In search of Late Hellenistic Ephesian pottery on Delos

dr Edyta Marzec

Abstract

In her talk, Dr Edyta Marzec will present her interdisciplinary study of Late Hellenistic Ephesian fine ware pottery found on Delos. In the Late Hellenistic period (the Second Athenian Domination on Delos, 167/166-88/69 BCE), Delos was a duty-free commercial hub trading goods, including fine ware pottery from all over the Mediterranean. Previous macroscopic studies of pottery from Delos indicated that fine wares produced in Ephesus were used on the island. The results of the macroscopic examinations of pottery from Aphrodision and Serapiea integrated with elemental and petrographic analyses of 31 samples confirm this suggestion. Additionally, this study shows that Ephesian fine pottery found on the island is more varied in terms of macroscopic appearance of fabric and shape than reported so far on Delos. The macroscopic variability of fabric seems to be a result of varied firing processes, including different atmospheres, temperatures as well as arrangements of vessels in kilns. The integration of the results of pottery study with other archaeological evidence indicates that the presence of Ephesian pottery on the island might be related not only with its trading role but also with the customer preferences as well as the presence of the Ephesian community on Delos.