

The Uncovered Oil Lamps From Andriake Synagogue

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Myra¹ is located in the Lycia region². Among many coastal towns such as Antiphellos, Patara and the port of Limyra Phoenicus that are known to have been established in Lycian coast considering cruising and destination possibilities in ancient maritime, Andriake³, was distinguished as a large, organized and high capacity port where goods from several regions were gathered and distributed through Constanipole-Cyrus and Alexandria route in the Roman Period (Fig.2). Its architectural structure was planned for these services. The most important structures were related to port functions. With Granarium, Plakoma-agora, port facilities, shops, boat yards, ship yard, bath, honorary monuments and various churches, it was a center serving for international trade and the cosmopolitan population engaged in it (Fig.1). In the Byzantine Period, the settlement continued to be used as a port and developed with increasing housing and six churches that were built depending on this density⁴. The excavation started within the scope of “Myra-

Andriake Excavations” in 2009 Continue to give a great deal of new information about the port⁵.

The building that is approximately 10 meter away from North West corner of the Granarium is distinctive as it is the first synagogue discovered in Lycia⁶ (Fig.3). The synagogue lying in the north-south direction and standing symmetrical to the port is situated on a land gently sloping in that direction. It is observed that the land which the building sits on, happen to be terraced (Fig.4). The synagogue consists of four parts (Fig.3). There is a room on each side of the platform and the thin and long rectangular main hall (Fig.6). There are also two doorways both in the north and the south. The main room measures 7.25 x 5.08 meters. The rear wall in the south east of the structure is the most well-preserved part of the synagogue, which is apsidal and has a diameter of 3.90 m. It is semicircular on the interior and five-sided on the exterior (Fig.7). There is a wall inside the synagogue that separates the main hall from the apse. The templon of the main room is covered with limestone plaques. Four menorah plaques, seven-branched lamp stand relief and various architectural plastic fragments placed among the artifacts uncovered in the place. In front of the apse there is an aedicule of two pillars (Fig.5). Based on the evaluation of all the artifacts and the synagogue

¹ Thanks are due to Prof. Dr. Nevzat Çevik who is the director of the Myra-Andriake Excavations, for permission and supports.

² For general overview for Myra and Andriake and its environment: Çevik-Bulut 2010.

³Marksteiner 2006-4, 71-74; Marksteiner 2005, ANMED 2006-4, Marksteiner 2008, AST 25.3, 2008, 205-216. Çevik et al.2010, ANMED 8; Çevik 2010a, 53-82; Çevik 2010b, 18-25.

⁴ For general overview for Andriake in Byzantine Period, see V.M. Tekinalp,2000.

⁵ Çevik et al. 2010a,55-60; Çevik et al. 2011a (in press).

⁶ Çevik et al.2010b, 335-366.

architecture and comparison of them with similar plaques obtained from Sardis, Priene, İznik and Side, it is understood that the building dates from the 5th to the 6th centuries A.D.⁷.

Our survey is of great importance as it comes up with various questions. While the synagogue building with its construction technique and materials are dated back to the 5th- 6th centuries A.D., the mixed artifact context obtained from synagogue excavations dates from 2nd century B.C. to 6th centuries A.D.⁸. The finds are substantial but the architectural features of the synagogue building affected the character of the filling. As an example because of the fact that the apse is all covered, it could not be formed in natural process and the side rooms of the synagogue must have been filled with the materials flowing down the slope (Fig.7). For this reason, the finds obtained from apse hole couldn't have been discovered in a healthy stratigraphy.

Ceramic, glass and metal objects were found during the apse excavations. Small finds, glass fragments and coins are dated back to 6th centuries A.D. from Hellenistic Period after a through analyzing⁹. Among the finds, the ceramics constitute the most common group. Among these the amphoras are predominating. In addition to them, oil lamps, terra sigillata plates, daily use ceramics were found too (Fig.7). In this study, 26 oil lamps from the synagogue apse and 4 oil lamps from the western room are analyzed in 8 groups. It is aimed to determine the production centers of the oil lamps by catalogue work and to illuminate the commercial affairs in Andriake, the port city of Myra. Another aim of the study was to benefit from

the researches on the oil lamps dated to Hellenistic Period in general therefore to increase our limited information about the Hellenistic Period. The oil lamps uncovered in Andriake synagogue appears to be both wheel-made and mould-made samples.

