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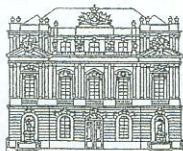
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On Some East Greek Pottery found at Karabournaki in Thermaic Gulf

Located in North Aegean, on the edge of the promontory in the center of Thermaic Gulf, Karabournaki or Little Karabournou, preserves the remains of an ancient site situated in the area of modern Thessaloniki. The unrevealed ancient houses indicate that the primary section of the settlement was placed on the top of a low mound with its cemetery extended to the area that surrounds the bottom of the hill. Thermaic Gulf reaches the lower part of the mound and remains of the ancient harbor are still distinguishable under the water in the zone of the modern Kyverneion (Palataki). Even though no inscription with the name of the ancient city has been found yet, several scholars have argued for the identification of the site with ancient Therma, based upon its location and literary and archaeological evidence¹.

The site was already known in the beginning of the 20th century and although the area was used as a military camp continuously until 1989, the earliest archaeological research took place during the First World War². A systematic research of the site, however, began in 1994 and the material presented here comes from the current excavations³.

Sherds found already in the earlier excavations date the site from the Late Bronze Age down to the Roman times. The continual occupation of the area by the army, however, had as a consequent result the severe damage of both settlement and cemetery and the current research reveals on the top of the hill parts of the Archaic period. Stone built foundation walls of Greek type houses have been unearthed along with a remarkable number of storerooms occupied with large pithoi; a clear indication for the wealth of the inhabitants. At the same area has been found a series of pits containing a large number of fragments. Worth of note is the beehive shaped dugouts found in groups of two with an opening between them that allows access from one to another. Their exact date is unknown for the moment and they recall similar structures found in the Black Sea Region where they were used for habitation⁴.

Despite its disturbance the site preserves a great number of ceramics found within the uncovered quarters of the ancient houses, the pits and scattered on the top of the hill. Local pots are found together with imported vases and it is remarkable not only their quantity but their quality as well. Geometric pottery with a number of Euboian fragments, are certainly among the earliest imports occurring on the mound, but it is possible that some Mycenaean and Sub-

¹ Rhomaios 1940, 1 ff.; N. G. L. Hammond, *A History of Macedonia* 1 (1972) 151; Tiverios 1987, 247 ff.; M. Tiverios, *Από τα απομεινάρια ενός προελληνιστικού ιερου' περί τον Θερμαϊόν κόλπον'*, in: *Μνήμη Λαζαρίδη. Πόλις και χώρα στην αρχαία Μακεδονία και Θράκη* (1990) 71 ff. For a summary of the theories concerning ancient Therma and earlier references see also M. Vickers, *Therme and Thessaloniki*, in: *Ancient Macedonian studies in honor of Charles F. Edson, Hidryma Meleton Chersonesou tou Haimou* 158 (1981) 327 ff. *Θεσσαλονικη Φιλίππου Βασιλισσας. Μελετες για την Αρχαία Θεσσαλονικη* (1985) passim.

² L. Rey, *BCH* 41–43, 1917–19, 97 ff.; id., *Albania* 2, 1927, 48 ff.; id., *Albania* 3, 1928, 60 ff.; id., *Albania* 4, 1932, 67 ff. The University of Thessaloniki under the supervision of Prof. K. A. Rhomaios, held also a brief excavation there in 1930; see Rhomaios 1940, 1 ff.; K. A. Rhomaios, *Ανασκαφη στο Καραμπουρνακι της Θεσσαλονικης*, in: *Επιτομβιον Χ. Τσουντα* (1941) 358 ff. See also F. Petsas, *Makedonika* 7, 1966/67, 303; F. Petsas, *Makedonika* 9, 1969, 162; Tiverios 1987, 247 ff.

³ It is a collaborative project between the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the IST' Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities. The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, under the supervision of Prof. M. Tiverios and the collaboration of Dr. E. Manakidou and the author, excavates the residential area on the top of the hill. The Archaeological Service under the supervision of the archaeologists E. Trakosopoulou and E. Pandermali carries the research to the graves. For the current excavations see Tiverios et al. 1994, 197 ff.; E. Pandermali – E. Trakosopoulou, *AErgoMak* 8, 1994, 203 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1995, 277 ff.; E. Pandermali – E. Trakosopoulou, *AErgoMak* 9, 1995, 283 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1997, 327 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1998, 223 ff.

