

Thasian and Rhodian Stamped Amphorae from Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum

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There are many amphorae belonging to different periods and production centers in Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum¹. It was determined that only five of these amphorae were stamped. Almost all the stamped amphorae have been preserved intact. There are a total of seven stamps in the amphorae with preserved double handles investigated in this study. The single handle of three amphorae (fig. 1-3) and the double handle of two amphorae (fig. 4-5) are stamped. This article aims to classify the stamped amphorae according to their production centres, to give a date to the stamped amphorae and to analyze the inscriptions on the stamps. As a result of the classification made on the stamps studied in this study, it was determined that three of these stamps were of Thasian origin and four of them were of Rhodes origin.

It is known that the central authority applies different control processes in the trade date to get a share from the sale of the commercial product. This situation has been a factor in the formation of control mechanisms. Various systems were applied to the amphorae, which are among the most important pieces of evidence of the commercial relations of the Ancient Period. These were abbreviations written before glazed firing in the kiln, symbols, tituli picti, lead stamps and stamped plasters used to cover the mouth of the amphora to prevent the liquid from spilling out. The best way to trace them is by stamping the seals on wet clay².

Stamps are important to understand which production center the amphorae were produced in. Determining where an amphora was produced gives an understanding of the commercial relations between the production center and the consumption center. Amphora stamps are important archaeological data in designating commercial relations between cities, determining the commercial route, and understanding the nature and capacity of trade. Based on the stamps, information about the origin of a group of people, their social status, population density and the

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¹ These amphorae were studied by F. Ceylan in his master thesis titled “Commercial Amphorae in Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum” in 2019. These stamped amphorae have been added to the museum inventory in diverse ways. We thank the director and also the archaeologists of the Edirne Archeology and Ethnography Museum for permission to publish the amphora stamps studied in this study. There are many other amphora stamps in this museum. However, since these are finds from the Ainos excavation, they are not included in this article. The figures used in this work were photographed by Elif Kırçın. Munsell Soil Charts 2009 were used in the clay colors of the amphorae evaluated in this study. The photos of the stamps are 1/1 in scale. The liter capacities of the amphorae were calculated via the link; <http://amphoralex.org/amphores/CalculVolume/CalculVolume.php>.

² Cankardeş-Şenol 2009, 19.

development of the city can be reached. Like coins, stamps provide epigraphic evidence and important dating criteria. Therefore, they are used to date other archaeological material found from the layer or context³.

A) Thasian Stamped Amphorae⁴

(Fig. 1a-b) There is a stamp on the handle of the completely preserved Thasian amphora⁵. This amphora has an out-turned triangular cross-sectioned rim, a long cylindrical neck that widens towards the shoulders, cane shaped handles that start immediately under the rim that adheres to the shoulders, a projection point and a seamless transition between the neck and the broad shoulders, an ovoidal shaped body and a long napiform hollow base (fig. 1a).

There are personal names and the ethnicon on the three-lined stamp on the handle (fig. 1b). Λεωγ(in the first, Θασί(ων) in the second and Νοσσ(ίκας) is written in the third line⁶. The name Λεωγ(which was on the stamped handles found in the Athenian Agora, was classified as a name of an eponym. The eponym Λεωγ(, is dated to Period I (ca. 391- ca. 365 BCE)⁷. The abbreviation Νοσσ(must belong to a producer named Νοσσ(ίκας). Aside from the name Νοσσ(ίκας), there are other producer names that were stamped in abbreviation or full names with the name Λεωγ(. These are recorded as; Ἀντι(, Ἀρισ(ταγόρης), Βιτίων, Δαμάστης, Δημάρης, Εὐ-αγόρης, Εύρυν(άναξ), Ἡρακ(λει-), Θράσ(ωνίδης)⁸, Μυῖσ(κος), Μύλλ(ος)⁹, Φιλω(νίδης)¹⁰, Αἰσχ-(ρίων), Κίρων, Κλεα(ι-), Κλεολ¹¹ and Φανό(κριτος)¹². The common feature of these stamps is the abbreviation of the ethnicon Θασίων on the second line. A stamped handle with the names of this producer and eponym, recorded in the Hermitage Museum Collection¹³. Examples made from the same matrix found in Edirne Museum which the eponym Λεωγ(and the producer Νοσσ(ίκας) were named together are also located in Phanagoria¹⁴.

(Fig. 2a-b) Only one handle is stamped. The entire rim and upper part of the neck is broken¹⁵. This shipping vessel has a long cylindrical neck, two cane shaped handles start under the rim and connect to the shoulders. It has a projection point where it has transitions from the shoulders to the ovoidal cross-sectioned body and a napiform hollow base (fig. 2a).

