

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.*

Rezumat. *Cercetările arheologice preventive efectuate pe situl Medgidia Elenistic 1, de către MINA Constanța, ce s-au derulat în perioada noiembrie 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 mâna – la vase grecești de lux cu firnis 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 dată în zona de V- NV a Mării Negre, ca și un, credem noi, nou producător sinopean. Majoritate ștampilelor aparțin producției amforice sinopeene -34 de exemplare, ceea ce reprezintă 60 de % din totalul acestui lot. Din punct de vede 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 types³.

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.

Δραλως grape↓

Two magistrate stamps possible Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἴφιτος, 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.

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.

2. [ἄσ]τυνόμου

[Αἰσ]χίνου. [grape↓]

[N]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. [ἄστυνό]μ[ου]

[Αἰσχίν]ου.

[Στέφ]ανος grape↓

Magistrate's stamp - Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος, group V/C, approx. 264 BC. It is possible that the potter was Στέφανος // 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. στυνόμου

Ἀισχίνου.

Καλλισθένης grape↓

Magistrate stamp Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἰφιος VB, potter Καλλισθένης IV(V). GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, n° 357-358. Feature 228.

5. Δ[ας].

ἄστυ[νόμου] [grape↑, Bellows Satyr ← ↑]

Ἀριστ[ίωνος]

Magistrate stamp Ἀρίστων Ἀριστίππου, group V/B, ca. 279-269 BC, potter Δας II. Lunar Sigma. Similar to GARLAN 2004, n° 269, CONOVICI, AVRAM, POENARU-BORDEA 1989, 120, no. 131-132; Feature 28.

6. ἄστυνόμου

Δημητρίου Crater↑

τοῦ Θευγνήτου.

Τυς

Magistrate stamp Δημήτριος 2 Θευγνήτου, gr. Cow. 277 BC. Potter Τυς. BUZOIANU, CHELUĂ-GEORGESCU 1983, p. 170, n° 53, pl. II, ph. ; CONOVICI, AVRAM, POENARU BORDEA 1989, p. 117, n° 28, pl. III, ph. ; COJA 1986, p. 435, n° 87; CONOVICI 1998, p. 73, n° 100; GARLAN 2004, n° 246. Feature 229.

7. [ἄστυνόμου]

[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, n° 242 - 246; Feature 211.

8. [.....].

[ἄστυνόμου]

[Διονυσίου] Kantharos↑

Magistrate stamp Διονύσιος 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. Πρωτ[ος].

[ἄ]σ[τυνόμου] [Kantharos] ↑

Δ[ινυσίου]

Magistrate stamp Διονύσιος 3 Απολλοδώρου. Group V/A, approx. 275 a Chr. The producer Πρωτος 1 begins his activity during the time of the magistrate Μίκριας 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. ἄ[σ]τ[υ]νόμου

thyrsus with Ἑκαταίου

ribb- τοῦ Λαμάχο[υ]

ons↑

Magistrate's stamp. Ἑκαταῖος 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 astynom: Βάκχιος, Δας, Δῖος, Κλέων, Κτήσων. Conovici assumes that on the other side could be the name of the manufacturer Δῖος. CONOVICI 1998, n° 223. Feature 252.

11. ἄσ[τυνόμου]

thyrsus with Ἑ[καταίου]

ribb- τοῦ Λ[αμάχ/ου]

ons↑

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 Δῖος. CONOVICI 1998, n° 223. Feature 216.

12. [ἄσ]τυνόμο(υ)

[Ἑκ]ατ[αί]ου

[τοῦ] Λαμάχ(ου)

[Thyrsus with ribbons→]

Magistrate stamp Ἑκαταῖος 2 Λαμαχου, group VC, ca 263 BC Similar to CANARACHE 1957, No. 258; CONOVICI 1998, n° 224-226; AVRAM 1999, 223, 8, Pl. V; GARLAN 2004, n° 312; Feature 155.

13. [ἄσ]τυνόμου

Ἑκαταίου [τοῦ]

Λαμάχου

Thyrsus with ribbons→

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

14. ἀστυνόμ(ου)

Ἐκαταίου [τοῦ]

Λαμάχου

Thyrsus with ribbons→

Magistrate stamp, Ἐκαταῖος 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

Magistrate stamp Ἐπιέλπης 2 Ναύωνος, group V/B, ca. 273 BC Producer Τιμολέως, whose activity runs from the beginning of group V/B to group VI/A (approx. 260 BC) – during approx. 13 years. CONOVICI 1998, n° 132-133; AVRAM 1999, 223, no. 4, Pl. V; Passim.

