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Preliminary Evaluations on a Group of Embossed Skyphoi Unearthed in Blaundos

Cüneyt Öz1 60



¹Asst. Prof. Dr., Dicle University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Archaeology, Divarbakır, Turkive

ORCID ID: C.Ö. 0000-0003-4229-1398

Corresponding author:

Cüneyt Öz,

Dicle University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Archaeology, Diyarbakır, Turkiye E-mail: cuneyt.oz@outlook.com

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ABSTRACT

This article covers the twenty-eight embossed skyphoi found between 2018 and 2020 during the excavations of the ancient city of Blaundos, located within the borders of Sülümenli Village of Ulubey District of Uşak Province. While the majority of the skyphoi were discovered on the western, southern, and northwestern slopes of the city, some of them were unearthed during the excavations carried out in the propylon and the main street. These skyphoi were evaluated in seven different groups: pinecone, imbricated leaf, long petal, floral, figured, embossed dot, and other pieces. The clay, slip, form, and decoration features of the skyphoi in Blaundos are similar to the Laodikeia and Tripolis samples from which the Lycos Skyphoi were produced. Therefore, the dating suggested for the skyphoi from Laodikeia and Tripolis, ranging from the second half of the 1st century BCE to the end of the 1st century CE, has also been proposed for the Blaundos skyphoi. The Lycos Skyphoi, which were produced as the contemporaries of Lead-Glazed Ceramics, and thought to have continued to be in use until the end of the 1st century CE, were not produced only for the local needs of the Lycos Valley settlements. The presence of skyphos of this type in Blaundos indicates that they were also exported to the neighboring cities. The limited number of finds of Lycos Skyphoi in Anatolia must be related to the preference for Lead-Glazed Ceramics, which were more popular in the period they were produced.

Keywords: Lydia, Blaundos, Late Hellenistic Pottery, Embossed Pottery, Lycos Skyphoi



Introduction

Blaundos¹ is located 2 kilometers northeast of Sülümenli Village of the Ulubev District of Usak Province. Blaundos, a medium-sized city built on a hill surrounded by deep canyons on three sides, has a strategic location close to the Phrygia border in the Lydia Region (Can et al., 2020, p. 393). According to what Diodorus the Sicilian tells, the oldest history of the city dates back to the 5th century BCE (Diod. Sic. XIII.104.6). Although it is thought that the city was founded by the Macedonians² in the last quarter of the 4th century BCE or the first quarter of the 3rd century BCE, there is not sufficient data to prove these dates³. Blaundos, which was annexed to the Pergamon Kingdom with the Peace of Apameia in 188 BCE, is among the cities where Pergamon cistophorus coins were minted (Filges, 2006, p. 21). Remains in Blaundos (Filges, 2001, p. 231-240; Filges, 2002, p. 263-270; Filges, 2004, p. 79-86), finds⁴ and inscriptions (Filges, 2006, p. 321-350) have revealed that the city had its heyday in the 1st century CE (Can, 2017, p. 77). In an inscription found in Ephesus, Blaundos is also mentioned as one of the 28 cities of the Sardis-centered Phrygia conventus (Filges, 2006, p. 14; Can, 2017, p. 77). The city minted its own coins from the middle of the 1st century CE to the middle of the 4th century (Filges, 2006, p. 284-303). It was connected to the diocese center in the ancient city of Sebaste, located in the Selçikler Village of Sivaslı District, in the 5th century CE (Akbıyıkoğlu, 1997, p. 29). The fact that bishops (Quien, 1740, p. 889-890; Ramsay, 1897, p. 617) who attended different councils in Blaundos were included in the church records until the 12th century CE indicates that the city was active until the mentioned date. (Filges, 2006, p. 27). It is assumed that the city was abandoned after this date. At the beginning of the 19th century, the Sülümenli Village was established near the area where the theater of the ancient city was located, and the village was moved to its current location in 1938 (Can, 2017, p. 77).

Considered to be the continuation of the mold-made relief bowls of the Late Hellenistic-Early Roman Period, they are thought to have been produced as a different version in terms of form, lining, and ornament repertoire in Hierapolis, Laodikeia and Tripolis and around the Lycos Valley⁵. The name "Lycos Skyphoi" is suggested for these skyphoi produced in

¹ For detailed information on the name of the city, see. Can, 2017, p. 74; Kileci & Can, 2020, p. 298.

² The expression "Blaundeon Macedonian (Macedonian Blaundians)" in the inscription, which is thought to come from the 3rd century CE city, proves that the city was founded by the Macedonians (Can, 2017, p. 75).

³ Ceramics and other remains unearthed during excavations and surveys illustrate that the city was inhabited during the Hellenistic Period. For detailed information, see. Filges, 2006; Can, 2017, p. 76-77.

⁴ For sculptures, see Filges, 2006, p. 269-284; For coins, see Filges, 2006, p. 284-303; For ceramics, see Filges, 2006, p. 304-311.