1. Knidos-Type Oil Lamps:

This type of oil lamps with thirteen samples is the richest group¹⁰. The fabric is in grey color, calcareous and micaceous with a bright dark grey slip (Fig.8). Knidos oil lamps are basically wheel-made. The other obtained samples which are also wheel-made have a rounded body (Fig.9). It is observed that, among almost all of the Andriake synagogue apse oil lamp sample bodies of which are preserved, only five oil lamps are wheel-made (Fig.8, Fig.9, Fig.10, Fig.11, Fig.13). Handles and nozzles shaped by hand are applied to the bodies later, therefore the marks can be easily seen (Fig.8, Fig.12). The body is convex and separated with a sharp profile in the middle axle. It has a slightly raised base. Its discus area is separated from the body with a sharp angle and forming a concave funnel. The only difference of Knidos samples lies in their body shape. Where some of the samples are round and high (Fig.11, Fig.13); some are flat (Fig.12). As its uncovered from Andriake, the oil lamps in this group have similar handles, nozzles and appliqué decorations on them. They only differ in their body shapes. As a result of this; their height varies. Their handles are formed by two separate clay rolls attached together. On the tip close to discus, they are attached together again. The shape of the handles is like “?”. The upper part of the handles rises to allow two fingers fit in. Their nozzles are short with axe-shaped tips that splay curling (Fig.9). Their bases have two different

⁷ Çevik et al. 2010b,355.

⁸ Çevik et al. 2010b, 348-49.

⁹ Çevik et al. 2011a (in press).

¹⁰ Bailey 1975, 124-159.

shapes: One is a convex funnel (Fig.12); the other is a concave funnel (Fig.11). There are heart shaped leaves on the shoulders of the Andriake oil lamps and some have a circle motif in the relief applied in front of them (Fig.8). These samples are thought to be produced to imitate the metal samples. It is understood that Knidos-type oil lamps were produced between in the first half of 2nd century B.C. and the first quarter of 1st century B.C.¹¹. Discovering these products in Mahdiya wreck in Athens and dating them to second half of 2nd century B.C. determines the terminus ante quem of the products¹².

2. Ephesus-Type Oil Lamps:

The second group consists of 7 Ephesus-type oil lamps¹³. Looking at the marks on their bodies and the molds obtained, it is understood that this type of oil lamps are molded as two halves and then the halves were pressed together. Another part applied to the body is the collar and the discus in concave form¹⁴. It is thought that the disk was given a concave form in order to keep the oil that could spilling over during filling the lamp (Fig.19). Besides, three holes in the filling-orifice area are peculiar to Ephesus-type oil lamps and lead the spillover oil to drain to the reservoir (Fig.19, Fig.20, Fig.21). Among the Andriake artifacts, four of the samples have three holes where as one of the samples has only one hole (Fig.22). Ephesus-type oil lamps show two different nozzle types. One of the samples available has a pointed nozzle (Fig.19), and another one has a round nozzle¹⁵ (Fig.25). The rest of the samples do not have any nozzles. Only

one handle, consisting of 4 sets and 3 flutings of a handle was preserved among the chosen samples (Fig.20). Relief decorations on the shoulder were moulded together with the body. Because of the necessity of the decorations to be around a circle (Fig.22), geometrical and ornamental decorations are chosen that suits this form aesthetically. The decorations used in Andriake samples are listed as: dot-chevron, egg-arrow, palmette, jagged leaves and spiral. There is an amphora motif on the nozzle of one of the samples. The fabric is in a dark gray color, micaceous and calcareous, covered with a bright black slip. This group dates from the second quarter of 2nd century B.C. to the first quarter of 1st century A.D.¹⁶.

3. Ring-Shaped, Sanctuary-Corona Type Oil lamps:

Only one sample was obtained from this group (Fig.26). A ring shaped sanctuary lamp, which was originally approximately 10 cm. in diameter and which had about 18 nozzles. 1/3 of the samples found in Andriake was preserved. Only 4 nozzles of round shape were able to be obtained in good condition. There is a garland decoration of acorns and laurels on the round body of the oil lamp. The fabric has a light orange color, with a brown slip. Considering its production technique, form, decoration and slip features, the oil lamp must belong to a period around the 2nd century B.C. Its counterpart happen to be a product of Pergamon Workshop¹⁷.

4. Hellenistic Wheel Made Oil Lamps Conical Shoulder Profile With Double Conical Body:

Two samples were obtained in this group and analyzed in the group of Conical Shoulder profile

¹¹Howland 1978, 126; Bailey 1975, 127; Broneer 1930, 54.

