

### ***The Cypriot amphorae of the Late Roman period***

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During the late Roman period (4th - 7th centuries AD), new transport amphorae appeared, mainly in the eastern provinces of the Empire. Their distribution map includes the entire Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Among the most common types is the Late Roman Amphora 1 (LR1), workshops of which have been located in the Cilician coasts, in Caria, Rhodes and Cyprus. During the 7th century, a new type, the Late Roman Amphora 13 (LR13) was added in the repertoire of the Cypriot workshops. This study aims at investigating the role of Cyprus in the trade networks of the eastern Mediterranean during the Late Roman period, as evidenced by the development of the LR1 and LR13 amphora production. **Methodology** In order to achieve the above mentioned objective, it was necessary firstly to understand the conditions of the amphora production on the island: the number of the workshops, the construction methods and the typology of the vessels. It was also necessary to investigate the trade and diffusion of these amphorae, in and outside Cyprus. A total of 605 partly preserved LR1 and LR13 amphorae were studied from the following sites: 7. Kato Paphos Kiln Site (rescue excavation at Annabelle Hotel) 8. Agora of Amathus 9. Agora of Kourion 10. Amathous coastal Basilica 11. Ayios Tychon, Amathous 12. Ayios Georghios, Peyia Five Cypriot workshops and two more of uncertain origin were distinguished, as a result of macroscopic study of the catalogued amphorae fabrics but also according to petrographic analysis, conducted by the Department of Geological Survey, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cyprus. Moreover and in order to study better the different sub-types, experiments in amphora manufacture were conducted in two traditional pottery workshops of Nicosia. Both potters used two techniques, widely used to make vessels with a convex base. During each step of these techniques, the different marks left on the vessels' surface were recorded in detail. The typological distinction of the Cypriot LR1 amphorae was made on the basis of the fabric and the characteristics of the different manufacturing techniques. The morphology of the vessels' diagnostic parts (rim, neck, handles), the average dimensions of the neck (diameter and height) were also taken into consideration. The published LR1 amphorae from diverse Mediterranean sites were classified according to the same typology: two early types (4th - 5th centuries AD) and four later ones (5th - 7th centuries AD) were distinguished. The Cypriot LR13 amphorae were divided in two groups (rather than types), as only few vessels were examined.

The amphora production in Cyprus during the late Roman period is indicative of the island's involvement in the trade networks of the eastern Mediterranean. This production was intensified at the end of the 6th century AD, when Cyprus managed to maintain its previous trade contacts, despite the wars that broke out at the neighbouring province; or these networks were enhanced because of the loss of Antioch and Egypt. Thus, the amphora production was directly influenced by these conditions, which remained favourable for Cyprus for about two centuries.