

L Transport amphoras, Roman period

Valentina V. Krapivina

There are rather few amphoras of the first centuries AD among the collection of pottery from the excavation of Sector NGS. Moreover, the predominance of basically two types of amphoras of the 4th century AD is noteworthy: Type 100 according to I.B. Zeest's classification⁹⁹¹ and D.B. Šelov's Type E.⁹⁹²

Amphoras of Type 100⁹⁹³ were manufactured on the southern Black Sea coast, mostly in the region of Sinope – in the workshops of Demirci⁹⁹⁴ and elsewhere.⁹⁹⁵

Type E amphoras were also produced in the southern Black Sea area, particularly in the region of Herakleia Pontike.⁹⁹⁶

Amphoras of the 1st-2nd century AD are represented only by a few specimens. These are particularly vessels of Types A and C according to the classification of D.B. Šelov,⁹⁹⁷ the production of which seems to have belonged to Herakleia Pontike, as well as that of the early variant of amphoras with funnel-shaped neck.⁹⁹⁸ Fragments of amphoras of the late 2nd and 3rd century AD such as I.B. Zeest's Type 72 of Bosporan production⁹⁹⁹ and Type Kapitán II, the manufacturing centre of which has not been reliably established, are rare among the collection.

The amphoras of the 1st century AD from Olbia suggest close connections with centres on the southern Black Sea coast, particularly with Sinope and Herakleia Pontike. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, relations with Bosporos are also detectable.

⁹⁹¹ Zeest 1960.

⁹⁹² Šelov 1978.

⁹⁹³ Types Snp I/III and Snp III-I of Kassab Tezgör, Lemaître & Pieri 2003, 176-177, pl. IV.15, 16, pl. IX.15, 16.

⁹⁹⁴ Kassab Tezgör 1995, 180, figs. 1, 4, 5; Kassab Tezgör & Dereli 2001, 219, figs. 14, 17, A.

⁹⁹⁵ Garlan & Kassab Tezgör 1996, 325-334.

⁹⁹⁶ Arsen'eva, Kassab Tezgör & Naumenko 1997, 187, 189-190.

⁹⁹⁷ Šelov 1978.

⁹⁹⁸ Vnukov 2003, figs. 45, 50; 2006, 16, fig. 1.

⁹⁹⁹ Zeest 1960.

Catalogue

Amphora with funnel-shaped neck

L-374 96-131, V R 465/229. Pl. 302

Part of the neck and body. In the upper part of the body there are graffiti. H 28; Ø neck 11; Ø body 43. The clay is reddish-pinkish with fine sand and limestone inclusions; relatively well levigated. The type and dating of the amphora are not clear although in terms of the proportions of the preserved part and the clay it resembles the early type of amphoras with funnel-shaped necks.

*Šelov Type A***Herakleia Pontike. 1st century AD.¹⁰⁰⁰**

L-375 92-no number. Pl. 302

Upper part. H 10.5; Ø rim 7.1. Crème-coloured clay (pinkish in the break) with coarse quartz sand; well-levigated.

Unknown production centre

L-376 89-358. Pl. 302

Upper part with a broad mouth, outturned rounded rim and an oval handle. On the lower part of the handle there are finger impressions, on the neck below the top of the handle there are rather shallow lines scratched on raw clay (traces of a knife). H 17; Ø rim 17.6; handle cross-section 3.8 x 2.6. Dark-red clay with inclusions of white lime; well-levigated. The sherd is fairly thin. Possibly 1st century AD.

L-377 91-647. Pl. 302

Crushed amphora with a funnel-shaped neck. H 83; Ø rim 14.7. Pink clay, well-levigated, with rare lime inclusions. Light yellowish slip on the surface. Late 1st-2nd centuries AD.

Unknown manufacturing centre – presumably Herakleia Pontike.¹⁰⁰¹ The development of this type of amphoras began in the 1st century AD and continued until at least the mid-7th century AD.¹⁰⁰² Krapivina 1993, figs. 29, 30.

*Šelov Type C***Herakleia Pontike. 2nd century AD.¹⁰⁰³**

L-378 86-998. Pl. 302

Neck. H 19.3; Ø neck (internal) 3.1; Ø neck (external) 5.4. Light, crème-coloured clay with pyroxene.

*Zeest Type 72/Abramov Type 6.1-6.13***European Bosporos. Late 2nd-3rd century AD.**

L-379 91-265. Pl. 302

Body. The amphora has a defect as the bottom part is slightly flattened and has a small crack inside. H 61.5; Ø body 33; Ø bottom 4. Orange clay with coarse lime inclusions and coarse quartz sand; not thoroughly levigated. In the break and the place where the bottom is attached there are voids; the grooved surface is thinly and irregularly slipped.

Zeest Type 79/ Kapitan Type II

Amphoras of this type were fairly widespread in the second half of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, although their production started in the late 2nd century AD. The presumable centres of their manufacture are the regions surrounding the Aegean Sea, the western part of Asia Minor or the eastern Mediterranean.¹⁰⁰⁴ In Olbia, they appear not earlier than the mid-3rd century AD, commonly found in layers of the last quarter of the 3rd and early 4th century AD.

L-380 85-113. Pl. 303

Neck fr. H 14.6; Ø neck in the lower part 9.7. Reddish-pinkish clay, poorly levigated, with sand, large light reflecting particles, and lime inclusions. The neck is grooved with highly raised handles.

