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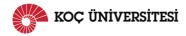
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### The Gem Stamp on the Handle of a Mushroom-rimmed Amphora from Knidos: An Assessment of the Centauromachy in Terms of Stamps and Iconography

ERKAN ALKAÇ – ULUS TEPEBAŞ\*

#### Abstract

In 1973 a fragment of a stamped amphora with a mushroom-shaped rim was found during archaeological excavations at the "West Harbour Byzantine Church E" in Knidos. The gem-shaped stamp on the handle of this amphora features a mythological scene of a battle between a Centaur and a Lapith. The figure on the right-hand side of the scene on the gem stamp is the Lapith while the half human-half horse figure on the left is the Centaur. The heads and faces of both figures have eroded. Nevertheless, it is possible to provide information about their compositions on the scene. The torso of the Lapith figure on the right is depicted frontally, while the left leg is depicted from the side and right leg from the front. Mushroom-rimmed amphorae were produced at numerous centers across the southern Aegean region including Samos, Rhodes, Knidos, Kos, Halikarnassos, Peparethos,

### Öz

1973 yılında Knidos'da "Batı Limanı Bizans E Kilisesi" kazı çalışmalarında mantar formlu ağız kenarına sahip mühürlü bir amphora parçası bulunmuştur. Bu amphoranın kulpunda bulunan gemme şeklindeki mühürde, Kentaur ile Lapith mücadelesini konu alan mitolojik bir sahne islenmistir. Gemme mühürdeki sahnenin sağındaki figür Lapith solundaki yarı insan yarı at betimli figür ise Kentaur'dur. Her iki figürün başları ve yüzleri aşınmıştır. Buna rağmen sahnedeki kompozisyonlarına dair bilgi vermek mümkündür. Sağdaki Lapith figürünün gövdesinin üst bölümü cepheden, sol bacağı profilden ve sağ bacağı cepheden verilmiştir. Mantar ağız formuna sahip amphoralar Güney Ege Bölgesi'nde Samos, Rhodos, Knidos, Kos, Halikarnassos, Peparethos, Klazomenai ve Phokaia gibi birçok merkezde üretilmiştir. Makaleye konu olan mantar ağızlı amphora, Ege Bölgesi'nde ya da bu coğrafyaya yakın

<sup>\*</sup> Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erkan Alkaç, Mersin Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Klasik Arkeoloji Anabilim Dalı, Arkeoloji Bölümü, Çiftlikköy Kampüsü, 33343 Mersin. Türkiye. E-mail: ealkac77@gmail.com; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9436-2501

Dr. Ulus Tepebaş, Mersin Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Klasik Arkeoloji Anabilim Dalı, Arkeoloji Bölümü, Çiftlikköy Kampüsü, 33343 Mersin. Türkiye. E-mail: ultepebas@gmail.com; https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4182-9969 This study was conducted with the Decision of the Council of Ministers with no. 2013/5387 on the date 30.09.2013 and was done with the permission of the Knidos Excavation Directorship in accordance with the scope of Knidos Excavation and Research carried out on behalf of Selçuk University and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. We are grateful to the Knidos excavation director, Prof. Dr. Ertekin M. Doksanaltı, for issuing the necessary permissions for us to study this fragment and for sharing his ideas on it. We would also like to thank Prof. Dr. Gonca Cankardeş Şenol and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erkan Dündar for sharing their ideas on the amphora's shape and stamp, and Songül Sözel (MA) for drawing the amphora. The study of the Centauromachy iconography on the stamp was carried out by Dr. Ulus Tepebaş in 2019 in the AKMED library as an AKMED scholarship holder while participating in the Monetary History and Numismatics Summer School. We would like to thank the AKMED authorities for this opportunity.

Klazomenai and Phokaia. The mushroomrimmed amphora, the subject of this article, must have been produced in the Aegean region or nearby. The production of mushroomrimmed amphorae is regarded as a reflection of a regional perception. Although these amphorae generally abide by the same form, some differences in shape can be observed. Stamps are rarely found on mushroom-rimmed amphorae. The stamps on this shape often consist of monograms and ligatures, not mythological scenes like that of the Lapith and Centaur. The depiction of this battle on the Knidos find is a unique example. This mushroom-rimmed amphora should be dated to the second half of the 4th century BCE based on similar examples in terms of form.

