

FOREWORD

While working in the American University of Beirut on the pottery from the Anglo-Lebanese excavations in the Beirut Souks, I was invited by Tomasz Waliszewski and Renata Tarazi to visit the Polish excavations at Chhîm where I first met a young Urszula Wicenciak, with whom much later I was to collaborate in the sampling of Beirut and Jiyeh pottery for archaeometric analysis. The discovery of a production site of both Hellenistic and 1st century AD pottery, the latter with clear links to the Beirut amphorae which I had managed to put into typological order, was a major breakthrough. Urszula presented the assemblage in the first workshop on Lebanese ceramics held in 2005 at the IFPO in Beirut.

I had already stumbled across production waste for Beirut amphorae in the pile of old cardboard boxes in the American University in Beirut that preserved the pottery from Roger Saidah's excavations in Khaldeh, but did not expect to find a workshop for Beirut 2 amphorae, practically indistinguishable from those in the Beirut Souks 'Cistern deposit' (BEY 006 12237/12300), as far south as Jiyeh. That the site was the source of a range of Hellenistic kitchen and amphora forms, variants of which were well known in Beirut assemblages, was for me an added bonus. Indeed, my understanding of the distribution of ceramic production and regional wares in Lebanon for these periods was largely guesswork on my part based on intuition, coupled with observations of the clays and distribution of products outside Beirut on visits to sites or study of the survey or excavated material by other teams and individuals (e.g., in Kamed el Loz, Tripoli, Tyre or Chhîm, or in south and north Lebanon with Hans Curvers and Patricia Ghanimé-Marion). The French excavations in Yanouh and German work at Baalbek helped to fill in the picture. Though Roman kilns in Beirut itself had been known for some time, thanks to John Hayes, it was not until 2002–2003 that, thanks to Yona Waksman, the CEDRE project embarked on the archaeometrical and typological study of the amphora and coarse ware workshops excavated in Beirut (BEY 015). These provided clear evidence for the manufacture of not only 'Beirut amphorae', but also the famous tiny 'carrot' amphorae which carried 'Syrian' dried figs and prunes to Rome, as well as Gaul, Britain and Germany, and a range of other amphora forms that add further typological complexity to the scenario of Roman Phoenicia.

A preliminary account of the Jiyeh typology given in the Berlin round table of 2010, while Urszula was still working on her PhD, was published in my own RLAMP series. Now, a few years on, it is with great pleasure that I am able to write these words of introduction to the full publication and study of the products of the Jiyeh workshops, a major achievement and landmark contribution to the field, which now complements the archaeometrical analysis of the pottery of these workshops.

Paul Reynolds

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