

Theme 6

New Discoveries

INVESTIGATING THE ORIGINS OF TWO MAIN TYPES OF MIDDLE BYZANTINE AMPHORAE

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Unlike late Roman/early Byzantine amphorae, middle-Byzantine amphorae have been little studied and their origins and contents are still largely unknown. Out of the four main types distinguished by Günsenin, two were investigated in the present research: types Günsenin 2 (10-12th c. AD) and Günsenin 3 (12-13th c. AD). Examples taken from both terrestrial contexts in Chalkida (Greece), and from shipwreck contexts in the Black sea (Novy Svet, Crimea), expected to represent patterns of long distance distribution, were considered. They were investigated for their provenance by chemical analysis in Lyon, taking advantage of the large corpus of Byzantine reference data established in Lyon's laboratory.