

GREEK, ROMAN AND BYZANTINE POTTERY AT ILÏON (TROÏA). THE STUDY COLLECTION PUBLICATION (ELECTRONIC)

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Abstract

Like many archaeological field projects, the post-Bronze Age team at Troia has assembled a substantial study collection of Greek, Roman and Byzantine pottery. In addition, over the course of more than a decade of publication, a large number of sherds has been cataloged. As a result, the project maintains an extensive archive of sherd descriptions, profile drawings and photographs. Starting in 2006, the authors have been placing an increasing amount of this material online (<http://classics.uc.edu/troy/GRBPottery/>). In doing we are taking advantage of digital technologies that can revolutionize the publication of archaeological data. Some of the opportunities for improvement over print publication of Mediterranean ceramics are obvious: when color photographs of individual fragments and complete vessels are available these are placed on the website at full resolution. These color images as well as all accompanying descriptive and bibliographic information are available for free, an important consideration when trying to reach audiences that may not have access to extensive library resources. We have also been able to experiment with very rapid publication. For example, the site already provides fully cataloged information, including high-resolution color photography and technical illustrations, for pottery that was excavated in 2006 and 2007. Similarly, we are committed to presenting the information so that it useful both online and in environments where a direct connection to the internet is not available. To meet this goal, the technical infrastructure of the project supports simultaneous creation of html files, for publication on the world-wide web, and of a PDF file that includes all the information on the web-site. This PDF file has the layout of a traditional print publication and is intended for use in the field. In the near future we will make this PDF available through a print-on-demand service so that users, whether they are students, the general public, or researchers working in the field, can have access to this information at low cost, at any time and in whichever form best suits their needs.