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DE L'ACADÉMIE POLONAISE DES SCIENCES

ÉTUDES et TRAVAUX

XX

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*Stamped Late Hellenistic  
and Early Roman Fine Wares  
found at Kom el-Dikka  
in Alexandria before 1987\**

\* As a token of gratitude, this paper recalls writer's introductory steps in archaeology, under supervision of Prof. Sztetyło at the University and with her support in Alexandria.

The year 2003 has marked the 40th year of Polish excavations at Kom el-Dikka. During these years studies devoted to the Late Roman levels have dominated publications of this site. Excavation into Early Roman structures was possible only under late floors or digging to uncover foundations of late structures for purposes of conservation. The only larger area in which the Early Roman strata were reached was under the Late Roman house B.<sup>1</sup> Earlier structures have been uncovered to substantial extent mostly in relatively recently dug trenches.<sup>2</sup> In spite of this, already before these structures were dug, quite a numerous body of Late Hellenistic/Early Roman imported fine wares has been found, though obviously there are few sherds that come from primary deposits. A small part of these is stamped. Perturbations with personnel at these excavations did not encourage study of earlier excavated contexts as well as made access to detailed field notes and field inventories impossible for members of the excavation team after 1984. The only source of provenance identification was the description on the sherd trays, bags and labels, which were quite frequently illegible, and often very general. All these factors made forgetting about any provenance and in fact any study of these finds, the most prudent way to follow. All available information, including position in the storeroom, was recorded. At present, the old storerooms have been moved to new location.

It is a recently published paper of J.W. Hayes read at the conference at Amman, which has encouraged the present writer to select those pieces, which bear stamped decoration or inscriptions and publish them. Hayes has used this kind of data among other in an attempt to assess relative quantity of different wares on Levantine sites.<sup>3</sup> Reliability of stamped wares collection far exceeds standard preservation procedures. At present there are already several groups of Early Roman imported fine pottery finds published from the collection of the Greco-Roman Museum and mentioned from various excavations of the Centre

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<sup>1</sup> M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie III, Les habitations romaines tardives d'Alexandrie à la lumière des fouilles polonaises à Kôm el-Dikka*, Varsovie 1984, pp. 33–58, Pl. II: 6; IX; ID., A brief record of the excavations at Kom-el-Dikka in Alexandria from 1960 to 1980, *BArchAlex* 44, 1991, pp. 1–70; G. MAJCHEREK, Excavations at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria in the 1989 season, *PAM* 1988–1989, pp. 77–79; ID., Alexandria 1990, *PAM* II, 1990, pp. 23 f; ID., Excavations in Alexandria in 1991–1992, *PAM* IV, 1990, pp. 19 f; ID., Excavations in Alexandria in 1993, *PAM* V, 1993, pp. 14 f; ID., Alexandria Kom el-Dikka, excavations 2000/2001, *PAM* XIII, 2001, pp. 37–43.

<sup>2</sup> G. MAJCHEREK, Excavations in Alexandria in 1990–91, *PAM* III, 1991, pp. 9 f; ID., Alexandria 1994, archaeological excavations, *PAM* VI, 1994, pp. 15–19; ID., Notes on Alexandrian habitat: Roman and Byzantine houses from Kom el-Dikka, *Topoi* 5/1, 1995, pp. 133–150; ID., Alexandria, excavations 1995, *PAM* VII, 1995, pp. 13–20; ID., Alexandria Kom el-Dikka, excavations 1996, *PAM* VIII, 1996, pp. 23–29; ID., Alexandria Kom el-Dikka, excavations 1997, *PAM* IX, 1997, pp. 25–34; ID., Alexandria Kom el-Dikka excavations 1997/98, *PAM* X, 1998, pp. 35–39; ID., Alexandria Kom el-Dikka, excavations 1999/2000, *PAM* XII, 2000, pp. 28–32.

<sup>3</sup> J.W. HAYES, Late Roman Fine Wares and their Successors: A Mediterranean Byzantine Perspective (with Reference to the Syro-Jordanian Situation), in: *La céramique byzantine et proto-islamique en Syrie-Jordanie (IV<sup>e</sup>–VIII<sup>e</sup> siècles apr. J.-C.) Actes du colloque tenu à Amman les 3, 4 et 5 décembre 1994*, eds E. VILLENEUVE, P.M. WATSON, IFAPO Bibliothèque archéologique et historique 159, 2001, pp. 278, 280–283.

des *Études Alexandrines*.<sup>4</sup> This paper is aimed at clarifying the record of Polish excavations on scale limited by available poor documentation. Contextual study is reduced to basic identification of place of find at first by reference to the map published by B. Tkaczow.<sup>5</sup> Any attempt in direction of reconstruction of contexts must wait for other kinds of finds to be studied, and the provenance labels etc connected with these have to be made available for comparison and correlation with pottery ones. In other words, as an excuse for this undertaking serves presenting this short series of objects as a fairly representative sample of what was used of the stamped wares in the central area of the city. Much richer collection of the Greco-Roman Museum is not entirely reliable as to the provenances. Quite a number of finds come from the Benachi collection. Kadous has taken for granted that these came from Alexandria, but rubbings supplied to Comfort by Benachi in 1956 demonstrate that all of the Italian pieces that remain in Greco-Roman Museum were in fact acquired in Rome and not found in Alexandria. The group from this collection, which has found its way to the Athens came conversely, it seems, either from Alexandria or less probably perhaps, Cairo (Fostat).<sup>6</sup>

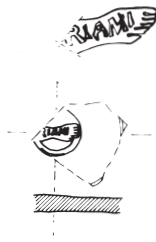
In drawing plates on pages (126, 130 and 135) the stamps are drawn in size double to section, while photographs and rubbings are reproduced in original size.

