Stamped Amphora Handles from Tel Beersheba

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Abstract
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Disciplines
Ancient History, Greek and Roman through Late Antiquity | Archaeological Anthropology | Classical Archaeology and Art History

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Stamped Amphora Handles from Tel Beersheba

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This article publishes the 39 stamped amphora handles found during excavations conducted at Tel Beersheba between 1969 and 1976. All were found in poorly stratified contexts and so have no real stratigraphic value. They do, however, attest to the importance of Beersheba in the Rhodian economic sphere of the late Hellenistic period and add to our knowledge of Rhodian fabricants and eponyms of the second century B.C.

INTRODUCTION

A total of 39 stamped amphora handles were found during excavations at Tel Beersheba between 1969 and 1976 by the Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University under the direction of the late Yohanan Aharoni. Since the handles come from poorly stratified contexts, they cannot be considered as having any real stratigraphic value, but they do provide interesting information on the prosopography of the late Hellenistic period and for this reason are worth publication.

Of the 39 handles, 19 come from the area of the Hellenistic temple in the center of the site (Derfler 1993). With the exception of one surface find, the rest of the handles were found scattered throughout Strata II–IV of the city; none were found in undisturbed contexts. For ease in finding their location for future study, we present precise excavation information at the beginning of each entry in the accompanying catalog; this includes registration number, photograph number, and stratum/pail numbers (for an explanation of the strata, see Aharoni 1973: 8). Since in most cases the photographs do not add to the drawings and profiles, they have been omitted from this publication. The drawings (at a scale of 1:1) have been made from rubbings of the stamps and thus represent what is actually preserved rather than what a particular artist saw. Profiles of the handle fragments (at a scale of 1:2) have been included because they might help ceramic specialists to study developments in shape. Profiles of nos. 3, 11, 20, and 25 are important because in these cases the rims are also preserved; similarly, the profiles of nos. 7, 33, 35–36, and 37–39 are important because they are not from well-known classes. Since the Rhodian handles all have a fairly uniform fabric and slip, readings from the Munsell Soil Color Charts (1975) are not provided for each individual catalog entry, but are described generally below. Readings are, however, provided for other less well-known and unidentified handles. The Rhodian fabric consists of a well-levigated clay with some small grit inclusions. The color of the fabric ranges from light red (Munsell 2.5YR 6/6) to reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4), reddish yellow (5YR 7/6), and various shades of pink (5YR 7/4–8/4 and 7.5YR 8/4). The color of the slip ranges from shades of pink (7.5YR 8/3–8/4) to those of very pale brown (10YR 8/3–8/4).

By far the majority of stamps (31) are of Rhodian origin; 26 can be dated to the second century and three to the third century B.C. Of the others, one is Chian, four are Roman of the first century B.C., and three are of uncertain origin. All the datable

† Deceased
stamps can be assigned to Periods II–V, a period of intense Rhodian exportation; indeed, 18 of the stamps belong to Period V. For the Rhodian stamps, only Grace’s period dates are provided in this article (Grace 1985: 42–43); in this way, whenever the absolute dates for a period change as more archaeological evidence becomes available, it will be possible to redate easily previously published material. In sum, Grace’s period dates, which are based on a thorough study of Rhodian amphorae and their handle stamps, especially exports to Athens and Attica, Alexandria, Delos, and Pergamon, are as follows: Period II, ca. 240–205 B.C.; Period III, ca. 205–175 B.C.; Period IV, ca. 175–146 B.C.; Period V, ca. 146–108 B.C.; and Period VI, ca. 108–88 B.C. (see also Grace and Savvatianou-Petrooulakou 1970: 289–317; Grace 1974: 193–203; Rotroff 1987: 4–6).

After the end of the second century B.C., the Rhodian export market begins to decline and is gradually taken over by Rome. This shift is mirrored by the presence of four Roman stamps in the Beersheba assemblage.

Even though the Beersheba handles have little chronological force for the stratigraphy of the site, they do attest to the prominence of the site in the Rhodian economic sphere of the late Hellenistic period. They also provide important information that adds to our knowledge of Rhodian fabricants, including three women fabricants and eponyms of the second century B.C., and of the devices used in the stamps. They also add significantly to the relatively small but growing number of published stamps from Israel.

