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BARBARA LICHOCKA, HENRYK MEYZA

*Seismic Events  
and the Evidence of Coins and Pottery.  
The Case of Destruction  
of the House of Aion in Paphos*

Archaeologists of the Classical Mediterranean and Mediaeval and later Europe constantly have to deal with a triad of related basic types of data valuable for dating: coins, contexts and pottery. Of these usually coins are the ones with inherently relevant information. Contexts rarely can be directly informative. They mediate between all other data and their stratigraphic relations put the finds in order. Pottery, on the other hand, by virtue of its ubiquity, endurance and variability provides the basic intercontextual transmission of chronological data. This set of data gives normally *terminus post quem* (TPQ) with only negative evidence for *terminus ante quem* (TAQ). Solely the identification of context, as a remnant of some historically attested event may be a source of positive TAQ. One category of events that leaves both identifiable traces and testimonies, which is also relatively frequent in the Mediterranean is seismic events. Cyprus in the 4th century experienced numerous earthquakes, some of them described in historical records as ruinous for towns: Salamis in A.D. 332 and 342 and Paphos at a date preceding A.D. 386–90.<sup>1</sup>

This paper has been inspired by a joint paper of the present authors with J. Poblome, F. Hanut and O. Bounegru presented earlier this year in Leuven during the 2nd ROCT conference. It may be seen as a case study.<sup>2</sup>

Late Antiquity, after the reform of 3rd and 4th century is the first period in monetary history which has seen the circulation of really small coins with respective denominations. These, due to their common occurrence, low value and difficulty of locating after loss are frequently unnoticed and were relatively rarely recovered in antiquity. The combination of these features, frequent seismic events and the characteristic of coins, induces an expectation of easier contextual relating of coin and pottery finds, than during the early empire with its large coins of small denominations.

Archaeological traces suggest intense seismic activity in the south-western part of the island, but the identification of these with historical events creates problems.<sup>3</sup> In the case of the archaeologically attested Kourion and Paphos earthquakes our problem seems rather one of *embarras de richesse* than paucity. Nevertheless we shall constantly refer to the

<sup>1</sup> G.F. HILL, *History of Cyprus I*, Cambridge 1940, p. 245; E. OBERHUMMER, *Die Insel Cypern*, München 1903 [= Insel], pp. 139–140; on Salamis A.D. 332: Theophanes, *Chronographia*, PG 108, col. 123; George Cedrenus, *Synopsis*, PG 121, col. 565; K. Χατζηϊωάννου 'Η ἀρχαία Κύπρος εἰς τὰς Ἑλληνικὰς πελάγας, Leukosia 1971, A [= AKEΠ], 129. 4–5 pp. 388 f.; on Salamis A.D. 342: Theophanes, *Chronographia*, PG 108, col. 133; Malalas, *Chronographia*, 12.415 (Bonn, p. 313); Χατζηϊωάννου, AKEΠ, 129. 6–7, p. 390; on Paphos: Jerome, *Vita Hilarionis*, PL 23, col. 42, text written in A.D. 386–390 or just after 390. Translated *emendatio* ed. A.A.R. BASTIAENSEN, in: *Vite dei Santi 4*, Scrittori Greci e Latini, ed. Chr. MOHRMANN, Milano 1975, 1993<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> J. POBLOME, O. BOUNEGRU, F. HANUT, B. LICHOCKA, H. MEYZA, *Sherds and Coins – a Methodological Approach*, in: *Roman Crafts and Trade in the Roman East and West (ROCT)*, 2nd International Conference, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, 19–20 May 2000 [= Sherds], in print.

<sup>3</sup> It is obvious that equation of an archeologically attested earthquake with, at best, its well dated historical record is a dream for dating, but we should be constantly warned against excessive squeezing of the evidence to achieve that goal. Cf. B. HELLY, *La sismicité est-elle un objet d'étude pour les archéologues?*, in: *Stuttgarter Kolloquium zur Historischen Geographie des Altertums 6*, 1996 "Naturkatastrophen in der antiken Welt", Stuttgart 1998, ed. E. OLSHAUSEN, H. SONNABEND, *Geographica historica*, 10, p. 175; S.C. STIROS, *Identification of Earthquakes from Archaeological Data: Methodology, Criteria and Limitations*, in: *Archaeoseismology*, ed. R.E. JONES, S. C. STIROS, *Fitch Laboratory occasional papers 7*, Athens 1996, p. 142.

problem of the earthquake/tsunami of A.D. 365. The Arizona team, excavating at Kourion, came to the conclusion that the impressive uncovered remains of collapse should be linked with the incident, which became the archetype for a catastrophe in Mediaeval times and was annually remembered at Alexandria.<sup>4</sup> The event was reported by such Christian writers as St. Jerome and Orosius.<sup>5</sup> The best, though, account was given by a Pagan historian, Ammianus Marcellinus,<sup>6</sup> who also supplied the most precise date: 21 July 365. This event has been the subject of many studies thanks to a large number of sources and its fame as an universal catastrophe and inevitably numerous misunderstandings arose.<sup>7</sup> In any case, what the sources transmit, is the description of a tsunami hitting two localities: Alexandria and Methone. To generate such waves at near or distant shores a major under-water seismic movement is required at either the bathypelagial or on the shore. A tsunami differs from a land-quake by the extent of area involved. Earthquakes are very localised events, while the seismic sea waves may reach shores over 2000 miles away, not losing much of their destructive potential, if the sea is open. Their power is only exhibited at the shore due to run-up.<sup>8</sup> The earthquake in Paphos and Kourion would have had to have epicentre close to shore to exhibit effects of substantial building collapse and land-fissures. If so, a problem of Methone arises. Methone was a place where a ship was thrown two miles ashore. This has to be the Messenian town of that name (later Modon), situated on the western side of cap Akritas. This is because the Macedonian one is too far north inside the Aegean and is sheltered by numerous islands. In spite of the ability of seismic sea waves to refract around obstacles and thus to enter bays and gulfs of most intricate shapes, islands in a group may “shadow” one another or the shore beyond, reducing the tsunami effect. The distance

<sup>4</sup> Sozomenos, *Hist. Eccles.* 6, 2; PG 67, 1297A, for later reception (29 writers altogether) – G. WALDHERR, Die Geburt der kosmischen Katastrophe. Das seismische Grossereignis am 21. Juli 365 n. Chr., *OrbTerr* 3, 1997, pp. 169–201; M.A. TAHER, Les séismes à Alexandrie et la destruction du phare, in: *Alexandrie médiévale* 1, ed. Chr. DÉCOBERT, J.-Y. EMPEREUR (Études alexandrines 3), Le Caire 1998, p. 52; P. JANISZEWSKI, Żywioty w służbie propagandy, czyli po czyjej stronie stoi Bóg. Studium klęsk i rzadkich fenomenów przyrodniczych u historyków kościoła IV i V wieku, in: *Chrześcijaństwo u schyłku starożytności*, *Studia źródłoznawcze* III, ed. T. DERDA, E. WIPSYCKA, Kraków 2000, p. 127.

<sup>5</sup> Jerome, *Chron.* PG 19, col. 595, HELM<sup>2</sup>, p. 244; ID., *Comm Isaiam*, 15, I, PL 24, col. 168; ID. *Vita Hilarionis*, PL 23, col. 40; Orosius, VII, 32, ed. ZANGEMEISTER, p. 277.

<sup>6</sup> Ammianus, *Hist* XXVI, 10, recent comment G.H. WALDHERR, Erdbeben. Das aussergewöhnliche Normale. Zur Rezeption seismischer Aktivitäten in literarischen Quellen vom 4. Jahrhundert v. Chr. bis zum 4. Jahrhundert n. Chr., *Geographica historica* 9, Stuttgart 1997, pp. 208–220, and 214–217 in particular.

<sup>7</sup> The most well known is the supposed North African “extension” – suggested by A. Di Vita, R. Rebuffat and others since 1964: A. DI VITA, Sabratha, in: *Archaeological News, LibyaAnt* I, 1964, pp. 133–135; R. REBUFFAT, Cuicul, le 21 juillet 365, *AntAfr* 15, 1980, pp. 309–328. The response was vivid: C. LEPALLEY, L’Afrique du Nord et le prétendu séisme universel du 21 juillet 365, *MEFRA* 96, 1984, pp. 463–490; M. BLANCHARD-LEMÉE, Cuicul, le 21 juillet 365: critiques archéologique et historique de l’idée de séisme, in: *Tremblements de terre. Histoire et archéologie. IV<sup>èmes</sup> Rencontres internationales d’archéologie et d’histoire d’Antibes*, Antibes 2–4 novembre 1983, Valbonne 1984, pp. 207–219.

<sup>8</sup> F. JACQUES, B. BOUSQUET, Le raz de marée du 21 juillet 365. Du cataclysme local à la catastrophe cosmique, *MEFRA* 96, 1984 [= Raz de marée], pp. 437 f. It is not normally true, however, that tsunami enhance their destructive power with distance. They may build up, though, at underwater ridges, which act as collecting lenses, or by refraction interference.

may be disregarded and tsunami creation is possible in the place involved. There is sufficient free water area and depth, as well as an insular arc fault line, all that is required.<sup>9</sup> To show their full impact, however, the route from origin has to be in deep water. A tsunami is normally directed at right angles to the major axis of the origin ellipse. Radiation of a remote-source tsunami from the focus of an earthquake is directional, and depends on the geometry of the sea floor in the source region. In case of the island arc of Cyprus, the sea bed forms a step, which should direct the tsunami southward. A look at the map will show that if the origin were to be located not more than 30 miles from the south coast of Cyprus, it is not easy to understand why any of the Aegean locations named Methone should be involved.<sup>10</sup> Greece, apart from Eastern Crete and the islands of Dodecanese should be relatively safe. It is one of the reasons why another origin for this seismic wave has been proposed – close to SW coast of Crete.<sup>11</sup> This location would explain the lack of reference in the records as to the concurrent losses in buildings or people in land moves, as the area had always been sparsely populated, particularly after successive sea level changes. The largest known abrupt change of sea level (over 6 m) traces of which were recorded already by Spratt may have been related to the A.D. 365 event.<sup>12</sup> Other arguments may be in favour of a Cypriot origin of the waves. Jerome, in his continuation of Eusebius' chronicle involves another region. It is Sicily, which creates an interpretative problem: it suggests, that he had sources other than the eastern writers, and may either be a supportive of a Cretan epicentre, or should be emended to Cilicia, and would in that case support the Cypriot locale.<sup>13</sup> The emendation of Sicily to Cilicia is counterbalanced by the difficulty in locating the epicentre close to Crete. This is due to the account in *Vita Sancti Hilarionis*, in

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<sup>9</sup> S.L. SOLOV'EV, Tsunamiogenic Zones of the Mediterranean Sea, *Natural Hazards* 3, 1990, pp. 183–202. The arc by Cypriot south coast belongs to less important ones however. The Mediterranean tsunamis are also less powerful than the Pacific ones.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. JENSEN, The Kourion earthquake. Some possible literary evidence, *RDAC* 1985 [= Kourion earthquake], p. 310 thinks that only Magnesian Methone should be eliminated.

<sup>11</sup> JACQUES, BOUSQUET, Raz de marée, pp. 441–444, Figs. 1–2; IDD.: Le cataclysme du 21 juillet 365 : phénomène régional ou catastrophe cosmique?, in: Tremblements de terre. Histoire et archéologie. IV<sup>èmes</sup> Rencontres internationales d'archéologie et d'histoire d'Antibes, Antibes 2–4 novembre 1983, Valbonne 1984, p. 188, Fig. 1–2; National Geophysical Data Center/World Data Center – Tsunami Event Database/Colorado USA at <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/hazard/tsmsrch.html>

<sup>12</sup> P.A. PIRAZZOLI *et al.*, Historical environmental changes at Phalasarna harbor, West Crete, *Geoarchaeology* 7, 1992, pp. 371–392; D. KELLETAT, Geologische Belege katastrophaler Erdkrustenbewegungen 365 A.D. im Raum von Kreta, in: Stuttgarter Kolloquium zur Historischen Geographie des Altertums 6, 1996 “Naturkatastrophen in der antiken Welt”, *Geographica historica*, 10, ed. E. OLSHAUSEN, H. SONNABEND, Stuttgart 1998, pp. 156–161.

<sup>13</sup> K.W. RUSSEL, The Earthquake of May 19, A.D. 363, *BASOR* 238, 1980 [= Earthquake 363], p. 53; JENSEN, Kourion earthquake, p. 310, is of the opinion that this emendation is unnecessary. This paper contains other references – which can be interpreted quite well to opposite end – and Jensen rightly concludes that “Nothing for certain, ... but barring any future discoveries that may offer a firm date later than July, 365, we may with some confidence ...”. It is easier to understand lack of data from Africa – with its relatively low population W of Alexandria. N.B. an earlier event of tsunami evoked by Santorini eruption has probably led to formation of pumice layers north of Jaffa – Tell Aviv on a level 5 meters above the present sea shore, cf. I. YOKOYAMA, The Tsunami caused by Prehistoric Eruption of Thera, in: Thera and the Aegean World I, ed. C. DOUMAS, H.C. PUCHELT, London 1978, pp. 278, 282 f.

which the event in the West should happen at different date. Or, once again the text is corrupt, and this time the ruler's name is changed from Jovian to Julian.<sup>14</sup> The same source, nevertheless, creates problems for the supporters of the Cypriot location of the epicentre. Hilarion, if the miracle of stopping the waves happened after the death of Jovian, visited Cyprus after the great cataclysm and probably neither Kourion nor Paphos are destroyed at that time.<sup>15</sup>

If we do not take the date supplied by numismatics of Arizona's Kourion excavations for granted,<sup>16</sup> the earlier earthquake, of 363, in Palestine, convincingly separated from the 365 event by Russell,<sup>17</sup> is excluded. Have we another potential historical candidate? The next candidate would have been A.D. 419,<sup>18</sup> were it not contradicted by the already cited (n. 15) passage of *Vita Hilarionis*. Libanius and Gregory of Nyssa speak about recent earthquakes in Cyprus, the first probably c. A.D. 381, but their temporal location is imprecise.<sup>19</sup>

This brief survey of historical data shows, that nothing is really certain here. We have to resort to the archaeological data. We may argue that if their testimony is unequivocal, then the identity of the historically and archaeologically attested events is sufficiently plausible. It must be also taken into account that in reality there might have been a series of seismic events, not a single one.<sup>20</sup>

Polish excavations at Kato Paphos, Maloutena have brought to light evident traces of seismic destructions in the 4th century, but only small parts of area uncovered had been left untouched after the catastrophe, contrary to the case of University of Arizona's Kourion site. It seems that in Paphos, most of the Villa of Theseus has been reoccupied and reconstructed, and the disaster traces obliterated by stone hunting and the activity of late lime

<sup>14</sup> JENSEN, Kourion earthquake, p. 310.

<sup>15</sup> JENSEN, *ibid.*, suggests that neither Paphos nor Kourion were damaged – but only visitors from Kourion without any notice relating to destruction are recorded. Hilarion lands in Paphos (and this may be the reason why there are no visitors from that town), but wishing to escape from admirers takes residence in another, but close place. However, in the preceding passage Jerome writes: “*Paphum, urbem Cypri nobilem carminibus poetarum, que frequenter terrae motu lapsa, nunc ruinarum tantum vestigiis quid olim fuerit, ostendit*”. Cf. D. SOREN, E. LANE, New Ideas about the Destruction of Paphos, *RDAC* 1981 [= New Ideas], p. 181, who interpret this phrase as opposing state of affairs at the time of writing to that of Hilarion visit. But for the function of reinforcing the historicity of hagiographic narrative in early biographies by means of recalling of precise time marks; cf. P. NEHRING, Uwagi o czasowej strukturze najwcześniejszych łacińskich żywotów świętych, in: *Chrześcijaństwo u schyłku starożytności, Studia źródłoznawcze II*, ed. T. DERDA, E. WIPSYCKA, Kraków 1999, pp. 109–127.

<sup>16</sup> D. SOREN, Earthquake. The Last Days of Kourion, in: *Studies in Cypriote archaeology*, Los Angeles 1981 [= Last Days], pp. 117–132. The dating criterium used, the split name Valen–s is a problem, if the mint is e.g. Trier, or the coins are worn. Cf. p. 183 note 113 and p. 188.

<sup>17</sup> RUSSELL, Earthquake 363, pp. 47–64.

<sup>18</sup> K.W. RUSSELL, The earthquake chronology of Palestine and Northwest Arabia from the 2nd through the mid–8th century A.D., *BASOR* 260, 1985, pp. 37–59, [catalogue: A.D. 363 – p. 42, A.D. 419 – pp. 42 f – but this is a local disaster], cf. R.M. ROTHHAUS, Earthquakes and Temples in Late Antique Corinth, in: *Archaeoseismology*, ed. R.E. JONES, S. STIROS (Fitch Laboratory occasional papers 7), Athens 1996, pp. 105–112.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. SOREN, LANE, New Ideas, pp. 181 f, but OBERHUMMER, *Insel*, pp. 140 f dates after Sievers the Libanius second oration to A.D. 380.

<sup>20</sup> SOREN, LANE, New Ideas, p. 180 quoting opinions of Dr Dr R. Bullard, F. Koucky, J.P. Neophytou.

kilns. Therefore we have chosen to limit our study to the ruins east of it, which at least partly were less disturbed. This area was occupied mainly by two structures: the House of Aion (HA), named after the central personage depicted on the mosaic and probably another edifice, called here the Northeastern House (NEH). Their stratigraphy is discussed, followed by a detailed description of pottery and coins found. At the same time this would hopefully fix the *terminus ante quem* of the former building and its mosaics of outstanding aesthetic value. Thus their significant contribution to our understanding of the Late Antique religious attitudes<sup>21</sup> would be augmented. Untypical structure of the House of Aion may be also easier to explain.<sup>22</sup>

## HOUSE OF AION

The area excavated east of the so-called Villa of Theseus was most probably occupied in the Late Antiquity by two buildings: to the South, by the House of Aion and the Northeastern House to the North. There is evidence that their history may differ. It is one of our aims to establish if this is so and this is the reason why they are discussed separately.

### Stratigraphy – general outline

I. An isolated find of a Turkish silver coin (No. 614) at a depth of 48 cm from the surface, on the latest street surface does not imply continued interest in the ruins of the ancient town.<sup>23</sup> Latest traces which relate to limited, but relatively vigorous activity have been found east of the vestibule in room 5. Directly on the mosaic floor the remains of a circular structure, most probably of a lime kiln, were found, accompanied, it seems, by a workspace paved with slabs (Fig. 5: 6). In the Villa of Theseus, similar structures were built in sixth/seventh century, by so-called “squatters”.<sup>24</sup>

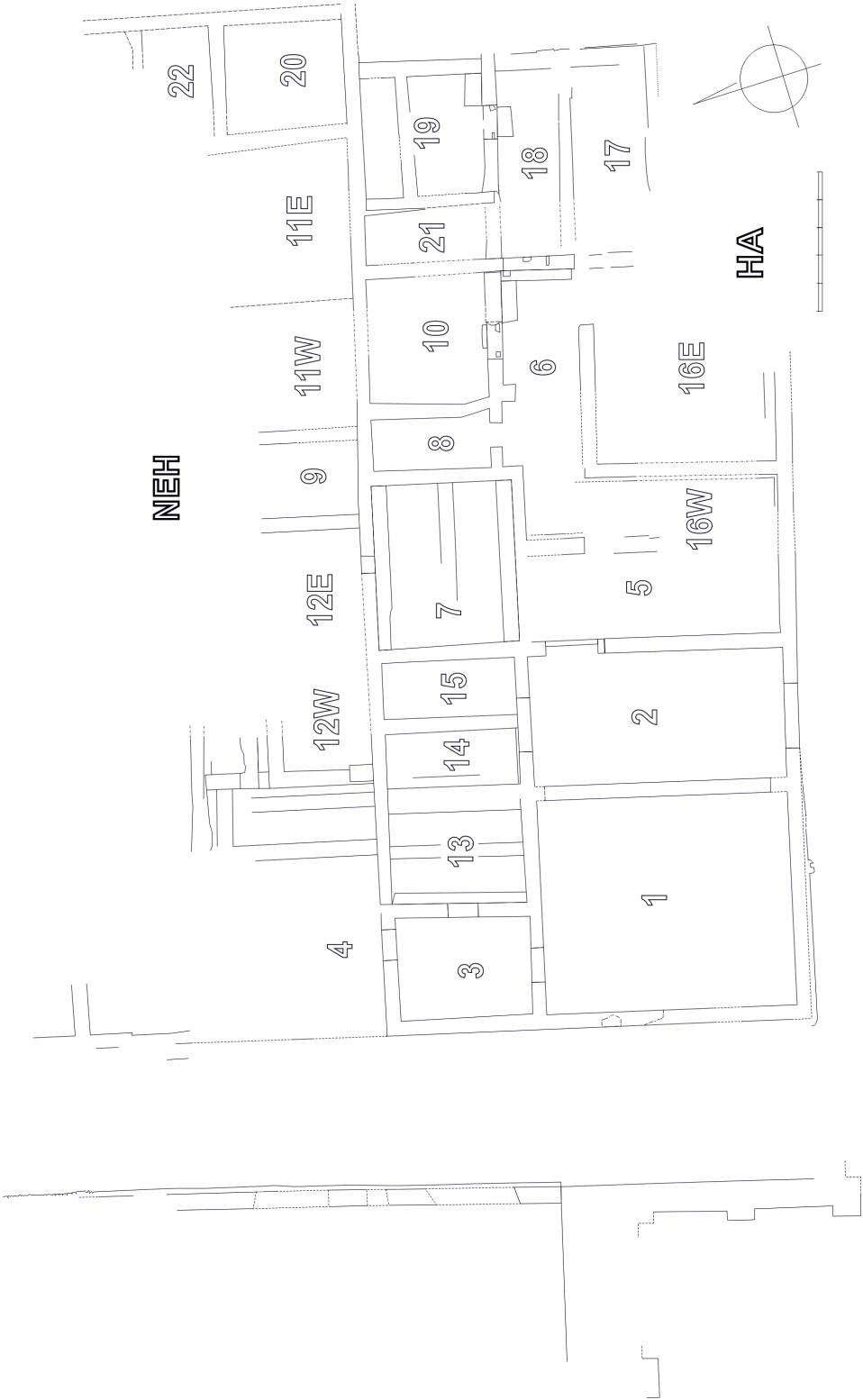
II. Widespread destruction by an earthquake left numerous traces in the House, although many were erased by later activity. Numerous finds of coins, lamps and pottery in relatively well-defined contexts suggest that precise date of the cataclysm should be placed

<sup>21</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, Dionysos der Erlöser. Geschichte Mythen im spätantike Cypern, Trier Beiträge zur Altertumskunde 2, Main am Rhein 1985; ID., Cassiopeia in Paphos – a Levantine going West, in: Acts of the International Symposium. Cyprus between the Orient and the Occident, Nicosia 1986, pp. 454–470; cf. J.G. DECKERS, Dionysos der Erlöser? Bemerkungen zur Deutung der Bodenmosaiken im ‘Haus des Aion’ in Nea-Paphos auf Cypern durch W.A. Daszewski, *RömQ Schr* 81, 1986, pp. 145–172.

<sup>22</sup> The authors would like to thank the Director of the Polish Archaeological Mission for his kind permission to publish the data related to the destruction of these houses and encouragement in the study of coins and pottery.

<sup>23</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1985, *BCH* 110, 1986 [= Chronique 1985], p. 861; ID., Nea Paphos 1985, *EtTrav* XVI, 1992, p. 299. The coin is Ottoman, of 18th century.

<sup>24</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, Polish excavations at Kato (Nea) Paphos in 1970 and 1971, *RDAC* 1972, p. 219, Pl. XXXVIII: 2; ID., Les fouilles polonaises à Nea Paphos 1972–1975. Rapport préliminaire, *RDAC* 1976, p. 189; B. LICHOCKA, Le déclin de la Villa de Thésée à Nea Paphos. Les témoignages numismatiques, in: Liber Amicorum Iannusio A. Ostrowski ab amicis et discipulis oblati, *Studia Archaeologica, Cracoviae MMI*, in print.



1. Eastern part of Polish excavations at Nea Paphos: position of detailed plans (Figs. 7, 13) marked by white insets (after S. Medeksza).

after at least A.D. 355 (according to coin-based TPQ). Quite naturally the date offered by Ammianus Marcellinus (21 June A.D. 365) is the first, which suggests itself.<sup>25</sup> It is not so easy to point to the latest pottery piece. Some amphora, coarseware and kitchenware types present here occur in contexts as late as 7th century A.D. Even for tableware, later, non-residual cases are found at least in 5th century. We shall use as dating index the earliest possible dating of extant latest well identified types (pottery TPQ). This is not far from the coin-based TPQ.

Another problem results from difficulties in discriminating between later intrusions and the latest pieces in situ. It is also difficult to be sure if all destruction traces should be attributed to a single, final cataclysm. If this were the case, remains of synchronous break of everyday life in the building would be expected in more than one place.

