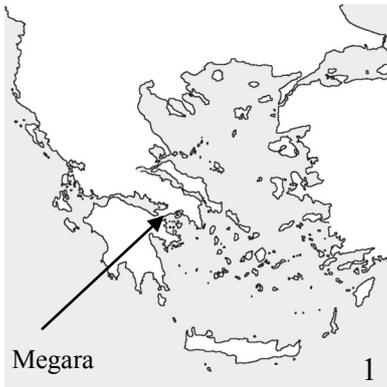


Consumption and Importation of ceramics in a fairly unknown site of Early Byzantine Greece.

A case study from Megara, Attica

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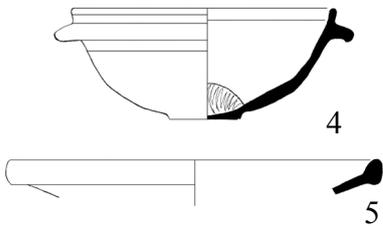
Megara city, which lies on the western border of Attica and Peloponnese (southern Greece), has been fully developed during the Early Byzantine period (4th-7th century A.D.) [1]. The analytical study of an Early Byzantine pottery assemblage from a rescue excavation conducted in modern times, confirms the existence of the active economy at the time. The lamps, finewares and amphorae imported into the city of *Megara* during the fore mentioned period, whether as original products of large production centres (i.e. Northern Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Aegean, Asia Minor) or their imitations from smaller local workshops, indicate the rate of imports in relation to the needs of the local market, either for tableware and lighting vessels or for alimentary products, the latter transported in the amphorae



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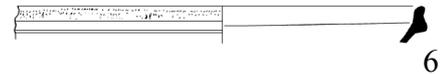
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As far as the import of tableware and lamps is concerned, there were identified *African* and *Attica* type lamps [2], as long as *African Red Slip Ware* [3-4], *Phocean Red Slip Ware* [5-6] and *Central Greek Painted Ware* [3] plates, destined for lighting or serving and consuming food respectively.

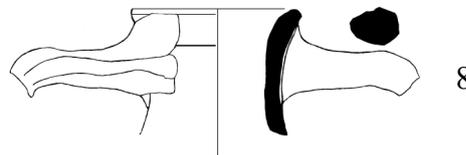


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The group of amphorae identified, incorporates eight types of Late Roman Amphorae, five from the typology of J. Riley: *LRA 1* [8], from the workshops of Cilicia, Antioch, Cyprus, Rhodes or Cos (6th-7th century); *LRA 2* [9-10], from the Aegean and the Saronic Gulf, dated from the 4th to the 6th century (to which the majority of amphorae sherds belong and there are also indications of a local production); *LRA 3* [11] produced in Asia Minor, (5th-6th cent. version); *LRA 4* [12] and *LRA 5* [13], produced mainly in Palestine and Egypt (6th and 7th cent. version), a sherd of an *African amphora* [14], sherds of 6th century globular amphorae, probably produced in central and southern Greece and a micro-graphic version of *LRA 2* [10], that dates to the second half of the 6th century.



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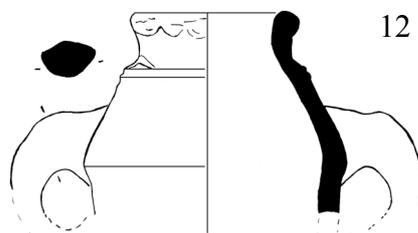


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The study of the importation and consumption of ceramics in Early Byzantine Megara provides us an insight of a part of the city's economy and everyday life from the 5th to the 7th century A.D, needless to say its commercial potential. Thus we get deeper into the knowledge of the domestic (or not) lighting and tableware equipment as well as the social rate and needs of their owners within the society they lived. What is more, we can make interpretative suppositions for the alimentary needs and supplies of the city, based on products imported in the amphorae, coming from Asia Minor, Palestine, Egypt, Aegean, Central and Southern Greece. Conclusively, the humble pots certainly have a story to narrate and are not to be ignored.



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