A New Lot of Greek Amphoric Stamps from Medgidia Elenistic 1 site, Constanța County

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Abstract. The preventive archaeological research carried out on the Medgidia Elenistic 1 site, by MINA Constanța, which took place between November 2022 and July 2023, brought to light a rich and beautiful ceramic material of all kinds, from Getic and Scythian hand modeled pottery by - to luxury black-glazed Greek vessels, gray pottery and, of course, a rich batch of Greek amphorae and their fragments. In general terms, the discovered material falls chronologically between the IV and III BC. Among the amphoric material, the majority on the site, a special place is occupied by the amphoric stamps (67), coming from 6 Greek producing centers, both Mediterranean - Thasos, Cnidos, Rhodes, and from the Pontic ones - Heraclea, Sinope, Chersones. Among the stamps from Medgidia, some specimens of unknown centers were also noticed, some present for the first time in the W-NW area of the Black Sea, as well as, we believe, a new Sinopean producer. Most of the stamps belong to the Sinopean amphoric production - 34, which represents 60% of the total of this lot. From a chronological point of view, the batch of stamps discovered on the Medgidia Elenistic 1 site falls between the first half of the century 4th and mid-century 3rd century Chr.

Keywords: amphora, stamps, producers, magistrates, Greek centers, chronological groups.

Rezumat. Cercetările arheologice preventive efectuate pe situl Medgidia Elenistic 1, de către MINA Constanța, care au derulat în perioada noiiembrie 2022- iulie 2023, au scos la lumina zilei un bogat și frumos material ceramic de toate facturile, de la ceramică getică și scitică modelată cu mână – la vase grecești de lux cu fârnis negru, ceramică cenușie și, bineînțeles, un bogat lot de amfore grecești și fragmentele acestora. În linii generale materialul descoperit se încadrează din punct de vedere cronologic între sec. IV și III a. Chr. În cadrul materialului amforic, majoritar pe sit, un loc aparte îl ocupă ștampilele amforice (67 de exemplare), provenind din 6 centre producătoare grecești, atât mediteraneene - Thasos, Cnidos, Rhodos, cât și din cele pontice - Heraclea, Sinope, Chersones. Printre ștampilele de la Medgidia au fost sesizate și câteva exemplare ale unor centre necunoscute dar și unele prezente pentru prima data în zona de V- NV a Mării Negre, ca și un, credem noi, nou producător sinopean. Majoritatea ștampilor aparțin producției amforice sinopeene - 34 de exemplare, ceea ce reprezintă 60% din totalul acestui lot. Din punct de vedere cronologic lotul de ștampile descoperit pe situl Medgidia Elenistic 1 se încadrează între prima jumătate a sec. IV și mijlocul sec. III a. Chr.

Keywords: amphora, stamps, producers, magistrates, Greek centers, chronological groups.

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INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 2022, preventive archaeological research was started for the investment project "Medgidia Cement Factory exploitation quarry expansion", the Medgidia Hellenistic archaeological site 1. The site was delimited following an intrusive archaeological diagnosis carried out in the summer of 2022. We note that the site was not inedit, even if it is not registered in RAN or LMI, the first research being carried out in 2007. At that time, 44 archaeological complexes, pits and dwellings, dated to the IV-III centuries BC, were investigated.

The terrain on which the site is located is located on the SE side of the Medgidia quarry, in the outskirts of the Poarta Albă commune, on the border between the Poarta Albă UAT and the Medgidia municipality, and is located on the northern slope of the hill that is on the current edge of mining pit, on a slope that tends to run off in the SW-NE direction. The investigated area of the site is approximately 2.5 ha, the site being, in our opinion, exhaustively investigated.

A number of 366 archaeological features were researched, of which we mention hut dwellings (2 types -25), 21 fire installations (of which 8 ceramic furnaces), household pits (140), supply pits (100), deposit pits (6), clay loan pits (4) and other types.

The stamps collection from Medgidia Elenistic 1 contains 67 specimens, which belong to amphoric packaging from several Mediterranean and Pontic centers. Among the Greek centers with the largest number of stamps, Sinope stands out -37 copies, nine stamps belong to Thasos, ten are Heracleote, three copies are Rhodian stamps, likewise three copies belong to amphorae from Chersonese, and one copy belongs to an amphora from Cnidos.

