were multi-period. In contrast to the picture previously expressed by Mitchell<sup>3</sup>, the large number of sites discovered and the related study of local types of pottery, together with the presence of a few distinctive imports, show that much of this area was settled by a “... dense distribution of what are presumably small sedentary agricultural villages ...”<sup>4</sup>. Comparable landscapes, characterized by small, dispersed sites can be recognized over a wide area of the Near East<sup>5</sup>.

This paper offers an overview of a selection of diagnostic fine and semi-fine wares, with a focus on both Iron Age/Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic/Early Roman transitional ceramics<sup>6</sup>.

The ceramic study is still ongoing and therefore the results presented here are strictly preliminary, since much detailed investigation still remains to be done to properly refine our understanding of the historical development of this southern part of the central Anatolian plateau and to tease out a rational system of possible cultural interactions. From the archaeological point of

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<sup>1</sup> BAIRD 1996a; BAIRD 1996b; <http://biaa.ac.uk/research/item/name/konya-plain-regional-survey>. The ceramics presented in this paper were first studied and processed in the field by D. Cottica, member of the KPS; data were updated and analysed in detail by A. Sanavia in the laboratory of Classical Archaeology at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of Humanities. Preliminary results were first illustrated on occasion of the “Helenistik ve Roma Dönemi Seramik Çalışmaları Sempozyumu I, 11–14 Haziran 2009”.

<sup>2</sup> Turkish and European universities and other institutions have promoted surface surveys in the surrounding area. The BIAA is engaged with several previous and ongoing projects (<http://biaa.ac.uk/research>). Relevant survey activities were promoted by Turkish institutions such as the Konya University with the “*Konya and Karaman Archaeological Survey Researches*” carried out since 1994

under the direction of H. Bahar (BAHAR 2007 and previous reports) and the TAY (Türkiye Arkeolojik Yerleşmeleri) database of the archaeological sites surveyed throughout Turkey. See also the KEYAR survey project (MANER 2017), which focuses mainly on the investigation of Bronze and Iron Age sites in the area. A Japanese team directed by S. Omura has been carrying out extensive surveys since 1986 in the area surrounding the Hittite site of Kaman-Kalehöyük, which also covered a part of the Konya province (see *e.g.* OMURA 2000).

<sup>3</sup> MITCHELL 1993, 148.

<sup>4</sup> BAIRD 1996b, 12.

<sup>5</sup> WILKINSON 2003; CASANA – WILKINSON 2005, 40–41; ALGAZE ET AL. 1994, 19. 21.

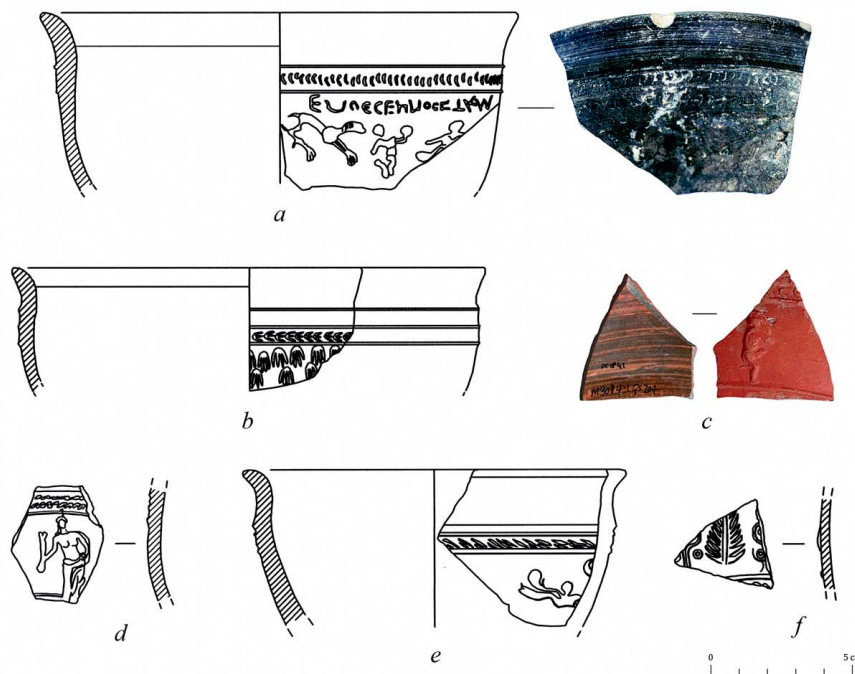
<sup>6</sup> Sometimes these ceramics are grouped together under the broad label of ‘Classical’ ceramics, cf. LAST 1996, 145.