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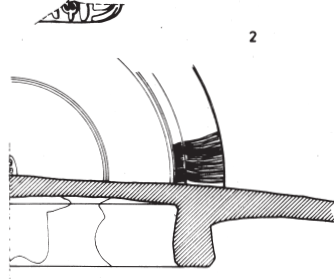
<sup>4</sup> E.Z.H. KADOUS, *Die Terra sigillata in Alexandria* (Inaugural-Dissertation zur Erlangung des Doktorgrades im Fach Klass. Archäologie im Fachbereich III an der Universität Trier), Trier 1988 (catalogue includes, apart from collection of Greco-Roman Museum some pieces presently in Germany in Trier and Dresden); S. ÉLAIGNE, *Alexandrie. – Étude préliminaire d'un contexte céramique du Haut-Empire*, in: *Alexandrina 1, Études alexandrines 1*, Le Caire 1998, pp. 75–103; P. BALLETT, collaboration C. HARLAUT, *Introduction à la céramique de Gabbari*, in: *Nécropolis 1*, ed. J.-Y. EMPEREUR, M.-D. NENNA, Le Caire 2001, p. 341, Fig. 9.25; J.W. HAYES, C. HARLAUT, *Ptolemaic and Roman Pottery Deposits from Alexandria*, in: *Alexandrina 2, Études alexandrines 6*, Le Caire 2001, p. 108; A. LAMARCHE, *La céramique. Secteur 2 de la fouille du pont de Gabbari*, in: *Nécropolis 2*, ed. J.-Y. EMPEREUR, M.-D. NENNA, Le Caire 2003, pp. 112, 116, Graph. 1–2; J.-Ch. TREGLIA, collaboration J. RAPASSE, *La céramique hellénistique. Secteur 5 de la fouille du pont de Gabbari*, in: *Nécropolis 2*, vol. 2, p. 378; J.-Ch. TREGLIA, collaboration J. RAPASSE, *La céramique impériale et romaine tardive*, in: *Nécropolis 2*, vol. 2, pp. 410 f.

<sup>5</sup> B. TKACZOW, *Topography of ancient Alexandria (An Archaeological Map)*, Warsaw 1993, pp. 82 f, Sites 30, 32–34, 42–45, 55–57. The writer would like to express gratitude to dr Tkaczow for her support in identifying the places, referred in labels or on sherds in abbreviated manner.

<sup>6</sup> A. OXE, H. COMFORT, Ph. KENRICK, *Corpus Vasorum Arretinorum, A Catalogue of the Signatures, Shapes and Chronology of Italian Sigillata*, ed. 2, Bonn 2000 [= OCK], CD-ROM/Bibliography/Benachi Coll, Kadous 1988. NB. Kadous did not include the Athens group. OCK omitted the ESB and ESA pieces in the Comfort archive.



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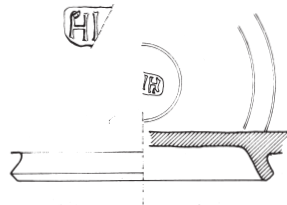
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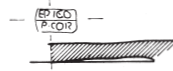
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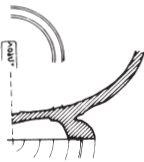
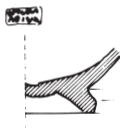
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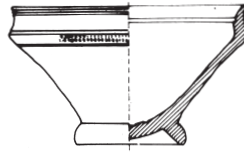
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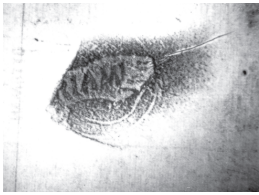
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## CATALOGUE

## A) EPIGRAPHIC STAMPS.

**I. Italian Sigillata *planta pedis* stamps.**

1. Found 1971.08.18 in sounding M? (place of find reconstructed from sherds kept together in storeroom, probably M XVI.3 *locus* 12, pugging).<sup>7</sup> Slightly doubtful ware – most probably Italian: core colour Munsell 5YR 7/5, very few fine grained impurities: mat white (limestone?), mat black and red, translucent (quartz?). Central fragment of a plate bottom. A *planta pedis* stamp of Priamus, reading [P]RIAMI, with no context date.<sup>8</sup>

2. Unknown provenance or one of the soundings at "theatre" perimeter (M XVI) *catinus pedalis*, form Conspectus B 1.7/9 [forms 4.5, 11.1.3, 18.2.1, 19.3.2], Arretine. This is equal to OC foot form 11/12, according to Goudineau large plate with heavy foot of medium phase.<sup>9</sup> A small part of central stamp, possibly poorly impressed rectangular, eroded. Form dates this to Augustus/Tiberius. Drawing of the stamp in the plate is based on a rubbing, and no letter can be identified for sure. A conjectural C at the end of rounded stamp is possible (perhaps OCK type 698.2 or larger heel end of 698.53, doubtful, as all but one from Rome found in Western provinces).
3. Sector W 2 F (W2= baths *Frigidarium*?), stratum 2, found in October 1977,<sup>10</sup> inv. W2 2863. Late base of form Conspectus B 4.10–11/13 (occurs in forms 25.1 and 22/23.2 respectively), with a defective impression of a narrow rectangular stamp or *planta pedis*(?). This cannot be early, most probably 2–3 quart of 1st century and is a frequent form in Mediterranean.<sup>11</sup> The reading is not sure, but [-]ROS is most probable, which would make for EROS, known already in this form.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> This is a sounding situated on S side of the "theater" in third compartment of corridor under and at perimeter of the cavea. The daub floor is dated to 3rd century A.D. W. KOLAŃAJ and M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie* (saison 1970/1971), *EtTrav* VII, 1973, p. 251.

<sup>8</sup> OCK, type 1521.3 (frame 602, *planta pedis*); A. OXE, H. COMFORT, *Corpus Vasorum Arretinorum*, Bonn 1968 [= OC], 1385; cf. also OC 2602 (not listed in OCK), uncertain but ..IAMI evident. Priamus in OCK types 1521.1-2 may not be a same potter, and the same is certain for types 1942.1-9 known as slave of A. Sestius (?Dama).