16. Τιμολέως.

ἀστυνόμου cornucopia↑

Ἐπ[ιελπους]

Magistrate stamp Ἐπιέλπης 2 Ναύωνος, 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.

ἀ[σ]τυνόμο[υ] [cornucopia↑]

Ἐπιέλπους

Magistrate stamp Ἐπιέλπης 2 Ναύωνος, group V/B, ca. 273 BC. The potter is Φιλοκράτης III. CONOVICI 1998, n° 134; Feature 165.

18. ἀστυνόμο(υ)

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]

[Ἴκεσίου]

τοῦ Ἑστιάου. bird→

[Κλε]αίνετος

Magistrate stamp, Ἴκέσιος 2 Ἑστιάου, 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 Ἀτταλος (ca. 281-280 BC) It is quite possible that his activity lasts until the period of activity of the magistrate Ἰκέσιος 2 Ἑστιάου, Analogies to CONOVICI 1998, n° 314 (same matrix); GARLAN 2004, n° 321 (same matrix). Feature 234.

20. ἄσ[τυνόμου]

Ἰκεσίου τοῦ Ἑστιαίου [bird→]

Ἀριστέ< >ς?

Magistrate stamp, Ἰκέσιος 2 Ἑστιάου, 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, Ἀριστεύς, with the error of the engraver, who omitted the letter «υ». Feature 28.

21. Τιμολέων/ Τιμολέως (1).

ἄστυνόμου [quiver bow↑]

Καλλισθένου

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

22. Πρῶτος.

ἄ[σ]τυνόμου man's head →

Κ[ρατισ]τάρχου

Magistrate stamp Κρατίσταρχος Μενωνος, active within group V/C, approx. 265 BC, a man's head, usually bearded, is the emblem of the magistrate. The producer Πρῶτος appears in group IV/C and is active practically throughout the period of group V, the last one being Λέων Λεοντίσκου (ca. 261 BC). PRIDIK 1917, p. 83, n° 438; CANARACHE 1957, no. 377; SHELOV 1975, p. 142, n° 564; RĂDULESCU, BĂRBULESCU, ET AL., 1988-1989, p. 47, n° 184-185, pl. 1/19-20; CONOVICI 1998, p. 86, n° 168; FEDOSEEV 1998, № 67. Feature 261.

23. [Κ]λέων.

ἄστυνόμου bearded head in profile →

Κρατιστάρχου

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. [Σι]μαλίω[v].

ἄστυνόμου kantharos ↑

Σιμίου

Magistrate stamp - Σιμίας Ἰκεσίου group V/B, approx. 272 BC, producer Σιμαλίων II-III, 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. ἀστυνόμουρ

Χορηγί[ωνος]

Κτησον? Nike in quadriga →

Magistrate's stamp Χορήγιων 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, n° 347; CONOVICI 1998, n° 393 (same matrix). Feature 267.

Potter Stamps

26. [Δ]ραλως

Δρ[αλ]ώου

Potter's stamp Δραλως. Manufacturer with non-Greek names. The legend contains the name of the producer Δραλως 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, n° 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. Ἐπικράτη[ς]

Potter'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 1 (GARLAN 2004 41). Feature 227.

28. [Ε]πικράτη[ς]

Potter's stamp applied to the neck of an amphora, Ἐπικράτης, chronological group 1. (GARLAN 2004 41). Feature 248.

29. Ἑρμωνο[ς]

Potter's stamp Ἑρμων Μητροδώρου, active in groups V-VI. Sometimes it has the qualification of κεραμεύς followed by the patronymic on some potters' stamps. (GARLAN 2004, 61, F28). GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA, 1969, 219, no. 606; RADULESCU, BĂRBULESCU, et al. 1988-1989, p. 77, no. 350, fig. IX/13; CONOVICI 1998, 94, n° 236; GARLAN 2004, n° 314; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 309, S 458. Feature 114.

