

# Nea Paphos Seasons 2014 and 2016

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**Abstract:** Excavation below the ancient ground surface of the main courtyard (1) of the “Hellenistic” House in Nea Paphos proved its construction to be later than the beginning of the 2nd century AD. A large rectangular basin and a smaller circular one were found under the western part of the courtyard and east of it. The larger basin had two phases, the first phase being more than a meter deeper than the second one. Strata under the floors of corridor A and room B were shown to belong to the Late Classical and incipient Hellenistic periods. Exploration also continued of a cistern in the southeastern part of the courtyard and of a well in the northeastern corner of the corridor. The building sequence of the porticoes in the main courtyard was investigated in a probe dug in the southwestern corner of the court, whereas the relation between the large reception hall with mosaic floor (10) and the so-called Roman House was tested in a trench dug in corridor 29. Further fragments of “Nabatean” capitals and other decorated blocks were found in pits that had been cut in the courtyard surface in antiquity. Finally, minor excavation at the southwestern corner of the House of Aion revealed a sequence of floors against the southern elevation of a building uncovered under the late Roman street B.

**Keywords:** Nea Paphos, “Hellenistic” House, early Roman basins, Hellenistic structures under “Hellenistic” House

The University of Warsaw PCMA mission has been working in the Kato Paphos residential quarter since 1965 and the year of the fiftieth anniversary was devoted to preparations for a celebration exhibition at the Cyprus Museum. This was duly opened on 25 May 2015.

The present report covers the season preceding the anniversary year, 2014, as well as the one in 2016. Both were devoted principally to a single excavating

task, the “Hellenistic” House. The only sector excavated to a certain extent was the main courtyard (1). At first, in 2014, a small trench (Sq.1/14) was excavated in the southwestern corner of the courtyard, principally to clarify the relationship between the western portico stylobate and its strangely poor foundation (Meyza et al. 2014: 400, Fig. 13; Meyza 2015: 448–449, Fig. 8) and the southern portico [*Fig. 1*; for location, see plan in *Fig. 2*]. During the

following season this trench was connected to nearby trenches and excavated to bedrock. The phasing in the extended trench is well visible in the corner of the southern and western stylobates. The layer underlying the courtyard surface was soil without larger stones, probably garden soil, just 15 cm thick, yielding artifacts which belonged to the late 1st or beginning of the 2nd century AD, the latest lamps being IP 704–706 and vessels of ESA form 51 (Hayes 1991: 36, Fig. 17.19; 1985: 37, Pl. VI.20). Among the better preserved pieces is an ESA form 22B hemispherical bowl (Hayes 1991: 172, Fig. 17.13; 1985:

23–24, Pl. III: 13) and a Sanded Ware cup rim form Moevs XXXIII/Grataloup (La Mouette 2) (Grataloup 1986: 47–49, Fig. 1 [second left]; Ricci 1985: 275, Pl. LXXXVIII.10–12; Marabini Moevs 1973: 102–104, Pl. 16:169–171) [see below, *Fig. 6A:1–2*], Hellenistic glass bowls [see below, Appendix 1: *Fig. 23:1*], but even earlier, Classical wares were also present. The east–west (further abbreviated E–W) wall S.1/14, which was parallel to the southern portico, was cut and built over when the N–S wall S.3/14 under the western stylobate was constructed. It was found that the E–W wall was founded

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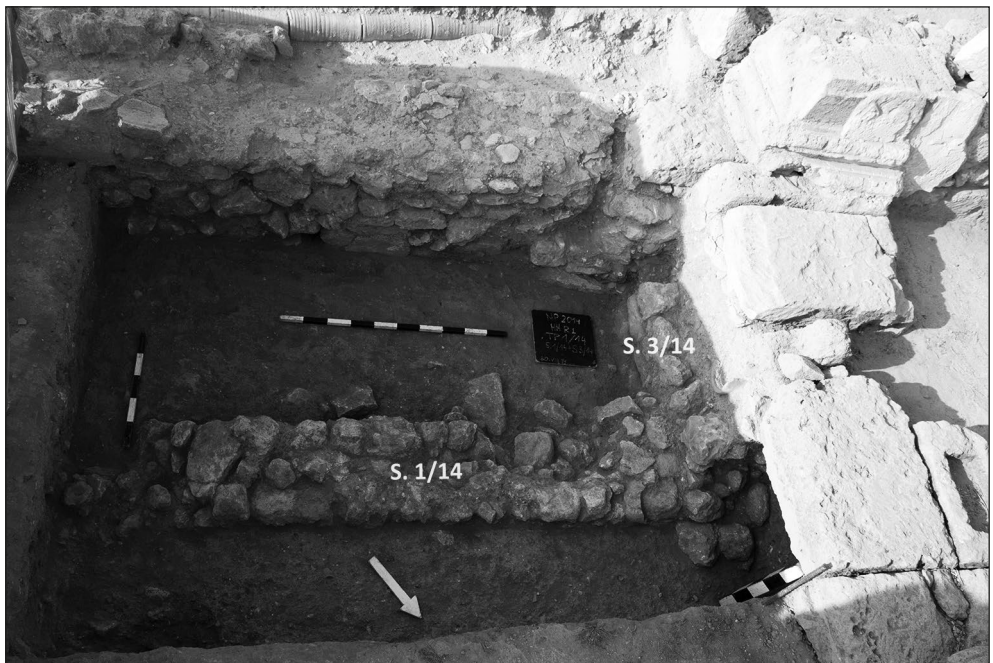
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directly on the floor from the 1st century AD, which gives a *terminus post quem* for its foundation and shows that this surface and construction above were short-lived. The layers below did not exhibit used surfaces and belonged respectively to the 1st century AD and to the 3rd century BC. The latter layer was deposited immediately over the bedrock, which was leveled and used probably for some time as a floor (S.19/16), thus constituting phase 1. The walls and floor of the 1st century AD belonged to phase 2. The N–S wall was dismantled and some cuts in the southern face of S.1/14 occurred before or at the time of construction of phase 3 structures, when first the southernmost blocks of the western stylobate were set practically without foundation and the anta of the southern

portico were built overlapping. The lack of foundation of the southern extremity of the western stylobate makes it impossible to relate this section stratigraphically, additionally cut off as it is from the rest of the stylobate by a pipe running E–W, to the northern part of the stylobate. The southern stylobate foundation was built after the construction of the anta foundation.

In the northwestern part of the courtyard (1), a trial pit (2/11TP) excavated in 2011 [see *Fig. 2*] was cleaned again to check the extent of a cut dividing the stylobate of the western portico from a waterproof reddish floor S.1/11 in the courtyard (1) (Meyza 2015: 446–447, *Fig. 7*). The cut edge of another (white) watertight floor appeared below in the eastern section (S.2/14) [*Fig. 3* bottom].



*Fig. 1. Southwestern corner of courtyard 1 (trench Sq.1/16)  
(PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)*

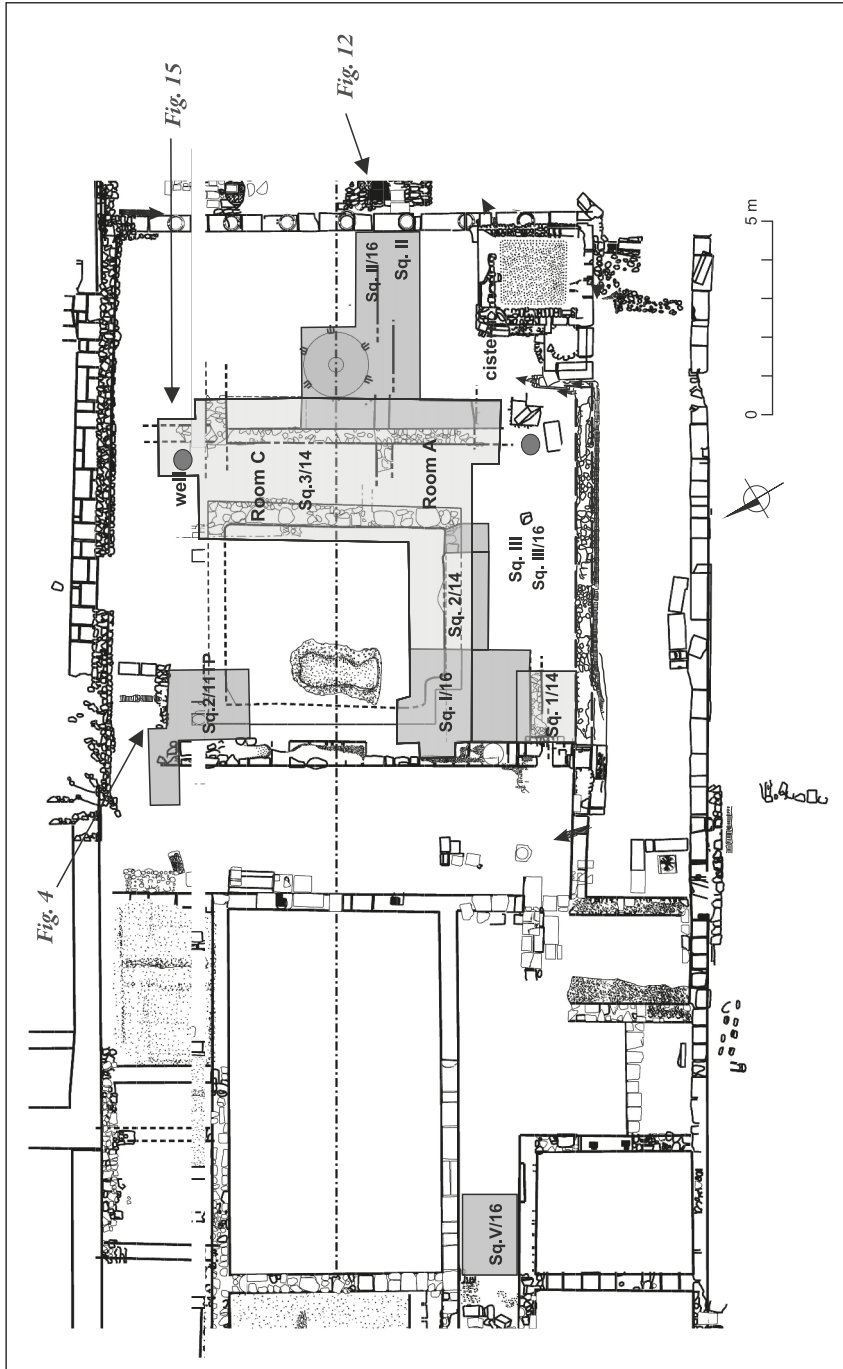
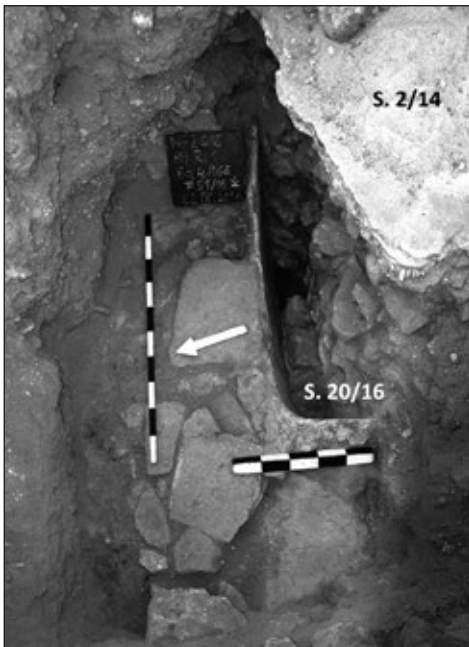


