Late Roman Pottery from the Theatre of Nicaea in Bithynia

Aygün Ekin Meriç

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Aygün EKİN MERİÇ*

LATE ROMAN POTTERY FROM THE THEATRE OF NICAEA IN BITHYNIA

ABSTRACT

The Roman theatre in Nicaea is the most famous and well preserved monument from the Roman Imperial Period which was built under the supervision of the Bithynia governor, Plinius, during the rule of Trajan¹. The examined Late Roman pottery was found in a rubbish dump which covered the theatre. Following the stratigraphy and dating of the dump it is estimated to be from between 368 A.D. and 557 A.D. There is a renovation of the colonnaded gallery probably after the earthquake of 368 A.D. which is mentioned in the records². Many coins of the fourth century A.D. which were found during excavations might also be related with this renovation. But further earthquakes resulted in the theatre being gradually destroyed and abandoned. It seems that the theatre was used as a rubbish dump after the late fourth century A.D. until the earthquake of 557 A.D. A great number of African Red Slip ware has been found in this fill of the theatre. The main ceramic types are plates and bowls –Hayes Forms 53, 61 and 67– which have recently been classified as Africana D by S. Tortorella. A small group of Phocian Red Slip Ware “Late Roman C”, mainly bowls, dated to early in the 4th century until its disappearance in the third quarter of the sixth century A.D. have also been attested in the theatre of Nicaea. There is some “Eastern Sigillata C”, mainly in Hayes 3, also discovered in this dump. We have discovered some Light Colored Ware fragments in the Nicaea theatre which appear to be quite similar to the ones found in Parion. Recently E. Ergürer has published a group of Light Colored Ware dated between the fifth - early sixth centuries A.D. from Parion³. The production center of this ware is not securely determined so far but it is interesting to note that this ware is quite common both in Bithynia, Propontis and the Troad. As a result the aforementioned wares, which are treated for the first time in Nicaea, were found in the same rubbish dump over the theatre and are dated between the late fourth century and third quarter of the sixth century A.D.

ÖZET

Roma imparatoru Trajan Dönemi'nde Bithynia valisi Plinius yönetiminde yaptırılmış olan Nicaea Roma Tiyatrosu çok ünlüdür ve iyi korunmuştur. Bu makalede Tiyatro'nun üstündeki çöp tabakası içinden çıkmış olan seramikler incelenmiştir. Çöp dolgusunun M.S. 368 ile 557 yılları arasında olduğu düşünülmektedir. Yazılı kaynaklardan anlaşıldığı üzere 368'den sonra Sütunlu Galerileri'de onarım çalışmaları yapılmıştır. Bu alanda ortaya çıkarılan çok sayıda dördüncü yüzyıl sikkesi bu çalışmalarla ilişkilendirilmiştir. Ardı ardına meydana gelen depremler bu alanları tahrip etmiş ve sonunda Tiyatro terk edilmiştir. 557 yılına kadar bu alan, Nicaea yıkıntılarının taşındığı ve atıldığı bir çöplük olarak kullanılmış olmalıdır. Çöp tabakasında çok sayıda Afrika Kırmızı Astarlı seramiği bulunmuştur. Bunlar genellikle belli başlı Hayes Form 53, 61, 67 gibi, Tortorella tarafından “Afrika D” olarak adlandırılan kâse ve tabak formlarıdır. Küçük bir grup olarak Foça Kırmızı Astarlı seramiği vardır. Özellikle dördüncü yüzyılın başları ile altıncı yüzyılın üçüncü çeyreğine tarihlenen örnekler vardır. Çok sayıda geç dönem Çandarlı Sigillatası bulunmuştur. Özellikle Hayes 3 formu çok yaygındır. Bunların yanında Açık Renk Astarlı seramikler de bulunmuştur. E. Ergürer tarafından son yıllarda yayınlanan beşinci yüzyıl ve erken altıncı yüzyıla tarihlenen Parion'daki örneklerle benzeyen formlar vardır. Üretim yeri kesin olmayan bu tip, Propontis ve Troya'da olduğu gibi Bithynia'da da yaygın görünmektedir. Sonuç olarak bu makale ile ilk kez Bithynia seramikleri, Roma Tiyatrosu üzerindeki geç dördüncü yüzyıl ile altıncı yüzyılın üçüncü çeyreğine tarihlenen çöplük malzemesi ile sunulmaktadır.

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1) Pliny 39.

2) Şahin and Merkelbach 1987: 12.

3) Ergürer 2014: 177.

Fig. 1: Top view of the Theater and the Dump Fill Area.

