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The George McGhee Amphora Collection at the Alanya Museum, Turkey

Patricia Sibella

Photographs by Don Frey

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Editor: Christine A. Powell

The George McGhee Amphora Collection at the Alanya Museum, Turkey

Patricia Sibella

Photographs by Don Frey

The George McGhee collection in the Alanya Museum, Turkey, comprises seventy ceramic containers. These have all been recovered since World War II in fishermen's nets along the southern coast of Turkey.

The forty analyzed here, representing every major period in the eastern Mediterranean from Persian to Late Byzantine (approximately seventh century BCE to thirteenth century CE), reflect trade with the Levant, the Aegean, the western Mediterranean, and the northern Balkans.

This study shows the value of examining museum collections, even ones lacking full archaeological provenience. Assuming that amphoras recovered under such circumstances comprise a random sample, their relative frequency may suggest direction and strength of trade links. Many similar collections exist in Turkish museums, and the prospects for expanded study are promising.

George McGhee, former United States ambassador to Turkey, with permission from the Turkish authorities, assembled a remarkable private collection of antiquities over a twenty-five-year period. In 1995, shortly after his retirement and return to his home in Virginia, Ambassador McGhee donated these items to the Alanya Museum. The McGhee collection consists of over two hundred archaeological objects, including amphoras, pithoi, and marble architectural elements, as well as a selection of various ceramics. It appears that most of these objects were found inland, except for the amphoras, which were recovered from the sea between Antalya and Alanya on the southeastern coast of Turkey.

George F. Bass, then President of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), suggested that I undertake the publication of these maritime artifacts. He knew that the ambassador always wanted his collection available to scholars and the public. Despite the diversity and archaeological interest of the entire assemblage, we decided to focus our attention only on the amphoras, the two-handled jars used for the storage and transport of a variety of contents. I had already co-authored a book on amphoras of the western Mediterranean region¹ and was currently working on a second volume covering examples from the eastern Mediterranean. Therefore, I was delighted with the project. The experience would provide an opportunity for

me to familiarize myself with these ancient eastern ceramic containers. During a productive three days spent in Alanya in 1997, then again in April of 2001, Ismail Karamut, Curator of the Alanya Museum, kindly shared his thoughts and observations on the material in the collection.

Seventy amphoras were given to the Alanya Museum, but their staff had inventoried only forty-six. The remaining twenty-four jars consisted mostly of small sherds and could not be identified. Of the forty-six inventoried amphoras, fourteen of which are currently exhibited at the Museum, I succeeded in identifying forty. The six jars that could not be identified consist of two examples entirely embedded in concretion, an amphora base or toe, and three unique or little-known jars that I hope can be identified in the future when similar material becomes available. Although I was offered the opportunity to look at and photograph all of the McGhee amphora collection, most of these jars are covered by sea-bed concretion, a layer of mostly calcium carbonate and sand. Consequently, I could not determine if any of these concreted amphoras bear stamps that could aid in their identification. As for the few non-concreted examples, no mark or stamp was attested. Jars are referred to by their Museum Inventory Numbers.

As is often the case with private amphora collections, these containers are not from well-defined archaeological contexts. Most, if not all, were recovered in

fishermen's nets. Thus, certain types are difficult to date and attribute to a certain region. Nonetheless, it appears that these amphoras range in age from the Persian to the Late Byzantine periods (approximately seventh century BCE to thirteenth century CE), and thus represent some two thousand years of maritime commerce. I chose to present the amphoras as a simple catalogue in order of their chronological sequence and geographical origin. The terminology adopted is that most often used in similar studies.

Amphoras have attracted a good deal of attention from students of maritime trade, particularly from the 1960s onward. However, it is only during the last two decades that one has seen a significant growth in the information available about these transport containers. Their special interest lies in their value as a marker of economic activity, essentially the exchange of agricultural goods. Primary contents included wine, olive oil, and fish sauces. Amphoras were also used for solids such as salted meat, nuts, nails, and pigments. Butchered beef bones were recovered in one Mendeian and one pseudo-Samian amphora on the Tektaş Burnu shipwreck (Izmir) dated to the fifth century BCE and excavated by INA.² Amphoras are the containers *par excellence* of sea transportation. They may not have been intrinsically valuable, but they

survived over time. Transport jars were first used during the second millennium BCE in Syria-Palestine and continued in use for many centuries, to be replaced finally during the late medieval era by other types of containers, such as wooden barrels.

Among the most common everyday items discovered and dated to the Persian period are commercial transport jars with angular shoulders. These are known to be descendants of Early Iron Age jars. The type is represented in the McGhee collection by two examples, one missing its shoulders, neck, and rim (Inv. No. 179.1.95), and the other missing one handle (Inv. No. 121.1.95). Both jars present a concave upper body that widens toward the middle then tapers to a pointed base, with ridged ear-handles set on shoulders and body (fig 1 a-b). Inv. No. 179.1.95 dates to the seventh or sixth century BCE. This type is found in Israel, as well as along the western Mediterranean basin. The upper half of the almost-complete amphora (Inv. No. 121.1.95) consists of a vertical thick rim set directly on the shoulders without a neck, and shoulders forming an acute angle with the sides of the body. Fifty centimeters (cm) is the estimated height. The clay is reddish-buff. The best parallels for this amphora are found in Israel, Cyprus, and Egypt.³ This jar type seems first to appear in the sixth cen-

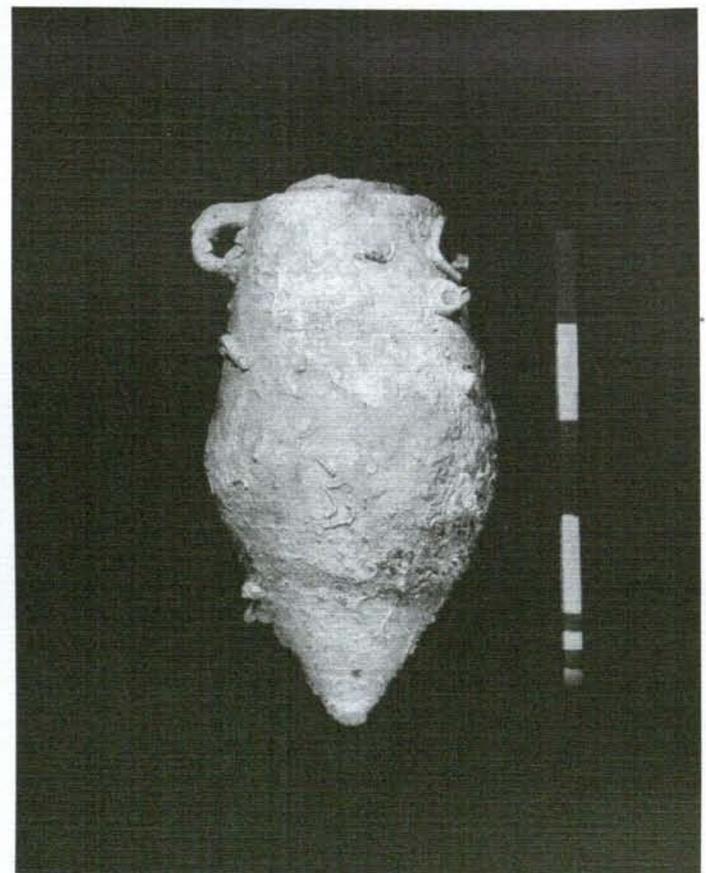


Fig 1 a-b. Persian amphoras. Inv. Nos. 179.1.95; 121.1.95.



