

## STAMPED HANDLE WITH CYPRO-SYLLABIC SIGNS

Locus: L08D5-710

Basket: 08D5-6366

Images: p08X-4238, p08X-4239.

### Context

The handle of an amphora was found in L08D5-710 during excavation of the southern part of the pit, most probably in the twilight zone to the locus L08D5-711 south of it. See the locus card and the basket list in Appendix 1.

### Description

The oval-shaped stamp impression contains 4 signs without separation marks; all signs are clearly readable. The direction of the text is probably right-to-left.

### Reading



*to-a-ra-ti*

Reading of each sign is given here with the reference to the first Cypro-syllabic inscription from Dor published by O. Masson (Masson 1994) and to the corpus of Cypro-syllabic inscriptions (Mitford 1961).

Sign	reading	Sign in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Cypro-syllabic inscription from Dor	Masson's description
S. 1	<i>to</i>	S. 10	normal Paphian
S. 2	<i>a</i>	S. 1	common to all syllabaries.
S. 3	<i>ra</i>	S. 5	not "Late Paphian"
S. 4	<i>ti</i>	-	

### Dating

Based on the shape of the third sign, typical for the early variation of the syllabary only, and on general "smooth" character of the letters (as per G. Bazemore, personal communication) the inscription can be defined as Early (old) Paphian. This conclusion would date it to the 6 c. BC, when the Early Paphian syllabary was in use. We would suggest that the object is slightly later, and belongs to the 5<sup>th</sup> c. BC, a period of transition to the Late (new) Paphian syllabary (that became common in the 4<sup>th</sup> c. BC). This would suit both epigraphic characteristics of the inscription and its context (see above).

### Interpretation

We propose that the inscription consists of two words: definitive article and a noun. As for more detailed interpretation, following options are suggested:

1) The first sign is masculine definite article in genitive or dative case ( $\tau\omicron\upsilon$ ). The following word *Arati-* could be the male name (shortened form) pronounced as *Arti*, known from Eteocypriot inscriptions found in Cyprus. In this case the stamp is intended to mark an owner/manufacturer, or (less probably) an addressee of the vessel or its content. The weak side of this version is that in contemporary Cypriot inscriptions private names are never used with definitive articles (unlike today's practice).

2) The first sign stands for neutral article in nominative case ( $\tau\omicron$ ). It's followed by a neutral noun in nominative case with characteristic for this form ending (-ι). This option is more plausible linguistically. The meaning of the stamp in this case: description of the content of the vessel, is very unusual, and so far can't be translated.

### **References**

Masson, O. 1994. Une inscription chypriote syllabique de Dor (Tel Dor) et les avatars des noms grecs en Aristo-. *Kadmos: Zeitschrift für vor- und frühgriechische Epigraphik* 33:87-92.

Mitford, T. B. 1961. Studies in the signaries of south-western Cyprus. *Bulletin supplement*, no. 10. University of London, Institute of Classical Studies, London.

## Appendix 1

**Locus Card**      **DOR**    2008  
L 08D5-710      2008    **Area**    D5      **Sq:**    AU- /10-      **Loc. type:** pit

<b>Open</b>	07/07/2	<b>High</b>	<b>at</b>	<b>Lo</b>	<b>at</b>	<b>written by:</b>	HBB	created	12/07/2008
<b>Close</b>	30/07/2	13.59	c	13.42	sw	<b>checked</b>	EFI	updated	09/04/2009
<b>volume</b>		12.97	nw	12.93	se	Length	1.00	width:	0.80
<b>Floor type</b>		Value:	p	Removed		Drawn	Yes		
<b>unit:</b>		<b>phase:</b>		<b>stage</b>		<b>stratum</b>		<b>PoM:</b>	
<b>summary:</b>									

**Opened:**            a pit was identified in L08D5-700 and the locus was divided in two loci: 08D5-710 and 08D5-711.

### Limits

**(N)**    08D5-711  
**(S)**    08D5-711, baulk  
**(E)**    08D5-730  
**(W)**    08D5-711

**Closed:** all pit material was taken out. Closed at the end of the season.

**Matrix** light brown loose soil with many sherds.

**Relations:**        L08D5-710 cuts fills L08D5-711 and L08D5-767, and floor F08D5-767 to its north, south and west.

### Additional Observations/Value:

Medium- small locus, with good stratigraphic value but not very high.

