Commercial Connectivity in Hellenistic Cilicia Pedias: Stamped and Inscribed Amphora Fragments from Tatarlı Höyük

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Abstract: Tatarlı Höyük, situated in the heart of Cilicia Pedias, occupied a strategic position at the intersection of major inland routes and communication corridors during the Hellenistic period. This article presents 35 previously unpublished stamped and inscribed amphora fragments recovered during excavations at the site. The new assemblage, which includes Rhodian handles, basket-handled amphorae of Cypriot or local Cilician production, a Koan stamp, and several gem-stamps, increases the total number of known specimens from the site to 57. The study provides a detailed catalogue of these finds, including die observations and matrix attributions, while contextualizing them within their stratigraphic and spatial settings on the citadel. Chronologically, the material exhibits a bimodal distribution with a notable concentration in Rhodian Periods I and III, reflecting sustained inland participation in Eastern Mediterranean exchange networks. Significant epigraphic contributions include the identification of new eponym–fabricant associations, such as the Θέστωρ–Σωκράτης II pairing, and previously unpublished matrix variants. Beyond its documentary value, the assemblage highlights the diversity of maritime and regional trade connections in inland Cilicia. A working model is proposed wherein Tatarlı's access to maritime trade was mediated through internal corridors, potentially utilizing the Pyramos River as a commercial artery. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of integrating inland nodes into reconstructions of Hellenistic commercial landscapes, demonstrating that long-distance trade goods circulated far beyond the coastal ports.

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Introduction

Tatarlı Höyük is situated in the central part of Cilicia Pedias (Plain Cilicia), approximately 24 km east of the modern district of Ceyhan in Adana province, within the boundaries of the present-day village of Tatarlı (Fig. 1). Owing to its strategic location, the mound occupied an important position at the intersection of inland routes, water resources, and communication corridors linking the Anatolian plateau with Syria and Mesopotamia, particularly during the second millennium BC (Fig. 1).[1]

Systematic excavations conducted at Tatarlı Höyük since 2007 have revealed a continuous occupational sequence comprising eight major cultural strata, extending from the Neolithic period to the Late Hellenistic period.[2] The Hellenistic levels of the settlement have yielded a substantial body

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[1] Girginer 2016, 91-108.

[2] Girginer – Oyman-Girginer 2020, 211-250.

of material culture, demonstrating that Tatarlı functioned as an active inland centre integrated into the economic and commercial dynamics of the Eastern Mediterranean.[3]

This article presents 35 previously unpublished stamped and inscribed amphora fragments recovered during excavations at Tatarlı Höyük. The new assemblage includes 22 Rhodian entries, six basket-handled amphora fragments attributable to Cypriot and/or local Cilician production, one Koan stamp, two gem-stamps, and several unclassified or indeterminated examples. When considered together with the 22 stamped handles identified at the site between 2008 and 2017 and previously published by Dündar and Gerçek,[4] the corpus of amphora stamps and graffiti from Tatarlı Höyük now totals 57 specimens. This places Tatarlı among the most substantial Hellenistic amphora-stamp assemblages currently known from inland Cilicia Pedias.[5]



Fig. 1) *The sites and settlements mentioned in the text*

The material presented here has been classified according to epigraphic and typological criteria. The Rhodian stamps are assigned to the standard chronological periods of the Rhodian amphora stamps (Periods I–IV; ca. 304 – ca. 146 BC),[6] while the basket-handled examples and graffiti are identified primarily on the basis of form, inscriptional features, and fabric characteristics. Beyond their cataloguing value, these finds are significant for die studies, prosopographical research, and the reconstruction of the spatial and stratigraphic distribution of imported transport containers within the settlement.

[3] Fırat 2019, 27-97; Fırat – Girginer 2020, 151-155.

[4] Dündar – Gerçek 2018, 153-174.

[5] For comparison, see Grace 1950, 135-148; Şahin – Alkaç 2019, 111-132; Erhan *at al.* 2025, 1-28; Kavak-Özdemir – Alkaç 2026, 100-107.

[6] Grace 1953, 116-128; Finkielsztejn 2001; Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 187-280.

The aims of this study are threefold: first, to publish the previously unpublished stamped and inscribed amphora fragments from Tatarlı Höyük; second, to situate this material within its stratigraphic and spatial contexts; and third, to assess what this assemblage reveals about inland participation in the exchange networks of Hellenistic Cilicia Pedias. Particular attention is given to the diversity of stamping and marking practices represented at the site and to the implications of this material for understanding commercial connectivity beyond the coastal zone.

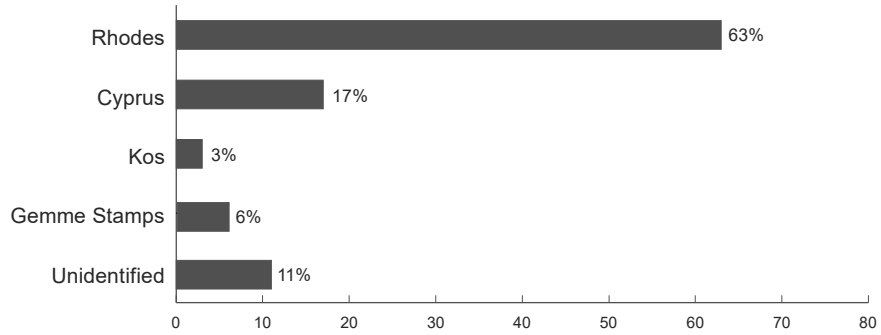


Fig. 2) *Ratio of amphora stamps found in Tatarlı Höyük based on their origin*

Assemblage Composition

The material treated in this study consists of 35 previously unpublished stamped amphora handles and graffiti (catalogue entries SH 1–35). These new finds supplement the 22 stamped handles published earlier[7] and raise the total Tatarlı corpus to 57 specimens. The new assemblage is dominated by Rhodian name-and-device stamps (SH 1–22; n = 22), accompanied by a Cypriot/Cilician group of abbreviated stamps and graffiti on basket-handled amphorae (SH 23–28; n = 6), a single Koan example (SH 29), two gem-stamps or anepigraphic impressions (SH 30–31), and four unclassified pieces (SH 32–35) (Fig. 2). The catalogue provides matrix attributions, die observations, and fabric/slip descriptions for each entry and forms the basis of the discussion below.

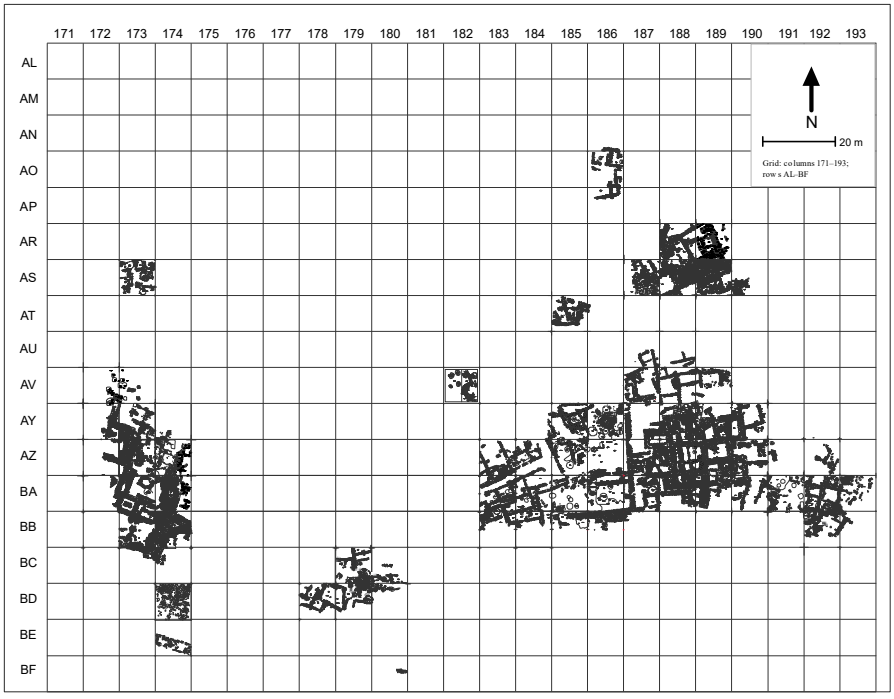


Fig. 3) *Tatarlı Höyük Sector 1, Citadel 2026 Site Plan (Tatarlı Höyük Excavation Archive)*

[7] Dündar – Gerçek 2018, 153-174.

The stamped material derives from several well-documented excavation loci across the Tatarlı citadel, with principal findspot clusters in sectors BA, AZ, AY, AV, AS, BC, and BE (Fig. 3). A notable concentration comes from BA contexts, including SH 1, SH 4, SH 6, SH 11, SH 13, SH 16, SH 23, SH 25, SH 26, SH 30–32, and SH 35. These finds cluster around the so-called "A-Structure" and its associated occupation deposits, as described in the site reports.[8] AZ and AY contexts are also well represented and correspond to areas along the margins of the A-Structure, adjacent street sectors, and associated rooms. Finds from other sectors, including AV, AS, BC, and BE, demonstrate that stamped amphora handles were distributed across domestic spaces, workshop areas, and external fills rather than being confined to a single refuse deposit. The distribution is therefore site-wide and indicates that imported transport amphorae circulated through multiple functional zones of the settlement.

