

STAMPED AMPHORA HANDLES AND UNSTAMPED AMPHORA FRAGMENTS FROM ACRE ('AKKO)

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INTRODUCTION

Sixteen stamped amphora handles were retrieved from the excavations at 'Akko (Vitto, this volume), along with a not insignificant number of associated diagnostic amphora fragments (see below, Fig. 1). Two handles from the same locus (L14) may have originally belonged to the same amphora (Catalogue Nos. 8 and 11). The stamped amphora material derives from two identified production centers: Rhodes and Chios, the latter represented by only one handle (No. 14). Their dates range from the last third of the third century BCE to the third quarter of the second century BCE. In other words, they date to the middle of the period of high stamping of the predominant Rhodian class.

Some stamped Rhodian amphora handles from 'Akko have been published (Dothan 1976:31; Finkielsztejn 2000a), however most remain unpublished. The chronological distribution of the Rhodian amphoras from 'Akko has recently been studied by Finkielsztejn (2000b; 2001b), and the largest quantity falls between 220 and 200 BCE, peaking sharply during the years 210–205 BCE (Finkielsztejn 2001a:180; 2001b:190–191, Fig. 5). Finkielsztejn's explanation for the high importation is the overall importance of this port city during the period of Ptolemaic rule, owing especially to the concentration of military personnel stationed there during engagements with the Seleucid enemy to the north. In particular, the battles of Raphia (217 BCE) and Paneas (200 BCE) may be viewed as the upper and lower limits of the phenomenon (Finkielsztejn 2000b:208). Thus, the sharp peak

during the years 210–205 BCE (two-and-a-half times the average) represents the concentration of troops in 'Akko by Ptolemy IV. The dates of the amphora handles from the present excavation reflect to a certain extent the peak in such finds as discussed by Finkielsztejn.

While the unstamped fragments do not expand the chronological range of the stamped finds, they do add definite (Knidian, Koan, Cypriote, and North African) and less definite (Aegean, Italian) production centers to the only two such centers identified from the stamped handles. It may also be noted that while a Chian stamped amphora handle was identified, no unstamped fragments of the Chian class were found.

STAMPED AMPHORA HANDLES

The following catalogue is based upon the research of Virginia R. Grace in this field, which has been refined by Gerald Finkielsztejn in recent years. In the process, Finkielsztejn has raised a question concerning Grace's chronological framework *vis-à-vis* her Period IV, and proposed a revised chronology, effectively lowering Grace's published datings for Periods I through IV by approximately eleven years (Finkielsztejn 2001a). Finkielsztejn's lower chronology has been adopted here. Unless otherwise noted all dates refer to the tables in Finkielsztejn 2001a:188–195.

CATALOGUE

The arrangement of the handles and conventions regarding the readings follow Finkielsztejn 2001a:213–216. Scale of illustrations is 1:1.

Rhodian Stamped Handles

1. Reg. No. 32–3. Surface. Rectangular stamp.

Ἄμύντα
herm, head left



Jöhrens (1999:63–64, No. 163) listed seven eponyms associated with this prolific fabricant. Ἡραγόρας may now be added, based upon a connected pair of handles in the Museum of the Flagellation of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem (my thanks to M. Piccirillo for permission to mention this object). Börker (1974:40, under No. 23) already notes that Ἄμύντας made an amphora dated by Ἀριστόμαχος 1st, who officiated one year before Ἡραγόρας (see *EAD* 27:290, 315). I know of no attempt at determining an internal chronology for this prolific fabricant, who during his *floruit* employed a number of different devices. The herm device appears, for example, at Lindos (Nilsson 1909:365, Nos. 42, 25–26). Based upon Finkielsztejn's low chronology of related eponyms, Ἄμύντας was active at the earliest between 179/177 BCE (Αἰνησίδαμος 2nd) and 159/158–154/153 BCE (Ἡραγόρας).