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Fig. 1: General map of West Turkey, with modifications by the authors ([www.sagalassos.be](http://www.sagalassos.be)).

Fig. 2: Attic "Pheidias" mug (Turkmen Karahöyük GS 303).

Fig. 3: Mouldmade relief bowls: a) Orta Höyük GS 43; b) Orta Höyük GS 19; c) Turkmen Karahöyük GS 204; d) Karatas GSM 31; e) Kerhane 553.469.309; f) Tekke GS 136. (drawings and photos by the authors).



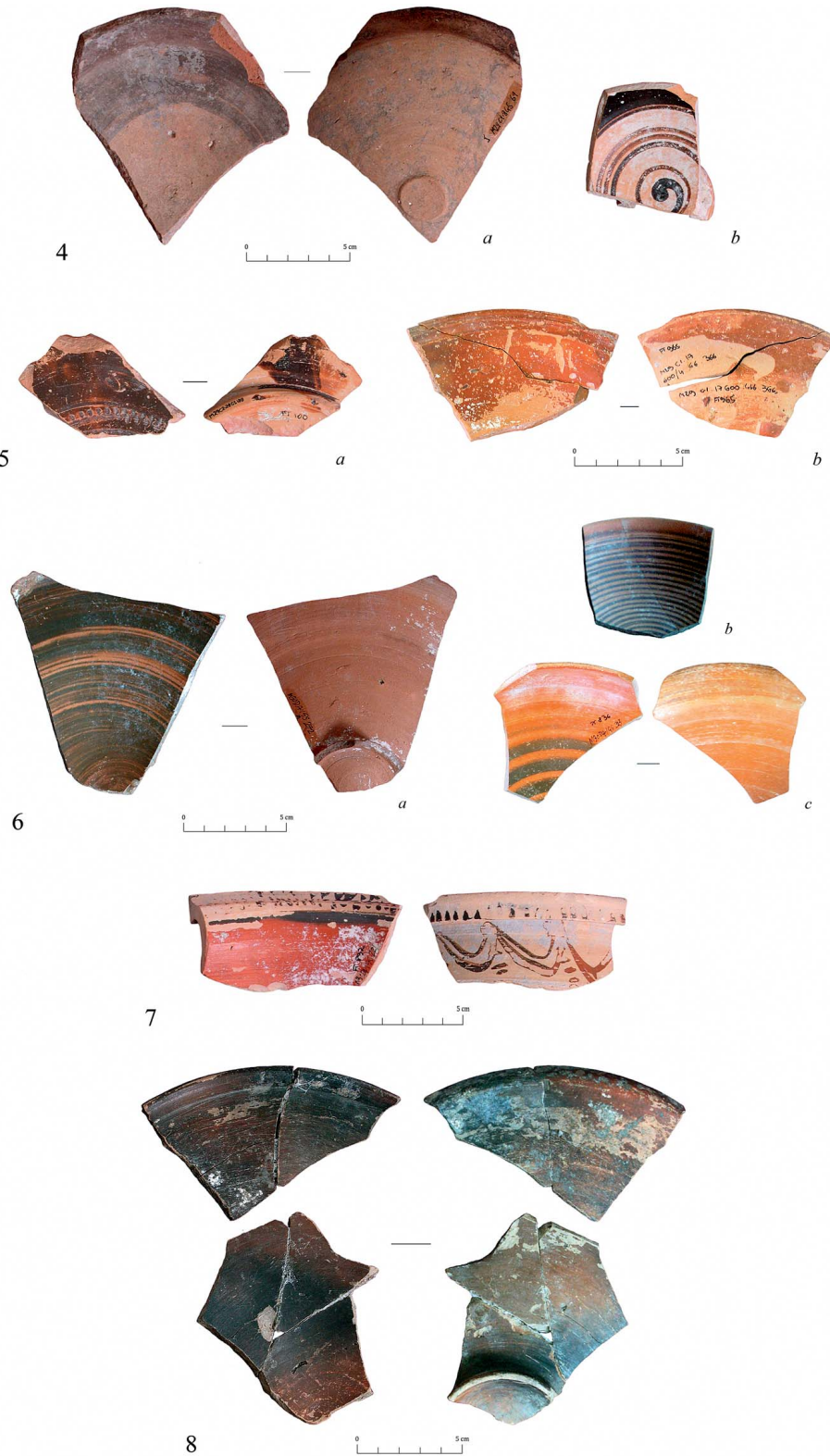


Fig. 4: a) Banded Achaemenid bowl, Orta Höyük GS 69; b) Banded bowl, Turkmen Karahöyük GSM 316.

Fig. 5: a) Colour-coated ware plate, Karaça II GS 188; b) Colour-coated ware plate, Karaça I GS 600.466.366.

Fig. 6: a) Shallow bowl with internal 'streaky' paint, Turkmen Karahöyük GS 272 M; b) Bowl with internal 'streaky' paint, Çingene GS A1; c) Bowl with internal 'streaky' paint, Turkmen Karahöyük GS 223.

Fig. 7: Dark-on-light krater, Turkmen Karahöyük GS 221.

Fig. 8: Black ESA plate, Turkmen Karahöyük GS 285.

(drawings and photos by the authors).

view, little is known the pre-Hellenistic and Hellenistic period in this wide region. Important commercial routes traverse the Konya Plain region from north to south and east to west: the former connect the Anatolian plateau to some important Cilician coastal sites, such as Tarsus, Kelen-deris and Nagidos, whose commercial relationships with Cyprus, Egypt and the Aegean are archaeologically attested; the latter set are mainly represented by the Royal Road, one of the most important routes of the Achaemenid imperial network<sup>7</sup>.

