

## LITHIC INDUSTRIES FROM THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MILLENNIUM IN AMATHUS AREA (CYPRUS)

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The researches led for twenty years in Cyprus considerably renewed the question of the first stages of the island populating and allowed to establish a new framework of reflection from the data of excavations. The survey led between 1988 and 1991 on the current area of Amathonte, by the French School mission of Athens, allowed to highlight numerous new neolithic sites, among which Shillourokambos and Klimonas were the most remarkable. The high density of sites was largely connected to the excellent flint resources, which played a major role in the use of raw materials from the first stages of human occupation of this region. The favorable environmental conditions near the littoral zone were doubtless also an important factor for the human presence

The numerous lithic series are well dated, and are coming from a good stratigraphical context. They contributed highly to the knowledge of a large period including the beginning of the 9<sup>th</sup> millennium till the end of the 8th millennium cal B.C. If a part of the productions corresponds to adaptive behaviour connected doubtless to the local contingencies but also to the functional needs of the human groups, which successively established on the territory, the other part is more invested and has a high techno-cultural value. It is the case in particular of the blade technology, some categories of tool, and the obsidian, a raw material imported from Anatolia. In the present state of the knowledge, the earliest stages are contemporary of the first half of the 9th millennium cal. BC. Translucent local flint dominates the Klimonas lithic assemblage and some obsidian has been discovered. The abundant chipped stone industry is characterized by a production of small blades in unidirectional mode with sometimes a use from an opposite striking platform. The main part of the cores was pyramidal or conical. A second type of production was a bidirectional mode of exploitation of cores, but these occurrences are rare. No indication of PPNB bipolar technology is attested in these series. The tool kit is characterized by a high number of burins and scrapers and by small arrowheads with short tang. Klimonas shows significant features of the Mureybétien, such as they were identified in Cyprus at Asprokremnos.

The earliest stages of occupation of Shillourokambos are contemporary of the middle of the 9th millennium BC. The principle of laminar debitage keeps a part of the previous technological tradition, but new standards are dominant, resulting from direct influences of the PPNB sphere: bipolar blade technology, big arrowheads industry and anatolian obsidian bladelets produced by pressure.