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A physicochemical study of Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics from the Aegean

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Citation

Panagopoulou, A. (2023, May 9). *A physicochemical study of Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics from the Aegean*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3620224>

Version: Publisher's Version

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

**Propositions
to the PhD dissertation**

**A Physicochemical Study
of Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramics from the Aegean**

by Adamantia Panagopoulou

1. Throughout Greek antiquity until Post-Medieval times, pottery was elevated from mere craft into a form of art, through its combination with figurative painting. Potters had a continuous anxiety to locate the best raw materials and to exchange technological information with other workshops, even long-distant ones.
2. Glazed pottery was not a simple traditional technique of creating objects of daily use but a constant artistic search to create an enriched palette of colors as well as decorative designs. It was the identity of the potter, the workshop but also many times of a specific society.
3. Making ceramics for functional or decorative purposes allows individuals from various cultures and intellectual backgrounds to come together to listen to each other without making judgments or conclusions. Making ceramics helps to overcome the ‘prejudice’ that does not see clearly but also the ‘antipathy’ that does not see at all.
4. The role of pottery was paramount for creating ways of communication between different cultures and for promoting peaceful coexistence in the Mediterranean during Medieval and Post-Medieval times.
5. Physicochemical analyses allow for investigating and comprehend the ceramic manufacturing process from raw material selection over vessel forming and surface treatment to control of firing conditions.
6. The desire to complete a good PhD is like being in the sea and trying to guess where the shore exactly is, as the sandy beach gets flooded with water. One steps into terra incognita with sole guide the need for scientific truth and the desire to make sense out of a mass of evidence.
7. To break the stereotypes for women in science and engineering should not require from them to choose a career option in place of having a family. Society should promote gender equality and offer resources to support women who want to have families at the same time.
8. Leiden University offers a unique chance for fruitful interaction with fellow PhD students, which can be beneficial for opening a student’s horizons, for building self-confidence, obtaining useful advice, and making new friends from all over the world.
9. The sense of equality, especially in status, rights, and opportunities is admirable in the Netherlands. This country can distinguish the value and potential of each person without lingering on one’s weaknesses or superficial view.
10. To receive the light of science into your heart you must distract yourself from visible things.
11. The scope for any evolution has been “be conscious of the weakness”.
12. «Γνώμη δύο εἰσὶν ἰδέαι, ἡ μὲν γνησίη, ἡ δὲ σκοτίη». ΔΗΜΟΚΡΙΤΟΣ
There are two kinds of knowledge, the true one (clear) and the imprecise one (vague). DEMOCRITUS (Ancient Greek philosopher)