The Classical city of Nicaea is located near the lake Askania Limne in Bithynia. Nicaea as a place name is derived from the name of the wife of Lysimachus who took over the rule of Bithynia after 301 B.C. The city was the capital of this province during the period of *Pax Romana* (27 B.C. - 180 A.D.). The theatre was built in 111/112 A.D. by the famous historian Plinius as he was the governor of Bithynia under Emperor Trajan. Nicaea is also known as the place where the council gathered in 325 A.D. The city has been damaged badly by earthquakes in the 3rd and the 4th centuries. The earthquake in 368 was so severe that all the buildings in Nicaea were destroyed⁴. Apparently after this date the theatre was also badly damaged and it was used as a rubbish dump until the earthquake in 557 A.D. Under Justinian (527-565 A.D.) new building and some restoration activities started in the city. New aqueducts, churches, and fortification walls were built⁵. Apparently in the 6th century A.D. there were also some additions to parts of the theatre: in the Stage Building, a wall was built in front of the stage building closing the orchestra on both sides of the parodoi, and repair and additions behind the cavea were conducted, where luckily a golden coin of Justinian was discovered (Pl. 9, Nr. 62). It seems that another severe earthquake in 557 A.D. caused great damage and various parts, and the new additions, were destroyed and damaged⁶. It is probable that the pottery treated in this article which was found in this dump is dated between the earthquakes of 368 and 557 A.D.

Fig. 2: Plan of the Theater.

FINDS SPOT AND STRATIGRAPHY (Fig. 1-2)

Late Roman-Early Byzantine pottery which is subject of this paper was found in front of the theatre covering the areas of the colonnaded galleries, the northern part of the stage building, *parodoi* and eastern colonnaded gallery during the excavations performed from 2013-2017. Levels of the excavated material from the theatre vary between 89.00 m and 90.00 m above sea level which might indicate a relatively even fill over the front part of the theatre. The depth of this dump fill is measures up to, or a little over 1.00 m.

POTTERY AND CONTEXT

A large amount of Late Roman-Early Byzantine pottery i.e. mainly African Red Slip Ware (ARSW) (Pl. 1, 5), Çandarlı Sigillata (ESC) (Pl. 3, 6), Phocaea Sigillata (LRC) (Pl. 2, 6) and Late Roman Light Coloured Ware (LRLCW) (Pl. 4, 6, 7) was discovered. Besides the large quantity of Late Roman-Early Byzantine pottery various lamp groups have been discovered in this dump context as well (Pl. 8, 9, Nr. 47-57). There are also many 4th century A.D. coins found in this dump (Pl. 9, Nr. 58-62). A gold coin of Justinian (525-546 A.D.) found at the west of the theatre may also help to clarify the final period of the context (Pl. 9, Nr. 62). The lamps are generally dated between the 4th and 6th centuries A.D. Three stamped *ampullae* (*unguentaria*) which are

4) http://biblehub.com/library/cyril/select_letters_of_saint_gregory_nazianzen---st._cyril_of_jerusalem

5) Şahin and MerkelBach 1987: 54.

6) Doğanç 2015: 125, 263.

dated to the 4th-6th centuries A.D. were also discovered (Pl. 7, Nr. 43-45). A Palestinian amphora (Pl. 8, Nr. 46) of the 6th century A.D. was used as a grave container in a child burial.

The dump fill is dated not only with the help of well known Late Roman Pottery types such as ARSW, ESC, LRC and LRLCW but also with other find-groups found in the same fill such as lamps, *ampullae*, *amphorae* and coins. Generally there are two groups of concentration: a) 4th century A.D. group b) A late 5th-6th century group. For example ARSW, LRC seem to be common in the 4th century A.D. whereas LRLCW belongs to the late 5th- 6th century group.

Bes has recently proposed a new distribution table of Late Roman pottery according to their density from published material of the Northern Aegean sites⁷. He determines that: ARSW % 21.2; ESC % 41.4; LRC % 35.3; LRD % 2.2.

Late Roman pottery from Bithynia has so far not been published in a satisfactory manner. Hopefully this preliminary report may help somewhat to eliminate this issue. A reliable statistical recording of the material from Nicaea is in preparation but, preliminarily, it can be asserted that the density of wares from Nicaea is as follows:

ARSW (African Red Slip Ware) and late type of ESC (Çandarlı Ware) are very common in the Nicaea Theatre. Also there are many LRLCW (Late Roman Light Coloured Ware), but LRC (Phocaea Red Slip Ware) is rare.

AFRICAN RED SLIP WARE

(Pl. 1, 5, Nr. 1-19)

African Red slip ware (ARSW) is quite common in Eastern Mediterranean⁸ especially after 325 A.D. until 425 A.D.⁹. As the preliminary statistics demonstrate ARSW is the most common Late Roman Pottery in Nicaea. This form is dated by Hayes as being from towards the end of the fourth century A.D.¹⁰. In Corinth there is a similar form in a context dated to the late third and early fourth century¹¹. Bes proposes that ARSW starts to decrease after 425 A.D. and LRC starts to increase. ARSW reappears in a renovated form between 500 and 600 A.D. It was probably Justinian's conquest of

North Africa which resulted in the spread of new ARSW across the Empire¹².

The most common forms are Hayes 53, 61, 67. There are also many fragments which, so far, cannot be clearly assigned to specific forms.

