

HERITAGE TRAIL

What the Romans did for us. Zoomorphism in the ancient context and how it transferred to ceramic roof tiles, in countries once in the Roman Empire.

Introduction

So much of European culture is already well known and is 're-packaged'; it is rare indeed to discover new information about culture. In 2012 this is exactly what happened here in Cyprus with Kato Drys Community Council and partners, when a visiting French student turned over a broken terracotta 'interlocking' roof tile and saw a crisp and clear logo of a butterfly. The roof tile story began right then and there and now we have discovered almost 200 rooftiles with 'zoomorphic' logos.

As archaeological practitioners, we surmised (with help from Roman experts) that the habit was from the glory days of the Roman Empire and linked to 'Samianware', an early example of industrial ceramics. We have drawn together many threads in our rooftile discoveries and the European Union was lavish in its praise because it was 'new stuff'.

Now you can come to Cyprus to share in our discoveries and maybe even find more animals, birds, insects and reptiles on old roof tiles, as well as learn about some early examples of industrial espionage and fights for market domination in Europe and the Levant (and spreading to Australia, New Zealand and the USA), with France and Romania being the main protagonists.

This "Roof Tile Heritage Trail" in Larnaca district is offered by Kato Drys Community Council and their stakeholders, Mola Culture Factory. It links to opportunities to learn some cool recycling ideas, such as making unique jewellery. Find the link to the map of the trail below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

What you'll discover

Stop 1: Athasi Heights, base of Grampus Heritage South East Europe - At stop one, you will see examples of zoomorphic rooftile logos gathered from all over Europe and hear the story of how they are linked.

Stop 2: The Chapel of Archangel Michael - At stop two, you will visit the Chapel of Archangel Michael, located in Kato Lefkara, 2 kilometres from the Athasi Heights, with its intact Byzantine roof.

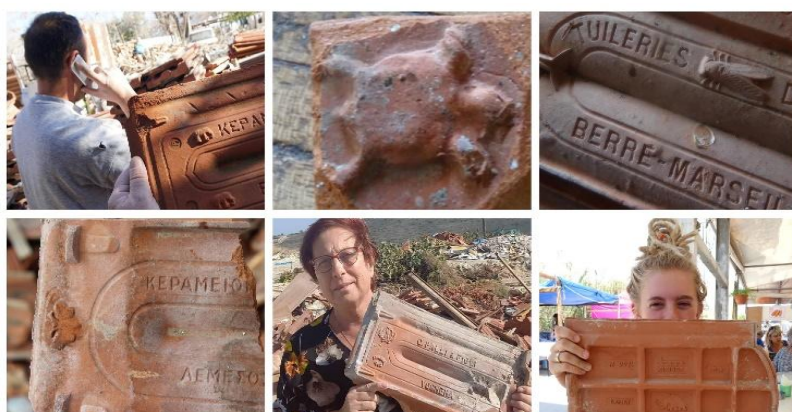
Stop 3: Skarinou - Stop three is 10 kilometres away from Kato Lefkara. Here you can visit an abandoned builders' storage yard full of ceramic terracotta roof tiles, some over 120 years old.

Stop 4: Kato Drys - Stop four leads you to Kato Drys where you will visit 2 sites and discover old rooftiles from far-flung islands and the Greek mainland – why did they come here?

Stop 5: Pano Lefkara - Stop five brings you back to Pano Lefkara. We return to the carpark of the Holy Cross Church and sort through piles of old tiles on the terrace below to discover the 'French Connection' and how, for a time, 'Marseilles' roof tiles dominated.

Heritage stories

Story 1 "Athasi Heights, Pano Lefkara"



Zoomorphic roof tile logos – so what's the fascination? It all started when a French student, Marine Duteil from a village close to Marseilles, turned over an old and broken roof tile in the village of Maroni on the south coast of Cyprus. Two things startled Marine. Firstly, the

logo was a crisp and clear butterfly. So clear in fact that Martin Clark of Grampus Heritage blurted out, "it's a purple hairstreak butterfly!". Secondly, the tile was from Marseilles, like Marine. Serendipity!