2. Reg. No. 10–6, L6. Rectangular stamp.

Ἐπὶ Ἀριστάκου
[Ὶ]ακίνθιου



Both the eponym and the name of the month on this stamp appear to have been changed. The *kappa* in the eponymic appears to have originally been *upsilon*. The *omicron* has a diagonal line through it. The *nu* is retrograde. It should also be noted that the month appears

in the nominative case. As I can find no earlier eponym or month from which the seal could have been emended, the correction seems to have been simply the improvement of a blundered inscription. Ἀριστάκος has been dated to the third quarter of the second century BCE (e.g., Nachtergaele 1978:40, No. 6). Finkielsztejn suggests a date late in Period Va (c. 145–c. 134/133 BCE).

3. Reg. No. 29–2, L8. Rectangular stamp.

Δωρ[οθέου]
rose



I have noted earlier (Ariel 1990:50, under No. S183) that the names on two stamps from Pergamon (Schuchhardt 1895:459, Nos. 1011–1012) could be restored as that of Δωρίων, instead of Δωρόθεος, as restored by Schuchardt (see Börker 1998:47, Nos. 442–443, who does just that). In the present case, however, Δωρόθεος is to be restored based on the appearance here of characteristics of that fabricant: the stamp is on one line (with apparently no device), and is characterized by small lettering (see, for example, Criscuolo 1982:91, No. 93). Based on a reliable appearance on a stamp from Pergamon (Schuchardt 1895:460, No. 1013 = Börker 1998:46, No. 444), this fabricant was apparently active during Period III. Jöhrens (1999:63–64, No. 163) notes two eponymic associations. One, Κλεώνυμος 2nd, fits this date, as he officiated c. 182 BCE. The second, Ἀριστόγειτος, is dated to the middle of Period Va (c. 145–c. 134/133 BCE; Gentili 1958:36, No. 17). Both Jöhrens and Börker (Börker 1974:40, Nos. 21–22) suggest this span as Δωρόθεος's period of activity. I would suggest two fabricant homonyms, rather than presume that one person produced amphorae so infrequently for such a long period of time.

4. Reg. No. 7–5, L14. Rectangular stamp.
Κρατίδα device ?
[- -]



The reading of this stamp is uncertain. To the right of the name there is room for a device. There is also room for a second row, and two letters do appear there; the first seems to be an *alpha*. It would appear that this is an eponym appearing without the preposition ἑπί. I know of only one published stamp supporting such a reading, read by Pâris (1913:162, No. LVIII), as Κρατίδα/Πανάμου. The lower chronology date for this eponym is c. 187 BCE.

5. Reg. No. 16–3. Core drilling. Rectangular stamp.

Μένωνος
Δαλίου



Both circular and rectangular stamp types are known with this name, both dated to Period II. In his discussion of another stamp of this name found in ‘Akko, Finkielsztein suggests there may have been two more-or-less contemporary homonym fabricants named Μένων, one employing circular stamps (which he dates c. 215–c. 204 BCE) and the other using rectangular stamps (Finkielsztein 2000:143, CRh 6). The rectangular type has been discussed by the present author (Ariel 1987–89), and should be dated to the middle of Period II.

6. Reg. No. 20–2, L9. Circular stamp.
Ἐ[π]ι Ὀνας[άν]δρου Δ[αλίου]υ
rose



This eponym is dated to Period II (*EAD* 27:301). Conovici and Irimia (1991:162, Nos. 266–267) provide a high chronology date between 245 and 240 BCE, while Finkielsztein argues for a date at the beginning of Period IIb (c. 219–c. 210 BCE; Finkielsztein 2001a:111). A stamp made from the same die, illustrated by Finkielsztein (2001a: Pl. XIII:252a), belongs to a limited series of circular stamps with a rose device in which the external petals are symmetrical and give the rose the appearance of a fork. The name of the fabricant is unknown. The eponym Καλλικράτης 1st (c. 233–c. 220 BCE) is also named on a stamp of this type (Finkielsztein 2001a:101).

7. Reg. No. 16–6. Core drilling. Rectangular stamp.

Παυσανία



Based on the profile of the handle, the fabricant on this stamp is the earlier of two homonyms. Conovici and Irimia (1991:166, Nos. 308–310) suggest a range throughout most of Period II for Παυσανίας 1st. Jöhrens (1999:17, No. 16) summarizes the eponyms known to have

officiated during the fabricant's period of activity, as well as associated with him on stylistic grounds. All fall within c. 233–c. 220 BCE, with the exception of Αἰσχύλιος, a Period Ib eponym (stylistic association). Jöhrens does not mention the eponym Ὀνάσανδρος (No. 6 above), who was associated with Παυσανίας 1st by Finkielsztejn (1990: under No. 296). So we may restrict Παυσανίας 1st's period of activity from 'almost all' of Period II to Period IIa, and (possibly only the beginning of) Period Ib.

