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Notes

*Dated Glass Finds from the Island of Nisyros, Dodecanese, Greece*

The island of Nisyros (Fig. 1)<sup>1</sup> lies opposite ancient Knidos in Asia Minor, west of the island of Telos in the southern part of the Dodecanese in the Aegean Sea. Its eastern end is situated within the active volcanic arc of the southern Aegean, which extends from the Megarid to the peninsula of Halicarnassus, passing through Methana in the Peloponnese, and the islands of Melos and Thera. The caldera of Nisyros was formed in the center of the island about 15,000 years ago; today it consists of 10 craters. The largest and most imposing of these is generally known as the “Nisyros volcano.”

A notable number of glass vessels have been uncovered in the island’s Hellenistic and Roman cemeteries, which are located near Ai-Yiannis above Mandraki (Fig. 1). The systematic excavation was directed by the Italian archaeologist Giulio Jacopi during the Italian occupation of the Dodecanese.<sup>2</sup>

Another part of these same large cemeteries was discovered in 1981 and 1984<sup>3</sup> during the rescue excavation of the island’s municipal play yard in Mandraki, which was conducted by the 22nd Ephorate for Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

1. For the island of Nisyros, see Melina Filimonos-Tspotou, “Nisyros,” in *Archaeology: The Aegean Islands*, ed. Andreas Vlachopoulos, Athens: Melissa, 2005, pp. 354–355 (in Greek); and *idem*, “Nisyros,” in *Islands off the Beaten Track: An Archaeological Journey to the Greek Islands of Kastellorizo, Symi, Halki, Tilos, and Nisyros*, ed. Nikolaos Stampolidēs, Giōrgos Tasoulas, and Melina Filimonos-Tspotou, Athens: Museum of Cycladic Art and Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2011, pp. 308–319.

2. The excavation took place in April 1932 on the Kostas plot near Mandraki. See Giulio Jacopi, *Scavi nella necropoli di Rodi; Scavi e ricerche di Nisiro; Le basiliche paleocristiane de Arcassa*, Clara Rhodos, vv. 6/7, pt. 2, Rhodes: Istituto Storico-Archeologico di Rodi, 1933, pp. 469–552.

3. Melina Filimonos-Tspotou, “Excavations in Nisyros,” *Nisyriaka*, v. 12, 1993, pp. 139–146 (in Greek).



FIG. 1. *Satellite image of the island of Nisyros.*



FIG. 2. Glass beads from necklace (0.5 cm x 0.6 cm) and pendant (1 cm x 1.3 cm) from Grave 15 (375–350 B.C.) in Mandraki. Archaeological Museum of Nisyros (inv. no. 1381).

Grave 15 revealed the burial of a girl in a small pithos, as well as groups of finds that were securely dated to 375–350 B.C.

These grave goods included six terra-cotta figurines that were products of a local workshop (one kourotrophos, one seated female figure, one standing female figure, a dove, a turtle, and a fig), two clay protomes of a female figure, a red-figured Attic skyphos of type A, a bronze ring, a group of six transparent monochrome blue-green biconical and cylindrical glass beads that originally formed a necklace (Fig. 2),<sup>4</sup> and a pendant in the shape of a miniature aryballos, with a vertical hole for suspension. Glass necklaces made of molded monochrome beads, as well as looped and tooled figural pendants in the shape of miniature vessels (amphorae and aryballoi) were widely traded during the late Classical and Hellenistic periods. They were normally placed in burials, as on Nisyros, or used as votive offerings in sanctuaries. The necklace found on Nisyros was imported from the famous glass workshop on Rhodes.

In Grave 25, another pithos burial, a second well-dated (to 340–320 B.C.) group of objects was



FIG. 3. Core-formed glass alabastron from Grave 25 in Mandraki. H. 8.2 cm, D. (rim) 5.5 cm. Archaeological Museum of Nisyros (inv. no. 463).

discovered. They consisted of imported and local pottery, including an Attic black-glazed oinochoe with a trefoil mouth and a fluted body, a black-glazed guttus-type askos, two red-figured lekaneae with lids, one black-glazed skyphos of the Corinthian type, a black-glazed skyphos of type A, one kantharos, one phiale, and one Rhodian stamnoide pyxis with foot. Among these finds was a short core-formed glass alabastron (Fig. 3). It is made of dark blue glass and decorated with low-relief vertical stripes and horizontal opaque yellow and white glass threads in the form of a zigzag; one yellow glass thread encircles the edge of the horizontal disk-shaped rim. The alabastron belongs to the Mediterranean Group 2, which was crafted

