

Excavations conducted by the Polish Archaeological Mission of the University of Warsaw at Kato Paphos, were initiated in 1965 by the founder of the Polish school of Mediterranean archeology – Professor Kazimierz Michałowski. Currently, the area is a part of the Paphos Archaeological Park, visited by great numbers of ancient history enthusiasts. In the past 50 years, extensive architectural structures, decorated with wall paintings, sculptures and mosaics, have been discovered in the *Maloutena* area by researchers and students of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw, the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Jagiellonian University and Wroclaw University of Science and Technology. Masterpieces of the ancient art, exhibited in the Paphos District Museum, prove how rich and important the ancient capital of Cyprus was. However, the artefacts, which appear the most commonly on the site are ceramic vessels. These simple, mostly plain, objects tell a lot about daily lives of the ancient city inhabitants.

The aim of the project is to answer a number of questions related to the early Roman kitchen ware. What kinds of vessels were commonly used for cooking? How much did their form change over time, and can they be precisely dated? What are the production centers, from which fragments of cooking ware, found in almost every archaeological layer of the residential quarter in Nea Paphos, come from? How these centers were organized? Are we dealing with finds of single, large workshop or with a group of small cooperation workshops? Answering these questions will help us to better understand people who lived in the buildings discovered by archaeologists, to draw conclusions about their culinary preferences, their cultural affiliation, but also the intensity of trade relations with other regions of Cyprus and the eastern and western Mediterranean coasts.

Our knowledge of the kitchen pottery has many gaps that need to be filled. For many years, not only in Cyprus but also other Mediterranean archaeological sites, these objects were studied less frequently and seemed less likely to be published than decorated vessels. During the project drawings and descriptive documentation of the vessels will be completed, and on this basis the first so detailed typo-chronology of the early Roman kitchen pottery from the area of Nea Paphos is going to be made. The cooking vessels fabric will be divided into groups, based on macroscopically visual differences, which, as the project hypothesis propose, correspond to different production workshops. In the next step the hypothesis will be tested by chemical and petrographic analysis. This will help answering a question about the provenance of cooking ware. An organic residue analysis absorbed by the vessels and a consultation with a zooarchaeology specialist will enable better understanding of vessels content and use and thus will complete the study of the Nea Paphos inhabitants' diet. It will be possible to follow each stage of work on the project on the website of the Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Culture at the Polish Academy of Sciences, on Facebook (<https://web.facebook.com/IKSiOPAN/?fref=ts>).