Fig 2. Basket-handled amphora. Inv. No. 127.1.95.

tury BCE, but is most common in the fifth or fourth centuries. Our example belongs to the latest form.

The third example from the Persian period (Inv. No. 127.1.95) is a complete basket-handled amphora (fig 2). This type, which receives its name from the two large handles attached to its shoulders that rise above the rim, was imported into Palestine from the Late Iron Age and continued into the Persian period. It has an inverted rim, a short neck, and a cylindrical body tapering toward a stump toe. It appears to have originated in Rhodes, although a variant of the type, with a pair of short lateral handles, was found at Salamis on Cyprus.⁴ It is common at many sites along the eastern Mediterranean littoral, indicating its importance in seaborne trade during the period. The type usually ranges in date from the seventh to the fourth cen-

turies BCE. Our example probably belongs to earlier variants, namely those from the sixth century. The presence of a pitch interior lining indicates that it most likely contained wine.

The Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods are marked in Greece by an interesting development in amphora production. Early on in the era, numerous amphoras were exported from the Greek homeland to newly-founded colonies and towns around the Mediterranean, but none of these settlements adopted the typical amphora shape of the previous age for their own use. Rather, each designed its own amphora type. The McGhee collection accounts for eight such jars.

Although its base is missing, one of these vessels appears to be of Chian origin (Inv. No. 200.1.95; fig 3), of a style found on a number of sites around the eastern Mediterranean. A tall and narrow neck with a thickened rim appears to have been flattened down during the manufacturing process, thus giving an ovoid form to the neck. Vertical handles of circular section set below the rim and on the angular shoulders, and a near conical body tapering toward what may have been a button-toe characterize this wine container. The pinkish-buff clay is well fired. This is

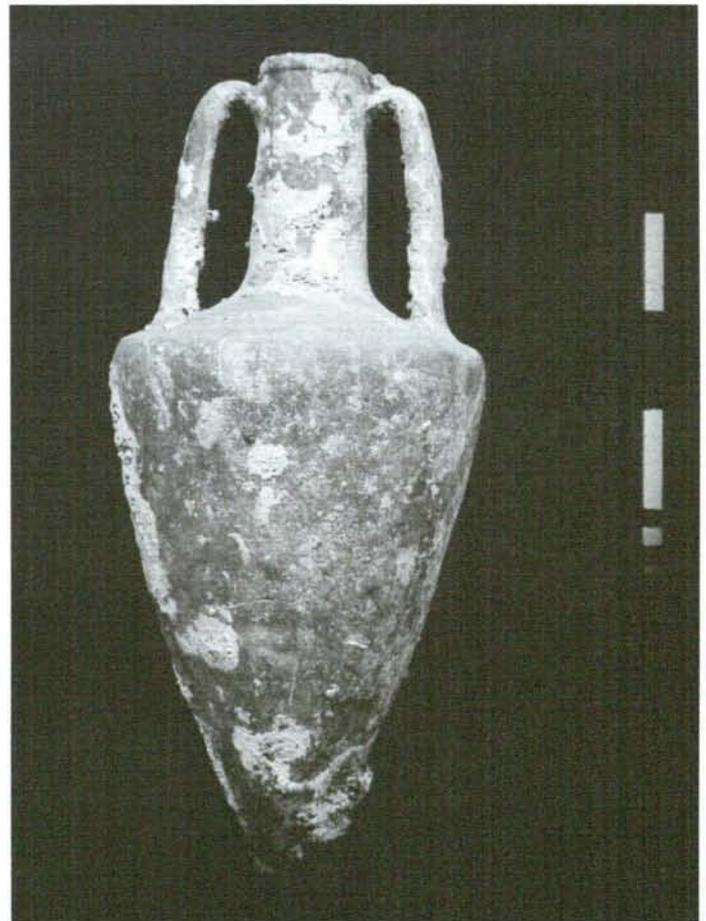


Fig 3. Amphora of Chian origin. Inv. No. 200.1.95.



Fig 4. Proto- or early Rhodian amphora. Inv. No. 173.1.95.

a rather short amphora (seventy-four cm) when compared to similar, contemporaneous examples that average eighty-five cm in height. Our example is closest in shape to jars from contexts dating to the last quarter of the fifth century BCE.

One amphora (Inv. Nos. 173.1.95) corresponds to proto- or early Rhodian types that were manufactured from the end of the fourth to the early third centuries BCE (fig 4). These jars were made on the island of Rhodes for the famous local wine, and have been recovered throughout the Mediterranean basin. A fingerprint was found at the base of one of the handles.

A heavily concreted example (Inv. No. 125.1.95) probably belongs to a series of Greek wine amphoras characterized by a tall neck, a roughly conical body with con-

vex sides, and a rather sharp transition to the gently sloping shoulders just above the point of maximum diameter (fig 5). The handles, which are set on the neck and shoulders, are nearly vertical with horizontal tops. The clay is reddish-brown. Amphoras with such features have recently been identified as Knidian. The shape suggests a date early in the third century BCE. If our tentative identification can be verified after the removal of surface concretion, it may then be possible to suggest a similarity between this amphora and those recovered from INA's shipwreck excavation at Serçe Limanı between 1979 and 1981 (less well-known than the medieval "Glass Wreck").⁵ The amphoras and their stamps there suggest that this ship sank around 280–275 BCE.⁶

Although Inv. No. 145.1.95 is missing its rim and toe, its general shape appears to correspond to that of Greek



Fig 5. Knidian amphora. Inv. No. 125.1.95.

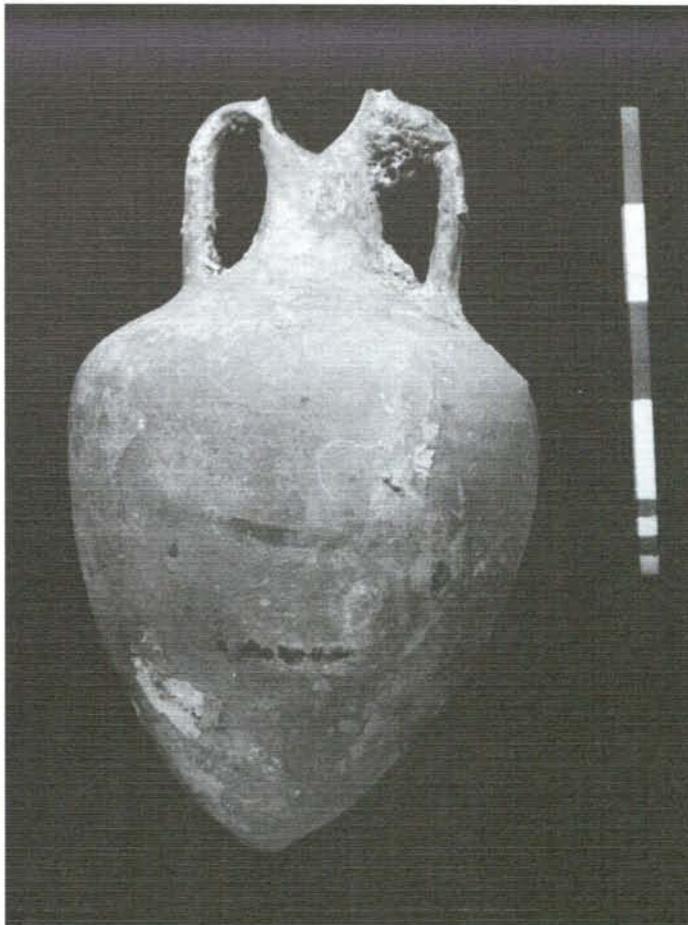


Fig 6. Greek wine amphora. Inv. No. 145.1.95.

amphoras dated to the fourth or third centuries BCE (fig 6). Assuming that the missing short section of neck included between the base of the rim and the top part of the handles had a straight profile, it may be related to an example from the Athenian Agora in Greece and identified as a Corinthian B type.⁷ However, if the rim started just above the handles and presents an inverted profile, then our example could be compared to specimens from Mende.⁸ A stamp would have been a certain determinant here. The amphora's height is estimated to be sixty-six cm.