THE STAMPED HANDLES

1. 14026/1. Photo no. 1.2484. 1606 H-2 1601
   Rose
   ἈΙΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ
   Secondary stamp: theta
   Rhodian, Periods IV–V

(V. R. G.)1 ἈΙΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΣ, who uses circular stamps with rose (above the legend), is one of the Rhodian fabricants whose amphorae are marked with small secondary stamps in addition to the regular endorsing and dating stamps on the tops of the handles. The secondary stamps are usually set on the side of the upper attachment of one (at random) of the two handles of the jar. Thus, on a broken-off handle such a stamp may appear with either an endorsing (fabricant’s) or a dating (eponym’s) name; but in either case the secondary stamp was applied in the factory of the fabricant, and the eponym’s name is on the jar merely for dating. (Years in Rhodes bore the names of the annually appointed priests of Halios, of whom lists in chronological order existed for reference. Eponyms in stamps often have the title “priest.”) The purpose of these additional (secondary) stamps, first applied in the second decade of the second century B.C., was presumably to narrow the responsibility for a standard product: that is, perhaps individual working potters employed by a fabricant (manufacturer?) signed their own work by means of the secondary stamps. Naming the month as well as the year (cf. no. 2) may have been another device for narrowing the responsibility: it would make a smaller group for discard in case a spot check showed a defect. When the production was large, as in the case of the fabricant Μίδας (cf. no. 24), 30 or more secondary stamps may be known in association with the same fabricant’s name; we do not know if the working potters used new marks each year.

For secondary stamps, see Grace (1985: 8–10), with references to earlier literature on the subject; Grace (1985: 45–46, pl. 1) illustrates their use. On the large production of the fabricant Μίδας, see Grace (1985: 42). The most considerable study of Rhodian secondary stamps so far published is still that of Shelov (1957: especially 136–43). Secondary stamps are mentioned below under nos. 9, 14, and 25. They suggest that nos. 14 and 25 are from the same amphora; another possible pair are nos. 1 and 9.

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2. 15065/1. Photo no. 1.2481. II–III 1325

'Eπι Αλεξία

Δα

Ἀρταμίτιου
Rhodian, Period V

Stamps with the eponym Αλεξίας have been found joined with the fabricants Διοκλείας and Δρακοντίδας (Bleckmann 1907: 32, no. 21; 1912: 250).

A stamp with Διοκλείας was found in a second century B.C. context at Alba Fucens (Mertens 1955: 88; no. 16; Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: 297, n. 2, present a restored reading); another, dating to ca. 146 B.C., was found at Corinth (Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: 308, no. E19).

3. 11036/1. Photo no. 1.3845 IV. 1092

'Eπι Ἀνδρό

νεῖκος

Δαλίου
Rhodian, Period V

The eponym Ἀνδρόνεικος has been assigned to Period V because stamps that name him have been published from Samaria, which was destroyed in 108 B.C. (Reisner 1924: 314, no. 12; Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 380), and are absent from the major datable deposits at Pergamon (205–175 B.C.) (Grace 1985: 42, Period III), Carthage, and Corinth (both destroyed in 146 B.C.).

4. 12115/2. Photo no. 1.2479. 1277 H3

'Eπι [Ἀνδρό

νεῖκου Αρτα

μιτίου
Rhodian, Period V

See no. 3, above.

5. 12704/1. Photo no. 1.3863. Post H-1 1118

Αρατοφάγ(ευς)
Rhodian, Period V

Stamps of the fabricant Ἀρατοφάγης have not been found on any intact amphorae that would associate him with an eponym. The date assigned here is inferred since the fabricant does not occur on stamps in the Pergamon deposit, nor in Corinth or Carthage; a stamp that names him does occur at Samaria (Reisner 1924: 311; no. 11).

(V. R. G.) Also, the context at Tarsus, “Bottom Level, Hellenistic–Roman Unit,” indicates a probable date soon after the mid-second century B.C. (Goldman 1950: 31).
6. 5231/1. Photo no. 1.3858. H-2 572
'E[pí Ἀριστάνας
ναίκης (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

The eponym Ἀριστάνας is assigned to Period V because stamps that name him have been found at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 381) but are absent in the major datable deposits at Pergamon, Carthage, and Corinth. (V. R. G.) Note that the eponym named in this stamp is Ἀριστάνας. Ἀριστάνας I is not known in stamps with a month name (as in no. 6), but he is datable to about the mid-third century B.C. (Grace 1963: 328, n. 20; 1986: 564, no. 22).

