Rhodian Amphora Stamps from the Cappadocia Güray Museum

Kapadokya Güray Müze’den Rhodos Amphora Mühürleri

Erkan ALKAÇ*

Highlights:
• The examples housed at the Cappadocia Güray Museum will contribute to research on Rhodian amphora stamps for mold identification.
• These stamps will serve as references for examples containing the same names in excavations, surface surveys, and museum research.
• The Rhodian amphora seals from the Güray Museum in Cappadocia are introduced to the literature.

Abstract: The Cappadocia Güray Museum is a private institution housing a diverse array of archaeological artifacts from different historical periods. Among the museum’s inventory are three amphora stamps, all originating from the island of Rhodes. The eponyms and fabricant names have been identified on these stamps. The names Ἀρχοκράτης II and Ἀλεξίμαχος have been determined among the eponym stamps. It is stated that Ἀρχοκράτης II served in c. 185 B.C. and Ἀλεξίμαχος in c. 150 – c. 147 B.C. The fabricant’s stamp belongs to Ὄλυμπος I. The stamps on amphorae with both handles preserved are important for determining the activity period of this fabricant. The magistracy years of the eponyms associated with Ὄλυμπος I indicate the fabricant produced amphorae between c. 185 – c. 174/172 B.C. On the stamp where the name of Ἀρχοκράτης II was determined as the eponym, the month name Δάλιος and a rose symbol are found. On the stamp where the name of the eponym Ἀλεξίμαχος was identified, Πάναμος is the month’s name. There is a burning torch device on the stamp, where the fabricant’s name is Ὄλυμπος I.

Keywords: Cappadocia Güray Museum, Rhodes, Amphora stamp, Eponym, Producer

Summary: Rhodes Island is known for its significant contribution to the Greek amphora stamping tradition. Amphorae from Rhodes have been stamped since the late 4th century B.C and form the largest group of Greek-origin amphora stamps. These stamps are found in various places across the Mediterranean, Aegean, Black Sea, Red Sea, Mesopotamia, and Iran. Generally, the handles of the island's amphorae are stamped. One handle bears the name of the amphora producer, while the other displays the name of the Helios priest governing the island for a year, overseeing the sale of its products. Amphorae bearing both the producer's and governor's names are crucial for determining the earliest and latest production dates. In addition to the names of governors and producers, amphora stamps also feature month names. Symbols on these stamps exhibit rich diversity, including the rose, Helios, eagle atop a thunderbolt, dot, rosette, caduceus, herma, burning torch, cornucopia, grape cluster, and wreath. Symbols can appear to the right, left, above, below, alongside, or in the middle of inscriptions. The island's stamp forms are rectangular, round, oval, or square. Apart from the main stamp, secondary stamps are often found beneath the handle's lower section. The practice of stamping Rhodian amphorae continued until the mid-1st century B.C. Generally, these amphorae were used for exporting island wine or olive oil.

* Assoc. Prof. Dr., Mersin Üniversitesi İnsan ve Toplum Bilimleri Fakültesi Arkeoloji Bölümü, Çiftlikköy Kampusu, 33343, Mersin – Türkiye, ealkac77@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0001-9436-2501.
The Cappadocia Güray Museum is a privately-owned institution that houses a diverse array of archaeological artifacts spanning different historical periods. Among its collection are three amphora stamps, all originating from the island of Rhodes. This article specifically focuses on the Rhodian amphora stamps housed in the Cappadocia Güray Museum. Although the exact discovery locations of the studied stamps are unknown, the aim of this article is to identify and date the administrative and producer names found on Rhodian amphora stamps.

Eponyms and fabricant names have been identified on these stamps at the Cappadocia Güray Museum. Two eponyms, Ἀρχοκράτης II and Ἀλεξίμαχος, have been identified. The eponym Ἀρχοκράτης II is noted to have served circa 185 BCE. The stamp bearing Ἀρχοκράτης II's name also features the month name Δάλιος and the rose symbol. This administrator's name appears with different month names as well. The example at the Güray Museum matches the RE-ΑΡΧΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ-02-ΔΑΛΙΟΣ-002 stamp from the Alexandria Benaki Collection. The eponym Ἀλεξίμαχος served between circa 150 and 147 BCE. The stamp bearing Ἀλεξίμαχος' name includes the month name Πάναμος. This administrator's name is also confirmed with different month names. The example at the Güray Museum matches the RE-ΑΛΕΞΙΜΑΧΟΣ-ΠΑΝΑΜΟΣ-013 stamp from the Alexandria Greco-Roman Museum.

