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CONTENTS

STUDIES

ANCIENT HISTORY

- Vasileios SPANOS**
DELINEATION OF THE EARTH'S BEST SON..... 3
- John Brendan KNIGHT**
POWER, POSITION, AND PRACTICE. MILESIAN ELITES ON THE MOVE.....17
- Stephen DeCASIEN**
NAVAL RAM PORTRAYALS IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME.....38
- Kublay KOCAK**
THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ANATOLIA IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE: TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND URBAN CENTERS..... 53

ARCHAEOLOGY

- Yusuf POLAT**
TRACES OF RITUAL: AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROCK-CUT SANCTUARY AT ESKİŞEHİR YAZILIKAYA/MIDAS FORTRESS..... 60
- Boaz ZISSU, Amos KLONER**
THE FINAL DWELLING: FUNERARY ARCHITECTURE AND BURIAL CUSTOMS AT HELLENISTIC-PERIOD MARESHA..... 72
- Eugen S. TEODOR, Daniela CRISTEA-STAN**
A CONSTRUCTION FORTLET AT BĂNEASA..... 130

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

- Cristian Ioan POPA, Alin TODERESCU**
ON PREHISTORIC PATHS AND MOUNTAIN ROUTES: METAL ARTEFACTS FROM THE HILLS AND MOUNTAINS OF CUGIR.....151
- Gayane POGHOSYAN**
SYMBOLIC INTERPRETATION OF THE RITUAL SCENE ON THE GOLD MEDALLION FROM TOPRAK-KALE.....185
- Ünal DEMİRER**
METAL LAMPS FROM ANTALYA MUSEUM..... 190

ARCHAEOOMETRY

- Beatrice CIUTĂ**
FOOD DIET AND RITUAL PRACTICES AT APULUM. A COMPARATIVE ARCHAEOBOTANICAL STUDY.....203

DIGITAL AND VIRTUAL ARCHAEOLOGY

- Radu-Alexandru BRUNCHI, Andrei ASĂNDULESEI, Felix-Adrian TENCARIU**
CUCUTENI UNEARTHED: A 3D JOURNEY THROUGH TIME..... 215

NUMISMATICS

- Ergün KARACA, Ömer TATAR**
PROVENANCED LATE CLASSICAL AND HELLENISTIC PERIOD ROYAL COINS FROM EASTERN THRACE..... 225
- Sergiu MATVEEV, Vlad VORNIC, Lazari DERMENJI**
THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ROMAN REPUBLICAN COINS WITHIN THE PRUT-DNISTER AREA. THE CASE OF THE DENARIUS RECENT DISCOVERY IN CAJBA..... 244
- Cristian GĂZDAC, Adrian-Daniel STAN**
"PAY THE TROOPS, FORGET THE REST!" PATTERNS OF HOARDING: MILITARY VS. CIVILIAN ENVIRONMENTS IN THE MID-3RD CENTURY AD..... 251
- Cristian GĂZDAC, Vitalie BĂRCĂ, Cristian FLORESCU**
PARS PRO TOTO IN AN INTERPRETATIO SARMATICA OCCIDENTALIS. THE ROMAN COINS IN SARMATIAN GRAVES FROM THE NECROPOLIS TIMIȘOARA – HLADIK 1 (ROMANIA)..... 262

IN MEMORIAM

- Csaba SZABÓ**
MANFRED CLAUSS AND THE STUDY OF ROMAN MITHRAS IN THE 21ST CENTURY..... 287

REVIEWS

- Matthew G. MARSH**
Alexios G.C. Savvides. *The Cross and the Sacred Fire: Byzantium and the Sassanids (4th-7th Centuries) – An Overview of Relations between the Eastern Graeco-Roman Empire and Pre-Islamic Persia*, Athens, Hērodotos, 2022, 270p.+xlii, ISBN 978-960-485-422-6..... 291

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METAL LAMPS FROM ANTALYA MUSEUM

Ünal DEMİRER

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Abstract: The subject of this study is 22 copper alloy lamps that were brought to the Antalya Museum by methods other than archaeological excavations. The lamps, which were produced and used in the period between the Early Imperial Period and the Late Eastern Roman Period, were analyzed through literature searches and comparisons since they were recovered through non-contextual methods. Cat. No. 1–2 are cylindrical, deep-bodied, long-nosed, volute I lamps with volutes, which were widely produced in the Early Imperial Period and whose closest analogues were found in Herculaneum and Pompeii, which were buried under the ashes by the eruption of Vesuvius. Cat. No. 3–11, although with different forms, are quite common in different parts of the empire throughout the Roman period. The biconical-bodied, short-nosed lamps, which were produced and used extensively during the Late Eastern Roman Period from the late 3rd century AD onwards, are numbered as Cat. No. 12–19 and were identified and evaluated. Cat. No. 20 refers to shallow-bodied lamps with large crossed volutes, while Cat. No. 21 are examples of double-nosed lamps with large crosses. Cat. No. 22 is an example of the round-bodied, long-nosed lamps that were widely used between the 5th–7th centuries AD.

Keywords: *Antalya Museum, Pamphylia, Bronze Lamps, Ancient Lighting Tools, Lychnology.*

INTRODUCTION: METAL LAMPS

Among monographs on archaeological artifacts, those on metal artifacts are fewer than those made of materials resistant to the effects of time, such as stone, ceramics, glass and bone, considering the quantitative ratio of finds. This is also the case with the research on lamps, which are among the metal artifacts and have an important place in ancient daily life and belief in the afterlife. Scientific research and publications on lamps, a group of metal artifacts, are limited to examples found in some museum inventories and private collections, apart from individual excavation finds and theses. For the above-mentioned reasons, the dating of lamps is difficult unless they are found in context during excavations; the identification of metal lamp production workshops becomes difficult due to their transformable materials and flexible design possibilities, thus increasing the importance of the works brought to science in the publication studies on lamps¹.

