

SPOOL SALTCELLARS IN THE ATHENIAN AGORA

(PLATE 67)

THREE REPRESENTATIVES of a large and distinctive form of saltcellar (Fig. 1, Pl. 67:a–c) have come to light in the course of excavations in the Athenian Agora.¹ They are in some features similar to the Classical saltcellars with concave wall and recessed underside which were popular in 4th-century Athens,² but there are significant differences between the two forms. In the first place, they are larger than standard saltcellars, with diameters of 7.6, 9.1, and 9.7 cm., as opposed to between 6 and 7 cm. for the standard saltcellars. More important, however, there are differences in shape. The profile of the large saltcellars resembles a spool; instead of the continuous concave curve of the standard saltcellars, these have nearly straight sides, a projecting foot, and a wide, nearly horizontal rim. These differences make it impossible to date them by comparison to standard saltcellars, and they must be considered as a distinctive variant. Sparkes and Talcott therefore did not include them in their study of Classical black-glazed pottery, and in the current system of classification at the Agora they are labeled as “Hellenistic”. My attention was first attracted to the shape by four examples found in Tomb 2 at Vergina and now on display in the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki.³ The Agora examples are presented here as useful comparanda for those pieces.

It is fortunate that all three Agora examples come from closed contexts and were found in association with more familiar and diagnostic objects. One (1; Pl. 67:a) comes from deposit H 16:7, the manhole of a cistern system south of the Southwest Fountain House; another (2; Pl. 67:b) was found in cistern D 16:1 at the southwest corner of the Agora;⁴ and

¹ I would like to thank T. Leslie Shear, Jr., Director of the Agora Excavations, and Homer A. Thompson, former Director, for permission to study and publish this material. I am grateful also to Margot Camp, Secretary of the Excavations, for her help, to Craig Mauzy, who took new photographs of the pottery (Pl. 67:d–f), and to Kyriaki Moustaki, who printed the photographs. Lynn A. Grant made the profile drawings in Figure 1; Figures 2 and 3 are the work of the author. This research was made possible by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; I thank them for their generous support.

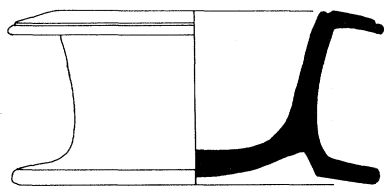
Works frequently cited will be abbreviated as follows:

- Agora X = M. Lang, *The Athenian Agora, X, Weights, Measures, and Tokens*, Princeton 1964
 Agora XII = B. Sparkes and L. Talcott, *The Athenian Agora, XII, Black and Plain Pottery of the 6th, 5th, and 4th Centuries B.C.*, Princeton 1970
 “Dipylon-Brunnen B1” = K. Braun, “Der Dipylon-Brunnen B1, die Funde,” *AthMitt* 85, 1970, pp. 129–269
 Habicht, *Untersuchungen* = C. Habicht, *Vestigia* 30, *Untersuchungen zur politischen Geschichte Athens im 3. Jahrhundert v. Chr.*, Munich 1979
 “Menon’s Cistern” = Stella G. Miller, “Menon’s Cistern,” *Hesperia* 43, 1974, pp. 194–245
 Shear, *Kallias* = T. L. Shear, Jr., *Hesperia*, Suppl. XVII, *Kallias of Sphettos and the Revolt of Athens in 286 B.C.*, Princeton 1978
 Thompson, *Tholos* = H. A. Thompson, *Hesperia*, Suppl. IV, *The Tholos of Athens and its Predecessors*, Princeton 1940

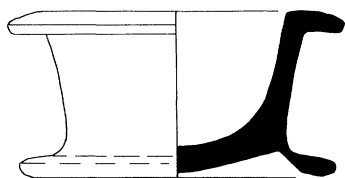
² *Agora XII*, nos. 936–938, pp. 136–137, 302, pl. 34, fig. 9. Sparkes and Talcott call them “standard and common” in the 4th century (p. 137).

³ *Treasures of Ancient Macedonia*, Athens 1979, nos. 134–137, p. 55.

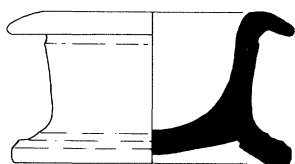
⁴ *Agora XII*, p. 387 and fig. 25.



P 27769 H 16:7



P 19358 D 16:1



P 3509 F 11:2 (dump)

FIG. 1. Saltcellars 1-3

the third (3; Pl. 67:c) was recovered from well F 11:2, situated to the northwest of the Tholos, along the west edge of the open square in front of the New Bouleuterion.⁵

This last context is especially valuable because the date at which the pottery was discarded can be established with some certainty on the basis of numismatic and historical evidence. The well is 16.80 m. deep, and, although the pottery is uniform throughout, the presence in the lowest 2.80 m. of two plain amphoras suitable for drawing water⁶ suggested to Sparkes and Talcott that this material was deposited while the well was still in use. They have therefore spoken of two fills, one (the lowest 2.80 m.) from a period of use which they placed in the third quarter of the 4th century, the other (the upper 14 m.) a dump containing material of the second half of the 4th century, deposited in the early 3rd.⁷

We are now in a position to date this material more closely. Homer Thompson, who excavated the well and published some of its contents, reported that 13 coins were found in its fill.⁸ His records show that one of these (B-491) was found at a depth of 14.25 m., in the upper part of the use fill, and eight came from the dump fill above

(B-372-B-374, B-380, B-393, B-420, B-427, B-447). Four more, found during final redigging of the well fill, came from unknown levels (B-503-B-505, B-508). With the exception of B-380, which has disintegrated, and B-503, which is illegible, these have been restudied by John Kroll, whose volume on coins from the Agora Excavations is in preparation. He found the latest to be B-491, from the use fill, showing Athena in a Corinthian helmet on the obverse and an owl standing left on the reverse,⁹ a type which he discussed in a preliminary study of the Athenian bronze coinage of this period.¹⁰ On the

⁵ *Agora XII*, p. 389 and fig. 25; Thompson, *Tholos*, pp. 98-101, 134-135 (labeled A in fig. 75, p. 99), p. 82, fig. 62, pl. 1; H. A. Thompson, "Buildings on the West Side of the Agora," *Hesperia* 6, 1937, pp. 165-167.