There is only one room – number 10, in which specific remains besides structural: floors and walls were left of the brief period of use before the House's final destruction. The remains show that this room was used as a storage (and workshop?) area; possibly an open-air one (cf. detailed discussion *infra*, p. 164). Traces of an earlier phase (phases?) are observable both on the floor and walls, however.

III–IV. At the outset of House excavation it was suggested that there must have been more than one phase of occupation of this structure.<sup>26</sup> The earlier phase of the House of Aion is documented by the remains of earlier form and function, and traces of limited rebuilding. Their discontinuity makes it difficult to be sure if evidence of these changes is really proof of a previous, violent, one time destruction. These traces of original form and repair are treated as formed together, even if they are not coherent, principally because of the extent of the preserved collapse debris of the western triclinium wall and the possible remains of its reconstruction.<sup>27</sup> If this major destruction datable to later 4th cent. A.D.,

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<sup>25</sup> The latest coins in the earthquake strata are of Constantius II (Nos. 602, 650(?), 654) dated to A.D. 355–361, found at the bottom of cistern room 15 or between and below plaster layer at bottom of room 7. But cf. *infra*, p. 184 for a single later (Valentinian or Valens) coin (No. 776), from insecure context in room 18. A group of lamps found within rubble of the collapsed western wall of the triclinium has been studied by J. MLYNARCZYK, Fourth century A.D. terracotta lamps from Nea Paphos, in: Acta Cypria, Acts of an International Congress on Cypriote Archaeology held in Göteborg on 22–24 August 1991, Part 2, Jonsered 1992 [= Lamps], pp. 258–262, Figs. 2, 3, 4b, Photo 7, 9 (NB. 28/82 on Photo 7 and text p. 258 is a misnomer – it should be 27/82 as in Fig. 3). These lamps have exact counterparts in Kourion earthquake debris. ARSW Hayes form 67/71 rim from the cistern, has TPQ of A.D. 325: J. LUND, Hellenistic, Roman and Late Roman Fine Wares from the Segermes Valley – Forms and Chronology, in: Africa Proconsularis II, Copenhagen 1995 [= Segermes], p. 507.

<sup>26</sup> There are two phases of House of Aion construction mentioned in W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1986, *BCH* 111, 1987 [= Chronique 1986], p. 689. These are different from the ones discussed here. The first one here is the second (middle 4th cent.) in the Chronique. Two earthquakes are suggested by W.A. DASZEWSKI, Nea Paphos 1992, *PAM* IV, 1993 [= NP'92], p. 84, the first in A.D. 365, the second in the early 5th century A.D., implicitly separated by a phase of reconstruction.

<sup>27</sup> T. MIKOCKI, Essai de reconstruction du mur Ouest de la salle I dans la "Maison d'Aion" à Nea Paphos, *EtTrav* XVI, 1992 [= Mur], pp. 137, 143, Fig. 1; S. MEDEKSZA, Reconstruction works in the House of Aion in Nea Paphos, *RDAC* 1987 [= Reconstruction], pp. 228–229; we have no decisive proof that the NW fragment of wall, carelessly plastered over, is replacing an earlier, better built construction. This idea is raised only because of inconsequences in building techniques. Cf. *infra*, p. 153 and note 37. Another problem arises due to Early Byzantine coin 721 found within wall rubble, cf. p. 177.



2. West wall of House of Aion room 1 with remains of poorly built north part. (Phot. Z. Doliński).

was followed by repair, and other traces of remodelling are contemporary, then the hypothesis of two collapse events may be valid. Detailed investigation of the Aion mosaic itself has also revealed traces of repairs which may, but do not have to be contemporary with the supposed reconstruction of the west wall of room 1.<sup>28</sup> The rebuilt structures may belong to the same phase as the Palace vestibule (Villa of Theseus, room 69).<sup>29</sup> If so, then a field of ruins would have extended between the vestibule and the House of Aion on the Late Street. The room 1 mosaic would have been reconstructed under some temporary shelter(?) using the shabby western wall. Important changes in the eastern part of the building are also recognizable: the final division of rooms 18–19, the dismantling of the original northern wall of room 19, erection of the southern wall of the Northeastern House, and a probable change of function of room 10. If they are all synchronous and datable to the times of Constantius II or later by the coins found in the fill of foundation trench of the S

<sup>28</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, Researches at Nea Paphos 1965–1984, in: *Archaeology in Cyprus 1960-1985*, ed. V. KARAGEORGHIS, Nicosia 1985, p. 288, Pl. XXX.2; Eurotas in the Leda panel as a repair contemporary with the Achilles mosaic in the palace – i.e. dated to 5th century at least.

<sup>29</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1982*, *BCH* 107, 1983 [= *Chronique* 1982], p. 943; This would fit the explanation offered for occurrence of a fragment of a statue of Dionysos under the mosaic of the vestibule. Other causes may be raised, however, most plausible of them and the simplest is the secondary character of all deposits involved. Otherwise it is not easy to interpret the widespread dispersion of pieces of this sculpture. One of them was found in room 48 of the south wing of the palace, another probably in debris south of room 76 at the western end of this wing. This does not make the whole hypothesis false.

wall of NEH, then the repair, reuse and final destruction of the house may also be contemporary with the final ruin of the NEH. A more detailed discussion of selective reuse of some rooms in the House of Aion follows in topographical order.

V. Much less is known about still earlier phases referred to in preliminary report, as they were evidenced only in a few pits. We were fortunate, however, to find a coin of Licinius in the lime mortar setting-bed of the mosaic in room 1.<sup>30</sup> The mosaics in the vestibule, and most probably in room 3 as well, seem to have all been made at one time. There is no conclusive evidence for the date of the monochrome mosaics in rooms 5, 6 and 8, though they were utilised simultaneously. Little is known about the time when the painted decoration in room 7 was made, stylistic criteria apart, according to which it seems vaguely contemporary with the triclinium mosaic.<sup>31</sup> The occurrence of third century coins above the floors and within foundation trenches, as well as the existence of two different layers of paintings, engendered the hypothesis that the primary erection of the House of Aion took place at that time.<sup>32</sup> There are few ceramic finds, though, which could be related to such a phase.

### Summary of stratigraphy

- I. Late usage, most probably confined to the street situated south of the building and the lime kiln in the ruins.
- II. Final destruction of the HA.
- III. The reconstruction (hypothetical) of parts of the west wall and the mosaic repair – the subsequent use of rooms 6, 10, 18, 19.
- IV. (or = II) Destruction (partial?) of the west wall of the triclinium, probably earlier phases of rooms 10 and 19?
- V. Mosaics in the triclinium laid and used.<sup>33</sup>

### Stratigraphy and pottery – topographical description\*

If the hypothesis of selective reuse of some rooms in the House of Aion is correct, than the strata of destruction in the rooms immediately north of the triclinium-vestibule com-

<sup>30</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1984*, *BCH* 109, 1985 [= *Chronique* 1984], p. 954. Coin No. 591, cf. *infra*, p. 191.

<sup>31</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: A. PAPAGEORGHIOU, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1989*, *BCH* 114, 1990 [= *Chronique* 1989], p. 975.

<sup>32</sup> DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1986, pp. 687, 689 (a coin of Philip I the Arab, No. 635) and on a floor fragment remaining in room 7 below north bench (a coin of Gordianus III, No. 658); ID., in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1988*, *BCH* 113, 1989 [= *Chronique* 1988], p. 834, Fig. 121. Cf. also *supra*, note 30.

<sup>33</sup> The mosaics of the triclinium complex are situated higher than those in the surrounding rooms, 40 cm lower in room 3 and 20 cm lower in rooms 5 and 6, cf. DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1984, p. 954.

\* Most of the pottery has been drawn in the field by a number of volunteers and students participating in the activity of the Polish Mission, to whom I owe gratitude: Dr M. Droste, Mss Ch. Bergmann, K. Hołderna, E. Milczarczyk, Mrr M. Bieniada, K. Domzalski, R. Tańcula. All were re-traced in ink by Ms G. Zborowska.

plex should belong to an earlier cataclysm, dated by coin finds to after A.D. 355 up to A.D. 361. Traces of that disaster were observed in rooms 13 and 14 (Fig. 5), along the northern wall of the vestibule (room 15), and further eastward in room 7. Thus the remains in rooms 6, 10 and further east would belong to the second destruction, like in the main rooms 1 and 2. Area situated to the southeast has been heavily disturbed: in room 5 by the building of a lime kiln in its north half while south of room 6 by a modern trench reaching below the mosaic level.

### *Rooms 1–2*

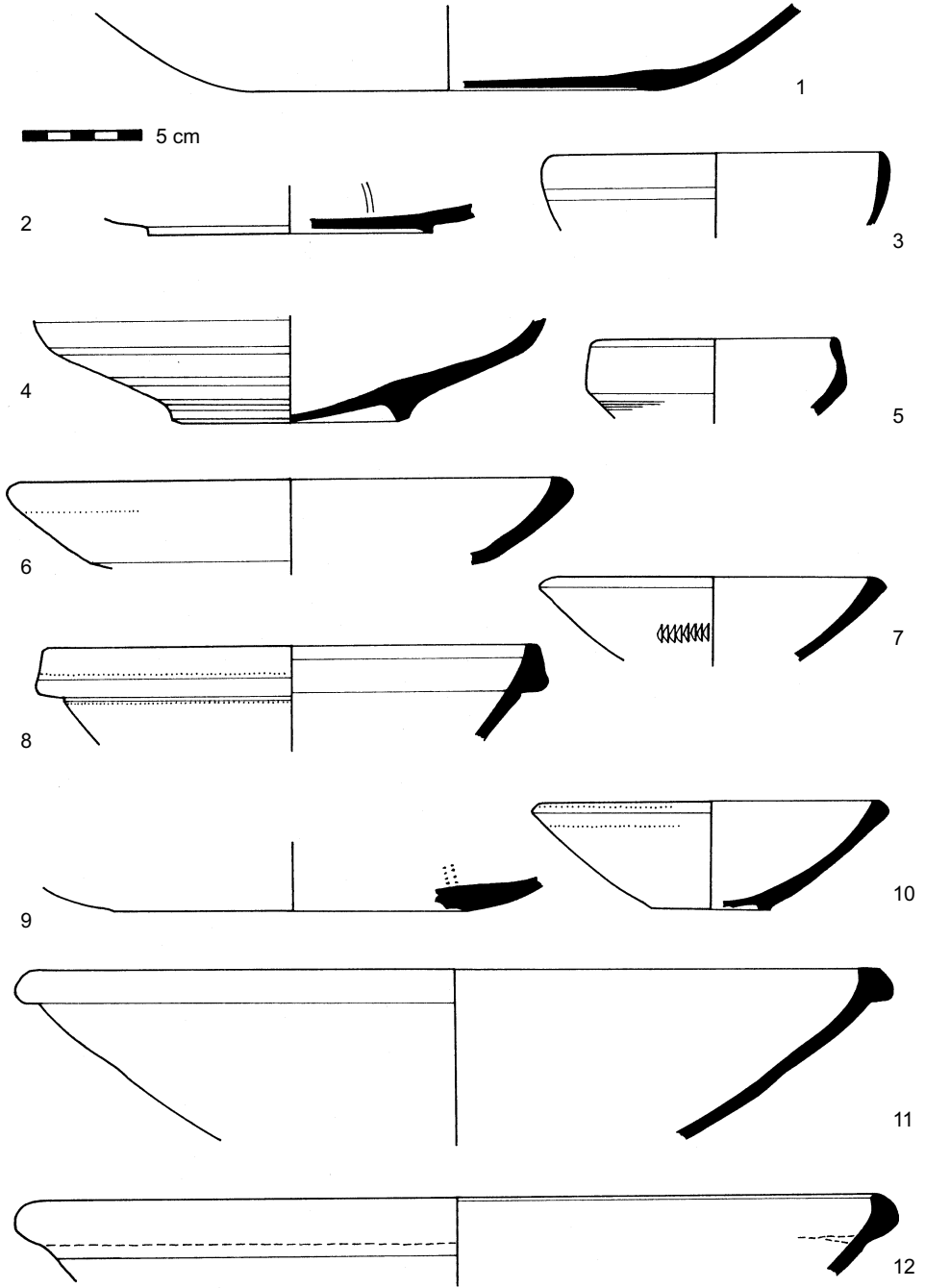
Uncovering of the mosaic in rooms 1 and 2 involved the removal of the very hard surface of a former parking lot for tourist visitors situated 80 cm maximum above the triclinium mosaic. Below, a layer of rubble with plaster was resting immediately on the mosaic. This layer was at least partly disturbed, as it contained a sherd of Byzantine glazed ware. The majority of pottery, though, was earlier. Rims of the Late Roman C (LRC) form 3C, small variant datable to fourth quarter of 5th cent.,<sup>34</sup> Cypriot Red Slip Ware (CRS) form K 1 (Fig. 3: 8)<sup>35</sup> and form H 1/3<sup>36</sup>, that is forms first produced in late 4th or early 5th cent., were found here. No later pits were recorded. The walls of these rooms were entirely pulled down, and the only stretch preserved over foundation levelling course (to the height of 70 cm above the mosaic) in the northern half of the west wall is surprisingly poorly built. Relatively large part of this wall with a niche, constructed of large masonry blocks, was found laying on the street dividing HA from Villa of Theseus. It was reassembled and reconstructed. The parts found form less than 50% of the decorated (the only identifiable) blocks of the niche. The contrast of structure in the same wall is interpreted as the evidence for reconstruction after earthquake. In view of evidence suggesting widespread use of *opus africanum* in walls (cf. a pillar found opposite and in room 4 of NEH) it is possible that even in this wall only decorated parts were built entirely of masonry. Photographs (Fig. 2) suggest that the wall was built using such mixed technique,<sup>37</sup> but the first interpretation cannot be excluded.

<sup>34</sup> J.W. HAYES, *Late Roman Pottery*, London 1972 [= LRP], pp. 329–337, Fig. 69: form 3:31, M. MACKEN-SEN, *Zur Datierung mediterraner Sigillata aus der spätantiken Befestigung Iatrus an den unteren Donau. Die Chronologie der Late Roman C-Formen Hayes 3 A-E*, *Germania* 69.1, 1991, pp. 79–96 (a renewed support for Hayes' dating); V. GASSNER, *Das Südtor der Tetragonos-Agora. Keramik und Kleinfunde, Forschungen in Ephesos XIII/1,1*, Wien 1997 p. 138 (new classification: variant b – 2nd half of 5th cent. A.D.).

<sup>35</sup> Hard fired with slip cracking below lip, paste Munsell code 10R6/6 to 10R5/6; surface: strong burnish inside and on rim, walls outside shaved, just below rim fine roulette, rim darkened, nearly black, cf. H. MEYZA, *Cypriot Red Slip – Development of the Ware (an Attempt at Refinement)*, in: *Πρακτικά του τρίτου διεθνούς Κυπριολογικού Συνεδρίου, Α'*, Nicosia 2000 [= Refinement], p. 511, Fig. 1.

<sup>36</sup> MEYZA, *Refinement*, p. 512, Fig 3: 2 (the caption for that figure is erroneously exchanged with that of next figure).

<sup>37</sup> The large block belonging to outer face, marked with an arrow seems to be the northernmost block of the niche – its south edge should correspond to the north end of blocks M41 or M43 of the niche, ΜΙΚΟΟΚΙ, *Mur*, Fig. 3, at c. 180 cm from the axis, on the interior the wall one block more to south is built of smaller, irregular stones packed with earth, ΜΕΔΕΚΣΖΑ, *Reconstruction*, Fig. 1.



3. Pottery from the earthquake debris and associated levels: fine wares.

### Room 3

The mosaic floor of this room is situated 40 cm lower, and the walls of this room are better preserved to maximum 90 cm above the mosaic. Here again room fill, consisting of loose soil with numerous painted plaster fragments and unworked stone and blocks, is not a implacable evidence for an untouched collapse deposit, but no late finds suggest the time of disturbance. The latest pottery belongs to late 4th–5th cent. A.D. as LRC form 1A base,<sup>38</sup> and a variant CRS form H 1/3 with a roulette (Fig. 3: 7).<sup>39</sup> Two interesting, mendable Buff Ware jar/deep bowls with a double roulette on the rim (Fig. 4: 3) were also found here.<sup>40</sup>

### Rooms 13–14–15 (3E)

The crawlspace below rooms 13–14 (corridor ?) along the north wall of the triclinium/ vestibule complex had been covered across its whole span by the rubble of the ruined south wall. Apart from numerous iron nails there were no traces of floors, which, seemingly, were made of wooden planks resting on transverse stone support walls. Only in the eastern end of the corridor did the planks lay on the vault of an underground cistern accessible via a shaft from the adjacent room 7.<sup>41</sup> The rubble, mixed with numerous plaster pieces – (both painted, figured or floral, and modelled, others belonging to the first floor surface fragments) forms a continuous layer filling the space between support walls in the west part and rising above them in the east (Fig. 5).<sup>42</sup> There, above the preserved part of the cistern vault and almost under the threshold of door to the vestibule (room 2), the fore part of a skeleton of a donkey<sup>43</sup> has been uncovered under a layer of stone rubble. It seems to be situated in the uppermost, disturbed fill but may have been placed there before the ruination of the house.<sup>44</sup> Together with it a coin 617, possibly post-constantinian was found. At approximately the same level, possibly also in the disturbed fill, the hind part of (another ?) skeleton was found close to the west wall of cistern, in the spandrel of its vault. Most of the deposit between the support benches and in the cistern seems to be intact. The latest pottery pieces have been found in the cistern, a rim fragment of an African Red Slip

<sup>38</sup> HAYES, LRP, p. 325, Fig. 65:3, a specimen datable to the end of 4th cent. A.D.

<sup>39</sup> Surface shaved outside with slip streaks, burnished inside, lip discoloured = MEYZA, Refinement, Fig. 3:5.

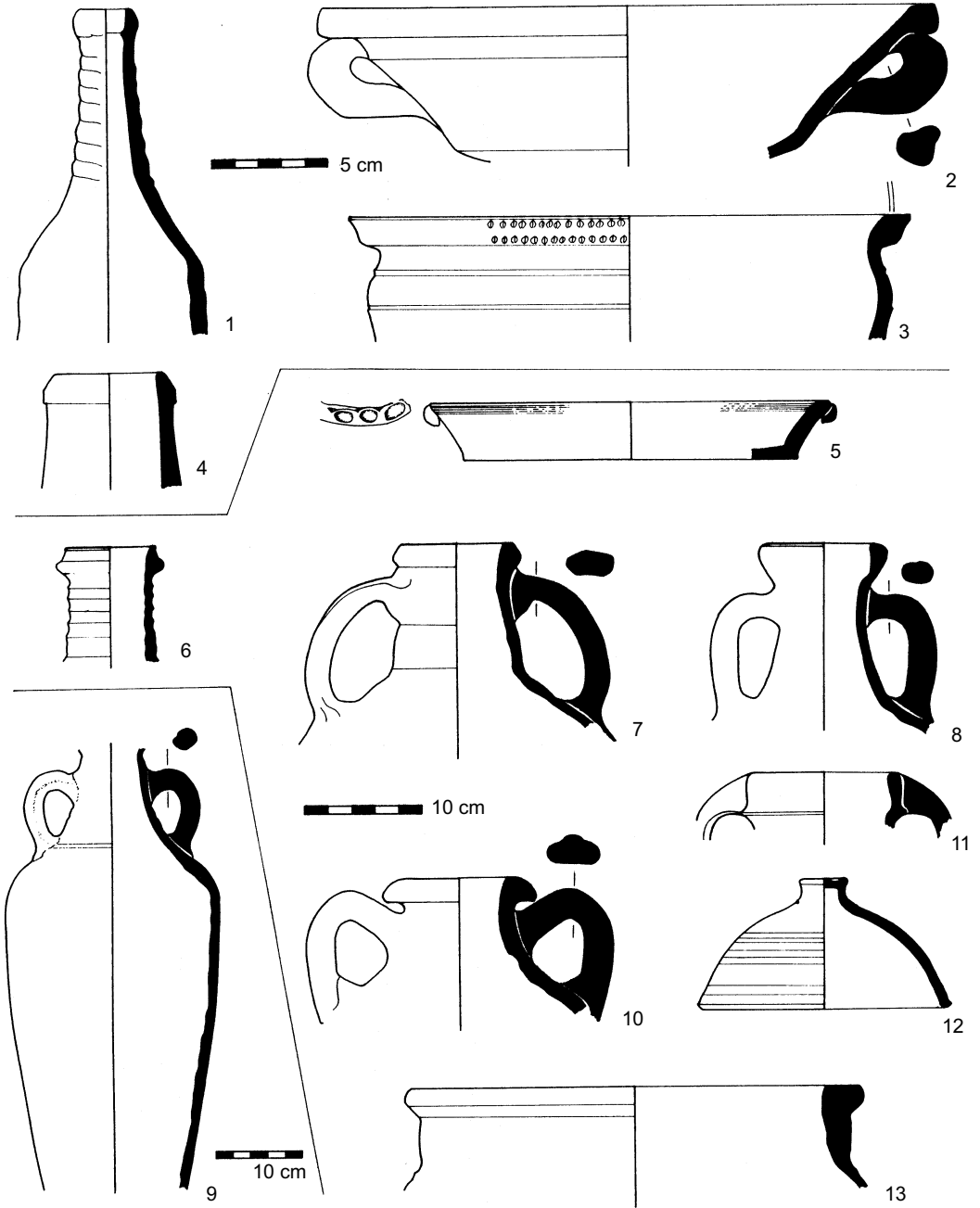
<sup>40</sup> There were two similar jar/deep bowls – on one a vertical handle. Piecrust Ware of 7th cent. Anamur is a distant analogy. Cf. in 4–5th cent. A.D.: C. SCORPAN, *Origini și linii evolutive în ceramica Romano-Bizantină (sec. IV–VII) din spațiul mediteranean și pontic*, *Pontica IX*, 1976 [= Origini], Pl. XXVIII bis: 8.

<sup>41</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1987*, *BCH* 112, 1988 [= *Chronique 1987*], p. 837, Fig. 77. Reconstruction of the cistern vault shows that the planks would have to be placed over the cistern slightly higher.

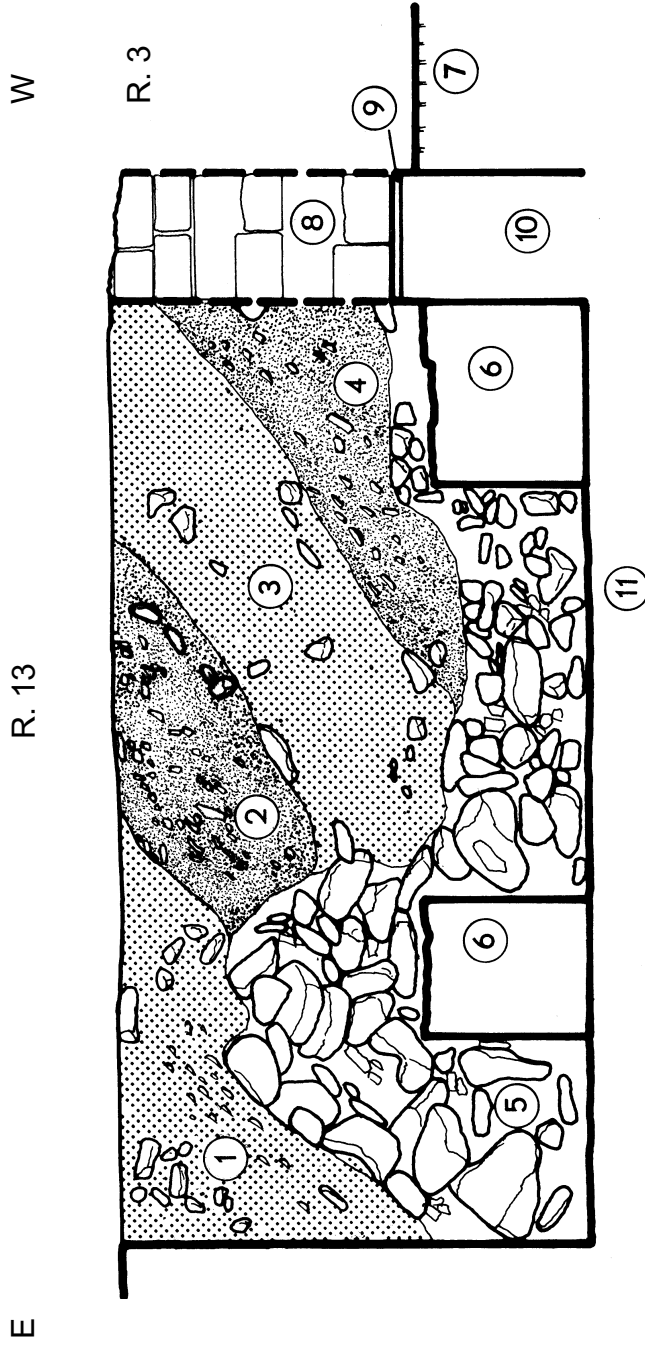
<sup>42</sup> DASZEWSKI, *Chronique 1984*, p. 954; ID., *Chronique 1985*, p. 861, Fig. 94; ID., *Chronique 1986*, p. 687, Fig. 39; ID., *Chronique 1987*, p. 837, Fig. 77.

