

I.
S. Yu. Monakhov – J. V. Kuznetzova – N. F. Fedoseev – N. B. Churekova, Amphoras of the VI–II Centuries BC from the Collection of the East Crimean Historical and Cultural Reserve

Catalog. Kerč – Saratov: Novyj projekt 2016, 222 pp. with ill.
(Монахов С. Ю. – Кузнецова Е. В. – Федосеев Н. Ф. – Чурекова Н. Б., Амфоры VI–II вв. до н.э. из собрания Восточно–крымского историко–культурного заповедника, Каталог. Керчь–Саратов: Новый проект 2016, 222 с. с илл.)

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II.
S. Yu. Monakhov – J. V. Kuznetzova – N. B. Churekova, Amphoras of the V–II Centuries BC from the Collection of the State Historical and Archeological Museum-Reserve ›The Tauric Chersonesos‹

Catalog. Kerč – Saratov: Novyj projekt 2017, 208 pp. with ill.
(Монахов С. Ю. – Кузнецова Е. В. – Чурекова Н. Б., Амфоры V–II вв. до н.э. из собрания государственного историко–археологического музея–заповедника ›Херсонес Таврический‹, Каталог. Керчь–Саратов: Новый проект 2017, 208 р. с илл.)

Review by Nikolai Jefremow

The past three years have become an important event not only for Russian, but also for international ›amphorology‹¹. The result of many years of painstaking working on gathering, cataloguing, and finally the study of ›amphora‹ material found its way in two monographs of a group of authors under the guidance of an international-known expert in this field, professor of the university of Saratov (Russia) S. Yu. Monakhov.

Both volumes (henceforth as I and II) are designed regionally – according to museum's collections. The first one covers material from excavations and surveys from the territory of the European Bosporus. Although called catalogues, due to their content, they are beyond these frames, representing a thorough study.

Each monograph consists of an introduction, where the history of the museum's collection and the amphorae of the main production centres with the history of their localization are presented (I, Chapters 1–2). Just this section conveys in an intelligible, concise form the necessary information on individual production centres of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions². This is especially important for a reader not being familiar with such theme. Separately are considered: »Whole amphorae from the deposits of ancient sites of the Kerch Peninsula« (I, Chapter 3)³.

1 For the proofreading of my English, I would like to thank Mr. Nicolaas Padt Montani (Barth).

2 For archaeological sites and deposits with amphorae from the northern Black Sea region, see MONAKHOV 1999b; TELEAGA 2008.

3 On the localization and typology of ancient Greek amphorae, see MONAKHOV 2003.

The archaeological deposits in this part of the work »are analyzed not by the place and time of discovery, but according to their chronology« (I, p. 37), which is fully justified.

Not all the stamps from nearly two hundred years of research in the Bosporus and Tauric Chersonesos areas are being stored now in Crimean museums. A part of them has been lost or is kept in other museums outside the Crimea. I hope that one day these collections will be shown to the public and will ultimately be accessible to researchers. Both catalogues, and in the overwhelming case the authors got acquainted with materials, represented in them ›statim personaliter‹, which contain a common and a research part. They include both whole and partially integral archaeological vessels. Special praise deserves the scientific apparatus. Each amphora is provided with an extensive commentary, which contains a photograph, a drawing, the indication of its linear dimensions, safety, location and storage with its corresponding inventory number, reference to the publication, if there is one, a list of accompanying material at the discovery, a photograph and a rubbing of the stamp in the case of stamped items, adopted chronology and finally, analogies. The presentation of material is made on a high scientific and technical level.

The uniqueness of such edition should be highlighted. If the publications of ceramic stamps, graffiti and dipinti on ceramics have become a tradition, then amphorae, the most frequent category of ›small epigraphy‹, have so far almost not been published in the framework of museum collections⁴. The importance of such publications can hardly be disputed, as amphorae most »reflect the trade exchange of the ancient era most fully, because they were used as the main type of ceramics for the sea transportation of a number of important products« (I, p. 9). Just amphorae fragments make up to 90% of all the finds in the cultural layers of ancient time. In addition, they »were buried into the graves for a short time after release« (II, p. 10), which significantly increases their importance as a dating material. Regarding the most amphora material, the catalogues for localization of whole forms of amphorae allow to elaborate essential criteria for cataloging of the profile-parts of vessels (rims and feet) (I, p. 10). Thus, a dual goal is achieved.

