

***Nea Paphos - Salamis: topography and urban evolution in Hellenistic times***

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This doctoral thesis is treating the topography of Nea Paphos and Salamis during the Hellenistic period. The former was founded in the years between the end of the 4th and the beginning of the 3rd cent. BC, in a transitive period of the history of Cyprus; abolition of Cypriot kingdoms and beginning of the Ptolemaic era (with a short period of occupation of the island by the Antigonids). On the other hand, the latter had already eight centuries of life and remarkable cultural offer, before the coming of Ptolemies. During the Hellenistic period both cities played a determinative role as capitals of the Ptolemaic province of Cyprus. The main aim of the thesis is the study of the topography and the development and evolution of those cities during the Hellenistic era. Did they follow the urban planning patterns of that period, characterized by a massive building of cities with many common characteristics or did they maintain elements of the local tradition? Moreover, through the comparative study of their topography and development an effort is made first of all to give an answer to a question concerning the foundation of Nea Paphos and secondly to find out the reasons that led to the transition of the Cypriot capital from Salamis to Nea Paphos. The study of the architectural remains that were discovered within the area of the specific cities is the main tool of my research. Through the archaeological data an effort is made to identify the buildings to which they belonged, to distinguish the structural phases of each city and finally to reproduce the topography of each city. Inscriptions, texts of ancient writers and observation on the spot are the subsidiary tools for the research.