

# GREEK POTTERY OF THE 4TH CENT. B.C. NEW DATA FROM THE FIELD

*International workshop hosted by the École française d'Athènes  
and organized by Guy Ackermann and Vicky Vlachou*

*29/11/2021*



*For more information and to follow the event online  
or at the École française d'Athènes, please visit the following link:  
<https://u.efa.gr/greekpottery>*

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ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE D'ATHÈNES  
ΓΑΛΛΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



## PROGRAM

East European Time (EET = CEST - 1:00)

- 9.00 – 9.15 Véronique Chankowski, *Welcome speech*
- 9.15 – 9.30 Guy Ackermann & Vicky Vlachou, *Introducing new data on Greek pottery of the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.*
- 9.30 – 10.00 Claudia Gamma, *The City in the Well – Cooking pottery found in the Well Γ of Eretria*
- 10.00 – 10.30 Jean-Sébastien Gros, *Pottery assemblages of the late 4th century B.C. from the Aphrodision of Stesileos on Delos*
- 10.30 – 11.00 Vicky Vlachou, *Cooking pots for ritual activity? Pottery assemblages from the classical cemetery of Xobourgo (Tenos)*
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.00 Trevor Van Damme, *A Closed Deposit of 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C pottery from Ancient Methone, Pieria*
- 12.00 – 12.30 Alexandros Laftsidis, *Framing the Ceramic Identity of Maroneia: Evidence from the House of the G. Frantzidis Lot*
- 12.30 – 13.00 Tania Protopsalti & Ioannis Bellas, *From Amyntas III to Cassander: pottery matters from the pre-Cassander Settlement at “Pylaia” metro terminal of Thessaloniki*
- 13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break
- 15.00 – 15.30 Kleopatra Kathariou, *The use of preliminary drawing in the determination of painters’ identities and workshops’ interconnections*
- 15.30 – 16.00 Anna Alexandropoulou, *Epichysis: The origin and circulation of a disputed ceramic type of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.*
- 16.00 – 16.30 Christina Mitsopoulou, *Eleusinian “Kernoï” in 4<sup>th</sup> century Attica: realia, contexts, iconography and chronology*
- 16.30 – 17.00 Despoina Tsiafaki, Yiannis Mourthos & Natasa Michailidou, *Old data new tools: 4<sup>th</sup> century lekythoi in ancient Thrace through AtticPOT*
- 17.00 – 17.30 Coffee break
- 17.30 – 18.00 Alexandre Baralis, Krastina Panayotova, Teodora Bogdanova, Dimitar Nedev, Margarit Damyanov, Vasilica Lungu, Nicolas Morand & Tsvetana Popova: *The funerary use of the vases in the Western Black Sea: pottery assemblages in the ritual fireplaces of Apollonia Pontica*
- 18.00 – 18.30 Guy Ackermann, *A Late 4th Century B.C. pottery assemblage from Argos*
- 18.30 – 19.00 Stamatis A. Fritzilas, *Oresteion: Views on the pottery of an Arcadian polis before the creation of the new city-state of Megalopolis (371 B.C.)*
- 19.00 – 19.30 General comments & discussion
- 20.00 Dinner for the speakers



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International workshop hosted by the EFA on the 29th of November 2021  
Organized by Guy Ackermann and Vicky Vlachou

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### AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

How can the study of the pottery help us to better understand its contexts of use and deposition, in order to approach society and economy of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC? The aim of this workshop is to present new material of the Late Classical period from well-defined archaeological contexts. Participants are invited to discuss material assemblages including all categories of pottery (fine wares, plain wares, cooking pots and transport amphorae) and not only the output of specific workshops and painters.

This workshop will focus on two main topics. The first explores the use and function of a single shape or of a varied pottery assemblage in relation to social practices or ritual performances in domestic, public, sacred or funerary contexts. Do the use and the function of a vessel remain the same in contexts of different nature? For instance, how can we interpret cooking pots found beyond the Classical oikos in sanctuaries and cemeteries, and approach the people who used them? Papers will also discuss commercial networks and mobility of pots and potters. The goal of this second topic is to depart from an Athenocentric point of view and to highlight regional dynamics in the circulation and consumption of pottery in the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. BC Greek world.

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

This workshop will take place in a hybrid format, considering all prevention measures in accordance with the current health situation in Greece.