7. 10889/1. Photo no. 1.3862. 1158 II
Ἀριστομέν(ης)
Chian? lagynos
Fabric: 2.5YR 6/6 (pinkish white)
Slip: 2.5YR 6/6 (light red)

A lagynos is a small, squat pitcher with a tall neck and a broad strap handle and is considered a specialty of Chian producers. Chian amphorae and lagynoi were not stamped with the consistency that Rhodian vessels of the late third through first centuries B.C. were, and because of this neither the significance nor the sequence of Chian names on stamps has been determined (Grace and Savvatinou-Petropoulakou 1970: 361. Grace states that “... some 100 different names are on file at the Agora Excavation from stamps on handles thought to be Chian). For another example of this curious stamp, see Dumont 1872: 388, no. 6.

8. 12124/1. Photo no. 1.3846. IV 1298
'E[pí Ἀριστόπολις
Ἀρταμισίου (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

Ἀριστόπολις is assigned to this period because of the absence of stamps that name him at Pergamon, Carthage, and Corinth and by the presence of stamps that name him at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 381).

9. 7933/1. No Photograph. 842 Locus 842
Rose
'E[pí Ἀριστόπολις
τράβηκ[αν] θεσθε[μοπο][ρ[ι]] (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

(Var. G.) Tops of two amphorae have been found that join the eponym Ἀριστόπολις, the one with the fabricant Μενέστρατος (see no. 23), and the other with the fabricant Σῶταρος (Grace and Savvatinou-Petropoulakou 1970: 297, n. 1).
(V. R. G.) Probably the only possibilities for restoring the name here are Ἀρίσταρτος and Κλήνοστρατος. These are both of Period V (Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: 316–17, no. E 45). We find the closest parallel in the rubbing of a stamp in Alexandria that names Ἀρίσταρτος with this month. The other Rhodian eponym names ending in -τατος are not known to appear in this kind of stamp, only Ἀρίσταρτος and Κλήνοστρατος.

A whole amphora dated in the term of Ἀρίσταρτος has recently been published (Nicolaou and Emperor 1986: 523–24, no. 8—an amphora of Ὁρός, cf. nos. 27, 28 here). Those authors placed the year of Ἀρίσταρτος too early, following an incorrect restoration that associated it with Carthage (Ferron and Pinard 1960–1961: 111–12, no. 271).

The other handle of the amphora to which no. 9 belonged was possibly stamped with the name Ἀλέξανδρος (cf. no. 1). The two names are associated by closely similar secondary stamps.

10. 16176/1. Photo no. 1.2482. 1756 H2

Ἐπι Αρχεμ
[βρότοιον]
[Δ]αλίου
Rhodian, Periods V–VI

There are two eponyms with the name Ἀρχέμβροτος. Grace (1965: 15 D; Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: no. E 45) states that they are about two generations apart; the first is sometime after 150 B.C. while the latter is in the early first century B.C. The distinction between the two is based upon the development of the profile of the amphorae on which the names occur, especially the angle of the handle to the neck and rim. Unfortunately, not enough of the neck has survived to allow this comparison, so that our stamp is assigned a period that spans that of the homonyms.

11. 12614/1. Photo no. lost. II 1345

Ἐπι Ἀρχίβι
οι
[Α]π[ιανιο
(V. R. G.)²
Rhodian, Period V

Stamps with the eponym Ἀρχίβιος are assigned to Period V because examples occur in three datable contexts: a building deposit at Alba Fucens, late second to the early first century B.C. (Mertens 1955: 89–90, no. 18); a large deposit of amphorae on Rhodes believed to be the workshop of one fabricant—Μενέστρατος (cf. no. 23), who is assigned to this same period (Paris 1914: 306, no. 21); and Samaria (Reisner 1924: 314, no. 27; Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 381). Grace has cited an example of this eponym occurring with another fabricant—Εἰρμοῖός (Grace 1962: 112; no. 5).

