The presentation at the AIAC 2018 will present the first results of the author‘s PhD project editing a yet unpublished excavation carried out by M. Ohnefalsch-Richter in the ancient city of Idalion in 1885.

The excavation site, identified as the ›Temple of Aphrodite‹ in the 19th century and today more carefully interpreted as the temenos of a female goddess, has brought to light numerous objects of terracotta, stone and metal, which since have been scattered over the museums of Europe.

The approach of a comprehensive analysis of the material remains identified in collections and museums, and the documentation of the excavation left by Ohnefalsch-Richter linked together in a database promises a new and whole perspective on the votive practices of this cypro-archaic sanctuary. The finds, the majority of which has never been published, show the whole spectrum of dedications typically found in temenoi of female deities in Cyprus.

Together with a stylistic analysis of the objects to identify regional styles and imported goods, it will shed light on the economic importance of the city of Idalion and its role in regional trading patterns reaching as far as Egypt, the Levant and southern Turkey. A closer examination reveals a strong influence of levantine art in the votives of the sanctuary.

Metal objects, which have been interpreted as equipment used in the cult, and close observations made by Ohnefalsch-Richter during the excavation may even give us a concept of the cult practices.