The wine of Kos was sought after, but it was of a relatively inexpensive grade, bought in larger quantities than those from Lesbos or Thasos.⁹ Like Rhodian and Knidian wine, it sometimes had seawater added to it as a preservative. Two partially preserved examples (Inv. Nos. 146.1.95; 147.1.95) are identified in the collection as Koan types (fig 7 a-b). These amphoras are products of a long tradition that continued relatively unchanged for a considerable period. Over time, however, these jars from Kos show a tendency to become taller and narrower. An offset at the base of the neck is an early feature, which is later repeated at the base of the shoulders. The double-barreled handles make Koan amphoras easy to identify, but the pale greenish surface of their fabric is also an important diagnostic feature. Amphora 146.1.95 is missing its neck, rim, and handles. Its fabric is grayer than that of the second example in the collection. The distribution of this Koan jar type in the eastern Mediterranean basin is extensive. As for its distribution in the western Mediterranean, it seems to match the Rhodian amphoras. These facts indicate sub-



Fig 7 a-b. Koan amphoras. Inv. Nos. 146.1.95; 147.1.95.

stantial transport of Aegean wine to the West, as far as England and along the Germanic *limes* (borders). Although Koan stamped amphorae found in the West are not common, it has long been accepted that these jars served as prototypes for Roman wine amphorae known as Dressel type 2-4.¹⁰ Our two examples belong to the late version of Koan amphorae that were in use from the first century BCE to the first century CE.

Among the examples studied, there is one amphora (Inv. No. 201.1.95) originating from the Knidos-Datça peninsula (fig 8). Its mouth, 5.5 cm in diameter, features a ring-shaped rim, a narrow but conical neck, and two slightly pointed handles set below the rim and on the shoulders. The egg-shaped body tapers toward a pointed toe that is provided with a ring. The fifty-five-cm-high body of reddish-buff fabric is unevenly grooved. Dated to the first-third centuries CE, this type was probably used for carrying wine and was distributed primarily in the Aegean region. A similar jar is on display in the Bodrum Museum of Un-

derwater Archaeology,¹¹ although the latter is slightly taller (sixty cm) and its handles are more pointed.

The distinctive features of the widely-distributed Kapitän 2 or Agora K113 type (Inv. No. 124.1.95) are its thick, broad, and grooved handles that form a steep arch well above the level of the narrow rim (fig 9). Below the rim, one can see a fairly sharp flange. The type has a high, thick conical neck with tapering body, shallow horizontal grooves on the exterior, and a tubular, hollowed base. It may have carried wine. Its origin is probably located somewhere in the Aegean region. Although it was manufactured from the very end of the first to the sixth centuries CE, our example seems to belong to the third century; it shows some similarities to amphorae from a wreck found at Iskandil Burnu, near Knidos, during the 1982 INA survey.

Western amphorae are represented in the McGhee collection by only a single complete example (Inv. No. 174.1.95), currently exhibited in the main room of the Alanya Museum. It appears to be of a type known as Lamboglia 2 or

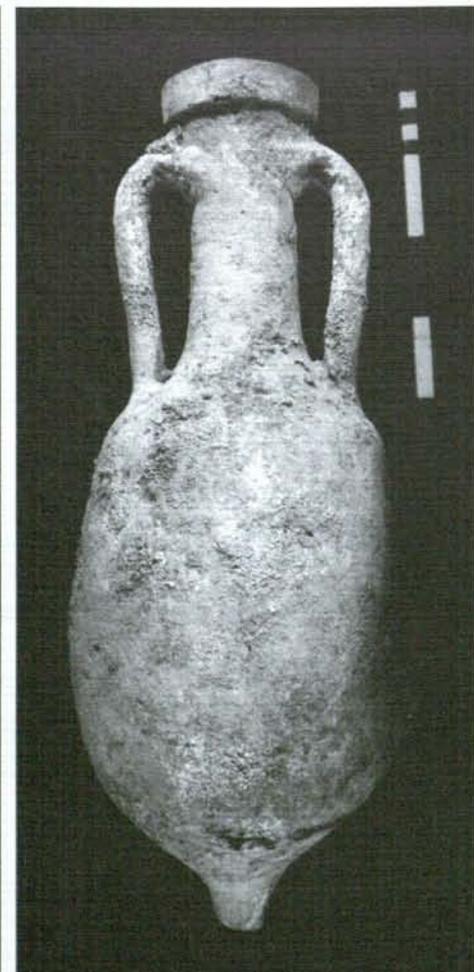


Fig 8. Amphora originating from the Knidos-Datça peninsula. Inv. No. 201.1.95.

Fig 9. Kapitän 2 amphora. Inv. No. 124.1.95.

Fig 10. Lamboglia 2 amphora. Inv. No. 174.1.95.

Dressel 6 (fig 10).¹² This one has a thickened rim with a slight overhang, triangular to nearly square in profile; a high, cylindrical neck; thick, oval handles; and a thick-walled, bag-shaped body with a pointed base. The type is generally thought to come from Apulia in Italy, with wine suggested as its main content.¹³ It is widely distributed in the western Mediterranean, but appears occasionally in the Aegean, North Africa, and Black Sea. A full load of Lamboglia 2 amphoras was discovered in Turkey by INA at Yalikavak, a former sponge-diving center situated at the very tip of the Bodrum peninsula. This type dates from the second to the first centuries BCE.

The Northern Balkans are represented in the McGhee Collection by two examples (Inv. Nos. 218.1.95; 183.1.95). The 218.1.95 jar is complete (fig 11). It has a distinctive, broad thickish flat rim and a very narrow neck showing a flange at its base. The two wide handles are ovoid in shape. They are set at mid-neck and on the shoulders just above the maximum diameter of the amphora, and form an acute angle. The body slightly tapers toward a flat, wide base. It is fifty-nine cm high. No close parallel could be found, but perhaps it is related to the jars from Kapaclia (Romania), which are dated to the second to third centuries CE.¹⁴ A narrow mouth, a cylindrical neck, oval handles, and a conical body characterize the latter. The rather eroded surface of our example prevented us from observing any possible traces of white paint, which are often seen on the Kapaclia jars.

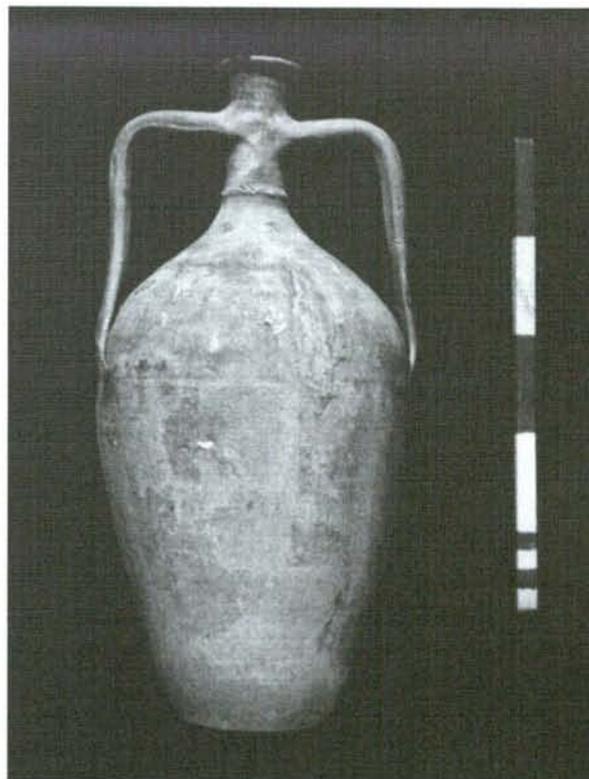


Fig 11. Amphora resembling jars from Kapaclia (Romania). Inv. No. 218.1.95.