Hayes Form 53 (Pl. 1, 5, Nr. 1-4)

Hayes form 53 is well-represented in the late 4th and early 5th centuries. This bowl form is dated in Athens to the end of the 4th century A.D.¹³. Similar examples have been found in a context which has been dated to the late 3rd and early 4th centuries A.D. at Corinth¹⁴.

Nr. 1 and 2 are well preserved. They have been found in a level which is not recorded. **Nr. 3 and 4** were found in the dump fill behind the stage building.

Nr. 1. (Pl. 1, 5): Bowl with curved body, flat base, and plain rim; Inv. IRT 13/58; FO: GA-2; Fabric: light red (2.5 YR 6/8); Surface: red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped; Orn: multiple rouletting; Diam: 17.4 cm; Diam of base: 6.2 cm; H: 3.2 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45 Form, 53b (late 4th cent.); Slane 1994: Pl. 2, 4-5 (4th cent)

Nr. 2. (Pl. 1, 5): Bowl with curved body, flat base, and plain rim; Inv. IRT 13/57; FO: GA-2; Fabric: red (10 R 5/6); Surface: Red (10 R 5/8) slipped; Orn: multiple rouletting; Diam: 16.2 cm; Diam of base: 5 cm; H: 2.55 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45, Form 53 (late 4th cent.); Slane 1994: Pl. 2, 4-5 (4th cent); Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 175.

Nr. 3. (Pl. 1, 5): Bowl with curved body and plain rim; Inv: IRT 17/156; FO: L 2 (90.44-90.37 m); Fabric: red (2.5 YR 5/8), mica; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/6) slipped; Orn: multiple rouletting; Diam: 18.8 cm; H: 4.1 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45 Form 53 (late 4th cent.); Slane 1994: Pl. 2, 4-5 (4th cent); Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 175.

Nr. 4. (Pl. 1, 5): Bowl with curved body and plain rim; Inv: IRT 17/646; FO: I 3-4 (90.36-90.14 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/8), coarse; Surface: Red (10 R 5/6) slipped; Diam: 14.8 cm; H: 2.5 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45 Form 53 (late 4th cent.); Slane 1994: Pl. 2, 4-5 (4th cent); Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 175.

7) Bes 2015: 100.

8) Heath and Tekkök 2009.

9) Bes 2015: 8.

10) Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45 Form, 53b (late 4th cent.).

11) Slane 1994: 127, Fig. 2, 4-5.

12) Bes 2015: 91.

13) Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1044/45 Form, 53b (late 4th cent.).

14) Slane 1994: Pl. 2, 4-5 (4th cent.).

Hayes Form 57/58 (Pl. 1, 5, Nr. 5-6)

Nr. 5, belongs to the Hayes Form 57. This form is dated to the late 4th century in the Athenian Agora¹⁵. **Nr. 6** belongs to Hayes Form 58¹⁶. It is dated to the first half of the 4th century in Agora.

Nr. 5. (Pl. 1, 5): Dish with slight drooping rim; Inv: IRT 17/723; FO: G 3 (90.53-90.19 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8), coarse; Surface: red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped; Diam: 39.6 cm; H: 1.8 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1048. Form 57 (late 4th Cent.)

Nr. 6. (Pl. 1, 5): Dish with flat rim; Inv: IRT 17/657; FO: G 4 (90.24-90.09m); Fabric: Red (10 R 6/8) grit and mica.

Hayes Form 61 (Pl. 1, 5, Nr. 7-8)

Hayes describes this form as a flat-based dish with a vertical or slightly incurved rim, flattened on the exterior to give a more or less triangular profile¹⁷. Two fragments of this common form are depicted in the catalogue.

Nr. 7. (Pl. 1, 5): Dish with slightly incurved rim, flattened on the exterior to give a triangular profile; Inv: IRT 17/877; FO: G 3 (90.72-90.53 m); Fabric: Light red (10 R 6/8) mica; Surface: Light red (10 R 6/8) slipped; Diam: 15.6 cm; H: 3.2 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 33, 1060-1065, Form 61 (400/430 A.D.).

Nr. 8. (Pl. 1, 5): Dish with slightly incurved rim, flattened on the exterior to give a triangular profile; Inv: IRT 17/883; FO: G 3 (90.72-90.53 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) mica; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped; Diam: 34.6 cm; H: 3.1 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 33, 1060-1065, Form 61 (400/430 A.D.).

Hayes Form 67 (Pl. 1, 5, Nr. 9-11)

These bowls are with curved with a slightly sagging body, a flat base, and a two-part flaring rim. Form 67 dated in 400/430 A.D. by Hayes¹⁸.

Nr. 9. (Pl. 1, 5): Large Bowl with curved, slightly sagging body and a two-part flaring rim; Inv: IRT 17/865; FO: G 4 (90.43-90.24 m); Fabric: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) mica; Surface: Red (10 R 5/8) slipped; Diam: 27 cm; H: 3 cm; Par: Başaran and Ergürer 2012: Fig. 6, 3; Hayes 2008: Fig. 34, 1081-1086,

Form 67 (400/430 A.D.); Rautman 1992: Fig. 4, 1,3.; Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 11, CF 163.