8. Reg. No. 18–3, L14. Rectangular stamp.
Ἐπ[ι] Πρατο
φά[νε]υς wreath to right



A line divides the two lines of text. The low chronology for this eponym is c. 188 BCE. The fabricant employing a horizontal line and wreath, already known to have produced amphoras naming Πρατοφάνης, is Φιλαίνιος (for this arrangement on stamps of Φιλαίνιος, see Nilsson 1909:475, No. 362/3; Grace 1968:176, No. 9; Jöhrens 1999:75, No. 199. See also Finkielsztejn 2001a:120).

In the same locus (L14), another stamp naming this fabricant was found (No. 11). As the ware and profiles of the two handles are similar, it is possible that handles Nos. 8 and 11 derive from the same amphora. Locus 14 was rich in Hellenistic ceramics, and contained the only diagnostic Hellenistic glass fragment (Vitto, this volume: Fig. 21:1). Nevertheless, there are no other indications that this locus may have contained broken fragments of the same amphora. Also found in the locus was a stamp

apparently naming the eponym who officiated the year after Πρατοφάνης (Κρατίδας, No. 4).

9. Reg. No. 29–6, L8. Circular stamp.
Ἐπὶ Πρατοφάνευσ Ἀγριανίου
rose



For the date see No. 8 above.

10. Reg. No. 29–10, L8. Rectangular stamp.
[Ἐπὶ Π]υθο
[δῶ]ρου
[Ἀρτ]αμιτί(ου)



The eponym is dated c. 150–c. 147 BCE.

11. Reg. No. 28–3, L14. Rectangular stamp.
Φιλαίνιου



This prolific fabricant was active throughout Periods Ib to Ie, c. 189–c. 161 BCE (see Finkielsztejn 2001a:124). If this handle belongs to the same amphora as that of No. 8, it dates to c. 188 BCE. See above, No. 8.

Rhodian Stamped Handles: Names Not Read

12. Reg. No. 9–3, L5. Rectangular stamp.

[- -]ς asterisks in right corners



Four fabricants place asterisks in the corners of one-line stamps with their names (Finkielsztejn 2000a: 141, BRh1). They were active in Period III through the beginning of Period V. The earliest is Ἀριστοκράτης, active c. 192– c. 184 BCE at the earliest (Finkielsztejn 2000a:146, CRh18).

13. Reg. No. 8–2, L4. Illegible rectangular stamp.

Chian Stamped Handle

14. Reg. No. 34–5, L8. Rectangular stamp.

Ἰκέσιου



Ἰκέσιος is a common name appearing on Chian stamped amphora handles. These handles date to the third quarter of the third century BCE. For a handle bearing the same name previously found in 'Akko, see Ariel 1990:74, under No. S453.

Unclassified Stamped Handles

15. Reg. No. 16–5. Core drilling. Rectangular stamp.

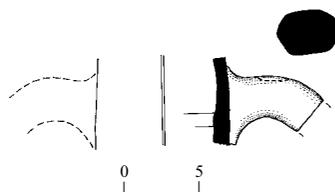
[- -]α[?]

[- -]μια ?



The surface color of this handle is pink (Munsell 7.5YR 8/4), while the core is reddish-yellow (5YR 7/6). The handle is possibly curved, and may be 'early Rhodian' or Knidian.

16. Reg. No. 32–2, Surface.



The small rectangular stamp with highly curved lateral edges bears a water-worn inscription composed of three large Semitic characters. No reading is suggested here. This particular handle has proven to be of some interest, regarding the script of the stamp, the origin of the ware, and the cultural context of this and similar handles bearing stamps with Semitic characters.¹

Ware and Form.— The color of the surface of this handle is very pale brown (10YR 8/3), while the core is pink (5YR 7/4). The ware is micaceous, and there are reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) medium-sized grits. The handle is curved, and the profile shows that the neck had a narrow diameter.