⁶ P 4422, P 4423 (= *Agora XII*, no. 1465, p. 338, pl. 61, there labeled as from the upper fill).

⁷ *Agora XII*, p. 389.

⁸ *Hesperia* 6, 1937, p. 167.

⁹ J. N. Svoronos, *Les monnaies d'Athènes*, Munich 1923-1926, pl. 22, nos. 85-88.

¹⁰ J. H. Kroll, "A Chronology of Early Athenian Bronze Coinage ca. 350-250," *Greek Numismatics and*

basis of the obverse image of Athena, which seemingly copies gold staters of Alexander the Great, Kroll suggested that this type was issued at a time of strong pro-Macedonian sentiment, either between 322 and 307, or between 307 and 300 B.C. In his preliminary publication, Kroll opted for the earlier date, but recent discoveries and subsequent study have convinced him that the issue should be assigned rather to the years after 307.¹¹ The coin in question here, B-491, is only slightly worn and apparently did not circulate long before it found its way into the well. The coin, then, was struck between 307 and 300 and discarded no later perhaps than the first decade of the 3rd century. Coming as it does from the lowest levels of the well, it provides a firm *terminus post quem* for the deposition of the debris in F 11:2. The uniformity of the pottery throughout both fills, and the coins in the upper fill, which date only slightly earlier than B-491,¹² suggest that there is no real chronological difference between the use and dump fills. This suggestion is supported by the fact that fragments of the same pot, 13, were found in both fills.

Thompson noted that F 11:2 contained material which was closely associated with the Tholos.¹³ Fragmentary terracotta roof tiles labeled as public property¹⁴ perhaps once roofed the Tholos kitchen. Pieces of public measures¹⁵ remind us that official standards were stored in the Tholos,¹⁶ and the pottery (chiefly cups, bowls, and plates, along with vessels associated with food preparation) would have been suitable for the use of *prytaneis* dining in the Tholos.¹⁷ Thompson further associated this debris with other dumps in the immediate area: the fills of wells F 12:3 and G 11:4, pits in the floor of the Tholos (deposit G 12:20), and rubbish dumped to the southeast of the Tholos.¹⁸ This he interpreted, plausibly, I think, as evidence of some disturbance in the building, which resulted in damage to the kitchen and considerable breakage of pottery. Food may subsequently have been prepared within the Tholos itself, for the pits in its floor contained ash and charcoal. Thompson went on to

Archaeology, Essays in Honor of Margaret Thompson, O. Mørkholm and N. M. Waggoner, edd., Wetteren, Belgium 1979, pp. 145–147, variety E.

¹¹ J. H. Kroll, "Nailing Down the Archaeological Chronology of Early Hellenistic Athens," *AJA* 87, 1983, pp. 241–242 (abstract). I am grateful to Professor Kroll for providing me with a text of the talk he gave at the 1982 AIA Meetings and also for many fruitful discussions of the chronology of the early Hellenistic period. Detailed arguments for the owl-left issue will appear in an article he is preparing for *Hesperia*.

¹² B-372 and B-374 belong to Kroll's variety B (Kroll, *op. cit.* [footnote 10 above], pp. 148–149; Svoronos, *op. cit.* [footnote 9 above], pl. 103, nos. 17–21) and B-447 to his variety D (Kroll, *loc. cit.*; Svoronos, *op. cit.*, pl. 24, nos. 51–57).

¹³ Thompson, *Tholos*, pp. 100, 134.

¹⁴ Thompson, *Tholos*, pp. 78–79, pl. 81, fig. 61. They bear the following inscriptions: [Δ]HMOΣ[ION] (A 432), ΔH[MOΣION] (A 433a), ΔH[MOΣION] (A 433b), [ΔHM]OΣ[ION] (A 433c).

¹⁵ P 3497 (*Agora* X, DM 46, p. 53, pl. 34), P 3559 (*Agora* X, DM 44, p. 52, pls. 14, 18, 34; *Hesperia* 4, 1935, pp. 346–347, fig. 5; *Hesperia* 6, 1937, pp. 165–166, fig. 98:b), P 3562 (*Agora* X, DM 45, pp. 52–53, pl. 34; H. A. Thompson and R. E. Wycherley, *The Athenian Agora*, XIV, *The Agora of Athens*, Princeton 1972, p. 44, pl. 34:a), P 6060 (*Agora* X, DM 57, p. 54, pls. 14, 34), P 6061 (*Agora* X, DM 13, p. 50, pl. 33).

¹⁶ *Agora* X, p. 41; *IG* II², 1013; R. E. Wycherley, *The Athenian Agora*, III, *Literary and Epigraphical Testimonia*, Princeton 1957, no. 605, pp. 182–183; *Agora* XIV, p. 44.