<sup>9</sup> E. ETTLINGER *et al.*, *Conspectus Formarum Terrae Sigillatae Italico Modo Confectae* [= Consp], particularly S. ZABEHLICKY-SCHEFFENEGGER, *Böden und Standringe*, pp. 154 f; OC, pp. 587–589, Pl. XII; Ch. GOUDINEAU, *Bolsena IV, La ceramique aretine lisse*, Paris 1968, pp. 243 f., closest form C-2B-30, pp. 201 f, stamped centrally p. 161 (stamp 44, B-2B'-13).

<sup>10</sup> Most probably in the report for 1977, E. and M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie 1977, EtTrav* XII, 1983, p. 268 mentioned as the trial pit near the north end of R4 street. It is possible, however, that a trial pit close to the earlier pit "F" is meant, though such a trench was dug in year 1976 cf. RODZIEWICZ, *BArchAlex* 44, 1991, p. 8, Fig. 20.

<sup>11</sup> Consp, p. 92, 162; EAA Atl II, p. 197, Tav. LVIII,5; GOUDINEAU, *Bolsena*, pp. 146, 149 (B-2B-7), 196 f. (C-2B-8); E. SCHINDLER-KAUDELKA, *Terra Sigillata aus Rom. Die Sammlung Olcott, RCRF* 23/24, pp. 18 f, 29, No. 24 (but Arretine).

<sup>12</sup> OCK type 778.5, or less probably 779. 7–8; narrow rectangle and *planta pedis*.

4. Sector W1, stratum 2 A, found in 1976, probably fill of the Late Roman House G wall-robbing<sup>13</sup> inv. W1 2559, base of Conspectus B 4.12-13, typical of form 23.1. A stamp inside centre is not well legible, while a *grafitto* at the bottom reads APT, i.e. ΑΡΤ[εμ—]. It is difficult to find any similar stamp but there are several possibilities:



- a) unidentified text, with an X or simply crossed oblique lines making for sandal straps near toes<sup>14</sup> and a transverse stroke in line with left edge of the X makes easier to accept an interpretation of sandal straps; as an alternative a stamp in Museo delle Terme 17018 is also close;
- b) corrupt [FE]LIX, here to all the doubts expressed above a next one may be added i.e. very unusual L;<sup>15</sup>
- c) another group of possibilities involves a doubtful suggestion of differing orientation of the text which would have to be read from toes to ankle, which is most unusual. If such *lectio* is acceptable, some version of a signature of XANTHVS, known slave-potter of CN.ATEIVS is possible.<sup>16</sup> This fragment belongs most probably to Central Italy, and should be dated late in the series.<sup>17</sup>

## II. Italian sigillata rectangular stamps.

5. Loose find(?), fragmentary base of form Conspectus B 2.4. with partly preserved stamp PHL[—], most probably PHILOSI(TVS), possibly known as a slave of L. Titius. The similarity of ligatures supports this interpretation.<sup>18</sup>



6. Sector W2, L, found on 12 June 1980,<sup>19</sup> inv. W2 3494, fragment of a dish, rectangular stamp with a dotted outline and two lines of text, upper illegible, broken off, lower L.TETTI. Almost certainly one of the workmen of L. Tettius Crito, PHILEROS, this name is the only known that fits slight traces of the first line, and was placed in double linear outline composed of dots.<sup>20</sup>



<sup>13</sup> E. and M. RODZIEWICZ, Alexandrie 1976, *EtTrav* XII, 1983, p. 259.

<sup>14</sup> OCK type 2558.14, 16; abstract in *planta pedis*, also type 10, vessel Nos. 35 938; OC 2586, 2588, 2583 (illegible), nb. two cases of such sandals have been published in C. MAYER-SCHLICHTMANN, Terra sigillata aus Pergamon, PF 6, Taf 5: VK 16,17 while earlier have been known from Candarli, p. 375, Abb. 5 and Athenian Agora-Agora V, G 61, compare also different sandals, Agora V, G 53, Pl. 57 and *Hesperia* 58:1, 1989, p. 21, Pl. 7:24 from Corinth.

<sup>15</sup> OCK potter 821; types 823.23, 26 seem less probable; OC 685, 35, 3a, 17 – all in *planta pedis*.

<sup>16</sup> OCK type 2536. 135; OC 177 (Xanthi retrograde, stamp type 611), listed examples in Spain.

<sup>17</sup> Atlante II, pp. 197 f, Tav. LVII,11–15; LVIII, 1–14.

<sup>18</sup> OCK, p. 330, potter 1460, 2 types, but probably equal, type 2 worn; OC 1321b, comp. OCK p. 450, potter 2230 Philositus slave, OC 2124, but also OCK potter 2132.

<sup>19</sup> M. RODZIEWICZ, Excavations at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria in 1980–1981, *BArchAlex* 44, 1991, p. 72, in (?) wall separating from cistern.

<sup>20</sup> OCK p. 428, type 2108.1, frame 316; OC 1984b, GOUDINEAU, Bolsena, pp. 180 f, No. 54.

7. Sector W1 N, Level 2, i.e. below Upper Arab necropolis, found on June 18th, 1978,<sup>21</sup> inv. W1 2903. Center of a dish (?), rectangular stamp EPIGO/P-COR i.e. EPIGO(NVS) P-COR(NELI), one of early workmen of the P.Cornelius workshop, dated to 10 B.C. or later.<sup>22</sup>

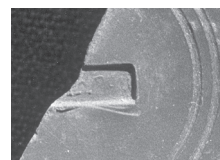


### III. Eastern Sigillata Stamps.

8. Sector W1, L, stratum 2, found in 1976,<sup>23</sup> inv. W1 2560. A base of a bowl, Cypriot Sigillata probably form P 25, a rare case<sup>24</sup> of a rectangular, retrograde stamp in 2 lines: σινωλ/λοπΑ, probably Απολλωνιο[ς] inversed from A (compare ES B stamps CΠO/POY and POY/CΠO). The form of a base is not conclusive for typological identity but together with technological properties leaves no doubt as to its ware.<sup>25</sup>



9. Sector SM, found on December 9th, 1968,<sup>26</sup> inv. "1968" 1120. Eastern Sigillata B1, Hayes EAA Atlante II form 29,<sup>27</sup> stamped in one line: ΔΩPON which is less common than in two lines.