The ware of No. 16 is unknown in the region of 'Akko. The two stamps from Khirbat Kerak (see below) are of very similar, if not identical, ware. The handle published by Bar-Adon, examined by the present author (IAA 1990–1337), has a profile which also indicates a neck of narrow girth. The other, unpublished handle (IAA 1950–199) is more fragmentary; its profile is the same but no connection to the body of the vessel is preserved, and therefore the neck's diameter is unknown. The origin of these three handles is as yet unknown.

Small Stamps with Semitic Inscriptions.— A significant number of jar handles have been

found in the Mediterranean basin bearing small oblong stamps with Semitic inscriptions, either rectangular (measuring 15–22 mm) with or without curved edges, or oval stamps. They generally contain only letters rather than entire words, occasionally in combination with a motif.

Lebanon: Beirut (n = 1): Originally published as a stamp with *caractères non grecs* (Turkety-Pariset 1982:42, No. 46), this stamp has been reconsidered by Finkielsztein (1998:110, Group J1, and n. 69). It is large (c. 22 × 30 mm).

Southern Levant: ‘Akko (n = 6; five in Naveh 1997:115, one in Rahmani 1969:83, letter A); Tel Kabri (n = 1; Kempinski and Naveh 1991; Naveh 1997:115); Khirbat Kerak (n = 2; one is published in Bar-Adon 1970); Ḥorbat Rogem (n = 1; Cohen 1986:57); Shechem (n = 16; published in Lapp 1963; discussed most recently in Finkielsztein 1998:105–107, Group F).

Cyprus: Kition-Bamboula (n = 1; Calvet 1982: 47–48, No. 129).

North Africa: The many finds before 1986 are synthesized by Wolff (1986). Additions are: Sabratha (n = 31; Peacock and Smith 1989:72–76, Nos. 1–31); Carthage (n = 2; Hvidberg-Hansen 1988).

Sicily: Signorello (1995) presents finds from before and after 1986 (Wolff’s synthesis). I list only the inscribed stamps: Agrigento (n = 1; Signorello 1995:25); Erice (n = 11; Signorello 1995:29–32); Heraclea Minoa (n = 10; Signorello 1995:37–39; noted by Wolff 1986: 82, n. 222); Lilebeo (n = 3; Signorello 1995:43, 45; noted by Wolff 1986:82, n. 222); Monte Pellegrino (n = 1; Signorello 1995:75); Selinunte (n = 63; Signorello 1995:68–75).

Spain: The many finds prior to 1986 are synthesized by Wolff (1986). Additions are: Ullastret (n = 2; finds originally published before 1986, apparently included in Wolff’s

discussion; Peacock and Smith 1989:79, Nos. 11–12); Menorca and Mallorca (1 each; finds originally published before 1986, apparently included in Wolff’s analysis; Signorello 1995:70, 75).

Elsewhere: Many finds prior to 1986 are synthesized by Wolff (1986). An addition may be: Pompei (Panella 1977:136, No. 1393; Signorello 1995:72).

Other larger stamps with Phoenician inscriptions from the Levant exist (Tel Anafa—Naveh 1987:24–25, No. 1, and reference to a find from Byblos; Tel Kazel—Sader 1990).

Script.— Script is obviously an important criterion when comparing the large body of Semitic stamped handles listed above. Many aspects are quite unlike No. 16.

Phoenician Script: The handles from ‘Akko (with the exception of the handle published by Rahmani) and Tel Kabri, while of the same size, bear impressions with minute lettering in Phoenician. The letters of No. 16 are large, as on the stamp from Kition-Bamboula, read by Calvet as *mem kaph*. The impression on an unprovenanced, small ‘rhomboidish stamp’ (Hirschland and Hammond 1967:372, No. ON 6; noted by Wolff 1986:82, n. 221) is described as two Phoenician archaizing *kaphs* that “look like mainland script, from Sidon and Tyre, not the Punic script”.