³ Cankardes-Şenol 2005, 140; Cankardes-Şenol 2006, 30-34.

⁴ For the chronology of Thasian amphora stamps see, Tzochev 2016, 79-84.

⁵ Ceylan 2019, 70, kat. no. 5.

⁶ thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?s-string=Leog.

⁷ Tzochev 2016, 102, no. 11-13.

⁸ Kashaev – Pavlichenko 2019, 80, no. 3.

⁹ Bon – Bon 1957, 70-71, no. 45-51; thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?s-string=Leog.

¹⁰ Grace 1956, 127, no. 2, pl. 52; Tzochev 2016, 102, no. 11-12; Kashaev – Pavlichenko 2019, 80, no. 4; thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?s-string=Leog.

¹¹ Garlan 1985, 731, no. 20-21, fig. 1; thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?s-string=Leog.

¹² Garlan 1986, 242, no. 59, fig. 34.

¹³ Pridik 1917, 48, no. 270.

¹⁴ Zavoykin – Pavlichenko 2020, 155, no. 9-10.

¹⁵ Ceylan 2019, 71, kat. no. 6.

The first line of the inscription on the stamp has the abbreviated name Δαμασ(, the second line has the ethnicon Θασίων and on the last line the abbreviation Θράσων(can be read (fig. 2b). Two of the names are given in abbreviated form. The abbreviation Δαμασ(is completed as Δαμάστης, the eponym and the abbreviation Θράσων(is completed as Θρασωνίδης, the producer. Two eponyms named Δαμάστης dated to the 4th century BCE were identified in the Thasian amphora stamp research. The stamps of the eponym named Δαμάστης I do not bear any symbol. On the other hand, there is a symbol on the stamps with the name of the Period II (ca. 364 – ca. 338 BCE) eponym, classified as Δαμάστης II¹⁶. According to this classification the eponym in fig. 2b is determined as Δαμάστης I. On stamps related to Δαμάστης I, either his own name and the ethnicon or his name, ethnicon and the producer's name are included together. Along with this eponym apart from the producer Θρασωνίδης, the names of the producers Εύρυαν(αξ), Θεόφιλ(ος), Κίρων, Λεώφα(ντος), Μυΐσκο(ς), Νοσσίκ(ας), Πρωτ(ις), Σάτυρος, Σκύμν(ος) and Φανόκ(ριτος) were also found on stamped amphora handles¹⁷. The eponym Δαμάστης I is thought to have served in Period I (ca. 391 – ca. 365 BCE)¹⁸. Other abbreviations and names referring to eponyms which were connected to this producer Θρασωνίδης are; in Period I: Ἀμφι(, Ἀριστ(, Ἀριστομέ(νης), Ἡροφ(, Ἰσαγό(ρης), Κτῆσι(ς), Λάμιος, Λεωγ(, Λεωνι(, Λάβρο(ς) I, Μνημέ(ας), Τελεσ(and Χάρω(ν), in Period II: Ἀλθημ(, Βάτων, Κλεοφῶν, Μέγων I, Μέγων II, Μυΐσ(κος), Φανο(κ-) and Φιλοκρά(της)¹⁹. The sample obtained from the same matrix as Fig. 2b was found in the Athenian Agora excavations²⁰.

(Fig. 3a-b) There is a stamp on one of the handles of the completely preserved Thasian amphora²¹. The amphora has an out-turned rim, oval cross-sectioned cane shaped handles which start under the rim and connect to the shoulders. The grooved neck is long and cylindrical. The projection point is seen in the transition from the sloping shoulder to the body. The body has ovoidal shape and a flat base (fig. 3a).

The name of the eponym Πολυνείκης starts from the left corner of the die and ends at the top. In the center of the stamp the monogram A is towards the left. The ethnicon Θασίων starts from the bottom line, ends on the right short side of the matrix (fig. 3b). On the stamps which the name of this eponym is recorded, other than just “A”, there are also monograms such as A, Y, B, B and Γ, Γ, Γ and Γ, Δ, E, E and Υ, Z, Z and Υ, Θ and Υ, I, K and Υ, Λ, N, Π, P, Σ, T, T and E and Υ can be seen²². The ruler Πολυνείκης is thought to have served in Period V (ca. 303 – ca. 293 BCE)²³. Examples from the same matrix can be found in Bon – Bon 1957, 341, no. 1355.

¹⁶ Tzochev 2016, 70; 119-122, no. 92-100.

¹⁷ thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?official=14.

¹⁸ Tzochev 2016, 103-104, no. 14-18.

