



Publikationen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts

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The Antandros Necropolis: An Evaluation in Light of Research Carried Out in 2001–2018

in: Pirson et al. - Hellenistic Funerary Culture in Pergamon and the Aeolis: A Collection of Current Approaches and New Results

<https://doi.org/10.34780/ndah5n46>

Herausgebende Institution / Publisher:
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

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The Antandros Necropolis: An Evaluation in Light of Research Carried Out in 2001–2018

Kahraman Yağız

The ancient city of Antandros is located within the boundaries of the Altınoluk municipality in the Edremit district of Balıkesir Province (fig. 1). The ancient city is situated 2.5 km east of Altınoluk, on the southern skirts of Mount Ida, spread across the peak and western slopes of Kaletaşı Hill, 215 m above sea level¹. The necropolis of the city lies about 800 m west of the site, between the hill and the seashore running parallel to it, at a distance of 20 m from the shoreline² (fig. 2).

The graves in the Antandros necropolis are located on the north and south sides of the 4 m wide, hard beaten-earth ancient road passing through the necropolis. This east-west oriented road runs parallel to the shoreline and connects Antandros to Gargara, another ancient city of the region. Studies reveal that the road had been in use since the Archaic period and was relocated 2 m to the south in the late Roman period³.

The earliest archaeological work at the Antandros necropolis was undertaken by the Bursa Museum in 1991 and 1995, and it was established that the necropolis was used from the 7th to the 2nd century BC⁴. Later, systematic excavations began in 2001 under the direction of Prof. Gürcan Polat from the Department of Archaeology at Ege University.

This study focuses on the graves unearthed between the years 2001 and 2018. However, certain data from salvage excavations have been integrated into the study where it is necessary.

Excavations conducted at the necropolis of Antandros in 2001–2018 revealed a total of 519 graves; of these, two are from the late Geometric period, 195 are from the Archaic period, 88 are from the Classical period, 187 are from the Hellenistic period, one is from the Roman period, one is from the Byzantine period and 45 could not be dated with certainty. Thus, the

earliest burials of the necropolis date to the late Geometric period: the cremation burial of grave no. 171 and the cist burial of grave no. 192 (fig. 3). The cremation burial is dated to the late 8th – early 7th century BC based on a kantharos found among the remains⁵. Inside the cist burial of grave no. 192, a bronze hair spiral and five knucklebones were found; unfortunately, these were insufficient to securely date the burial⁶. However, the fact that grave no. 192 was about 0.40 m below grave no. 171 indicates an earlier date for grave no. 192. Even though the graves in question do not present sufficient data regarding burial practices of the period, they are important as they provide evidence for the use of the necropolis from at least the late 8th century BC onwards.

When examining the Archaic period of the necropolis, a great increase in both number and variety of graves is observed. A total of 195 graves are known from the Archaic phase of the necropolis consisting of primary and secondary cremation burials, inhumations in amphorae, hydriae, khytrae, pithoi, or terracotta sarcophagi, and simple earth burials (fig. 4). Additionally, salvage excavations by the Bursa Museum revealed stone sarcophagi graves from the Archaic period.

The cremation burials of the Archaic period are classified as primary cremations, secondary cremations with urns and secondary cremations without urns. By 2018, 43 primary cremations, 51 secondary cremations with urns and one secondary cremation without urn, thus a total of 95 cremation graves have been recorded. In the primary cremation burials, bones were roughly gathered together and covered with stones and earth after the cremation process (fig. 5)⁷. These graves yielded small amounts of grave goods, usually consisting of fibulae and Corinthian aryballoi. Burn marks on some of the vessels indicate

1 Polat 2003, 21.

2 Polat 2008, 272.

3 Polat – Polat 2007, 6 f. fig. 28.

4 Yalman 1993, 449–469; Özeren et al. 1997, 161–177.

5 Polat et al. 2007, 50; Polat – Polat 2007, 2 fig. 5.

6 Polat et al. 2007, 50 f. fig. 5; Polat – Polat 2007, 2 fig. 4.

7 Polat – Polat 2006, 96; Polat – Polat 2007, 2; Yağız 2015, 708 fig. 1.



1 Location of Antandros

that the gifts were deposited near the end of the cremation process. The burn marks on Corinthian aryballoi in particular support this argument. Also, fragments of amphorae and kitchen vessels have been found in and around cremation areas. These must be fragments of vessels thrown into the cremation area after libations and feasts that took place at the grave site. Similar practices have been observed in centres such as Klazomenai, Assos and Khios/Rizari⁸. Additionally, the presence of burnt bones from bovine and ovine animals and birds suggests rituals practised at the grave site⁹.

In the case of secondary cremations, the cremation process was conducted at a different site. After the completion of the cremation process, the individual's

ashes and bones were put inside an urn which was later buried in the necropolis. Urns were placed in the ground either horizontally or vertically, and were supported by medium-sized stones placed around the urn, while the mouths of the urns were sealed using different vessels that served both as lids and burial gifts¹⁰. These vessels were usually kylixes with band or bird decorations and of Ionian form, except in one instance where the covering vessel was a terracotta phiale¹¹. As for urns, mostly amphorae were used. Out of 51 urn burials, 43 burials used an amphora as the urn. The remaining eight burials were inside five khytrae, an olpe, a hydria and a vessel similar to a dinos. Urns from the second half of the 7th century BC consisted of grey and red fabric vessels with handles running from

⁸ For Klazomenai see Hürmüzli 2003, 243–244; for Assos see Utili 1996, 123; for Rizari see Lemos 1997, 76.

⁹ Yıldız 2006, 113.

¹⁰ Polat – Polat 2004, 457 fig. 11.

¹¹ Polat 2008, 274.



2 Location of the necropolis and other settlements



3 Cist grave (grave no. 192). – Finds from a primary cremation (grave no. 171)

neck to shoulder¹². Urns from the 6th century BC were grey fabric amphorae with handles on the shoulders and with incised line decorations¹³.

A unique example of secondary cremation without an urn was grave no. 338. This grave contained cremated bones placed inside a pit dug into the earth and was covered with a plate in orientalising style¹⁴. Since 1999, 27 examples of this type of burial have been recorded in the Assos necropolis¹⁵. Additionally, similar examples are known from Lagina in Caria. However, these have been mostly dated to the 5th–4th centuries BC¹⁶.

Anthropological studies on both the primary and secondary cremation burials reveal that all adult individuals were subjected to cremation without a distinction in gender in the second half of the 7th century BC. Also, it has been established that the youngest cremated individual was a 6 ½ year old child¹⁷. These data coincide with Pliny's statement, »It is the custom of most nations not to burn the bodies of children who die before they have cut their teeth.« (Plin. Nat. 7, 16. 67–70, 70–73). This custom observed during the second half of the 7th century BC started to change slowly by adoption of pithos and simple earth inhu-

¹² Yağız 2008, 84–86. 93 figs. 1–4; Yağız 2015, 709.

