

Eleni Sarri

## ASPECTS OF A ROMAN BATH AT ARGOS

During the summer of 1994 and 1995, the 4<sup>th</sup> Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities at Nauplion carried out a rescue excavation<sup>1</sup> on the plot of A. Yiakoumakis, at the southwest part of the modern city of Argos, in Peloponnese.

On the south part of the plot and over an area of 70 square metres, the western, underground part of a roman bath complex<sup>2</sup> was revealed. This bath complex was part of an *insula* and it was situated between two ancient roads, the one to the north occupied the central part of the plot and the other to the east revealed at the southeast of the plot, during the rescue excavations in the adjacent modern street to the south. It also set: a) to the south of the ancient *agora*, the public *thermae* A and B<sup>3</sup> and two private baths<sup>4</sup>, b) about 100 m to the north of the south part of the city wall<sup>5</sup> and c) to the west of the road which led towards Lerna<sup>6</sup> through the Lerna Gate.

The bath complex includes a hot chamber (*caldarium* or *cella caldaria* or *θερμός* or *εσώτερος – ενδότερος οίκος*) with two hot-water pools (one rectangular in the north side of the square central hall and one apsidal in the west) and a third room (third pool or *tepidarium*) at the south side not fully excavated<sup>7</sup>.

Fragments of mosaics<sup>8</sup> with geometric motifs have been revealed during rescue excavations in the adjacent street to the south. They seem to belong to the *apodyterium* or waiting room for the bathers which was extended to the southeast of the *caldarium*<sup>9</sup>. Other constructions (a cistern and a built

channel) and the *tegulae mammatae* found in the adjacent area to the west plot of Karanikolas<sup>10</sup> can be associated with the water supply of the bath complex. Due to the excavations carried out at the adjacent areas, we can estimate that the whole installation once covered an area of 345 square metres.

Inside the *hypocaustum*, ceramics were excavated<sup>11</sup> that served the needs of the bathers. The objects were found in the layer of destruction accumulated in the underground part and they seem to come from the ground floor of the bath. The layer contained a lot of building materials: mortars, small and larger stones, fragments of tiles, bricks and thin marble slabs suitable for the coating of the walls. Underneath this layer, came to light the *area* with strong traces of fire.

Among the finds there is a small **trefoil jug**<sup>12</sup> (MA BE 05/5719)<sup>13</sup> that may have been filled with aromatic oil for the bathing. Its body is pear-shaped, the neck is low but well-shaped, its base is ring-shaped and the strap, vertical handle runs from the rim to just below the middle of the body. Its reddish yellow (5YR 6/8) clay with white inclusions<sup>14</sup> indicates that it may have been made locally. Jugs of the same dimensions differing in the form of the lip and the body are known<sup>15</sup> from tombs of the 6<sup>th</sup> century found at Attica, Argos, Corinthia and Thebes. A jug<sup>16</sup> from a tomb of *Δήλιον* at Boeotia differs from our vessel only in the form of the lip and of the lower part of the body.

**Lamps**, necessary for the lighting of the rooms during the night,<sup>17</sup> were found in the layer of destruction inside the underground part of the bath, almost in contact with the *area*. Some lamps come from the same mould as those found at the excavations in *thermae* A and B<sup>18</sup>, at the *agora* and at other

<sup>1</sup> For the excavation preliminary report see: Υπουργείο Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων, Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού, Γενική Γραμματεία Πολιτισμού, Γενική Διεύθυνση Αρχαιοτήτων και Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς, 2000–2010. Από το ανασκαφικό Έργο των Εφορειών Αρχαιοτήτων (Αθήνα 2012) 90.

<sup>2</sup> For a detailed presentation of this bath complex see: Σαπρή 2009, 75–92 niv. 15–18. Besides thanks referred in this article, I would additionally like to thank the Director of the 4th Ephorate A. Papadimitriou and the colleagues A. Kossiva, E. Zosi, M. Skourtis and E. Giannopoulos for their support to my work.

<sup>3</sup> The bath complex was situated about 250 m to the south of *thermae* A and 220 m to the southwest of *thermae* B. For these complexes see bibliography in KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 28–32 nos. 32–35; 39; A. PARIENTE/M. PIÉART/J.-P. THALMAN, Les Recherches sur l'Agora d'Argos. Résultats et Perspectives. In: P. Pariente/T. Touchais 1998, 220; 226; 227; 231 fig. 5 [PT]; I. NIELSEN, *Thermae et Balnea: the Architecture and Cultural History of Roman Public Baths* 2 (Aarhus 1990) 32 (C.252).

