

## APPENDICE

## THE CERAMICS OF THE VIA HADRIANA

Different kinds of ceramics can be found and observed on the surface along the road of the Hadrian emperor, the Via Hadriana.

During the survey of the Via Hadriana led by prof. Massimo Coli in February 2010, superficial ceramic material was found. Most of this material were amphora necks made in alluvial paste and common culinary alluvial ceramic with important vegetal agent inside.

Most of the amphoras are Egyptian Amphora necks of "Amphores Egyptiennes" 3. These AE 3, also called bitronconical because of their shape, are named after the Mareotide classification of containers made by J.-Y Empereur and M. Picon<sup>1</sup>. They are also similar to the Late Roman Hermopolite Amphora A of Hermopolis Magna<sup>2</sup>, to type 53 of Peacock and Williams<sup>3</sup>, and to «Egloff 172» and their late variant «Egloff 180» in the Kellia typology.

The generic term of «bitronconical» amphora refers to a lot of container shapes. Indeed, under the appellation of AE 3, it designs a shape from the roman imperial period, but also under the appellation of «Egloff 172» and «Egloff 180»<sup>4</sup>, two variants dated respectively from the end of the IV<sup>th</sup> to the end of the V<sup>th</sup> century and from the V<sup>th</sup>-VII<sup>th</sup> centuries. This designation remains pretty inaccurate and would require a more accurate typology work. It seems that the production was localized in time and space and that some appellations remain valid only for a given time and space, as the Late Roman Hermopolite Amphora A attributed by D. M. Bailey to Ashmunein - Hermopolis Magna<sup>5</sup>.

The protobyzantine bitronconical AE 3 are situated in the chronological and typological continuity of the AE 3 of the last Roman period. The shape «Egloff 172» was dated from the end of the IV<sup>th</sup> to the end of the V<sup>th</sup> century in the Kellia, the late shape «Egloff 180» from the V<sup>th</sup> to the VII<sup>th</sup> century<sup>6</sup>. However, some variants could have been used until the VIII<sup>th</sup> century, such as in the Baouit monastery<sup>7</sup>.

The different copies that were found seem to cover a large period. The example 5 (Via Hadriana.05) presents a stocky and lightly wide-mouthed neck, and a lip forming a small sweatband which recalls the copies from the imperial roman period, some parallels were found at Mons Claudianus<sup>8</sup>.

The 1 and 2 (Via Hadriana.01 and Via Hadriana.02) necks are cylinder-shaped with a lip curved toward the inside. It would seem that these amphoras are a bit later than the 5.

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<sup>1</sup> Empereur, Picon 1989, p. 242.

<sup>2</sup> Bailey 1998, p. 125-129.

<sup>3</sup> Peacock, Williams, 1986, « class 53 ».

<sup>4</sup> Egloff 1977, p. 114 et 116, pl. 59 et 60.

<sup>5</sup> Bailey 1998, p. 125-129 et pl. 78.

<sup>6</sup> Egloff 1977, p. 114.

<sup>7</sup> Marchand, Dixneuf 2007, p. 315.

<sup>8</sup> Tomber 2006, Amphora 10-856, Fig. 1-57 and p. 147 et Amphora 12-859, Fig. 1-57, et p. 148.

According to the general tendency, the handles lean on the lip during the evolution of the shape. The necks get thinner.

It is more difficult to estimate a date for the shoulder 6 (Via Hadriana.06), however, the base of the thin neck would tend to place the shoulder at the same dates as the necks 1 and 2 (Via Hadriana.01 and Via Hadriana.02). Some AE 3 found in Antinooupolis, which seem to be the oldest, present shoulders with a marked slope but not curved<sup>9</sup>.

