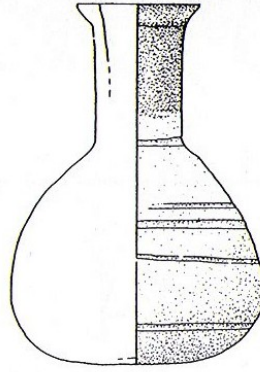


UNGUENTARIUM.
A TERRACOTTA VESSEL FORM IN THE HELLENISTIC, ROMAN AND
EARLY BYZANTINE MEDITERRANEAN -
AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

May 17-18, 2018 / Izmir, Turkey
with an excursion to Lesbos, Greece on May 19-21, 2018



First Circular - Call for Papers

Dear Colleagues,

The Izmir Center of the Archaeology of Western Anatolia (EKVAM) is glad to inform you that an international symposium on *unguentarium*, a terracotta vessel form in the Hellenistic, Roman and early Byzantine Mediterranean, will take place on May 17-18, 2017 at the Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) in Izmir, Turkey. The EKVAM has organized several international archaeological meetings under the series of *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea, Congressus internationales Smyrnenses* and continues to organize these annual scientific meetings in Izmir regularly every third week of each May (a list of past meetings and their publications in the series of *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea, Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae* is at below).

An *unguentarium* (plural “*unguentaria*”) is a small ceramic or glass bottle, found in relatively large quantities in the entire Mediterranean, from Spain to Syria, from Egypt to France, where they were produced from the early Hellenistic (*i.e.* mid fourth cent. B.C.) to the early Medieval periods (*i.e.* mid sixth cent. A.D.). It is typically a small narrow-necked vessel shape, topped with a slender neck and a thin-lipped rim. The base of these vessels can be in some cases rounded or fusiform -- in which case it is not self-standing -- or flat-bottomed. Beside the common term *unguentarium*, which is a modern invitation, this vessel type were also called as “*balsamare*”, “*ampulle*”, “*lacramarium*” or “*flacon*” *etc.*

During the Hellenistic, Roman imperial and early Byzantine periods the main function of these vessels was to keep perfumed oils and cosmetic lotions fresh. In recent years some chemical analyses done within these objects yielded the information that the *unguentarium* was used to hold scented “holy” oils, unguents and perfumes. Beside this use it was also utilised for other religious purposes, especially as a votive at tombs.

During the early Byzantine period the form and the function of *unguentaria* changed radically. It became a fusiform flask in shape, with a short tubular mouth marked off from the body by a slight ridge, tapering to a roughly truncated point. The characteristics of these containers, which was first presented by J. W. Hayes in detail in 1971, are very distinctive: they are wheel-made, hard fired, with a thick, sturdy body and with a well smoothed and quite plain surface. A further exotic feature of these vessels is that they occasionally bear a

small stamp (generally early Byzantine monograms). What these *unguentaria* contained is not satisfactorily answered yet.

So far the study of this vessel form has been overlooked whereas there is still a huge amount of unpublished material from excavations, field surveys and museums in the entire Mediterranean. In this symposium we only focus on terracotta *unguentaria* between c. 4th century B.C. and 6th century A.D., and attempt to set out a comprehensive model for the study of terracotta *unguentaria*, including their definition, typology, chronology, contexts, function, regional characteristics, and distribution patterns in the whole Mediterranean geographies, including whole eastern Mediterranean, Roman provinces in the western Mediterranean, north of Alps (Germania, Britannia etc.) and north Africa. It is also our intention to create a complete bibliography of previous publications on terracotta *unguentaria*.

We warmly invite contributions by scholars and graduate students from a variety of disciplines related to this vessel form. Intended to bring together scholars of classical archaeology, Byzantine archaeology, archaeometry and other disciplines related to Greek, Roman and Byzantine ceramic archaeology to discuss a range of issues concerning this vessel's characteristics, this symposium should be an excellent opportunity to increase our knowledge about this form. The following theme groups are the main questions of the symposium which are prescriptive:

- Terracotta *unguentaria* from archaeological field projects, museums and private collections,
- Transitional typological features between *lekythoi*, *amphoriskoi* etc. and *unguentaria* during the late Classical-early Hellenistic period,
- Relations of Hellenistic and Roman terracotta *unguentaria* to glass, metal and marble *unguentaria*,
- Roman terracotta *unguentaria* in the eastern and western Mediterranean, and their differences,
- Hellenistic and Roman gravestones and other iconographic media depicting *unguentaria*,
- The major production centers of terracotta *unguentaria* in Hellenistic, Roman and early Byzantine periods,
- Monograms on early Byzantine *unguentaria*,
- Relations between early Byzantine terracotta *unguentaria* and some historical events during the early Medieval period.
- *Miscellanea*.