<sup>4</sup> Σαπρή 2009, 85.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. 84 niv. 18 εκ. 10

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 85 σημ. 51.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. niv. 15 εκ. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. niv. 17 εκ. 8-9.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. niv. 17 εκ. 7.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 82 σημ. 38.

<sup>11</sup> For the glass and metal finds that served the bathers and were used from the staff of the bath, see: Ibid. 86–87.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid. 86–87 niv. 18 εκ. 12.

<sup>13</sup> This indication corresponds to the number of the Inventory Book of Antiquities in the Archaeological Museum of Argos, where all the finds of the excavation are stored.

<sup>14</sup> This fabric is close to that of the so-called *céramique commune* that comprises the common table ware, the cooking, the storage and the transport ware: AUPERT 1980, 422–442; 455–456.

<sup>15</sup> Χαμηλάκη 2010, 600–601; 606–609.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. 600; 606; 608 (MΣX 3469).

<sup>17</sup> For the operation of the baths at night especially from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, see: Σαπρή 2009, 87 no. 73.

<sup>18</sup> Bull. Corr. Hellénique 93, 1969, 972 fig. 11; 12.

places of the ancient city. The great majority is included in the type XXVIII<sup>19</sup> of Broneer and they are dated from the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> until the late 5<sup>th</sup> century. A few lamps are imported. The local workshops copied the motifs and the signatures of the Athenian production dominating the markets of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. Only towards the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century the workshops were influenced by the Corinthian copies of the Athenian lamps.

Only one lamp (MA BE 05/4112) comes from an upper layer of small pebbles found in the centre of the south chamber and in contact with the openings of the north wall suitable for the circulation of the hot air. Only the reservoir of the lamp with straight-sided walls, the flat base<sup>20</sup> and the back of the handle are preserved. The clay is reddish brown with white inclusions. The signature ΣΩ<sup>21</sup> arranged on either side of a branch<sup>22</sup> facing the nozzle, inside two almond-shaped grooves<sup>23</sup>, suggests that the model was derived from the Athenian workshop of Soteria<sup>24</sup> of the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century that was also imitated by the Corinthian lamp makers.<sup>25</sup>

Lamp MA BE 05/5724<sup>26</sup> from the northeastern part of the main hall of the *caldarium* seems to be slightly earlier as it has nearly vertical walls and a smaller almond-shaped base decorated with a branch (?). It might be a local copy of an Attic model or of a Corinthian imitation of the Attic model.<sup>27</sup> It is a typical example of Bovon's group X<sup>28</sup> due to the rectangular disk<sup>29</sup> and the channel from disk to wick-hole. Its rim is decorated with haphazard herringbone and its disk with a cross flanked by four holes<sup>30</sup> and adorned with herringbone and circles<sup>31</sup> as an attempt to imitate the jeweled crosses used as church ornaments and sometimes copied in contemporary

mosaics. The upper surface of the handle is adorned with a herringbone pattern.<sup>32</sup>

Close to lamp BE 05/5724 another incomplete lamp (MA BE 05/5721)<sup>33</sup> of the late 5<sup>th</sup> century was found. The upper part on the disk with a seated dog<sup>34</sup> facing left inside two framing rings and 8-S pattern with pellets on either side of panels of three grooves on the rim<sup>35</sup> were probably taken from an Athenian model of the 4<sup>th</sup> century as this motif was very popular during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>36</sup>. The lamp might be a local copy of a Corinthian imitation of this model, known from series of Corinthian copies of the late 5<sup>th</sup> to early 6<sup>th</sup> century<sup>37</sup>. Moreover the pattern of the base – two almond-shaped grooves that encircle a diamond-shaped groove enclosing circles and an incised branch – was typical of the Corinthian lamps and their Argive copies<sup>38</sup> with a dog on the disk.<sup>39</sup>

From the same mould come two lamps of the first half or the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century which are of different fabric. The first (MA BE 05/5728)<sup>40</sup> is almost complete and has yellowish red clay with white inclusions and a little lighter surface (5YR 5/8, 6/6 respectively). The second (MA BE 05/5722) is incomplete and has red clay and a little lighter surface (2.5YR 4/6, 5/6 respectively). Both are decorated with a rosette of eleven petals on the disk and small circles on the nozzle and rim of which two are arranged between panels. The longitudinal grooves of the lower part of handle of the lamp MA BE 05/5728 end to two upside down leaves. On the base an upside down branch is placed within a broad flat ring. It is a type of lamp already known from the excavation of Argos and Bovon includes it in group V<sup>41</sup>. Its model was derived from Athenian lamps of the middle and second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>42</sup>

From the same Athenian model are derived two fragmentary lamps (MA BE 05/5733, 05/5732) of the middle and the third quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century with thin walls and delicate but different fabric (fig. 1–2). Their disk is decorated with a large rosette of sixteen pointed petals with hollow longitudinal rib

<sup>19</sup> BRONEER 1930, 212–280.