**Keywords:** Knidos, mushroom-rimmed amphora, gem amphora stamp, Lapith, Centaur

bir noktada üretilmiş olmalıdır. Mantar ağızlı amphoraların üretimi bölgesel bir anlayışın yansıması olarak değerlendirilmektedir. Bu amphoralar, genel olarak aynı formda üretilmiş olsalar da, bazı form farklılıkları da gözlenmektedir. Mantar ağızlı amphoralarda nadiren mühürler görülmektedir. Bu formdaki mühürler, monogramlardan veya ligatürlerden oluşmaktadır ki Lapith ve Kentaur gibi mitolojik sahneler bulunmamaktadır. Knidos buluntusu üzerinde bu mücadelenin tasvir edilmesi, ünik bir örneği oluşturmaktadır. Bu mantar ağızlı amphora, form açısından yakın benzerlerinden dolayı, MÖ 4. yüzyılın ikinci yarısına tarihlenmelidir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Knidos, mantar ağızlı amphora, gemme amphora mühürü, Lapith ve Kentauros

### Introduction

In 1973 a fragment of a stamped amphora with a mushroom-shaped rim was found during archaeological excavations at the "West Harbour Byzantine Church E" in Knidos<sup>1</sup> (figs. 1-2, cat. no. 1). The work is unique because the gem-shaped stamp on the handle of the amphora features a mythological scene of a battle between a Centaur and Lapith (fig. 3).

The stamps retrieved at the Knidos excavations between 1968 and 1977 were stored in the depot of the Bodrum Museum for many years. In 2018 these stamps were brought to the excavation house under the initiative of excavation director, Ertekin M. Doksanaltı. During the studies on amphora stamps carried out at Knidos, this piece stood out in terms of shape,<sup>2</sup> stamping and iconography. The aim of this article is to date the stamp, provide a suggestion on the origin of the amphora, determine its significance in terms of amphora stamping, and evaluate the iconography on the stamp.

Only one fragment comprising the rim, neck and handle of this mushroom-rimmed amphora from Knidos has survived (figs. 1-2). This amphora features a mushroom-shaped/out-turned rim with a triangular cross-section, a cylindrical neck, and an oval-sectioned handle which rises slightly before bending down towards the neck with a narrow curve. There is a projection underneath the exterior part of the triangular-sectioned rim, close to the neck. The clay composition of both the cross-section and the surface of the amphora includes a high concentration of lime, moderate amounts of sand, a small amount of chamotte, and a few stone particles, quartz and silver mica inclusions. The clay has a hard texture. Although darkening caused by firing can be seen both on the surface and cross-section, a red clay structure can be observed in the cross-section. Darkening on the amphora surface and section is caused by reduction firing (without extra air intake).

Doksanaltı et al. 2019, 45-64; 2018, 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Alkac 2019.

# Mushroom-Rimmed Amphora Production in Western Anatolia and the Aegean Islands

Mushroom-rimmed amphorae found at the Solokha kurgan excavations were first introduced by Zeest as the "Solokha I Amphorae" in seven different typologies.<sup>3</sup> This amphora type usually features a mushroom-shaped rim, a short cylindrical neck that widens towards the shoulders, short handles with an oval cross-section that start immediately under the rim and extend down towards the shoulder, a broad-shouldered ovoidal body, and a knob-like toe which is hollow underneath.<sup>4</sup>

The earliest examples of mushroom-rimmed amphorae were found inside a deposit dated to the third quarter of the 5th century BCE at the Athenian Agora. Mushroom-rimmed amphorae were quite common between the 5th and 3rd centuries BCE. Although there is no confirmation on their original place of production, this commercial form was quite popular as of the 4th century BCE. This type of rim can also be observed on some amphora produced in the 2nd century BCE.

The first examples of mushroom-rimmed amphora on the island of Kos were produced at the end of the 5th century BCE. Meropis is known as the first workshop to produce mushroom-rimmed amphorae on the island.<sup>8</sup> Another workshop which produced this type of amphora on the island was Kardamaina.<sup>9</sup> Mushroom-rimmed amphora produced on Kos have monofide and bifides handles.<sup>10</sup>

Samos is known as a production center for mushroom-rimmed amphorae; however, there is no proof that this form was actually produced on the island. It is argued that mushroom-rimmed amphorae were produced on the island during the 4th century BCE because this form featured the stamp with a lion's head, Pan, Herakles, Eros and Siren, which is unique to Samos. 11

