

NORTH SYRIAN MORTARIA¹

(PLATE 73)

CLAY mortaria, such a typical feature of Roman sites in the West (Gaul, Germany and Britain), are not at all common among the finds from Roman sites in the Eastern Mediterranean. Here they had been widely used in Classical and Hellenistic times,² but during the Roman period they seem to have been almost entirely supplanted for culinary purposes by vessels of stone and marble.³ Despite this general trend, however, there exists one class of clay mortaria which circulated widely in the East during the third and early fourth centuries after Christ; this forms the material for the present article.

Among the catalogued finds from the Athenian Agora excavations are several pieces of large coarse mortaria in a distinctive dark brown ware, clearly not of local manufacture. One of these (P 20013) is preserved in a relatively complete state (Fig. 1, Pl. 73, a-b). All share the same basic form: flat base, high flaring wall, and broad slightly downturned rim (to facilitate handling) furnished with a short shallow spout. The average overall diameter is about 50 cm. On the inside, the floor curves smoothly into the wall; in some cases a small groove is present just below the rim. All are stamped on the rim with the maker's name or trademark in Greek, generally consisting of two lines of impressed characters within a rectangular frame. In one case the stamp is repeated at intervals round the rim; this may also have been the case on some of the others which are less well preserved. The walls are unusually thick, and the weight of the vessels when complete must have been considerable; that of the best-preserved example may be estimated at *ca.* 11½ kg. Most are hard-fired, as befits their function, the clay assuming a distinctive deep chocolate brown color. An orange or orange-brown color, with a tendency to a darker core, also occurs. Surfaces appear to have been wet-smoothed. The clay contains some lime, but is

¹ I wish to thank Miss H. Frost and M. H. Seyrig for their invaluable assistance and encouragement in the preparation of this article and for permitting me to make use of the unpublished results of their investigations in the Ras el-Basit area. The staff of the Athenian Agora excavations has, as ever, been most helpful in allowing me to work on their finds and in supplying photographs. I also thank the following, who have at various times provided me with information and photographs, or have permitted me to cite their unpublished finds: Miss J. du Plat Taylor, the Cyprus Museum, the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum (Jerusalem), Mr. P. Fraser, Mr. T. Bruce Mitford, Prof. R. L. Scranton, Prof. E. Kunze.

² For a typical Hellenistic specimen, see *Hesperia*, III, 1934, pp. 416, 470, fig. 102, Group E, 124.

³ Numerous examples of these have been found in the Athenian Agora excavations, with evidence of production on the spot (unpublished).

generally free of mica; it is liberally tempered with white and black grits and particles of what appears to be crushed glass. There is no deliberate gritting of the inside such as is normal on other mortaria.

The Agora pieces form part of a larger class of household vessels bearing Greek stamps of which fragments have been found at various places throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. Numerous examples of these are collected by Jalabert and Mouterde in *Inscriptions grecques et latines de la Syrie* (hereafter referred to as *I.G.L.S.*). Another large group from the Alexandria region was published many years ago by Breccia.⁴ All the published pieces could belong to large mortaria or basins, though fragments have on occasions been mistaken for parts of amphorae or large storage jars (*dolia*). The fabric of those examples which I have been able to examine elsewhere corresponds in all cases to that of the Agora specimens, and it seems reasonable to assume that all were produced in one region. Most of the examples listed below appear to be of the same form as the Agora piece shown in Figure 1, though none

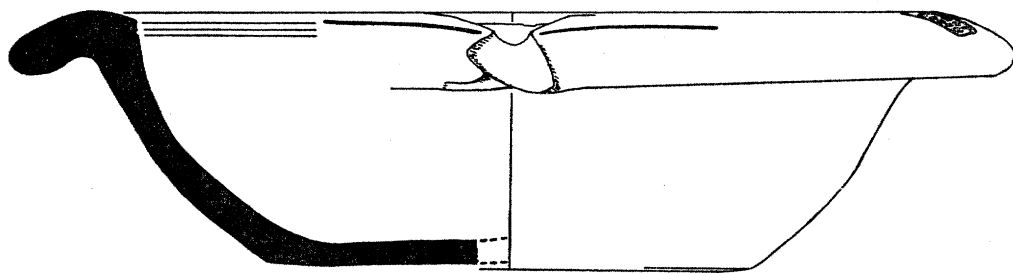
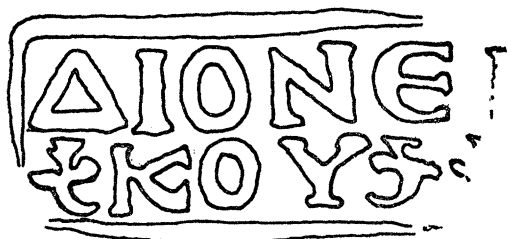


FIG. 1. Athenian Agora P 20013 (1:4)

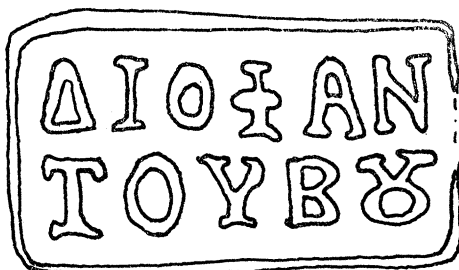
is so well preserved. There are, however, a few fragments of basins with steeper walls and shorter, almost square-sectioned rims (Fig. 3, 5-6); I am informed that some of these have vertical handles attached to the rim (cf. Catalogue, No. 75).