### B) ANEPIGRAPHIC (AND UNCERTAIN) STAMPS.

### IV. Italian

10. Found in layer over the Upper Necropolis, East 1<sup>28</sup> according to inventory, but most probably misidentified, inv. W1 1803. Near complete section of Conspectus form 22 (Ritterling 5), but only the stamp edge is preserved.

<sup>21</sup> E. and M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie 1978–1979*, *EtTrav* XIV, 1990, pp. 285–300.

<sup>22</sup> OCK type 641.4, p. 195; OC 498, a.

<sup>23</sup> E. and M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie 1976*, *EtTrav* XII, 1983, pp. 241–261, no mention, probably in the area of the shop hall between the cistern and the aqueduct.

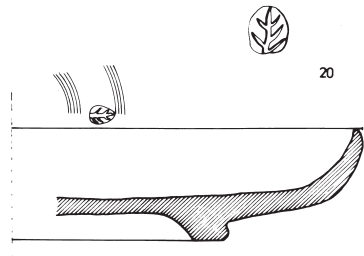
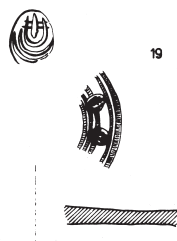
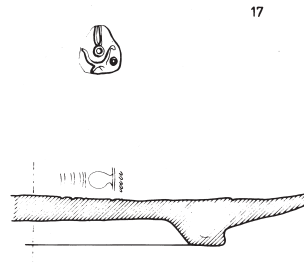
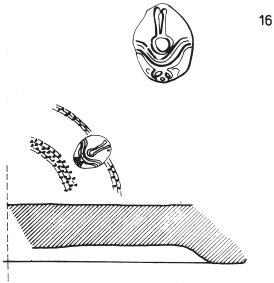
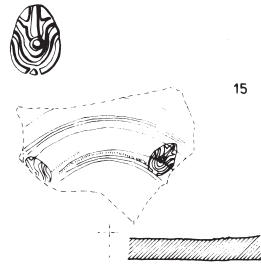
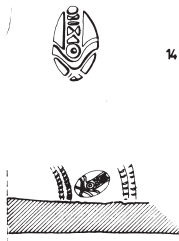
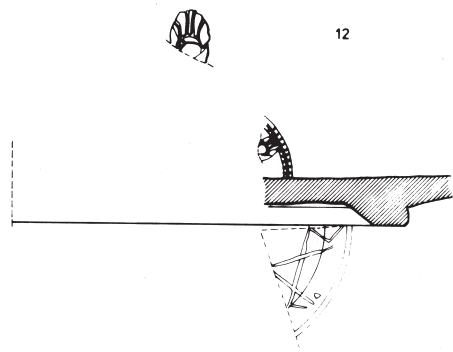
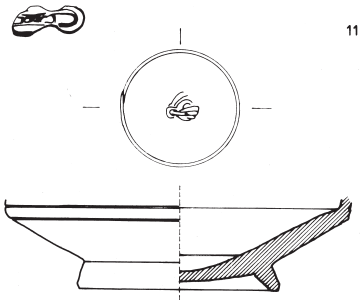
<sup>24</sup> EAA Atlante II, pp. 80,82, Tav. XIX,2, J.W. HAYES, *Cypriot Sigillata*, *RDAC* 1967, p.71, Fig. a; Id., *Paphos III: The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery*, Nicosia 1991, pp. 56 f, Pl. 11:37–42; I. NICOLAU, *A Hellenistic and Roman tomb at Evrychou - Phoenix*, *RDAC* 1984, p. 241, No. 50, Pl. L: 42.

<sup>25</sup> The base is partly unslipped, with streaks and careless spiral burnishing, leaving untreated bands. The breaks are straight, with large, oblong irregular pores near base. The colour is brownish – 2.5 YR 5/6–4 core and 1 YR 4/8 slipped surface. Few very fine particles of limestone? are visible.

<sup>26</sup> Usually SM is used as an abbreviation for Sondage "M" – i.e. the Theater. W. KOLATAJ, *Les fouilles polonaises à Kôm el-Dikka (Alexandrie) en 1968 et 1969*, *EtTrav* VI, 1972, pp. 147–167 does not, however mention any activity in that area in 1968, while an entry in: Z. KISS, *Alexandrie V, Les ampoules de Saint Ménas découvertes à Kôm el-Dikka*, p. 27, No. 36 seems to elucidate this discrepancy. It seems that in this case "SM" is for Meuszyński's trial pit i.e. elsewhere trial pit "68".

<sup>27</sup> V. MITSOPOULOS-LEON, *Die Basilika am Staatsmarkt in Ephesos. Kleinfunde, 1. Teil: Keramik hellenistischer und römischer Zeit*, FE IX 2/2, Wien 1991, pp. 101, 112, Taf. 138: H73; R. MERIC, *Späthellenistisch-römische Keramik und Kleinfunde aus einem Schachtbrunnen am Staatsmarkt in Ephesos*, FE IX/3, Wien 2002, p. 59, Taf. 23: K222. Some imitation of ES "A" Hayes' form 22 is more probable, than ES "B1" Hayes' form 24, recalling Western prototypes. EAA Atlante II, p. 59, Pl. XII:27. Some hint for early date is given by the foot, which seems Late Hellenistic in shape, cf. PF 6, Pl. 29.