⁵ Hierapolis: Semeraro, 2003, p. 83-89; Semeraro, 2005, p. 83-98; Semeraro, 2016, p. 200, Fig. 11: 4-5, 9; Laodikeia: Duman, 2010, p. 138 ff.; Duman, 2014, p. 163-164; Tripolis: Ok, 2018, p. 133 ff. For other settlements where the Lycos Skyphoi are located, see also. Ok, 2018, p. 133, Fig. 30.

the cities of the Lycos Valley (Duman, 2010, p. 150; Duman, 2014, p. 163). Accordingly, the subject of this study is a group of embossed skyphos fragments⁶ belonging to the Skyphoi of Lycos found during the excavations and surveys carried out in Blaundos between 2018 and 2020.

Lycos Skyphoi

Lycos Skyphoi are generally ring-shaped drinking vessels with a pointed rim, a flat or slightly concave rim, a sharp groove/profile in the transition from the rim to the body, and two handles attached to the rim and body in the form of a ring (Duman, 2014, p. 160)⁷. The body, which slants straight from the rim, is connected to the base with a slightly concave bulge at the bottom (Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 9). The dense and well-sifted clays of skyphos are tempered with lime, mica and grit (Ok, 2018, p. 136-137, Fig. 32). While the clays are generally brown, pinkish gray, pink, reddish-yellow or, yellowish-red, their glossy and matterough slips are in red, brown, reddish-yellow and reddish-brown tones. The slip of some of the Tripolis samples yielded blackening due to firing (Ok, 2018, Cat. No. 183, 187, 191, 211, 255, 258). Their rim diameters generally vary between 8-10 cm, and there are also pieces reaching 17 centimeters (Duman, 2014, p. 160). The relief decorations on the skyphoi are similar to lead-glazed ceramics and mold-made embossed bowls (Megara Bowls), which were popular ceramics of the Hellenistic Period. Similar to the method followed in the classification of mold-made embossed bowls (Courby, 1922, p. 325 ff.; Rotroff, 1982, p. 14 ff.; Öz, 2022, p. 118-124), the classification of skyphoi was made according to the ornaments on their bodies (Duman, 2014, p. 161). Pinecones, imbricated leaves, long petals and long petal-ram heads, raised dots, and floral and figured decorations are noticeable on the skyphoi (Duman, 2010, Lev. LI-LXI; Duman, 2014, p. 170-172, Fig. 1-27; Ok, 2018, p. 140, Fig. 36). Lycos Skyphoi were used from the second half of the 1st century BCE to the end of the 1st century CE (Semeraro, 2003, p. 87; Semeraro, 2005, p. 83-98; Duman, 2014, p. 164; Panarelli, 2016, p. 313, Fig. 31: 2-3; Ok, 2018, p. 198).

Embossed Skyphoi Found in Blaundos

A total of twenty-eight embossed skyphos fragments were found during the excavations and survey studies in Blaundos (Figs. 1-3)⁸. The grouping of the skyphoi is similar⁹ to the grouping of the mold-made embossed bowls, one of the popular ceramics of the Hellenistic

⁶ Filges used the definition of barbotine glass/cup (Barbotine-Becher) for similar skyphos fragments he found during his survey in the city. (Filges, 2006, p. 308, Fig. 261).

⁷ Handles with thumb rest supported skyphoi found in Tripolis were evaluated as a subtype of Lycos Skyphoi (Ok, 2018, p. 177 ff.).

⁸ There is no doubt that this number will increase as the excavations continue.

⁹ For the classification of mold-made embossed bowls, also see Courby, 1922, p. 325 ff.; Rotroff, 1982, p. 14 ff.

Period, according to the decorations on them. In the samples in Blaundos, the classification made by Duman (Duman, 2010, p. 141; Duman, 2014, p. 161) and Ok (Ok, 2018, p. 139 ff.) is based on six different sub-headings: pinecone, imbricated leaf, long petal, floral, figured and embossed decorated skyphos. Other skyphoi were evaluated under the heading of other pieces.

Pinecone Decorations (Fig. 1: 1-6, Cat. No. 1-6)

There are six samples of pinecone-decorated skyphos (Fig. 1: 1-6). Two of them are rimbody (Fig. 1: 2-3), while others consist only of body parts (Fig. 1: 1, 4-6). Their rims are pointed and upright, and the outer rim passes into the body with a slightly concave profile. Inside, there is a sharp groove at the transition from the rim to the body and the upper part of the body has a vertical profile, while the bottom is slightly inclined to join the base (Fig. 1: 2-3). The protrusion on the body of Cat. No. 3, most of which is broken, probably belongs to the handle (Fig. 1: 3). The body of one the embossed skyphoi found in Filges' surface survey of the city contains handle impressions that allow us to understand how the handles of Blaundos skyphoi might have looked, despite most of them being broken. Looking at this piece (Filges, 2006, Fig. 261), just like those of Laodikeia (Duman, 2014, Fig. 19) and Tripolis (Ok, 2018, Lev. 27: 192, 32: 235, 36: 266) it appears that it had a small vertical ring handle. While the pinecone decorations in Cat. No. 1, 2, 5, and 6 look similar except for minor differences, the pinecone in Cat. No. 4 differs¹⁰ due to being inside a thin eggshell¹¹ (Fig. 1: 4). The pinecones formed by juxtaposing square and rectangular embossed shapes were made closed (Figs. 1: 1-2, 4-6). The skyphos fragment in Cat. No. 3 has no pinecone decoration; however, there is a relief ornamentation of rows of rings made in the form of a contour (Fig. 1: 3). This ornament just like Cat. No. 6 (Fig. 1: 6), is mostly used with pinecone decorations (Semeraro, 2005, p. 92, Fig. 3: 2, 4; Duman, 2010, Lev. LI: H3, Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 3, 6; Ok, 2018, p. 406, Lev. 23: 158). Therefore, pinecones in Cat. No. 3 are included in the ornamental group. Cat. No. 2 has a contour of leaf motifs side by side under the rim (Fig. 1: 2), and Cat. No. 5 has ivy branches and leaves combined with a flower of six branch along with a pinecone (Fig. 1: 5). Samples of such decoration are seen in Hierapolis (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 9; Semeraro, 2005, p. 92, Fig. 3: 5), Laodikeia (Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 5-6) and Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 405, Lev. 22: 151-157).