12. No registration number. Photo no. 2133. 15/1

Ἐπι(ι) Α[——μ][——]
Ἀργυρίον
Rectangular
Rhodian eponym

Examination of this handle and its stamp was based solely on the photograph, as it could not be found in the initial study made in the summer of 1983.
13. 6859/1. Photo no. 1.3857. H 729
   Γοργία
   Γοργία
   Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) This seems to represent two efforts to write the name of the fabricant Γοργίας in the soft clay of the die before firing, even though the second line reads γομα. (On how to make dies, see Grace 1935.) On one later example found in the French excavations on Thasos, see Grace and Salviat (1962).

Other examples of the name Γοργίας are also written carelessly, as in our example. A date for him in the late second half of the second century B.C. is confirmed by information that is not yet published (V. R. Grace, personal communication).

14. 7506/1. Photo no. 1.3865. H-2 803
   Rose
   Δμοφίλου
   Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) Δμοφίλος is assigned to Period V because of stamps present at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 383), and by the fabricant’s association with various eponyms known to date to the same period, including Κληνόστρατος (see no. 20; see also no. 25 for perhaps the other handle of the amphora of no. 14).

15. 9683/1. Photo no. 1.3847. II 860 Locus 860
   Εὐκλείτου
   Caduceus
   Rhodian, Period V

The fabricant Εὐκλείτου has been found on intact and partially preserved amphorae opposite these five eponyms: Αριστάκος (Hall 1885: 392, no. 5057); Αστυμήθης II (Shelov 1975: 101, no. 351); Θέρσανδρος (Grace 1985: 13, n. 24); Νικασαγόρας II (Macalister 1912: 363; cf. no. 25 here); and Τιμόθεος (Riley 1977: 124–25, no. D16). All of these eponyms are now assigned to Period V.

(V. R. G.) For the jar of Εὐκλείτου dated by the eponym Θέρσανδρος, see Nicolaou and Empereur (1986: 529, no. 14), where it is published with photographs.

16. 12605/1. Photo no. 1.3762. II 1345
   Εὐκλείτου
   Caduceus
   Rhodian, Period V

See no. 15.

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17. 10243/1. Photo no. 1.3867. H-1 1103
Eυκλείτου
Caduceus
Rhodian, Period V
See no. 15.

18. 4003/1. Photo no. 1.3848. II 95
Helios Ἐπὶ Ἐδ
head φράνο(ρος)
Rhodian, Period II

(V. R. G.) Grace now assigns the Rhodian eponym Εὐφράνωρ to a date early in the last quarter of the third century B.C. in accordance with the revised chronology she has outlined (Grace 1974: 193–200), i.e., somewhat later than was proposed previously (Grace 1956: 143, no. 99). The dates are confirmed by the probable combination of no. 18 with no. 26, which names the fabricant Πασίων.

19. 15700/1. Photo no. 1.2483. Surface
Καλλιός
Asterisk in each corner
Rhodian, Period III

(V. R. G.) The presence of stamps of Καλλιό in the Pergamon deposit indicates that her career began before ca. 175 B.C. An amphora of hers dated in the term of Αριστόδαμος (Shelov 1975: 107, no. 378) confirms such a date. The year of Αριστόδαμος is probably between 182 B.C. and 176 B.C. (Grace 1985: 9). The amphora is half-size (Brashinsky 1978: 14). Shelov (1975: 107; no. 378) notes that this find establishes the workshop of Καλλιό in the second half of the “Pergamon period.” A handle with her name (SS 7863) was found in Agora deposit N 20:7, dated “first and early second quarters of the second century B.C.” (Rotroff 1982: 105). Evidence is not yet available for how much longer Καλλιό operated (below, p. 59). See further, no. 29.

20. 19672/1. Photo no. 1.3090. 2711 Locus 2715
Ἐπὶ [Κλη]νο
The restored reading by V. R. Grace has been made by comparing the photograph with material in her archives.
Rhodian, Period V

The eponym Κληνόστατος occurs on an intact amphora opposite the fabricant Γλωκίας and can also be associated with the fabricants Δαμόφιλος, Εὐφρά-νωρ, and Μίδας, all assigned to Period V (Grace and Savvatanou-Petropoulakou 1970: 316–17, no. E45; Grace 1985: 9–10, 42).
21. 8353/1. Photo no. 3868. H-2 754
Λίνος
Grape cluster
Rhodian, Period V

The fabricant Λίνος is assigned to Period V because of the absence of stamps that name him at Pergamon, Carthage, and Corinth, although stamps that do name him have been published from Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 383). Λίνος has been found on an amphora associated with an eponym, Νικασαγόρας (Maiuri 1924: 268, no. 1, Appendix).