CATALOGUE

Sinope
1.1a, 1b.
ἀστυνόμου
Ἀισχίνου.
Δραλωθης grape
Two magistrate stamps possible Αἰσχύνης 5 Ἰφιος, group V/ C, ca. 264 BC
Producer with a non-Greek name, from group V and early group VI, but this combination of names is first encountered in the northwest and west Pontic region. Taking into account the periods of activity of the astynomous, with whom this producer worked, we can say that his workshop existed for at least 20 years. Both stamps are executed with the same die. Feature 244.

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3 Colțeanu, 2023. Communication held between October 18-21, 2023 on the occasion of the National Scientific Communication Session of the Institute of Archeology Iasi. The analysis of the internal architecture of the site will be the subject of a separate study.
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2. ἀστυνόμου
[Αἰσ]χίνου. [grape↓]
[Ν]ικίας
Magistrate stamp Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος, group V / C, approx. 264 BC. The producer Νικίας was active in groups V-VI. GRAMATPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, no. 362; CONOVICI, AVRAM POENARU-BORDEA 1989, 118, no. 50-51; SHELOV 1994, No. 253; FEDOSEEV 1998, № 203 Complex 200.

3. ἀστυνόμου
[Αἰσχίνης.
Στέφανος
Magistrate's stamp - Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος, group V / C, approx. 264 BC. It is possible that the potter was Στέφανος II CANARACHE 1957, no. 214; RĂDULESCU, BĂRBULESCU ET AL. 1988-1989, 44, no. 171, 172; 45, Pl. 1/6; GARLAN 2004, 64, F38. Feature 236.

4. ἀστυνόμου
Λασθένης grape↓
Kalissatheni grape↓

5. Δ[ας]
ἀστυνόμου [grape↑, Bellows Satyr ←↑]
Ἀριστιῶνος

6. ἀστυνόμου
Δημητρίου Crater↑
τοῦ Θευγνήτου.
Τυς

7. [ἀστυνόμου]
[Δημητρίου] Crater↑
[τοῦ Θευγνήτου].
[.....]
Magistrate stamp. The respective shape of the crater is found as an emblem of the astynom Δημήτριος 2 Θευγνήτου, Gr. V / A, approx. 277 BC. GARLAN 2004, nº 242 - 246; Feature 211.

8. [.........].
Magistrate stamp Διούσιος 3 Απολλοδώρου. The specific shape of the kantharos indicates the stamp belongs to this magistrate. Group V/A, approx. 275 of Chr. GARLAN 2004, n° 254. Feature 260.

9. Πρωτος.

Magistrate stamp Διούσιος 3 Απολλοδώρου. Group V/A, approx. 275 a Chr. The producer Πρωτος 1 begins his activity during the time of the magistrate Μικριας 1 from group IV/C, ca. 286 BC and works during several magistrates during Group V (GARLAN 2004, 73, F65), GARLAN 2004, n° 256. Feature 52.

10. ἀστυνόμου [Kantharos] ↑

Magistrate's stamp. Ἐκαταιος 2 Λαμαχου, group V/C, ca. 263 BC. Usually the name of the potter, who worked with this magistrate, was applied to the second one. Six producers are known, who worked with this asynnom: Βάκχιος, Δας, Δῖος, Κλέων, Κτήσων. Conovici assumes that on the other side could be the name of the manufacturer Δίος. CONOVICI 1998, n° 223. Feature 252.

11. ἀστυνόμου

Thyrsus with Ἐκαταιος

Magistrate's stamp. Lunar Sigma. Possibly the two letters at the end of the patronymic were placed above the last letter. Conovici assumes that on the other handle could be the name of the manufacturer Δίος. CONOVICI 1998, n° 223. Feature 216.

12. ἀστυνόμου(ν)

Ἐκαταιοιον τοι λαμάχο(ν)


13. ἀστυνόμου

Ἐκαταιοιον τοι

Λαμάχου

Thyrsus with ribbons
Magistrate stamp 'Εκαταίος 2 Λαμάχου, group VC, ca. 263 BC Lunar sigma. CONOVICI 1998, n° 227 (same matrix); GARLAN 2004, n° 312; Feature 200.