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) - Έσταῖος 2 Ἀρτεμιδώρου? Likewise, this symbol is also used by magistrates Δημήτριος 2 Θευγνήτου and Ἀρτεμίδωρος 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?)→

Ἀπολλόδωρ[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. [Θασίω]ν

Grape←

Ἀριστο[φῶν] ←

Magistrate's stamp Ἀριστοφῶν 2 possible early c. III B.Chr. The fragment of the handle bears traces of secondary burning. Similar to BON 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 1, dated ca. 276 BC, writing with the lunar sigma. TH. SAUCIUC-SĂVEANU, 1937-1940, 265, no. 57; BON 1957, n° 711; Feature 11.

39. Θασίων

Flower Button ↑[Lira]→

Ἰδνάδης

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 1, 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 (?) ←

[Θασ]ίων

Magistrate stamp Σάτυρος II (GARLAN 2004-2005, 281), dated to the middle of the 3rd century BC BON 1957, n° 1514. TZOCHEV 2016, n° 358 p. 174. Feature 260.

42. Θασίων/ Σάτυρος / Γοργίου

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. Ἀριστο

κρατες

⁴ Thanks to M. Debidour, for the information

Potter's stamp, from the final potter's stamp group at Heracleea. End of the IV-th century BC. GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 238, no. 808. Feature 28.

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. Feataure 52

46. Ἐπικράτης

Potter's stamp from the final stamp group Ἐπικράτης – End of the IVth century BC -1st third of the century 3rd century BC. KATZ 2007, 430. Feature 267.

47. [Ἡρ]ακλε

ΟΗΤΟΣ

Potter's stamp Ἡρακλέων from the final potter's stamp group End of the IVth century BC -1st third of the century 3rd century BC. The stamp is small and executed in relief⁵. GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 239, no. 825 (it is mentioned that the stamp is englyphic). 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, Pl.X/5; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, Pl. XI, S67-68; in MATEEVICI, SAMOJLOVA 2017, 139, № 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, Pl.X/5; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, Pl. XI, S67-68; in MATEEVICI, SAMOJLOVA 2017, 139, № 47, 47a. Passim.

50. Παρι

[Φ]ana

Manufacturer's stamp from the group of early stamping - the beginning of the century. IV BC Παριφάνης. 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 Παρι., in the first line, and on the second line is the name of the magistrate, also in abbreviated form – Φανα.. (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, Pl.VII/73 (also mentions both reading variants of the stamp); FEDOSEEV 2016, 196, № 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. [Αἰσ]χί[να]

ἀστυνόμο[υ]

Magistrate stamp – Αἰσχίνας, group I/B, approx. 306-296 BC PRIDIK 1917, 140, N° 2; CANARACHE 1957, 210, no. 485; Gramatopol, Poenaru-Bordea 1969, 242, n° 874; Buzoianu 1979, 91, no. 35; KATZ 1994, Tab. IV, 1-7, 1-5; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 323, S 603. Feature 268.

55. Ἀπ[ολλωνίου]

ἀστυν[ομοῦντος]

Magistrate stamp Ἀπολλώνιος, group I/B – approx. 318-307 BC The lunar sigma is used. GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 242, n° 884-885; KATZ 1994, 89, N°20, Tab.X, 1-20, 9 – 1-20,10; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 323, S 604-605; Feature 159.

56. [Ἡρακλ]έιου

ἀστυνομοῦντος

Magistrate stamp Ἡράκλειος 1, gr. I/B, approx. 318-307 BC GRAMATOPOL, POENARU-BORDEA 1969, 242, n° 890-891; KATZ 1994, Tab. XVIII-XX, 1-47-48, 18. The lunar sigma is used. Feature 247.

Rhodos

58. ...1π (Γ)οκ(N) 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-groupe. The section (profile of the handle) indicates an early date (beginning of the 3rd century A. Chr.) KATZ 2017, 213. Feature 180.

60. [Σω]τᾱ

Rectangular potter's stamp Σωτᾱς 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 in the genitive. Amphoralex.org: RF-ΣΩΤΑΣ 01-012. Feature 52D.

Cnidos

61. ΖΗ - Ζή(νων)

Producer from group II, between 280-250 BC. Group of Zeno. Similar to GRAMATOPOL, POENARU BORDEA 1969, 256, n° 1047; BUZOIANU, BĂRBULESCU 2008, 321, n° 580-581; MADZHAROV, STOYANOV 2018, 146; KASHAEV, PAVLICHENKO 2019, 89, Fig. 5/66; LIȚU, CLIANTE, 2021, 126/5; JEFREMOW, 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 englyptic 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. Ερεσ.....υ . ?????

