

THASIAN AMPHORA STAMPS FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF KOSHARY, (ODESSA DISTRICT, UKRAINE)

During the 6th-5th centuries BC, after the foundation of a colony on the present island of Berezan (ancient Borysthenes), the Greeks began to colonize the lower Bug and Dniester, including the banks of the Bay of Odessa. One of the settlements in this area mentioned by ancient authors was Odessos situated on the Asiakos river, identified by the most scholars with the river of Tiligul. In 1950 the expedition of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine under the direction of L. M. Slavin discovered in this area an ancient settlement at Koshary. Since 1998 the expedition works under the direction of E. F. Redina, a head of a department of the Archaeological Museum from Odessa, and also collaborates with the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagellonian University from Krakow, Poland.

The Koshary archaeological complex is located at a distance of 54 km from Odessa and includes a fortified settlement, a necropolis and an ash pit. The explorations of the site showed that in spite of its small areas, the settlement belonged rather to a town type than to a rural one, because it had streets, water-supply, household buildings, and small houses.

The excavations brought to the light rich archaeological materials, consisting basically in ceramics. Most of them are amphorae belonging to more different centers: Heraclea Pontica, Chios, Thasos, Sinope, Chersonese, Mende, Peparethos, Cnidos, Rhodes, Cos. We can add some other belonging to unidentified Greek centers, e.g. the so-called types of Murighiol or Solokha I. More than 120 amphora stamps have been discovered. They give a good picture of the development of the settlement of Koshary and allow its more precise dating as well.

The amphoric material from Thasos arrives in the third position after Heraclea and Chios, while the Thasian stamps maintain the same position after Heraclea and Sinope. The Thasian stamps allowed us to determine the chronology of these imports. The conclusions are supported by the morphological analysis of the Thasos amphorae found at Koshary.

As it is well known, Thasos amphora stamps are divided into two chronological groups: the early ones, from the first years of the 4th century BC to c. 330, and the late ones, from the end of 330s BC to the middle of the 3rd century BC. Our collection includes both early and late Thasian stamps.

One of the earliest Thasos stamps at Koshary is a stamp of ΑΙΞΡΙΩΝ, bearing two emblems: a phiala, which can alternatively be interpreted as the letter Θ¹ and signifies a magistrate (eponymic) symbol, and a bird assimilated to the potter's emblem (No. 1). According to Y. Garlan's classification, this stamp belongs to group F 1, which dates from 360 to 350 BC². V. I. Kac suggests other chronological limits for this stamp. He argues that such eponymic symbols on amphoras in Thasos, must be dated in a short period of time between the submission of Thasos to Macedonia and the beginning of the stamps of the "late" type, i. e. 340-335 BC³.

We could assert that our stamp belonged to the handle of a biconical amphora, because this type of amphoras was predominating in the 4th century BC.

The stamp on which only the potter's emblem is preserved – a shell –, while the eponymic symbol – a star – is lacking, belongs to the same group F 1. In the legend we can read only the first letters of the ethnicon. Nevertheless, even these few remaining elements of the stamp allowed us to date the stamp and to attribute it to the manufacturer ΚΛΕΟΦΑΝΗΣ (No. 2). Several stamps belong to group G 2 by Garlan and are dated c. 345- 335 BC.

A. Avram suggests other chronological limits for these stamps: 342- 329 BC⁴. Among them we can mention the stamp no. 3 which kept all its elements to a greater extent: an emblem of the fabricant (a cock), and partially names of the manufacturer and the magistrate: ΜΕΓΩΝ with ΑΡΙΣΤΟΚΡΑΤΗΣ.

Two other stamps belong to the same manufacturer ΛΕΩΦΑΝΗΣ, several letters from his name being preserved, as well as two emblems, a *pilos* and a bull head; the first one is undoubtedly an eponymic symbol (Nos. 5, 6). The stamp has enough analogies and in the classification of Garlan it belongs to the group G 2.

The emblems on the stamp No. 4 allow us to attribute it, in spite of the lack of a legend, to Garlan's group G 2 as well.

The stamp No. 7 belongs to the magistrate ΘΛΕΦΑΝΗΣ and the potter ΤΙΜΗΣΙΘΕΟΣ, on the basis of the emblem of a manufacturer, which is partially preserved. The stamps of this magistrate belong to Garlan's group G 2, c. 345-335 BC. All the above-mentioned stamps are early ones.