¹²Howland 1978, 126; Bailey 1975, 127.

¹³Howland 1978, 166; Broneer 1930, 66.

¹⁴Bailey 1975, 90.

¹⁵This sample is dated Late Hellenistic-Early Roman, Augustus Period See for: Meriç 2003, 81, Pl. L, Nr.3.

¹⁶Leon –Auniger 2007, 80; Bailey 1975, 89.

¹⁷Kassab Tezgör, D. –Sezer, T. 1995, 157Cat. Nr.415.

with Double Conical Body¹⁸. These are wheel-made oil lamps and their poor workmanship can be seen in their bases (Fig.27, Fig.28). Wheel-made body-rather flat, with rounded walls curving into a raised, concave rim round the filling-orifice (Fig.27). Very splayed, flat-topped nozzle with a curved termination. This type is very common in Palestine,¹⁹ Greece²⁰ and also in Anatolia; İonia²¹ and Perge²². It is dated by the end of the 3th century B.C. to the middle of the 2nd century AD.

In the other sample; there is a small lug applied on one side of the body to avoid its slippage from the hand (Fig.28). The tip of its nozzle is narrower and elliptical. It does not have any handles. The fabric is in buff color, covered with a brown slip. The observed differences between the two samples are their sizes, handles, nozzles and fabric colors. Its counterpart which obtained from the excavations in Kerameikos²³ is very similar by form and color. This oil lamp sample is similar with the wheel-made conical profile bodied oil lamps among products of Greece²⁴, and it is dated second quarter of 2nd century B.C.²⁵.

5. Hellenistic Pitane Workshop Oil Lamps:

The oil lamps in this group have a round body with an area slightly protruding on one side (Fig.29). The tapered nozzle comprises quarter of the body. The upper body is concave. There is a protruding profile around the wide filling-hole area. On the light orange fabric there is an orange slip. It is thought that the workshop of this type would

belong to Pitane or another city in Aegean Region. It is dated back to 275-225 B.C.²⁶. The most similar sample of the oil lamp discovered from Andriake is the Pitane workshop and it differs from the similar formed samples that were obtained from Pergamon²⁷.

6. Volute Oil lamps:

A. There are three samples uncovered in this group. They are made by two separate moulds; the upper discus and the lower body are pressed together. They have circular discus on monolithic body narrowing down (Fig.30). There are round profiles in varying numbers on the discus surface. In some samples dotted decorations in relief can be seen on the edges of the discus (Fig.31, Fig.32). On the area where the triangular nozzle connects to the body there are volutes on either side of the body²⁸ (Fig.30). The filling-orifice is pretty small (Fig.30). Analyzing these samples typologically and making an analogy with the existing samples found in a large zone. The samples found in Italy are dated to Early Roman Period²⁹, in Western Anatolia Pergamon, Tralleis (First century A.D.³⁰) Ephessos and Phokai belong to oil lamp group of Early Roman Period. There is a volute Lamp workshop in İonia. Volute lamps that originated in the Hellenistic times were regularly produced and developed in Roman Imperial period. The first sample has a circular upper body rising toward the edges with 5 ring profiles (Fig.30). The middle discus, that is lower than its surrounding area, is flat

¹⁸ Scheibler 1976,53; Kassab-Tezgör-T.Sezer 1995, Pl. A Nr.4.

¹⁹ Kassab-Tezgör-T.Sezer 1995, 108, Nr.270.

²⁰ Scheibler 1976,56, Pl.3, Nr.307.

²¹ Kassab-Tezgör-T.Sezer 1995, 99, Nr.238.

²² Çokay 1996, 47Cat. Nr.89.

²³ Scheibler 1976,Pl. 53, Nr.297.

²⁴ Scheibler 1976,Pl.53.

²⁵ Scheibler 1976,113, Nr.297; Çokay 1996, Cat.161.

²⁶ Kassab-Tezgör-T.Sezer 1995, 91,No. 209.

²⁷ Schafer 1968, 127, Pl.53, L1.

²⁸ Broneer 1930, 76 vd.

²⁹ Perlzweig 1961, 4, Pl.3.Nr.72; Bronner 1930, 176, Pl.453.

