Skulpturen mit außerordentlich genauen Beobachtungen viele weiterführende Erkenntnisse abzurufen und jede weitere Beschäftigung mit dem bedeutsamen Gebäudekomplex auf eine neue, solide Grundlage zu stellen. Es bleibt zu hoffen, daß nun auch die übrigen Projektteile zügig vorgelegt werden.

B e r l i n

Christof Berns


Patricia Kögler’s impressive book on the fineware of Knidos is sure to become the essential reference work on the output of the Knidian workshops. In this exhaustive two volume publication K. presents the locally produced and imported fineware identified at Knidos. Nine find–contexts are used by K. to present a diachronic overview of fineware at Knidos from the Middle Hellenistic to the Middle Roman period.

The Aegean peninsula of Knidos was an important producer of wine, and the amphorae used for its transport are attested especially at Athens and Delos. The well-known Knidian cups, however, appear to have been more widely distributed then the amphorae from Knidos, as they have been identified on many a site in the Eastern Mediterranean. Knidian cups are present e.g. at the Athenian Agora and Tel Anafa and Paphos. The fact that on a number of sites these two-handled cups were locally imitated attests to the popularity of this shape and calls for a better understanding of the local fineware production of Knidos and the mechanisms that underpinned the export of Knidian products. K.’s study is therefore a welcome and fundamental work on an important body of material, which has the potential to contribute significantly to our understanding of the trade/exchange in fineware pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean.

5 e.g. Athens: Rotroff, 1997 (as n.2 above).
The lengthy study is divided into ten parts; I: introduction, II: the fabric, III: results, IV: the imported fineware and its relation to local production, V: exported Knidian fineware, VI: summary of developments, VII: selected find-contexts and their dating, VIII: locally produced fineware, IX: imported fineware and X: catalogue. The labelling of the individual chapters is clear, self-evident and the chapters follow a logical order. Chapters III to VI are by far the most stimulating and important parts of the book, as not only are the results of K.’s exhaustive study presented but important theoretical issues concerning the production, distribution and consumption of fineware are addressed. K.’s work thus contributes significantly to our understanding of the relationship between local produce and imported tableware and the position of Knidos within mechanisms of exchange and interaction.

Fundamental to the work of K., is the decision to treat the ceramic corpus of Knidian fineware dating from the Middle Hellenistic to the Middle Roman period as a whole, not giving in to a specialist tendency for subdivision. This choice has been of tremendous benefit to K.’s work, allowing her to see the production and export of local fineware and the import of finewares from elsewhere in a truly diachronic perspective. K. is thus able to trace and explore the differences within and between traditionally established timeframes and assert the importance and impact of geopolitical and socio-economic processes.

One of the few drawbacks e.g. to be found in Rotroff’s¹ excellent series treating the Hellenistic pottery of the Athenian Agora relates to the fact that ceramic developments of the latter years of the 1st century BC can be pieced together only with some difficulty, as stratigraphically associated material is presented in different volumes.²

Chapter I, ‘introduction’, is divided into four sections (labelled A–D) and contains an overview of previous research into Knidian pottery and an outline of the methodology and terminology employed. The internal organization of the book is also discussed. We learn that the first excavations in Knidos were conducted in the mid-1900s by Sir Charles Newton, who uncovered a large body of ceramic material. From 1967 to 1977 the Americans excavated at the site. The pottery from these excavations was only summarily published and certain classes of material (e.g. lamps) received more attention than others. K.’s work on the fineware forms part of a larger research project conducted by the J.W. Goethe-Universität to re-study the pottery from the old American excavations.


