

ROOM F: THE CEMETERIES DATING FROM THE 4TH CENTURY BC THROUGH TO LATE ANTIQUITY

This sixth room (floor area 80 sq. m.) contains displays of finds from graves dating from between the 4th century BC and the 4th century AD and late antiquity.

Case 1 displays finds from burial Z in the easternmost group of graves and burial no. 139 in the central group, dating from 375-350 BC and 350-325 BC, respectively.

Case 2

also displays two groups of grave goods: one from burial

Γ, dating from the early 3rd

century BC, and the other from burial no. 62, dating from the late 4th

-early 3rd

century BC. In the uniform

case 3

there are vessels from another two groups of grave goods: those from burials 19 and 38, dating from the late 4th

-early 3rd

century BC and the early 3rd

century BC, respectively.

Case 4

displays finds from six burials dating from the late 4th

century to the first half of the 3rd

century BC. The four black-glazed kantharoid cups (

nos

1

,

3

,

10

,

20

) are of particular interest: the bodies of these cups are identical to those of kantharoi and (as far as we know) this type of cup does not occur in any other group of grave goods found in Macedonia

. They may be compared with cups of similar type produced in Boeotia

.

Case

5

displays finds from another four burials: nos 142 and 173 from the early 3rd century BC, and nos 219 and 143 from the first half of the 4th century BC. The free-standing

case

6

displays grave goods and jewellery from the unlooted female burial no. 162, as well as the figurine of a dove from the looted burial no. 166. In the initial clearing stage, burial no. 62 was found to contain 123 animal knucklebones, laid around the body of the dead woman. In fact, along the narrow south side of the grave and outside the vases the knucklebones had been arranged in a row, one next to the other. Such a regular arrangement of knucklebones has not been found in any other grave at Aiani or elsewhere. The next showcase,

case 7

, which is also freestanding, displays representative samples of vessels from the 4th

and 3rd

rd

centuries BC: red-figure lekythia (

nos

1-3

and

9

), guttus-type askoi (

nos

4

,

15

,

16

), askos-strainers (

nos

5

and

6

), askoi with arched handles (

nos

10-12

), and two red-figure askoi (

nos

13-14

), all of which were cosmetic vessels used for storing aromatic oils. On the opposite side of the room,

in case

8

, which consists of three transparent showcases, the contents of a pit-grave at Ano Komi are displayed. On a thin layer of yellowish sandy soil a young woman had been buried with a full array of ornaments: she had been wearing a gold necklace with a braided chain terminating in lion-heads that fastened at the front of the neck in a so-called 'Herculean knot' (

no.

4

), a gold ring with a representation of Eros on the third finger of the left hand (

no.

5

), three gold bow fibulae on her shoulders (

nos

6-8

), and gold earrings on her ears (

no.

9

), each with a quintuple rosette and a pyramidal pendant, on the upper part of which cockerels may be discerned (two on one earring and one on the other).

Case 9

displays jewellery and clothing accessories from the

East

Cemetery

.

Case 10

contains a display of metal artefacts, of which, as has already been mentioned, only a small number survived in the

East

Cemetery

.

Case 11

contains a representative sample of clay vessels from the

East

Cemetery
and various other locations, dating from the 4th
to the 2nd
century BC.

Case 12

contains a representative sample of smaller vessels from various locations, dating from the 4th
and 3rd
centuries BC. Finally,

case 13

contains finds from the post-Christian and Roman era, the 2nd
-4th
century AD.

Dr Georgia Karamitrou – Mentesidi

Photos of Room F:

