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## Excavations at *Pyla-Kokkinokremos*

Report on the 2014-2019 Campaigns

by Joachim Bretschneider, Athanasia Kanta & Jan Driessen

with contributions by Simon Jusseret, Greta Jans and Ilaria Caloi, Thérèse Claeys, Sylviane Déderix, Florence Gaignerot-Driessen, Reinhard Jung, Maria Kokosali, Ioanna Kostopoulou, Nicolas Kress, Manos Papadakis, Francesca Porta, Killian Regnier & Anne-Sophie Van Vyve





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Vassos Karageorghis (1929-2021)



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## 6.1. Observations on the Pottery of the 2015 Campaign

Ilaria Caloi

During the 2015 study campaign, Constantina Hadjivasili continued the process of conservation of the objects, while Dr Francesca Porta began her work on a typological and technological analysis of the pithoi found during the 2014-2015 excavations (Porta, § 6.2, this volume)<sup>1</sup>. The present report comprises some preliminary observations on pottery assemblages from three different contexts in the three sectors explored: Space 3.3.1, Space 4.1.12, and Space 5.8. Since there is little agreement on the terminology to define local Cypriot Mycenaean-inspired productions (on the present debate, see Jung 2010), this report uses the one proposed by R. Jung (2010: 150-153), which refers to Furumark (1941) shapes (FS). For example, a locally made deep bowl inspired by a Mycenaean deep bowl classified by A. Furumark as FS 284-285 will be labelled 'local Mycenaean deep bowl FS 284-285'. Moreover, since most publications on Cypriot pottery also name these local Mycenaean-inspired productions with labels first used by scholars of the Swedish Cyprus expedition (e.g. 'White Painted Wheel-made III Ware': see Åström 1972), these will be added in parentheses.

The floor deposit in Space 3.3.1 in Sector 3 (Jusseret *et al.*, § 3, this volume) comprised 29 ceramic objects: seven medium-large size storage vases, six small containers, seven pouring vessels, five cooking pots, three open vases, including one krater and two shallow bowls, and a single wall bracket<sup>2</sup>. Among the open vases, the least represented shape in this deposit is also the most interesting piece: an almost completely restorable krater in Pastoral Style (PK14-186; Kostopoulou 2021: 259, fig. 20). Despite the very bad preservation of the painted motifs, the krater shows a bull eating from a tree on both sides (fig. 6.1.1a). The subject is the same as depicted on the three kraters in Pastoral Style from Sector 4 found during the 2014-2015 campaigns (fig. 6.1.8). This krater PK14-186 from Space 3.3.1, however, has a pierced bottom (fig. 6.1.1b), suggesting a post-firing hole deliberately made to use it as a rhyton for libation, as two other vases (PK14-175, PK14-166) found with it, which is quite remarkable.

The two above-mentioned but not illustrated shallow bowls (14-03-5014-OB005 and 15-03-5073-OB047) are quite fragmentary since only the ring base and part of the rim with one strap handle is preserved. They can be classified as local Mycenaean strap-handled bowls FS 295. The first one (which can also be called a White Painted Wheel-made III Ware shallow bowl) is produced in a fine buff fabric and decorated with brown horizontal and parallel bands running both inside and outside, following a typical decorative pattern of these shapes. Similar examples come from Sector 4 (PK2010/2011: cat. n° 57, pl. VI), as well as from Enkomi (level IIB) (Jung 2010: 151, fig. 2, 3). The second bowl is made in the same fine buff fabric but is plain and

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1 I want to thank Jan Driessen, Joachim Bretschneider and Athanasia Kanta for giving me the opportunity to work on the ceramic material of the 2014-2015 excavations of Pyla-Kokkinokremos. I sincerely thank the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus - Dr. Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou, Dr. Despo Pilides and Eftychia Zachariou - in Nicosia as well as Dr. Anna Satraki at the Larnaka Museum for their assistance. Many thanks also to the staff of the Larnaka Museum for their kind cooperation and Georgia Kipri for the sherd washing. I am grateful to Constantina Hadjivasili, Francesca Porta and Jenny Tsafou for their invaluable help in the *apothiki*. I also thank all the members of the participating teams, who year after year exposed all the interesting pottery. Financial aid for the successive campaigns primarily came from the UGhent, the FWO, the UCLouvain, the ARC 'A World in Crisis?', the Rust Family Foundation and the Institute of Aegean Prehistory. Special thanks to Reinhard Jung for his comments on the first draft of this paper, as well as Giampaolo Graziadio and Artemis Georgiou for their precious information about the ceramic productions of Pyla-Kokkinokremos.

