

THE TRACES OF THE EARLY IRON AGE AT AMOS

AMOS'TA ERKEN DEMİR ÇAĞI İZLERİ

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Mehmet GÜRBÜZER*

ABSTRACT

In this study, the evidence of the Early Iron Age obtained by the recent excavations carried out at Amos will be discussed. Amos located on the northeastern coast of Karian Chersonesos (Bozburun Peninsula), on the Asarcık Hill. Amos firstly appeared in the historical records by the 5th century BC. Amos, as a member of the Delian League, was recorded on the Athenian Tribute Lists of 428 BC. Following the establishment of the Rhodes state in 408 BC, the city became part of the Rhodian Peraea (Incorporated Peraea) and continued this situation until the 2nd century AD. Amos, also led a koinon, was abandoned by the 3rd century BC. The only research in the city was carried out by G. E. Bean in 1948. In addition to the survey that have been going on since 2019, the excavations began in 2020 yielded the earliest evidence of Amos. Up to the present, the earliest archaeological finds of Amos were from the 6th century BC. In the excavations carried out in the temple on the acropolis in 2021, some traces of the Early Iron Age were found. The remains of an apsidal building dated to the 10th century BC were found below the temple. Furthermore, outside the edifice a pyre (cremation area) associated with the building was found. After the secondary cremation, the intramural burial was placed under the floor of the structure. The first one of the two burials was placed in a belly amphora, the other into a necked amphora. Among the two urns, the necked amphora is decorated with concentric circles, while the belly amphora is a coarse ware. A bow fibula was found along with these amphorae as well. According to the widely view regarding the burial customs of the period, belly amphorae were preferred for women and necked amphorae for men. The apsidal building where a couple as an intramural burial in, must have belonged to a chief owing to a similar one in Lefkandi. It is possible to date the evidence at Amos from the Early Iron Age to the 10th century BC.

Keywords: Karian Chersonesos, Protogeometric, apsidal building, secondary cremation, intramural burial.

* Asst. Prof., Muğla Sıtkı Koçman Üniversitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi, Arkeoloji Bölümü, 48000, Kötekli/Muğla.
e-posta: mgurbuzer[at]mu.edu.tr ORCID: 0000-0002-6084-6409



ÖZET

Bu çalışmada Amos'ta son yıllarda sürdürülen kazılarda elde edilen Erken Demir Çağı'na ait veriler ele alınacaktır. Karia Khersonesos'un (Bozburun Yarımadası) önde gelen kentlerinden biri olan Amos, yarımada'nın kuzeydoğu kıyısında Asarcık Tepesi isimli bir burunda yer almaktadır. Amos tarihi kayıtlarda ilk kez MÖ 5. yüzyılda görülür. Attika-Delos Deniz Birliği'ne üye olduğu bilinen kentin, MÖ 428'deki Atina Vergi Listeleri'nde ismi bir kez geçmektedir. MÖ 408'de Rhodos devletinin kurulmasını takiben Amos Rhodos Peraiası'nın (Birleşik Peraia) bir parçası olmuş ve bu statüsü MS 2. yüzyıla kadar devam etmiştir. Aynı zamanda bir koinona da liderlik yapan Amos MÖ 3. yüzyıl ile birlikte terkedilmiştir. Kentteki tek araştırma 1948'de G. E. Bean tarafından gerçekleştirilmiştir. Amos'ta 2019 yılından itibaren devam eden yüzey araştırmaların yanı sıra 2020'de başlanılan kazı çalışmaları kentin özellikle erken tarihini aydınlatmaktadır. Amos'a dair en erken arkeolojik bulgular MÖ 6. yüzyıla ait idi. 2021'de akropolisteki tapınakta yürütülen kazılarda Erken Demir Çağı'na ait izlere rastlanılmıştır. Tapınağın altında MÖ 10. yüzyıla tarihli erken apsidal bir yapı kalıntısı saptanmıştır. Ayrıca yapının hemen dışında, yapı ile bağlantılı bir kremasyon alanı yani pyre bulunmuştur. Alanda ikincil kremasyon gerçekleştirilmiş olup, intramural gömü yapının taban altına bırakılmıştır. İki definin olduğu anlaşılan gömülerden biri karından kulplu amphoraya, diğeri de boyundan kulplu amphoraya konulmuştur. İki urneden boyundan kulplu olan konsantrik daireler ile bezeliyken, karından kulplu amphora herhangi bir bezemenin olmadığı kabaca yapılmış bir üründür. Bu amphora ile birlikte bir adet yay formu fibula ele geçmiştir. Dönemin ölü gömme geleneklerine ilişkin yaygın görüşten hareketle karından kulplu amphora bir kadın için, boyundan kulplu olan ise erkek için tercih edilmiş olmalıdır. Bir benzerine Lefkandi'de rastlanılan bir karı-kocanın intramural gömü olarak defnedildiği apsidal yapı olasılıkla bir şefe ait olmalıdır. Amos'ta Erken Demir Çağı'na ait söz konusu bulguları MÖ 10. yüzyıla tarihlemek mümkündür.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Karia Khersonesos, Protogeometrik, apsidal yapı, ikincil kremasyon, intramural gömü.