<sup>28</sup> TKACZOW, *Topography*, p. 108; in Polish East = Wschód, hence W1.



11. Sector W1, found on May 19, 1973. Lower part of a carinated cylindrical cup with floor merging with conical bottom, Conspectus form 26 tending to form 27.2 in almost conical foot.<sup>29</sup> Perhaps late in series – around middle of 1st century A.D., with unepigraphic *planta paedis*.

## V. Eastern Sigillata A

Relatively large group of Eastern Sigillata A dates to 1st century B.C., and some of these are stamped in Hellenistic manner. “Isis crown” stamps, known well already from Samaria, where Crowfoot devoted a study to that motif,<sup>30</sup> are particularly frequent. Number of stamps of this group in Alexandria seem large if other sites are compared, where quantity data concerning at least stamps seems reliable. Apart from published sites, two other, Paphos and Delos are set in a table and it is obvious that compared with palmette stamps or rosettes their occurrence frequency in Alexandria is extraordinary. Already Pagenstecher, Crowfoot and Kadous<sup>31</sup> pointed to ultimately Egyptian origin of that motif. Slane concluded recently that there is insufficient evidence to attach much importance to between-site comparison of stamp repertories and frequency of stamp types.<sup>32</sup>

Site \ Motif	palmettes	doubtful	Isis crowns	ivy leaf & other	rosette (band)
Alexandria (Kom el-Dikka)	4		8	1	3
Alexandria (other)	28	1	8		
Samaria	17	1	12		
Tel Anafa <sup>33</sup>	110	4	15	4	2
Hama <sup>34</sup>	70	5	15	5	5
Antioch <sup>35</sup>	21		10		2

<sup>29</sup> There is no rim, and it is difficult to decide which form it belongs to, generally form as Haltern 15A, but closest base GOUDINEAU, Bolsena IV, 241, deposit B 2B’.

<sup>30</sup> G.M. CROWFOOT, *Terra Sigillata General List*, in: Samaria-Sebaste III, London 1957, pp. 317–324, Figs. 74:15–26, 75: 11–20, 76.

<sup>31</sup> R. PAGENSTECHEER, *Ausgrabungen in Alexandria II: Die Griechisch-Ägyptische Sammlung E. v. Sieglin, 3: Die Gefässe in Stein und Ton, Knochenschnitzereien*, Expedition Ernst v. Sieglin, *Ausgrabungen in Alexandria, II.3*, Leipzig 1913, p. 106, Fig. 72; CROWFOOT, *Terra Sigillata*, pp. 322–324; KADOUS, *Die Terra*, pp. 134 f, 160.

<sup>32</sup> SLANE, *Tel Anafa*, p. 335, “it is difficult to know whether such numbers reflect reality or the scholar’s taste, ...”.

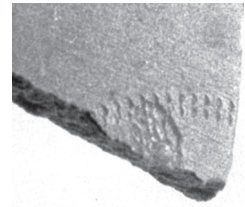
<sup>33</sup> *ibid.*, p. 334, note 299, general number is 155, but the catalogue lists only 142.

<sup>34</sup> CH. FRIIS-JOHANSEN, *Les terres sigillées orientales*, in: Hama. Fouilles et recherches de la Fondation Carlsberg 1931–1938, III. 2, pp. 65–76, Fig. 29, cf. J. LUND, *A Fresh Look at the Roman and Late Roman Fine Wares from the Danish Excavations at Hama, Syria*, in: *Hellenistic and Roman Pottery in the Eastern Mediterranean*, *Advances in Scientific Studies*, Warsaw 1995, pp. 136 f gives unspecified number of stamped and attributed to forms and 78 unassigned stamped fragments (this includes at least 23 inscribed). I would like to thank Dr J. Lund for permission to study the collection in the Danish National Museum.

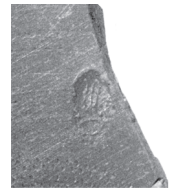
<sup>35</sup> F.O. WAAGÉ, *Hellenistic and Roman Tableware of North Syria, Antioch on-the-Orontes, Ceramics and Islamic Coins, IV.1*, Princeton 1948, pp. 23–5, 32–36, Figs. 4: 16–28, 5, 19–21 (count basing on illustrated pieces); according to Slane palmettes to Isis crowns ratio is c. 2:1.

Site \ Motif	palmettes	doubtful	Isis crowns	ivy leaf & other	rosette (band)
Paphos (all sites) <sup>36</sup>	45	3	1	1	1(+1)
Delos (without Fourni) <sup>37</sup>	63	4	3	2	2
Apamea <sup>38</sup>	9	2	5	0	1

12. Probably found in sector M XVI (theatre), base fragment of Hayes' form 4A?, diameter 14.0. Preserved outer band consisting of 2 roulette rows and most of an Isis crown stamp, with 2 feathers, long horns on both sides of a sun-disc possibly with uraei on sides.<sup>39</sup> *Grafitto* within base: [-]A[-].



13. Sector TSU I (north-eastern), third layer.<sup>40</sup> Bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Outer band of 2 roulettes, inner of 4, between a band stamps of fan-palmettes or Isis crowns (?),<sup>41</sup> one preserved, poor impression, 3 petals/feathers and a (volute) arch/sun-disc. Obliterated traces outside disc. Faint trace of central rosette, chipped.



<sup>36</sup> Including House of Dionysos, Polish excavations, House of Orpheus and Toumballos Italian excavations. J.W. HAYES, *Paphos III: The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery*, Nicosia 1991, pp. 34, 35 (Nos. 1, 2), 166, Figs. 17: 1, 2; 143, Figs. 50: 2, 50: 6, 50: 5; p. 147, Figs. 51: 2; p. 188, Fig. 65: 9; Pl. 7:12; F. GIUDICE, *Paphos, Garrison's Camp. Campagna 1988*, *RDAC* 1992, Fig. 6:1; F. GIUDICE *et al.*, *Paphos, Garrison's Camp. Campagna 1990*, *RDAC* 1994, Fig. 10:3.