**Images:**            **Related loci:**  
p08D5-9718      **L08D5-710**      is\_below    08D5-700  
p08D5-9719  
d08D5-7006  
p08D5-9716

\*Image types:    p - photo, d- drawing / plan, v - varia (genealogy charts)

**Basket List**

<b>Basket</b>	<b>Locus</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>Elevations</b>		<b>Ob</b>	<b>Ma</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>P1</b>	<b>P2</b>	<b>P3</b>
<u>08D5-5196</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	sh	cr	2	*	pr	hl	ir
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery MAINLY PR, SOME ATC									
<u>08D5-5197</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	os	bn	*	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-5198</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	os	sl	*	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-5210</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	sh	cr	2	*	pr	hl	
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery 1 IAT BWI, Flask, few EGR AMP									
<u>08D5-5218</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	sh	cr	*	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery-CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-5219</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	os	bn	*	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone									
<u>08D5-5220</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	os	sl	*	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell									
<u>08D5-5232</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	jw	bn	2	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone bead found at pottery washing									
<u>08D5-5370</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	tw	st	0	*			
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	worked flint (tzwith L08D5-711)									
<u>08D5-5598</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.42	13.28	sh	cr	2	*	hl	pr	
10/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery: hpp- iat									
<u>08D5-5599</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.42	13.28	os	bn	*	*			
10/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-5600</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.42	13.28	os	sl	*	*			
10/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-5606</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.55	13.34	ot	mt	2	*			
07/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	Metal ball									
<u>08D5-5777</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	sh	cr	2	*	pr		
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery: ATC BWI to B08D5-6373 and IAT to B08D5-6374: BHJs, egr,									
<u>08D5-5778</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	os	bn	*	*			
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone									
<u>08D5-5779</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	os	sl	*	*			
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell									
<u>08D5-5789</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	sh	cr	1	*	pr	hl	
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery (tz with L08D5-711): only egr kept (banded bowl)									
<u>08D5-5790</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	os	bn	*	*			
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone (tz with L08D5-711)									
<u>08D5-5791</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	os	sl	*	*			
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell (tz with L08D5-711)									
<u>08D5-6257</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	sh	cr	2	*	lhl		
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	pottery few hpp, few eth, 1 Imp sent to b08d5-7355									
<u>08D5-6258</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	os	bn	*	*			
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	bone									
<u>08D5-6259</u>	L 08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	os	sl	*	*			
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b>	shell									

<u>08D5-6318</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	sh	cr	2	*	pr
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> pottery (TZ with L08D5-711) tiny atc, egr banded bowl, possible cyprriot plain white ware, 1 cooking pot lid, 2 so-called 4th century Imps (type 4-6), 1 hl? Incurved bowl, 1 fragment									
<u>08D5-6319</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	os	bn	*	*	
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> bone (TZ with L08D5-711)									
<u>08D5-6320</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	os	sl	*	*	
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> shell (TZ with L08D5-711)									
<u>08D5-6362</u>	L	08D5-710	AT10	13.3	13.11	os	sl	*	*	
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> SHELL tz with 08D5-711									
<u>08D5-6366</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	13.14	se	cr	*	*	
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> pottery (stamped handle) with Cypro-syllabic inscription									
<u>08D5-6373</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	sh	cr	2	*	hl
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> IAT BWI from B08D5-5777 originally									
<u>08D5-6374</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.36	13.25	sh	cr	2	*	pr
14/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> ATC taken from B08D5-5777									
<u>08D5-6869</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	os	bn	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> bone (outside pit)									
<u>08D5-6870</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	os	sl	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> shell (outside pit)									
<u>08D5-6924</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	sh	cr	2	*	pr
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> pottery (sifting)-atc, egr, including amphora and banded bowl, 1 possible cyprriot fragment, 1 iat incurved bowl which could be hellenistic									
<u>08D5-6925</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	os	sl	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> shell (sifting)									
<u>08D5-6926</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	os	bn	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> macro fauna (sifting)									
<u>08D5-6927</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	os	bn	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> micro fauna (sifting)									
<u>08D5-6928</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	ss	so	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> sediment sample (sifting)									
<u>08D5-6929</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	ot	mt	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> slag (sifting) CANCELLED									
<u>08D5-6930</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	bs	vg	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> heavy botanical (sifting)									
<u>08D5-6931</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.14	12.95	tw	st	*	*	
24/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> flint (sifting)									
<u>08D5-7355</u>	L	08D5-710	AU10	13.3	13.11	lm	cr	*	*	
17/07/2008	<b>Comments</b> Imp maybe hasmonian? From b08d5-6257									