

UNSTAMPED AND STAMPED HELLENISTIC AMPHORA FRAGMENTS FROM BEN GAMLI'EL STREET, YAFO (JAFFA)

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Forty-seven fragments of stamped and unstamped amphora fragments were retrieved from the excavation on 10 Ben Gamli'el Street, Yafo (see Arbel, this volume). The amphorae, which were retrieved from Hellenistic Stratum III, are dated between the last third of the fifth century and the third quarter of the second century BCE; twenty-two of them date to the second century BCE. One Persian-period fragment (see below, No. 1) was found as well. The amphorae originated in a wide variety of production centers, mostly from the islands of the southeast Aegean and the western coast of Anatolia, but also from the western Mediterranean, Italy, the southern coast of Anatolia and Cyprus. Eleven of the amphora fragments bear stamps: nine from Rhodes, one from Thasos and one from Knidos. The catalogue below presents the amphorae both in chronological order and by provenance.

CATALOGUE¹

Samos/Miletus(?)

Unstamped Fragment

1. 208.2008.1—Rim.



The rim appears to be slightly flaring, although its stance cannot be accurately reconstructed due to the absence of the neck. Probably a Samian/Milesian amphora of the Persian period.

Dimensions: Rim section 1.5 × 3.8.

¹ Dimensions are given in centimeters. The arrows used in the description of stamped inscriptions follow the convention in Garlan (2000:93–112).

Clay: Dark red to brown, with thick borders; dark gray core; surface: reddish brown.

Parallels: Lawall 1995:370–371, Figs. 73, Type S/1; 74 (410 BCE); Monachov 2003:28, Pl. 15:7 (Samos Type I-B, second quarter of the fifth century BCE); Monachov 2003:35, Pl. 20:3 (Miletus Type II-B, second half/third quarter of the fifth century BCE).

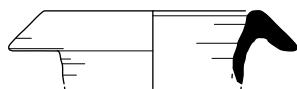
Date: Circa last third of the fifth century BCE.

Southeastern Aegean

This group comprises the productions of a number of cities and islands in a region extending from Miletos and Samos to Rhodes, and is characterized by the “koine form”, i.e., a “mushroom-shaped rim” and a globular body, with variations in the toe form (Lawall 2004a:451–453, Pls. 197:15–20; 198; 199:29–32; 200:36, the three lower amphorae).

Unstamped Fragments

2. 202.2033.1—Rim and neck.

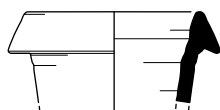


Dimensions: Rim diam. (inner) 12; rim diam. (outer) 20; preserved height 5.

Clay: Light brownish red, fine white shining inclusions; surface: light brown, many fine white shining inclusions.

Date: Late fourth century BCE.

3. 219.2061—Rim with fragment of neck.

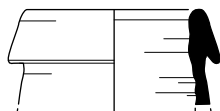


Dimensions: Rim diam. 14; preserved rim height 6.

Clay: Reddish brown exterior, light yellowish brown interior; surface: very light brown exterior, light red interior, both with some medium-sized, brown and a few medium-sized white inclusions.

Date: First half of the third century BCE.

4. 204.2029—Rim with fragment of neck.

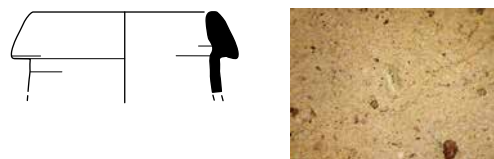


Dimensions: Rim height 3.5; preserved height 6.

Clay: Light brownish red; surface: light brownish red to very light brown.

Date: Last quarter of the fourth century BCE.

5. 206.2019—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Rim diam. 9.5; preserved rim height 5.

Clay: Light brownish red; surface: very light brown.

Date: Last quarter of the fourth century BCE.

6. 125.1061—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Rim height 3; preserved height 4.2.

Clay: Brown, darker core; surface: light grayish brown.

Date: Last quarter of the fourth century BCE.

7. 210.2020.1—Toe with fragment of base.



Very damaged knob toe attached to the base, without a stem. The toe may have been flaring, and the hole is relatively deep. The body may have been rather globular.

