

## The Dining Assemblage Unpacked

An appendix to "[Changing Places: The Archaeology of the Roman \*Convivium\*](#),"  
by Nicholas F. Hudson (AJA 114 [2010] 663–95).

The following presents basic contextual information for each of the assemblages presented in the analysis. Included are descriptions of the assemblages within the functional framework of the analysis. For each assemblage description is a table of the raw data used in the analysis, consisting of individual vessel ware, form, shape, the published catalogue number,<sup>1</sup> rim diameter, and capacity. The assemblages are presented in chronological order.<sup>2</sup>

CORINTH, 22/3 C.E.

The dining assemblage from Corinth (table 1) is made up of table vessels from a large floor deposit recovered from the so-called Early Roman Cellar Building near the southwestern corner of the forum.<sup>3</sup> The deposit consisted of a large number of storage, cooking, eating, service, and drinking vessels found in the storage area of a building that Slane Wright suggests was a public restaurant or tavern.<sup>4</sup> She suggests a date of 22/3 C.E. on the exclusivity of early first-century sigillata forms present in the deposit and the historical record of an earthquake at Corinth during the early years of Tiberius.<sup>5</sup> Regardless of whether the deposit can be attributed to destruction caused by the earthquake of 22/3 C.E., the ceramic evidence points to an early first-century C.E. date, an early phase of the Roman colony at Corinth. The material used in the analysis consists of table vessels published by Slane Wright as part of the destruction deposit. While a robust selec-

tion was published, the results of the analysis here might best be considered provisional or suggestive of the whole.

### *Assemblage Description*

A total of 22 well-preserved vessels were included in the analysis (described as complete, with complete profile, or with multiple joining fragments).<sup>6</sup> The Tiberian Corinthian table assemblage is functionally similar to the Knossos assemblage, consisting of service vessels (18%), side dishes (27%), and personal vessels (55%). Service vessels are represented by large, flat platters with rim diameters between 30 and 47 cm. All service vessels are of similar types, though from a variety of sources (e.g., from the West: "Arretine" Haltern Types 1 and 2; local production: Haltern Type 1; from the East: Eastern Sigillata A [ESA] *Atlante* Form 4A).<sup>7</sup> Side dishes consist of a variety of unclassified bowls and local imitations of ESA *Atlante* Forms 5 and 45, as well as two small, locally produced saucers. Personal vessels appear to be made up of sets of small plates (e.g., ESA *Atlante* Form 29) and bowls (e.g., ESA *Atlante* Forms 42 and 45).

BOSCOREALE, FIRST CENTURY C.E.

The dining assemblage from Boscoreale (table 2) consists of the large silver setting discovered in a large *villa rustica* in 1894.<sup>8</sup> The villa, destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E., was richly decorated with many

<sup>1</sup> In most cases, the published number represents an individual vessel. In some cases, as with Knossos and Paphos, the number represents the published example included in the publication catalogue, though more examples are recorded without specific measurements.

<sup>2</sup> See Hudson (2010, fig. 19) for the functional compositions of the table assemblages.

<sup>3</sup> Slane Wright 1980.

<sup>4</sup> Slane Wright 1980, 174.

<sup>5</sup> Slane Wright 1980, 175.

<sup>6</sup> Slane Wright 1980, nos. 5, 9, 14, 18, 20–3, 25, 28–31, 34, 41–4, 46–50, 52, 53.

<sup>7</sup> *Atlante* = Form in *Atlante delle Forme Ceramiche*.

<sup>8</sup> Héron de Villefosse 1899; Baratte 1986.

Table 1. Dining Assemblage from Corinth, 22/3 C.E. (Slane Wright 1980).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	No. in Slane Wright 1980
Arretine	Haltern 2	platter	47.4	3.25	5
ESA <sup>a</sup>	<i>Atlante</i> 29 <sup>b</sup>	plate	13.8	0.15	20
ESA	<i>Atlante</i> 29	plate	14.1	0.15	21
ESA	<i>Atlante</i> 4A	plate	29.3	1.60	18
ESA	<i>Atlante</i> 45	bowl	11.2	0.16	22
ESA	<i>Atlante</i> 45	bowl	16.0	0.60	23
ESB <sup>c</sup>	<i>Atlante</i> 7	plate	17.9	0.36	25
Gray	Haltern 1?	plate	15.0	0.13	34
Gray	unclassified	platter	64.0	–	31
Local	Haltern 1	plate	16.8	0.20	41
Local	Haltern 8	bowl	12.8	0.45	42
Local	ESA 22	bowl	14.2	0.45	47
Local	ESA 42	bowl	13.5	0.40	48
Local	ESA 42	bowl	15.8	0.50	49
Local	ESA 29	plate	17.4	0.38	46
Local	ESA 5	bowl	15.1	0.18	44
Local	ESA 45	bowl	8.5	0.13	50
Local	ESA 4	plate	25.6	1.20	43
Local	unclassified	bowl	14.0	0.50	29
Local	unclassified	bowl	15.5	0.55	30
Local	unclassified	saucer	8.1	0.10	52
Local	unclassified	saucer	8.8	0.10	53

<sup>a</sup> ESA = Eastern Sigillata A

<sup>b</sup> *Atlante* = Form in *Atlante delle Forme Ceramiche*

<sup>c</sup> ESB = Eastern Sigillata B

fine frescoes and figural mosaics that attest to the wealth of its owner. Most of the 109 silver items in the treasure consist of drinking-related vessels such as cups, pitchers, flasks, and paterae. Other pieces are toiletries such as mirrors and washbasins. Only 31 silver pieces can be associated exclusively with dining (not including drinking vessels, spoons, ladles, or small supports for larger vessels). All told, the silver dining set represents a rare probable whole made up of small bowls, plates, “salt cellars,” and service vessels.