⁴ Tiverios et al. 1997, 332; Tiverios et al. 1998, 225; G. R. Tsetskhladze, *Greek Colonisation of the Black Sea area: Stages, Models, and Native Population*, in: G. R. Tsetskhladze (ed.), *The Greek Colonisation of the Black Sea area: Historical Interpretation of Archaeology*, *Historia Einzelschriften* 121 (1998) 9 ff.

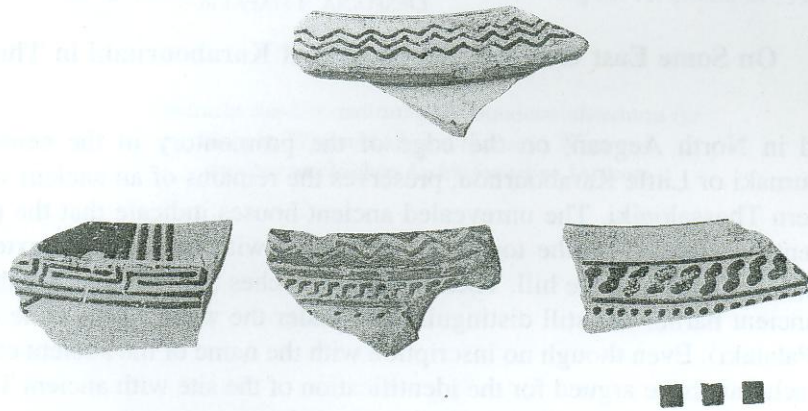


Fig. 300: East Greek pottery from Karabournaki. Inv. K97Γ.2, K97.27, K96.24b, K96.24a

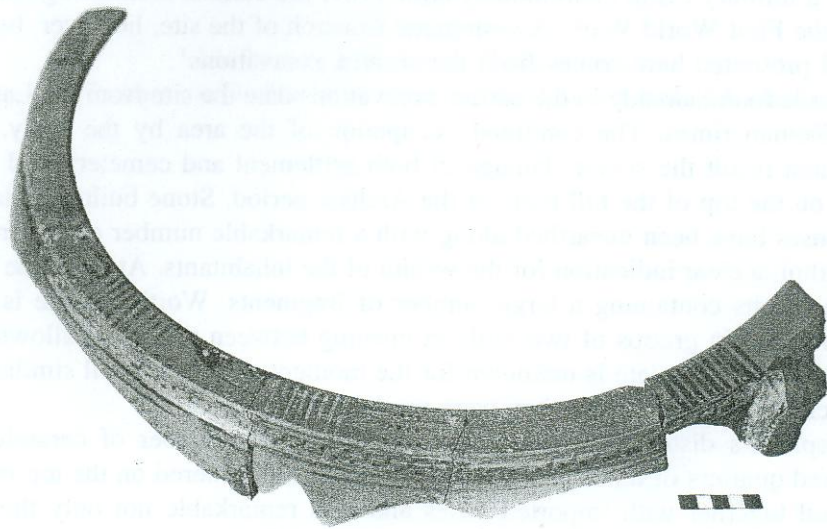


Fig. 301: Karabournaki. Inv. K96.54a-b, K96.953a-b

Mycenaean sherds come also from the same place⁵. Of particular interest, however, are the findings dated to the Archaic times, which indicate a floruit of the site during that period. East Greek, Corinthian, and Attic are the main categories of imported ceramics at Karabournaki. Some Laconian fragments dated to the sixth century have also been found but their number is so far very limited. Worth of note is the number of the transport amphorae made in different workshops found in big quantities in the houses and within the pits.

East Greek vases seem to be among the most popular imported wares in the site, especially for the period of the seventh and sixth centuries B.C.⁶ (Figs. 300–307). Representatives from the entire East Greek region seem to occur on the mound, but it is also obvious a preference to particular workshops and shapes that might be indicative for specific trade contacts and routes. Among the findings related to the trade contacts, of great importance is the Carian graffito inscription found on a fragmentary amphora. This inscription is an additional indication for a Carian presence in the Thermaic Gulf, whose existence in the area has been recently traced through other finds⁷.