Dense textured and non-porous, reddish-yellow, light brown, reddish brown, and red clays are tempered with small amounts of small-scale lime and small amounts of silver mica. Their semi-smooth slip is in dark reddish brown and red tones (Cat. No. 1-6).

¹⁰ A similar motif is also seen on Lead Glazed Ceramics (Jones, 1950, Fig. 152: 640; Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, Pl. 129: 735).

¹¹ This outer shell is called the 'U' shaped leaf (Duman, 2014, p. 161, 170, Fig. 6).

Imbricated Leaf Decorations (Fig. 1: 7-11, Cat. No. 7-11)

Five samples of imbricated leaf patterns were recovered in Blaundos (Fig. 1: 7-11). Three of them are rim-body parts (Figs. 1: 7, 9, 11), while the others are just body parts (Fig. 1: 8, 10). The vertical rims of the skyphos are pointed. The transition from rim to body on the outside is sharper in Cat. No. 7 than in Cat. No. 9 (Fig. 1: 7, 9). The groove on the inside that makes an elbow at the transition from the rim to the body in Cat. No. 9 is crafted sharper (Fig. 1: 9). In both samples (Fig. 1: 7, 9) the trunk rises upright. The leaf motifs seen on the samples in this group vary within themselves. Leaf motifs which are pointed at both ends with a single core in the middle are seen in Cat. No. 7 (Fig. 1: 7), while single-core motifs are visible in Cat. No. 8 and 9 (Fig. 1: 8-9), and multi-veined leaf motifs in Cat. No. 10 and 11^{12} (Fig. 1: 10-11).

These types of vessels are defined as imbricated leaf ornaments since they are processed in the form of fish scales side by side and overlapping each other¹³. Artifacts that are similar to the leaves in Cat. No. 8 and 9 are also seen on bowls with molded reliefs (Laumonier, 1977, Pl. 108: 229, 9262) and they are defined as ferns (Kossatz, 1990, p. 7; Öz, 2022, p. 120). It can be said that these leaves on skyphos, which are considered as Cat. No. 8 and 9, are also fern leaves (Fig. 1: 8-9). This type of decoration sample has been encountered in Sardis¹⁴, Laodikeia (Duman, 2010, Lev. LII: H9-10; Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 12), Hierapolis (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 3-4, 6-7; Semeraro, 2005, p. 93, Fig. 4: 2-3, 5) and in Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 407, Lev. 24: 164, 25: 176).

Dense textured and non-porous clays are pinkish white, light brown and reddish yellow in color. They contain a very small amount of small-scale lime and silver mica additives. Their slip is in red and reddish-brown tones (Cat. No. 7-11).

Long Petal Decorations (Fig. 2: 1-2, Cat. No. 12-13)

There are two samples of long-petalled skyphoi (Fig. 2: 1-2). One of them is the rim-body (Fig. 2: 2) and the other is the body part (Fig. 2: 1). The vertical rim of Cat. No. 13 is pointed. A slightly concave profile is seen in the transition from the rim to the body. The ends of the long petal are oval in Cat. No. 12. Whether or not there is a series of dots between the leaves is unclear (Fig. 2: 1). The left margin contour line of the long petal on the body of Cat. No.

¹² Similar leaf motifs have been favorably used on mold-made relief bowls (Laumonier, 1977, Pl. 108: 25-26, 75, 5156, 8979, 9084).

¹³ For samples of mold-made embossed bowls, also see Öz, 2022, p. 119-120, Fig. 3: 4-11.

¹⁴ A similar sample found at Sardis was evaluated under the Lead Glazed Ceramics group (Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, p. 173, Pl. 131: 745).

¹⁵ The use of dots between long petals is also common in mold-made relief bowls (Öz, 2022, p. 123, Fig. 4: 1-2).

13 is finished with a series of embossed dots¹⁶. The middle of the petals in question is made as a convex relief. Samples of this type of decoration are seen in Laodikeia (Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 15), Hierapolis (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 2; Semeraro, 2005, p. 93, Fig. 4: 6) and Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 409, Lev. 26: 181-183).