³⁰ Civelek 2001:Pl. 13 K73.

and has a small filling-orifice at the center. Its handle was not obtained but the marks of two lugs peculiar to this type of oil lamps that are imitations of metal ones can be seen. Volute marks can also be observed on either side of the area where the nozzle connects to the body. In the area, the left one connects to the body of the volute spiral was preserved. The fabric is in a dark gray color covered with a bright black slip. The sharp edged body with a black slip shows that it imitates the metal oil lamps. This oil lamp type still carries the characteristics of Hellenistic Period. However, the samples of the Roman Period have more practical and decorative features³¹. Same samples found in Cyprus were dated to the 1st century A.D³² in Athenian Agora half of 1st century A.D³³. This sample might be a product of Ephessos because on the basis of the dark grey, well-cooked, hard micaceous clay and black matt slip. After the Tiberius Period, Italian “Loeschke type” oil lamps were started to be produced as imitation forms³⁴ in Ephessos. These samples must belong to the earlier Tiberius Period based on the fact that they still have Hellenistic black slip tradition.

B. There are two samples obtained in this second type. The first sample is a body fragment on which some part of the discus was preserved (Fig.31). The other sample is a Roman Period oil lamp analyzed in the sub-group consisting of dramatic masks³⁵ (Fig.32). More than half of the circular discus was able to be obtained. It does not have a handle, a nozzle, chin part of the mask and the lower part of body. The oil lamp is made by two separate moulds, applying discus to the body. The circular upper body rises with a dot rifled profile of two lines towards the edges. On the discus lower than

its surrounding area there is a relief of the “Dramatic Mask of New Comedy.” The smiling mouth of the mask is designed as a filling-orifice. Among the oil lamps with dramatic masks, there is not any counterpart of this sample with a face covering all the discus area in the literature. This mask is commonly seen on the marble and terracotta statues, ceramic reliefs and metal oil lamps that are common in Hellenistic art. The sharp edged body with a black slip shows that it imitates the metal oil lamps³⁶. Analyzing all those samples typologically and making an analogy with others, shows that this type is very common in Italy in Augustus-Tiberius³⁷. Same samples found in Athens, Corinth also in Anatolia; namely in Ephessos, Pergamon, Phokaia, Tralleis, Labraunda, Tarsus, Antiokhia; and further in Cyprus and Samaria³⁸. From the clay color, the dark grey, hard and well-cooked micaceous clay and black matt slip, it should/is considered to be a product of Ephessos or Western Anatolia Grey slip ware. This group belongs to the oil lamp group of the Early Roman Period.

7. U-nozzle Oil lamps (Fig.33):

In this group one oil lamp obtained in good condition was analyzed (Fig.33). The feature of the U-nozzle oil lamps is that they have circular upper bodies, wide discus areas and U-formed nozzles. This oil lamp is mould-made. It is moulded as one piece body without a handle. The mould-made discus and nozzle are applied later. From the top view of the oil lamp, the body is observed as a complete circle and its nozzle is in the U form, intersecting the body. The upper surface of the

³¹ Broneer 1930, 74, Pl.7.

³² Hayes1980, Pl.2, No.221.

³³ Perlzweig 1961, 4, Pl.3.Nr.75

³⁴ Meriç 2003, 81.

³⁵ Bailey 1988, 63.

³⁶ // <http://www.vroma.org>:The top is in the shape of a comic slave mask: oil was poured in through the mouth, wick was in front spout. Roman 75-125 CE. Malibu, Getty Villa. Credits: Ann Raia, 2007.

³⁷ Perlzweig 1961, 4, Pl.3.Nr.72.

³⁸ Civelek 2008, 121.

body is concave enough to gather spillover oil. The discus area is surrounded with 3 ring profiles. There is a male lion depicted on the discus (Fig.33). The corroded face of the lion is faced to the left. Its mouth is open and its right claw is in the air where as the left claw is in front of its torso. The left hind leg is at the back and the right one is to the fore. Its “S” shaped tail is in the air. There is a small filling-hole between its legs. Covering the face, there are mane stretches its back. The shoulder, abdomen and hip muscles are clear. The fabric is in a pinky light orange color covered with a red slip. This oil lamp type is pretty common. Its counterparts were obtained both from Anatolia and Italy. Some have workshop stamps on their floors, but the Andriake sample does not have one. In British Museum Catalogue, under the title of mammals, there are many samples with lion decorations. Lion decorated oil lamps were obtained from Gaul, Africa, Western Anatolia and Cyprus³⁹. This type oil lamps product in/ produced in Italy, have volutes at the both sides of the nozzle is like are similar to the “Loeschcke type” oil lamps as/ by the means of their form and their body profiles. But it doesn't have any volute, its clay is micaceous, slip has a light orange color and not well colored. Because of its color and/the slip properties and the existence of volutes, Andriake sample may be an imitation form. It is dated from the second half of the 1st century A.D to the third century A.D.