14. ἀστυνόμου
Ἐκαταίου [τοῦ]
Λαμάχου
Thyrsus with ribbons→
Magistrate stamp, 'Εκαταίος 2 Λαμάχου, group VC, ca. 263 BC. Lunar sigma is used. CONOVICI 1998, n° 227 (same matrix); GARLAN 2004, n° 312; Feature 190.

15. Τιμολέως.
ἀστυνόμου cornucopia†
Ἐπιέλπους

16. Τιμολέως.
ἀστυνόμου cornucopia†
Ἐπιέλπους
Magistrate stamp 'Επιέλπης 2 Ναύπωνος, group V/B, ca. 273 BC Manufacturer Τιμολέως 1 active starting from group V/B to the beginning of group VI/A (c. 260 BC) - during approx. 13 years. CONOVICI 1998, n° 132-133; AVRAM 1999, 223, no. 4, Pl. V; Feature 55.

17. Φιλοκράτης.
ἀστυνόμου [cornucopia†]
Ἐπιέλπους
Magistrate stamp 'Επιέλπης 2 Ναύπωνος, group V/B, ca. 273 BC. The potter is Φιλοκράτης III. CONOVICI 1998, n° 134; Feature 165.

18. ἀστυνόμου
Εὐχαρίστου.
Δαντος flower†
Magistrate stamp Εὐχάριστος 2 Δημητρίου, gr. W/B, approx. 268 BC Similar to Garlan 2004, n° 290; The potter’s name Δας I, II (III) is rendered in the genitive case. Some researchers believe that the stamps with the name of this potter belong to a single person. Garlan attributes this name to three homonyms (GARLAN 2004, 53-54); Feature 260.

19. ἀστυνόμου
[Ἱκεσίου]
tοῦ Ἑστιαίου. bird→
[Κλε]αίνετος
Magistrate stamp, Ἰκέσιος 2 Ἑστιαίου, active in group V/C, ca. 262-261 BC. The potter Κλεαίνετος II (Νουμηνίου) is active in group V, starting his activity at the beginning of group V,
during the time of the magistrate "Ἀτταλός (ca. 281-280 BC) It is quite possible that his activity lasts until the period of activity of the magistrate Ἰκέσιος 2 Ἑστιαίου, Analogies to CONOVICI 1998, n° 314 (same matrix); GARLAN 2004, n° 321 (same matrix). Feature 234.

20. ἄστυνόμου Ἰκέσιος τοῦ Ἑστιαίου [bird—]

‘Αριστές? Magistrate stamp, Ἰκέσιος 2 Ἑστιαίου, active in group V/C, ca. 262-261 BC Lunar Sigma. Similar to CONOVICI 1998, no. 301, only the potter's name is reconstructed as Ἀρίστων (sic!). In our case, the name belongs to a new potter, Ἀριστέυς, with the error of the engraver, who omitted the letter «υ». Feature 23.

21. Τμολέων/ Τιμολέως (1).

Ἀστυνόμου [quiver bow†]

Καλλισθένου Magistrate stamp Καλλισθένης 1 Νόσσου, group V/C, ca. 267 BC. The producer Τμολέων/Τιμολέως 1, begins his activity within group V/B and continues it also in group V/C (GARLAN 2004, 74). Complex 186.

22. Πρώτος.

ἄστυνόμου man’s head →


23. [Κ]λεων.

Ἀστυνόμου bearded head in profile →

Κρατίσταρχυ Magistrate's stamp Κρατίσταρχος Μενωνος, active in group V/C, c. 265 BC, a man's head, usually bearded, is the emblem of the magistrate. The potter’s name appears to be Κλέων, active as well, in group V. It is a new combination of these two names. Feature 180.

24. [Σ]ιμαλιώ[v].