Archaeological data obtained from surveys have revealed that mushroom-rimmed amphorae were also produced on the island of Peparethos. This group of amphorae classified as "Peparethos II" is dated to the second quarter and mid-4th century BCE. Mushroom-rimmed amphorae from Peparethos are similar to examples of Solokha I in terms of dimension and form. The clays of examples from Peparethos are yellow and orange-red. Grooves can be observed on the base and neck of some mushroom-rimmed amphorae from this island. Some of the stamps used on the amphorae bear letters in relief or englyphic letters ( $\Delta$ , E, M,  $\Phi$ , A $\Theta$ ). <sup>12</sup>

Fragments of mushroom-rimmed amphorae, reminiscent of the Solokha I type, have been found in a pottery workshop at Klazomenai dated to the third quarter of the 4th century BCE.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Zeest 1960, 150-52, pl. 14-16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Dündar 2017, 68.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Lawall 1995, 218.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Özbay 2019, 83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Cankardeş-Şenol 2001, 106-7, nos. 9-11, figs. 9-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Papuci-Wladyka 1997, 48-49, fig. 1.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Georgopoulou 2001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Kantzia 1994, 332-42, figs. 5-10, pls. 255-56, 260.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Grace 1971, 67, pl. 15, no. 11; 91-92, nos. 57-61, pls. 14.

Doulgéri-Intzessiloglou and Garlan 1990, 384, 386.

This indicates that Klazomenai was a production center for this shape.<sup>13</sup> It is likely that the mushroom-rimmed form was produced in Klazomenai even before this date because numerous mushroom-rimmed amphora fragments dated to the end of the 5th century BCE were discovered at Klazomenai's HBT Sector. This suggests that the form was produced at the workshops of Klazomenai since the form first emerged.<sup>14</sup>

Similar to all the centers across the Aegean, producers at Knidos had started making mushroom-rimmed, ovoidal-bodied and hollow and out-turned, high-based amphorae around the mid-4th century BCE. 15 The production of this form increased at Knidos parallel to the growing wine exports of the last quarter of the 4th century BCE. 16 Resadive has been identified as the center of mushroom-rimmed amphora production on the Datça Peninsula.<sup>17</sup> Archaeological excavations carried out at the production areas here have revealed pottery dumps for these types containing examples of surplus mushroom-rimmed amphorae. The amphora producers of Knidos created various types of mushroom-rimmed amphorae before developing a characteristic form of their own. Senol categorizes these amphorae into three groups based on their rim forms. 18 Some mushroom-rimmed amphorae dated to the 4th century BCE, retrieved near Kiliseyanı Mevki in the village of Hızırşah and associated with this workshop, carry stamps consisting of the monograms/abbreviations AP(,  $\Sigma$ I( and  $\Pi$ A $\Theta$ (.<sup>19</sup> The majority of stamps with ship-prow symbols dated to ca. 325 - ca. 280 BCE were stamped on mushroom-rimmed amphorae.<sup>20</sup> Dating from the middle to the third quarter of the 4th century BCE, the earliest known example of mushroom-rimmed amphora produced in Knidos were found at the Burgaz excavations.21

It is believed that mushroom-rimmed amphorae were produced in Rhodes in the second half of the 4th century BCE. <sup>22</sup> The oval stamps on the handles of the mushroom-rimmed amphorae from Patara bear an amphora symbol as well as the letters A and O or A and  $\Theta$ . The form of the amphora on the stamp is striking for its resemblance to actual examples with mushroom-shaped rims. These stamps are dated to the end of the 4th century BCE. <sup>23</sup>

Research carried out around Bybassos has proven that amphorae with cylindrical necks and mushroom-shaped rims were produced at the Rhodian Peraea in the Early Hellenistic Period. It has been determined that band-rimmed and mushroom-rimmed amphorae were produced at a workshop identified at the Çamlı-Çınar region in the Peraea. The mushroom-rimmed amphorae produced at the Çamlı-Çınar workshop have been dated to the late 4th - early 3rd century BCE. 25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Doğer 1986, 470, fig. 18.