#### *Assemblage Description*

The silver table assemblage from the Boscoreale treasure is made up of the same functional categories that are found in the Knossos ceramic table setting and in similar proportions: personal (81%), side dishes (13%), and service vessels (6%). Personal vessels consist of sets of very small bowls (incurved and cup rims), small oval dishes, and plates (flared walls and concave walls).<sup>9</sup> Side dishes consist of four small lion-foot “salters” similar to the larger terra sigillata form Dragendorf 30.<sup>10</sup> Service

<sup>9</sup> Héron de Villefosse 1899, nos. 57–9, 99 (oval dishes), 67–70 (cup-rim bowls), 71–4 (flared-walled plates), 75–83 (incurved-rim bowls), 84–7 (concave-

walled plates).

<sup>10</sup> Héron de Villefosse 1899, nos. 27–30.

Table 2. Dining Assemblage from Boscoreale, First Century C.E. (Héron de Villefosse 1899).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	Nos. in Héron Villefosse 1899
Silver	incurved rim	bowl	5.3	0.032	75–83 (n=9)
Silver	cup rim	bowl	6.5	0.035	67–70 (n=4)
Silver	oval	dish	8.5 x 6.0	0.065	57–9, 99 (n=4)
Silver	flared wall	plate	12.5	0.133	71–4 (n=4)
Silver	concave walled	plate	16.5	0.353	84–7 (n=4)
Silver	lion-foot “salter”	bowl	7.0	0.085	27–30 (n=4)
Silver	pedestal foot	plate	10.8	0.094	66
Silver	ledge rim	plate	36.0	1.520	50

vessels are represented by a small pedestal-foot plate (similar in appearance to those used to serve small fish depicted in Pompeian frescoes) and by a large, ledge-rim platter.<sup>11</sup> The overall character of the Boscoreale dining assemblage is that of individual service.

PAPHOS, 100–120 C.E.

A large deposit from the bottom of a cistern in the House of Dionysos at Paphos (table 3) of Hadrianic date provides a table assemblage for Roman Cyprus.<sup>12</sup> Cistern 5, located in Room ΘΩ, contained a substantial quantity of tablewares representative of ceramic production in the Early Roman Mediterranean: ESA, Eastern Sigillata B (ESB), and Cypriot Sigillata.<sup>13</sup>

The pottery likely belonged to an early second-century phase of the large atrium-style villa in which it was found. The published material that formed the basis for the dining analysis does not consist of the entire deposit. Rather, it consists of representative examples, though the estimated numbers of examples of each type (and their size variants) are provided, lending strength to the analysis results.<sup>14</sup>

#### *Assemblage Description*

The Paphos table assemblage is functionally similar to the Knossos assemblage. The largest functional category is personal vessels, made up of a series of similar flat-floored dishes (ESB

*Atlante* Form 58, ESB *Atlante* Form 60 [small version], and Cypriot Sigillata Forms P11 and P12) and small bowls (Cypriot Sigillata Form P29). Personal vessels make up 62% of the table assemblage. Side dishes, constituting 28% of the total, consist of small dishes (ESA *Atlante* Forms 40/53 and 60, Cypriot Sigillata Forms P22B and P10) and bowls (ESA *Atlante* Forms 50 and 51, ESB *Atlante* Form 80). Service vessels make up 10% of the Paphos table assemblage. These consist of large dishes (ESB *Atlante* Form 60 [large versions]) and large bowls (ESA, unclassified form).

KNOSSOS, LATE SECOND CENTURY C.E.

The ceramic table setting from Roman Knossos (table 4) comes from a large destruction deposit consisting of a number of complete and near-complete vessels.<sup>15</sup> The pottery belongs to the final occupation phase of the so-called Villa Dionysos, a Hellenistic-style peristyle house of the second century C.E.<sup>16</sup> The house features a large *oecus* with a brick-built fountain opposite its entrance in the colonnaded peristyle, providing a decorative element for what was likely the principal dining space in the house. The interpretation of the Villa Dionysos (private house or other) is uncertain. The presence of a long, rectangular room to the south of the peristyle with a niche at one end led to an initial interpretation of the

<sup>11</sup> Héron de Villefosse 1899, nos. 50 (platter), 66 (pedestal-foot plate).

<sup>12</sup> Hayes 1991.

<sup>13</sup> The Italian Sigillata included in Hayes' catalogue are omitted here because they may well be residuals, as is suggested by their early dates and worn nature (Hayes 1991, 193) compared with the

rest of the deposit.

<sup>14</sup> Hayes (1991, 193) notes that sherd count recorded in his catalogue “more or less corresponds to the number of vessels represented.”

<sup>15</sup> Hayes 1983.

<sup>16</sup> Paton 2000, 554.

Table 3. Dining Assemblage from Paphos, 100–120 C.E. (Hayes 1991).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	Nos. in Hayes 1991
ESA <sup>a</sup>	40/53	dish	–	–	3, 4 (n=4)
ESA	50	bowl	7–15 <sup>b</sup>	0.4 <sup>c</sup>	not catalogued (n=2)
ESA	51	bowl	10–13.5 <sup>b</sup>	0.3 <sup>c</sup>	7 (n=6)
ESA	60 (57?)	dish	16	0.25	5 (n=1)
ESA	unclassified	bowl (closed form?)	–	> 1.4	6 (n=1)
ESB <sup>d</sup>	58	dish	12–18 <sup>b</sup>	0.5 <sup>c</sup>	not catalogued (n=7)
ESB	60 (small)	dish	15–18 <sup>b</sup>	0.5 <sup>c</sup>	not catalogued (n=5)
ESB	60 (large)	dish	22–30 <sup>b</sup>	2 <sup>c</sup>	10 (n=6)
ESB	80	bowl	14–20 <sup>b</sup>	0.4 <sup>c</sup>	not catalogued (n=2)
Cypriot Sigillata	P10	saucer	–	–	not catalogued (n=2)
Cypriot Sigillata	P11/12	dish	17–21 <sup>b</sup>	0.6 <sup>c</sup>	11, 12 (n=14)
Cypriot Sigillata	P22B	bowl	11.7	0.28	13 (n=1)
Cypriot Sigillata	P29	bowl	16–20 <sup>b</sup>	0.6 <sup>c</sup>	14 (n=14)

<sup>a</sup> ESA = Eastern Sigillata A

<sup>b</sup> Most common ranges according to *Atlante delle Forme Ceramiche*. All others are actual measurements from vessels in the deposit.