<sup>37</sup> Subject to study of the present writer in collaboration with A. Peignard-Giros.

<sup>38</sup> M. VANDERHOEVEN, *Les terres sigillées (1966–1972), Fouilles d'Apamée de Syrie, IX.1*, Bruxelles 1989, pp. 37 f.

<sup>39</sup> CROWFOOT, *Terra Sigillata*, p. 318, Figs. 74: 23–24; KADOUS, *Die Terra*, p. 134, Fig. 157: Isiskronen 5, Pl. 144: 3.

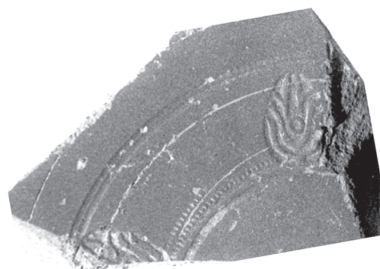
<sup>40</sup> M. RODZIEWICZ, *Report on the Activities of the Archaeological Mission at Kom-el-Dikka, Alexandria*, in 1982, *BSAA* 44, 1991, pp. 84–85, Fig. 3 (p. 96). Sector U = TSU, situated W of the N-S street with a theater, is one of the few areas in which Early Roman structures have not been overbuilt in LR period, layer 3 may correspond to Lower Muslim Necropolis.

<sup>41</sup> Palmettes comp. SLANE, *Tel Anafa*, p. 336, Pl. 43: FW 318 = FW 110; Isis crown *ibid.*, p. 340, Pl. 48: FW 370–372; best Delos, *Maison des Bijoux*, D66C3323, D66C4578.

14. Sector W1 centre, layer 3A.<sup>42</sup> Bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Outer band of 2 roulettes, inner of 2, between a band of Isis crown stamps, one preserved, schematic stamp with a sun-disc with a dot and the feathers of "ladder" style, 2 pairs of horns below and a head-cap.<sup>43</sup> At centre relatively large round stamp, edge preserved (rosette ?).



15. Sector W 1C, House C [originally D (between D and ?)] Central cut fill, N from (kitchen? = room C2?), found 18 February 1975.<sup>44</sup> Bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Outer band of 2 roulettes/grooves, inner of 2 roulettes running outside 2 grooves, between a band of Isis crown stamps, one and half of another preserved, schematic stamp with a small sun-disc with and dividing 2 branched feathers, 2 pairs of horns below and a head-cap.<sup>45</sup>



16. No provenance, fragmentary base of a plate, Hayes' form 4, heavy bottom, diameter 17.0. Outer band of 2 roulettes, inner of 4 partly overlapping, between a band of Isis crown stamps, one and half of another preserved, schematic stamp with a small sun-disc and the feathers represented by 2 vertical lines, slightly thickened on top. 2 pairs of curved horns below and a curved double head-cap.<sup>46</sup> At centre relatively large, weakly impressed round stamp, edge preserved (rosette ?).




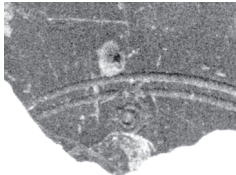


<sup>42</sup> Find date probably 25.04.1974, inv. W1/2016, cf. note 28; M. RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie 1974, EtTrav X*, 1978, pp. 381–384.

<sup>43</sup> FRIIS-JOHANSEN, *Hama III. 2*, Fig. 29: palmette 25a.

<sup>44</sup> For house naming conventions cf. note 28; comp. M. RODZIEWICZ, *Un quartier d'habitation Gréco-Romain à Kôm el-Dikka, EtTrav IX*, 1976, p. 171, Fig. 3; RODZIEWICZ, *Alexandrie III*, pp. 66 f, note 16, Fig. 183 east end of robbing trench.

<sup>45</sup> CROWFOOT, *Terra Sigillata*, p. 318, Fig. 74:22

<sup>46</sup> KADOUS, *Die Terra*, p. 134, Fig. 157: Isiskronen 4, Fig. 159.1.

17. Sector RSKE, no details. Base fragment of Hayes' form 4B(?), diameter 13.5. Possibly below the mosaics of Early Roman House "α" with Birds.<sup>47</sup> Outer band of 2 roulettes/grooves, inner of 3 grooves, between a band of Isis crown stamps, two and over half of another preserved, schematic, triangular stamp with a small sun-disc and the feathers represented by 2 vertical lines. Two small circles flank a pair of curved horns below and a curved head-cap. This has no exact counterpart in any other stamp.<sup>48</sup> There is an impressed circle resulting from stacking without supports.
- 
18. Sector Q, under a floor.<sup>49</sup> Base fragment of Hayes' form 4B (?), diameter 16.0. Outer band of 2 roulettes/ grooves preserved, one of the band of Isis crown stamps, oval stamp with a small sun-disc with central dot and the feathers represented by 2 vertical lines. A pair of curved horns and a curved head-cap are placed below.<sup>50</sup>
- 
19. Sector X (2?) fi ...;<sup>51</sup> bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Outer band of 2 roulettes, inner of 3 partly overlapping, between a band of oval stamps, two preserved. Stamps with schematic Isis crown: the feathers are represented by a vertical band and there are 2 pairs of horns below. No equally simplified Isis crown is published. The stamps are impressed obliquely and encroaching over the inner roulette rows.
- 
20. Trial trench Q, under the bath portico pavement, inv. Q 1709/72. Plate Hayes' form 4A/B, nearly complete profile; rim diameter 25.0, base diameter 14.5, height 4.05. Decorated by 2 groups of grooves/roulettes, outer of 2 rows of roulettes, inner of 3 grooves, with innermost partly rouletted. Between them band of oval veined leaf or branch stamps. A series of these was found at Tel Anafa, the Alexandrian example is more irregular but less schematic.<sup>52</sup>
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<sup>47</sup> RODZIEWICZ, *EtTrav* IX, p. 173, Figs. 4:8, 191.