There are at least two eponyms named Νικασαγόρας (cf. no. 25); if there is only one fabricant named Λίνος and the dates assigned here are valid, then Maiuri's amphora ought to be Νικασαγόρας II (ca. 123 B.C.).

22. 19639/1. Photo no. 1.2902. 2711 Locus 2711
M[ε]γ(α)λαδον
Grape ζ
cluster?
Restored reading and date provided by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) No. 22 belongs to a number of slightly different readings of this name, usually accompanied below by a cluster of grapes. For the name with this device, see Nilsson (1909: 158; under “raisin”), where examples from Alexandria are cited. The Grace archive has further examples from Alexandria, Jerusalem, Beirut, Cyprus, Delos, and Rhodes. The die of no. 22 is identified by the unintentional iota between the epsilon and the kappa of the name, matched in a more complete example in Alexandria.

Grace saw a whole amphora of the fabricant dated in the term of Άριστρατος (month Αὔραμος) in 1949 in the Beirut Museum. On the eponym, see no. 9. His name, incomplete in the impression of the whole jar, is restored from a stamp in Alexandria that has the same spelling mistake, an extra sigma.

23. 9633/1. Photo no. 1.3853. II 855
Μενεστράτας[του]
Dolphin around anchor
Rhodian, Period V

The fabricant Μενεστράτας can be associated with seven eponyms, four of which were found in what is believed to be the potter's workshop. These are Αίδησίας, Άριστόπολις, Άρχισίας, and Άρχινος (Paris 1914: 322–23; Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: 296). The three other eponyms are Άριστομπροπίδας (Crowfoot, Crowfoot, and Kenyon 1957: 387), Εὐάνωρ (IG XIV: 2393: 4; Bleckmann 1907: 31, no. 10, Appendix 1), and Έστιεος (Grace and Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970: 296, n. 2).

24. 10772/1. Photo no. 1.3859. H-1 1259
Mió[a] [grape cluster] (V. R. G.)
Caduceus
Restored reading and date provided by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V
(V. R. G.) Μίδας was a very productive manufacturer, well dated to the second half of the second century B.C. by many known associations of his name with those of eponyms of that period (cf. no. 1, with references; particularly Grace 1985: 9–10, 42). A whole amphora of Μίδας, with devices as in no. 24 and dated in the term of Τεισάμενος, has recently been published with photographs (Nicolaou and Empereur 1986: 527–28, no. 12, fig. 11). The fabricant Δαμιόφιλος (cf. nos. 14, 25) also dated jars in the term of Τεισάμενος, as is known from accidentally superimposed eponym and fabricant stamps on a handle in the Benaki Collection in Alexandria.

25. 10776/1. Photo no. 1.2472. H-1 1259
Locus 1259
Rose
ΕΠΙ ΝΙΚΑΣΑΓΟΡΑ ΠΑΝΑΜΟΥ
ΔΕΝΤΡΟ (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace,
base on a more complete impression in her file.
Secondary stamp to right:
delta with dot in center
Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) Grace (1985: 11) distinguishes two Rhodian eponyms named Νικασαγόρας, the first dated to ca. 185 B.C., the second perhaps shortly after 123 B.C. The official named on no. 25 is probably the second of the two. Fabricants whose circular rose stamps occur in the term of Νικασαγόρας I are only Δαμιόφιλος and possibly Τεισάμενος (Grace 1985: 9).

Perhaps no. 14, with a stamp of Δαμιόφιλος, was the other handle of the jar dated by no. 25; in both stamps, the device occurs above the legend. The uncommon secondary stamp on no. 25, delta with dot in center, has been found on a handle of Δαμιόφιλος (Benaki correspondence with V. R. Grace, Letter P, 15 March 1954, no. 93: rubbings of the main stamp and a secondary stamp). We know of no other fabricant who uses this secondary stamp. Secondary stamps may be impressed on either the fabricant or the eponym handle, but apparently they never appear on both handles of the same jar.