2 The 29 objects from Space 3.3.1 are the following: PK14-179, 14-03-5009-OB004, 14-03-5009-OB006, PK14-184, 15-03-5073-OB024, 15-03-5073-OB038, 15-03-5074-OB001 (seven medium-large storage vases); PK14-178, PK14-176, 14-03-5014-OB004, 15-03-5073-OB023, 15-03-5038-OB001, 15-03-5073-OB010 (six small containers); 15-03-5073-OB032, 15-03-5074-OB007, 14-03-5013-OB005, PK15-479, PK14-183, PK14-189, 15-03-5074-OB002 (seven pouring vessels), 14-03-5013-OB006, 15-03-5073-OB016, 15-03-5073-OB046, 15-03-5073-OB031, 15-03-5073-OB037 (five cooking pots), PK14-186, 14-03-5014-OB005, 15-03-5073-OB047 (three open vases), 15-03-5073-OB015 (a single wall bracket).

has a slightly different profile. The seven pouring vessels include three jugs of medium size and four small jugs belonging to different wares (15-03-5073-OB032, 15-03-5074-OB007, 14-03-5013-OB005, PK15-479, PK14-183, PK14-189, 15-03-5074-OB002). The three middle-sized jugs are produced in Plain White Ware: two are mendable, but not yet conserved and the third preserves only the neck with the handle. The four small jugs include one Base Ring II juglet (PK15-479), one trefoil-mouthed jug (PK14-183), one plain beaked jug with rounded bottom (PK14-189) and one Plain White Wheel-made ware juglet (15-03-5074-OB002). The Base Ring II juglet PK15-479 (**fig. 6.1.2**) is comparable to examples found during the 2010-2012 excavations (*PK2010/2011*). The trefoil-mouthed jug PK14-183 is a local Mycenaean jug FS 136 (also classified as White Painted Wheel-made III Ware jug) (**fig. 6.1.3**). Both its angular body and its neck are simply decorated with brown bands, while the motifs on the shoulder are no longer discernible. A Mycenaean trefoil-mouthed jug similar in shape but decorated in Pictorial Style, was found in Tomb IV at Hala Sultan Tekke and dated to LH IIIIB (Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: 204, V.82). The beaked jug with rounded bottom PK14-189 is a peculiar vase that deserves further study. Finally, the Plain White Wheel-made ware juglet, which is half preserved, has a globular body on a base ring and also finds a good parallel in the 2010-2011 excavations (*PK2010/2011*: pl. XV, n° 8). The six small containers are all mendable vases (PK14-178, PK14-176, 14-03-5014-OB004, 15-03-5073-OB023, 15-03-5038-OB001 and 15-03-5073-OB010). They include a stirrup jar, an alabastron, a piriform jar, a miniature pilgrim flask and two spindle bottles. Both the globular stirrup jar FS 171-173 (PK14-178) (**fig. 6.1.4**) and the straight-sided alabastron FS 194 (PK14-176) (**fig. 6.1.5**) are Mycenaean imports. Further study will help to identify their provenance. The small piriform jar FS48 (14-03-5014-OB004) could be a Mycenaean import as well (**fig. 6.1.6**). The neck, the body and the base are painted with groups of fine red lines flanked by broad bands, which P. Mountjoy defines as “Minoan banding” (Mountjoy 1999: 1034), while the shoulder is decorated with panelled semi-circles. The jar finds its best parallels in the Argolid (Mountjoy 1999: 131, fig. 30, 224-225; 146, fig. 37, 275; French 1967: 154-155, figs. 4-5), from which the vase most likely originated. The abovementioned miniature pilgrim flask (15-03-5073-OB023) is a Red Lustrous Wheelmade flask.