Find Contexts and Stratigraphic Distribution

The 35 amphora stamps and graffiti analysed in this study display a distribution that is both spatially clustered and stratigraphically informative. Most derive from areas associated with the A-Structure and its related activity zones, especially in the Hellenistic occupation levels of the citadel. The contextual distribution of these finds is important for reconstructing both the internal circulation of transport containers within the settlement and the depositional histories through which they entered the archaeological record.

The majority of the material was recovered from grid squares BA, AZ, and AY, corresponding to the core of the Hellenistic settlement. Stratigraphic evidence from the 2014 and 2015 excavation seasons indicates that this area was characterized by two principal Hellenistic architectural phases (Hellenistic II-a and II-b), together with extensive secondary depositional activity, including refuse pits that frequently cut into earlier architectural remains. Finds such as SH 1 (BA.185), SH 4 (BA.183), and SH 10 (AZ.185) are directly associated with occupation debris and floor levels belonging to the Hellenistic phases.[9]

A significant portion of the assemblage, including SH 26 (BA.185, Pit 4) and SH 30 (BA.185/93), derives from refuse pits. These pits, which were actively used during the Middle and Late Hellenistic periods, contain large quantities of imported ceramics and fine wares. The stratigraphic reports suggest that some of these deposits disturbed earlier 3rd century BC levels, thereby accounting for the presence of earlier Rhodian material, including Period I examples, in later secondary contexts. The contextual evidence therefore demonstrates that the stamped and inscribed amphora fragments from Tatarlı Höyük must be interpreted not only in terms of their production dates, but also with regard to their depositional histories within the site.[10]

Assemblage

Rhodian[11]

SH 1. Inv No: T.MK.44/TH.18, Findspot: BA.185.8/1, Form: rectangular, Dimension: left side of the stamp is broken, Eponym: Ἄγριος, Fabricant: Εὔφρων. Inscription mode and direction:

[8] Fırat 2019; Girginer – Oyman-Girginer 2020.

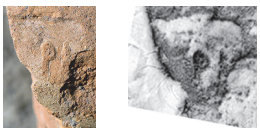
[9] Cf. Girginer *at al.* 2015, 491-494; Girginer *et al.* 2017, 443-445.

[10] Cf. Girginer 2012, 110-112.

[11] The catalogue of Rhodian stamps entries includes the matrix numbers and designations as established by ongoing research on Rhodian stamps in the Alexandria Amphora Research Center (CEAA) of the Centre

Abbreviation, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΑΓΡΙΟΣ-RF-ΕΥΦΡΩΝ-003, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 7/4 pink, Date: ca. 265 BC (Period Ib)

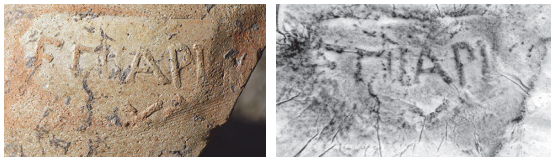
[Ἐπὶ Ἀγ]ρί(ου)
[Εὔφρον(ος)]



Despite its poor state of preservation, the restoration of the rectangular stamp was rendered possible through a stylistic analysis of the extant letterforms. By examining the morphological characteristics of the handle in conjunction with the inscription, the specific die employed to impress the stamp was successfully identified. Accordingly, it has been determined that the names of the eponym Ἄγριος and the fabricant Εὔφρων were inscribed in two lines as abbreviations on SH 1, only other example impressed by the same die is known from Alexandria Benaki Collection.[12] No month name is attested on the stamp.

SH 2. Inv No: T.MK.45/TH.22, Findspot: AS.173.43/11, Form: rectangular, Dimension: broken on the right x ca. 1.7 cm, Eponym: Ἀρίσταρχος, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΣ-009, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 262 – ca. 247 BC (Period Ib)

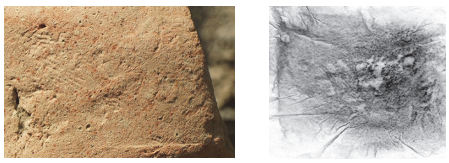
Ἐπὶ Ἀρι[σ]-
[τάρ]χου



On the rectangular stamp, the name of the eponym Ἀρίσταρχος appears in the genitive case distributed across two lines. The fabricants associated with this eponym are Ἱεροτέλης, attested as having operated in the Rhodian Peraea, and Φανίας.[13] A further stamp impressed with the same die is known from the Benaki Collection in Alexandria.[14]

SH 3. Inv No: T.MK.50/TH.17, Findspot: BC.174.11/54, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: ? x ca. 1.5 cm, Eponym: Ἀρίσταρχος?, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΑΡΙΣΤΑΡΧΟΣ-?, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 2.5 YR 8/4 pink, Date: ca. 262 – ca. 247 BC (Period Ib)

Ἐπ[ὶ Ἀρισ]-
[τάρ]χου



On the rectangular stamp, the name of the eponym Ἀρίσταρχος, dated to ca. 262–247 BC,[15] appears in the genitive case across two lines. Given the poor state of preservation of the inscription, the lettering is notably faint. Although the stamp bears the name of the same eponym as SH 2, it

d'Etudes Alexandrines (CEAlex). RE: Rhodian Eponym and RF: Rhodian Fabricant. For matrix studies of Rhodian amphora stamps, see Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 215-223; www.amphoralex.org.

[12] Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 94-95.

[13] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 190.

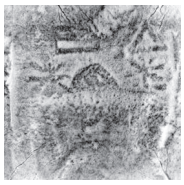
[14] Cankardeş-Şenol 2015a, 316.

[15] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 190.

was evidently impressed with a different die. Nevertheless, owing to the inadequate preservation of the stamp, a definitive die identification could not be established.

SH 4. Inv No: T.MK.33/TH.18, Findspot: BA-183.31/38, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 2.5 x 2 cm, Eponym: Θεύδωρος I, Device and device place: Two stars (one on the left and one on the right) and a pilos (in the middle), Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΘΕΥΔΩΡΟΣ 01-008, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: ca. 244-235 BC (Period Ic)

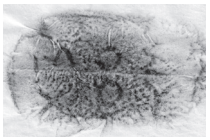
Θευδ-
* *pilos* *
ώρου

On the rectangular stamp, the name Θεύδωρος appears in the genitive case, distributed across two lines. The central device, in conjunction with the surrounding inscription, exhibits a design that is notably uncommon within the corpus of Rhodian amphora stamps. The stamp is dated to ca. 244–235 BC. This die should be attributed to the Rhodian eponym Theudoros I, as demonstrated by close parallels in Alexandria[16] and Tanais[17]. The eponym Θεύδωρος has been previously associated with the fabricants Ἄξιος, Ἱεροτέλης, and Κρέων.[18]

SH 5. Inv No: T.MK.27/TH.14, Findspot: AZ-186.29/17, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 2.8 x 1.3 cm, Fabricant: Μόσχος I, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RF-ΜΟΣΧΟΣ 01-004, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/4 pink and 2.5 YR 6/6 light red, Date: ca. 304 – ca. 271 (Period Ia)

Μόσ-
χου

The name of the Rhodian fabricant Μόσχος I appears here in two lines in the genitive case. Seven other stamps impressed by the same die are known from the Rhodian amphora stamp corpus.[19] The activity of the fabricant Μόσχος I, the earlier of the homonyms, is dated through well-established eponym connections.[20] The fabricant is associated with the eponyms Διοπείθης, Μενταῖος, Σωσίδαμος, and Τιμαρ(.

SH 6. Inv No: T.MK.31/TH.18, Findspot: BA-185.5/5, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 1.4 x ? cm, Eponym: Φιλώνδας, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RE-ΦΙΛΟΝΔΑΣ-007, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 7/4 pink and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: ca. 234 – 220 BC (Period IIa)

[16] Cankardeş-Şenol 2015b, 236.

[17] Jöhrens 2001, 465, no. 151.

[18] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 194.

[19] Cankardeş-Şenol 2024; Schmaltz 2016, 110, KA 271; *cf.* Sztetyłło 1976, 49, no. 114; Ariel 1990, 32, S11; Jöhrens 2001, 426, no. 235; Nicolaou 2005, 332, no. 257.

[20] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 231.

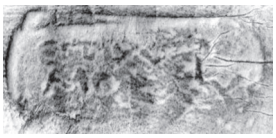
[Επ]ὶ Φιλώνδα




The rectangular stamp bears the name of the eponym Φιλώνδας in a single line. This eponym, attested by a total of twelve different dies, is known to have been associated with fabricants such as Ζήνων I, Θεύδωρος, Ἱεροτέλης, Ξενότιμος, and Ποταμοκλῆς.[21] Stamp SH 6 likely belongs to the same amphora as SH 4. The association between Φιλώνδας and Θεύδωρος is already a well-documented pair.[22] Similar associations are also attested for Ἱεροτέλης[23] and Ποταμοκλῆς.[24]

SH 7. Inv No: T.MK.48/TH.23, Findspot: AY.185.37/6, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.1 x 1.5 cm, Eponym: Χαρμοκλῆς, Inscription mode and direction: Two horizontal inscription lines, lunate epsilon and sigma, Matrix: RE-ΧΑΡΜΟΚΛΗΣ-024, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/4 pink and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 219-ca. 211 BC (Period IIb)

Ἐπὶ Χαρ-
μοκλεῦς

The rectangular stamp bears the name of the eponym Χαρμοκλῆς in the genitive case, arranged in two lines. Traces of reddish paint are preserved on both the handle and the neck of the amphora. Cankardeş-Şenol[25] lists the following fabricants associated with the eponym Χαρμοκλῆς: Διονύσιος II, Ἑλλάνικος, Ἐπίγονος I, Θεύδωρος, Μένων I, Πασίων (?), and Πρόθυμος. A parallel for this stamp is known from the Athenian Agora (SS 12419).