 $<sup>^{14}</sup>$  Özbay 2019, 83; Hasdağlı 2012, 138.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Şenol 2009, 126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Şenol and Aşkın 2007, 265.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Tuna et al. 1987, 48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Şenol 1995, 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Tuna 1990, 358-59, figs. 13-14; For the Knidian Mushroom-rimmed Amphora stamps, see also Jefremow 2013, 410.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 170.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Sakarya 2016, 185, no. 45.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Grace 1971, 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Dündar 2017, 84-85, rh. 1-1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Senol 2015b, 193-95.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Doğer and Şenol 1996, 64-65.

Research carried out at Ampelas located in the northeast part of the island of Paros confirm that amphorae with mushroom-shaped rims were produced during the Hellenistic Period. The vases produced at this workshop had mushroom-rims with an outward angle, and the knob-shaped base was hollow.<sup>26</sup>

Amphorae that have stamps with the name Nikandros on their handles have been discovered at Delos.<sup>27</sup> These amphorae have sagging, small mushroom-shaped rims, long cylindrical necks, vertical handles which begin underneath the rim and attach to the slanting shoulders, a triangular body, and hollow knob-shaped bases.<sup>28</sup> The form characteristics of these amphorae, classified as the Nikandros Group, appear to have been influenced by South Aegean amphorae with mushroom-shaped rims.<sup>29</sup> Recent studies have confirmed that this amphora type was produced around Ephesus and Metropolis in Western Anatolia.<sup>30</sup> This amphora group has clay colors ranging from pale grey, pale brown to yellow-red and inclusions of lime, mica and chamotte.<sup>31</sup> Nikandros Group amphorae are generally dated to the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE.<sup>32</sup>

Despite the various clay compositions, this amphora type bears similarities in form which features a triangular-shaped rim with an outward angle and knob-shaped, hollow base. This amphora type was produced in several centers across the southern Aegean including Rhodes, Knidos, Kos, Paros, Peparethos, Halikarnassos, Phokaia and Klazomenai. Amphorae with mushroom-shaped rims were replaced by the canonical amphorae of the cities towards the end of the third quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE.<sup>33</sup> There are hypotheses which advocate the existence of production centers of mushroom-rimmed amphorae other than the ones mentioned above. Although these amphorae have common features in terms of form, it is difficult to establish a clear account of the shape development as they were produced in multiple centers.<sup>34</sup> Amphorae with mushroom-shaped rims have issues on their chronology and workshop, so the production is regarded to reflect a regional perspective and offer an understanding on the development of "koine". Minor differences observed on the rim of the basic custom form could be due to them being produced in different workshops/centers or typological and chronological development, but it could also be due to the potter's craftsmanship during the fast production. Detailed studies and analyses on examples retrieved at production centers could help quicken the process of resolving issues concerning this amphora type.<sup>35</sup>

# An Assessment of the Centaur-Lapith Battle on the Gem Stamp in Terms of Iconography and Typology

This section will initially provide information on the composition and chronological iconography of the figures featured on the stamp. Then it will go on to provide a detailed account of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Empereur and Picon 1986, 504-5, fig. 9 a-c.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970, 365.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Cankardeş-Şenol 2006, 167, fig. 227.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Şenol 2015b, 245.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Cankardeş-Şenol 2006, 165.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Cankardeş-Şenol 2010, 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Lawall 2004a, 177-88.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Şenol and Aşkın 2007, 265.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Coşkun and Çevirici-Coşkun 2017, 238.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Dündar 2017, 68, 72.

the use of this iconography in the geographical area where the stamp was found and why such iconography was found on a stamp.

There are two figures in relief standing opposite each other inside an elliptic area. The figure on the left is the Lapith while the half-human, half-horse figure on the right is the Centaur (fig. 3). The heads and faces of both figures have eroded. Nevertheless, it is possible to provide information about their compositions on the scene. The torso of the Lapith figure on the left is depicted frontally whereas the left leg is in profile and the right leg is frontal. The Lapith has his right arm pulled back and slightly bent from the elbow as if to prepare to attack; his left arm is extended towards the head of the figure opposite. The garment hanging from underneath both arms of the figure is thought to be a chlamys. The left leg of the Lapith is bent from the knee, tense under the weight with his left foot stepping on a horizontal area made to look like a surface. A step back, his right leg is straight and tense, fixed firmly. The torso of the Centaur on the right is from a semi-profile view while the horse-shaped lower body is shown in profile. The left arm is bent from the elbow in a right angle towards the head; he holds a branch with this hand.<sup>36</sup> The right arm of the Centaur is not visible in the scene. His front legs are eroded, but he maintains a position poised to attack his opponent, reared up like a horse. Straining under the full weight of his body, the hind legs are slightly bent from the knees. His "S" shaped tail, which thins out towards the tip, is well preserved. The figures featured in the scene as the Centaur and Lapith compose a scene from the Centauromachy, an account of the conflict and battle between the Centaurs and Lapiths, a popular story in antiquity.

