

Attic black-glazed kylikes with inset lip from Bulgaria

Anelia Bozkova

The article examines a type of Attic black-glazed cups from the Classical Age, usually referred to as “stemless with inset lip” or “Castulo cups”. The author has collected all the known examples of this type from Bulgaria and surveys case by case their provenance, the eventual dating of the context, the peculiarities of the shape, of the glazing and of the bottom decoration. The subdivision dedicated to the chronology of the kylikes adds new observations to those already formulated by B. Shefton, the most dedicated investigator of this pottery shape. The finds from the territory of ancient Thrace confirm the objective difficulties of the chronological arrangement of the characteristic features, illustrating the early appearance of significant modifications of the initial glazing conception (before the middle of the fifth century as evi-

denced by the examples from Mound Kukova by Duvanli and from Malko Trunovo near Chirpan). In a number of cases the bottom decoration also deviates from the canonical model, the kylix from Mound Arabadjiyska being determined as representative of an intermediate phase between the cups with “early characteristics” and the early fourth century examples from the Iberian Peninsula. The article also discusses the problems of the geographical distribution of the cups in a Thracian environment and their evidence for the commercial relations of the local population in the fifth century B.C. The results from the review add new arguments to the opinion of the great popularity of this specific pottery shape and its identification as a product of the Attic workshops deliberately fashioned for the purpose of overseas exportation.