<sup>20</sup> The large, flat base with the straight-sided walls gives to the lamp a high degree of stability.

<sup>21</sup> For the Corinthian and Argive copies of this signature see: GARNETT 1975, 181–182 fig. 1, 15–17; 195 no 18; BOVON 1966, 70 no. 478 pl. 12.

<sup>22</sup> For the meaning of the branch design which can not be regarded as a regular trade mark see: KARIVIERI 1996, 78; LINDROS-WOHL 1981, 132.

<sup>23</sup> KARIVIERI 1996, 14; 75.

<sup>24</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, 52–53; WILLIAMS 1981, 54; KARIVIERI 1996, 56–57; 135–137. – Koutoussaki considers that the abbreviated signatures ΣΩ and ΣΩΤ of the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries correspond to the same workshop which had several branches outside of Athens. She dates the branch workshop of Argos in the first half and the mid-fifth century: KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 74.

<sup>25</sup> Cf. KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 291 no. 467.3 pl. 51, 402; 313 no. 537.5 pl. 54, 429; 238–239 no. 322.1 (earlier); BRONEER 1930, 219 no. 847 fig. 152; Ε. Γερούση Λυχνάρια από το νεκροταφείο της Ύστερης Αρχαιότητας και των πρωτοβυζαντινών χρόνων στην Περίσσα Θήρας. In: Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή/Κουσουλάκου 2010, 222; 227 εικ. 15 (Λ 217); WILLIAMS 1981, 65 no. 340 pl. 15, 24 (earlier).

<sup>26</sup> Σαπρή 2009, 89–90 niv. 18, εικ. 13. Clay: red 2.5YR 5/8.

<sup>27</sup> For the Athenian lamps with rectangular disc and Corinthian copies see: PERLZWEIG 1961, 143–144; GARNETT 1975, 194–195 no. 17 pl. 43. The disk is plain or decorated with cross, usually on Corinthian and Argive lamps or animal (dog).

<sup>28</sup> BOVON 1966, 80–81. See also KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 287–293.

<sup>29</sup> The connection of the rectangular disk with a narrow sunken channel to the wick-hole appears on the Athenian lamps of the late 4<sup>th</sup>–early 5<sup>th</sup> century and is regarded as an Athenian invention: KARIVIERI 1996, 73.

<sup>30</sup> For the practice of the multiple piercing of the disk by the Athenian lamp makers in the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century see: KARIVIERI 1996, 55, 226.

<sup>31</sup> Similar cross decorated with seven circles occurs on the base of a lamp from Argos: BOVON 1966, 79 no. 565 pl. 15.

<sup>32</sup> Herringbone pattern on top of the handles was popular in the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> century: KARIVIERI 1996, 74. – Cf. KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 292 no. 467.8 pl. 51, 403; BOVON 1966, 81 no. 575 pl. 15; J. WISEMAN, Excavations at Corinth, the Gymnasium Area, 1965. Hesperia 36, 1967, 37 pl. 15a:5 (L 4383); C. A. ROEBUCK, The Asklepieion and Lerna. Corinth 14 (Cambridge 1951) 164 pl. 2 (CL2762) (dog on the disk); BRONEER 1930, 271 no. 1325 pl. 19; GARNETT 1975, 194–195 no. 17 pl. 43; WILLIAMS 1981, 47 no. 223 pl. 9 (with Maltese cross).

<sup>33</sup> Σαπρή 2009, 88–89 niv. 18 εικ. 13. Clay: reddish yellow 5YR 6/6 with white inclusions.

<sup>34</sup> This representation reflects the sentimental link of the people with the animal as all the animal's representations have not necessarily symbolic significance related to the religious beliefs or the political situation: KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 53–54.

<sup>35</sup> BRONEER 1930, 103; 105 fig. 48, 18; KARIVIERI 1996, 70 no 19.