In mythology, the half-horse, half-human Centaurs of double form<sup>37</sup> are generally portrayed as instinctive, wild, rude, barbaric creatures with a weakness for women and wine.<sup>38</sup> These mentioned characteristics are based on Eurytion's behavior as portrayed in the well-known Centauromachy myth. Eurytion was invited to Peirithoos' wedding, but after too much wine, he caused trouble for the bride and the guests. Here, Eurytion became the instigator of a war between the Centaurs and the Lapiths. It also marked the beginning of extended hostility and conflict between humans and the Centaurs.<sup>39</sup> The following is how the mythological story between the two creatures transpired: "Lapith Leader Peirithoos of Thessaly was to marry Hippodameia (=Laodameia). Among the invitees were Centaurs who were hosted inside a cave close to the wedding house. Intoxicated by wine, the Centaurs became insolent (*hybris*). While welcoming all the guests, the bride visited the Centaurs as well. However, the Centaur Eurytion attempted to abduct the bride, sparking a war. At first, the Lapiths outflank their opponents. However, they lose several warriors during the battle, but ultimately the Centaurs were defeated and ostracized from Thessaly".<sup>40</sup>

Centaur representations are frequently found on almost every kind of archaeological material and conducting numerous functions. <sup>41</sup> Centaur representations are of Eastern origin. Their earliest examples have been found on prism stamps imported from Babylon (ca. 2500-2000 BCE) which were retrieved in Crete. Although their origin is Babylon, these examples carry a Hittite influence. On the other hand, figures of creatures resembling Centaurs were used as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Beazley 1963.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Apollodoros 1.2.

<sup>38</sup> Hölscher 2000.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Homer *Il.* 2, 740; Homer *Odys.* 21, 295 and 303.

<sup>40</sup> Roscher 1890-1894, 1032.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> For these early examples also, see Padgett et al. 2003.

border stones by the Kassites who lived in East Babylon. <sup>42</sup> Early examples of Centaur representations have been discovered in Cyprus due its geographical location. <sup>43</sup>

The oldest known example from the ancient Greeks was retrieved as a tomb find at Lefkandi, Euboea, and dated to the 10th century BCE.  $^{44}$  During the Archaic Period Centauromachy scenes were depicted in the painted metopae  $^{45}$  of the Temple of Apollo Lykeios in Thermos in the 6th century BCE and the Athena Temple at Assos  $^{46}$  in the mid-6th century BCE.

During the Classical Period, Greek victories against the Persians were frequently referred to in architecture based on the topic of the Centauromachy. <sup>47</sup> In chronological order, the following buildings include such depictions on the wall paintings of the Theseion at Athens (470-465 BCE), <sup>48</sup> the west pediment of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia (464-457 BCE), <sup>49</sup> the south metopae of the Parthenon (ca. 450 BCE), <sup>50</sup> the west friezes of the Temple of Hephaistos at Athens (460-449 BCE), <sup>51</sup> the friezes of the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion (444-440 BCE), <sup>52</sup> and the interior friezes of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassai (450-400 BCE), <sup>53</sup> In the 4th century BCE, the Battle of the Centaur and Lapith appears on the 380-360 BCE friezes of the Temple of Athena Pronaia. <sup>54</sup>

During the 4th century BCE, the subject of the Centauromachy frequently appears on architecture in cities across the Lycia region which was known to have close ties with Knidos. The first was discovered at the settlement of Trysa (Antalya/Demre/Gölbaşı) in central Lycia. A Centauromachy scene was depicted on the friezes of the south exterior wall and north interior wall of the Heroon. The composition of the Centaur and Lapith scene, which begins immediately to the left of the entrance, is particularly similar to the depiction on the stamp. These similarities are seen at the moment where the Lapith extends his right arm towards the Centaur and the Centaur retracts his left arm. Both figures portray a similar offensive against each other. The only difference is that, in the relief at Trysa, the Lapith swings the blade in his right hand and the Lapith retracts both arms. Considering dimensional differences between the stamp and the relief friezes, it is normal to see such adaptations and less stylistic detailing, especially regarding clothing. Such variations are inevitable because there are dimensional differences as well as the stamp being an impression and the relief being a carving. Similarities with the Trysa relief are the rock underneath the front legs of the Centaur and his rearing movement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Although some of these examples have been identified as Sagittarius, it is stressed in the relevant sources that they are not related to the zodiac or Sagittarius. For examples of early Centaur depictions, see Baur 1912, 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Karageorghis 1966, 164-69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Desborough et al. 1970.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Schiffler 1976, 163-64.