The finds of some rare imports such as the pre-Hellenistic Attic black-glazed mug<sup>8</sup> (fig. 2) and mouldmade relief bowls (fig. 3) have significant implications for the Konya plain's role as a transit area, where cultural elements were intermingled. Cultural connections are also expressed by the presence of some distinctive styles (band-decorated wares, 'streaky' wares, black-glazed wares) inside a broad morphological and stylistic pottery *koiné*, which is widespread in the Anatolian region from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C. The fragment of a red band-decorated Achaemenid bowl with a shallow body and a small base offers an interesting example of these intercultural productions (fig. 4a). At Sardis, many such Achaemenid bowls were found even in Hellenistic phases: it seems they were produced and used from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the last half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B. C.<sup>9</sup>. Pottery of the Iron Age and Hellenistic periods collected during the KPS reveals a framework of settlements, a few of them multi-period. Regionally or locally produced tableware and coarse wares both appear particularly heterogeneous in all the sites where they are recovered. During the Late Iron Age/Hellenistic period, a profound Greek impact on the material culture is evident in the adaptations of foreign prototypes (e. g. echinus bowls) and decorative patterns (such as the band-decorated style; fig. 4b). First impressions given by the study suggest that this area was heavily influenced by Hellenic culture, which affected major aspects of life, including eating and drinking habits as illustrated by both locally produced and imported fine and semi-fine wares. Interestingly, at the same time, some pottery of the Hellenistic period appears to follow closely the preceding Iron Age forms. Indeed, it is sometimes hard to differentiate the two sets because some shapes and surface treatments remain virtually unchanged<sup>10</sup>.