To follow the event online on Zoom, please register in advance here:

([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_g9PhMhSbSyaDQ5l8zsQbTg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g9PhMhSbSyaDQ5l8zsQbTg))

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you would like to attend the workshop at the École française d'Athènes, please contact [guy.ackermann@efa.gr](mailto:guy.ackermann@efa.gr) or [vasiliki.vlachou@efa.gr](mailto:vasiliki.vlachou@efa.gr) before the 26th of November.



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### PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

East European Time (EET = CEST - 1:00)

**9.00 – 9.15**

**Véronique Chankowski** (director of the École française d'Athènes)

*Welcome speech*

**9.15 – 9.30**

**Guy Ackermann & Vicky Vlachou** (École française d'Athènes)

*Introducing new data on Greek pottery of the 4<sup>th</sup> cent. B.C.*

**9.30 – 10.00**

**Claudia Gamma** (University of Basel – Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece)

*The City in the Well – Cooking pottery found in the Well Γ of Eretria*

Well Γ was located between Houses IV and II of the West Quarter of Eretria and contained mainly, although not exclusively, pottery of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Import from several sources appeared (e.g. Attic, Corinthian, Aeginetan) as well as locally made vessels. While Attic import reaches the highest percentage within the category of fine ware, in cooking ware it is pottery of Aeginetan origin that dominates – in the earlier period. Recently, due to an analysis project undertaken in a collaboration between the Fitch Laboratory at Athens and the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece, new data regarding a possible further source for cooking pottery came to light. It could be local, though differing in clay from that usually used for cooking pots in Eretria. Furthermore, study of the relevant shapes might rather point to another region on the Euboean island. This new source delivered quite an important group of cooking pots and is currently not known previous to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Thus there seems to be a recognizable and abrupt change in import strategy taking place during this time. However, can we safely take the contents of this particular well in the midst of the urban area as reflecting changes valid for the whole city? And is it possible to observe attempts to adapt forms of this particular group of cooking pots in the local production?

**10.00 – 10.30**

**Jean-Sébastien Gros** (École française d'Athènes)

*Pottery assemblages of the late 4th century B.C. from the Aphrodision of Stesileos on Delos*

The Aphrodision of Stesileos is a private sanctuary established in 304 BC on the island of Delos, in the area to the north of the Theater. The sanctuary includes a small temple made of white marble without any column and facing a rectangular altar. Recent excavations conducted by the French School at Athens under the supervision of C. Durvy, revealed layers that predate the establishment of the sanctuary in various areas, as well as the foundation layers of the temple. The associated pottery offers a valuable *terminus post quem* to the very end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. This small and fragmentary group of pottery dictates an analytic approach in relation to the chronological fix point that this context represents.

10.30 – 11.00

Vicky Vlachou (École française d'Athènes)

*Cooking pots for ritual activity? Pottery assemblages from the classical cemetery of Xobourgo (Tenos)*

Large quantities of coarse ware and cooking pots have been found at the classical cemetery of Xobourgo, at Vardalakos plot. This class of pottery is typical of the classical *oikos* and the domestic activities within it, although rarely used and deposited at least in such large quantities in the funerary assemblages. Coarse ware of local production were deposited over and around a substantial number of stone constructions, excavated on the northern part of the cemetery. These pots seem to have been deliberately broken and left *in situ* by the participants to the rituals after their successful completion. Our main interest is on the types of vessels used and deposited within the area of the necropolis and equally on the meaning of this ritual expression in relation to the funerary rituals and the festivities. The responses to the above questions may help us to tentatively reconstruct ritual activity and performance towards the dead at the classical necropolis of Tenos.

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.00

Trevor Van Damme (University of Victoria, Canada)

*A Closed Deposit of 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C pottery from Ancient Methone, Pieria*

Between 2014 and 2017, on the West Hill of ancient Methone, a continuous sequence of settlement from the Early Iron Age to the destruction of the site by Philip II in 354 B.C. was excavated by the Ephorate of Antiquities of Pieria and UCLA. One of the most impressive features documented in our excavations is an over-12 meter deep rock cut shaft that was filled with refuse from the adjacent settlement in three distinct phases dating to the 6<sup>th</sup>, late 5<sup>th</sup>, and mid-4<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.

This paper focuses on the third and final filling phase of the rock cut shaft, in which sling bullets from the final siege of Methone and coins of Amyntas III, the father of Philip II, were found. The archaeological value in this deposit is the secure *terminus ante quem* for all material contained within. After 354 B.C. the West Hill of ancient Methone was abandoned along with the rest of the Archaic and Classical settlement and a Macedonian garrison was installed northwest of the West Hill in order to prevent the return of its inhabitants. As the fill below this deposit can be dated to the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the material within the third filling phase can be more narrowly assigned to the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

This paper presents for the first time the full range of pottery from the third filling phase and compares it to the Philippic destruction of ancient Olynthos, highlighting similarities and differences in ceramic consumption across the Thermaic Gulf. In addition, shifts in the consumption of pottery from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. are briefly addressed, especially trends in the consumption of imported pottery.