⁵ Tiverios 1987, 249 ff.

⁶ Tiverios 1987, 249 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1994, 197 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1995, 277 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1997, 327 ff.; Tiverios et al. 1998, 223 ff.

⁷ Tiverios et al. 1995, 281; M. Tiverios, Καρες στο μυχο του Θερμαϊκού Κολπου, in: Αρχαία Μακεδονία VI (1997) (in press); K. Tzanavari – A. Ph. Christidis, *Kadmos* 34, 1995, 13 ff.

Transport amphorae from Chios, Samos, Clazomenae and other areas are the most popular East Greek wares, indicating the preference of the inhabitants to certain imported wine and olive oil⁸. Furthermore bird bowls, Ionian cups, Wild Goat, Chian chalices, and 'Ionian' alabastra appear to be found more or less often in the entire settlement establishing the pertinent cross-links among all houses. Next to the typical East Greek categories, of particular interest are some fragments which clearly originate to East Greek region but their unusual decorative patterns make difficult their attribution to specific workshops.

The earliest in type of the East Greek wares are some Late Geometric and Sub-geometric shapes, mostly kraters and dinoi but fragments of bird kotylai are also found sporadically. Dinoi and kraters appear to be very popular shapes in the site during the Early Archaic period and except for the imported examples, there are many locally made imitating in some cases products of various Greek workshops.

Distinctive among the earliest East Greek fragments are some with peculiarities in decoration, as for example the sherds shown in Figs. 300 and 301. Those depicted fragments have a typical profile but their decoration is not entirely characteristic. The meander, Ss and dots patterns at the rim are found in vases from different areas in East Greek region along with the groups of the parallel lines on the upper surface of the lip⁹. The motif of E with the three horizontal rows of dots in front of it, however, on the top of the rim in the fragmentary vase shown in Fig. 301, is rather unusual and unknown to me elsewhere. Comparisons with G2-G3 ware and Sub-Geometric pottery from northwestern Asia Minor lead to the thought that the northeastern Aegean and the Aeolian region seem to be the most probable areas for the origin of those fragments¹⁰.

Another interesting decorative element is the presence of zigzags on the top of the rim of the fragment K96.24b in Fig. 300. The pattern itself is common in East Greek pottery, but it is usually placed in different parts of the vessel¹¹. Worth of note, however, is that this motif on the top of the rim seems to be rather typical on kraters and dinoi found in Karabournaki as it is shown by the rim fragments of two dinoi (Fig. 300 top, fragment K97Γ.2, and Fig. 302)¹². The usage of the motif could be considered as characteristic of a certain workshop and moreover as an indication for the areas that had contacts with Thermaic Gulf and Karabournaki in particular.

The two Middle Wild Goat I dinoi fragments shown in Figs. 302–303 are of particular interest also for iconographical reasons. The falcon depicted on one of them is a rare motif on Wild Goat iconography and a few contemporary examples are known from Rhodes, Miletos, and Gela¹³. The type of the lion depicted on the other fragment (Fig. 303) with the swastika shaped nose and the rich mane is also unusual. A close parallel for the rendering of the mane could be found on a sherd from the Athenaion in Syracuse¹⁴. To those infrequent iconographical motifs

⁸ Dupont in: Cook – Dupont 1998, 142 ff. with earlier references.

⁹ E.g. Samos V, pls. 19 ff.; Boardman 1967, pls. 19 ff.; J. Boehlau – K. Schefold (eds.), *Larisa am Hermos. Die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen 1902–1934. III: Die Kleinfunde* (1942) pl. 13.1.