Fig. 2. Central part of the "Hellenistic" House, underlying structures and trenches from the 2014 and 2016 seasons, marked in light and darker grey respectively (PCMA Nea Paphos project/drawing A. Brzozowska, A. Kubicka, S. Medeksza)





It proved to be the northwestern corner of a big basin that had been damaged in antiquity by a cut made to remove its wall (N:9/16); this permitted excavation below the floor level of the basin. Below the bedding of the floor a rubble layer with some voids contained a few non-diagnostic sherds. The edge of a plaster coat on the wall surrounding the basin, smoothed on the inside, was uncovered after exploration to a depth of 0.60 m below the basin floor [see Fig. 3 top]. The coating plaster bends out apparently at a certain point, suggesting that water was either supplied or discharged here. The only possible interpretation of this feature is that it belonged to an earlier basin (S.20/16) with a floor at a much lower level. The difference between the levels of the floors of the basins turned out to exceed 1.10 m

Fig. 3. Northwestern part of the “Hellenistic” House main courtyard (1): top, corner (cut) of basin S.2/14; bottom, remains of an earlier phase of the rectangular basin, explored to the chamfer near the bottom. Note the damaged northwestern corner of the rectangular basin at top right (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photos H. Meyza)

[Fig. 3 top]. Although the lower floor itself was not uncovered, it seems that its level is not far from that which was reached, as the plaster of this wall in the lowest point curved in to form a chamfer.

South of the remnant of the hydraulic floor in courtyard 1 (S.1/11), an extension trench to the east was aimed at checking the extent of a new hydraulic floor S.2/14. That trench revealed the southwestern corner of a white hydraulic floor on the same level as in trench Sq.2/11TP and belonging to the same basin, its western edge cut. The

corner was indented, possibly for stairs. A robbers' trench, observed first in 2011 in the northwestern part of the courtyard and later identified along its western stylobate, was filled with building rubble (F.4/16) consisting of small and middle-sized irregular stones, some of which were covered with decorative plaster. It was found to continue at least 0.60 m below the floor of the basin, revealing the corner of an earlier one. Next to this was a large block, probably from the original wall corner. Its size and quality may explain

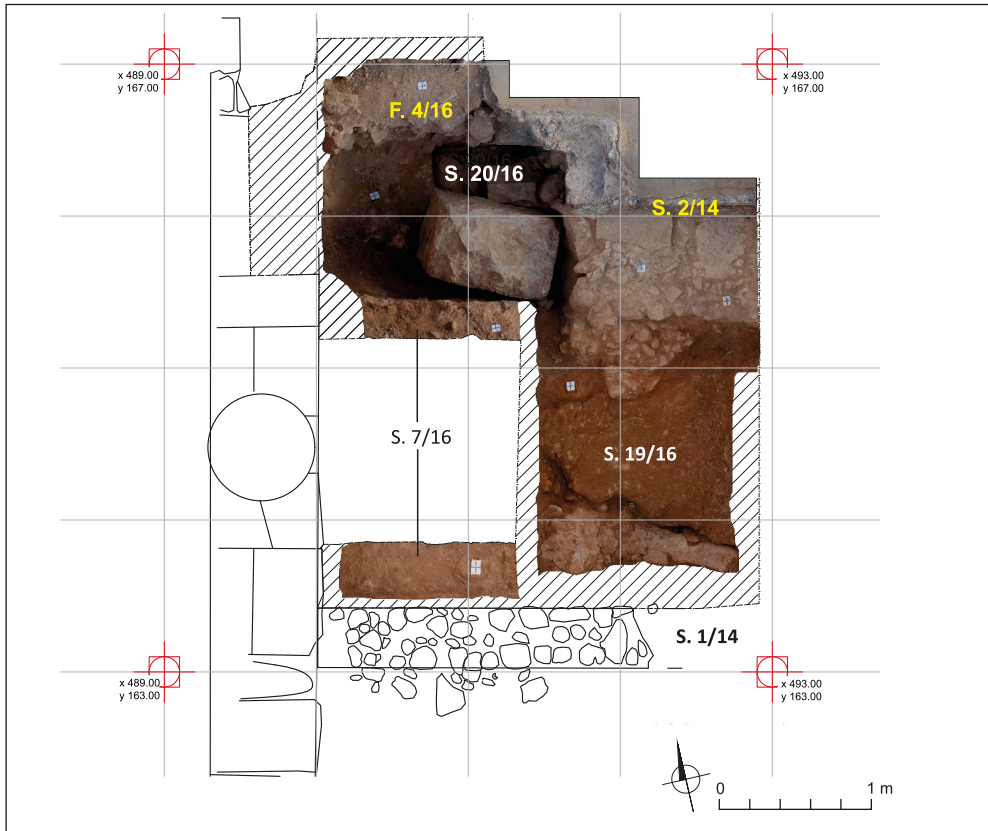


Fig. 4. Southwestern corner of the rectangular basin, edge of the surrounding wall visible under the cornerstone, a fragment of stone trough in the lower basin fill (PCMA Nea Paphos project/ortophoto A. Kubicka, processing M. Romaniuk)

why stone-hunters excavated a trench so deep along the western stylobate of the courtyard, without removing the stylobate itself. The lower basin (S.20/16) was not excavated, but the plastered edge of its wall was identified. It proved to be a rounded corner, not indented as the upper one. A stone channel could be traced in the fill [Fig. 4].

Trench Sq.3/14, which was opened in the center of courtyard 1, initially aimed to verify the presence of a tholos, an idea based on finds of curved lintel fragments in 2012 and 2013 (Meyza 2015: 451–452, Fig. 11). A layer of garden soil occurred once again just below the surface. The lower sections of this layer contained a number of painted plaster fragments. The finds were of the same or even slightly later date, i.e., beginning of the 2nd century AD, with numerous earlier finds [Figs 6:5,8,9]. No tholos was found, revealing instead, after extension of the trench westward and connection to Sq.2/14, the size of basin S.2/14. It was a large structure with a floor

6.86 m by 5.63 m, the shorter side cut at western corner. The wall surrounding the floor was dismantled below floor level and the plinth of the floor was vertically smoothed at the interstice between it and the surrounding wall [Fig. 5]. It confirmed therefore that the wall was built first and the floor was constructed within the existing frame, which clarified also how a secondary floor could have been inserted into the earlier basin walls found on a significantly lower level at the southwestern and northwestern corners.

The edge of the upper basin floor was chamfered up. The northern half of the eastern edge was disturbed and revealed that the visible surface of the floor was preceded by an earlier floor layer on the same bedding. At the southern end of the disturbed area a group of stones may have belonged to some foundation built after the basin was abandoned, but it may as well have been just rubble filling later than the courtyard floor, as in the northern end of the disturbed section, where a fragment



Fig. 5. Edge of the basin floor and foundation of a surrounding wall seen from the east (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)