<sup>36</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, 128–129; BRONEER 1977, 74 no. 2969 pl. 33, BÖTTGER 2002, 45; 172–174 no 1792–1851 pl. 36; KARIVIERI 1996, 171–172 nos. 32–33 pl. 30, 3 (until mid-5<sup>th</sup> century).

<sup>37</sup> GARNETT 1975, 191–192 no. 7.

<sup>38</sup> KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 324 no. 561.

<sup>39</sup> Cf. WILLIAMS 1981, 57 no. 258 pl. 11 (earlier); KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 179 no. 199 pl. 22–23 fig. 174–176; BOVON 1966, 73 no. 504 pl. 13 (local copy); ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΥ 1988, 484–485; 489 nos. 28–29 fig. 2; 10.6 (different form of nozzle).

<sup>40</sup> Σαπρή 2009, 87–88 niv. 18 εικ. 13.

<sup>41</sup> BOVON 1966, 66–68.

<sup>42</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961 pl. 30. – Cf. Bull. Corr. Hellénique 93, 1969, 972 fig. 12; BOVON 1966, 67 no. 447 pl. 11; KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 275 no. 417 pl. 46, 361.



Fig. 1. Lamp MA BE 05/5733.



Fig. 2. Lamp MA BE 05/5732.



Fig. 3. Lamp MA BE 04/1703.



Fig. 4. Lamp MA BE 04/1711.

and their rim with herringbone limited by two low ridges. The back of handle ends to a leaflet that has not lost its plasticity. As they are typical examples of group IVc of Bovon<sup>43</sup>, the base should bear the signature CT of the Athenian workshop of Stratolaos<sup>44</sup> on either side of an incised branch. The latter within a slightly raised ring ornamented with one small circle is preserved partly on the base of lamp BE 05/5732.

The first lamp (MA BE 05/5733)<sup>45</sup> has red clay (2.5YR 5/6)<sup>46</sup> and should be an attempt to imitate the Athenian production.<sup>47</sup>

The second lamp MA BE 05/5732<sup>48</sup> comes from the floor's layer outside the north wall of the bath and provides a terminus for the dating of the bath construction. It has yellowish red (5YR 5/6) clay, with white inclusions, a little lighter (reddish yellow 5YR 6/6) surface and reminds us of the Corinthian<sup>49</sup> production.<sup>50</sup>

From the small triangular room at the northeastern corner of the *hypocaustum* come two fragmentary lamps (MA BE 04/1701.1–2) and one complete (MA BE 04/1703) of the late 4<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The fragment of the upper body of the local lamp (MA BE 04/1701.1)<sup>51</sup>

<sup>43</sup> BOVON 1966, 54; 62; 64–65; 99 nos. 393–406 pl. 10. This group includes Athenian and local products (if they are not Corinthian exported to Argos): KARIVIERI 1996, 132.

<sup>44</sup> KARIVIERI 1996, 132–134, IVANTCHIK 2002, 342, KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 73–74.

<sup>45</sup> Dimensions: 0,065 × 0,08 × 0,03 m; H. of handle: 0,015 m.

<sup>46</sup> Similar is the clay of one fragmentary lamp from the *agora* of Argos: KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 232 no. 303.26.

<sup>47</sup> Cf. BOVON 1966, 65 no. 396 pl. 10; Bull. Corr. Hellénique 93, 1969, 972 fig. 11; KARIVIERI 1996, 220 no. 198 pl. 34 (different handle, no herringbone).

<sup>48</sup> Dimensions: 0,10 × 0,076 m; H. of handle 0,02 m.

<sup>49</sup> For the problem of distinguishing the workshops (Argive or Corinthian) see: BOVON 1966, 55; OIKONOMOU 1988, 497–498; IVANTCHIK 2002, 341 no. 26; KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 46–47.

<sup>50</sup> Cf. OIKONOMOU 2003, 50 no 102; Bull. Cor. Hellénique 94, 1970, 775 n. 9; 777 fig. 21–22; KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 231–233 nos. 303.1–16; 18–28; 30–46 pl. 35, 274–275.

<sup>51</sup> Clay: reddish yellow 5YR 5/8.

combines the rosette with pointed petals, similar to that of the previous lamps, with a plain rim<sup>52</sup>.

Lamp **MA BE 04/1703**<sup>53</sup> comes from an Athenian workshop of the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It is decorated with a rosette of sixteen pointed petals within two rings on the concave disk and panels with incised grooves on the flat rim.<sup>54</sup> On the base is incised the abbreviated name of a workshop within two slightly raised rings: AK (**fig. 3**). This inscription could be considered as the retrograde signature of the workshop of ΚΥΡΑΚΟΣ<sup>55</sup> whose several lamps have the same patterns<sup>56</sup> and the same forms<sup>57</sup>. Koutoussaki considers it as the late abbreviated signature of the workshop of ΚΑΛΠΟΣ<sup>58</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. The closest parallel<sup>59</sup> comes from layer C – final situation – of *thermae* B.