¹⁹ Bon – Bon 1957, 66, no. 23; 68, no. 34; 72, no. 57; 74, no. 65; 76, no. 73; 78, no. 81; thasos.amphoradata.online/catalogue-results?producer=50.

²⁰ Bon – Bon 1957, 62, no. 6; Tzochev 2016, 103, no. 16.

²¹ Ceylan 2019, 75, kat. no. 10.

²² Bon – Bon 1957, 340-345, no. 1353-1379.

²³ Tzochev 2016, 148, no. 226-227.

B) Rhodian Stamped Amphorae²⁴

(Fig. 4a-c) Both handles of the completely preserved Rhodian amphora are stamped²⁵. This amphora has a ribbon shaped rim, a cylindrical and long neck, cylindrical and long, oval cross-sectioned handles which start from the upper part of the neck and adheres to the upper part of the almost right-angled shoulders. The transition from shoulder to body is evident. The ovoidal body tapers towards the napiform base (fig. 4a). Similar forms of this amphora are dated to the early 3rd century BCE in the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria²⁶.

On one of the stamped handles of the completely preserved amphora, there is the name of the eponym Τιμο((fig. 4b) and on the other handle the name of the producer Ἰων (fig. 4c) is detected. It was determined that the eponym Τιμο(had served in Period Ia (ca. 304 – ca. 271 BCE)²⁷. In Alexandria, the name Τιμο(is detected on circular and on rectangular stamps with two lines of inscription. On a rectangular stamp from the Benaki Collection, the name of the eponym Τιμο(and the name of the producer Νικα(are seen together. Apart from Ἰων and Νικα(, the eponym Τιμο(is also found to be associated with the producer Ἀριστη(²⁸. As a result of the determination of producer Ἰων's connections with the eonyms Ἀριστοκράτης I and Τιμο(, it was understood that this producer was active during Period Ia (ca. 304 – ca. 271 BCE)²⁹. Stamps with the name of the producer Ἰων can be found in Kaunos³⁰, Kition-Bamboula³¹, Alexandria³², Hermitage Museum³³, and in the Donato Morelli Collection (Egypt)³⁴. The coexistence of the eponym Τιμο(and the producer Ἰων on the same amphora is also documented in the Kyrenia Shipwreck³⁵.

(Fig. 5a-c) Both handles of the completely preserved Rhodian amphora are stamped³⁶. This amphora has a rib lip, cylindrical neck, two handles starting from under the rim and adhere to the shoulders, projection point at the transition from the sloping shoulder to the body that narrows down towards the pointed base (fig. 5a). A similar form of this Rhodian amphora in the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria is dated to the second half of the 2nd century BCE³⁷.

²⁴ For the chronology of Rhodian amphora stamps Finkelsztein 2001.

²⁵ Ceylan 2019, 79, kat. no. 14.

²⁶ Şenol 2018, 372-373, no. 314-315.

²⁷ Finkelsztein 2001, 55.

²⁸ Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 65-66; 205.

²⁹ Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 229.

³⁰ Schmaltz 2016, 107, KA 262.

³¹ Calvet 1982, 26, no. 60.

³² Cankardeş-Şenol 2000, 426, no. 50; Cankardeş-Şenol – Canoğlu 2009, 153, C19; Elmali 2015, 82-85, no. 27.

³³ Pridik 1917, 112, no. 259.

³⁴ Nachtergael – Pintaudi 1998-1999, 176, no. 34.

³⁵ Lawall 2011, 675, πιν. 281.

³⁶ Ceylan 2019, 80, kat. no. 15.

³⁷ Empereur – Hesnard 1987, 60, no. 12, pl. 3; Şenol 2018, 386-387, no. 324.

This Rhodian amphora in the Edirne Museum Collection is a marine find. For this reason, the upper parts of the circular stamps on the handles of the amphora are covered with fish excrement and it was not possible to restore the inscriptions (fig. 5b-c). The rose, which is the symbol of Rhodes, is imprinted in the center of the circular stamp in fig. 5b. Since the upper part of the stamp in fig. 5c is completely covered with fish excrement, it is not clear what the symbol in the center is. It should also be printed with a rose.