INTRODUCTION

Amos, a Rhodian deme in Karian Chersonesos, is located on a promontory hill named Asarcık Tepesi that lies approximately 20 km to the south of Physkos, modern Marmaris (Fig. 1). Jutting out between the two bays Kumlubük (south) and Asarcık (north) -the former being deeper and wider than the latter-, the hill projects eastwardly to the sea. The Kapız river flowing through the Kumlubük Bay is the main water source of Amos.

On account of the chipped stones found on the Karian Chersonesos (the Bozburun Peninsula), the first human traces on the peninsula dates back to the Upper Paleolithic Period (Schüssler et al., 2019, p. 68; Atakuman et al., 2022, pp. 5-24) while the habitation on the peninsula must have begun in the Chalcolithic Age (Gerber, 2019, pp. 11-65). Moreover, the firm evidence from Hydass (Benter, 2000, pp. 307-320; Benter, 2010, pp. 659-672), another city of Karian Chersonesos, strongly confirmed that the occupation of the peninsula continued

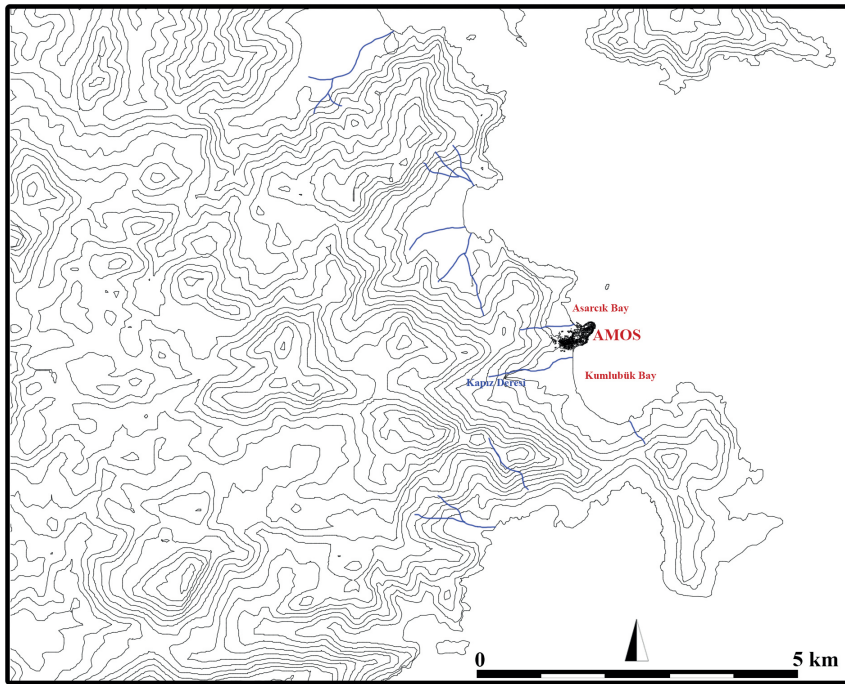


Fig. 1: The map of Amos and its vicinity. / Amos ve çevresinin haritası.

Because of the alluvial and other sedimental deposits carried by the river, the coastline of the Kumlubük must have been changed over thousands of years and therefore, should have presumably fallen into more inland in antiquity than today. The main residential area of Amos covers an area of ca. 0,45 ha on the hill that is 102 m high and measures 700x30 m (2,1 ha). Amos shows a fortress settlement character from the Hellenistic period (Fig. 2). The layout of the city indicates a hill settlement that was enclosed with a fortification system which was strengthened with city walls, towers and gates. The ramparts have an average thickness about 1,5 m, and the north line of which still standing 4 m high stretched uninterruptedly 400 m to the east (McNicol, 1997, pp. 216-226; Pimouguet-Pedarros, 1994, pp. 249-270; Pimouguet-Pedarros, 2000, pp. 390-405). The fortifications and all the other monumental buildings of the city including the theatre and the temples were made of local limestone.