From the same workshop the second fragmentary lamp (**MA BE 04/1701.2**) seems to come. It is the only glazed example found in the bath complex. The clay is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6)<sup>60</sup> and the glaze is light red (2.5 YR 6/8). It is decorated with a rosette on the disk around the relief ring of the wick-hole and a herringbone on the rim<sup>61</sup>. Although only a small part of the body is preserved, its elongated form finds its closest parallel with the lamp IPL 72-13<sup>62</sup> of late 4<sup>th</sup>–early 5<sup>th</sup> century from the Roman Bath at Isthmia.

One incomplete lamp **MA BE 04/1711** found just above the outside floor of the bath is a local copy<sup>63</sup> of an Athenian model<sup>64</sup> or of a Corinthian copy<sup>65</sup> of the Athenian model (**fig. 4**). It has the same fabric<sup>66</sup> as lamp MA BE 05/5721. According to the decoration, it is included in group IVc of Bovon<sup>67</sup>: on the disk a rosette of fourteen petals is enclosed by a ring in relief decorated with two small stamped circles whereas on the rim is attributed a herringbone. Three oblique grooves are placed on either side of the nozzle. On the tear-shaped base the signature ΧΙΟΝΗΣ of an Athenian workshop<sup>68</sup> above a branch is enclosed by two grooves.

This lamp is the seventh known example<sup>69</sup> from the same mould. One lamp<sup>70</sup> from one of the cemeteries of Argos has the same fabric. Three others<sup>71</sup> from a well deposit of the first quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century investigated in the *agora* provide a terminus for the date of lamp MA BE 04/1711.<sup>72</sup>

The fragmentary **amphora (MA BE 05/5968)**<sup>73</sup>, from which only the larger part of the body is preserved<sup>74</sup>, is the only example of the LR1a<sup>75</sup> type found in the bath complex (**fig. 5**). It comes from the layer of destruction in the main hall of the *caldarium*. The restricted width of its body indicates that it should belong to the smaller variation<sup>76</sup> with the narrow neck and mouth, suitable for the transport and the storage of wine.

Although LR1 amphorae are known from layers of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries excavated in the area of the *thermae* and the *agora* of Argos<sup>77</sup>, close parallels<sup>78</sup> to our amphora come from layers of the 5<sup>th</sup> and early 6<sup>th</sup> century of the Athenian Agora.

The origin of LR1 amphorae<sup>79</sup> is situated in the southern coast of Anatolia (from Rhodes to Antioch) and in Cyprus. Therefore amphora MA BE 05/5968 confirms once again the transport and the importation of food stuff (valuable wine) from the East Aegean Sea and the Middle East during the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries as the Peloponnese was near the trade routes<sup>80</sup> connecting the Western to the Eastern Mediterranean.

However, the great majority of amphorae was found in the layer of destruction inside the south room of the *hypocaustum* and belongs to the LR2 type<sup>81</sup>. Amphorae of this type are frequent on the northeastern Peloponnese<sup>82</sup> (Argos, Asine, Hermionid, Corinth, Isthmia, Kenchreai) whereas some sites in Hermionid have been recognized as places of production. At Argos they are scarce during the 5<sup>th</sup> century while during the next century they represent the most common type of amphorae confirming once again the trade relations and

<sup>52</sup> BOVON 1966, 75–79 (group VIII).

<sup>53</sup> Σαππὴ 2009, 88 niv. 18 εικ. 13. Clay: reddish yellow 5YR 6/6.

<sup>54</sup> BRONEER 1930, 231–235.

<sup>55</sup> If this interpretation is correct, the lamp will be the sixth known example of this workshop from Argos. For this workshop see: KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 68–69.

<sup>56</sup> KARIVIERI 1996, 112–113.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. 249 no. 283 pl. 33; PERLZWEIG 1961, 115 no. 719 pl. 16; 49 (Eros on disk).

<sup>58</sup> KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 69.

<sup>59</sup> Bull. Corr. Hellénique 93, 1969, 972 fig. 12.

<sup>60</sup> This fabric is typical of the Athenian Late Roman workshops: GARNETT 1975, 177–178 no. 18.