Nr. 10. (Pl. 1, 5): Large Bowl with curved, slightly sagging body and a two-part flaring rim; Inv: IRT 17/669; FO: G 4 square (90.24-90.09 m); Fabric: Light red (10 R 6/8) grit, plant inclusions; Surface: Red (10 R 5/8) slipped; Diam: 20.2 cm; H: 1.6 cm; Par: Başaran and Ergürer 2012: Fig. 6, 3; Hayes 2008: Fig. 34, 1081-1086, Form 67 (400/430 A.D.); Rautman 1992: Fig. 4, 1,3; Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 11, CF 163.

Nr. 11. (Pl. 1, 5): Large Bowl with curved, slightly sagging body and a two-part flaring rim; Inv: IRT 17/433; FO: G 5 (90.12-89.94 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit and plant temper; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped; Diam: 37.6 cm; H: 2.6 cm; Par: Başaran and Ergürer 2012: Fig. 6, 3; Hayes 2008: Fig. 34, 1081-1086, Form 67 (400/430 A.D.); Rautman 1992: Fig. 4, 1,3; Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig.11, CF 163.

Base (Pl. 2, 5)**Nr. 12-19**

Similar decoration as seen on **Nr. 12** is known from the Athenian Agora, which is dated by Hayes to the late 4th century A.D.¹⁹. Early in the 4th century A.D. stamped decoration makes its appearance, thereafter remaining a regular feature until late into the 6th century. Hayes classified **Nr. 13** as the rosette type in the style 36s and the palm in the style 3a and **Nr. 14**, the rosette style type 36s²⁰. The rosette of **Nr. 15** in Hayes 28d, and the palm is 2d²¹. The base fragments with the feather-rouletted ornaments are witnessed in **Nr. 16-18**. The ornament on **Nr. 17** is faint. Around the middle 5th century various Christian motifs, particularly cross monograms are introduced²². There is a cross on **Nr. 19** similar in style to E-i in Hayes²³.

Nr. 12. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/585; FO: V 5 (90.28-90.19 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit and plant temper; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 6/8) slipped; Orn: palm-branches and grille-patterns (Stamp: style A ii. Late 4th century A.D.); Diam of base: 15.2 cm; H: 1.5 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Pl. 55, 1089 (Form 67)

15) Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1048.

16) Hayes 2008: Fig. 32, 1049, Form 58.

17) Hayes 1972: 106.

18) Hayes 2008: Fig. 34, 1081-1086.

19) Hayes 2008: Pl. 55, 1089.

20) Hayes 1972: Fig. 40, style 36s (for rosette), Fig. 39, 3a (for palm).

21) Hayes 1972: Fig. 39, 28d (for rosette), Fig. 38, 2d (for palm).

22) Hayes 2008: 70.

23) Hayes 1972: Fig. 56, 321 (Style E-i).

Nr. 13. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/508; FO: F-5/F-6 Sondage (89.56-89.34 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/8) mica; Surface: Red (10 R 5/6) slipped; Orn: flower rosette and palmette; Par: Hayes 1972: Fig. 40, style 36s (for rosette), Fig. 39, 3a (For palm).

Nr. 14. (Pl. 2-5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/428; FO: G 5 (91.87-90.60 m); Fabric: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) mica and grit; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 4/8) slipped; Orn: flower rosette; Par: Hayes 1972: Fig. 40, Style 36s (for rosette).

Nr. 15. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/792; FO: M 2 (90.19-90.10 m); Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Orn: palm and rosette; Diam: 15.1 cm; H: 3.5 cm; Par: Hayes 1972: Fig. 39, 28d (for rosette), Fig. 38, 2d (for palm).

Nr. 16. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/620; FO: I 3-4 (90.14-89.86 m); Fabric: Light red (10 R 6/8) mica and plant temper; Surface: Red (10 R 5/8) slipped; Orn: bird wings; Par: Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 175.

Nr. 17. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/617; FO: M 3-4 (90.36-90.23 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) mica; Surface: Red (10 R 5/8) slipped; Orn: bird wings; Par: Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 176.

Nr. 18. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with flat-based; Inv: IRT 17/787; FO: G 4 (90.70-90.48 m); Fabric: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) mica and plant temper; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/8); Orn: bird wings; Par: Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 13, CF 175.

Nr. 19. (Pl. 2, 5): Bowl with ring foot; Inv: IRT 17/938; FO: M 3-4 (90.23-90.05 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/8) mica and plant temper; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped; Diam of base: 8.2 cm; H: 2.5 cm; Par: Hayes 1972: Fig. 56, 321.o (Style E-i).

PHOCEAN RED SLIP WARE/LATE ROMAN C (Pl. 2, 6, Nr. 20-22)

This ware is not common from the Nicaea theatre. A similar one to **Nr. 20** is dated to the early 6th century A.D.²⁴. The similar fragment of **Nr. 21** is dated to 500-525 A.D. in Hayes²⁵. **Nr. 22** is classified as Type F after Hayes and dated to a context of ca. 500-525 A.D. in the Athenian Agora²⁶. All of them belong to the early 6th century.

