

# The pottery from Dhaskalio





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The pottery from Dhaskalio  
by  
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Cover design by Dora Kemp, Michael Boyd & Peggy Sotirakopoulou.

Cover image: Pottery in course of excavation in Trench VII. Inset, front: one-handled cup with grooved decoration from Trench XXI (C2285). Inset, back: Trench XXI during excavation.

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## *Foreword*

Colin Renfrew

It is my pleasure to introduce *The Pottery from Dhaskalio*, Volume IV in the series of publications arising from the excavations of the Cambridge Keros Project. The excavations of the project considered here were conducted on the small island of Dhaskalio, lying 90 m west of the shore at Kavos on the west coast of the Cycladic Island of Keros. Dhaskalio and Kavos were probably joined at this time by a neck of land (Fig. 1.1).

The settlement at Dhaskalio, one of the largest of the early bronze age Cyclades, offers a key towards the understanding of the two special deposits lying immediately to the east at Kavos; for the well-documented stratigraphic succession at Dhaskalio offers secure contextual information which the sometimes disturbed special deposits at Kavos often lack. The study by Peggy Sotirakopoulou of the pottery from the excavations on Dhaskalio is crucial to the entire complex of sites, and to their chronology. It also gives fundamental insights into the functions of the settlement itself, and of the relations which it enjoyed with other settlements in the Aegean; for it is an important provisional conclusion of her work that all the pottery found on Dhaskalio is likely to have been imported to Keros.

The pottery discussed here all comes from the settlement at Dhaskalio, investigated during the 2006–2008 excavations seasons by a series of more than 20 trenches (Fig. 1.2). The excavations themselves, and

other finds recovered (beyond the pottery), have been published in Volume I of the present series (Renfrew *et al.* 2013).

Readers will, I believe, find this analysis particularly satisfying for its coherence and its completeness. All the pottery recovered from Dhaskalio over the 2006–2008 seasons of work is considered, and no feature sherd is overlooked. So my first duty is to express my gratitude to Peggy Sotirakopoulou for the enormous investment of time and energy which she has made in this project.

It should be clearly understood that much of the importance of Dhaskalio lies in its coherent stratigraphy, which it was a primary objective of the excavation to investigate and document (Renfrew 2013b). On the basis of this stratigraphy, Dr Sotirakopoulou was able to divide the ceramic assemblage into three phases, Phase A, Phase B and Phase C, as described here (see Renfrew *et al.* 2013a). So it should clearly be understood that the classification is based first upon the stratigraphic data. The earth recovered during the excavation was sieved using a mesh of 10 mm. One fifth of the earth recovered was water-sieved using a mesh of 3 mm.

It is intended that the pottery recovered from the excavations at the Special Deposit South at Kavos will be published in a volume now in preparation (Sotirakopoulou in prep.).



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The drawings of the pottery were made by the archaeologist Konstantinos Chalikias and by the artist Aspasia Drigopoulou. There are also three drawings contributed by the archaeologist Xenia Charalam-

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