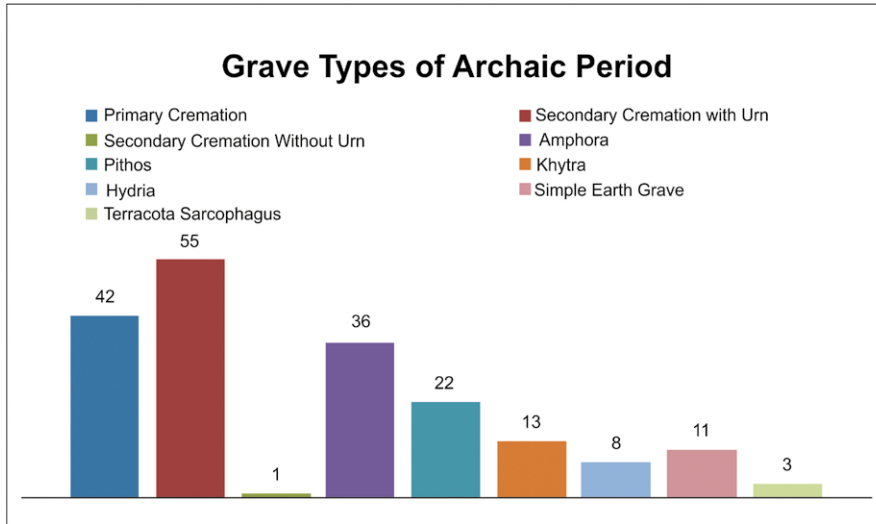
¹³ Yağız 2008, 86–89 figs. 6–10; Yağız 2015, 709.

¹⁴ Polat et al. 2012, 283.

¹⁵ Utili 1996, 111 f.

¹⁶ Tırpan – Söğüt 2005, 378; Tırpan – Söğüt 2006, 259.

¹⁷ Yıldız 2006, 90; Yıldız – Erdal 2008, 46. 48.



4 Grave types of the Archaic period



5 Primary cremation (grave no. 135)

mations for adult burials in the late 7th to early 6th century BC¹⁸. Nevertheless, cremation remained the dominant burial custom until the 6th century BC.

Inhumation burials from the Archaic period consist of burial vessels (*enchytrismoi*) used for infants and children, terracotta and stone¹⁹ sarcophagi and

simple earth burials. Among these, burial vessels constitute the largest grave group with 38 amphorae, 25 pithoi, 14 khytrae and nine hydriae burials. These vessels were placed in the earth without any consideration for orientation; they were supported by stones placed around the vessel and their rims were covered

¹⁸ Yağız 2015, 709 f.

¹⁹ Archaic examples of stone sarcophagi were unearthed in salvage excavations conducted by the museum. Sarcophagus grave no. A46 dates to the 2nd quarter of the 6th cent. BC. For more

information see Yalman 1993, 453. Another stone sarcophagus dates to the mid 6th cent. BC and was unearthed in trench 61 of parcel no. 4287, later numbered as grave IV. For more information see Yalman 1993, 457.

either by a stone or a vessel (fig. 6). This group of graves includes skeletal remains of fetuses, newborns and children up to 3–4 years old²⁰. In wide-rimmed vessels such as pithos and khytra, individuals were directly placed inside the vessel, while in narrow-rimmed vessels, the rim, neck or sometimes the base of the vessel was broken. Broken parts of the vessels were covered by fragments of the vessel itself or different vessels or a flat stone after the burial²¹. In this group consisting of amphorae, khytrae and hydriae, the graves usually contain one or two burial gifts. Gifts were placed outside or under the rim of the vessels as well as inside the vessels. These gifts include baby-feeders, vessels with spouts, figurines, knuckle-bones, earrings, Eastern Greek bowls with rosettes, Ionian kylixes, as well as perfume bottles such as alabastra and Corinthian aryballoi with spherical or pointed bodies.

Pithoi show similarities with other burial vessels as they were horizontally placed in the ground and were used for infant and child burials. However, some examples differ from the rest as they rest on a platform made of pebbles and include rich finds²² (fig. 7). Pithoi from the second half of the 7th century BC were used for infant and child burials, buried in the earth without any consideration for orientation. However, by the early 6th century BC, inhumation burials of adults also started to employ pithoi, establishing a custom for orientation along an east-west axis²³. The number of pithos burials increased in the 6th century BC. Additionally, some of these pithos burials were marked with Herme-shaped and circular cross-sectioned steles²⁴. Adult inhumations in pithos graves are significant as they demonstrate a slow deviation from the dominant practice of cremation, which had previously been practised without exception for adults. We

also observe the signs of a shift from cremation to inhumation in simple earth graves. Simple earth graves, as is the case with pithos graves, were preferred for the burial of children in the second half of the 7th century BC. However, it has been observed that towards the end of the century, adult individuals were also buried in simple earth graves²⁵. Thus, by the late 7th – early 6th centuries BC, simple earth and pithos graves mark a shift from cremation to inhumation. In the second quarter of the 6th century BC stone sarcophagi²⁶ and in the second half of 6th century BC terracotta sarcophagi²⁷ are included in the repertoire of this transition process. Terracotta sarcophagi were known from museum salvage excavations and in 2001 three more examples were unearthed during systematic excavations. Two of these are rectangular in form without decorations (grave nos. 100 and 118) while the third is trapezoidal (grave no. 30)²⁸.

From the Archaic period, two grave sections used as a family tomb have been unearthed²⁹. These are about 2.5 × 2 m in dimension, made of single rows of stones forming rectangular sections (fig. 8). Burials were placed inside these sections, covered with pebbles and palm-sized stones, while Herme-shaped³⁰ and shapeless steles³¹ were placed at their eastern short ends. Each section of this tomb contained four graves. Among them, the section registered as grave no. 320 contained one primary cremation, one urn and two infant burials in amphorae, while the other section contained one primary cremation and three urn burials³². Of these sections, the former dates to the second half of the 7th century BC, the latter to the late 7th – early 6th centuries BC. The use of steles as grave markers was not particular to family tombs; they were used for pithos burials in the same manner as mentioned above³³. Additionally, a kouros' head

20 Yıldız 2006, 152–156, Appendix 4.

21 Polat – Polat 2006, 96 f.; Polat – Polat 2007, 2 fig. 6; Yağız 2015, 710.

22 Polat et al. 2011, 111 figs. 11. 12.

23 Yağız 2015, 711.

24 For a Herme-shaped stele used for pithos grave no. 420, see Yağız 2014, 133 fig. 2 e. For a circular cross sectioned stele used in pithos grave no. 387 see Yağız 2014, 134 fig. 4.

25 Yağız 2015, 711.

26 Archaic period examples of stone sarcophagi from Samos and Phokaia date to the second quarter of the 6th cent. BC, examples from Assos and Ephesos date to the second half of the 6th cent. BC, examples from Parion and Miletos date to the late 6th cent. BC. For Samos, see Boehlau 1898, 20; Löwe 1996, 94–97; Tsakos 1996, 126; for Phokaia see Özyiğit 2001, 4 figs. 6–8; for Assos see Utili 1996, 136 f. figs. XIX. XX; for Ephesos see Langmann 1967, 105. 107. 109; for Parion see Başaran et al. 2012, 22 f. fig. 3, 5; for Miletos see Müller-Wiener 1988, 262. 273.

27 Yağız 2015, 711 f.

28 Polat – Polat 2007, 3 fig. 10; Yağız 2011, 16; Yağız 2015, 712 fig. 6.

29 Sections used as family tombs have been unearthed in Klazomenai as well. See Hümmüzlü 2004a, 79 f. fig. 3; Hümmüzlü 2004b, 195, pl. 83 a; Hümmüzlü 2005, 46 figs. 5. 6.