We've found, over the last 12 years, that many tiles have a zoomorphic logo – an insect, mammal, reptile, bird – that has a significant strength or message to portray about the attributes of the tile. In 2012 we were engaged in a European project called EVEHD "Engaging Volunteers in European Heritage Discovery" and it was decided that ancient roof tiles would be a great topic. Young people in Cyprus, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania started searching through heaps of discarded old roof tiles. Around 80 zoomorphic rooftile logos were found. We did some brainstorming: what historically linked these countries? "Mmmmm... the Ottoman Empire". Then young people from Germany, Slovakia and Italy, got involved. In Slovakia, despite it being in the Ottoman Empire for 400 years, there were no zoomorphic logos. Conversely, a rooftile from southern Germany and several from Italy had animals and insects but the Ottomans never got so far west; they were halted at Vienna when the siege of city was broken by a Savoy army from nowadays Italy in 1529.

Taking the history lesson a step further, the siege came in the aftermath of the 1526 Battle of Mohács, when the young king of Hungary, Stephen, was killed on the battlefield. We were confused! Martin Clark had posted several stories about our roof tile investigation on social media and a UK-based archaeologist wrote to him, “Martin, the link is not the Ottomans, it’s the Romans” and he sent two pictures.

Later a Cypriot archaeologist got involved and talked about the link to Roman ‘Samian ware’ – an early example of industrialised (not 100% hand-made) ceramics. We were convinced as to the Roman connection and published the fact. So, we had discovered that every country we found such tiles was once in the Roman Empire. Roman roof tiles sometimes had zoomorphic logos and Samian ware red pottery, which is from a mold, also has such living creature motifs. Putting 2 & 2 together plus some archaeological input, we deduced that zoomorphic logos, some still made today, are a ‘Roman habit’ because it meant more than text. In fact most people could not read! Some habits are just too hard to break, even after 2,000 years!

Athasi Heights in Pano Lefkara is the first stop on the Rooftiles Heritage Trail. Your next stops are Archangel Michael’s Chapel in Kato Lefkara, Skarinou, and Kato Drys village where you’ll hear different stories about rooftiles. Find the link to the map of the trail in the description to this video below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

Story 2 “Archangel Michael’s Chapel, Kato Lefkara: Ancient roof tiles from the Romans and Byzantines, trying to be watertight”



Byzantine roofs (10th & 11th century) are to be found on the older chapels around Pano and Kato Lefkara. Interestingly archaeology students found them at the Old Olive Mill, when the floor was excavated to allow for 3 buildings to be re-linked. This discovery told us that a building had been there for around 1,000 years, maybe longer, because Roman Empire roof tiles are the same as Byzantine ones.

The ancient roofs were ceramic (usually terracotta) and consisted of an imbrex and tegula; roof tiles were overlapping. The tegula (Greek solenes) was a plain flat tile, or (later) a flat tile with raised edges, which was laid flat upon the roof, while the imbrex (Greek kalupter) was a semi-cylindrical roofing tile, like a half-

pipe, laid over the joints between the tegulae. A well-made and properly imbricated (overlapped) roof was watertight, and there was no need for further waterproofing or sealant. Such roofs can still be found today in Athens, Rome and Istanbul (Classical Constantinople) and they were used in Ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine architecture as a waterproof and durable roof covering.

The timeline of use was around 4,000 years. In Rome, they replaced wooden shingles, and were used on every type of structure, from humble outbuildings to grand temples and public facilities. There were several interesting features. The last row of tiles, where the water ran off the roof, was modified to spread the flowing water so it dripped off, rather than ‘whooshed off’. The modification was made by the tile maker, with his or her fingers – we call it a ‘spreader’. The most complex modification the team saw was on Roman roof tiles in Alba Iulia (Romania) and consisted of concentric half circles. The imbrex tile, being half round, resulted in an inviting nesting place for small birds at the roof edge. The pragmatic Classical period roofers came up with the antefix, which were often decorated and had several decorative anthemions, to cover each end row imbrex. They typically had the face of a God or Demi-God; Hermes or Athena were common. The Roman antefixes often had animals, maybe representing a particular Legion and this (we think) is the start of zoomorphism in roof tiles, with a Wild boar being a good example. The tegulae also sometimes had a zoomorphic stamp, representing the maker or the Legion using the building.