4. Ekaterina Mikhaïlovna Alekseeva, *Antichnye busy Severnogo Prichernomor'ia*, v. 2, Moscow: Izd-vo "Nauka," 1978, p. 18, type 81, pl. 22.9; Gladys Davidson Weinberg, "Glass Manufacture in Hellenistic Rhodes," *Archaiologikon Deltion*, v. 24, 1969 (publ. 1971), p. 145, pl. 77c; Pavlos Triantafyllidis, "The Glass Objects from Minoa of Amorgos: Contribution to the Study of Glassworking in Cyclades during the Hellenistic and

Roman Periods," Ph.D. diss., University of Ioannina, 1998, pp. 130–131; Marie-Dominique Nenna, *Les Verres*, Exploration Archéologique de Délos, v. 37, Athens: Ecole Française d'Athènes, 1999, pp. 131–132, nos. E76–79, pl. 52; Maud Spaer, *Ancient Glass in the Israel Museum: Beads and Other Small Objects*, Jerusalem: the museum, 2001, pp. 64 and 155.



FIG. 4. Core-formed glass amphoriskos from burial chamber 41 (50 B.C.–A.D. 50) in Mandraki. H. 13.3 cm, W. (of handles) 6.7 cm. Archaeological Museum of Nisyros (inv. no. 14250).

mainly in the Aegean<sup>5</sup> but also on the mainland of Greece from the mid-fourth to late third centuries B.C., and the center of production was Rhodes.

Burial chamber 41 in Ai-Yiannis<sup>6</sup> contained a typical early Roman pottery group: two clay lagynoi, two bulbous unguentaria, a cup with a banded handle, two phialai, and two single-nozzle oil lamps. They are dated between 50 B.C. and A.D. 50. Two luxury glass vessels were also found there: an almost intact core-formed amphoriskos (Fig. 4) and a blown shallow ribbed cup (Fig. 5a, b). This

5. Axel von Saldern, *Antikes Glas*, Munich: Beck, 2004, p. 79; Pavlos Triantafyllidis, “The Art and the Craft of Glass in South-East Aegean,” in *Hyalos = Vitrum = Glass: History, Technology and Conservation of Glass and Vitreous Materials in the Hellenic World*, ed. George Kordas, Athens: Glasnet Publications, 2002, p. 28; *idem* [note 4], p. 50. For the shape of the alabastron, see Donald B. Harden, *Catalogue of Greek and Roman Glass in the British Museum*, London: British Museum



FIG. 5. Blown ribbed cup (zarte Rippenschale) from burial chamber 41 (50 B.C.–A.D. 50) in Mandraki. H. 3.9 cm, D. 10.6 cm. Archaeological Museum of Nisyros (inv. no. 14253).

rather unusual combination attests that core forming and the new blowing technique were used simultaneously during the early Roman period.

The amphoriskos is made of deep violet glass. It has a wide cylindrical body, an angular shoulder, and a neck that ends in an inwardly turned band along the rim. The handles attached to the band are almost vertical, and the small button-shaped

Publications for the Trustees of the British Museum, 1981, pp. 105–106 (Form II), no. 284; and David F. Grose, *Early Ancient Glass: Core-Formed, Rod-Formed, and Cast Vessels and Objects from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Roman Empire, 1600 B.C. to A.D. 50*, New York: Hudson Hills Press in association with The Toledo Museum of Art, 1989, p. 120 (Class II:C, Alabastron Form II.7), and p. 158, no. 159.

6. Jacopi [note 2], pp. 528–534, esp. p. 533, no. 11, fig. 67.

base is of decolorized glass with green and violet tinges. The object is decorated with thin spiral bands around the base, the bottom of the body, the neck, and the rim, and there are festooned bands around the central part of the body. The amphoriskos belongs to Mediterranean Group 3, which flourished in the Aegean<sup>7</sup> from the mid-second century B.C. to the early first century A.D. Its production centers were on Rhodes and Cyprus, and along the coasts of Syria and Palestine.