Dense textured and non-porous, a small amount of silver mica added clays are in reddish brown and red tones. The slips are red.

Floral Decorations (Fig. 2: 3-5, Cat. No. 14-16)

There are three samples of floral-decorated skyphoi. All of these belong to skyphos body parts (Fig. 2: 3-5). An ivy leaf combined with rosette flower motifs formed with six-dot embossments is seen in Cat. No. 14, while a sequence of Ionian kymation and leaves (one of which may be an acorn leaf) are seen in Cat. No. 5, and floral decorations consisting of Ionian kymations and ivy branches and leaves are seen in Cat. No. 16 (Fig. 2: 3-5). Similar floral ornaments are found in Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 413, Lev. 30: 216), Hierapolis (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVII: 4) and Laodikeia (Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 20, 23).

The dense textured and non-porous clays of floral decorated skyphoi are in red, light brown and reddish yellow tones, with little silver mica additive, and their slip is red.

Figural Decorations (Fig. 2: 6, Cat. No. 17)

Only one sample belonging to this group was recovered. There is a relief thought to belong to a human or mythological figure on the skyphos body fragment (Fig. 2: 6). It is thought that this figure, which has survived from the waist down, may belong to the winged Eros. The projections visible on the back of the figure must be wings (Fig. 2: 6). Delineating the calves as slightly swollen points to the Eros typology. On the body of the skyphos, apart from the winged Eros, there is an ivy leaf with veins in the middle. Nothing similar to this decoration was found. There is a relief of Eros holding a grape on a bowl fragment examined in Megara Bowls in Kyme (Bouzek & Jansovà, 1974, Fig. 8: M30, Pl. 5: 30). This shows that the decoration repertoire of the mold-made relief bowls continued to be in use on the skyphoi as well. Duman mentions that figurative decoration does not appear on the Lycos Skyphoi (Duman, 2010, p. 141). He notes that figured decorations are rare in Semeraro, and that there are heads (Silenus head etc.) and animals amongst them (Semeraro, 2003, p. 84, 86). However, in recent studies, another sample with a Gladiator depiction was found in Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 146-147, 416, Lev. 33: 253). Contrary to thought, there may well be more samples of figured decoration in Lycos Skyphoi together with this piece found in Blaundos.

¹⁶ It is found in samples where the dot sequence is applied to the right edge (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVI: 4; Duman, 2010, Lev. LIV: H23; Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 16; Ok, 2018, p. 409, Lev. 26: 184-187). In addition, long petals were used with different motifs (Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 18-19; Ok, 2018, p. 410-412, Lev. 27: 195-197, 28: 202, 29: 210).

Its dense textured, non-porous and well-sifted clay is pure and red in color. Its glossy and slippery slip is also clay-colored.

Embossed Dot Decorations (Fig. 2: 7-9, 3: 1-3, Cat. No. 18-23)

Six of these samples, which constitute the largest group among the Lycos Skyphoi, were found in Blaundos. Samples belonging to this group are the second most dense group of skyphoi (Figs. 2: 7-9, 3: 1-3). Four of them are the rim-body (Fig. 2: 7, 9, 3: 1, 3), one is the body (Fig. 2: 8), and the other is the body-base piece (Fig. 3: 2). The pointed rims of the skyphoi in this group are vertical. In the transition from the rim to the body, there is a sharp concave groove after the elbow-shaped bulge. The transition from the rim to the body in Cat. No. 18 and 23 is provided by a protruding groove. The base of the skyphos in Cat. No. 22 in Blaundos, which is represented by a single sample, takes the form of a double ring base. A second embossed ring is seen inside the base (Fig. 3: 2). The embossed dots on the studied skyphoi are thick, thin, rectangular (Fig. 2: 7-9, 3: 2) and square (Fig. 3: 1). However, the raised dots in Cat. No. 23 resemble a pointed triangle (inverted nail?) (Fig. 3: 3). There is no contour decoration on the rim of the Blaundos embossed dot decorated skyphoi¹⁷. Samples decorated with this motif are encountered in Priene (Zahn, 1904, p. 408-409, Abb. 532, 533: 47), Sardis (Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, Pl. 131: 743-744), Laodikeia (Duman, 2010, Lev. LVII-LIX: H37-50; Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 25-27), Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 417-418, Lev. 34-35: 254-265) and Hierapolis (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 14).

Dense textured and non-porous, a small amount of silver mica added clays are in shades of pinkish white, light brown and reddish brown. Their slip is red, brown and reddish brown. On the slip of Cat. No. 20, blackening is seen intermittently due to firing.

Other Pieces (Fig. 3: 4-8, Cat. No. 24-28)

There are five items of this type of skyphoi in Blaundos that did not match any group. Four of them are the rim-body (Fig. 3: 4-7) and one is the body part (Fig. 3: 8). The vertical rims of the specimens are pointed. There is a sharp groove in the transition from the rim to the body. The body rises upright (Fig. 3: 4-7). Three rim-body fragments examined under the sub-category of other samples have a border decoration with Ionian kymation on the rim (Figs. 3: 4-5, 7).

