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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH ON POTTERY OF THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD E. V.





Manufacturers and Markets The Contributions of Hellenistic Pottery to Economies Large and Small

Edited by Laura Rembart and Alice Waldner

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The Contributions of Hellenistic Pottery to Economies Large and Small

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Hellenistic Amphorae in the Project "Greek Amphorae from the Northern Pontus Euxinus (7th-2nd Century B. C.) – APE"^{*}

Sergey Yu. Monakhov – Nataliya B. Churekova

Abstract

Beginning in 2015, a research group of the Saratov State University realized a project concerned with the compilation of catalogues of amphorae from the largest Russian museums. One of the goals of the project was the creation of an electronic database. It is located on a separate page of the platform of the domain of the Saratov State University¹. Now, the database contains the materials from the catalogues published by the present collective for museum collections of the Eastern Crimean Historical and Cultural Museum-Preserve, the State Museum-Preserve "Tauric Chersonese" and the State Hermitage; the works for introduction of materials from the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts are under way. In total, the database contains now information on 765 amphorae and 69 complexes. The present project embraces a wider chronological range - from the Archaic to the late Hellenistic period. The earliest vessels included up to now in the database are related to the manufacture of Chios, Samos, Miletos, and northern Aegean and date from the second quarter of the 6th century to the mid-5th century B. C. The latest examples are products of Kos, Rhodes, Sinope, 'Colchidian' and Chersonese of the late 3rd-early 1st century B.C. Only 5% of the ware is dated to the Archaic period, most of them belonging to the collection of the State Hermitage. The majority of the amphorae date from the Classical period constituting 55 %. Amphorae dated to the Hellenistic period constitute 39 % of the ware.

It is well known that, throughout all of antiquity and for a long time afterwards, point-bottomed amphorae were the main type of containers for sea transportation of some very important products². Depending on the remoteness from the trade routes and specifics of the archaeological layer, the ratio of the finds of storage amphorae can vary in the range of 40-90 percent. Practically every large centre made its own peculiar forms of amphorae, as a rule differing from ceramic containers from other poleis. This circumstance implies that particular vessels or their fragments are reliably identifiable and therefore the amphora finds, through the development of detailed typological and chronological classifications, enable us to expose the dynamics and directions of the trade connections and, finally, to elaborate broad palaeoeconomic reconstructions.

Meanwhile, over many decades of archaeological studies, the researchers paid no attention to the amphora materials and little cared for their preservation whereas only rare specimens entered the museum collections. At the same time, the amphorae among the composition of particular museum collections also possess a weighty scientific potential. The difficulty of their use as the basic source in the characterisation of trade relations in no way detracts from their significance for historical studies. To a greater extent, this is true concerning the vessels from ceramic assemblages that are particularly important for analysis of ceramic containers, especially with the exact chronological position of each amphora³.

lan 1983, 27; Garlan 1999, 10; Garlan 2000, 1, 12–14; Monakhov – Kuznetsova 2017, 318–320.

3 Zeest 1960, 39–41; Brashinskiy 1984, 131–133; Monakhov 1999; Monakhov et al. 2016; Monakhov et al. 2017; Monakhov et al. 2019.

^{*} The research was carried out at the expense of a grant of the Russian Science Foundation (project 18–18-00096).

^{1 &}lt;https://ape.sgu.ru/> (05.06.2021).

² Grakov 1935; Will 1977; Grace 1979; Walbank 1969; Brashinskiy 1984, 15; Monakhov 1999, 5; Gar-

Scientific presentation of new archaeological sources, equally the publication of epigraphic evidence, archive materials etc. is the basis of the historical science. Amphorae constitute one of the most important categories of archaeological materials during investigations of the Greek, and sometimes 'barbarian', sites. Employed as the main means of transportation of liquid (but not only) cargos, the storage ware was distributed over long distances. Single finds of amphorae come from Bashkiria, the middle Don river and the middle Volga⁴. These narrowly dated vessels are the main, and sometimes the only diagnostic objects.

Beginning in 2015, a research group of the Saratov State University under the direction of S. Yu. Monakhov realized a project concerned with the compilation of catalogues of amphorae from the largest Russian museums. The latter first included museums in Yevpatoriya, Kerch, Sevastopol, Simferopol, Feodosiya, the settlement of Chernomorskoye and Yalta. Further on, in 2018, with a support of the Russian Science Foundation, the group started examination of collections of such important museums as the State Hermitage, the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow and Krasnodar's Felitsyn State Historical and Archaeological Reserve.