*Zeest Type 100/Abramov Type 7.1-7.2***Centre on the southern Black Sea coast, probably in the region around Sinope. 4th century AD.¹⁰⁰⁵**

L-381 85-18. Pl. 303

Neck of an amphora. The rim is uneven and carelessly made. H 13.6;

¹⁰⁰⁰ Vnukov 2003, fig. 45; 2006, 16, fig. 1.¹⁰⁰¹ Vnukov 2003, fig. 50; 2006, 16.¹⁰⁰² Opait 1996, 208.¹⁰⁰³ Vnukov 2003, fig. 45; 2006, 16, fig. 1.¹⁰⁰⁴ Robinson 1959, pl. 15, K 113, pl. 28, M 237; Riley 1979, 190-193, fig. 84, 243; Peacock & Williams 1986, fig. 112, 193; Negru, Bădescu, Avram & Kapitän 2003, 213.¹⁰⁰⁵ Kassab Tezgör 1995, 180, figs. 1, 4, 5; Kassab Tezgör & Dereli 2001, 219, fig. 14, 17, A; Garlan & Kassab Tezgör 1996, 325-334.

Ø rim 10.8-11.2. Pinkish-reddish clay with light reflecting particles, lime inclusions, and pyroxene.

L-382 86-64. Pl. 303

Upper part. The rim is uneven and shaped as two fillets. The neck is grooved. The handles have three ribs; on one of the handles, there is an incision on the rib. H 23.0; Ø rim 11.7-12.0; handle cross-section 3.8 x 1.6-2.4. Pinkish-reddish clay with light reflecting particles, large amounts of white lime inclusions, and pyroxene; cracks on the inside.

L-383 89-447. Pl. 303

Upper part. The rim is relatively neatly shaped; there are uneven grooves on the neck. The handles are three-ribbed, asymmetrically; one is unevenly attached. On the neck near the handle there are dipinti. On the other side of the neck opposite the dipinti there are graffiti, and there are graffiti near the handles. H 17.7; Ø rim 10.3-10.8; handle cross-section 3.9 x 1.7-2.5. Reddish-pinkish clay with light reflecting particles, pyroxene, and white lime inclusions.

L-384 89-447a. Pl. 304

Upper part. The rim is fairly neatly shaped; the neck is slightly grooved. The handles are three-ribbed. On the neck, to the right of a handle, and on the shoulder there are dipinti in red. H 25.4; Ø rim 10.8; Ø body 33.5; handle cross-section 3.7 x 1.6-2.5. Pinkish-reddish clay with light reflecting particles, white lime inclusions, and pyroxene.

L-385 91-90. Pl. 304

Upper part. The rim is uneven; the neck is grooved; the handles are oval. H 22; Ø rim 10.9-11.5; Ø body (preserved) 33.7; handle cross-section 3.5 x 2.7. Reddish-pinkish clay with light reflecting particles, inclusions of white lime, and pyroxene; well levigated.

L-386 92-120. Pl. 304

Upper part. The rim is uneven; the neck is grooved. The handles are grooved with three ribs, the middle one being the highest. On one of the handles, five incisions are made on each of two ribs. The neck bears graffiti. H 20.3; Ø rim 10.8-11.2; Ø body (preserved) 32; handle cross-section 4.0 x 1.7-2.6. Reddish-pinkish clay with light reflecting particles, white lime inclusions, and pyroxene; well levigated.

L-387 94-719. Pl. 305

Grooved neck. H 10.8; Ø rim 10.8-11.5. Reddish clay with coarse quartz sand; well levigated.

Šelov Type E/Zeest Type 104/Abramov Type 7.6-7.7

Centre on the southern Black Sea coast in the region of Herakleia Pontike. 4th century AD.¹⁰⁰⁶

L-388 89-444. Pl. 305

Upper part. The rim is not preserved. The handle is rounded and ribbed. Dipinti on the neck. H 26.4; Ø neck 6.2; Ø body (preserved) 25.5; handle cross-section 4.2 -4.3 x 2.0-3.3. Light, pinkish clay, yellowish on the surface with coarse river sand, pyroxene, and light reflecting particles; poorly levigated. There are cracks in the place where the handles and the neck are joined. In the clay of one of the handles there is a small piece of stone.

L-389 92-119. Pl. 305

Upper part. The handles and rim are rather roughly made. The handles are rounded and ribbed; the ribs being poorly accentuated. There are dipinti in red on the neck and shoulder on one side; on the opposite side there are bands of red paint on the shoulder; on the same side there are finger prints at the level of the top of the handles. H 24.8; Ø rim 7.0-7.2; Ø body (preserved) 32; handle cross-section 4.2-4.5 x 3.0-3.6. Pink clay, with rare light reflecting particles, coarse sand, white lime inclusions, and occasional pyroxene; poorly levigated.

L-390 92-121. Pl. 306

Neck and body fr. The body is slightly grooved; the handles are rounded and relatively thin. H 18.0; Ø neck 5.8; Ø body (preserved) 28.0; handle cross-section 3.2 x 1.7-2.1. Pinkish clay inside, yellowish on the surface, with inclusions of coarse sand, white lime inclusions and pyroxene; poorly levigated.

L-391 92-123. Pl. 306

Neck. H 23.2; Ø rim 6.9; handle cross-section 3.9 x 1.7-2.5. Pinkish clay with admixtures of coarse sand and pyroxene; poorly levigated.

L-392 95-142. Pl. 306

Upper part. The rim is semi-cylindrical. The handles are ribbed and carelessly attached to the neck. The neck is slightly grooved in its lower part. On the neck there are dipinti in red. H 23.2; Ø rim 6.6-6.9; Ø body (preserved) 25.0; handle cross-section: 3.3-4.3 x 1.9-3.5. Light-green clay with sparse light reflecting particles, rare coarse lime inclusions, coarse sand and pyroxene; poorly levigated; flaking.

¹⁰⁰⁶ Arsen'eva, Kassab Tezgör & Naumenko 1997, 187, 189-190.