uninterruptedly during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. The similar cases have been followed up for the Early Iron Age in the Datça Peninsula, especially in Knidos (Tozluca & Doksanaltı, 2019, pp. 219-221). The both historical and archaeological evidence on Amos are very scanty (Gürbüz, 2021, pp. 219-249). Among the ancient literatures, Pseudo-Aeschines (Ep. 9.1) is the earliest author who mentioned Amos before. By the second half of the 3rd century AD, in the *Stadiasmus Maris Magni* (§ 267), a kind of guidebook detailing the ports for the sailors, Amos 100 stades apart from Rhopusa and 60 stades to Poseidion. Stephanus of Byzantium (§ A87.1.) who lived in the 6th century AD, stated that Amos was a polis in Karia. The archaeological evidence available at Amos had gone back as early as the 6th century BC (Blümel, 1991, p. 351; Gürbüz, 2021, pp. 243-244, Fig. 20; Yaman, 2022, pp. 115, 127, Fig. 2, Kt. Nrs . 1-2). Given the historical records, Amos a member of the Delian League, appeared only once in the Athenian Tribute Lists of 428/7 BC (Meritt et al., 1939,

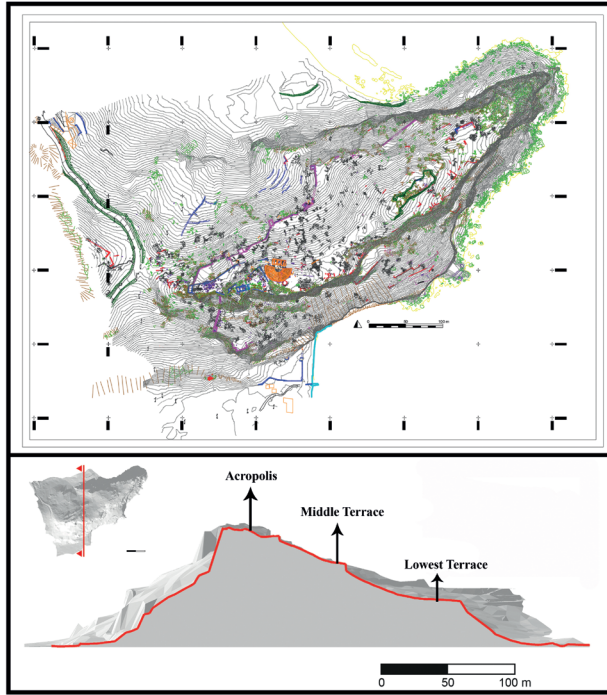


Fig. 2: The map and the section of the Asarcık Hill. / *Asarcık Tepesinin haritası ve kesiti.*

p. 468). The city became a part of the Rhodian Peraea as one of the Lindian demes throughout the Hellenistic period (Fraser & Bean, 1954, pp. 79-80; Rice, 1999, p. 46). As for the history of research on Amos, the only one excavation at Amos and its vicinity was carried out by G. E. Bean in 1948 and 1953 (Fraser & Bean, 1954, pp. 6-24, 125-135; Bean & Akarca, 1956, 17-22; Bean, 1971, pp. 158-159). The archaeological survey and excavations at Amos began in 2019 and still keep going on (Gürbüzer, 2021, pp. 219-249; Gürbüzer 2022, pp. 227-248).

ARCHITECTURE AND FINDINGS

The excavations at Amos in 2021 were carried out in the antae temple situated in the westernmost part of the acropolis (Maiuri, 1921-1922, p. 417; Bean, 1971, p. 158; McNicoll, 1997, p. 224, Fig. 50; p. 226, Fig. 51; Gürbüzer, 2021, pp. 224-225) (Fig. 3). Erected on the bedrock, the temple measures 13x7 m and faces east (Fig. 4). The cella wall of the temple preserved unfortunately only until the level of stylobat. The cella wall of the temple preserved unfortunately only until the level of stylobat.

During the excavations in the temple, the remains of an earlier wall, most probably belonging to an earlier building, was found approximately 50 cm beneath the pronaos. The wall-oriented northwest-southeast is 55 cm thick and 3 m long in the preserved parts. The apsidal wall rises immediately on the native soil in reddish color (Fig.