The concept of imbrex and tegula roofing in pitched roof construction is still used today by architects and builders, as an international feature of style and design, and is the origin of the term ‘imbrication’ for the condition of things arranged in overlapping layers.

Archangel Michael’s Chapel in Kato Lefkara is the second stop on the Rooftiles Heritage Trail. Your next stops are Skarinou, Kato Drys and Pano Lefkara villages where you’ll hear different stories about rooftiles. Find the link to the map of the trail in the description to this video below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

Story 3 “North Eastern segment of Skarinou village”



“To bee or not to bee? That is the question”. This story is not about Shakespeare's “Hamlet”; it's about the zoomorphic logo of a bee on vintage roof tiles and how the symbol has endured to the modern day!

Why are bee logos on so many different roof tiles? The answer is complex and many faceted! Firstly, the habit of putting living creature (zoomorphic) logos on roof tiles is ROMAN. That's not to say the

tiles shown here are Roman, but the thought process continued long after the decline of the Empire! We found over 120 zoomorphic logos in Europe, all from countries once in the Roman Empire. Bees are on French and Cypriot roof tiles. There's a ‘French Connection’. The market in the Eastern Mediterranean was flooded with French-made ‘Marseilles’ tiles. I hear you ask “WHY?”. There was a lively sea trade between the 2 countries around 150 years ago. Cargo ships plied between the South of France and Cyprus. They came for copper, carobs and asbestos, but they needed ballast in the ships and couldn't sail empty. The tiles were the ballast! When some enterprising Cypriot thought ‘wait a minute, we can make our own tiles’ (perímene lígo, boroúme na ftiáxoume ta diká mas plakákia) and formed the LIMASSOL BRICK & TILE COMPANY. The French (to protect their trade) bought it out! Because of the connection, the Bee logo was perpetuated in both countries! Why a bee? Roofs are modular, so are bee hives /honeycomb/ and bees are industrious and organised. We can only assume of course!

Skarinou village is the third stop on the Rooftiles Heritage Trail. Your next stops are Kato Drys and Pano Lefkara villages where you'll hear a few other stories about rooftiles. Find the link to the map of the trail in the description to this video below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

Story 4 “Kato Drys village – home to some fascinating roof tiles and interesting stories”



The elephant logo rooftiles found in Kato Drys are great. We’ve decided to make the elephants into beads and centrepieces for macrame and brand them “ELEPHANT”. The rooftiles are off a roof in Kato Drys a hundred metres from the ethnographic museum. Bizarrely, they came from “CHIOS ELEFAS POTTERY”. The factory was built in 1922-25 by German engineers for the Michalos family. At the height of production, they made 100,000 tiles a day!

We find also the ‘Fallow Deer’ rooftile logo. It’s standing on a plinth/ pillar capital. Where is it from? Rhodes of course! The symbol of the island. Why are tiles from far-flung islands here? At a mountain village in Cyprus? A story of ethnic cleansing on a grand scale and a refugee crisis from more than 100 years ago. The 1923 population exchange between Greece and Turkey followed the “Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations” signed at Lausanne, Switzerland, on 30 January 1923, by the governments of Greece and Turkey. It involved at least 1.6 million people, 1,221,489 Greek Orthodox from Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, the Pontic Alps and the Caucasus, and 355,000–400,000 Muslims from Greece, most of whom were forcibly made refugees and de jure denaturalized from their homelands. It was a human tragedy and Kato Drys received its share of displaced Greeks. The last one, who arrived as an infant, died in the last few years. Each of the islands received Greeks and the Muslims mainly occupied formerly Greek villages on Turkey’s Aegean coast and the city of Izmir (Smyrna to the Greeks).