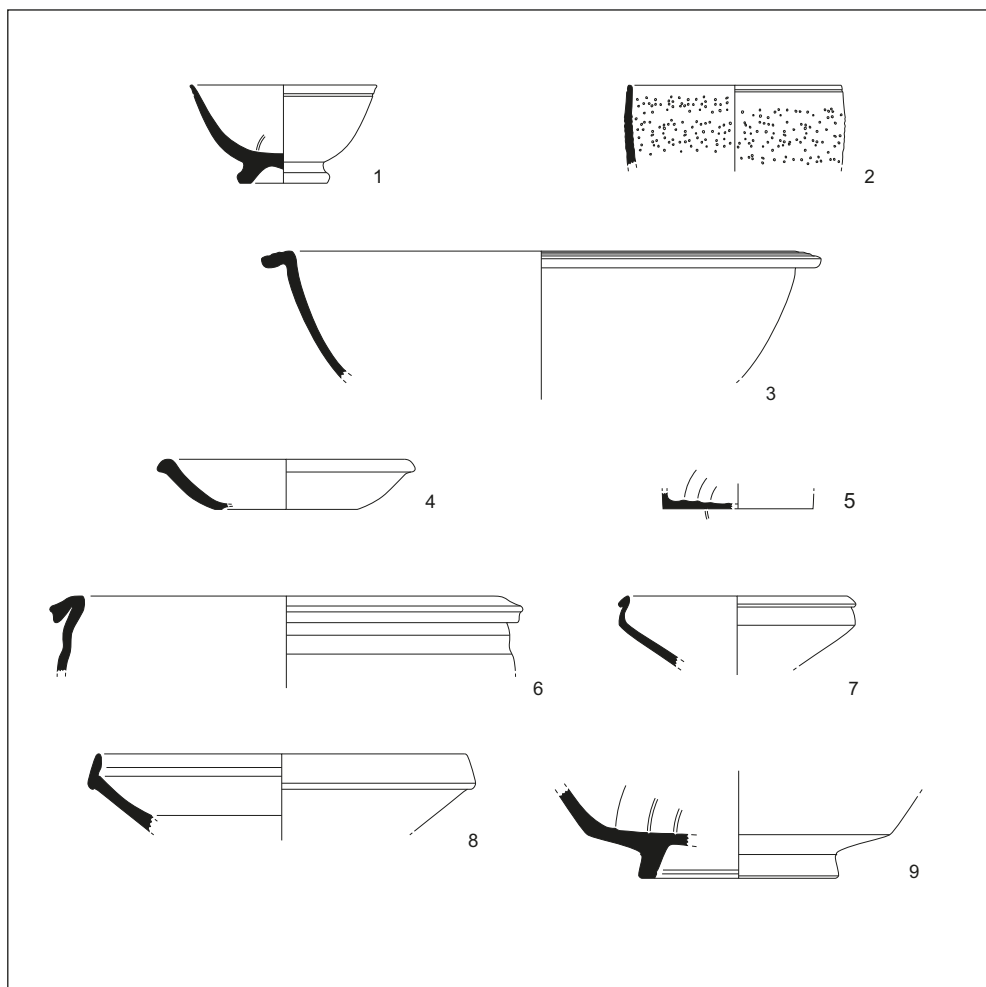


Fig. 6A. Pottery finds from fill layers below the surface of the “Hellenistic” House courtyard 1 (this and opposite page) (PCMA Nea Paphos project/drawing A. Dzwonek; 6 – W. Karpińska, 16 – M. Więch; digital tracing and identification M. Więch)

- 1 – Eastern Sigillata A form 22B, garden soil context F.3.1
- 2 – Sanded ware, cup(?), context F.3.2
- 3 – Cypriot Sigillata form P30, garden(?) soil level, contexts F.26–F.28
- 4 – Cypriot Sigillata saucer P10(?), base, garden(?) soil with plaster fragments, context F.28.1
- 5 – Cypriot Sigillata(?) mug P58, garden soil context F.14.1
- 6 – Cypriot Sigillata deep bowl P40, rim, garden soil above tamped floor, context F.26
- 7 – Cypriot Sigillata small bowl P22B, rim, garden soil, context F.26.3
- 8 – Eastern Sigillata B form 60, rim, garden soil with plaster fragments, context F.16.2
- 9 – Italian Sigillata, Consp 3, base, garden soil with plaster fragments, context F.30.1



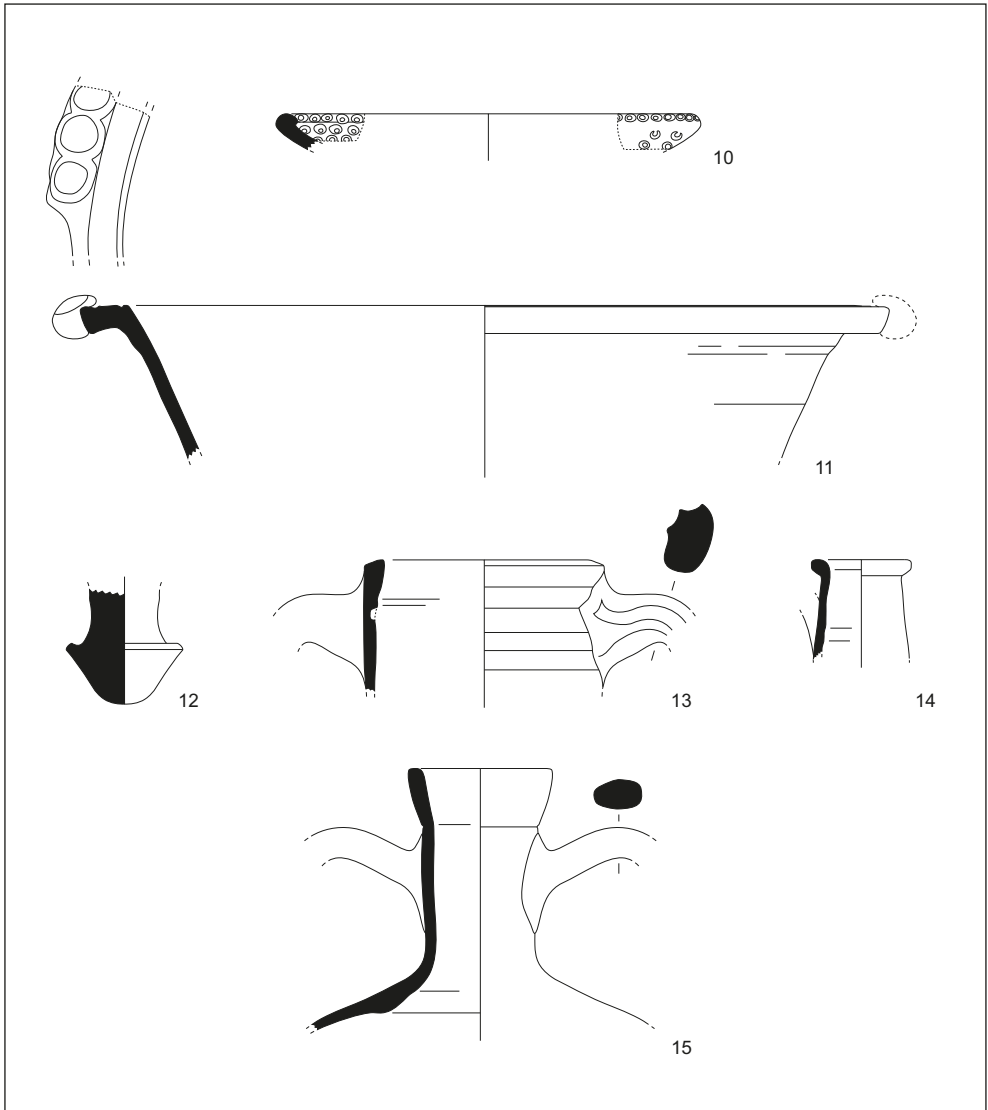


Fig. 6B. Pottery finds from fill layers below the surface of the "Hellenistic" House courtyard 1 (continued):  
 10 – Coarse fabric plate, stamped decoration, context F.16.1  
 11 – Buff Ware basin with frilled handle, context F.26.1  
 12 – Pinched handle amphora, base, garden(?) soil with plaster fragments, context F.28  
 13 – Beirut amphora 3.1a, rim and neck, context F.28.2  
 14 – Agora F65–66 micaceous jar, rim and neck, from compact red soil below level with plaster, context F.32.1  
 15 – Amphora Cretoise 1, upper part, garden(?) soil, context F.35.1

of the lower half of a “Nabatean” capital, most probably belonging to the courtyard 1 porticoes, was found. The finds, both in the disturbed area and in the remaining fill, were almost synchronous and belonged to the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century AD. Excavation along the southern side of the basin demonstrated that some structures, later than the basin and earlier than the courtyard 1 floor, existed there, albeit possibly nothing but temporary in nature. The finds above and below the tamped floor over the dismantled basin wall did not differ in date and, as in the case of the disturbed fill in the northern part, they belonged to the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century AD. A deep bowl of Cypriot Sigillata (CS) form P40 and a small bowl form CS P22B (Hayes 1991: 38, 43, 45, 50, 189, Figs 19.40, 66.26) [Fig. 6:6,7] as well as a Buff Ware basin (Hayes 1991: 66f, 204 [No. 25], Fig. 24.7, Pl. 13.12) [Fig. 6:11] were found together with a 2nd century lamp IP742. In corresponding layers, an Italian Sigillata form Consp. 3.2.2 (Ettlinger et al. 1990: 56, Pl. 3), a CS saucer P10 and large bowl P30 (Hayes 1991: 40, 44, Figs 19.30.2, 30.5, 65.20) [Fig. 6:3–4,9], a pinched handle amphora (Lund 2015: 172–174), a Beirut Reynolds’ form 3.1a (Reynolds 2000: 394, Fig. 4 [Cat. 15]), a micaceous water jar rim and a Cretan amphora AC1a upper part, probably from the Dermatou workshop (Marangou-Lerat 1996: 68, 96–97, Fig. 28) were collected [Fig. 6:12–15]. One piece of glass [see below, Appendix 1, Fig. 22] may be a later intrusion.

Remains of floors appeared east of the basin, in the southern part of the trench, confined by a N–S wall (S.6/14) running parallel to the basin edge at a distance of

about 2 m [Fig. 8; see Fig. 11]. The wall was robbed in several sections of its course, both in the central northern part where floors were absent and in the central section where a cut removing a perpendicular wall (S.14/14) that had extended from the basin border to the N–S wall (S.6/14). Excavation of the fill of the cut exposed remains of an E–W wall foundation [Fig. 9]. Pottery from a layer below this fill, possibly preceding the foundation S.14/14, was mixed and included, apart from a number of Classical fragments [Fig. 7:5–8], also a 2nd century BC lamp (possibly contamination). A floor north of that wall foundation was a relatively thin (2–10 cm) greenish-grey clay (*khonnos*) layer; south of the wall foundation it was made of the same material, but much thicker. These floors belonged to rooms A and C on either side of the wall, respectively. Further east, almost in line with S.14/14, the cut removed wall S.8A/16 [see Fig. 11]. At the very north of the excavated area, corresponding to the northern edge of the rectangular basin, an L-shaped corner of another, later wall (S.13/14), but still preceding the construction of courtyard 1, seems to have damaged wall S.6/14. The head of a well or a cistern (S.12/14) was found with a covering slab still in place, situated adjacent to the N–S part of that corner. The upper part of the cistern was empty and pear-shaped in section. It was entered, but not excavated [Fig. 10].

