

VRG\_Folder\_0794



SMALLER CONTAINERS







## Fractional Stamped Containers

Evidence for the organization of Rhodian economic affairs at the period of greatest Rhodian commercial eminence is provided by pottery containers of various evidently standard sizes datable in the late third and early second centuries BC. Rhodian fractional stamped amphorai are known, having a capacity respectively of a half and a sixth of the unit amphora. ~~Stamped~~ Unstamped plain lagynoi found in a tomb in Cyprus held about a twelfth the capacity of a Rhodian amphora found with them. Stamped plain lagynoi (of larger capacity) now exist in restored examples. Two from the Agora were endorsed by apparently the same man whose name appears on a new example of the series of small containers marked with the name of the drug lykion, which have been found on various sites of the eastern Mediterranean area. Manufacture in Cos is apparently indicated: the name, Moschion, is known as Coan; and a second century BC inscription bears witness to a medical tax in Cos, the collection of which may have been arranged by requiring the use of special drug containers.. The presence of a Rhodian rose as device in the lykion stamp of Moschion should be compared with the occurrence of the same device on certain Knidian amphora stamps which also belong to this period of Rhodian control of the general area.

26.E.51

Found note that the small container marked Moschion, 200, in the Cos collection was seen by VG in Feb. '49 and looked Rhodian. Only two other marked Διοσκρίδιος found in Cos.



Part of the information presented in this paper is included in brief in an article to appear in the forthcoming Shear Memorial volume of Hesperia, Supplement VIII. Further publication in the same journal is planned.



24. nov. 49

Fractional Kindsen (?)

P 14, 438 a (really small, but coarse wavy)



4

June 14, 1948

Dear Pete:

Here is an abstract of my paper, as requested by you over the telephone. It was read on December 31, 1947, at the very end of the meetings. Please don't alter the text, especially if it isn't clear: in that case, drop it, unless there is time for me to clarify.

I take the occasion to acknowledge your note of March 23. I hope to get over to see you before too long.

May I ask in the meanwhile whether there is any possibility of further copies lying about somewhere of my short article "Early Thasian Stamped Amphoras," which appeared in the Beazley number (second part, Volume L, no.1)? My hope is based on the fact that Paul Clement produced a couple of extra copies of my article that came out in Hesperia IV, 1935, which seemed to have been lying about in the store room. I suppose this comes about if one shares a form with somebody who has ordered more copies. At any rate, let me know if there is a possibility; I am all out of this piece.

DBThompson leaves tonight for Toronto on her way to take a plane for Greece. On Friday I saw off Josephine Shear, Margaret Thompson, Ernest de Wald and others on the Khedive Ismail. The berths were all covered with figured brocaded brightly colored silken coverlets, "just like in a harem," as a Syrian lady remarked.

Yours,



*Too long and too short. Not used as such.*

# FRACTIONAL STAMPED CONTAINERS

Abstract of  
Paper read December 31, 1947, at v/ New Haven.

In the excavations in the Agora or marketplace of Ancient Athens have been found a vast number of fragments of the pottery containers in which fluid goods were packaged for shipment. Many of the handle fragments bear stamps which appear to have served principally as endorsements of capacity. Most of the stamped handles come from ~~plain~~ <sup>(undecorated)</sup> pointed amphoras but a small percentage ~~at the Agora~~ <sup>are</sup> two or three feet high; ~~but a few (possibly 70 out of 16,000)~~ <sup>the smaller plain</sup> are of a shape and size which suggested they came from narrow-necked jugs or lagynoi. ~~In 1947 it was possible to put together complete stamped lagynoi~~ <sup>late</sup> Stamped fragments and complete unstamped examples had been known; ~~but in 1947 it was possible~~ <sup>were assembled</sup> to put together complete stamped lagynoi from fragments found in a deposit <sup>at the Agora</sup> datable in the 3rd or early 2nd century BC.