The tile factories on Chios and Rhodes date from this tragic and chaotic time and displaced Greeks were involved in the establishment of the firms (oddly with some Turkish investment also). Although they were dispersed many hundreds of kilometres apart, the refugee/ displaced person status was a common bond. When those displaced Greeks found their feet and built houses that needed roof tiles, they preferred to trade with the new tile companies established by their refugee peers, even though they were very far away.

Kato Drys village is the fourth stop on the Rooftiles Heritage Trail. Your next stop is Pano Lefkara villages where you’ll hear another story about rooftiles. Find the link to the map of

the trail in the description to this video below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

Story 5 “Back to Pano Lefkara: French Connection”

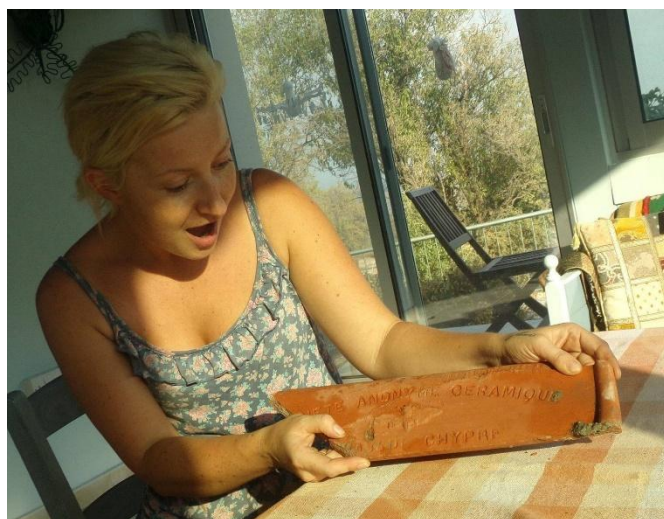


Beginning around 1850, expanding industrial production allowed for more efficient and large-scale production of clay roofing tiles. Also, increasing city growth led to rising demand for fireproof materials to limit the danger of urban fires. There was a shift from regional and hand-produced tiles to patented and machine-made tiles sold by large-scale companies. The Gilardoni brothers of Altkirch, France, were the first to develop a functional interlocking

roof tile. Through the rest of the 19th century many companies began refining and developing other versions of interlocking tiles. Another popular early interlocking tile pattern was the Marseilles design invented by the Martin Brothers in Marseille, France, as early as the 1860s. The Marseilles tile pattern is distinguished from other designs by its diagonal notches on its side rebate, as well as the teardrop-shaped end of its middle-rib (for effective water shedding). The Martin Brothers invented the design; its widespread use was more due to the pattern's adoption and international production after its original patent expired. The Marseilles tile was widely exported to Cyprus and the Levant and much further away in European colonies in South and Central America, Africa, New Zealand and Australia. All this was possible because they were carried in (initially French) ships as ballast. The ships returned to Europe loaded with exotic goods from far flung lands. Worldwide recession caused most countries to tax imports and French tiles suffered. One response by the French was to build or buy their own tile companies, such as the Limassol Brick and Tile Company. Others competed with the French, such as the Romanian Muschong industrial dynasty who owned Kikinda Tile factory in Serbia and also exported to Cyprus. Even today French-made roof tiles have a very important part of the Levantine market.

Pano Lefkara village is the last stop of the Rooftiles Heritage Trail. Find the link to the map of the trail in the description to this video below, or contact the Mola Culture Factory for more details.

