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Pottery to the people. The producttion, distribution and consumption of decorated pottery in the Greek world in the Archaic period (650-480 BC)

Stissi, V.V.

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Preface

Writing a thesis is a long and solitary task, but happily for me it has not been a lonely one. Many people have helped me arriving where I am now, by offering their support, discussing about general archaeological themes or more specific issues treated in this study, and, of course, simply by being friends. Here, I can thank only few of them individually.

First, my parents. It goes beyond my memory, but it must have been them who lured me into archaeology when they brought me – at first still a child – first to the wonderful temples of Sicily and museums all over Europe, later to less well-known, even quite hidden places of archaeological interest. Also back home, in Amsterdam and on Sicily, their support, in practical matters but also in keeping up the spirits, has always remained strong, and without their help and hospitality this thesis could never have been written.

My brother is the next to be mentioned with gratitude here. Even after sharing many of the just mentioned voyages, he has continued to assist me in my archaeological hobby. Particularly his help in providing the IT and his patience in answering my questions on computer matters have formed a crucial contribution to the completion of this work.

Then my friends, who have always helped me in forgetting the sherds – to both their and my relief, I think. Pride of place goes to the old Barlaeus gang, particularly Julia von Graevenitz, Jan Hoedemaker and Keita Hirs, who were always there when I needed them, and continue to offer support and joy. But no less important are those, spread over Europe, who I have met in the thesis-years, sometimes even during the actual work: Marlies Buurman, Arianna Esposito and Arnisa Zeqo. An extra word of thank goes to Syragó Tsiabalou, who introduced me so deep in Greek life that I will never be able to leave it behind, Artemis Stamatelou, who showed me the hidden beauties of Athens, and Arnisa Zeqo who let me rediscover Rome. Your hospitality brought me many precious moments.

Besides the support from home and friends, a thesis also needs the helping hands of fellow researchers, colleagues and institutions that make your work more comfortable. In the last category, I particularly want to thank the staff of the libraries of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the British School in Athens, the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Rome, the Universiteit Leiden and above all the people of our own faculty library for their patience and help. My gratitude also goes to the students and staff of the British School in Athens for the pleasant time they gave me during my stays in Athens, and to those of the American excavation house in Corinth for their generous hospitality during an all too short study visit there. Nancy Bookidis, secretary of the Corinth excavations, offered invaluable help by allowing me to see some items from the store rooms and the library there, and by introducing me to these places and some of their contents. The Nederlands Instituut in Athene, and especially its former director Margriet Haagsma and its secretary Willem Ledeboer also deserve being mentioned here for their friendly and efficient assistance, without which my research in Greece would have been much less pleasant. Another important contribution to my work, of a very different nature, came from the financial support offered by the Allard Pierson Stichting, NWO, and above all the research department of our faculty, where particularly Kees Ostendorf was always very helpful.

Among the many colleagues that solved the riddles I posed them, offered to share their results and conclusions, showed me finds or discussed problems of research and interpretation with me, I wish to recall Francine Blondé, Aurélia Greiveldinger, Katy Hadzis, Lise Hannestad, Eleni Hasaki, Alan Johnston, Katerina Kanta, Benoît Mater, Jacques Perreault, Marcella Pisani, Giorgos Riginos and Guy Saunders. Closer to home than most of these, I want to mention John Bintliff, who succeeded in bringing me to work in a monastery in the mountains, and Reinder Reinders, whose house in Amaliapolis probably is the place in the world where hard working on archaeology comes closest to a relaxed holiday. Working in and around Halos has always helped

me remembering that archaeology is about people, with people. ARCHON, often through its secretary Roswitha Manning, gave me several opportunities to share my thoughts and results with Dutch colleagues of all archaeological kinds, which was a stimulating experience. In Amsterdam, I wish to thank Geralda Jurriaans, Hans Koens, Ron Leenheer and Winfred van de Put whose advise on various, sometimes specialised, matters was very useful. Our department's secretary, Wilbert Cornelissen gave much more than just practical assistance. Vincent Tosto not only corrected and improved my English, but also offered many invaluable suggestions that greatly improved my research and the resulting text.

The many students from Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden and further away with whom I have worked with at surveys and excavations and during my teaching assignments, deserve a place of their own. You are a never-ending source of pleasure and inspiration.

Then, last but certainly not least, I come to my close 'context' at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. As we all now, archaeology is nothing without contexts. First as my teachers, than as colleagues, I have always enjoyed the presence of Herman Brijder, Joost Crouwel, Joop Derksen, Marijke Gnade, Patricia Lulof, Eric Moormann, Kees Neeft and, only slightly further away, Fik Meijer. Our younger researchers Jan-Paul Crielaard, Roald Docter, Demetrius Waarsenburg, Gert-Jan van Wijngaarden and, more recently, Lucinda Dirven have been no less important by offering themselves as 'sparring partners' in many a stimulating discussion; Roald Docter, moreover, gave much practical help and moral support during many shared meals and evenings. My youngest colleagues, fellow PhD students Anneke Aarts, Olaf Borgers, Helle Hochscheid and Hendrieneke Maas have all seen a large part of my text and commented on it, while they shared their own writings with me. I am very grateful for their suggestions and hope that we can continue to support each other in this fruitful way for many years to come. You all were and are always ready to answer my questions, to give me support and advice of all kinds, but the many hours spent together in lively discussion or in cheerful drinking were at least as pleasant and useful.

Finally, two people need a special mention. Kees Neeft is the one who has started all this, by letting me ask a few questions about Corinthian pottery which resulted in an MA-thesis that left some open ends to be explored and led to new questions remaining to be asked... I have to thank him for that, but even more for his continuous moral support, friendly advice, the generous sharing of his data and expertise on Greek pottery (and much more), lots of after dinner teas and his willingness to listen to my often premature hypotheses. Although you were far away for many months, your helpful suggestions were always close by when I was writing. I hope to enjoy many more of them.

Herman Brijder has been the very patient supervisor of this ever expanding project, which he supported strongly and with inspiring enthusiasm from the start to the long awaited finish, also by providing fresh books from his library and data from his own research. His continuing faith in the promised results, eager waiting for finished chapters and critical appreciation of the bits and pieces that slowly came in offered strong reasons to write on and on, and his comments provided important clues and guidelines. I really look forward to your continuous presence in my archaeological work.

And again, thank you all!