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Persian- and Hellenistic-Period Imported Amphoras from Tel Ḥanan

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The excavations at Tel Ḥanan yielded a small collection of amphora sherds (Fig. 1; see Nagorsky and Israeli, this volume), mostly small fragments, except for a Rhodian amphora (Fig. 1:14) lacking only its neck, rim and handles. In this brief contribution, I offer a few comments on some of these sherds in the hope that they will advance other amphora studies in the eastern Mediterranean region beyond the usual generic attribution as Aegean types.[1]

Chian Amphora Rims (Fig. 1:1, 2).— In the Persian period, Chian amphoras are the most common Aegean-style vessels uncovered in the Southern Levant. Two fragments were found, corresponding to Lawall's variant C/1 of the bulging neck type, dated from the late sixth century to c. 480 BCE (Lawall 1995:89–104; Cook and Dupont 1998: Fig. 23.2:d–f). A band of red paint decorates the rim of both examples; it is common for this type.

Unidentified Greek Amphora Rim (Fig. 1:3).— This sherd may be identified as a southern Aegean/Ionian archaic form.

Mushroom-Shaped Rim (Fig. 1:4, 5).— This type, also referred to as Solokha Type I, is commonly encountered in Persian-period contexts in Southern Levantine coastal sites, dated to the fifth and fourth centuries BCE (Lawall 1995:218–230; Nørskov 2004). Its precise place of origin is debated but is centered in the southeastern Aegean region.

Samian-Milesian Rims (Fig. 1:6–12).— Seven rims are probably to be assigned to this class. Of these, three rounded rims (Fig. 1:6–8) and one handle (not illustrated) belong to the early

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[1] A detailed discussion of these and other amphora types was presented by the author at the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Antonio in November 2004; they will be discussed in the final publication of the excavations at Tel Megadim (in preparation), where all examples date to the fifth century BCE. The ware descriptions were provided by Alla Nagorsky. I wish to express my appreciation to Alla Nagorsky, for inviting me to publish this material; to Mark Lawall and Deborah Carlson, for their insightful comments and references; and to Carmen Hersch, for the pottery drawings. I remain responsible for any errors.

