

Patricia Kögler, **Feinkeramik aus Knidos vom mittleren Hellenismus bis in die mittlere Kaiserzeit (ca. 200 v. Chr. bis 150 n. Chr.)**. Publisher Dr. Ludwig Reichert, Wiesbaden 2011. Text volume with XIV and 624 pages. Illustration volume (not paginated) with 88 plates of drawings (numbered A–N and 1–74), including 5 maps, and 69 photographic plates.

Knidos has been the object of sporadic excavation for over a century and a half, beginning with Sir Charles Newton's expedition for the British Museum from 1857 to 1863. A century later, excavations were reopened by the flamboyant Iris Love, sometime archaeologist and New York socialite, in search of the temple that housed Praxiteles' famous Aphrodite. She may have found it, but the mountains of smaller artifacts unearthed during her ten-year campaign (1967–1977) did not engage her interest. Another generation would pass before a team from Frankfurt undertook the study of this important but orphaned material. The volume under review, a revision of Patricia Kögler's 2007 dissertation, is one of the results of that initiative.

Until now, the pottery of Knidos has been known chiefly through the city's exports: Hellenistic gray-ware lamps and hemispherical cups, 'Knidian cups', and the thin-walled and oinophoros wares of the Roman period. The Author now remedies this situation with the description and analysis of Knidian fine ware from the middle of the Hellenistic to well on into the Roman period (though she excludes oinophoros ware, well known from earlier publications). The absence of early Hellenistic deposits leaves the beginning of the tradition in the shadows, but

Kögler follows ceramic development over the transition to the Roman period, exploring the continuities between what are often viewed as discrete assemblages.

The Author bases her analysis on pottery from nine broadly datable contexts or groups of contexts (»Fundkomplexe«), which she groups into four chronological phases (63–79). The first (phase I) encompasses three small third-century grave groups (complex A) and three fills (B–D) of the first half of the second century, with C continuing into the third quarter. Documentation is richest for phase II, with a large destruction debris (complex E) and the dump from a pottery workshop (F) recording ceramic developments from the late second century to circa 75 B. C. After a gap in the middle half of the first century, evidence picks up again with the only large closed context, a cistern of Augustan to Flavian date (G, phase III). Two final groups (H and J) cover phase IV, the long span between 50 and 150 A. D. Absolute dates are supported by stamped amphora handles (complexes B, D, and E, with over hundred in the latter) and by imported pottery, especially Eastern Sigillata A and B (complexes G and H). The broad dates of the deposits pose problems for the construction of a detailed ceramic chronology, but the Author overcomes them through judicious use of dated contexts of Knidian pottery found elsewhere to refine her dating.

Kögler summarizes her results in a series of introductory chapters, beginning with a macroscopic description of Knidian fabric (p. 24–26). Although some shapes (like the famous lamps) were exclusively fired gray, Knidian pottery displays wide variety in the color of both clay and gloss or color coat, making the traditional term »Knidian gray ware« a misnomer. Changes in fabric and surface treatment over phases I to IV will constitute some of the evidence for the closer dating of shapes and decoration later in the book. She then lays out the development of the local wares in brief (p. 28–34). Earlier Hellenistic pottery conformed to Attic prototypes, but by phase II an independent local assemblage had emerged, centered on two local forms (Knidian cup, rouletted hemispherical cup) and the echinus bowl and rolled-rim plate of the Hellenistic koine. The early Roman assemblage of phase III seems very different at first glance, with thin-walled wares and an important gray-ware service emulating western sigillata prototypes; but survival of a few earlier forms and the possible Hellenistic roots of some new ones reveal continuity over the traditional Hellenistic-Roman divide. Despite improved quality, however, the number of forms was smaller, and it grew smaller still in phase IV. Decorated pottery was in a small minority throughout, with West Slope largely confined to phase I and moldmade bowls dominant in the second half of the second century. Decorated vessels (moldmade skyphoi, appliqué, and barbotine) made up a larger percentage of the phase III assemblage, while oinophoros ware characterized phase IV.