¹⁷ A selection of this pottery is published in *Agora* XII: nos. 33, 698, 710, 714, 823, 838, 1465, 1537, 1681, 1834, 1898, 2034. See also *Hesperia* 6, 1937, pp. 165–166, fig. 98:b–f.

¹⁸ Thompson, *Tholos*, pp. 59, 100, 134–135. F 12:3 and G 11:4 are marked C and E respectively on fig. 75, p. 99.

suggest that the damage was connected with some historical event at the turn of the 4th to the 3rd century.¹⁹

No literary or epigraphical testimonia mention damage to the Tholos at this time, and so we can only speculate as to the cause of the disturbance. It is natural, however, to think of political upheaval, since the Tholos was a building so intimately associated with the working of the democratic government of Athens. In the years after 307 we know of a political crisis in 303, when democrats were forced into exile by supporters of Demetrios Poliorketes, but this seems to have taken place more or less peacefully.²⁰ There is abundant evidence of unrest in the first five years of the 3rd century, however, as the ambitious general Lachares began to make his mark in Athenian politics. Our written sources do not, unfortunately, permit a complete reconstruction of the events of those years, but recent studies by Christian Habicht and T. Leslie Shear, Jr.²¹ have done much to shed light on this difficult period. A fragmentary historical chronicle²² tells of *stasis* among the generals, with a group under Charias taking the Akropolis. This faction was ultimately defeated by Lachares and summarily executed, perhaps in 298/7 B.C.²³ Numerous documents attest the dissolution of the Boule and a change of magistrates in the course of the year 296/5, which both Habicht and Shear have interpreted as the result of a *coup d'état* by Lachares in March of 295.²⁴ Although none of our sources record damage to the Tholos during these years, they do indicate a period of chaos and of quick and disorderly change in political institutions.²⁵ Lachares' treatment of the Athena Parthenos, from which he stripped the gold to pay his soldiers,²⁶ indicates a lack of concern with Athenian institutions, and the severe famine described by Plutarch²⁷ must have had an effect on the *sitesis* normally carried on in the Tholos. Communal dinner that year at the school of Epikouros consisted of a dole of single beans; we need not expect the less philosophically inclined councillors to have tightened their belts so dramatically, but in the light of the food shortage, arrangements for public dining may well have been somewhat irregular. If father and son could come to blows over a dead mouse, as Plutarch reports, might not the prytaneis have quarreled over their meager fare? Or might not a hungry populace have vented its rage on the Tholos kitchen? We can only guess, but there seems sufficient reason to suggest that the debris noted in the area of the Tholos accumulated during the year 295/4 and was thrown into well F 11:2 and other near-by dumps after the reinstitution of normal government in the spring of 294, when Lachares fled to Boiotia and Demetrios took the city.

Let us examine this suggestion in the light of another: that the material in Menon's Cistern, dated by Stella Miller in the early 3rd century,²⁸ was damaged during the uprising

¹⁹ Thompson, *Tholos*, p. 135.

²⁰ Shear, *Kallias*, p. 48; Plutarch, *Demetrios*, 24.4–5.

²¹ Habicht, *Untersuchungen*; Shear, *Kallias*.

²² *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, xvii.2082 = *FGrHist*, 257a.

²³ Habicht, *Untersuchungen*, pp. 16–19; Shear, *Kallias*, p. 98.

²⁴ Habicht, *Untersuchungen*, pp. 8–13; Shear, *Kallias*, pp. 52–53, note 144.

²⁵ Plutarch, *Demetrios*, 33.3 and 34.2.

²⁶ Athenaios, ix.405f; Plutarch, *Isis and Osiris*, 379; *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, xvii.2082.

²⁷ Plutarch, *Demetrios*, 34.2.

²⁸ "Menon's Cistern," pp. 209–210.

against Demetrios Poliorketes in 287 or 286 B.C.²⁹ and deposited immediately thereafter.³⁰ Pausanias' account (1.26.1) that the Macedonians came out of their fort on the Mouseion hill to meet the Athenians and were driven back to the fort by them indicates that fighting took place within the city. Menon's Cistern served a house located outside the southwest corner of the Agora, along a street which offered the most direct route between the Agora and the Mouseion,³¹ a route along which fighting might be expected to have taken place. The nature of the deposit (many complete pots, uniformity among many pieces) indicates that this is the debris from a single disaster. Dorothy Thompson, in a lecture at the General Meeting of the AIA in December of 1982,³² drew attention to a group of terracotta figurines of young boys from the cistern,³³ which she identified as members of the *Paides*, the Macedonian page corps. Their discard, she argued, would be entirely natural following an anti-Macedonian uprising, and their presence therefore supports the hypothesis that the material in Menon's Cistern was discarded after the revolt of 287 or 286. Our comparanda suggest that the latest material from F 11:2 is slightly earlier than the latest in Menon's Cistern, which is what we would expect if our historical reconstruction is correct.

For establishing the date of the spool saltcellars, the chronological range of the material in the deposits in which they were found is as important as a *terminus post quem* for its discard. There is a large amount of pottery to be considered; nearly 100 pieces were found in F 11:2, D 16:1 produced over 20, and H 16:7 only slightly fewer. This material can be placed within chronological limits by comparison with pottery from other well-dated deposits. Complete publication of these deposits lies beyond the scope of this paper. I offer merely a representative selection of the most diagnostic shapes as illustration of the range of the material.