There is a decoration on the rim of Cat No. 26, which is thought to be a relief ring and a long petal. It was studied under this heading, as it could not be determined whether the decoration on this skyphos fragment was a long petal (Fig. 3: 6). On the last sample

¹⁷ For the artifacts with relief dot decorations with contour decoration on the rim, see Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 25-26; Ok, 2018, p. 418, Lev. 35: 264.

belonging to this group, there is a horizontal version¹⁸ of the double-armed spiral motif, which is generally seen upright on skyphoi (Fig. 3: 8, Cat. No. 28). A similar horizontal sample was found in Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 414, Lev. 31: 232). Pinecones (Semeraro, 2005, p. 92, Fig. 3: 3, 5; Ok, 2018, p. 405, Lev. 22: 153), imbricated leaves (Ok, 2018, p. 408, Lev. 25: 175), floral (Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVII: 1-6; Semeraro, 2005, p. 92, Fig. 3: 1; Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 21; Ok, 2018, p. 413-415, Lev. 30: 223, 31: 227-228, 231, 32: 239, 245) and embossed dots (Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 26; Ok, 2018, p. 418, Lev. 35: 264) are seen on the bases of skyphoi with an Ionian kymation border around the rim.

The dense textured and non-porous clays of skyphos belonging to other samples are pink, red, reddish brown and gray in color, and are tempered with small amounts of lime and silver mica. Their slip is in red and reddish-brown tones. Unlike the others, the slip of Cat. No. 28 is shiny and smooth.

Production, Dating And Origin

Considered as the continuation of Mold Made Embossed Bowls (Megara Bowls) and Lead Glazed Ceramics, these skyphoi have been found in a limited number of areas in Anatolia (Hochuli-Gysel 1977; Duman, 2014, p. 162-163; Ok, 2018, p. 196)¹⁹. The fragments of skyphos recovered in this type at Sardis were examined under the title of Lead Glazed Ceramics (Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, Pl. 131: 743-745), and were dated to 50 BCE – 50 CE (Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, p. 171). A parallel sample found in Priene has been discussed under the title of embossed ceramics (Zahn, 1904, p. 408-409, Abb. 532, 533: 47). An embosseddot-decorated skyphos in Perge dated to the Augustan Period²⁰ (Atik, 1995, p. 51-52, Abb. 22: 58) is similar to the Laodikeian samples. Although a skyphos which has remained intact and was found in the Roman period layer during the excavations in Tarsus/Gözlü Kule resembles the Lycos Skyphoi in terms of form, there are differences in details (Duman, 2014, p. 163). This sample was examined under the subheading of Unfinished Vases, No Glaze in the section of Lead Glazed Ceramics (Jones, 1950, p. 263, Fig. 153, 199: 669)²¹. One of the production sites of Lycos Skyphoi is Hierapolis, where molds were found (Semeraro, 2003, p. 86, Pl. LIX: 1-2, 5). The embossed skyphoi uncovered in Hierapolis were evaluated in two main types according to variations in the bases (Semeraro, 2003, p. 86, Pl. LVI: 1-5) and were

¹⁸ For the descriptions of the vertical double-armed spiral, see Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 8-9; Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 2; Ok, 2018, p. 413-414, 416, Lev. 30: 220, 31: 225, 33: 247, 252.

¹⁹ Some researchers state that these skyphoi were inspired from Arretine bowls (Waagé, 1948, p. 30, Fig. 16: 27-31).

²⁰ Since the skyphos in Perge is associated with the Lead Glazed Ceramics found in Tarsus/Gözlü Kule and Miletus, it is dated to the Augustan Period (Atik, 1995, p. 52).

²¹ Perge and Tarsus, the cities where the Lycos Skyphoi are located in Anatolia, are the centers where Lead Glazed Ceramics are produced (Oransay, 2001, p. 50-54; Tekkök et al., 2009, p. 101-121; Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2005, p. 103-107). Therefore, it is quite understandable that the skyphoi found here abouts are evaluated in the Lead Glazed Ceramics category.

dated to the interval from the middle of the 1st century BCE to the Julius-Claudian Period (Semeraro, 2003, p. 87). However, similar skyphos fragments which have been recently excavated in the Hierapolis Theater were dated to the 2nd – 1st century BCE (Polito, 2007, p. 159), while those in Ploutonion were dated to the first half of the 1st century CE (Panarelli, 2016, p. 313, Fig. 31: 2-3). Other places where these skyphos were produced based on the molds are Laodikeia (Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 6) and Tripolis (Ok, 2018, p. 189-195, 423-424, Lev. 40: 288-292, 41: 293-296). The skyphoi found in both cities were grouped according to their decorations, and it was understood that the decoration repertoire of the samples in Tripolis was more diverse (Ok, 2018, p. 133-148). The skyphos fragments found in the Asopos Hill, North Necropolis and Stadium area in Laodikeia were evaluated together with the contextual finds and dated to between the middle of the 1st century BCE and the end of the 1st century CE (Duman, 2014, p. 163-164). The samples in Tripolis yielded between the second half of the 1st century BCE and the 1st century CE (Ok, 2018, p. 198).

