

A STAMPED RHODIAN AMPHORA HANDLE FROM YAFO (JAFFA), YEHUDA HA-YAMMIT STREET

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During the salvage excavations on Yehuda Ha-Yammit Street, Yafo (see Haddad and Rauchberger, this volume: Fig. 5:10), a Rhodian amphora handle stamped with an ivy leaf was found (L110, B1084).

Suggested reading:

Ἐ[

Δα[λίου] or Δά[λιος]

The retrograde reading of the two words engraved on both sides of the leaf rib is tentative. The first line may be the name of the fabricant (see below) or that of the eponym, the latter introduced by the word Ἐπὶ. The second line is probably the month Δάλιος, in the genitive or nominative. Only two Rhodian fabricants used this form for the die of their stamps. The first fabricant is Ἐπίγονος 1st, whose stamps are found frequently, and the second is Ἐρμαῖος 1st, whose stamps are rarely found and are of lesser workmanship. Based on the appearance of this stamp, the amphora was most probably endorsed by Ἐπίγονος 1st.

In that series of stamps, each of the handles had an inscription stamped on it that varied in the arrangement of the information. A stamp may have named either the eponym alone, the fabricant alone, both names together without the month, each name separately with the month (mentioned only once for each amphora), or the month alone. Therefore, the complementary pair of stamps would provide the three names for each amphora. The words were generally abbreviated, due to the size of the die used to imprint the stamp. Nine eponym names are known to have dated this type of stamp, from Θρασύδαμος to Ἀριστωνίδας, as well as Σιμυλῖνος and Φιλωνίδας (Finkielsztein 2001:103; 112, Table 4; 191, Table 18, now slightly corrected; Pl. XIII:237–241). The latter is now proved to be a different eponym than Φιλώνδας, and is dated about fifteen years later (see Finkielsztein 2001:106; in all tables appearing in Period II therein, Φιλωνίδας should be corrected to Φιλώνδας, for the year 233 BCE). Date: c. 215–205 BCE.

REFERENCES

Haddad E. and Rauchberger L. This volume. A Crusader-Period Moat and Other Remains from Yafo (Jaffa), Yehuda Ha-Yammit Street.

Finkielsztejn G. 2001. *Chronologie détaillée et révisée des éponymes amphoriques rhodiens de 270 à 108 av. J.-C. environ: Premier bilan* (BAR Int. S. 990). Oxford.