The stamps on vessels of this class are generally, as in the case of the Agora examples, large and rectangular, with two lines of impressed letters surrounded by an impressed frame. Occasionally one finds examples where the lettering stands out in relief on a sunken background. Rarely the stamps are of *planta pedis* type (see Nos. 81, 104). Normally the stamp is impressed across the rim of the vessel, though on some of the larger pieces one finds groups of up to four stamps, impressed both across and along the rim, sometimes in the form of a cross. The stamping is often careless; frequently only a part of the stamp is visible, owing to the curvature or the insufficient width of the rim. The lettering is rather crude, with a tendency to heavy serifs; it is remarkably consistent throughout the whole series. Stylized ivy-leaves, used at the beginnings and ends of lines as fillers, are a very common feature.

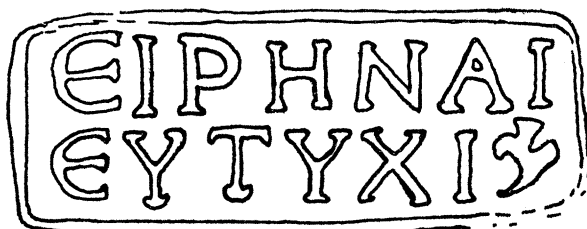
⁴ *Municipalité d'Alexandrie, Rapport sur la marche du service du Musée pendant l'exercice 1919-1920*, Alexandria, 1921, pp. 12-16, pl. 13.



100



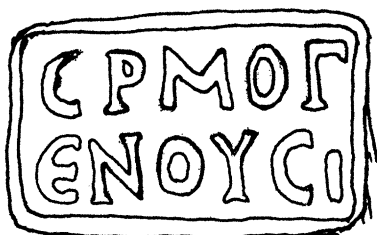
74



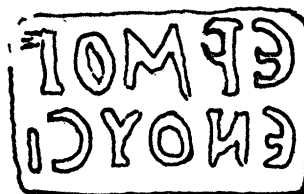
161



122



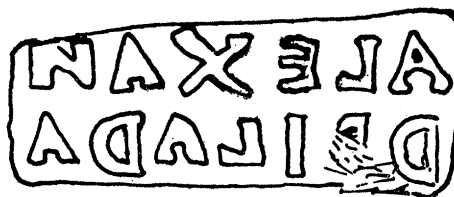
1



3



124



98

FIG. 2. Specimen Stamps (1:1; Numbers refer to the Catalogue)

The maker's name is generally given in the genitive case. The number of manufacturers represented is fairly small; one finds the same few names or trademarks on widely scattered examples. The commonest of these are:

Διονείκον
 Διοφάντου βου⁵
 Δόμνου
 Εἰρηναῖ ἐντύχι⁶ and εὐτυχῶς Εἰρηνέω
 Ἑρμογένους
 Εὐκαρπία
 Θεῶν δωρήματα
 Κασσιανοῦ
 Λαδᾶτος⁷
 Τιμοκλήτος⁷

With these may be associated two stamps in Latin: C. BELLICI | ZMARAGDI (sometimes rendered as ZMAKAGDI), and ALEXAN | DRILADA (perhaps to be associated with Λαδᾶτος above). A number of typical examples are shown in Figure 2.

The exact center of manufacture of this group of mortaria can now be identified, thanks to a chance discovery made by Miss Honor Frost during the course of investi-