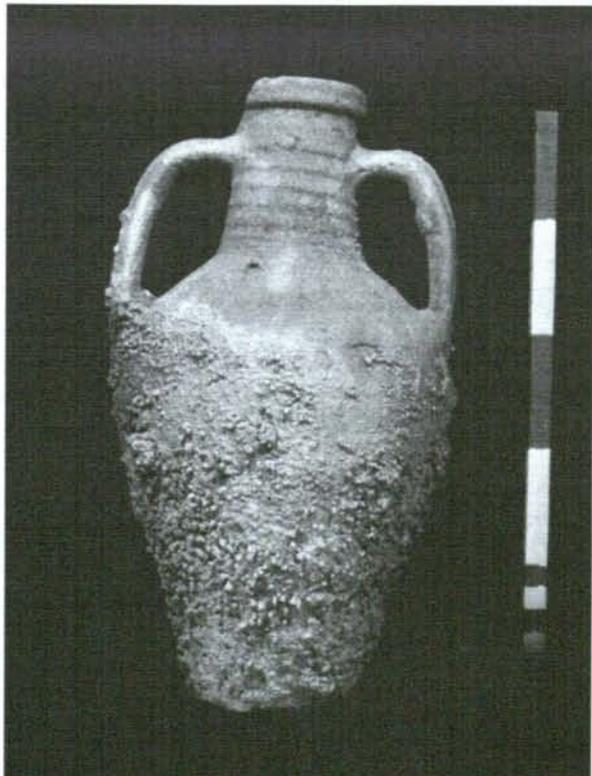


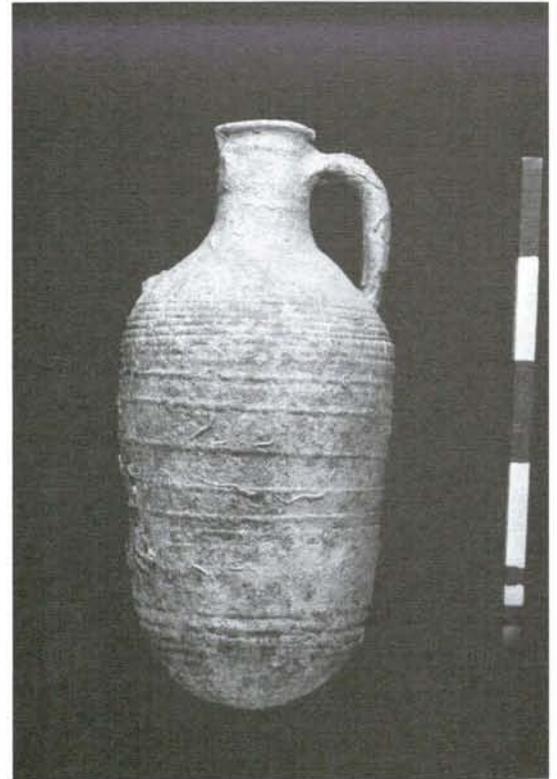
Fig 12. Amphora perhaps related to the jars from Histria (Romania). Inv. No. 183.1.95.

Inv. No. 183.1.95 is missing part of its rim and neck (fig 12). It exhibits a thickened flat rim, a wide neck, two handles set on neck and shoulders, and a body tapering towards a flat base. A jar from Histria (Romania) bears a similar shape, but without the overhanging vertical lip and heavy wheel-ridging on the neck. This specific example was found in the central part of the city. It is dated to the sixth century CE,¹⁵ a time period that witnesses a massive importation of amphoras, thus attesting the increasing importance of the Istro-Pontic regions of the Empire. Nonetheless, this Histrian example appears to have been locally manufactured, and may fall within a long tradition. This is suggested by another example found on the same site, but dated to the first to second centuries CE.¹⁶

Byzantine amphoras are clearly the most commonly represented group within the McGhee collection, where nineteen documented examples range in date from the fourth to the seventh centuries CE. The complete example (Inv. No. 170.1.95) exhibits a slender, tapering, wheel-ridged body ending in a small, slightly hollowed base (fig 13). Its high neck tapers toward a plain lip provided with a projecting horizontal flange underneath. The ridged handles are set below the rim and on the highest portion of the shoulders. The fabric is soft, gritty, and orange-buff in color. This amphora is similar to a type, of unknown origin, known as Robinson M334. Lebanon has been suggested as one possible source. It was manufactured from the third to the seventh centuries CE. Our amphora, however, shares the same general features as an exam-



Fig13 (left). *Robinson M334 amphora*. Inv. No. 170.1.95.



123.1.95

Fig 14 a-g (above and facing page). *Late Roman 1 class amphoras*. Inv. Nos. 123.1.95; 163.1.95; 184.1.95; 187.1.95; 188.1.95; 189.1.95; 197.1.95.

ple found in a well (Deposit M 17:1) located in the southern section of the Athenian Agora, and dated to the early sixth century.¹⁷

Amphoras of the Riley Late Roman 1 class are the most common amphora types of the late-antique and early Byzantine periods to be found along the shores of the Mediterranean.¹⁸ Seven examples of such amphoras are in the McGhee collection (Inv. Nos. 123.1.95; 163.1.95; 184.1.95; 187.1.95; 188.1.95; 189.1.95; 197.1.95), of which three (Inv. Nos. 184.1.95; 187.1.95; 189.1.95) are smaller than the rest (fig 14 a-g). This amphora category can easily be identified by its long neck, thickened rim with slightly convex profile, rounded base with small central button, and crudely fashioned, double-ridged and thick handles extending vertically from below the rim to the shoulders. Pronounced ridges that gradually become narrower at the shoulders and base usually cover the cylindrical body, which appears to have a waist-like feature at its middle. The height of our amphoras ranges from forty-nine to fifty-eight cm. They first appear in the fourth century CE, but become one of the

most common and widely traveled amphora types of the sixth and seventh centuries.