Signs of technological continuity from the preceding Late Bronze Age and Iron Age periods can be found in the survival of burnishing techniques, for example on some carinated bowls, and in the prevalent use of red slips, a distinctive Near Eastern taste in pottery production. Some band-decorated bowls find close parallels in similar Late Iron Age specimens from close by, and they probably belong to the same cultural tradition(s), perhaps originally related to a western Anatolian tradition<sup>11</sup>. If we take a look at some rare fragments with more complex animal representations, we can detect elements both of the Iron Age figurative culture of Central Anatolia and also motives that clearly look 'Aegeanizing', if not Mycenaean<sup>12</sup>. Unfortunately, very little is known in general about these figured pottery productions, which were still being made in the Hellenistic period: this material deserves more careful investigation in the future.

The most prominent items of material culture documented in the surveyed area are surely the tableware of the Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic-Roman period (ca. 4<sup>th</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C.). There is a clear preference for bowl-like shapes, with plates and saucers being relatively less well represented. This probably argues a greater regard in the Konya Plain area for the use of bowls in eating and drinking than for plates. The popularity of orange and orange-red slips in particu-

7 FRENCH 1998.

8 Probably a 'Pheidias' mug. Cf. SCHIERING 1964, no. 3 fig. 45 pl. 65 from Olympia (5<sup>th</sup> century B. C.).

9 DUSINBERRE 2003, 178. Cf. TOTEVA 2007, 120 pl. 17 for some examples from Hacimusalar (mid 4<sup>th</sup> century B. C.).

10 MELLAART 1979-80.

11 Similar red-banded bowls are reported from Kinik Höyük and dated to the Achaemenid period: D'ALFONSO ET AL. 2014, 573 pl. VIII fig. 12a, 1. 2. This class finds parallels also at Hellenistic Gordion: BACHEVA 2015, 42.

12 The fragment (of a krater?) that shows a figure of a

galloping horse finds a good parallel on a krater from Samsat dated to the Early Hellenistic period: ÖZGÜÇ 1996, pl. 38, 1. For the presence of Mycenaean-type pottery in the area see: BAHAR – KOÇAK 2008. For similar painted birds with dotted profile on Mycenaean pottery: MERİÇ – MOUNTJOY 2002, 87 fig. 3 from Bademgediği Tepe and GOLDMAN 1956, fig. 335 no. 1333 from Tarsus; for related pieces in the Iron Age, see BAHAR 1999, 54f. pls. IV, 1. 2; V, 1 from Alaattin Tepe (8<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> centuries B. C.). The 'Dotted Triangle Ware' from Gordion offers comparisons of a 4<sup>th</sup> century B. C. date: STEWART 2010, 53f. fig. 27 and BACHEVA 2015, 42 fig. 3.

lar and of colour-coated ware (CCW) more generally may hold a further chronological significance<sup>13</sup> (fig. 5). A distinctive local taste for band-decorated and ‘streaky’ painted wares can be detected in locally/regionally produced versions of incurved rim bowls (echinus bowls) and other open vessels, such as hemispherical bowls and cups of conical/mastoid shape popular at Sagalassos during the late 2<sup>nd</sup>–early 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C.<sup>14</sup>

A group of shallow hemispherical bowls with simple, pointed rims and a larger type of incurved rim bowl share the same distinctive fabric, with a grey core and an orange-brown exterior and also the same surface treatments, with a ‘streaky’ paint applied with the wheel on the interior of the bowl and sometimes as an exterior band on the rim<sup>15</sup>. This method too has some variations/combinations: at certain times with separated bands (fig. 6b. c) applied in a dense glaze and alternating with plain sections, or at others with the paint applied haphazardly so that the bands emerge fortuitously through the uneven application of the glaze (fig. 6a). The technique creates colour tones across the buff or orange surface that range between red and brownish-black. A similar surface treatment appears on some bowls reported from the site of Kululu<sup>16</sup> dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup>–mid 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries B. C., at Aşvan Kale<sup>17</sup> and also on some examples of mouldmade relief bowls (fig. 3c).