The skyphoi from F 11:2 (14, 15; Pl. 67:f) and from H 16:7 (4, 6; Pl. 67:d) have the very narrow foot and exaggerated profile typical of the latest stage in the development of the shape and are comparable to examples from Menon's Cistern.³⁴ It is difficult to determine the chronological limits of this late phase. The skyphos had apparently gone out of regular use by the 260's, for only one fragment is reported from Koroni.³⁵ It was still in use in the 280's, for six were found in Menon's Cistern.³⁶ These are only slightly, if at all, advanced over those from the upper part of the Classical filling of the Crossroads Well,³⁷ which may be assigned to the last quarter of the 4th century.³⁸ Indications are that Attic skyphoi did not change much in the years between 325 and 285.

²⁹ For the date see Habicht, *Untersuchungen*, pp. 48–61 and Shear, *Kallias*, pp. 63–73.

³⁰ S. Rotroff, "Three Cistern Systems on the Kolonos Agoraios," *Hesperia* 52, 1983, p. 262.

³¹ R. S. Young, "An Industrial District of Ancient Athens," *Hesperia* 20, 1951, pp. 145–146, fig. 3.

³² D. B. Thompson, "The Value of Terracotta Figurines in Hellenistic Studies," *AJA* 87, 1983, p. 264 (abstract).

³³ "Menon's Cistern," nos. 82–102, pp. 240–241, pls. 37–40.

³⁴ "Menon's Cistern," no. 19, p. 231, pl. 31.

³⁵ E. Vanderpool, J. R. McCredie, A. Steinberg, "Koroni, A Ptolemaic Camp on the East Coast of Attica," *Hesperia* 31, 1962, p. 49.

³⁶ P 27969, P 27993–P 27995, P 28071, P 29289; "Menon's Cistern," nos. 18, 19, p. 231, pl. 31.

³⁷ P 29197, P 29198, P 29200. For the deposit see T. Leslie Shear, Jr., "The Athenian Agora: Excavations of 1971," *Hesperia* 42, 1973, pp. 130–134.

³⁸ For other pottery from that level of the well see *ibid.*, p. 133, note 37, pl. 28:h–k.

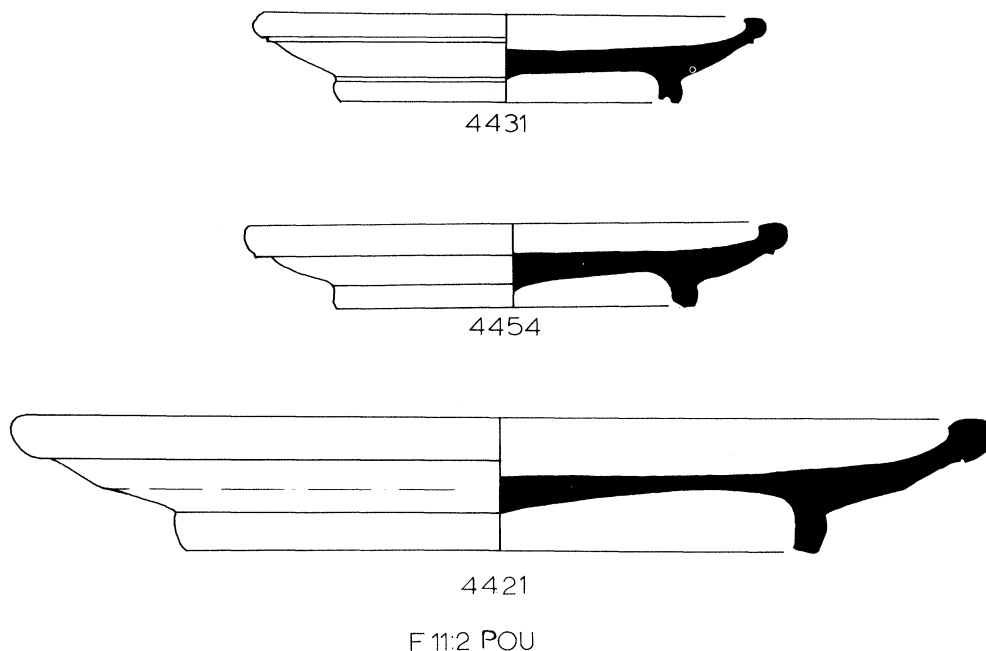


FIG. 2. Plates 17–19

Most of the plates from F 11:2 have a continuously curved profile with a molding below the rim (17, 18; Fig. 2) and probably date in the last quarter of the 4th century, but on one (19; Fig. 2) the molding has been replaced by a groove, and the profile is slightly angular. These features are characteristic of examples dating around the turn of the century and are already well established in no. 44 from Menon's Cistern.³⁹ They are also found in plates from the building fill of the Square Peristyle Building (e.g., P 31098, P 31111), whose deposit in the early 3rd century has recently been confirmed by the identification of a coin of Demetrios Poliorketes dating between 300 and 295.⁴⁰

The bowl kantharos from F 11:2 (16; Pl. 67:f) has the perfectly hemispherical profile typical of the latest black-glazed examples of this shape⁴¹ and is comparable to no. 12 from Menon's Cistern.⁴²

It is the kantharoi, however, that offer the best illustration of the range of date in these three deposits, for they are very common, and their development towards an ever taller and slimmer profile can be charted more accurately than that of any other black-glazed shape of the period.⁴³ Several nearly complete examples were found in well F 11:2 (Pl. 67:f).

³⁹ "Menon's Cistern," p. 235, fig. 5, p. 236.

⁴⁰ Kroll, *loc. cit.* (footnote 10 above).

⁴¹ *Agora* XII, no. 690, p. 285, pl. 28, fig. 7.