Story 6 “The cat’s paw print on a Roman tile”



“As I sat holding the tile in the spring sunshine, I sort of dozed off and slipped in that easy way into a dream. I seemed to wake and look around sleepily. First, I noticed a villa on the hill. Red and dun tiles and bricks, pencil-like Cupressus trees (didn’t recall seeing that before!) and a sky of plumbago blue. There was a scent of woodsmoke and the salt-tang of the sea. Slightly startled I looked at my immediate surroundings, a pile of greasy looking clay to the right, a

wooden board and various wooden tools and spades/ shovels. There were lines and lines of fresh-made roof tiles (tegulae) drying in the sun and the hunched blackened bulk of a kiln or oven. I glanced to the left. There was a large and rather battered looking tomcat. Green eyes watching me steadily. He was on a low wall close to some very freshly made tiles, still glistening with wet. I could smell fish - strong and salty. I was holding a chunk of bread smeared with a pungent and oily looking fish paste. Then I realised I was wearing a sort of course linen smock and sandals. The cat moved its eyes from my face to my fishy meal then gave a loud ‘meow’ and headed my way. Straight across the still wet clay of the tiles! Now I did wake properly. The sun had dipped and it was a bit chilly. I looked down, I was dressed normally in jeans and jumper, my hands still gripping the Roman roof tile with the cat paw print! Not the first we found!” This story is told by Martin Clark, Director of Grampus and project officer for Kato Drys Community Council.

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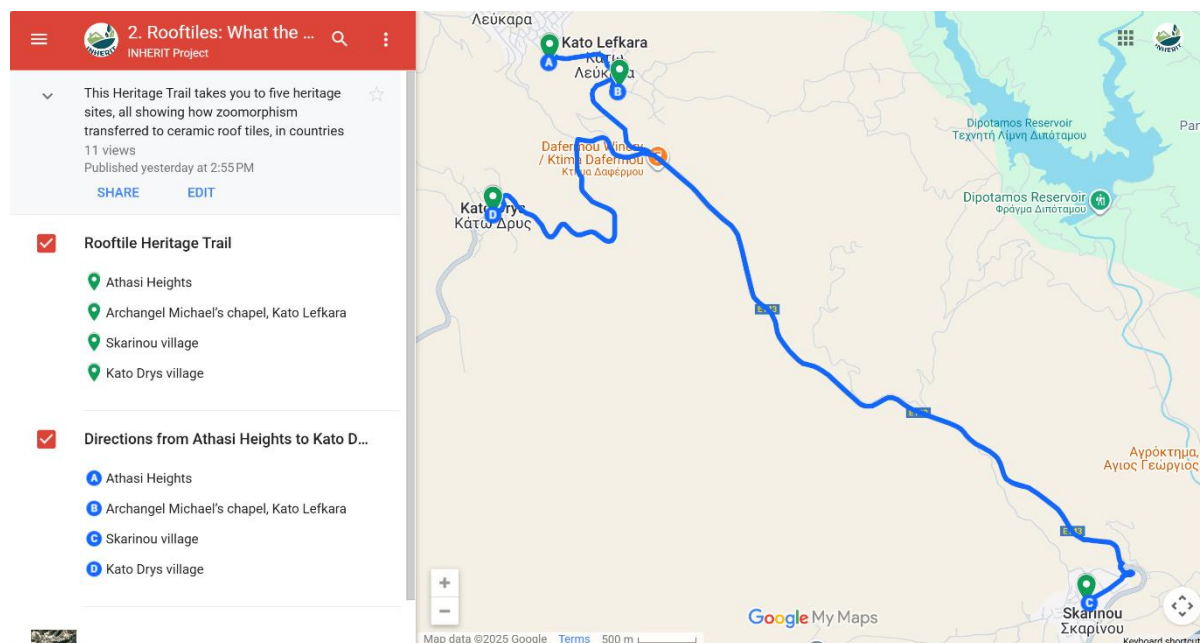
Why this trail matters

- The stories and the experience will help to stimulate the local economy in a sustainable way.
- Visitors will learn more about the local cultural landscape that few tourists see.
- Discovery by tourists, from Cyprus and abroad, will raise awareness of the need for recognition and protection of vernacular patrimony, as it applies to architecture and especially roof tiles.

- The experience will help visitors recognise links that go back to the Roman Empire and reconnections during the period of the industrial revolution.
- Visitors will learn something that is genuinely 'new' – for our research work, we received a commendation from the EU.
- Together we can see how rooftiles stimulate ideas about fashion design and can be re-purposed for art and craft.