Fig. 3: The aerial view of the acropolis of Amos. / *Amos akropolisinin hava görüntüsü.*



Fig. 4: The aerial view of the temple on the acropolis. / *Akropolisteki tapınağın hava görüntüsü.*



Fig. 5: The apsidal wall. / *Apsisli duvar.*

5). The northeast turn of the wall was cut by the northern wall of the temple. This indicates that the apsidal edifice was considerably destroyed by the later temple. However, the length of the building which was oriented southeast could have reached up to 8 m (Fig. 6). The direction of the building, as a general feature in the other Early Iron Age apsidal structures, is to south (Mazarakis-Ainian, 2007, p. 157). The entrance was most probably located in

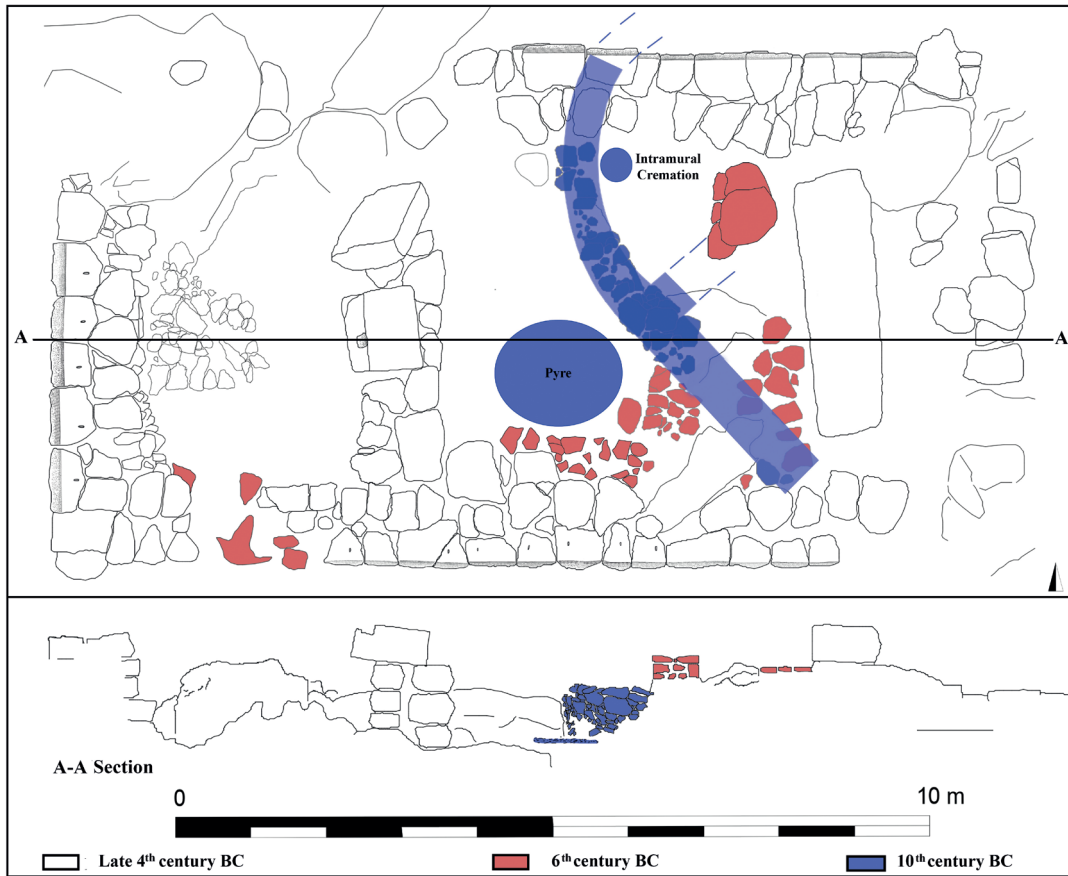


Fig. 6: The layout and the section of the apsidal building. / *Apsidal yapının planı ve kesiti.*



Fig. 7: Fragments of the belly-handled amphora. / *Karından kulplu amphora parçaları.*

the short side facing southeast. It seems that the apsidal buildings were often divided into two compartments as a main and a large room (Mazarakis-Ainian, 1989, pp. 278-284). In the southwestern part of the building, only a small part of the partition wall separating the apsidal compartment from the main room is preserved. Although it is destroyed much, the floor of the apsidal building is most likely to be of earth. Fragments of a belly-handled amphora¹ (Fig. 7) and a necked amphora decorated with concentric circles² drawn by a compass were found together *in-situ* just below the floor at the western end of the apsis (Fig. 8). Both vessels were used as urn. All the evidence coming under the floor is clearly associated with an intramural burial practice. In addition, a lump of pise³ (rammed earth) (Fig. 9) and a bronze bow fibula (Fig. 10) were unearthed at the same spot. Often encountered in the woman burials (Blinkenberg, 1926, pp. 60-66; Whitley, 1991, p. 105; Lemos, 2002, pp. 113, 189; Özer, 2020, pp. 225-244), these types of

¹ Catalogue: Diam. foot 10,8 cm, H. 8 cm. Color: Clay 5YR 6/4 (light reddish brown), surface 5YR 5/2 (reddish gray) – 5YR 4/1 (dark gray). Clay contains many limes and sedimentary rocks.