Ancient references indicate definite, though varied, theoretical capacities for lagynoi; and where it has been possible to measure preserved vessels, a simple capacity relationship has been found between lagynos and contemporary amphora, as for instance 1:12 in lagynoi and amphorai found together in a tomb in Cyprus.

<sup>fractional</sup> <sup>amphorai of</sup> <sup>which hold</sup> Rhodian containers are known in two reduced sizes, respectively a half <sup>the capacity of</sup> and a sixth of the full-sized jar. The neck and handles of the half-jar



seem to have been regularly  
~~are~~ almost as large as those of the unit-jar; ~~the proportions of neck to~~  
~~body is therefore quite different~~ this results in contemporary Rhodian  
having, according to their size,  
jars with quite different proportions of neck to body.

There exists a series of stamped containers much smaller than lagynoi,  
sometimes made of clay, sometimes of lead, <sup>presumably</sup> designed to hold a drug called  
lykion, and marked with this word as well as with an endorsing name and sometimes  
(Moschion)  
a dating name. We find the name of apparently the same individual endorsing  
small container and lagynoi: approximate date, type of clay, type of lettering  
correspond in the two kinds of containers. Such a procedure is to be  
compared with that in potteries in the Black Sea area, where bricks or tiles  
clearly were marked by the same authority as amphorai: in that case we find  
not merely the same name but identical stamps. These are all products whose  
standard character needs to be maintained.

It was suggested that the place of manufacture of the drug containers  
and the/ Agora stamped lagynoi was Cos, which was famous for its doctors  
as well as for its wine, and where in the second century BC there was a medical  
tax (known from an inscription) the collection of which may have been arranged  
by requiring the use of special drug containers. The name Moschion appears  
on Coan coins of the same period.



This is going to be a very short paper.

~~This paper~~ <sup>It</sup> is <sup>presented thanks to names</sup> ~~and largely on~~

and photographs sent to me by friends in Athens, Alexandria, and Copenhagen.

In particular, the jugs which you will see have only been put together in the last few weeks, and I am greatly obliged to Lucy Talbot <sup>of the Agassiz expedition</sup> for rushing them through the members, as well as the Agassiz photographs shop, so that they could be shown to you at these meetings.

May I leave the first slide please.



In the excavations in the Agora or marketplace of ancient Athens have been found a vast number of fragments of the pottery containers in which fluid goods were packaged for shipment. Many of the handle fragments bear stamps of this general character [Slide 1: miscel. from the Agora (made to show die variations)], which appear to have served principally as endorsements of capacity. Most of the stamped handles come from plain pointed amphoras 2 or 3 feet high: <sup>(plain)</sup> I show a group of various types of such jars found in Rhodes in a deposit of the early 2nd century B.C. [Slide 2: Villanova types.]

However, out of over 10,000 stamped handles catalogued at the Agora, a few, possibly as many as 70, are of a shape and size which suggested they came from narrow-necked jugs or *lagynoi*. And finally this year it has been possible to put together complete stamped <sup>*lagynoi*</sup> examples [Slide 3: SS 10259-60 <sup>Slide</sup> 2 jugs and a stamp with the name Moschion in the genitive.]. The stamp illustrated comes from the jug to the left; the other is marked with the same name, Moschion, though the stamps are not identical. The two jugs come from a cistern of which the other <sup>not yet properly studied</sup> contents have been assigned tentatively to the 3rd or early 2nd centuries B.C. I owe my first notice of these jugs to Mr. Roger Edwards



at present a member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens,  
working at Corinth and the Agora. I ~~am greatly obliged to Lucy Talcott~~  
~~for sending photographs on a rush order.~~

Time does not permit a discussion here of this fascinating shape,  
~~which was apostrophized by a Hellenistic poet, and~~ but is perhaps better  
known as having been used by Aesop's crane to serve refreshments to a  
clever friend.  
~~mean fox.~~ <sup>at present</sup> I am concerned ~~here~~ to note that ancient references

indicate definite, though varied, theoretical capacities for *lagynoi*;  
and that where it has been possible to measure preserved vessels, one  
finds a simple capacity relationship between *lagynos* and *amphora*.