The name Ὄλυμπος I has been identified on the producer stamp. A burning torch symbol lies horizontally to the right of this name. The producer often chose the burning torch or occasionally the rose symbol on stamps. Stamps on intact-handled amphorae are crucial for dating this producer's activity period. The years associated with eponyms linked to Ὄλυμπος I indicate amphora production from circa 185 to 174/172 BCE. The example at the Güray Museum matches the RF-ΟΛΥΜΠΟΣ-01-005 stamp from the Alexandria Gabbari Necropolis.

The examples showcased at the Cappadocia Güray Museum will contribute to comparative studies of amphora stamps. These stamps will be used as references for examples with identical names found in excavations, surveys, and museum research.

Öne Çıkanlar:
- Kapadokya Güray Müzesi’nde bulunan bu örnekler, Rhodos amphora mühürlerinin kalıp tespiti araştırılmasında katkı sağlayacaktır.
- Bu mühürler kazı, yüzey araştırmaları ve müze araştırmalarında aynı isimleri içeren örnekler için de referans olacaktır.
- Kapadokya Güray Müze’deki Rhods amphora mühürleri literatüre tanıtılmıştır.


Anahtar Kelimeler: Kapadokya Güray Müze, Rhodos, Amphora mühürü, Eponym, Üretici

Introduction

Located in Nevşehir province, Avanos district, and formed through digging the rock underground, the Cappadocia Güray Museum is a private museum under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. This private museum preserves many archaeological artifacts dating from the Late Chalcolithic
to the Ottoman period. Within the artifact collections of the Cappadocia Güray Museum, there are three stamped amphora handles. The three amphora stamps are analyzed in this article. The aim of this study is to date the amphorae and to identify the names of the eponyms and fabricants from the stamps on their handles. These stamps will contribute to the research on amphora matrices. The find-spots of these amphora stamps are unknown. The stamps were officially added to the museum’s inventory in 2024.

Rhodian amphorae were regularly stamped between the late 4th century B.C. and the mid-1st century B.C. (Alkaç 2014, 213-229). The stamps of this island are the largest geographical group among Greek examples (Börker & Burow 1998, 13). Rhodian amphorae typically feature stamps on both handles. On one handle of a Rhodian amphora is the name of the amphora fabricant and on the other handle is the name of the eponym. This eponym is the Helios priest of the island under whose control were the production and commercial activities for one year (Grace 1948, 144). In addition to the names of fabricants and eponyms, the stamps also bear various symbols and Rhodian month names (Cankardeş-Şenol 2006, 105-109).

On the stamp with a rose device in the center there is the name of the eponym Ἀρχοκράτης II and the month Δάλιος (fig. 1). On the stamps with this eponym name a star, Helios head and ivy leaf symbols are also found (Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 560-568). The eponym was in office in c. 185 B.C. in Period IIIb (Finkielsztejn 2001, 192, tab. 19). The eponym Ἀρχοκράτης II is known to be associated with the fabricants Αγαθοκλῆς ΙΙ, Ἀγοράντας, Ἅριτος, Δαμικλῆς, Δόκιμος, Μάτσωνας and Φιλαίνιος (Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 211). For the stamps issued in association with this eponym see Histria (Canarache 1957, 242, no. 554), Necropolis of Lilibeo (Brugnone 1986, 14, no. 14), Pergamon (Börker & Burow 1998, 27, no. 163, taf. 7; 86, no. 120, taf. 24), Patara (Dündar 2017, 114, Rh.43), Delos (Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, RE-ΑΡΧΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ 02-018-019), Crocodilopolis-Arsinoe (Empereur 1977a, 47-51, no. 140-152), Tanis (Chaby 2009, 10, no. 16b), Alexandria (Sztytjölo 1978, 273, no. 21), Carthage (Delatte 1901, 23, no. 19), Syracusa National Museum (Gentili 1958, 38; 52, no. 67.14-67.5, fig. 2), Warsaw National Museum (Sztetylo 1983, 81, no. 40), Donato Morelli Collection (Nachtergae & Pintaudi 1998-1999, 172, no. 20), Cairo Museum (Milne 1905, 111, no. 26047) and the National Museum of Athens (Jöhrens 1999, 271, AS 15). An identical die is known in the Benaki Collection in Alexandria (Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 561, RE-ΑΡΧΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ 02-ΔΑΛΙΟΣ-002).

