

AtticPOT

The AtticPOT project – Attic PO(ttery in) T(hrace)

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The AtticPOT – Attic PO(ttery in) T(hrace) research project began in October 2018 and has a duration of three years. The object of AtticPOT is to investigate the Athenian presence in ancient Thrace from the 6th to the 4th centuries BC, using as a basic methodological tool the presence and dissemination of Attic painted pottery. Through the study of Attic vases that have come to light in a wide area, largely defined as from the Danube to the Aegean Sea and from the River Strymon to the Black Sea, the project explores issues of trade, intercultural relations and interactions within the local societies.

The AtticPOT project has received funding from the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) and the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) under the 1st call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects for the support of Post-doctoral Researchers. It is implemented in 'Athena' R.C. in cooperation with the Democritus University of Thrace and with the participation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The research team includes archaeologists, a philologist, computer engineers and computer scientists, as well as scholars competent in Bulgarian and Turkish, to further assist with the non-Western literature relevant to the project. In particular, the core members of AtticPOT are Eirini Chioti, Despoina Tsiadaki, Natasa Michailidou, Kostas Stavroglou, Amalia Avramidou, Konstantina Tsonaka, Christina Markou, Ioannis Mourthos, Markos Dimitsas and Guentcho Banev. More information on the profile of our team, which is still growing, can be found on the project website (<http://atticpot.ipet.gr/index.php/en/>).

One of the main objectives of the project is to create an online platform hosting a digital repository, as well as interactive maps, in addition to the project's main website and forum. The published Attic painted (black-figure, red-figure, white-ground, etc.) vases found at various locations in ancient Thrace and within diverse archaeological contexts (funerary, household, cult, etc.) will be collected in the digital repository, which will be bilingual (Greek and English). Thus, it will be accessible not only to Greek-speaking users, but to scholars from other countries. Registered users will be able to see the information collected about every vase and the relevant literature and search the repository according to their own criteria. Also, the repository will include a bibliography on Attic pottery in Thrace, as well as related literary and epigraphic testimonies. Finally, users will be able to

add new material so that the repository can be continuously updated during and even after the end of the project.

The collection of vases in the repository and the multi-level search options will be complemented by studies dedicated to the vases' findspots, shapes, workshops and decoration. In addition, the influence of Attic pottery on the local production(s) and vice-versa, the impact of Thracian culture on Greek artefacts will be examined, along with the wider effect of this interaction on the local communities and Athenian society. Ultimately, the project aims to outline the commercial routes used for pottery trade, suggesting possible import centres, distribution hubs, preferences and trends, as well as the factors that contributed to these variations over set temporal and spatial frames. This attempt will be facilitated by several interactive maps, which will highlight the types and quantities of vases found in targeted areas at different periods, and by accompanying text, offering observations, discussions and citations.

The AtticPOT research project aspires to clarify many questions of modern research and to thoroughly study a less known area of the ancient world. It also approaches the complexities of studying pottery within a multi-cultural area in an innovative way, bringing together material that is usually studied fragmentarily, as it is shared between several modern states and is sometimes published in languages that are not accessible to Western European scholars.

As part of the AtticPOT – Attic PO(ttery in) T(hrace) research project, a bilingual web site has already been created and is accessible at <http://atticpot.ipet.gr>. There, one can find detailed information on the project, as well as general texts for the broad public. The site will gradually incorporate the repository of the Attic vases in Thrace, the bibliography on Attic pottery in Thrace, as well as the literary and epigraphic testimonies.

The website also hosts a forum for the exchange of scientific views (<http://atticpot.ipet.gr/index.php/en/forum-all>). Everyone interested in Attic pottery and/or ancient Thrace can register at the forum and join the AtticPOT network to get in touch with other scholars with common interests. In order to help scholars stay connected with AtticPOT, the project sends out a biannual newsletter (<http://atticpot.ipet.gr/index.php/en/news-2/newsletters-en>), subscription to which is available also through its website (<http://atticpot.ipet.gr/index.php/en/news-2/subscribe-to-newsletter2>).

AtticPOT is active on Facebook with its own page (<https://www.facebook.com/AtticPOT/>) where one can find more news about the project and its presence at Greek and international conferences. AtticPOT combines digital technologies and traditional archaeology, in order to create a useful tool for the study of Attic pottery in Thrace. Within the broader frame of cultural technologies, our research team participated in the 3rd Pan-Hellenic Conference on Digital Cultural Heritage-EuroMed 2019 (<http://www.euromed-dch.eu/>), presenting a paper about the project, its goals and specifications. Moreover, AtticPOT has also contributed to the 8th Symposium of Thasian Studies (<http://www.thasiakienosi.gr/category/ekdiloseis/>) with a paper focusing on the Attic painted pottery unearthed in Thasos and its periaia, based on the data collected during the project. Additional presentations dealing with issues of cultural technology and matters of pottery and archaeology are scheduled to take place in the up-coming months.