<sup>slide</sup>  
[Slide 4: Larnaka Dasos tomb.] Thus in this tomb-group of the early  
during the war  
2nd century B.C., opened by members of the Cyprus Regiment ~~in the line~~  
~~of the~~ preparing a petrol dump, the 3 imported *lagynoi* (all save the small  
one to the left) held <sup>very</sup> close to 1/12 of the capacity of the stamped

(Agathos of Althauson)

Rhodian jar to the left. The small *lagynos*, of rather crude fabric,  
bears about the same relation to the imitation Rhodian jar to the right.

In a 1st century B.C. group, a narrow-necked Cypriote jug held 1/6 of the  
~~contemporary Rhodian jar.~~



Rhodian fractional containers were provided by amphoras of reduced size, as illustrated [Slide 5: sixth from Aphendrika, half from Hama, unit in the Cyprus Museum.] by these three shown at the same scale, representing sixth, half and unit. All three are stamped, the sixth simply with the head of Helios on each handle, the half with regulation

full-sized stamps such as are used on ~~full~~ amphoras. The neck and handles of the

half-jar are ~~not reduced in proportion to the body~~ nearly the size of

those on the unit, which gives quite different proportions to these

two approximately contemporary Rhodian jars, both conventionally

stamped. Such further evidence as is available suggests this difference

was the rule.

*The half jar is shown by courtesy of the National Museum of Copenhagen, the other two from the Antiquities Dept. of the Cyprus Museum.*

We know that lagynoi, as well as amphoras, carried wine. There

exists a series of much smaller stamped containers, sometimes made of

clay, designed to hold a drug called lykion, and marked with this

word as well as with an endorsing name and sometimes a dating name.

*The two shown here were found in Alexandria by Mr. L.B. [Slide 6: Moschi- and Nikias epi Pa-]. Note for scale that the larger*

*more completely preserved*

of these two fragments is about an inch and a half high. On the smaller

*read*  
fragment we may probably restore the same name, Moschion, as appeared on

the stamped lagynoi from the Agora, written again with a *similar lettering* ~~lunate~~ sign.

*Sobriety  
of. A. Alexandria*

*Amphoras  
of. A. Alexandria*



As these lagynoi and drug containers seem to have been of about the same date, and as the descriptions of <sup>the</sup> clay sound very similar in the reports I have received, it is not improbable that the same man endorsed both drug containers and lagynoi. This need not surprise us, since in some potteries in the Black Sea region bricks or tiles clearly were marked by the same authority as amphorae; in that case we find not merely the same name but identical stamps. These are all products whose standard character needs to be maintained. I refer you to the interesting standard tiles from the Agora which Professor Thompson showed us yesterday.

I suspect that the place of manufacture of these drug containers and ~~of the~~ stamped lagynoi was Cos, which was famous for its doctors as well as for its wine, and where in the second century B.C. there was a medical tax (known to



(5.)

us from an inscription) the collection of which may have been arranged by requiring the use of special drug containers. The name Moselwin is loan, appearing for instance on loan coins of the same period. Note the Rhodian rose on the Moselwin vessel: it is found also on certain Indian amphora stamps which also belong to the period of Rhodian control in this area.

All the vessels I have shown in this paper are datable somewhere about 200 BC, except that the Rhodian sixth is a little earlier. They help to fill out our picture of the complex organization of Rhodes commerce at its peak.



15. Dec. 47

News for Christmas~~Coan jars~~~~Lagynos~~

Maps  
of  
Pavane  
V5  
N.M. as picked  
from Bismarck

spread: what this involves in intention  
of

mass: how we will handle it

identification, then and now  
- cross-check w. coins (names - pictures)

Coan

Quian?