<sup>61</sup> This combination was very popular in the Athenian workshops of the second half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. See: PERLZWEIG 1961 nos. 1856; 1871 pl. 31 no. 1960 pl. 32; BÖTTGER 2002, 63–65 pl. 54. About Argive copies see: BOVON 1966 pl. 10.

<sup>62</sup> LINDROS-WOHL 1981, 130 no 16 fig. 4 pl. 35.

<sup>63</sup> The production of rosette lamps in Argos is confirmed by a mould with a rosette of sixteen petals on disc found during a rescue excavation in the centre of the modern city and northeast of the *agora*: Arch. Deltion 29, 1973–1974, 219 niv. 154y; Bull. Corr. Hellénique 104, 1980, 596 fig. 28.

<sup>64</sup> PERLZWEIG 1961, 155 no. 1960 pl. 32; BÖTTGER 2002, 251–252 no. 3853–3856 pl. 64.

<sup>65</sup> J. BIEBS, The Great Bath on the Lechaion Road. Corinth 17 (Princeton 1985) 59 no. 140 pl. 12.

<sup>66</sup> Clay: yellowish red 5YR 5/6. Dimensions: 0,092 × 0,062 × 0,029 m; H. of handle: 0,01 m.

<sup>67</sup> BOVON 1966, 62.

<sup>68</sup> KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 76.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. 229–230 nos. 300.5–9 pl. 34–35 fig. 269–270.

<sup>70</sup> OIKONOMOU 1988, 495 no. 93 fig. 8.

<sup>71</sup> KOUTOUSSAKI 2008, 229–230 nos. 300.5–9 pl. 34 fig. 269–270 pl. E fig. 36.

<sup>72</sup> Cf. BRONEER 1977, 78 no 3049 pl. 34; BÖTTGER 2002, 279 no 4509 pl. 76.

<sup>73</sup> H.: 0,315 m. D. max.: 0,227 m. Clay: reddish yellow (7,5YR 8/6) with some particles of mica. Slip: very pale brown (10YR 8/4).

<sup>74</sup> One handle of the amphora comes from the upper layer of the south hall of the bath.

<sup>75</sup> RILEY 1979, 216. The fabric of LR1 amphorae is ranging from pinkish-cream (7.5YR 8/2-4) to reddish-yellow (5YR 7/6): PEACOCK/WILLIAMS 1976, 187; ABADIE 1989, 52.

<sup>76</sup> PEACOCK/WILLIAMS 1976, 185–186 (type B); M. EGLOFF, Kellia. La poterie copte. Quatre siècles d'artisanat et d'échanges en Basse-Égypte (Genève 1977) 113 (type Egloff 169); SCORPAN 1977, 377 fig. 12.3. – For the date of production of the two variations of LR1 amphorae see: IVANTCHIK 2002, 345–346 no. 49; 50; 55; 56.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. 345–346 (type 1); ABADIE 1989, 51–52; ABADIE-REYNAL 1989, 151; AUPERT 1980, 438 no. 322 fig. 45 (from a private bath in contact with *thermae* A).

<sup>78</sup> H. S. ROBINSON, Pottery of the Roman Period: Chronology. Athenian Agora 5 (Princeton 1959) 115 pl. 32, 58 (M333); ΟΡΑΤ 2010, 114–115 fig. 15 (inv. no. P 13060). Compare also the amphora C-1982-118 from Corinth: Hesperia 52, 1983, 29 no 78 pl. 11.

<sup>79</sup> IVANTCHIK 2002, 346 no. 57; PAPADOPOULOS 1989, 88 (Type II); Διαμαντή 2010, 145 σημ. 9. – For the Sinopean production see: ΟΡΑΤ 2010, 114–115.

<sup>80</sup> ABADIE-REYNAL 1989, 153 fig. 13; 157–159 fig. 14; ABADIE 1989, 54–56.

<sup>81</sup> RILEY 1979, 217–219, Διαμαντή 2010, 146, σημ. 12; Διαμαντή X. 2010, 76–80.

<sup>82</sup> KARAGIORGOU 2001, 140; 143–146; HJOHLMAN 2002, 17–18; 25–26; 94–96; 99–100; 149; IVANTCHIK 2002, 346–347; 379; 382–383 (type 2); OIKONOMOU 2003, 38–39.