<sup>46</sup> Ridgway 1999, 151.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Tarbell 1920, 227.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Podlecki 1971.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Ridgway 1999, 17. For more detailed information on the dating of the sculpture from the temple, see Patay-Horváth 2015, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Jenkins 2006, 74. For more detailed information on the dating of the sculpture from the temple, see Jenkins 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Morgan 1962, 222-23; Barringer 2009, 121-25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Delivorrias 1969; Dinsmoor 1975, 181-82; Felten and Hoffelner 1987.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Jenkins 2006, 143-45.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Ridgway 1999, 155.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Childs 1978, 13-14.

Ridgway 1999, 155. Benndorf and Niemann 1889, tables XXV B3, XXVII-XXVIII. Südwand Aussen B3. For information on the discussions on typology and similarities with the Trysa Gölbaşı Heroon, see Childs 1978.

with his torso depicted from a semi-profile angle. The Lapith folds his left leg from the knee and attacks with his right arm. Considering the close proximity of Knidos and Trysa as well as the similarities in composition, the scene on the stamp was inspired by the Trysa Gölbaşı Heroon<sup>57</sup> in the Late Classical Period.

The Centaur depiction on the stamp can be evaluated from a typological perspective (fig. 3). The striking aspect of early examples of Centaurs from ancient Greece is their physical characteristics with the upper body of a human and the lower body of a horse. P.V.C. Baur categorizes these early Centaur examples in three groups: The "A Group" examples have the front legs of a horse, "B Group" examples have human feet on the front legs, and "C Group" examples have hooves instead of feet. These details are unclear on the stamp. Nevertheless, the Centaur typology developed in the 4th century BCE. Problems concerning the merging of the human and horse bodies in particular were resolved on the metopae of the Parthenon. And the typological application here later became a template for future depictions. Moreover, the stamp with the Centauromachy scene retrieved at Knidos adopts Row VII of the south metope at the Parthenon<sup>58</sup> in terms of typology and composition and looks quite similar. Other heroons featuring the Centauromachy scene during the Hellenistic Period appear between the 3rd and 1st centuries BCE. These include the Belevi Mausoleum,<sup>59</sup> the Ptolemaion at Limyra, 60 and a frieze retrieved at Mylasa. 61 It has been suggested that Hellenistic examples of Centauromachy scenes in Asia Minor were influenced by the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos during the Hellenistic Period.<sup>62</sup>

### Conclusion

A comparison of similar amphora examples was made to determine the date of the mush-room-rimmed amphora recovered at the West Harbour Byzantine Church E in Knidos. The mushroom-rimmed amphora recovered at the Burgaz excavations on the Datça Peninsula and dated to between the middle and third quarter of the 4th century BCE bears resemblance in terms of form to this fragment - the subject of this article. The similar amphora from Burgaz has been classified as a "Mushroom-rimmed amphora from Knidos". A very similar version of the mushroom-rimmed amphora from Knidos, which is classified as "Knidos Variant 1-C", was recovered at Geroevkai and dated to the third quarter of the 4th century BCE. The example from the Preserve Museum amphorae collection, classified as "Knidos Variant 1-C" and dated to the third quarter of the 4th century BCE, is similar to the Knidos find in terms of form. However, unlike the Knidos find, the projection on the exterior of the mushroom-shaped rim of the Preserve example is located at the point where the rim joins the neck. A similar version of the rim-neck and handle fragment recovered at Knidos from Klazomenai was classified as "Solokha I/mushroom-rimmed amphora" and included in the mid-4th century BCE group.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Benndorf and Niemann 1889.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Lagerlöf 2000, 77-78, fig. 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Ruggendorfer 2016, 71-72.

<sup>60</sup> Borchhardt and Stanzl 1990, 71-84.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Mendel 1914, 44-45, no. 286.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Ridgway 1999, 155.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Sakarya 2016, 185, no. 45, pl. XIII.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Monachov 1999, 162, fig. 3.1.

