

N Thick-walled pottery

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In Sector NGS various groups of thick-walled vessels were found including pithoi, supports, braziers and other large vessels, including storage vessels, torch or lamp stands all made from coarse clay. On many of the fragments, traces of secondary burning can be observed.

The preserved fragments of thick-walled ceramics are not numerous. Their low number is not caused by their absence from the sector, but is a result of post-excavation sampling strategies. Some examples of thick-walled pottery exist only in the form of thick, amorphous walls that cannot be identified more precisely.

COOKING STANDS

This shape is represented by a fragment with two connected “horns”. A vessel could be supported above the fire or in a furnace in the deepening between the “horns”. Such stands are made of coarse, grey clay and their surfaces are smoothed. One such support, Na-1, was found in the filling of Basement 390 in House II-5.

SUPPORTS FOR AMPHORAS AND OTHER ROUND-BASED VESSELS

Usually, these supports are thick-walled, cylindrical or concave ceramic rings. Only one such support, Na-3, was found in Sector NGS.

BRAZIERS

Various types of braziers have been found from the ancient world.¹⁰³⁰ No less than three types are represented among the few finds from Sector NGS. The most interesting is Na-4, which was found in Pit 445 dated to the end of the 6th to the early 5th century BC. Na-4 is almost cylindrical, with rather thin walls extending from top to base. The upper rim is horizontal. In the upper part of the wall there are two openings (W 3.5; H 4.5). The apertures are located at a distance of 23 cm from each other. Below the openings, almost in the middle of the wall, there are small circular perforations, Ø 1-1.5. The brazier is made from pale, grey clay of high quality, similar to the Greyware production. Possibly, Na-4 is a support, as there are no traces of secondary burning and perhaps it was never used as a brazier proper. A barrel-cooker from Pantikapaion offers a remote parallel. It differs from Na-4 in form, as this vessel's opening is not at its top, but in the bottom, and the height is different; however, functionally, there is a close resemblance.¹⁰³¹ Na-5 is a handle fragment from a brazier of another type. The edges of the handle are decorated with relief and in the middle there is an accurately executed stylized palmette. Na-5 was produced in the Mediterranean, and similar handles are found in the Athenian Agora and in Pantikapaion, where they are dated to the 2nd century BC.¹⁰³²

¹⁰³⁰ Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 161-164; Sparkes & Talcott 1970, fig. 19, pl. 97.

¹⁰³¹ Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 161, fig. 14; Sparkes & Talcott 1970, no. 2023.

¹⁰³² Thompson 1934, 420-421; Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 163, fig. 19.

One further type is represented by Na-6. In shape it resembles a frying pan more than a brazier and perhaps this reflects its function. There are traces of secondary burning on its flat base. The interior transition from the base to the low walls is smoothed and a little rounded, but on the exterior the walls are vertical and the transition to the bottom is sharp. The rim is plain and partly off-set by a thin groove from the interior of the brazier. There are weak traces of smoothing on the exterior wall.

VARIOUS THICK-WALLED VESSELS

Na-7 represents the upper part of a storage vessel. It is a thick-walled vessel in a red clay with a low neck having a vertical rim, which has been horizontally cut off on top. The arrangement of the handles differs in character: one of them is placed vertically above the widest part of the body; the other is horizontal and located on the shoulder. The first is oval in section with a small relief in the centre, the loop is raised. The second is round in section with thickened attachments. The inclusion of pyroxene in the clay suggests a provenance on the southern coast of the Black Sea, probably from the region around Herakleia.

Na-8 is a massive handle; round in section with a thickened finial, which could belong to a large storage vessel. The handle is made from clay similar to that of Na-7. It was found in a layer which also included Rhodian stamps datable to the 3rd-2nd century BC (Context 106). A flat-based fragment (Na-9) belonged to a coarse storage vessel. On the edge of the base there is a number of depressions, possibly manually stamped. The vessel probably originates on the southern coast of the Black Sea. It was found in a Hellenistic layer together with many Sinopean, Rhodian and Knidian amphora stamps, and is dated to the 3rd-2nd century BC. Na-10 probably belongs to a large, thick-walled jug. Only the base, with a shallow depression in the centre of the external part, is preserved. It was found together with Herakleian stamps in a layer dated to the 4th century BC. It was probably imported from the southern coast of the Black Sea. Na-11 is a small fragment of the ring base of a large vessel, possibly a loutrophoros. Both the clay and the shape suggest a Mediterranean provenance.

TORCH OR LAMP STAND

Torch or lamp stands have been treated differently by various researchers. Some consider them to be portable lamps.¹⁰³³ Others consider them to be elements from kilns (*tuyères de soufflet*).¹⁰³⁴ They have also been associated with ritual purposes.¹⁰³⁵ Torch/lamp stands have been found in many cities, in particular in the Bosphoros and in Istros.¹⁰³⁶ However, in Sector NGS only three fragments were found. Na-12 is a conical fragment. It was found in the filling of Earth-dwelling 445 and dated to the end of the 6th to the beginning of the 5th century BC.

Na-13 was found near the same house. Its shape is discoid. Na-14 is better preserved. It is conical with a vertically-placed handle, which is round in section and with a profiled disc-shaped termination.

The fragments discussed above represent almost the entire group of thick-walled ceramic fragments recorded from Sector NGS.

¹⁰³³ Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 164-165.