Dimensions: Height 7; toe height (restored) c. 2.5; toe diam. c. 4; toe hole depth c. 1.1.

Clay: Yellowish red, with few very fine shining inclusions; surface: light reddish brown. The clay is characteristic of the Southeast Aegean region. The form of the toe is similar to that of Knidian amphorae of the third quarter of the fourth–early third centuries BCE.

Parallels: Monachov 2003:110, Pls. 72:4, 5, 7; 73:4, 5.

Date: Circa 350–290 BCE.

Cyprus

This class of amphorae was studied by Cancardeş-Şenol and Şenol (2013) and Finkielsztein (2013).

Unstamped Fragments

8. 102.1035.2—Toe.



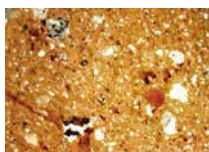
Dimensions: Toe height 1.7; toe diam. 3.3; preserved height 4.4.

Clay: Reddish brown; surface: light gray.

Parallels: Cancardeş-Şenol and Şenol 2013:60–61, Fig. 6, Type CyA6.

Date: Late fourth to mid-third centuries BCE.

9. 102.1035.3—Toe.



Dimensions: Toe height 2; toe diam. 3.8; preserved height 5.7.

Clay: Reddish brown; surface: light gray.

Parallels: Cancardeş-Şenol and Şenol 2013:60–61, Fig. 6, Type CyA6.

Date: Late fourth to mid-third centuries BCE.

Thasos

Stamped Fragment

10. 111.1113—Rectangular stamp.



Ηροφώντος ↓←

Dolphin ↑→

[Θα]σίων ↑→

Lunate *sigma* (C). The inscription runs around the field with the letters in a centrifugal orientation (based outward). Three homonym eponyms Ἡροφών are known, engraved with different forms of the letter sigma, which according to Garlan (2004–2005) should respectively date to c. 326–323 (Σ), 272–268 (C) and 229–225 (Σ) BCE. However, Tzoché (2016:73) has suggested a different date for the second eponym, c. 273–256. Therefore, it seems that in the present case, the stamp represents the second homonym, engraved with lunate *sigmas*. That conclusion was reinforced by Chavdar Tzoché (pers. comm.), who suggested that this is the eponym Herophon II, an engraver who made stamps for the four Thasian officials attested in Koroni. Tzoché agrees with Garlan and Debidour that this Herophon should have preceded immediately the Koroni group, which he dated between 269 and 265 BCE.

Date: Circa 272–268 [272–270] BCE (Garlan 2004–2005); c. 273–256 [273–271] BCE (Tzoché 2016:73, 82, Table facing 84).

Rhodes

The dating of the stamps is according to Finkielsztejn 2001. A slight, but meaningful, update of the absolute chronology of the eponyms can be found in Finkielsztejn (2019:128; see also Thomsen and Finkielsztejn 2020:254–258).

Stamped Fragments

11. 099.1012—Two stamps.



Main stamp: Circular

[Ἀρισ]το[κλεῦς]

Rose



Secondary stamp: Square

B

Stamp eroded; light yellow cover on the surface of the vessel. The secondary stamp B was used during the second quarter of the second century BCE (Finkielsztejn 2001:116–119, Tables 6, 8; Table 5 did not include the secondary stamp B, which was used only in Periods III–IV of Grace’s subdivision of the chronology, see Finkielsztejn 2001:196–197).

Date: Circa 175–150 BCE.

12. 102.1036—Rectangular stamp.



Star [Star]

Διο[κλεί]ας

[Star] Star

Stamp eroded with chipped-off letters. The stamp bears the name of a female fabricant, Διόκλεια, who endorsed amphorae dated from Periods IV–V of Grace’s (1985) chronology. Our example appears to be of an early date within Grace’s relative chronology (Grace and Savvatianou-Pétropoulakou 1970:305, No. E 13, 308, No. E 19; Brugnone 1986:14–15, No. 15, 55–56, No. 84; note that among the eponyms mentioned as associated with Διόκλεια there are only about a dozen years between Πυθόδωρος and Ἀλεξιάδας, slightly more if the eponym Γόργων is included; Finkielsztejn 2001:193, Table 20, 195, Table 21).