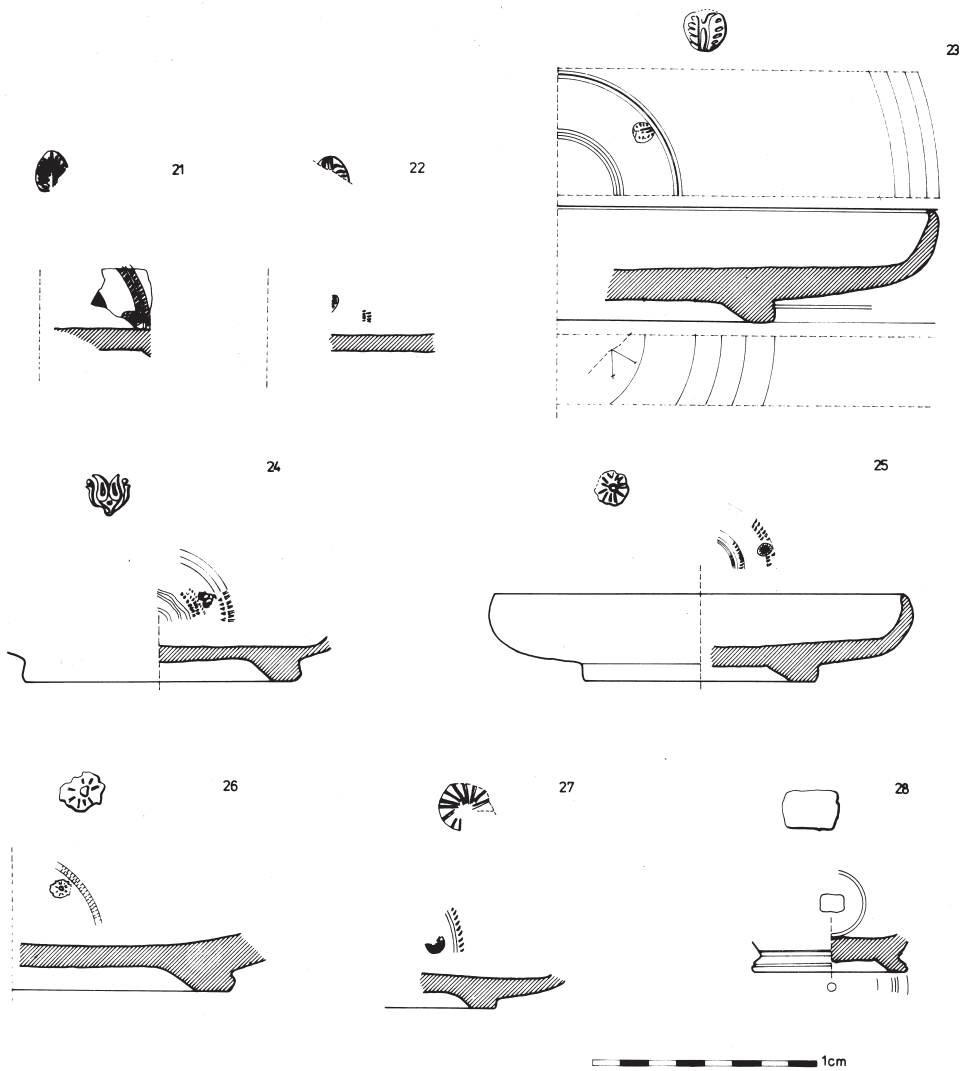
<sup>48</sup> Closest seems WAAGÉ, Antioch IV.1, pp. 23, 25, Fig. 5:16.

<sup>49</sup> Documented as coming from W1, but ink-labeled on sherd as Q (i.e. portico S of the baths), TKACZOW, Topography, p. 98, Site 44.

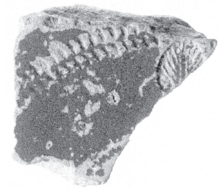
<sup>50</sup> CROWFOOT, *Terra Sigillata*, p. 318, Fig. 74:17

<sup>51</sup> Probably MX, i.e. in the street/portico in front of the theatral edifice.

<sup>52</sup> SLANE, Tel Anafa, Pl. 44: FW 326-333.



21. Sector TSU I, S corner, S extension of the fill (probably accumulation over street). In this context 6th century A.D. sherds were also found.<sup>53</sup> Bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Preserved 2 groups of roulettes, 2 rows each with a row of oval palmettes between, encroaching upon outer group. The palmette is with double midrib and 7 straight (bipinnate) veins on its each side.<sup>54</sup>

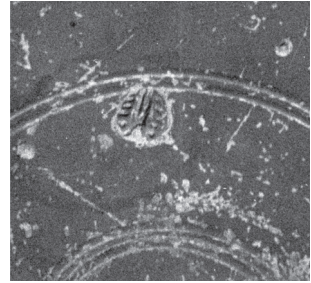


<sup>53</sup> Excavated 27–28 April 1982; M. RODZIEWICZ, Report on the Activities, *BSAA* 44, 1991, p. 84, Fig. 2.

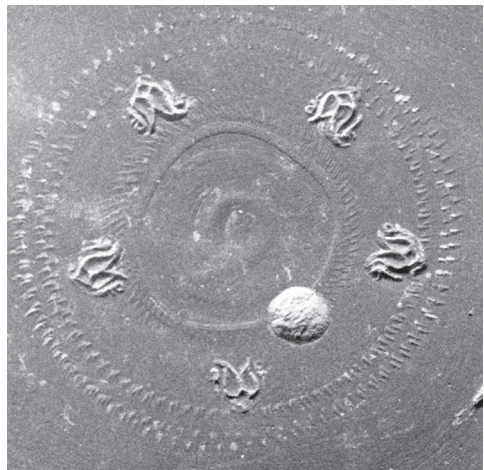
<sup>54</sup> SLANE, Tel Anafa, Pl. 45: FW 345; Cf. Delos, Ilôt des Bijoux, 66D2828, 66D4388.