<sup>43</sup> The bones identity has been ascertained by Dr Paul Croft, to whom go our words of gratitude.

<sup>44</sup> Among pottery in the upper fill a rim piece of a large bowl very similar (possibly the same vessel) to Fig. 3: 12 has been found, cf. note 58.



4. Pottery from the earthquake debris and associated levels: utilitarian wares.



5. Southern section of House of Aion room 13 close to entrance to room 3. 1, 3) Dump layers: soil with crushed plaster and small stones; 2, 4) dump layers with much crushed plaster; 5) rubble of collapse, probably intact; 6) floor support benches; 7) mosaic in room 3; 8) door jamb in east wall of room 3; 9) marble threshold; 10) foundation of east wall of room 3; 11) support benches standing surface.

Ware (ARS) Hayes form 67/71 among them.<sup>45</sup> Much more popular related form 67 first appears in contexts postdating A.D. 336 in Carthage, Conimbriga and Split, while its heyday is around A.D. 400.<sup>46</sup> Together with it a fragment of ARS form 50B, similarly datable was collected.<sup>47</sup> Between the support walls in rooms 13 and 14 only lamps belonging to parading horse type studied by J. Młynarczyk<sup>48</sup> testified to the time of destruction. The latest coin in rooms 13–14 seems to be a piece of Constans dated A.D. 337–347,<sup>49</sup> while in the cistern (room 15) 2 coins of Constantius II dated A.D. 355–361 were found at the bottom.<sup>50</sup>

### Room 7

A similar pattern, with a more substantial deposit accumulated along the eastern wall, is repeated in room 7. Here the lower fill consists almost exclusively of plaster, consolidated into plaster concretion. Stones from the walls and vault (Fig. 5: 10) were found above the plaster layer, which in some places reached 20 cm above floor supports.<sup>51</sup> Walls to the south and west were preserved up to 125 cm above floor support level, and the relatively few stones above the plaster may mean that the earthquake debris was scavenged for materials reused in later walls, e.g. the east wall of the NEH room 12. Unfortunately in the SE corner other disturbances must have taken place at a still later date, leaving a pit fill consisting of numerous, loosely packed stones (Fig. 5: 2, 5). These were most probably left from the dismantled walls of that corner, which have disappeared down to the level of the support bench. Fortunately, the plaster fill below does not seem to have

<sup>45</sup> Diameter 15 cm; Th. MARTIN, Quelques formes inédites de sigillée claire D, *Figlina 2*, 1977, pp. 99–101, Fig. 3:3 (classed as 67/73, from wreck 1 at Anse Gerbal by Pont-Vendres, datable by coins to close after A.D. 382–392 – but see M. MACKENSEN, *Die Spätantiken Sigillata- und Lampentöpfereien von El-Mahrine (Nordtunesien)*, München 1993, pp. 332, 388 f, Pl. 60: 14.2–3 who doubts if the group is homogeneous); HAYES, LRP Supp, pp. 485, 503; earliest occurrence with coins: Porto Torres, layer of destruction in room A, with coin datable A.D. 335–361, F. VILLEDIEU, *Turris Libisonis. Fouille d'un site romain tardif à Porto Torres, Sardaigne*, BAR S224, 1984, p. 51 but on p. 53 this layer is dated to 2nd quarter of 5th cent.; S. TORTORELLA, *Ceramica africana (aggiunte)*, in: EAA Atl I, p. 259 in contexts pre – 425 in Carthage.

<sup>46</sup> After LUND, Segernes, pp. 504 f:

Carthage, the German excavations, insula E 118, room R 57, layer r 1 over floor 1, *terminus post quem* of A.D. 330 to 335;

Conimbriga, street north from forum, last surface; two coins, of which the latest dated about A.D. 336;

Split, the palace of Diocletian, sector One – Roman and Early Medieval debris – greenish clay (Level 6), Grid C/5–6; a coin of Constantine, the debris has a coin-dated *terminus post quem* of A.D. 324 to 330.

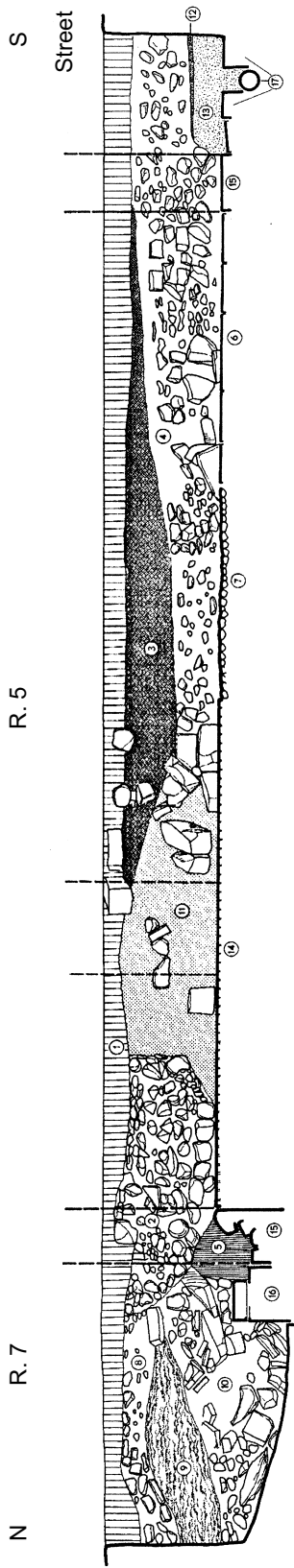
<sup>47</sup> LUND, Segernes, pp. 490 f. Earliest examples of this variant found in secure context with coins come from Conimbriga, reconstruction layer in the insula of the phallic vase, with TPQ of A.D. 341–346; J. ALARCÃO, R. ETIENNE, *Fouilles de Conimbriga I*, Paris 1977, p. 233, while the mean TPQ based on finds with coins is A.D. 391, cf. POBLOME *et al.*, *Sherds*.

<sup>48</sup> MŁYNARCZYK, *Lamps*, pp. 258–260, lower row on p. 267.

<sup>49</sup> Coin No. 567 found in the NE corner of the “corridor”, some 15 cm below the top of the supporting bench.

<sup>50</sup> Coins Nos. 652, 654; cf. *infra*, p. 187.

<sup>51</sup> The section Fig. 5 shows state of excavations in 1985, therefore only south-west of room 7 is excavated, and even there the bottom layer, the plaster fill in the crawlspace, is still unexcavated.



6. Eastern section of House of Aion rooms 7 and 5 and street B to south (drawn by S. Medeksza). 1) the parking surface; 2) modern dump; 3) abandonment stratum of lime kiln; 4) abandonment stratum of limestone crushing area (?); 5) fill of the robbing trench of the S wall of room 7; 6) slab-paved limestone crushing area (?); 7) loose stones of fill/bedding of mosaic in room 5; 8) top rubble layer in room 5; 9) plaster layer (dumped?); 10) lower rubble layer of R. 7-collapse debris (disturbed?); 11) rubble layer of room 5-collapse debris (disturbed?); 12) last street surface; 13) accumulation on original street surface; 14) mosaic in R. 5; 15) walls N and S of room 5; 16) S floor supporting bench in room 7; 17) channel in street B (cf. J. MLYNARCZYK, Nea Paphos III, Fig. 21).

been disturbed, since large plaster pieces, although crumbled, were in a position that preserved original pattern, either turned face up or down<sup>52</sup> (probably reflecting fan-folding method of deposition). That pattern of deposition is probably the result of the sliding downwards of vertical sheets of laminating plaster and not of the wall collapse (perhaps a much slower erosion process, triggered only by an earthquake). Large stretches of walls preserved standing but deprived of their plaster coating in room 7 give additional evidence that this could well have been the case. Otherwise such a deposition pattern can only be explained by secondary filling. The relatively large mendable patches of figured decoration, though, indicate that the deposit is of single, adjacent origin.

Quite numerous coins coming from the destruction strata – both from the rubble or plaster conglomerate and below them are all datable before A.D. 351–355. Large fragments of five amphorae were found in the fill of the south-east corner of room 7 and on the floor of room 6. These last may belong in fact to a pit damaging the SE corner of room 7.

The latest were probably fragments of a somewhat dispersed, but mendable, spatheion amphora, probably of North African production, found at the bottom of that fill (Fig. 11: 7).<sup>53</sup> Three of amphora upper parts are not readily identifiable:

1. Reddish clay, small, numerous dark grains, yellowish slip, form close to Keay XX from Baetica (?) – or XXI from Africa (?), both dated to 4th – beginning of 5th cent. A.D. (Fig. 4: 9);<sup>54</sup>

2. Greyish – brown clay, sandy impurities, buff slip, type of handle Late Roman, but neither paste nor some details of form fit exactly any of the known types (Fig. 4: 7).<sup>55</sup>

<sup>52</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1985*, *BCH* 110, 1986, p. 861, Fig. 95; Id., *Chronique 1988*, p. 834, Figs. 121 f; Id., *Chronique 1989*, p. 975, Fig. 95.

<sup>53</sup> Several papers presented during the colloque in Siena in 1986, published in: *Amphores romaines et histoire économique: dix ans de recherche*, Collection Ecole Française de Rome 114, Rome 1989 [= *Dix ans*] provide dating of this type. One of the earliest occurrences is the stratum “O” of the Magna Mater Temple in Rome, cf. A. CARIGNANI, F. PACETTI, *Anfore tardo-antiche dagli scavi del Palatino*, in: *Dix ans*, pp. 611–612, Pl. II; on other centres of production M.G. MAIOLI, M. STOPPIONI, Ravenna, loc. Classe. La fornace per ceramica nel podere Chiavichetta, in: *Dix ans*, p. 568, Fig. 5; IDD., *Classe, podere Chiavichetta: anfore di produzione locale*, in: *Dix ans*, p. 570, Fig. 8–9, this may be doubted; D.P.S. PEACOCK, D.F. WILLIAMS, *Amphorae and the Roman economy, an introductory guide*, London-New York 1986 [= *Amphorae*], p. 202 quote Keay’s communication that this type was produced also in Cartagena; in the same place imported: M.G. MAIOLI, M. STOPPIONI, *Classe, podere Chiavichetta: anfore di importazione*, in: *Dixans*, pp. 572 f, Figs. 11–13; numerous finds in the East: W. HAUTUMM, *Studien zu den Amphoren der spätrömischen und frühbyzantinischen Zeit*, Bonn 1981, pp. 77–129, Figs. 200–201.

<sup>54</sup> S. KEAY, *Late Roman Amphorae in the Western Mediterranean. A Typology and Economic Study: The Catalan Evidence*, *BAR S* 196, 1984 [= *LRAWM*], pp. 168 f, 448 f, 456, Figs. 28,2; 22,2. Both pastes differ from our amphora, which has it closer to Pseudo-Kos en cloche as Agora M 54, cf. H.S. ROBINSON, *Agora V, Pottery of the Roman Period; Chronology*, Princeton 1959 [= *Agora*], p. 89, Pl. 19. On relation between LRA1 and Pseudo-Kos en cloche, see also comments of J.W. HAYES, *Paphos III, The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery*, Nicosia 1991 [= *Paphos III*], p. 94. Form XXI has also different handle section.

<sup>55</sup> Some similarity to Cretan amphora 1 and 2, Late Roman phase, cf. E.C. PORTALE, I. ROMEO, *Le anfore locali di Gortina ellenistica e romana*, *RCRF Acta* 36, 2000 [= *Gortina*], p. 422, Figs. 3:26; 4: 36. Our piece was found in the pit fill.

3. Heavily corroded surface, brown-red clay, much fine sand, buff slip, close to Dressel 24, the ware and handle form differs (Fig. 4: 8).<sup>56</sup>

4. Probably residual was an amphora, type Dressel 20/23 (Fig. 4: 10), red-brownish clay with some mica, thin, transparent white-greyish wash.<sup>57</sup>

At the bottom of the fill a cooking pot was found, sunk in the bottom of the crawlspace before the plaster collapse.

### *Room 10*

In this room, thanks to floor level, originally lower than in room 6 (east part) by at least 10 cm and lowered in the last phase of use by 7–13 cm, traces of collapse were relatively well preserved (Fig. 6). Crushed pilaster and vault(?) fragments were found laying over crushed vessels: large pithoi, jugs, lids, funnels, bottles etc. Two smaller pithoi and 2 buff/coarse amphorae with wide collar rims were imbedded in the floor and covered by gypsum slabs (*shioni*). Numerous coins were collected from the floor, as well as within one (the northern amphora) sunk vessel. All coins save one of Licinius belonged to the Constantinian family types (Constantine, Constans, Constantius II and other not precisely identifiable). The fine ware is represented by a rim of an untypical and therefore doubtful CRS-like plate transitional between forms 2 and 9 (Fig. 3: 12).<sup>58</sup>

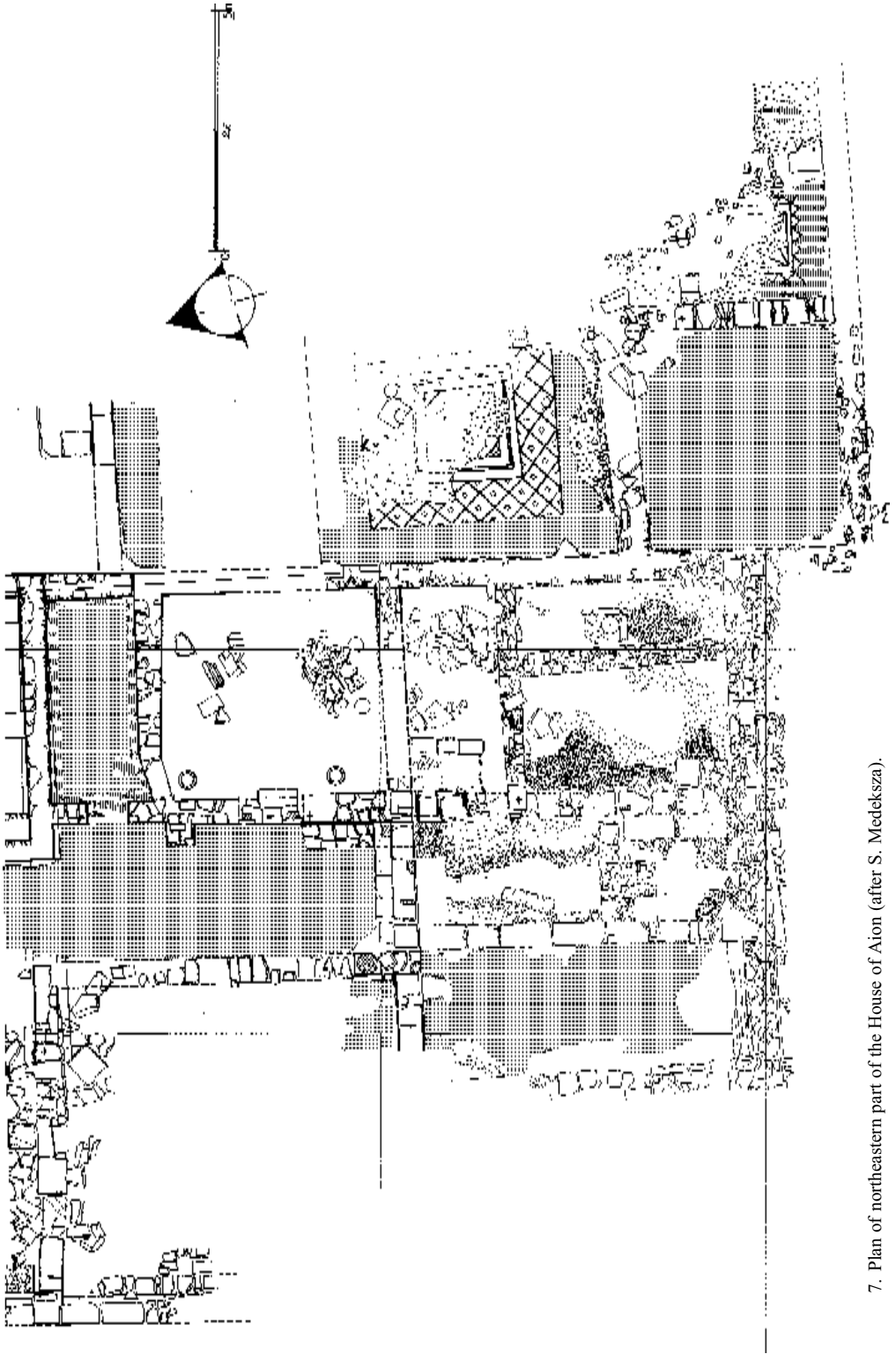
Two phases of use were identified here – first leaving plaster traces on the eastern and northern walls – and corresponding to the foundation levelling course of the former wall, made of masonry blocks; the second, lower, lime floor preceding the implantation of the four vessels in it. Below the steps leading down from room 6, two coins were found, probably contemporary with final remodelling of this room: the later of the two (827) had been struck for Julian between A.D. 348–361.

The pottery assemblage deserves presentation in more detail, since it seems to not have been disturbed. Beside the CRS-like plate the only fine ware pottery were two well

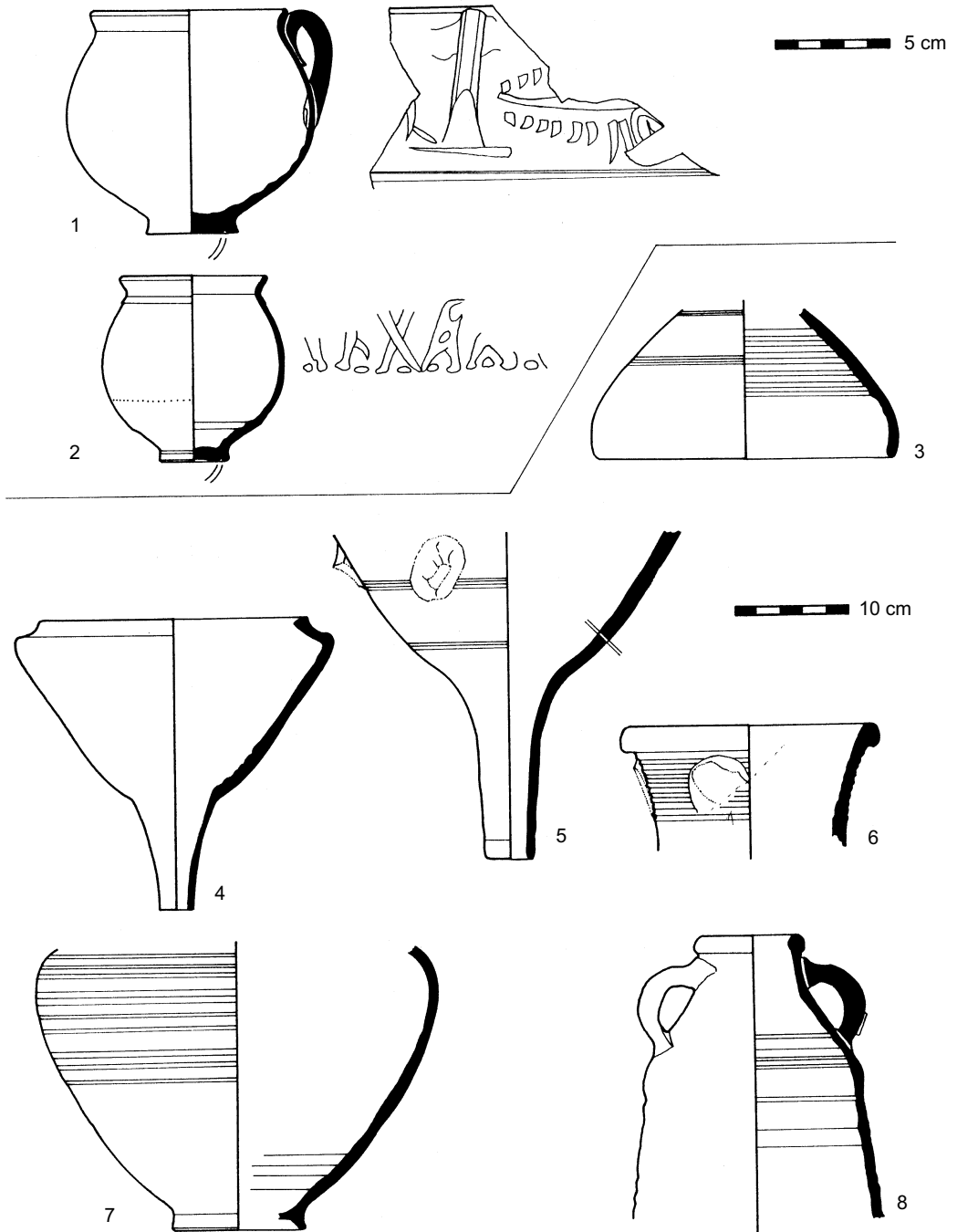
<sup>56</sup> D. MANACORDA, Proposta per una identificazione dell'anfora Dressel 24, *AC* 27, 1975, pp. 378–383, Pls. XCVII–XCIX; L. BJELAJAC, Amfore gornomezijskog Podunavlja, Beograd 1996, pp. 53–59, Fig. XVII: 84, type XVI; D. BENEÀ, Les amphores de Tibiscum. Les relations commerciales entre la Dacie et le territoire de la Méditerranée orientale, *RCRF Acta* 36, 2000, p. 437, Figs. 1: 6–9; 2; C. SCORPAN, Contribution à la connaissance de certains types céramiques romano-byzantins (IV<sup>e</sup>–VII<sup>e</sup> siècles) dans l'espace istro-pontique, *Dacia* 21, 1977, pp. 275–6; but compare also Agora L 30, ROBINSON, Agora, p. 77, Pl. 16.

<sup>57</sup> S. MARTIN-KILCHER, Die römischen Amphoren aus Augst und Kaiseraugst, 1: Die Südspanischen Ölamphoren (Gruppe 1), Augst 1987, pp. 56 (Profilgruppe G), 240, Pl. 54: 862, Beil. 2: 113, dated to 3rd cent. A.D., but the form continues to be produced until A.D. 400.

<sup>58</sup> This piece was analysed by FUB laboratory, sample D593, M. DASZKIEWICZ, G. SCHNEIDER, J. RAABE, Cypriot Sigillata and Cypriot Red Slip Wares – a Comparison of Technological and Chemical Analysis and of Thin Section Studies, in: European Ceramic Society, 4th Conference, Riccione October 2–6, 1995, Faenza 1995, Tabl. 1, CRS group 3. This does not fit the chemical data standard for CRS. Analogous piece with a roulette, but certainly CRS was found in Villa of Theseus in room 32 TP/70 in mixed layer 8; compare piece from room 16W, possibly Hellenistic (Fig. 3: 11), and another from room 15 found in the unstratified fill.



7. Plan of northeastern part of the House of Aion (after S. Medeksza).



8. Pottery from the earthquake debris in room 10: smaller pieces.

preserved thin-walled ware Attic(?) late mugs with painted decoration (Fig. 8: 1–2).<sup>59</sup> The remaining vessels include large pithos with a spout blocked by lead seal (Fig. 9: 2)<sup>60</sup>, large jugs and/or amphorae (Fig. 8: 7)<sup>61</sup> and the rim of large wide-necked vessel, which seems to belong to late type (Fig. 8: 6) of thick buff ware.<sup>62</sup>

Other amphorae closely parallel to those found in the Kourion earthquake material have been uncovered smashed by the fallen blocks (Fig. 8: 8),<sup>63</sup> upper part of Tripolitanian (III) residual one was also found here.<sup>64</sup> Smaller fragments of Late Roman Amphora 1 and the Egyptian Kellia form 172 were found in the eastern, possibly already disturbed part of this room.

Function of the room may be indicated by funnels of two sizes, one of them large (Fig. 8: 4–5), the first is very similar to a funnel from Yassi Ada wreck II,<sup>65</sup> as well as by large sized domed lid (Fig. 8: 3).<sup>66</sup>

A large globular cooking pot belongs here also (Fig. 9: 3).<sup>67</sup>

The finds suggest that during the last phase, this room was used to produce, store and/or to distribute alcoholic(?) beverages.

<sup>59</sup> Athenian production of “urnetta a collarino” develops in 2nd–3rd c., J.W. HAYES, *Handbook of Mediterranean Roman Pottery*, London 1997 [= Handbook], p. 70, Pl. 25 right; ROBINSON, *Agora*, pp. 64 f, Pls. 13, 37, (K 58–61), pp. 97 f, Pls. 24, 57, 73 (M145–149). Both groups are pre-Herulian according to Robinson. Later undecorated example: G.F. BASS, F.H. VAN DOORNINCK, Jr., *A Fourth-century Shipwreck at Yassi Ada*, *AJA* 75, 1971 [= Yassi Ada], p. 35, Pl. 3: 22. See also a piece from the late street, cf. note 109.