30 For the Herme-shaped stele from grave no. 320 see Yağız 2014, 132 fig. 2 a. For the Herme-shaped stele from other section, see Yağız 2014, 132 fig. 2 b.

31 A close parallel is known from necropolis of Assos. See Stupperich 1996a, 54 fig. 7; Stupperich 1996b, 29 f. pl. 12 figs. 5. 6; Utili 1996, 116 fig. VIII.

32 This tomb section, no. 320, contained urn grave no. 323, amphora graves no. 324 and 325 and the primary cremation grave no. 326. See Polat et al. 2011, 105 f. figs. 9. 10; Yağız 2011, 16; Yağız 2014, 131 fig. 1; Yağız 2015, 713 fig. 7. The other tomb section contained primary cremation no. 415 and the urns nos. 424–426. See Yağız 2014, 131–133 fig. 3.

33 Steles in Herme and circle forms from the Archaic period, see Yağız 2014, 132. 134 figs. 2. 4.



6 Infant and child graves inside amphora and khytra



7 Pithos grave (grave no.278) and finds

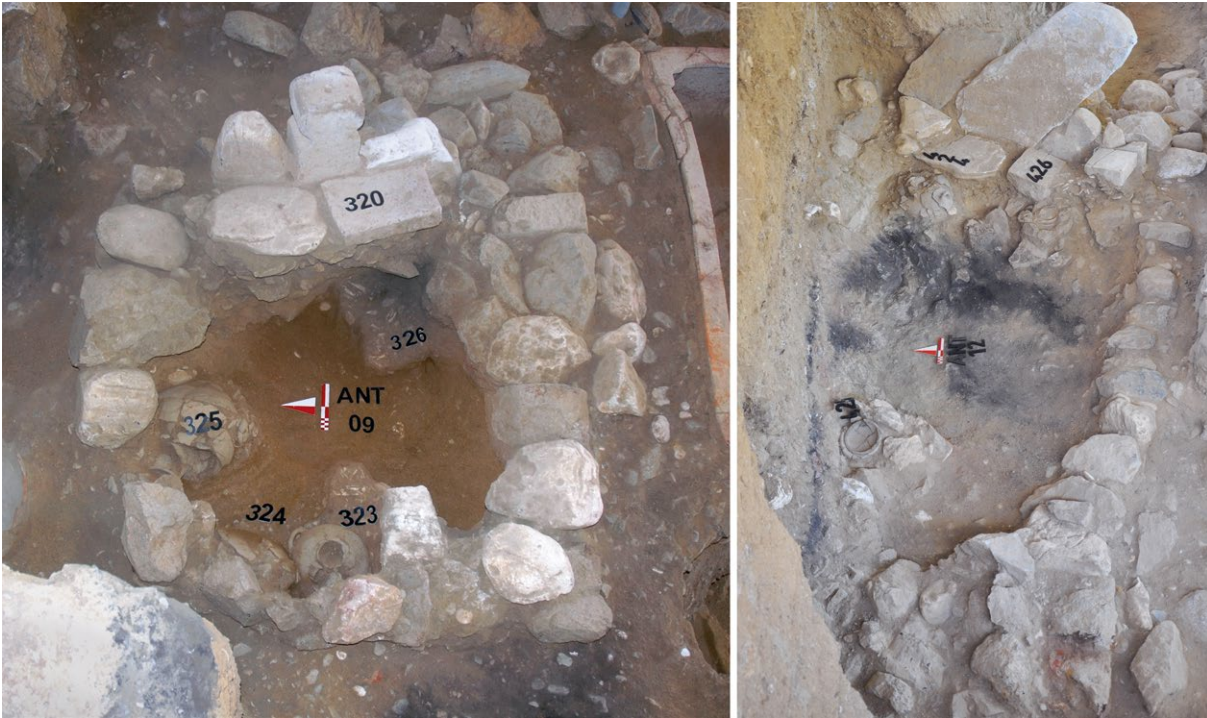


fragment has been found during the excavations, indicating the use of sculpture as a tomb marker³⁴. Data from the excavations suggest that the community of Antandros started to adopt family tombs after the sec-

ond half of the 7th century BC, and marked them with stelae. For these markers they used a variety of materials, including shapeless stones³⁵, Herme-shaped and circular cross-section stelae, and sculptures.

³⁴ Yağız 2014, 134 fig. 5.

³⁵ In Neandreia, roughly worked stones were used as steles, see Koldewey 1891, 17 fig. 30; Philipp 1981, 157.



8 Family tombs

Inhumation burials of adults, which made their appearance in the late 7th – early 6th century BC, replaced the practice of cremation as the dominant burial custom during the Classical period of the necropolis. Nevertheless, cremation burials did not completely disappear, as a small number of secondary cremations with urns have been observed. All four cremation burials from the Classical period consist of the secondary type, with amphorae used as urns. Two individuals (ref. 60A and 194A) were buried inside stone sarcophagi, grave nos. 60 and 194. Inside the stone sarcophagus of grave no. 60, the inhumation burials of two adults, one female and one male, were found alongside the cremation burial of a 45–50 year old male inside an urn. Based on the finds inside, this grave has been dated to ca. 430 BC³⁶. In the sarcophagus of grave no. 194, the inhumation burial of a 16 ½ year old female was discovered³⁷. Inside the metal-imitation grey amphora found in this sarcophagus, the cremated bones of a male of an unidentified age were buried. This grave

has been dated to the second half of the 5th century BC as well³⁸. Two other urns, from grave nos. 268 and 269, were deposited outside the western short end of the sarcophagus of grave no. 246³⁹ (fig. 9). No gifts were found in these graves. Nevertheless, the forms of the amphorae used as urns date to the 4th century BC⁴⁰. These data demonstrate that the practice of cremation continued into the 5th and 4th centuries BC but was less frequently used than the practice of inhumation.

Stone sarcophagi, with the earliest examples from the second quarter of the 6th century BC⁴¹, are the most frequent burial practices of the Classical period, with 44 examples (fig. 10). These graves were used until the Hellenistic period, while some of them were reused in the Hellenistic period both for cremation and inhumation burials⁴². Sarcophagi from volcanic stones, such as tufa, have lids with gabled roofs. Moreover, a granite sarcophagus with a flat lid is known from museum salvage excavations⁴³. Except one, all are monolithic⁴⁴.

³⁶ Polat – Polat 2004, 457; Polat – Polat 2007, 3 fig. 12; Polat 2013, 196.

³⁷ Yıldız 2006, 156, Appendix 4.

³⁸ Polat et al. 2007, 54 fig. 7; Polat 2013, 196.

³⁹ Polat et al. 2010, 10–13.

⁴⁰ Polat et al. 2010, 12–13.

⁴¹ Yalman 1993, 453–457.