The clay of the embossed skyphos in Hierapolis is hard/tight textured and generally red in color. Their glossy or matte slips are in red and reddish-brown tones (Semeraro, 2003, p. 86)²². Loose, hard and tightly textured clays of Laodikeia samples are predominantly brown, pinkish gray, reddish-yellow, pink and yellowish-red in color and tempered with lime, mica, grit, and sand²³. Their glossy and matte-rough slip is in red, brown, reddish-yellow and reddish-brown tones (Duman, 2010, p. 139; Duman, 2014, p. 160). The clays of the skyphos in Tripolis have a hard and firm texture and are in shades of brown, reddish/yellowish-brown, yellow, pink and red. The clay contains lime, grit and mica. Their slip is glossy, semi-matte/rough and in brown and red tones (Ok, 2018, p. 136-138). The slip of some skyphoi found in Tripolis bears blackening due to firing (Ok, 2018, Cat. No. 183, 187, 191, 211, 255, 258).

The dense and non-porous clays of skyphos recovered in Blaundos are red, brown, reddish-yellow, pink, reddish-brown and pinkish-white. While the clay contents include silver mica and lime, well-sieved pure samples are the majority (Cat. No. 2-4, 6-7, 11-12, 14, 16-22, 24-25). Their slip is in red, brown, and reddish-brown tones. The slip of Cat. No. 20 has blackening due to firing (Fig. 2: 9). When the clay, slip, form and decoration features of the skyphos in Blaundos are examined, one can see that they reveal closer similarities with the Laodikeia and Tripolis samples. Therefore, the period between the second half of the 1st century BCE and the end of the 1st century CE, which is mentioned for the skyphoi of Laodikeia and Tripolis, can also be suggested for the skyphoi of Blaundos.

²² Clay and slip colors may differ according to the firing and stages of the process the bowls.

²³ There are the samples of clay without any additives (Duman, 2010, p. 300, 302, 307, Cat. No. H16, H22, H35).

Conclusions

Blaundos is an important city on the Phrygia border of the Lydian Region, which took its place on the stage of history from the 5th century BCE to the 12th century CE. Twenty-eight embossed skyphos fragments, most of which were found on the surface of the western, southern, and northwestern slopes of the city between 2018 and 2020, and some of them were unearthed during the excavations carried out on the propylon and the main street, were examined and evaluated within the scope of this study (Fig. 1-3). According to the classification made by Duman (Duman, 2010, p. 141; Duman, 2014, p. 161) and Ok (Ok, 2018, p. 139 ff.) six different groups were identified as pinecone, imbricated leaf, long petal, floral, figured and relief dot decorated skyphoi. The skyphoi, which could not be included in any group, were discussed under the category of other pieces.

In the places where skyphoi were discovered during the excavations in the city, no connection with any context could be established, because the skyphoi were unearthed from a mixed deposit or surface. Thus, the proposed dates for the Lycos Skyphoi group to which they belong were taken into account in the dating of the skyphoi. The Lycos Skyphoi reported from Laodikeia and Tripolis, together with the contextual finds, were dated to the second half of the 1st century BCE and the end of the 1st century CE (Duman, 2014, p. 163-164; Ok, 2018, p. 198). The same interval is suggested for the samples in Blaundos.

Lycos Skyphoi, which are considered as the continuation of Lead Glazed Ceramics and Mold Made Embossed Bowls, are the products of the Lycos Valley cities of Hierapolis, Laodikeia, and Tripolis (Semeraro, 2003, p. 86, Pl. LIX: 1-2, 5; Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 6; Ok, 2018, p. 189-195, 423-424, Lev. 40: 288-292, 41: 293-296). The clay, slip, form, and decoration features of the Lycos Skyphoi found in Blaundos demonstrate parallels with the skyphoi of Laodikeia and Tripolis. Hence, they must have been imported from the said *poleis*, and similar ones were manufactured in proportion to the city's needs and demands.

The Lycos Skyphoi, which were produced as the contemporaries of the Lead Glazed Ceramics (Duman, 2014, p. 164), and whose production continued for a certain period, until the end of the 1st century CE, were not supplied only for the local needs of the Lycos Valley settlements. The discovery of skyphos fragments of this type in Blaundos indicates that they were exported to neighboring cities. It has also been understood that this type of skyphoi, which was excavated in Sardis, Priene, Perge, Tarsus/Gözlü Kule at the same time, and studied under the Lead Glazed or Embossed ceramic group, were exported not only to neighboring but also to the other cities in Anatolia. The limited number of Lycos Skyphoi finds in Anatolia implies that Lead Glazed Ceramics (Oransay, 2001, p. 47-55; Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2005, p. 99-126), which were more popular in the period they were produced, must have been preferred.

Catalog

Abbreviations used in the catalog: Cat. No.: Catalog Number, Fig.: Figure, R.D.: Rim Diameter, B.D.: Base Diameter, P.H.: Preserved Height.

Munsell Soil Color Chart (2015) color catalog was used to determine the clay and slip colors.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 1/1:1

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/880,430

Dimensions: R.D: 8 cm (inside), P.H.: 4 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/6 (reddish yellow), dense textured, non-porous, little lime added clay. Slip:

Outer: 10 R 5/8 (red), Inner: 10 R 4/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Pinecone

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 2/1:2

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 2 cm

Clay: 2.5 YR 4/8 (red), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 2.5 YR 4/8 (red), inner

surface is slightly slippery.