SH 8. Inv No: T.MK.57/TH.20, Findspot: AV.187.26/18, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 4.4 x 1.8 cm, Fabricant: Ἀμύντας, Device and device place: wreath on the right, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RF-ΑΜΥΝΤΑΣ-001, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/4 pink and 2.5 YR 8/4 pink, Date: ca. 189-ca. 182 – ca. 160-ca. 154/153 BC (Periods III-IV)

Ἀμύντα *wreath*




The rectangular stamp bears the name of the fabricant Ἀμύντας in a single line. A wreath symbol appears on the right side of the stamp. The eponyms dating the activity of the fabricant Amyntas include Ἀγέστρατος II, Ἀθανόδοτος, Αἰνησίδαμος II, Ἀρατοφάνης I, Ἀριστόμαχος I, Ἀρίστων II, Ἀρχιλαΐδας, Ἡραγόρας, Θεαίδητος, Νικασαγόρας I, Ξενοφῶν, and Σύμμαχος.[26]

[21] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 157-160.

[22] Finkielsztejn 2001, 105, table 3; Jöhrens 2001, 405, no. 129.

[23] Doğer 1994, 195-218.

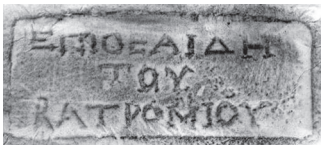
[24] Finkielsztejn 2001, 105, table 3.

[25] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017.

[26] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 222; *cf.* Levi 1964, 268, no. 187; Börker – Burow 1998, 43, nos. 390-392, Taf. 15.

SH 9. Inv No: T.MK.34/TH.18, Findspot: AZ.184.12, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 4.1 x 1.5 cm., Eponym: Θεαίδητος, Month: Βαδρόμιος, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, three horizontal lines, Matrix: RE-ΘΕΑΙΔΗΤΟΣ-ΒΑΔΡΟΜΙΟΣ-new, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 171/169 BC (Period IIId)

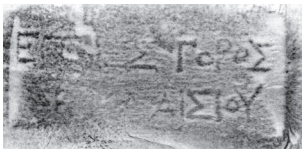
Ἐπὶ Θεαιδή-
του
Βατρομίου *sic*

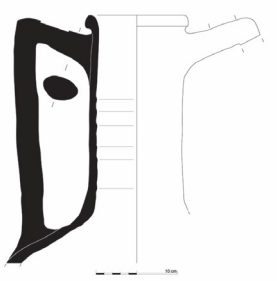



The rectangular stamp bears the name of the eponym official Θεαίδητος in the genitive case, arranged in three lines together with the month name Βαδρόμιος. Although a stamp of this official bearing the month Βαδρόμιος has previously been recorded,[27] the die represented by the present example differs from the published specimen and therefore constitutes a new die of Θεαίδητος. Θεαίδητος is associated with the fabricants Ἀμύντας, Ἄριστος, Δαμοκράτης I, Ἡράκλειτος I (?), Ἱπποκράτης, and Μαρσύας.[28]

SH 10a. Inv No: T.MK.46a/TH.17, Findspot: AZ.185.60, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.5 x 1.7 cm, Eponym: Θέστωρ, Month: Θευδαίσιος, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΘΕΣΤΩΡ-ΘΕΥΔΑΙΣΙΟΣ-001, Date: ca. 192 BC (Period IIIa)

Ἐπὶ Θέστορος
Θευδαισίου



The name of the eponym Θέστωρ appears here in two lines with the month of Θευδαίσιος. Included in the eponym lists,[29] Θέστωρ was dated to 205 BC by V. Lungu,[30] and subsequently to ca. 192 BC by G. Finkielsztejn.[31] Having been one of the eponyms that helped with dating the amphoras of the fabricant Δῖος I,[32] Θέστωρ was also associated with Ἀριστοκράτης II, Ἀγησίλας,[33] Ἀριστείδας II,[34] Ἀγορᾶναξ, Αἰνέας, and Ἀντίγονος II.[35]

[27] Jöhrens 2001, 390, no. 59.

[28] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 194.

[29] Grace 1953, 123, no. 93.

[30] Lungu 1990, 214, no. 13.

[31] Finkielsztejn 2001, 192, tab. 19.

[32] Grace 1963, 334, no. 9.

[33] Nicolaou 2005, 72-73, no. 148.

[34] Jöhrens 1999, 57, no. 143.

[35] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 194.

The amphora from Tatarlı Höyük, preserved with both stamped handles intact (SH 10a–b), now permits the addition of the fabricant Σωκράτης II to this list, thereby providing a new eponym–fabricant pair for the corpus of Rhodian amphora stamps.

SH 10b. Inv No: T.MK.46b/TH.17, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.5 x 1.5 cm, Fabricant: Σωκράτης II, Device and device place: Burning torch on the right, vertical, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RF-ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ 02-new, Date: ca. 192 BC (Period IIIa)

Σωκράτευς *burning toch*





Stamp SH 10b, which was impressed on the other handle of the same amphora as SH 10a, is rectangular in form and bears the name of the fabricant Σωκράτης II in the genitive case on a single line. A burning torch, a symbol frequently favored by this fabricant is located on the right side. Σωκράτης II is associated with four eponyms from Period II and three or four from Period III, suggesting that his workshop began operations in Period II and continued into Period III.[36]

This fabricant is known to have been associated with numerous eponyms, such as Σώδαμος, Σώστρατος, Σύμμαχος, Ἀρχίδαμος, Ξενοφάνης, Κλέαρχος, Ἱέρων I, and Θευφάνης II.[37]

This highly active fabricant is represented by 33 previously identified dies; however, based on its specific characteristics, the Tatarlı specimen was impressed with a new, formerly unknown die of Σωκράτης II. Furthermore, as both handles of this amphora are preserved, it is now possible to add Θέστωρ (SH 10a) to the list of eponym officials associated with Σωκράτης II.

SH 11. Inv No: T.MK.54/TH.17, Findspot: BA.183.13/65, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 3 cm, Eponym: Κλεώνυμος II, Month: Πάναμος, Device and device place: Rose in the center, Inscription mode and direction: One peripheral inscription line, the letters are inwards, two circles around the inscription, Matrix: RE-ΚΛΕΩΝΥΜΟΣ 02-ΠΑΝΑΜΟΣ-008, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 182 BC (Period IIIb)

Ἐπὶ Κλεω[νύ]μου Πανάμου

rose





The circular stamp bears the name of the eponym Κλεώνυμος II, written in the genitive case with the letters arranged inward. The fabricants dated by the eponym Κλεώνυμος II are known to include Ἀγαθοκλῆς III, Ἀγορᾶναξ, Ἀριστείδας II, Ἄριστος, Δαμοκράτης I, Δῖος I, Δωρόθεος, Μαρσύας, Φιλαίνιος, and Φίλων II.[38] Parallels impressed with the die -008 are known from the

[36] Grace – Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970, 302, E2.

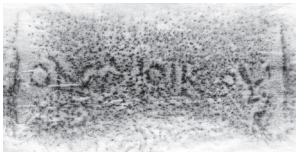
[37] Grace – Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970, 302, E3; Lungu 1990, 215, no. 2; Jöhrens 1999, 50, nos. 126-127; Nicolaou 2005, 351, 434, nos. 1, 128.

[38] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017.

Alexandria Graeco-Roman Museum (MGR 516.46) and the National Archaeological Museum in Athens (ANM N 277 EM 9).

SH 12. Inv No: T.MK.29/TH.22, Findspot: AV-187.8/22, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.5 x 1.6 cm, Fabricant: Ὀνασίοικος, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RF-ΟΝΑΣΙΟΙΚΟΣ-007, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow, Date: ca. 168/166 BC – ca. 152 BC (Period IIIe-IVb)

Ὀνασιοίκου

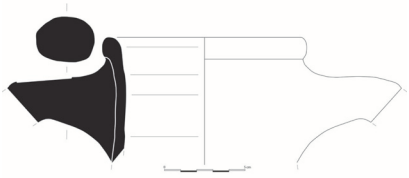
On the rectangular stamp, the name of the fabricant Ὀνασίοικος is read in the genitive case written in a single horizontal line. Close examination of the stamp reveals that the die was re-cut, and the matrix appears to have been previously employed for another inscription. Faint traces of vestigial letters are discernible above the name of Ὀνασίοικος, including what can be tentatively identified as Ξ or E, followed by Ω, I, and possibly K and O. In the line beneath the fabricant's name, the letters Σ and M are visible, which may plausibly be restored as the Rhodian month Σμίνθιος. However, due to the abraded state of these traces, a definitive reading of the earlier text remains uncertain.