Conclusion

Within the context of this article, five amphorae in the Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum Amphora Collection and a total of seven amphora stamps on their handles were examined. All of these amphorae have been preserved, only one of the examples has a broken rim. The stamps on the amphorae which were brought to the museum inventory in various ways and was a subject to the research, belonged to different production centers and dates. We can classify the amphorae here as Thasian and Rhodian. The amphorae in the figs. 1-3 are from Thasos. On the fig. 1b, the names of the eponym Λεωγ(and the producer Νοσσ(who are dated to the Period I (ca. 391 – ca. 365 BCE) are abbreviated. The abbreviation Νοσσ(must belong to a producer named Νοσσ(ίκας). On the fig. 2b The abbreviation Δαμασ(is completed as Δαμάστης, the eponym and the abbreviation Θράσων(is completed as Θρασωνίδης, the producer. The eponym Δαμάστης I is thought to have served in Period I (ca. 391 – ca. 365 BCE). In fig. 3b the name of the eponym Πολυνείκης who is thought to have served in Period V (ca. 303 – ca. 293 BCE) can be seen. Fig. 4 and 5 are Rhodian amphorae. On one of the handles, the eponym named Τιμο((fig. 4b) who is thought to have served in Period Ia (ca. 304 – ca. 271 BCE) and on the other handle the producer named "Ιων (fig. 4c) can be found. In fig. 5 the inscriptions on both stamped handles of the amphora cannot be read due to fish excrement.

It is unclear where the stamped amphorae in the Edirne Museum came from. Therefore, we cannot make interpretations depending on the relationship between the settlement area and the find. However, we think that it is necessary to introduce these stamps to the scientific community for the identification of the matrices of the stamps which became a very important part of the amphora stamp studies³⁸. We believe that these stamps will contribute to the scientists who carry out or will carry out the study of creating the matrix of stamped amphora handles.

³⁸ Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 24-25; <http://amphoralex.org/timbres/AnsesTimbrees.php>: A Study of the Database the Definition of Matrices of Stamped Amphora Handles in Alexandria (Prof. Dr. Gonca Cankardeş-Şenol).

Catalogue

Fig. 1a

Museum Inv. No.: 1376

Rim Diameter: 12.0 cm

Base Diameter: 5.2 cm

Height: 69 cm

Colour of Clay: 5 YR 7/4 pink

Inclusions: Sand, calcareous, mica, grits

Capacity of amphora: 11.5 l.

Fig. 1b

Form: Rectangular

Dimension: 2.1 x 1.8 cm

Characteristic of Inscription: Normal, eponym and producer names abbreviated, three horizontal inscription lines

Eponym: Leog(

Producer: Noss(ikas)

Date: ca. 391 – ca. 365 BC

Inscription:

Λεωγ(

Θασί(ων)

Νοσσ(ικας)



Fig. 1a



Fig. 1b

Fig. 2a

Museum Inv. No.: 58

Rim Diameter: ?

Height: 66.5 cm

Base Diameter: 5.0 cm

Colour of Clay: 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow

Inclusions: Sand, calcareous, mica, grits

Capacity of amphora: 8.32 l.

Fig. 2b

Form: Rectangular

Dimension: 2.5 x 1.9 cm

Characteristic of Inscription: Normal, eponym and producer names abbreviated, three horizontal inscription lines.

Eponym: Δαμάστης I

Producer: Θρασωνίδης

Date: ca. 391 – ca. 365 BC

Inscription:

Δαμ[άσ](της)

Θασίων

Θρασων(ίδης)



Fig. 2a



Fig. 2b

Fig. 3a

Museum Inv. No.: 3591-2011/9 (A)
 Rim Diameter: 12.7 cm
 Height: 71.2 cm
 Base Diameter: 5.5 cm
 Colour of Clay: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow
 Inclusions: Mica, sand
 Capacity of amphora: 19.35 l.



Fig. 3a

Fig. 3b

Form: Rectangular
 Dimension: 2.5 x 2.0 cm
 Characteristic of Inscription: A peripheric inscription, in the center A monogramme.
 Eponym: Πολυνείκης

Date: ca. 303 – ca. 293 BC

Inscription:

Πολυνεί | κης

A

Θασίω | ν



Fig. 3b

Fig. 4a

Museum Inv. No.: 739
 Rim Diameter: 11.5 cm
 Height: 80.0 cm
 Base Diameter: 3.2 cm
 Colour of Clay: 2.5 YR 5/6
 Inclusions: Sand, calcareous
 Capacity of amphora: 30.82 l.



Fig. 4a

Fig. 4b

Form: Rectangular
 Dimension: 1.9 x 1.6 cm
 Characteristic of Inscription: Normal, two horizontal inscription lines, eponym name abbreviated.
 Eponym: Timo(

Date: ca. 304 – ca. 271 BC

Matrix: Cf. RE-TIMO(-003³⁹)

Inscription:

Tl-

μ[ο](



Fig. 4b

³⁹ Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 65, RE-TIMO(-003).

Fig. 4c

Form: Rectangular

Dimension: 2.3 x 2.0 cm

Characteristic of Inscription: Retrograde, one horizontal inscription line.