<sup>c</sup> Estimates based on average rim diameter and complete profile drawings in *Atlante delle Forme Ceramiche*

<sup>d</sup> ESB = Eastern Sigillata B

Table 4. Dining Assemblage from Knossos, Late Second Century C.E. (Hayes 1983).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	Nos. in Hayes 1983
ARS <sup>a</sup>	8A	bowl	16	0.55	36 (n=1)
Çandarlı	3	bowl	10–12	0.25	26, 27 (n=16)
Çandarlı	2	shallow bowl	19, 24	0.50, 1.00	8, 10–12 (n=18)
Çandarlı	5	bowl	14.5–15.5	0.65	24, 25 (n=5)
Çandarlı	4	shallow dish	19	0.65	22 (n=10)
Çandarlı	1	deep bowl	30	3.00	4 (n=6)

<sup>a</sup> ARS = African Red Slip Ware

last phase of the villa (second century) as the ritual center of a Dionysian cult rather than a private household.<sup>17</sup> The presence of possible ritual vessels in the destruction deposit (principally ceramic tubs) led Hayes to support the cult interpretation as a possibility.<sup>18</sup> While the anomalous ceramic tubs are intriguing, they are far outnumbered in the deposit by vessels of domestic nature, such as table, cooking, and storage vessels.<sup>19</sup> An alternate interpretation is offered by Paton, who suggests the villa was a private residence that belonged to a prominent citizen of Knossos.<sup>20</sup>

The table assemblage from the destruction deposit in the rooms south of the peristyle is made up of 50 complete or near-complete fine table vessels. With the exception of a single example of African Red Slip Ware (ARS), the assemblage is entirely in Çandarlı Ware vessels.<sup>21</sup> While only representative examples from the deposit were catalogued and published, Hayes provides counts for each form and their size variants, which allow for a more secure analysis of the dining material.

#### *Assemblage Description*

The Knossos table assemblage is divided into three functional categories: personal (66%), side dishes (20%), and service vessels (14%). Personal vessels are made up of sets of small bowls (Çandarlı Form 3) and shallow dishes (Çandarlı Form 2). Side dishes consist of three different types that are uncommon or uniquely represented in the deposit (Çandarlı Forms 4 and 5 and ARS Form 8A). Service vessels are large examples of shallow dishes (Çandarlı Form 2) and deep bowls (Çandarlı Form 1). The functional composition of the Knossos assemblage makes it best suited for personal service, where food is portioned out equally to individual diners.

EPHESOS, MID THIRD CENTURY C.E.

The Ephesian table assemblage (table 5) consists of a small destruction deposit from

Room 14 of Wohneinheit 4 in Hanghaus 2.<sup>22</sup> Three different production centers are represented in the deposit (ESB, Çandarlı, and ARS), which dates to the mid third century C.E.<sup>23</sup> The deposit may be the result of destruction to the house during a period of increased seismic activity that occurred in the region during the second half of the third century C.E.<sup>24</sup> Wohneinheit 4, in which the deposit was found, was a richly decorated courtyard house that included frescoed walls, marble floors, and Corinthian capitals.<sup>25</sup> However, during the later phases of the residential area, to which the dining assemblage belongs, the house had shrunk in size as a larger neighboring house encroached in the northwest corner.<sup>26</sup> The analysis of the dining assemblage can only be considered provisional, since much of the originally excavated material was discarded during the early years of the Hanghaus 2 excavations.<sup>27</sup> However, the pottery that was saved should be considered representative of the whole, consisting of well-preserved examples of the different forms that made up the deposit.

#### *Assemblage Description*

The mid third-century table assemblage from Ephesos consists of personal vessels (56%), side dishes (22%), and service vessels (22%). Personal vessels are made up of two sets of bowls (Çandarlı Form 3, ARS Form 44).<sup>28</sup> Side dishes consist of a small bowl (Çandarlı Form 5) and a medium-sized dish (ESB late Form 60).<sup>29</sup> Service vessels are represented by a large bowl (ESB late Form 60) and a large dish (ARS Form 50A).<sup>30</sup> The functional composition of the assemblage indicates a dining tradition centered on the individual with individual service.

KAISERAUGST, THE KAISERAUGST TREASURE, MID FOURTH CENTURY C.E.

The Kaiseraugst treasure (table 6) was accidentally discovered by a bulldozing crew

<sup>17</sup> Catling 1971, 22.

<sup>18</sup> Hayes 1983, 102.

<sup>19</sup> Hayes 1983.

<sup>20</sup> Paton 2000, 560.

<sup>21</sup> Hayes 1983.

<sup>22</sup> Ladstätter 2002.

<sup>23</sup> Ladstätter 2002, 19–21.

<sup>24</sup> Ladstätter 2002, 39.

<sup>25</sup> Thür 2002, 43.

<sup>26</sup> Thür 2002, 45.

<sup>27</sup> Ladstätter 2002, 35.