⁴² "Menon's Cistern," p. 230, pl. 30.

⁴³ Peter Corbett has shown that a group of closely contemporary cup-kantharoi of the second quarter of the 4th century, decorated with the same stamp, are homogeneous in the relationship of height to diameter, although there are variations in details of profile ("Palmette Stamps from an Attic Black-glaze Workshop," *Hesperia* 29, 1955, p. 176).

Sparkes and Talcott dated the low, squat **10** (Pl. 67:f) in the second quarter of the 4th century;⁴⁴ this kantharos, a black-glazed guttus-type askos,⁴⁵ and a few fragments of red figure⁴⁶ are the earliest pieces in the deposit. All the other kantharoi from F 11:2 are considerably taller and slimmer, an indication of later date, and most should date toward the end of the 4th century. Talcott and Sparkes dated **11** and **12** (Pl. 67:f) in the years 350–325 and 320–310 respectively.⁴⁷ The adjustments necessitated by the dating of the Ptolemaic encampment at Koroni in the 260's,⁴⁸ however, suggests a downward shift of that date, although the pieces in question are clearly earlier than the kantharoi from Koroni.⁴⁹ The pieces from H 16:7 (**5**; Pl. 67:d) and D 16:1 (**7**,⁵⁰ **8**; Pl. 67:e) are perhaps slightly later, dating in the early years of the 3rd century. In addition, **8** has the knot handles which seem not to appear on kantharoi before *ca.* 325.

Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between the kantharoi of our three deposits and kantharoi from other well-dated deposits. The trend towards slenderer proportions in the Classical kantharos can be expressed as a decreasing ratio of diameter of body to height,⁵¹ indicated in the scale at the left. The range of proportions for pieces from Olynthos, which presumably date before its destruction in 348 B.C., appears at the left, while the range for pieces from the Ptolemaic encampment at Koroni, occupied briefly in the 260's, appears at the right. The range of proportions indicates that, with the exception of one squat kantharos from F 11:2 (**10**; Pl. 67:f), which is indicated at the top of the dotted line on the chart, the kantharoi in our three deposits date well after the middle of the 4th century but somewhat before the 260's. The range is close to that of the kantharoi in Menon's Cistern, but the cut-off point is earlier.

One further piece adds confirmation, for D 16:1 produced an early example of a small Hellenistic kantharos (**9**; Pl. 67:e, right). The beginnings of this shape in Athens must lie in the last years of the 4th century. A larger and more elaborate version was found in debris over the floor of Building Z-3 in the Kerameikos,⁵² dated by numismatic evidence in the decade before 307,⁵³ and fragments of a simpler version were found in Menon's Cistern.⁵⁴ This small version is not yet attested in exclusively 4th-century deposits; we might therefore suggest a date in the first quarter of the 3rd century for P 19354.

It appears, then, on the basis of comparison with material from sites and deposits which can be dated by historical and numismatic evidence, that the bulk of the pottery in the

⁴⁴ *Agora* XII, no. 698, p. 286, pl. 29.

⁴⁵ P 3512; *Agora* XII, p. 319, under no. 1192.

⁴⁶ P 3506, P 3556, P 3561, P 3781, P 4417, P 4438. All but P 3556 are small fragments.

⁴⁷ *Agora* XII, nos. 710 and 714, pp. 286–287, pl. 29.

⁴⁸ Vanderpool, McCredie, and Steinberg, *op. cit.* (footnote 33 above), pp. 26–61; E. Vanderpool, J. R. McCredie, A. Steinberg, "Koroni, The Date of the Camp and the Pottery," *Hesperia* 33, 1964, pp. 69–75; V. R. Grace, "Revisions in Early Hellenistic Chronology," *AthMitt* 89, 1974, pp. 193–200.

⁴⁹ *Hesperia* 31, 1962, nos. 14, 15, 35–38, pp. 34–35, 37, pl. 20.

⁵⁰ *Agora* XII, no. 717, p. 287, pl. 27, fig. 7.

⁵¹ For an earlier study of kantharoi in which ratio of height to diameter figures prominently see D. M. Robinson, *Excavations at Olynthus*, XIII, *Vases found in 1934 and 1938*, Baltimore 1950, pp. 274–282.

⁵² *AA* (*JdI* 96), 1981, p. 386, fig. 3. For the debris see *AA* (*JdI* 95), 1980, pp. 263–265.

⁵³ Kroll, *loc. cit.* (footnote 10 above).

⁵⁴ P 28126, unpublished.