Nr. 20. (Pl. 2, 6): Bowl Hayes Type E; Inv: IRT 17/1635; FO: T 4 (90.57-90.44 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/6), grit; Surface: Reddish black (2.5 YR 2,5/1) slipped; Diam: 23 cm; H: 2.3 cm; Par: Başaran and Ergürer 2012: Fig. 8, 15; Hayes 2008: Fig. 39, 1276, Type E (Early 6th century?); Rautman 1995: Fig. 4, 1,5; Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 5, CF81.

Nr. 21. (Pl. 2, 6): Bowl Hayes Type F; Inv: IRT 17/150; FO: M 2 (90.66-90.51 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/8) grit; Surface: Red (10 R 5/6) slipped; Diam: 24.2 cm; H: 3.7 cm; Par: Başaran and Ergürer 2012: Fig. 8, 18; Hayes 2008: Fig. 39, 1281 (context of ca. A.D. 500-525); Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: Fig. 8, CF78.

Nr. 22. (Pl. 2, 6): Base; Inv: IRT 17/426; FO: G 5 (91.87-90.60 m); Fabric: Red (2.5 YR 4/8) mica and grit; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 4/8) slipped; Diam of base: 12 cm; H: 1.3 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Pl. 64, 1334 (end of 4th to early 5th century).

ESC (Pl. 3, 6, Nr. 23-29)

ESC, also called Çandarlı Ware is quite common in Nicaea and consists of a lot of later series Atlante19/Hayes form ²⁷. **Nr. 23-29** are the late type of form L19²⁸. Their slip is thin, matte, and the wall is thinner than earlier examples. A similar late example is also found in Peribolos of Apollo at Corinth and Kyme²⁹.

Nr. 23. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/681; FO: G 4 (90.09-89.72 m); Fabric: Red (2.5 YR 5/6) mica and grit; Surface: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 6/4) slipped; Diam: 11 cm; H: 3.9 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 24. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/661; FO: G 4 (90.24-90.09 m); Fabric: Red (10 R 5/6) mica and grit; Surface: Dark reddish brown (2.5 YR 3/4) slipped; Diam: 19.4 cm; H: 3.3 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 25. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/923; FO: M 2 (90.19-90.10 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Diam: 15.1 cm; H: 3.5 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 26. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/884; FO: G 3 (90.72-90.53 m); Fabric:

24) Hayes 2008: Fig. 39, 1276, Type E (early 6th century?).

25) Hayes 2008: Fig. 39, 1281 (Context of ca. A.D. 500-525).

26) Hayes 2008: Fig. 39, 1281 (Context of ca. A.D. 500-525).

27) Atlante II, L19, Tav. XVII, Nr.7 (75-150).

28) Hayes 2008: Fig. 788-793 (Çandarlı Sigillata) and 630-635 (Italian Sigillata).

29) Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) plant and grit; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/6) slipped; Diam: 13.6 cm, H: 3 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 27. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/132; FO: U 5 (91.00-90.63 m); Fabric: Reddish brown (2.5 YR 4/4) grit; Surface: Weak red (10 R 4/4) slipped; Diam: 11.6 cm; H: 3.2 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 28. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/804; FO: I 3-4 (90.26-90.17 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 7/6) plant; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Diam: 10.4 cm; H: 1.6 cm; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

Nr. 29. (Pl. 3, 6): Hemispherical Flanged Bowls; Inv: IRT 17/83; FO: L 2 (90.20-89.94 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 7/8) plant; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) slipped; Par: Slane 1994: 129, Fig. 1, 3; Giovanni 2014: Fig. 8-9, 76.

ASIA MINOR FABRIC

(Pl. 3, 6, Nr. 30)

Nr. 30 is a rare piece that is reminiscent of the fabric designated by Hayes as Asia Minor fabric. A similar example was found in Sardis³⁰. It displays a rather different decoration technique as there is incised decoration on the slip. In Parion there is only one piece known so far which was made using the same technique³¹.

Nr. 30. (Pl. 3, 6): Inv: IRT 13/72; FO: M-19; Fabric: Pink (5 YR 7/4); Surface: inner side on the lip pink (7.5 YR 8/3) slipped, on the grooved part light red (2.5 YR 6/8), outside pink (7.5 YR 8/3) slipped; Ornament: interior vertical incised lines; Diam: 23.6 cm; H: 4.5 cm; Par: Hayes 1972: XXX-III, a, Asia Minor Fabric, Sardis Excavation P67.2 (7284). Ergürer 2014: Pl. 6, 29, Pl. 7, 29; Rautman 1995: Fig. 24, 3.11.

LIGHT COLORED WARE

(Pl. 4, 6, 7; Nr. 31-42)

This relatively poorly known ware has been found in decent ratios in the theatre of Nicaea. This ware type is covered by Hayes and is dated to the 4th and 6th centuries A.D.³². Ergürer recently published an enlightening paper dealing with Late Roman Light Colored (LRLC) from Parion and classified them after their forms. Below I use his form num-

bers from Parion to comment on the material from Nicaea:

Form 1: **Nr. 31**; Form 3: **35, 36**; Form 5: **Nr. 32, 33, 34**.

