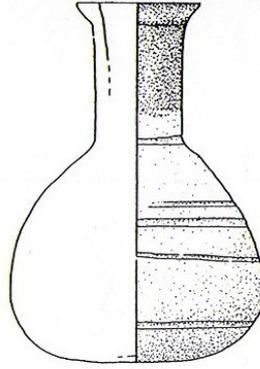


**UNGUENTARIUM.  
A TERRACOTTA VESSEL FORM AND OTHER RELATED VESSELS  
IN THE HELLENISTIC, ROMAN AND EARLY BYZANTINE  
MEDITERRANEAN - AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

May 17-18, 2018 / Izmir, Turkey  
with an excursion to Lesbos, Greece on May 19-21, 2018



*First Circular - Call for Papers*

Dear Colleagues,

The Izmir Center of the Archaeology of Western Anatolia (EKVAM) is glad to inform you that an international symposium on *unguentarium*, a terracotta vessel form in the Hellenistic, Roman and early Byzantine Mediterranean, will take place on May 17-18, 2017 at the Dokuz Eylül University (DEU) in Izmir, Turkey. An *unguentarium* (plural “*unguentaria*”) is a small ceramic or glass bottle, found in relatively large quantities in the entire Mediterranean, from Spain to Syria and Egypt to France, where they were produced between the early Hellenistic and early Medieval periods. The terracotta version of this form is a typically narrow-necked vessel shape, topped with a slender neck and a thin-lipped rim. The base of these vessels can be in some cases rounded or fusiform -- in which case it is not self-standing -- or flat-bottomed. Its shape was changed in several periods, but especially during the mid second century B.C. Beside the common term *unguentarium*, which is a modern invention, this vessel type was also called as “*balsamare*”, “*ampulle*”, “*lacramarium*” or “*flacon*” *etc.*

During the Hellenistic and Roman imperial periods the main function of these vessels was to keep perfumed oils and cosmetic lotions fresh. In recent years some chemical analyses done within these objects yielded the evidence that the *unguentarium* was mainly used to hold scented “holy” oils, unguents and perfumes. Beside this use it was also utilised for other religious purposes, especially as a votive object at tombs.

During the early Byzantine period the form and the function of *unguentaria* was changed radically. It became a fusiform flask in shape, with a short tubular mouth marked off from the body by a slight ridge, tapering to a roughly truncated point. The characteristics of these containers, which were first presented by J. W. Hayes in detail in 1971, are very distinctive: they are wheel-made, hard fired, with a thick, sturdy body and with a well smoothed and quite plain surface. A further exotic feature of these vessels is that they occasionally bear a small stamp, generally early Byzantine monograms. What these *unguentaria* contained is not satisfactorily answered yet.

So far the study of this vessel form has been overlooked whereas there is still a huge amount of unpublished material from excavations, field surveys and museums in the entire Mediterranean. In this symposium we only focus on terracotta *unguentaria* between c. mid fourth century B.C. and mid sixth century A.D., and attempt to set out a comprehensive model for the study of terracotta *unguentaria*, including their definition, typology, chronology, contexts, function, regional characteristics, and distribution patterns in the whole Mediterranean geographies, including whole eastern Mediterranean, Roman provinces in the western Mediterranean, north of Alps (Germania and Britannia etc.) and north Africa. It is also our intention to create a complete bibliography of previous publications on terracotta *unguentaria*.

We warmly invite contributions by scholars and graduate students from a variety of disciplines related to this terracotta vessel form. Intended to bring together scholars of Greek, Roman and Byzantine ceramic archaeology to discuss a range of issues concerning this vessel's characteristics, this symposium should be an excellent opportunity to increase our knowledge about this form. The following theme groups are the main questions of the symposium which are prescriptive:

- Terracotta *unguentaria* from archaeological field projects, museums and private collections,
- Ancient Greek and Latin textual sources on *unguentaria*,
- Typological evolution of terracotta *unguentaria*,
- Transitional typological and functional features between *lekythoi*, *amphoriskoi* etc. and *unguentaria* during the late Classical-early Hellenistic period,
- Similar vessel forms in the ancient Near East and their relations to Greek *unguentaria*,
- What ancient Greeks and Romans thought about afterlife? Terracotta *unguentaria* in the Mediterranean funerary contexts (a session proposed by Dr Cristian Anton Găzdac),
- Domestic and commercial contents of terracotta *unguentaria*: Perfumes, unguents and other commodities and their trade through terracotta *unguentaria* (i.e. terracotta *unguentaria* as means of networking),
- Related vessels in the regards of their function,
- Relations of Hellenistic and Roman terracotta *unguentaria* to glass, metal and marble *unguentaria*,
- Major production centers of terracotta *unguentaria* in Hellenistic, Roman and early Byzantine periods,
- Roman terracotta *unguentaria* in the eastern and western Mediterranean, and their differences,
- Hellenistic and Roman gravestones and other iconographic media depicting *unguentaria*,
- Early Byzantine *unguentarium* as an eulogical object for pilgrim?,
- Monograms on early Byzantine *unguentaria*,
- Relations between early Byzantine terracotta *unguentaria* and some historical events,
- Reasons for its abrupt termination in the mid seventh century A.D.,
- Exceptional finds of terracotta *unguentaria* in Graeco-Roman fashion after the seventh century A.D.,
- *Miscellanea*.