The relation between the foundation of the walls surrounding basin S.2/14 and the adjacent floors was investigated in a small trench east of the basin below the *khonnos* floor (Sq.3/14TP) [see Fig. 2]. Three coins were found on floor S.5/14, the earliest being of Ptolemy I, a small denomination of a pre-reform series, and another one

seeming to be a coin from the Ptolemy II–IV period, of the  $\Delta$ I series (*iota* uncertain). A few pieces of Colour Coated Hellenistic pottery were also collected. The strata below, with at least one more floor, seem to be even earlier, and much of the pottery is certainly Classical including Greek Red Figured and Black Glazed pieces and transitional Cypro-Classical/Hellenistic

hybrid ware, known from Evreti well TE I at Kouklia (Maier and von Wartburg 1986: 161–164, Figs 34a, 34b, 35a–h) [Fig. 7: 2–4].

A trench was excavated up to the eastern portico of courtyard 1, east of the N–S wall S.6/14 and in line with the robbed out E–W wall S.14/14. On its northern side another circular basin was partly uncovered

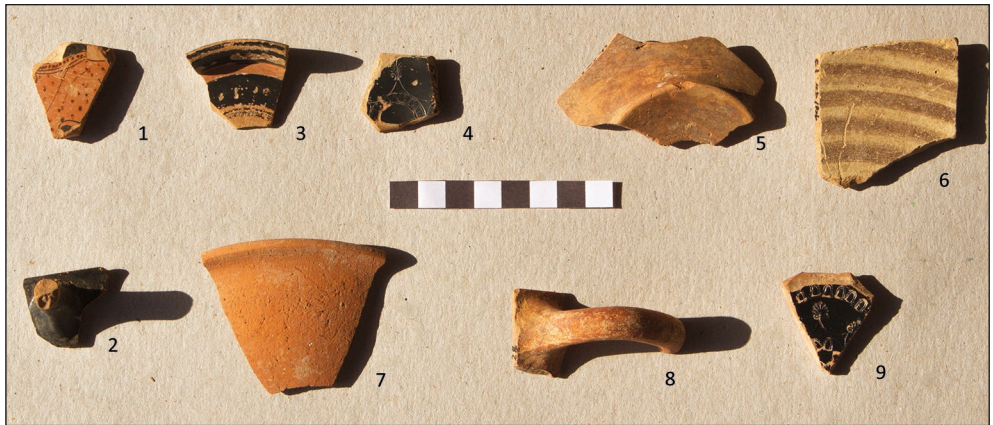


Fig. 7. Classical pottery from early contexts (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza; identification J. Młynarczyk):

- 1 – Red Figured (fragment of an animal?) Attic body sherd of a closed vessel, 5th–4th century BC/early 2nd century AD context F.48.1
- 2 – Black Gloss Attic, rim+handle of a cup (*skyphos*?), layer under fourth floor, Classical context F.59.23
- 3 – Black Gloss Attic, base of inturned-rim bowl? Stamped palmette and ovolo circle inside, layer under fourth floor, F.59.26
- 4 – Black Gloss, Attic?, bottom of an inturned-rim bowl. Stamped palmettes and circle of ovoli inside, layer under fourth floor, context F.59.30
- 5 – Late Cypro-Classical disk base of hybrid ware, red outside and black inside bowl. Late 4th century, under cut dismantling E–W wall S.14/14, early Hellenistic(?) context F.74.18
- 6 – Cypro Classical WhP VII body sherd of a plate, concentric circles in dull paint inside, under cut dismantling E–W wall S.14/14, context F.74.18
- 7 – Late Classical Plain bowl with outturned rim, under cut dismantling E–W wall S.14/14, context F.74.18
- 8 – Late Classical rim and handle of cup of hybrid ware, red outside and black inside, under cut dismantling E–W wall S.14/14, context F.74.18
- 9 – Late Classical BGL Attic? floor of bowl, stamped palmettes and two rows of ovoli, Floor II at the corner of street B and the late Roman street, 1st century BC context F.79.1





Fig. 8. Area east of basin S.2/14 with khonnos floor(s?) between the basin and wall S.6/14, belonging to rooms A and C respectively (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)





Fig. 9. Trench Sq.3/14: section between basin S.2/14 on the left and wall S.6/14 on the right, in the middle cut for E-W wall S.14/14 (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)

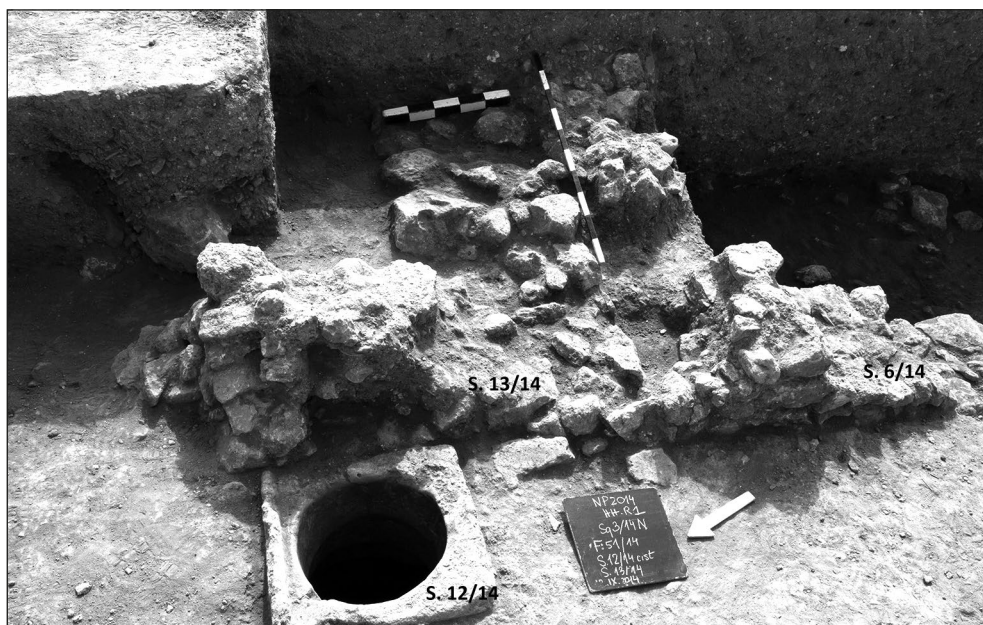


Fig. 10. Corner of wall S.13/14 superimposed on the north end of wall S.6/14 set against the wellhead of cistern S.12/14 (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)

and the trench was extended to enclose the entire structure. A basin (S.1/16) about 2 m in diameter had been cut into earlier strata [Figs 11, 12]. Its flat floor was approximately 15 cm below the level of the upper rectangular basin floor (S.2/14). Spouts made of Dressel 6A amphorae necks with handles and rims [Fig. 12 top right], situated a maximum 19.5 cm above the floor, were probably used both to feed and discharge water. Remains of three such spouts were preserved partly in place; there must have been six originally. The level of the preserved spouts is practically the same, the difference being no more than 3 cm, so the water probably kept flowing in

and out all the time. A round imprint, about 47 cm in diameter, was observed in the center of the basin floor [Fig. 12 bottom right]. It implies the presence of some object, perhaps a flower pot, that had left this poorly visible trace on the floor (for more details and other possible interpretations, see Romaniuk 2017, in this volume). The round basin, the large rectangular basin and the main hall of the “Hellenistic” House were all aligned on the same axis [see Fig. 1].

The pottery material from the fill of the basin suggests that it was destroyed and intentionally filled in (see below, Appendix 2). Traces of later intrusions were

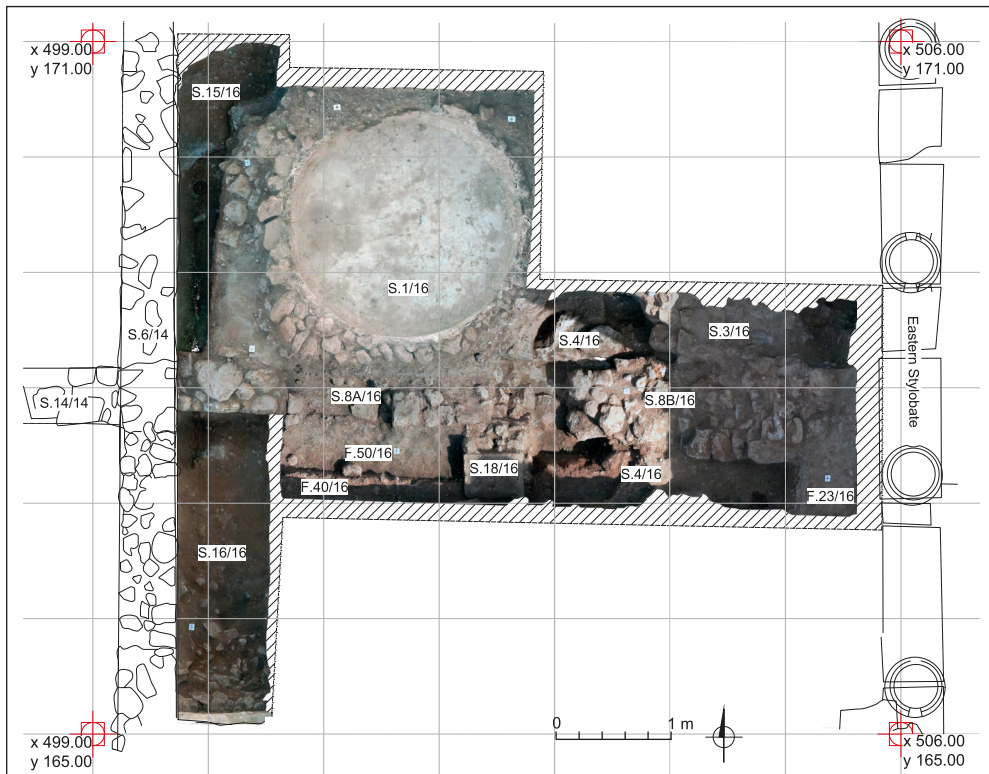


Fig. 11. Plan of the excavation east of wall S.6/14 (see Fig. 1), state at the end of the excavation (PCMA Nea Paphos project/orthophoto A. Kubicka, processing M. Romaniuk)