² Color: Clay 5YR 7/2 (reddish gray), slip 5YR 7/2 (pinkish gray), glaze 5YR 4/1 (dark gray). Clay with a few limes.

³ Color: Clay 5YR 5/4 (reddish brown).

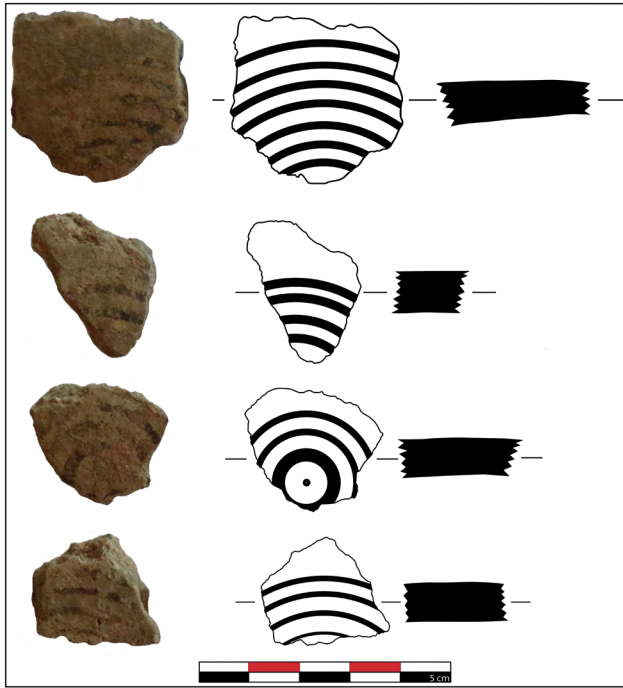


Fig. 8: Fragments of the necked amphora decorated with concentric circles. / *Konsantrik daireler ile bezeli boyundan kulplu amphora parçaları.*



Fig. 9: The lump of pise. / *Pise parçası.*

fibulae are dated between the Sub-Mycenaean period and the Late Protogeometric period in Crete (Brock, 1957, Pl. 104; Pl. 21, No. 263(b); Pl. 111, No. 1581; Pl. 167, No. 1098; Boardman, 1960, Fig. 9, Pl. 39, Nos. 18-19; Coldstream & Catling, 1996, Pl. 273, Nos. 121.f 1-2) and Lefkandi (Popham et al., 1982, Pl. 16, Nos. 45-52; Lemos, 2002, Pl. 9, Nos. 12-15; 11.5; 13.5). The sherds of the necked amphora are decorated with at least seven or less concentric circles. The amphorae with a plump body were decorated with elaborately drawn concentric circles throughout the Early Iron Age.



Fig. 10: The bronze bow fibula. / *Bronz, yay formlu fibula*

The amphorae, either belly or necked, were decorated with the concentric circles on a light surface in the Protogeometric period (Lemos, 2002, pp. 56-60), just as in the case of Amos. Although only seven concentric circles have been preserved on the examples from Amos, considering the similar ones in other centers, in fact, there should have been eight concentric circles. Both the belly and shoulder handled coarse amphorae with flat bases from Crete have eight concentric circles and are dated to the Late Protogeometric period (Brock, 1957, Pl. 4, No. 43; Pl. 7, No. 84; Pl. 8, No. 120; Pl. 9, No. 157, No. 160; Pl. 10, No. 140, No. 165, No. 181; Pl. 14, No. 205, No. 212; Pl. 16, No. 226; Coldstream & Catling, 1996, Pl. 134, No. 1; Coldstream et al., 2001, Pl. 3, Nos. c-d). Furthermore, the flat based and necked amphorae with quintuple or eleven-fold concentric circles from Knossos, are dated to the Middle and Late Protogeometric periods (Coldstream & Catling, 1996, Pl. 63, No. 5; Pl. 232, No. 13; Coldstream et al., 2001, Pl. 1, Nos b-c.). On the two Sub-Protogeometric amphorae found in a pyre in Lefkandi, one is in the form of belly and the other handled, are thirteen concentric preserved circles (Popham et al., 1979, Pl. 121, Pyre 41; Pl. 156, Nos. 41/1-2; Pl. 199, No. b; Popham et al., 1982, Pl. 7, Nos. a-e). Another belly example from Athens dated to the Early Protogeometric is decorated with eight sets of concentric circles (Papadopoulos et al., 2017, p. 304, Fig. 2, No. 208). Eight Sub-Protogeometric shoulder fragments of an amphora from Kastanas (Macedonia) are decorated with concentric circles as well (Hänsel, 1979, p. 198, Abb. 16, No. 1-2; Abb. 18, No. 3; Papadopoulos, 1994, p. 447, Fig. 5; Pl. 113, No. A38). As for the fragments of the belly amphora which were found under the floor, all belongs to body and base fragments of a coarse-ware amphora with flat base. Parallel to them, an earlier and hand-made example was found in a Sub-Mycenaean grave in the cemetery of Nea Ionia in Attica (Smithson, 1961, Pl. 31, Inv. 2167). A flat based and necked amphora from