² Rotroff’s volumes on the Hellenistic table and plain ware (Rotroff 1997, as n.2 above; Rotroff 2006, as n.6 above) and Hayes’s volume on Roman fineware imports (Hayes, J.W. 2008. Roman Pottery: Fine-Ware Imports. (The Athenian Agora, 32: Roman Pottery.) Princeton, NJ: American School of Classical Studies at Athens. See Rotroff 1997: 222, (as n.2 above) for reference to absence of Eastern Sigillata A imports).
K.’s object of study in this book is fine ware. The term ‘fineware’ is somewhat ambiguous, as it does not hint at the possible function(s) for which a shape could have been employed. It could denote vessels used for eating and drinking but also products which in the strictest sense of the word would not classify as tableware. K. is quick to point out, however, that in her study fine ware equals tableware. While this is correct for most of the shapes she discusses, pyxides, chytridia and thymiateria would not necessarily classify as such. Rotroff¹ also incorporated similar vessels in her presentation of Athenian and imported wheelmade tableware. It is important to remember as well that tableware was not only composed of fine ware (this is a rather modern perception). Importantly, K. not only included in her study slipped fine ware, but also unslipped material, thereby providing a more functionally balanced overview of the use of tableware at Knidos. Important elements have, however, been omitted from this study or treated only generally. To the fine ware of Knidos also needs to be added the Oinophoren relief-pottery², mouldmade bowls³, imported white-ground ware⁴ and unguentaria.⁵ These categories of material have received or will receive separate study.

K.’s sections on the aims of her study, the terminology used and the organization of text and catalogue clearly set out the goals and scope of her research. One of her aims was to make sure that the fine ware presented could be traced back to its specific context, allowing the reader to see the associations between certain vessel types and the composition of the find-complexes for the latter is an important feature of the book, as it enables readers to not only trace their specific typological or chronological interest but, perhaps more importantly, enables the connection of individual shapes to associated material giving insights into the composition of tableware 'assemblages'.

Chapter II, ‘the fabric: characteristics of fabric and slip’, describes, as the title implies, the Knidian fabric and slips. Four chronological phases are identified by K., in which she has identified that the ‘quality’ of the Knidian products ‘declines’ over time. K. has pointed out an increasing carelessness in production and finishing, a trend temporarily reversed during the late 1st century BC – early 1st century AD. It is important to stress however, that such a trend may suggest

¹ Rotroff, 1997 (as n.2 above).
⁴ Mandel, U. 2000b. Weissgrundige lagynoi aus Knidos, in 5th Hellenistic Pottery Meeting, 179–188 (as n.10 above).
greater changes in the ceramic spectrum to us then to ancient Knidian consumers. Though we have identified a decline in manufacturing techniques, these would not necessarily have led to changes in function and use. Modern perceptions of product ‘quality’ are unlikely to have been valid in the ancient world. The existence of local and regional preferences\(^1\) and more general and most likely gradual shifts in production trends need to be considered. Assessing ancient pottery production in terms of ‘quality’ is therefore a dangerous exercise and is wisely avoided by K. who restricts herself to pointing out observable trends in the material spectrum.

The chronological overview of the developments of fabric and slip provides a highly useful summary, and makes it easy for the reader to access the broad outlines quickly without having to consult the more detailed (individual) fabric descriptions in the catalogue.

Chapter III, ‘the development of fine ware production in Knidos’, is divided into two sections and presents K.’s observations per chronological phase on the non-decorated and decorated local repertoire of Knidian fineware. This overview, identical in set-up to K.’s previous discussion of developments in fabric and slip, is an excellent guide to developments in the local repertoire from Middle Hellenistic to Middle Roman times. This chapter is also excellently cross-referenced to the image volume in which a series of plates (titled abb. A–l) provide an overview of the local repertoire per chronological time-slice. We learn for example, that in phase I Knidian products are inspired by the Attic repertoire of the late Classical – early Hellenistic period, and that most decorated wares current in the Eastern Mediterranean between \(200 – 150\) BC were locally produced at Knidos, attesting to the strength and vigour of the local industry.\(^2\)

