

Theme 4

Pottery in Anatolia

AN ASSESSMENT OF A GROUP OF GLAZED WHITE WARE BYZANTINE CERAMIC ACHIEVED AS SURFACE FINDING IN İZNIK

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İznik (Nikaia), one of the oldest settlements in Anatolia since prehistoric times, is a significant center for ceramic art whose history is developed in parallel with urban life and civilization history. İznik which supplied silk manufacture and textile for Byzantine Palace from 9th century to 14th century, ceramic and glass manufacture showed continuity from the period of Ancient Roman Empire. In İznik, Byzantine period ceramic manufacture continued until the beginning of the 14th century.

According to The İznik Tile Kiln Excavations findings conducted by İstanbul University, it gets certain that İznik was a ceramic manufacture center in Ottoman period and also, findings unearthed in İznik Roman Theater Excavations conducted by Uludağ University has reinforced this. Although a large number of Byzantine Glazed White Ware found at Roman Theater, it hasn't been reached to the findings about Byzantine ceramic manufacture in İznik as certain evidence .

Depending on the established relations with Seljuk Turks before the proliferation of red earthenware and sgraffito ceramics during the 11th and 12th centuries, the ceramic products of the Early and Middle Byzantine period were made of white earthenware. These kind of ceramics that are called "*Constantinopolitan Glazed White Wares*" were produced especially in Istanbul and centers such as Athens and Corinth and they had been exported to a wide area from Italy to Russia between the 7th and 13th centuries.

In this paper, samples that are detected in the area where excavation rubbles poured nearby İznik Indoor Sport Hall will be presented. When compared with their similarities achieved in Istanbul and Korinth excavations, the fragments may be dated to 9-12th century, have different types of ornament and glaze colors, majority of them are impressed design. Although findings such as kiln and workshop couldn't be reached regarding ceramic manufacture in Byzantine

period, part of these fragments observed as kiln defective may be assessed as evidence that glazed white ware ceramics were manufactured here.