Klazomenai is dated to the Late Protogeometric period (Aytaçlar, 2004, p. 22, Fig. 5.3). Another handmade, two-handled jar, probably an amphora, at Torone Chalkidike is dated to the Protogeometric period (Papadopoulos, 1994, p. 451, Fig. 11, Pl. 115, B11). Some coarse belly amphorae (urns) from Ialysos necropolis are dated to the Late Protogeometric period (Laurenzi, 1936, pp. 161-165; Fig. 52; D'acunto, 2017, pp. 442, 480, Fig. 4). The flat based amphorae with concentric circles on their shoulders from Knossos are dated back as early as the Sub-Mycenean period (Coldstream & Catling 1996, Fig. 121, No. 1). In general, the distinction in use of amphorae between the belly and the necked types had been made according to the gender of the deceased. It had been thought that the belly handled amphorae were used for female burials, while the necked ones were associated with males (Desborough, 1952, p. 5; Whitley, 1991, p. 105; Dimitriadou, 2019, pp. 96, 100). However, current reviews on the matter suggest that the gender of amphorae cannot be determined (Lemos 2002, p. 155). This is further supported with a discordant case in Kerameikos where a belly amphora contained a male burial (Papadopoulos et al., 2017, p. 668).

With regards to superstructure, although lack of sufficient evidence, it could be thought that the apsidal building has a hipped roof of thatch through the similar examples from the region (Fagerström, 1988, pp. 106-110; Snodgrass, 1972, pp. 369-370). On the ground level of the building, the evidence indicating how the upper structure was made was retrieved. The fragment of pise with impressions of reeds showed that the thatch-hipped-roof was covered with clay (Popham et al., 1979, Pls. 12-13; Warner, 1979, p. 141, Ill. 4 (a); p. 148, Fig. 4). A few of wooden pillars must have been used inside to support the roof.

Apsidal buildings have been seen in both Anatolia and the Mediterranean from the Bronze Age (Warner, 1979, p. 136, Ill. 3; pp. 138-143; Mazarakis-Ainian 1989, pp. 269-288) into the Archaic period (Coldstream, 1979, pp. 286-287). The famous apsidal building at Lefkandi (Popham et al., 1993, pp. 1, 101; Pakkanen & Pakkanen, 2000, pp. 239-252; Herdt, 2015, pp. 203-212), commonly known as the Heroon, is dated to the 10th century BC. Another apsidal structure from Nichoria (McDonald et al., 1983, p. 291, Fig. 2, Nos. 22-23) is dated to the Late Protogeometric period as well. The apsidal edifices on Paros and Thermon which were functioned as chiefs' dwellings are dated to the end of the 10th century BC (Mazarakis-Ainian, 1988, p. 113, Fig. 12; p. 114, Fig. 14). As for the Anatolian examples, the oval house at Smyrna (Akurgal, 1997, pp. 16-17, Şek. 8a-d; Pl. 4a-b; Pl. 5a-b) and the apsidal building at Klazomenai (Aytaçlar, 2004, p. 18, Fig. 1-2; p. 19, Fig. 3), both constructed with



Fig. 11: The pyre outside of the apsidal building. / *Apsidal yapının dışındaki pyre.*

similar technic, are dated to Late Protogeometric period. Like in the edifices mentioned above, stones were used in the foundations of the edifice at Amos. The upper structure of the stone foundation walls was of mudbrick, a principal construction material of the Early Iron Age.