12.00 – 12.30

**Alexandros Laftsidis** (Université libre de Bruxelles, CReA-Patrimoine)

*Framing the Ceramic Identity of Maroneia: Evidence from the House of the G. Frantzidis Lot*

The influence of Attic pottery to the ceramic output throughout Greece and beyond for the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and the beginning of the Hellenistic period is undeniable. Recently, though, objections have been raised, focusing on the fact that this influence is frequently overstated, hindering, thus, the understanding of the ceramic identity of individual regions. This task becomes even more challenging for regions not sufficiently published in terms of their pottery. One such region is Thrace, which appears only rarely in the bibliography of pottery of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and the Hellenistic period. In this paper, I address this shortcoming by offering a presentation of a residential pottery assemblage from Maroneia.

The pottery presented derives from an ancient house with a mosaic, discovered at the site Kambana, about 300m. to the south-west of the city's theatre. The house dates from the mid-4<sup>th</sup> to the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries B.C. The ceramic material, which is predominantly locally-made, mostly consists of coarse ware, such as *lekanai* and trade amphoras. There is also a considerable number of table ware, mainly including small bowls, kantharoi (of the Classical type and the angular Hellenistic variety with rotelles), plates, fish-plates and *oinochoai*. Moreover, cooking ware are sufficiently represented by a variety of *chytrai* types, *lopades*, and pans. Through the study of this material, I offer a first assessment of the ceramic character of the city, owing not only to Athens, but also to neighbouring areas/cities, such as Macedonia, Thasos and – later on – Pergamon, and to the earlier 'Thracian' pottery tradition. Further, the relatively small variety of table ware shapes with the simultaneous slender presence/utter absence of otherwise common shapes, such as Attic-type skyphoi, bolsals and hemispherical cups, potentially reveal the eclectic character of the local population.

12.30 – 13.00

**Tania Protopsalti** (Ephorate of Thessaloniki) & **Ioannis Bellas** (independent researcher)

*From Amyntas III to Cassander: pottery matters from the pre-Cassander Settlement at "Pylaia" metro terminal of Thessaloniki*

The discovered in the area of Pylaia, at the site where the control and operation center of the Metropolitan Railway of Thessaloniki is located, has undoubtedly a considerable archaeological value for Thessaloniki and its wider area. This paper presents the contents of some pits, which situated at the workshops' sector of the settlement. The evidence its excavation yielded comprises a representative sample of the 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery production of the settlement. The pit's fill consists of coarse ware and black-glazed ware pottery, fragments of Laconian roof tiles, loom weights, animal bones and some bronze coins minted by Amyntas III and Philip II. The combined examination of pottery and coins indicates a date of the deposit in middle and the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. This is a period that coincides with the abandonment of the settlement due to the foundation at the mouth of the Thermaic Gulf of Thessaloniki by Cassander.

13.00 – 15.00

Lunch break

15.00 – 15.30

Kleopatra Kathariou (University of Ioannina)

*The use of preliminary drawing in the determination of painters' identities and workshops' interconnections*

The so called Sammlung Antiker Kleinkunst of the Jena University hosts among others the fragments bought by Karl Wilhelm Goettling in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at Athens and attributed by Sir John Beazley to the Jena Painter and his workshop's associates. A two-year intensive study of this collection has shown that more shapes of vases were actually produced in the particular workshop than it had been believed until then. By having a closer look at these fragments, it was also made possible to follow up step by step the process of their make (i.e. potting, decorating, and firing). Furthermore, with the aid of their profile drawings the hands of the potters working in the workshop were revealed. The most difficult question to be answered though had to do with the number of the vase-painters who were active in this workshop, a matter that had confused even Beazley himself. With respect to the problem of the different artistic individualities and their stylistic traits, it soon became clear that the traditional approach relying on the study of the 'finished' line drawing of the figures was not sufficient. Therefore, the answer required the involvement of a more idiosyncratic feature of the vase-painters, that is the use of preliminary drawing for rendering the figures on the surface of the vases. The study of preliminary drawing started from complete vases painted by the Jena Painter and his associates in the workshop. Once their different stylistic features were unveiled, it became easier to proceed to the examination of figures on more fragmentary pieces and to attribute them securely to a specific painter's hand. Preliminary drawing has also been traced in the make of the subsidiary decoration of these vases, i.e. the palmettes in the handle area. This find was particularly useful, as it indicated that one hand executed both figures and ornaments on each vase. Interestingly, the study of the preliminary drawing on vases by the Jena Painter's workshop shed light also on this painter's interconnections with painters and workshops of the next generation.