~~But~~

Beaflay jar - Lesbian?

Note that lack of ethnic is unimportant

for identification - cf. Rhodian

a Rhodian was evidently a mission  
to distinguish from Rhodians~~basis of understanding among~~  
~~word to consider~~fractional units - half Rhodians  
and Lagynos, indications on  
stamp? (cf pellets)The teller jar is ca 1 1/2" high small container (Lipin bottle  
myristic)

off  
or  
your  
of



evidence of related material

standards in coins

identical stamps on bricks

(and Brichmont owners paid a tax<sup>x</sup>  
marking on ME jars  
much fuller marking on Roman jars

(note weights aptly marked)

analogous modern practices

what one may expect to recover of lists of pions

Testimonia

some quotations, read with

slides of Roman jar and  
of representations

note that the date of the beginning of the  
narrow-necked jar in the Hell. period  
is tied up with that of the "little round jar"  
in the post. attributed to Asklepiades

purpose of stamping

In writing this up for the A. J. A., put in a  
few comments on the effect of "popular" writing,  
as judged from far mail on C. J. articles.

<sup>x</sup>ESARome II, 330-1 (Krauss)



For copy used  
of actual paper  
rest, see folder  
"Fractal Stamped Containers"  
under general heading of  
STANDARDS

all the things I have shown are  
(A Part of my collection)  
detailed specimens about 200 B.C. A and B.C.  
and C. and on paper of the complete  
weight of Roman currency of the period.



Trying to get also:  
map, my god  
Chian coins

7104

Slides

Larnaka-Dassos Tomb group

Pile in Nat. Mus.

Rhodian mint and fractions

To go with the <sup>copying</sup> ~~fraction~~  
Cy 41 to be printed  
.06 high

Diff. types at Villanova

Cy 46 to be printed  
.10 high

Map

Lyrion containers

~~jar woman in Vinter~~

jar for Tom I

1st AD jars

Treasure and Chian jars  
Coin and ? jars

For Rhodian fractions:

$$\frac{.643}{.088} = \frac{.445}{x}$$

$$.643 x = \frac{.445}{.088}$$

$$.643 \overline{) .039100} \quad .06$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .445 \\ .088 \\ \hline 3560 \\ 3560 \\ \hline 0000 \end{array}$$

From Naumian Society

slides down

a) Chian coin of  
Heli, priest  
showing plant  
shaped jar.

b) Coin coin with  
MOXX (X = ?)

$$\frac{.643}{.088} = \frac{.78}{x}$$

$$.643 x = \frac{.78}{.088}$$

$$.643 \overline{) .863636} \quad .13$$

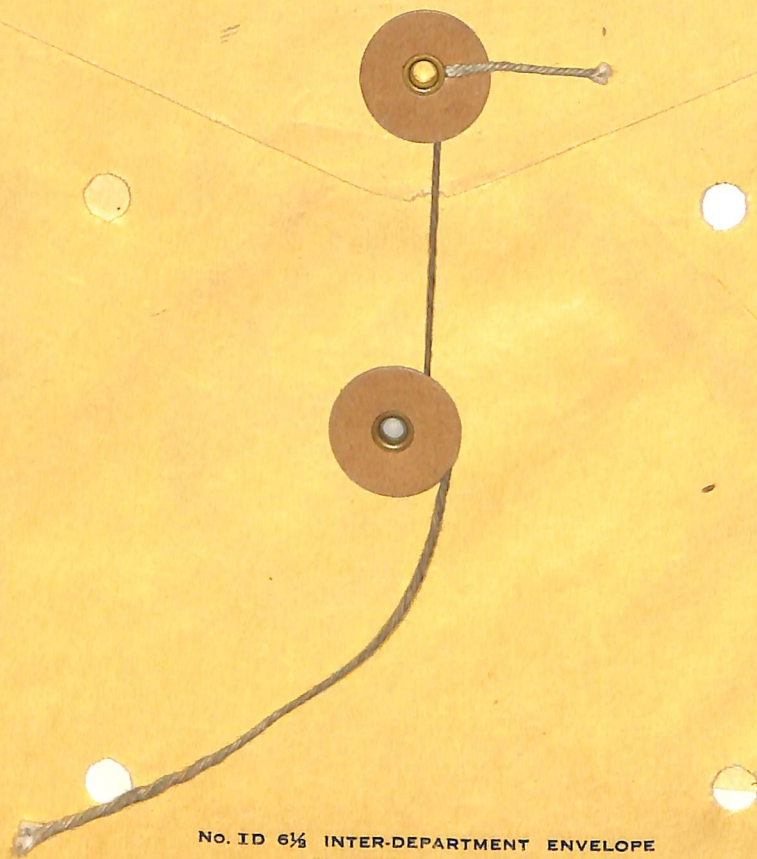
$$\begin{array}{r} .78 \\ .088 \\ \hline 624 \\ 624 \\ \hline 0000 \end{array}$$