Nr. 31. (Pl. 4, 6): Ergürer Form 1; Inv: IRT 17/110; FO: M 2 (90.37-90.19 m); Fabric: Light Red (2.5 YR 6/8) plant and grit; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 6/8) slipped; Diam: 13.2 cm; H: 2.8 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 1, 1-3, Form 1.

Nr. 32. (Pl. 4, 6): Ergürer Form 5; Inv: IRT 17/446; FO: G 5 (89.79-89.62 m); Fabric: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 7/4) grit and plant temper; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Diam: 10 cm; H: 3.7 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 3, 11-13, Form 5; Hayes 2008: Fig. 43, 1431 (second quarter of 6th century).

Nr. 33. (Pl. 4, 6): Ergürer Form 5; Inv: IRT 17/744; FO: G 4 (90.48-90.43 m); Fabric: Weak red (2.5 YR 5/2) grit; Surface: Reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4) slipped; Diam: 11.8 cm; H: 1.8 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 3, 11-13, Form 5.

Nr. 34. (Pl. 4, 6): Ergürer Form 5; Inv: IRT 17/924; FO: M 2 (90.19-90.10 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit and plant temper; Surface: Reddish brown (2.5 YR 4/4) slipped; Diam: 19.6 cm; H: 3.8 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 3, 11-13, Form 5; Hayes 2008: Fig. 43, 1431.

Nr. 35. (Pl. 4, 7): Ergürer Form 3; Inv: IRT 17/28; FO: M 2 (90.51-90.37 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) mica; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Diam: 13.8 cm; H: 4.3 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 1, 6, Pl. 2, 8 Form 3 (early 5th until the early 6th centuries A.D.); Hayes 2008: Fig. 43, 1436 (4th-5th century A.D.).

Nr. 36. (Pl. 4, 7): Ergürer Form 3; Inv: IRT 17/506; FO: F5 F6 Sondage (89.56-89.34 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) mica; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/6) slipped; Diam: 11.8 cm; H: 3.1 cm; Par: Ergürer 2014: Pl. 1, 6, Pl. 2, 8, Form 3 (early 5th until the early 6th centuries A.D.); Hayes 2008: Fig. 43, 1436 (4th-5th century A.D.).

Nr. 37. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/603; FO: V 5 (90.46-90.28 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) grit and plant temper; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) slipped; Diam. of base: 6 cm, H: 2.2 cm.

Nr. 38. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/703; FO: G 4 (90.09-89.72 m); Fabric: Reddish gray (2.5 YR 6/1) plant temper; Surface: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 6/4) slipped; Diam of base: 4 cm; H: 1.9 cm.

Nr. 39. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/153; FO: V 6 (90.44-90.15 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 7/8)

30) Hayes 1972: Pl. 67, 2.

31) Ergürer 2014: Pl. 6, 29, Pl. 7, 29.

32) Hayes 2008: 250-253.

mica; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Diam of base: 18 cm; H: 2 cm; Par: Hayes 2008: Fig. 43, 1447 (5th-6th century A.D.).

Nr. 40. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/448; FO: G 5 (89.79-89.62 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) plant temper; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped.

Nr. 41. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/750; FO: G 4 (90.48-90.43 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit and plant temper; Surface: red (2.5 YR 5/8) slipped.

Nr. 42. (Pl. 4, 7): Inv: IRT 17/667; FO: G 4 (90.24-90.09m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) grit; Surface: Red (10 R 5/6) slipped.

AMPULLAE (UNGUENTARIA)

(Pl. 7, Nr. 43-45)

A few stamped *ampullae* (*unguentaria*) fragments came from the dump-fill, and approximately 50 other fragments are known from earlier excavations in the theatre. They have the same fine and hard fired fabrics found at other sites. Such *ampullae* are widely distributed in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, and Anatolia³³. Hayes dates this type generally between the 5th to 7th centuries A.D., however, the stamped ones are from the 6th century A.D.³⁴. If his dating is still valid the stamped fragments from Nicaea may also be dated to the 6th century A.D.

Nr. 43. (Pl. 7): Inv: IRT 16/428; FO: I3-4 (90.72-90.49 m); Fabric: Dark grayish brown (2.5 Y 4/2); Surface: Dark gray (2.5 Y 4/1) slipped; Ephesus-Konstantinople-Syrakus; Par: Metaxas 2005: Nr. 30, Kat. Nr. 42, Taf. 2; Aydingün et al. 2013: 6, Şek. 3a-b.

Nr. 44. (Pl. 7): Inv: IRT 16/429; FO: I3-4 (90.72-90.49 m); Fabric: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 7/4); Surface: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 6/3) slipped; Ephesus-Aphrodisias-Knidos-Konstantinople-Athens-Alexandria; Par: Metaxas 2005: Nr. 20, Taf. 2.