The project has resulted, several years after its realization, in four collaborative monographs dedicated to the largest collections of ceramic containers in our country: the Kerch and Chersonesean museums, the State Hermitage and Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts. In total, 870 vessels in different states of preservation have been recorded in all these museums (excepting that in Krasnodar). This number does not include the fragmentary ceramic containers mentioned in the chapters characterising the archaeological complexes but for various reasons unrecorded in the basic catalogues. Of the general number of the drawings of the amphorae, more than one-third (364) are published for the first time⁵.

One of the goals of the present project was the creation of an electronic database. The participants of the project have at their disposal a unique volume of information on amphorae found in the northern Black Sea region. Owing to the many years of work by the head of the project and studies of recent years, the group disposes of measurement drawings (occasionally also photographs) of about 4000 vessels. There are, as yet, no databases of this kind in Russia, however similar works are now being conducted with fair success at foreign research centres in Athens, Toronto, Barcelona and Alexandria. One of the first projects was that of "AMPHOREUS" concerned with a database based on the collection of stamps systemized by V. Grace. However, the "AMPHOREUS" project is no longer being updated. The University of York has created a database of ceramic containers of the Roman period where drawings and photos of amphorae grouped according to their types are presented (Archeology Data Service)⁶. At present, this is perhaps the only world service with free access containing information on Roman amphorae. However, it comprises information only on containers of the 1st-5th century A. D. The scientific centre of the Barcelona University (CEIPAC) headed by José Remesal Rodriguez also is actively occupied with the creation of similar electronic bases⁷. Another successful example is that of the realization of a project for the creation of a database of Rhodian stamps at the site of the Alexandria centre directed by G. Cankardeş-Şenol⁸. Owing to his efforts, the researchers avail themselves of the access to a considerable volume of information on the stamps of amphorae from Rhodes kept now in Alexandria.

The title of our database is "Greek Amphorae from Northern Pontus Euxinus", or in abbreviated form – APE. This is a computer-aided system of museum catalogues and an electronic database; it is located at a separate page of the platform of the domain of the Saratov State University⁹. The access to the information is available through a browser from any point in the world through the internet. For the storage of data of this type, an autonomous and safe infra-

⁴ Monakhov 2006; Balachvantsev 2016.

⁵ Kuznetsova et al. 2020, 483–484.

^{6 &}lt;http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>

^{(05.07.2021).}

^{7 &}lt;https://romanopendata.eu/latin; https://romanopendata.eu/greek> (05.07.2021).

^{8 &}lt;http://www.amphoralex.org> (05.07.2021).

⁹ See note 2.

Hellenistic Amphorae in the Project "Greek Amphorae from the Northern Pontus Euxinus

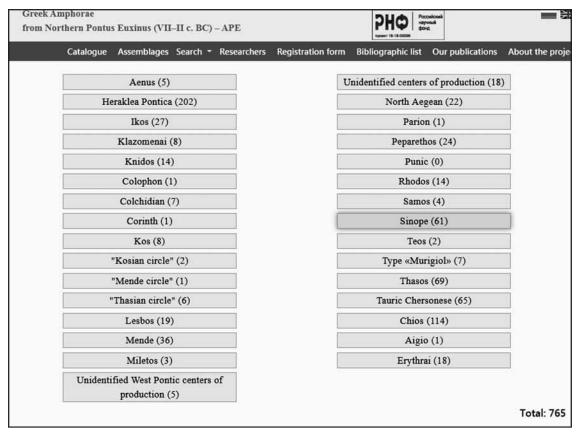


Fig. 1: The APE catalogue (screenshot of the APE webpage S. Yu. Monakhov, N. Churekova).

structure was organized meeting modern standards. The portal provides the navigation over all sections available to the user according to his destination. A system of navigation has been designed to enable quick access to the required sections of the portal. The navigation over pages also is realized with the possibility of the passage over them. Access to the administrative part of the portal is provided only for authorized users with the corresponding role. The portal ensures an uninterrupted protection of the information against unauthorized access.