Ἀστυνόμου kantharos ↑ Σιμίου Magistrate stamp - Σιμίας Ἰκεσίου group V/B, approx. 272 BC, producer Σιμαλίων ΙΙ-ΙΙΙ, active in groups IV-V. The magistrate Σιμίας Ἰκεσίου is well known both on the west Pontic coast and
on the west Pontic (CONOVICI, 1998, 83). In the given case, the emblem of the kantharos is the emblem of the magistrate. It is a rarer combination of these two names. Feature 211.

25. ἀστυνόμου
Χορηγί[ωνος]
Κτήσων? Nike in quadriga →
Magistrate's stamp Χορήγιον Λεομέδοντος, active in group VI/ B, approx. 255 BC, in the legend sigma and omega - italics. The producer Κτήσων II, is active within groups VI-VI. From the period at the end of group V/C (during the magistracy Λέων Λεοντίσκου, ca. 261-260 BC) Κτήσων II uses the services of the same engraver, who prefers to omit the patronymic of the magistrates and use italic omega and lunar sigma (GARLAN 2004, 189). Precisely at CANARACHE 1957, no. 342 (same matrix); GARLAN 2004, nº 347; CONOVICI 1998, nº 393 (same matrix). Feature 267.

Potter Stamps
26. [Δ]ραλωης
Δρ[αλ]ώου
Potter's stamp Δραλωης. Manufacturer with non-Greek names. The legend contains the name of the producer Δραλωης and in the second row - the patronymic, which has the same name, rendered in the genitive case. The activity of this producer is attested during the period of activity of several astynomia from group V- to the beginning of group VI. Being of non-Greek origin, in the family of this producer, the traditional rule for the Greek world of giving children names was not taken into account. Thus, the father named his boy after himself. In GARLAN 2004, nº 313, this copy allows a small rectification to the copy presented by Y.Garlan regarding the ending of the first proper name, (in Garlan it is Δραλω[ος]. Feature 122.

27. Ἐπικράτης
Ποτερ's stamp, applied to the neck of an amphora, executed from a Pontic paste, reddish-yellowish, similar to the paste of Heracleea or Sinope?. The morphology, however, rather indicates a Sinopean vessel. The Sinopean potter Ἐπικράτης is part of group 1 and is the father of another known potter Μάνης (GARLAN 2004 41). Feature 227.

28. [Ἐ]πικράτης
Ποτερ's stamp applied to the neck of an amphora, Ἐπικράτης, chronological group 1. (GARLAN 2004 41). Feature 248.

29. Ἑρμωνος
30. κερ[αμευς]?
Δ.ο....?
[...]
Potter stamp, potter or maybe even magistrate???. The appearance of stamps, which contained the title of the producer (potter) preceded or followed by the preposition κεραμεύς is indicated in group III, up to the final period of stamping by magistrates at Sinope and even in the late group of stamping by producers - post 180 BC. KATZ 2007, 261-272. We could assume the reading from the second line, of the name of the potter Διονύσιος Νευμηνίου (PRIDIK 1917, 88, № 315 - 532). Or, similarly, based on the fragmentation of the stamp, we could attribute the copy given to a Sinopean magistrate, in the legend of which appears, on the first line, the name of the potter Κέρδων, from group V Conovici 1998, 201, n° 289; AVRAM 1999, 223, no. 14, Pl. VI; GARLAN 2004, n° 271. Feature 215

31. .............

............ Crater↑

Magistrate stamp. The crater emblem is a magistrate emblem. Possibly group VI/ C1 (ca. 243 BC) - 'Εσταίος 2 'Αρτεμιδώρου? Likewise, this symbol is also used by magistrates Δημήτριος 2 θευγνήτου and 'Αρτεμίδωρος 2 Γλαυκίου, respectively from group V/ A, approx. 277 BC and VB, ca. 271 BC.

32. Indistinct stamp on amphora handle. Feature 196.

33. Indistinct stamp (erased) on handle. Feature 56.

**Thasos**

35. Θασίων
Dolphin (crustacean?)→
'Απολλόδωρ[ος]

Magistrate's stamp, after Avram, group XV, approx. 263 BC; according to Garlan, group X/ 16, approx. 269 BC Lunar Sigma. Does the manufacturer's name represent the emblem or emblems? DEBIDOUR 1979, 290, fig. 3.6; BUZOIANU 1982, 143; BUZOIANU 1992, 128, no. 76 (picture missing); Feature 269.