A parallel impressed with the same die is known from Delos.[39] The dating of the fabricant is possible through eponym associations;[40] Ὀνασίοικος is known to be associated with the eponyms Ἀγέστρατος II, Ἀριστείδας II, Ἀριστόμαχος I, Δαμαίνετος, Παυσανίας III, and Σωσικλῆς.[41]

SH 13. Inv No: T.MK.51/TH.17, Findspot: BA.183.9/62, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.5 x 1.3 cm, Fabricant: Πολύξενος, Device and device place: Star on each corner, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RF-ΠΟΛΥΞΕΝΟΣ-003, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 161 BC – ca. 157-ca. 155 BC (Period IIIc-IVa)

* *
Πολυξένου
* *





The stamped handle is preserved together with the rim. The name of the fabricant Πολύξενος appears in the genitive case and in a single line, with star symbols at the corners of the stamp. Πολύξενος is a relatively infrequently attested fabricant. While G. Finkielsztejn suggested that his

[39] Cankardeş-Şenol 2025; Delos TD 4724 (B. 20982).

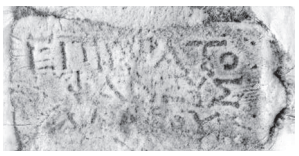
[40] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 232.

[41] Cankardeş-Şenol 2025.

period of activity extended from the late Period IV to the early Period V,[42] D. Ariel argued,[43] on the basis of the limited available evidence, that such an extension into Period V is unlikely and that the activity of the fabricant should be confined to Period IV.[44] Among the eponym officials associated with this fabricant are Σωσικλῆς,[45] Ἀγέστρατος II, and Ἀριστόμαχος I.[46]

SH 14. Inv No: T.MK.38/TH.17, Findspot: AZ.185.54/48, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.6 x1.7 cm, Eponym: Πρατοφάνης, Month: Δάλιος, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, three horizontal inscription lines, Matrix: RE-ΠΡΑΤΟΦΑΝΗΣ-ΔΑΛΙΟΣ-004, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 7/3 pink, Date: ca. 188 BC (Period IIIb)

Ἐπὶ Πρατο-
φάνευς
Δαλίου

The rectangular stamp bears the name of the eponym Πρατοφάνης, arranged in three lines together with the month name Δάλιος. Πρατοφάνης is associated with the fabricants Ἀγαθοκλῆς II, Ἀγορᾶναξ, Ἀντίγονος II, Ἀντίμαχος, Δαμοκράτης I, Δίσκος II, Ἴστρος, and Φιλαίνιος.[47]

SH 15. Inv No: T.MK.28/TH.22, Findspot: AS-183.15/16, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.2 x 1.6 cm, Fabricant: Ἀνδρικός, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: RE-ΑΝΔΡΙΚΟΣ-005, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 8/4 pink, Date: ca. 164/162-ca. 1442/141 BC (Periods IIIe-IVb)

Ἀνδρικοῦ




The name of the fabricant Ἀνδρικός is inscribed in the genitive case on a single line. On the basis of his association with the eponym Ξενοφῶν,[48] the beginning of his activity may be placed in Period IIIe.[49] Furthermore, his connection with the eponym Ἀλεξίμαχος indicated that he remained active into Period IV.[50] G. Cankardeş-Şenol proposes a somewhat longer span of activity for Ἀνδρικός, dating it to ca. 164/162 – ca. 140/138 BC,[51] thus encompassing both of the aforementioned periods.

SH 16. Inv No: T.MK.30/TH.18, Findspot: BA-184.9/11, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3.4 x 1.4 cm, Fabricant: Ἀνδρικός, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, one horizontal line, Matrix:

[42] Finkielsztejn 1994, 224, note 106.

[43] Ariel – Messika 2007, 15, no. 13.

[44] See also Jöhrens 2001, 430, no. 260.

[45] Nicolaou 2005, 440, no. 143.

[46] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 232.

[47] Schmaltz 2016, 198, KA 474; Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 199; ALEX MGR 797.09.

[48] Empereur – Guimier-Sorbets 1986, 130.

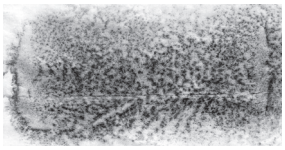
[49] Finkielsztejn 2001, 192, Tab. 19.

[50] Nicolaou – Empereur 1986, 526, no. 10.

[51] Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 222; Cankardeş-Şenol 2023.

RF-ΑΝΔΡΙΚΟΣ-005 or 007 ?, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/4 pink and 5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: ca. 164/162-ca. 142/141 BC (Periods IIIe-IVb)

Ἀνδρ[ικ]οῦ

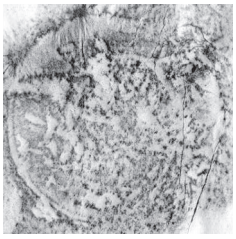



The fabricant Ἀνδρικός' name is inscribed in the genitive case on a single line, see SH 15.

SH 17. Inv No: T.MK.37/TH.17, Findspot: AY.185.12/23, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 3 cm, Fabricant: Ἀριστοκλῆς II, Device and device place: Rose in the center, Inscription mode and direction: one peripheral inscription line, letters are facing inwards, Matrix: RF-ΑΡΙΣΤΟΚΛΗΣ 02-023, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: ca. 180/178 – ca. 124-ca.122 BC (Period III–IV)

[Ἀ]ριστ[ο]κ[λ]ε[ῦς] *vac.*

rose

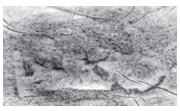
The name of the fabricant Ἀριστοκλῆς II appears in genitive case. Using a rose as a symbol on circular stamps, the fabricant is known to have produced amphoras both on Rhodes, and at Knidos during the period of Rhodian control under a *phrourarkhos*.[52] He was the son of the fabricant Δαμοκράτης I and brother of fabricant Ἱπποκράτης.[53] His activity is attested over a long period and can be dated through associations with 24 eponyms.[54]

SH 18. Inv No: T.MK.35/TH.21, Findspot: AV.175.3/57, Form: Rectangular, Device and device place: Ribboned caduceus, below the inscriptions, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal lines, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: beginning of the 3rd century BC (Period I)

[.....]-

νε[.....]

ribboned caduceus

The rectangular stamp likely bears a personal name arranged in two lines. A ribboned caduceus is depicted as the symbol. Of the inscription, only the letters nu and epsilon are legible. Based on its morphological characteristics and the profile of the amphora handle on which it was impressed, the stamp can be dated to the early 3rd century BC.

SH 19. Inv No: T.MK.36/TH.17, Findspot: AZ.187.15/22, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 1.5 cm x? Inscription mode and direction: Normal ? two horizontal lines, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: beginning of the 3rd century BC

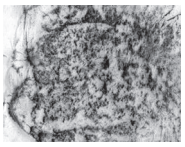
[52] Grace 1949, 187, no. 6. For the amphora stamps produced by the fabricant in Knidos, see Grace 1934, 300, 302-303, fig. 5, nos. 5-8.

[53] Grace – Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970, 327, E66; Grace 1985, 9-13.

[54] Cankardeş-Şenol 2023, 319; Cankardeş-Şenol 2025, 409.

[.....]-

δι[.....]

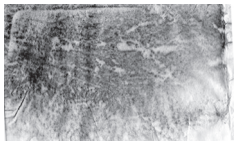



The rectangular stamp contains a name arranged in two lines. Of the inscription, only the letters delta and iota, at the beginning of the second line are discernible. Based on its morphological characteristics and the profile of the amphora handle on which it was impressed, the stamp can be dated to the early 3rd century BC.

SH 20. Inv No: T.MK.52/TH.16, Findspot: AZ.186.15/62, Form: Rectangular, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 7/6 light red and 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 234 – ca. 161 BC (Periods II-III)

Ἀ[..]θ[…]-

[…….]

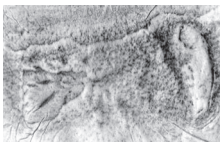



The inscription on the stamp is heavily worn; consequently, a tentative restoration of the name is not possible. The dating has been established primarily on the basis of the handle's profile.

SH 21. Inv No: T.MK.39/TH.17, Findspot: AY.185.23/70, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: 3 x 1.6 cm, Device and device place: Star (or Helios symbol?) on the left, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 5/4 brown and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 234 – ca. 161 BC (Periods II-III)

Star (or Helios symbol?) [..]σ[...]-

μ[.....]

Only an eight-rayed star symbol is preserved on the left side of the rectangular stamp. Considering both the profile of the handle and the possible use of the eight-rayed star as a symbol on the left side of stamps by certain fabricants or eponym, the stamp can be dated to Period III.

SH 22. Inv No: T.MK.47/TH.17, Findspot: BA.184.19/47, Form: Rectangular, Dimension: left side broken x ca. 1.6 cm, Inscription mode and direction: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 7/3 pink and 10 YR 7/3 very pale brown, Date: Period III

[.....]

[.....]ίου

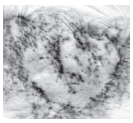



A month name ending in genitive form -ίου is preserved on the second line of the stamp. However, the name of the fabricant or eponym on the first line remains unidentified. The dating has been established on the basis of the handle's profile.