Trail map

This Heritage Trail takes you to five heritage sites, all showing how zoomorphism transferred to ceramic roof tiles, in countries once in the Roman Empire.



Link to the map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1C4289akypksQmKvFMnTjWBJ4Nyt7lcc&usp=sharing>

Starting point	Mola Culture Factory https://www.facebook.com/molalefkara/ Address: Saint Onoforus 1, Pano Lefkara, 7700, Larnaca District, Cyprus
Stop 1	Athasi Heights, Pano Lefkara Google map link GPS: 34.86294, 33.3097

Stop 2	Archangel Michael's chapel, Kato Lefkara Google map link GPS: 34.86105, 33.31602
Stop 3	Skarinou Google map link GPS: 34.82272, 33.35846
Stop 4	Kato Drys Google map link GPS: 34.85164, 33.30453
Stop 5	Athasi Heights, Pano Lefkara Google map link GPS: 34.86294, 33.3097

Trail details

- Length (km): 32 km
- How it could be undertaken: driving; can be undertaken alone but Mola can provide a guide.
- Special notes (clothes, equipment, weather, etc.): Between the end of October and the end of March, rain is possible and a light raincoat is needed plus a warmer jumper or fleece. At all times wear a hat, even in winter the sun can burn and in Spring, Summer and Autumn, sunburn is commonplace. You should also wear sun cream of over factor 40, especially if not between end of October and end of March. If walking you need strong shoes with good ankle protection. Do not walk into the 'maquis'; it is prickly and unyielding.
- Safety guidelines: Follow the rules about clothing and staying on the track. Cyprus has a few quite dangerous examples of wildlife but injuries are extremely rare. There is one very venomous snake, a blunt-nosed viper. Snakes lay in the sun to warm up, you spot them on the track; stamp your feet and they slither away. A black whipsnake is common and is not venomous. None of the 6 types of lizards that you might see, are any problem. Do not randomly turn over stones because there are venomous centipedes and scorpions but their bite is not worse than a bee sting. Do not walk off into the maquis, in case you come

suddenly upon a snake. All in all, the wildlife is fascinating and if you take care, is not a threat.

- Guiding:
 - This trail can be completed alone, or with a guide.
 - To book a guide, please contact The Old Olive Mill – Mola Culture Factory
- Contacts for more details:

Mola Culture Factory
<https://www.facebook.com/molalefkara/>
Address: Saint Onoforus 1, Pano Lefkara, 7700, Larnaca District, Cyprus
Phone: +357 99739320
Email: martinclark6@aol.com

Quests / Chances to be creative

Because Kato Drys Community and its stakeholders promote traditional skills and creativity, we use the opportunity given by the trail, to offer some short courses. They are held over 2 days; after completion of the trail. The KDCC/Mola team will source accommodation and recommend restaurants, etc. In this way KDCC is trying to help the local village economies (of Kato Drys and Pano Lefkara). These courses are optional but should be booked at the time of booking a guide for the trail. Although the trail can be completed alone and the stories heard over a smartphone, we recommend booking through our stakeholder, The Old Olive Mill – Mola Culture Factory (+357 99739320).

Quest 1 “Covering a ‘Greek Oven’”

Covering a ‘Greek Oven’ with hexagonal cut bee motives from the Limassol Brick and Tile Company. Such tiles are common, so we are not using rare cultural resources. The finish is decorative but also helps to insulate the oven and keep the heat in for cooking such meals as ‘Kleftiko’ (lamb and potatoes).

Quest 2 “Making zoomorphic roof tile jewellery”

Making zoomorphic roof tile jewellery using cut up tiles: one of our technicians will pre-cut to make pendants and beads. If there are special ideas, the technician is there on the day to cut special shapes. By the way, tile cutting produces a fine red ochre/ terracotta/ sienna dust that we save for pigment painting. The participant also learns how to make cordage from a variety of natural plant fibres.



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