The inventory of the Antalya Museum, which covers hundreds of ancient cities and settlements in Lycia, Pisidia and Pamphylia and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022, undoubtedly includes nearly 2000 metal oil lamps and oil lamp fragments. However, the vast majority of these have been documented by archaeological excavations carried out under the responsibility of

¹ DEMİRER 2024b, 139.

teams affiliated with universities, and the publication rights belong to the excavations' scientific teams. Apart from excavations, research and publication can be carried out on the lamps among the artifacts that have entered the inventory through methods such as confiscation, purchase and donation with the permission of the relevant institutions².

This study aims to complement the studies on the Hellenistic lamps recovered from the Phaselis Excavations and the copper alloy lamps from Demre Museum³, by documenting the metal lamps brought to the Antalya Museum by methods other than archaeological excavations.

COPPER ALLOY LAMPS FROM THE ANTALYA MUSEUM



Fig. 1. Cat. No. 1

Museum Inv. No: 16.25.99

Provenance: An acquisition from Ö. Faruk Altunış on 17th of August 1999.

Dimensions: L. 8,2 cm; W. 3,2 cm; H. 4,7 cm.

Description: The cylindrical body of the cast lamp narrows and curves towards the bottom and rests on a low conical base. The nose extends from the body and flares out again around the circular wick hole, forming stylized volutes on either side of the nose. There is a ring on the nose indicating the use of a suspension chain. The shoulder and the large oil reservoir hole are also surrounded by raised rings. The handle and lid joint are broken and missing.

This type, well known thanks to similar examples found in Pompeii and Herculaneum⁴, which were flooded by Vesuvius in the Early Imperial Period, was highly appreciated and produced even in remote parts of the empire⁵.

Cat. No. 1 is different in that it has an inscription engraved in small dots on the body: EYXHN EIKONION. EYXHN means (he/she) "offered", while EIKONION is a small statuette, a woman's name and the name of a settlement in Lycaonia. This short text therefore has several meanings. A similar example, found in one of the Nabataean settlements and sold to an antiquarian in Jerusalem, is dedicated to the deified king Obodas, with the Nabataean inscription "This is the lamp which Amat-Allah and Taim-Dushara dedicated to Obodas the God" on the body. Dated to the 1st-2nd centuries

² I would like to thank to Mustafa DEMİREL, Director of Antalya Museum, who gave permission for scientific research and publication of the lamps and to museum experts, especially Dr. Tolga KARAHAN, who provided all kinds of facilities during my studies; And to architect Esra ŞİMŞİR for contributing to the drawings of the lamps.

³ DEMİRER 2024a; DEMİRER 2024b.

⁴ EBER 2022, 295, Abb. 37.8

⁵ KHAMIS 2013, 111; STARAC 2022, 142, Fig. 1; 143.

AD and designed in the tradition of the volute lamp, the difference is the crescent moon on the ring-shaped handle⁶. The crescent-shaped handle of a Loeschke type XXVII lamp from Coulanges, Allier, central France, dated to the 2nd century AD, as on the body of Cat. No. 1, is inscribed MATRES DEUM in dotted and incised script and is suggested to be dedicated to Cybele⁷. The lamps also have chitonic properties and were offered as votive offerings in sacred sites with pieces of gold or bone placed inside: Excavations in the Kaunos Demeter Sanctuary yielded nearly 100,000 lamps, 60,000 of which are intact⁸. As can be seen from the examples mentioned above, lamps have an important place among the votive objects offered to the gods in temples, tombs or sacred areas with religious beliefs.

See: AL-SALAMEEN/SHDAIFAT 2014, 44, Fig. 1 (3rd century AD); ATASOY 2005b, 7.12, 10.19, 11.21 (1st-2nd centuries AD); BAIARDI/CARCANI 1792, 229, Pag. 231; BAILEY 1996, 25, Pl. 26, Q 3616-3617 (1st cent. A.D); BONDOC 2019, 31, Fig. 1.2 (Roman fort of Slăveni); CHRZANOVSKI/MANNIEZ 2005, 9, Fig. 2; De CAROLIS 1987, 83.2a-b, (Oplontis, 1st century AD); KHAMIS 2013, 11, Fig. 25 (Zeugma); LOESCHCKE 1919, Pl. XXI, 1054b, Type XIX; METİN 2017, 36-37, K7, Fethiye Museum inv. No. E.1959 (1st century AD); ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 319, Fig. 2, Kat. No. 4, Konya Archaeological Museum, 1st-2nd centuries AD; POZO RODRÍGUEZ 1997, 242, Lamina IV, No. 3-4; ROSENTHAL/SIVAN 1978, 158, no. 654-655 (Roman); SIMION 2003, 119, Fig. 3.10; STARAC 2022, 142, Fig. 1; 143, Fig. 2 (Archaeological Museum of Istria, inv. no. AMI-A-3273-AMI-A-5306, last third of the 1st and first half of the 2nd century AD); VAIANI 2015, 20.9; VALENZA 1977, 161, Tav. LXXV.13-15, (Early 2nd century AD); WALTERS 1914, Pl. VIII, no. 65.



Fig. 2. Cat. No. 2

Museum Inv. No: 2014/109

Provenance: Confiscation on 25th of April 2014.

Dimensions: L. 12,4 cm; W. 5,1 cm; H. 5 cm.

Description: The cast lamp has a cylindrical body with a flat base. The wide ring handle on the back of the body has an extension for ergonomic grip. On the joint at the top of the ring, the oil reservoir lid is designed as a fish that tilts and lifts. The nose tapers away from the body and widens around the circular wick hole, forming stylized volutes on either side of the nose. There are some broken and missing wave decorations on the shoulder. Slightly corroded and in good condition.

⁶ AL-SALAMEEN/SHDAIFAT 2014, 43-45.

⁷ VERTET 1962, 348, 349.

⁸ BULBA 2019, 31-32.