An amphora of the fabricant Διφράνωρ dated in the term of Νικασαγόρας II (Grace 1985: 11) has now been published (Nicolaou and Empereur 1986: 530–31; no. 15) with photographs of the amphora and its stamps, including a secondary stamp. The latter, incompletely impressed, has been wrongly restored; it is actually an alpha within a pi, as found accompanying a number of other stamps of Διφράνωρ (circular stamps with radiate head of Helios in the center), both those with his name and those naming eponyms who date his jars, Ανδρόνεικος, Κληγόστρατος, Νικασαγόρας.

Many examples of stamps with the name Νικασαγόρας have been found, but few are specified as being either Νικασαγόρας I or Νικασαγόρας II. Two stamps from Gezer, however, have secondary stamps, and a third can be associated with the fabricant Διφλέπτος (cf. nos. 14–16); so these are probably Νικασαγόρας II (Macalister 1912: 359, no. 336 and 360, no. 360, 363).

There is an intact amphora on Rhodes with this eponym associated with the fabricant Δίνος; it may also belong to Period V (Maiuri 1924: 268; no. 1, Appendix).

26. 8688/1. Photo no. 1.3849. H-3 957
Π[ασ]τινον
ΑΓ[α]μν[ά][ο]υ (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace (personal communication 1984)
Bead border
Rhodian, Period II
The fabricant Πασίων is associated with the eponyms Αριστώς and Μυτίον, now assigned the dates ca. 240–220 B.C. and ca. 222 B.C., respectively (Bleekmann 1912: 250–51; see also Halpern-Zylberstein 1980: 245, nos. 6–7; Hannestad 1983: 71).

The stamp itself is very similar in appearance to no. 18, which names the eponym Εὐφράνωρ; perhaps they are contemporaries.

(V. R. G.) A handle from Tarsus has a context of the second half of the third century B.C. (Middle Level, Middle Hellenistic Unit; Goldman 1950: 30–31).

27. 13840/1. Photo no. 1.2472. H-2 1574

Herm
Τόδων (V. R. G.)
Restored reading and date by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) This Τόδων with the device of a herm (Τόδων II) is known in numerous variant arrangements and examples found in Pompeii, Alexandria, southern Russia, Delos, Rhodes, Cyprus, and many sites in the Middle East including Samaria. However, apparently only a single handle has been found in Athens (Grace 1934: 231, no. 62), which has more the arrangement of our no. 28 than our no. 27. See no. 9 for reference to whole amphorae of this fabricant dated in the term of Αριστώς (Period V).

28. 1258/1. Photo no. 2134. H-3 217

Herm
Τόδωνος (V. R. G.)
Restored reading by V. R. Grace
Rhodian, Period V

(V. R. G.) On the fabricant Τόδων II, see no. 27. For the arrangement of the stamp (herm horizontal, head right, above the name which is in one line), see Nilsson (1909: 278, no. 369:6).

29. 6311/1. Photo no. 1.3852. II 529

Τιμών (V. R. G.)
Rhodian, Period IV

(V. R. G.) The fabricant Τιμώ (II) is found at Carthage but not in the Pergamon deposit, suggesting a date for the start of her career in the second quarter of the second century B.C. That date is further supported by the presence of a stamp of this fabricant in the lower fill of Agora deposit U 22:3, in a small but very consistent group of stamped handles of that period. The name is again that of a woman (cf. no. 19). A stamp of Τιμώ I, whose fabricant stamps include the name of the month (more usually combined with the eponym), has been published from Failaka in Kuwait, in a deposit datable perhaps early in the last quarter of the third century B.C. (Hannestad 1983: 47, no. 682, pls. 66, 78). For a summary of the stamps from the site, of which only five (all Rhodian) were found legible, see Hannestad (1983: 71–72). Hannestad (1983: 77, 103) uses a date of ca. 225–220 B.C. for the stamps as a group, largely derived from the Athenian Agora archives. She also has a hoard of coins found, like the stamped fragments, in the lower level of the Hellenistic fortress at Failaka (Hannestad 1983: 75–76). The latest dat-
able coins are from the beginning of the reign of Antiochus III (cf. Empereur and Garlan 1987: 103, no. 154).