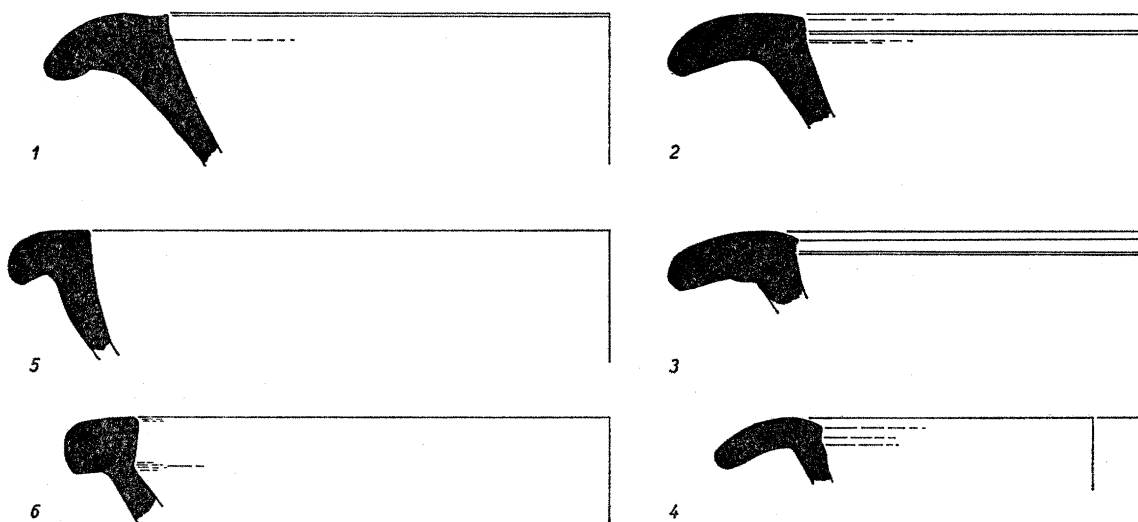


FIG. 3. Ras el-Basit, Rim Fragments (1:4)

⁵ To be restored as βουλευτοῦ; see *I.G.L.S.*, III, no. 710 for the evidence.

⁶ For a discussion of this stamp, see M. Siebourg, "Eine griechische Akklamation als Töpfermarke," *Bonn. Jahrb.*, CXVI, 1907, pp. 1 ff.

⁷ For other examples (from papyri) of these unusual genitive forms, see E. Mayser, *Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit*, Leipzig, 1906, pp. 252-254, 274.

gations along the Syrian coast in the summer of 1964. Among the places visited by Miss Frost was the ancient site at Ras el-Basit, some twenty-five kilometers to the southwest of the mouth of the Orontes, which is generally identified as the site of