FIG. 6.1.1 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: KRATER IN PASTORAL STYLE (PK14-186) WITH DETAIL OF THE PIERCED BOTTOM (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILIS)



FIG. 6.1.2 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: BASE RING II JUGLET (PK15-479) (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILI)



FIG. 6.1.3 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: LOCALLY MADE MYCENAEAN-INSPIRED TREFOIL-MOUTHED JUG (PK14-183) (PHOTO J. BRETSCHNEIDER)





FIG. 6.1.4 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: MYCENAEAN STIRRUP JAR (PK14-178) (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILIS)



FIG. 6.1.5 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: MYCENAEAN STRAIGHT-SIDED ALABASTRON (PK14-176) (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILIS)



FIG. 6.1.6 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: MYCENAEAN PIRIFORM JAR (14-03-5014-OB004) (PHOTO I. CALOI)

The five cooking pots retrieved from Space 3.3.1 are all local, handmade products. The first one is a two-handled jar with thick collared neck (14-03-5013-OB006). This cooking pot, which has a regular size, finds a good parallel in the example from Karageorghis' and Demas' excavations in Sector 2, published by Jung (2011: 82, fig. 6, 3). The second one (15-03-5073-OB016) is a small one-handled jar with a wide neck. Although still in fragments, it is similar to the one retrieved from the above-mentioned Sector 2 (Jung 2011: 82, fig. 6, 1). Both have a very limited capacity. The third one (15-03-5073-OB046) is a cooking bowl with one long horizontal handle, similar to the one found in the 2010-2012 excavations (*PK2010/2011*: 242, pl. V, n° 66). Together with the above-mentioned cooking pots that show profiles already known from previous excavation campaigns of the plateau (Jung 2011: 64-65), Space 3.3.1 also includes two examples of a new type: a one-handled cooking pot (15-03-5073-OB031) with globular profile and cylindrical neck on a slightly flattened bottom (**fig. 6.1.7**). It is similar to a jug, but produced with the typical local fabric of cooking pots. The finds from Space 3.3.1 seem to confirm that cooking ware from Pyla-Kokkinokremos is mainly characterised by small cooking pots with flat bottoms and a limited capacity, which follow local traditions, as recently pointed out by Jung (2011: 70).

Summing up, Space 3.3.1 provided a very similar number of large-sized storage vessels, small containers, cooking pots and pouring vessels but no drinking vessels and only two fragmentary eating vessels, the above-mentioned shallow bowls. The paucity of vessels specifically utilised for eating and drinking, such as cups and/or bowls, suggests that this space may have been used mainly for the preparation and cooking of food. It is interesting to note that among the Mycenaean imports in Space 3.3.1, two are small containers (stirrup jar and alabastron) (**figs 6.1.4-6.1.5**), which were arguably imported for their contents. If Space 3.3.1 was mainly used to prepare and cook food, then these elaborate vessels could have had an important role because of their contents.

Space 4.1.12 in Sector 4 (see Kanta, § 4, this volume) also yielded a sizeable ceramic assemblage, comprising a krater in Pastoral Style, five pithoi, two cooking pots and one Base Ring II bowl, together with other fragments of vases. The subject of the krater in Pastoral Style (PK15-390; Kostopoulou 2021: 262-263, fig. 26) (**fig. 6.1.8**) is the same as that depicted on the two vases found during the 2014 excavation of nearby Spaces 2 and 9 respectively (Caloi 2015: 30-31, figs 23-24), as well as on the above-mentioned krater (PK14-186) from Space 3.3.1 (**fig. 6.1.1**). All these kraters show two sides decorated with a bull eating from a tree. In comparison with the other three examples, this krater is wider, however, and, as a consequence, the bulls depicted on both sides are quite elongated in order to adapt to the much wider zone to be decorated. The vase finds a good parallel in a LC IIC krater from a tomb in the cemetery of Klavdia-Tremithos (Kiely 2011: vase U. 54); the proportions and some stylistic details (*e.g.* the representation of the sexual organ and the motifs filling the animal body) of the bull displayed on this krater resemble those of the bull depicted on the example from Space 4.1.12.



FIG. 6.1.7 SECTOR 3, SPACE 3.3.1: LOCAL ONE-HANDLED COOKING POT (15-03-5073-OB031) (PHOTO I. CALOI)



FIG. 6.1.8 SECTOR 4, SPACE 4.1.12: KRATER IN PASTORAL STYLE (PK15-390) (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILII)

Of the five pithoi found in Space 4.1.12 (see Kanta, § 4, this volume), one comes from Pit 1. Within this pithos were some stone and bronze objects, a bowl in Base Ring II Ware (PK15-393), as well as a number of fragments of cooking pots of which other sherds were in the floor deposit of the room itself. The Base Ring II bowl PK15-393 is one-handed with a Y-shaped profile with flattened rim (fig. 6.1.9). It shows a red to brown slip decorated in white with two horizontal bands below the rim and with crossing pairs of thick bands near the base, while both the rim and the rounded handle are decorated with thick white slashes. This bowl finds a good parallel in a whole specimen from Enkomi Level IIB (Dikaios 1969/71: 562, n° 1670, pl. 62, 21).

