

A BYZANTINE LAMP HOARD FROM ANAMUR (CILICIA)

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In the course of excavating a well-preserved late Roman bath building at Anemurium (modern Eski Anamur) during the summer of 1968 a large hoard of some six hundred and fifty whole terracotta lamps plus fragments were found stacked in a disused hypocaust system.¹ Since that time many fragments of similar lamps and a mould have also been discovered in other parts of the site in mixed fills containing pottery of the fifth to mid-seventh centuries A.D. As few lamps of similar types have been published from the eastern Mediterranean from datable contexts the value of the Anamur hoard both as a chronological indicator and as a stage in the development of late Byzantine and early Islamic lamps is evident.²

Although no datable material was found with the lamps themselves the abandonment of such a considerable body of material may perhaps be best explained by events at the site in the mid-seventh century. At this time the city seems to have been deserted, probably as a result of Arab raids on the coastal cities of Cilicia, and was only briefly reoccupied six centuries later.³ As there are no marks of burning on any of the lamps and as some filling and wick holes are incompletely punched through, the hoard may well be the stock of a shop or merchant hastily put away at some moment of danger and never reclaimed.

As will be seen from the discussion of the three basic forms found, there is also a certain amount of external evidence that tends to corroborate this date. A study by G. Huber of the building suggests a fifth-century date for its construction, establishing the *terminus post quem*.⁴

Form I (Fig. 1). 24 examples. L. 0.105, W. 0.080, H. 0.041.

Mouldmade in a coarse unslipped red-brown clay. Ovoid shape; top convex with stylized face, probably of woman, in relief; relief rings on cheeks; large relief ring around mouth/filling hole; wick-hole punched through chin. Walls of lower half slope sharply to form tear-drop-shaped ring around slightly concave base. No handle.

¹ For a preliminary notice see L. Smith, "Excavation Report, Eski Anamur (Anemurium), 1968", *Türk Arkeoloji Dergisi*, XVII.2 (1968), p. 178; P. Taylor and E. Alföldi, "Excavations and Restoration at Anemurium, 1969", *TAD* XVIII.2 (1969), p. 39, fig. 2, 3. We should like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Alföldi for providing the photographs used in this article and Mrs. Caroline Williams for the lamp profiles.

² See Florence Day, "Early Islamic and Christian Lamps", *Berytus* VII (1943), p. 79 on this question.

³ James Russell, "Excavations at Anemurium (Eski Anamur), 1971", *TAD* XX.1 (1973), p. 205.

⁴ G. Huber, "Die Restaurierung der Therme II 7 A in Anamur", *TAD* XVIII.2 (1969), pp. 47-58.



FIG. 1. Form I: lamp in form of female face.



FIG. 2. Lamp mould and cast for Form I.

The only parallel available for this is a lamp of somewhat similar form in the collection of the American University Museum in Beirut, which probably dates from the eighth century; it is different, however, in representing a bearded male, and having a clearly defined channel to the wick-hole, a round base-ring with relief rosette inside and a conical handle.⁵ That such lamps were made at Anamur was confirmed in 1972 by the discovery of a fragment of a terracotta mould for a similar lamp (Fig. 2).⁶

Form II

This form appears in some twenty-six variants that all have certain features in common: blunted tear-drop shape; depressed round disk with single filling hole; trapezoidal slightly raised channel between disk and wick-hole; decoration in relief on sloping shoulders; sharply sloping sides on lower half that form tear-drop shaped ring around slightly concave base; vestigial pyramidal knob handle (a few have loop handles instead). Most are about the same size (0.090–0.095 m. in length) and were produced from a similar series of moulds. The unclear reproduction of design in many cases indicates the use of worn moulds.

The only exact published parallel known to us is from Salamis on Cyprus from an undated context.⁷ Somewhat similar lamps, however, are known from Syrian sites of this general period⁸ and a well-dated example of the second half of the seventh century has recently been published from the Kornos cave on Cyprus.⁹

1. 20 examples. L. 0.090, W. 0.068, H. 0.033. On r. of nozzle two large quadrupeds facing rear on shoulder; l. of nozzle large long-necked quadruped facing rear, followed by peacock.

2. 24 examples. L. 0.094, W. 0.074, H. 0.030. On shoulder long-legged waterbirds or fowl, three on each side of nozzle; two large birds face each other eating from a mound; one small on r. side facing rear with head bent back, on l. side facing forward.