<sup>28</sup> Ladstätter 2002, nos. 4–6 (ARS Form 44), 7, 8 (Çandarlı Form 3).

<sup>29</sup> Ladstätter 2002, nos. 2 (ESB late Form 60), 9 (Çandarlı Form 5).

<sup>30</sup> Ladstätter 2002, nos. 1 (ESB late Form 60), 3 (ARS Form 50A).

Table 5. Dining Assemblage from Ephesos, Mid Third Century C.E. (Ladstätter 2002).<sup>a</sup>

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters) <sup>b</sup>	No. in Ladstätter 2002
ESB <sup>c</sup>	60	dish	36?	>4.50	1
ESB	60	dish	24?	1.30	2
ARS <sup>d</sup>	50A	dish	32?	3.40	3
ARS	44	bowl	12.5?	0.16	4
ARS	44	bowl	11?	0.15	5
ARS	44	bowl	–	–	6
Çandarlı	3	bowl	12?	0.25	7
Çandarlı	3	bowl	12?	0.27	8
Çandarlı	5	bowl	11?	0.20	9

<sup>a</sup> Rim diameters and capacities are estimates based on the illustrated assemblage in Ladstätter (2002, pl. 26) with an assumed scale of 1:3, which places each form within their respective known typological parameters.

<sup>b</sup> Rough estimate

<sup>c</sup> ESB = Eastern Sigillata B

<sup>d</sup> ARS = African Red Slip Ware

within the Roman Castrum Rauracense at Kaiseraugst, Switzerland.<sup>31</sup> The treasure is best known for its series of large platters, which includes a *largittio* from Emperor Constans, providing a mid fourth-century date for the assemblage. The current composition of the Kaiseraugst treasure is the result of 35 years of acquisition and includes—in addition to the large silver platters—spoons, drinking cups, small bowls, and other silver objects. In 1995, 18 additional silver vessels were anonymously turned over to the Archaeological Service of Kanton Aargau, including a series of small plates that were confidently identified as part of the original Kaiseraugst treasure. These flesh out the table assemblage, but it remains uncertain whether more items are missing.<sup>32</sup>

#### Assemblage Description

The silver table setting from the Kaiseraugst treasure is made up of personal vessels (80%), side dishes (10%), and service vessels (10%). Personal vessels are made up of sets of

small plates, hemispherical dishes, and small ledge-rim bowls in quantities suitable for a service of six.<sup>33</sup> Side dishes consist of a small oval plate and a rectangular plate with small reserves on the short ends.<sup>34</sup> Service vessels are represented by two large ledge-rim bowls.<sup>35</sup> The Kaiseraugst table assemblage is functionally composed to offer individual focus with individual service.

#### ROME, THE ESQUILINE TREASURE, SECOND HALF OF THE FOURTH CENTURY C.E.

The Esquiline treasure (table 7) is a large Late Roman silver hoard discovered at the base of the Esquiline Hill in Rome in 1793.<sup>36</sup> The treasure is best known for the Proiecta casket, a large silver toiletry casket that bears an inscription identifying the owner as a young bride named Proiecta Turcii, wife of Turcius Secundus.<sup>37</sup> Since its discovery, the content of the Esquiline treasure has grown as more items were attributed (some incorrectly) to the treasure; by the mid 20th century, the

<sup>31</sup> Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984; Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999.

<sup>32</sup> Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, 336–37.

<sup>33</sup> Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, nos. 101–6 (small plates), 107–11 (hemispherical dishes); Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, nos. 47–50 (small ledge-rim bowls).

<sup>34</sup> Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, nos. 53 (rectangular plate), 54 (small oval plate).

<sup>35</sup> Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, nos. 51, 52 (large ledge-rim bowls), 112 (large hemispherical bowl).

<sup>36</sup> Shelton 1981, 1985; Cameron 1985.

<sup>37</sup> Shelton 1981.

Table 6. Dining Assemblage from the Kaiseraugst Treasure, Mid Fourth Century C.E. (Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984; Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	Reference
Silver	plate	beaded rim	16.00	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 101
Silver	plate	beaded rim	16.30	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 102
Silver	plate	plain rim	14.95	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 103
Silver	plate	plain rim	14.95	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 104
Silver	plate	plain rim	15.00	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 105
Silver	plate	plain rim	14.90	0.30 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 106
Silver	dish	hemispherical	19.00	0.65 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 107
Silver	dish	hemispherical	20.50	0.70 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 108
Silver	dish	hemispherical	20.30	0.70 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 109
Silver	dish	hemispherical	20.60	0.70 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 110
Silver	dish	hemispherical	21.50	0.85 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 111
Silver	bowl	hemispherical	23.50	1.40 <sup>a</sup>	Kaufmann-Heinimann 1999, no. 112
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	15.60	0.37	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 47
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	15.70	0.35	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 48
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	15.60	0.35	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 49
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	15.60	0.36	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 50
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	25.00	1.75	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 51
Silver	bowl	ledge rim	42.80	7.25	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 52
Silver	plate	oval	18.60 x 10.00	0.15	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 54
Silver	plate	rectangular	25.00 x 14.00	0.45	Cahn and Kaufmann-Heinimann 1984, no. 53

<sup>a</sup> Rough estimate

treasure had grown from roughly 30 pieces to more than 60 pieces.<sup>38</sup> Of the 30 original pieces described by Visconti in 1793, only 27 remain. In addition to the Proiecta casket, medallions, figurines, and furniture fixtures, the treasure includes a set of monogrammed plates and rectangular dishes. These vessels make up the core of the table assemblage, along with a large

fluted dish and a platter that was described in the original Visconti publication but has since been lost.<sup>39</sup>

#### *Assemblage Description*

The silver table assemblage from the Esquiline treasure consists of personal vessels (82%) and service vessels (18%). Personal ves-

<sup>38</sup> Shelton 1981, 19–23.