In her account of the imported pottery (p. 35–45) Kögler develops a provocative model for the interplay between imports and the local ceramic industry. While

a high percentage of decorated wares is generally taken as an indicator of prosperity, the Author notes an unexpected inverse relationship between the numbers of imported and local decorated wares. She notes further that this relationship fluctuates from phase to phase. To account for this, she reasons that a healthy pottery industry should be able to hold its own against imported products, enticing consumers to prefer its offerings to those from abroad. She thus posits the general principle that the strength or weakness of a production center determines the proportion of imported to locally-produced wares on a local market, as reflected in archaeological deposits of any particular time span. Deposits with low numbers of an imported type and high numbers of local imitations point to a strong pottery economy, while a flood of imports signals trouble in the local workshops. This is a premise that deserves further testing, especially at sites where written evidence provides more information about the local economy than is available at Knidos. Although Kögler's conclusions vis-à-vis the Knidian economy and the forces that produced changes in local pottery production must remain speculative, her remarks on such questions as the conditions of production and the reasons for decline in ceramic quality are well worth reading.

The Author next turns to the Knidian export market (p. 46–52), tracing fluctuations through the four phases. An interesting point here is the degree to which Knidian table ware was shipped as a space-filler in other cargoes. Comparison of its distribution with that of the Knidian amphoras that one might expect to have formed the primary cargoes argues against that commonly accepted model.

In her formal analysis (p. 81–368), Kögler divides the local pottery into two classes – undecorated (about 95 percent) and decorated – although these categories cannot be watertight, since »undecorated« forms may carry minor embellishment, such as rouletting, stamping, appliqué, or painted decoration. The Author organizes her typology on strictly formal principles, using general characteristics of shape, proportions, and rim and handle type to define thirty-eight »Formen«, designated by Roman numerals, within each of which there are from one to five more narrowly defined »Typen«, designated by capital letters. This amounts to ninety distinct shapes spread unevenly over the chronological span in question. There are sometimes developmental links among types within a form, but often they simply share the general characteristics outlined by the form, but are otherwise independent entities. Within types, small differences in profile, rim, proportions and the like distinguish variants (a, b, c etc.). Down to the level of type, the system is schematically laid out in two sets of figures, one with an accompanying bar graph giving the chronological span of each type, an invaluable aid to the reader. Each type is examined in painstaking detail, with a description of its formal characteristics and variants, discussion of date, supported by exhaustive analysis of Knidian contexts and dated comparanda elsewhere, speculations about

the type's origins, a history of its development, and sometimes an exploration of function. An accompanying table lists the catalogued pieces in the dated contexts, but overall tallies are missing, and one must read the text to discover whether the catalogued pieces comprise the bulk of the examples or only the tip of the iceberg.

Since Kögler is particularly concerned with the relationship of the local industry to outside influences, she leaves no stone unturned in her search for forerunners and prototypes. For her type VIID, for example, a small, deep plate with an angular profile introduced in Augustan times, she cites the obvious parallels in Eastern Sigillata A, B, and C, but also argues for a connection to the Hellenistic bowl with outturned rim (IIIA), preferring to see the Roman plate as a native shape influenced by sigillata models but not strictly speaking imitative of them. Complex scenarios like this are impossible to adjudicate, but the Author's ruminations draw attention to the multiplicity of forces and models that may lie behind the emergence of a new ceramic creation.

In the realm of function, Kögler is skeptical of much that has been assumed before and puts forward several new suggestions: for example, that the kyathos (XB) is better suited to measuring dry goods than wine (p. 169); that an inkwell (XVIII) could have held unguents (p. 191); that the rim of the biconical jug (XXVIII) is more fitting for an oil container than a wine jug (p. 288); or that the globular thin-walled beaker (form Dk.9) is a pyxis-like storage vessel, not a drinking cup (p. 356 f.). Some of these ideas might fruitfully be tested by residue analysis in the future.