<sup>60</sup> A bottom of another was found turned upside down at hand. Unusual spout has few parallels, eg. R.D. GEMPELER, *Elephantine X. Die Keramik römischer bis früh-arabischer Zeit*, *Archäologische Veröff. DAIK* 43, Mainz am Rhein 1992, p. 207, Fig. 133:2. Fragments of another pithos of brown, coarse ware, similar to North Syrian mortaria were dispersed between room 10 and NEH room 11E (Fig. 4: 13), cf. C. DIEDERICH, *Salamine de Chypre IX, Céramiques hellénistiques, romaines et byzantines*, Paris 1980 [= *Salamine*], p. 57, Pl. 22: 269, of light yellow (suede) colour. The pithos interior was covered by thick white incrustation, possibly of calcium tartarate.

<sup>61</sup> The clay is buff/grey with numerous inclusions, predominantly quartz sand. The wide mouth was probably similar to the rim from NEH room 12E, cf. *infra*, p. 174; H. MEYZA, *Cypriot Sigillata and Cypriot Red Slip Ware: problems of origin and continuity*, in: *Hellenistic and Roman Pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean. Advances in Scientific Studies*, Warsaw 1995 [= *Nieborów*], Pl. 8: 8. Two complete vessels of that type seem to have been inserted into floor of this room, still *in situ*.

<sup>62</sup> PORTALE, ROMERO, *Gortina*, p. 422, Fig. 5: 44; the reference to amphorae types 29, 36, 37 from *Saraçhane* is irrelevant here due to width of neck in our piece.

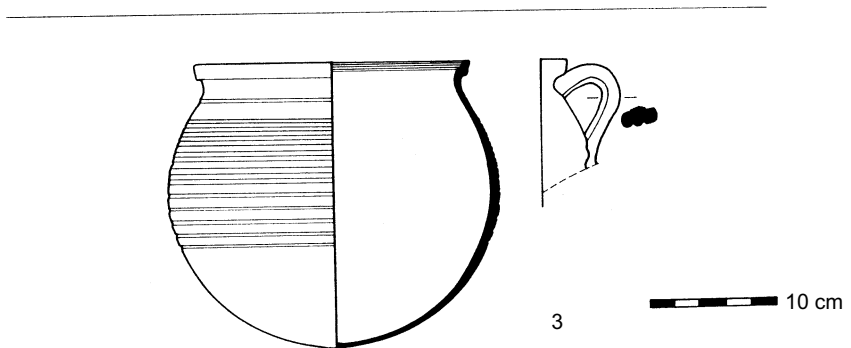
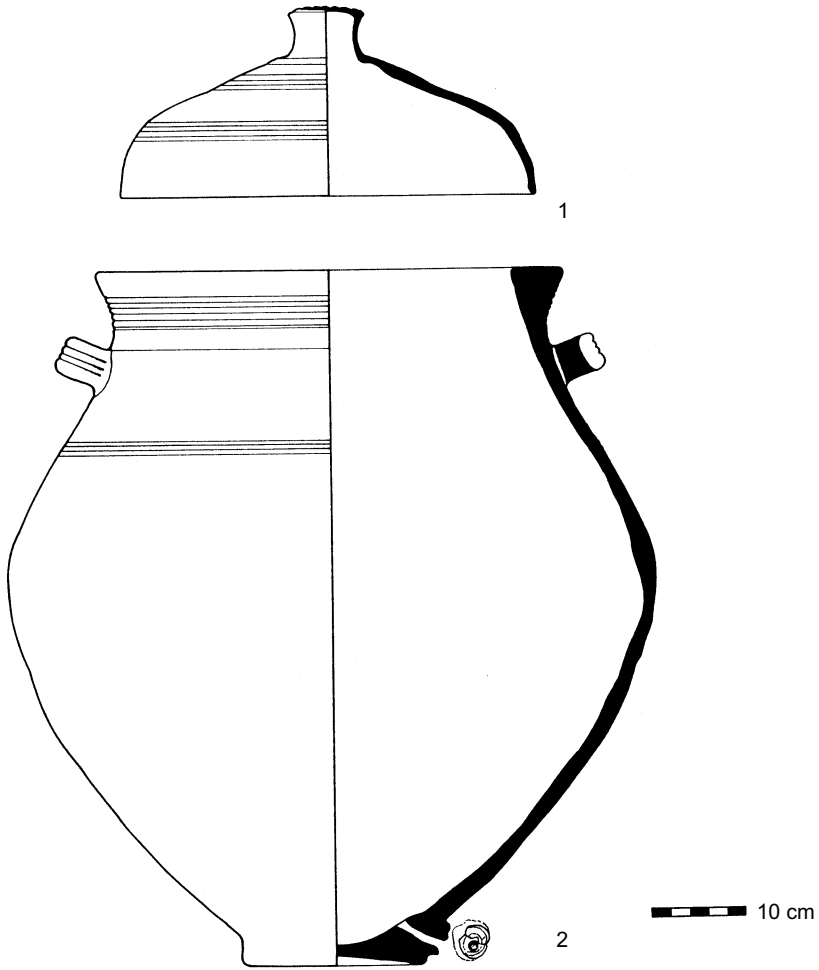
<sup>63</sup> D.F. WILLIAMS, *Roman Amphorae from Kourion, Cyprus*, *RDAC* 1987, pp. 235 f, Figs. 2, 3, types 2 and 3. The form of the illustrated piece is close to Williams' type 2, but the ware is different, buff throughout. This is Kuzmanov type IV, cf. G. KUZMANOV, *Tipologija i chronologija na rannovizantjkitite amfori (IV–VI v.)*, *Arheologija* 1973, 1, p. 16, note 33, based on ROBINSON, *Agora*, Pl. 17 (L 55), Pl. 28 (M 238), Pl. 30 (M 305–306), which is probably a late development of Knidian amphora. Cf. 4th cent. example from Argos: C. ABADIE-REYNAL, *Les amphores protobyzantines d'Argos (IV<sup>e</sup>–VI<sup>e</sup> siècles)*, in: *BCH Suppl XVIII*, 1989 [= *Argos*], p. 49, Fig. 3. Another form with low belly maximum diameter is Kourion form 1 = Kuzmanov III = *Agora M 273*, but the shoulder is wider there.

<sup>64</sup> C. PANELLA, *Le anfore tardoantiche: centri di produzione e mercati preferenziali*, in: *Società romana e impero tardoantico III, Le merci, gli insediamenti*, ed. A. Giardina, Bari 1986, p. 266, Fig. 9 suggests that these forms were produced longer i.e. into 3rd cent. A.D. for local use.

<sup>65</sup> BASS, VAN DOORNINCK, *Yassi Ada*, p. 36, Pl. 3: 30.

<sup>66</sup> It is possible, that this may in fact be a funnel like Fig. 8: 5.

<sup>67</sup> Dark grey paste with brown-violet surface.



9. Pottery from the earthquake debris in room 10: pithos and cooking pot; pithos lid from room 11E.

### *Rooms 6, 16*

Our present problem relates to the rubble over the floors of the possible portico (room 6). It is important whether it belongs to the original earthquake debris, and to which of the destruction phases, or to later disturbances. In the eastern part of room 6 an evidently undisturbed pile of elements belonging to an arch were found, under which, a rim of a spathion amphora was found. In R.16W the rubble seems rather to belong to a secondary dump, probably related to the lime kiln of phase I, the latest finds belong to 6–7th cent. A.D. A fragment of Cypriot Red Slip Ware basin of form 11 was found in the fill of a pit in the courtyard with an interesting decorated fragment of a pithos with human figurine and a boucranium(?) attached at shoulder. Immediately over the floor in room 16W, however, numerous fragments of Late Roman Amphora 1, may probably belong to the original destruction debris. The latest pottery in the cistern in the north-eastern corner of the supposed courtyard (room 16E) is of similar date (rim fragment of Phocaeian form 1?).

### *Rooms 18–19*

The final state of rooms further east is the result of extensive remodelling of an earlier phase (Fig. 6). On the one hand, the south part of the large room paved with pebbles in lime mortar has been partitioned by east-west wall laid immediately upon this floor, and on the other hand its north wall has been pulled down and holes in the floor have been levelled with greenish daub, while the basin north of it filled up. These seem to be contemporary with erection of new north wall – which at the same time is the S wall of the Northeastern House, cutting the pebble floor. In the fill of its foundation trench coins 803–809, 813–814 were found, the latest legible struck by Constantius II. Another group of coins was found in the fill of the phantom wall (partly sealed by greenish daub) originally dividing south part of room 19 from another room with round basin. Floor and the southern wall, dividing rooms 18 and 19 were covered by a plaster coating. The greenish clay daub was its later repair. On the southern side of the latter wall, in room 18, the new floor was laid consisting of a layer of cobbles on a levelling layer of soil. These were covered with plaster. The surface was uneven. A coin of Valens or Valentinian (No. 776) was found at the north edge of modern (?) pit, cutting E-W the central part of this room, in unfortunately not entirely secure context. If not in the fill of the pit, it was situated below the late floor of this room, and would give TPQ for at least its construction and therefore probably also for the remodelling of room 19. This would suggest that these changes occurred after the destruction datable to A.D. 364 at earliest, and thus support the hypothesis of major reconstruction after this first event.

## NORTHEASTERN HOUSE

### Stratigraphy – general outline

Difficulties in combining sequences in the northern part of the excavated area are due to physical separation by a continuous (where not damaged) east-west wall between rooms: 4, 12, 9, 11W, 11E, 20 on one side and 3, 13, 14, 15, 7, 8, 10, 21 and 19 on the other. A difference of 40–50 cm in level of the latest floors led to a somewhat tentative division of the structures into the House of Aion in the south and the Northeastern House in the north.<sup>68</sup> Late stone robbers' trenches complicate situation and the ambiguous evidence of pottery and other finds, such as coins in particular, makes interpretation of these structures difficult.

Phase I, modern(?), disturbances occur along most of the walls apart from the central part. The wall separating the NEH and HA and the walls leading north are preserved there to the present surface or almost to that level. Eastward, the differences in level are responsible for the collapse of most of the separating wall. North-south walls between rooms 9 and 12, between 11E and 20 and the eastern wall of the last room have been entirely robbed out. The northwestern parts of mosaics in rooms 11E and 22 have been damaged by recently dug pits. It seems probable that there was no passage in the wall between HA room 13 and NE House corridor(?) situated to the east of room 4. This wall has been preserved only to the level of the floor support walls in HA room 14, while above it traces of pits excavated from the present surface were recognised. On the other hand, remains which seem to belong to a wall collapsed northward in the south part of "corridor" were noted. These do not, however, exclude entirely a possibility for a door leading north from HA room 13. Another stone robbery, modern or ancient, occurred in case of the west wall of room 4. This wall, minute traces of which can be still seen opposite room 87 of the Villa of Theseus, separated the NWH from the Late Roman street. The remaining uncovered walls belong to Hellenistic-Early Roman structures preceding the street.

Phases II-III. Remains of eight or more rooms of phase III, at least four of them with a mosaic floor were uncovered. Of those, three, situated in the east, (rooms 11E, 20, 22) are embellished with central, probably geometric, panneaux. In the east, the most substantial traces of abrupt ruin during phase II have been left in rooms 12 East, 9, 11W and 11E.<sup>69</sup> Fragments of vault with narrow voussoirs have been found laying on the floor, while among the rubble complete and crushed pottery vessels have been unearthed. Other traces were left on the phase III floor further west in rooms 12 West and 4, in the latter a pillar of *opus africanum* seems to have toppled eastward. The destruction would be con-

<sup>68</sup> DASZEWSKI, NP'92, p. 85.

<sup>69</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: A. PAPAGEORGHIU, Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1990, *BCH* 115, 1991 [= Chronique 1990], p. 823; ID., Nea Paphos Excavations, 1998, *PAM* X, 1999 [= NP'98], p. 172 (room 11E described as room 11 – there exists a trace of wall dividing this room from room 11W).

ventionally dated by pottery to the beginning of the sixth century or at least later fifth. The latest coins found, however, have been dated to the end of the 4th century (Valentinian/Valens). Beside pottery finds there is no decisive evidence for a later date than A.D. 365 of seismic activity in phase II. The likelihood has to be pondered that the general lack of well dated early Byzantine contexts results in the too late dating of pottery. A hypothesis leading in this direction has recently been put forward by Andrea Rowe,<sup>70</sup> but the overwhelming body of other evidence make her suggestions difficult to accept, at least to full extent.

Earlier phase, IV has been only uncovered in trenches dug in central part of the NE House, in the Corridor and room 12W in 1986<sup>71</sup> and 1995<sup>72</sup> and in trenches in rooms 12E and 9 excavated in 1990 and 1991.<sup>73</sup> In all of these, immediately above or constituting phase V floor (see sections in Figs. 4:13, 5:1 in Papuci-Władyka thesis), a thin grey ashy layer was deposited. On its upper surface, below phase IV fill, a single late 4th cent. coin (No. 712) of unidentified emission has been found in room 12E. There are two possible explanations of its occurrence: the first states that in the above-mentioned section 4 there is a clear trace of the trench for the wall dividing HA and NEH. It cuts floor II and therefore erection of this wall (standing on top of an earlier one) must be related to floor I. The bottom of this foundation trench reaches the depth of the bottom of HA room 7. It seems therefore that HA room 7 and NEH room 12E floor I are contemporary. It cannot be excluded that coin 712 has in fact been found in the trench fill, even if exactly over the II floor. Otherwise if the grey layer marks abandonment of the floor II, then two destructions should be envisaged. These destructions occurred a short time apart, or all the coins found above phase III and V floors (I and II) should belong to the first destruction, even if the majority of them in the Northeastern House has been found in the debris from the later destruction. An argument against the second solution proposed above is that leaving apart the coin mentioned we have no other equally late material in the strata covering floor of phase V. The pottery found in phase IV fill, dated to second century A.D., would indicate that phase V belongs to much earlier times. If the coin on the phase V floor is as intrusive, as proposed in the first solution, then the problem of divergent coin and pottery dates may be settled by using the earliest occurrences of the extant latest types of pottery, fixing the destruction to the break of the fourth and fifth centuries. This does not remove it far from

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<sup>70</sup> A. ROWE, A Late Roman streetscape in Nea Paphos, *RDAC* 1999 [= Streetscape], pp. 273–277. See also web pages on particular trenches by A. Rowe, C. Barker and H. Cook at <http://centrum.arts.usyd.edu.au/paphos>. There is not enough place for in-depth discussion of this problem here – let it suffice, that results of Polish excavations in Paphos suggest that 4th/5th century Cypriot Red Slip ware has specific forms, differing from the series presented by Rowe, which belong to forms already listed as later by Hayes, cf. MEYZA, Refinement, pp. 507–529, Figs. 10–12, forms 1, 1/3C, K1, H1, 8A, 11 early (C–D), 12A.

<sup>71</sup> DASZEWSKI, Chronique 1986, p. 687; Id., Nea Paphos 1986, *EtTrav* XVI, 1992 [= NP'86], p. 313; E. PAPUCI-WŁADYKA, Nea Pafos, studia nad ceramiką hellenistyczną z polskich wykopalisk (1965–1991), Kraków 1995 [= Nea Pafos], pp. 95, 100.

<sup>72</sup> W.A. DASZEWSKI, Nea Paphos: Excavations 1995, *PAM* VII, 1996, p. 99.

<sup>73</sup> DASZEWSKI, Chronique 1990, p. 823 (n° 2); Id., Nea Paphos 1990, *PAM* II, 1991, p. 69; Id., Nea Paphos 1991, *RDAC* 1992, p. 254; Id., Nea Paphos 1991, *PAM* III, 1992, p. 67; E. PAPUCI-WŁADYKA, Nea Pafos, p. 87, Fig. 5 (trench B – in 1990), p. 79, Fig. 4 (trench A – drawn section continued in 1991 from the level of floor II).

the coin date. This is a hypothesis which will be put to test below and finally (we hope) verified by further excavation. If this is true, then phase V floor II should be dated before the end of second century. Of course this would mean that historical quakes would not be taken into account.

### Summary of stratigraphy

To summarise the discussion of stratigraphy within the Northeastern House, the following phases are distinguished:

- I. Modern or medieval stone robbing trenches.
- II. Destruction by an earthquake at the end of 4th/beginning of 5th century A.D.
- III. Mosaics in rooms 11, 20, 22, 23 and N of 20 as well as late walls with shallow foundations with corresponding ash-covered/decomposed floors elsewhere, Constantinian.
- IV. Levelling fill concurrent with the abandonment(?) deposit of 2nd/3rd century A.D.

### Stratigraphy and pottery – topographical description

On eastern end of the Northeastern House most substantial remains of phase III, four mosaic-floored rooms at a depth of *c.* 80 cm below the surface were unearthed. At the W end of the complex, apart from few voussoirs no suggestive traces of its violent destruction (phase II) were uncovered.<sup>74</sup> Finds consisted of small pottery fragments. To the east, the present surface slopes even lower and numerous later, or even modern, pits disturb the floors themselves, while the walls were wholly robbed out. The only coin finds occur in the fills of various pits. Therefore, this area, undoubtedly the most important part of the Northeastern House is not relevant for our present purpose. One feature should be noted, that at the E end of this complex (room 20) the mosaic floor was placed at slightly lower level (*c.* 12 cm below floor in room 11E). There are, however, some pottery finds, suggesting that at least part of the fill has been little disturbed. Large part of a pithos with a ledge outside below rim<sup>75</sup> and its fitting lid (Fig. 9: 1), as well as a lid of smaller size (Fig. 4: 12) were found.<sup>76</sup> Pottery found immediately upon the mosaic floor, included an Egyptian barrel bottle in Aswan or similar ware (possibly Dakhleh Ware B23) (Fig. 4: 4),<sup>77</sup> amphora

<sup>74</sup> DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1990, p. 823; *Id.*, NP'92, p. 84; *Id.*, in: D. CHRISTOU, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1992*, *BCH* 117, 1993, pp. 743–6; *Id.*, NP'98, pp. 168 f.

<sup>75</sup> J. BOARDMAN, in: M. BALLANCE *et al.*, *Excavations in Chios 1952–1955, Byzantine Emporio*, *BSA Supp* 20, 1989, p. 110, Fig. 39: 259–261. Decoration similar to No. 260. The context in Chios suggests 7th cent. A.D. date. The fabric of our pithos is a standard coarse buff, while its lid is fired more orange.

<sup>76</sup> Clay brown, surface smoothed, cf. C. WILLIAMS, *Anemurium. The Roman and Early Byzantine Pottery*, *Subsidia mediaevalia* 16, Toronto 1989 [= *Anemurium*], p. 73, Fig. 40: 431.

<sup>77</sup> D. SOREN, J. JAMES, *Kourion, the Search for a Lost Roman City*, New York 1988, p. 113, right (probably from destruction stratum); M. EGLOFF, *Kellia III, La poterie copte*, Genève 1977, pp. 172 f., Pl. 29:15–16 from deposit A, Pls. 90: 2; 100: 338, close analogies in 4th cent.; cf. HAYES, *Handbook*, p. 18, Figs. 4: 3, 25: 9 (Aswan Ware, cream slip). Surprisingly there are no examples from Elephantine – there were found Late Period Oasis

rim and neck of form Keay LII (Fig. 4: 6)<sup>78</sup> and a Late Roman casserole (Fig. 4: 2). It should be noted, that fragments of vessels found here occur also in destruction debris of HA room 10 (cf. n. 60). Even in room 20, with more disturbed layer covering the intact mosaic floor an almost complete Cypriot Red Slip bowl, form H1/3 in maroon/brown, hard fired ware was found (Fig. 3: 10). The only better preserved traces of a violent end of the building with both monetary and ceramic evidence are found further west, in room 12E. For our present purpose we shall confine ourselves to this context and the slightly less well defined group from the other end of room 12W.

### *Room 12, eastern part*

Both walls: the southern, separating from HA room 7 and later eastern have been preserved almost to the modern surface. In other words, there were no traces of phase I. The late floor I of phase III bore traces of violent destruction (Fig. 10). Vessels intact or preserved in large part indicate that the ruin has been little disturbed.<sup>79</sup> Numerous coins, found under the layer of rubble, together with pottery, clarify chronology of these events.

Within the debris following vessels and fragments have been uncovered:

1. Intact jug, variety of Cypriot Red Slip Ware, but without close parallel, dated probably late 4th – early 5th century A.D. (Fig. 11: 8ab).<sup>80</sup> It is lightly slipped with the same diluted clay as used for body or wet smoothed.

2. A pithos with a modelled rim, preserved in a large part. Similar containers seem to be particularly frequent on late sites as Kopetra, but seem to be made much earlier as well (Fig. 11: 9).<sup>81</sup>

3. A micaceous small tubular jar, occurring frequently in the end of 4th century and superseded in the 5th by LRA 3 of similar shape (Fig. 11: 3).<sup>82</sup>

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ware kegs only, cf. D.A. ASTON, *Elephantine XIX, Pottery from the Late New Kingdom to the Early Ptolemaic Period*, *Archäologische Veröff. DAIK* 95, Mainz 1999, pp. 240 f, Pls. 75:2089, 76:2091. Recently, mostly also earlier pieces: C.A. HOPE, *Kegs and Flasks from the Dakhleh Oasis* (app. M.A.J. ECCLESTON, O.E. KAPER, S. MARCHAND, D. DARNELL), *CCE* 6, 2000, p. 195, Figs. 2j, 5d.

<sup>78</sup> KEAY, *LRAWM*, pp. 267 f, 458 f, Fig. 114; recently F. PACETTI, *La questione delle Keay LII nell'ambito della produzione anforica in Italia*, in: *Ceramica in Italia: VI–VII secolo*, ed. L. Sagui, Firenze 1998, p. 185.

<sup>79</sup> Pottery found here has been cursorily presented during the second Nieborów Pottery Workshop (cf. MEYZA, *Nieborów*, Pl. 8).

<sup>80</sup> Height 31.8 cm, form between Agora M 219 and M 295, ROBINSON, *Agora*, pp. 105, 111, Pls. 27, 30; SCORPAN, *Origini*, pp. 170 f, Pl. XXII, 4, 5; WILLIAMS, *Anemurium*, p. 85, Fig. 51: 507 – “coarse grainy orange-buff clay”, context connected? to B3 – late 4th–7th cent.

<sup>81</sup> Several such vessels have been found further west in room 4. Cf. M. RAUTMAN, *Neutron Activation Analysis of Cypriot and Related Ceramics at the University of Missouri*, in: *Hellenistic and Roman Pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean – Advances in Scientific Studies*, Warsaw 1995, pp. 334, 337, Pl. 7. A general view of one of these found *in situ* in room 82 of the Palace – W.A. DASZEWSKI, *Nea Paphos 1976*, *EtTrav* XI, 1979, p. 276, Fig. 4 = ID., in: V. KARAGEORGHIS, *Chronique des fouilles à Chypre en 1976*, *BCH* 101, 1977, p. 770, Fig. 106; HAYES, *Paphos III*, pp. 65, 67, Fig. 24:8, Pl. 22:14; Fig. 25:2 – both dated to 2nd century A.D., but found in the surface stratum, and therefore quite probably later.

<sup>82</sup> Belly diameter 10.6 cm, rim and foot missing, mended; regrettably misleadingly illustrated as two-handed and so cited as LR 3 by S. KINGSLEY, *The Sumaqa Pottery Assemblage: Classification and Quantification*, in:



10. Rubble over floor I with intact jug *in situ*. In the section rim of the pithos. (Phot. H. Meyza).

4. A table amphora(?) rim and base (Fig. 11: 4) in variegated beige-reddish fabric with spots grey-greenish on the outside. Porous, with numerous reaction rims and fine dark impurities. The form corresponds approximately to Calabrian(?) type of Keay LII, dating to 4th century, which is very common in the Aegean area according

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Sh. DAR, Sumaqa. A Roman and Byzantine Jewish Village on Mount Carmel, Israel, *BAR* 815, 1999, p. 271; cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8:2; particularly close Agora M 275–6 of late 4th century, cf. late 4th century A.D./beginning of 5th century A.D. similar small cylindrical single handle vessels from Yassi Ada and Khirbet Shema<sup>c</sup>: BASS, VAN DOORNINCK, Yassi Ada, p. 35, Pl. 2: 25; E.M. MEYERS, A.T. KRAABEL, J.F. STRANGE, Ancient Synagogue Excavations at Khirbet Shema<sup>c</sup>, Upper Galilee, Israel 1970–72, *AASOR* 42, 1976, pp. 109, 237 f, Pl. 7.23: 26 – in the underlying bedding or floor loc. 23028 coin of Valentinian II dated A.D. 375–392; development of the form: G. MAJCHEREK, *Amfory*, pp. 184–192, Pl. XXI: 135–144 – sequence of feet getting more and more contracted. Earliest secure contexts (late 4th century) with LRA 3 contain larger vessels with biconical bodies.

to C. Abadie-Reynal. The rim does not fit too well the other examples and impurities do not, macroscopically at least, match the description made by Schuring.<sup>83</sup> It is certainly made in a different ware than a piece discussed above on p. 170 and illustrated on Fig. 4: 6.