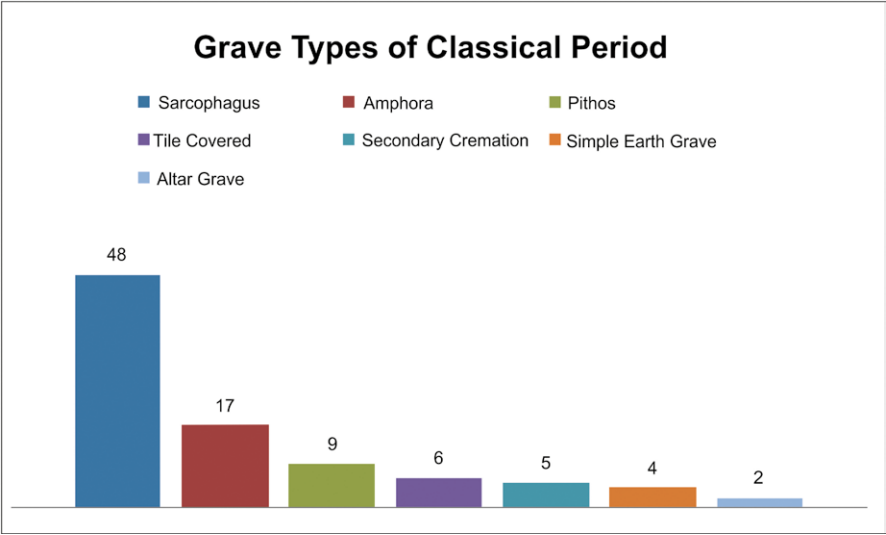
⁴² Polat 2013, 193 f.

⁴³ Yalman 1993, 457. Sarcophagus no. 2 excavated in parcel no. 4286.

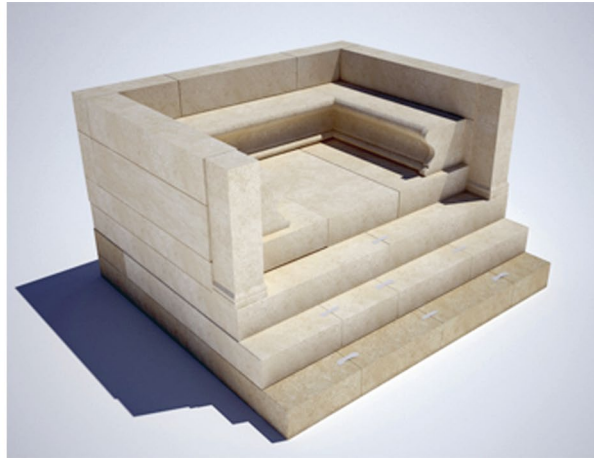
⁴⁴ Polat et al. 2012, 284. Stone sarcophagus no. 339 was made of several sarcophagus fragments of different thicknesses clamped together.



9 Urn (grave no.60A) placed inside the sarcophagus of grave no.60. – Urn (grave no.268) placed outside the sarcophagus of grave no.246



10 Grave types of the Classical period



11 Sarcophagus of grave no. 2 and reconstruction proposed for its superstructure



12 Sarcophagus of grave no. 49 and reconstruction proposed for its superstructure

Stone sarcophagi graves from the Classical period are significant for their rich finds and the distinctive architectural characteristics of their upper structures. Especially graves nos. 2 and 49 from the 5th century BC have remarkable monumental superstructures. The sarcophagus of grave no. 2 was placed inside a nearly-square podium of 3×2.80 m⁴⁵ (fig. 11). The exterior façades of the structure, built from ash-lars clamped together, were flattened with meticulous craftsmanship, while the interior was left unworked. The euthynteria and the first row of stones of the podium were completely preserved in the northern section, while the southeastern corner of the structure was damaged in antiquity. Inside the podium, one east-west oriented sarcophagus was placed so as to rest against the northern wall. No skeletal

remains were found inside the sarcophagus, except for one long bone of an individual. Additionally, seven Attic stemless vessels, four bolsals, one skyphos, one alabastron, one grey amphora, one bronze fibula, one iron strigilis, and two female figurines were recovered from the sarcophagus. The sarcophagus has been dated to the second half of the 5th century BC based on these finds⁴⁶.

Grave no. 49 is another sarcophagus framed by a nearly-square podium of 3.10×3.17 m. The masonry of the podium is similar to grave no. 2, with carefully worked exterior and rough interior blocks. The first row of ash-lars above the euthynteria is completely preserved while the second row is preserved only in the south (fig. 12). Here, the stone blocks of the second row were placed about 0.20 m behind the first row

⁴⁵ Polat 2013, 194 fig. 5.

⁴⁶ Polat 2002, 158 (finds from grave no. 2, photo); Polat 2003, 26 fig. 6; Polat – Polat 2007, 4 fig. 15; Polat 2008, 275; Üney 2009, 24 drawings 3. 4 pl. 5.

and were clamped together with lead as in the first row⁴⁷. From the traces present on the second row, it can be hypothesised that the stones of the third row were, in turn, placed 0.20 m behind the second row⁴⁸. Additionally, there are square recesses of 0.06×0.06 m present on the southwest and southeast corners of the podium. Sarcophagus no. 49 was placed in an east-west orientation against the northern wall of the interior space as in grave no. 2. Inside the podium, the area south of the sarcophagus was filled with large stones. Finds from the sarcophagus include the very badly preserved remains of a male skeleton along with two bronze strigiles, one grey tableware amphora and one severely eroded alabastron; on the basis of this evidence the grave has been dated to the first half of the 5th century BC⁴⁹.

The receding second row of ashlar along with traces of a receding third row of stones on the south wall of the podium of grave no. 49, suggest a stairway-entrance on the south of the structure. Additionally, a perpendicular second row of stones on the northern wall of grave no. 2 suggests the existence of perpendicular walls on the north side.

In the Ainos Taşaltı necropolis, a Π -shaped structure with a four-stepped base has been uncovered⁵⁰. This structure, evaluated as an altar or a monument, has three straight walls with a fourth side giving evidence of a stepped entrance. Inside the structure, there is a Π -shaped bench with lion leg ends. The example from Ainos with its three straight walls and a stepped entrance, suggests that the Antandros structures might follow a similar pattern⁵¹. Hellenistic Π -shaped altars and their interior benches found at the Antandros necropolis also support this suggestion.

Another grave with a distinctive superstructure is the sarcophagus of grave no. 194. The exterior of this sarcophagus was framed with stone blocks of 2.29×1.30 m. The western block of this frame was set on the lid of the sarcophagus. The shorter eastern end of the lid was partly chiseled to accommodate the block. Blocks at the northern and southern ends were placed over the euthynteria framing the sarcophagus.

The blocks are clamped to each other and have finely worked surfaces on the exterior and rough surfaces on the interior. The interior surfaces must have been left rough, as they would have been covered with other stones. It is possible to imagine that the sarcophagus lid was covered either with stone blocks or slabs. Based on grave depictions on white-ground lekythoi, G. Polat suggests that grave no. 194 had a rectangular prism shaped superstructure⁵².

The sarcophagus in grave no. 194 contained the inhumation burial of a female adult and the cremation burial of an adult male. The cremated bones of the male were placed inside an amphora urn. Apart from this urn, one bronze mirror, one perforated knuckle-bone, one alabastron and, north of the skull, a coin, left as Charon's fee, were found; on the basis of this evidence the grave can be dated to the second half of the 5th century BC⁵³. The presence of a coin among the finds is valuable as it shows us that the tradition of placing a coin for Charon in graves continued into the Classical period. Placing coins in graves dates back to the mid-6th century BC in the Antandros necropolis⁵⁴.