noted above it. The pottery from the fill and the disturbed layer dated to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD. A similar date was assigned to the stratum under the surface of courtyard 1 in its other parts, supporting an identification of the layer with an artificial garden soil deposit, as suggested in an earlier preliminary report (Daszewski 1994: 104–105). That interpretation generates some problems for a reconstruction of feature functionality and site formation processes; it does not explain, for example, the high level of floors of both basins in the last phase of their existence or the surprising exposure of the south and the eastern portico foundations, which led to the surface of courtyard 1 being too low on these sides. Apart from generally similar garden landscaping known from other sites, nothing suggests that originally both the rectangular and circular basins were surrounded by a garden with plants in soil,

which would have to be removed only to be filled again with a large amount of soil for the last phase of courtyard 1. To the contrary, while much soil may have been removed from the area around the basins, when they themselves were dismantled, it seems that at least some parts of the latest floors and walls preceding the courtyard were preserved in several places. East of wall S.6/14 and south of the L-shaped corner with wall S.13/14, three levels of floors were found. Remains of the upper one, which appears to be contemporary with the L-shaped corner, were limited to the immediate surroundings of the latter. That uppermost floor was largely damaged by a cut filled with small stones, visible in the eastern section.

That late floor probably corresponds to the floor (S.5/14) between wall S.6/14 and the basin, consisting of a thin layer of *khonnos*. The only other corresponding

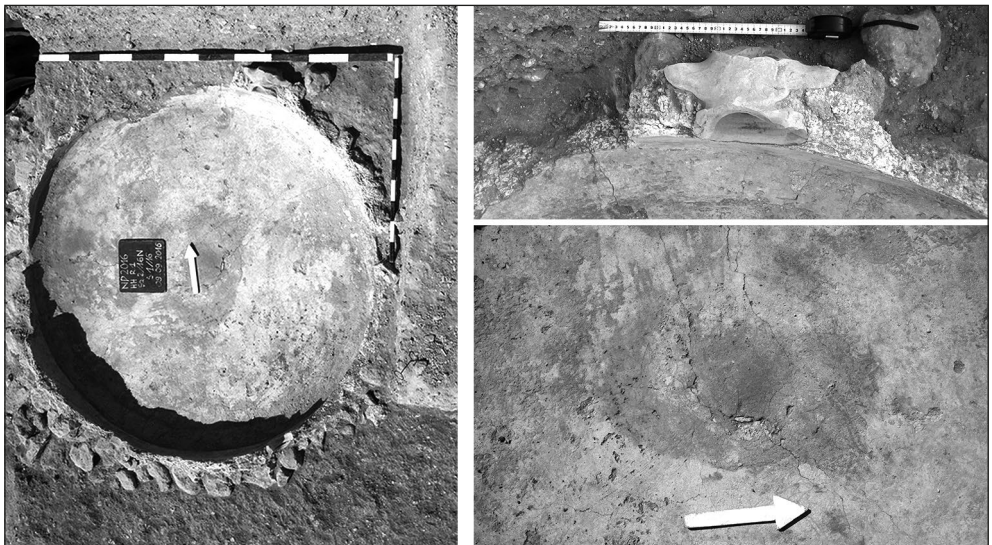


Fig. 12. Circular basin S.1/16 below “Hellenistic” House courtyard 1: left, top view; top right, spout made of a Dressel 6A amphora neck; bottom right, imprint at the center of the basin (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photos T. Scholl and K. Zywicki)



Fig. 13. Wall S.6/14 and chavara floors against the shaft of cistern HH037C. Filled cut north of them, between rectangular basin S.2/14 and wall S.6/14, floor further north (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)



Fig. 14. Floor east of wall S.6/14 (room B), with soot on its surface (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)

Fig. 15. Southern part of wall S.6/14 joining north wall of the shaft of cistern HH037C (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)



level of similar character (S.7/14), belonging to room B, was found at the south end of wall S.6/14, adjacent to the north wall of the early shaft S.10.1/14 of the cistern HH037C [Fig. 13]. In that area, in the fill of a trench cutting these floors, a glass ring [see below, Appendix 1, Fig. 22:1] was found. Digging down to deposits from the early 3rd century BC has shown that wall S.6/14 is (at least in its southern part) built against the wall of the cistern shaft [Fig. 15].

The two lower floors in the southern part of the trench, about 0.50 m deeper than the floor in the L-shaped corner, are related to wall S.6/14. The upper one is covered with a layer of soot [Fig. 14], the earlier one, which is some 0.25 m below, seems made partly by levelling rock (S.15/16) [see Fig. 11]. It seems also that wall S.6/14, which down to the level of

that floor must have been still in view, was even-faced and built upon that lower floor.

The E–W wall S.8/16 is built perpendicular to wall S.6/14 [Fig. 16]. The fill of the foundation trench (F.37/16) along the southern and (adjoining fragment) eastern faces contains finds dating from the 3rd (into the 2nd?) century BC. The fill contained pottery pieces that can be joined with fragments found in the nearby floor. Both walls with adjoining floors preceded the construction of the circular basin and, moreover, the E–W wall had already been partly destroyed before it was built. Finally, that wall was dismantled by an oblong cut, which was filled not earlier than in the end of the 1st century AD, that is, either at the moment of construction of the circular basin (judging by the bottom level contemporary with the later phase of the large rectangular basin S.2/14) or even at



Fig. 16. Walls S.6/14 (N–S) and S.8/16 (E–W) on the eastern side of the excavated area under courtyard 1 (PCMA Nea Paphos Project/photo H. Meyza)

the moment of its destruction, as there is little difference between the dating of the fill of the circular basin and the fill of that cut (F.29/16).

A layer (F.60/16) cut by the circular cistern construction, lying between it and the wall S.6/14, level with its preserved top, was dated by finds to the 3rd (to early 2nd?) century BC. An almost complete clay shovel [Fig. 17 left], a rare object, was found in that stratum. It is in essence a shallow bowl with slightly concave base and sloping rim that was pushed up on one side where the curved handle is attached. The object was made of buff fabric (break 7.5YR 6/4–6/6, surface 2.5YR 8/3), without slip, and is sooted on its floor. A very similar artifact, although without traces of use in fire, dated to 125–100 BC, comes from the excavations at Knossos, Crete, and resembles, according to Jonas Eiring (2001: 126–127, Fig. 3.17:y),

a “Minoan scuttle”. The fabric of the shovel from the Polish excavation seems to be Cypriot. Another shovel [Fig. 17 right], fragmentarily preserved, was discovered in context F.50/16, below a floor dated to the Classical period. In this case, the fabric is gritty, sandy, light reddish brown (break 5YR 5/8–4/1, surface 5YR 6/6), similar to cooking ware and also local rather than imported.

The eastern, Ionian portico appears to have been built after the circular basin was filled, but an exact date cannot be put forward without deeper excavation, and that could not be risked under the stylobate bearing the reconstructed colonnade. The foundation, if any, was not wider than the stylobate surely; the conditions were probably not radically different from those encountered in a trench excavated in 1993 at the northern preserved end of the stylobate (Daszewski 1994: 103–104),

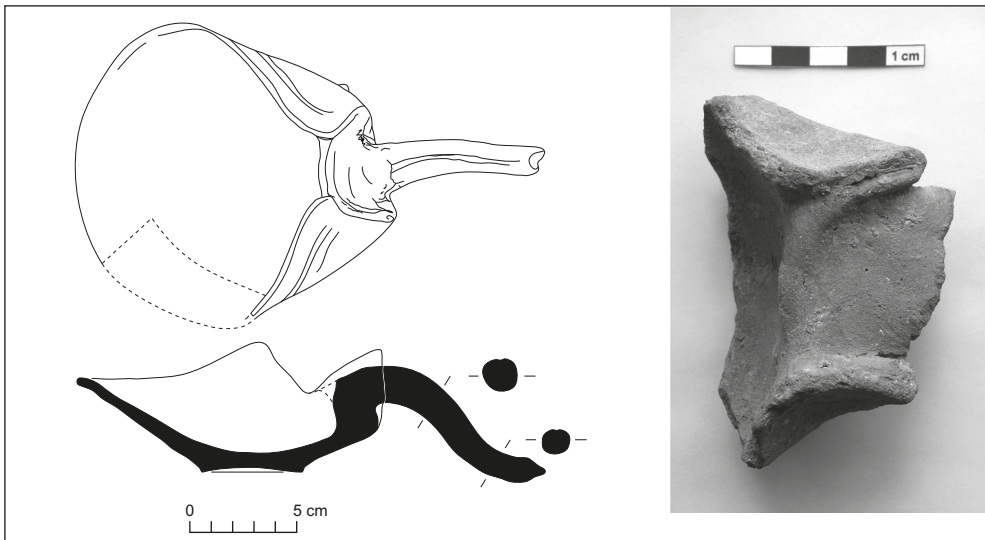


Fig. 17. Clay shovels: left, Plain Ware shovel found between the circular basin and wall S.6/14, in Room B; right, fragmentary shovel found below floor S.5/16 (PCMA Nea Paphos project/ photo, drawing and digitizing M. Więch)

where the stylobate foundation was over 1 m deep [Fig. 18] and was dated by a late 1st century AD lamp.