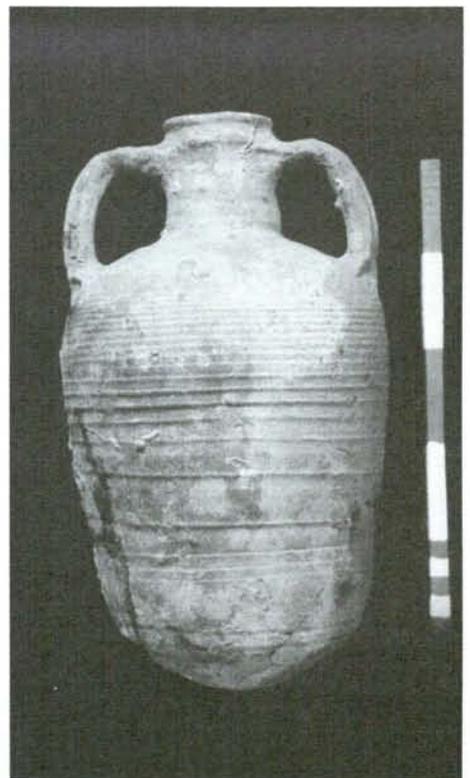
Examples of Late Roman I amphoras in the McGhee Collection are related to the latest versions. On the seventh-century Yassiada shipwreck in Turkey, for instance, this type accounts for the smaller of the two classes of amphoras in the ship's cargo.¹⁹ Outside the Mediterranean, it is found in Nubia, the Black Sea, and England. Markings of some sort, usually painted (*dipinti*), are common on this type of amphora. However, none of the McGhee examples show evidence of painted decorations, undoubtedly because of the general surface erosion that all of the jars have undergone. No evidence of reuse, such as extreme wear, repairs, or pry marks around the mouths was evident, either. The contents of these jars are generally assumed to have been wine.²⁰ In fact, thirteen jars recovered from the Yassiada shipwreck contained remnants of a resin lining, implying that most, if not all, contained wine or a wine-based product at the time of the sinking.²¹ Nonetheless, an origin in the Antioch region of Asia Minor has been sug-



163.1.95



184.1.95



187.1.95

188.1.95



189.1.95



197.1.95



gested by petrological fabric analysis of the Late Roman 1 class of amphoras, and kiln sites were recently discovered in the Gulf of Alexandretta and along the Cilician coast.²² If this proves to be correct, then oil could also have been among the type's contents. Indeed, oil residue, as well as *dipinti* indicating oil or olives as the contents, have been found.²³ The problem of identifying the contents of this type of jar, as with any other vessels from the Late Roman and Byzantine periods, is inherent to the exchange systems in which it was traded. The Late Roman 1 class of amphoras was in use through the course of three centuries; consequently, the vessels' most common contents may have changed to serve better the specific needs of constantly evolving societies.

Amphoras of the Late Roman 2 type (Inv. No. 126.1.95) were widely commercialized, but always found in rather limited quantity, except around the Black and Aegean Seas where production centers have been discovered (fig 15). The clay is usually fine, buff to light orange in color, with numerous inclusions. The common content is unknown, but wine seems to be a reasonable guess. Al-



Fig 15. Late Roman 2 amphora. Inv. No. 126.1.95.



Fig 16. Gaza A amphora. Inv. No. 122.1.95.

though the forms date from the fourth to the early seventh centuries, our example belongs to the later variants.²⁴

Based on a study conducted by Killebrew²⁵ on the rim, base, and general shape of the amphoras known as Late Roman 4 type, Almagro 54, Riley's class 49, Kuzmanov XIV, and Zemer types 49–53,²⁶ it is now possible to combine these seemingly disparate containers into two types. These are the Gaza "wine" jars (*gazition*) or Killebrew type A, and the "Lost" Ashkelon jars (*askalônion*) or Killebrew type B.²⁷ While the latter exhibits a wide, nearly vertical shoulders, wide handles, and a shorter body, the Gaza A, represented here by two examples, has a cylindrical, elongated body, and a small inverted rim. The pointed, hollowed base terminates in a rounded-off point (Inv. No.122.1.95; fig 16) or in a wider truncated form (Inv. No. 158.1.95; the poor condition of this example prevented us from removing it from the shelf, so no photograph is available). Two ridged ear-handles are set on the rounded shoulders. Heavy ribbing can be seen on the shoulders and between the handles. The second jar is 72.5 cm tall, of thick, buff-brown fabric. The upper part of such vessels invariably presents clay accretions, which have been attributed to the use of a wet chuck (a ring of clay used to support the pot on the wheel) in the manufacturing process.²⁸ The Gaza A and B jars were both produced in and around Ashkelon, as well as in Egypt. Examples are found both on land and under water throughout the eastern Mediterranean basin, including Israel,²⁹ North Africa,³⁰ Turkey,³¹ and the Northern Balkans.³² Other examples have been recovered in France, Spain, Germany, north and west of the Black Sea, and as far north as England. The shape dates from the

third to the seventh centuries CE. Lined with pitch, they almost certainly were used for transporting the acclaimed white wines of Gaza and Ashkelon, the fame of which may have been due more to the wine's use in non-culinary purposes than for its taste. In the fifth and sixth centuries, however, some amphoras are also known to have contained pickled fish,³³ and other products, such as sesame (?) oil,³⁴ and remains of fish.³⁵ Additionally, a secondary use of the Gaza amphora was for storing wheat and for this reason the amphora was employed as a measure in Egypt.³⁶

The African II D type of amphora is represented here by a complete, well-preserved example (Inv. No. 171.1.95). A long cy-

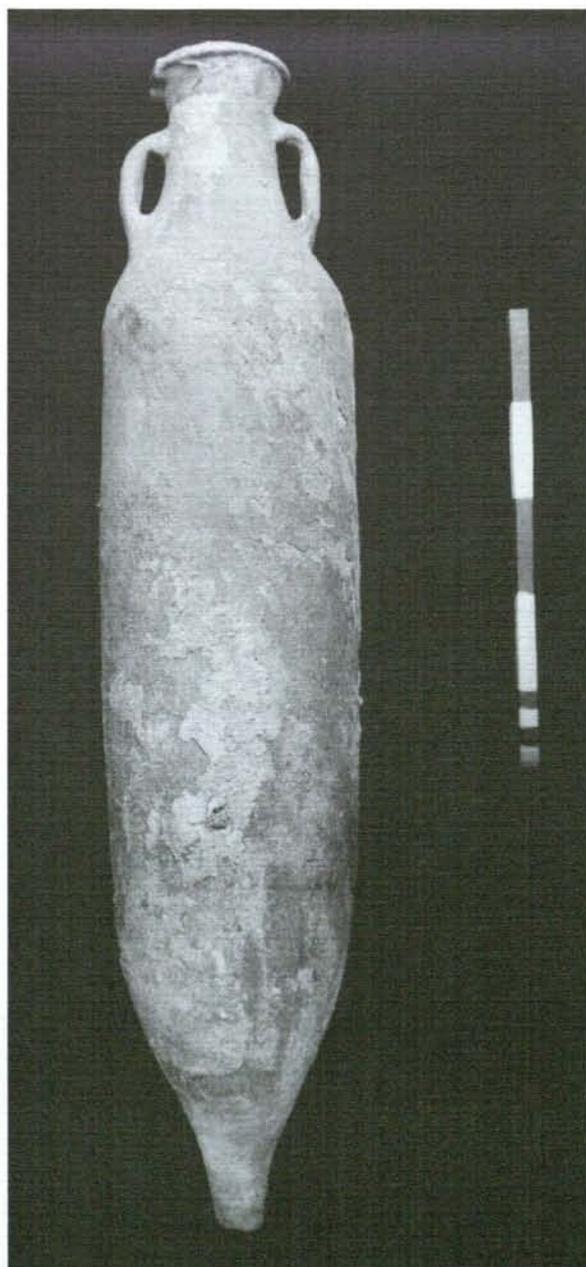


Fig 18. Hybrid type between the African amphora series and the spatheion. Inv. No. 172.1.95.



Fig 17. African II D type of amphora. Inv. No. 171.1.95.

lindrical body, a thick, vertical rim with a short neck and small bent handles distinguish this amphora whose origin was in the Sahel region of central Tunisia (fig 17). It is widely distributed in the western Mediterranean region, but it also reached the eastern part of the Mediterranean world. Our example seems to be a late version of African amphoras that occur in the third and fourth centuries CE, whose main contents were related to the fish industry, although olive oil may also have been carried in them. One amphora (Inv. No. 172.1.95; fig. 18) seems to be a hybrid type between the African amphora series and the *spatheion*, a cylindrical amphora of the Late Roman period. It has a long, fairly narrow body tapering towards the base, an everted rim, and two short handles

applied to the neck. Its origin is probably in North Africa or Spain. Contemporaneous with the African and *spatheion* types, this jar dates to the fifth century CE.