¹⁰ The G2-G3 ware looks close to those fragments, especially K96.54a-c and K96.953a-b (Fig. 301), but they cannot be placed with certainty among that group. They are of better quality and the fabric and decoration seem to be related to some Middle Wild Goat I fragments found also in Karabournaki (e.g. K97Γ.2 in Fig. 300, and Figs. 302–303). For G2-G3 ware see C. W. Blegen et al., *Troy IV* (1958) 253 ff. pls. 304–305; P. Bernard, *BCH* 88, 1964, 88 ff. esp. 98 no.32 fig. 14; Cook in: Cook – Dupont 1998, 25. Thanks owe to Dr. M. Kerschner for his remarks and the useful discussion we had on the topic.

¹¹ For similar decoration on the top of the rim see Boardman 1967, pl. 25, no. 75.

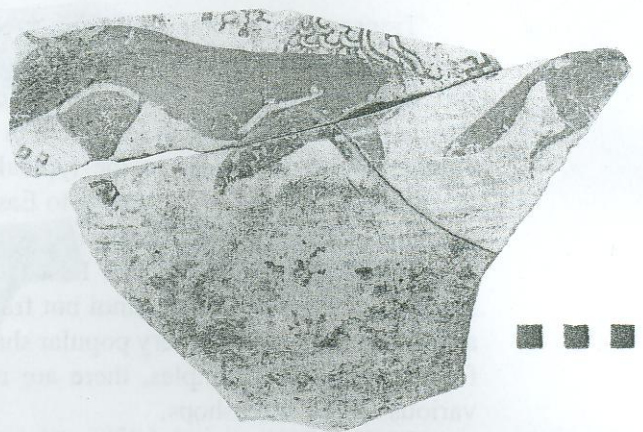
¹² The rim fragment K97.Γ2 (Fig. 300) belongs to the same vessel with the fragments K97.Γ1α–γ (Fig. 303).

¹³ W. Schiering, *Werkstätten orientalisierender Keramik auf Rhodos* (1957) pl. 11, 2; E. de Miro in: *Grecia, Italia e Sicilia nell' VIII e VII secolo a. C., Atti del convegno internazionale Atene 1979 vol. 3, ASAte* 61, 1983 (1984) 87 fig. 68. I am grateful to Prof. V. von Graeve and Katharina Ketterer for showing me the falcon depicted on the fragment inv. K92.343.6 in Miletos.

¹⁴ P. Orsi, *MonAnt* 25, 1918, 526 f. fig. 113. I owe thanks for the reference to Dr. M. Kerschner. Scale patterns on lion's manes occur also on North Ionian and Carian Wild Goat Style as R. M. Cook has kindly pointed it to me, but as he also noticed, they are quite different from the Karabournaki piece. See for example R. M. Cook, *OxfJA* 18, 1999, 87 nos. 50–53.



Fig. 302: Dinos fragment from Karabournaki


 Fig. 303: Dinos fragment from Karabournaki.
 Inv. K97Γ.1α-γ

should be added the peculiar lobed cross motif decorating both sherds. Other versions of this pattern are not uncommon among the Wild Goat iconography but this addition of the squares is rather unusual. The common origin of the two vases has already been pointed out, but is further supported by the last mentioned decorative pattern and the similar white slip that covers their surface. Even though we cannot place the fragments with certainty to any known workshop so far, some province in Aeolis seem to be the best candidate for the origin of those fragments¹⁵.

The Chian wine was undoubtedly very popular in the area, as it is shown by the large quantity of the Chian amphorae. Numerous fragments along with intact pieces are found within the residential quarters and the pits. Sherds covered with a fine, thick white slip, a thinner chalky-white wash or non slipped, indicate that the Chian wine trade lasted from the seventh until late sixth and maybe fifth century B.C.

The links with Chios are also shown by the fragments of the Chian chalices occurring in the site. Even though the majority is small sherds, their number and distribution to the settlement indicate a general preference of the inhabitants to the shape. The best preserved example is a fragmentary Middle Wild Goat II chalice (Fig. 304), which stylistically belongs to the Würzburg chalice group¹⁶. Of great importance is the date of the piece to the seventh century. The known chalices fragments unearthed in Karabournaki before the war and those from the Archaic cemetery of Agia Paraskevi, in the region of Anthemous, are dated in the sixth century¹⁷. Those new findings, however, show that the shape was imported to the area already in the seventh century, at the same time with the Chian amphorae.