A burnt area is discovered outside of the building (Fig. 11). Measuring ca 1 m in diameter, this area comprises grey ash spread immediately over the native soil. Considering the dimension of the burnt area, it is almost equal to a human



Fig. 12: The bones, carbonized wooden pieces and the small smoothed stone. / *Kemikler, karbonlaşmış ahşap parçaları ve küçük boyutlu düzleştirilmiş taş.*

body in size (Lagia et al., 2013, p. 200). Immediately on the ground that was damaged by the fire, the remains of ash and some deposits of burnt bones indicating a cremation here are clearly visible. The temperature of a cremation usually reaches up to 1200°C after ten hours of burning (Williams, 2004a, p. 271). The burnt area, which was caused by a pyre that is determined with great certainty by our research, yielded some potsherds, ash remains, bones, some carbonized wooden pieces and, a small smoothed stone (Fig. 12). Among the ceramic finds are a twisted handle belongs to an amphora⁴ and a body fragment with concentric circles⁵ (Fig. 13). The necked amphorae with twisted handles are very common at Knossos from Sub-Mycenean period (Coldstream & Catling, 1996, Pl. 94, No. 18; Pl. 106, No. 16; Fig. 128, Pl. 186, Nos. 50-51) to the Early Protogeometric period (Boardman 1960: Pl. 32, I.1; IV, 1; VIII.1-2; Day et al., 1986, Pl. 84, a; Coldstream & Catling, 1996, Pl. 94, No. 18; Pl. 98, No. 3-4; Fig. 100, No. 11; Fig. 101, No. 12). The specimen of Amos is also probably from the same date with the ones in Crete.

Considering both the pyre and intramural burial together at Amos, a secondary cremation might have been carried out on the same burning spot. It is understood that after the cremation rite, the burnt ash and bones remains belonging the deceased in the pyre were collected into their respective amphorae and then placed below the

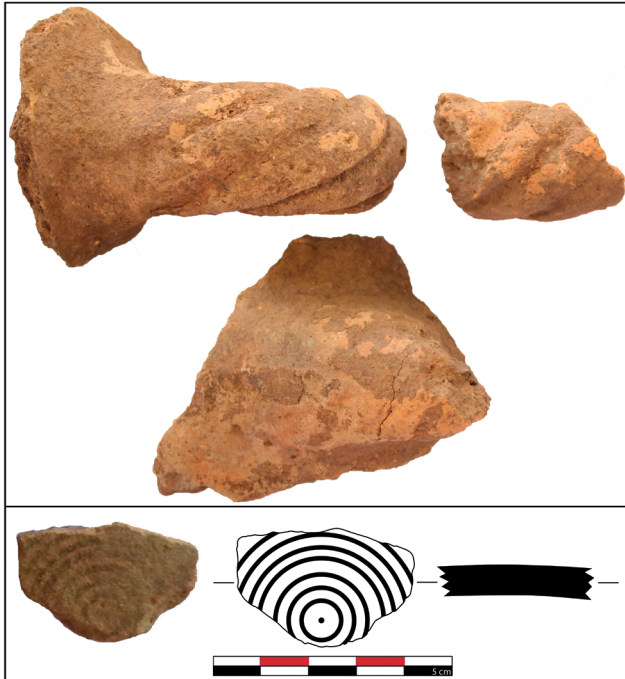


Fig. 13: The twisted handle fragments of the necked amphora and the body fragment of the necked amphora decorated with concentric circles. / *Boyundan kulplu amphoraya ait burğu kulp parçaları ve konsantrik daireler ile bezeli boyundan kulplu amphora gövde parçası.*

⁴ Color: 5YR 6/4 (light reddish brown), slip 5YR 8/4 (pink).

⁵ Color: Clay 5 YR 7/4 (reddish brown), glaze 5YR 5/1 (gray).