On these themes and questions, all approaches and methods susceptible to bring some progress to our current knowledge are of course welcome: classical archaeology, Byzantine archaeology, archaeometry, history of art, history and cultural anthropology etc. English is the official language of the symposium. The symposium will take place at the Blue Hall of DESEM in the Chancellery Building of DEU. A local archaeological journal is planned as a special issue containing the symposium's abstracts which will also be made available on the website. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in 2020. The symposium is free of charge. We will make the required hotel reservations as soon as we know the exact number of participants. The approximate cost for the accommodation per night + breakfast will be 25 €. A post-symposium excursion is planned on May 19-21 to Lesbos, Greece through Ayvalık. For the participants who cannot travel to Izmir, we will arrange a video-conference facility through Skype. There are several low-cost flight companies (Pegasus, Sunexpress, Onur Air, Easyjet, Eurowings etc.) which operate direct flights to Izmir from several locations. The dates of our symposium have been regulated for those who are also planning to participate to the meetings in Cologne/Bonn, Germany, entitled "19th international congress of classical archaeology" and is taking place on May 22-26, 2018, and in Turkey, entitled "40th Turkish symposium of archaeological excavations, surveys and archaeometry" and is taking place on May 28-June 1, 2018.

We would be delighted, if you could consider contributing to our symposium and contact us with the required information below **before January 1, 2018**. Our e-mail addresses are: gulserenkan@hotmail.com or terracottas@deu.edu.tr For all your queries concerning the symposium our phone number is: +90.544.938 54 64. The organizers seek to widen participation at this symposium, and would like to encourage colleagues from all parts of the world to attend. The symposium committee kindly requests that you alert any persons within your research community who would be interested in participating at this symposium, either by forwarding our e-mail, or by printing this circular and displaying it in your institution. We hope that you will be able to join us at the Dokuz Eylül University, and look forward to seeing you in Izmir!

Websites of the symposium

<https://independent.academia.edu/TheLydiaSymposium>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/The_Lydia_Symposium

Required information for the participation to the symposium

Type of Participation:

Lecturer:

Observer:

Lecturer through Skype:

Name:
Academic title:
Institution:
Complete professional address:
Cell phone:
E-mail:
Are you planning to join to the post-symposium excursion to Lesbos, Greece?:
Any special requests:
Title of your lecture:

Abstract:

NB: An illustration can be included; it should be sent by e-mail to gulserenkan@hotmail.com or terracottas@deu.edu.tr

**List of the previous
*Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea, Congressus internationales Smyrnenses***

I- “International conference: Terracotta figurines in the Greek and Roman eastern Mediterranean: Production, diffusion, iconography and function”; June 2–6, 2007, Izmir. Its website: <web.deu.edu.tr/terracottas>.

II- “International workshop: Late Roman glass in Anatolia (A.D. 4th to 8th centuries)”; October 26–28, 2009, Izmir.

III- “International workshop on Hellenistic ceramics in Anatolia (4th to 1st cent. B.C.)”; October 12–14, 2010, Izmir.

IV- “An international workshop on the pottery finds between 4th century B.C. and 8th century A.D. from northern and central Anatolia”; May 10, 2011, Izmir.

V- “XVIIth international congress of ancient bronzes. The archaeology of bronzes in Anatolia and the eastern Mediterranean from Protogeometric to early Byzantine periods (10th century B.C. to 7th century A.D.)”; May 21–25, 2011, Izmir.

VI- “Second international conference on the archaeology of Ionia – Landscapes of Ionia: Towns in transition”; May 30–June 2, 2011, Izmir.

VII- “Symposium on Alsancak: An intercultural district in Izmir”; November 28, 2012, Izmir.

VIII- “First symposium on Birgi”; December 12–13, 2013, Birgi.

IX- “Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to late antiquity (8th cent. B.C.-6th cent. A.D.). An international symposium”; May 17–18, 2017, Izmir.

**List of the previous *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea,*
*Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae***

Ia- *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 1: *Production, diffusion, iconographie et fonction*, École française d'Athènes, Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, Supplément 54 (Athens/Paris, De Boccard 2016).

Ib- *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 2: *Iconographie et contextes*, *Archaiologia* (Villeneuve d'Ascq, Presses Universitaires du Septentrion 2015).

II- *Late antique/early Byzantine glass in the eastern Mediterranean*, *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea – Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae II*/Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Division for Medieval Archaeology, Publication series, No. 1 (Izmir, Hürriyet Matbaası 2009) (ISBN 978-605-61525-0-4).

III- *Recent studies on the archaeology of Anatolia*, British Archaeological Reports, International Series 2750 (Oxford, Archaeopress 2015).

IV- *Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to late antiquity (8th century B.C.-6th century A.D.)*, *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea – Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae IV* (Besançon, Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté 2019, in progress).



*This symposium has been dedicated to John W. Hayes,
who was the first in defining „late Roman unguentarium”.*