

KLIO'S CLAY: INSCRIBED INSTRUMENTA DOMESTICA FROM LAPPA (CRETE)

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ABSTRACT

This article explores a range of possible interpretations for a collection of inscribed *instrumenta domestica*, largely found in stratified contexts during systematic excavations at modern Argyroupoli (ancient Lappa, Crete) between 1986 and 1990. These *instrumenta domestica* are examined in such a way as to address a series of fundamental questions about continuity and change in the material record of Lappa, beginning with (1) where inscribed *instrumenta domestica* have been found in the archaeological landscape of the city. The discussion then presents various categories of inscribed *instrumenta domestica*, and for imported goods analyzes (2) when these objects were produced or imported; (3) whence the imported objects made their way to the island; (4) how these imported goods came to Lappa and what that contributes to our knowledge of transit and trade patterns; and (5) why Lappaians imported fine wares and amphoras to supplement their own local production. Study of the inscribed *instrumenta domestica* from the Lappa sheds light on the commercial connections and contacts of the ancient city in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. These inscribed *instrumenta domestica* are then placed into possible historical contexts and used to illustrate changes in the use and distribution of these artefacts, changes attributed to multiple and overlapping phenomena.