<sup>39</sup> Visconti 1827; Shelton 1981, 23 n. 13.

Table 7. Dining Assemblage from the Esquiline Treasure, Second Half of Fourth Century C.E. (Shelton 1981).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters) <sup>a</sup>	No. in Shelton 1981
Silver	plate	ring foot	16.1	0.3	5
Silver	plate	ring foot	16.1	0.3	6
Silver	plate	ring foot	16.1	0.3	7
Silver	plate	ring foot	16.1	0.3	8
Silver	plate	rectangular	20.2 x 14.6	0.3	9
Silver	plate	rectangular	20.2 x 14.6	0.3	10
Silver	plate	rectangular	20.2 x 14.6	0.3	11
Silver	plate	rectangular	20.2 x 14.6	0.3	12
Silver	plate	rectangular	20.2 x 14.6	0.3	–
Silver	plate	pie-crust rim	26.0?	1.3?	13
Silver	dish	fluted dish	56.2	9.0	4

<sup>a</sup> Rough estimate

sels are made up of small ring-foot plates and rectangular plates.<sup>40</sup> Service vessels consist of a large fluted dish and a pie-crust plate.<sup>41</sup> There do not appear to be side dishes in the Esquiline treasure, though such vessels could have been of another material, such as glass, and not been preserved as part of the treasure. The small monogrammed plates and dishes, functionally identified as personal vessels, are ideal for a dining tradition that emphasized individual service.

APHRODISIAS, LATE FOURTH/EARLY FIFTH CENTURY C.E.

The table assemblage from Aphrodisias (table 8) consists of table vessels from a floor deposit in a room of a house belonging to a larger insula block south of the stadium.<sup>42</sup> The deposit was located immediately beneath fill that supported another floor, suggesting the pottery was deposited as part of a destruction event that resulted in repairs to the structure

without much cleanup. The pottery from the fill included all functional categories representative of a household, including vessels for storage, cooking, and eating. The table assemblage consists entirely of locally produced bowls, with the exception of a single large dish from Sagalassos that likely dates to the late fourth or early fifth century.<sup>43</sup>

*Assemblage Description*

The Aphrodisias table assemblage consists of personal vessels (72%), side dishes (14%), and service vessels (14%). Personal vessels are made up of typologically consistent, small simple-rim bowls of local production similar to the earlier ARS Form 17B.<sup>44</sup> Side dishes consist of a single example of a shallow simple-rim bowl with gouged exterior decoration.<sup>45</sup> Service vessels are represented by a single large ledge-rim bowl from Sagalassos.<sup>46</sup> The functional composition of the Aphrodisias table assemblage, with its preponderance of small personal vessels,

<sup>40</sup> Shelton 1981, nos. 5–8 (ring-foot plates [and possibly a missing fifth example]), 9–12 (rectangular plates [plus a fifth documented missing example]).

<sup>41</sup> Shelton 1981, no. 4 (fluted dish). It may be that the large fluted dish belonged to a personal toilette rather than the dining assemblage. The pie-crust plate (Shelton 1981, no. 13) is a piece from the Mâcon treasure used to replace the example recorded in the original find catalogue written by Visconti in 1793 (Shelton 1981, 23 n. 13).

<sup>42</sup> Hudson 2008, 321 (Context 1).

<sup>43</sup> Sagalassos Red Slip Ware (SRSW) dish: Poblome Form 1B230-3 (Hudson 2008, 321, 333–34, cat. no. 1.2). For dating, see Poblome 1999, 307. Another fragment of SRSW was found in the floor deposit, but because of its small size and earlier date of no later than the third century, I have determined it to be residual.

<sup>44</sup> Hudson 2008, nos. 1.4–1.8 (simple-rim bowls).

<sup>45</sup> Hudson 2008, no. 1.3.

<sup>46</sup> Hudson 2008, no. 1.2.



Table 8. Dining Assemblage from Aphrodisias, Late Fourth/Early Fifth Century C.E. (Hudson 2008).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	No. in Hudson 2008
SRSW <sup>a</sup>	1B231/2	bowl	27	>1.60	1.2
Brittle	decorated simple rim	bowl	18	0.56	1.3
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	15	0.48	1.4
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	15	0.59	1.5
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	15	0.48	1.6
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	13	0.32	1.7
Tan micaceous	simple rim	bowl	13	0.34	1.8
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	14	0.43	2.1
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	15	0.48	2.2
Brittle	triangular rim	bowl	19	0.87	2.4
Brittle	simple rim	bowl	15.5	0.56	3.2

<sup>a</sup>SRSW = Sagalassos Red Slip Ware

indicates a dining tradition at Aphrodisias that emphasized individual service.

#### SAGALASSOS, LATE FOURTH/EARLY FIFTH CENTURY C.E.

The Late Roman table assemblage from Sagalassos in Pisidia (table 9) comes from a domestic area that was converted from public spaces that flanked the west sides of the Neon Library next to the theater in the northeastern section of the city.<sup>47</sup> The space was transformed into a house following a fire that led to the abandonment of the library as a public building in the second half of the fourth century.<sup>48</sup> The house consisted of modest rooms with simple beaten-earth floors, and the occupation appears to have been brief, as the rooms were destroyed by another fire at the beginning of the fifth century.<sup>49</sup>

The table assemblage, which consists entirely of Sagalassos Red Slip Ware (SRSW), is made up of the large number of table vessel sherds from the destruction layers associated with the fifth-century fire.<sup>50</sup> The pottery has so

far only been published as part of Poblome's typology of SRSW and was used to determine the chronological ranges of the forms in the deposit.<sup>51</sup> As such, the publication of the layers includes raw counts of vessel types but not catalogue entries or profiles, which means my analysis is based on size averages of types present in the assemblage.<sup>52</sup> Therefore, the specifics of the analysis are less accurate than other deposits for which access to individual vessel dimensions and profiles were available.