15.30 – 16.00

Anna Alexandropoulou (Ephorate of Antiquities of Piraeus)

*Epichysis: The origin and circulation of a disputed ceramic type of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.*

There are two types of *epichysis*: the standard with the flanged box-body and the elongated form with an angular body. The first one is attested in the Apulian red-figure pottery of the second quarter of the fourth century among the minor vases associated with the Ilioupersis Painter and in the Apulian pottery of Gnathia. Apulian red-figure versions have been found in Corinth and local imitations have been found at Olynthos. The presence of the shape in Attika has been presumed in the past but only recently has the cemetery of Phaleron revealed the first evidence of the shape which is presented here for the first time.

The origin of the standard *epichysis* remains unresolved. Numerical rather than chronological parameters might suggest it was invented in Apulia. The rarity of the shape in pottery together with its morphology hint at a metal prototype although the only known metal example in Milan is rather a false imitation and not an authentic one. On the contrary, metal parallels exist for the second type which are considered Corinthian. The clay examples on the other hand present a wide distribution, as well chronological as geographical. They appear at the last quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. in Attica and Corinth on black-glazed pottery and they last until the Hellenistic period when they are found in Phocis, Messenia, Argolis and so far as Illyria.

16.00 – 16.30

**Christina Mitsopoulou** (École française d'Athènes)

*Eleusinian “Kernoï” in 4<sup>th</sup> century Attica: realia, contexts, iconography and chronology*

The cult vases developed in attic Sanctuary of Eleusis during the Classical period are known from a complex and varied typology. Comparative study has revealed that the typological variations may be strongly associated with chronological development and gradual simplification and standardization of the shape. It seems astounding, but the archaeological record for any 5<sup>th</sup> century occurrence of the shape is absent. Most available data of reference is dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, a period when the vases also enter the medium of iconography, either on figured vase painting, or on coinage. Gradually they will vanish from the archaeological field, but will develop into a sort of ‘speaking symbol’, standing as an icon for the Eleusinian Mysteries. Well dated and defined contexts remain rare for this shape, or often unpublished; the Eleusinian sanctuary as such, excavated in earlier times, fails to provide the necessary detail, and therefore we are turning to comparative material from other contexts, either votive, or industrial, funerary and domestic. Our aim is to juxtapose the general observations drawn from the study of this pottery group to the development of other art forms, and altogether to the Athenian history of the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

16.30 – 17.00

**Despoina Tsiafaki, Yiannis Mourthos & Natasa Michailidou** (“Athena”: Research & Innovation Center in Information, Communication & Knowledge Technologies)

*Old data new tools: 4<sup>th</sup> century lekythoi in ancient Thrace through AtticPOT*

During 6<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. Attic pottery became a very popular commercial product that reached almost the extremities of the ancient world. The variety of Attic shapes managed to adapt and serve different needs, while their artistic quality turned them into luxurious items. The AtticPOT project developed a repository that traces the distribution of published Attic painted pottery throughout the vast area of ancient Thrace, now divided between four modern states. The repository’s tools enable researchers to study shapes, iconography, painters, distribution, etc. within their spatiotemporal context, as well as to produce maps, charts and diagrams that visualize the accumulated information. The ultimate goal is to better understand the societies that produced and consumed them and their cultural interrelations along with commercial networks and issues of economy. Within this framework, lekythoi of the 4<sup>th</sup> c. B.C. hold a prominent position. The up-to-date data collected in AtticPOT show that they can provide interesting information regarding the above subject, with focus on the regional dynamics of the circulation and the consumption of the shape by Greeks and Thracians inhabiting the same land. Lekythoi occur in abundance in certain areas of ancient Thrace and although they are found almost exclusively in cemeteries, they seem to be part of interesting differentiations within their contexts. Finally, being value-added commodity as well as cultural items, their distribution appears to reveal patterns of contact between coastal and inland Thrace and consequently of their populations. The presence and the function of the shape through specific contexts will be the guide in order to investigate the forementioned and to better understand its role away from the place of its production.