8. Semi-Christian Types of Late Roman-Byzantine Period (Fig.34):

The oil lamp in this group is mould-made and has a broad and shallow body (Fig.34). Its nozzle is shaped in a triangular form as a part of the body. Its handle is in the form of a small lug. Its discus area is flat. It is formed by two telescopic circles. The outer circle elongates to the tip of the nozzle like a

channel. The oil lamp is decorated with beam rifles. The fabric is in an orange color and it is micaceous. It is a production of Asia Minor and dated back to 4th century A.D⁴⁰.

Out of 30 samples obtained from Andriake Synagogue, its believed that 25 oil lamps belongs to the Hellenistic Period, 3 oil lamps are from the Late Hellenistic-Early Roman Period, 1 oil lamp is from the Roman period and 1 oil lamp is from the Byzantine Period. Given this statistics, concentration is basically on the Hellenistic Period (Fig.35). Considering Andriake's city structures, today there is not any other structure dating back to Hellenistic Period except a tower on the hill and a wall remnant. Thus, at the Surface Surveys⁴¹ before the excavations, it has been determined that ceramics of Andriake city belongs mostly to the Roman and the Byzantine Period and the dates overlap with the structures. Surely This idea has changed after the Synagogue excavations, made in 2009. Considering the possible production centers of the oil lamps, it has been understood that these cheap products were imported basically from local markets, primarily from Knidos and then from Ephesus. In the port of Lycia region which is an important trade point in the Mediterranean, the ships from Western Anatolia and the Aegean must have sold the oil lamps they brought with them and transported the items they bought in exchange to the ports lying to the south. It's understood that these samples which have been analyzed were in generally Western Anatolia product. The oil lamps

⁴⁰ Same samples which were found in Athens, were product Asia inorAtina Agorasi', especially Ephessos and Important Ionian citys: See details: Walters, Perlzweig 1961, 68; Civelek 57, 97, Pl. XXII, K128.

⁴¹ Marksteiner 2006, 71-74; Marksteiner2006-4, 2007, 71-74; Marksteiner 2008, AST 205-216.

³⁹ Bailey D.M. Vol.III, 1988,67:303 Q 2402, 1988.

are important artifacts that show the economic ties of this port with the Mediterranean. After analyzing the materials obtained from the place, it has been understood that the place where the apse was to be constructed before the construction date of the synagogue building, was filled up with a soil belonging to Hellenistic and Roman Periods.

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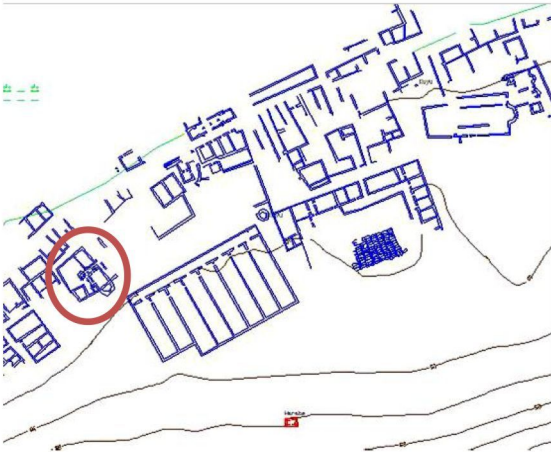


Fig.1 The location of the synagogue (Excavation Archive, A.Aygün-S.Atasoy).



Fig.2 Aerial view of the Andriake port (Excavation Archive).

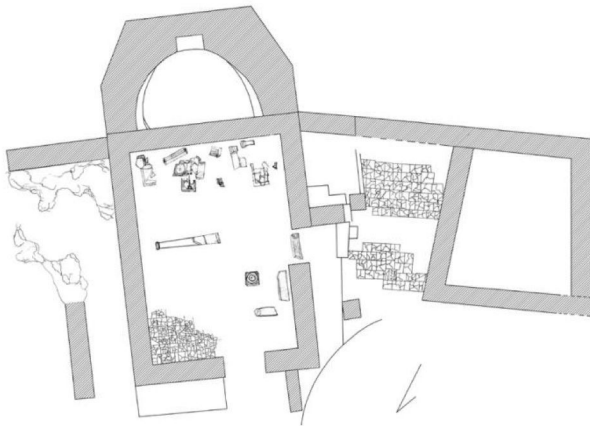


Fig.3 The plan of the synagogue (Excavation Archive, E.Özkan).