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Pinecone and leaf.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 3/1:3

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: South Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D.: 6.2 cm, P.H.: 2.6 cm

Clay: 10 YR 7/4 (very pale brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 7.5 YR 4/3

(brown).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Ring motif.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 4/1:4

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Northwest Slope, Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 2.9 cm.

Clay: 5 YR 6/6 (light reddish-brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: 7.5

YR 5/6 (red), Inner: 10 R 5/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Pinecone in Ionian kymation

Comparison: Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 9; Semeraro, 2005, p. 92, Fig. 3: 5;

Duman, 2014, p. 170, Fig. 5-6; Ok, 2018, p. 405, Lev. 22: 151-157.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 5/ 1:5

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H: 4.4 cm

Clay: 2.5 YR 5/8 (red), dense-textured, non-porous, tempered clay with a small amount of small-scale lime, a small amount of small size silver mica. Slip: Outer: 2.5 YR 3/3 (dark

reddish-brown), Inner: 2.5 YR 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Ivy branches and leaves combined with pinecone and six-branch flower.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 6/1:6

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 2.1 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 4/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Pinecone and ring motif.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 7/ 1:7

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 880,430

Dimensions: R.D..: 10 cm, P.H.: 5.1 cm

Clay: 5 YR 8/2 (pinkish-white), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 4/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Imbricated leaves.

Comparison: Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 6-7; Semeraro, 2005, p. 93, Fig. 4: 5;

Duman, 2010, Lev. LII: H10; Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 12.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 8/1:8

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope, Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 3.8 cm.

Clay: 10 YR 8/2 (very pale brown), dense-textured, non-porous, slightly lime clay. Slip:

Outer: 2.5 YR 5/6 (red), Inner: 5 YR 4/3 (reddish-brown).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Imbricated leaves.

Comparison: Decoration: Duman, 2010, Lev. LII: H9; Ok, 2018, p. 407, Lev. 24: 164.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 9/1:9

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Northwest Slope, Surface

Dimensions: R.D.: 8 cm (inside), P.H: 3.3 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 5/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Imbricated leaves.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 10/1:10

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope, Surface

Dimensions: P.H: 5 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/6 (reddish-yellow), dense-textured, non-porous clay with little lime and

silver mica additive. Slip: Outer: 10 R 4/8 (red), Inner: 2.5 YR 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Imbricated leaves.

Comparison: Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 3-4; Semeraro, 2005, p. 93, Fig. 4:

2-3; Ok, 2018, p. 408, Lev. 25: 176.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 11/1:11

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Northwest Slope, Surface

Dimensions: R.D.: 10 cm, P.H: 2.8 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 5/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Imbricated leaves.

Comparison: Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 3-4; Semeraro, 2005, p. 93, Fig. 4:

2-3; Ok, 2018, p. 408, Lev. 25: 176.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 12/2:1

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: South Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 2.9 cm

Clay: 10 R 5/8 (red), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 7.5 R 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken and missing embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Long petal and dot.

Comparison: Decoration: Duman, 2010, Lev. LIV: H24; Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 17; Ok,

2018, p. 410, Lev. 27: 188-189.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 13/2:2

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 860.440

Dimensions: R.D.: ?, P.H: 3.8 cm

Clay: 5 YR 6/4 (light reddish-brown), dense, non-porous, small amount of silver mica added

clay. **Slip:** 10 R 5/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Long petal and dot.

Comparison: Ok, 2018, p. 409, Lev. 26: 182; Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVIII: 2;

Duman, 2010, Lev. LIV: H2O-22; Duman, 2014, p. 171, Fig. 15; Ok, 2018, p. 409, Lev. 26:

181-183.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 14/2:3

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 870,430

Dimensions: P.H: 2 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 4/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Ivy leaf and rosette flower.

Comparison: Decoration: Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 20.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 15/2:4

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: South Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H: 2.8cm

Clay: 2.5 YR 5/8 (red), densely textured, non-porous, little silver mica added clay. Slip: 10

R 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment. **Decoration:** Ionian kymation and leaves (acorn leaf?).

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 16/2:5

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 4.9 cm

Clay: 5 YR 6/6 (reddish-yellow), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 5/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Ionian kymation and ivy leaf.

Comparison: Decoration: Semeraro, 2003, Pl. LVII: 4; Duman, 2014, p. 172, Fig. 23; Ok,

2018, p. 413, Lev. 30: 216.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 17/2:6

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/880,430

Dimensions: P.H: 2.9 cm

Clay: 2.5 YR 4/8 (red), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 2.5 YR 4/8 (red), glossy

and slippery slip.

