

EVOLUÇÃO E TRANSFERÊNCIA DAS TÉCNICAS / *THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNIQUES*

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Brick and tile producing workshops in the outskirts of Thessaloniki from 5th till 15th century: a diachronic study of the firing technology that has been continuously applied in the ceramic workshops of a large byzantine urban center.

During the 2010 rescue excavation of a large building plot in the western districts of Thessaloniki, an Early Byzantine ceramic workshop has been dug up and identified as one of the many ceramic building material producing establishments that operated in the plain outside the western walls of the city, which as early as the 7th century was named *Keramēsios kampos* (tile or pottery plain) due to the numerous brick and tile factories functioned there.

The workshop establishment is consisted of several clay deposits, a restricted clay levigation tank and five kilns: a) one circular with one central support (type 1a¹), b) one elliptic with one central firing compartment and traverse firing tubes (type 1b), still preserving part of the perforated firing floor - eschara, c) two elliptic with one axial support (type 1c), and d) one circular with unidentified support system.

Given the opportunity of this recent discovery and apart of the analytical description of the aforementioned workshop, the paper aims at the comparative presentation and the inference of conclusions about the technological aspects, mainly kilns, as well as the spatial and chronological distribution of the late antique and medieval brick and tile producing establishments that have been found in the outskirts of Thessaloniki. At the same time the paper a) examines the technology and the typology of their kilns from the Late Antiquity throughout the Late Byzantine period, b) attempts to distinguish the kilns designed to be used for the output of ceramic building materials such as tiles and bricks from those used for pottery production, either plain or glazed, c) discusses the technological evolution of their workshop establishments and the transmission of their productive techniques, and d) examines the continuity of the firing technology applied in the workshops of a byzantine city with continuous urban character.

¹About the typology of the late antique and medieval ceramic production kilns in Greece see: K. T. Raptis, "Αρχαιολογικά τεκμήρια κεραμικών εργαστηρίων στον ελληνικό χώρο (4^{ος}-15^{ος} αι.)", in: *DCHAE* 32 (2011), pp. 173-196; "Early Christian and Byzantine ceramic production workshops in Greece: typology and distribution", in: *Atti del IX Congresso Internazionale sulla Ceramica Medievale nel Mediterraneo (AIECM2)*, Venezia 23-28 Novembre 2009 (forthcoming); "L' eredità romana nelle fornaci per la produzione di ceramica in Grecia tra il IV e il XV secolo", in: *Rivista di Archeologia di Venezia* (forthcoming); wherein the precedent bibliography.