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. Ἄκρ....

Σασ....

Handle stamp, compact clay with minute calcareous inclusions. Mediterranean pasta. Feature 227.

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 Ἰφίος (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: Αἰσχίνου/Δραλῶης (note that these two specimens from Medgidia Elenistic 1, were executed with the same matrix). Two stamps belong to the magistrate Διονύσιος 3 Απολλοδώρου active within group V/A.

Similarly, two stamps belong to the astynom Δημήτριος 2 Θευγνήτου (group V/A) and the magistrate Ἰκέσιος 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 Ἐπιέλης 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 Μενωνος (group V/C). One copy each belongs to the magistrates Εὐχάριστος 2 Δημητρίου (group V/B), Καλλισθένης 1 Νόσσου (group V/C), Σιμίας Ἴκεσίου (group V/B) and Χορήγιων 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 Δραλῶης, 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 Δραλῶης also contains a patronymic, which is the same name rendered in the genitive Δραλώου. 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 Χορήγιων Λεομέδοντος. From the dating of the activity of the four magistrates and of Αἰσχίνης 5 Ἴφιος, 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 Ἴφιος, the name of a new Sinopean producer Ἀριστέυς (sic!) appears⁷.

The name of another Sinopean potter appears on another stamp from Medgidia - Ἑρμῶν 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 Ἐπικράτης 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 Heracleitian 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 Σάτυρος (IV), which also has the patronymic Γόργου. In the Thasian amphoric

⁶ GARLAN, 2004, 180-181, n° 313.

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 patronymic⁸ indicated. At the moment, the existence of 30 copies with such a legend, with different emblems, is indicated⁹. In the stamp from Medgidia, a strighil and an ampoule appear as emblems. The stamp of Σάτηρος IV Γόργου from Medgidia Elenistic 1, bearing the emblem «strighil with ampoule», is the second known specimen and the first from the Romanian space¹⁰.

Heracleatian amphoric stamping is also represented in the lot from Medgidia Elenistic 1 by 10 stamps, applied in englyphic 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: Ἀριστοκράτης (2 copies), Ἐπικράτης, Ἡρακλέων, 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 early potters stamps, dated to the beginning of the IV century BC, bearing the name of Παιριφάνης in the genitive case – Παιριφανα. There are several assumptions regarding this specimen, for example N.Pavlichenko attributes it to a single name mentioned above¹¹, Fedoseev considered that this stamp contains two abbreviated names firstly Παιρι – potter's name and secondly - Φανα, magistrate's name, which Fedoseev considers as a new name¹². 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): Αἰσχίνας, Ἀπολλώνιος, Ἡράκλειος 1.

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 Σωτᾶς 1 and the dating of his activity belongs to group I (approx. 294-271a. Chr.). This dating is also supported by the shape of the handle itself.

The only stamp from Cnidos is monogrammatic, belonging to the potter 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.

⁹ GARLAN, 2004-2005, 281.

¹⁰ Kind information from Michel Debidour, whom we also thank in this way.

¹¹ Thanks to our colleague Natalia Pavlichenko 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 II and Σάτυρος IV 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



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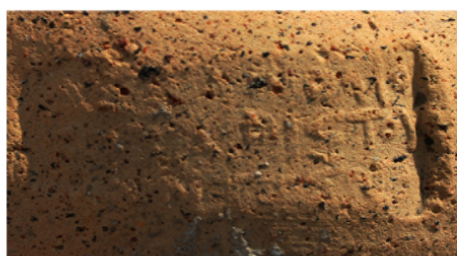
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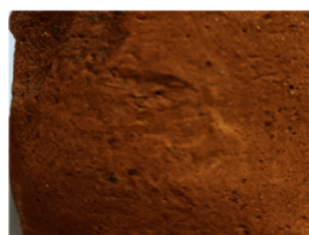
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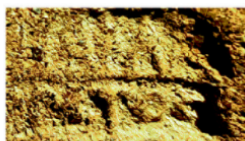
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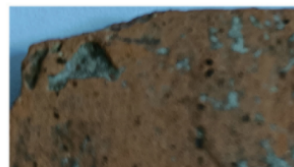
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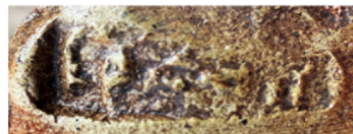
60.



61.



62.



63.



64.



65.



66.



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