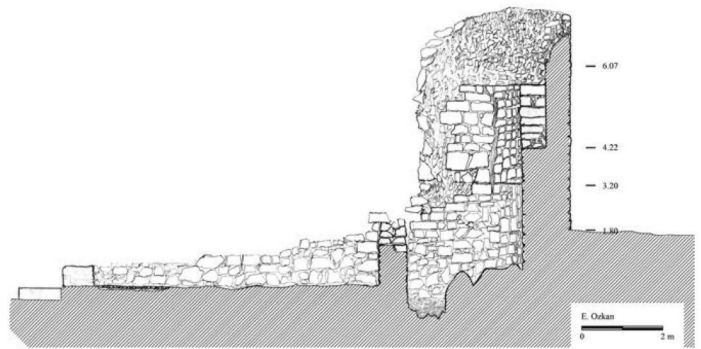


Fig.4 The North-south section cross (Excavation Archive, E.Özkan).



Fig.5 General view of the interior from the South (Excavation Archive, H.O.Tibikoğlu).

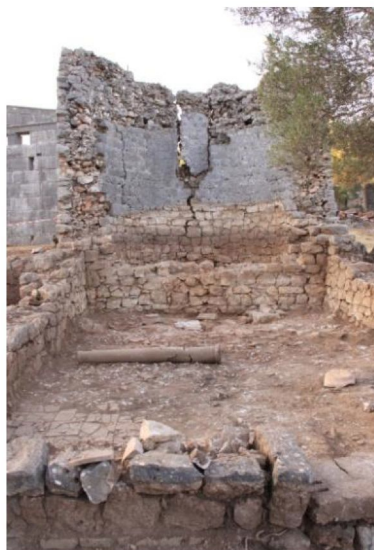


Fig.6 General view of the interior from the North (Excavation Archive, H.O.Tibikoğlu).



Fig. 7 The apse area with findings (Excavation Archive, H.O. Tibikoğlu).

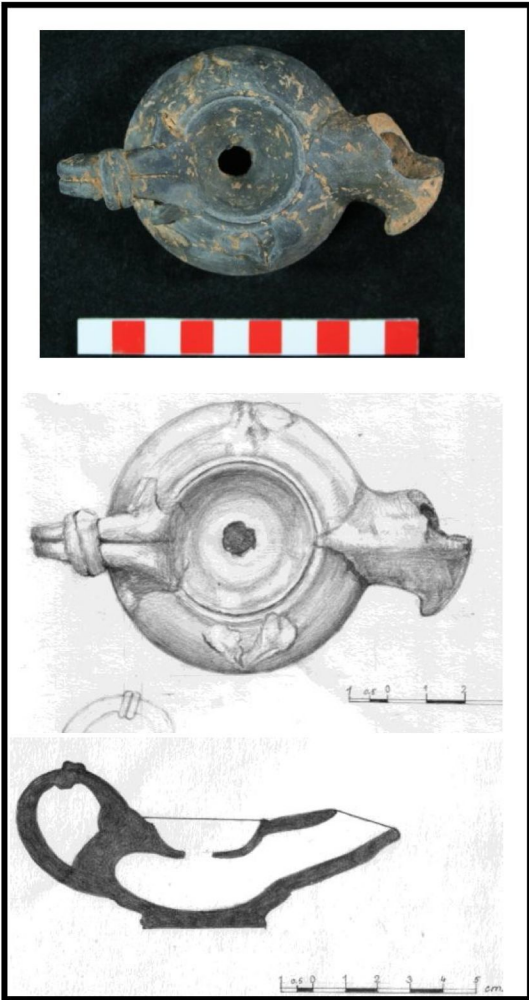


Fig.8 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive- Drawing B.Özdilek).



Fig.9 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.10 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.11 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.12 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.13 Knidos Type Oil Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.14



Fig.15



Fig.16



Fig.17



Fig.18



Fig.19 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive, Drawing: B. Özdilek).



Fig.20 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.21 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.22 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive. Drawing, B.Özdilek).



Fig.23 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.24 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.25 Ephesos Type Oil-Lamp (Excavation Archive).



Fig.26 Ring shaped sanctuary
Corona Type Oil-Lamp(Excavation
Archive).

