

CERÂMICA E ALIMENTAÇÃO / POTTERY AND FOOD

COMUNICAÇÃO / PAPER

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*The archaeology of consumption in the Byzantine World: A ceramic perspective.*

This paper sets out to discuss the archaeology of food and dining habits in the eastern Mediterranean during Byzantine times (ca. 7th-15th centuries after Christ). The emphasis will be on a preliminary reconstruction of a Byzantine table setting through archaeological evidence from various excavations in the eastern Mediterranean (e.g., Athens, Butrint, Corinth, Ephesus). Apart from looking at excavated examples of table equipment (especially pottery finds), two more sources of information will be used during the presentation: pictorial representations of dining scenes in Byzantine art as well as written sources on the subject. The aim of this survey is to establish whether the artefacts in combination with pictorial and written sources can contribute to the understanding of Byzantine dining habits in the eastern Mediterranean, of their changes over time, and, consequently, of the changes in form and function of ceramics and other utensils used on the table. It is not my intention in any way to strive for completeness in this survey, but rather to establish whether this is a fruitful line of approach to explain long-term changes in the ceramics.