Producer: Ion

Date: ca. 304 – ca. 271 BC

Matrix: RF-IΩN-

Inscription:

"Ιω[ν] retrograde



Fig. 4c

Fig. 5a

Museum Inv. No.: 105

Rim Diameter: 10.0 cm

Height: 77.2 cm

Base Diameter: 5.2 cm

Colour of Clay: 5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow

Inclusions: Mica

Date: Second half of the 2nd century BCE

Capacity of amphora: 20.29 l.



Fig. 5a

Fig. 5b

Form: Circular

Dimension: R. 3.1 cm

Characteristic of Inscription: One peripheral inscription.

Device: Rose

Inscription:

[.....]

rose



Fig. 5b

Fig. 5c

Form: Circular

Dimension: R. 3.2 cm

Characteristic of Inscription: One peripheral inscription.

Device: Rose

Inscription:

[.....]

[rose]



Fig. 5c

Index (Th.: Thasos, Rh.: Rhodes, Ep.: Eponym, Pro.: Producer)

A. Greek Personal Names

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| Ἀμφι(, Th. ep. fig. 2b | Λεώφα(ντος), Th. pro. fig. 2b |
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| Κλεοφῶν, Th. ep. fig. 2b | Rose, Rh. fig. 5b-c |
| Κτῆσι(ς), Th. ep. fig. 2b | |

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Edirne Arkeoloji ve Etnografa Müzesi'nden Mühürlü Thasos ve Rhodos Amphoraları

Özet

Amphoralar, özellikle Ege Bölgesi'ndeki üretim merkezleri tarafından mühürlenmiştir. Epigrafik kanıt olan mühürler, amphoranın kökeninin belirlenmesi ile ele geçtiği tabakanın ya da konteksttin tarihlenmesini sağlamakta ve üretici ile tüketici kentler arasındaki ticari ilişkileri ortaya koymaktadır.

Edirne Arkeoloji ve Etnografa Müzesi'nde çok sayıda amphora bulunmaktadır. Bu amphoralar çeşitli yollarla müze envanterine kaydedilmiştir. Müze koleksiyonundaki amphoraların sadece beş adetinin mühürlü oldukları tespit edilmiştir. Bu makalenin amacı mühürlü amphoraları üretim merkezlerine göre sınıflandırmak, mühürlerdeki yazıtları çözümlemek ve mühürleri tarihlemektir.

Makalede çift kulpu korunmuş beş amphora üzerinde 7 adet mühür incelenmiştir. Bu mühürlerin üç adeti Thasos, dört adeti Rhodos'tur. Rhodos mühürlerinin sadece iki adeti çözümlenebilmiştir. Araştırmalarımız sonucunda bu mühürlü amphoraların Thasos ve Rhodos'a ait oldukları belirlenmiştir. Mühürler üzerinde yönetici ile üretici isimleri, ethnikon ve sembol bulunmaktadır. Bu makale kapsamında okunabilen mühürlerin tarihi yönetici ve üretici isimlerinden hare-

ketele belirlenmiştir. Buradaki mühürlerin genel olarak M. Ö. 4. yüzyıl ile M. Ö. 2. yüzyıl arasına ait oldukları anlaşılmıştır.

Anahtar Sözcükler: Edirne Arkeoloji ve Etnografya Müzesi, amphora mühürleri, Thasos, Rhodes, yönetici, üretici.

Thasian and Rhodian Stamped Amphorae from Edirne Archaeology and Ethnography Museum

Abstract

Amphorae are stamped by production centers, especially in the Aegean Region. Stamps, which are epigraphic evidence, provide the date of the layer or context they were found by determining the origin of the amphorae and reveals the commercial relations between the production and consumption centers.

There are many amphorae in the Edirne Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography. These amphorae are recorded in various ways in the inventory of the museum. It was determined that only five of the amphorae in the museum collection were stamped. This article aims to classify the stamped amphorae according to their production centers, to give a date to the stamped amphorae and to analyze the inscriptions on the stamps.

In this study, seven stamps on five amphorae with preserved double handles were examined. Three of these stamps are Thasos and four are Rhodes. Only two of the Rhodesian stamps have been resolved. As a result of our investigations, it was determined that these stamped amphorae belonged to Thasos and Rhodes. The stamps have the names of the eponym and the producer, ethnicon and symbol. The date of the stamps that can be read within the scope of this article is determined by the names of the eonyms and producers. It is understood that the stamped amphorae here are generally from between the 4th – 2nd centuries BCE.

Keywords: Edirne Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, amphora stamps, Thasos, Rhodes, eonym, producer.