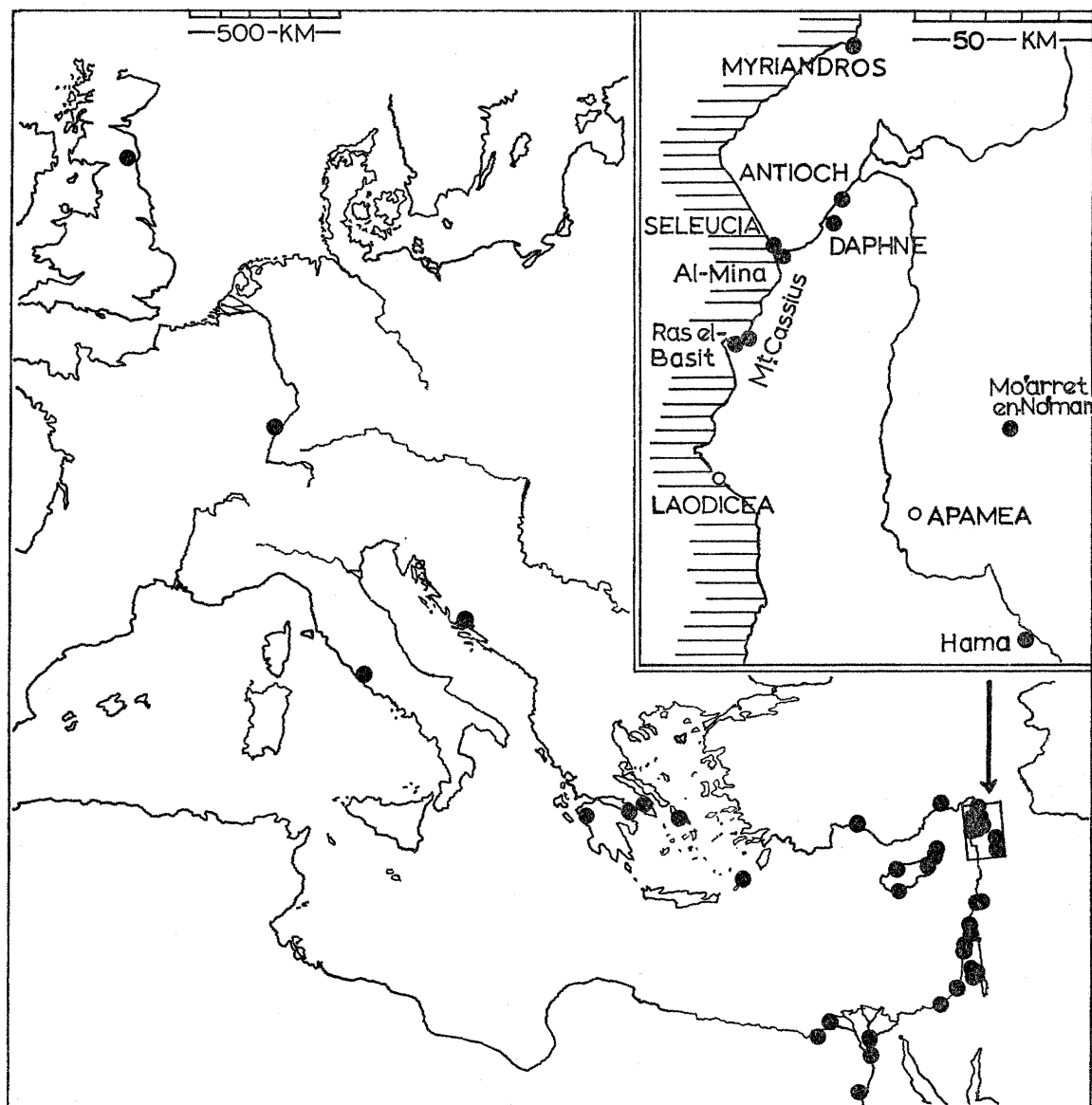


FIG. 4. Distribution of North Syrian Mortaria

the ancient Posideion. A considerable number of mortarium stamps of the class here discussed were recovered from here by M. Seyrig and others some years ago, and further investigation led to the discovery of clear traces of production on the spot.

In the fields in the vicinity of the ancient site Miss Frost informs me that she encountered numerous further fragments, some with the familiar stamps, which had been turned up by the local farmers in ploughing; in some cases these had been heaped up in piles in order to clear the ground. A significant proportion of these were kiln-wasters, in some cases completely vitrified. Clearly these indicate manufacture in the immediate vicinity. Similar concentrations of mortarium fragments of similar type were noted in the coastal region to the north of Ras el-Basit, extending over a distance of several miles; other factories were presumably located here. In addition, a relatively complete specimen was recovered from an ancient wreck in the vicinity, furnishing direct evidence of how these large and cumbersome vessels were exported. Miss Frost has kindly allowed me to examine some of these pieces; they correspond very closely in fabric and other respects with the Athenian Agora specimens. A sample is illustrated on Figure 3 and Plate 73, c.⁸

The ware had a very wide distribution (Fig. 4). The heaviest concentration of finds, as might be expected, occurs on the Syrian coastline near to the region of manufacture, but the ware is also common in Palestine, Egypt and Cyprus. Further specimens may be cited from sites throughout the Eastern Mediterranean; the Athenian Agora finds are by no means on their own. Occasional vessels found their way further west: two are recorded from Rome (Nos. 158-159 below), and two more (160-161) from yet further afield, in the northwestern provinces of the Roman Empire. The latter two both display the characteristic rim-form and stamps, and the one in Newcastle (which I have examined) is identical in fabric to the pieces from the East. There can be no doubt that they are genuine Syrian products.

CATALOGUE

ATHENS, AGORA EXCAVATIONS

1. Fig. 1, Pl. 73, a-b. P 20013. D. 0.532. Greater part preserved.

Stamp: ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC (Fig. 2), repeated; two stamps and the edge of a third are preserved; originally probably four, spaced out round rim.

2. P 23494. D. est. 0.45; rim fr.

Stamp as 1.

3. SS 8786. D. est. 0.45; rim fr.

Stamp: ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC (Fig. 2) retrograde, with letters in relief.

4. P 3473. D. est. 0.50; rim fr.

Stamp: ΕΙΡΗ | ΝΑΙ | [ΕΥΤΥ] ΧΙ

5. SS 7954. D. est. 0.50; nearly half of rim. Wavy line incised on rim.

Stamp: ΙΟΥΑΕ | ΑΝΟΥ retrograde, repeated; two stamps preserved.

EGYPT

6. Abu Mena; Alexandria Museum.

Breccia, *op. cit.*,⁹ no. 1.

ALEXAN | DRILADA (retrograde, repeated).

⁸ Reproduced by kind permission of Miss Frost. A large number of stamped examples, including the pieces here illustrated, are now stored in the Damascus Museum.

⁹ See note 4 above.

7-32. Alexandria and region; Alexandria Museum.

Breccia, *op. cit.*, nos. 3-5, 8-9, 15-35.

C BELLICI | ZMARAGDI (three examples; second line of stamp read as ZMACACDI); ΔOM± | υNOY (two examples, read as ΔOMI | υNOY); ΔIONΕ[Ι] | υKOY ς'υ (one example); ΔIOΦA | NTOYBϑ (one); ΔIOΦAN | TOYBϑ (two); ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥCι (seven); ΕΥΤΥΧΩC | ΕΙΡΗΝΕΩ (four, in one case repeated); ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ ς' (two, one repeated); KACCI | ANOY ς' (two); CAAAMOIY | AΛEAN ΔPOY (two).

33. Athribis.

Adam, *Annales du service des antiquités de l'Égypte*, LV, 1958, pl. 9, a.

ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥCι.

34-35. Cairo, Egyptian Museum, 33012-33013.

Milne, *Greek Inscriptions* (Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire), Oxford, 1905, pp. 129-130.

ΔIOΦAυ|NTϑBϑ and TIMO[K] | AHTOC.

36-37. Cairo, Egyptian Museum (on display).

ΕΥΤΥΧ[WC] | ΕΙΡΗΝΕ[W and ΘΕΩ-
NΔW|PHMATA. The latter stamped along rim, perhaps one of a group.

38-39. Oxyrhynchus.

Egypt Exploration Fund, Archaeological Report, 1902-1903, p. 7 (not illustrated).

ALEXAN | DRILADA and ευκα | ρπια listed, together with other stamps.

40-46. Benachi Collection, from Egypt (Cairo, etc.).

ALEXAN | DRILADA; ALEXAN | DRILADA retrograde, with lettering in relief; ΔIOΦAN | TOYBϑ; ΔOM± | υNOY; ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ[ς']; ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥCι; ΘΕΩNΔW | PHMATA.

47. Achmim-Panopolis.

Forrer, *Reallexicon der prähistorischen klassischen und frühchristlichen Altertümer*, 1907, p. 940, fig. 652.

ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙς'.

PALESTINE

48-54. Cheikh Zouède.

Clédat, *Annales du service des antiquités de l'Égypte*, XV, 1915, pp. 45-46, nos. 17-23.

ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥCι (repeated); ΔIOΦAN | TOYBϑ; AΔA | TOC [ς']; ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ[Ι] | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ ς'; Δ]OΞA (?); CA]AAM[OY] | AΛ]EΞANΔ[POY; ΕΥΤΥΧΙ with horizontal leaf(?) below, stamped three times, one stamp above another.

55-64. Anthedon.

Petrie, *Anthedon*, p. 13, pl. 51.

ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ[ς']; ΕΥΤΥΧΩC | [Ε]ΙΡΗΝΕΩ;]ΥΤΧ[|]ΡΗΝΕ[(perhaps same as preceding stamp); ΔIONΕΙ | υKOY ς'υ (two examples); KACC[Ι] | ANOY [ς']; C]AΛA[MOY] | [A]AΛEΞANΔPOY; ΔIOΦAN | [TOYBϑ]; ΔOM± | υNOY; ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥCι. Two other stamps illustrated together with these do not seem to belong to the same series.

65. Tanturah.

British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, Bulletin No. 4, 1924, p. 42, pl. 3, 12.

Form as Fig. 1, but shallower.

AΔA | TOCυ.

66. Emmaus-Nicopolis.

Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches in Palestine during the years 1873-1874*, I, London, 1899, pp. 485-6, with fig. in text.

Form as Fig. 1.

AΔA | TOCυ (stamped four times in form of a cross).

67. Beit Nattif.

Baramki, *Quart. Dept. Antiq. Palestine*, V, 1935, p. 7, fig. 2.

Form as Fig. 1.

ΔIONΕΙ | υKOY ς'υ.

68. Bethany, B 2251-2252 (in Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem).

Saller, *Bethany, 1949-53* (Publications of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, no. 12), Jerusalem, 1957, p. 256, pl. 123, b.

Form as Fig. 1.

]IAI[|]TY[.

69. Bethany, B 3274 (as above).

Ibid., p. 257, pl. 123, a.

Fr. of deep vessel as Fig. 3, 6.

Pattern of impressed dots along top of rim;
no stamp preserved.

70. Jebel Faradis, near Bethlehem (Palestine Museum, Jerusalem).

Form as Fig. 1.

TIMOK | AHTOC.

71. Palestine Museum, Jerusalem, I. 4193.

Iliffe, *Quart. Dept. Antiq. Palestine*, II, 1932,
p. 124, pl. 45, b, 3.

ΔOM± | ΨNOY.

72. Jerusalem.

Echos d' Orient, 1906, p. 133; *I.G.L.S.*, III,
cited under no. 709.

Ερμου | ενους.

73-74. Museum of the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, Jerusalem; from Palestine.

ΚACC [I] | ANOY [Ϛ] (on a rather narrow rim), and ΔIOΦAN | TOYBϚ (Fig. 2; one stamp across rim, a second at right-angles to it; probably part of a group of stamps).



75-80. Caesarea (in local museum).

Lifhitz, "Timbres amphoriques trouvés à Césarée de Palestine," *Revue biblique*, LXX, 1963, pp. 556-558, nos. 1-3, 5, 7, 9 (not illustrated).

Διοφαν | τουβου (said to be on a handle);
Ευκα | ρπια; Ερμου | ενους; Κασσ[ι] | ανου;
Τιμοκ | [λ]ητος; Ευτυχως | ειρηνεω. Two other stamps in Lifhitz's list (no. 4—Κουρ | εμου or | ελλου; no. 23—Ευτυχως) may belong to the series, though this seems unlikely.