**Fig. 5.** Amphora MA BE 05/5968.



**Fig. 6.** Amphora MA BE 05/5969.



**Fig. 7.** Amphora MA BE 05/4516.



**Fig. 8.** Amphora MA BE 05/5971.

the transport of food stuff over the Aegean Sea. Although a specific commodity should not necessarily be assumed for these amphorae, we suppose that the vessels from the bath of Yiakoumakis plot have been used<sup>83</sup> for the transport and the storage of olive oil and wine as these products were necessary for the preparation of food consumed by the bathers after their bath and for the lighting of the rooms of the bath complex.

We have found: a) four LR2 amphorae, from which the averted rim, the conical neck and the upper part of the body are only preserved and b) fragments of the body and shoulder of five amphorae of the same type. Seven amphorae have light red (2.5YR 6/6-6/8) clay<sup>84</sup> and light-colored<sup>85</sup> (very pale brown: 10YR 7/3, white to light gray: 10YR 8/2-7/2)

<sup>83</sup> For the use and the reuse of LRA2 see: HJOHLMAN 2002, 96.

<sup>84</sup> This is the clay of many amphorae coming from different places (e. g. Halieis, Kos, Torone): Διαμαντή X. 2010, 76–77.

<sup>85</sup> IVANTCHIK 2002, 347.

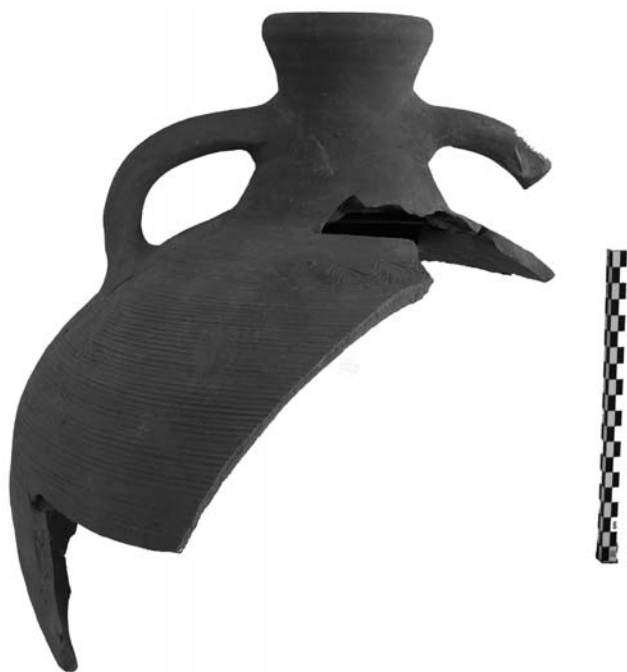


Fig. 9. Amphora MA BE 05-4111.



Fig. 10. Amphora MA BE 05-5970.

slip (imported) or a self-slipped reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6, 5YR 7/6) surface (local or regional products). One amphora (MA BE 05/5971) has reddish yellow (5YR 7/6) clay and a self-slipped surface and another one (MA BE 05/4516) shows a red (2.5YR 5/8) clay (core) and a grayish brown surface (10YR 5/2). The clay of the most amphorae includes pieces of white limestone. Some have particles of mica in the clay<sup>86</sup>.

<sup>86</sup> Amphorae with light red clay, particles of mica and beige surface have been found in West Mediterranean: Διαμαντή X. 2010, 76 σημ. 215; ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΥ 2003, 39 no. 118.

Two amphorae (MA BE 05/5969, 05/4516) have globular bodies and short necks and are decorated with close-set horizontal grooves which start by the attachments of the handles and end below the widest part of the body. The first amphora<sup>87</sup> has almost vertical handles and bears an illegible, partly preserved graffito<sup>88</sup> on the shoulder (fig. 6). Although it is fragmentary, the short neck and the large part of the body decorated with grooves suggest a chronology towards the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century<sup>89</sup>. The second amphora<sup>90</sup> is a typical example of the second variation of type 2 of Ivantchik decorated with straight grooves<sup>91</sup> and dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century (fig. 7). Its shape shows similarities to the older globular amphorae from the cave of Andritsa<sup>92</sup> although these similarities are not secure dating criteria as some features should be related to different places of manufacture.

