

AN UNFAMILIAR EARLY BYZANTINE CERAMIC OBJECT FROM OLYMPUS: BIRD-FEEDER



OLYMPUS'TAN ERKEN BİZANS DÖNEMİNE AİT BİLİNMEYEN BİR SERAMİK ESER: KUŞ YEMLİĞİ

Muradiye ÖZTAŞKIN*

This paper is dedicated to the memory of colleague and friend Sinan Sertel,
who had a great effort in the Olympos excavation and left fingerprints of grace on our lives.

Abstract

The subject of this study is a ceramic bird-feeder has been discovered in Olympos excavation in the 2017. The bird-feeder has been found in the southeast corner of the stylobate, which runs from the front of the pronaos to the east during the excavation works aimed to reveal the cella and pronaos of the temple in 2017. The findspot of the bird feeder is in the east of the viridarium of the Episcopoion, in an Early Byzantine period dump between the southeast corner of the stylobate and the north wall of the Room 20 (M20). The clay of the ceramic bird-feeder resembles to the Late Roman D Ware of red slip ceramics which are mostly considered to be from Cypriot origin. According to the general chronology of the area and the context data, the bird-feeder from Olympos is belonging to the 6th century AD.

Keywords: *Lycia, Byzantine, Late Roman D Ware, Red Slip Pottery, Bird-Feeder,*

Öz

Bu çalışmanın konusunu oluşturan kuş yemliği Olympos kazısı 2017 sezonunda tapınağın pronaosunun önünden doğuya doğru devam eden stylobatın güneydoğu köşesinde bulunmuştur. Bu alanda Piskoposluk Sarayı'nın viridarium (iç bahçe) bölümünün doğusunda, stylobatın güneydoğu köşesi ve stylobatın güneyindeki Mekân 20 (M20) olarak adlandırılan odanın kuzey duvarı arasında Erken Bizans dönemine ait bir çöplük tespit edilmiştir. Kuş yemliğinin hamuru kırmızı-kahverengi renkte, mikalı ve kireç katkılıdır. Hamur üzerinde kırmızı astar kalıntıları mevcuttur. Üzerindeki izler sayesinde hızlı dönen çarkta biçimlendirildiği anlaşılmaktadır. Yan yüzünde bir aletle kesilerek açılmış yarım daire biçiminde beş adet delik bulunmaktadır. Üst kısmında kısa bir boyun biçiminde yapılmış açıklıktan yem koyulmaktadır. Hamur özellikleri bakımından çoğunlukla Kıbrıs'ta üretildiği kabul edilen Late Roman D grubu kırmızı astarlı seramiklerine benzemektedir.

* Dr. Faculty Member. Pamukkale University, Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Art History, Denizli. ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2580-3999 ♦ E-mail: muradiyeb@gmail.com

Seramikten yapılmış kazı buluntuları arasında tanımlanmamış bir obje olması bakımından kuş yemliğinin tanımlanması önemlidir. Kuş yemliğinin işlevinin saptanabilmesi için Roma ve Bizans dönemi mozaiklerindeki betimlemelerden yararlanılmıştır. Olympos'ta bulunan kuş yemliğinin alanın genel kronolojisine ve mevcut kontekst verilere göre M.S. 6. yüzyıla ait olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Likya, Bizans, Geç Roma D, Kırmızı Astarlı Seramik, Kuş Yemliği,*

The archaeological excavations in Olympos city have been ongoing since 2006. The bird-feeder examined in this study has been found in the southeast corner of the stylobate during the excavation works aimed to reveal the cella and pronaos of the temple in 2017¹. According to the obtained data, the temple and the entire temenos area have been used for new construction activities at the end of the 5th century AD. The religious buildings such as a church and a baptistery, other buildings used for sheltering and gathering have been constructed for reorganizing the entire area as Episcopal Palace (Episcopeion)². The cella of the temple has been included to the complex of the Episcopal Palace and used as a separate space. It is determined that the pronaos and its façade was intact and in visible condition throughout the 6th century. The bird feeder has been discovered in the east of the *viridarium* (courtyard) of the Episcopal Palace, in an Early Byzantine period dump between the southeast corner of the stylobate and the north wall of the Room 20 (M20).

