

INTRODUCTION

In 1998 F. KRINZINGER, the Ephesus excavation-director and P. SCHERRER, the Tetragonos Agora excavator, invited me to study the amphorae of Ephesus. By publishing part of the Roman amphorae found at eight sites in Ephesus, I wish to contribute to present-day knowledge of amphora studies. The collection is not complete and the stores have material from other sites. However, in conjunction with the amphorae published earlier, the collection does provide an overview of the city's food trade. This book primarily contains the amphorae of the Roman period. M. LAWALL has already published the stamps of the Hellenistic amphorae of the Basilica Stoa and will soon publish the pieces found at the Tetragonos Agora. I shall refer to the Late Hellenistic amphorae of the Agora only when they were found together with Republican and Early Roman amphorae. Discussing the amphorae at the Terrace House 2, I mention a few Hellenistic amphorae briefly, for the sake of completeness.

The bulk of the available amphorae was found at two sites which had different functions in ancient times. The Tetragonos Agora was an important commercial centre during the Hellenistic and the Early Imperial periods. The excavations focused on resolving problems of architecture and chronology. The excavations lasted for more than ten years. Some of the Late Roman layers were removed during two earlier excavations (1901–1907 and 1964–1968). This makes it hard to determine the quantity of the Late Roman amphorae. The Terrace House 2 rescue excavation in 1999 was confined to certain areas and was defined by the requirements of the columns holding the new roof and not by archeological considerations. The number of amphorae discovered at the rest of the sites is significantly smaller.

Within the individual amphora types, I considered the fabric variations as well. This explains why some of the types are represented by more than one amphora in the catalogue. Usually only one amphora refers to the commercial link with a centre of production. Since there are excellent and detailed descriptions of the individual amphora types, the brief summaries this book provides should in most cases be seen as reminders of and references to the sources I have used. The amphorae in Ephesus are very fragmentary. Only the characteristic parts: rim, base and handle (RBH) were considered. The reconstruction of the bodies from the parts was not possible. More than fifty percent of the pieces are handle fragments which, unfortunately, do not always allow the identification of the type. The description of the types begins with Late Hellenistic forms produced in the eastern Mediterranean area, and continues with the Early Imperial forms. The western Mediterranean types are also discussed in a more or less chronological order. This is followed by the Middle and Late Roman amphorae. There are altogether 621 amphorae in this collection. The amphorae of the various sites are listed in the tables containing the drawings. This makes possible the investigation of the composition of the amphorae found at sites that fulfilled different functions. When I describe an amphora type, I shall refer to other amphorae belonging to the same type at all the sites. This excludes the continuous numbering within the catalogue. The index lists the amphorae according to layers and types. The amphorae from Italy are somewhat over-represented among the pieces found at the Agora. This is because the first part of my research project concentrated on the Italian amphorae and this fact is also reflected in the petrological analyses.

The numbers in the catalogue refer to the sites:

Tetragonos Agora	nos. 1–420
Terrace House 2	nos. 501–650
Magnesian Gate Survey	nos. 701–721
State Agora, Basilica Stoa	nos. 801–805
State Agora, Well	nos. 810–811
State Agora, Prytaneion	no. 820
Serapeion	no. 830
Arap-Dere Survey	nos. 851–871

The drawings have been reproduced using a scale of 1:4, with the exception of amphora No. 810, where a scale of 1:10 was used. The scale of the photos is not defined. The scale of the rubbings is 1:1. The basic information concerning the fresh breaks of all the pieces in the catalogue are in photos of 1:20 scale (5.4 x 4.3 mm area).

The petrological (thin section and heavy mineral) analyses of the amphorae was done by R. SAUER. The petrological description of the amphorae in the catalogue can be found with the individual types. The tables and diagrams can be found in the chapter on petrology.

P. SCHERRER provided the chronology of the layers of the Tetragonos Agora; S. LADSTÄTTER and A. WALDNER established the chronology of the layers at Terrace House 2; V. MITSOPOULOS LEON and C. LANG-AUINGER have provided the excavation information on the Basilica Stoa; R. MERİÇ on the Well. H. TAEUBER helped me read the Greek stamps.

The information about the amphorae is contained in a FileMaker database created by P. HORNUNG. We record the digital photos and the technical details; the box number; size and location of the section; the chronology of the excavation; as well as the '*Fundjournal*' (containing the description of the ceramic and other objects) in a database. The database contains photomicrographs at 1:10 and 1:20 magnification of the fresh breaks of the fragments when deemed important. We record the petrological (thin section and heavy mineral) information and the photomicrographs of the thin sections. The database is connected to 3D software (Graphisoft ARCHICAD) that makes it possible to access the stratigraphic position of the objects using the data produced during excavation.

The book relies on the accepted chronological periods¹:

Late Hellenistic (= LH – mainly late second and first centuries B.C.)

Early Roman (= ER – c. late first century B.C. to the end of the first century A.D.)

Mid Roman (= MR – from the early second century to the end of the third century A.D.)

Late Roman (= LR – from the fourth to the seventh centuries A.D.)

The Roman amphora types of the eastern Mediterranean region are here described using the descriptive method devised by an international team, now available on the Internet. This method defines amphorae from a typological and chronological perspective, recording the economic significance when known².

To improve the ease of reading there are multiple internal references to certain topics within this book, though a number of brief repetitions were inevitable. During the process of this research, recent publications have on occasion motivated me to review my views on amphorae published previously.

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THE BOOK IS DEDICATED TO MY FAMILY

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Tamás Bezaczký

¹ Riley 1979, 98.

² Riley 1979, 98. Grace – Savvatianou-Petropoulakou 1970; Beltran 1970; Peacock 1971; Peacock 1977; Panella – Fano 1977; Grace 1979; Keay 1984; Peacock – Williams 1986; Tchernia 1986; Empereur – Hesnard 1987; Panella 2001; Williams – Keay 2005: Roman Amphorae: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/amphora_ahrb_2005/

The Amphoras Project, University of Toronto, www.projects.chass.utoronto.ca/cgi-bin/amphoras/well; J. R. RODRÍGUEZ (dir.), Centro para el estudio de la interdependencia provincial en la antigüedad clásica (CEIPAC) www.ceipac.gh.ub.es/; J.-Y. EMPEREUR (dir.), A. KAAN ŞENOL, Le Centre Alexandrin d'Étude des Amphores, CNRS www.amphoralex.org.