3. 43 examples. L. 0.091, W. 0.071, H. 0.033. On each shoulder peacock pursuing long-necked quadruped to rear.

4. Fig. 3. 20 examples. L. 0.095, W. 0.075, H. 0.032. Two schematically drawn peacocks on shoulder on either side of nozzle; smaller following larger toward bowl at rear.

5. 1 example. L. 0.108 (incl. handle), W. 0.075, H. 0.032. Identical to preceding except for attachment of loop handle in place of knob.

6. 25 examples. L. 0.093, W. 0.072, H. 0.034. Shoulder r. of nozzle:

⁵ Day, *op. cit.*, p. 67, pl. X.2.

⁶ AN 72–163. Preserved length 0.078, width 0.075. Found in unstratified fill; coarse porous light brown clay: "Excavations at Anamur, 1972", *TAD XXI.2* (1974), p. 157, p. 165, Fig. 13.

⁷ Th. J. Oziol and J. Pouilloux, *Salamine de Chypre*, I. *Les Lampes* (Paris 1969), no. 469, pl. X; it is suggested on p. 24 that this and other early Byzantine lamps are of fifth century date, an unlikely early dating for which no grounds are given.

⁸ J. P. Rey-Coquais, "Lampes antiques de Syrie et du Liban", *Mélanges de l'Université St. Joseph*, XXXIX (1963), p. 160, no. 38; C. Kennedy, "Development of the Lamp in Palestine", *Berytus XIV* (1963), pp. 89–90.

⁹ H. Catling, "The Kornos Cave", *Levant*, II (1970), p. 49, fig. 4.

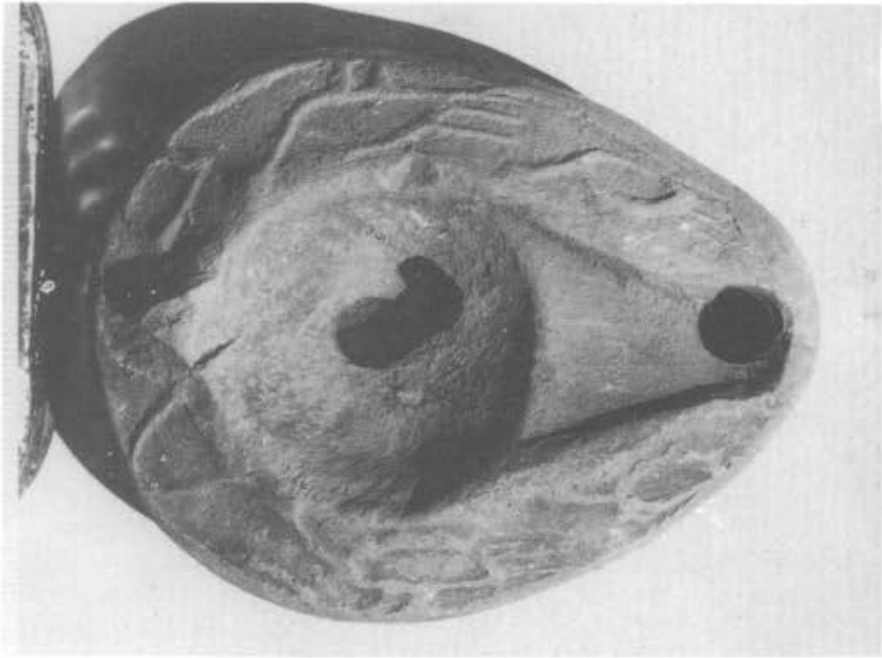


FIG. 3. Form II, type 4 shoulder pattern.



FIG. 4. Form II, type 12 shoulder pattern.

bird facing rear followed by quadruped; l. of nozzle, quadruped facing rear followed by peacock.

7. 17 examples. Identical to preceding but from a slightly different mould: deeper disk and lacks mould marks to r. of filling hole on 6.

8. 35 examples. L. 0.092, W. 0.074, H. 0.038. On each shoulder: peacock facing rear and geometric design of triangle and arcs.

9. 27 examples. L. 0.093, W. 0.073, H. 0.033. On each shoulder: arcs, cross within circle, long-necked quadruped facing rear.

10. 45 examples. H. 0.089, W. 0.072, H. 0.033. Worn mould; l. shoulder two birds facing rear; r. shoulder bird and quadruped.