The catalogue of amphorae consists of thirty-one sections on the manufacturing centres: amphorae from Ainos, Heraklea Pontika, Ikos, Klazomenai, Knidos, Colophon, Colchis, Corinth, Kos, 'Circle of Kos, Mende and Thasos', Lesbos, Mende, Miletos, Paros, Peparethos, Rhodes, Samos, Sinope, Teos, Thasos, Chios, Tauric Chersonese, Erythrai, amphorae from 'Unidentified production centres', etc. (fig. 1). Each amphora has received in the catalogue a serial number with an English abbreviation, e.g., M – Miletos, Ch – Chios, HP – Heraklea Pontika, etc. The museums also have their abbreviations: APE. I – Kerch museum, APE. II – Chersonesean, APE. III – the Hermitage, APE. IV – Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts; thus each amphora is designated in the database as the abbreviation of the museum and its index number, e.g., APE. I-HP.7 – amphora from Heraklea Pontika under the index number '7' from the Kerch museum. In addition, the item numbers in the museum collection are indicated as well as, occasionally, their precedent numbers from the register of the arrivals.

For each amphora in the database, there is a description of the morphology of the vessel, and, where necessary, a description of the clay, ornamentation system, dipinto or graffito, etc. The dimensions also are specified. The provenience of the amphora is provided with the indication of the findspot, the year of its finding and the family name of the researcher. When there is a stamp on the handle or throat, its reading is proposed as well as published parallels or references to the place of their repository and inventory numbers. In the case of the presence of a stamp, the names of the magistrates and fabricants are specified while the chronological refer-

Database number	APE.I-HP.4	and the
Amphora produce center	Heraklea Pontica	sume
Amphora type	"Пифоидный"	
Description	венец прямой с неглубокой подрезкой снизу. Горло высокое, расширяется книзу. Под венцом полоса красной краски, под верхними прилепами ручек желобок. Тулово пифоидное.	0_1см
Publications	Монахов и др. 2016: 132, НР.4.	
Analogies	Монахов 2003: 130, 319, табл. 89 -1.	
Amphora date	399 - 390 гг. до н.э.	
Sizes	H _{cmp} = 626 mm. H ₀ = 595 mm. H ₁ = 290 mm. D = 250 mm. d = 71×73 mm. d ₁ = 95×98 mm.	
Finding place/origin	неизвестно	
Number and storage place	ВКИКМЗ, ККТ 70 (КП 72379, К 1500, инв. 3666, К 7952).	HP.4
Safety	отсутствует ножка.	0 <u>2</u> 4 см 0 10 20 см

Fig. 2: The amphora description in APE (screenshot of the APE webpage S. Yu. Monakhov, N. Churekova).

ences are made in accordance with the current classifications. In a number of cases, the dates of the stamps are presented according to several current schemes. Each amphora is illustrated with a photograph and a scaled drawing (fig. 2).

A special section describes in detail the archaeological complexes, the finds from which are represented in the database. The composition of the materials from the complexes is described, analogues, dates, tables of stamps and drawings are provided.

It is of considerable importance that the present database allows the user to search for information using different parameters: the type of the amphora, the manufacturing centre, the provenience, the date, the legend of the stamp, the names of the magistrates and fabricants. By means of filters, the output of the results is visualized according to the given criteria with page-by-page navigation. The system supports the data treatment in the form of reference books in order to generalize the repeated information. These reference books are realized as "info blocks." This feature is intended to simplify considerably the process of attribution and search for analogies for the researchers.

In addition, there are subsidiary sections containing information about the researchers who carried out excavations of Classical sites in the northern Black Sea region which yielded the materials included in the database, an extensive bibliography, and also there is a section presenting the amphora catalogues published by the present authors' collective.

Now, the database contains materials from the catalogues published by the present collective for museum collections of the Eastern Crimean Historical and Cultural Museum-Preserve (city of Kerch), the State Museum-Preserve "Tauric Chersonese" (city of Sevastopol) and the State Hermitage (Saint Petersburg)¹⁰; the works for introduction of materials from Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (Moscow) are under way. In total, the database contains now (without materials of the Pushkin museum) information on 765 amphorae and 69 complexes.

¹⁰ Monakhov et al. 2016; Monakhov et al. 2017; Monakhov et al. 2019.

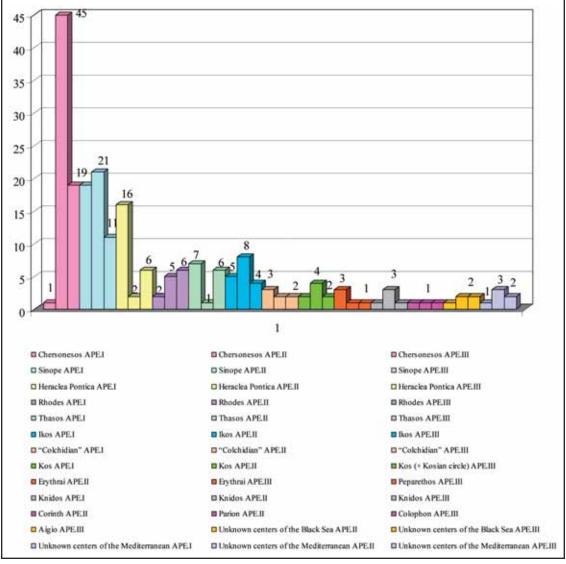


Fig. 3: The statistics of the distribution of Hellenistic amphorae in APE (N. Churekova).