The cup from the same burial<sup>8</sup> was fashioned from transparent light blue glass. It has a flat base, a convex body, and an unworked, rough-edged rim. The exterior surface is decorated with applied and smoothed spiraling opaque white bands that start at the base, extend around the thin and pointed ribs, and end in fine horizontal bands on the rim. This feature is characteristic of a type of bowl called *zarte Rippenschale*, a luxury table

vessel dated from the late first century B.C. to the Flavian period. Although such bowls circulated widely in the western provinces of the Roman Empire, it has been argued that their production was centered in northern Italy and central Europe. Examples of polychrome bowls from Greece<sup>9</sup> are rare. Their find-places are the Athenian Agora, Thebes, Patras, Thessaly, Ioron in Macedonia, Mytilene, Rhodes, Delos, Amorgos, and Crete.

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7. Gladys Davidson Weinberg, *Glass Vessels in Ancient Greece: Their History Illustrated from the Collection of the National Archaeological Museum, Athens*, Athens: Archaeological Receipts Fund, 1992, p. 20; Pavlos Triantafyllidis, "Cypriot Core-Formed Glass Vessels from Rhodes," *Proceedings of the International Archaeological Conference "Cyprus and the Aegean in Antiquity: From the Prehistoric Period to the 7th c. AD,"* Nicosia: Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, 1997, p. 309 (in Greek; English summary); *idem*, "Classical and Hellenistic Glass Workshop from Rhodes," in *Echanges et commerce du verre dans le monde antique: Actes du colloque de l'Association Française pour l'Archéologie du Verre*, ed. Danièle Foy and Marie-Dominique Nenna, Montagnac: Editions Monique Mergoïl, 2003, pp. 136–137; Saldern [note 5], p. 82. For the shape and the copying of clay models, see Harden [note 5], pp. 122–125

(Form 7A); and Grose [note 5], p. 120 (Class III:E, Amphoriskoi Form III:2A), and p. 169, no. 168. For examples in and around Greece in the first century A.D., see Triantafyllidis [note 4], p. 56.

8. For the excavation publication, see Jacopi [note 2], pp. 528–534, esp. pp. 533–534, no. 12, figs. 67 and 69. See also Thea Elisabeth Haevernick, "Zarte Rippenschalen," in *idem*, *Beiträge zur Glasforschung: Die wichtigsten Aufsätze von 1938 bis 1981*, Mainz am Rhein: Philipp von Zabern, 1981, pp. XI–XXVIII.

9. Gladys Davidson Weinberg and E. Marianne Stern, *Vessel Glass, The Athenian Agora: Results of Excavations Conducted by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*, v. 34, Princeton, New Jersey: the school, 2009, p. 46 and full bibliography.

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### *New Fragments of Dichroic Cage Cups from Dülük Baba Tepesi/Doliche, Turkey*

In Roman times, the temple of Jupiter Dolichenus was situated on the top of Dülük Baba Tepesi.<sup>1</sup> Following the demolition of the sanctuary in A.D. 253–256,<sup>2</sup> the site was inhabited by Christians and

transformed into a cloister. In 2006, a dichroic rim fragment of a cage cup was found in Doliche.<sup>3</sup>

During excavations in 2011, three new cage cup fragments came to light (Fig. 1). Unfortunately, the

1. The excavations were directed by Prof. Dr. Engelbert Winter, Research Center Asia Minor, University of Münster, Germany. See E. Winter, "Der Kult des Jupiter Dolichenus und seine Ursprünge: Das Heiligtum auf dem Dülük Baba Tepesi bei Doliche," in *Von Kummuh nach Telouch: Historische und archäologische Untersuchungen in Kommagene*, ed. Engelbert Winter, Asia Minor Studien, v. 64, Bonn: Habelt, 2011, pp. 1–17, and other contributions in that volume.

2. Erich Kettenhofen, *Die römisch-persischen Kriege des 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr.: Nach der Inschrift Šāhpūhr 1. an der Ka'be-ye Zartošt (ŠKZ)*, Beihefte zum Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients, no. 55, Wiesbaden: L. Reichert, 1982, pp. 74–77.

3. Constanze Höpken, "A Fragment of a Dichroic Cage Cup from Dülük Baba Tepesi/Doliche, Turkey," *Journal of Glass Studies*, v. 50, 2008, pp. 303–306.