Three incomplete amphorae belong to the Late Roman 7 or carrot-shaped type (Inv. Nos. 151.1.95; 157.1.95; 181.1.95; fig 19 a-c). They exhibit a long, narrow neck, large shoulders, and two ridged ear-handles set on the neck and shoulders with the 151.1.95 example being a smaller version of the type. The long, conical, and heavily grooved body tapers toward a fully pointed toe. The fabric is coarse and reddish. Distributed along the shores of the eastern Mediterranean, they range in date from the end of the third to the beginning of the seventh centuries. Based on their stylistic evolution, our examples could be from the third to fourth centuries. These jars, possibly used for wine,³⁷ may have been manufactured in Egypt, but they appear in pottery shops at Sinop on the Anatolian coast of the Black Sea and around the Bay of Iskenderun. Similar jars were also recovered in other locations from Turkey (Tarsus)³⁸ and Lebanon. The 157.1.95 example finds its best parallel at Caesarea Maritima in Israel.³⁹

One amphora (Inv. No. 178.1.95) is probably from Samos (fig 20). This variety is known as the "Samos cistern type," because of the discovery of various examples in a cistern on that island. It exhibits an everted rim, a short neck, handles set below the lip and to the middle of the sloping shoulders, a ridged cylindrical body whose diameter slightly increases towards the bottom section, and ends in a conical knob. (Thanks are due to Dominique Piéri from Aix-Marseille University for helping me out in the identification of this specific amphora.) The peculiar design of its toe was intended to help in lifting the amphora and to facilitate the pouring of its contents. The buff-gray clay seems to be well fired. Our example is a large version of that series. It dates to the seventh century CE, a time known to have witnessed a reduction in large-scale amphora production. This decline is presumably linked to a decrease of agricultural surplus production in most of the Mediterranean world. However, the plethora of amphora types found during that period indicates continuing exchange between various areas.⁴⁰ Similar, but smaller, examples were recovered in mainland Greece, Italy, and Albania.⁴¹ The assem-

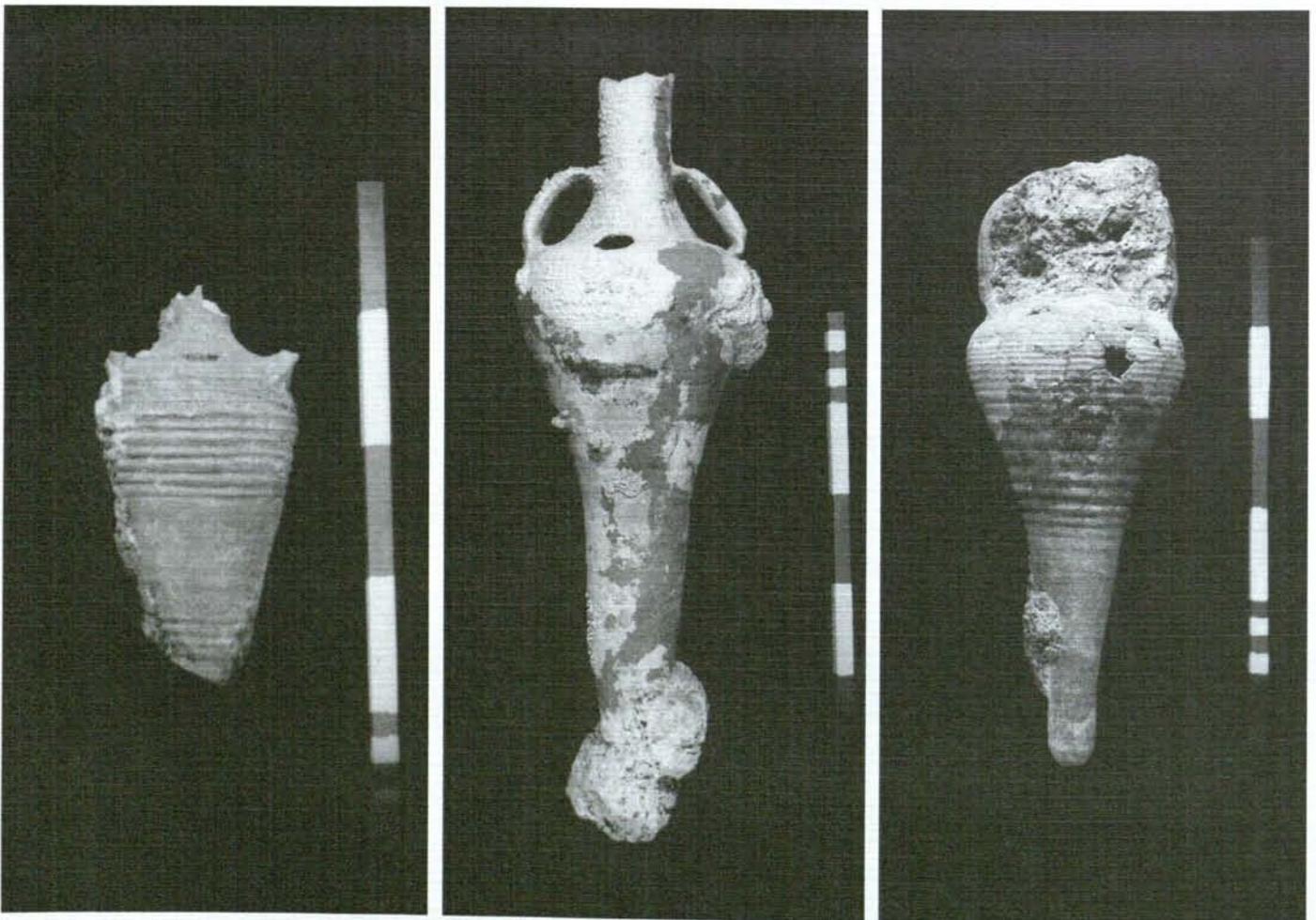


Fig 19 a-c. Late Roman 7 amphorae. Inv. Nos. 151.1.95; 157.1.95; 181.1.95.



Fig 20. Samos cistern type of amphora. Inv. No. 178.1.95.

blage of the fourth-century shipwreck at Yassiada, which counts for approximately forty percent of the cargo, may be compared to earlier versions of our Samian example.⁴² The presence of these containers in the western Mediterranean may also indicate a restricted trade with western areas of prime concern to Byzantium.

Two examples (Inv. Nos. 182.1.95; 186.1.95), of which only the second is complete, were tentatively dated to the seventh century CE (fig 21 a-b). Both show the same

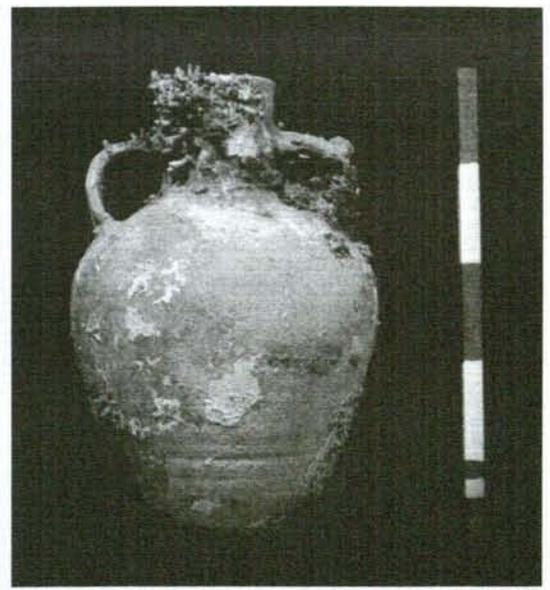
inflection at the base of its neck, with a wide central groove on the handles, which are set on neck and shoulders, and a smooth-surfaced body tapering toward a rounded base. They are forty-one and thirty-nine-and-a-half cm high, respectively. The clay is light buff in color. Their similar shape suggests that they came from the same shipwreck, whose location remains unknown.