11. Similar to preceding but with loop handle.

12. Fig. 4. 27 examples. L. 0.099, W. 0.074, H. 0.038. Shoulders: bird facing quadruped. Very worn on r. shoulder. Cross in relief on channel to nozzle.

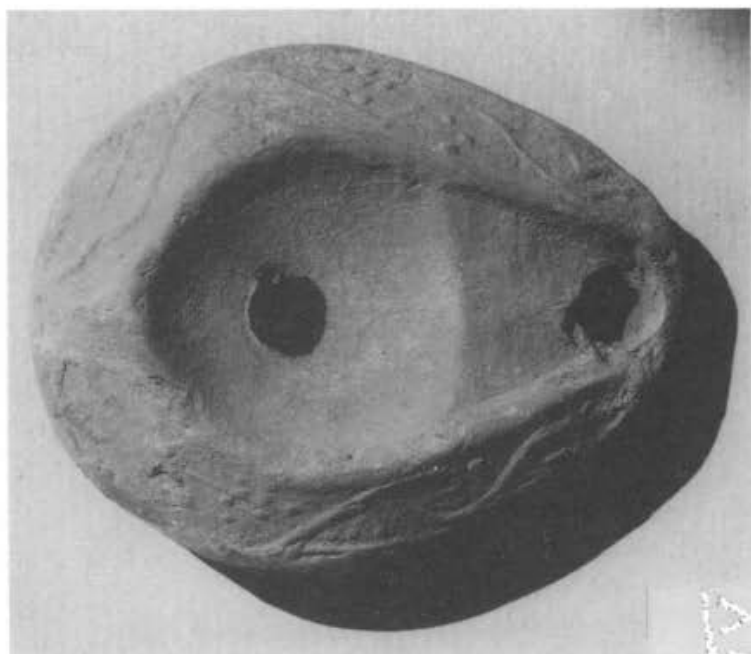


FIG. 5. Form II, type 15 shoulder pattern.

13. 24 examples. L. 0.098, W. 0.076, H. 0.031. Shoulders: waterbirds facing large quadrupeds. Broad cross in relief on channel to nozzle.

14. 32 examples. L. 0.095, W. 0.074, H. 0.034. Very worn mould. Shoulders: bird faces quadruped. Cross in relief on channel to nozzle.

15. Fig. 5. 33 examples. L. 0.093, W. 0.069, H. 0.033. Shoulders: vine and grape motif.

16. 12 examples. L. 0.093, W. 0.069, H. 0.038. Shoulders: row of five crosses in circles.

17. 32 examples. L. 0.093, W. 0.073, H. 0.033. Shoulder: zig-zag lines above row of semi-circles.

18. L. 0.092, W. 0.071, H. 0.033. 59 examples. Shoulders: zig-zag pattern.

19. 2 examples. Same as preceding but with loop handle.



FIG. 6. Form II, type 23 shoulder pattern.



FIG. 7. Form III: wheelmade lamp.

20. L. 0.095, W. 0.075, H. 0.033. 29 examples. Worn mould. Trace of cross on channel to nozzle; zig-zag pattern on shoulders.

21. 27 examples. L. 0.099, W. 0.076, H. 0.036. Wavy relief line on shoulders.

22. One example. Identical to preceding but with loop handle.

23. Fig. 6. 17 examples. L. 0.092, W. 0.070, H. 0.034. Shoulders: zig-zag pattern with vertical line in each angle.

24. 18 examples. L. 0.092, W. 0.070, H. 0.034. Shoulders: variant zig-zag pattern.

25. 29 examples. L. 0.099, W. 0.071, H. 0.031. Worn mould; possibly two facing quadrupeds on shoulders.

26. 23 examples. L. 0.087, W. 0.072, H. 0.037. Shoulder: zig-zag pattern.



Form 1: An 69-51 I



Form 2: An 68-51 XVI 11



Form 3: An 68-51 XXV 3

Form III (Fig. 7).

Considerable numbers of these wheelmade lamps have been found in every season of digging on the site. They are of a finer red-brown clay than the mould-made ones, unslipped, and are characterized by a globular body, slightly raised base, vestigial handle, spout added separately and sharp rim around filling hole. Similar lamps are known from Miletus and others have been noticed, allegedly from the Konya region, on sale in shops in Istanbul.¹⁰

¹⁰H. Menzel, *Antike Lampen im RGZM* (Mainz 1969), nos. 562, 572.