5. A rim of Gaza amphora (Carthage LRA 4) (Fig. 11: 1). The fabric of this group is diversified, which reflects both longevity of production of that type and a wide production area. Our amphora, with its steep shoulders and thickened lip without clearly defined rim seems to belong to Peacock-Williams class 49 = Majcherek type LRA 4C(36), by the latter author dated to 6th century at earliest.<sup>84</sup> Buff-brownish ware of our piece macroscopically fits well Schuring fabric H, better than Peacock-Williams classes 48 and 49.<sup>85</sup>

6. An amphora rim fragment (Fig. 11: 2) of provenance probably from Beirut.<sup>86</sup>

7. A domed lid of Plain Table ware, rim fragment (Fig. 11: 5).<sup>87</sup>

8. A rim fragment of a basin or a very large jar or amphora of buff ware (Fig. 11: 6) with a collar grooved rim and paste containing numerous varied clastic inclusions.<sup>88</sup>

9. A rim of CS Hayes form 11.<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Personal communication, letter dated 18 June 1992. I would like to express my debt to Dr Abadie-Reynal for help in identifying the type. cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8:6; ROBINSON, Agora, p. 106, Pl. 28, M 234; KEAY, LRAWM, Pl. 114,4; SCHURING, Studies, pp. 174–176, Figs. 12, 13, 21, 23; ABADIE-REYNAL, Argos, p. 49, Fig. 5; G. GASPERETTI, V. DI GIOVANNI, Precisazioni sui contenitori calabresi della tarda antichità (le anfore tipo Keay LII), *MEFRM* 103, 1991, pp. 875–885.

<sup>84</sup> Cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8: 3; rim diameter 12.0 cm; G. MAJCHEREK, Amfory rzymskie i bizantyjskie z Aleksandrii. Studium typologiczne (unpublished PhD thesis, Warsaw University) 1992 [= Amfory], pp. 220–222, 238 f, Pl. XXXI: 198; Id., Gazan Amphorae: Typology Reconsidered, in: Hellenistic and Roman Pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean – Advances in Scientific Studies, Warsaw 1995, pp. 163–178; M. BONIFAY, Observations sur les amphores tardives à Marseilles d’après les fouilles de la Bourse (1980–1984), *RANarb* 19, 1986, p. 292; M. BONIFAY, C. RAYNAUD, F. VILLEDIEU, Importations d’amphores orientales en Gaule, V<sup>e</sup>–VII<sup>e</sup> siècle, in: Recherches sur la céramique byzantine, *BCH Suppl.* XVIII, 1989, pp. 27–29.

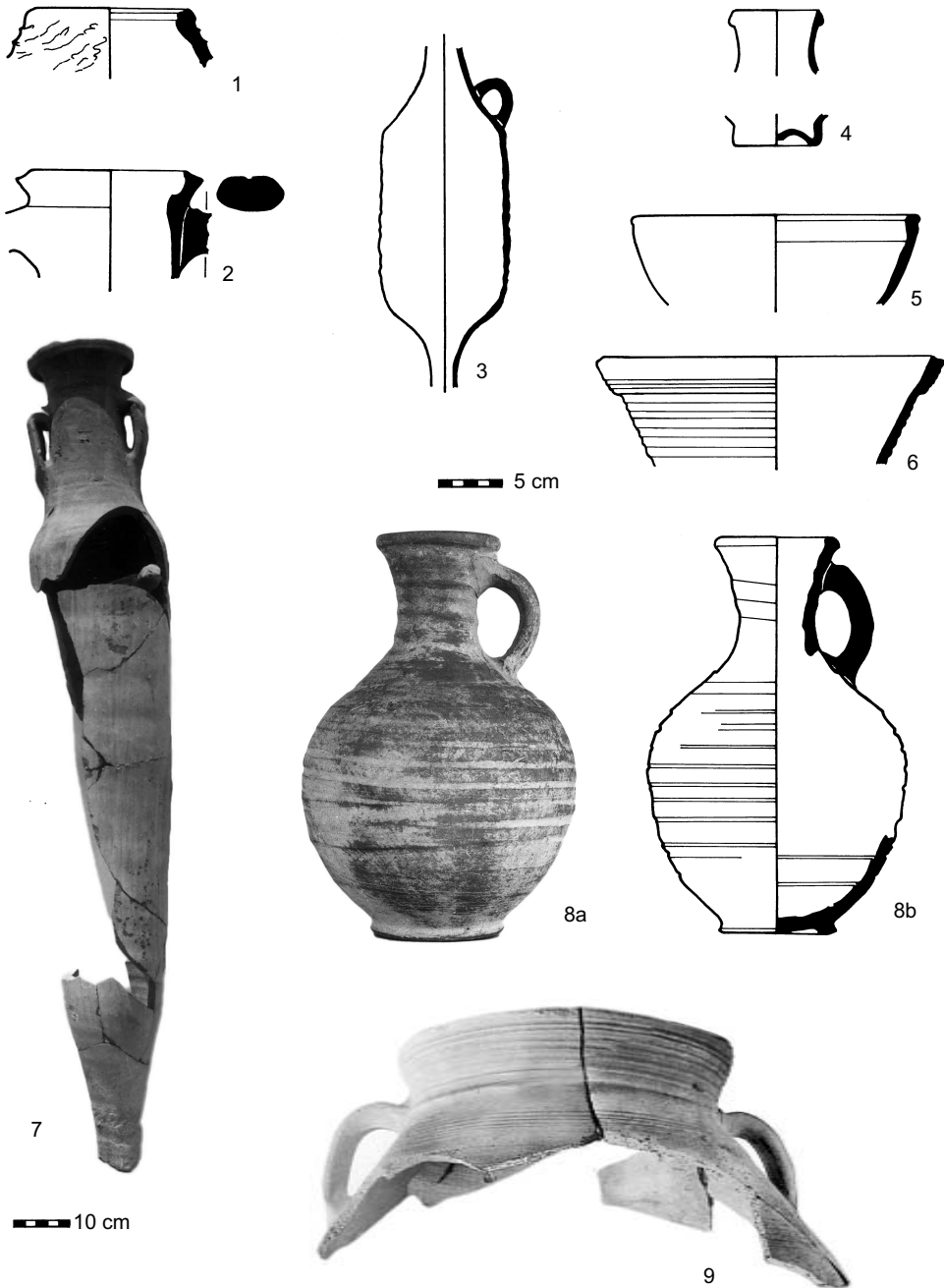
<sup>85</sup> J. SCHURING, Studies on Roman Amphorae I–II, *BABesch* 59, 1984 [= Studies], pp. 172–174, Figs. 11, 20a–c, 23; PEACOCK in: M.G. FULFORD, D.P.S. PEACOCK, Excavations at Carthage: The British Mission I, 2, Sheffield 1984, p. 24; PEACOCK, WILLIAMS, Amphorae, p. 196 f.

<sup>86</sup> Cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8:5; diameter 14.5 cm, purple to violet body, abundant inclusions of blackish (igneous?) sand, few light grains of limestone(?), frequent rounded pores, surface wet smoothed. Close form analogy comes from Beirut, cf. P. REYNOLDS, The Beirut Amphora Type, 1st Century BC – 7th Century AD: An outline of its formal development and some preliminary observations of regional economic trends, *RCRF Acta* 36, 2000, pp. 388–390, 394, Fig. 8: 41–42, dated to the first half of 2nd century (site BEY006, amphora type 72/Koan imitations in Beirut fabric and fabric 43 variant). Cf. also Id., Pottery production and economic exchange in second century Berytus: some preliminary observations of ceramic trends from quantified ceramic deposits from the AUB – Leverhulme excavations in Beirut, *Berytus* 43, 1997/8 (1999), pp. 40, 92 (cat. 22 f), 98 (cat. 132 f), Fig. 30–33.

<sup>87</sup> Cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8:7; diameter 24 cm. Beige ware with fine reddish grains, surface wet smoothed or smeared with more greenish thick slip. Also see *supra*, p. 169, Fig. 4: 12.

<sup>88</sup> Cf. MEYZA, Nieborów, Pl. 8:8; diameter 28 cm, cf. *supra*, p. 164, lower part: Fig. 8: 7 from HA room 10; one of smaller diameter was found together with CRSW form K 1, another was found together with a Kapitän II foot and some body sherds of Peacock–Williams class 45 amphora.

<sup>89</sup> Initially identified as CRSW form H9A, MEYZA, Nieborów, p. 181, Pl. 8:9, particularly discussion Engemann – Meyza on p. 183. This piece was re-examined and reclassified as Cypriot Sigillata in spite of in-turned lip.



11. Pottery from the earthquake debris in NEH room 12E. and an amphora (7) from HA room 7. (Phot. B. Okupny – 8a, A. Ring – 7, 9).

The Gaza amphora rim (no. 5) presents a problem. Either we have to accept much later date for the destruction at least in the NEH or question the closed and intact character of this context. Coin finds in the phase II rubble seem to support slightly later date for it than for the cataclysm which has led to collapse of e.g. the niche of the west wall of the triclinium of House of Aion. They seem however to be earlier than the latest pottery. Latest coins found on floor I (c. 40 cm below top of preserved walls – i.e. roughly 60 cm from surface) are of the post-Constantinian emperors, i.e. Valentinian I and Valens.<sup>90</sup> The latter may suggest a date later than the earthquake in Kourion,<sup>91</sup> though by very narrow margin. It should be stressed therefore, that it is mainly pottery, the Gaza amphora (perhaps intrusive) and the small micaceous amphora in particular, which seem to prove that floor I destruction is later than the earthquake in Kourion. Other evidence from floor II, where a late Roman coin was found immediately on the floor (No. 712), may be dismissed. Contrast between coin finds on floor I and the coins found in southerly rooms of HA, where there are numerous Constantinian coins, of which the latest is one of Constantius II is not lessened by a single probably post-Constantinian coin found in or below floor I in room 18. It is otherwise with pottery. Below floor I occurs only pottery of early date, while in the ruin of the House of Aion occur pots of similar date to those found above floor I. In spite of all the uncertainties which are involved and the inconvenience of dating the ruin later than A.D. 365, it seems that dating the destruction at least around A.D. 380–400 is the most plausible given the available evidence.

The pottery immediately above the 5 cm thick plaster floor II is exclusively earlier than the Late Roman coin (712) found on it, which proves that debris above this floor belongs to phase IV. Apart from two uncertain Late(?) Roman sherds, which may anyway be intrusive in the foundation trench of the south wall there is nothing which could be posterior to amphora fragments type Mau XXVII/XXVIII in buff and pink varieties.

It is difficult to avoid conclusion that the stratum above the floor is a leveling layer forming a secondary deposit even if the date of fill placement is taken from the Constantinian coin. It is therefore quite possible, that the fill simply belongs to the foundation trench of the southern wall, dividing the Northeastern House from the House of Aion.

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<sup>90</sup> There are 10 probably post-Constantinian coins among those found in room 12E. The following coins were found on floor I: 700–704, 711 and 685–699, 710 in the area of the foundation trench, but the first 15 most probably already above it, cf. *infra*, p. 184.

<sup>91</sup> D. SOREN, An Earthquake on Cyprus: New Discoveries from Kourion, *Archaeology*, 38: 2, 1985 [= An Earthquake], pp. 56–59; D. SOREN, J.R. LEONARD, Archeologia sismica a Kourion. Un approccio multidisciplinare in azione per un terremoto del IV secolo d.C., in: I terremoti prima del Mille in Italia e nell'area mediterranea, Bologna 1989 [= Archeologia sismica], pp. 438–449; dated by earliest issues of Valens, before September 365 A.D., cf. p. 190.

## Room 12 West

Six and a half meters west, a deep trial trench has been made in 1986.<sup>92</sup> At its south, an E-W wall has been preserved almost to surface in eastern half of the trench, separating NEH from room 13 of the House of Aion. Below a hard packed surface layer 15–20 cm thick, uppermost remains of the southern end of NS wall which may have formed the western wall of room 12 have been uncovered. Further west, limit of the whole trench was determined by a wall, separating it from room 4 and preserved to surface apart from its south end. Between the west wall of room 12W and the latter wall extended a corridor(?), but its north and east walls are severely disturbed in uppermost layers. Upper strata were homogeneous in the whole trench, they will be described together.

The hard packed layer with stones continues down to 40 cm below surface, and then it is superseded by much more loose earth with less stones. Floor I(?) of phase III<sup>93</sup> has been found here at 50/60 cm below surface, level to which most of the western wall of room 12W is preserved, as well as two E-W walls situated 3.5 and 5 m respectively to the north. A scatter of coins, mainly Constantinian was found<sup>94</sup> below the hard layer with stones. In the loose earth layer on the floor I along with the coins a rim of a LR“C” form 9 was found (Fig. 3: 5) belonging to latest pottery pieces above this floor.<sup>95</sup>

The following fragments were found between stones of a rubble layer and immediately below it (phase II):

1–2. A rim and a base of Hayes form 1 Cypriot Red Slip Ware plate.<sup>96</sup>

3–5. 3 base pieces of African Red Slip Ware of unrecognized form (probably late form 50B) (Fig. 3: 1).<sup>97</sup>

6. African Red Slip Ware lamp: shoulder with cable ornament and discus fragment.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>92</sup> DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1986, pp. 687–688; Id. NP’86, pp. 312–315. Earlier strata are discussed by E. PAPUCI, *Nea Pafos*, pp. 94 f, 100 f.

<sup>93</sup> No clear trodden surface has been found, but horizontal discrimination is clear. However in DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1986, p. 687 the stratum is interpreted as a levelling layer – “Cette couche semble avoir un caractère de nivellement et remonte à la fin de la première moitié du IV<sup>e</sup> s. après.”; see also Id., NP’86, p. 313.

<sup>94</sup> DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1986, p. 687, Coins: 628 Aurelian, 629 Licinius (Id., NP’86, pp. 311 f, Fig. 12), 630–633 Constantine family: Constantius II (?): A.D. 335–347, 4 pieces.

<sup>95</sup> HAYES, LRP, p. 340, Fig. 70: 9, n. 1; J.W. HAYES, *Excavations at Saraçhane in Istanbul II, The Pottery*, Princeton 1992, pp. 94, 100, Figs. 33, 14: 18, 37, 26: 4, 27: 4, 41, 30: 65, p. 212, Fig. 1: 20 (Deposit 55) (earliest dated A.D. 526–7?); A. CARIGNANI, A. CIOTOLA, F. PACETTI, Cl. PANELLA, *Il contesto del tempio della Magna Mater sul Palatino*, in: *Società romana e impero tardoantico*, III. Le merci, gli insediamenti, ed. A. GIARDINA, Roma–Bari 1986, pp. 30–31.

<sup>96</sup> Main variant, form 1B in MEYZA, *Refinement*, p. 517, Fig 10: 1B. Close analogies are dated later, e.g. HAYES, LRP, pp. 373 f, No. 4, Fig. 80 in 5th cent.

<sup>97</sup> HAYES, LRP, pp. 71, 73, Fig. 12, Nos. 56–61; HAYES, LRP Supp, p. 495, Fig. 94.

<sup>98</sup> Either Pohl type 3k or Hayes type I, both dated 375–500; G. POHL, *Die frühchristliche Lampe vom Lorenzberg bei Epfach*, Landkreis Schongau. Versuch einer Gliederung der Lampen vom mediterraner Typus, *Schriftenreihe zur bayerischen Landesgeschichte* LXII, 1962, pp. 219–28; HAYES, LRP, pp. 310 f, 313; D. BAILEY, *A Catalogue of the Lamps in the British Museum III. Roman Provincial Lamps*, London 1988, pp. 181 f, 192, Pls. 17, 18, Q 1735 MLA, Q1738-1740 MLA. Note that early dating reference is erroneous. Cf. C. PAVOLINI, *Terra sigillata: lucerne*, in: *EAA Atl I*, pp. 194–5, forms VIII A2a–b dating to 5th century on the basis of Italian excavations at Carthage (the Raqqada date seems not well founded).

7. A frying pan with frilled handle (fig. 4: 5).

In a similar context just north of the “corridor” an untypical Cypriot Red Slip base, between Hayes’ forms 3 and 9 was found (Fig. 3: 9). A rim of an Egyptian amphora form Egloff 172 (Fig. 4: 11) occurred in a pit north of wall between the “corridor” and room 4. The last listed contexts may be disturbed at a late phase, though.

### *Room 4*

Further west, room 4 is well defined on two sides, south and east. On west – line of the wall on the late street is not evident. Substantial remains of the same wall are preserved collapsed on the street to the West. Either its foundations are almost completely obliterated or remains of an earlier wall, 1.15 m West were used as foundation. At north – scanty remains of the late wall repeat earlier rhythm of room partitions by east-west walls. The same holds for the south wall, separating the Northeastern House from the House of Aion. Its SE corner must have been dismantled (in Antiquity?) for stone. Besides these indications of disturbance, the original destruction by an earthquake seems to be well in evidence with blocks of collapsed wall still in situ.

A single fourth century coin has been found high upon fallen western wall of room 4, between stones.<sup>99</sup> Above the collapsed wall large pithoi rims occurred together with a glazed Byzantine piece of plate, indicating time of accumulation of the fill above the ruined walls. Pottery found in upper layers above floor I includes also 4th/5th century and earlier pieces:

1. A bottom of the shallow bowl LRC form 1A?/B (Fig. 3: 4).<sup>100</sup>
2. A rim of an African Red Slip Ware bowl form Hayes 49(?) (Fig. 3: 3).<sup>101</sup>

Below this rubble, over the ashy floor, the only well datable sherd was a residual base of an African Red Slip Ware plate, form Hayes 27 (Fig. 3: 2).<sup>102</sup> In the less well defined context, possibly disturbed by stone search a large fragment of a miniature amphora/unguentarium, without handles was found (Fig. 4: 1).<sup>103</sup> Phase III floor with an ashy layer (of decomposed plaster?) continues westward in room 4 at a depth of 50–60 cm from surface.

### *Late Roman Street West of House of Aion and Northeastern House*

Walls of both the Northeastern House and the House of Aion collapsed westward onto this Street. Therefore we have decided to discuss pottery finds from this area together with

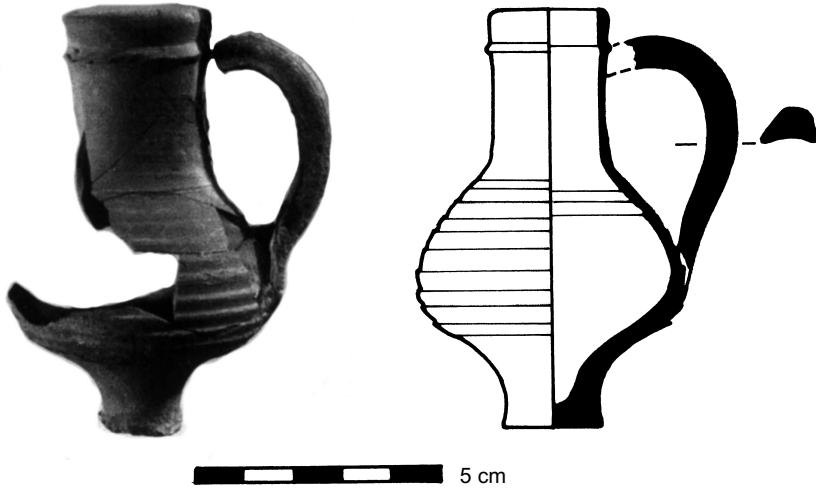
<sup>99</sup> No. 565, illegible, small coin, probably of the Constantinian family.

<sup>100</sup> HAYES, LRP, pp. 325–327, Fig. 65: 2–3.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 67–69, Fig. 12, smallest example has diameter 23 cm – this could also be type 27, the slip is almost lustrous – difference in size excludes the identity of vessels with No. 3; LUND, Segermes, pp. 484 (f. 27), 488f (f. 49), dated A.D. 160/180–250/270 and A.D. 180/240–260 respectively.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 49–51, Fig. 8: 27.1.

<sup>103</sup> Section with light reddish core, and dark beige surface (5YR6/4). Clay with few impurities, mostly quartz diameter c. 0,25 mm, some dark grey grains; DIEDERICH, Salamis, pp. 47, 53, Pl. 17: 171, 183–185.



12. Juglet from the earthquake debris from the Late Roman Street West of House of Aion and Northeastern House. (Phot. H. Meyza).

these two buildings. Some clay lamps from the destruction debris from this Street have already been published by J. Młynarczyk.<sup>104</sup> Recently, in 1992 and 1998, parts of collapsed walls from the street have been uplifted and a trial pit made by the wall of the House of Aion room 3. Above the early levelled buildings the following undisturbed, it seemed, strata were discerned: fill of the blocked(?) door in collapsed wall, stones/blocks of the wall with infiltrated or originally included soil between them, accumulation on the street beneath the wall (all phase II). In some places at least the street surface (phase III) was levelled by cobbles, which may have been made necessary because of protruding earlier walls.

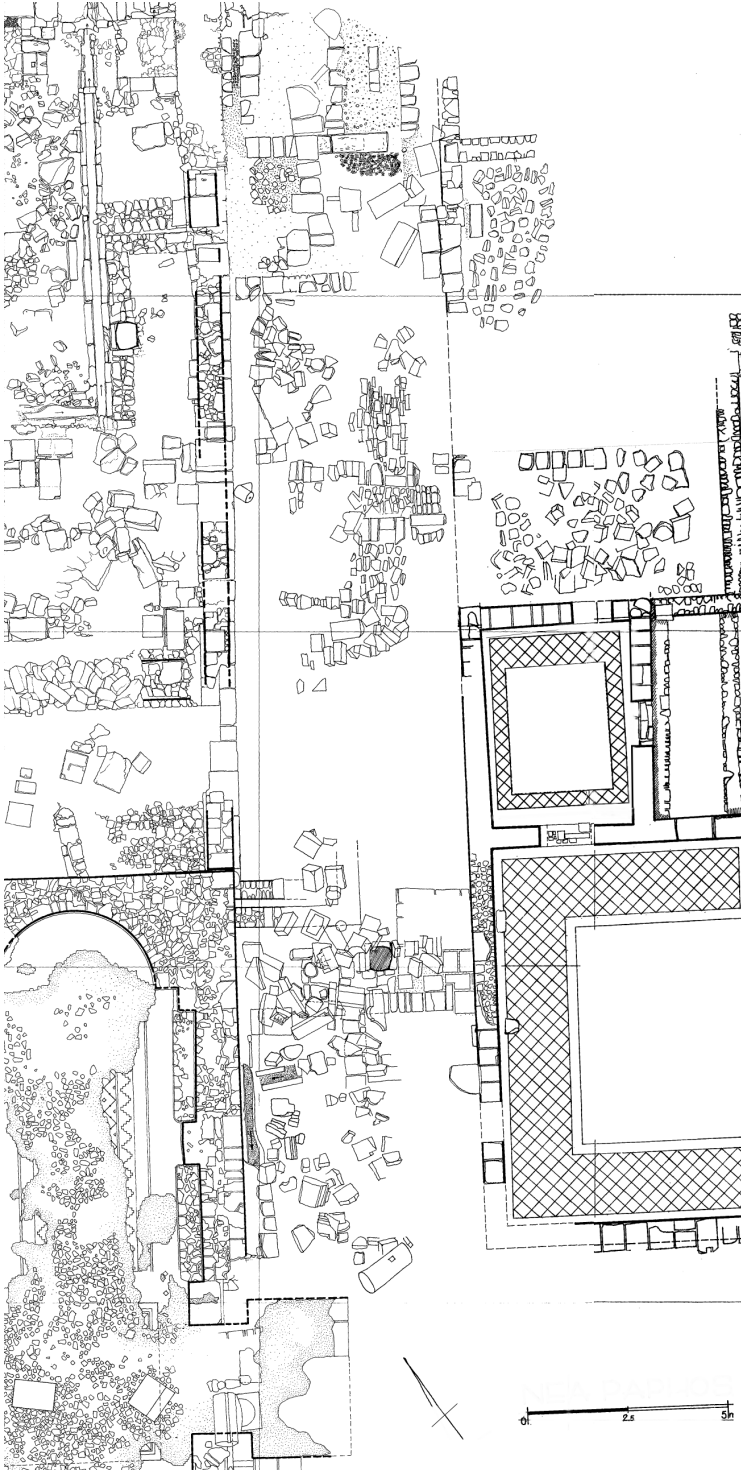
The western wall of Northeastern House room 4 has collapsed almost untouched in some parts and therefore a door with its jambs was well visible. Between jambs there was a fill composed of smaller stones and earth. It was orderly enough, however, to suppose that the door was blocked before collapse and fell together with the packing. Within this, close to the lower face of the wall, an Early Byzantine coin was found, unfortunately not well legible.<sup>105</sup> Its presence can either be taken as the TPQ for the earthquake or as an evidence for possible intrusions of later coins into collapsed wall. Together a parading horse lamp was found.

Slightly earlier should be finds between the stones of the collapsed wall. Latest among the pottery found here were fragments of base of a bowl of African Red Slip Ware, form 50B, dated to 2nd half of 4th century A.D.<sup>106</sup> Along with these pieces a miniature vessel

<sup>104</sup> J. MŁYNARCZYK, *Lamps*, p. 258; DASZEWSKI, *Chronique* 1982, p. 943, Figs. 65–67; W.A. DASZEWSKI, in: W.A. DASZEWSKI *et al.*, *Fouilles polonaises à Kato Paphos. Chantier de Maloutena*, *RDAC* 1984, p. 300.