Punic Script: The overwhelming majority of this group of small stamps with Semitic inscriptions is identified as being written in Punic script. The handles derive from North Africa, Sicily, Spain and elsewhere. Where the form of the handle or even the amphora is known, it is identified as Punic class (Mañá C2 and D1; Wolff 1986:80). These stamped handles have been most comprehensively studied by Wolff, who estimated that six to seven hundred were known at the time (Wolff 1986:81). Wolff found them as far east as ‘Akko, as his analysis included the anepigraphic stamp depicting a

Tanit symbol published by Dothan (Dothan 1974; 1976:31). One center of their production was Carthage (Wolff 1986:81). In most cases two letters appear, frequently the same letter repeated twice. Retrograde letters are not uncommon. Occasionally Punic jars bear stamps in Latin or Greek, and Wolff believes the mystery stamp from the Athenian Agora originally identified as bearing Semitic letters is a (retrograde) example of such (Grace 1956:96; Wolff 1986:85).

Discussion: At this juncture it is difficult to synthesize the material presented above, in particular to associate the isolated stamped Semitic handles from the southern Levant with either the Phoenician or Punic groups. There definitely appears to have been Phoenician and Punic traditions of stamping amphoras. These traditions were not necessarily imitative of the Greco-Roman traditions, which began at the end of the Persian period. Rather, they may have been parallel to the Canaanite tradition of stamping, the antecedents of which go back to the Bronze Age, and continued, at least in Judah, until the late Hellenistic period (see Grace 1956; Ariel and Shoham 2000).

In the Punic stamped amphora material there appears to have been a tradition of stamping single letters, or pairs of letters, while the Phoenician inscribed material had longer inscriptions. A small group of stamped handles comprising No. 16, the two stamps from Khirbat Kerak, and possibly one or two other stamps with small oblong frames and few letters, may have been inspired by the large Punic group. However, from the identifiable letters on these stamps, Aramaic appears to have been the script employed. The *ductus*, or writing style, presumes a theoretical base line, which, together with the approximate second-century-BCE date of No. 16, also points to Aramaic as the script.

The stamp published by Bar-Adon from Khirbat Kerak, described as elliptical, is the closest parallel to No. 16. Bar-Adon read only the rightmost letter, as an Aramaic *bet*, and he was uncertain whether the remainder consisted

of only one more letter. According to Bar-Adon, the impression was defective. Examination of the handle suggests to this author that the remainder comprises a single, still undeciphered letter (*nun?*). The unpublished stamped handle from Khirbat Kerak bears a rectangular stamp with curved lateral edges, similar to No. 16. The inscription has two letters, perhaps *tav* and *yod*, although this is uncertain.

The stamped handle from 'Akko published by Rahmani (1969:83, letter A; IAA 1967–764—and not as published there) is slightly larger than the other stamps (25 mm). It, too, appears to have a base line, and again no reading is suggested. Cohen (1986:92) reported a stamped handle from excavations at Horbat Rogem, reading right-to-left *bet aleph*. Even after examination of the handle, this author cannot identify the script nor confirm the published reading. The ware of both handles is unlike that of No. 16. Dr. Samuel Wolff, who kindly examined No. 16, has informed me that it is not of Carthaginian ware. The large number of grits may hint at a Cypriot origin.

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UNSTAMPED AMPHORA FRAGMENTS

The study of unstamped amphora fragments is a complement to the often more exacting results derivable from stamped handles (Ariel 1990:82). The origins of unstamped fragments are much more widespread than the amphora-producing locales which had a tradition of stamping. Typological studies of amphoras found in the eastern littoral of the Mediterranean has lagged poorly behind more developed and better published research on western Mediterranean finds (Riley 1979:112). A more scientific approach (e.g., Whitbread 1995) may eventually help fill the gap. In the meantime, a summary of Greek amphoras, with many photographs, was compiled by Grace (1979a), while that of Empereur and Hesnard (1987) is more up-to-date with good line drawings.

During the present excavations at 'Akko all diagnostic amphora fragments were saved, although it should be noted that the unstamped fragments were much less thoroughly processed by the present author. In many cases such fragments do not allow for certain identification of the specific amphora class, as this is based on the typology and overall size of the whole vessel. This is especially true of the Italian classes whose rims, bases (and wares) are quite variegated. Sometimes the wares of the fragments contribute toward the identification of the provenance of amphoras.