Remains of several difficult to discern phases were present east of the circular basin below the level of the courtyard. The present tentative description will probably have to be revised once the excavation is extended. Already some 10 cm below the courtyard floor, a small stretch of an even surface has appeared, probably related to the dismantling of earlier structures. Walls of the earlier phase, probably contemporary with the circular basin, preserved as disturbed fill-in foundations or poorly built and decaying walls, were visible only in the eastern part. The rest of the trench was occupied by a large cut, filled with sloping rubble in its eastern part. These remains seem to have been cut also by a narrow foundation trench for the eastern courtyard stylobate. The level

of floors made of thick *chavara* deposits occurred approximately on the same level as floors adjacent to the wellhead of cistern HH0037C. They seem to be related to the E–W wall S.8B/16 and N–S wall(?) S.3/16, should the poorly defined cluster of stones on the southern side of the E–W wall be considered as remains of such a wall. The same(?) structure is better visible on the northern side of the E–W wall, where it was preserved at a lower level and therefore may belong to an earlier phase [Fig. 19, see Fig. 11]. Earlier floors can be seen on the western side of wall S.3/16 in both sections. Judging by the pottery found beneath them, these walls should be dated to the early 3rd century BC. Bedrock appears below all these features, worked in some places to create another floor level.

Another trench was excavated in corridor 29 between the large reception hall 10 with a mosaic floor of broken



Fig. 18. Foundation of the eastern stylobate at its northern end (excavated in 1993) (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo W.A. Daszewski)





Fig. 19. Later walls S.8B/16 and S.3/16, earlier wall(?) S.18/16 and bedrock with cuts S.4/16 (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo H. Meyza)

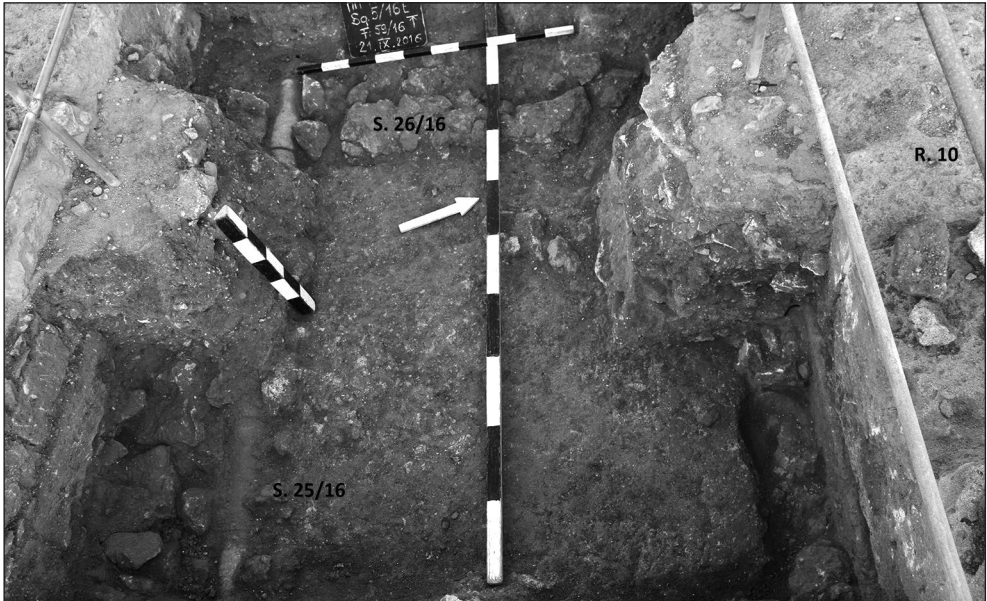


Fig. 20. Trench in corridor 29 of the "Hellenistic" House, floor II, visible cut for foundation of the south wall of room 10 (right); note the pipe along the foundation of the south wall of room 3 of the Roman House and the early N-S wall (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo A. Kubicka)



pebbles and the Roman House. The goal was to verify the results of earlier trenches dug at the western end of that corridor in 1993, when it was found that its floor, at least at the western end, was well below the mosaics on both sides, and had suffered earthquake-related deformation. The stretch of corridor uncovered in 2016 revealed two more floors below the partly damaged one. The second of these earlier floors was cut by the foundation of the south wall of hall 10, and it must therefore be earlier than this wall [Fig. 20]. A pipe S.25/16 was set in a frame built of fist-sized stones along the wall of the Roman House and no immediate relation of floors to this wall was recognized. The foundation, however, started higher than the pipe and the wall therefore must have been related to the latest of these floors. A perpendicular N-S wall S.26/16 at the western end of the trench preceded the latest floor;

it is supposed to be the oldest structure here. That wall was approximately 0.44 m wide and about 0.70 m high, standing on a tamped earth floor mixed with pebbles, and cut on its northern and southern ends by the foundation trenches for the north and south walls of corridor 29, most probably in the 1st/2nd century AD.

#### HOUSE OF AION SOUTHWESTERN CORNER PROBE

A sequence of finely stratified horizontal floors was explored in an unlikely place, by the southwestern outside corner of the House of Aion, between modern disturbance caused by the construction of a tank collecting rainwater from the House of Aion shelter on the east and the cut of trench Δ11 dug by the Department of Antiquities in 2003 and extended, mostly south and east, in December 2008, but



Fig. 21. Floors at the corner of Street B and the Late Roman Street, sixth level and fill of construction trench for a wall on the northern side of street B, with cooking pot deposit (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo D. Mazanek-Somerlik)

also north, revealing a floor sequence. The sequence did not preserve the original stratification of street B as hoped (Meyza et al. 2011: 287). It seems to belong to a building which was built over the northern side of the street. Therefore, the surfaces in street B remain equally poorly defined as in street A, where only the position of pipes and the built channel of the main drain indicate levels of use (Meyza et al. 2011: 293, Fig. 9). A trench appears to have been cut through this floor sequence when building the southern elevation of the building, later razed during the construction

of the Late Roman Street. It is surprising that the south elevation wall possessed a well dressed face on this level, in spite of the existence of a wall remnant, which must have obstructed the view from the south. The foundation trench was explored and a Late Hellenistic cooking pot was found there, almost complete, with a lid made of a Colour Coated in-turned rim bowl [Fig. 21]. The latest pottery piece in the fill was a rim of ESA plate form 2 or 3 (three joining fragments), indicating that the fill should be dated to the early 1st century BC or later.

## APPENDIX 1

### GLASS FROM THE HH COURTYARD 1

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About 70 diagnostic fragments of glass objects were registered from the excavation of courtyard 1 of the Hellenistic House (HH) in the 2014 season, complementing the large repertoire of glass vessels coming from this structure. Most of the fragments could be assigned to one of the 10 groups already distinguished for the HH assemblage (Mazanek 2014), although in a few cases the typological attribution was tentative owing to incomplete profiles.

The glass is for the most part of a natural hue and translucent. Yellow, amber and blue, colors popular in late Hellenistic and early Roman times, were common as well.

In terms of the typological repertoire, tableware and drinking vessels from domes-

tic contexts of the 1st century and early 2nd century AD were the most common, but there were earlier pieces as well. The earliest piece (dated to the 2nd–1st century BC) was a glass finger ring, fragmentary, with large oval bezel and a hoop carved out of a single piece of translucent colorless glass [Fig. 22:1]. The bezel has a beveled outer edge and deeply concave face. The hoop is D-shaped in cross section, the finger hole is rounded. An associated find is a separate lens-shaped oval gem made of translucent colorless glass, largely fitting the concave face of the ring with the convex side facing outward. The gem is intact but very corroded [Fig. 22:2]. A similar gem or ring eye was found by the Polish Mission in 1977 (FR.36/77). Parallel examples of rings are known from Cypriot sites:

Kourion, Enkomi and Salamis, where they were regarded as amulets (Vessberg and Westholm 1956: 171, Fig. 51:20–21). Other parallels are known from museum exhibitions and catalogs like the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (Myres 1914: 425, No. 4294; Alexander

1928: 54, Fig. 122; Froehner 1903: 137, No. 999; Haevernick 1969: 180, No. 52) and the British Museum in London (Marshall 1907: 229–234, Nos 1563, 1564, 1567, 1571).