Within the broad group of Hellenistic wares, a few vessels present some very distinctive features in their shapes and surface treatments. These comprise examples of the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman transitional ware group. Among these, the elaborate profile, similar to some ESA examples<sup>18</sup>, of a dark-on-light decorated Late Hellenistic krater (fig. 7) is worthy of note. The rich painted decoration below the external overhanging rim has no exact parallels with the dark-on-light plain ware kraters from Athens, Tarsus or Al Mina, but it clearly belongs to a widespread family of Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic painted wares that also includes the Hadra style<sup>19</sup>. The motives are painted on clay ground with a blackish-brown glaze; some patterns show stylistic parallels with a hydria from Kelenderis, in particular the dot frieze on the outside of the rim<sup>20</sup>.

Chronologically diagnostic is also a large fragmentary plate (fig. 8) with a mottled black glaze and a low upturned rim: this finds good parallels for its shape in a small group from the Athenian Agora dated ca. 110–86 B. C.<sup>21</sup>. Our sample is probably one of the so-called “black ESA” or BSP “Black Slip Predecessor”, produced later than the Agora plates<sup>22</sup>. These items bring us to the earliest phases of ESA productions in the Near East and provide a more defined chronological range inside of this heterogeneous assemblage.

The Late Hellenistic and Early Roman periods are represented among the KPS ceramics also by some hemispherical mouldmade relief bowls of varying quality (fig. 3). One rim fragment with an out-turned lip (fig. 3e) shows some characteristics (rim diameter, profile, and surface treatment) comparable with ESA and BSP bowls known from Asia Minor sites such as Tel

13 HAYES 1991, 23–25 with examples from Nea Pafos at Cyprus dating primarily to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C.

14 BAHAR 1996, fig. 16, 10 from Samit Höyük and fig. 22. For Sagalassos, see VAN DER ENDEN ET AL. 2014.

15 Similar surface treatments were also recognized in an early Hellenistic plate from Zengibar Kalesi (KORKMAZ – DOĞANAY 2015, form 1, no. 4) and on some bowls recovered in fragments from Isaura Nova area in the province of Konya (I am grateful to Ute Löhner-Urban for the information). Some comparisons are possible also with an early and middle Hellenistic class from Priene and Knidos, represented mainly by shallow and deep cups, and dubbed “Delicate Banded Ware” (DBW), see MANDEL ET AL. s.d. (<http://uni-koln.academia.edu/larsheinze>) and HEINZE ET AL. 2018.

16 JONES 1969, 89–90 nos. 30–13.

17 MITCHELL 1980, 82 no. 173 fig. 27.

18 Cf. the profile of some lekanai from the Athenian Agora: ROTROFF 2006, nos. 236. 238. 241 (mid 3<sup>rd</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries B. C.); BERLIN 1997, 135, PW 395, fig. 42 from Tel Anafa (Late Hellenistic); WINTHER-JACOBSEN 2006, 262 nos. 76–77 fig. 136 from Panayia-Ematousa in Cyprus (2<sup>nd</sup> century B. C.). Also similar is an undecorated example from Tarsus, excavated in the Hellenistic-Roman Unit: JONES 1950, 239 fig. 190H.

19 For similar decorations from the Athenian Agora: ROTROFF 2006, 105–108, with parallels to Near Eastern sites.

20 ZOROĞLU 2004, 305 no. 13 pl. 112a.

21 ROTROFF 1997, 328, nos. 847–853 fig. 58.

22 ROTROFF 1997, 155 n. 32. For this phase, in which a black-gloss surface may appear (mostly on plates) see: SLANE 1997, 269–272; JONES 1950, 231. 251 and HAYES 2008, 14.