22. Sector TSU IV, layer 1.<sup>55</sup> Bottom of a plate, Hayes' form 4. Preserved (outer) group of roulettes, consisting of 2 rows, with a half of an oval palmette. The palmette has double midrib and (bipinnate)veins bent back.<sup>56</sup>

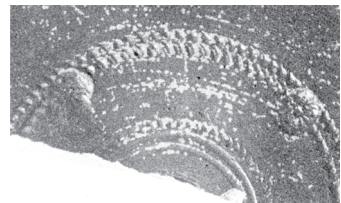
23. No provenance. Plate Hayes' form 4A/B, nearly complete profile, centre floor missing; rim diameter 27.0, base diameter 16.0, height 4.1. Decorated by 2 groups of grooves, outer of 2 grooves, inner of 3 grooves.<sup>57</sup> Inside the inner grooves (unusual location) scarce (one only in almost ½ of plate, perhaps 3 in all) cardiac stylised palmette stamps. Double midrib, bipinnate subsidiary leaves represented by oblong dots, 4 on each side. At barb ends round dots in place of volutes.<sup>58</sup> Inside base part of *grafitto*: Λ.



24. Sector W2, NS.<sup>59</sup> Probably bowl Hayes' form 5B. base and part of bottom/wall junction (?), diameter 9.9. Decorated by 2 groups of grooves/roulettes, outer of 2 rows of roulettes, inner of 2-3 rows of roulette (spiral), partly encroaching over outer of 2 hand-drawn grooves inside. At centre wide groove-circle, also hand-drawn. Between outer and inner roulette groups, row of lotus flowers, encroaching on either group. Lotus flower of 2 petals, chalice, curved stalk and 2 loop-ended leaves on both sides. No parallels.



25. Sector W1, stratum 1. Plate Hayes' form 4B, nearly complete profile, centre floor missing; rim diameter 15.0, base diameter 8.2, height 3.1. Decorated by 2 groups of grooves/roulettes, outer of 2 rows of roulettes, inner of 2 grooves and an outer roulette. Row of simple rosettes (2 of 5? preserved) encroaching from inside on the outer group of roulettes.<sup>60</sup>



<sup>55</sup> Excavated May 1982, cf. notes 40, 53.

<sup>56</sup> FRIIS-JOHANSEN, Hama III. 2, Fig. 29: palmette 19c; SLANE, Tel Anafa, Pl. 46: FW348, FW 349.

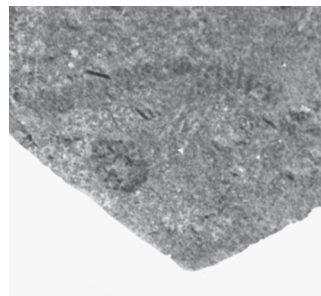
<sup>57</sup> Cf. Delos, Îlot des Bronzes, 66E 3 (B 9957), for use of concentric circles as central ornament of form 5.

<sup>58</sup> Cf. Delos, D66C3494, Maison des Bijoux, but more standard both stamp and composition.

<sup>59</sup> Cf. note 19.

<sup>60</sup> FRIIS JOHANSEN, Hama III. 2, Fig. 29: palmette 16a (there evidently as central); Delos, Maison des Bijoux D66C3164, but on a large plate, 30 cm rim diameter, and the rosettes are placed between roulette groups.

26. Sector W1, NE part.<sup>61</sup> Base fragment of Hayes' form 4A/B (?), diameter 16.0, centre of bottom missing. Outer band of 2 roulettes preserved, inside which one simple rosette belonging to a band. Surface very flaking, there seems not to have been any other roulette band.



27. Frigidarium – East, waste deposit 0.5-1.0 below Upper Necropolis between N5 and N3.<sup>62</sup> Base fragment of Hayes' form 4B (?), diameter 9.8, centre of bottom missing. Outer band of 1 roulette row and a groove with poor rouletting inside preserved, inside which one rosette belonging to a band. The rosette is large (diameter 0.8 and unusual, consisting only of rays, probably 16 (*ca.* ¼ not impressed)).<sup>63</sup>



Generally, the stamps of ESA from Polish excavations in Alexandria are limited to pieces of Late Hellenistic shape, at the end of that period. No name or even no epigraphic stamps with typical greetings have been encountered. This is quite far from practice in the N Levant, where at Antioch, Tarsus and Paphos the lettered stamps are relatively frequent. Not to take this at face value, one would have to compare the overall frequency of Hellenistic vs. Roman forms in the same collection to stamped pieces. It has to be noted that even if in principle more careful selection was made for stamped pieces, the same fate can be expected to have fallen to all ESA and other sigillata pieces. These stamps are often poorly visible, and could quite well escape notice before cleaning. There occurs also the problem of Italian connection of Egypt. The pieces listed come both from the late Augustan phase of Arretine production and the later, Flavian period.

## VI. Eastern Sigillata B

28. No provenance. Base fragment of Hayes' form 66(?), diameter 5.5. Heavily micaceous. Moulded conical foot with thick bottom and empty rectangle 1.0x0.7 impressed at centre of floor, surrounded by 2 grooves. A small incised (impressed?) circle in bottom centre.

<sup>61</sup> Found on 14 July 1976.

<sup>62</sup> Found in February 1977.

<sup>63</sup> FRIIS JOHANSEN, Hama III. 2, Fig. 29: rosette 8b.

This group of stamps is small. Without comprehensive study of stratigraphy and finds from common contexts it has inevitably little to add to our image of Alexandria in Hellenistic and Early Roman periods. It is our obligation nevertheless to bring to light all evidence.

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