



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

(Re)Excavating Soli unboxing Hellenistic and Roman pottery from northwestern Cyprus

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Abstract

On a peak in Cyprus, where the water of Morphou Bay meets the Mesaoria plain, and where the chain of the Kyrenia Mountains and the heights of the Troodos fill the horizons – there lies “the ancient site of Soli and the site of the Swedish excavations” (Gjerstad 1980). The Swedish Cyprus Expedition excavated around 21 sites in Cyprus between 1927 and 1931 to gain a chronological overview of the archaeology, starting from the prehistorical to the early historical periods on the island. Approximately 2/3 of the finds from the excavations remain in storage in Stockholm, Sweden. Soli supposedly functioned as gateway community for part of the copper-production in Cyprus. However, legal excavations at Soli is impossible and has been since the invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Attempts to resolve the conflict suggest that there is little prospect for a solution anytime soon. This paper sets out to present previously excavated Hellenistic and Roman pottery from Soli to examine the connection between the copper-producing areas of the Troodos mountains and the northern coastline. This allows for further clarification on the networks and financial role of the city-state of Soli during the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Keywords

Cyprus, Soli, Pottery, Hellenistic, Roman

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