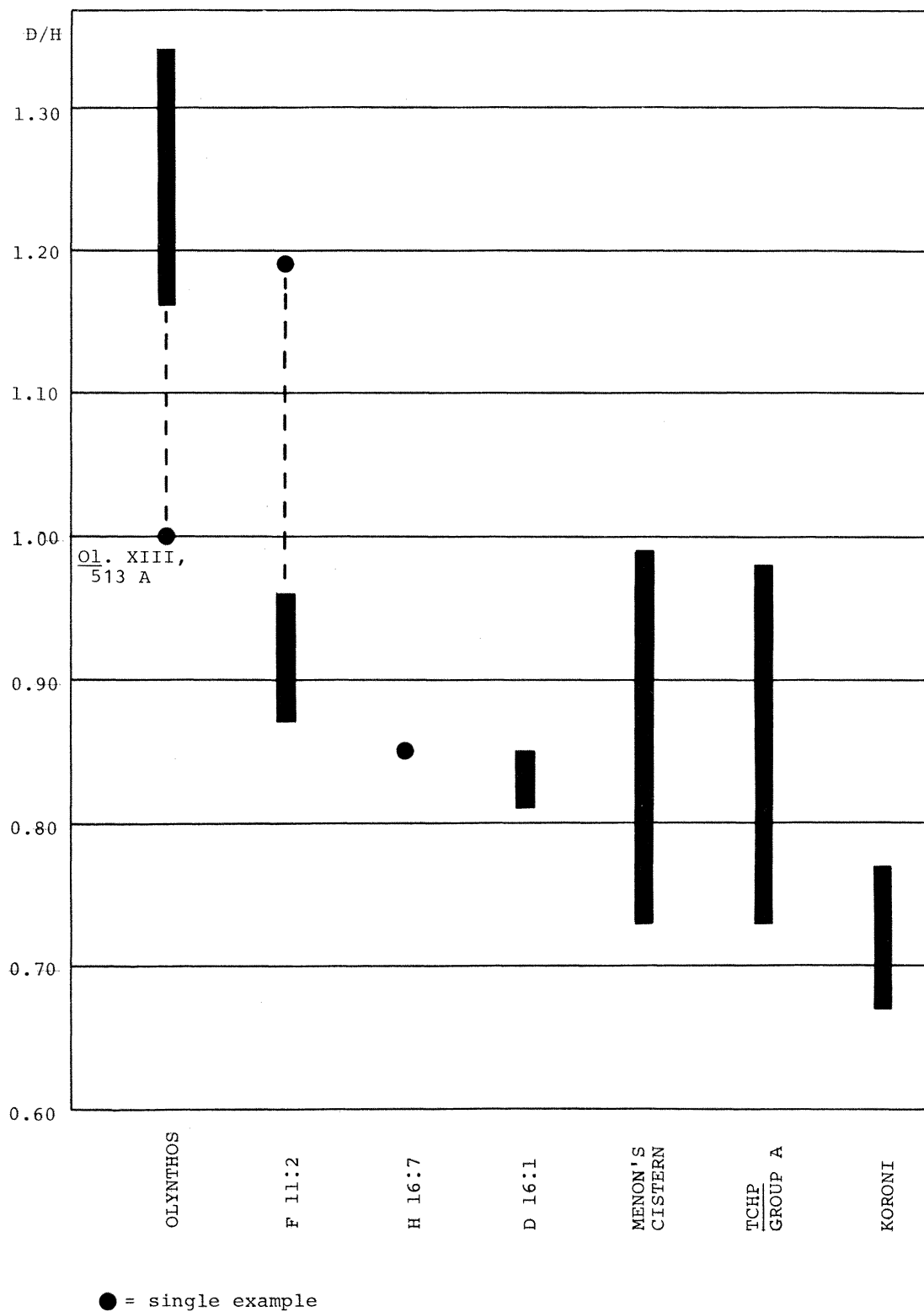


FIG. 3. Proportions of diameter to height in Classical kantharoi

deposits in question dates in the last quarter of the century and a few pieces are as late as the very early 3rd century. A date between 325 and 295 would therefore be the most likely for the spool saltcellars as well. An earlier date would require that these pieces were in use for over a quarter of a century before they were thrown away; their fresh resting surfaces, however, do not suggest a long period of use before discard.

The spool saltcellar is an unusual shape and a rare one, but similarity among examples from various sites suggests a limited chronological range. The contexts of most comparanda have not been recorded,⁵⁵ but it is worth noting that a fine example was unearthed in the Sciatbi necropolis in Alexandria,⁵⁶ and must have been buried after the foundation of the city in 331 B.C.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATED MATERIAL

Clay is described by reference to the Munsell Soil Color Chart (Baltimore 1975). I have made reference where possible to other published pieces from this period and especially to *Agora* XII. The dates at the end of each entry must be considered approximate; I juxtapose them with dates suggested by the authors of *Agora* XII as an illustration of the adjustments made in the chronology.

PLATE 67:a and FIGURE 1

1. P 27769 Black-glazed spool saltcellar
H. 0.046, est. diam. of rim 0.097, diam. of foot 0.097 m. Rim chipped.

Context: H 16:7
Date: 325–295

Widely flaring foot with broad underside beveled towards interior. Convex underneath. Slightly concave body, broad, projecting rim, convex on top and with a glazed groove at either edge. Micaceous, pink clay (5YR 7/4), shiny black glaze.

PLATE 67:b and FIGURE 1

2. P 19358 Black-glazed spool saltcellar
H. 0.043, est. diam. of rim 0.091, diam. of foot 0.083 m. Pieces of wall and about half of foot missing.

⁵⁵ Four in the British Museum are said to come from Benghazi (inv. nos. 1852.6-17 through 20 [*BMC Vases* II, London 1870, C 165–C 168]). The provenance of one example in the Ashmolean Museum is unknown (*CVA*, Oxford 1 [G.B. 3], 48[140]:36, p. 41). In northern Greece, in addition to those from Tomb 2 at Vergina, one has been found at Kozani (*BCH* 85, 1961, p. 782, fig. 16) and another at Rodopi, on the Thracian coast, at a site identified by the excavator as ancient Stryme (G. Bakalakis, *Ἀνασκαφὲς Στρώμης*, Thessaloniki 1967, no. 45, pl. 61:3, 4, p. 105; for the identification of the site see G. Bakalakis, *Προανασκαφικὲς Ἐρευνες στὴ Θράκη*, Thessaloniki 1957, pp. 91–97. Bakalakis asserts that the site was terminally destroyed ca. 350 by the neighboring city of Maroneia, with the help of Philip II [*Ἀνασκαφὲς Στρώμης*, p. 145], but two plain-rimmed kantharoi found on the floor of a house date near the end of the 4th century [*ibid.*, no. 44, pl. 60:1, 2, p. 105]). Ann Steiner further informs me that the shape occurs at Torone. Three examples excavated from a cistern on Cyclops Street in Athens are illustrated in *Δελτ* 29, 1973–1974, B' 1[1979], pl. 51:d, p. 43; it would be very useful to know the date of the material found with them.