Another sarcophagus with a rectangular-prism shaped superstructure is grave no. 260. The walls of this grave frame the sarcophagus to about 0.55 m in height, covering the upper part of the sarcophagus⁵⁵ similar to a prism (fig. 13). Therefore, it is clear that the walls previously found framing other sarcophagi served as foundations for the superstructures⁵⁶. Additionally, the rectangular prism has a plastered exterior, where the plaster turns at a right angle at the bottom of the prism and continues on the ground for about 0.20 m. This is important as it shows us the contemporary walking level of the necropolis. It has been proven that the walls surrounding the sarcophagus and the superstructure in grave no. 260 were visible above the ground level. This clarifies how the multiple burials were conducted in these sarcophagi graves. According to Polat, after the first burial, the superstructure of the grave was built as a marker above the ground. Later, upon the death of another

47 Polat – Polat 2004, 457; Polat – Polat 2007, 4 fig. 16; Polat 2008, 276 fig. 5; Üney 2009, 21 drawings 1. 2 pls. 3 a. b; 4 a. b.

48 Polat 2013, 194 fig. 4.

49 Polat – Polat 2004, 457; Polat – Polat 2007, 4 fig. 16; Üney 2009, 21; Polat 2013, 154.

50 Erzen – Başaran 1988, 91 f. fig. 21. The structure was referred to as having an u-profile; in Ainos, more than one monumental structure was unearthed, and the 4th cent. was suggested as the date. See Erzen 1995, 459.

51 For discussions regarding the superstructures of graves, see Polat – Polat 2007, 4; Üney 2009, 26–28; Yağız 2012, 280 f.; Polat 2013, 194–196.

52 Polat 2013, 199.

53 Polat 2013, 194.

54 Yalman 1993, 457. During museum salvage excavations of 1991, inside sarcophagus no. IV from trench 61, a billon Lesbos coin from 550–500 BC was unearthed along with a kylix and fragments from other pottery.

55 Polat et al. 2010, 9 fig. 8.

56 Polat 2013, 198 fig. 8.



13 Sarcophagus of grave no.260

member of the same family, this superstructure was dismantled for the new burial and was then rebuilt⁵⁷. In many sarcophagi from the 5th and 4th centuries BC, multiple burials have been observed. One of these is the sarcophagus in grave no. 107, dated to circa 450 BC; the grave contained remains of two females and one male⁵⁸. In grave no. 215's sarcophagus from the last quarter of the 5th century BC, skeletal remains of at least three individuals were found⁵⁹. Inside grave no. 36, dated to the first quarter of the 4th century BC, the remains of two males, two females and one child were unearthed⁶⁰. When the sarcophagus' dimensions are considered, it does not seem possible that five individuals were placed inside simultaneously. Probably, this grave had a superstructure as in the case of grave no. 260 and this superstructure was removed and rebuilt for each new burial. This shows that, in the case of multiple burials, new burials were placed carefully without causing any disturbance to the previous ones.

In addition to these prism-shaped architectural elements, steles were also employed as grave markers in the Classical period. It has been observed that Herme-shaped steles used in the Classical period

were produced with better craftsmanship than those of previous periods (fig. 14). Compared to Archaic examples, these are longer and wider in form and have thinner, rounder head-shapes⁶¹. Even though no *in-situ* examples have been found during systematic excavations, the museum's salvage excavations revealed some Herme-shaped steles placed into the ground⁶². Also, some stele pedestals were found *in-situ* during the museum's salvage excavations⁶³.

When finds from sarcophagus graves of the era are considered, Attic pottery constitutes the majority⁶⁴. For graves from the first half of the 5th century BC, Attic lekythoi⁶⁵ and kylixes constitute the most significant finds, while drinking vessels such as stemless vessels, bolsals and skyphoi are the most prominent finds for the second half of the 5th century BC. These vessels are usually accompanied by bronze strigiles in men's graves. In women's graves, cosmetic vessels and bronze mirrors are prevalent⁶⁶. The prevalence of Attic pottery continued into the first half of the 4th century BC when vessels such as cup-kantharos and cup-skyphos appeared alongside bolsals. In addition to imported Attic wares, nearly all sarcophagus graves included a locally produced tableware amphora.

⁵⁷ Polat 2013, 198.

⁵⁸ Polat – Polat 2006, 95 fig. 10; Polat – Polat 2007, 3 fig. 13; Polat 2008, 275 fig. 4.

⁵⁹ Polat et al. 2009, 49 fig. 15.

⁶⁰ Polat 2003, 26; Polat – Polat 2007, 4 fig. 19.

⁶¹ For Herme-shaped steles of the Classical period, see Yağız 2014, 135 f. fig. 7.

⁶² Özeren et al. 1997, fig. 3; Polat 2013, 197 fig. 7; Yağız 2014, 135 fig. 6.

⁶³ Yalman 1993, 460 figs. 5–7.

⁶⁴ Polat 2013, 199.

⁶⁵ Polat et al. 2010, 9 fig. 11. From the stone sarcophagus, grave no. 271, eight lekythoi (seven black-figure, one red-figure), two terracotta alabastra (one with net pattern, one negro), four locally produced amphoriskoi and one fragmented bronze pin were recovered.

⁶⁶ Polat 2013, 199.



14 Herme-shaped grave steles from Archaic and Classical periods

After stone sarcophagi, amphorae constitute the second largest grave group of the Classical period, with 21 examples. As observed for the Archaic period, amphorae were used for fetuses and infants. Trade amphorae were the only amphorae used for burial. These graves have been dated based in part on the amphorae used for burial and these generally date to the 4th century BC⁶⁷. Amphorae were placed horizontally into the soil, rims facing east and bases facing west, like other burial vessels. Similar to Archaic period examples, rims were broken to place larger bodies inside, and were covered with different amphorae or vessel fragments afterwards. In one example, two separate vessels without neck and rim were joined together to create a grave⁶⁸.

Pithos graves constitute another grave type which continued into the Classical period. They were employed for inhumation burials of both adults and children. All pithoi of the period were horizontally placed into earth with rims facing east and bases facing west. They were covered with terracotta and stone slabs, flat tiles, and sometimes with another amphora, either whole or half. In some cases, pithoi were framed with circles of medium-sized stones laid on the ground as grave markers. The pithos of grave no. 29⁶⁹ containing two adults and the pithos of grave no. 239⁷⁰ containing the remains of a child were both marked with stone circles. The pithos from grave

no. 480 was marked by a rectangular stone frame laid on the ground. Burial gifts were placed both inside and below the rims of pithoi. The pithos with grave no. 50, used for an infant's burial, was accompanied by a baby-feeder and a miniature skyphos placed below the rim⁷¹. In adult pithos graves from the 5th century BC, vessels such as lekythos, miniature hydria and skyphos have been found, while pithos graves for babies and children from the 4th century BC contained figurines and knucklebones.

Another burial tradition that continued into the Classical period from the Archaic period is the simple earth grave. These do not appear to constitute a frequent burial practice. From the necropolis of Antandros, only three examples are known that can be safely dated to the Classical period. Two of them, grave nos. 309 and 330, belong to adults, while the remaining one, grave no. 133, belongs to a 3½ year old child⁷². In grave no. 133, the individual was placed in a supine position with head facing east, feet facing west. This grave, dated to 480–470 BC, contained burial gifts of two lekythoi, one grey skyphos, two grey vessels, one kylix, twenty-seven knucklebones, one seashell, two glass beads, two bone ornaments, a single bronze bracelet on each arm of the child, and a total of five figurines of which two are horse riders, one is a rooster, one is a turtle, and one is a recumbent human form⁷³. In grave no. 309, which belongs to

⁶⁷ Yağız 2011, 18; Polat 2013, 193.