Chapter IV, ‘the imported pottery and its relation to local production’, is surely one of the most stimulating parts of the book and provides in essence a summary of K.’s conclusions. The subtitle ‘considerations of market mechanisms’, however, indicates that this chapter is much more than an overview of imported and locally produced products and aims to contextualise the accumulated data in a larger socio-economic framework. This section first and foremost is an excellent discussion of the influence of imported wares upon the local Knidian repertoire, indicating for example that Attic influence was scarce after \(200\) BC, whereas the influence of Pergamum was much more strongly felt. Throughout her discussion K. provides a diachronic picture of the relative importance of imported and locally produced products, and she concludes that the importance of imported wares is reflected in their imitation in the local repertoire. The volume of imports is therefore of great importance in initiating changes in the local repertoire. What K. does not discuss, however, is the question of the extent to which local consumers were able to have their say in all of this. When Pergamene products become popular, for example, is it because of an active appreciation on the part of the Knidian consumers, or is it the result of availability and supply (e.g. a fall-off

\(^1\) K. notes that already in phase I colour coated ware is present


Das Erstellen und Weitergeben von Kopien dieses PDFs ist nicht zulässig.
in Attic imports? How does Knidos in this respect fare in relation to neighbouring communities?

Chapter V discusses the distribution of Knidian pottery found elsewhere. The export of Knidian pottery starts in earnest in the late 2nd century BC and reaches its zenith in the early Imperial period. Delos and Athens were important destinations of Knidian fineware, but the coasts of Asia Minor, the Levant and North-Africa also saw the arrival of Knidian pottery. In the early Imperial period Knidian exports concentrate on the Levant and North Africa. In this section K. casts doubts upon the association between the export of Knidian fineware and Knidian wine in the Late Hellenistic period.1 An exhaustive bibliographic list of exported Knidian fineware greatly contributes to the purpose of this chapter and allows the reader to quickly appreciate the widespread nature of the fineware. This chapter not only presents a distributional overview of a ware which achieved a widespread distribution in the latter part of the Hellenistic period but also might have implications for the dating of material associated with the Knidian products. The timing of the export of Knidian fineware is of particular interest and one wonders if the wide distribution of this ware and others (e.g. lagynos ware, ESA) was facilitated or made possible by the continued integration of the Eastern Mediterranean world and the impact of Rome.2

Chapter VI is a summary of K.’s conclusions and draws together the result of her study of locally produced and imported fineware, discussed separately in the preceding chapters. The inclusion of this section greatly facilitates the reader’s understanding of the relationship between Knidan non-decorated and decorated pottery and the influence and impact of imports. We learn that Knidos in the late 3rd to mid-2nd century BC is looking more and more to the East for ceramic inspiration and imports. It appears to have had a flourishing local production at this stage. In the later Hellenistic period, K. has identified a shrinking of shape variety and a decline in the production of decorated pottery. One of the most thought-provoking arguments of this section is that K. interprets this evidence not as a decline of the Knidian pottery ‘industry’ but rather as the result of an increased demand for a number of key shapes, upon which production seems to have focused. This left the local market open to imports from elsewhere. Local Knidian potters could not respond, because they had reached the maximum capacity of their production. K.’s argument indicates the benefit of studying different categories of tableware as a whole and not in isolation, as the latter would have missed the relationship between different products.

Chapter VII addresses the individual find-complexes from which the material studied is drawn. The descriptions of the archaeological contexts are thorough and their dating, reliant primarily on stamped amphorae handleless and imported pottery, carefully set out. A table summarizes K.’s conclusions and provides  

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1 Kögler, P. 2010: 61 (as n.14 above).
2 For discussion of lagynos ware see Rotroff, 1997: 223–228 (as n.2 above). For the distribution of ESA see Bes, P.M. in press. A Chronological and Geographical Study of the Distribution and Consumption of Tablewares in the Roman East, Oxford (Late Roman Fine Wares).
helpful tool for the reader to quickly assess the date of a particular find-complex. It will, however, be appreciated that there is a time-gap between her groups E and F (ending in the early 1st century BC) and group G (beginning in the Augustan period), making it more difficult to precisely trace developments in fine ware in the latter part of the 1st century BC.