On these themes and questions, all disciplines, approaches and methods susceptible to bring some progress to our current knowledge are of course welcome: classical archaeology, Byzantine archaeology, archaeometry, petrography, history of art, ancient history, sigillography and cultural anthropology etc. Archaeometric papers related to *unguentarium* research are most welcome. English is the official language of the symposium.

The symposium is free of charge. Unfortunately the symposium organization cannot undertake expenses of participants' accommodation, travel, post-symposium excursion, the booklet of symposium abstracts and publication of the proceedings. It will take place at the Burgundy Hall of DESEM in the Chancellery Building of DEU in Alsancak, Izmir. A local archaeological journal is planned as a special issue containing the symposium's abstracts which will also be made available on the website. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in 2020. We will make the required hotel reservations as soon as we know the exact number of participants. The approximate cost for the accommodation per night + breakfast will be 25 €. A post-symposium excursion is planned on May 19-21 to Lesbos, Greece through Ayvalık. For the participants who cannot travel to Izmir, we will arrange a video-conference facility through Skype. There are several low-cost flight companies (Pegasus, Sunexpress, Onur Air, Easyjet, Eurowings etc.) which operate direct flights to Izmir from several locations. The dates of our symposium have been regulated for those who are also planning to participate to the meetings in Cologne/Bonn, Germany, entitled "19th international congress of classical archaeology" and is taking place on May 22-26, 2018, and in Turkey, entitled "40th Turkish symposium of archaeological excavations, surveys and archaeometry" and is taking place on May 28-June 1, 2018.

The EKVAM has organized several international archaeological meetings under the series of *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea*, *Congressus internationales Smyrnenses* and continues to organize these annual scientific meetings in Izmir regularly every third week of each May (a list of past meetings and their publications in the series of *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea*, *Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae* is at below).

We would be delighted, if you could consider contributing to our symposium and contact us with the required information below **before February 1, 2018**. Our e-mail addresses are: [gulserenkan@hotmail.com](mailto:gulserenkan@hotmail.com) or [terracottas@deu.edu.tr](mailto:terracottas@deu.edu.tr) For all your queries concerning the symposium our phone number is: +90.544.938 54 64. The organizers seek to widen participation at this symposium, and would like to encourage colleagues from all parts of the world to attend. The symposium committee kindly requests that you alert any persons within your research community who would be interested in participating at this symposium, either by forwarding our e-mail through Facebook or other similar social media, or by

printing this circular or our poster and displaying it in your institution. We hope that you will be able to join us at the Dokuz Eylül University, and look forward to seeing you in Izmir!

### Websites of the symposium

<https://independent.academia.edu/TheLydiaSymposium>  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/The\\_Lydia\\_Symposium](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/The_Lydia_Symposium)

### Required information for the participation to the symposium

Type of Participation:

Lecturer:

Observer:

Lecturer through Skype:

Name:

Academic title:

Institution:

Complete professional address:

Cell phone:

E-mail:

Your Academia and/or Researchgate account's address:

Are you planning to join to the post-symposium excursion to Lesbos, Greece?:

Any special requests:

Title of your lecture:

**Your abstract:**

N.B.: An illustration can be included; it should be sent by e-mail to [gulserenkan@hotmail.com](mailto:gulserenkan@hotmail.com) or [terracottas@deu.edu.tr](mailto:terracottas@deu.edu.tr)