17.00 – 17.30

Coffee break

**17.30 – 18.00**

**Alexandre Baralis** (Musée du Louvre), **Krastina Panayotova** (National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia), **Teodora Bogdanova & Dimitar Nedev** (Municipal Cultural Institute, Museum Centre, Sozopol, Bulgaria), **Margarit Damyanov** (National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia), **Vasilica Lungu** (Institute of South-Eastern European Studies, Romanian Academy, Bucharest), **Nicolas Morand** (Royal Institute of Natural History, Brussels, Belgium) & **Tsvetana Popova** (National Institute of Archaeology and Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)

*The funerary use of the vases in the Western Black Sea: pottery assemblages in the ritual fireplaces of Apollonia Pontica*

Since 2012, the French-Bulgarian archaeological mission at Apollonia Pontica has carried out a research program devoted to the ritual contexts of the necropolis of this ancient Milesian city founded in 610 B.C. on the Pontic Thracian shore. In addition to the study of the funerary fireplaces and deposits, previously excavated in the coastal necropolis of Kalfata (2002-2006), the mission has extended its work to the rural necropolis of Messarite (2012-2019), as well as to an aristocratic burial mound discovered on the Budjaka promontory (2018). Thanks to a multipluridisciplinary approach, associating palaeozoological and palaeobotanical analyses, the mission has developed a specific protocol, which henceforth makes possible to approach the real content and use of each vase within these very specific ritual contexts. This research leads to an archaeology of the gesture that sheds light on the inner organization of these more symbolic meals than real dedicated to the dead and on the function assigned to the banquet set.

**18.00 – 18.30**

**Guy Ackermann** (École française d'Athènes)

*A Late 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. pottery assemblage from Argos*

A large pottery assemblage of the late 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. has been discovered in Argos, on the hill of the Aspis during several excavation campaigns conducted by the French School at Athens between 1902 and 2012. Its study offers a valuable insight on the Argive pottery repertoire and its commercial network during the late Classical period. The wide range of shapes and the presence of cooking pots, household wares, loom-weights and spools suggest that this material is not only related to the garrison's activities, but may come from houses built within the fortifications. Athenian and Corinthian imports represent only a small share of the fine ware pottery, so that most of the pots can be associated with a local or regional production. With its preference for Attic type skyphoi and blister ware aryballoi instead of Classical kantharoi and lekythoi, the Argive repertoire of the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic periods is more related to Corinthian than Athenian contemporary pottery assemblages. Of particular importance is the variety of vessel types that seem reflecting a certain regionalism, since they are only found in the Argolid and the eastern part of the Peloponnese. The Argive repertoire is distinguished in particular by a persistent use of large fine ceramic craters for community banquets and by its preference for bowls over plates for serving food.

**18.30 – 19.00**

**Stamatis A. Fritzilas** (Ephorate of Messenia)

*Oresteion: Views on the pottery of an Arcadian polis before the creation of the new city-state of Megalopolis (371 B.C.)*

This paper will examine the pottery and archaeological data of an ancient city in Southern Greece. Oresteion (or Oresthasion) was a Classical town in the district of Maenalia, near the ancient road leading to Pallantium and Tegea. In mythology it was connected to Orestes, who was reputed to be the city's founder. The remains of Arcadian Oresteion were uncovered during the years 2008-2014. The city took part in the famous creation of Megalopolis. When the latter was founded in 371 B.C., it was the first large urbanization project in rustic Arkadia and one of the best-known examples of Classical Greek synoecism. Oresteion was abandoned and its population incorporated into Megalopolis.

Thus, the aim of this study is to present new excavation material of the Late Classical period from well-defined cultural and chronological contexts. The excavated buildings of the last phase are placed chronologically in the years before and after the battle of Leuktra (371 B.C.). The largest percentage of the finds consists of unpainted pottery and black-glazed vases, which were basic for fulfilling various needs, such as serving food, lighting, drinking, transporting or storing solid and liquid products. Most of the pottery date from the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Typical are Attic and local red-figured vases. Some of the decorated vases are distinguished by their iconography, as they imitate Attic prototypes. Material assemblages include all categories of pottery found in domestic and public contexts: fine wares, plain wares, and cooking pots. The abandonment layer of the city is also dated by coins. The importance of revealing the polis of Oresteion in Southwestern Arkadia is that it offers new data on the field archeology of the Peloponnese. At the same time, it opens up a number of possibilities in the revision of many existing historical and archaeological research data, as well as for new approaches to the society and economy of the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

**19.00 – 19.30**

**General comments & discussion**

**20.00**

**Dinner for the speakers**