We may also mention three closely similar saltcellars from the Agora on which the top surface of the rim is embellished with a West Slope wreath (P 21032, P 23594, P 29087). They come from less closely dated contexts (building fill of the Middle Stoa, Q 10:1, and Lot BΔ-178, respectively) but tend to support the dates suggested for the saltcellars above. Q 10:1 is a fill which has been associated with the construction fill of the Square Peristyle Building, deposited in the early 3rd century (see footnote 38 above). The small amount of pottery in Lot BΔ-178, from the floor of a house, seems to date in the late 4th to early 3rd century. The building fill of the Middle Stoa was laid down about 180 B.C. but contains much earlier material (see S. Rotroff, *The Athenian Agora*, XXII, *Hellenistic Pottery: Athenian and Imported Moldmade Bowls*, Princeton 1982, p. 102, under H–K 12–14).

⁵⁶ E. Breccia, *La necropoli di Sciatbi*, Cairo 1912, pl. 56:116.

Shape as the preceding but with rounded resting surface and without grooves on rim. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), shiny black glaze.

Context: D 16:1

Date: 325–295

PLATE 67:c and FIGURE 1

3. P 3509 Black-glazed spool saltcellar

H. 0.039, diam. of rim 0.076, of foot 0.076 m. Most of rim restored.

Widely flaring foot with flat resting surface and slightly angular profile. Thick, nearly straight wall, offset below rim. Projecting rim, convex on top. Micaceous, light red clay (2.5YR 6/6), shiny black glaze.

Context: F 11:2, dump fill

Date: 325–295

PLATE 67:d. Pottery from Deposit H 16:7

4. P 27765 Black-glazed Attic skyphos

H. 0.096, est. diam. of body 0.098 m. Both handles and most of rim and upper body missing.

Torus ring foot, concave lower body. Convex upper body with slightly outturned rim. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), shiny black glaze.

Cf. *Agora* XII, no. 353, p. 260, pl. 17, there dated ca. 320; "Menon's Cistern," no. 19, p. 231, pl. 31; H. A. Thompson, "Two Centuries of Hellenistic Pottery," *Hesperia* 3, 1934, A 26, p. 320, fig. 5.

Date: 315–285

5. P 27771 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.114, diam. 0.10 m. One handle and spur of the other missing, rim and foot chipped.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave underneath. Scraped groove in resting surface. Molded rim. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), mottled to gray; shiny black glaze, peeling above stacking circle.

Cf. P 28709 from Crossroads Well, level 9.40–9.85 m. (*Hesperia* 42, 1973, p. 133); "Dipylon-Brunnen B1," no. 6, p. 134, pls. 54 and 79.

Date: 300–290

6. P 27781 Small black-glazed Attic skyphos

H. 0.064, diam. of body 0.056 m. Parts of foot and handles missing.

Torus ring foot, concave lower body. Convex

upper body with outturned rim. Horizontal triangular handles join below rim. Micaceous, light brown clay (7.5YR 6/4), black glaze below and inside, tan on upper body.

Cf. P 29289 ("Menon's Cistern," p. 231, under no. 19).

Date: 325–285

PLATE 67:e. Pottery from Deposit D 16:1

7. P 19349 Black-glazed kantharos with knotted handles

H. 0.118, diam. of body 0.096 m. Part of rim and upper wall and small sections of handles and lower wall restored.

Molded foot, concave underneath, with grooved resting surface. Low, cylindrical stem. Slightly elongated convex lower body, tapering upper body with plain, slightly outturned rim. Double knotted handles from rim to body. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 7/6), shiny black glaze, mottled to reddish brown above stacking circle.

= *Agora* XII, no. 717, p. 287, pl. 29, fig. 7, there dated 325–310.

Date: ca. 300–290

8. P 19350 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.103, diam. of body 0.088 m. One handle spur and pieces of rim and body restored.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, funnel-shaped underneath, with flat, scraped resting surface. Low, tapering stem. Convex lower body, tapering upper body with plain, slightly outturned rim. Straight-sided handle spurs. Micaceous, light reddish brown clay (5YR 6/4), peeling black glaze, fired reddish brown on lower body and inside.

Date: 300–290

9. P 19354 West Slope Hellenistic kantharos

H. 0.08, diam. 0.09 m. Most of handles and part of wall restored.

Flaring ring foot, convex underneath. Scraped groove in resting surface and at junction of foot and body. Rounded lower body, straight upper body with plain rim. Strap handles. Ivy garland in clay on upper wall. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), dull black glaze.

Cf. "Dipylon-Brunnen B1," no. 9, p. 134 and no. 79, p. 139, pls. 54 and 79 (with different foot).

Date: 300–275

PLATE 67:f. Pottery from Deposit F 11:2

10. P 4444 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.075, diam. of body 0.089 m. Parts of foot, wall, rim, and handles restored.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave underneath, with grooved resting surface. Molded rim. Tapering handle spurs. Rouletting on floor. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), shiny glaze, mottled black to reddish brown. From dump fill.

= *Agora* XII, no. 698, p. 286, pl. 29, there dated 375–350.