Cat. No. 2 can be identified as Type XIX in Loeschke's classification based on the body and nose; however, the volutes on both sides between the body and nose end of the lamp appear to be more flared and pointed in design. The large oil chamber, surrounded by a ring on the discus, is opened and closed by a lid in the mouth of a fish or dolphin, mounted on a hinge on the handle. The wave motifs on the very sharp shoulder are also unique. A support that curves backwards over the handle also provides ergonomics in the grip. Due to these features, the lamp can be considered a distinctive and unique type, with a special place among its counterparts.

See: POZO RODRIGUEZ 1997, 243, Lamina V, No. 1 (Handle and body), LOESCHCKE 1919, 322 (134), Pl. XXI, No. 1054 (Handle and body).



Fig. 3. Cat. No. 3

Museum Inv. No: 49.12.72

Provenance: Unknown.

Dimensions: L. 8,7 cm; W. 5,2 cm; H. 3,2 cm.

Description: The body of the lamp is made of two parts: the body produced by casting technique and the undecorated upper cover plate. After the cover is placed on the body, it is fixed by curving over the sides of the body. The low conical base, the elongated nose with circular wick hole and the crescent-shaped handle are one-piece with the body. The two ends of the crescent, a section around the oil reservoir and the lid, which can be recognized by the joint on the crescent, are broken and missing.

The use of the crescent moon as a handle on lamps is also seen on terracotta lamps and was widely preferred from the Early Imperial Period⁹. The distribution area of this type, defined as Loeschke XXI, covers a wide geography from Gibraltar to Britain, from the Baltic coasts to Chersonessos beyond the Balkans¹⁰.

See: ATASOY 2005a, 196, No. 5, Res. 5; BAILEY 1996, 28, Pl. 28, Q 3625; 36, Pl. 43, Q3660; DOROSHO 2013, 45, Рис. 4; 46, Рис. 5; HIELSCHER 2022, 98, Abb. 74 (Pompeji); LOESCHCKE 1919, Pl. XXI, type XXI cat. no. 1054–1057; MENZEL 1969, 108, No. 673, Abb. 89.7–No. 676, Abb. 89.10; POZO RODRIGUEZ 1997, 247, Lamina IX, No. 1; RADT 1986, 54, Abb. 37; STARAC 2022, 151, Fig. 10 (Archaeological Museum of Istria, inv. no. AMI-A-4637, 1st–2nd centuries AD); SIMION 2003, 61, Pl. XXVI, No. 31; TOPOLEANU 2012, 221, No. 130, Prahova County History and Archaeology Museum, inv. no. 4.–5138; 1st–2nd centuries AD; WALTERS 1914, Pl. VIII, no. 101.

⁹ BAIARDI/CARCANI 1792, 5.5, 149, Pag. 149; PACE 2008, 5.

¹⁰ DOROSHO 2013, 46, Рис. 5.



Fig. 4. Cat. No. 4

Museum Inv. No: 2007/368

Provenance: An acquisition from Mehmet Topay on 10th of December 2007.

Dimensions: L. 16 cm; W. 8 cm; H. 4,5 cm.

Description: Broad and elongated body was produced by casting technique. The sides of the nose, which extend from the drop-shaped body, open outwards, with a small circular wick hole in the center. The wick hole and the oil reservoir lid are at the same level. The oil filling hole is in the form of a ivy leaf. The shoulder is raised in a band and the upper lid level is hollowed out. The shallow body, again with a raised band, forms a low, heel-shaped base. Handle missing. Light green patina, light corrosion.

After being produced in the Italian peninsula during the Hellenistic period, this lamp form spread throughout the empire¹¹ as seen in parallel examples, and is described by Loeschke as “birnförmige: pear-shaped” Type XX¹². It is a common belief that metal lamps, which are generally found in smaller numbers than terracotta lamps, were inspired by the forms of terracotta lamps¹³, which were produced in large numbers with cheaper and easier methods. In this form, there is an example of a reverse interaction: In this recognised form, a terracotta analogue was produced¹⁴.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 18.34, 19.35, 20.36; BAIARDI/CARCANI 1792, 149, 189, Pag. 191; BAILEY 1996, 39, Pl.48, Q 3672 (Body); BANOV/NAYDENOV 2013, 60, No. 44, Pleven (2nd–3rd centuries AD); De CAROLIS 1987, 82.1, (Oplontis, 1st century AD); LOESCHCKE 1919, Pl. II, Type XX; Pl. XXI, 1055, Type XX; MENZEL 1954, 122, No. 716, Abb. 103; METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 294, Fig. 3, K14, second half of the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century AD; METİN 2017, 38–39, K10, Fethiye Museum inv. No. E.3690, second half of the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century AD; PEREZ SANCHEZ / RUIZ GUTIERREZ 1996, 264, Fig. 1(Castro Urdiales, Spain); POZO RODRIGUEZ 1997, 243, Lamina V, No. 3; Lamina VI, No. 1–3; SIMION 2003, 49, Pl. XV, No. 15; VALENZA 1977, 160, Tav. LXXIV.12 (Early 2nd century AD); WALTERS 1914, Pl. 38, Fig. 6.

¹¹ HIELSCHER 2022, 97, Abb. 71–73; PEREZ SANCHEZ/RUIZ GUTIERREZ 1996, 265–266.

¹² LOESCHCKE 1919, 453–454, Abb. 37.

¹³ DEMİRER 2024a, 228, *fn.* 12.

¹⁴ KRUNIĆ 2012, 104, Fig. 13.



Fig. 5. Cat. No. 5

Museum Inv. No: 2006/158

Provenance: An acquisition from Mustafa Bostancı on 20th of June 2006.

Dimensions: L. 11,5 cm; W. 9,6 cm; H. 2,7 cm.

Description: The double-nosed lamp with flat-round body was produced by casting technique. Base missing. At the ends of the two noses that extend from the circular body, trapezoidal shapes form around the circular wick hole. The lid and the circumference of the noses are raised with a band, making the undecorated lid with a wide oil hole shallow. The handle is broken and missing. Slightly corroded, in good condition.