The bulk of K.’s work is formed by chapter VIII and IX, presenting the local and imported fine ware respectively. Chapter VIII starts with an explanation of the methodology employed, before the individual forms and types of the local repertoire are discussed in turn. Each discussion is headed by a handy table which illustrates the find-complex in which the shape in question is attested and provides references to plates and figures. The discussion of the individual shapes follows a clear and thorough format, presenting in turn the morphological characteristics, period of production and typological development of each form and type. Each of these subsections is clearly marked out in the text, making the lengthy treatment of individual shapes and types easily accessible to the reader, enabling one to find one’s way quickly through the extensive discussion in order to pick out relevant information. Chapter IX, dealing with the imported pottery, is set out along similar lines but is more summary in its discussion of some of the well-studied wares circulating in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The final chapter of K.’s impressive work is formed by the pottery catalogue itself. The catalogue is ordered by find-complex, presenting in turn the individual entries from find-complex A, B, etc. This format makes the pottery catalogue highly accessible and allows the reader to assess the data pertaining to a particular find-complex quickly. Furthermore, the individual pieces composing a find-complex are in this way not isolated but remain part of a larger framework, which allows the reader to appreciate the other fine ware found in association with a particular shape. Each individual catalogue entry contains the necessary context information, inventory number, description of type and state of preservation. Details of fabric slip and decoration are also given. The individual catalogue numbers link each entry with its associated figure or image. The general archaeological context of these pieces can be appreciated from the descriptions of the individual find-complexes in chapter VII. Unfortunately for quite a number of deposits, little context information is available and no (primary) use contexts are represented, limiting the interpretational worth of these corpora for further investigative purposes. The latter part of the catalogue is made up of pieces, both locally produced and imported, that are not associated with one of the find-complexes but have been used as additional supportive evidence.

Before concluding this review, some remarks are in order about the excellent images volume which accompanies K.’s text volume. This work starts out with a pictorial overview of the local fine ware repertoire, providing an excellent quick-reference work. K. follows this up by pictographically charting the occurrence of different forms and types through the different phases. Again this provides an excellent and quick reference work for the reader. Six plates, furthermore, chart the export of Knidian pottery through the different chronological phases, indicating the findspots where Knidian products are attested. The profile
drawings are presented by find-complex, another excellent choice by K., which allows the reader to quickly glance and appreciate which products were found in the same context. The additional pieces (not connected with a particular find-complex) are illustrated separately by form. Another excellent feature of this volume is that K. presents graphically the evolution of the Knidian cup, the cup with incised decoration, the rolled rim plate, the echinus bowl, the conical cup and the steilrand jug, some of the most characteristic products of the Knidian repertoire. The latter part of the catalogue is made up of the photos, which are organized in a similar way to the profile drawings.

K.’s book, in conclusion, is an excellent and authoritative reference work for the locally produced fine ware of Knidos. The book no doubt will be of tremendous benefit to both excavators and students of Hellenistic and Roman pottery in identifying and dating the products of the Knidian workshops. Its readability and accessibility is a big plus in this respect. K.’s book, however, is not only an important handbook but, by presenting the material by find-complex and by engaging with the balance between imports and local production, engages with fine-ware as a product of the local economy and as a cultural artefact. Her choice in particular to present the pottery by find-complex makes it possible to appreciate the Knidian repertoire not as a succession of different forms and types, but as a coherent body of material whose composition evolved or changed over time and was subject to different influences and processes. Scholars of Hellenistic and Roman material culture can, and should, build on her efforts and embed the production and consumption of fine ware at Knidos into wider studies of the Hellenistic and Roman Eastern Mediterranean.

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