

## **Theme 4**

### **Pottery in Anatolia**

#### **ISSUES IN IDENTIFYING THE MEDIEVAL CERAMICS OF THE EAST PLAIN CILICIA**

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East Plain Cilicia mainly comprises land of Osmaniye Province along the easternmost part of the Mediterranean coast. It is a land where major historical military and trade routes converge. It was a bufferzone between North Syria, the Middle East and Anatolian plateau in the medieval period. Archaeologically identified material culture which the land yields is diverse in type and tradition. During the medieval period East Plain Cilicia became battleground of Byzantine, Islam, Crusade and even of the Armenian armies, of which all left markers of their cultures. These cultures living contemporaneously as neighbors in interaction with each other have direct influence on one another's culture, particularly evidenced in pottery production tradition. They seem even have been exposed to foreign influences of pottery tradition at the same time. Some ceramic types can be undistinguishable in belonging to which of the culture, particularly of the ones bearing no specific or typical features as hallmark of both pottery traditions of the Byzantine and Islam. Plain green glazed and brown glazed ware, and some glazed sgraffiato ware types are evidenced having been produced in both cultures. These ceramic types pose problems in identification of the culture and tradition they belong. A specific medieval pottery type found in Osmaniye province as well, ceramics in white fabric, poses problems in identifying production traditions and techniques whether they are fritware or calcerous fritware. Present paper attempts to elucidate the identification issues of the above mentioned pottery types.