Middle Wild Goat style in general appears to be common in the settlement. Except for the above mentioned examples, other shapes and types manufactured in different workshops occur in the site (Figs. 305–306). Oinochoe sherds and fragmentary fruitstands and plate fragments are further implications for the preference of the inhabitants to elaborate imported wares. Some of those vessels are decorated with rare motifs, such as for example, the volute pattern in the center of the fragmentary Middle Wild Goat II fruitstand shown in Fig. 305.

The East Greek plate fragments found in Karabournaki could be dated roughly from the middle of the seventh until the first decades of the sixth century B.C. and a Milesian origin can be speculated for some of them, but other centers from South Ionia as well as North Ionia are also represented. As concern the imports from Miletos in particular, Middle Wild Goat I and II oinochoe and plate fragments, and Fikellura sherds demonstrate that they began already in the seventh and continued to the sixth century B.C.

¹⁵ I am grateful to R. M. Cook for all the help he provided me for those two fragments.

¹⁶ Lemos 1991, 71 nos. 114, 147, 236.

¹⁷ Lemos 1991, 200 f.

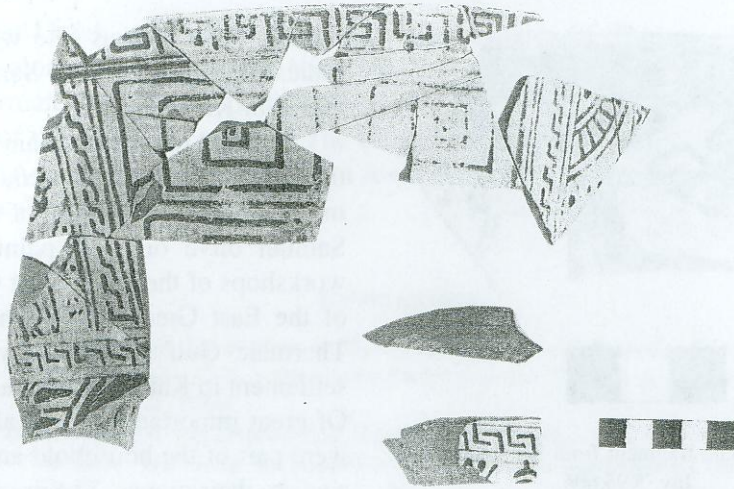


Fig. 304: Chian chalice from Karabournaki. Inv. K95.673, K95.681α-γ, K95.683

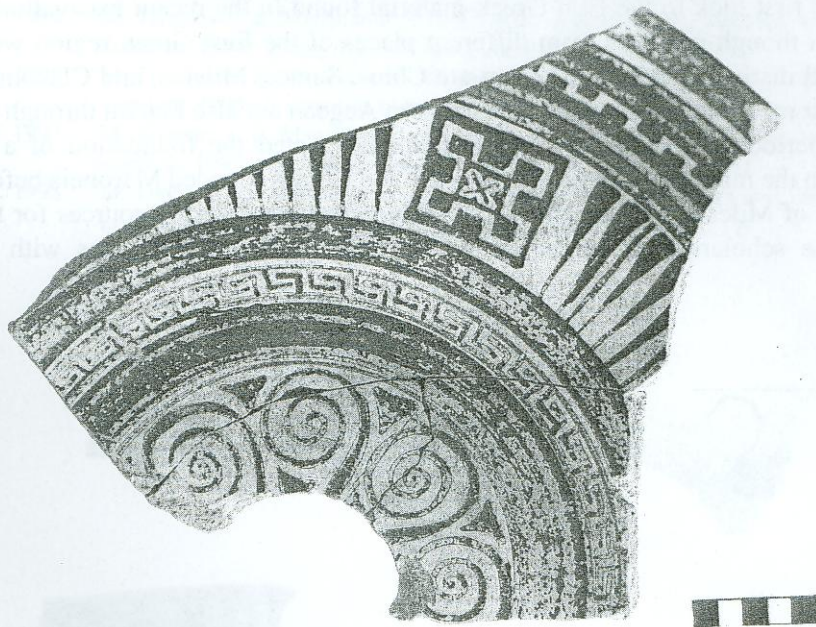


Fig. 305: Fruitstand fragment from Karabournaki

The Bird bowls fragments, which occur with frequency in the settlement, are good representatives of North Ionian workshops (Fig. 307). All the stages of the development of the type, from the Late Geometric Bird kotyle to the early sixth century Rosette bowls occur in the site.