Date: Circa 155–135 BCE.

13. 099.1011—Circular stamp. Not illustrated.

]T[-----].P[

Rose

Flaking light yellow cover on the surface of the vessel. The style of the rose indicates a Period V date for the amphora.

Date: Third quarter of the second century BCE.

14. 126.1092—Two stamps.



Main stamp: Circular

Ἐπὶ [Λαφ]εῖδ[ε]υς Πα[νά]μου

Rose



Secondary stamp: Square 5

ΙΑ

This is the most probable reconstruction of the eponym's name. This secondary stamp was used during the early third quarter of the second century BCE (Finkielsztein 2001:155, 195).

Date: Circa 142–136 BCE.

15. 115.1127—Rectangular stamp.



Ἐπὶ Θερσ[άνδρου]

Ἀρταμι[τίου]

Date: Circa 142–136 BCE (Finkielsztein 2001:155, 195).

16. 099.1014—Rectangular stamp.



Κ]άλλωνος

Plain

The size of the handle fits that of a half-capacity amphora. A herm, the device which usually occurs on stamps below the name of the fabricant Κάλλων, appears to be missing in the present example, as there is no indication that the stamp was eroded. Determining the reason

for this omission is beyond the scope of this report. This fabricant is associated with the eponyms Τεισαγόρας 1st (Börker 1985:398; an unpublished amphora from Crete, associated with the fabricant Πλοῦτος, provides evidence that the eponym Τεισαγόρας 2nd appeared on a Period VI circular stamp bearing a large head of Helios—Natalia Voigeikoff-Brogan, pers. comm.; for the stamp type, see Finkielsztein 2001:160–161), Λαφείδης (this unpublished handle, held at the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, displays the superposition of the two associated dies of the fabricant and the eponym; Jean-Yves Empereur, pers. comm.) and Θέρσανδρος (see above, No. 15; Grace 1985:13, n. 24, mentions a correction of Hall 1885:394, No. 5062, by Nilsson 1909:117). This implies that the fabricant Κάλλων was active at least since the beginning of Period V (Finkielsztein 2001:195).

Date: Circa 145–135 BCE.

17. 114.1119—Rectangular stamp.



Ε[ϝ]κλεί
του
Caduceus →

Very eroded handle. This fabricant is discussed by Finkielsztein (2001:135–137).

Date: Circa 145–125 BCE.

18. 100.1027—Rectangular stamp.



[Ἐπὶ ----]ρά
του
Θε[σ]μοφορίου

The appearance of the handle dates this amphora to Periods IV–V. Three similar eponym names with the suffix ράτος are known from Period V, all rather close in date: Πολύρατος 2nd, Κληνόστρατος and Ἀρίστρατος (Finkielsztein 2001:193–195).

Date: Circa 125 BCE.

19. 101.1052—Two stamps.



Main stamp: circular

[Δαμόφιλ]ο[υ]

Rose



Secondary stamp: Square:

C (?)

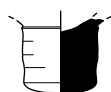
The main stamp is poorly preserved. The orientation of the letters appears to be centrifugal (i.e., letters based inward), in the normal reading direction, entailing a retrograde reading. Stamps bearing the name of this fabricant display a very similar spacing of the letters. The secondary stamp is not very clear either, except for a curved letter (Finkielsztejn 2001:143–145, Table 11).

Date: Circa 125–120 BCE.

Unstamped Fragments

20. 116.1033—Toe.

The top of the toe exhibits a discreet offset.



Dimensions: Toe diam. 4.7.

Clay: Light brown.

Date: Beginning in the mid-third century, probably continuing through the second century BCE.

21. 117.1037—Fragment of handle.



Half-capacity amphora. The handle appears to be eroded, most probably worked into some type of tool, which is now broken.

Dimensions: Tool length 8.4; tool section 2.8×2.1 .

Clay: Light yellowish red; surface: very light reddish brown.

Date: Undatable.

Knidos(?)*Stamped Fragment*

22. 103.1049—Rectangular stamp.