<sup>105</sup> Coin No. 721, unidentifiable, 6th–7th century A.D.

<sup>106</sup> With a groove below base, HAYES, *LRP*, pp. 69–73, Nos. 57, 60.



13. Plan of the Late Roman Street between the Villa of Theseus and the House of Aion with undisturbed sections of collapsed walls of the HA and NEH (after S. Medeksza).

have been found dispersed across thickness of the wall (one piece already below the wall). This was a juglet or amphoriskos with light brown slip on brown-red fabric with some mica and lime, 8.5 cm high, with ribbed belly and raised base end, a ridge below rim (Fig. 12: 2ab).<sup>107</sup>

Preceding in sequence is a group of sherds collected from loose earth accumulated on the street. There is little pottery from this thin layer and the latest sherd has exact parallels in the destruction stratum at Kourion:

1. A rim of a Cypriot Red Slip Ware bowl of form K1.<sup>108</sup>
2. A rim of classical Cypriot Red Slip Ware shallow bowl, form Hayes 1B (Fig. 3: 6).
3. Mug belly with painted white decoration of chevrons – common in e.g. Pontic Chersonese.<sup>109</sup>

West of the NW corner of the House of Aion, in a place confined from North and West by walls of buildings leveled for street tracing a deep trial pit has been made down to 2.20 m below late street. Unfortunately, eastern part of the pit had upper strata disturbed during reconstruction works. Beside these, remains of earlier structures have been filled at an earlier date with loose stone rubble. Between these stones pottery contemporary with the street has been found, of which a latest piece is a body sherd of African Red Slip Ware, *terra sigillata chiara D*.

H.M.

<sup>107</sup> The only exact analogy comes from the Villa of Theseus – Egyptian?, probably 3rd–4th cent.; cf. J.W. HAYES, *Roman Pottery in the Royal Ontario Museum. A Catalogue*, Toronto 1976, p. 49, No. 248, Pl. 23, another ware pp. 57 f, Nos. 299, 305, Pl. 35; N.P. SOROKINA, *O stekliannyh sosudah s kapliami sinego stekla iz Pricernomorija*, *SovA* 1971, 4, p. 94, Fig. 5.1 mid-left dated to mid 4th century, Fig. 5.2.2 dated to 3rd quarter of 4th – beginning of 5th century A.D.

<sup>108</sup> Kourion UAK85 L10/rm7 loc. 001, I would like to express gratitude to Prof. D. Soren for permission to mention this piece; cf. J.W. HAYES, in: A.D. TUSHINGHAM, *Excavations in Jerusalem 1961–1967*, I, Toronto 1985, p. 194, Fig. 65: 3, 4 – the date in 5th/6th century is based on typological order.

<sup>109</sup> HAYES, LRP, p. 412; E.I. SOLOMONIK, *Iz istorii religioznoi zizni v Severopontijskih gorodah pozdneantichnogo vremeni (Po epigraficeskim pamiatnikam)*, *VestDrIst* 123, 1, 1973, p. 61, Fig. 2, dated by coins found in tomb to 2nd–3rd cent.; M. ZUBAR', *Nekropol' Chersonesa*, Kiev 1982, pp. 76 f.

## Strata characteristics

Table 1. House of Aion

ROOM	BEFORE EARTHQUAKE	EARTHQUAKE	AFTER EARTHQUAKE
HA R.1	Mosaic. Coin 591 in bedding, Licinius I, A.D. 321–324. Coin 592 under the mosaic. Latest pottery: 2nd cent. A.D.	Rubble from HA destruction, partially mixed with late intrusion. Coin 554 on mosaic, Constantine, A.D. 316. Latest pottery: Byzantine Sgraffitto Glazed, earlier: LRC 3C – small variant.	
HA R.2	Mosaic: excavation below only in NE corner in wall. Coin 635, Philip I, A.D. 244–249.	Area excavated without separating from HA R.1	
HA R.3	Mosaic: unexcavated below.	Disturbed (?) rubble, plaster. Latest pottery: LRC 1A base, CRS H 1/3 with roulette, Buff Ware jar/deep bowl.	
HA R.13+14	Supports for wooden floor without foundation or hardened standing surface. Latest pottery below: ESA Hf 22A, CS Hf 38 (?).	Between parallel support walls N-S. Coins: 567, 596, 769 from top of wall to burnt layer; latest (567) of Constans, A.D. 337–347. Lamps 4 cent. or later: Vessberg 18 “with horse”. Latest pottery: ARSW 50B.	Hard-beaten surface + rubble + soil fill. Latest pottery CRS H11D, Buff Ware jar/deep bowl.
HA R.5 N part	Mosaic: unexcavated below.	Rubble fallen eastward or north-eastward.	Very hard layer, in E part a kiln. Latest pottery: ARSW 50 bottom.
HA R.5 S part	Not excavated.	Not preserved.	Flagstones, S part: brown-grey soil, layer of small stones. Coin 597, Ptolemaic.
HA R. 15	Cistern: hydraulic mortar, unexcavated below.	Fragment of vault over cistern – N part, plaster. Coins: 644–656, mostly of Constantine II; latest (654) A.D. 355–361. Latest pottery: ARS 50B, 67/71.	S part: post-quake burial of animal skeleton over loose soil. Coins: 613, 615, 617–622; latest (617) postconstantinian (?). Latest pottery: CRS H2/9, LRC 1 (?).
HA R.7	Supports for wooden floor, without foundation or hardened standing surface. Coin: 658 below or in collapsed vault (?), Gordian III, A.D. 238–244.	Thick (SE corner in particular) layer of plaster in situ? or secondary with mending figurative and plant decoration. Coins: 665, 667–674, 680, 682; latest (665, 667–668) of Constantius II, A.D. 351–355. Latest pottery: fragment of spathion amphora; cooking pot in SE corner.	W, N walls preserved to surface. Pit in SE corner – to bench coins: 599, 601, 603–605, 660; latest (602) of Constantius II, A.D. 355–361; coins 607–612 below bench top, possibly primary rubble.
HA R.16W	Lime plaster floor, unexcavated below.	N part rubble <i>in situ</i> (?). Latest pottery: LRA 1.	Fill of 6th cent. A.D. (?), in ghost wall. Coin 824 of Licinius I, A.D. 313–314.
HA R.16E	Courtyard (?).	Robbed out, fill of 7th cent. A.D. (?). Latest pottery: CRS H11.	

ROOM	BEFORE EARTHQUAKE	EARTHQUAKE	AFTER EARTHQUAKE
HA R.6	Mosaic, unexcavated below.	Rubble of the arch <i>in situ</i> in E part, fill of closed cistern in SE corner. In cistern coins 817, 821, late Roman (?), uncleaned. Latest pottery: LRC H1, spathia.	On E threshold coin 663, Constantius II, A.D. 335–337. Modern pits in S and W parts.
HA R.8	Mosaic, unexcavated below.	No remains of earthquake.	Accumulated soil with pottery: Çandarlı H 4, Kourion amphora form 2.
HA R.10	Daub floor of courtyard (?). Below steps to R.6 coins: 825–827; latest (827) A.D. 348–361.	Collapsed pilaster (?) on crushed pithoi, numerous mendable vessels. On floor coins 725–726, 830–841, 852; latest Constantius II, A.D. 355–361 (?); in NE jug dug in floor coins 842–851; latest of Constantius II, A.D. 355–361(?). Pottery: amphorae Kourion 2 sim., wide neck amphora, possibly LRA 1, Kellia 172.	Undisturbed (?).
HA R. 17	Mosaic, unexcavated below, In mortar of S wall coin 797, late Ptolemaic.	Soft layer without traces of earthquake collapse; E, S and W walls robbed out below mosaic level.	
HA R. 18	Pebble floor below, floor of cobbles with plaster.	Below cobbles or above in pit (?) coin 776, post-Constantinian. On plaster floor coin 662, Constantine II, A.D. 336–337. Rubble fill of pit cutting central part and modern street, coin 664, sons of Constantine I, A.D. 333–335.	
HA R. 21		Cut by late pit.	
HA R. 19	Pebble floor , unexcavated below.	Hypothetical destruction of E-W wall and basin in N part.	Repair of floor after destruction of E-W wall. In pit robbing EW wall coins 810–812, 815–816; latest dated A.D. 355–363 (812). In pit for building S wall of NEH coins 803–809, 813–814; latest A.D. 345–348.*

\* These may belong to reconstruction, short time after destruction. Coins: 777, 780, 791, 802 in possibly later disturbed rubble.

**Table 2. Northeastern House**

ROOM	BEFORE EARTHQUAKE	EARTHQUAKE	AFTER EARTHQUAKE
R.4	Daub floor and ashy layer of decomposed plaster (?), too limited excavation below.	Collapsed walls, high in rubble coin 565, illegible, 4th cent. A.D. Latest pottery below rubble: CRS H9 and ARS form (?).	Latest pottery above collapsed walls: glazed Byzantine fragment, amphora Kellia 187–190, 7th cent. A.D.
Corridor	Floor I without clear surface (?).	Collapsed wall in S part on floor I. To W – soft layer related to collapse (?). Coins below: 628–633; latest (630) of Constantius Gallus, A.D. 348–361. Latest pottery: LRC f. 9, CRS H1B, ARS late 50B(?), lamp Pohl type 3k = Hayes type I.	A hard packed surface layer 15–20 cm thick.
R.12W	Floor I without clear surface, but discrimination clear.		Packed 40 cm surface layer.
R.12E	Below floor I all pottery early, only two doubtful pieces later than 2nd/3rd cent.; coin 712, late Roman, illegible, in trench (?), just above floor II (5 cm thick plaster).	Non-disturbed rubble (including voussoirs). Coins: 686–704, 710, 711; latest 685, 687, 693, 695, 697, 703, 704 of Valens or Valentinian I, A.D. 364–367 or 367–375. Pottery partly complete or mending: CRS jug, Agora, Key LII(?), [LRA4, intrusive(?)].	Accumulation on surface, possibly LRA4.
R.9	Below daub floor I (?), on/above floor II coins 705–709, 2nd–3rd cent.	In N section visible voussoirs on surface of grey floor I.	Cut by pit on most of accessible surface. Coins: 717–719; latest (718) of Constantine I, A.D. 330–333.
R.11W	Mosaic, unexcavated below.	Slight remains of collapse traces: voussoirs.	Most of accumulation over the mosaic: LRA1 (?).
R.11E	Mosaic, disturbed at NW part, unexcavated below.	Disturbed, only one coin 828, Iulia Maesa. Possibly from original destruction: Egyptian barrel bottle, amphora Key LII, ledge-rim pithos, lids.	
R.20	Mosaic, unexcavated below.	Disturbed.	
R.22	Traces of mosaic, unexcavated below.	Disturbed.	

**Table 3. Late Roman Street West of House of Aion and Northeastern House**

ROOM	BEFORE EARTHQUAKE	EARTHQUAKE	AFTER EARTHQUAKE
Street	Surface, cutting into foundations of Late Hellenistic time. Coins 524–5 (?), 531, 561, 562, 563?, 767–8 exclusively Hellenistic.	Large sections of collapsed walls: W wall of HA R.1, W wall of R. 4 and rooms northward with preserved blocked door (?); lamps as in Kourion Arizona Excavations; pottery: ARS f. 50B, CRS K1, H1B.	No stone-robbing traces, but latest coin 721, Byzantine, 6th/7th cent. within fallen door blockage.

## NUMISMATIC EVIDENCE OF AN EARTHQUAKE\*

With relatively few exceptions coins yielded by archaeological exploration, from the so-called House of Aion (HA) and Northeastern House (NEH), represent 4th century issues of bronze denominations. A few earlier coins recorded in both houses constitute some 7% of all legible specimens discovered there. It is not impossible that some of them could be kept because of their weight and metal value.<sup>110</sup>

Late Roman bronze coins, important for dating phases of use and destruction of houses, are mostly badly preserved, so very often they provide only approximate dates. It is necessary to underline however, that although for legible coins we are able to present a date of issue, it is still an open question how long a particular specimen circulated or was intentionally collected before it was lost.

Coins in the Roman world generally circulated for a long time.<sup>111</sup> As a result some of them could become smooth, completely illegible. Buried in soil, they were submitted to the natural process of corrosion.<sup>112</sup>

It is not unusual that late Roman small bronze denominations can not be dated precisely. On excavated specimens the obverse legend is rarely wholly legible. The name of a ruler is uncertain on more than one specimen. Another important problem is stating if the legend represents a broken or unbroken type.<sup>113</sup> Also, representations and legends on the obverse are not easy to determine. In several cases the identification of a legend on the reverse can only be based on a few preserved letters. Sometimes forms of letters make lecture quite difficult. On the other hand, a figure of an emperor, Victory or of a fallen horseman (*Fel. Temp. Reparatio* type) can often be recognized without any doubt. A pre-

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\* I wish to express my gratitude to the Direction and Library staff of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Rome, for their hospitality during my research necessary for elaboration of this paper in October 2000.

<sup>110</sup> It could be a case of a silver drachme struck by Koinon Kyprion in the 8th year of the reign of Vespasian, A.D. 78/79 (No. 603), SNG Cop. Cyprus, No. 78, Pl. 2.

<sup>111</sup> The most eloquent example of this is of course the evidence from Pompei, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Among the coins discovered in houses, taverns, shops, in several cases beside skeletons, coins issued under Augustus were found quite often, a number of Republican specimens are also recorded. See L. BREGLIA, *Circolazione monetale a Pompei*, in: *Pompeiana. Raccolta di studi per il secondo centenario degli scavi di Pompei*, Napoli 1950, pp. 43–46; S. BOLIN, *State and Currency in the Roman Empire to 300 A.D.*, Stockholm 1958, pp. 84–86; for a duration of coins circulation on Cyprus in a Roman time, see countermarked coins, I. MICHAELIDOU-NICOLAOU, *Four Ptolemaic/Roman Hoards from Cyprus*, *NumChron* 153, 1993, pp. 15–16, 18–19, 23–26, Pls. 3–5, 7–8; cf. ID., *Cypriot bronze Greek Imperial countermarked Coins*, in: *Proceedings of the 10th International Congress of Numismatics*, London, September 1986, London 1986, pp. 208–215, Pls. 23–26; I. NICOLAOU, *Paphos II. The Coins from the House of Dionysos*, Nicosia 1990, pp. 116–119, 144–146, Pl. XX; B. LICHOCKA, *Coinage in Cyprus under the reign of Hadrian*, *Notae Numismaticae (Zapiski Numizmatyczne)* III/IV, 1999, pp. 167–181; ID. *apud al.*, *Sherds*, in print.

<sup>112</sup> Cf. P. SERAFIN, *Sullo «stato di conservazione» delle monete*, in: *Forme di contatto tra moneta locale e moneta straniera nel mondo antico. Atti del Convegno internazionale. Aosta 13–14 Ottobre 1995*, ed. G. GORINI, Padova 1998, pp. 131–136.

<sup>113</sup> For the importance of this feature for identification and dating, see RIC IX, p. xxxvii; cf. the opinion of C.H.V. SUTHERLAND, *Roman Coins*, London 1974, p. 274.

cise description of details, however, such as attributes of the Victory, palm or trophy, or discrimination whether a fallen horseman is looking left or right, if he is wearing a cap or not, are impossible. The mint-mark is often worn but it is necessary to underline that some coins were produced carelessly and the mint-mark was not made properly. The inability to establish the mint, makes the attribution of a studied coin less accurate. As it is known, a particular type could be struck in several mints, and not exactly at the same time.

Coins could often hardly be dated before cleaning, but sometimes it is necessary. We present tentative description for coins found during the last seasons (Nos. 721–855).<sup>114</sup>

Most of legible late Roman coins found in House of Aion and Northeastern House, represent popular types issued during the reign of Constantius II: in HA 51 specimens and in NEH 9 specimens. They are predominant in earthquake layers in major rooms of both houses giving a *terminus post quem* of A.D. 355–361 for the destructive event.

In NEH room 12 E, a group of 10 coins of Valentinian I and/or Valens was recorded (Nos. 685–687, 689–691, 693, 695, 697, 703, Fig. 15: 1–3, 5–7, 9, 11, 13, 19). They were found along with 7 coins of Constantius II and Julian Caesar (Nos. 688, 692, 698–702, Fig. 15: 4, 8, 10, 14–17). The presence of Valentinian I and Valens' coins in the layer of destruction suggests *terminus post quem* for an earthquake: during or after A.D. 364, which is an earlier date of the Valentinian's issue represented in this group. There are also specimens which could be attributed either to the issue of A.D. 364–367, or to a later one, A.D. 367–375. They represent a common type of *Securitas Reipublicae* depicted by running Victory (Nos. 685–686, 695, 703, Fig. 15: 1–2, 11, 19) and *Gloria Romanorum* type with an emperor dragging a captive (Nos. 687, 693, 697, Fig. 18: 3, 9, 13). As a precise dating for those specimens cannot be given, we should not take them as an indication of later dates. Coin No. 704 (Fig. 15: 20) represents a small module of AE 4 with a figure of Victory and a legend SECVRITAS... on the obverse. Its diameter is c. 12 mm. The imperial bust turned to the right is unidentifiable. The specimen is worn and it is difficult to decide whether the legend is destroyed or if it was present at all besides the bust, which seems to occupy the whole of the blank. During the first period of Valens' reign the representation of Victory running left with a legend SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE, is known on bigger specimens, AE 3. On AE 4 Victory was accompanied by an inscription SALVS REIPVBLICAE. Coin No. 704 may be a reduced specimen, an imitation, even barbarian (?), which could have been produced contemporary to the AE 3 depicting Victory, *Securitas Reipublicae* type or later, when AE 4 small module specimens were very popular.

In HA room 18, one coin (No. 776, Fig. 14: 7) attributed to Valentinian's I House was recorded. Unfortunately it was found after exploration, that is why this specimen cannot provide valuable indication for dating the context to which it belongs.<sup>115</sup>

<sup>114</sup> A preliminary field attribution is due to the director of Polish Archaeological Mission in Nea Paphos, Prof. W.A. Daszewski, to whom I owe gratitude. My lecture based on photographs allows an identification of a type and date of some specimens but it not always permits to present a bibliographical references. Examination of specimens after laboratory cleaning can bring some changes and definitions more accurately. Preliminary field identification is marked \* in tables 4–6.

<sup>115</sup> See *supra*, p. 166 and *infra*, p. 192.

In material found so far, numismatic evidence for the Valentinian House issues in other rooms of NEH and HA is lacking. Does it mean that just one or two rooms were destroyed later than others? If we don't accept such an assumption, why are postconstantinian dynasty coins recorded only in those rooms?

There is no doubt that the destruction of NEH room 12 E was of violent character. It is difficult to imagine that only one room in the house was destroyed by an earthquake, but we cannot exclude such interpretation.<sup>116</sup> As a consequence we are leaned to admit that in the second half of 4th century in Nea Paphos two earthquakes took place: the first one, dated to Constantinian period, confirmed by the major number of coins, and the second one, in the beginning of the reign of Valentinian I, confirmed by much fewer specimens.

On the other hand, it could happen that at the moment of disaster, earlier coins, still common and often used in everyday transactions, were in some places (lost, forgotten, deposited earlier?), and, totally by accident in the same room, a few specimens representing later issue were deposited as well. If the coins were collected for some time (?) before it was lost, remains unknown.<sup>117</sup> A considerable number of coins from the Valentinian House seems to prove that they are not accidental. Long circulation of coins and time needed for the "arrival" of new currency (by trade contacts, visitors)<sup>118</sup> to an island devoid of a mint in this period, could explain the absence of later coins in most of rooms.<sup>119</sup> It is difficult to decide which of these supposition is true.

An observation made by J.P.C. Kent, that Valentinian coins spread and displaced earlier coins with rapidity,<sup>120</sup> speaks against the interpretation which accepts the absence of later specimens in all rooms destroyed simultaneously.

In favor of the opinion that Constantinian coins still dominated in the first period of the reign of Valentinian I, seems to be the composition of the hoard found in an earthquake destruction layer in the Roman Theatre at Balagrae (El-Beida) in Cyrenaica.<sup>121</sup> Among 212 legible bronze coins, only one specimen represents the issue of Valentinian I. R.G. Goodchild considered it enough indication for dating an earthquake, which destroyed

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<sup>116</sup> See e.g. a problem of an interpretation of a cause of a destruction of Roman villa in Leptis Magna, M. MUNZI con introduzione di M. ABD EL-AZIZ EL-NEMESI, *Leptis Magna-Khoms, villa romana al porto: un contesto monetale de eta giuliana*, *LibAnt* IV, 1998 [= Leptis], p. 99 and p. 119, a discussion with A. DI VITA, *Sismi, urbanistica e cronologia assoluta. Terremoti e urbanistica nelle citta della Tripolitania fra il I secolo a.C. ed il IV d.C.*, in: *L'Afrique dans l'Occident romain (I<sup>er</sup> siècle av. J.-C. – IV<sup>e</sup> siècle ap. J.-C.)*, Actes du colloque, Rome 1987, Roma 1990, pp. 425–494.

<sup>117</sup> See some remarks concerning a presence of later coins in House of Dionysos in contexts connected with an interpretation of earlier earthquake in Nea Paphos, presented by HAYES, *Paphos* III, p. 212.

<sup>118</sup> Taking under consideration a small value of recorded specimens, rather not in a bulk of money send to Cyprus for a payment of Roman administration and soldiers.

<sup>119</sup> According to MUNZI, *Leptis*, p. 120, in case of Tripolitania, a period of one year was enough for an incorporation of a new issue into circulation.

<sup>120</sup> J.P.C. KENT, *RIC* VIII, p. 82.

<sup>121</sup> R.G. GOODCHILD, A coin-hoard from "Balagrae" (El-Beida), and the earthquake of AD 365, *LibyaAnt* III-IV, 1966–1967, pp. 203–205, Pl. LXXIII (= A Coin-hoard from "Balagrae" (El-Beida) and the Earthquake of A.D. 365, in: *Libyan Studies. Select Papers of the Late R.G. Goodchild*, ed. J. REYNOLDS, pp. 229–238, Pl. 80).

a building during A.D. 365. A human skeleton was also found in close proximity, within the same layer.

In the area of Polish excavations in Paphos, no human skeleton was found in the 4th century earthquake layers. Despite that several coins were found together, none of the recorded assemblages can be qualified as a hoard.

In Zantur, Petra the numismatic evidence for an earthquake of A.D. 362 is provided by three hoards found in the same archaeological layer. One of them was discovered beside human skeletons. The *terminus post quem* is provided by specimens dated to A.D. 358–361.<sup>122</sup> All hoards are composed of coins issued in a short period of time, *c.* 30 years. The first hoard starts with coins of Constantine II Caesar, A.D. 331–334; the second – with coins dated to A.D. 336–337; and the third with coins of Constantine II, A.D. 351–355. Much earlier specimens, one from the 1st century A.D. in one hoard and one of Divus Claudius in another hoard, are without importance for dating. One of the hoards was discovered beside human skeletons.

In Paphos, it is impossible to establish whether coins were lost by one person or more; was it just at the moment of destruction or in some cases have the coins been deposited earlier? It could have been an individual “pocket money”. Only one assemblage of 23 coins (Nos. 830–852, Fig. 14: 1–5) retrieved in HA, room 10, seems to have been deposited intentionally in a precise place. It is possible that room 10 had a special purpose.<sup>123</sup> It probably was a place in which coins were collected by the inhabitants of the house as a result of their economic or commercial activity. Alas, in this case as well, we are dealing with a small amount. The dispersal of specimens inside of a room is most probably accidental, caused by an earthquake. 10 specimens (Nos. 842–851, Fig. 14: 3–4) were found in a so-called north jug, dug into the ground and covered by fallen blocks. Other specimens were discovered on the same level, near rims of different pots dug into the floor as well. They were coins Nos. 830–835 (Fig. 14: 1) near pithos in the south-west corner of a room; Nos. 837 and 852 (Fig. 14: 5) near the so-called south jug; Nos. 838–840 (Fig. 14: 2) near the rim of the north jug mentioned above.<sup>124</sup> They can be attributed to Constantius II and Constans.

There is no doubt that convincing evidence of an earthquake and its date, cannot be based on one coin. A group of coins, or more than one group, composed of specimens of the same date or covering a rather short period of time, found in an undisturbed context, comprises valuable evidence. In spite of unquestionable earthquake traces, only a few contexts can be taken under consideration.

<sup>122</sup> M. PETER, Die Fundmünzen, in: A. BIGNASCA *et al.*, Petra. Ez-Zantur I. Ergebnisse der Schweizerisch-Lichtensteinischen Ausgrabungen 1988–1992. Terra Archaeologica II, Mainz 1996, pp. 92–100, 114; for further numismatic evidence at Petra, see RUSSELL, Earthquake 363, pp. 48–49.

<sup>123</sup> Cf. DASZEWSKI, NP'98, pp. 170–171, Fig. 8; see also *supra*, pp. 161, 164.

<sup>124</sup> J. MŁYNARCZYK, HA 1998: raport z eksploracji R. 16, R. 21 i R. 10, pp. 3–4 (unpublished draft in Polish).