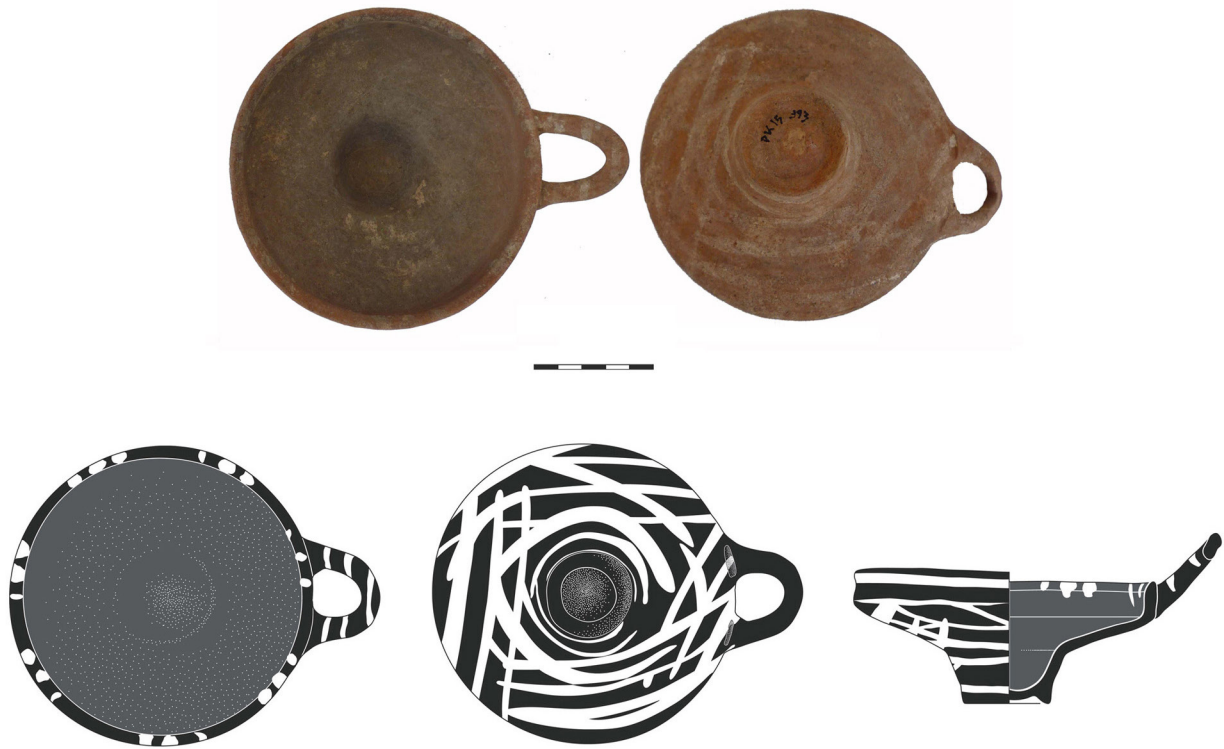


FIG. 6.1.9 SECTOR 4, SPACE 4.1.12: BASE RING II BOWL (PK15-393) (PHOTO I. CALOI; DRAWING H. JORIS)