36. [Θασίων]
Grape←
'Αριστο[φῶν] ←

Magistrate's stamp 'Αριστοφῶν 2 possible early c. III B.Chr. The fragment of the handle bears traces of secondary burning. Similar to ΒΟΝ 1957, n° 421; AVRAM 1996, n°395. Feature 196.

37. Θασίων
Dolphin →
[Δημά]λκης
Late magistrate stamp, writing with lunar sigma. Magistrate Δημάλκης, whose activity can be dated between the first quarter and the middle of the 60s of the III century BC (ca. 267) BON 1957, n° 591; PRIDIK 1917, 41, N° 120, pl. IV,6; AVRAM, BOENARU-BORDEA 1988, Pl. 2/ 30. Feature 180.

38. Ἡρακλείδης
Star with 16 rays
Τασίων
Magistrate's stamp - Ἡρακλείδης I, dated ca. 276 BC, writing with the lunar sigma. TH. SAUCIU-C-SÂVEANU, 1937-1940, 265, no. 57; BON 1957, n° 711; Feature 11.

39. Θο[σίων]
Flower Button ↑[Lira]→
ἳδινάδης]
Magistrate stamp ἰδνάδης, years 70-60 AD. III BC, the name of the magistrate reversed and retrograde. Similar to BON 1957, n° 865; AVRAM 1996, n° 472. Feature 123.

40. Νικόδημος
Vessel (aribalos)?←
Τασίων
Magistrate stamp Νικόδημος I, the lunar sigma is used in the legend. Avram and Garlan date the activity of this respective magistrate between 287 – 274 BC and 281 – 280 BC. AVRAM 1996, n° 140; GARLAN 2004-2005, n° 325. Feature 229.

41. [Σάτυρος]
Dog (?) ←
[Θασίων]

42. Θασίων/ Σάτυρος / Γορ[γ]ου
Strigil with ampoule
Magistrate stamp Σάτυρος (IV), which also shows the patronymic Γόργου. Only two examples of this kind are known, with the same emblem, the example from Medgidia, being the second one4. Date: Middle century. III BC). BON 1957, n°510 et 1515; GARLAN 2004-2005, 326, (the author dates it ca. 249 BC). Feature 23.

43. Illegible stamp. Feature 207.

**Pontic Heraclea**

44. Ἀριστοκρατες

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4 Thanks to M. Debidoour, for the information
Potter’s stamp, from the final potter’s stamp group at Heracleea. End of the IVth century BC. 
45. Ἀριστο [krates]
Potter’s stamp, from the final potter’s stamp group at Heracleea. End of the IVth century BC. 
GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 238, no. 808. Feature 52
46. Ἐπικράτης
47. [Ἠρ]ακλέων
Potter’s stamp Ἡρακλέων from the final potter’s stamp End of the IVth century BC -1st third of the century 3rd century BC. The stamp is small and executed in relief. GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 239, no. 825 (it is mentioned that the stamp is en glyphic). Feature 37.
48. Μένης
Potter’s stamp Μένης, on the neck, from the late group of St. magistrate stampings. End of the IVth century BC -1st third of the century 3rd century BC, N is smaller than the other letters and is rendered retrograde. CANARACHE 1957, no. 472; Precisely at IRIMIA 1973, 28, PI.X/ 5; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, PI. XI, S67-68; in MATEEVICI, SAMOJLOVA 2017,139, Nº 47, 47a. Feature 23.
49. Μένης
Potter’s stamp Μένης, on the neck, from the late group of magistrates stampings. End of the IVth century BC -1st third of the century 3rd century BC, N is smaller than the other letters and is rendered retrograde. CANARACHE 1957, no. 472; Precisely at IRIMIA 1973, 28, PI.X/ 5; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, PI. XI, S67-68; in MATEEVICI, SAMOJLOVA 2017,139, Nº 47, 47a. Passim.
50. Παιρι [φ]ana
Manufacturer’s stamp from the group of early stamping - the beginning of the century. IV BC Παιριφάνης. The name in the stamp is rendered in the genitive case. Another opinion regarding this stamp is given by Fedoseev, who believes that the stamp represents the manufacturer’s name in the abbreviated form Παιρί... , in the first line, and on the second line is the name of the magistrate, also in abbreviated form – Φάνα... (FEDOSEEV 2016 , 13) Another stamp executed with the same matrix was also discovered in Arsa (GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 267, n°1179; and Argamum (Capul Dolojman) LUNGU 1992, 93, no. 73, PI.VII/ 73 (also mentions both reading variants of the stamp); FEDOSEEV 2016, 196, Nº 1828). Feature 260.