The following concentrations of coins were discovered in HA and NEH in layers showing archaeological evidence of an earthquake:

1. HA, room 15

A. On the floor in a cistern, coins Nos. 644–656, Constantine I, Constantius II, Constantine II Caesar, Constantius II Caesar, the latest specimens, Constantius II, A.D. 355–361 (Nos. 652, 654).

2. HA, room 10

A. In jugs dug into floor, Nos. 842–851 (Fig. 14: 3–4), Constantius II, Constans; the latest specimens, Constantius II, A.D. 348–361 (Nos. 844–845, 848, 850–851).

B. On the floor with collapsed pilaster (Fig. 7), coins Nos. 725–726, 830–841, 852 (Fig. 14: 1–2, 5 Constantius II, Constantine II Caesar; the latest specimen, Constantius II, A.D. 351–354 (No. 834).

3. NEH, room 12 E

A. Rubble (Fig. 10), coins Nos. 685–704 (Fig. 15: 1–20), 710, 711, Constantius II, Julian II Caesar, Valentinian I, Valens; the latest specimens Valens, A.D. 364–367 or A.D. 367–375 (?) (Nos. 685, 693, 695, 697, 703).<sup>125</sup>

4. NEH, corridor and room 12 W

A. Under fallen blocks, coins Nos. 628–633, Aurelian, Licinius I, Constantius II, Constantius Gallus; the latest specimen Constantius II, A.D. 351–355 (?) (No. 632) or Constantius Gallus, A.D. 347–348 or 355–361 (No. 630).

5. HA, room 7; earthquake as a cause of a destruction is highly probable, but the archaeological evidence is not free from suspicion that at least upper parts of the fill may be secondary.

A. Below the top of the bench (Fig. 6: 10), Nos. 607–612, Constantius II and Constantine II Caesar, the latest specimen, Constantius II (?), A.D. 351–355 (No. 609).

B. Between fragments of plaster (Fig. 6, lower fill below layer 10), Nos. 665, 667–674, Licinius II Caesar, Constantine II Caesar, Constantius II Caesar and Augustus, the latest specimens, Constantius II, A.D. 351–355 (Nos. 665, 667–668).

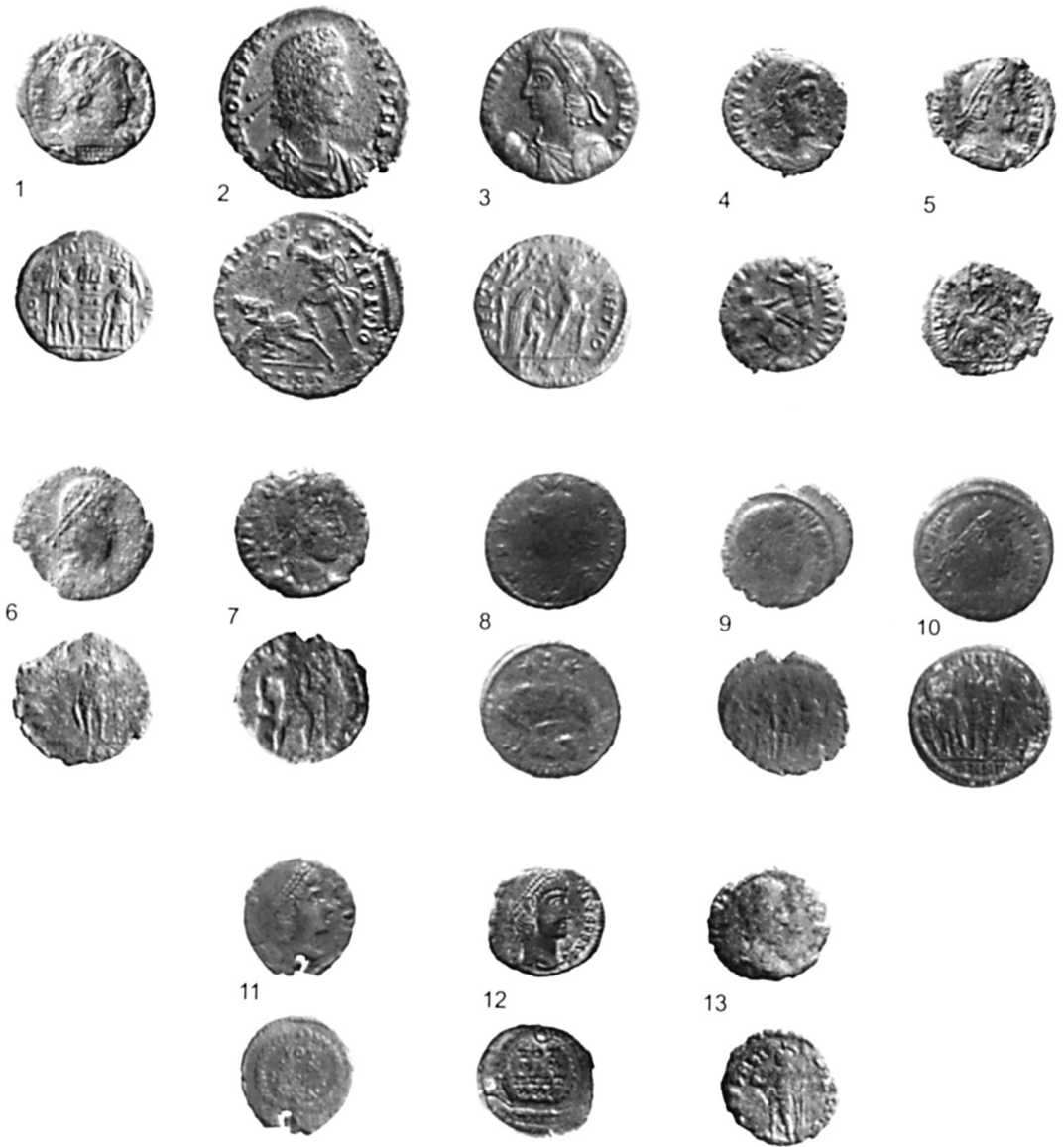
A date of an earthquake suggested by the above presented coins is not clear. Specimens found in NEH room 12 E provide a date later than coins from other rooms. A *terminus post quem* of A.D. 355–361 and/or A.D. 364–367 seems likely.

According to A. Rowe, the coins discovered in Nea Paphos, under earthquake debris on the street near the Hellenistic theatre, “run up to the very end of the 4th century”.<sup>126</sup> Ceramics from this context, however, are traditionally attributed to a later period.<sup>127</sup>

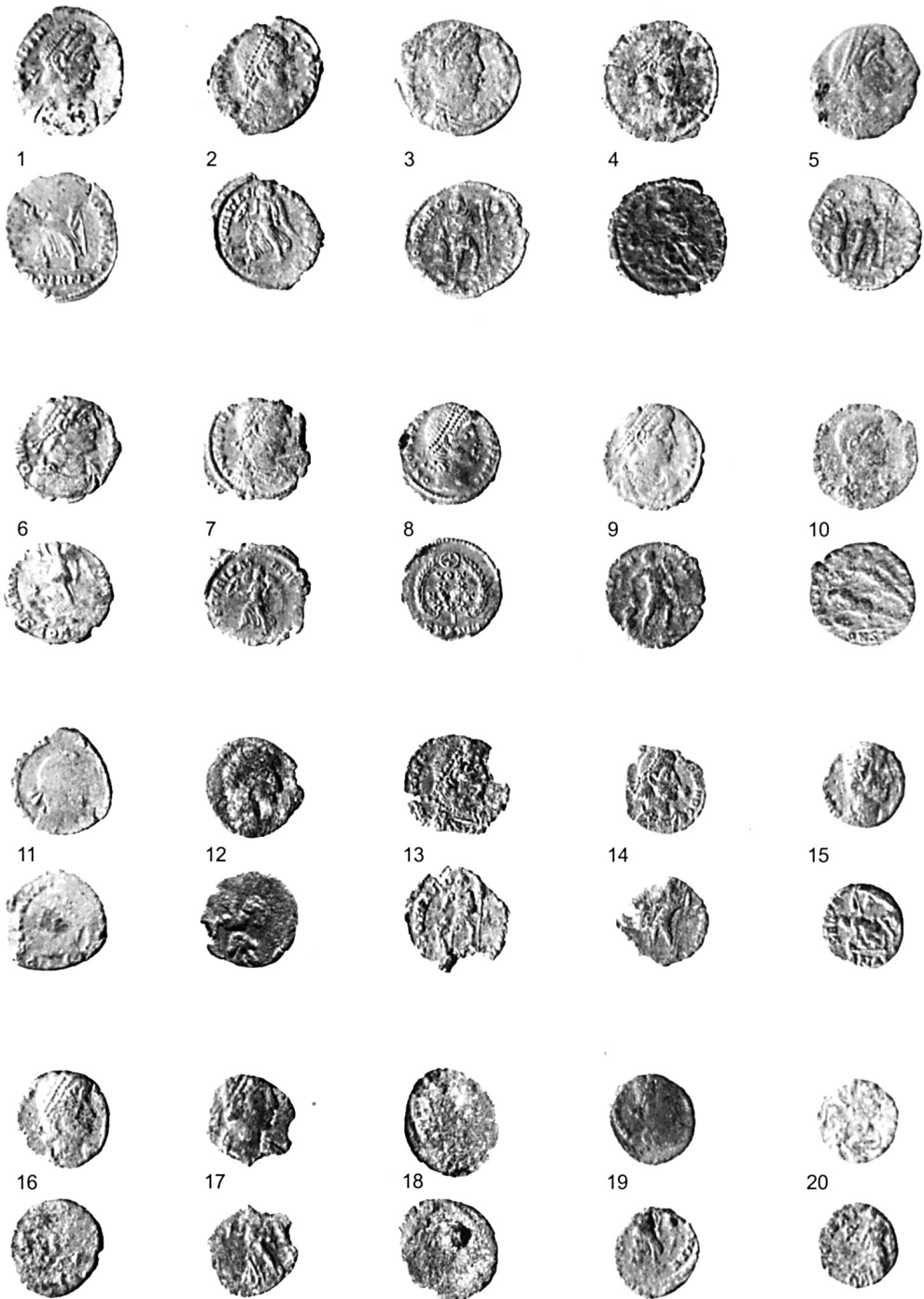
<sup>125</sup> See *supra*, p. 170.

<sup>126</sup> ROWE, *Streetscape*, p. 273. Coins are elaborated by A. Destrooper-Georgiadou.

<sup>127</sup> Cf. *supra*, note 70.



14. Coins found in House of Aion: 1–5 Nos. 830, 838, 842, 851–852, room 10, earthquake stratum; 6) No. 791, room 19, earthquake stratum (?); 7) No. 776, room 18, below last floor (?); 8–13) Nos. 803–805, 807, 810, 812, room 19, stratum after earthquake. (Phot. W. Jerke).



15. 1–20. Coins Nos. 685–704 found in Northeastern House, room 12, earthquake stratum. (Phot. B. Okupny).

D. Soren supposed that Paphos was damaged by the same earthquake as Kourion, probably in A.D. 365. He based his opinion regarding the destruction of Kourion on the fact that 22 coins of Valens dated to a period after March of A.D. 364 and before September A.D. 365, were discovered in the collapse strata of private houses excavated in 1984.<sup>128</sup> He underlines the absence of specimens struck after Gratian's proclamation as Augustus in A.D. 367 and coins of usurpator Procopius, recognized as an emperor in Constantinople in September A.D. 365. The latest specimens discovered in Kourion are dated to a period from after March A.D. 364 to before September A.D. 365, since, in D. Soren's interpretation, an important factor for dating was a redaction of Valens' name in the legend of the obverse. Soren emphasized that in the early period of Valens' reign his name had broken form (VALEN-S). Unfortunately, the description of individual specimens is deficient.

According to the Roman Imperial Coinage IX the first period of Valens' reign is considered to last until August A.D. 367 and it seems impossible to isolate coins issued until September A.D. 365. No coins of Valens or Valentinian are attributed exclusively to the very short period of time, before Procopius' usurpation. Procopius, who reigned less than one year, from 28 September A.D. 365 until 27 May 366, did not strike coins in all mints operating in the Empire. Procopius' coins were issued in Heraclea, Constantinopolis, Cyzicus and Nicomedia.

R.A.G. Carson and J.P.C. Kent,<sup>129</sup> using coins from Constantinopolis as evidence, have indicated that the broken form of Valens' name occurred in bronze coins with early mint-mark CONSPA, unknown on Procopius' coins. The situation is more complicated, however. The mint-mark CONSPA is associated with unbroken Valens name as well. Unbroken Valens name, on the other hand, is found also with later CONSA, characteristic for Procopius. As Carson and Kent conclude "the evidence of the other mints is inconclusive".

It does not seem very significant, that Procopius' coins are absent at Kourion. He was a ruler for a short time and his coins were not struck in such important mints as for example Thessalonica and Antioch and in both mints the broken Valens' name is supposed to be used until A.D. 367. Coins from Antioch are rather frequently represented among identifiable specimens of this period found in Nea Paphos. The dating of an archaeological context according to a chronological attribution of a redaction of Valens' name seems therefore too risky. It is necessary to add, that only well preserved specimens permit unquestionable lecture of a legend and a mint-mark. Coins from Nea Paphos are usually badly preserved, worn, corroded and it is difficult to attribute them to a mint. Caesura of pre-September A.D. 365 is not taken under consideration in the present study.<sup>130</sup>

<sup>128</sup> SOREN, *An Earthquake*, pp. 56–59; SOREN, LEONARD, *Archeologia sismica*, p. 446.

<sup>129</sup> R.A.G. CARSON, J.P.C. KENT, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage A.D. 324–498. II. Bronze Imperial Coinage of the Later Empire A.D. 346–498*, London 1972, p. 42.

<sup>130</sup> On a copy of the paper sent to H. Meyza several years ago, D. Soren admits that the broken legend was not limited to such a short period, but apparently he did not abandon his idea of dating the Kourion (and Paphos) earthquake to A.D. 365, as he advocated it in a lecture given in the American Academy in Rome on 16th October 2000.

It is clear that an attribution of coins plays an important role in dating this earthquake in Cyprus. On the base of numismatic evidence, D. Soren presented his earlier opinion (later abandoned), that the earthquake, which destroyed Kourion took place not earlier than A.D. 364, most likely close to A.D. 370.

He examined again finds from excavations in the sanctuary of Apollo Hylates conducted by McFadden in 1939.<sup>131</sup> The earthquake strata yielded four specimens of Valentinian I and Valens dated to A.D. 364–375 and three specimens attributed to A.D. 364–378. Some coins are partly illegible. Only three specimens were attributed possibly to Valens. The obverse legend of all of them seems poorly preserved. One of them, published with an illustration (7–2), seems to be issued in Alexandria.

There is no doubt that Valentinian I and Valens coins give a *terminus post quem* for a destruction. They comprise c. 6% of the 365 coins recorded in 1984 at Kourion. The general character of this publication does not permit to specify precise characteristics of archaeological contexts in which all coins were found, likewise their dating. In Nea Paphos Valentinian I and Valens coins make up some 5% of legible coins recorded in an earthquake strata in HA and NEH. In our calculations we included coins found not only in undisturbed contexts (mentioned above), but also solitary finds, earlier coins, as for example Ptolemaic specimen, which is an accidental intrusion (No. 597). This includes situations when we cannot be sure if a layer is undisturbed.

The character of a deposit is of a great importance. A find in HA room 1 in a possibly disturbed fill of a floor mosaic, illustrates how difficult it is to base interpretation when an archaeological context is unclear, especially when only one coin (No. 554) was recorded in this context. This coin was a follis of Constantine I, with Sol Invictus on the obverse, dated to A.D. 316. The stratum is interpreted as belonging to a phase of an earthquake but with finds partially mixed by late (Byzantine) intrusive material. In a stratum before an earthquake only one coin (No. 591) was recorded as well. This was a Licinius I follis, representing a standing Jupiter on the obverse, dated to A.D. 321–324. Both specimens could be in circulation for a long time. As they are relatively well preserved, we do not assume an extremely long circulation, but it does not signify a clear *terminus post quem* for strata. The dating value of Licinius' coin is without doubt. Found in the bedding of a mosaic, it indicates a *post quem* date for the pavement composition.<sup>132</sup> Taking under consideration not only the earlier mentioned coin (No. 554), but a larger context, e.g., a number of coins found in destruction strata (Phase II), we may date a construction of a mosaic pavement and its use more precisely.

Much more complicated is the situation in HA room 19. Four coins (Nos. 777, 780, 791, Fig. 14: 6 and 802) discovered on the latest pavement, come from a layer which could be the result of a later earthquake. Upper part of that layer was disturbed.<sup>133</sup> Coins discovered in two pits are connected with an earlier phase. Five specimens (Nos. 810–812, 815–

<sup>131</sup> SOREN, *Last Days*, pp. 117–133; SOREN, *Lane*, *New Ideas*, p. 182.

<sup>132</sup> Cf. *supra*, p. 152.

<sup>133</sup> Cf. *supra*, p. 166.

816) were lost at the time of the robbing or leveling (?) of the EW wall placed inside of a studied unit and leveling the floor in an entire room. It is plausible that one of these coins should be attributed to the postconstantinian period (No. 812). Seven other coins (Nos. 803–809, 813–814, Fig. 14: 8–9) discovered in a pit along the north wall of a room 19, were likewise probably lost. It seems that construction of the north wall of room 19 (= south wall of room 20 of NEH) was undertaken before or at the same time as the remodeling of room 19.

In room 18, adjoining room 19, coin No. 776 (Fig. 14: 7) was found, most likely below the plastered cobbles, probably contemporary to the changes in room 19.<sup>134</sup> It represents the Gloria Romanorum type indicating a *terminus post quem* to A.D. 364–367. It is not impossible that this operation followed an earlier earthquake.

Coins found in HA and NEH cannot be considered as irrefutable evidence dating an earthquake, or earthquakes (?) in Nea Paphos. We may assume a different time for the destruction of the houses, or even their parts. Doubts concerning the character of destruction in NEH room 12 E, where 10 coins suggesting a *terminus post quem* of A.D. 365 were recorded, disallow a clear attribution to an earthquake. It does seem to be the most probable interpretation, though. Finds in HA room 19 support this assumption.

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<sup>134</sup> The context is not well discriminated. Coin No. 776 was found after exploration (using detector), cf. *supra*, p. 181.

## Topographical distribution of coins

Table 4. House of Aion

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
1	554	IMP CONSTANTINVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantine I r., laureate.	SOLL IN-VI-CTO COMITI. Sol stg. r., looking l. In ex. PARL. In l. field: $\frac{1}{2}$ in r. field: F	A.D. 316	Arles	RIC VII, p. 241, No. 84
1	591	IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS P F AVG. Bust of Licinius I r., radiate, cuirassed.	IOVI CONS-ERVATORI. Jupiter stg. l., leaning on sceptre, holding Victory, on ground to l. eagle with wreath, to r. captive. In ex.: SMHB. In r. field: $\frac{1}{2}$	A.D. 321-324	Heraclea	RIC VII, p. 548, No. 52
1	592	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Two eagles standing l. In l. field: headress of Isis.	Cleopatra VII and Ptolemy XVI, 47-44 B.C. (?)	Paphos	Svoronos II, No. 1843, Pl. LXI, 29
2	635	IMP M IVL PHILIPP. Bust of Philip I r., laureate., draped.	VICTORIA AV[G]. Victory stg. r., holding wreath and palm. S C I. and r. in field.	A.D.	Rome	RIC IV,3, p. 92, No. 191
5	597	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Eagle standing l.	Ptolemaic		
6	663	FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C. Bust of Constantius II Caesar r., laureate., cuirassed.	GLOP-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMANH	A.D. 335-337	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 697, No. 110
6	817			Late Roman (?)*		
6	821			Late Roman (?)*		
7	599	IMP C GAL VAL MAXIMINVS P F AVG. Bust of Maximinus r., laureate.	SOLL IN-VICTO. Sol stg. l., draped, holding head of Serapis. In ex.: ANT. In l. field G; in r. field: $\star$ .	A.D. 312	Antioch	RIC VI, p. 644, No. 167b
7	601	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar, laureate (?), cuirassed.	GLOP-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMANT	A.D. 329-330	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 693, No. 87 (?)
7	602	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-dialeded, draped.	SPES REI-PVBLICE. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear.	A.D. 355-361		
7	603	AYTOY KPA [T]OY OYCCATII]A-CIANOC KAICAP. Bust of Vespasian I. laureate, draped.	ETOYC NEOY IEPOY. Temple of Paphian Aphrodite. In ex.: H (year 8).	A.D. 76-77	Paphos	SNG Cop. Cyprus, No. 78, Pl. 2




ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
7	604	τCwC. Bust of Dionysos as city-god r., turreted, draped, with thyrsos.	T H [I]N N. Griffin standing r., l. Fore-paw raised.	2nd–3rd cent. A.D.	Teos	BMC Ionia, p. 317, No. 56, griffin I. (?)
7	605	[D]N CONSTA[N–T]IVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Inscription VOT / XX / MVLT / XXX within wreath. In ex.: [S]MANA	A.D. 347–348	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 521, No. 113
7	607	[D]N CONSTAN–TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[G]LJOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 337–347 (?)		
7	608	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar r., laureate, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMANC	A.D. 330–333 and 335	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 693, No. 87
7	609	D N CONST... Bust of Constantius II (?), r., bare head, draped.	Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 351–355 (?)		
7	610	Head of Constantius II (?), r., laureate.	Soldier stg. l. (?)	A.D. 337–364		
7	611	CONSTAN–TIVS AVG. Bust of Constantius II, r., pearl-diademed, draped.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: SMANA	A.D. 337–347	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 515, No. 44
7	612	...TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 337–364		
7	658	IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FELI AVG. Bust of Gordian III r., laureate, draped.	P M TR P VII COS [I] P P. Emperor in military dress stg. r, holding spear and globe. S C l. and r. in field.	4th issue, undated (238–244)	Rome	RIC IV, 3, p. 49, No. 308(a)
7	660	CONSTANTI–INVS MAXI AVG. Bust of Constantine I r., rosette-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: CONSA	A.D. 330–333	Constantinople	RIC VII, p. 579, No. 59.
7	665	D N CONSTAN–TIVS [P F AVG]. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	FEL TEMP [RE–P]ARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: ALEA	A.D. 351–355	Alexandria	RIC VIII, p. 544, No. 80
7	667	D N CONSTAN–TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	SPES REI–PVBL[ICE]. Emperor in military dress stg.l., holding globe and spear. In ex.: SMK[A]; in l. field: Λ	A.D. 355–361	Cyzicus	RIC VIII, p. 499, No. 121
7	668	D[N] CO[NS]TAN–TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[FEL] TEMP RE–P[ARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: SMHA (?)	A.D. 351–355	Heraclea (?)	RIC VIII, p. 436, No. 90 (?)

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
7	669	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar r., rosette-diademed, cuirassed.	[GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS]. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: SMNA	A.D. 336-337	Nicomedia	RIC VII, p. 635, No. 200
7	670	..ON[ST]A[IN]...P F [AVG]. Head of Constantius II or Constans r., pearl-diademed.	Inscription VOT / [XX] / [M]V[LT] / [X]XX within wreath.	A.D. 347-348		
7	671	D N VAL LICIN LICINIVS NOB C. Bust of Licinius II Caesar l., laureate, draped with globe and sceptre	IOVI CONS-ERVATORI CAESS. Jupiter standing l., holding Victory, leaning on sceptre; to l. captive. In ex.: SMANT. In l. field: DI	A.D. 317-320	Antioch	RIC VII, 680, No. 29
7	672	[FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C. Bust of Constantius II Caesar r., laureate, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMNA	A.D. 330-335	Nicomedia	RIC VII, p. 633, No. 191
7	673	[FL IVL C]ONSTANTIVS NOB C. Bust of Constantius II Caesar r., laureate, draped.	[GLOR]IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: [S]M[IN]A	A.D. 336-337	Nicomedia (?)	RIC VII, p. 635, No. 201 (?)
7	674	[CONSTAN]-TIVS [AVG] (?). Head of Constantius II r., pearl- diademed.	[GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS]. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 337-347 (?)		
7	680	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl- diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: ALET. In l. field: G	A.D. 351-355	Alexandria	RIC VIII, p. 543, No. 72
7	682	[D N] CONSTAN-[TIVS P F AVG] (?). Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 340-348 or 355-361(?)	Antioch (?)	
10	725			Late Roman (?)*		
10	726	illegible	illegible	Late Roman (?)*		
10	825	IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS P F AV. Bust of Licinius I r., radiate, cuirassed.	IOVI CONS-ERVATORI. Jupiter stg. l., holding Victory and sceptre, on ground to l. eagle; to r. captive. In ex.: SMANTA. In r. field: $\text{M}$	A.D. 321-323	Antioch	cf. RIC VII, p. 68, No. 351
10	826	IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS P F AVG. Bust of Licinius I r., radiate, cuirassed.	IOVI CONS-ERVATORI. Jupiter stg. l., holding Victory and sceptre, eagle on ground to l., to r. captive. In ex.: SMALA. In r. field: $\text{M}$	A.D. 317-320	Alexandria	RIC VII, p. 708, No. 28
10	827	Bust of Julian Caesar (?) r., rosette- diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP RE-[PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361 (?)		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
10	830	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar r., laureate, cuirassed.	GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: P(?) S	A.D. 329-330 or 330-331	Rome	RIC VII, p. 336, No. 336 (?)
10	831	illegible	Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman (?).	A.D. 348-361 (?)		
10	832	illegible	illegible	Constantinian House		
10	833	...TINVS..(?). Bust r.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	834	[D N CONSTAN]-TIVS P F AVG (?). Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[FEL TEMP RE-P]ARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: [SM]NA	A.D. 351-355	Nicomedia	RIC VIII, p. 479, No. 96
10	835	[D N CONSTAN]-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r. behind a bust: Δ	FEL TEM[P RE-PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 350-355 (?)		
10	836	illegible	vota (?)	Constantinian House (?)*		
10	837	illegible	illegible	Constantinian House (?)*		
10	838	D N CONSTA[N]-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	FEL TEMP REPA-RATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: ALEA (?). In l. field: G (?)	351-354	Alexandria	RIC VIII, p. 543, No. 72 (?)
10	839	CONSTA-NS P F AVG. Bust of Constans I., draped, cuirassed, with globe.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier leads a small figure from a hut. In ex.: CONSG	A.D. 348-351	Constantinople	RIC VIII, p. 454, No. 86 (?)
10	840	D N CONSTA-NS P F AVG. Bust l., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed (?)	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier leads a small figure from a hut. In ex.: SMNA (?)	A.D. 348-351	Nicomedia (?)	RIC VIII, p. 476, No. 70 (?)
10	841	DN CONSTA-...Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman (?).	A.D. 348-361		
10	842	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II l., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed, with globe.	FEL TEMP REPA-RATIO. Helmeted soldier leads small figure from a hut. In ex.: R★P	A.D. 348-350	Rome	RIC VIII, p. 258, No. 140
10	843	[FEL I]VL CONSTANS] NOB C. Bust of Constans (?) Caesar, laureate, draped.	[GLORI]A EXERC-[ITVS]. Two soldiers, one standard between them. In ex.: [SM]AN. (?)	A.D. 335-337	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 697, No. 111 (?)