In the classification made by Loeschcke, the single-nosed ones are defined as type XX in terms of body, nose and base structure, and the multi-nosed ones are also defined as the same type. Examples with three small holes instead of the circular oil hole in the center of the discus are common between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. A similar example with a trapezoidal nose and dated to the 1st–2nd century AD was found at Pula in Croatia, on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea¹⁵. Another example from Osor¹⁶ (similar to Cat. No. 1) can prove that it can be

assumed that the lamps produced between these dates were exported from the Adriatic coast to the Balkans and from there to Anatolia due to geographical proximity.

See: DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002b, 192, Çiz. 2c; STARAC 2022, 150, Fig. 9 (Archaeological Museum of Istria, inv. no. AMI-A-5264, last quarter of the 1st and first half of the 2nd century AD).



Fig. 6. Cat. No. 6

Museum Inv. No: 3.5.74

Provenance: An acquisition from Şükrü Özden on 29th of April 1974.

Dimensions: L.11,5 cm; W. 4,5 cm; H. 3,5 cm.

¹⁵ STARAC 2022, 150, Fig. 9.

¹⁶ STARAC 2022, 142, Fig. 1; 143.

Description: Flattened, circular and shallow body. Low, conical base. The shoulder is raised in a rounded ring, lowering the level of the oil filling hole, which is surrounded by concentric circles. The short nose ends, adjacent to the body, open to either side, forming volutes with returning arcs. There are small protrusions on both sides where the nose and body meet. The wick hole is elliptical. The handle with the connecting piece left on the body is broken and missing. Slightly corroded, in good condition.

The form with a flattened circular body is clearly inspired by the terracotta volute lamps identified as Loeschcke I in many examples¹⁷. Again, the volutes opening to the sides at the end of the short axe-shaped nose, the wide oil filling hole and the low ring base are characteristic features of Early Imperial lamps¹⁸.

See: BISON 2013, 285, 2.2 (1st century AD); STARAC 2022, 152, Fig. 11, Archaeological Museum of Istria, inv. no. AMI-A-4978,1st–6th centuries AD); PETKOVICH 2022, 48, Pl. 1, No. 1–3 (Ceramic).



Fig. 7. Cat. No. 7

Museum Inv. No: 1.11.86

Provenance: An acquisition from Beyhan Türkoğan on 18th of November 1986.

Dimensions: L. 12,2 cm; W. 9,2 cm; H. 3,4cm.

Description: Flattened, circular and shallow body. The shoulder is raised in a rounded ring, lowering the level of the oil filling hole, which is surrounded by concentric circles. Low, conical base. Small projections on both sides where the short nose and body meet the body. The wick hole is circular. The handle with a joining mark on the shoulder is broken and missing. Slightly corroded, in good condition.

Cat. No. 7 is similar in form to Cat. No. 6: The raised shoulder make the discus with circular line decoration and a large circular oil hole into a shallow bowl, while the base, like the discus, is decorated with circular decoration and a slightly raised center. The most obvious difference between the two is that Cat. No. 7 is the stylized volute projections on the rim of the shorter snout, designed almost adjacent to the body.

¹⁷ CAPELLINI/CORTI 2020, 195, 64.117; CHRZANOVSKI 2005, 65, Fig. 3; GALLIÈGUE 2009, 46, Fig. 1–2; GIOVINETTI 2019, 308, Fig. 7; GONZÁLEZ BLAS/SABIO GONZÁLEZ/ MURCIANO CALLES 2019, 817, No. 43–44; HIELSCHER 2022, 90, Abb. 52–57; LOESCHCKE 1919, Pl. II; LÓPEZ RODRIGUEZ 1981, 107–108, Lamina V, No. 50–56; MALAGOLI 2013, 1140, Pl. 2, No. 6–8; PACE 2008, 6–9; PAVOLINI 1987, 147, Fig. 2; RADT 1986, 49, Abb. 25; ROSENTHAL/SIVAN 1978, 95, No. 385–386; VAIANI 2015, 16.4; WALTERS 1914, Pl. XVIII, No. 548–549; ZHURAVLEV 2007, 217 (Chersonessos, 1st century AD); Zych 2019, 478, Fig. 3; BAIARDI/CARCANI 1792, 171, Pag. 173; CHRZANOVSKI 2005, 65, Fig. 6; BISON 2013, 285; ZHURAVLEV/CHRZANOVSKI/CHEBYSHEV 2024, 127, Cat. 90.

¹⁸ For further information see: FIRAT 2015, 536, Levha 1: Tip A1, No. 1 – 6.

See: Fig. 6. Cat. No. 6.



Fig. 8. Cat. No. 8

Museum Inv. No: 18.1.85

Provenance: An acquisition from Mehmet Bozca on 15th of March 1985.

Dimensions: L. 11,5 cm; W. 8 cm; H. 4 cm.

Description: Produced by casting technique. Circular shallow body. The shoulder is raised and the discus is concave. The diameter of the oil filling hole surrounded by small concentric circles in two rows of bands is smaller than the circular wick hole adjacent to the body. The body is biconicalized, narrowing at the shoulder and at the base, which rests on a low pedestal. Dark green patina, light corrosion.

Unlike its terracotta counterparts¹⁹, the lamp has a rather high base, and its other distinctive feature is that the nose is adjacent to the body. In fact, the rim surrounding the wick hole has approached the discus on the shoulder, whereas in similar metal examples the nose elongates to form volutes connected to the body. For these reasons, the publications consulted for the comparison and dating of the form show similar lamps dated between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

See: ALTUN/ERGİNER 2020, 553, Kat. No. 1–2, Res. 1–2 (5th–6th centuries AD); ATASOY 2005a, 204, No. 37, Res. 37; ATASOY 2005b, 31.58; BAILEY 1996, 66, Pl. 78, Q 3786, (5th–6th centuries AD); KOÇYİĞİT 2023, 335, G. 2c; LAFLI/BUORA 2014, 446, Pl. 2, No. 13 (Early Byzantine); METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 295, Fig. 3, K16, 1st–2nd centuries AD; METİN 2017, 40, K12.