A stamp on which there are several letters of a legend and the emblem – a crater on a pedestal, that in this case presents the manufacturer (No. 8), belongs to the magistrate ΠΑΝΤΙΜΙΔΗΣ. It is a first sample of the 'late' type. According to the dating suggested by A. Avram, the stamp dates to c. 329-326 BC⁵. But Garlan's

¹ Y. Garlan, *Les timbres amphoriques de Thasos*, Études thasiennes, XVIII. Athènes, 1999, p. 14.

² *Ibidem*, p. 201.

³ V. I. Kac, *Osnovnye zakonomernosti rasspredelenja fasosskich amfornykh klejm*, AMA 10, 1999, n° 10.

⁴ While dating the stamps from the Koshary complex the author used the chronological classifications worked out by Y. Garlan and A. Avram.

⁵ A. Avram, *Histria VIII. Les timbres amphoriques. I. Thasos*, Bucarest-Paris, 1996.

dating rather differs from the previous one: 333-327 BC⁶. Taking into account the datings given by these both researchers, this stamp belongs very likely to the handle of a biconical amphora of the late variant, type II-B-3 (according to the classification of Monakhov)⁷. It is well known that the period of production of biconical amphorae on Thasos ends in the 320s BC⁸.

The image of Heracles the archer is presented on the stamp No. 9, which belonged very likely to the eponym ΛΕΩΔΙΚΟΣ. A. Avram dates this specimen about 315 BC and Y. Garlan attributes it to the period between 322-316 BC.

Among the amphora epigraphic material dated from the end of the 4th century BC – the beginning of the 3rd century BC there is a well preserved stamp bearing practically all the emblem: the emblem of the magistrate ΔΕΙΝΟΠΙΑΣ, the manufacturer's emblem "hand", and the ethnicon. The stamp is dated by A. Avram to c. 295 BC and by Garlan to c. 310 BC.

The stamp of the magistrate ΑΛΚΙΜΟΣ with a well preserved emblem, a 'bow' and the partially preserved first letters of the eponym's name (No. 11) is dated by Avram from 305-300 BC, by Garlan's chronology – from 310-305 BC.

Two stamps with the same manufacturer's emblems (a tripod) and several letters of the ethnicon (No. 13, 14) belong to the eponym ΔΕΑΛΚΟΣ. They have been undoubtedly impressed on a conical amphora of the late variant⁹. Both stamps are dated to c. 310 BC by Avram and to c. 309 – 300 BC by Garlan.

The stamp No. 12 belongs to the magistrate ΚΛΕΟΦΩΝ II whose activity falls on 295 BC (Avram) or 309-300 BC (Garlan).

The stamp No. 15 belonging to the eponym ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ, whose name is usually met with manufacturer's emblems presenting one of the letters of the Greek alphabet, is attributed to the early 3rd century BC. We could suggest two variants of this letter: Π or Γ. The activity of ΠΟΛΥΝΕΙΚΗΣ falls c. 294-287 BC (Avram) or c. 300 BC (Garlan). A manufacturer's emblem, 'an amphora', an element that is often used in the amphoric epigraphy of Thasos, is presented on the stamp No. 16. The stamp belongs to the magistrate ΑΙΝΕΑΣ dating to c. 285 BC by Avram or to c. 294 BC by Garlan.

Among the stamps of the first quarter of the 3rd century BC we can mention the sample No. 17 as well. On this stamp there are kept almost in full an ethnicon and a fragmentary emblem in the shape of a bird that allows us to attribute it to the magistrate ΑΡΙΣΤΕΙΔΗΣ, whose activity falls c. 285 BC (Avram) or c. 294-288 BC (Garlan).

The latest stamp of our catalogue belongs to the magistrate ΠΥΘΙΩΝ. It is almost completely intact and can be dated to c. 273-267 BC (Avram) or c. 281-273 (Garlan).

⁶ Y. Garlan, *En visitant et revisitant les ateliers amphoriques de Thasos*, BCH 128-129, 2004-2005, p. 323-327.

⁷ S. Ju. Monakhov, *Grečeskie amfory v Pričernomor'e. Tipologija, katalog-opredelite'*, Saratov, 2003, p. 76.

⁸ Idem, *Grečeskie amfory v Pričernomor'e. Kompleksy keramčeskoj tary*, Saratov, 1999, p. 394.

⁹ Idem, *op. cit.*, 2003, p.76.