#### Assemblage Description

The Sagalassos table assemblage is functionally similar to the Alexandrian assemblage, made up of shared vessels (39.3%), side dishes (47.4%), and service vessels (13.3%). Shared vessels consist of a series of typologically distinct but morphologically similar knobbed-rim bowls (Poblome Forms 1B200, 1B210, 1B220, 1B221). Side dishes are made up of a mixed group of small simple-rim bowls, small knobbed-rim bowls, ledge-rim dishes, and shallow dishes with decorated rims.<sup>53</sup> Service

<sup>47</sup> Waelkens et al. 1995, 60.

<sup>48</sup> Waelkens et al. 1995, 60–1.

<sup>49</sup> Waelkens et al. 1995, 60–1.

<sup>50</sup> Poblome 1999, 194–95 (deposits from site LW, destruction layers 9–14). The quantity of material from these layers suggests that much of it cannot be associated with the living context of the house. The destruction layers were selected for analysis because they were completely excavated, and the material

was presented in full.

<sup>51</sup> Poblome 1999.

<sup>52</sup> Type averages are listed in detail in Poblome 1999, 30–178.

<sup>53</sup> Simple-rim bowls: Poblome Forms 1B130, 1B170; small knobbed-rim bowls: Poblome Form 1B190; small ledge-rim dish: Poblome Form 1B230; decorated-rim dish: Poblome Form 1B233; flaring-wall dish: Poblome Form 1C100.

Table 9. Dining Assemblage from Sagalassos, Late Fourth/Early Fifth Century C.E.<sup>a</sup>

Ware	Form	Shape	Sherd Count	Rim Diam. (cm) <sup>b</sup>	Capacity (liters) <sup>c</sup>
SRSW <sup>d</sup>	1B130	bowl	225	14.0	0.40
SRSW	1B170	bowl	21	15.0	0.35
SRSW	1B190	bowl	38	14.0	0.40
SRSW	1B200	bowl	3	25.0	2.00
SRSW	1B210	bowl	30	26.5	2.60
SRSW	1B220	bowl	150	26.0	2.50
SRSW	1B221	bowl	76	28.0	2.70
SRSW	1B230	dish	6	17.0	0.40
SRSW	1B231	dish	1	26.5	1.80
SRSW	1B232	dish	21	26.0	1.10
SRSW	1B233	dish	4	19.0	0.60
SRSW	1C100	dish	83	12.7	0.15
SRSW	1C140	dish	41	31.0	1.90
SRSW	1C180	dish	21	30.0	1.10
SRSW	1C181	dish	1	30.0	1.00
SRSW	1C182	dish	3	31.0	1.40

<sup>a</sup> Original raw data in Poblome 1999, table 9 (Site LW, Layer 9-14C)

<sup>b</sup> Median of each type presented in the SRSW typology (Poblome 1999)

<sup>c</sup> Estimates based on medians

<sup>d</sup> SRSW = Sagalassos Red Slip Ware

vessels consist of a variety of large bowls and shallow dishes of different shapes.<sup>54</sup> The Sagalassos table assemblage, consisting of many shared vessels and lacking identifiable personal vessels, represents the earliest example presented here of a dining tradition that emphasized group or shared service.

HACIMUSALAR, LATE FIFTH/EARLY SIXTH CENTURY C.E.

The table assemblage from Hacimusalar, ancient Choma in Lycia (table 10), is part of a deposit of household pottery from the northern area of the Roman town.<sup>55</sup> The deposit was found close to the lower courses of a wall dating to the Hellenistic period. The absence of an identifiable floor associated with the deposit and the disparity of the early date for the wall

suggest the deposit is a dump resulting from the cleanup or removal of a domestic area elsewhere on the site. The deposit consists of 41 household vessels, of which 44% make up the table assemblage, consisting of imported and imitation bowls and dishes.

#### *Assemblage Description*

The Hacimusalar table assemblage is made up of shared vessels (39%), side dishes (39%), and service vessels (22%). Shared vessels consist of a single ceramic type of large collar-rim bowl (Phocaeian Red Slip [PRS] Form 3), but in a variety of wares. Side dishes are made up of small bowls of different types and shapes from a variety of sources, including Cyprus and Phocaea as well as local versions of forms produced at those larger centers. Service ves-

<sup>54</sup> Poblome Forms 1B231, 1B232, 1C140, 1C180, 1C181, 1C182.

<sup>55</sup> The discussion of the late fifth-/early sixth-century deposit from Hacimusalar is based on personal

study during the 2005 field season with the Bilkent University excavations under the direction of Ilknur Özgen and Mark Garrison of Trinity University.

Table 10. Dining Assemblage from Hacimusalar, Late Fifth/Early Sixth Century C.E.

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	Excavation Nos.
PRS <sup>a</sup>	1 (variant)	bowl	11	0.2 <sup>b</sup>	13738.1
PRS	1 (variant)	bowl	–	–	13738.2
PRS	3	bowl	26	1.8 <sup>b</sup>	13734.5
PRS	3	bowl	large	–	13738.43
PRS	3	bowl	large	–	13738.10
PRS	3	bowl	large	–	13737.2
Imitation PRS	1	bowl	28	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	13738.24
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	26	1.7 <sup>b</sup>	13738.25
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	32	3.5	13737.1, 13738.23, 14095.1
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	15	0.4 <sup>b</sup>	13738.3
Imitation PRS	5	bowl	33	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	14537.3
CRS <sup>c</sup>	2	bowl	18	0.65 <sup>b</sup>	13734.3
CRS	4	bowl	17	0.4	13734.4
Imitation CRS	6	bowl	19	0.5 <sup>b</sup>	13738.4
Imitation CRS	6	bowl	18	0.6	13715.1
Local?	ledge rim	bowl	32	2.8	14095.2
Local?	unidentified large base	bowl	–	–	13732.2
Local?	ledge rim	bowl	34	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	13732.1

<sup>a</sup> PRS = Phocaeen Red Slip Ware

<sup>b</sup> Rough estimate

<sup>c</sup> CRS = Cypriot Red Slip Ware

sels are made up of large bowls and dishes of different forms. All service vessels are either of probable local production or regional imitations of Cypriot or Phocaeen productions. The Hacimusalar table assemblage is functionally suited for shared service that placed emphasis on the group over the individual.