The tradition of the East Greek drinking vessels continues to the sixth century. A major product of South Ionia are the Ionian cups (Fig. 307). Several types of Ionian cups have been found and conspicuous among them is a type locally made of fine clay, thin-walled, and covered with red glaze inside and out. Even though the attribution of the imported cups to certain workshops is difficult, some products of the Samian workshop can be easily distinguished. The ivy or myrtle leaves decorating some fragments of lips for example should come from cups worked on Samos¹⁸. The imports from Samos, however, were not limited to drinking vessels. The

¹⁸ Cook – Dupont 1998, 94; P. Dupont, *Dacia* 27, 1983, 27. 33; Samos VI 1, pls. 44 ff.

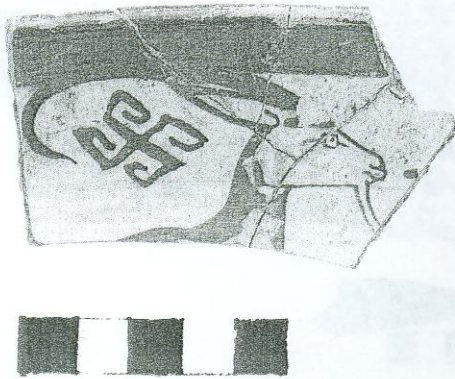


Fig. 306: Plate fragment from Karabournaki.
Inv. K95.606

Samian olive oil was also well known to the area as indicate the fragmentary Samian transport amphorae found in Karabournaki.

Located next to the main harbor of Thermaic Gulf the settlement in Karabournaki was actively involved in the affairs with the rest of the Aegean. Chian wine, Samian olive oil, and painted pottery from major workshops of the entire East Greek region were some of the East Greek goods imported to the harbor of Thermaic Gulf and used by the inhabitants of the settlement in Karabournaki during the Archaic period. Of great importance is that all those ceramic imports were part of the household and not used only as offerings to their graves. The presence of all this imported material in the residential area in combination with

the location of the site and the evidence from the architectural remains – especially the large storerooms mentioned earlier – indicate that we deal with a wealthy and important settlement.

This first look to the East Greek material found in the recent excavations of the site shows that even though products from different places of the East Greek region were imported to the area, well distinguished among them are Chios, Samos, Miletos, and Clazomenae. The relations of the last mentioned cities with the Northern Aegean are also known through the literary sources for the period in discussion. Clazomenians attempted the foundation of a colony in Abdera already in the middle of the seventh century and Chians founded Maroneia before 650 B.C.¹⁹. The presence of Milesians in the area is mentioned from the literary sources for the sixth century²⁰, and some scholars have already suggested commercial connections with Samos²¹. Ceramic