Anafa<sup>23</sup>. An interesting example is a black slipped rim fragment with a probable lion hunting scene (fig. 3a) which carries, below the chevron border frieze, a Greek inscription: *epoese hlios*. The first part may be read as ‘EPOESE’ (‘he made it’) followed by a personal name, probably the name of the potter. The characteristic upside-down and reversed position of some letters is probably due to the inexperience of the potter.

Similar mouldmade bowls with a gray fabric at the core and a reddish slip, sporting a red-brown ‘streaky’ painted effect on the surface were collected at Kululu<sup>24</sup>; they date from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century B. C. to early 1<sup>st</sup> century A. D. The surface treatment probably represents a decorative effect also achieved by ESA potters<sup>25</sup>. The rim fragments are 14 to 17 cm in diameter and similar in profile to the usual deep bowl shapes with everted and thickened lips. The earlier specimens are larger and deeper, with sides rising nearer the vertical. Two pieces are characterized by a black slip surface, and the others by a reddish-brown one. Black slip is another characteristic of the earlier pieces (3<sup>rd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> centuries B. C.), with the later ones presenting generally red slipped<sup>26</sup>. The presence of such bowls in this area testifies to an unexpected taste for ‘exotic’ imported ceramics, probably to do with some high-status occupants at these agricultural settlements. The mouldmade bowl recently excavated from Porsuk, which illustrates an episode from Euripides’s *Cyclops*<sup>27</sup>, has been rightly judged a Syro-Palestinian product – its existence represents another, exceptional, proof for exotic and luxury items in this central Anatolian area. The KPS examples, despite the lack of precise parallels, probably illustrate the effect of the same trading route towards the Syrian area.

Other diagnostic indicators for Late Hellenistic/Early Roman activity in the area are fragments of small unguentaria and lekythoi, the most popular perfume and oil bottles of the Hellenistic period. One fragment preserves the base and the lower body showing the traditional ‘fusiform’ shape current throughout the eastern Mediterranean at that time<sup>28</sup>. The deep body cavity and the fairly uniform thickness of the preserved wall are characteristic of the earlier forms; the burnished banding decoration probably copied the Aegean banded series. Another example is an almost complete one-handled lekythos with a red slipped and highly burnished surface.

By virtue of its geographic location, the Cilicia area would seem to be ideally suited to act as a mediator of Aegean influences visible in KPS ceramics: a key role was probably played by the valley of Göksu (ancient Calycadnus), one of the easiest routes through the Taurus from the Mediterranean to the Anatolian plateau. Although the density of settlement in the region in the second half of the Iron Age is not clearly determined, some interesting parallels exist in nearby areas such as Kınık Höyük, Porsuk and Gordion, as well as at sites along the Cilician coastal area including Tarsus, which attest to the spread of settlement in the area in the second half of the Iron Age, with a further clear increase during the Hellenistic and Hellenistic/Roman periods.

This preliminary study of the fine wares found out of context proclaims the vitality of the Konya Plain area in the pre-Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic/Early Roman periods, one well represented by a heterogeneous group of fragmentary ceramics. These results also offer clear evidence that this part of the southern Anatolian plateau was already settled in this period and shared in some of the wider trends in tableware with other Hellenistic and Late Hellenistic-Roman sites in Asia Minor. Future fieldwork investigation is indispensable: as the recovery of better preserved and stratified vases to compare with this surface material will surely help to establish a new chronology for Central Anatolia and assist the understanding of the spread of cultures in the region.

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23 CORNELL 1997, 408.

24 JONES 1969, 92, nos. 6. 11.

25 HAYES 2008, 16.

26 KENRICK 1981, 442.

27 CHALIER 2008.

28 JONES 1950, 171; HAYES 1991, 68.



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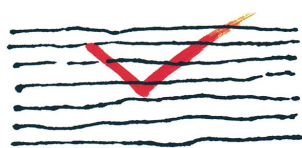
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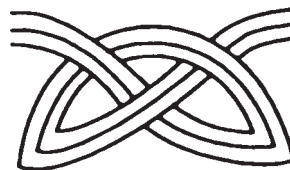
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