SARDIS, MID SIXTH CENTURY C.E.

The Sardis table assemblage (table 11) comes from a large deposit of domestic vessels from the so-called Hilltop Well in the residential district south of the Bath-Gymnasium Complex.<sup>56</sup> Based on numismatic evidence and ceramic types, the deposit dates to the mid sixth century C.E. This date places its use context in the

midst of civic stress at Sardis.<sup>57</sup> The stresses of the sixth century are reflected in the residential quarter from which the deposit comes, made up of once finely adorned townhouses now divided into multiple living spaces.<sup>58</sup> The deposit itself is a single-event dump that marked the end of the Hilltop Well.<sup>59</sup> It consists of more than 20 amphoras and a variety of household pottery including a large quantity of table vessels, which make up the table assemblage.<sup>60</sup>

#### *Assemblage Description*

The table assemblage from Sardis is made up of shared vessels (38%), side dishes (34%), and service vessels (28%). Shared vessels consist of a single collar-rim bowl type (PRS Form

<sup>56</sup> Rautman 1995.

<sup>57</sup> Foss 1976, 12.

<sup>58</sup> Rautman 1995, 37.

<sup>59</sup> Rautman 1995, 40

<sup>60</sup> Rautman 1995 ("Deposit 2").

Table 11. Dining Assemblage from Sardis, Mid Sixth Century C.E. (Rautman 1995).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	No. in Rautman 1995
ARS <sup>a</sup>	91B/C	bowl	13	0.60 <sup>b</sup>	2.80
ARS	99C	bowl	18	0.80 <sup>b</sup>	2.90
ARS	104A	shallow dish	–	–	2.10
PRS <sup>c</sup>	5	shallow dish	18	0.40 <sup>b</sup>	2.20
PRS	5	shallow dish	28	1.30 <sup>b</sup>	2.19
PRS	3	bowl	21	0.66	2.15
PRS	3B	bowl	–	–	2.12
PRS	3C	bowl	–	–	2.13
PRS	3E	bowl	25	1.30 <sup>b</sup>	2.14
PRS	3F	bowl	25	1.40 <sup>b</sup>	2.18
PRS	3E	bowl	26	1.60	2.16
PRS	3E	bowl	26	1.70 <sup>b</sup>	2.17
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	13	0.55	2.28
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	16	0.31	2.26
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	16	0.42	2.25
Imitation PRS	3	bowl	16	0.50 <sup>b</sup>	2.29
Imitation PRS	3D/F	bowl	23	1.20 <sup>b</sup>	2.27
Imitation PRS	3F	bowl	26	1.70 <sup>b</sup>	2.24
Imitation PRS	3F	bowl	28	2.00	2.30
Local plain	PRS 3	bowl	24	1.33	2.65
AMF <sup>d</sup>	PRS 3?	bowl	18	1.00 <sup>b</sup>	2.43
AMF	unclassified	dish	22	1.10 <sup>b</sup>	2.38
AMF	unclassified	dish	–	–	2.37
AMF	PRS 3	bowl	–	–	2.36
AMF	PRS 3	bowl	–	–	2.35
AMF	ledge rim	shallow dish	34	1.80	2.40
AMF	knob rim	shallow dish	38	1.80 <sup>b</sup>	2.34
AMF	vertical rim	shallow dish	30	1.60	2.39
AMF	pedestal base	dish	–	–	2.41
AMF	pedestal base	dish	–	–	2.42
Local plain	unclassified	bowl	13	0.43	2.67
Local plain	unclassified	bowl	14	0.60 <sup>b</sup>	2.66

<sup>a</sup> ARS = African Red Slip Ware

<sup>b</sup> Rough estimate

<sup>c</sup> PRS = Phocaeen Red Slip Ware

<sup>d</sup> AMF = Asia Minor fabric (Rautman 1995, 42)

3), present in its original ware and other local wares that imitate the form.<sup>61</sup> Side dishes are of a variety of small bowls and dishes of different types, including small versions of PRS Form 3.<sup>62</sup> Service vessels consist of large dishes of a variety of types.<sup>63</sup> The mid sixth-century Sardis table assemblage is functionally composed to offer dining based on group service.