¹⁰³⁴ Coja & Dupont 1979, 21-37.

¹⁰³⁵ Sparkes & Talcott 1970, pl. 96, nos. 2014-2015.

¹⁰³⁶ Coja & Dupont 1979.

Catalogue

Cooking stands

Na-1 94-26, II-5 B 390/28. Pl. 316

Body fr. with one entire "horn". 5.5 x 10.5. Coarse, red clay covered with thick slip.

Na-2 99-50, V R 554. Pl. 316

Body fr. with one entire "horn". 9 x 7.5. Coarse, red clay covered with thick slip. Traces of secondary burning.

Supports for amphoras and other round-based vessels

Na-3 97-382, VI-3 R 477

Amphora support fr.(?). 11.5 x 5.5. Coarse, dark-grey clay. Possible traces of secondary burning.

Braziers

Na-4 95-317, V Earth-dwelling 445/238. Pl. 316

Large, cylindrical brazier. H 17; Ø 40-41.6. Pale-grey clay of high quality.

Na-5 88-439, II-3

Handle-ledge fr. 10.5 x 7.5 x 7.5. Brown clay with many mica inclusions. Traces of secondary burning. Mediterranean.

Na-6 95-254 + 95-254, V. Pl. 316

Six frs. of a brazier/frying pan. H 6; Ø 47-53. Very coarse, dark-grey, almost black clay. Weak traces of smoothing on the wall ext. Traces of secondary burning on the base.

Assorted vessels

Na-7 00-1718, VII B 615. Pl. 316

Upper part of a storage vessel. Two handles, one horizontal. H 18. Rare pyroxene. Herakleian(?).

Na-8 93-925, III-3 B 368/106. Pl. 316

Handle fr. of a large storage vessel. Ø 4. Reddish clay with white and tiny dark inclusions. Coarse surface. Clay similar to Na-7.

Na-9 88-123, II-4

Fr. of base and body of storage vessel. H 10; base Ø 11.5. Coarse, red clay with pyroxene and some white inclusions. Traces of secondary burning on the rim and walls.

Na-10 99-175, VI-2

Base fr. of large jug. H 3.5; base Ø 14. Coarse, red clay with mica.

Na-11 00-1237, VII

Ring-base fr. of large vessel (loutrophoros?). 15 x 4.5. Yellowish clay with light-brown and beige inclusions and mica. Smoothed surface. Mediterranean.

Torch or lamp stands

Na-12 95-351, V Earth-dwelling 445/238

Body fr. H 4.5; Ø 4.3-6.8. Coarse, grey clay with a coarse surface.

Na-13 95-368, V Earth-dwelling 445/240. Pl. 316

Base fr. H 4.5; Ø 5.2-5.7. Fine, red clay with white inclusions. Traces of secondary burning on the surface.

Na-14 96-409a. Pl. 316

Lower part. H 17.5; Ø 8.5; base Ø 4. Coarse, red clay with white inclusions (limestone) and large particles of mica. Traces of secondary burning on the surface.

PITHOI *Alexander V. Karjaka*

Pithoi are large rounded vessels with a pointed base and a low, rather narrow neck with a massive rim, which is trapezoidal in section.¹⁰³⁷ As a rule, pithoi were used for household needs as large receptacles for storing various kinds of products. They were usually sunk to the rim into the adobe floors of a courtyard or a basement. A good example is the pithoi found in Olbia under the Zeus Kurgan.¹⁰³⁸ In Sector NGS, the in situ find of a large base fragment in Basement 253 (Houseblock IV, House 1) may serve as an example. Frequently, pithoi bear traces of repair with lead clamps still in place (e.g., Nb-2). Repaired vessels could only be used for storing dry goods, not liquid products. Of interest is a stamped pithos with the mark of the workshop (Nb-3), probably of local manufacture.

Nb-1 94-534. Pl. 317

Base fr. L 11.9; W 10.6-11.4; WT 11.4. Cylindrical form, average proportions. Colour and firing uniform. The fabric is brown with numerous impurities of large quartz and fine inclusions. The ext. surface is light-orange to beige. Coat 0.3-0.5 cm thick. The surface is smoothed, in places scratched owing to rough impurities.

¹⁰³⁷ Lejpunskaja1986a, 462.

¹⁰³⁸ Farmakovskij 1904, 21, fig. 30; 1906, 11.

Nb-2 99-763. Pl. 317

Wall fr. L 32; W 8.1-16.8; WT 2.6. Colour and firing uniform. The fabric is brown with numerous inclusions of quartz and mica, 0.1-0.3 cm, and fine frs. of seashells. The surface is smoothed. Remains of repair with two lead clamps preserved *in situ*. On the int. the clamps are quite poorly formed, with a thickness of 0.3-0.6 cm; on the ext. they are more accurately formed, possibly cast directly on the wall. One of the clamps was obviously intended for repairing breaks leading in two directions. In section the ext. clamp is semicircular in form, 0.5-0.7 cm thick; W 1.1-1.4 cm.

Nb-3 Without number. Pl. 317

Triangular rim and upper body fr.. L 49.6; W 28; WT 2.5-3. Firing uniform. The fabric is brown, with large light-orange spots on the ext. surface, and rough, with significant number of inclusions of large quartz and other fabrics. The ext. surface is rough. Stamped Σ , probably part of workshop mark. H of letter 3.2; W 1.8-2.1.