]Q . Σ

Anchor ←

Letters

Most probably a Knidian amphora, based on the type of the device depicted on the stamp. However, the gritty surface texture is unusual for this class of amphora. Short top of handle with rounded profile (section 3.5×2.0).

Clay: Light reddish brown, with very few fine inclusions; surface: very light reddish brown, with many medium-sized black inclusions.

Date: Not clarified.

Kos*Unstamped Fragments*

The seven examples from Kos are too fragmentary to provide a precise date in the second century BCE.

23. 111.1032.2—Rim with fragment of neck and upper part of double-barreled handle.



The handle is attached right below the rim. Its top part was most likely somewhat rounded or raised before the bend.

Dimensions: Rim height 1.3; rim diam. 10.5; handle section 3.9×2.0 –2.2 (two coils).

Clay: Yellowish red, light brown exterior border; surface: greenish white, with few fine and medium-sized shining copper-colored inclusions.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

24. 100.1000.1—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Rim diam. 16; preserved height 8.

Clay: Dark red, dark gray exterior border, without visible inclusions; surface: gray.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

25. 202.2033.2—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Rim diam. 12.5; preserved height 3.5.

Clay: Light brown, with many fine–very fine, shining copper-colored inclusions; surface: light reddish brown, many fine, shining copper colored inclusions.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

26. 111.1051—Top part of a double-barreled handle.



Dimensions: Handle section 5.4×2.3 (two coils); preserved length 8.

Clay: Light reddish brown, many fine to medium-sized, copper-colored shining inclusions; surface: light brown.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

27. 102.1035.1—Top part of one coil of a double-barreled handle.



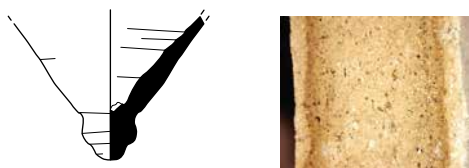
Eroded.

Dimensions: Preserved length 8; diam. 2.5.

Clay: Light brown, very fine, shining copper-colored inclusions; surface: very light brown.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

28. 126.1067—Toe with fragment of base.



Dimensions: Toe ring diam. 3.4; toe height 3; preserved height 10.

Clay: Light brown core, brown at the borders, with many fine, shining white inclusions; surface: very light brown, also with many fine, shining white inclusions.

Date: Third–second centuries BCE.

29. 100.1006.3—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Rim section 1.6×0.9 ; neck height 8.

Clay: Light brown; surface: very light brown, similar to that of most Rhodian amphorae, with some medium-sized, shining copper-colored inclusions.

Parallels: Monachov 2014:215, Fig. 12:58, 59. Number 59 has the inner curve at the bottom of the neck as in the Yafo specimen. Although Monachov referred to these amphorae as “pseudo-Koan”, the fabric of the Yafo specimen is that of a Koan amphora.

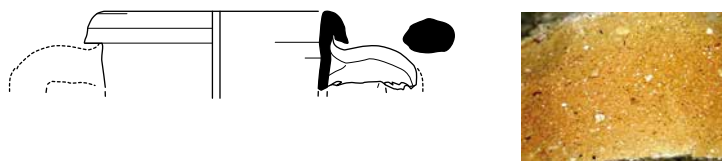
Date: Circa beginning of the first century BCE.

Ephesos(?): “Nikandros Group”

This class of amphorae was described by Lawall (2004a). Although a number of examples from Maresha were published by the author (Finkielsztein 2004), the attribution of those vessels to a production center in Kos in that publication is now considered doubtful.

Unstamped Fragments

30. 111.1018.2—Rim with fragment of neck and top part of handle.

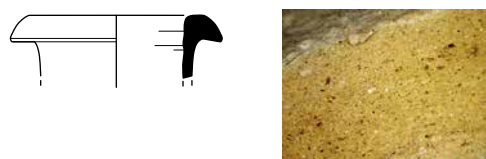


Dimensions: Rim height 2; handle section 2.2×0.5 ; preserved height 5.

Clay: Reddish brown, with rare, fine shining inclusions; surface: very light brown.

Date: Late third century BCE.

31. 208.2008.2—Rim with fragment of neck.



Dimensions: Preserved height 4.

Clay: Light brown; surface: very light brown.

Date: 270–220 BCE.