On the stamp the name of the eponym Ἀλεξίμαχος and the month Πάνναμος are read (fig. 2). The magistracy of the eponym is dated to c. 150 – c. 147 B.C. in Period IVb (Finkielsztejn 2001, 193, tab. 20). The eponym Ἀλεξίμαχος dates the activity of the fabricants Ανδρικός, Αντίμαχος, Διόδος Ι, Ἑρμίας, Εὐκλεῖτος, Θεώμναστος, Ἰπποκράτης, Μάνης, Μηνόθεμος and Τιμώ ΙΙ (Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 215). The stamps bearing the name of this eponym have been found in Histria (Canarache 1957, 239, no. 543), Necropolis of Lilibeo (Brugnone 1986, 9, no. 7), Delos (Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 177, RE-ΑΛΕΞΙΜΑΧΟΣ-ΒΑΔΡΟΜΙΟΣ-002), Patara (Dündar 2017, 122-123, Rh.54), Tarsus (Grace 1950, 142, no. 39), Tatlı Höyük in Cilicia Pedias (Dündar & Gerçek 2018, 161, SH 13), Tell Arqa (Thalmann 1978, 62, no. 72/CO10), Tel Anafa (Ariel & Finkielsztejn 1994, 190, SAH 3), Crocodilopolis-Arsinoe (Empereur 1977b, 206, no. 12), Akoris (Kawanishi & Suto 2005, 33-34, no. 8-9), Alexandria (Cankardeş-Şenol 2000, 277-278, no. 7-8; Cankardeş-Şenol 2003, 216, no. 4, fig. 4a-b), Cairo Museum (Milne 1905, 107, no. 26054), the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria (Zeitoun et al. 1998, 379, fig. 10-12), Benaki Collection in Alexandria (Cankardeş-Şenol 2015, 174, RE-ΑΛΕΞΙΜΑΧΟΣ-ΑΓΡΙΑΝΙΟΣ-001). Syracuse National Museum (Gentili 1958, 44, no. 21-22), Charles University Collection (Grace 1974, 97, no. 3, pl. 22, fig. 1-3) and the National Museum of Athens (Jöhrens 1999, 77, no. 200).
The name of the fabricant Ὄλυμπος I is seen on the stamp (fig. 3). There is a burning torch symbol on the right of the stamp. A burning torch is placed diagonally on the right of the inscription. This example is known to be related to the eponyms Ἀρχοκράτης II (c. 185 B.C.) (An amphora fragment from Rhodes with two handles preserved, see ΜΣ 300/BE 1338, from the archives of V. Grace, Ἀίνησίδαμος II (Empereur & Guimier-Sorbets 1986, 130, no. 10064) (c. 179/177 B.C.), Δαμοκλῆς II (Gentili 1958, 37, no. 22 a-b) (c. 176/174 B.C.) and Κλευκράτης I (Jöhrens 2001, 428, no. 247) (c. 174/172 BC). Depending on his association with these eponyms and their magistracy years, the fabricant’s activity is dated to between c. 185 and c. 174/172 B.C. (Cankardeş-Şenol 2017, 250).

The stamps of the fabricant were found in Olbia (Levi 1964, 271, no. 299-303), Tanais (Jöhrens 2001, 428, no. 246-247), Necropolis of Lilibeo (Brugnone 1986, 83, no. 99), Delos (RF-ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΣ 01-015, http://amphoralex.org/timbres/eponymes/accueil_epon/affiche_LRF.php), Pergamon (Börker & Burow 1998, 97, no. 304-305, taf. 29), Kaunos (Schmalz 2016, 231, KA 552), Paphos (Nicolau 2005, 201, no. 525-526; 334-336, no. 264-268), Tarsus (Grace 1950, 141, no. 31), Tatarlı Höyük in Cilicia Pedias (Dündar & Gerçek 2018, 159, SH 8), Jerusalem (Ariel 1990, 57, S240-241), Tel Atrib (Sztyłlo 2000, 109, no. 99), Alexandria (Cankardeş-Şenol 2003, 232, no. 50; in Benaki Collection see RF-ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΣ 01-001), Istanbul Archaeological Museum (Şenol 1996, 50, no. 24), and the Hermitage Museum (Pridik 1917, 32, no. 787-794). This stamp is from the same die as the examples found at the Necropolis of Gabbarı (RF-ΟΛΥΜΠΙΟΣ 01-005, http://amphoralex.org/timbres/eponymes/accueil_epon/affiche_LRF.php) and Paphos (Nicolau 2005, 201, no. 526).

Conclusion

There are Rhodian amphora stamps in the collection of the Cappadocia Güray Museum. These stamps bear the names of eponyms and fabricant. Among the eponyms, the names of Ἀρχοκράτης II (c. 185 B.C.) and Ἀλεξίμαχος (c. 150 – c. 147 B.C.) have been identified. The other example belongs to the fabricant Ὄλυμπος I (c. 185 and c. 174/172 B.C.). The connection between the eponym Ἀρχοκράτης II and the fabricant Ὄλυμπος I is proven. It is possible that the handles bearing these names in the museum belong to the same amphora due to the connection between the eponym and the fabricant.