One fragmentary amphora (MA BE 05/5971)<sup>93</sup> with light-colored surface and fragments of four amphorae with light-colored and reddish-yellow surface have the later wavy decoration of the second variation of type 2 of Ivantchik occasionally accompanied by widely spaced ridges<sup>94</sup> (fig. 8). The closest parallels<sup>95</sup> of the amphora MA BE 05/5971 that has a higher neck and a narrow rim<sup>96</sup>, come from contexts of the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

Two amphorae with more elongated body have special features. The shoulder of the amphora MA BE 05/4111<sup>97</sup> that may be a local product, is partly decorated with a group of four extremely wavy ridges<sup>98</sup> grooved upon the more remote horizontal grooves from the shoulder down to the widest part of the body (fig. 9). The shape of amphora MA BE 05/5970<sup>99</sup> is close to that of an amphora<sup>100</sup> from the Yassi Ada shipwreck, but it has no grooved decoration (fig. 10). On the shoulder and close to one handle a *dipinto*<sup>101</sup> in red may be interpreted as a commercial notation related to the vessel's capacity in *kotylae*. The inscription KoΘ (9 *kotylae*)<sup>102</sup> should record the amount of content that was in it at the time it was inscribed.

<sup>87</sup> H. 0,345 m, D. 0,285 m, D. of mouth 0,085 m.

<sup>88</sup> PAPADOPOULOS 1989, 85 nos. 64; 66.

<sup>89</sup> Compare with a fragmentary amphora from Halieis: M. H. JAMESON, Excavations at Porto Cheli and Vicinity. Preliminary Report I: Halieis 1962–1968. *Hesperia* 38, 1969, 340 fig. 9c (with short mouth).

<sup>90</sup> H. 0,37 m, D. 0,42 m, D. of mouth 0,113 m.

<sup>91</sup> IVANTCHIK 2002, 346–347.

<sup>92</sup> Κορμαζοπούλου/Χατζηλαζάρου 2010, 171; 180 εικ. 3<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>93</sup> H. 0,259 m, D. 0,28 m, D. of mouth 0,115 m.

<sup>94</sup> Κορμαζοπούλου/Χατζηλαζάρου 2010, 172; 180 εικ. 3β.γ; 182 εικ. 5β.

<sup>95</sup> HJOHLMAN 2002, 18; 25; 149 (ap. 39); Κορμαζοπούλου/Χατζηλαζάρου 2010, 172; 180 εικ. 3γ; DOORNINCK 1989, 249 εικ. 1:7.

<sup>96</sup> For the transformation in shape and decoration of LR2 amphorae see: KARAGIORGOU 2001, 131; Διαμαντή X. 2010, 78–79 (variation A2 of Scorpan, type B of Hayes); HJOHLMAN 2002, 25; Κορμαζοπούλου/Χατζηλαζάρου 2010, 172.

<sup>97</sup> H. 0,405 m, D. 0,32 m, D. of mouth 0,10 m.

<sup>98</sup> Similar decoration occurs on: a) the shoulder of an amphora or jug of different fabric from Argos (6<sup>th</sup> century): AUPERT 1980, 442; 444 no. 332 fig. 47 b the upper part of the body of the cargo amphorae of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Yassi Ada shipwreck: DOORNINCK 1989, 249 fig. 1,8; 11.

<sup>99</sup> H. 0,215 m, D. 0,33 m, D. of mouth 0,10 m.

<sup>100</sup> DOORNINCK 1989, 249 fig. 1,1.

<sup>101</sup> PEACOCK/WILLIAMS 1976, 182; SCORPAN 1977, 275–276; RILEY 1979, 218–219.

<sup>102</sup> For the *kotyle* as a unit of measure in Roman times when the most popular is the *xestes* see: LANG 1976, 56–57.

In conclusion, the pottery of the bath complex confirms once again that Argos during the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries was a prosperous city with trade relations and its own workshops despite the raids and destructions that it had suffered.<sup>103</sup> The city was not isolated as the local lamp workshops followed

the tendencies of the workshops of the neighboring cities (Athens and Corinth)<sup>104</sup> sharing a common repertory of motifs, mostly non-figured, and appropriate to customers either they believed in the new religion or not.

*el.sarri@yahoo.gr*

<sup>103</sup> M. PIÉART/G. TOUCHAIS, Une ville grecque de 6000 ans (Paris 1996) 86–92; Α. Μπανάκα/Α. Παναγιωτοπούλου/Α. Οικονόμου-Laniado, Το Άργος κατά τη ρωμαϊκή και την παλαιοχριστιανική περίοδο: σύνθεση των αρχαιολογικών δεδομένων. In: Pariente/Touchais 1998, 328; C. ABADIE-REYNAL, Un exemple de régression du phénomène urbain: Argos aux IV<sup>e</sup>–VII<sup>e</sup> siècles ap. J.-C. In: Pariente/Touchais 1998, 397–404.

<sup>104</sup> IVANTCHIK 2002, 341.

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