The effort in localizing as many amphorae as possible among the finds from the excavations in the northern Black Sea region is completely understandable. It is pleasant to discover the rare forms of vessels attributed recently: Miletus, Erythrae, Peparethos, Ikos, whose localization is not least the merit of the authors of this monograph⁵. In their localizing a number of production centres, the authors are very careful. For this reason, the catalogue contains both traditional determinations in the ›broad sense‹, for example, amphorae of the ›Menda circle‹, ›Thasos circle‹, as well as copies of unidentified centres of the northern Aegean. Such reservations are quite explicable till a specific localization is confirmed by materials from different production centres or branded vessels that can be correlated with them without any doubt. Such in typological classification usual signs as morphology in the evolution of certain forms of vessels cannot be an absolute criterion, because they are often characteristic of some or even many centres at the same time.

Leaving for the specialist in amphorology the published amphorae for a specific analysis, I turn to a subject that is closer to me – ceramic epigraphy. Just here not everything is indisputable. First of all, the huge number of errors in the transfer of personal names is striking. This applies primarily to stress, for example, in the case of amphorae of the Kerch Museum (I): 47 nos. 2–3; 48 no. 35; 49 nos. 68–69. 70. 73; 55 no. 1; 57 nos. 1. 2. 5; 58 nos. 6. 9. 10 (the name of the manufacturer is rather Ἡφαιστίων); 94 Th. 14; from the Chersonesus Museum (II): 29 no. 3;

4 Rare exceptions, e.g. AKKAYA 1999, 241–246; ALPÖZEN ET AL. 1995; ŞENOL 2018.

5 These are in particular: LIMBERIS ET AL. 2011, 265–283; MONAKHOV 1990, 13–14; MONAKHOV 1990a, 97–105; MONAKHOV 1996, 38–45; MONAKHOV 1999, 129–148; MONAKHOV 2013, 294–301; MONAKHOV 2013a, 28–51; MONAKHOV 2014, 195–222; MONAKHOV – FEDOSEEV 2013, 255–266; MONAKHOV 1999a, 163–194; MONAKHOV 2003, 247–259; MONAKHOV 2010, 23–27 pls. 12–13; MONAKHOV – KUZNEZOVA 2011, 245–258.

35 nos. 12. 20; 40 nos. 1. 2; 48 nos. 5–8. 11. 16. 19. 20; 49 nos. 25–27. 34–35. 37; 56 nos. 10–11; 58 nos. 7. 12; 59 no. 19; 60 nos. 34. 47; 64 nos. 7. 8. 11; 65 no. 17; 66 no. 5; 122 Hp. 9; 160 ChT. 18.

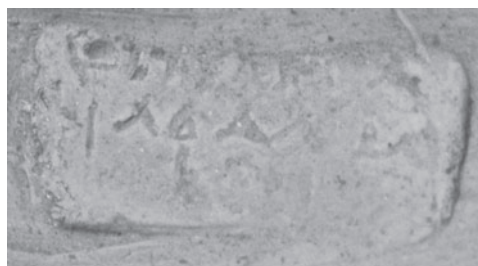
The reading of the Rhodian stamp from the »H« area of the second northeastern district of Chersonesos is very doubtful: Ἐπὶ Ἀν[τιπάρ]του [Υακιν][θίου] (II, p. 40 no. 8). Unfortunately, it is impossible to prove this reading, because the photo of the stamp is not given. In general, the deposit dates from the middle of the 4th to the first third of the 3rd century. The Rhodian stamp fell according to the authors accidentally into the filling of the room. I want to note that the number of names of the Rhodian magistrates on Ἀν... and the end of the genitive in the first declension is rather limited.

Furthermore, if the reading of the surviving letters is right, then it may be rather the eponym Ἀνάξανδρος (Va chronological group: approx. 143–142 BCE), than that Ἀντίπατρος (108–88 / 86 BCE)⁶. Rhodian stamps of the 1st century BCE are quite rare in the northern Black Sea region, and the eponym Ἀντίπατρος is taken into account in the manuscript of IOSPE 3 only twice (nos. 736–737)⁷. Among the materials from Alexandria there is no matrix of this eponym according to this scheme. If my assumption is correct, then the stamp of the Rhodian eponym Ἀνάξανδρος should be included among the most recent in the deposit.

The personal name Κρωμνίο(.) (II, p. 46) is probably a derivation from a toponym. In any case, its genitive is Κρωμνίου(ν), or Κρωμνίο in its Doric form, but not Κρωμνίτης, because two such different names are known in the stamps of Heraclea Pontica⁸.