Cyprus/Cilicia

SH 23. Inv No: T.MK.56/TH.21, Findspot: BA.191.76/43, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.3 cm, Inscription mode and direction: Abbreviation, Fabric and slip: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow and 5 YR 7/3 pink, Date: 3rd century BC

ΔI(

A circular stamp bears an abbreviation composed of the letters Δ and I. On the basis of the fabric characteristics of the handle, the stamp can be attributed to production in Cyprus.[55] A comparable example recovered from Kourion and Tel Akko was dated to the 3rd century BC by Finkielsztejn.[56]

SH 24. Inv No: T.MK.41.TH.18, Findspot: AZ.185.1/86, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.6 cm, Inscription mode and direction: Abbreviation, ligature, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/6 light red and 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown, Date: ca. 3rd century BC

Ω

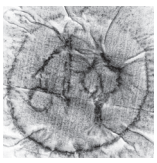
I Δ P(*retr.*




The circular stamp bears a four-letter abbreviation, which can be read as IΔPΩ((?) (omega placed vertically towards the left). Stamp SH 24 exhibits shared morphological characteristics with a stamp previously discovered at Tatarlı Höyük, read as IΔEP(or IΔPE(.[57] A parallel impressed from the same die as SH 24 was found at Soli and dated to the 3rd century BC.[58]

SH 25. Inv No: T.MK25/TH.19, Findspot: BA-185.14, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.8 cm, Eponym/Fabricant: Philo(, Inscription mode and direction: Abbreviation, retrograde, one horizontal inscription line, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 7/3 pink and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: 3rd century BC

ΦΙΛΟ(*retr.*

The circular stamp, impressed upon a basket-handled amphora, features an abbreviated name ΦΙΛΟ((lambda and iota are probably ligatured), rendered in a retrograde script along a linear plane.

A comparable group of stamps, displaying an abbreviation formed by the letters Φ, I, and I, is attested at Tarsus.[59] Notably, both the Tatarlı specimen and the Tarsus examples are impressed on Cypriot basket-handled amphoras, pointing to a common regional tradition for this group of markings.

SH 26a-b. Inv No: T.MK.24/TH.19, Findspot: BA-185.28/84 (pit 4), grid VIII/9, Dimension: a) 2.9 x 2.9 cm; b) 2 x 2.4 cm, Eponym/Fabricant: Par(, Inscription mode and direction: Graffito monogram, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/6 light red and 7.5 YR 7/4 pink, Date: 3rd century BC

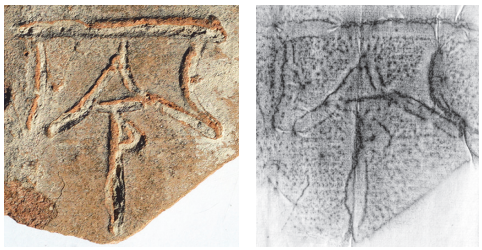
[55] Cf. Finkielsztejn 2013, 88, 90, nos. 10, 25.

[56] Finkielsztejn 2013, 90, no. 25.

[57] Dündar – Gerçek 2018, 164, no. SH 20.

[58] Yamantürk 2019, 173, K.32.

[59] Grace 1950, 146, fig. 118, nos 89-91.

a) 

ΠΑ-
P(

b) 

ΠΑ-
P(

The basket-handled amphora bears two incised graffiti. Both were applied prior to firing and take the form of a monogram or abbreviated inscription ΠΑΡ(. The two marks are identical in form, differing in scale, effectively representing enlarged and reduced versions of the almost same signature (with tiny differences of letters). The larger graffito (SH 26a) is incised on the vessel body at the handle's lower attachment, whereas the smaller example (SH 26b) is situated directly on the handle itself.

With regard to the provenance of the find, the fact that basket-handled amphorae were produced both in Cyprus[60] and in Cilicia[61] renders both regions plausible candidates. However, the fabric color of the amphora (2.5 YR 6/6 light red) shows close correspondence with the "salmon-red" fabric typically attributed to Cilician production in the literature, thus slightly favoring a Cilician origin[62]. This attribution should not be regarded as conclusive, but rather as a working hypothesis based on the currently available evidence. Its verification ultimately depends on mineralogical and petrographic analyses of the fabric.

When evaluating the function of the two "Παρ(" graffiti on the amphora, the most plausible interpretation is that these marks represent a potter's or workshop mark. Their application prior to firing (*ante cocturam*), together with the existence of a dual system, one larger and one smaller, points to an organized and systematic production process. This pattern suggests that the marks may have formed part of a standardized production practice rather than representing an individual or ad hoc inscription.

The hypothesis that the marks denote an abbreviated place name remains weak, as no production center beginning with "Παρ-" has yet been associated with this type of amphora. Similarly, the interpretation as an ownership mark is less convincing, given their pre-firing application.

The absence of a direct parallel for the "Παρ(" graffito in the current literature enhances the significance of the Tatarlı Höyük find.[63] It may indicate either a workshop that has not yet been identified or sufficiently documented, or an otherwise unattested mark belonging to a known production center.

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[60] Lehmann 1996, 443-445.

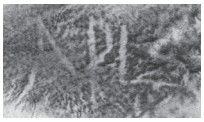
[61] Zoroğlu 2013, 43; Lehmann *et al.* 2020, 1-27.

[62] Rauh – Slane 2000, 319-330; Rauh 2023, 1-21.

[63] In contrast to the extensive scholarship dedicated to amphora stamps, pre-firing (*ante cocturam*) graffiti have been studied and published with far less regularity. Many excavation reports fail to document such markings in rigorous detail. Consequently, the current lack of a published parallel should not be interpreted as evidence of its nonexistence. Future systematic research across museum and depot collections in the Eastern Mediterranean, specifically focused on basket-handled amphorae of Cypriot and Cilician origin, may reveal further examples of the "Παρ(" graffito, thereby clarifying its distribution and function.

SH 27. Inv No: T.MK.55/TH.17, Findspot: BE.174.2/41, Dimension: ca. 1.1 cm (height of the letters), Inscription mode and direction: Graffito, abbreviation, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/8 light red, Date: 3rd century BC

APIΣ(

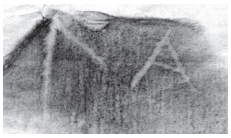
A post-firing graffito, preserving the abbreviation APIΣ(, is incised at the junction of the handle and the body of the basket-handled amphora. This sequence of letters may point to a personal name beginning with the prefix Aris-. For remarks concerning the provenance of the amphora, see SH 26.

SH 28. Inv No: T.MK.49/TH.17, Findspot: AZ.185.4/146, Dimension: 1.1 or 1.6 cm, Inscription mode and direction: Graffito, abbreviation, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/8 light red and 7.5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow, Date: ca. 3rd century BC

[…]ΓA

or

[…]ΛA

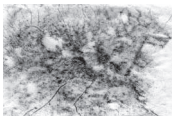



A graffito consisting of two letters, likely to be read as […]ΓA or […]ΛA, with an incomplete initial segment, is incised near the junction of the handle and the body of a basket-handled amphora. The average letter height is 1.1 cm. Due to the fragmentary nature of the inscription's beginning, it remains impossible to conclusively determine whether the graffito represents a personal name or a numerical notation.

Koan

SH 29. Inv No: T.MK.40/TH.17, Findspot: AY.185.23/70, Form: Rectangular, Fabricant: Ikan(, Inscription mode and direction: Abbreviation, one horizontal inscription line, Matrix: KO-IKAN(-001, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 5/4 reddish brown and 7.5 YR 8/3 pink, Date: second half of 3rd century BC – first half of 2nd century BC

ʾIκ[αν(]

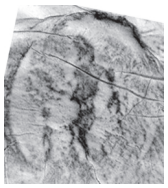



A double-barreled handle in the Demosthenes Haviaras Collection on Syme bears the retrograde abbreviation ʾIκαν(. Information concerning this stamp was obtained from the V. R. Grace Archive.[64]

Gem stamps

SH 30. Inv No: T.MK.23/TH.19, Findspot: BA-185.28/93, Form: oval, Dimension: 2.2 x 1.9 cm, Device and device place: Two male figures in the center, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 5/4 brown and 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow, Date: 3rd century BC?

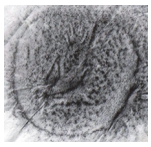
[64] See Elmalı 2024, 975.

An oval gem-stamp impression is situated at the junction of the handle and shoulder of a transport amphora. The stamp is purely figural and anepigraphic. The intaglio reveals a finely modeled, dynamic two-figure scene: on the right stands a mature, muscular nude male in contrapposto, his right arm extended as he presents a wreath (*stephanos*) to the figure on the left. This recipient, a smaller figure reaching approximately to the adult's waist, is depicted nude with subtly rendered wings on the back – a feature that strongly supports its identification as Eros. The diminutive deity adopts a frontal pose with one arm akimbo, creating a sense of active engagement and dialogue.