In spite of the fact that not all the stamps from Koshary could be read, it is possible to win a picture of the imports of Thasian wine on the site and the neighboring areas. First of all, we can determine the period of these imports: from the 2nd quarter of the 4th century BC to the middle of the 2nd quarter of the 3rd century BC. Secondly, we can assume that the period of the greatest development of the trade relations between these territories and Thasos falls in the last quarter of the 4th century BC and the 1st quarter of the 3rd century BC.

CATALOGUE

Early stamps:

1. Kosh. 1971.

[Θα]σίων

←[drinking bowl], bird (eagle?)

Ασχι(ων)

Gr. F 1, Garlan 1999, n° 578 (c. 360-350 BC).

2. Kosh. 2004.

Θασ[ίων]

star, [sea shell]

[Κλεοφάνης]

Gr. F 1, Garlan 1999, n° 615 (c. 360-350 BC).

3. Kosh. 2004.

Ἀριστο/[κράτης]

→ cock

Μέγωνι

Gr. G 2, Garlan 1999, 967 (c. 345-335 BC) ; Avram 1996, 121 a,b (c. 342-329 BC).

4. Kosh. 2006.

[Θασίων/ --]

← pilos

← tripod

Gr. G 2, Garlan 1999, n° 865 (c. 345-335 BC).

5. Kosh. 2001.

Θασίων

← pilos, bull head

[Λεωφά]/νης

Gr. G 2, Garlan 1999, n° 858 (c. 345-335 BC).

6. Kosh. 2006.

Θασίω[v]

← pilos, bucrany

[Λεωφά]νης

Gr. G 2. Avram 1996, n° 174 (c. 345-335 BC); L. Buzoianu and N. Cheluță-Georgescu, *Pontica* 31, 1998, n° 28, p. 82; Garlan 1999, n° 858.

7. Kosh. 2003.

[Τηλ]εφά[νης]

thymiaterion

[Τιμησίθεος]

Avram 1996, n° 158 (c. 342-329 BC) ; Garlan 1999, n° 931 (Gr. G 2).

Late stamps:

8. Kosh. 1969.

[Παντι]-

[μ]ιδ[εω]

↑ (vessel on a pedestal)

Avram 1996, n° 189 (c. 329-326 BC) ; Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. I (c. 333-327 BC).

9. Kosh. 2005.

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Héraclès as archer →

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Avram 1996, n°^{os} 259-268 (c. 315 BC); Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. III (c. 322-316 BC).

10. Kosh. 2005

Δεινώπ[ας]

→ (hand)

[Θ]ασίω[v]

A.-M. et A. Bon, *Les timbres amphoriques de Thasos*, Études thasiennes, IV, Athènes – Paris, 1957, n°^{os} 573-574 ; Avram 1996, n° 331 (c. 295 BC) ; Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. IV (c. 310 BC).

11. Kosh. 1999.

Θασίων

(bow)

Ἀλκιμο[ς]

Avram 1996 (c. 305-300 BC) ; Garlan 2005-2005, Gr. V (c. 310-305 BC).

12. Kosh. 2003.

Κλ[εοφῶν]

← (female head in profile)

Θασ[ίων]

Bon 979 ; Avram 1996 (c. 295 BC) ; Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. V (c. 309-300 BC).

13-14. Kosh. 2001, 2002.

Θασ[ίων]

← tripod

Δέαλκος

A.B. Kolesnikov, *Keramičeskie klejma iz raskopok usad'by u Evpatorijskogo majaka*, VDI 1985, 2, p. 85, n° 56, fig. 2; Avram 1996 (c. 310 BC); Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. V (c. 309-300 BC).

15. Kosh. 2000.

Θ[ασίων]

Lettre (Letter) **P** or **G** ←

Πολυ[νεΐκης]

Bon 1957, n° 1359 or 1373 ; Avram 1996, n^{os} 340-344 (c. 294-287 BC); Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. V (c. 300 BC).

16. Kosh. 1987.

Θασίων

← amphora

[Α~~α~~έας]

Avram 1996, n° 383 (c. 285 BC) ; Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. VII (c. 294 BC).

17. Kosh. 2006.

Θασίω[v]

bird→

[Ἀριστείδης]

Bon 287 ; Avram 1996 (c. 285 BC) ; Garlan 2004-2005, p. 325, Gr. VII (c. 294-288 BC).

18. Kosh. 1988.

Θασ[ίων]

← thymiaterion

Πυθίων

Pythion IV. V. Canarache, *Importul amforelor ștampilate la Istria*, București, 1957, n° 68 ; Bon 1486 ; M. Irimia, *Date noi privind așezările getice din Dobrogea în a doua epocă a fierului*, Pontica 13, 1980, p. 92, fig.3/11 ; M. Bărbulescu, L. Buzoianu and N. Cheluță-Georgescu, *Importuri amforice la*

Albești: Thasos, Pontica 19,1986, p. 72, n° 110 (15) ; Avram 1996, n° 443 (c. 273-267 BC); Garlan 2004-2005, Gr. IX (c. 281-273 BC).