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Winged Eros? and ivy leaf.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 18/2:7

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: South Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D: 8 cm (inside), P.H: 2.5 cm

Clay: 5 YR 6/4 (light reddish-brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 10 R 4/8

(red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Preliminary Evaluations on a Group of Embossed Skyphoi Unearthed in Blaundos

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, Pl. 131: 743; Ok, 2018, p. 417-418, Lev. 34: 258, 35:

261.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 19/2:8

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Northwest Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H: 1.9cm

Clay: 10 YR 8/2 (very pale brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: 2.5 YR 4/6

(red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 20/2:9

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D.: 8 cm (inside), P.H.: 2.2 cm

Clay: 2.5 Y 7/4 (pale brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: 7.5 YR 4/2

(brown), Inner: 5 YR 4/4 (reddish-brown). There is some blackening on the surface.

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: Ok, 2018, p. 418, Lev. 35: 260.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 21/3:1

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 880,430

Dimensions: R.D.: 10 cm, P.H: 2.8 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 8/2 (pinkish-white), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: 2.5 YR

4/8 (red), Inner: 2.5 YR 4/4 (reddish-brown).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: Duman, 2010, Lev. LVIII: H43; Ok, 2018, p. 418, Lev. 35: 263.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 22/3:2

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 880.440

Dimensions: B.D.: 6 cm, P.H 2.9 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: 5 YR 4/4

(reddish-brown), Inner: 2.5 YR 5/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos base-body fragment.

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: Ok, 2018, p. 418, Lev. 35: 265.

Cat No./ Fig.: 23/3:3

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Northwest Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D: 11 cm (inside), P.H: 3.1 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous, small amount of silver mica added clay.

Slip: 10 R 5/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Embossed dots.

Comparison: Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, Pl. 131:743.

Cat. No./ Fig.: 24/3:4

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Main Street/ 870.440

Dimensions: R.D: 8 cm (inside), P.H: 2.2 cm

Clay: 5 YR 8/4 (pink), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: Color change

between 2.5 YR 4/8 (red) – 2.5 YR 3/4 (dark reddish-brown), Inner: 10 R 5/8 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Ionian kymation.

Comparison: -

Cat No./ Fig.: 25/3:5

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: South Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D: 8 cm (inside), P.H: 2 cm

Clay: 2.5 Y 7/2 (light gray), dense, non-porous, well-sifted clay. Slip: Outer: 10 R 4/4 (weak

red), Inner: 10 R 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Ionian kymation.

Preliminary Evaluations on a Group of Embossed Skyphoi Unearthed in Blaundos

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 26/3:6

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: Propylon/ 870.440

Dimensions: R.D.: 10 cm (inside), P.H.: 2.6 cm

Clay: 5 YR 6/4 (light reddish-brown), dense-textured, non-porous, little lime added clay.

Slip: 10 R 5/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Long petal? and the ring array.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 27/ 3:7

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: R.D.: 9 cm, P.H.: 2.3 cm

Clay: 7.5 YR 7/4 (pink), densely textured, non-porous, little silver mica added clay. Slip: 2.5

YR 4/6 (red).

Description: Broken embossed skyphos rim-body fragment.

Decoration: Ionian kymation.

Comparison: -

Cat. No./ Fig.: 28/3:8

Location of the Find/Grid-Square: West Slope/ Surface

Dimensions: P.H.: 1.9 cm

Clay: 2.5 YR 5/6 (red), densely textured, non-porous, little silver mica added clay. Slip: 10

R 5/6 (red), glossy and slippery lining on the inner surface.

Description: Broken embossed skyphos body fragment.

Decoration: Double spiral.

Comparison: *Decoration:* Ok, 2018, p. 414, Lev. 31: 232.

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Figures

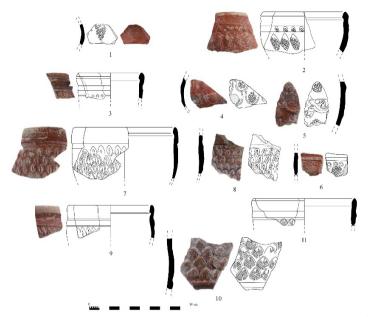


Figure 1: Pinecone (1-6) and Imbricated-leaf (7-11) Decorated Skyphoi (© C. Öz)

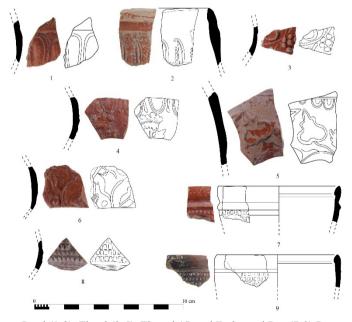


Figure 2: Long Petal (1-2), Floral (3-5), Figural (6) and Embossed Dot (7-9) Decorated Skyphoi (© C. Öz)

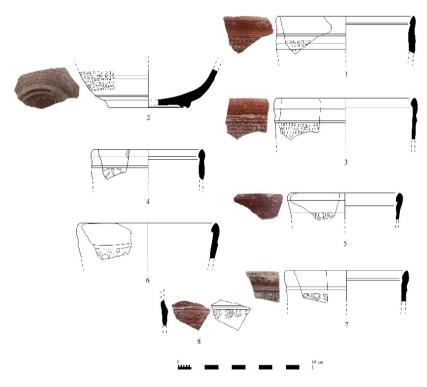


Figure 3: Embossed Dot Decorated Skyphoi (1-3) and Other Pieces (4-8) (© C. Öz)