This stamp belongs to a rare class of purely pictorial, narrative gem-stamps, diverging significantly from the standardized administrative stamps (bearing eponyms/fabricants and devices) characteristic of major centers such as Rhodes and Knidos. The stylistic execution and relevant comparanda indicate a Hellenistic date, likely within the 3rd–2nd century BC.[65]

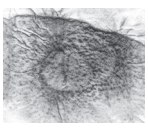
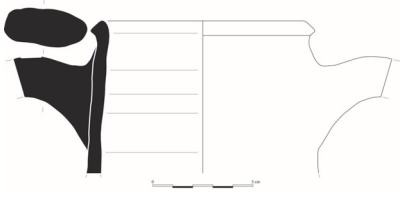
SH 31. Inv No: T.MK.26/TH.18, Findspot: BA-185.20, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.6 cm, Device and device place: Depiction of a ship's prow or a flying Eros in the center, Inscription mode and direction: Anepigraphic, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/4 light reddish brown and 7.5 YR 7/2 pinkish gray, Date: 3rd century BC?


Impressed below the junction of the handle and the body, the oval-shaped stamp features a figure that can be identified as a ship's prow. Although some details are obscured by the state of preservation, the iconographic features strongly favor this identification over other possibilities, such as a flying Eros.

Unidentified

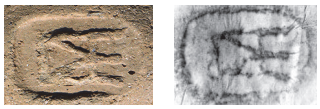
SH 32. Inv No: T.MK.58/TH.18, Findspot: BA.185.17/41, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.3 cm, Device and device place: Undetermined symbol (rosette?) in the center, Inscription mode and direction: Anepigraphic, Date: 3rd – 2nd century BC?

[65] For a comparable pose on a Samian amphora, *cf.* Grace 1971, pl. 14, no. 66.

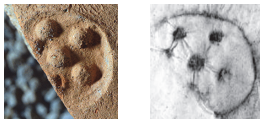
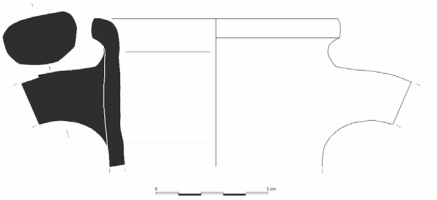
The stamped handle, of undetermined origin, is preserved with the rim. The impression features a single device that appears more like a letter than a rose; however, its precise interpretation remains uncertain.

SH 33. Inv No: T.MK.42/TH.22, Findspot: AS.173.4/78, Form: Oval, Dimension: 1.7 x 1.1 cm, Inscription mode and direction: Ligature, one horizontal inscription line, ligature, Fabric and slip: 10 YR 4/2 dark grayish brown and 10 YR 7/2 light gray, Date: 3rd – 2nd century BC

Π, I, Σ, M, E(

The letters observed on this small stamped handle exhibit the characteristics of a ligature composed of interconnected letterforms. Depending on the orientation, the stamp may be interpreted either as a linear sequence or as a concentric monogram.[66] Judging by the form and dimensions of the handle, the stamp most probably belongs to a jug rather than to an amphora. Among the interconnected forms, the letters I–Σ–E are clearly perceived at first sight, while the possibility of an M ligatured with the Σ (or of a second Σ) and a Π should also be considered.[67] Although it cannot be determined with certainty which orientation is intended, the monogrammatic solution appears more likely, since a linear reading does not yield a satisfactory anthroponym.[68] Given that the sign occurs on a small jug, it should be regarded as a personal or workshop ownership mark rather than as an official stamp.

SH 34. Inv No: T.MK.53/TH.17, Findspot: BA.183.9/83, Form: Circular, Dimension: R: 1.25 cm, Device and device place: Rosette in the center, Inscription mode and direction: Anepigraphic, Fabric and slip: 2.5 YR 6/6 light red and 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow, Date: 3rd century BC

The stamped handle is preserved together with the rim. Although the stamp impression is partially obscured by surface wear, it appears to feature a circular motif with radiating elements, potentially representing a rosette or a star symbol (five dots attached with small lines to the central dot forming a star or a rosette). Due to the fragmentary state of preservation, the specific form

[66] The stamp was recovered from the Hellenistic levels at Tatarlı Höyük. While the contextual evidence points to a broad range (late 4th – early 1st century BC), the stamp can be placed in the Hellenistic period (3rd–2nd century BC) on palaeographic grounds. The type of vessel cannot be identified with precision and can only be described as a small jug.

[67] The reading may be given with the following degrees of certainty: I, Σ, E are perceived clearly, while the M is more debatable. If the stamp is held upright, however, the configuration of the strokes also admits the reading of an M and a Π, so that a sequence such as ΠΙΣΜΕ(may be considered; this orientation-dependent reading nonetheless remains uncertain.

[68] In a monogrammatic reading, the certain I, Σ, E together with the debatable M and Π best correspond to names of the Πεισ- group, such as Πεισίμαχος and, less probably, Πεισμένης, whose distinctive letter cluster (I–Σ–E–M–Π) is compatible with the sign. These suggestions rest on treating the letters not as a sequence read from left to right, but as monogram elements selected from within the name and compressed into a single form.

and provenance of the vessel could not be definitively determined. Consequently, the chronological framework has been established primarily on the basis of the handle's morphological profile.

SH 35. Inv No: T.MK.43/TH.13, Findspot: AY.188.1/3, Form: Oval, Dimension: 4.1 x 1.5 cm (size of the letters), Inscription mode and direction: Incised, normal, one horizontal line, lunate sigma, Fabric and slip: 7.5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 7.5 YR 7/4 pink, Date: Late Antique?

ΖΟΧΟΣ ?







The handle bears the name ΖΟΧΟΣ, inscribed in a single line along a linear axis. The sigma is rendered in its lunar form. No comparable parallel has been identified through comparative analysis. On the basis of the ceramic form and the recovery of the specimen from the uppermost stratigraphic layer of the excavation trench (AY.188.1/3), the stamp may tentatively be dated to the Late Antique period. However, further examples are required before a more definitive chronological assessment can be established.

Composition, Chronology, and Epigraphic Significance

The new corpus from Tatarlı Höyük consists of 35 catalogue entries and is clearly dominated by Rhodian material (63%). This group is accompanied by basket-handled amphora fragments attributable to Cyprus and/or Cilicia (17%), a single Koan example, several gem-stamps, and a small number of unclassified pieces. The assemblage is therefore Rhodian in overall character, but not exclusively so (Fig. 2). Rather, it reflects a mixed supply pattern in which supra-regional imports coexisted with regional exchange networks and local consumption practices.

From a chronological point of view, the Rhodian material shows a bimodal distribution, with one concentration in the earlier Hellenistic period and a second in the early to mid-2nd century BC. This pattern suggests that Tatarlı Höyük participated in eastern Mediterranean exchange networks in more than one phase, rather than through a single episode of intensified contact. The more limited representation of Period II (ca. 234–ca. 199 BC) should be treated cautiously. At present, it is better understood as a modestly represented phase within the available sample than as evidence for a demonstrable interruption in commercial activity. By contrast, the stronger presence of Period III (ca. 198–ca. 161 BC) material points to renewed or intensified participation in Rhodian exchange during the early 2nd century BC. A decline in Rhodian representation after Period IV (ca. 160 – ca. 146 BC) may tentatively be related to broader changes in eastern Mediter-

ranean trade, including the reconfiguration of commercial routes following the declaration of Delos as a free port in 167 BC.[69] Even so, the Tatarlı evidence should not be reduced to a simple narrative of Rhodian decline; rather, it points to a gradual diversification of supply in which Cypriot and possibly Cilician products became more visible alongside Rhodian imports.[70]

One of the most important contributions of the new corpus lies in its epigraphic value. Particularly significant are SH 10a and SH 10b, preserved on the two handles of the same amphora. In this case, SH 10a bears the eponym Θέστωρ and SH 10b the fabricant Σωκράτης II, providing a new witness for the Θέστωρ–Σωκράτης II pairing in the Rhodian amphora-stamp record. Because both handles belong to the same vessel, this association rests on especially secure archaeological grounds and constitutes a meaningful contribution to Rhodian prosopography. The corpus also offers important data for die studies. SH 9, bearing the eponym Θεαίδητος together with the month Βαδρόμιος, and SH 10b, attributed to Σωκράτης II, appear to represent previously unpublished matrix variants. Such evidence is valuable not only for refining the internal chronology of Rhodian stamping practices, but also for reconstructing aspects of workshop organization and matrix use within a single production framework.

Regional Connections and Depositional Contexts

The non-Rhodian material is especially informative for reconstructing a more comprehensive commercial profile of the settlement. The basket-handled amphora fragments place Tatarlı Höyük within the wider Cyprus–Cilicia exchange sphere and indicate that its supply system cannot be explained solely through Rhodian imports. In an inland settlement such as Tatarlı, these vessels are particularly significant because they point to regional and interregional exchange mechanisms operating alongside the better-documented Rhodian trade system.