81. Abda (Palestine Museum, Jerusalem).

Form as Fig. 1.

ΕΥΤΥΧΩ |  C  in planta pedis.

SYRIA

82. Tyre.

I.G.L.S., III, cited under no. 710. Διοφαν | τουβου.

83. Sidon.

Mélanges de la faculté orientale (Université Saint Joseph, Beyrouth), I, 1906, pp. 174-175, no. 45.

ALEXAN | DRILADA.

84-86. Deir el-Qal'a, from excavations.

Ibid., p. 186, no. 56.

ΕΥΤΥΧΩC | ΕΙΡΗΝΕΩ (repeated); ΕΙΡΗ
ΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ Ϛ; ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC.

87-88. Beirut.

I.G.L.S., III, cited under nos. 709 and 710.

Ερμου | ενους and Διοφαν | τουβου.

89. Tell 'Atar, near Beirut.

I.G.L.S., III, cited under no. 708.

Ειρηναι | ευτυχι.

90. Heldua Haldé, near Beirut.

I.G.L.S., III, cited under no. 1054.

Τιμοκ | λητος.

91-94. Byblos.

Dunand, *Fouilles de Byblos, I* (1926-32), Paris, 1939, pp. 22-23, fig. 8, no. 1081; nos. 1178, 1235 and 1236 are stated to bear the same stamp.

ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ Ϛ.

95. Hama.

Ingholt, *Rapport préliminaire sur sept campagnes de fouilles à Hama en Syrie* (1932-1938), Copenhagen, 1940, pp. 125-126; *I.G.L.S.*, V, no. 2020.

Published reading BSLLI | CMARAGDI; presumably to be read as [C.]BĒLLI[CI] | ZMARAGDI.

96. Mo'arret en-No'man.

I.G.L.S., IV, no. 1551.

ALEXAN | DRILADA (retrograde, with lettering in relief).

97-113. Ras el-Basit (Posideion?). Fig. 3; Pl. 73, c.

I.G.L.S., III, no. 1242 (references only).

Readings of pieces found in 1935 and 1937 supplied by M. Henri Seyrig. Further examples collected by Miss Honor Frost in 1964. The following stamps occur:

ALEXAN | DRILADA (Fig. 2; both in normal form and retrograde with lettering in relief).

C. BELLICI | ZMARAGDI (the letter R in the second line is sometimes rendered as K).

ΔΙΟΝΕΙ | ΞΚΟΥϛ (Fig. 2)

[Δ]ΙΟΦΑ | ΝΤΒΒ

ΔΟΜ | ΞΝΟΥ

ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ

ΕΥΤΥΧΩ | C-~~in planta pedis~~ (under the branch a line with a hook at the left end)

ΕΙCΙΔΩ | ΞΡΟΥ

ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC

ΕΥΚΑ | ΡΤΙΑ

ΘΕΩΝΔΩ | ΡΗΜΑΤΑ

ΚΑCΙC | ΑΝΟΥ[ϛ]

ΛΑΔΑ | ΤΟC

ΤΙΜ]ΟΚ | [ΛΗΤ]ΟC

Also: Α]ΛΕΞ[Α] | [Ν]ΔΡΟ[Υ] (?) , retrograde.

Δ]ΟΞ[Α] (?) , retrograde.

114-120. El-Aga, near Ras el-Basit.

I.G.L.S., III, nos. 1235-41.

Ερμουγ | ενους; C. BELLICI | ZMAKAGDI;
ΔΙΟ[φαν] | τουβ[ϛ]; Ευκα | ρπια; Κασσι | ανουϛ;
Δι]ονει | [Ξκ]ουϛ.

No. 1241, read as]ΤΟ.Ε.[|]C]BIAIC[, in all probability belongs to the same group, considering its findspot.

121. Mt. Cassius (Université Saint Joseph, Beirut).

I.G.L.S., III, no. 1227.

Published as < PELLICI | [.]ΑΡΑΓΔΙ; presumably to be read as C. BELLICI | [ZM]ΑΡΑΓΔΙ.

122-124. Al Mina; Oxford, 1938. 316-318.

All rim frs. as Fig. 1.

316: Very large size; ΕΥΚΑ | ΡΤΙΑ (Fig. 2; final *alpha* lacks crossbar).

317: ΛΑΔΑ | ΤΟC.

318: ΚΑC[Ι] | ΑΝΟΥ[ϛ] (Fig. 2).

125-129. Seleucia Pieria and environs.

Mélanges de la faculté orientale, V, i, 1911, pp. 331-2; *I.G.L.S.*, III, nos. 1205-1208.

1205: published as CoPELLIO | ZMARGDV; presumably to be read as C. BELLICI | ZMARAGDI.