Late Byzantine types are also included in the McGhee collection. Three examples range in date from the ninth to the thirteenth centuries CE.⁴³ Günsenin type 1 (Inv. Nos. 129.1.95; 177.1.95) is characterized by a short neck, and small but thick handles which extend beyond the rim (fig 22 a-b). Their average height is forty cm. Coarsely made, the clay appears to be red-orange to beige-buff in color, and can, at times, be brittle. Prominent ridges cover the entire body. Although similar examples have been found in Bulgaria, Romania, and the former Soviet Union, they are not as common in the Mediterranean region. However, the type is found in some numbers in several Turkish museums (Bursa, Istanbul, Sinop, and Samsun). They were part of the Serçe Limanı ship's cargo,⁴⁴ and were identified at Teke Burnu during the 1994 INA survey along the Turkish coast. They date from the ninth to eleventh centuries, and were probably intended to carry wine, although amphoras put to secondary use have been observed to carry a variety of liquid and solid goods.⁴⁵ Another interesting amphora (Inv. No. 128.1.95) is a hybrid example between types 1 and 2 of Günsenin's classification (fig 23). The upper part of this amphora has features of type 1, but exhibits a pyriform body, which is covered by widely spaced grooves. Type 2 amphoras are known from the former Soviet Union and the Aegean and Black Sea areas, but they are not usually found south of Izmir. Our example may be

Fig 21 a-b. Local amphoras, tentatively dated to the seventh century CE. Inv. No. 182.1.95; 186.1.95.



182.1.95



186.1.95

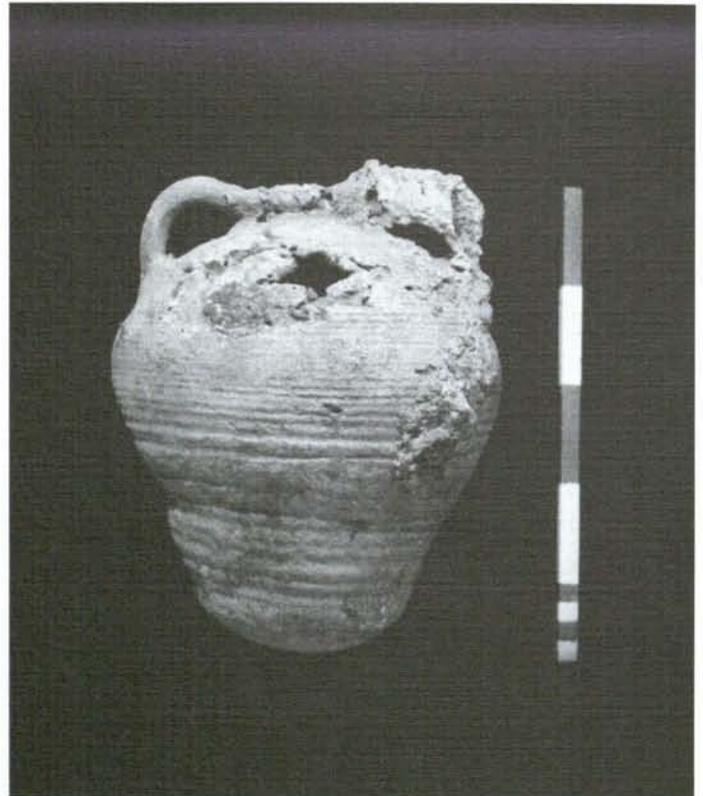
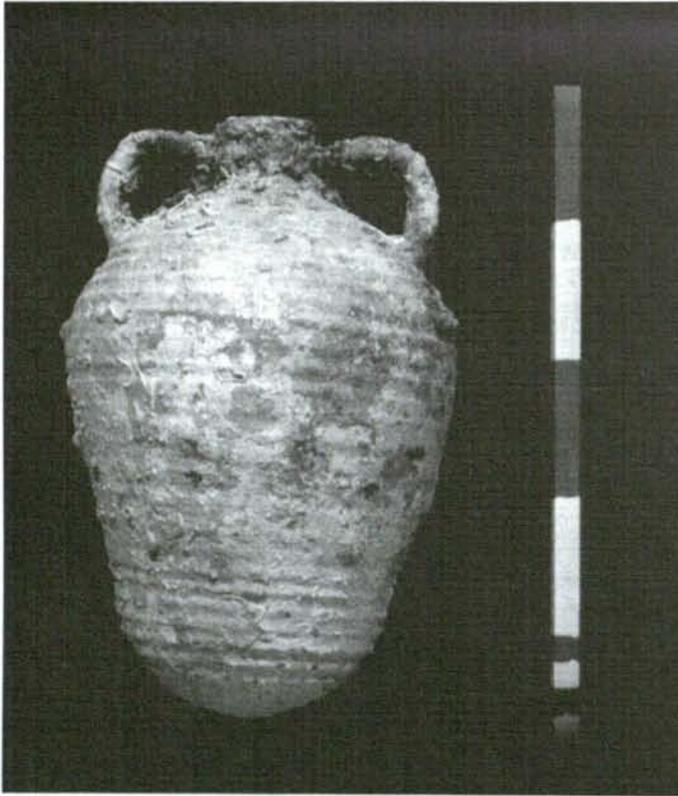


Fig 22 a-b. Günsenin type 1 of amphoras. Inv. Nos. 129.1.95; 177.1.95.

dated to the twelfth to thirteenth centuries. The concentration of these amphoras along the Sea of Marmara and in the countries surrounding the Black Sea, confirms the existence of an important maritime route between the latter area and the Aegean region from the tenth century onward.

One complete, but concreted, example (Inv. No. 180.1.95) is dated to the eighth to tenth centuries (fig 24). Coarsely made, it belongs to a series of small amphoras, as its height does not exceed thirty-six cm. It is characterized by a distinctive rim, a narrow and short neck, wide handles set on the neck and shoulders that tend to rise above the mouth, and a body slightly tapering toward a rounded



Fig 23 (left). Hybrid example between types 1 and 2 of Günsenin's classification. Inv. No. 128.1.95.

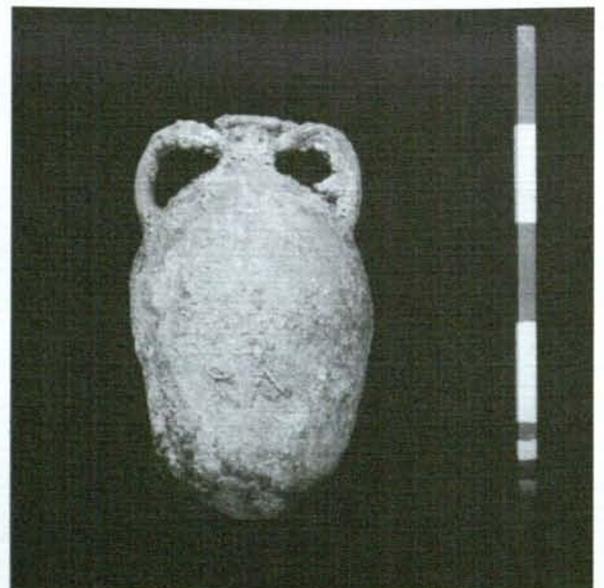


Fig 24 (right). Amphora which shares some features with Crimean amphoras. Inv. No. 180.1.95.

base. The shape seems to share some features with Crimean amphoras.⁴⁶

One amphora (Inv. No. 175.1.95) shows a wheel-ridged, pear-shaped, ribbed body tapering toward what may have been a pointed toe (fig 25). The light-brown clay is fine and well fired. It could date to the eleventh or twelfth centuries and belong to late Egyptian types. Its size (preserved height fifty-four cm) may indicate that the type was intended for fine wine in retail trade.