#### ALEXANDRIA, EARLY SEVENTH CENTURY C.E.

The early seventh-century table assemblage from Alexandria (table 12) comes from a large household deposit. The deposit was recovered from a latrine in the back of a modest townhouse that was part of a larger insula located northeast of the Roman theater and southeast of the large Roman baths.<sup>64</sup> Occupation of the townhouse ended in the beginning of the seventh century, marked by a substantial destruction level that may be the result of a Persian raid.<sup>65</sup> The latrine deposit has been interpreted as a dump for the occupants of the last phase of the house that was sealed by the collapsed walls during the house's ultimate destruction.<sup>66</sup> In addition to pottery, the deposit included many glass vessels (consisting entirely of drinking and decanting vessels and a few small bottles), lamps, and coins. The coin evidence helps secure an early seventh-century date.<sup>67</sup> The deposit was sealed and undisturbed at the time of excavation, presenting a rich picture of the last ceramic use-phase of the house, so the deposit was published in its entirety.<sup>68</sup>

#### *Assemblage Description*

The Alexandrian table assemblage consists of shared vessels (40%), side dishes (43%),

and service vessels (17%). Shared vessels are made up of three different groups defined by different shapes: (1) ledge-rim bowls, (2) hammer-head rim bowls, and (3) knobbed-rim bowls.<sup>69</sup> The quantities of each set are such that each could be used for a single dinner of at least eight diners, providing each vessel is shared by two people. Side dishes consist of a large group of small bowls and dishes of a wide variety of shapes.<sup>70</sup> Service vessels are made up of a large heavy-rim bowl, a large flanged bowl, and a large pedestal-foot plate.<sup>71</sup> The functional categories present in the Alexandrian table assemblage are best suited for dining that emphasizes shared service, where food was portioned out to groups of diners, rather than to individuals.

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<sup>61</sup> Rautman 1995, nos. 2.12–2.14, 2.16–2.18, 2.24, 2.27, 2.30, 2.35, 2.36, 2.65.

<sup>62</sup> Types of side dishes include ARS Form 91B/C (Rautman 1995, no. 2.8), ARS Form 99C (Rautman 1995, no. 2.9), PRS Form 3 (Rautman 1995, nos. 2.15, 2.25, 2.26, 2.29), PRS Form 5 (Rautman 1995, no. 2.20), and other nonclassified small bowls and dishes (Rautman 1995, nos. 2.28, 2.43, 2.66, 2.67).

<sup>63</sup> ARS Form 104A (Rautman 1995, no. 2.10), PRS Form 5 (Rautman 1995, no. 2.19), various dishes of Asia Minor fabric forms (Rautman 1995, 2.34, 2.37–2.42).

<sup>64</sup> Rodziewicz 1984 (Maison D, Room D9).

<sup>65</sup> Rodziewicz 1984, 235.

<sup>66</sup> Rodziewicz 1984, 234–35.

<sup>67</sup> Rodziewicz 1984, 109.

<sup>68</sup> Rodziewicz 1984, 235.

<sup>69</sup> Ledge-rim bowls: ARS Form 107 (Rodziewicz

1984, nos. 1, 2), Egyptian Red Slip Ware (ERS) Hayes Form R (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 19), ERS Rodziewicz Form W15? (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 25); hammer-head rim bowls: PRS Form 3F/10 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 4), ERS Rodziewicz Form O40 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 7), ERS Rodziewicz Form O42 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 8–10), ERS Rodziewicz Form K26 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 28); knobbed-rim bowls/dishes: ERS Rodziewicz Form O9 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 26), ERS Rodziewicz Form K24 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 27), ERS Rodziewicz Form K25 (Rodziewicz 1984, nos. 29–31, 31A).

<sup>70</sup> Rodziewicz 1984, nos. 5, 6, 11–13, 15–18, 21, 23, 32, 33, 40, 41.

<sup>71</sup> Heavy-rim bowl: ERS Rodziewicz Form K24 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 34); flanged bowl: ERS Rodziewicz Form O24 (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 22); pedestal-foot plate: unclassified ERS (Rodziewicz 1984, no. 14).

Table 12. Dining Assemblage from Alexandria, Early Seventh Century C.E. (Rodziewicz 1984).

Ware	Form	Shape	Rim Diam. (cm)	Capacity (liters)	No. in Rodziewicz 1984
ARS <sup>a</sup>	107	bowl	32	1.70 <sup>b</sup>	1
ARS	107	bowl	27	–	2
PRS <sup>c</sup>	10	bowl	14	0.50 <sup>b</sup>	3
PRS	3F/10	bowl	23	1.40	4
CRS <sup>d</sup>	9	dish	14	0.30	5
CRS	9	dish	18	0.70	6
ERS <sup>e</sup>	K3	bowl	12	0.40	40
ERS	K15	bowl	13.5	0.30	33
ERS	Hayes R	bowl	30	1.50 <sup>b</sup>	19
ERS	K24	bowl	28	3.00	34
ERS	K24	bowl	24	1.50	27
ERS	K25	dish	30	2.00	31A
ERS	K25	dish	31	2.50	31
ERS	K25	dish	30	2.30 <sup>b</sup>	30
ERS	K25	dish	30	–	29
ERS	K26	bowl	24	–	28
ERS	K32	bowl	14	0.50	41
ERS	W15?	bowl	–	–	25
ERS	O6	bowl	15	0.70	23
ERS	O7	dish	17	0.60 <sup>b</sup>	13
ERS	O9	dish	–	–	26
ERS	O21	bowl	11	0.20	17
ERS	O21	bowl	11	0.20	18
ERS	O24	bowl	26	3.00 <sup>b</sup>	22
ERS	O29	dish	22	0.80	11
ERS	O35	bowl	8	0.10	16
ERS	O35	bowl	11	0.20	15
ERS	O38	dish	21	0.75	12
ERS	O40	bowl	19	1.00	7
ERS	O42	bowl	23	1.50	8
ERS	O42	bowl	21	1.10	9
ERS	O42	bowl	22	1.20	10
ERS	O46	bowl	12	0.20	21
ERS	unclassified	bowl	11	0.15	32
ERS	unclassified	bowl	13	0.40	38
ERS	unclassified	dish	30	1.40	14

<sup>a</sup> ARS = African Red Slip Ware

<sup>b</sup> Rough estimate

<sup>c</sup> PRS = Phocaeen Red Slip Ware

<sup>d</sup> CRS = Cypriot Red Slip Ware

<sup>e</sup> ERS = Egyptian Red Slip Ware (Rodziewicz 1976, unless otherwise noted)

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