⁶⁸ Polat – Polat 2006, 94. Grave no. 80 was made by joining two different vessels.

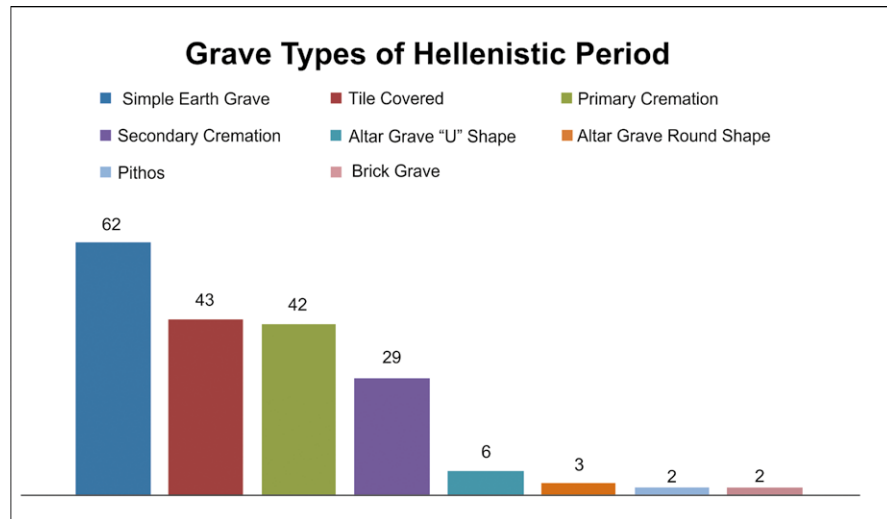
⁶⁹ Polat 2013, 193.

⁷⁰ Polat et al. 2010, 9 figs. 9. 10; Polat 2013, 193.

⁷¹ Polat – Polat 2004, 457 fig. 11; Polat 2013, 193.

⁷² Yıldız 2006, 154, Appendix 4.

⁷³ Polat – Polat 2006, 95 fig. 12; Polat – Polat 2007, 4 figs. 17. 18; Polat 2013, 193.



15 Grave types of the Hellenistic period

an adult, one bolsal was found and the grave has been dated to 425–400 BC⁷⁴. This grave differs from the others due to the rectangular delineation of the grave with large unhewn stones placed approximately 0.33 m above the skeleton. These stones were possibly placed as grave markers. In another simple earth adult burial, grave no. 330, one squat lekythos⁷⁵, two seashells and one broken bronze pin at the height of the waistline were found. This grave was dated to the first quarter of the 4th century BC⁷⁶.

The last grave group of the Classical period comprises tile-covered graves. This group emerged in the Antandros necropolis during the Classical period for the first time. In tile-covered graves, usually eight flat tiles were used for one adult. Six of these were placed facing each other in groups of two while both of the shorter ends on the west and east were covered with a single tile. In the case of children's graves, the number of tiles varied according to the height of the individual. In some examples, graves were surrounded by walls built of undressed stones. Grave nos. 203 and 377 are examples of such grave structures and have been dated to the mid-4th century BC. In grave no. 203, two coins were unearthed, while one salt shaker and one knucklebone were found inside grave no. 377. The coins from grave no. 203 were possibly placed inside the mouth of the individual as Charon's fee⁷⁷.

During the Hellenistic period, several changes can be observed in the types of graves found in the necropolis of Antandros. This period gives evidence for

primary cremation burials in addition to secondary cremation burials. In the Hellenistic period, the number of these two types of cremation burials increases significantly in comparison to the Classical period, when cremation burials were nearly nonexistent. As stated above, cremation, the dominant burial custom of the Archaic period, was replaced with inhumations during the Classical period. However, this transition took place gradually over a period of approximately a hundred years. On the other hand, the change of burial tradition in the Hellenistic period seems to take place more abruptly, without a transition process.

Other graves of this period are inhumations in simple earth graves, tile-covered graves, pithos graves and brick graves (fig. 15).

For the Hellenistic period, a total of 72 cremation graves have been unearthed, of which 42 are primary and 30 are secondary cremations. Cremation burials of this period are distinctive for their architectural elaboration. One of these architectural arrangements is to cover the cremation burial with flat or concave tiles, then building a rectangular stone frame around the grave, and covering the grave with stones. Grave no. 217 is an example of such a grave; the cremated bones were covered with concave tiles, surrounded by medium-sized rough stones forming a rectangle, and the grave was filled with smaller stones placed over the tiles. Inside this grave, dated to 25 BC – AD 25, a bronze coin was found to the east of the skull, while a single-handled jug, an unguentarium, shapeless

⁷⁴ Polat et al. 2012, 112. For parallels of the bolsal, see Sparkes – Talcot – Richter 1970, fig. 6 no. 541.

⁷⁵ Filges 1992, 128 f. fig. 2 no. 43 pl. 21, 5.

⁷⁶ Yağız 2011, 17 f.

⁷⁷ Polat – Polat 2004, 457; Polat – Polat 2007, 5 fig. 22; Polat 2008, 277 fig. 6; Yağız 2011, 18.



16 Π-shaped altar and proposed reconstruction

bronze beads and a bronze fragment were found in the middle section⁷⁸.

Another structural arrangement employed for cremation burials of the period is the construction of Π-shaped altars over burials. These altars are square, measure 3 m on a side, and are constructed from unhewn stones. The entrance of these altars is on the south and has a 3-step staircase. The remaining three sides of the structures have approximately 0.60 m thick walls. Along the inner face of these walls continuous Π-shaped benches of 0.35 m width and 0.35 m height can be found (fig. 16). The middle sections of these structures have been covered with floors made of small-sized stones. From the remains of plaster on the walls, it is clear that the altars were completely covered with plaster⁷⁹. In addition, some stele fragments, thought to be associated with the altars, have been found at the upper level of the altars. This has been interpreted as an indication that steles were placed on top of the altars⁸⁰. By 2018, six of these Π-shaped altars had been found. Altars were built for cremation burials exclusively. Inside altar grave no. 2, two urns (grave nos. 210A and 212) and one primary cremation covered with flat tiles (grave no. 213) have been unearthed. This altar was built to include a stone sarcophagus dated to the 4th century BC. Urn no. 210A was placed to the left of this sarcophagus⁸¹. Urn no. 212 was placed under the floor of the altar and above the

wall framing the sarcophagus⁸². The primary cremation inside grave no. 213 was again buried under the floor level and placed against the northern wall, covered with three flat tiles⁸³. Another altar grave, grave no. 226, included a sarcophagus from the Classical period which was buried under the floor of the altar at the centre. This sarcophagus contained one amphora and one stamnos urn from the Hellenistic period⁸⁴. Only in two instances have primary cremations been identified inside these altar graves. One of these is grave no. 229, where the cremation was covered with concave tiles⁸⁵, and the other is grave no. 233, where the cremation burial was covered with stones.

In nearly all of the graves with primary cremations coins were found. In some instances, coins were accompanied by a single-handled jug or an unguentarium. There are some instances where all these finds have been discovered together in the same grave. Coins were usually found in the east, beside the skulls, while the locations of other finds vary. Thus, it is clear that even primary cremations followed an east-west orientation and coins were placed as Charon's fee inside the deceased's mouth.