We know of three handles bearing stamps of Τμύ I: from Failaka, the Athenian Agora (SS 12640, from the Middle Stoa construction fill), and Alexandria (Benaki Collection). Of Τμύ II, the Τμύ of our no. 29, we have individual entries for more than 80 examples (many from Magna Graecia, not more than five from Athens) and can add 96 identified and counted in 1967 from the Benaki Collection in Alexandria (Grace 1985: 42). The time span between Τμύ I and Τμύ II allows for an intervening generation, and perhaps the Τμύ of our no. 29 was the granddaughter of Τμύ I. Nilsson (1909: 102) assumes that it was by inheritance that Rhodian women became amphora fabricants. (On amphora potter dynasties, see Grace 1985: 12–13.)

30. 11757/2. Photo no. 1.2479. III (?) 1313
   Φιλί
   στα
Rhodian, mid-third century B.C. (?) (V. R. G.)
Date suggested by V. R. Grace

(V. R. G.) Φιλίστα is a feminine name. Handles stamped with her name are thought to be early Rhodian, perhaps about mid-third century B.C.; Rhodian amphorae of that period show considerable variation in shape and clay. We know of not more than 14 or 15 handles stamped with this name, of which at least eight occur on Samos, where a great many early Rhodian handles have been found. Others are known from Rhodes (IG XII, 1: 1409), Alexandria, and Iasos in Caria (Levi 1965–1966: 557, no. 33; the name there is on one line).

31. 11864/2. Photo no. 1.3861. II–III 1325
   [——]τοῦ [——]οῦ
   Rose
Rhodian, second century B.C.?

(V. R. G.) For types with rose below, see Grace 1985: pl. 1: nos. 2a, 2c, 3a, 3c.

32. 5100/1. Photo no. 1.2480. II 270
   [      ]
   ας
   ο[   
Perhaps Rhodian, second–first centuries B.C.?
Fabric: 5YR 7/4 (pink)
Slip: 10YR 8/3 (very pale brown)

33. 1624/1. Photo no. 2135. H-3 243
   [Ν]αέρο
Roman, first century B.C.?  

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34. 1684/1. Photo no. 1.3851  
[N]αι̂ po  
Rectangular  
Roman, first century B.C.?  
Fabric: 5YR 7/3 (pink) with some grit inclusions  
Slip: 10YR 8/3 (very pale brown)  
This stamp could not be located at the time rubbings, handle profiles, and fabric descriptions were made. The impression, however, shows clearly in the photograph.  
No parallels have been found for nos. 33 and 34; the name, however, is a Latin one written in Greek characters.

35. 13129/1. Photo no. 1.2486.  
Her-Hel 3025  
Scopas  
Roman, early first century B.C.  
Fabric: 2.5Y 8/2 (white) with some grit and straw inclusions  
Slip: 2.5Y 8/2 (white)  
Scopas was a slave of a freedman working for Viscellius Vicellius whose handles are found mostly in kilns in Brindisi (unpublished).  

36. 13131/1. Photo no. 1.2485.  
Her-Hel 3025  
Scopas  
Roman, early first century B.C.  
Fabric: 2.5YR 8/2 (white) sand, grit, and straw inclusions  
Slip: 2.5Y 8/2 (white)  
See no. 35, above.

37. 14054/1. Photo no. 1.2480. H-2 1601  
[―]χαγ[―]ς  
Origin uncertain  
Third–first centuries B.C.?  
Fabric: 5YR 7/4 (pink)  
Slip: 5YR 8/4 (pink)

38. 10339/2. No Photograph  
Origin uncertain  
Third–first centuries B.C.  
Fabric: 5YR 7/6 (reddish yellow)  
Slip: 10YR 8/3 (very pale brown)

39. 7113/1. Photo no. 1.3855. H-1 752A  
Origin uncertain  
Date uncertain  
Fabric: 10YR 7/2 (light gray)  
Slip: 2.5YR 8/2 (white)
APPENDIX

General Remarks on the Rhodian in the Group and Its Dates

Virginia R. Grace

The percentage of the handles datable at various periods generally follows the pattern shown in the Alexandria count of 1967 (Grace 1985: 42), except that the increase at Beersheba does not begin before Periods IV–V. The earlier periods are interestingly, if sparsely, represented: see nos. 18–19, 26, and 30.