5 Thanks to colleague Th. Castelli for the analogy
51. ......t...
Englyphic stamp on the neck of an amphora of Pontic origin. Feature 181A.
52. Σ...ο...
Stamp in relief, on a pontic amphora, possibly Pontic Heraclea. Feature 260
53. ........
...... IA
Englyphic stamp on the neck. Feature 180.

**Chersonesos**

54. [Αἰσχίνα]χί[να]
άστυνόμο[ν]υ

55. 'Απολλωνίου]
άστυν [ομούντος]
Magistrate stamp ’Απολλώνιος, group I/B – approx. 318-307 BC The lunar sigma is used. GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 242, n° 884-885; KATZ 1994, 89, № 20, Tab.X, 1-20, 9 – 1-20,10; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 323, S 604-605; Feature 159.

56. [Ἡράκλειος]
άστυνομούντος

**Rhodos**

58. ...τ (Γ)οκ(Ν) ξ...ις?????? rose
Magistrate stamp (potter?). Feature 180.

59. Circular stamp, in relief, applied to a Rhodes amphora. It seems to be an early stamp from bouton-grouppe. The section (profile of the handle) indicates an early date (beginning of the 3rd century A. Chr.) KATZ 2017, 213. Feature 180.

60. [Σωτά]τά
Rectangular potter’s stamp Σωτάς 1, on the back, Date group I (ca. 294-271 BC). The shape of the handle as well as its profile indicate an early date. The stamp was carelessly applied, thus printing only the last two letters of the proper name, rendered le genitive. Amphoralex.org: RF-ΣΩΤΑΣ 01-012. Feature 52D.

**Cnidos**

61. ZH - Zη(νων)
A New Lot of Greek Amphoric Stamps from Medgidia Elenistic 1 Site, Constanța County

Producer from group II, between 280-250 BC. Group of Zeno. Similar to GRAMATOPOL, POENARU BORDEA 1969, 256, nº 1047; BUZOLANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 321, nº 580-581; MADZHAROV, STOYANOV 2018, 146; KASHAEV, PAVLICHENKO 2019, 89, Fig. 5/66; LITU, CLIANTE, 2021, 126/5; JEFREMOV, KOLESNIKOV ET AL. 2021, 287, Fig. 4-5. The specimen from Medgidia, unlike some known specimens of this group, appears to contain no additional emblem. Feature 23.

Centers not identified

62. Anepigraphic handle (ring-shaped) applied en glyphic on the handle. Most often such stamps were applied to some of the amphorae from Chios or Mende. The fragment from Medgidia, according to clay structure, does not belong to any of these centers. Compact yellowish-brown paste, with a lot of small mica residues, less chalk. Feature 133.

63. Ἑρε.......... ????

Manufacturer’s stamp, applied in relief on the handle. Clay structure, rather, would indicate a Mediterranean center. Feature 180.

64. ...διανο ?

Manufacturer’s stamp, retrograde, on an amphora handle, made of reddish-brown clay, with visible inclusions of black, calcareous particles, chewed sand. Pontic center? Feature 150.

65. Anepigraphic stamp? Sinope, ??? Light yellowish-reddish clay with visible black inclusions, tiny limestone. Two circles in relief are applied to the base of the handle. It is possible that the given piece belongs to a late amphora. Feature 216.

66. Ἀκρ....

Σασ....


