

New "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae from Apollonia (Abstract)

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The article discusses two "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae, discovered in the necropolis of Apollonia Pontica in Kalfata locality in 2005. They were used as cinerary urns in Graves Nos. 422 and 441. With these two vases, the "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae from the necropolis of Apollonia are already nine (see Панайотова 2005), forming a rather large group. The context of the new specimens provides the possibility to offer new observations on the chronology of the finds from Apollonia.

The term "pseudo-Cypriot" or "imitation-Cypriot" denotes a group of amphorae with two horizontal handles on the shoulders and specific bichrome (black and reddish) painted decoration: stripes on the mouth, the neck and the lower part of the body, and stylized lilies on the body

Amphora 1, from Grave No. 441 (Fig. 1; Fig. 3 1), is larger (39.5 cm) and has bulkier and heavier proportions, with short neck and thick projecting rim. *Amphora 2*, from Grave No. 422 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3 2), is smaller (29.5 cm), with slender proportions, elongated neck and relatively thin, widely projecting rim. *Amphora 1* is similar to the already published "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae from Apollonia, as well as to some "early" examples, e.g.

from Olynthus, Athens, and the island of Thera, dated to before or about the middle of the 4th c. On the other hand, *Amphora 2* is similar to an Early Hellenistic group of "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae from sites in Macedonia (e.g. Megali Toumba in Vergina, Derveni, and Aiani).

Grave No. 441 did not contain any other items, but the context of discovery points to a date in the late second quarter or the middle of the 4th c. In Grave No. 422, there were two red-figure palmette lekythoi, two black-glazed bowls, and a large plain bowl (Fig. 5). The lekythoi and the black-glazed pottery indicate a date in the very late third quarter of the 4th c., probably 330-320 BC. Thus, there would be a chronological difference of about a quarter of a century between the two amphorae. The same is suggested by the morphological differences and the respective parallels. As the already published "pseudo-Cypriot" amphorae from Apollonia are similar to the earlier *Amphora 1*, it seems that the majority of the group belongs to the decades about the middle of the 4th c., predating the widespread popularity of the type in Early Hellenistic Macedonia. *Amphora 2* would be the latest, discovered so far in Apollonia.