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ΤΜΗΜΑ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ

ΟΙ ΝΕΚΡΟΠΟΛΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΜΑΘΟΥΝΤΑΣ

**ΤΑΦΙΚΗ ΤΟΠΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΥΠΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΩΙΜΗ ΕΠΟΧΗ ΤΟΥ
ΣΙΔΗΡΟΥ ΜΕΧΡΙ ΤΗΝ ΥΣΤΕΡΗ ΡΩΜΑΪΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟ**

ΔΙΔΑΚΤΟΡΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΤΡΙΒΗ

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present doctoral dissertation is the study of the funerary topography and the funerary architecture of ancient Amathous throughout the chronological length of its history: from the Early Iron Age, at the beginning of the 1st millennium BC, until the Late Roman period.

The spatial context of this work are the necropoleis (burial sites) of Amathous (western, northern and eastern). The three necropoleis lie on the slopes of the low hills adjacent to the acropolis hill and they extend along the coast. . The large amount of data that were collected during the review of the literature and the study of the unpublished archival and archaeological material was inserted in a specially designed database, which became the main tool for the data analysis of the present work.

The history of archaeological research relating to the necropoleis precedes the examination of the funerary topography; it reveals the main objectives and research methods applied by foreign and local expeditions until today. In the context of a wider landscape approach, the visible, non-funerary monuments that were brought to light by the systematic fieldwork of the past decades in the area are also presented.

The study of the funerary topography focuses on the spatial organization and extend of the three necropoleis diachronically, from the appearance of the first tombs, at the beginning of the Cypro-Geometric period, until their abandonment in the Late Roman period. The spatial organization and extend of each necropolis is examined separately for each period and the data are presented collectively and diachronically.

The study and analysis of the data deriving from the excavations in the three necropoleis resulted in the typological classification of the tombs and in the examination of each tomb type within a spatial and chronological context. The emergence of specific types of graves at Amathous and their use for a longer or a shorter span of time is presented in relation to parallel data from other sides of the island.

The funerary practices and the burial customs constitute an integral part of the study of the funerary monuments, since they played a significant role in the selection of the tomb type, thus affecting the funerary topography. The reconstruction of the burial process and the funerary practices performed at Amathous were attempted through the analysis of the available published and unpublished excavation material.

The synthesis of the data from the study of the funerary topography and the tomb typology leads to the final conclusions, whose main focus is on the early phases of the history of Amathous. Taking into consideration the location, the architecture and the rich burial assemblages of the earliest tombs, as well the subsequent extent of the communal cemeteries during the early phases of the Cypro-Geometric period, I seek to provide answers with respect to the foundation of Amathous. The early stages of the development of an urban structure, which led to the formation of the capital of one of the independent polities of the island, are traced in the funerary material, tomb architecture and funerary topography.