The Knidos stamp (II, p. 65 no. 25; p. 113 Kn. 9), which I had not been able to restore previously at the request of the authors and where they saw the emblem »caduceus« should perhaps read:

ἐπὶ [Τιμ]α -
κλέα. Ἀν(...) ?
Κ[νί(διον)].



The letters are italics. »Κ« and »Ν« in the second line are cut retrograde. The second name is abbreviated. Unfortunately, I could not find a parallel to this copy. In the list of V. Grace, this rare eponym is known only in the abbreviated form Τιμακλε(...) and is related to the »phrurarchoi« period⁹.

The Rhodian producer Βρόμιος¹⁰ is known by 15 magistrates and is dated in a wide chronological frame 160–108 BCE (II, p. 63), or 154/153 – approx. 132 BCE¹¹.

Stamps bearing the name of Ἀντίφιλος, written in two lines, are relatively frequent among the finds in the northern Black Sea region¹². They were recently assigned to the production of the western Black Sea region¹³. Convincingly enough, in my opinion, they are

6 FINKIELSZTEJN 2001, 153 tab. 12.1; 160–161 tab. 13.

7 BADALJANZ 1986, 93 fig. 1.

8 LGPN VA, 259.

9 GRACE 1985, 34; JEFREMOW 1995, 130. 133.

10 CANCARDEŞ-ŞENOL 2017, 224.

11 CANCARDEŞ-ŞENOL, 224.

12 E.g.: IOSPE 3 (insertorum locorum), nos. 1152–1184.

13 MONAKHOV 2016, 117.

assigned to Messembria of Pontus, which also includes the stamps of the Parmeniskos Group with the names Ἀντίφιλος, Ματρόβιος, Μελσέων, Ἀλκάνωρ¹⁴.

The restoration of the name Σι[μάλων] (II, p. 65 no. 17) while the variants Σίμαλος and Σιμαλίων are well known¹⁵, is somehow surprising. The Chios stamp (II, p. 75 no. 14) may be a monogram Χαρ(μίδης)¹⁶. Stamp II: p. 50 no. 48: NI, unfortunately without a photo, is perhaps a Knidian one¹⁷.

The unread Rhodian stamp (II, p. 108 Rh. 3) should be restored according to an analogy from Alexandria: [ἐπ' ἐρξέως] | Ἡ[ραγόρα] | Δ[αλίου]¹⁸. Finally, the stamp of the unknown production centre on the handle of the »sinopian clay« (II, p. 65 no. 26) is a late Sinopean¹⁹. A Rhodian »manufacturer« Νικάγης is indicated under the number 21 on the page 65 (I), but it is not noted that it is a female name. The emblem in the stamp of the Sinopean astynom Πάνφιλος τοῦ Ἑκαταου is interpreted according to N. F. Fedoseyev as »the figure of Eirene«. But in my opinion, there is not enough evidence for such interpretation and the sign should be determined as a »seating figure«²⁰. Who this image specifically represents, is not yet possible to say, but the other common symbol of this astynomos is the »reclining figure, with a cornucopia in front of it«²¹, which is also characteristic of Tyche. The usual symbol of the peace-goddess is the »kerykeion«, while Tyche is often depicted half-lying with a cornucopia, or sitting with a sceptre in her hands²².

The comments made here detract in no way from the quality of the performed work. The significance of these achievements is yet to be recognized by colleagues in applying them to the archaeological studies of ancient monuments, growing increasingly from year to year. It would be desirable, if this initiative will continue and will have found followers not only researching the materials of the Hellenistic, but also of the Roman and Byzantine times.

14 STOYANOV 2011, 192–193 figs. 1–5; STOYANOV 2019, 116–122.

15 LGPN VA, 404.

16 TSARAVOPOULOS ET AL. 2013, 121. 143 fig. 46.

17 CANCARDEŞ-ŞENOL 2015, 181 no. 27.

18 RE-HPAΓΟΡΑΣ-ΔΑΛΙΟΣ 006. Not included in the print version: CANCARDEŞ-ŞENOL 2015a.

19 VNUKOV – JEFREMOW 2018, 256 no. 6.

20 GARLAN 2004, 247 nos. 597–598.

21 GRAKOV 1929, 145 no. 20 pl. 13, 10.

22 LIMC 8.1 (1997) 117 s.v. Tyche (L. Villard); LIMC 3.1 (1997) 702 s.v. Eirene (E. Simon).

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