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
10	844	Bust r.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	845	Bust r.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	846			Late Roman (?)*		
10	847	D N CONSTA-[NS] P F AVG. Bust of Constans I., pearl-diademed, draped, with globe.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier leads a small figure from a hut. In ex.: ANG	A.D. 347-348	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 522, No. 126
10	848	Bust r., draped.	FEL TE[MP RE-PA]RATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	849	D N C[ON]STAN... Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP [RE-PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	850	D N CONSTAN [TIVS P F AVG]. Bust of Constantius II r., rosette-diademed (?), draped.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	851	[D N] CONSTAN-[TIVS P F AVG]. Bust of Constantius II r., rosette-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP RE-PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
10	852	[D N] CONS[TAN]-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP [RE-PAR]ATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: [C]ONS[A] (?)	A.D. 348-351 (?)	Constantinople (?)	RIC VIII, p. 453, No. 78
13W	567	[CO]NST-ANS AVG. Head of Constans r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR-IA EXER-[CIT]VS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. Point on r. and l. from standard. In ex.: SMAN	A.D. 337-347	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 515, No. 53
13W	769	[FL IVL CONSTANTIVS] NOB {C} (?). Bust of Constantius II Caesar (?) r., draped.	GLORI-A EXER-CITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMTSG	A.D. 335-336	Thessalonica	RIC VII, p. 526, No. 200
14	596	illegible	illegible	Late Roman		
15	613	D N CONS.... Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[FEL TEMP REPA]RATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
15	615	illegible	illegible			
15	617	illegible	illegible	4th cent. A.D., postconstantinian (?)		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
15	618	[DIVA FAVSTINA]. Bust of Faustina I r., draped; rectangular countermark on the neck (?).	AVGVSTA. Vesta stg. l., sacrificing with patera over lighted altar and holding palladium. S C on r. and l. in field.	A.D. 141	Rome	BMCRE IV, p. 253, No. 1583, Pl. 37, 20; RIC III, p. 163, No. 1126, without countermark
15	619	illegible	illegible	4th cent. A.D. (?)		
15	620	[DIV CONSTAN]NTI–NVS P T AVGG. Bust of Constantine I r., veiled.	Emperor veiled in quadriga r., the hand of God reaches to him.	A.D. 337–340		
15	621	CONSTAN–TINOPOLIS. Female bust l., helmeted with spear.	Victory standing l. on prow, holding spear and resting on shield. In ex.: SMAN[A]	A.D. 330–333 and 335 or 337–337	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 693, No. 92 or p. 697, No. 114
15	622	FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C. Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: *SMIKC	A.D. 332–333 and 335	Cyzicus	RIC VII, p. 657, No. 101
15	644	CONSTAN–TINVS AVG. Head of Constantine I r., laureate.	PROVIDEN–TIAE AVGG. Camp gate with two turrets, star above. In ex.: SMANTB (?). Point inside entrance.	A.D. 326–327	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 690, No. 71 (?)
15	645	CON[STANTII]–NVS MAX AVG. Bust of Constantine I r. rosette-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	GL[OR]–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMNG	A.D. 330–335	Nicomedia	RIC VII, p. 633, No. 188
15	646	[D N FL CL CONSTAN]TIVS [NOB CAES] (?). Bust of Gallus Caesar r., pearl-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP [RE–P]ARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: RS. In l. field: (?)	A.D. 348–350 (?)	Rome	RIC VIII, p. 262, No. 174 (?)
15	647	CON[ST]ANTI–NIVS MAX AVG. Head of Constantine I r., pearl-diademed.	GL[ORIA EXERC]ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 335–337		
15	648	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar r., laureate, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: SMANS	A.D. 335–337	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 697, No. 109
15	649	[FL IVL C]ONSTANTIVS NOB C. Bust of Constantine II r., laureate, draped, cuirassed.	[GL]O[R]IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 335–337 (?)		
15	650	illegible	[FE]L TEMP–[RE]PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: [A]ILE[A]I]. In l. field: M	A.D. 355–361	Alexandria	RIC VIII, p. 545, Nos. 84–86 (?)
15	651	[FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NO]B C (?). Bust of Constantine II Caesar (?).r. pearl-diademed, cuirassed.	GL[OR]–IA EXERC–ITVS]. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 336–337 or 337–340 (?)		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
15	652	[D N COIN]STAN]TIVS P F AVG (?). Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[FEL] TEMP[ REPARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: [AS]IS. In l. field: M	A.D. 355–361	Siscia	RIC VIII, p. 377, No. 377
15	653	CONSTAN]TI-NIVS MAX AVG. Bust of Constantine I r., rosette-diademed, draped.	[GLOR]-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: [S]IMANAI	A.D. 335–337	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 697, No. 108
15	654	D N COIN]STAN]-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped.	FEL TEMP-REPARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: ANAI	A.D. 355–361	Antioch (?)	RIC VIII, p. 528, No. 188 (?)
15	655	[VRBS ROMA] or [CONSTAN-TINOPOLI] (?). Female bust l., helmeted, draped.	[GL]OR-IA EXERC-ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: [SM]INA (?)	A.D. 336–337	Nicomedia (?)	RIC VII, p. 635, No. 205 or No. 206 (?)
15	656	D N CON]STAN]-TIVS P F AVG. Head of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed.	Inscription VOT / XX / MVLT / XXX within a wreath. In ex.: SMAN	A.D. 347–348	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 521, No. 113
16	824	IMP C VAL LICIN LICINIVS P F AVG. Head of Licinius I r., laureate.	IOVI CONSER-VATORIAVGG, Jupiter stg. l., leaning on sceptre, holding Victory, eagle to l. on ground.  In ex.: ANT. In r. field: 	A.D. 313–314	Antioch	RIC VII, p. 676, No. 8
17	797	Head of Zeus r.	Zeus draped stg. l., holding corn-ears and sceptre.	Late Ptolemaic, time of Cleopatra VII	Paphos	BMC Cyprus, p. lxxxii, No. 2; Nicolaou, pp. 58–62, Nos. 469–509, Pl. XVI
18	662	COIN]STANTINVS IVN NOB C. Bust of Constantine II Caesar r., laureate, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR-IA EXER[C-ITIV]S]. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: SNM. (sic) (?)	A.D. 336–337	Nicomedia (?)	RIC VII, p. 635, No. 200 (?)
18	664	CONSTANTI-NOPOLIS. Helmeted bust of Constantinopolis l., draped, with spear.	CONSTANTI-NOPOLIS. Victory l. on prow. In ex.: R  P	A.D. 333–335	Rome	RIC VII, p. 339, No. 355
18	776	D N VALEN...Bust of Valentinian or Valens r.(?), pearl-diademed, draped.	[GLORIA] RO-[MA]NORVM. Emperor advancing r. holding standard and dragging captive.	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375		
18	818	illegible		Late Roman (?)*		
19	777	illegible				
19	780			Late Roman (?)*		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBSERVE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
19	791	Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Emperor stg. l., holding globe and sceptre.	A.D. 355–363		
19	802	Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Emperor stg. l., holding globe and sceptre.	A.D. 355–363 (?)		
19	803	VRBS ROMA. Bust of Roma helmeted l.	She-wolf stg. l., suckling twins; above two stars and $\ddot{\text{I}}$ between them. In ex.: SMSG	A.D. 330–335	Nicomedia	RIC VII, p. 634, No. 195
19	804	[D N CONSTAN]–TIVS P F AVG. Head of Constantius II r., rosette-diademed, draped.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards.	A.D. 330–333 and 335 (?)		
19	805	CONSTANTI–NVS MAX AVG (?). Bust of Constantine I, rosette-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: SMNG	A.D. 333–335	Nicomedia (?)	RIC VII, p. 633, No. 188
19	806	Bust of Constantine I (?) r.	[GLOR]IA EXERC[–]TIVS]. Two soldiers, between them two (?) standards.	A.D. 330–335 (?)		
19	807	Head of Constans (?) r., pearl-diademed	Inscription VOTA / XX / MVLT / XXX within wreath.	A.D. 345–348		
19	808			Constantius II*		
19	809			Late Roman (?)*		
19	810	[D N CONSTAN]–TIVS P F AVG. Head of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed	Inscription VOT / XX / MVLT / XXX within wreath. In ex.: SMALA or [S]MANA (?)	A.D. 345–347 or 347–348	Alexandria or Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 541, No. 33 or p. 521, No. 113
19	811			Late Roman (?)*		
19	812	Bust r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[SP]ES REI–[PVBLICE]. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and sceptre.	A.D. 355–363		
19	813	illegible	illegible			
19	814	illegible	illegible			
19	815			Late Roman (?)*		
19	816	illegible	illegible			

Table 5. Northeastern House

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
4	565	Head r.	Two soldiers, between them one standard (?).	4th cent. A.D.		
9	705	IMP CAE C VIB VOLVSIANO AVG. Bust of Volusian r., laureate, draped.	LIBERTAS AVGG. Libertas stg. l., holding piteus and sceptre. S C I. and r. in field.	A.D. 251–253	Rome	RIC IV.3, p. 172, No. 114a
9	706	IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG. Bust of Philip I r., laureate, draped.	AEQVITAS AVGG. Aequitas stg. l., holding scales and cornucopia. S C I. and r. in field.	A.D. 247–249	Rome	RIC IV.3, p. 89, No. 166a
9	707	Bust of Septimius Severus r., laureate, draped.	Roma seated l.	A.D. 195	Rome	BMCRE V, p. 138, No. 558, Pl. 24, 2; RIC IV.1, p. 186, No. 691
9	708	Emperor's head r., laureate (?).	Female figure stg.	2nd–3rd cent. A.D.	Rome	
9	709	illegible	illegible	Late Roman (?)		
9	717	CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB CJ. Bust of Constantine II r., laureate, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: RBS	A.D. 330–331	Rome	RIC VII, p. 336, No. 336
9	718	CONSTANTI–NVS MAX AVG. Bust of Constantine I r., rosette-dialed, draped, cuirassed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them two standards. In ex.: •SMHG	A.D. 330–333	Heracleia (?)	RIC VII, p. 558, No. 116
9	719	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Two eagles stg. l.	Ptolemaic		
11	828	IVLIA MAESA AVGVSTA. Bust of Julia Maesa r. dialed	[PVDICITIA]. Pudicitia seated l., raising veil and holding sceptre. S C I. and r. in field.	A.D. 218–222 (or 223)	Rome	BMCRE V, pp. 599, No. 394, Pl. 95.1; RIC IV.2, p. 61, No. 420
12 E	685	D N VALEN–S P F AVG. Bust of Valens r., pearl-dialed, draped.	SECV[RITAS RE]IPVBLICAE. Victory advancing l. In ex.: R TERTIA	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375	Rome	RIC IX, p. 121, No. 24b, cf. p. 120, No. 17b with note, p. 115.
12 E	686	[D N VALE]NS P F AVG. Bust of Valens r., pearl-dialed, draped.	SECVRITAS RE[IPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l. In ex.: .M.. (?),...	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375		RIC IX, p. 275, No. 12(b)
12 E	687	D N V[AL]JEN–... P F AVG. Bust of Valentinian I (?) r., pearl-dialed, draped.	GLORIA RO–MANORVM. Soldier advancing r., holding labarum and dragging captive.	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
12 E	688	Bust of Constantius II (?) r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[FEL] TEMP [RE-PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348-361		
12 E	689	Bust of Valens(?) r., pearl-diademed, draped.	GLORIA RO-MANORVM. Emperor advancing r., dragging captive and holding standard. In ex.: SMN (?)	A.D. 364-367	Nicomedia	RIC IX, p. 252, No. 9(a) (?)
12 E	690	D N VALENTINI-ANVS P F AVG. Bust of Valentinian I r., pearl-diademed, draped.	SECVRITAS [REIPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l. In ex.: CONS (?). In l. field: ★	A.D. 364-367	Constantinople	RC IX, p. 215, No. 21(a), mint-mark 4 or p. 216, No. 21(b), mint-mark 9-11
12 E	691	D N VALENT(?). Bust of Valentinian I (?) r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed.	SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l.,	A.D. 364-367 or 367-375		
12 E	692	D N CONSTAN-[TIVS] P F AVG. Head of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed.	Inscription VOT / XX / MVLT / XXX within wreath. In ex.: SMANTI	A.D. 347-348	Antioch	RIC VIII, 521, N° 114A
12 E	693	[D N VALENI]S-P F AVG. Bust of Valens r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[GL]ORIA RO-M[ANORVM]. Emperor in military dress advancing r., head l., dragging captive and holding standard.	A.D. 364-367 or 367-375		
12 E	694	D N CL [IVLIANVS NOB] CAES (?). Bare head of Julian Caesar, draped, cuirassed.	FEL TEMP [RE-PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: CONSA . In l. field: M	A.D. 355-361	Constantinople	RIC VIII, p. 460, No. 145 (?)
12 E	695	[D N] VALENTINI]-A[NVS] P F AVG. Bust of Valentinian I r., pearl-diademed, draped.	SECVRITAS [REIPVBLICAE]. Victory advancing l. In ex.: AN.(?)	A.D. 364-367 or A.D. 367-375	Antioch (?)	RIC IX, p. 275, No. 12(a) or p. 281, No. 36(a) (?)
12 E	696	Diademed (?) head r.	Victory advancing l. (?)	2nd half 4th cent. A.D.	barbarian (?)	
12 E	697	DN V[ALENTINI]-(? )ANVS P F AVG]. Bust of Valentinian I r., pearl-diademed, draped.	GLORIA RO-[MANORVM]. Emperor in military dress advancing r., dragging captive and holding standard.	A.D. 364-367 or 367-375		
12 E	698	[D N CONSTANTI]-IVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed, draped, cuirassed. Letter or symbol (?) in field to r.	[SPES REI]-PVBLICE. Emperor stg., looking l., holding globe and spear.	A.D. 355-363		
12 E	699	DN C[ONSTATI]-VS NOB CAES]. Bust of Constantius Gallus Caesar (?) r., bare head, draped.	FEL TE[MP REPARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: ANA	A.D. 350-355	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 524, No. 156
12 E	700	[D N CON]STAN-[TIVS] P F AVG]. Bust of Constantius II (?) r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman (?).	A.D. 348-361		

ROOM	INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
12 E	701	Bust of Constans (?) r., pearl-diademed, draped.	Victory advancing l.	A.D. 337–351 (?)		
12 E	702	illegible	illegible	Late Roman		
12 E	703	D N VALEN(?)... Bust of Valentinian I or Valens r., pearl-diademed, draped.	[SECVRITAS REIPVB]LCAE. Victory advancing l.	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375		
12 E	704	Bust r., draped.	SECVRITAS [REIPVBL]CAE]. Victory advancing l.	A.D. 364–367 or 367–375		
12 E	710	[DV CO]NSTAN[TL–NV]S P T AVGG (?). Head of Constantine I deified r., veiled.	Emperor veiled in quadriga advancing r. In ex.: SMAN[A] (?)	A.D. 337–340	Antioch (?)	RIC VIII, p. 515, No. 39 (?)
12 E	711	D N IVLIA[NV]S–NOB CAES]. Bust of Julian Caesar r., diademed (?), draped.	[FEL TEMP RE]PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 355–361		
12 E	712	illegible	illegible	Late Roman		
corridor and 12 W	628	IMP AVRELIANVS AVG. Bust of Aurelian r., radiate crown r., draped, cuirassed.	[RI]ESTI–TVTOR ORBIS. Victoria stg. r. holding palm, presenting wreath to emperor stg. l., holding sceptre. In ex.: XXI. between figures	A.D. 270–275, 2 <sup>nd</sup> issue	Rome	RIC V, 1, p. 306, No. 369
corridor and 12 W	629	IMP C LIC LICINNIVS P F AVG. Head of Licinius I r., laureate.	IOVI CON–SERVATORI. Jupiter stg. l., holding Victory on globe and leaning on sceptre; at feet to l., eagle. In ex.: ALE. In l. field: N, in r. field: C	A.D. 314–315	Alexandria	RIC VII, p. 704, No. 7
corridor and 12 W	630	[D N] CONSTAN–TIVS NOB CIAES]. Bust of Constantius Gallus r.	FEL [TEMP] RE–PARATIO. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman.	A.D. 348–361		
corridor and 12 W	631	[CON]STAN–TIVS AVG. Bust of Constantine II r., pearl-diademed.	GLOR–IA EXERC]–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard. In ex.: .NA. (?)	A.D. 337–347	Antioch	RIC VIII, p. 515, No. 41
corridor and 12 W	632	[D N CONSTAN]–TIVS [P] F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl-diademed and laureate, draped.	FEL TE[MP RE–PARATIO]. Helmeted soldier spearing falling horseman. In ex.: .NA. (?) In l. field (?)	A.D. 348–361		
corridor and 12 W	633	[D] N CO.....AVG. Head of Constantius II (?) r., rosette-diademed.	GLOR–IA EXERC–ITVS. Two soldiers, between them one standard.	A.D. 335–337 or 337–347		

Table 6. Late Roman Street West of HA and NEH

INV. NO.	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	MINT	REFERENCES
524	Head r., pearl–diademed.	Victory advancing l.	4th cent. A.D.		
525	D N CONSTAN-TIVS P F AVG. Bust of Constantius II r., pearl– diademed, draped.	SPES REI–PVBLICE. Emperor in military dress stg. l., holding globe and spear. In ex.: SMK B (?)	A.D. 355–361 (?)	Cyzicus (?)	RIC VIII, p. 499, No. 117
531	Head of Zeus r., laureate.	Zeus stg. l., draped, holding corn- ears and sceptre, star above head.	Late Ptolemaic, time of Cleopatra VII	Paphos	BMC Cyprus, p. lxxxii, No. 2; Nicolau, pp. 58–62, Nos. 463–467, Pl. XVI
561	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Two eagles stg. l. In l. field: headress of Isis.	Cleopatra VII and Ptolemy XVI, 47–43 B.C.(?)	Paphos	Svoronos II, No. 1843, Pl. LXI, 29; Nicolau, p. 54, No. 429, Pl. XV
562	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Two eagles stg. l. In l. field: aplustrre (?).	Ptolemy IX Soter II, 117/6– 80 B.C.	Paphos	Nicolau, p. 41, No. 313, Pl. IX
563	illegible	illegible	Ptolemaic		
721	illegible	K, on l. AN (?)	6th–7th cent.		
767	Head of Zeus Ammon r.	Eagle standing l. In l. field aplustrre.	Ptolemy king of Cyprus, 80–58 B.C.	Paphos	Svoronos II, No. 1813, Pl. LIX, 27; Nicolau, p. 52–53, Nos. 406–416, Pl. XIV
768	Head of Zeus Ammon r.(?)	illegible	Ptolemaic		

BMC Cyprus

– F.G. HILL, A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum. Cyprus, London 1904

BMC Ionia

– V.B. HEAD, A Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum. Ionia, London 1892

BMCRE IV–V

– H. MATTINGLY, A Catalogue of the Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum IV–V, London 1940–1950

Nicolau

– I. NICOLAOU, Paphos II. The Coins from the House of Dionysos, Nicosia 1990

RIC

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III

– H. MATTINGLY, E.A. SYDENHAM, 1968

IV, 1–3

– H. MATTINGLY, E. A. SYDENHAM, 1972 (IV, 1); H. MATTINGLY, E.A. SYDENHAM, C.H.V. SUTHERLAND, 1972 (IV, 2–3)

V, 1

– P. H. WEBB, 1968

VI

– C. H. V. SUTHERLAND, 1973

VII

– P. M. BRUNN, 1966

VIII

– J. P. C. KENT, 1981

IX

– J. W. E. PEARCE, 1968

SNG Cop. Cyprus

– Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum. The Royal Collection of Coins and Medals Danish National Museum. Cyprus–Cappadocia. Uncertain

Svoronos

– Coins. Imperial Cistophori, Copenhagen 1956

\* Preliminary field identification, see note 113.

– J. N. SVORONOS, Τὰ Νομισματικά του Κράτους των Προλεμισίων, Athens I–III, 1904, IV 1908

## CONCLUSION

The famous earthquake of A.D. 365 could have affected Nea Paphos, but the evidence of pottery makes it less probable. The study of archaeological and numismatic evidence shows that in the second half of 4th century, seismic activity played an important role in the process of deterioration, which took some time. Eventually, destructions overcame inhabitants' ability to repair and rebuild. Our evidence is however too fragmentary to be considered as unquestionable testimony of a precisely dated earthquake capable of causing the destruction and abandonment of the houses, or to allow further interpretation concerning the history of the town.

Occurrences of isolated late coins in contexts thought to originate in A.D. 365 catastrophe, or as its consequence, were interpreted as later intrusions. Early Byzantine coin No. 721 found on the street, between the stones of collapsed blocking of the door in the wall, one of the best testimonies of seismic character of the destruction, has seriously declassified the sealed character of the stratum. Finds of post-Constantinian coins: No. 776 in another potentially intact context, under the latest floor of the room 18, and possibly No. 812 in the fill of phantom wall in the north part of room 19 make the hypothesis of destruction in A.D. 365 suspect, unless it were the earlier catastrophe. It is less easy to do away difficulties concerning pottery such as presence of a large part of a small cylindrical micaceous amphora and maybe also late Gaza amphora rim on the floor in room 12E, LRC bowl form 5 over floor in room 12W, wide mouth amphora in room 10 but the main cause of anxiety arises from too frequent using lower date limits for other types. It seems that it would be risky to accept the date of the seismic event reported by Ammianus Marcellinus. It must be stressed that this date cannot be excluded, however. It seems more probable, that the earthquake, which left its traces in Paphos, happened some time later, at least late enough to accommodate the post-Constantinian coins without a need to press the evidence to fit the hypothesis. This date should be oscillating around A.D. 380–400. The other solution is to accept that there were two destruction episodes, one connected with Constantinian coins and the other possibly as late as 6th century. This interpretation suffers from paucity of evidence for the simultaneous and catastrophic destruction before reuse of many structures. The least probable interpretation variant is that all 4th century coins were still in use in 6th century, and that the only earthquake was closely followed by scavenging of the ruins.

It is still an open question whether among illegible coins, from earthquake layers of both studied houses, we do not have coins which could be dated to a period after Gratian's proclamation as Augustus in A.D. 367.<sup>135</sup> Some specimens, especially Nos. 685, 687, 693, 695, 697, 703–704, should be carefully reexamined after laboratory treatment. Further research of other houses (first of all stratigraphy and numismatic evidence from the Villa of

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<sup>135</sup> According to SOREN, *An Earthquake*, pp. 55–56, in Kourion no coins later than A.D. 364–365 were found.

Theseus<sup>136</sup>), may yield more information about the decline of a city and its destruction by an earthquake(s) in late Roman period.

B.L., H.M.  
Warsaw, January 2001

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<sup>136</sup> A study concerning Villa of Theseus is in preparation. The reservations concerning equation of Paphian destruction with the Ammianus' tsunami seemed to us grounded sufficiently to warrant a preliminary report. We have decided therefore to present the above study in spite of apparent interim character of many statements.