Another architectural feature employed for cremation burials is the construction of circular altars built over the urns. These altars were approx. 1.20 m in diameter, were built of unhewn stones of medium and small size, and the exterior façades of the struc-

⁷⁸ Polat et al. 2009, 49. 51 fig. 14; Yağız 2011, 18.

⁷⁹ For altars no. 1 and 2 see Polat – Polat 2007, 5 fig. 26; Polat et al. 2008, 463–465 fig. 9; Polat et al. 2009, 48 f.; Üney 2009, 30–35 drawings 5–7; Yağız 2011, 19.

⁸⁰ Yağız 2011, 20. For steles from the Hellenistic period, see Yağız 2014, 136–138 figs. 8. 9.

⁸¹ For the stamnos urn, grave no. 210A from the sarcophagus of grave no. 210, see Polat – Polat 2007, 6 figs. 20. 21; Polat et al. 2008, 464 f. fig. 12.

⁸² For this urn with grave no. 212, see Polat – Polat 2007, 6; Polat et al. 2008, 465 fig. 11; Üney 2009, 33 pl. 10 a.

⁸³ For the primary cremation grave no. 213, see Polat et al. 2008, 465 fig. 13; Polat – Polat 2007, 6 fig. 27; Üney 2009, 33 f. pl. 10 b.

⁸⁴ For these urns with the nos. 226A and 226B, see Polat et al. 2009, 48 f. fig. 13; Yağız 2011, 19.

⁸⁵ Polat et al. 2009, 48 fig. 12.



17 Circular altars

tures were covered with white lime plaster (fig. 17). The circular altar graves unearthed so far have revealed a two-stepped structure, as far as they have been preserved. A second row of steps was placed on the wide base step to create a stepped structure that narrows from the bottom to the top. Three examples of these structures identified as circular altars have been unearthed in excavations. Of these, grave no. 214 contained one amphora urn⁸⁶, while grave no. 334 contained a khytra urn. There were no burials inside the altar of grave no. 235, suggesting that this altar could have been a cenotaph⁸⁷.

There are 30 secondary cremation burials without any architecture. In these burials, urns containing cremations were placed vertically inside shallow pits. The most frequent urn form in this period is the stamnos, while amphora, khytra, pithos and a form of jug were also employed. This group of burials yielded very little finds. Finds of burial gifts from this group generally consisted of bowls placed over the rims of burial vessels and unguentaria⁸⁸ placed inside urns. In one instance, a bronze ring was found, while in another burial, a fishplate, lekane and krater have been found⁸⁹. It is interesting that nearly all primary cremation burials contain coins except this group.

Inhumation burials of the Hellenistic period consist of simple earth graves, tile-covered graves, pithos graves and brick graves. Among these, simple earth graves form the largest group with 66 documented instances. Nevertheless, these graves are the poorest in terms of burial gifts. Only coins were found within

these graves, and the number of graves containing coins is very small. The most significant examples are grave nos. 256 and 257 which were laid out next to each other (fig. 18). A single coin was found in each of these graves. In grave no. 256, the coin was placed in the right hand of the individual, while in grave no. 257, the coin was placed inside the mouth⁹⁰. The majority of the burials from this grave group comply with the east-west orientation, although there are some exceptions. The scarcity of finds and the rather careless arrangement of these graves suggest that they were preferred by individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The second largest group of inhumations are tile-covered graves. By 2018, 45 tile-covered graves had been uncovered. Adult burials were similar to the tile graves of the Classical period as they employ eight flat tiles to cover the body. However, they differ from Classical period examples by the use of concave tiles or the simultaneous use of concave and flat tiles. Graves were built with flat tiles placed over the body facing each other in groups of two, or with concave tiles directly placed over the body of the deceased. In only one of the adult graves a tile was placed on the floor of the grave. In child burials, one concave tile was placed under the body while another concave tile was placed over the body. Grave nos. 47⁹¹ and 211⁹² are child graves of this type. Except for an urn from this grave group, all individuals were buried by inhumation without any distinction for age and gender. One exception is grave no. 220A, which originally consisted of a Classical period sarcophagus in which six flat tiles were

⁸⁶ Polat et al. 2008, 468.

⁸⁷ Polat et al. 2010, 8 fig. 7; Yağız 2011, 19.

⁸⁸ Polat – Polat 2007, 5 fig. 21.

⁸⁹ For the urn with grave no. 62 with a fish plate, lekane and krater, see Polat – Polat 2004, 457 fig. 10; Polat – Polat 2007, 5 fig. 24.

⁹⁰ Polat et al. 2010, 15.

⁹¹ Polat – Polat 2004, 457.

⁹² Polat et al. 2008, 464 fig. 10.



18 Simple earth graves (grave nos. 256 and 257)



19 Sarcophagus of grave no. 220 with tile grave (grave no. 220A) and urn burial inside (grave no. 220B)

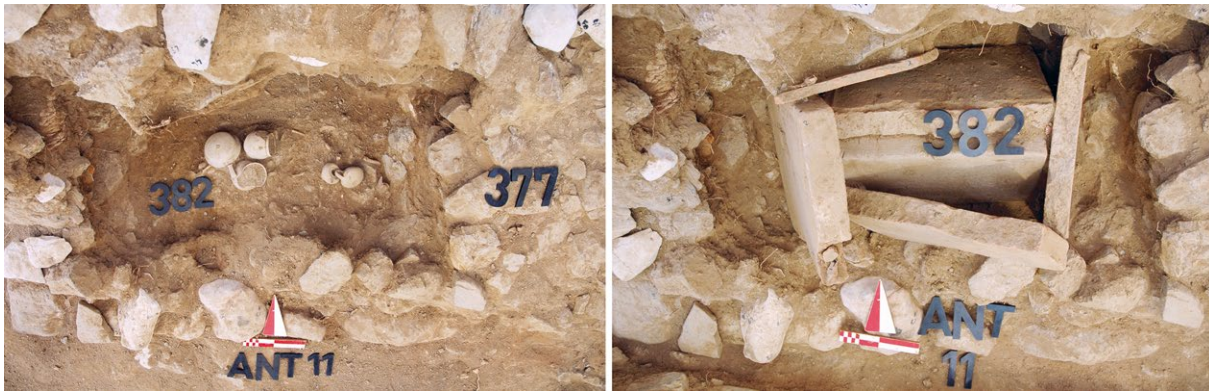
placed facing each other in groups of two (fig. 19). Remains of an adult inhumation and an urn (220B) placed beside the deceased's feet were found inside this grave⁹³. As for burial gifts, some graves containing only coins, while others were rich in burial gifts including artefacts such as beads, coins, bronze mirrors, unguentaria and jugs. Tile-covered grave no. 272 constitutes an example of a rich grave in which many burial gifts were found, including a bronze mirror, an unguentarium, a small jug, an amphoriskos, a figurine and a coin⁹⁴.

Another grave type of the Hellenistic period is the pithos grave. As of 2018, two pithos graves have been discovered; both graves belong to children. One of these is grave no. 400, where the pithos was laid in an east-west orientation, was framed by stones and its mouth was covered with an amphora. From this pithos, three female figurines were recovered, and the burial has been dated to the second half of the 3rd century BC.

Brick graves form a smaller group with two examples, as was the case with pithos graves. One of

⁹³ Polat et al. 2009, 51 f.