The examples housed at the Cappadocia Güray Museum will contribute to research on Rhodian amphora stamps for mold identification. These stamps will serve as references for examples containing the same names in excavations, surface surveys, and museum research.

Table 1. Amphora Stamps in the Cappadocia Güray Museum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Inscription</th>
<th>Eponym</th>
<th>Fabricant</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ἀ[ρχ]οκράτευς Ἡ[Δ]αλίου rose</td>
<td>Ἀρχοκράτης II</td>
<td></td>
<td>c. 185 B.C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2  | Επὶ Ἀλεξί-
    μάχου Πανύμου | Ἀλεξίμαχος |           | c. 150 – c. 147 B.C. |
| 3  | Ὅλυμπος burning torch | Ὅλυμπος I |           | c. 185 – c. 174/172 B.C. |

Author’s Note
I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Güray TÜYSÜZ, the founder of the Cappadocia
Güray Museum, for generously granting permission to publish the amphora stamps in this article.

Catalogue
Fig.: 1
Museum Inv. No.: 420
Stamp shape: Circular
Stamp dimension: R.: 3.1 cm
Eponym: Ἀρχοκράτης II
Month: Δάλιος
Inscription characteristics: One peripheral inscription line, the letters are facing inwards.
Device: Rose
Date: c. 185 B.C.
Matrix: RE-ΑΡΧΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ-02-ΔΑΛΙΟΣ-002
Inscription:

Fig.: 2
Museum Inv. No.: 422
Stamp shape: Rectangular
Stamp dimension: 4.1 x 1.7 cm
Eponym: Ἀλεξίμαχος
Month: Πάναμος
Inscription characteristics: Three horizontal inscription lines
Device:
Date: c. 150 – c. 147 B.C.
Matrix: RE-ΑΛΕΞΙΜΑΧΟΣ-ΠΑΝΑΜΟΣ-013
Inscription:

Fig.: 3
Museum Inv. No.: 421
Stamp shape: Rectangular
Stamp dimension: 3.6 x 1.7 cm
Fabricant: Ὄλυμπος I
Month:
Inscription characteristics: One horizontal inscription line
Device: Burning torch
Date: c. 185 – c. 174/172 B.C.
Matrix: RF-ΟΛΥΜΠΟΣ 01-005.
Inscription:
Ὀλύμπου burning torch

Fig. 3

Index
Abbreviations: Rh.: Rhodes; Ep.: Eponym; Fab.: Fabricant

A. Names
Ἀγαθοκλῆς II, Rh. fab. 1
Ἀγοράνναξ, Rh. fab. 1
Αἰνησίδαμος II, Rh. ep. 3
Ἄνδρικός, Rh. fab. 2
Ἄντιμαχος, Rh. fab. 2
Ἀριστος, Rh. fab. 1
Ἄρχοκράτης II, Rh. ep. 1, 3
Ἄλεξίμαχος, Rh. ep. 2
Δαμοκλῆς, Rh. fab. 1
Δαμοκλῆς II, Rh. ep. 3
Διόδοτος I, Rh. fab. 2
Δόκιμος, Rh. fab. 1
Ερμίας, Rh. fab. 2
Εὐκλέιτος, Rh. fab. 2
Θεύμιαρχος, Rh. fab. 2
Ὑπερποκράτης, Rh. fab. 2
Κλειφοκράτης I, Rh. ep. 3
Μάνης, Rh. fab. 2
Μαρσύας, Rh. fab. 1
Μηνόθεμις, Rh. fab. 2
Ὀλυμπος I, Rh. fab. 3
Τιμώ II, Rh. fab. 2
Φιλαίνιος, Rh. fab. 1

B. Rhodian Months
Δάλιος, 1
Πάναμος, 2

C. Devices
Burning torch, 3
Rose, 1
Rhodian Amphora Stamps from the Cappadocia Güray Museum

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Dündar E. 2017, Transport jars and stamped amphoras from Patara, 7th to 1st centuries BC. The maritime trade of a harbor city in Lycia, Patara 4.3, İstanbul.


Grace V. 1948, “Rhodian Jars in Florida”, Hesperia XVII.2 144-147.


Jöhrens G. 1999, Amphorenstempel im Nationalmuseum von Athen, Mainz am Rhein.


Schmaltz B. 2016, Die hellenistischen Amphorenstempel von Kaunos, (Asia Minor Studien 79), Bonn.


