

## **Theme 3**

### **Kilns, Workshops and Productions**

#### **AEGEAN WARE : HOW A TYPOLOGY BECAME INOPERATIVE**

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Aegean Ware is the name given by A.H.S. Megaw, in 1975, to a small group of bowls found in the excavations of the castle of Saranda Kolones in Paphos, Cyprus, in contexts of the late 12th and early 13th century. This homogeneous group of twenty-three objects shared the same technical, morphological and stylistic characteristics. According to the author, this pottery came from the same workshop probably located in the Aegean. Gradually, other objects more or less similar in some aspects came to aggregate the initial group. They come from many shipwrecks (Pelagonnisos, Kastelorizo, Skopelos, Kavalliani, Adrasan and maybe Silifke) and from land excavations in Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea. However, these ceramics differ from the Megaw group by a greater variety of decoration techniques and by their fabric. So they enrich the initial group at the same time they make more complex the Aegean Ware identifications. Indeed, it is now clear that these terms of “Aegean Ware” no longer refer to a single class of objects, but a group of less homogeneous ceramic which seems to have many origins. I propose to show how the typology became inoperative and to present some elements to rebuilt a new definition of this category of Byzantine ceramic.