Fig. 9. Cat. No. 9

Museum Inv. No: 3.11.99

Provenance: Confiscation on 4th of May 1999.

Dimensions: L. 9,3 cm; W. 6,9 cm; H. 7 cm.

Description: The cast lamp's flattened and rounded body rests on a flat and low base adjacent to the body. Circular wick hole in the pointed nose, which tapers away from the body. Spirals forming volutes on both sides of the nose. The

¹⁹ TAVUKÇU/KIRALI 2019, 1591, 1600, Kat. No. 1.

circumference of the oil hole is raised with a ring. Well preserved despite heavy corrosion.

Cat. No. 9, with its circular, flattened body, is very similar to Cat. No. 15–18, which were widely produced from the 3rd century AD onwards. However, the spirals on both sides of the nose, defined as volutes, extending steeply from the body are the most characteristic feature of lamps produced in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. There is no obvious trace of a handle mounted on the body, and the exact similar one in the Burdur Museum was found without a handle²⁰.

See: METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 293, Fig. 3, K13, Burdur Museum, inv. No. E.9924, first half of the 1st and 2nd century AD; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 320, Fig. 3, Kat. No. 7.



Fig. 10. Cat. No. 10

Museum Inv. No: 5.34.74

Provenance: An acquisition from Şükrü Özden on 12th of September 1974.

Dimensions: L. 11,2 cm; W. 7,3 cm; H. 9 cm.

Description: Produced by casting technique. The flattened, round and circular body rests on a low ring-shaped base. The short and cylindrical nose extends from the body and has a pillar wick hole. The tip of the nose is slightly raised and leveled with the rounded shoulder where the oil filling hole is located. The oil hole is covered by a shell-shaped lid on a joint with the handle. On the circular ring-handle rising above the shoulder is a large crescent with one end broken and missing. Spherical droplet on the crescent ends. Dark green patina. Slightly corroded.

The lamp is similar to its terracotta contemporaries with its flattened circular body, upturned slender nose and small oil filling hole, but differs from the others with its clam-shaped lid and crescent-shaped handle. Lamps with a crescent moon on the handle or with a crescent moon as a handle appear from the 1st century AD; the droplets on the ends of the crescent moon must have provided ergonomics in the design of the handle²¹.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 12.23; FILIPOVIĆ / CRNKOVIĆ 2015, 12, No. 4 (1st–2nd centuries AD); LOESCHCKE 1919, Type XIX.

²⁰ METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 293, Fig. 3, K13.

²¹ LAFLI/BUORA 2021, 290–293, Fig. 29.1–5.



Fig. 11. Cat. No. 11

Museum Inv. No: 1.8.92

Provenance: An acquisition from Rasim Aynur on 29th of June 1992.

Dimensions: L. 9,9 cm; W. 8 cm; H.2,7 cm.

Description: Produced by casting technique. The flattened, round and circular body rests on a low ring-shaped base. The short and cylindrical nose extends from the body and has a pillar wick hole. The wick hole level is higher than the oil filling hole on the round shoulder, which is rather narrow and surrounded by a ring. The handle-mounted section of the body is broken, the handle is missing.

Cat. No. 11 has the most flattened form among similar examples such as Cat. No. 9–10. The handle and the handle-mounted oil filler cap, an important piece that could provide more information, were probably found in the broken and missing section at the back of the body. The candle is so flat that the body has changed from a sphere to a disk. The oil filling hole is also very small. With these features like Cat. No. 10, can be dated to the 1st–2nd centuries AD.

See: ATASOY 2005a, 198, No. 13–14, Res. 13–14; ATASOY 2005b, 15.28; BAILEY 1996,66, Q 3787, pl. 78; WALTERS 1914, 222, no.1472, Pl.VIII, Type 95, 96.



Fig. 12. Cat. No. 12

Museum Inv. No: 13.63.94

Provenance: An acquisition from Bekir Baş in 1994.

Dimensions: L. 8,5 cm; W. 7 cm; H. 4,5 cm.

Description: Oval shaped body with biconical chamber. Nose extending from the body with a circular wick hole. The circumference of the oil filling hole is raised by a ring. The lid on the hollow joint in this section is missing and incomplete. On both sides of the shoulder are mounted small triangular leaves with a hole in the center, designed for suspension chains. The flat base has been crushed into the body, deforming the body form. Light green patina, heavy corrosion.

Since they are usually produced with disposable wax moulds using a technique called ‘melting wax’, it is very rare to find identical metal oil lamps²². In the Konya Archaeological Museum there is an identical twin²³ which is similar enough to suggest that it was produced from the same mould, and this similarity suggests that it has a flat base. The small triangular leaves on both sides of the body are the most distinctive feature of the lamp. Although the ear-shaped leaf projections on the body are characteristic of the Hellenistic Period²⁴, it is thought to have been inspired by earlier oil lamps and can be dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries with its flat base and pacifier-shaped nose²⁵.

See: METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 296, Fig. 4, K19, Burdur Museum, Inv. No. K.281.59.79, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 6, Kat. No. 20 (3rd–4th centuries AD).



Fig. 13. Cat. No. 13

Museum Inv. No: 1.14.95

Provenance: An acquisition from Ramazan Dağ on 5th of June 1994.

Dimensions: L. 12,1 cm; W. 6,5 cm; H. 4,8 cm.

Description: It has a flattened shallow body and a flat bottom. The snout elongates in a drop-shaped form and separates from the body. Nose tip polygonal with circular wick hole. Shell shaped hinged lid on filling hole. Handle broken and missing. Extensive corrosion.