Five fragments of grooved and linear-cut bowls (not illustrated) (Mazanek 2014:

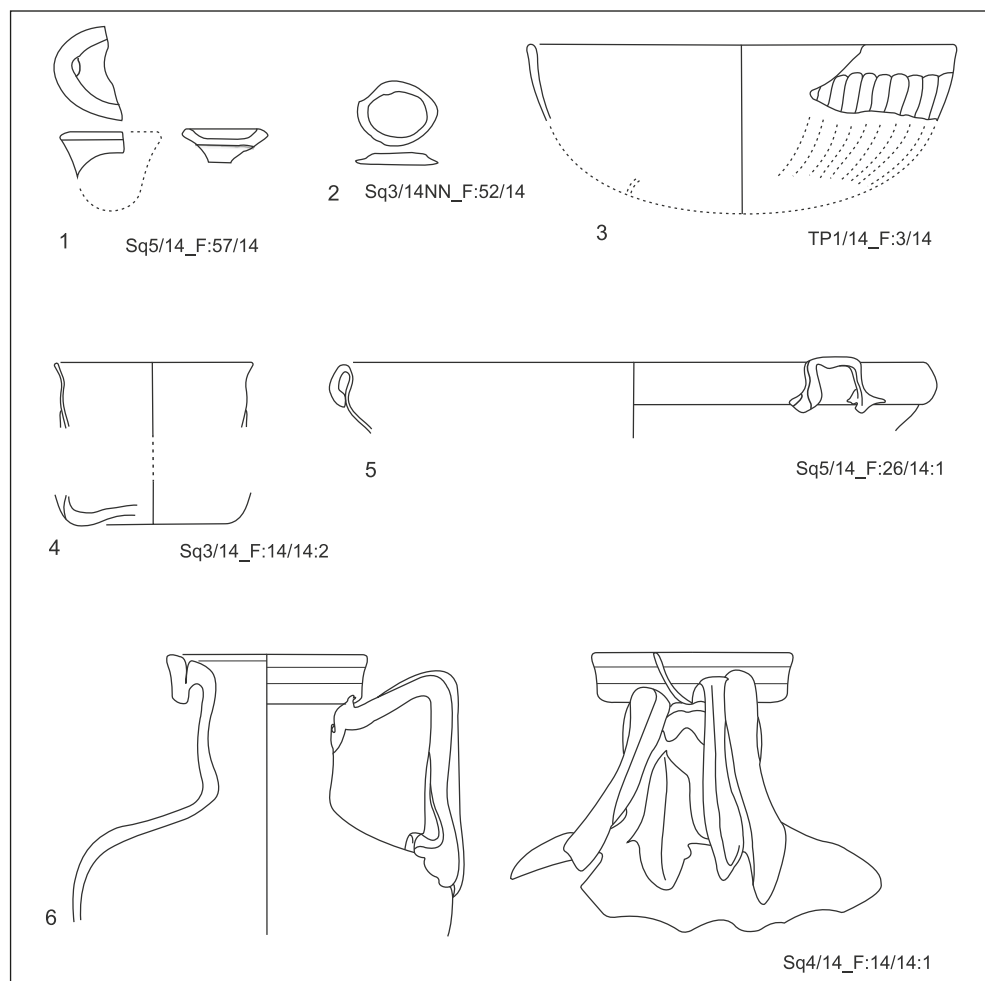


Fig. 22. Glasses from courtyard 1 excavations in the “Hellenistic House”: 1 – glass ring; 2 – oval gem; 3 – cast fluted bowl with form reconstruction; 4 – indented beaker top and base; 5 – folded-out rim with horizontal handle; 6 – single-handled jug (PCMA Nea Paphos project/drawing and digitizing D. Mazanek-Somerlik)



293–294, group A and further references) and one piece of a cast fluted bowl [Fig. 22:3] belong to the Late Hellenistic open form category of cast glass. The last one belongs to Isings Form 3c (Isings 1957: 20–21; Mazanek 2014: 294–295, group B and further references). It is made of pale bluish translucent glass. The rim is vertical with rounded top. The preserved fragment has nine vertical ribs. Vessels usually had about 40 ribs (Myres 1914: 507, Nos 5066, 5073).

Drinking vessels, beakers and cups made of blown glass were common in the courtyard. Ten rim fragments were fire-finished in the process of production and are slightly curved to S-shaped (Mazanek 2014: 299, group I and further references). Full profiles are missing and it cannot be excluded that these rims belonged to “indented beakers”. Only two fragments are certainly from Isings Form 32 f (Isings 1957: 46–47). With the almost square base they can be classified as group N.1 (Mazanek 2014: 302 and further references). This beaker form was extremely popular in Cyprus for a long period of time (as early as beginning of the 2nd century BC–end of 3rd century AD). Bigger open-form vessels, like shallow bowls and deep plates, are well attested (Mazanek 2014: 296, group E), exemplified here by two folded-out rim fragments with crimped handle. Six colorless folded-out rims were part of dishes or bowls of a type difficult to determine (Mazanek 2014: 297, group F). One illustrated example [Fig. 22:5] made of greenish glass is unusual because of a small horizontal handle. It might be intrusive, representing a shallow bowl with three attached handles

that was used in later times as an oil lamp. The form of the preserved walls under the rim let it be assigned to HH group F.1 (Mazanek 2014: 297–298). The bottom parts of beakers, cups, bowls and dishes are divided into two groups: eight glass fragments come from foot-ring bases (Mazanek 2014: 301–302, group M) and five fragments from pushed-in concave bases (Mazanek 2014: 302, group N).

Closed forms of vessels were also present in the glass assemblage from the 2014 excavation. Unguent bottles were represented by six examples with folded-in rims and straight neck, of pale blue and yellowish hue, and four with flaring walls and plain rims that were colorless (Mazanek 2014: 299–300, group J). Moreover, four small glass ribbon handles were registered, suggesting that some of the unguent bottles were furnished with handles. The upper part of a single-handled jug, a translucent blue vessel of early Roman date [Fig. 22:6], was successfully reconstructed. It has a rim that folds out and down, then curves up and into the mouth with a beveled surface. The neck is cylindrical, slightly expanding downward and passing into a sloping shoulder with rounded corners. A strap handle with three ribs was applied to the edge of the shoulder, drawn up vertically, then bent in and down, and attached to the neck with a backward trail above. It is not possible to determine whether the jug had a cylindrical or square body. The jug can be attributed to a group of small jugs (Mazanek 2014: 300, group K). Parallel jugs with three-rib handles are dated to the 1st–2nd century AD (Dussart 1998: 42, BXI:22; Hayes 1975: 130, Nos 536 or 538).

APPENDIX 2  
NOTE ON THE POTTERY  
FROM THE CIRCULAR BASIN S.1/16

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A circular basin approximately 2 m in diameter was found under the eastern part of courtyard 1 of the “Hellenistic” House (see above). The floor was flat and there were remains of amphora necks, at least six although only three have been preserved in place, immured in the wall thickness more or less 19.5 cm above the floor. It has been proposed that these Dressel 6A amphora rims and necks (Peacock and Williams 1986: 98–101) may have acted as spouts for the water to enter and exit the basin.

The ceramic material discovered in the basin was rather homogenous in terms of its dating, which is mostly in the end of the 1st century BC and the beginning of the 1st century AD. The set consists of late Hellenistic and early Roman amphorae, a large group of plain wares, cooking pots and table wares. Vessels were mended in a few cases.

A body sherd of a painted amphora of Cypriot origin dated to the Classic period and few black gloss fine ware fragments appear to be the earliest in the context.

The Hellenistic tablewares include a color-coated bowl with incurved rim and slightly carinated body (Hayes 1991: AL: 70, OΔ 786, Fig. XLIX.70) [Fig. 23:1] and an Egyptian Nile Silt plate, plain, fired to brownish-grey, with thickened,

rolled rim and sloping walls (Megaw and Hayes 2003: 455–456, Fig. 4.28) [Fig. 23:2]. Early sigillatas are represented by: a rim fragment of Eastern Sigillata A (ESA) plate form 3 [Fig. 23:5], an almost complete ESA plate form 38 [Fig. 23:3], from the first half of the 1st century AD and a cup with ring base, ESA form 22B [see Fig. 23:4]; as well as fragments of Cypriot sigillata: form P22A [Fig. 23:6], P33, base of P50 [Fig. 23:7]; and Italian Sigillata Consp. form 25.1.1 (Hayes 1985: Pls I.8, III.12, XX.11; Meyza 1998: Fig. 6; Ettliger et al. 1990: Pl. 23:25.1.1).

Amphorae Dressel 6A from the late 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD (Peacock and Williams 1986: 98–101), were found not only in place, fixed into the basin walls [Fig. 24:1 and top left], but also inside the basin [Fig. 24:2], together with a complete, plain disk lid [Fig. 24 top right] (Megaw and Hayes 2003: 477, Fig. 17.172) of the same fabric as the amphorae and a diameter suitable to close it (in both cases the inside diameter of the amphora mouth is about 11 cm; the diameter of the lid is slightly smaller). Since no base fragments of Dressel 6A amphora were collected from either inside or outside of the basin, it is viable that only the upper parts were used. Other amphorae fragments included

the Dressel 7 type [Fig. 24:3] in pinkish sandy fabric with creamy wash (Peacock and Williams 1986: 117–119, Fig. 50.A). This type of amphora, made in the region of Cádiz from about 30 BC to AD 75 and used to transport fish-sauce, is not a common find at Nea Paphos.

A plain krater [Fig. 25:2], of which only part of the rim and neck with handle remain, can be dated to the early Roman period based on parallels with the material from the House of Dionysos (Hayes 1991: 66–67, Fig. XXIV.6). The remaining two

plain ware vessels were a small pithos or a jar [Fig. 25:3] (Hayes 1991: Fig. LXXIII.7) and a bowl [Fig. 25:1]. All three vessels demonstrated a very similar, fine, light yellow or pinkish-brown and rather clean fabric, which seems to originate from a region other than Cyprus.

Ceramic building material found in the basin consists of several fragments of roof tiles and pipes made of local buff fabric, as well as an example of a fine, white-fabric pipe [Fig. 25:4] preserved in four pieces, of which one comes from an upper layer.