One amphora (Inv. No. 191.1.95) belongs to a group of large jars that are in the form of an everted ovoid with a rounded base, known as bag-shaped amphoras (fig 26). It has a short neck merging into an everted rim and two small ridged ear-handles set at the base of the neck and shoulders. The smooth exterior is buff-red. The popularity and lengthy use of the bag-shaped jar, from the second half of the first century BCE to at least the twelfth century CE, bear witness to its fine adaptation to the purposes for which it was designed: storage and transport. Our example seems to correspond to the Ummayyad version of this type of container. Latest in a long tradition of Palestinian amphoras, it was manufactured in numerous fabrics at various eastern Mediterranean centers. The most common contents of these jars are believed to have been wine, but wheat, barley, and walnuts were also carried in them.⁴⁷

Finally, one complete amphora (Inv. No. 190.1.95) can only generally be dated to the medieval period (fig 27). It is characterized by an everted rim, a short neck, small handles set on the shoulders, and a rounded, slightly grooved body tapering toward a large, flat base. Similar jars have been discovered at Divan Burnu during INA's

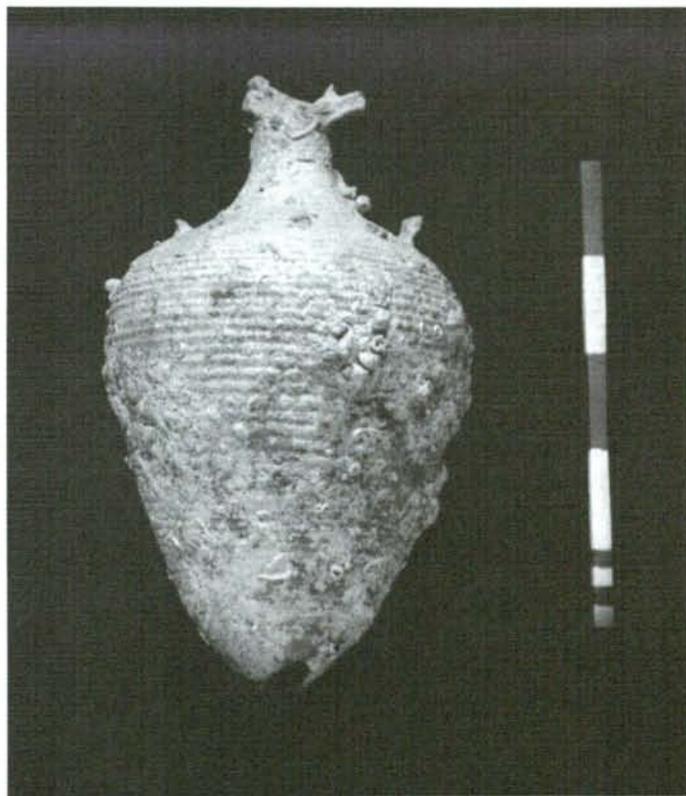


Fig 25. Possible late Egyptian types dated to the eleventh-twelfth centuries CE. Inv. No. 175.1.95.

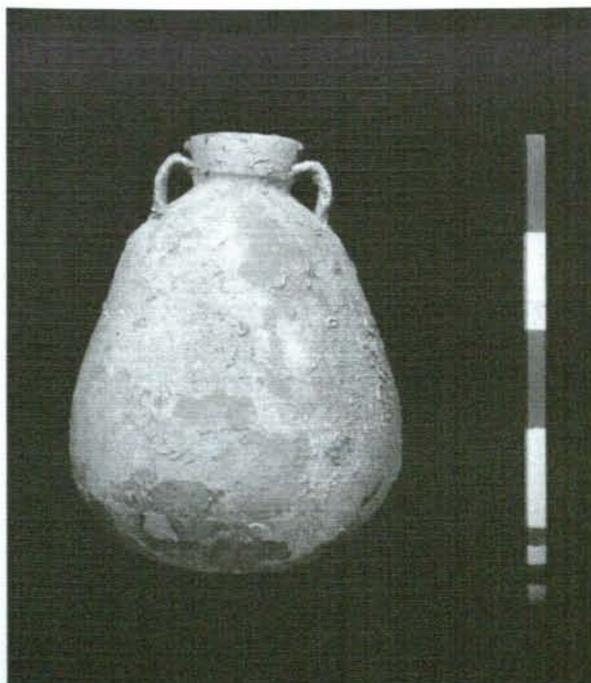


Fig 26 (left). Ummayyad version of bag-shaped amphora. Inv. No. 191.1.95.

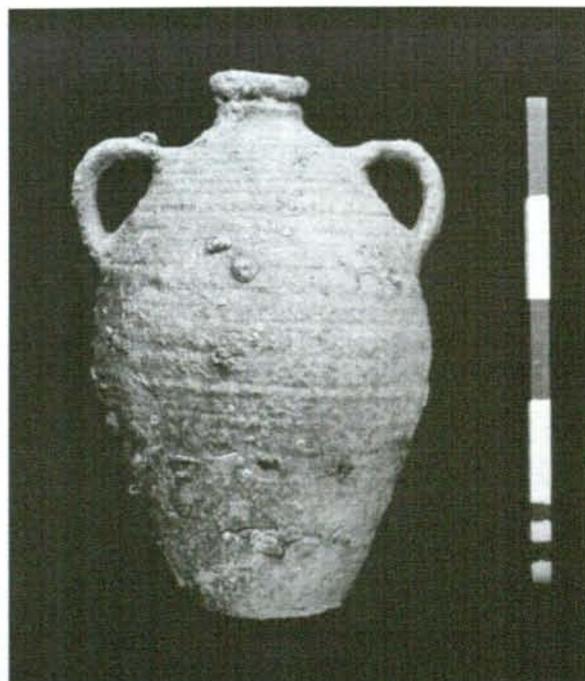


Fig 27 (right). Amphora dated to the medieval period. Inv. No. 190.1.95.

1984 Turkish survey, and others exist among the substantial amphora collection of the Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology. However, all those examples differ slightly from each other. No other parallels could be found for this jar, which may indicate that we are dealing with a local type.

The McGhee collection offers a good sample of the transport containers of antiquity and the Middle Ages, with the expected predominance of amphoras from the millennium-long Byzantine period. No single collection of amphoras, gathered randomly as fishermen net them,

can provide statistically meaningful data for the political and economic situation of their time. However, a future study of the growing amphora collections in Turkey's coastal museums may one day shed important light on the history of maritime trade along Turkey's coasts. Ambassador McGhee's efforts have saved these amphoras from the fate of being returned to the sea or even smuggled abroad. By donating them to the Alanya Museum, he has made them available to scholars, students, and museum visitors. I am grateful to the ambassador for making this work possible.

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- ²⁵ Mayerson 1994, 347–351.
- ²⁶ Zemer 1977, 61–66.
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