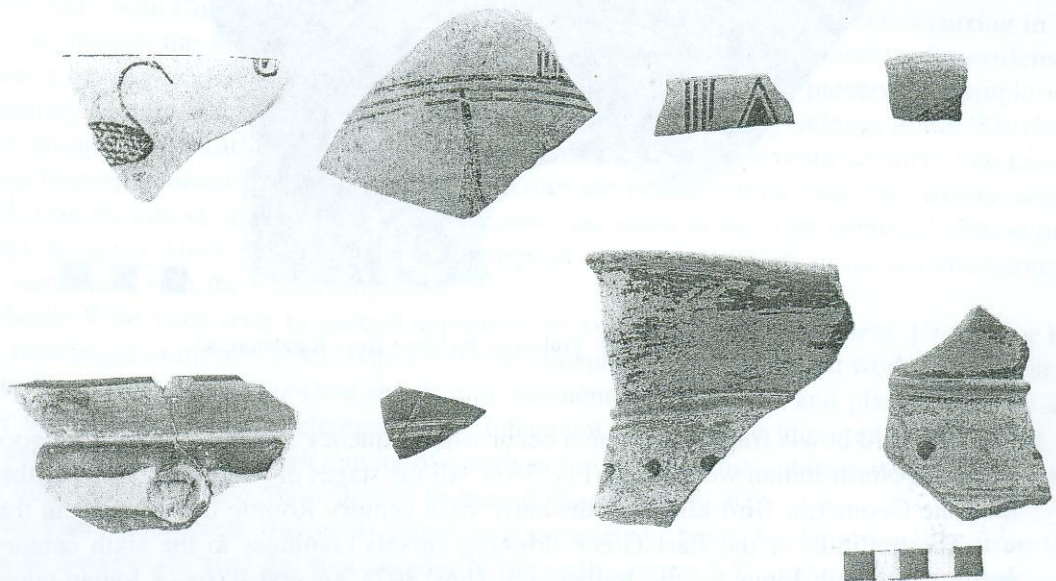


Fig. 307: East Greek pottery from Karabournaki

¹⁹ Isaac 1986, 78 ff. For Chian presence in Thrace see also C. Roebuck, Chios in the sixth century BC, in: Chios conference 81 ff.; Th. Ch. Sarikakis, Commercial relations between Chios and other Greek cities in Antiquity, in: Chios conference 122 ff.

²⁰ Herodotos V 11, 23. 24. 124; Isaac 1986, 15 ff.

²¹ Isaac 1986, 93. 109.

products of East Greek workshops are found in other sites of Thermaic Gulf, as well as in Chalcidike and along the coast of the Northern Aegean. The earlier mentioned presence of the Carians in Thermaic Gulf is an additional but very important indication for the commercial at least, relations of the discussed regions. The East Greek presence and influence along the coasts of the Northern Aegean known already from literary sources, is expanding further more through the archaeological evidence.

Abbreviations

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Boardman 1967 | J. Boardman, Excavations in Chios 1952–1955: Greek Emporio, BSA Suppl. 6 (1967). |
| Chios conference | J. Boardman – C. E. Vaphopoulou-Richardson (eds.), Chios: A conference at the Homereion in Chios 1984 (1986). |
| Cook – Dupont 1998 | R. M. Cook – P. Dupont, East Greek Pottery (1998). |
| Isaac 1986 | B. Isaac, The Greek Settlements in Thrace until the Macedonian Conquest (1986). |
| Lemos 1991 | A. A. Lemos, Archaic Pottery of Chios. The Decorated Styles (1991). |
| Rhomaïos 1940 | K. A. Rhomaïos, <i>Pou ekeito i palaia Thermi</i> , Makedonika 1, 1940, 1 ff. |
| Samos V | H. Walter, Frühe samische Gefäße, Samos V (1968). |
| Samos VI 1 | E. Walter-Karydi, Samische Gefäße des 6. Jahrhunderts v. Chr., Samos VI 1 (1973). |
| Tiverios 1987 | M. Tiverios, Όστρακα από το Καραμπουρνάκι AERgoMak 1, 1987, 247 ff. |
| Tiverios et al. 1994 | M. Tiverios – E. Manakidou – D. Tsiafaki, Ανασκαφικές έρευνες στο Καραμπουρνάκι κατά το 1994: ο αρχαίος οικισμός, AERgoMak 8, 1994, 197 ff. |
| Tiverios et al. 1995 | M. Tiverios – E. Manakidou – D. Tsiafaki, Ανασκαφικές έρευνες στο Καραμπουρνάκι κατά το 1995: ο αρχαίος οικισμός, AERgoMak 9, 1995, 277 ff. |
| Tiverios et al. 1997 | M. Tiverios – E. Manakidou – D. Tsiafaki, Ανασκαφικές έρευνες στο Καραμπουρνάκι κατά το 1997: ο αρχαίος οικισμός AERgoMak 11, 1997, 327 ff. |
| Tiverios et al. 1998 | M. Tiverios – E. Manakidou – D. Tsiafaki, Ανασκαφικές έρευνες στο Καραμπουρνάκι κατά το 1998: ο αρχαίος οικισμός AERgoMak 12, 1998, 223 ff. |