Of particular interest to many readers will be Kögler's form IA, the widely exported Knidian cup. She sketches its development from its inception, probably in the late third century B.C. to the middle of the second century A.D. She is the first, I believe, to point out the uniqueness of the cup's broad shallow form among Hellenistic drinking cups and, unable to identify any convincing model, asserts (correctly, I am sure) that this is a local invention. The forces behind its creation and its astounding success locally and abroad are more difficult to plumb. The Author argues for an association with symposium (which seems highly likely) and the local cult of Apollo (for which she finds support in the lotus and frog decoration of first-century examples), and, more speculatively, characterizes it as a mechanism for Knidian self-identification.

The small percentage of the production devoted to decorated ware (p. 248–368) is hallmarked by variety: stamping and appliqué, West Slope painting, the relief decoration of moldmade bowls and a wider range of Roman moldmade shapes, and the barbotine and sanding of thin-walled ware. West Slope ware is uncommon and heterogeneous, but its shape repertoire is distinct from that of undecorated ware, necessitating another series of types (W.1 – W.18), though the fragmentary state of the material makes it impossible in most cases to reconstruct complete vessels. Kögler conjectures an early phase, in the second half of the third century, inspired by Attic

models, followed by a turn to Pergamene prototypes in the second century.

Stamped decoration appears on the floors of the wheel-made shapes already described, allowing the Author to concentrate on the stamped motifs. Unsurprisingly, palmettes dominate, but a full third of the instances are of other types: lotus buds, grapevines, rosettes, and vases. While not without parallel elsewhere, the extent of their use and the large size of some are unusual features of the Knidian assemblage.

Appliqué decoration is well represented, most importantly by two chronologically and typologically distinct classes. The first is dominated by Knidian cups, where the floor was frequently enlivened by three appliqué frogs, usually in combination with stamped motifs, which Kögler sees as a reference to fruitfulness and well-being, possibly with cult associations. Although the dated complexes have produced no examples, the frog appliqué occurs in early first-century B. C. contexts elsewhere. The Author prolongs production to the end of the century on the basis of three fragmentary examples in Athens, but the case is not airtight, since two of them come from deposits with significant amounts of pre-Augustan material, and the third was not found in a closed context. The second class, skyphoi with appliqué on the walls, follows the model of Pergamene appliqué ware in its red-orange color coat and the frequent appearance of the ivy-spray motif. Production began around the middle of the first century B. C. and continued for at least a century.

Local Hellenistic moldmade bowls are rare except in the workshop debris of complex F, where both bowl and mold fragments were abundant. Production began in the first half of the second century B. C. but seems to have been in decline by the early first century; this is surprising, considering that the type flourished for at least another generation at other sites, especially Ephesus. Based on the tiny representation of the ware, Kögler advances the startling hypothesis that only a single bowl, or at most a few, were made in each mold; the purpose of the molds was not to manufacture a cheap line of metal imitations for the poorest customers, but to provide unique luxury items for people of middling resources. This explains both the small number of bowls and the fact that so few duplicates have come to light. If this model is valid – at Knidos or more widely – one would expect to find bowls and molds in more closely equal numbers than is generally the case. This scenario also leaves unexplained the wear on some molds (though admittedly not those from the Knidian workshop debris) and that has been inferred from blurry motifs on many bowls. To my mind, the realities of the production process, which required considerable time for a bowl to dry before being removed from a mold, and thus a large number of different molds if one were ambitious to produce a kiln-load, offers a sufficient explanation for the variety we observe.

Some early Roman vessels were also thrown within molds, but in different shapes, chiefly skyphoi and footed

cups familiar from the repertoire of green-glazed ware and western sigillata. Local manufacture is documented by the presence of molds. This class is almost entirely confined to the Augustan-Flavian cistern G and probably represents the output of a single workshop; on the basis of external comparanda the Author limits its date to the earlier part of the range. Some of the stamped motifs mirror those on Hellenistic moldmade bowls and stamped ware; in one case the same punch was used. This and the production technique, clearly allied to that of Hellenistic moldmade bowls, offers strong evidence for continuity over the undocumented middle of the first century. The gray fabric of this group also links it to the Hellenistic tradition, and Kögler argues that the workshop survived the destructions of the early first century to produce what was, despite the clear influence of Roman pottery and metalware, a last flowering of the Hellenistic relief-ware tradition.