Of the nine fragments illustrated in Fig. 1, only three (Nos. 2, 3, 6) derive from uncontaminated Hellenistic loci. The remainder originate either from mixed Stratum I–II loci, from the core drillings, or from the surface. Nevertheless, most of the parallels for the unstamped amphora fragments date from the same period as the stamped material—from the third and second centuries BCE. While some parallels can be found in later periods, there is no reason to assume that the unstamped material postdates the more refined dates of the stamped material.

Rhodian (Fig. 1:4)

This is a base fragment of a Rhodian class amphora whose typology is quite well understood, although typological discussions are usually subsumed within discussions of other aspects of the class (the stamps and their functionality, or issues relating to standardization; See Grace 1934:203; 1963:323; *EAD* 27:289–302). Fragments of Rhodian class amphoras from the period of high production (second half of the third through the end of the second centuries BCE) are easily identified by their characteristic fabric: very well-levigated and fired clay with a light red to reddish-yellow core and a pinkish to very pale brown slip. The cylindrical toe illustrated in Fig. 1:4 belongs to this period of high production noted above. Five other bases, as well as one rim and seven handle fragments were noted from the excavations, so it may be said that the quantity of unstamped fragments supports the predominance of the Rhodian class at the site.

Knidian (Fig. 1:5)

The base in Fig. 1:5 is water worn and broken, yet it is clearly a characteristic ring-toe of the Knidian class. The Knidian ring-toe did not develop quickly. The date of a parallel illustrated by Grace (1974b:89–90, Fig. 1, which is a profile drawing of Grace 1949: Pl. 19:9) is the third quarter of the second century BCE, while the date of an amphora in Empereur and Hesnard (1987:60–61, Fig. 15), is c. 110

