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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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Photography of artefact on the title page:

The National Museum in Warsaw houses a fairly large collection of artefacts from the Black Sea region. The artefact we selected is a terracotta figurine depicting Cybele (inventory no. 225367 MNW) from Polish excavations at Myrmekion. The photography is reproduced from the online collection of the National Museum (https://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/en/catalog/490581)

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A Group of Amphorae from the Southern Black Sea Shore

Amphorae, frequently used in maritime trade, wash up on the shores of Black Sea or get caught in the nets of fishermen. Today, fishermen collect amphorae in the 52 km-long Kandıra district of İzmit (Nicomedeia), located on the southern Black Sea coast. Transport amphorae, used primarily to convey liquid commodities in Antiquity, were the main cargo of ships involved in regional or interregional trade in the Black Sea. The amphorae examined in the present study, collected by fishermen, are of various types and sizes and with varied physical features belonging to different dates. In addition to wine, olive oil and similar liquid commodities, terracotta amphorae carry gourmet foods specific to Mediterranean cuisine, such as garum, a fish sauce. Study of amphorae provides information about the ports they first departed and visited. A macroscopic examination yields basic details of the physiological characteristics of the amphorae, such as shape, size, capacity, paste colour, paste inclusions, stamps or graffiti. A comparison of these with those of other amphorae may reveal the place of production, the culture and the period to which an amphora belongs.

Our study is an ongoing endeavour that aims to illuminate emporion and apoikiai relations and trade in the southern Black Sea coast. We are doing this by examin-

ing the types, historical periods, and quantitative and qualitative characteristics of amphorae found on the shores of Kandıra, İzmit. This presentation provides a macroscopic review of recently recovered transport amphorae, which forms the first part of our comprehensive study. We look forward to sharing more insights as our research progresses.

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Graeco-Roman Culture and Hellenistic Armenian/Pontic Iconography

During the Hellenistic era, which followed the conquests of Alexander the Great, Greek culture flourished and became a prominent source of diverse iconographic styles. These styles gained significant popularity not only throughout numerous city-states in Greece, such as Athens and Corinth, but also across the entire Near East, encompassing regions such as Egypt, Persia and the Levant.

In this vibrant cultural milieu, distinct iconographic canons emerged, characterised by their innovative representations of mythology, daily life and human emotion. Artists began to explore new techniques and subjects, leading to greater realism and expressiveness in their works. This artistic evolution paved the way for