Of these earlier handles, nos. 30 and 19 name women, Philista and Kalaido, as fabricants; a third woman fabricant, Timo, is named on a later handle, no. 29. See the comment on these items and consider whether this Timo (II) may be the granddaughter of a fabricant of the same name, about contemporary with no. 18 plus 26 (Paisios in the term of Eudranor). The three feminine names represented at Beersheba include the majority of those known among Rhodian fabricants. Perhaps the only important ones missing are Diokleia and Nikaia.

Grace (1968: 177 and no. 12) dates the latter to about 200 B.C. According to Grace and Savaatianou-Petropoulakou (1970: 308; no. E 19), contexts seem to date stamps with the name Diokleia ca. mid- and late second century B.C., and possibly more than one fabricant is represented. On feminine names in Rhodian stamps, see Nilsson (1909: 59–60, 101–3; cf. Masson 1986: 39–40).

What follows is a listing of persons’ names, origins, functions (fabricant or eponym), and the relevant stamp numbers; Rhodian months; Latin names; devices; and secondary stamps.

Names of Persons

Alixin, Rh. ep., cf. 23
Alekandros, Rh. fab., 1; cf. 9
Alekondas, Rh. ep., 2
Androikos, Rh. ep., 3, 4; cf. 25
Aristophanes, Rh. fab., 5
Aristos, Rh. ep., cf. 15
Aristakos, Rh. ep., cf. 6
Aristan, Rh. ep., 1
Aristakos II, Rh. ep., 6
Aristodimos, Rh. ep., cf. 19
Aristombrides, Rh. ep., cf. 23
Aristomnin, Chian Lagynos, 7
Aristopoleis, Rh. ep., 8; cf. 23
Aristostate, Rh. ep., 9; cf. 22, 27
Aristotroilos, Rh. ep., 10
Aphrodite, Rh. ep., 11; cf. 23

Rhodian Months

Armatios, 11, 12, 20; cf. 22
Astraite, 2, 4, 8, 20
Badoimos, not represented
Kalodos, 3, 6, 10
Kalosmos, not represented
Theosandros, 9
Theodemos, not represented
Karneios, not represented
Panamos, not represented
Panamos deuter, 25
Pedageiton, not represented

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Σμίνθος, not represented
"Yaκίνθος, not represented

**Latin Names**

Naero, 33, 34
Scopas, 35, 36

**Devices**

Asterisks, Rh., 19
Bead border, Rh., 26

Caduceus, Rh., 15, 16, 17, 24
Dolphin around anchor, Rh., 23
Grape cluster, Rh., 21; cf. 22, 24
Helios head, Rh., 18
Herm, Rh., 27, 28
Rose, Rh. 1, 9, 14, 25, 35

**Secondary Stamps**

Rhodian, 1, 25

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**NOTES**

1 By her own request, Virginia Grace's contributions are prefaced by the initials "V. R. G." Since these contributions were provided partly through personal communication and partly in letter form, what actually appears in the text after each "V. R. G." represents summaries of the information she provided, and not in all cases her own words written for publication.

2 The month was supplied by V. R. Grace from a more complete example in her files at the Agora Excavations (personal communication 12 November 1987).

3 This handle was not available to J. Rehard when he carried out the preliminary study and hence only a photograph could be used.

4 This information was provided by Jean-Yves Empereur, who also states that there is an intact amphora in Alexandria with the name of Scopas on one of its handles (personal communication).

**REFERENCES**

Aharoni, Y., ed. 1973 Beer-Sheba I. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University.


Not the complete text is provided, but based on the visible parts, the natural text seems to be a list of bibliographic entries. Here is a sample of the entries:


The entries continue in a similar format, listing authors, years, titles, and other bibliographic details.
Paris, J.

Reisner, G. A.; Fisher, C. S.; and Lyon, D. G.

Riley, J. A.

Rotroff, S. I.


Shelov, D. B.

1975 *Tanais.* Moscow: Nauka (Russian).

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