The distinctive feature of the lamp is the polygonal form of the wick hole at the tip of the nose. An exact parallel from İstanbul Archaeological Museums is dated to 3rd and 4th centuries AD²⁶. This dating is in accordance with the time period in which oval and biconical body and flat-bottomed oil lamps are commonly found.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 26.49; ANGELKOU/CHEIMONOPOULOU 2019, 78, Fig. 7; BAILEY 1996, 72, Pl. 82, Q 3808; DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002b, 191, Çiz. 1c; DEMİRER 2024a, 134, Fig. 6; MINCHEV 2015, 254, O6p. 2 (Nose); ROSENTHAL/SIVAN 1978, 161, no. 665; SIMION 2003, 115, Pl. LXXVII, No. 89.

²² DEMİRER 2024a, 228.

²³ ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 6, Kat. No. 20.

²⁴ DEMİRER 2024a, 231.

²⁵ METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 283.

²⁶ ATASOY 2005b, 26.49.



Fig. 14. Cat. No. 14

Museum Inv. No: 3.38.73

Provenance: An acquisition from Şükrü Özder on 31st of July 1973.

Dimensions: L. 10 cm; W. 4,5 cm; H. 5 cm.

Description: Produced with casting technique. The flattened round body is transformed into a biconical and oval form. Flat base. There is a large leaf on a thick ring-shaped handle. The nose, which gently extends from the body, has a large wick hole; the wick hole and the oil filling hole on the body are at the same level. Plain and undecorated, dark green patina, corrosion.

These oval and biconical-flat-bodied oil lamps, with a slightly raised nose extending from the body and the wick hole at the same level as the oil filling hole in most examples, must have been widely produced as a dominant form from the 3rd century AD onwards, considering the large number of similar lamps in the museums of Manisa²⁷, Afyon²⁸, Kayseri²⁹ and Konya³⁰.

See: ATASOY 2005a, 202, No. 28, Res. 28; ATASOY 2005b, 24.44; DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002a, 70, Pl. 30, Fig. 5–6; DEMİRER 2024a, 134, Fig. 5; LAFLI / BUORA 2014, 447, Pl. 3, No. 2; METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 298, Fig. 6, K25-K26, 3rd–4th centuries AD; METİN 2017, 42, K16, Fethiye Museum inv. no. E.3190, 3rd–4th centuries AD; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 6, Kat. No. 13–15.



Fig. 15. Cat. No. 15

Museum Inv. No: 2012/50

Provenance: Confiscation on 5th of August 2002.

Dimensions: L. 13 cm; W. 6,2 cm; H. 8,3 cm.

²⁷ ACARA 1990, 113, Kat. No. 68.

²⁸ DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2001, 119–120, Kat. No. 26.

²⁹ DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2001, 120, Kat. No. 27.

³⁰ ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 323–324, Fig. 6, No. 13–23.

Description: Circular, biconical, flattened body. Cylindrical, narrow nose slightly upturned, wick hole higher than the oil filling hole on the body. There is a deep recess around the oil hole to accommodate the missing lid. The back of the shoulder has a hinge with a hole for the lid and a ring-shaped handle, integrated with the large ivy leaf at the top. Body has a broken and missing section, dark green patina, corrosion.

It belongs to the group of lamps with a spouted nose, and with its fully circular body and the rather upright leaf addition on the handle, it provides us with information about the form of the other biconical-bodied lamps that have survived with broken and missing handles. The ring-shaped handle on the back of the body is held with the index finger of the hand, while the thumb must have provided ergonomic support.

See: ATASOY 2005a, 202, No. 28, Res. 28; ATASOY 2005b, 26.48, 27.50, 28.53 (3rd–4th centuries AD); DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002a, 70, Pl. 30, Fig. 5–6; DEMİRER 2024a, 133, Fig. 4; METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 298, Fig. 6, K25-K26, 3rd–4th centuries AD; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 7, Kat. No. 24–25.



Fig. 16. Cat. No. 16

Museum Inv. No: 48.12.72

Provenance: Unknown.

Dimensions: L. 11,5 cm; W. 5,7 cm; H. 6 cm.

Description: Circular, biconical, flattened body. Flattened base. There is a hinge on the shoulder for the missing lid and a ring-shaped handle adjacent to it. The nosepiece is gently elongated from the body and flares out. The wick hole is lower than the oil filling hole on the body. The body is broken and missing parts. Dark green patina, corrosion.

The distinctive features of this oil lamp in the biconical body group are that the wick hole at the tip of the nose is slightly inclined downwards, the nose is elongated from the body and widened at the tip, and the body structure is ovalised. The reason for such minor differences may be the change of form in mould reproductions or the fact that local artists were experimenting with new and different forms according to the time.

See: METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 299–300, Fig. 7, K29, 5th–7th centuries AD; LAFLI/BUORA 2014, 447, Pl. 3, No. 2; METİN 2017, 41, K15, Fethiye Museum inv. No. E.1844; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 6, Kat. No. 18.



Fig. 17. Cat. No. 17

Museum Inv. No: 2.18.95

Provenance: An acquisition from Rasim Aynur on 15th of June 1995.

Dimensions: L. 8,5 cm; W. 4,3 cm; H. 5 cm.

Description: Cast lamp with circular, biconical and slightly flattened body. The nose, which tapers off from the body, widens and flares out, with a large wick hole. The level of the wick hole is considerably higher than the level of the oil filling chamber. The oil filling hole has a shell-shaped lid fixed on a hinge in conjunction with the handle at the back. There is an oval leaf on the handle, segmented at vertical intervals. Body with chips and holes, light green patina, corrosion.

The candle is similar to Cat. No. 13, 14 and 16 in terms of body and nose structure, but it is differentiated by the leaf-shaped support on the handle, which is divided in the form of a grid, and the wick hole, which is considerably higher than the oil filling hole. As can be seen in this example, the body and nose structures of the lamps are quite similar to each other in same groups, but with minor design and technical differences, they have been given their own unique characteristics.

See: ATASOY 2005a, No. 27, Res. 27; ATASOY 2005b, 23.43, 24.44, 25.47; DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002a, 70, Pl. 30, Fig. 4; METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 300-301, Fig. 7, K32, 5th-7th centuries AD; ÖZDEMİR/ÖZDEMİR 2023, 324, Fig. 6, Kat. No. 15 (Body and lid).