8.016



NO. ID 6½ INTER-DEPARTMENT ENVELOPE  
CURTIS 1000 INC.  
HARTFORD ST. PAUL CLEVELAND







8.026

Tamb 1, 6, 40, 41 +

P 1555

25.12



8.03

1014192001





8.04a





8.046

—When re-ord. specify—



STOCK No. 753E

MADE IN U.S.A.







8.056

Barrel 9 Aug 46

C.  
2

acc. to meeting (one 25/11/46)

acc. 2:1

(longer)  
- the width of the  
stamp is not, 0.01







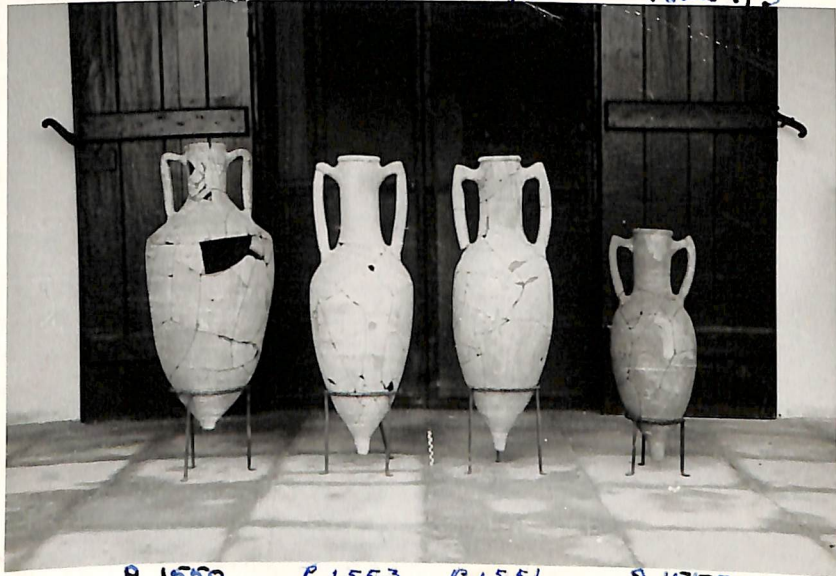
Bensali 9 Aug 96

-  
A



Tomb 1, 1 - Tomb 1, 4 T 1, 2

Tomb 1, 3



P 1550

P 1553

P 1551

P 1552











Lamaka Dasso Alityis Tomb.

all objects saw. 34-37







8.096

POS

For Correspondent

13-30  
P 1054

Tomb 1, 5



Uses of fractional jars

Remember the Thasian wine law: penalty for (?)  
was "ΣΙΡΤΗΝ ΚΑΤ' ΕΠΙΦΟΡΑ" & each of 2 drachms and  
to the accuser

(See now BCI Supp 13, p. 147, Salviat)

FRACTIONAL STAMPED CONTAINERS

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