Nr. 45. (Pl. 7): Inv: IRT 16/430; FO: I3-4 (90.72-90.49 m); Fabric: Pale red (10 R 6/3); Surface: Pale red (10 R 7/2) slipped; Par: Metaxas 2005: Nr. 1, Kat. 1, 78, Ephesus;

Par: Metaxas 2005: Nr. 20, Taf. 2; Aydingün et al. 2013: 7, Şek. 4a-b

PALESTINE GAZA AMPHORA

(Pl. 8, Nr. 46)

This amphora which was utilised as a grave container for a baby burial was found on the floor connected to the southwest wall of the *parodos*. The bones of the baby are broken into pieces and there is no offering in the amphora. This amphora is an import from Gaza, Palestine. It is widely distributed in the eastern Mediterranean especially during the late 5th and 6th centuries A.D.³⁵.

Nr. 46 (Pl. 8): Cigar shaped with loop handles on shoulders; Inv: IRT 16/1; FO: D6/7 East Tomb 1; Fabric: Reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4); Surface: Reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) slipped; Ribbing on upper body; Par: Blakely 1988: Nr. 271, Fig. 6, 1 (6th century A.D.); Shkodra 2006: Fig. 6, 1; Heath and Tekkök 2009: 123, 32 (5th century A.D.); Slane and Sanders 2005: 243-297, Fig. 5, 2-25-26 (late 5th to late 6th century A.D.).

LAMPS

(Pl. 8, 9, Nr. 47-57)

There are a few Pontic lamps present in the recovered ceramic assemblage. One of them is dated to the 4th century A.D. (**Nr. 47**) and other one to the 6th century A.D. (**Nr. 48**) by Zhuravlev³⁶. The North African Lamp style is also represented by some specimens (**Nr. 49**). Bailey classified a similar specimen to **Nr. 50** from Sardis close to the Broneer type XXIX Group 3 and dates it to 550-650 A.D.³⁷. The Late Roman Asia Minor lamp (**Nr. 51**) is compared with a lamp discovered in a 6th century tomb at Amorium. Schoolman classifies this lamp as a Late Roman "Asia Minor" type and even attempts to classify it under a special Late Roman "Amorium" Type lamp³⁸. There is a large group of lamps which might be produced locally (**Nr. 52-56**). A similar example to these lamps is dated from Delos to the 5th - 7th centuries A.D.³⁹. There is also a similar example dated to the 5th - 6th centuries A.D. from Perge⁴⁰.

Nr. 47 (Pl. 8): Pontic Lamp; Inv: IRT 16/ 2; FO: H4 surface; Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6); Surface: Light brown (7.5 YR 6/4) slipped; Par: Zhuravlev 2012: Fig. 11, 3 (4th century A.D.).

33) See a recent list and map prepared by Metaxas 2005: 74-75, Fig. 7.

34) Hayes 1972: 245.

35) August Class 60, Keay Class LIV, Peacock and Williams Class 49.

36) Zhuravlev 2012: 28-29.

37) Bailey 1988: Pl. 114, Q3219 (A.D. 550-650).

38) Schoolman 2012: 193, 195.

39) Delos XXVI, Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

40) Çokay 1996: 185, Kat. Nr. 130.

Nr. 48 (Pl. 8): Pontic Lamp; Inv: IRT 17/1162; FO: N 2 (90.48-90.34 m); Fabric: Light red (10 R 7/6) mica; Surface: Red (10 R 5/6) slipped; Orn: an arch between two columns and reverse triangle and circles on both sides, triangle and sticks on nozzle; Par: Zhuravlev 2012: Fig. 8, 1-12 (6th century A.D.); Bailey 1988: Fig. 58, Q3309-3310; Hayes 1992: Pl. 20, 34-4 (5th-6th century A.D.).

Nr. 49 (Pl. 8): North African Lamp; Inv: IRT 16/188; FO: West Parodos (91.89-91.40 m); Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/8) grit and plant; Surface: Yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) slipped; Orn: triangles on the shoulder, a palm tree in the discus; Par: Bailey 1988: Q1832, A.D. 400-500 (Hayes Type IIA); Dağlı 2008: Fig. 482; Zhuravlev 2007: 229, Fig. 22, 5 (late 5th century).

Nr. 50 (Pl. 8): Broneer type XXIX, Group 3; Inv: IRT 17/5; FO: P2 (90.45 m); Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) mica; Surface: Yellowish red (5 YR 5/6) slipped; Par: Bailey 1988: Pl. 114, Q3219, Fig. 143 (Sardes) (A.D. 550-650).

Nr. 51 (Pl. 8): Late Roman Asia Minor Lamp; Inv: IRT 16/190; FO: West Parodos (91.89-91.40 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 7/6) mica; Surface: Light reddish brown (2.5 YR 7/3) slipped; Orn: concave base surrounded by raised base ring; solid, cruciform handle with flared arms; Par: Schoolman 2012: Fig. 4/3, SF6614, Nr. 14 (6th century A.D.); Zhuravlev 2007: Fig. 23, 3 (6th century A.D.); Hayes 1992: Plate 22, 71-78; Plate 24, 107, 108 (A.D. 550-650); Bailey 1988: 371, Fig. 162 (Early Byzantine).