Fig. 18. Cat. No. 18

Museum Inv. No: 2001/276

Provenance: An acquisition from Bekir Baş on 14th of December 2001.

Dimensions: L. 10,5 cm; W. 8 cm; H. 4,2 cm.

Description: Description: Cast lamp with circular, biconical and slightly flattened body. The nose, which tapers off from the body, widens and flares out, with a large wick

hole. The body tapers towards the bottom and rests on a ring-shaped base. The handle, with a trace of a joint on the shoulder, is broken and missing. Light green patina, light corrosion.

It resembles Cat. No. 17 with its pacifier-shaped nose with its tip rising upwards and biconical body. It has very simple workmanship, no ornamentation and a slightly raised flat base. With these features, it is an example of the biconical-bodied oil lamps that began to be widely seen from the 3rd century AD.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 24.45; METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 299, Fig. 6, K28.



Fig. 19. Cat. No. 19

Museum Inv. No: 787

Provenance: Confiscation from Çatallar Village/Gebiz.

Dimensions: L. 21 cm; W. 7,2 cm; H. 9,5 cm.

Description: Rounded biconical body, flat ring base and long rounded nozzle. Circular, shallowed wick-hole. Raised rim round the filling hole, stepped to hold the lid. The lid is hinged at the rear and has a baluster knob. Rising from the back-shoulder, a rod of D shaped section curving forward and terminating in an animal with four spiny projections on the back. A cross attached between hinge and animal's mouth. Dark green patina, well preserved.

The form in which the animal head at the end of the handle, which extends from the body and expands into a D-shape, leans over the discus, has been seen on lamps since the Early Imperial period³¹.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 37.71, 41.78 (6th century AD); METİN/POLAT-BECKS 2015, 302, Fig. 8, K7, 5th-6th centuries AD.



Fig. 20. Cat. No. 20 Museum Inv. No: 8.29.72

Provenance: An acquisition from Necati Özkan on 20th of September 1972.

³¹ BANOV/NAYDENOV 2013, 54.38 (at başlı, Pleven); Dalton 1901, 101, Pl. XXVII, No. 502-503.

Dimensions: L. 19 cm; W. 8 cm; H. 9,5 cm.

Description: Round and flattened body, long nose, molded technique. A wide band around the shoulder protrudes from the body, forming a fringe. Circular, concave wick hole with flaring rim. The vertical bar rising from the annular handle on the back supports the large cross rising from the missing oil lid's hinge. Conical, low, ring based. A square socket at the bottom for insertion of a pricket.

The most distinctive feature of the oil lamp is the key-hole-shaped oil reservoir rim. The lid covering this rim rests on a deepened channel on the discus, as seen on similar lamps³². Another feature is the crescent-shaped projections, inspired by the volutes seen on both sides of the nose on Early Imperial lamps. The base of the lamp is rather narrow in diameter and high; as such, it seems rather unstable just standing on the base. Consequently, the square-sectioned hole in the base extends into the body suggests that the lamp was used on a lampstand, as seen in examples from the 5th–7th centuries AD.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 34.64, 35.66–67; BAILEY 1996, 69, Q, 3796, pl. 80, (6th–7th cent. A.D. from Egypt); DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002b, 191, Çiz. 1e; MENZEL 1969, 108, No. 675, Abb. 89.9 (5th–6th centuries AD); 112, No. 693, Abb. 92.2.



Fig. 21. Cat. No. 21

Museum Inv. No: 1.23.75

Provenance: An acquisition from Ersin Yamaner on 27th of September 1975.

Dimensions: L. 8,2 cm; W. 4 cm; H. 5,2 cm.

Description: Round, spherical body, molded. Deepened wick holes in the two noses projecting forward from the body. Oil filling hole raised in an annular shape. The hinge covering the hole, carrying the missing lid, and the annular handle are integral. Large Greek cross on the handle. A square socket at the bottom for insertion of a pricket. Broken and missing section on the back of the body, dark green patina, lightly corroded.

Designed from the Archaic Period onwards³³ to receive more light from the same source, multi-nosed metal lamps, like other forms of lamps, were inspired by the forms of terracotta lamps³⁴. From the Hellenistic Period onwards, lamps were produced in the form of ivy³⁵, palmette or vine leaf³⁶, in

³² ATASOY 2005b, 34.64, 35.66–67.

³³ RADT 1986, 41, Abb. 4; 52, Abb. 35; SIMION 2003, 37, Pl. 3, No. 3.

³⁴ ZYCH 2019, 485, Fig. 4.

³⁵ KHAMIS 2013, 115, Fig. 34.

³⁶ FRANKEN 2023, 32, Abb. 4–5; FRANKEN 2024, 389, Abb. 7–8; HIELSCHER 2022, 91, Abb. 60; RADT 1986, 40, Abb. 1.14; SIMION 2003, 63, XXVIII, No. 33. WALTERS 1914, Pl. XXVIII, no. 851.

the Roman Period, with different figurative designs, sometimes with six noses inspired by earlier multiple forms³⁷ such as the kernus or common forms of the period³⁸, such as voluted lamps³⁹, and bearing the same aesthetic features, and after the Early Christian Period, large crosses were generally seen on the handle⁴⁰.

See: ALTUN/ERGİNER 2020, 555, Kat. No. 8, Resim 8 (Body and nose, 5th–6th centuries AD); BUSSIÈRE/LINDROS-WOHL 2017, 462, Getty Museum No. 628 (Body and nose, 5th–6th centuries AD); GOLAN/GOLDFUS/MEVORAH 2017, 134, No. 4; MENZEL 1969, 110, No. 692, Abb. 92.1.



Fig. 22. Cat. No. 22

Museum Inv. No: 2004/283

Provenance: An acquisition from Yücel Tülüce on 28th of December 2004.

Dimensions: L. 11,3 cm; W. 6 cm; H. 4,5 cm.