At present, the attribution of these basket-handled fragments to Cypriot and/or Cilician production must remain provisional. Macroscopic observations, including fabric color and surface treatment, make a Cilician origin plausible in some cases, especially where the clay resembles the salmon-red fabrics commonly associated with Cilician production. This hypothesis, however, requires confirmation through petrographic and archaeometric analysis. Even at this stage, the Tatarlı material shows that basket-handled amphorae formed a meaningful component of the local transport-container assemblage and that regional products deserve closer attention in discussions of inland commercial connectivity in Cilicia Pedias.[71]

The contextual value of the assemblage is equally noteworthy. The stamped handles and graffiti derive from several excavation sectors across the citadel, particularly BA, AZ, AY, AV, AS, BC, and BE, and are not restricted to a single depositional environment (Fig. 4).[72] This site-wide distribution indicates that imported amphorae circulated through multiple functional zones of the settlement, including domestic spaces, workshop areas, street-side deposits, and refuse contexts. The stratigraphic evidence is broadly consistent with the typochronological dating of the stamps: early Rhodian examples correspond well with the earlier Hellenistic occupation phases, while later specimens attest to continued participation in exchange during the 2nd century BC. At the same

[69] Pol. 25, 4-5; 27, 3-4; 30, 1-5; 31, 4-10; Rostovtzeef 1941, 692.

[70] For the amphora finds from the Tatarlı Höyük, see Dündar 2020, 89-100.

[71] For the basket-handle amphorae found at Tatarlı Höyük, see Dündar 2020, 90-91.

[72] Cf. Girginer – Oyman-Girginer 2020, 211-250; Fırat – Girginer 2020, 149-166; for coin finds, see Erhan 2020, 47-86; for Hellenistic lamps, see Gerçek 2020, 195-210.

time, the depositional contexts show that these objects reached their final archaeological positions through varied pathways, including primary use, secondary discard, and possible re-use in productive settings.[73] The assemblage should therefore be understood not only as evidence of importation, but also as evidence for the local use-history and afterlife of transport containers within the settlement.

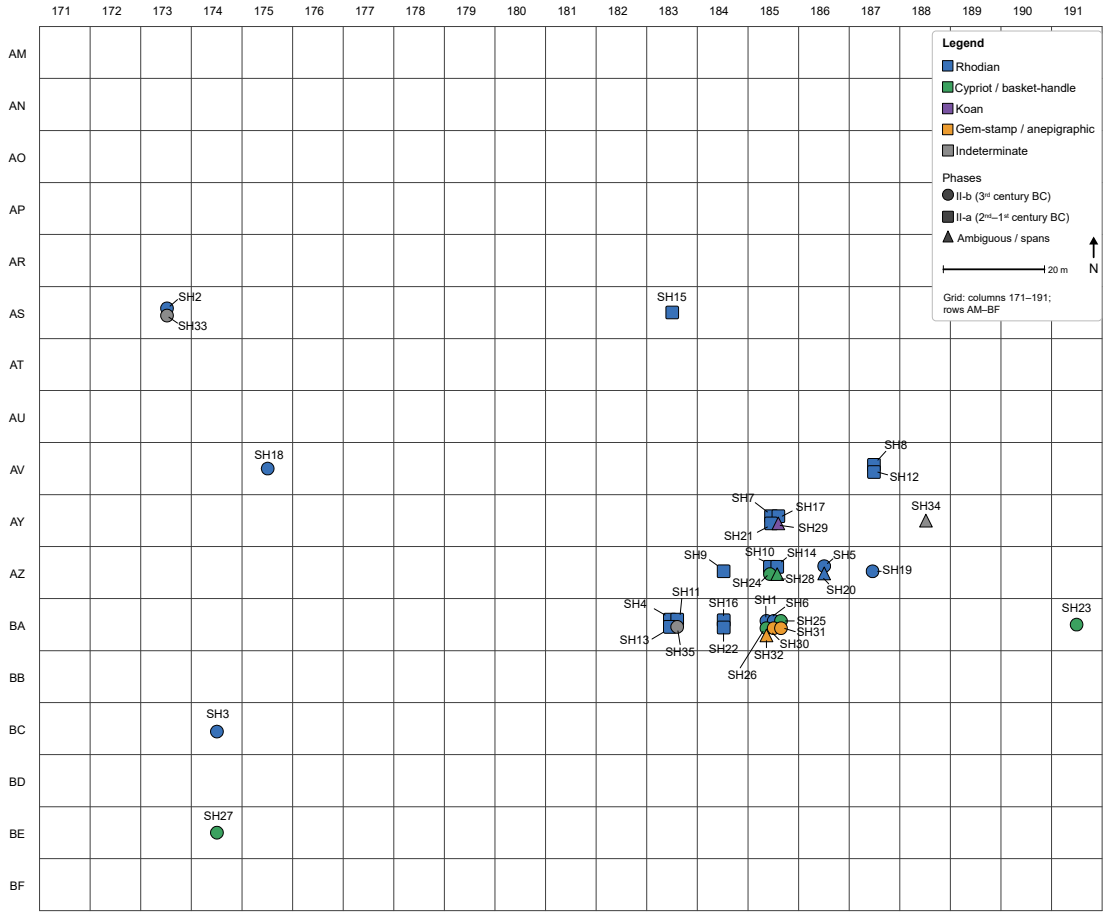


Fig. 4) *Schematic plan of Tatarlı Höyük showing plotted findspot for stamped amphora handles and graffiti (SH1–SH35; SH10 = merged). Colors indicate probable provenance; shapes indicate broad stratigraphic phase*

The Role of Tatarlı Höyük in the Commercial Networks of Cilicia Pedias

The 22 stamped amphora handles published by Dündar and Gerçek provided the first substantial body of evidence for Hellenistic imported amphorae at Tatarlı Höyük.[74] With the addition of the 35 new specimens presented here, the total corpus now reaches 57 stamped or inscribed fragments, making Tatarlı one of the most substantial inland assemblages of its kind currently known in Cilicia Pedias, alongside Gözlü Kule/Tarsus.[75] This expanded dataset should be regarded not merely as an enlarged site catalogue, but as an important analytical basis for reassessing the inland dimensions of eastern Mediterranean amphora trade.[76]

[73] Fırat 2019, 37-38; Girginer – Oyman-Girginer 2020, 214-216.

[74] Dündar – Gerçek 2018, 153-174.

[75] Grace 1950, 135-148. For comparison, see Şahin – Alkaç 2019, 111-132; Kavak-Özdemir – Alkaç 2026, 100-107.

[76] For comparison, see Cankardeş-Şenol – Alkaç 2007, 297-344; Schmaltz 2016; Dündar 2017; Kızılarslanoğlu – Alkaç 2018; Şahin – Alkaç 2019, 111-132; Alkaç – Tomay 2023, 149-169; Tüner-Önen *et al.* 2024, 69-93; Erhan *et al.* 2025, 45-68; Kavak-Özdemir – Alkaç 2026, 100-107.

When the two corpora are considered together, Rhodian dominance remains clear, yet the diversity of origins has increased considerably. With the addition of the 22 new Rhodian entries presented here to the 18 Rhodian examples published in 2018, the Rhodian group now totals 40 specimens, confirming Tatarlı Höyük's strong integration into the Rhodian trade network (Fig. 5). At the same time, the Cypriot/Cilician group has expanded markedly: represented by only two examples in the earlier publication, it now rises to eight with the inclusion of the six basket-handled amphora fragments in the present study. This increase not only points to intensified interaction along the Cyprus–Cilicia axis, but also strengthens the case for exploring the possibility of local or regional basket-handled amphora production in Cilicia Pedias through petrographic and archaeometric analyses.[77] The addition of the Koan example and the gem-stamps further broadens the provenance profile of the site. Together with the Chian and Knidian examples already known from the earlier publication, they indicate that Tatarlı's supply system was not confined to a simple Rhodes–Cyprus axis, but formed part of a multidirectional exchange network extending across several production zones of the Eastern Mediterranean.

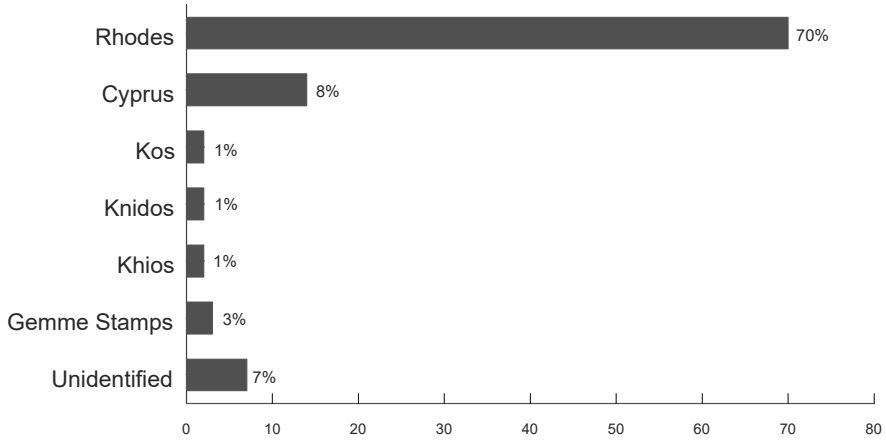


Fig. 5) *Ratio of amphora stamps by origin, based on the two corpora found at Tatarlı Höyük*

From a chronological perspective, the two corpora complement one another. While the Rhodian material published in 2018 spans a relatively broad range from Period Ib (ca. 270–ca. 247 BC) to Period Va (ca. 145–ca. 133 BC), the new assemblage is especially concentrated in Periods I (ca. 304–ca. 235 BC) and III (ca. 189–ca. 161 BC). Taken together, the two datasets suggest that Tatarlı Höyük maintained commercial connections over roughly two centuries, from the late 4th century BC to the late 2nd century BC (Fig. 6). The absence of Period II (ca. 234–ca. 199 BC) material in the Tatarlı corpus suggests that the site functioned as a consumption point with a relative sensitivity to macro-economic fluctuations. The pronounced concentration in Periods III–IV (ca. 198–ca. 146 BC), however, demonstrates that Rhodes' positioning within Eastern Mediterranean trade during the 2nd century BC was directly reflected in the inland regions of Cilicia.[78] This pattern finds broader regional parallels in Cyprus, where comparable concentrations have been attested during Period III (ca. 189–ca. 161 BC) at Nea Paphos, Kition, and Salamis, suggesting that the intensification of Rhodian commercial activity during this period extended across multiple nodes of the Eastern Mediterranean network.[79]

[77] Lehmann 1996; Zoroğlu 2013.