1206 a: Ειρηνα[ι] | ευτυχι[ϛ]

1206 b: Ευτυχως | ειρηνεω

1207: Ερμουγ | ενους

1208: Λαδα | τος

130-132. Daphne, near Antioch.

I.G.L.S., III, nos. 1054-6.

Τιμοκ | [Λ]ητος; Ερμου[γ] | ενους; Δι]ονει[ι] | ϛ[κ]ουϛ.

133. Antioch (formerly in bazaar).

I.G.L.S., III, no. 1057.

Διοφαν | τουβδν.

134-138. Myriand(r)os.

I.G.L.S., III, nos. 708 a-c, 709-710.

Ειρηνα[ι] | ε]υτυχ[ι ϛ] (two examples)

Ευτυχως | ειρηνεω

Ερμουγ | ενους

Διοφαν | τουβον

CYPRUS

139. Ayios Philon; from excavations by Miss du Plat Taylor, unpublished.

ΚΑC[Ι] | ΑΝΟΥ[ϛ].

140. Ayios Philon, chance find; Cyprus Museum, 1964/X-5/1.

Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, 1965, pp. 121-122, pl. 17, no. 11.

ΘΕ]ΩΝΔΩ | [ΡΗ]ΜΑΤΑ.

141. Lythrangomi (near Leonarissos); Cyprus Museum, 1939/IV-18/2.

Unpublished.

ΔΙΟΦΑΝ | ΞΤΟΥϛ.

142. Salamis, from recent excavations.

Several frs. of mortaria of this class; no stamps preserved.

143. Enkomi.

J.H.S., XII, 1891, p. 174, no. 11.

ΔΙΟΦΑΝ | ΞΤΟΥ[ϛ].

144. Curium.

Form as Fig. 1.

ALEXAN | DRILADA.

145. Morphou; Cyprus Museum, 1963/XI-12/2.*Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, 1963, p. 28, fig. 8, pl. III, top right.*

TIMOK | AHTOC.

146. Cyprus Museum, uncatalogued; no provenance.

EYTYXWC | EIPHNWC.

147. Paphos Museum, uncatalogued; no provenance.

ΔΟΞΑ.

TURKEY

148-149. Tarsus.*Tarsus, I, p. 277, pls. 166, 209, nos. 823-824. Form of both as Fig. 1.*

823: TIMOK | AHTOC (impressed three times, along and across rim).

824: ΘΕΩΝΔΩ | PHMATA.

150. Side.*Bean, Side Agorası ve Civarındaki Binalar: 1948 Yılı kazılarında dair rapor, Ankara, 1956, p. 96, no. 71, with fig. in text.*

ΔΟΜΞ | ΞΝΟΥ.

GREECE

For examples from the Athenian Agora, see Nos. 1-5 above.

151. Karpathos.*I.G., XII, i, no. 989.*

ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC, retrograde.

152. Tenos.*Demoulin, B.C.H., XXVI, 1902, p. 438, no. 46.*

ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC, (triple impression).

153. Kenchreai, from recent excavations, cat. no. P 54.*Rim as Fig. 3, 5; est. D. ca. 0.50.*

ΔΙΟΝ [ΕΙ] | ΞΚΟΥ [ΞΞ].

154. Olympia.

Unpublished. Rim as Fig. 1; est. D. ca. 0.33 only.

ΕΡ | ΜΟΓ | [ΕΝ] ΟΥC.

DALMATIA

155. Salona.*Dyggve and Brøndsted, Recherches à Salone, I, Copenhagen, 1928, p. 175, fig. 236, no. 14.*

ΚΑC [Ι] | ΑΝΟΥ [Ξ].

156-157. Salona.*I.G., III, 10183, 28. ΕΡΜΟΓ | ΕΝΟΥC.**I.G., III, 10186, 10. ΔΟΜΞ | ΞΝΟΥ.*

ITALY

158. Rome; formerly in University collection (?).*C.I.L., XV, i, 2418.*

C. BELLICI | ZMARAGDI.

159. Rome; formerly in Museo Kircheriano.*C.I.L., XV, i, 2522.*

TIMOK | AHTOC.

WESTERN EMPIRE

160. Strasbourg (Argentorate); found in the city, 1882.*Siebourg, Bonn. Jahrb., CXVI, 1907, pp. 1 ff., figs. 1, 3, with bibliography cited.*

ΕΙΡΗΝΑ [Ι] | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ [Ξ].

161. Risingham (Habitancium), Northumberland, England; Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1956. 340 A. Found ca. 1857.*Ephemeris Epigraphica, VII, no. 1179, with bibliography cited; Siebourg, Bonn. Jahrb., CXVI, 1907, pp. 2 ff., figs. 2, 4.*

ΕΙΡΗΝΑΙ | ΕΥΤΥΧΙ [Ξ] (Fig. 2).