Description: Spherical body, long nose. Concave, circular wick hole in the nose. The mouth of the oil hole is raised in a ring. On the back of the body, there are fragments of a cylindrical handle projecting backwards from both sides. Ring based. A square socket at the bottom for insertion of a pricket. Heavily corroded.

There are numerous parallels of this type in major museums in Europe, Greece, Egypt, Turkey, the Balkans and the United States⁴¹ and the example in the Istrian Museum is a very close analogue, which gives an idea of the form of the missing handle of the lamp⁴². The square-sectioned slot under the body is seen as a protrusion inside the oil reservoir (body). This feature was intended as a slot for the stud in the three-legged, short-bodied candelabra or in the lamp plates⁴³.

See: ATASOY 2005b, 36.69 (4th–6th centuries AD), 42.79, 44.81 (6th and 7th centuries AD); BAILEY 1996, 73, Pl. 84, Q3814; DALTON 1901, Pl. XXVI, No. 495–496, Egypt (5th–7th centuries AD); DEMİREL-GÖKALP 2002a, 70, Pl. 30, Fig. 7; HRISTOV 2021, 176, Fig. 4–6 (Body), Hrisosotira, Bulgaria (6th–7th centuries AD); KOÇYİĞİT 2023, 334,

³⁷ ANDRIOMÉNOU 1975, 562, Fig. 31–32; BIELFELDT 2014, 176, Fig. 8.2a-b; 179, Fig. 8.3; DALTON 1901, 101, Pl. XXVII, No. 502; FRANKEN 2023, 31, Abb. 3; POZO RODRIGUEZ 1997, 240, Lamina II, No. 1–2; WALTERS 1914, Pl. III.35

³⁸ CALASCIBETTA 2016, 398.34, L145–146, L 206–207.

³⁹ BAIARDI/ CARCANI 1792, 147, Pag. 149; CHRZANOVSKI 2019, 585, Cat. 47–48.

⁴⁰ XANTHOPOULOU 2010, 3, Fig. 2; 7, Fig. 9.

⁴¹ HRISTOV 2021, 175.

⁴² BRUYAKO 2014, 149, Fig. 8.

⁴³ BÉJAOUÏ 2006, 117, Fig. 3–4; KOÇYİĞİT 2023, 338, G. 4a-c; METİN 2023, 481, Fig. 2; MINCHEV 2015, 268, Таблo I, 1–4; PAPANIKOLA-BAKIRTZI 2002, 286–291, No. 301–307; XANTHOPOULOU 2010, 248, CD 6.030; 249, CD 6.031.



Fig. 23. Nos.1-2: Early Imperial Period;
 Nos. 3-11: 1st-2nd centuries AD;
 Nos. 12-16: Biconical-bodied forms of 3rd to 5th centuries AD;
 Nos. 17-22: 5th-7th centuries.

G. 1a-b; LAFLI/BUORA 2014, 437, Pl. 1, No. 6-7; MENZEL 1969, 109, No. 689, Abb. 91.2; POZO RODRIGUEZ 1997, 250, Lamina XII, No. 2; ROSENTHAL/SIVAN 1978, 160, no.

663 (fifth to sixth centuries AD); WALTERS 1914, Pl. VIII, no. 105.

CONCLUSION

The copper alloy lamps from The Antalya Museum, which were produced and used between the Early Imperial Period and the Late Eastern Roman Period, were analyzed through literature searches and comparisons since they were recovered by out-of-context methods by observing the timeline⁴⁴. Since the lamps could not be analyzed in the laboratory, they are all considered “bronze”, although not mentioned in the text, taking into account their green patina and corrosion, and are described in general terms as “copper alloy”.

Cat. No. 1–2 are cylindrical, deep-bodied, long-nosed, volute lamps with volutes, which were widely produced in the Early Imperial Period, and whose closest analogues were found in the cities of Herculaneum⁴⁵ and Pompeii⁴⁶, which were buried under the ashes by the eruption of Vesuvius (Fig. 23). These forms must have gained acceptance in all the provinces around the Mediterranean basin through military, cultural and commercial relations during the expansion of the empire from the end of the Republican Period after the civil wars. This is evidenced by the fact that the density of similar examples decreases from the Balkan settlements to the eastern provinces and from the Italian peninsula to Iberia.

Cat. No. 3–11, although having different forms, are quite common in different parts of the empire during the Roman Period. Since they were widely produced and used from the late 3rd century AD onwards throughout the Late Eastern Roman Period, the biconical-bodied, short-nosed oil lamps, which are found in a very wide geographical area, are numbered as Cat. No. 12–19 and were identified and evaluated. From the 5th century AD onwards, the sphericity of the body on the discoid base of metal oil lamps decreased and turned into a biconical form, while the nose became slightly elongated and crosses began to appear on the handles⁴⁷.

Cat. No. 20 is an example of shallow-bodied, cross-handled, voluted oil lamps; Cat. No. 21 is an example of double-nosed, cross-handled oil lamps. Cat. No. 22 is an example of the round-bodied, long-nosed lamps that were widely used between the 5th–7th centuries AD.

In research on metal oil lamps, as mentioned above, it is very difficult to find two identical examples among the very few surviving artifacts, since the material from which they were made is transformable. One of the reasons for this is that the wax mold technology used in the production of oil lamps is a one-off process, and the other is that even if a mold is taken from an existing oil lamp, local artisans may have made additions or modifications according to their own understanding and taste, in accordance with the standards and style of the age they lived in. These facts make it difficult to determine the production workshops and the distribution areas of metal lamps. For these reasons, it is obvious that it is important to produce more monographs to help classify the forms of metal lamps, and to present the archaeological

excavation finds that have been waiting in museum storages for years in groups with scientific studies.

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⁴⁴ See: CHRZANOVSKI 2021.

⁴⁵ See: BAIARDI/ CARCANI 1792.

⁴⁶ See: EBER 2023; HIELSCHER 2022.

⁴⁷ The transformation of the cross into the most important symbol of Christianity began after the IVth century AD; see: TAŞ/ÖZCAN 2015, 249.

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