Nr. 52 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 17/1756; FO: P 3 (90.39-90.30 m); Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6), mica and grit; Orn: dots on the shoulder between the relief leafy branches, dots in the discus; Surface: Pink (5 YR 7/4); Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

Nr. 53 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 16/4; FO: SBB1 (90.60-90.45 m); Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6) mica; Surface: Reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) slipped; Orn: relief zigzag line on the shoulder and discus, dots on the nozzle; Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

Nr. 54 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 17/1396; FO: R 4 (90.65-90.51 m); Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 6/8) grit; Surface: Red (2.5 YR 5/6) slipped; Orn: relief dotted lines around discus; Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

Nr. 55 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 17/1361; FO: G 5; Fabric: Reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6) mica; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Orn: two rows of relief dotted lines on the discus; Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

Nr. 56 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 16/2253; FO: V 3 (90.97-90.79 m); Fabric: Light red (10 R 6/8) mica; Surface: Light red (10 R 6/7) slipped; Orn: rows of relief dots on the shoulder, relief leafy branches in discus; Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

Nr. 57 (Pl. 9): Locally Produced Lamp; Inv: IRT 17/1400; FO: R 4 (90.65-90.51 m); Fabric: Light red (2.5 YR 6/8) mica; Surface: Light red (2.5 YR 6/6) slipped; Orn: short lines in discus, relief leafy branches on the shoulder; Par: Delos XXVI: Pl. 34, 4729, 4723.

COINS

(Pl. 8, Nr. 58-62)

Many coins were found in the dump-fill. Unfortunately most of them were corroded and were illegible. So far only four of them could be identified and all of them belong to the 4th century A.D. A gold coin of Justinian (525-546 A.D.) was found, not directly in the dump fill, but in the northwest of the dump fill area.

Nr. 58 (Pl. 9): 4th century A.D.; AE; Inv: IRT 16 /5; Trench: G 4 (90.39 m); Obv: Unclear; Rev: Unclear.

Nr. 59 (Pl. 9): 395-408 A.D.; AE 18.50 mm; 2.22 gr.; Inv: IRT 16/11; Trench: G 5 (90.60m); Obv: DN.....VSPFAVG; Bust of Justinianus, pearl diad., dr., r; Rev: [VIRTVS EXERCITI]; Emperor stg. Front, hd. R., holding spear and shield, being crowned by Victoria stg. 1.

Nr. 60 (Pl. 9): 4th century A.D.; AE; Inv: IRT 16 /14; Trench: G 4 (90.45 m); Obv: Unclear; Rev: Victoria advancing 1.

Nr. 61 (Pl. 9): 348-350 A.D.; AE; Inv: IRT 16 /45; Trench: G 5 (89.92 m); Obv: Bust of Constantinus II, pearl diad., dr., cuir., r.; Rev: Unclear.

Nr. 62 (Pl. 9): Sixth century A.D.; AE 19 mm; 2.22 gr.; Inv: IRT 17/602; 91,15 m; Trench: C13-C14-D13-D14; in the north west of the dump fill area; Obv: DN IVSTINI-ANVS PP AVG; Bust of Justinianus, pearl diad., dr., cuir., r.; Rev: VICTORIA AV CCC; Victoria sitting r., holding a shield with numbers on with her right hand, star in field 1. chi-rho cross in field.

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CONCLUSIONS

This is the preliminary report on the Late Roman Pottery found in the theatre of Nicaea. They have been found in a dump area which covered the orchestra and the stage building at a height of 89.00 m and 90.00 m above sea level. It seems that this area was used as a garbage-dump consisting of broken pottery and small find fragments. It is dated between 368 and 557 A.D. by two severe earthquakes which caused a lot of damage. The pottery examined in this article corresponds to within these temporal limits. The finds display two periods of concentration: a) a 4th century group of mostly African Red Slip Ware, b) a 6th century group consisting of mostly Phocian Red Slip Ware and Light Coloured Ware.

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv: Inventory Number
FO: Fund Ort (Find location in German)
Orn: Ornament
Diam: Diameter
Par: Parallel

A.E.M.

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Plate 1

African Red Slip Ware

Plate 2

Phocean red Slip Ware

Plate 3

ESC

Asia Minor Fabric

Plate 4

Light Colored Ware

Plate 5

African Red Slip Ware

Plate 6**Phocian Red Slip Ware** **Eastern Sigillata C (ESC)** **Asia Minor Fabric** **Light Colored Ware**

Plate 7

Light Colored Ware

Ampullae

Plate 8

Palestinian Amphora

46

H: 69,20cm

Palestinian amphora found *in situ*.

Lamps

47

48

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50

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Plate 9

Locally Produced Lamps

Coins

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d'Etudes Anatoliennes

La citadelle de Tushpa (Van, Turquie).

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