

## **Cooking wares, Storage Vessels and Dietary habits in Classical Sikyon**

Kyriaki Tsirtsis

The thesis '*Cooking wares, Storage Vessels and Dietary habits in Classical Sikyon*' is part of a doctoral program of the 'Science and Technology for Archaeology Research Center' (STARC) of the Cyprus Institute and is affiliated with the research project "Finding Old Sikyon", which is running since 2015 in collaboration by the National Museum of Denmark, the Danish Institute at Athens and the Ephorate of Antiquities of Corinth. The program is funded by the Carlsberg Foundation.

The reconstruction of activities related to food production, processing, consumption and disposal in Sikyon in the Classical period form the aims of this PhD thesis. The study of the kitchen ware and storage pottery found in Sikyon in conjunction with archaeobotanical studies of the plant remains recovered from the private houses or deposits dated to the Classical period constitute the basis of the research. Through this multidisciplinary work, the thesis will provide for the first time an integrated approach to this aspect of the domestic life of a Classical city. The underlying purpose of reconstructing a central part of the domestic activities of the inhabitants of Sikyon, is meant to help understanding the economic and social organization of the city, and a major part of its everyday life.

The pottery material for this research derives from rescue excavations undertaken by the Greek Archaeological Service in the Sikyonian plain and will also include the material generated by the future excavations of the "Finding Old Sikyon" project. Concerning the pottery, vessels will be arranged by function: a) vessels involving transport, storage and preparation of food and b) vessels for cooking and heating liquids. Macroscopic analysis will be applied to the whole data. A sample of representative ceramics will be investigated by petrographic analysis. Moreover, the charred archaeobotanical remains will be recovered and separated by the use of a flotation machine. The identification of the plant assemblage will be carried out under a stereomicroscope. Analysis of invisible chemical residues adhering to pots or potsherds will complement the study of the archaeobotanical material.

This PhD, therefore, focuses on the social aspect of food as a form of cultural expression, the study of which includes the evaluation of wild food procurement, the processes involved in farming, the frameworks of long distance trade and exchange, and the roles of agriculture in more developed economies of the ancient world. General observations about the economy of the site and the daily household activities will be stressed. A comparison will be made between the dietary habits and the farming practices during both the Classical and Hellenistic periods in Sikyon and the corresponding periods in Ancient Corinth. In essence, an unexplored field of knowledge is anticipated to be examined by this PhD, which will implement and combine interpretative techniques not applied so far in the region of Sikyon.



Fig. 1: Cooking-ware vessel unearthed in the area of Chtiri/Old Sikyon.

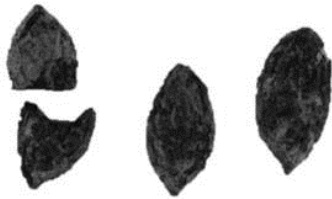


Fig. 2: Olive stones retrieved from a storeroom excavated in the area of Chtiri/Old Sikyon.