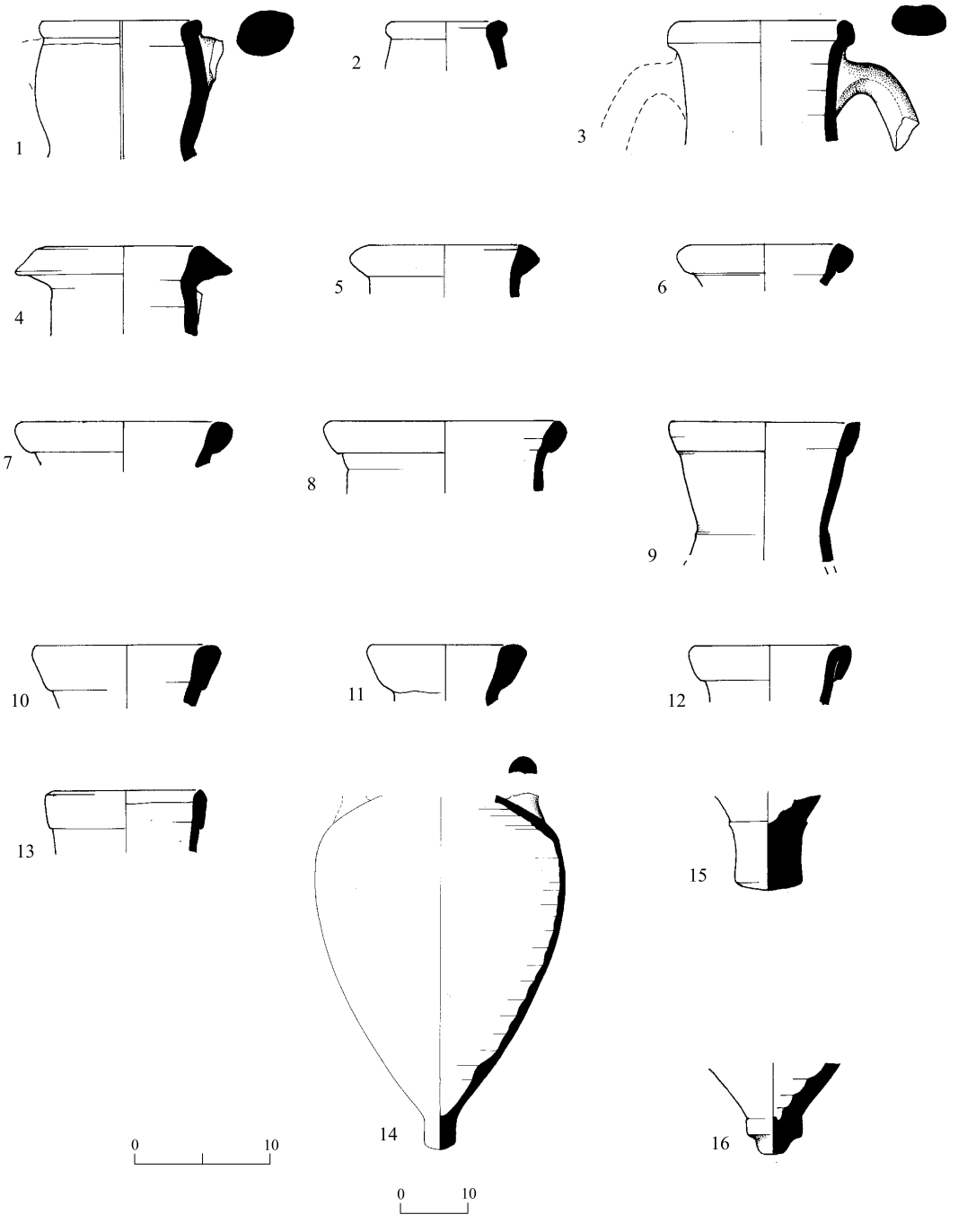

Fig. 1. Persian- and Hellenistic-period amphoras.

◂ **Fig. 1**

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	247	2142/1	Brown clay; few small white grits; dark red paint on band rim
2	201	2003/2	Brown clay; few small white grits; dark red paint on band rim
3	213	2051/4	Light brown clay; mica; few large white grits
4	237	2074	Orange clay; few small white grits
5	224	2047	Dark brown clay; few large white grits
6	249	2163/4	Brown clay; few small white grits
7	270	2202/1	Brown clay; mica; few small white grits
8	221	2061/4	Brown clay; mica; few small white grits
9	9	125/1	Light brown clay; mica
10	237	2070/5	Brown clay; mica; few small white grits
11	205	2017	Brown clay; mica; few small white grits
12	249	2163/5	Brown clay; few small white grits
13	247	2085/6	Reddish brown clay; few small white grits
14	221	2060	Light brown clay
15	220	2102/1	Brown clay
16	212	2083/3	Dark brown clay; mica; small white grits

variant of Lawall's Samian-Miletos Type S/1 (Lawall 1995:177–181; Carlson 2003:586, Fig. 5, top), dated from the seventh century BCE (cf. Waldbaum 2011:311, Nos. 504–506) to the early–mid-fifth century BCE. Four rims (Fig. 1:9–12) belong to a late variant of that same type, dating to the fifth century BCE and ceasing to appear around 410 BCE (Lawall 1995:177–181; Carlson 2003:590, Fig. 11).

Hellenistic-period amphoras also appear at Tel Ḥanan. These include a rim of Erythraian type (Fig. 1:13; cf. Carlson and Lawall 2005–2006: Fig. 6; Monakhov 2013: Pl. V); a body and a toe of Rhodian amphoras (Fig. 1:14, 15); and a toe of a Koan amphora (Fig. 1:16). The stamped Rhodian amphora handles from Tel Ḥanan are discussed by Finkielstejn (this volume).

According to the stratigraphy of the site, no stratum predates the Persian period. The amphora types retrieved at this site enjoyed a long period of use, extending over a couple of centuries. At this site they should probably be dated to the fifth century BCE. Although the chronological attribution of some of the vessels may be less certain due to the small size of the sherds, it is important to note that the vast majority of the Aegean-type amphoras found at Tel Ḥanan and at other sites in the Southern Levant date to the fifth century BCE and to the subsequent Hellenistic period. Furthermore, these Aegean-type amphoras share a similar provenance, i.e., from the region of the southeastern Aegean basin/southwestern

Anatolia.[2] Ionian ships carried amphora cargoes to these Southern Levantine coastal sites and beyond, to Egypt (cf. Yardeni 1994), possibly along with the Attic black-glazed pottery and the so-called East Greek banded bowls and jugs, filling the interstices in their holds.

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[2] For the role that this region played in sea trade, see Dündar 2017:377 ff.