DISCUSSIONS

The Sinopean stamps, in their vast majority (25 exp.) are those of magistrates. The names of some magistrates are found on several copies, thus the name of Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιός (group V/A), appears on 5 copies (of course with different producers), among them there are also two stamps with a combination of names, found for the first time in the north-west and west Pontic region: Ἀισχίνου/Δραλωης (note that these two specimens from Medgidia Elenistic 1, were executed with the same matrix). Two stamps belong to the magistrate Διονύσιος 3 Απολλοδόρου active within group V/A.

Similarly, two stamps belong to the astynom Δημήτριος 2 Θευγνήτου (group V/A) and the magistrate Ἰκεσίος 2 Ἐστιαίου (group V/C), respectively. Five stamps represent the magistrate Ἐκαταῖος 2 Λαμάχου (group V/C), known practically in all lots of Sinopean stamps, not only from the Dobrogean area. This magistrate, in most of his stamps, has as his emblem «Thyrsus with wine? -leaves» on the right, horizontally. In Medgidia, two copies of this
magistrate were also recovered, which have the emblem: thyrsus with ribbons, arranged on the left, vertically, before the legend.

The activity of the magistrate Ἐπιέλπης 2 Ναύπωνος (group V/B) is represented by three stamps, two of which bear the name of the same potter Τιμολέως. Two stamps reflect the activity of the magistrate Κρατίσταρχος Μενώνος (group V/C). One copy each belongs to the magistrates Εὐχάριστος 2 Δημητρίου (group V/B), Καλλισθένης 1 Νόσσου (group V/C), Σιμίας Ίκεσίου (group V/B) and Χορήγιον Λεομέδοντος (group VI/B), the latter stamp being also the latest stamp of a Sinopean magistrate discovered on this site (ca. 255 BC).

The few producer’s stamps belong to Δραλωῆς, known for his work with magistrates from the Vth group and the beginning of the VIth group. It should be noted that the producer’s stamp Δραλωῆς also contains a patronymic, which is the same name rendered in the genitive Δραλώ ου. It is the first stamp of this producer with a patronymic found on the western coast of the Black Sea. Y. Garlan attributes this stamp to the auxiliaries, mentioning three magistrates from group V and one from group VI during which this stamp6 was applied, probably to the second handle. The stamps of three of the four magistrates mentioned by Garlan can be found in the Medgidia collection: Διονύσιος 3 Απολλοδώρου, Εὐχάριστος 2 Δημητρίου and Χορήγιον Λεομέδοντος. From the dating of the activity of the four magistrates and of Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος, from our collection, we can say that the activity of this producer lasted 20 years: from approx. 275 to approx. 255 BC.

Among the producers who worked with the magistrate Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος, the name of a new Sinopean producer Ἀριστέως (sic!) appears7.

The name of another Sinopean potter appears on another stamp from Medgidia - Ἐρμων Μητροδώρου, active in groups V-VI. Two identical stamps of the Sinopean manufacturer are applied to the necks of two amphorae with the characteristics of the clay, but also the morphological ones obviously Sinopean, on which the name Επικράτης is rendered, a name found in the Sinopean amphoric epigraphy only in group I (ca. 350-340a. Chr.). The Sinopean potter Ἐπικράτης 1 is the father of another known potter, Μάνης 1, active up to the third group, and the first stamp with the name of Μάνης 1, is a re-engraving of a stamp of his father. The seal of Ἐπικράτης applied to the neck is undoubtedly a Heracletian influence, and the stamps of this potter are the earliest of the Sinopean stamp group from Medgidia Elenistic 1.

The dating of the eight Thasos stamps falls between the first quarter of the century. III (ca. 284) belonging to the magistrates Ἀριστοφῶν 2, Νικόδημος 1 and the middle of the same century (ca. 251/249) - Σάτηρος II (no. 37) and Σάτηρος IV (no. 38).

Of particular interest among the Thasian stamps is the copy belonging to the magistrate Σάτηρος (IV), which also has the patronymic Γόργου. In the Thasian amphoric

7 Information from Andrei Kolesnikov, to whom we extend our thanks.
epigraphy, several magistrates with this name are known, and only one of them has the patronymic\(^8\) indicated. At the moment, the existence of 30 copies with such a legend, with different emblems, is indicated\(^9\). In the stamp from Medgidia, a strighil and an ampoule appear as emblems. The stamp of \textit{Σάτηρος} \textit{ΙV} \textit{Γόργου} from Medgidia Elenistic 1, bearing the emblem «strighil with ampoule», is the second known specimen and the first from the Romanian space\(^10\).