<sup>65</sup> Monakhov et al. 2017, 112, Kn. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> Özbay 2019, 91, no. 19, dwg. 19.

A rim-neck fragment found among the examples from Patara, classified as "South Aegean mushroom-rimmed amphora", is similar to the Knidos find in terms of form. This amphora from Patara has been dated to the late 4th century BCE. 67 Similar pieces from the Athenian Agora are dated to the late 4th century BCE. 68 Considering the close similarity in terms of form with the examples mentioned above, the mushroom-rimmed amphora fragment from Knidos could be dated to the second half of the 4th century BCE.

The main production places of amphorae with mushroom-shaped rims still remain a topic of dispute. It has been reported that this form was produced at numerous centers in the South Aegean region including Samos, Rhodes, Knidos, Kos, Halikarnassos, Peparethos, Klazomenai and Phokaia. <sup>69</sup> Currently it does not seem possible to clearly verify where this mushroom-rimmed amphora fragment from Knidos was produced. However, considering the form characteristics of this rim-neck fragment, it is clear that similar amphorae were produced in workshops across the southern Aegean. Based on the clay composition, this amphora fragment from Knidos was probably produced somewhere close to the Southern Aegean Region.

The composition of the Centaur-Lapith battle on the gem stamp on the handle of the mushroom-rimmed amphora from Knidos is significant in terms of the tradition of stamping amphorae. Stamps are not common in centers that produced mushroom-rimmed amphorae. Mushroom-rimmed amphorae produced in Knidos feature ligature and monogram stamps. However, there are no other known examples of stamps depicting a mythological subject on mushroom-rimmed amphorae. In this context, this amphora stamp, evaluated here in terms of shape, production place, and iconography, is a unique artefact for portraying a mythological story.

It should be questioned why the diversely used Centauromachy iconography has found a place on an amphora stamp. In ancient literature, and especially during the Hellenistic Period, Centaurs were depicted as creatures with an incorrigible desire for wine. Maybe the workshop that applied this amphora stamp preferred to use the scene semantically to demonstrate the quality and strength of their wine.

### Catalogue

**Inventory No.** : KD73.HNBCE t 16 P 2470

Year Found : 1973

Find Spot : North Harbour Byzantine Church E - Trench 16

**Clay Colour** : 7.5 YR 6/3 pale red **Slip Colour** : 7.5 YR 6/1 reddish grey

Inclusions : A high concentration of lime, moderate amounts of sand, a small amount

of chamotte and a few stone particles and quartz

**Stamp Shape** : Oval

**Stamp Dimension** :  $1.9 \times 1.3 \text{ cm}$ 

**Stamp Description**: Battle of Centaur and Lapith.

Shape Description : A mushroom-shaped/out turned rim with a triangular cross-section, a

cylindrical neck and an oval-sectioned handle which rises slightly before

bending down towards the neck with a narrow curve.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Dündar 2017, 467, no. MrA.9, pl. 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Lawall 2004b, 451, pl. 451, nos. 19-20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Özbay 2019, 83.

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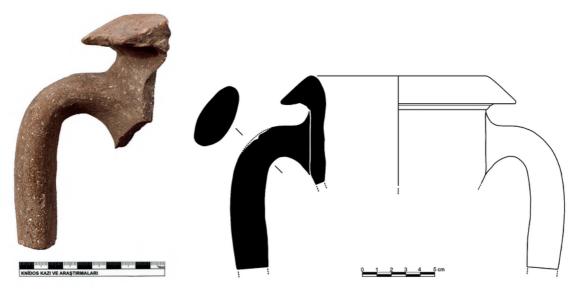


FIG. 1 Mushroom-rimmed amphora fragment from Knidos.

FIG. 2 Drawing of mushroom-rimmed amphora fragment from Knidos.

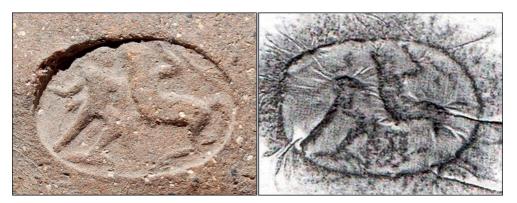


FIG. 3 Gem stamp with depiction of the Centaur-Lapith battle on the handle.