The largest groups of amphorae are composed of vessels manufactured in Heraklea Pontika (202), Chios (114), Thasos (69), Chersonese (65), and Sinope (61). Fairly well represented are amphorae from Mende (36), Ikos (27), Peparethos (24), Northern Aegean, so called "protothasian" (22), Lesbos (19), Erythrai (18) and from unidentified production centres (18). Some centres are represented so far only by single examples, e.g., Corinthos, Aigio, Paros, etc.

The conference held in Athens in November, 2019, where this material was presented, was dedicated to pottery of the Hellenistic period; however, the present project embraces a wider chronological range – from the Archaic to late Hellenistic period. The earliest vessels included up to now in the database are related to the manufacture of Chios, Samos, Miletos, and northern Aegean and date from the second quarter of the 6^{th} century to the mid- 5^{th} century B. C. The latest examples are products of Kos, Rhodes, Sinope, 'Colchidian' and Chersonese of the late 3^{rd} – early 1^{st} century B. C. Only 5% of the ware is dated to the Archaic period, most of them belonging to the collection of the State Hermitage. The majority of the amphorae are dating from the Classical period constituting 55%. Amphorae dated to the Hellenistic period constitute 39% of the ware.

Amphorae of the Hellenistic period in the collection of the Kerch museum constitute 24%, of which the most are from Sinope – 19 items and Heraklea Pontika – 16 items. The products

from other production centres dating from the same period are represented to a lesser extent: Thasos – 7 items, Ikos – 5 items, 'Colchidian' – 3 items, Rhodes and Kos – 2 items each, Knidos and Chersonese – 1 item each. Among the complexes revealed in the collection of the Kerch museum, only three are dating from the Hellenistic period, two others are more broadly dated touching the period of the late Classical.

The Chersonesean collection of the Hellenistic period is represented in the database by a number of production centres, i.e., Corinth, Erythrai, Knidos, Kos, Paros, Rhodes, Sinope, Thasos, Chersonese and unknown centres of the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. To this period, 47% of amphorae and 11 complexes are dated. Naturally, the most of amphorae (45) are products of Chersonese itself, since the major part of the collection of the Chersonesean museum is constituted by finds from the townsite, necropolis and the near chora of Tauric Chersonese. Sinope is the next centre with a fairly representative assemblage of amphorae including 21 items. The ceramic containers from other manufacturing centres are represented by few or single examples: Ikos – 8 items; Rhodes – 5 items; Kos – 4 items; Erythrai, Knidos and unknown Mediterranean centres – 3 items each; Heraklea Pontika, 'Colchidian' and unknown Black Sea centres – 2 items each; Corinth, Paros and Thasos – 1 item each.

The collection of the State Hermitage contains fewer amphorae of the Hellenistic period as compared with the composition of the other museum collections – only 20%; the predominant examples are those from Chersonese (19) and Sinope (11); containers from other centres are represented by only few examples: Heraklea, Thasos and Rhodes by 6 items each; Ikos – 4 items; 'Colchidian', unknown Mediterranean and west Pontic centres – 2 items each; Erythrai, Peparethos, Knidos, Kos, Colophon, Aigio – by one vessel each. Besides, the Hermitage collection contains the smallest number (4) of complexes of the Hellenistic period.

The general statistics for amphorae of the Hellenistic period in the database APE demonstrates the predominance of containers from Tauric Chersonese, Sinope and Heraklea (fig. 3). Naturally, such a sample cannot be used for characterisation of the trade and economic relations of poleis of the Black Sea region but, in general, it corresponds to our notions that, during the Hellenistic period, Chersonese, Sinope and Heraklea occupied the leading positions at the Black Sea market. However, the main purpose of our database is to help the researchers in the identification of amphorae, reading and dating of the stamps, as well in the search for parallels. Generally, we suppose that our APE project will be useful for specialists in the sphere of amphora studies, ceramic epigraphy, as well as the Ancient History and Archaeology.

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