Heracleotian amphoric stamping is also represented in the lot from Medgidia Elenistic 1 by 10 stamps, applied in engliphic or in relief, on amphora necks. Two stamps are made in relief, one on the neck and the other on the handle. Most of the legible Heracleote stamps from Medgidia belong to the producers of the final stamp group of potters at Pontic Heraclea: \textit{Αριστοκράτης} (2 copies), \textit{Επικράτης}, \textit{Ηρακλέων}, \textit{Μένης} (two copies), dated between the late c. IV – the first third of the century III BC, and only one stamp seems to be earlier, belonging to the earlier potters stamps, dated to the beginning of the IV century BC, bearing the name of \textit{Παιριφάνης} in the genitive case – \textit{Παιριφανα}. There are several assumptions regarding this specimen, for example N. Pavlichenko attributes it to a single name mentioned above\(^11\), Fedoseev considered that this stamp contains two abbreviated names firstly \textit{Παιρι} – potter’s name and secondly - \textit{Φανα}, magistrate's name, which Fedoseev considers as a new name\(^12\). Even if we accept the first or second variant, the stamp cannot be attributed to the late ones, but rather to the first half of the century IV BC.

Chersonesus is represented by three magistrate stamps, all belonging to the early period (groups 1/B) – years 318-300 BC): \textit{Αἰσχίνας}, \textit{Ἀπολλώνιος}, \textit{Ἡράκλειος}.

Of the three Rhodes stamps, only two could be dated, one, even if heavily worn, still preserved the form of a stamp from the bouton-group, dated between 270 and 246 BC. Another stamp, incompletely preserved, could be attributed to the producer \textit{Σωτᾶς} and the dating of his activity belongs to group I (approx. 294-271 a. Chr.). This dating is also supported by the shape of the handle itself.

The only stamp from Cnidos is monogrammatic, belonging to the potter \textit{Ζηνων} of group II, dated between 280-250 BC (the so-called Group of Zeno). The specimen from Medgidia, unlike some known specimens of this group, appears to contain no additional emblem.

Five amphora stamps could not be identified, even though some, at first sight, appear to present sufficient data for their reading and identification.

**Conclusions:**

\(^8\) GARLAN, 2004-2005, 281.
\(^10\) Kind information from Michel Debido ur, whom we also thank in this way.
\(^11\) Thanks to our colleague Natalia Pavlichenco for the suggestion.
\(^12\) FEDOSEEV, 2016.
Of the 67 stamps identified, 37 are Sinopean specimens, i.e. approximately 60% of the total stamps. This joint report is representative of all batches of amphoric stamps from Dobrogea, published by several Romanian researchers. Thus, the presentation of the lot of stamps from Medgidia Elenistic 1 comes to confirm the situation created in Dobrogea c. IV-III, when a good part of the liquid products, brought in amphorae, especially from the end of the IVth and throughout the IIIrd century BC, belong to Sinopean imports (in which wine and olive oil were also brought). It should be noted that the dating of the majority of Sinopean stamps 27 out of 34 belongs to the V chronological group. Based on the research of this batch of stamps we were able to trace the chronological framework of the stamped amphorae from this site, and implicitly the chronology of the site. Based on the two early Sinopean stamps of the potter Ἐπικράτης and the Heracleote stamp Παιρι/φανα..., the lower limit can be dated to the first half/midcentury IV BC, and the upper one - with the middle of the century. III BC (Thassian stamps of the two magistrates Σάτυρος ΙΙ and Σάτυρος Ι V Γόργου).

Of course, the real picture of the amphoric imports at this site cannot be complete without the study of the entire lot of vessels and their fragments, which are to be researched and published later, and yet, the presentation and publication of the stamp lots is always for the benefit of researchers, who studies the ancient period.

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CATALOGUE

1.

1.a.

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3.
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