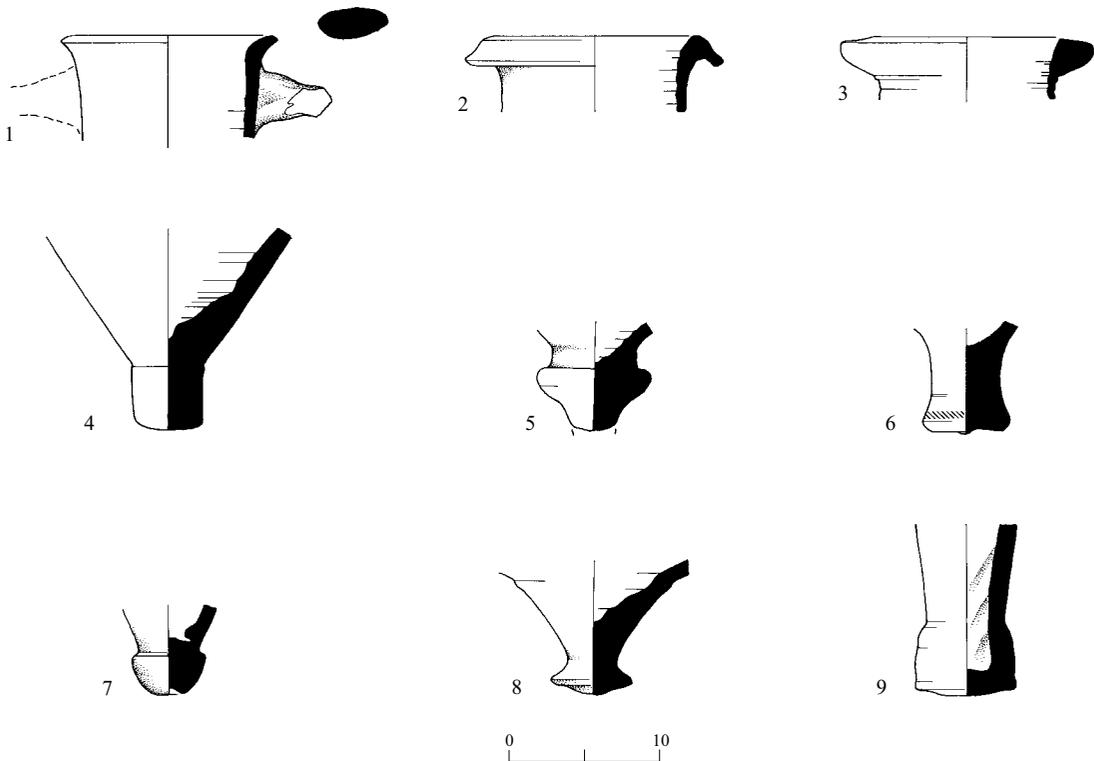


Fig. 1. Profiles of unstamped amphora fragments

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Description
1	21-2	10	Pink 7.5YR 7/4 ware, light red 2.5YR 6/8 core; small small brown grits
2	34-2	8	Pink 7.5YR 7/4 ware, light brown 7.5YR 6/4 core; micaceous
3	33-6	15	Pink 5YR 7/3 ware, reddish-brown 5YR 5/3 core; slightly slightly micaceous; many medium and small white grits
4	18-2	14	Very pale brown 5YR 7/6 ware, reddish-yellow 7.5YR 8/6 core
5	16-2	Core-drilling	Pinkish-white 7.5YR 8/2 ware, pink 7.5YR 7/4 core; medium medium white and gray grits; much mica
6	23-4	8	Pink 5YR 7/4 ware, reddish-yellow 5YR 7/6 core; small small brown and dark red grits
7	28-2	14	Pink 7.5YR 7/4 ware, pale red 10YR 6/4 core; large large white grits
8	13-1	7	Pink 5YR 7/3 ware, light reddish-brown 5YR 6/3 core
9	11-1	14	White 2.5YR 8/2 ware, light red 7.5YR 6/6 core; many many small white grits

BCE. Mark Lawall, who kindly examined the drawing in Fig. 1:5, dates it to the late third century BCE on account of the thick, rounded profile of the ring around the toe as compared with the squared profile of later examples. Among the unillustrated fragments, at least two handles may be Knidian.

Koan and Pseudo-Koan (not illustrated)

Koan amphoras, along with Pseudo-Koan, or Dressel 2-4 (for the Koan class see Grace 1949:186, No. 8; 1965:5, 10; *EAD* 27:363-364), are characterized by everted rolled rims, cylindrical necks, and in particular double-barrel handles. Distinctions between sub-classes are

made on the basis of ware. True Koan ware is thought to be distinguished from its imitations by a characteristic reddish clay with a light greenish cast on the surface. Mica is a common temper. Three handles found in the excavations are identifiable as Koan, based upon the ware described above, as well as the double-barrel handles. The other handles may be identified as Pseudo-Koan (or Dressel 2–4). They exhibit the same form, but have a variety of differing fabrics. The colors of the cores of two of them are, for example, strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) and reddish yellow (5YR 7/8). Hesnard (1986:76–79) discusses the difficulty of distinguishing between these categories, and recently a new attempt has been made to create rational subclasses (Whitbread 1995:81–106). The Koan and Pseudo-Koan handles date in general to the second century BCE. The later development of the type, Dressel 2–4, begins in the second half of the first century BCE (see Empereur and Hesnard 1987:36). Double-barrel handles appear as early as the fourth century BCE, and they are common in certain areas during the third century BCE.

Aegean (Fig. 1:1, 6).

The ware of the rim and base fragments noted in this category appears to be quite similar. No other fragments have such ware. Possible parallels for both can be found among Thasian amphoras (Bon and Bon 1957:18, 21; Figs. 3:5; 5; Zeest 1960: Pl. 23d). However, Grace (1934:201) describes Thasian ware as characteristically micaceous (but see Whitbread 1995:167), while these two fragments contain little or no mica.

Parallels may also be found for both fragments at the production center on the island of Peparethos, which was widely known for its wine. The rim can be compared with the Peparethan-type amphora made of yellow ware (Doulgéri-Intzessiloglou and Garlan 1990:378, Fig. 30, suggested to be the same as the so-called Solocha I class). Parallels to the base are also found among Peparethan amphoras made of orange ware with whitish or darker grits

(Doulgéri-Intzessiloglou and Garlan 1990:375, Figs. 16–17, suggested to be the same as the so-called Solocha II class).

From the perspective of ‘Akko both the Thasian and Peparethan production centers may be viewed as being in the same part of the ancient world. For both centers the published parallels date generally from the fourth–third centuries BCE, which is not to imply that the fragments from ‘Akko are that early in date, only that they derive from somewhere in the Aegean. Mark Lawall, who kindly examined drawings of these fragments, places them both in the fourth century BCE. It should be noted that the band of paint preserved on the base may have had typological significance.