The clay of the bird feeder is red-brown colored (Mun. 2.5YR6/6), micaceous and has lime particles (Fig. 2). The traces of red slip can be seen on a dense, non-porous surface. The bird-feeder is 18.6 cm wide and 13.8 cm tall. There are five semi-circular openings on the side which have been cut by a tool. The elongated upper part that has diameter of 7.7 cm. and has a ring-shaped opening at the top (Fig. 3, 5). This part has been used to put in grain or pellet. It is likely that the ring-shaped opening has been used to be covered with a wooden or ceramic stopper to prevent birds from getting stuck. The bottom was irregularly shaped on a fast rotating wheel and marks indicate that it has been separated off from the wheel by a wire or string (Fig. 4).

Another archaeological find which is very similar to the bird-feeder from Olympos has been discovered during the excavation in Emporio in the south of Khios (Fig. 6). It has been described as brazier due to its shape and findspot and dated to 7th

1 For the excavation in 2017, see Olcay Uçkan & Öztaşkın, 2018: 82-86.

The research about the pottery finds of Olympos has been supported by Pamukkale University with the project number 2019SOBE003 in 2019. I would like to thank Pamukkale University for its support.

The excavation works in Olympos has been supported by Anadolu University with the project number 1606E535 between 2016-2019. I would like to thank Anadolu University for support.

2 For the architecture of the Episcopal Palace, see Öztaşkın, G.K., 2017.

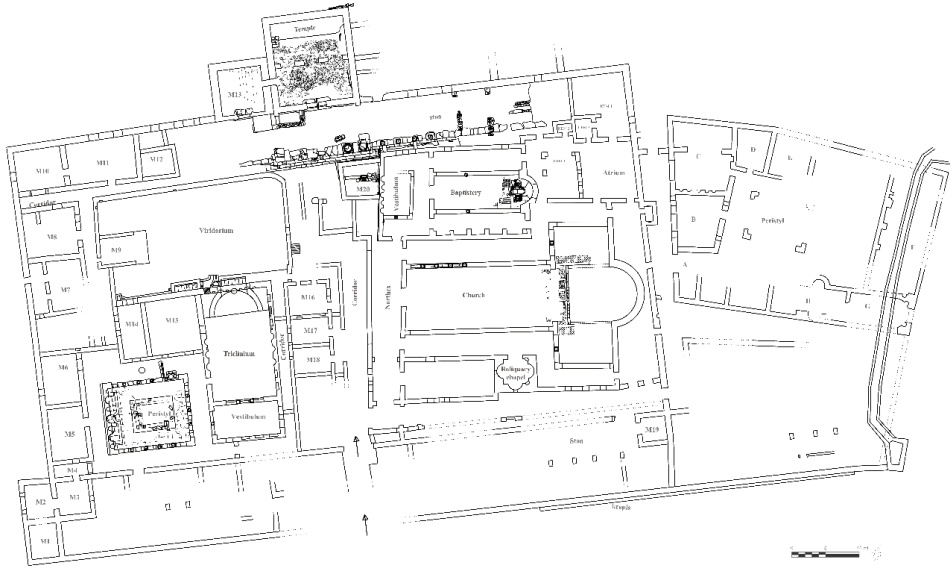


Figure 1. The plan of the Episcopal Palace in Olympos (Olympos Excavation archive)



Figure 2. The ceramic bird-feeder found in Olympos

Ege Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi

Sanat Tarihi Dergisi

ISSN 1300-5707

Cilt: XXVIII, Sayı: 2 Ekim 2019

Ege University, Faculty of Letters

Journal of Art History

e-ISSN 2636-8064

Volume: XXVIII, Issue: 2 October 2019

İnternet Sayfası (Acık Erisim)

Internet Page (Open Access)

DergiPark
AKADEMİK

<https://dergipark.org.tr/std>

Sanat Tarihi Dergisi hakemli, bilimsel bir dergidir; Nisan ve Ekim aylarında olmak üzere yılda iki kez yayınlanır.

Journal of Art History is a peer-reviewed, scholarly, periodical journal published biannually, in April and October.

Clarivate
Analytics

ESCI
Emerging Sources Citation Index

ULAKBİM
TR DİZİN

DOAJ

Crossref

EBSCO

ERIH PLUS
EUROPEAN REFERENCE INDEX FOR THE
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Academic
Resource
Index
ResearchBID

SÖBIAD