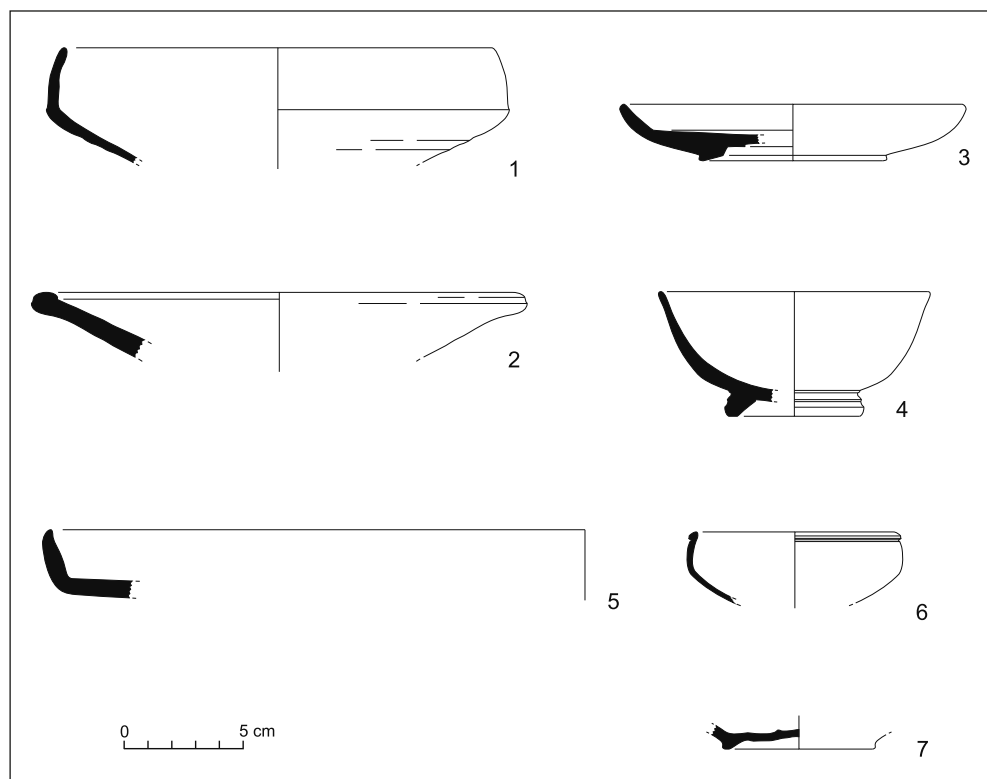


Fig. 23. Selected table ware from the fill of the circular basin: 1 – color-coated bowl; 2 – Egyptian Nile Silt plate; 3 – Eastern Sigillata A plate form 38; 4 – Eastern Sigillata A cup form 22B; 5 – Eastern Sigillata A plate form 3; 6 – Cypriot Sigillata form P22A; 7 – Cypriot Sigillata form P50 (PCMA Nea Paphos project/drawing and digitizing M. Więch)



Summing up, the more or less 700 fragments of pottery from the circular basin demonstrate functional variety from domestic, such as table, cooking

and plain ware, to transport amphorae and ceramic building material. There was no apparent layering of the basin fill and sherds joined across archaeological

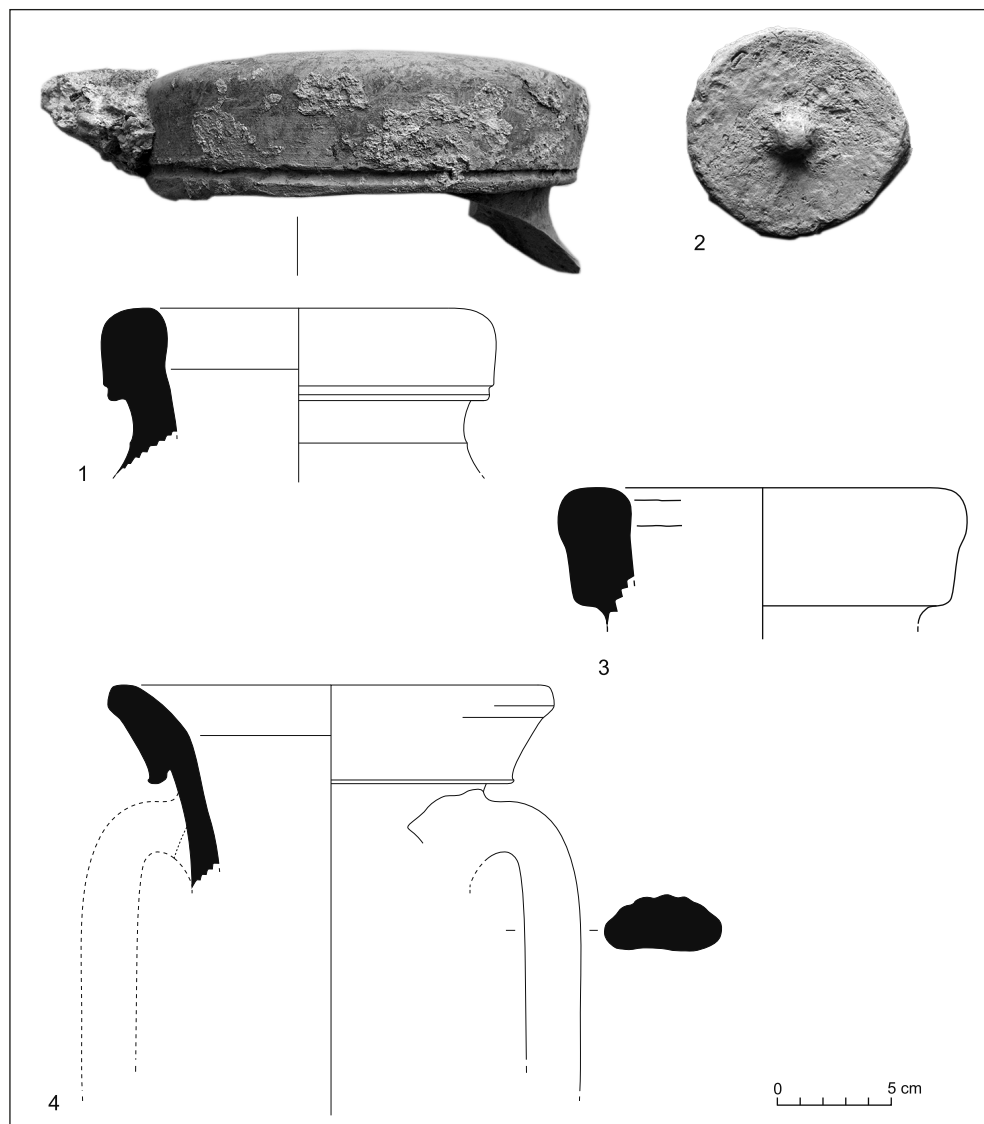


Fig. 24. Selected amphorae from the wall and fill of the circular basin: 1 – Dressel 6A amphora rim from the basin wall; 2 – amphora lid; 3 – Dressel 6A amphora rim, from the fill; 4 – Dressel 7 amphora (PCMA Nea Paphos project/photo, drawing and digitizing M. Więch)

recording contexts (e.g., sherds from contexts 16/2016 and 19/2016, upper and lower fill levels respectively). It means that the basin was filled up rapidly with

rubbish brought from elsewhere, which comprised material from the late 4th century BC through the mid 1st century AD.

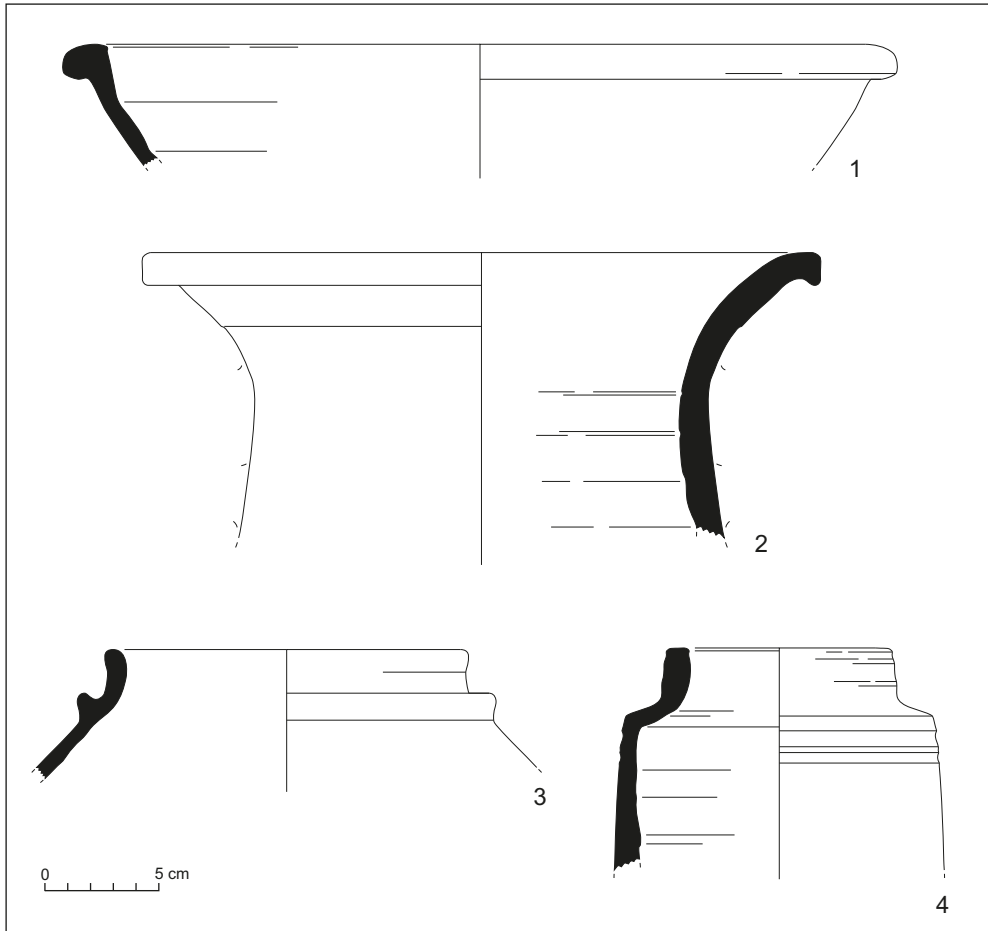


Fig. 25. Selected plain ware (1–3) and ceramic building material from the fill of the circular basin: 1 – bowl; 2 – krater; 3 – small pithos or jar; 4 – pipe (PCMA Nea Paphos project/drawing and digitizing M. Więch)

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