floor level (Williams, 2004a, pp. 277-278; Williams, 2004b, p. 418; Liston, 2007, p. 67). In the case of Amos, the fragments which must have belonged to two different vessels conclusively lead us to think that there were two deceased at the same pyre and these two urns were utilized in an intramural burial in the apsidal building. The intramural burial at Amos has yielded no offerings although it is commonly known that the Early Iron Age male graves usually are discovered with some ceramic offerings at least (Aytaçlar, 2004, p. 27, Fig. 13; p. 28, Fig. 14; D'acunto, 2017, p. 446). By the 11th century BC, major alterations seem to occur in the burial customs. Cremation apparently became a widespread burial practice and dominated the burial rites during the Early Iron Age (Snodgrass, 1972, pp. 148-149, 187-191; Ruppenstein, 2013, p. 187). It is widely accepted that the cremation emerged in Western Anatolia (Bouzek, 1997, p. 74; Lemos, 2002, p. 186; Ruppenstein, 2013, p. 187). Cremation burials in Karia became a dominant practice during the Early Iron Age (Paton 1887, p. 74; Snodgrass, 1972, p. 158; Berti, 2007, pp. 437-446; Carstens, 2008, pp. 52-118; Diler, 2016, pp. 455-473; Özer & Şimşek-Özer, 2017, pp. 139-162; Özer, 2018, pp. 35-55). Many cremation burials have been found in the tombs of the region (Lemos, 2002, p. 182). Not only in the mainland Karia but also in the neighboring isles as nearly as Rhodes and Kos (Morricone, 1967, pp. 202-203; Benzi, 1992, p. 230), the same burial traditions can be observed. The earliest finds of the Early Iron Age Rhodes came from the Late Protogeometric tombs dated to 940-900 BC (D'acunto, 2017, p. 440). The common burial practice on Rhodes was cremation for adults whereas the children were inhumed in pithoi (Coldstream, 1979, p. 233). Regarding the secondary cremations, which is considered as an unusual practice, these types of burials must have been employed for individuals, who were far from their homelands such as warriors (Liston, 2007, p. 69). A secondary cremation from Rhodes, which belongs to a warrior buried in a belly amphora from the Early Geometric period, supports this view (D'acunto, 2017, p. 446). The burials determined as warrior tombs dated to until the 9th century BC at Rhodes (D'Agostino, 2006, p. 59), have usually been associated with a male deceased. The secondary cremations at Ialysos are peculiar to adults, while the inhumations in pithoi were used for the sub-adults (D'acunto, 2017, p. 441). It is widely agreed on that the cremations were for adults but not appropriate for children (Desborough, 1972, p. 274; Lemos, 2002, p. 187). Many cremations at Perati (Dickinson, 2006, p. 181) indicate to adult males as well. Secondary cremation at Lefkandi (Popham & Lemos, 1995, pp. 151-152; Lemos & Mitchell, 2011, p. 637) dated to the Sub-Protogeometric period belongs to a man with a high status, probably noble. The same pattern could be seen at Lindos that yielded the elite burials dated to the end of the Bronze Age (D'acunto, 2017, p. 439).

CONCLUSION

Consequently, our recent discoveries prove that Amos, the pioneer city of the Karian Chersonesos thanks to its geographically advantageous location, was occupied from the Early Iron Age onwards. Previously, the earliest archaeological evidence at Amos was dated to 6th century BC. However, during course of our current excavations at the acropolis, it has been proved that the available archaeological evidence at Amos goes back as early as the 10th century BC. The Early Iron Age is represented limitedly in a small area in Amos, though. Situated in the both geographically and hierarchically highest point of the acropolis, the apsidal building has most probably functioned as an oikistes' (chief) dwelling.

The partially preserved building is approximately 8 m long and oriented northwest-southeast. This edifice was constructed with mudbrick walls over the stones foundations as in the common architectural tradition of the Early Iron Age (Snodgrass, 1972, pp. 369-370). As to the superstructure, it was a hipped roof of thatch covered with pise. The structure was supported by the wooden pillars inside. The apsidal building must have been one of the earliest architectural elements at Amos. Early Iron Age progression, the colonist chief and his people were the first settlers at Amos in the 10th century BC.

The secondary cremation about in 1m diameter had been carried out just outside the building. Following the cremation rite, two amphorae, belly and necked, which were used for the intramural burials, were placed the under floor of the apsidal building. The fragments of a twisted handle found on the pyre along with the body fragments with concentric circles must probably have belonged to the same necked amphora used as urn. It is possible to claim that there were two deceased; the first one, whose ash was placed in the necked amphora, was male while another one was female put into the belly amphora. The latter is further supported with discovery of a fibula. Two deceased in the same intramural burial should have belonged to a couple just as in the case of Lefkandi (Pakkanen & Pakkanen, 2000, pp. 19-22).

Cremation, a new burial tradition in the Early Iron Age, then also appeared in Amos, which has been seen as the result of the new social-political changes (D'acunto, 2017, p. 441). In conclusion, a general view is drawn that the Asarcık Hill was occupied as the main settlement of Amos from the 10th century BC to the 3th century AD when the city was abandoned (Gürbüzer, 2021, p. 245; Gürbüzer, 2022, p. 240).

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