19. Kosh.?

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Λεω....

Possibly E 1, Garlan. (?)

20. Kosh. 2006.

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mirror (?)

.....

21. Kosh.?

Θ[ασίω]v

unclear emblem

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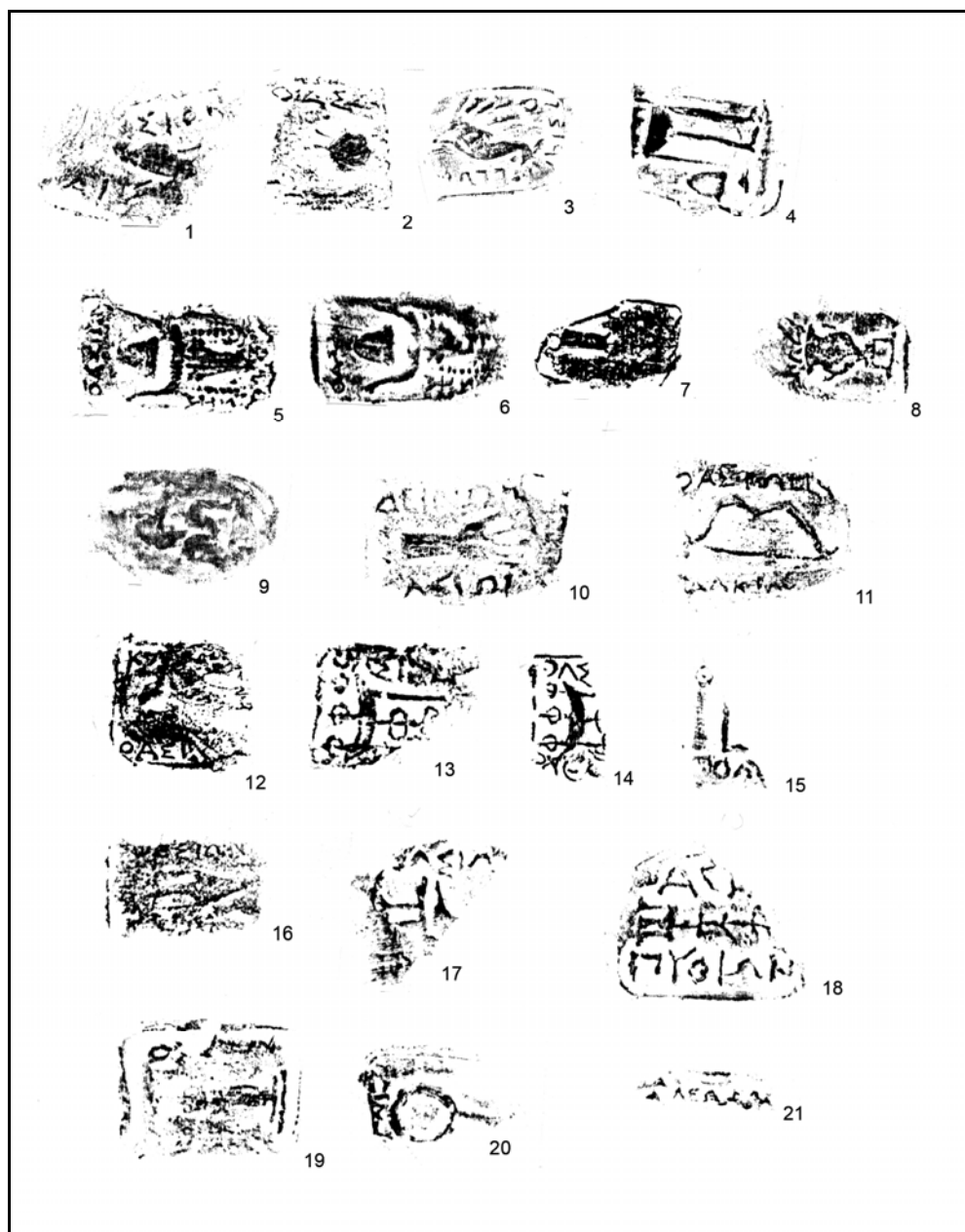


Fig. 1. Amphora stamps from Koshary: Thasos.