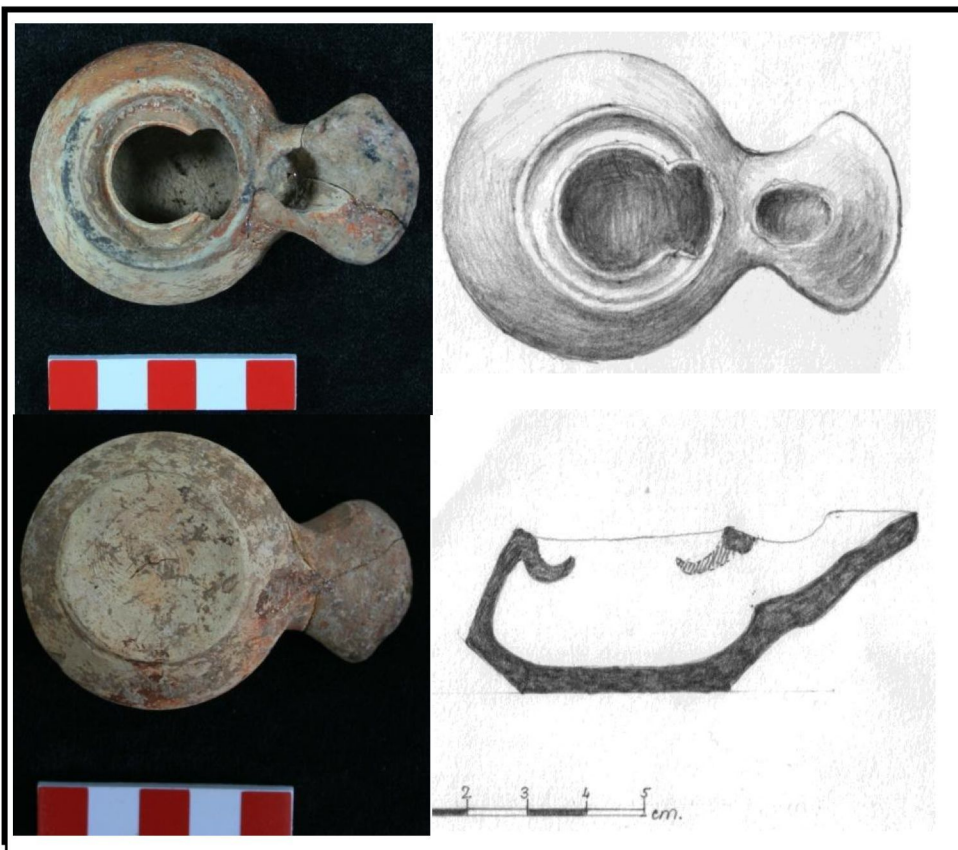


Fig.27 Wheel-made Hellenistic Oil-Lamps with conical shoulders (Excavation
Archive, Drawing:B.Özdilek).