Date: 375–350

11. P 4442 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.091, est. diam. of body 0.087 m. Parts of foot, wall, and one handle restored.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave underneath, with reserved, grooved resting surface. Deep, rounded lower body, slightly flaring upper body with plain rim. Slightly tapering handle spurs. Micaceous, light red clay (2.5YR 6/6), shiny glaze, mottled black to reddish brown. From dump fill.

= *Agora* XII, no. 710, p. 286, pl. 29, there dated 350–325.

Date: 325–315

12. P 22038 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.097, est. diam. of body 0.09 m. One handle, most of upper body, and parts of lower body restored.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave with nipple underneath. Grooved resting surface. Low, concave stem. Rounded lower body, concave upper body with slightly outturned rim. Slightly flaring handle spurs. Micaceous, pink clay (7.5YR 7/4), black glaze above stacking circle, reddish brown below. Miltos in scraped groove. From use and dump fills.

= *Agora* XII, no. 714, p. 287, pl. 29, there dated 320–310; cf. "Dipylon-Brunnen B1," no. 5, p. 133, pls. 54 and 79.

Date: ca. 300

13. P 22039 Black-glazed kantharos

H. 0.124, diam. of body 0.118 m. Over half of body and rim, half of foot, and tip of one handle restored.

Molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave underneath. Scraped groove in resting surface. Low, concave stem. Ribbed lower body with scraped groove at base of ribbing. Concave upper body. Molded rim. Flaring handle spurs. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), lustrous black glaze. Miltos in scraped grooves. From use and dump fills.

Cf. *Agora* XII, no. 704, p. 286, pl. 29, figs. 1 and 7, there dated 320–310; cf. S. Rotroff, *op. cit.* (footnote 30 above), nos. 25, 26.

Date: ca. 300

14. P 22036 Black-glazed Attic skyphos

H. 0.104, diam. of body 0.10 m. Parts of body, rim, and handles restored.

Torus ring base with scraped groove at junction with body. Concave lower body, convex upper body. Slightly outturned rim. Triangular horizontal handles join below rim. Reserved underside with dot in circle at center. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (7.5YR 7/6), dull black to brown glaze. From dump fill.

Date: 315–295

15. P 4445 Black-glazed Attic skyphos

H. 0.107, est. diam. of body 0.105 m. Handles and much of body restored.

Torus ring base with scraped groove at junction with body. Concave lower body, convex upper body, with slightly outturned rim. Reserved underside with dot in circle at center. Micaceous, reddish yellow clay (5YR 6/6), shiny black glaze. From dump fill.

Date: 325–315

16. P 3501 Black-glazed bowl kantharos

H. 0.086, diam. 0.106 m. Most of handles missing, half of rim restored.

Heavy molded foot with scraped groove between moldings, concave underneath. Scraped groove in resting surface. High, tapering stem. Hemispherical body with plain rim. High-swung handles. Micaceous, light reddish brown clay (5YR 6/4), shiny black glaze. From dump fill.

Cf. *Agora* XII, no. 690, p. 285, pl. 28, fig. 7, there dated 325–310; "Menon's Cistern," no. 12, p. 230, pl. 30.

Date: ca. 300

FIGURE 2. Plates from F 11:2

17. P 4431 Black-glazed plate

H. 0.024, est. diam. 0.135 m. About half restored; complete profile preserved.

Ring foot with grooved resting surface, nipped underside. Smoothly curving wall with molding at top. Rolled rim with slight overhang on inside. Central circle and five alternately linked palmettes within rouletting on floor. Micaceous light red clay (2.5YR 6/6), lustrous black glaze. From dump fill.

Cf. *Agora* XII, no. 1060, p. 310, fig. 10, there dated 325–310.

Date: 325–300

18. P 4454 Black-glazed plate

H. 0.024, est. diam. 0.145 m. Over half restored; full profile preserved.

Ring foot with nipped underside. Smoothly curving wall with molding at top. Rolled rim with slight

overhang on inside. Alternately linked palmettes within rouletting on floor. Micaceous red clay (2.5YR 5/6), mottled to gray; lustrous black glaze. From dump fill.

Cf. P 24134 from building fill of Square Peristyle Building.

Date: 325–300

19. P 4421 Black-glazed plate

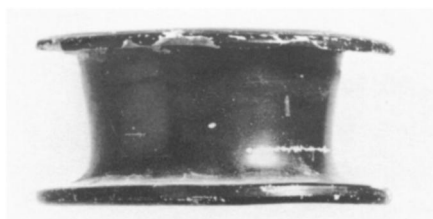
H. 0.035, est. diam. 0.26 m. Much of body restored; full profile preserved.

Ring foot with nipped underside, resting surface beveled to inside. Slightly angular wall with groove at top. Rolled rim with slight overhang on interior. Central circle and alternately linked palmettes within rouletting on floor. Micaceous red clay (2.5YR 5/6), dull black glaze. From use fill.

Date: 300–295

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1. P 27769 (H 16:7)



2. P 19358 (D 16:1)



3. P 3509 (F 11:2)

Spool saltcellars. Scale 1:2



4. P 27765

5. P 27771

6. P 27781

Pottery from Deposit H 16:7. Scale 1:4



7. P 19349

8. P 19350

9. P 19354

Pottery from Deposit D 16:1. Scale 1:4



10. P 4444

11. P 4442

12. P 22038

13. P 22039

14. P 22036

15. P 4445

16. P 3501

Pottery from Deposit F 11:2. Scale *ca.* 1:7