### Scientific committee of the symposium (in alphabetic order; to be continued)

Professor Neşe Atik (Namık Kemal University, Tekirdağ),  
Professor Asuman Baldiran (Selçuk University, Konya),  
Professor Béatrice Caseau (Université Paris-Sorbonne),  
Professor Marco Cavalieri (Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve),  
Professor Ayşe Çaylak Türker (Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University),  
Professor Şahinde Demirci (*emerit.*, Middle East Technical University, Ankara),  
Professor Elena Frangakis-Syrett (The City University of New York),  
Professor Elena Ghisellini (Università di Roma "Tor Vergata"),  
Professor Gül Işın (Akdeniz University, Antalya),  
Professor Kaan İren (Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University),  
Professor Katarzyna Maksymiuk (Uniwersytet Przyrodniczo-Humanistyczny w Siedlcach),  
Professor Elif Özer (Pamukkale University, Denizli),  
Professor Tomasz Polański (Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego, Kielce / Polska Akademia Nauk, Crakow),  
Professor Hugo Thoen (*emerit.*, Universiteit Gent / Deinze),  
Professor Ahmet Ünal (*emerit.*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Almanya),  
Professor Étienne Wolff (Université Paris-Ouest-Nanterre-La-Défense),  
Dr Eirini Artemi (Hellenic Open University, Patra / Athens),  
Dr Isabel Bonora Andujar (Musée du Louvre, Paris),  
Dr Maurizio Buora (Società Friulana di Archeologia, Udine),  
Dr José Carlos da Costa Quaresma (Universidade Nova de Lisboa),  
Dr Erkan Dündar (Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University),  
Dr Dominique Frère (Université de Bretagne-Sud),  
Dr Cristian Anton Găzdac (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca),  
Dr Věra Klontza-Jaklová (Masarykova univerzita, Brno),  
Dr John Lund (Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen),  
Dr Dimitrios Mantzilas (Athens),  
Dr Giuseppe Mariotta (Università degli Studi di Firenze),  
Dr Valentina Mordvintseva, Crimean Branch of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Simferopol),  
Dr Ivana Ožanić Roguljić (Institut za arheologiju, Zagreb),  
Dr Albert Ribera i Lacomba (Secció d'Investigació Arqueològica Municipal, Ajuntament de València),  
Dr Reyhan Şahin (Uludağ University, Bursa),  
Dr Sercan Yandım Aydın (Hacettepe University, Ankara),  
Dr Julien Zurbach (École normale supérieure, Paris),  
Ms Edyta Marzec (British School at Athens),  
Mrs Pamela K. Xipolitas (Hillsborough Community College, Plant City, FL).

**List of the previous**  
***Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea, Congressus internationales Smyrnenses***

- I-** “International conference: Terracotta figurines in the Greek and Roman eastern Mediterranean: Production, diffusion, iconography and function”; June 2–6, 2007, Izmir. Its website: <web.deu.edu.tr/terracottas>.
- II-** “International workshop: Late Roman glass in Anatolia (A.D. 4th to 8th centuries)”; October 26–28, 2009, Izmir.
- III-** “International workshop on Hellenistic ceramics in Anatolia (4th to 1st cent. B.C.)”; October 12–14, 2010, Izmir.
- IV-** “An international workshop on the pottery finds between 4th century B.C. and 8th century A.D. from northern and central Anatolia”; May 10, 2011, Izmir.
- V-** “XVIIth international congress of ancient bronzes. The archaeology of bronzes in Anatolia and the eastern Mediterranean from Protogeometric to early Byzantine periods (10th century B.C. to 7th century A.D.)”; May 21–25, 2011, Izmir.
- VI-** “Second international conference on the archaeology of Ionia – Landscapes of Ionia: Towns in transition”; May 30–June 2, 2011, Izmir.
- VII-** “Symposium on Alsancak: An intercultural district in Izmir”; November 28, 2012, Izmir.
- VIII-** “First symposium on Birgi”; December 12–13, 2013, Birgi.
- IX-** “Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to late antiquity (8th cent. B.C.-6th cent. A.D.). An international symposium”; May 17–18, 2017, Izmir.

**List of the previous *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea,***  
***Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae***

- Ia-** *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 1: *Production, diffusion, iconographie et fonction*, École française d'Athènes, Bulletin de correspondance hellénique, Supplément 54 (Athens/Paris, De Boccard 2016).
- Ib-** *Figurines de terre cuite en Méditerranée grecque et romaine*, Vol. 2: *Iconographie et contextes*, *Archaïologia* (Villeneuve d'Ascq, Presses Universitaires du Septentrion 2015).
- II-** *Late antique/early Byzantine glass in the eastern Mediterranean*, *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea – Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae II/Dokuz Eylül University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Archaeology, Division for Medieval Archaeology, Publication series, No. 1* (Izmir, Hürriyet Matbaası 2009) (ISBN 978-605-61525-0-4).
- III-** *Recent studies on the archaeology of Anatolia*, *British Archaeological Reports, International Series 2750* (Oxford, Archaeopress 2015).
- IV-** *Archaeology and history of Lydia from the early Lydian period to late antiquity (8th century B.C.-6th century A.D.)*, *Colloquia Anatolica et Aegaea – Acta congressus communis omnium gentium Smyrnae IV* (Besançon, Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté 2019, in progress).

*This symposium has been dedicated to John W. Hayes,  
who was the first in defining „late Roman unguentarium”.*