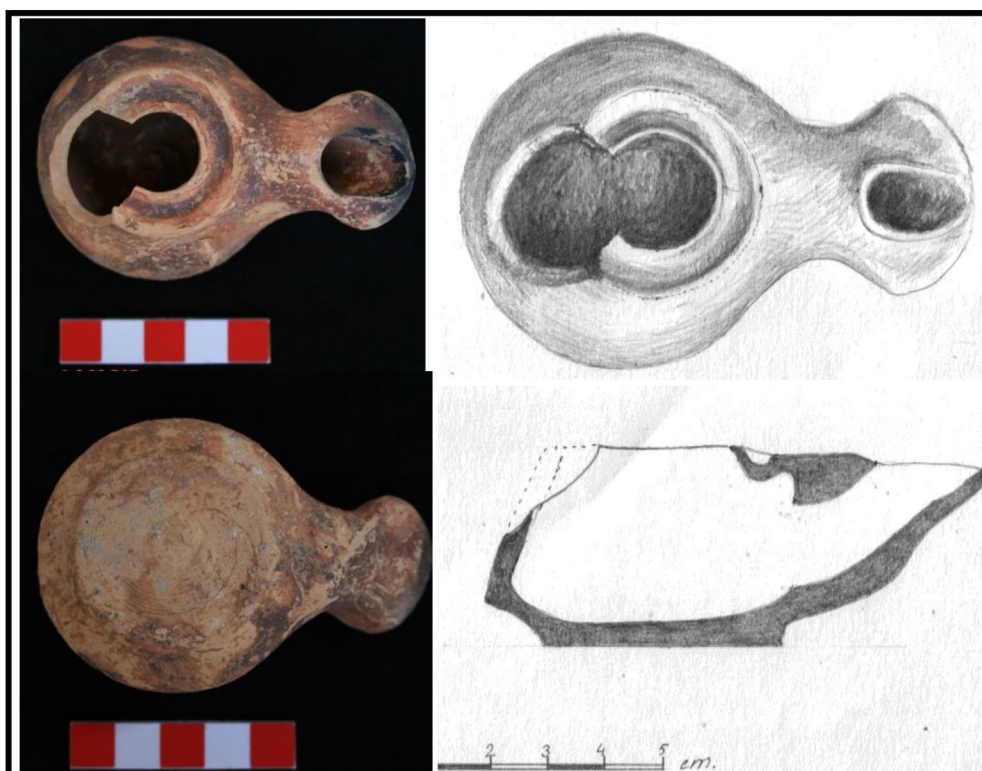


Fig.28 Wheel-made Hellenistic Oil-Lamps with conical shoulders (Excavation
Archive, Drawing:B.Özdilek).



Fig.29 Wheel-made Hellenistic
Oil-Lamps (Excavation Archive, B.Özdilek;
No.209:Tezgör-Sezer1995 Cat. Nr.209).



Fig.30 Volute Oil-Lamps (Excavation Archive)



Fig.31 Volute Oil Lamps, (Excavation Archive).



Fig.32 Volute Oil-Lamps (Excavation Archive). <http://www.vroma.org>:



Fig.33 "U"Nozzle Oil Lamps (Excavation Archive; Drawing: B.Özdilek).

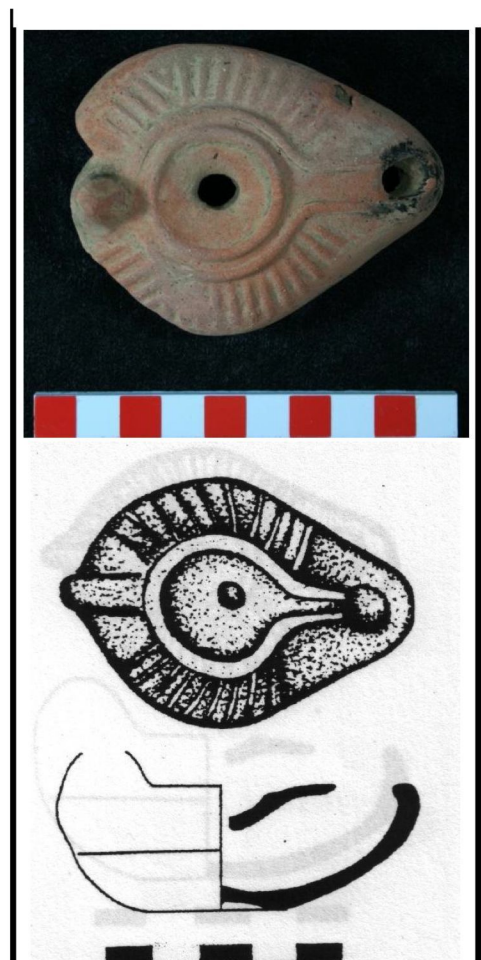


Fig.34 Semi-Christianof Late Roman-Byzantine Oil Lamps (Excavation Archive; Drawing: A.Civelek, Tralles).

Statistic of The Samples.

■ Hellenistic Period ■ Late Hellenistic Period ■ Roman Period ■ Byzantine Period

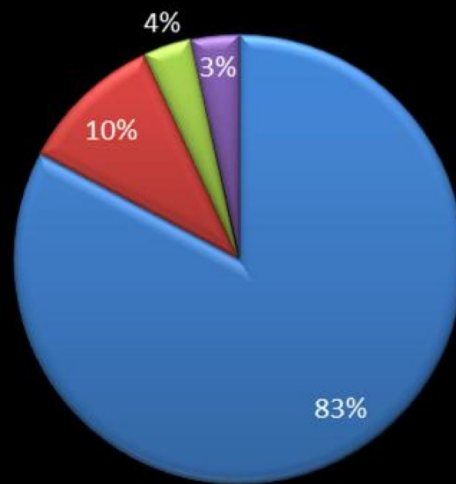


Fig.35. Statistic of The Samples, B.Özdilek.