Cypriot (Kouriote ?) (Fig. 1:7)

Based upon the fabric as well as the profile of this base, there is no doubt that this is a fragment of a Cypriot amphora (see Grace 1979b:178–180, Fig. 1, and discussion of the ware; the type is there described as Kouriote). This type dates from the fourth century BCE and continues into the second century BCE. At Paphos, Papuci-Władyska (1995:83, No. 11) describes this type as “Cypriote?”, and dates it to the fourth–third centuries BCE. No other fragments have this distinctive ware.

Italian (Fig. 1:2, 8)

From a visual comparison, the ware of these two fragments appears very similar. There seems no doubt that they are of Italian (or generally Adriatic) origin, although we are reluctant to ascribe more exact associations for them. The base may belong to the Republican Ovoid class, which has a rich variety of base forms, ranging from button-like (Empereur and Hesnard 1987:35, Fig. 43) to simply pointed. The name of this group, coined by Empereur and Hesnard (1987:35), refers to Italian, non-Brindisian, ovoid amphoras from the Roman Republican period (late second–early first centuries BCE). Cipriano describes them as Adriatic Ovoid, a generic term including a large number of Hellenistic ovoid categories published in the

literature showing a considerable variability in wares (Cipriano and Carre 1989:77–80). While Cipriano and Carre's date for the Adriatic Ovoid class is late—between 50 and 30 BCE (Cipriano and Carre 1989:79)—Empereur and Hesnard (1987:35) date the Republican Ovoid class more generally to the second and first centuries BCE. Mark Lawall, who kindly examined a drawing of this base, suggests a date in the second half of the second century BCE.

The rim's form may relate it to the Greco-Italic class (Empereur and Hesnard 1987:65, Fig. 27), produced in the third–second centuries BCE until it was replaced sometime in the second century by the Dressel 1 type. During the second century BCE this class was produced in central Italy, having had more diverse centers of production in the previous century (Empereur and Hesnard 1987:25). The rim in Fig. 1:2 may belong to Lyding Will's Form b (1982:345, Pl. 85c), which would date it prior to the end of the third century BCE. Avissar (1996:57, Fig. X.6:7) described a very similar rim from Yoqne'am as Greco-Italic. Among the unillustrated fragments, another rim very similar to this may be noted.

North African (Fig. 1:9)

A parallel for this form of base was found at Paphos (Hayes 1991:121, No. 16), having the same core color and the same white grits,

as well as an unusual feature found also on our piece: vertical streaks on the surface. At Paphos it is identified as a Tripolitanian type, and derives from a first half of the second century BCE context (see Hayes 1991:86–87, Nos. 23–25, where the identification is clearly based upon the fabric). The Early Tripolitanian I type (Empereur and Hesnard 1987:35–36) is without a toe, as is the later Tripolitanian class (Peacock and Williams 1986:166–168, Class 36). Another parallel in form, also from Paphos (Papuci-Władyka 1995:161, No. 250), is not of the same fabric. No other examples of this ware were identified.

Unclassified (Fig. 1:3)

No other fragment has a ware type related to this single example of a triangular rim with an almost horizontal top, reminiscent of the so-called Punic jars (see Grace 1965:13, Fig. 5—"Punic(?) jar," c. 100–86 BCE; 1979a: Fig. 33—Carthaginian, late second century BCE). Dr. Samuel Wolff kindly examined the ware of this fragment, and is certain that it is not Carthaginian in origin. Joncheray (1976:25), in describing this class of amphoras "de tradition punique," suggests the origin of the later amphoras in this class as the eastern Mediterranean. One such amphora (Joncheray 1976: Pl. VI:62), has a rim resembling our Fig. 1:1 (suggested by us to be Aegean, above), and is dated to the second century BCE.

NOTE

¹ One very tentative reading by Prof. Joseph Naveh is *aleph nun waw*. Our thanks to Prof. Naveh for his assistance in examining this material, to Dr. Rudolph Cohen for permission to examine the handle from

Horbat Rogem (Reg. No. 70/1), and to Raphael Greenberg for permission to examine and describe the unpublished handle from Khirbat Kerak (Bet Yerah).

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