⁹⁴ Polat et al. 2010, 10. 13.



20 Tile grave (grave no. 382)

these is grave no. 382, which was built from six bricks. Two of these bricks were laid against each other over the body, two were used to cover the east and west ends, one brick was put over the grave while the remaining brick was placed to the north of the grave (fig. 20). Inside the grave, the remains of an infant skeleton were found along with one lopadion, three jugs and one baby-feeder, and based on these

finds the grave has been dated to the late 1st century BC⁹⁵.

The necropolis contained two graves dating to the post-Hellenistic period, namely one brick-chest⁹⁶ grave from 2nd century AD and one cist grave⁹⁷ from the Byzantine period. No other graves dating to the post-Hellenistic period have been found in the necropolis.

Conclusion

Present data demonstrate that the necropolis was in use from the 8th century BC onwards until the late Hellenistic period. The earliest burials of the necropolis are one primary cremation burial and one cist grave from the late Geometric period. These two graves are insufficient to understand burial customs and grave types of the Geometric period. However, the increase observed in the number of graves by the Archaic period provides more information about the burial customs of Antandros. In the second half of the 7th century BC, all individuals over the age of 6 ½ were cremated without distinction for gender, whereas babies and children were buried inside vessels such as amphorae, khytrae, hydriae, pithoi or in simple earth graves. Additionally, from the Archaic period, some family tombs marked with a Herme or a rough stone slab have been found. These tombs contained cremation burials of adults and amphora burials of infants. These graves are important as they are evidence for the use of steles

as early as the second half of the 7th century BC. The use of steles continued into the 6th century BC, when steles with circular profiles, Herme-shaped steles and sculpture were introduced as grave markers.

One pithos grave and one simple earth grave from late the 7th – early 6th century BC, both containing adult inhumations, are the first clues for the change in burial traditions of Antandros, which had been based on the predominance of cremation up to that point. From the second quarter of the 6th century onwards, inhumation burials began to prevail over cremation with the appearance of monolithic stone sarcophagi, followed by terracotta sarcophagi from the middle of the century. This transition process was complete by the Classical period, when inhumation burials became the dominant practice. Stone sarcophagi are the most common form of inhumation in the Classical period. II-shaped superstructures observed in some graves were built with ashlar and exhibited charac-

⁹⁵ A parallel of the jug with a spherical body has been dated to the late 1st cent. BC in Ainos. See Başaran 2003, 72 pl. XLVI no 2.

⁹⁶ Polat – Polat 2004, 456 f. fig. 9; Polat – Polat 2007, 7.

⁹⁷ Polat – Polat 2004, 456 fig. 8; Polat – Polat 2007, 7 fig. 29.

teristics of monumental architecture. Graves with rectangular-prism superstructures are also significant; some of these were built from rough stones and covered with plaster. These superstructures marked the location of the grave above ground while enabling future burials in stone sarcophagi, which served as family tombs. The use of Herme-shaped steles continued in this period. Examples from the Classical period show more elaborate craftsmanship compared to Archaic period examples.

Another significant characteristic of stone sarcophagi is that they contain rich burial gifts. The prevalence of Attic pottery among these finds suggests individuals from higher socioeconomic backgrounds. Additionally, coins found inside sarcophagi are meaningful as they show that the tradition of placing coins inside graves began in the mid-6th century BC. Pithos graves and simple earth graves of the Classical period were used for both children and adults, while amphora graves were used for infants. This period also witnessed the introduction of tile-covered graves. Cremation burials consist of a small number of urns and these are meaningful as they demonstrate the continuity in the tradition of cremation.

The Hellenistic period marked another change in burial traditions. Cremation burials and architectural elaboration exhibit this change clearly. Both primary and secondary types of cremations reappear frequently. Among architectural forms, Π -shaped and circular planned structures are prominent. Some of the Π -shaped altar graves contain only primary or only secondary cremations, while some contain both types. Additionally, there are primary cremations covered with stones forming a rectangle, and secondary cremations without any architectural arrangement. A sudden change, observed especially in cre-

mation burials, suggests a foreign intervention which caused a change in the demography of Antandros. Even though ancient texts lack information regarding an intervention of this kind at Antandros, the sudden increase in the number of cremations suggests the arrival of a different society. In fact, Strabo mentions a foreign community brought to and settled in Gargara in the west of Antandros⁹⁸. This implies that a similar situation might have taken place in Antandros.

Inhumation burials of the period are pithos graves, simple earth graves, tile-covered graves and brick graves. Brick graves are a novelty in Antandros, first observed near the end of the Hellenistic period. A number of other inhumation types, simple earth graves and tile-covered graves, which are already known from the Classical period, show an increase by the Hellenistic period. Additionally, stone sarcophagi of the Classical period were reused in the Hellenistic period, both for cremation and inhumation burials.

Burial gifts found in Hellenistic graves consist of coins, unguentaria, single-handled jugs, bowls, figurines and ornaments. The practice of leaving coins in graves as Charon's fee became more prevalent in this period. Nearly all primary cremations contained coins, however no coins were found inside urn burials.

The Hellenistic period also marks the last phase of occupation for the necropolis of Antandros. For the periods after the Hellenistic period only two graves have been found, one of which is from the 2nd century AD, the other from the Byzantine period, indicating that the area was no longer in use as a necropolis. Foundations of a 4th century AD structure unearthed in the upper layers of the necropolis demonstrate that area was reorganised as a workshop space and shop.

Abstract

The Antandros necropolis which has a stratified structure was densely occupied from the late 8th century BC to the end of the Hellenistic period. The earliest burials of the necropolis are one primary cremation burial and one cist grave from the late Geometric period. These two graves are insufficient to understand burial customs and grave types of the Geometric period. However, the increase in the number of graves in the Archaic period provides more informa-

tion about the burial customs of Antandros. In the Archaic period, adult individuals were cremated while infants and children younger than six and a half years were simply inhumed or buried in large vessels from the 7th century to the beginning of the 6th century BC. By the 6th century BC, inhumation gradually became customary also for adults. Following the common use of stone sarcophagi in the 5th century BC, inhumations in stone sarcophagi prevailed for adults.

98 Strab. geogr. 13, 1, 58.

However, cremation still continued until the end of the Classical period even though the number was low. In the Classical period tile-covered burials and pithoi were used for adult burials while amphorae were used for infant and child burials. Further changes in custom were observed during the Hellenistic period. Cremations, which had almost disappeared in the Classical period, suddenly recurred in substantial numbers. The most striking burial type of Hellenistic period were Π-shaped or circular altar graves used

only for cremations. The number of inhumations in simple pit burials and tile-covered burials for adults was high in the Hellenistic period. After the end of the 1st century AD, the area was not used as a cemetery anymore. Architectural remains found in the necropolis provide evidence that the city became a residential settlement in the 4th century AD.

Keywords: Antandros, Burial Customs, Grave, Necropolis

Illustration Credits

Fig. 1 Drawing: Deniz Arkan

Figs. 2–3. 5–9. 13. 14 a. c; 17–20 Antandros excavation archive

Figs. 4. 10. 15 Antandros excavation archive, drawing M. Çobanoğulları

Figs. 11–12 Antandros excavation archive, drawing D. Arkan

Fig. 14 b Özeren et al. 1997, fig. 3

Fig. 16 Photo Antandros excavation archive, drawing D. Arkan; Üney 2009, drawings 6. 7