The discussion of thin-walled pottery is of particular importance as the first full description of this ware as it was produced at the site. Over one-hundred fragments came to light in the American excavations and hundreds more in recent campaigns, and the ware was also widely exported. The Author defines fourteen forms, most known in only one or two examples, but a shallow two-handled cup and a globular jug (Dk.1, Dk.9) were produced in considerable numbers. Unlike western thin-walled ware, Knidian vessels are always glazed, and decoration is almost totally limited to sanding and barbotine; the rouletted decoration so common in the west is absent at the site (though note a rouletted beaker in Athens identified by John Hayes as Knidian, see *Agora XXXII*, 269 no. 1622 fig. 52). Contextual evidence does not allow closer dating than Augustan through the third quarter of the first century A. D. for this production. Kögler posits, however, that glazing preferences followed the same pattern as products at Cosa, and thus places dark-fired vessels with metallic glaze at the beginning of the sequence, matt red-fired ones at the end. This may be correct, but, as she also makes clear, in terms of shape and decoration, correspondence with the Cosan industry is not very close. Western influence is undeniable, but the Author emphasizes the independence of Knidian production; she even floats the suggestion that barbotine decoration may have originated in the Knidian industry (p. 344; 367 f.), a proposal that is hard to credit given the small part it plays there.

Kögler completes her text with a discussion of imported pottery (p. 369–418), important for the help it provides in dating local contexts and tracing external contacts. There is wide variety, among which Eastern Sigillata A and B, Pergamene sigillata, lagynos ware, and Ionian moldmade bowls are present in large numbers. Of particular interest is Kögler's discussion of the early phase of Eastern Sigillata B (p. 386 f.), long ago recognized on Delos and only now beginning to command the attention it deserves.

The catalogue at the end of the volume (p. 421–618) is organized according to context, presenting nearly

1300 pieces of tableware from complexes A to J, with the addition of another 565 items found elsewhere on the site to provide more complete or otherwise undocumented evidence about the shape and development of local wares or the representation of imported ones. It also includes the stamped amphora handles entered in evidence for the dating of complexes B, D, and E, and about seventy pieces of oinophoros ware from deposits G to J. Entries give information about preservation and dimensions, with detailed descriptions of fabric. The Author has unfortunately adopted the little-known Mussini color table in preference to the Munsell chart that, whatever its failings, has become a convenient and widely-used standard for the description of archaeological ceramics.

There is little to complain of in this magisterial study, though one does feel the absence of scientific fabric analysis. A chemical signature for the local fabrics (clearly they are diverse) might have opened up new areas for research and contributed to Kögler's discussion of continuity from the Hellenistic to the Roman assemblage, to cite one example. Although quantification is fundamental to the study, numbers and percentages are buried in the text rather than presented in more easily accessible graphs or tables. Even though her sample is skewed by earlier undocumented sorting and discard, a graphic presentation of the corpus as it now exists would have made it possible to comprehend the nature of the collection more easily. The drawings and photographs are generous and professional, though a map of the site and a color plate illustrating variation in the fabric would have been welcome additions. Errors are few, but an odd oversight is the omission of catalogue numbers from random items on the plates, and a reference to an illustration is occasionally missing in the tables that precede the discussion of each shape.

The book is, nonetheless, a monumental achievement. It succeeds admirably in its ambition to make the Hellenistic and earlier Roman ceramic production of Knidos known to the scholarly public. The presentation of widely exported forms like the Knidian cup will be an invaluable tool for archaeologists working all around the Mediterranean; local chronologies will provide crucial support for continuing excavation on the site itself; and Kögler's wide-ranging discussions of the pottery as evidence for the Knidian economy help to flesh out the history and realities of the city. In addition to performing the good deed of rescuing from oblivion a body of material that was abandoned by its excavator, the Author has achieved all of the goals she had set for herself: to lay out the full spectrum of Knidian fine-ware production, to identify its characteristics, and to chart its development and the reasons behind it – in short, to establish the fundamentals of this important eastern ceramic industry. This volume will join other classic publications as a basic tool for the study of Hellenistic and Roman ceramics.