Where Sector 5 is concerned (see Bretschneider *et al.*, § 5, this volume), we present a single vase which is at the same time one of the most remarkable finds of the 2015 excavation campaign, a LH IIIB krater in Pictorial Style from Space 5.8 (PK15-422) (figs 6.1.10-6.1.12; Kostopoulou 2021: 254-256, fig. 16). Although the study of this space is unfinished, it may be observed that most of the vases from this room have been reconstructed from or partially reintegrated with fragments coming from the adjacent and communicating Space 5.7 (see Bretschneider *et al.*, § 5, this volume). The latter space did not yield complete or mendable vases but only fragmentary material, which was mainly found in the door opening towards Space 5.8. Since most of the ceramic material includes fragments joining with vases from Space 5.8, it is likely that the two spaces were not only communicating, but also formed part of the same context. This is not the place for a proper iconographic study of the krater, so here only some preliminary observations are made. The vase is a 0.45 m high amphoroid krater on a ring base with big flat handles. Both sides show two facing birds pecking at or eating from a central motif. The two sides of the krater are similar, but not identical as the central motif – the birds and the fillers – are different on the two sides. On one side (Side A) (fig. 6.1.10a), the two birds are decorated in a different manner. The left one has its body and neck entirely painted with groups of stripes, while the wing ornament consists of groups of stripes interrupted by two concentric circles, one simple and one dotted. This motif (Demakopoulou *et al.* 2017: 42-44) appears as an attempt to imitate the spiral motif, which is usually reproduced on the griffins' neck in Minoan art. The bird to the right, however, is painted with X-motifs, *i.e.* in the same way as the two birds on the other side (Side B) (fig. 6.1.10b). There is one flower springing from the left bird, while for the right bird there are two flowers that ornate the interstices between neck and wing, and wing and body. The central motif appears to represent a schematic bud, formed by a truncated stem terminating with a proper, apical bud and two lateral leaves. On this side (Side A) (fig. 6.1.10a), there is a long palm that springs from the schematic bud and ornates the blank space above the right bird's head. Behind each bird there is a tall flower, probably a papyrus. The other side (Side B) (fig. 6.1.10b) which is not as well preserved has both birds painted with X-motifs. The central motif here differs slightly from that on the other side. Below the two leaves there are two opposite and symmetrical lines (sprouts?), which come out from the central part of the stem. No fillers spring from it. Also different is that behind the right bird there is a palm instead of a papyrus flower. Moreover, the fillers of the central zone are also slightly different, as only a single big flower springs from the body of the left bird. Since the right one is only half preserved, we don't know whether or not



FIG. 6.1.10 SECTOR 5, SPACE 5.8: KRATER IN PICTORIAL STYLE (PK15-422). A. SIDE A; B. SIDE B (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILIS)



FIG. 6.1.11 SECTOR 5, SPACE 5.8: LH IIIB KRATER IN PICTORIAL STYLE (PK15-422) (PHOTO C. HADJIVASILIS)

On both sides, schematic fillers can be seen between the central motif and the birds, as well as between the latter and the motifs behind them. Beneath the handles there are two antithetic palms, and some fillers in the form of interlocked U elements (**fig. 6.1.11**). Similar fillers can be seen on two fragments of amphoroid kraters from Enkomi, which could belong to the same vase (Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: V.29-V.30). Also, the palms visible on the second fragment from Enkomi are comparable to those depicted on the Pyla krater (Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: V.30).

The birds shown on the krater do not resemble the standard representations of birds of the period, *i.e.* LH IIIB (Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: V.61-V.69). On the one hand, their elongated body, long ostrich-like neck and their pointed and lifted wings are much closer to representations of griffins. On the other hand, they lack other features that are typical for griffins, such as the muscular lion's body, snake tail and the eagle beak. Nevertheless, the painter's rendering of these hybrid animals seems intentional.

The krater has five marks, two painted and three incised. On the bottom exterior of the ring base there is a red-painted sign of the Cypro-Minoan syllabary (**fig. 6.12a**) and another painted mark, like an N, is below the interior rim. The three, all different, incised marks are on the handles and on the rim (**fig. 6.12b-c**).



FIG. 6.1.12 SECTOR 5, SPACE 5.8: KRATER IN PICTORIAL STYLE (PK15-422). A. PAINTED MARK ON THE BOTTOM EXTERIOR OF THE RING BASE; B-C. INCISED MARKS ON BOTH HANDLES (PHOTOS J. BRETSCHNEIDER)

This krater probably belongs to the Ripe Pictorial Style I, as defined by Vermeule and Karageorghis (1982: 35-40), which corresponds to LH IIIB1, for the following stylistic reasons: 1) the use of different patterns for the body ornament (*e.g.* Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: V.41-V.52; Güntner 2006: 54-55), as attested on one of the four birds (**fig. 6.1.10a**); 2) the use of X-motifs for the body ornament of three out of four birds (*e.g.* Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: V.46 and V.48) (**fig. 6.1.10**); 3) the antithetical palms under the handles (**fig. 6.1.11**), which however anticipates the tendency to use antithetical spirals during late LH IIIB (Vermeule & Karageorghis 1982: 37).

Worth of mention is the fragmentary bell krater in Pictorial Style found in Space 5.5 nearby (**fig. 6.1.13**), which has been fully discussed in the paper by Kostopoulou (2021: 244-247, fig. 6).



FIG. 6.1.13 SECTOR 5, SPACE 5.5: FRAGMENTARY LH III B PICTORIAL STYLE BELL KRATER (PK14-172) (PHOTO J. BRETSCHNEIDER)