32. 111.1032.1—Rim.

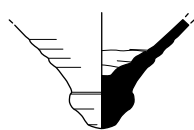


Dimensions: Rim height 2.2; rim diam. 11; preserved height 5.

Clay: Brownish red; surface: very light brown, with many fine, shining copper-colored inclusions.

Date: Possibly second century BCE.

33. 100.1000.2—Toe with fragment of base.



This fragment may belong to the Nikandros group based on the type of clay, although an attribution to the Koan class is also possible as those amphorae were made of a variety of clays as early as the Hellenistic period.

Dimensions: Toe height 2.8; toe diam. 3.9; preserved height 7.3.

Clay: Light brown; surface: very light brown, with some shining inclusions.

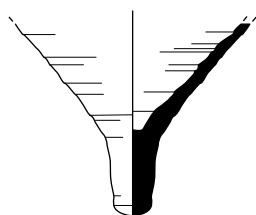
Date: Possibly late second century BCE (Lawall 2004a: Fig. 7).

Pamphylia

Unstamped Fragments

This class of amphorae was described by Grace (1973); some examples from Maresha are presented in Finkielsztejn 2000:212, Pl. 110:g. Stamped handles of such amphorae were found in contexts of the late second century BCE, but they were more common in those of the first century BCE.

34. 112.1034—Toe with fragment of base.

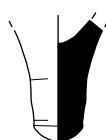


Dimensions: Toe height 4; toe diam. at the tip 2; preserved height 12.5.

Clay: Light reddish brown; surface: very light brown.

Date: Probably second half of the second century BCE.

35. 118.1055—Toe.



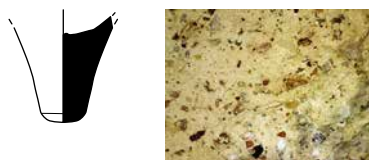
Crumbly fabric.

Dimensions: Toe height 6.2; toe diam. at the tip 3, preserved height 8.

Clay: Light reddish brown; surface: very light reddish brown.

Date: Probably second half of the second century BCE.

36. 110.1042—Toe.



Crumbly fabric.

Dimensions: Toe height 5.8; toe diam. at the tip 2.9.

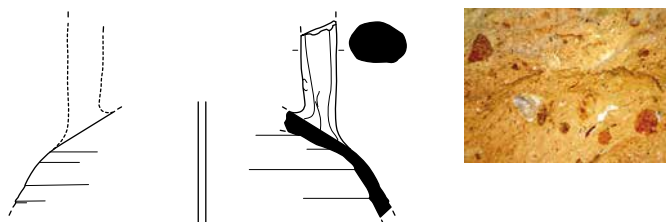
Clay: Very light brown; surface: very light brown.

Date: Probably the second half of the second century BCE.

Greek Tradition, Unidentified

Unstamped Fragments

37. 10.122—shoulder with lower part of handle.



Dimensions: Preserved height 12; preserved handle height 6.5; handle section 3.5×2.5 .

Clay: Light yellowish red, with many inclusions of various types; surface: light reddish brown.

Date: Hellenistic period.

38. 208.2022—Vertical part of the handle attached to shoulder.



There is a finger-made depression on the outer bottom part of the handle.

Dimensions: Preserved handle height 10; handle section 4.1×2.2 .

Clay: Reddish brown, brown exterior border; surface: light yellowish brown.

Date: Hellenistic period.

Brindisi

A synthesis on the amphorae from Apani, Brindisi, was published by Palazzo (2013). For examples from Maresha, see Finkielsztein 2000:213, Pls. 111:b–e; 112:a.

Unstamped Fragment

39. 111.1018.1—Rim.



This rim belongs to Palazzo's amphora Type IIB (Palazzo 2013:15–18; see also Finkielsztein 2000: Pl. 111:b, where it was identified as being an intermediate form between Palazzo Types II and IV, and subsequently designated by Palazzo as Type IIB in her typology).

Dimensions: Rim diam. 14.5; preserved height 7.

Clay: Light yellowish red; surface: very light brown.

