

## A SUMMARY OF RECENTLY EXCAVATED POTTERY FROM LIMYRA'S WESTSTADT

The recent stratigraphic excavations in Limyra's Weststadt – carried out within the FWF funded project *The Urbanistic Development of Limyra in the Hellenistic Period* – have brought to light, among others, large quantities of pottery fragments. After washing and storing, the pottery from those loci that are considered to be stratigraphically most relevant is classified according to fabric and shape (surface treatment is used as a third classificatory element) and quantified. To this end, Minimum Number of Vessels was recently introduced as a more accurate method of quantification. The pottery from all other loci is examined in order to obtain a comprehensive picture.

Only a few Late Classical to Middle Hellenistic loci have been found, and loci datable to the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (ca. second century BC to second century AD) are conspicuously absent; pottery datable to these periods is nonetheless found in the form of residual fragments. Late Roman pottery (fig.) is well represented, yet of particular interest, however, are considerable quantities that presumably date to the Early Byzantine period. These signify a profound but presumably not a complete change in local ceramic traditions.



Fig.: Lower half of a Late Roman amphora from Tunisia, found in locus 5010/5067 during excavations in Limyra's Western City in 2016 (© ÖAW-ÖAI/Niki Gail)

Aims of the pottery study include providing dating evidence, so as to contribute to the diachronic understanding of the excavated areas, and ultimately the diachronic urban development of Limyra's Weststadt. Furthermore, to determine the typological and functional repertoire, as well as quantified proportions of regional and long-distance imported pottery, research that is supported by recent archaeometrical analyses. Very little such evidence has been published from Turkey's south coast; this new data helps to frame Limyra within regional and Mediterranean exchange patterns during the Roman and Early Byzantine periods.

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