Next to these AE 3, an amphora Late Roman Amphora 7 was found. The Late Roman Amphora 7 (LRA 7 according to the typology of J.A. Riley<sup>10</sup>) are part of the containers which are the most spread on the Egyptian territory during the protobyzantine period. They were identified at «Egloff 173- 177» of the typology of Mr. Egloff in the Kellia<sup>11</sup>, in the Late Roman Hermopolite Amphora B<sup>12</sup>, and in the type 52 amphoras of Peacock and Williams<sup>13</sup>.

The chrono-typology of the *LRA 7* amphoras is not yet fixed with certainty because of the numerous variants that the shapes can take. However Chr. Vogt has pointed out a general tendency by studying the containers coming from the byzantinoislamic site of Istabl' Antar. We note the transition from a round shoulder and a high neck to an angular shoulder with a important ridge at the end of the period. The first shapes can be encountered from the V<sup>th</sup> to the VIII<sup>th</sup> century. They can be found on numerous Egyptian sites<sup>14</sup>. They become rare at Istabl' Antar during the Omayyad and then Abbasid period and completely disappear towards the middle of the IX<sup>th</sup> century<sup>15</sup>. The second shape, identifiable with its salient bridges, would appear at the VI<sup>th</sup> century. It seems to generalize during the VIII<sup>th</sup> and IX<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>16</sup>. The production seems to decline as soon as the end of the IX<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the X<sup>th</sup> century, when we find the last shapes at Istabl' Antar<sup>17</sup>. The copy that was found consists in a neck 7 (Via Hadriana.07) only. As a result, it is impossible to date it more precisely than between the V<sup>th</sup> and the VIII<sup>th</sup> century. However, we can't exclude a more recent age.

Fragments of amphoras made of pink paste (yellow surface due to the oxidation of the minerals of the paste) from the North of Africa were also found (in the rest of the station on a secondary route) (Fig. 17d).

The listed materials (Tab. I) illustrate the use of the Via Hadriana during the Roman imperial period and certainly afterwards, the amphoras *LRA 7* prove it.

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<sup>9</sup> Under study: «Les amphores de production égyptienne à Antinooupolis», Julie Marchand, 2009-2010, University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne.

<sup>10</sup> Riley 1981, p. 121.

<sup>11</sup> Egloff 1977, p. 114-115 et pl. 58-59.

<sup>12</sup> Bailey 1998, p. 129-132.

<sup>13</sup> Peacock, Williams, 1986, «class 52».

<sup>14</sup> Alexandria, the Kellia, Saint-Jeremy of Saqqarah, Abu Sha'ar on the west side of the Red Sea, the Fayoum, and also Ashmunein, Gourn, Esna, Tôd and Eléphantine. Vogt 1997, p. 258.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 258.

<sup>16</sup> We can find this type at Alexandria, the Kellia, in Istabl' Antar, Abu Sha'ar, in the Fayoum, at Antinoë, Ashmunein, Gourn, Karnak, in the monastery of Epiphanius at Thèbes, at Esna and at Elephantine. *Ibid.*, p. 258.

<sup>17</sup> Vogt 1997, p. 258.

Amphora	Type	Place of discovery	Dates
Via Hadriana.01	AE 3	Makhareg Gharb	Roman period
Via Hadriana.02	AE 3	Watch Tower, Gebel el Adila	Roman period
Via Hadriana.03	Egyptian amphora (AE 3 or LRA 7)	Watch Tower, Gebel el Adila	Roman or byzantine period
Via Hadriana.04	Egyptian amphora (AE 3 or LRA 7)	Makhareg Gharb	Roman or byzantine period
Via Hadriana.05	AE 3	Makhareg Gharb	Impérial Roman period
Via Hadriana.06	AE 3	The settlement of Mohattit Ziyar Romaniya	Roman period
Via Hadriana.07	LRA 7	Tal'at al Arfa	Byzantine period

Table I - Summary of the ceramics, their place of discovery, and their dating.

The local containers were not the only one concerned by the trade, especially for trade of wine, to the Red Sea, because unidentified fragments of yellow paste containing a high quantity of blue nodules were also noticed. Only one ceramic was finding, we don't know for the moment where it is from.

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