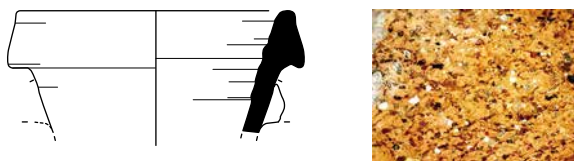
Date: Circa last third of the second century BCE.

Italian Dressel 1A

A synthesis dealing with this class of amphora, produced in various regions of the Italian peninsula, was published by Empereur and Hesnard (1987:29–30). All the fragments found in the present excavation were most probably produced in Campania, as evidenced by their fabric, which in all likelihood belongs to the Eumachi type of Pompei (Tchernia and Zevi 1972:39–40, Pl. II:3–6; for a stamped fragment of this type, see Finkielsztein and Ariel, forthcoming); as shown by Hesnard et al. (1989:38–49), however, “pseudo-Eumachi” fabrics were also produced in regions other than Campania.

Unstamped Fragments

40. 100.1006.1—Rim, neck and upper attachment of the handle.



Crumbly fabric.

Dimensions: Rim diam. 12; rim height 3.7; preserved height 8.5.

Clay: Dark red; surface: very light grayish brown, with some small, shining copper-colored flakes.

Date: Third quarter of the second century BCE.

41. 100.1006.2—Rim and neck.

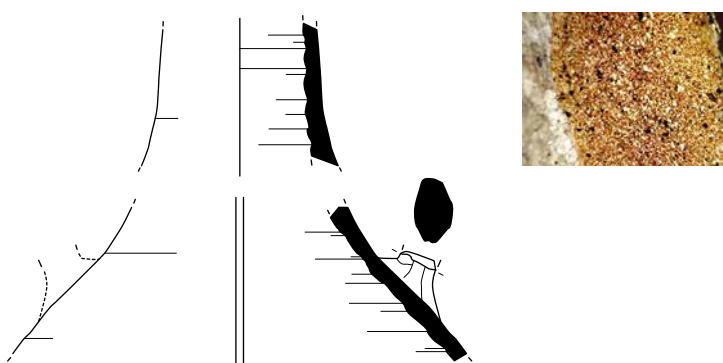


Dimensions: Rim diam. 13; rim height 3.8; preserved height 8.

Clay: Light yellowish brown; surface: very light grayish brown, with some small shining copper-colored flakes.

Date: Mid-second century BCE.

42. 212.2040.1-2—Fragments of the same amphora: neck and shoulder, with lower attachment of the handle.



Dimensions: Preserved neck diam. 10.5; preserved neck height 9.5; handle section 4.1×2.5 ; preserved shoulder length 11.5.

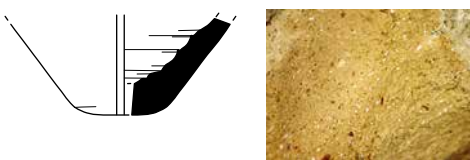
Clay: Dark red; surface: very light grayish brown.

Date: Roughly mid-second century BCE.

Western Mediterranean Tradition, Unidentified

Unstamped Fragments

43. 111.1032.3—Base.



Possibly the base of a “Republican Ovoid” amphora, which did not originate from North Africa according to its fabric.

Dimensions: Base height 2.7; base diam. c. 6; wall thickness 1.1; preserved height 8.

Clay: Light reddish brown; surface: light brown.

Date: Possibly second half of the second century BCE.

44. 210.2020.2—Small fragment of neck with tangential handle(?).



Dimensions: Neck diam. 3.5; preserved neck height 7.5.

Clay: Red; surface: reddish brown.

Date: Unclear.

45. 119.1073—Toe.



Dimensions: Toe min. diam. 2.7; preserved height 7.

Clay: Dark red; surface: light brownish red.

Date: Unclear.

46. 117.1058—Hollow toe.



Dimensions: Toe diam. 4.5; preserved height 4.5.

Clay: Dark brownish red; surface: light brownish red.

Date: Unclear.

47. 139.1317.2—Rim.



Five ribs are present below the rim.

Dimensions: Rim height 1.4; ribbing height 3.2; preserved height 7.4.

Clay: Brown core, with dark red borders; surface: light reddish brown.

Date: Possibly the Roman period.

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