PROVENANCE UNKNOWN

162-163. In Stuttgart and Tübingen (?).*Expedition Ernst von Sieglin, II, iii, p. 165, Abb. 169.*

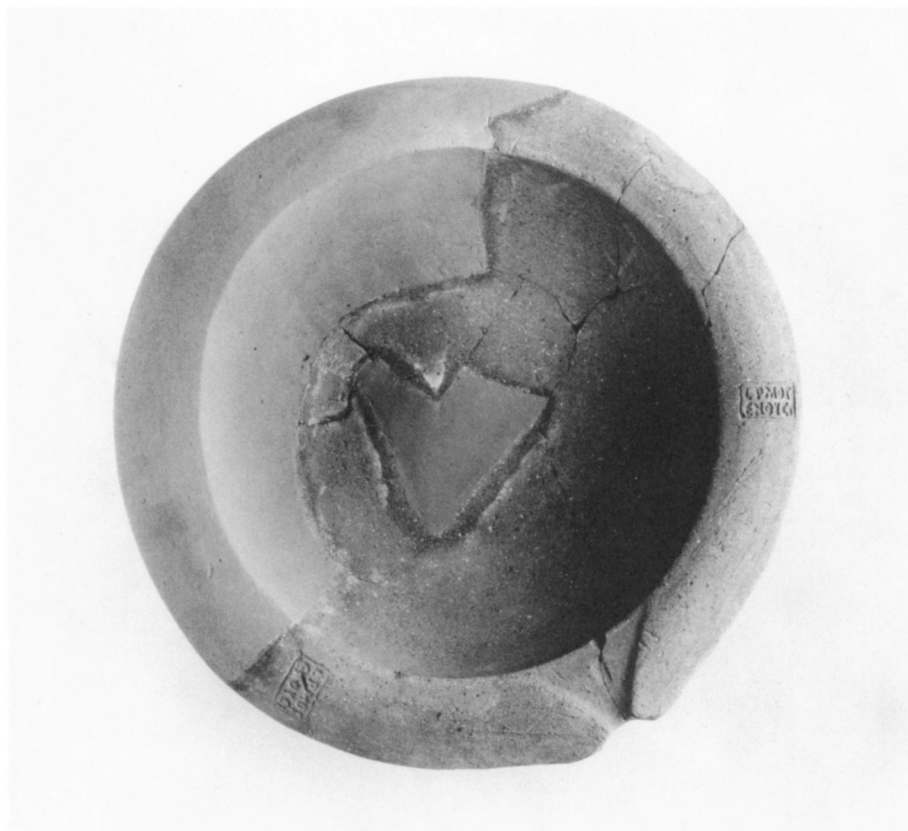
ΓΕΜΕΛ | ΑΙΝΟΥ (originally published as ΓΕΜΕΛ | ΑΙΝΟΥ) and ΔΙΟΝΕΙ | [Ξ]ΚΟΥ [ΞΞ] (published as ΔΙΟΝΕΙ | ΚΟΥΜ).

The dating evidence for this class of mortaria is scanty, but sufficient to enable us to assign them to the latter part of the third and the earlier part of the fourth century. Of the Athenian Agora pieces, No. 1 was found in a well in association with local pottery of early fourth-century types; 5 comes from a layer of debris from the Herulian destruction of A.D. 267; 3 and 4 are from late Roman contexts. 67, from Beit Nattif, was associated with coins of Decius (249-251) and Salonina (253-268). The relatively small number of manufacturers known and the lack of major change in the vessel-types and the lettering of the stamps suggest that the industry was not particularly long-lived; one may allow it probably no more than a century. During this period, however, it clearly catered for a very widespread demand for cheap sturdy household ware; hence the wide distribution of its products.

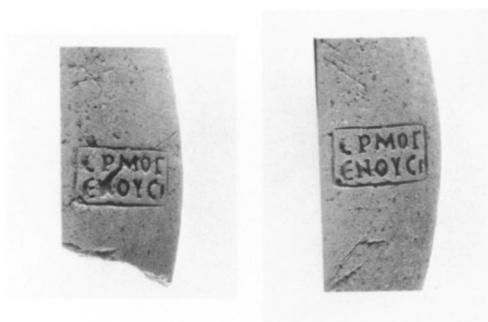
In conclusion, one may be tempted to ask how the Syrian industry came into being. Here one may perhaps find an answer in the presence of two Latin stamps in the group, a phenomenon hardly to be expected in the heart of the Greek East. Has one here evidence of the migration or transplantation of a group of potters from the West or the establishment of a successful branch factory by some firm of mortarium-makers in the West? The evidence of both vessel-forms and stamp-types seems to point in this direction.

J. W. HAYES

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



a. Athenian Agora P 20013



b. Athenian Agora P 20013, Stamps



c. Fragments from Ras el-Basit (scale indicated by cigarette packet)

J. W. HAYES: NORTH SYRIAN MORTARIA