[78] For a detailed analysis of Rhodes's trade policy in the Eastern Mediterranean during the 2nd century BC, see Berthold 1984; Gabrielsen 1997; Rauh 1999.

[79] Barker 2013, 108-109.

The evidence from Tatarlı Höyük encourages a broader reconsideration of the role of inland settlements in the trade geography of Hellenistic Cilicia Pedias. Commercial landscapes in the region should not be reconstructed solely through coastal ports such as Nagidos, Kelenderis, Elaiussa Sebaste, and Soli, but also through inland centers with agricultural and productive significance, including the Ceyhan plain. Despite its inland location in the modern landscape, Tatarlı Höyük possesses an amphora assemblage of sufficient size and diversity to show that long-distance commercial goods circulated well beyond the coast.

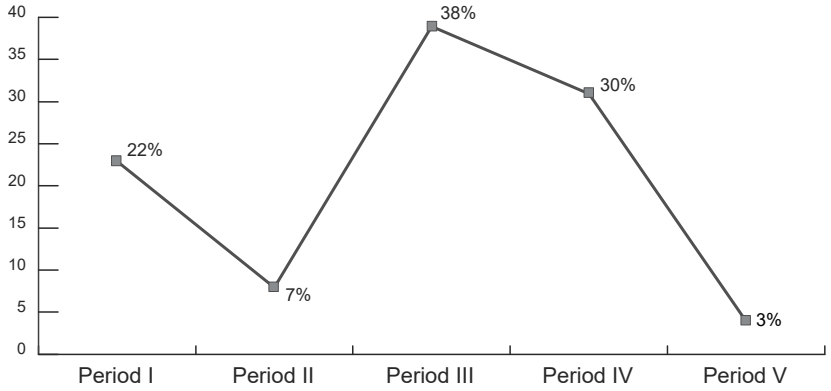


Fig. 6) *Ration of Rhodian amphora stamps by period, based on the two corpora found at Tatarlı Höyük*

A plausible working model is that Tatarlı's access to maritime trade was mediated through internal communication corridors, perhaps including the Pyramos River (modern Ceyhan), whose active bed lies approximately 7 km north of the mound. In this scenario, the river functioned not merely as a topographical feature, but as an economic corridor linking inland communities with coastal exchange systems. This model remains hypothetical and requires further testing through regional comparison and landscape-based research. Future evidence from sites such as Sirkeli Höyük, located within the same basin, may prove especially important for assessing the role of the Pyramos valley in Hellenistic trade and redistribution networks.

Conclusion

The assemblage presented in this article demonstrates that Tatarlı Höyük occupied a meaningful place within the commercial landscape of Hellenistic Cilicia Pedias. Its significance lies not only in the quantity of the material, but also in the diversity of its provenances, the quality of its contextual documentation, and its contribution to Rhodian die studies and prosopography. In particular, the identification of new eponym–fabricant associations and previously unpublished matrix variants shows that the Tatarlı corpus has value beyond the regional level and contributes directly to broader debates in amphora-stamp scholarship.

The material also underscores the importance of integrating inland settlements more fully into reconstructions of eastern Mediterranean trade. Although Tatarlı was not a coastal site, its amphora assemblage demonstrates sustained access to imported goods from major production centers, above all Rhodes, while also revealing meaningful connections with Cyprus, Kos, and other regional supply spheres. The coexistence of formal Rhodian administrative stamps with more localised or non-official marking practices, such as gem-stamps and graffiti, further points to a complex epigraphic and economic environment in which imported commodities were incorporated into both everyday and productive life.

Taken together with the previously published material, the present corpus provides a strong analytical basis for understanding changing import preferences, regional redistribution, and inland

commercial connectivity in Cilicia Pedias. Tatarlı Höyük should therefore be regarded not as a peripheral consumer beyond the maritime sphere, but as an active inland node within the wider exchange networks of the Hellenistic eastern Mediterranean.

Index[80]

Personal Names

Ἄγριος, SH 1, *Rh. ep.*
Ἀμύντας, SH 8, *Rh. fab.*
Ἀνδρικός, SH 15-16, *Rh. fab.*
Ἀρίσταρχος, SH 2-3, *Rh. ep.*
Ἀριστοκλῆς II, SH 17, *Rh. fab.*
ΑΡΙΣ(, SH 27, *Cyp./Clc.*
ΓΑ or ΛΑ, SH 28, *Cyp./Clc.*
Εὔφρων, SH 1, *Rh. fab.*
ΖΟΧΟΣ?, SH 35, *Un.*
Θεαίδητος, SH 9, *Rh. ep.*
Θέστωρ, SH 10a, *Rh. ep.*
Θεύδωρος I, SH 4, *Rh. ep.*
ΙΔΡΩ((?), SH 24, *Cyp.*
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Κλεώνυμος II, SH 11, *Rh. ep.*
Μόσχος I, SH 5, *Rh. fab.*
Ὀνασίοικος, SH 12, *Rh. fab.*
ΠΑΡ(, SH 26a-b, *Cyp./Clc.*
Πολύξενος, SH 13, *Rh. fab.*
Πρατοφάνης, SH. 14, *Rh. ep.*
Σωκράτης II, SH 10b, *Rh. fab.*
Φιλώνδας, SH 6, *Rh. ep.*
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Rhodian Months

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Star, SH 4, 13
Torch, SH 10b
Wreath, SH

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[80] The index section includes personal names on the stamps discussed in this article, as well as device and month names read on the stamps. The codes opposite the abbreviations written in ancient Greek, personal names, device and month names refer to the catalog numbers of the stamps containing such inscriptions in this article. Rh. Rhodes, Cyp. Cyprus, Clc. Cilicia, Ko. Koan, Un. Unidentified, ep. Eponym, fab. Fabricant.

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Hellenistik Kilikya Pedias'ta Ticari Bağlantılar: Tatarlı Höyük'ten Mühürlü ve Yazıtlı Amphora Parçaları

Özet

Kilikya Pedias'ın (Ovalık Kilikya) merkezinde yer alan Tatarlı Höyük, Hellenistik Dönem boyunca önemli iç hat yollarının ve iletişim koridorlarının kesişim noktasında stratejik bir konuma sahipti. Bu makale, yerleşimdeki kazılar sırasında ele geçen, daha önce yayınlanmamış 35 mühürlü ve yazıtlı amphora parçasını sunmaktadır. Rodos mühürleri, Kıbrıs veya yerel Kilikya üretimi sepet kulplu (basket-handled) amphoralar, bir Kos mührü ve çeşitli gemme baskılardan oluşan bu yeni grup, alandan bilinen toplam örnek sayısını 57'ye çıkarmaktadır. Çalışma, bu buluntuların ayrıntılı bir kataloğunu (kalıp tespitleri ve atıfları dahil) sunarken, aynı zamanda buluntuları yerleşimdeki stratigrafik ve mekânsal bağlamları içinde değerlendirmektedir.

Kronolojik olarak buluntular, Rodos'un I. ve III. periyotlarında belirginleşen iki modlu (bimodal) bir dağılım sergilemekte; bu durum, Doğu Akdeniz değişim ağlarına iç bölgelerden sürekli bir katılım sağlandığını yansıtmaktadır. Makalenin önemli epigrafik katkıları arasında, Θέστωρ–Σωκράτης II eşleşmesi gibi yeni yönetici-üretici çiftlerinin ve daha önce yayımlanmamış matris varyantlarının tanımlanması yer almaktadır. Belgeleme değerinin ötesinde bu topluluk, iç bölge Kilikya'daki deniz aşırı ve bölgesel ticari bağlantıların çeşitliliğini vurgulamaktadır. Çalışmada, Tatarlı'nın deniz ticaretine erişiminin iç koridorlar aracılığıyla sağlandığı ve Pyramos (Ceyhan) Nehri'nin ticari bir arter olarak kullanılmış olabileceğine dair bir çalışma modeli önerilmektedir. Nihayetinde bu çalışma, uzun mesafeli ticari malların kıyı limanlarının çok ötesine ulaştığını göstererek, Hellenistik ticari peyzaj tasvirlerine iç bölge merkezlerinin de tam anlamıyla dahil edilmesinin önemini vurgulamaktadır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Tatarlı Höyük; Kilikya Pedias; Hellenistik Amphoralar; Rodos Mühürleri; Sepet Kulplu Amphoralar; Ticari Bağlantısallık; Pyramos Nehri.