

# RECONSIDERING ZEEST'S "SAMIAN" AND "PROTOTHASIAN" ARCHAIC LINEAGES OF TRANSPORT AMPHORAS

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To the memory of  
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**Abstract:** The duality of Zeest's geographical attribution of her "Samian" and "Protothasian" archaic lineages of transport amphoras both to East-Greek and North-Aegean centres of manufacture is reassessed in the light of lab results.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** amfore Zeest samiene și prototasiene, amforele samiene determinate de V. Grace, „Cercul tasiian” după I. B. Zeest, perioadă arhaică, determinarea originii, rezultate de laborator

**Rezumat:** Cu ajutorul unor noi analize de laborator a fost reexaminată dubla atribuire geografică a amforelor de tip I. B. Zeest prin ramurile sale arhaice samiană și prototasiiană, ca amfore de transport către diferite centre de fabricare din Grecia de Est și Egeea septentrională.

After having challenged in their broad lines both I. B. Zeest's<sup>1</sup> and V. Grace's<sup>2</sup> lineages of archaic "Samian" transport amphoras<sup>3</sup>, it occurred to me that it was time to go into details with two related cases, viz. those of Zeest's "Samian" and "Protothasian" lineages, not exactly on the typological point of view, meanwhile thoroughly refined by several recent studies<sup>4</sup>, but on the repercussions of reattributions of origin raised by lab results.

Let's begin our survey of the situation by a first observation concerning the discrepancy between the archaic "Samian" lineage recognized by V. Grace and the one presented by I. B. Zeest, the latter restricted to a single range of shapes with ovoid body and slender neck, embracing the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, whereas V. Grace's one goes back higher than the very beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> century with a distinct range of shapes displaying both a more or less top-shaped body and a downward tightened neck as well as obliquely falling down handles. A first source of confusion lies in the fact that Grace seemingly mixes two separate lineages of containers, viz. a genuine Samian one and another one, corresponding to Zeest's "Samian" one, that lab results mainly reattribute to North-Ionian centres of manufacture, side by side with the lineage of "Clazomenian" type and its regional variants. The fact looks already clearly evidenced by the

late 7<sup>th</sup> / early 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC finds of the necropolis of Clazomenian Abdera from which samples of both jars of Grace's early "Samian" lineage, actually Samian<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 1), and Zeest's "Samian" type of North-Ionian origin are attested (Fig. 2), the latter falling together with specimens of jars of "Clazomenian" type within the same chemical cluster (Fig. 3). Of course, the proportions might well have been reversed later on by the refoundation of Abdera by Teian incomers, surely bringing with them their own variant of amphora and even at once locally producing it<sup>6</sup>. That means a double lineage of transport amphoras for the same city and for the same interval of time, once more relativising Michel Gras' former flag formula regarding the transport amphora as "emblème de la cité"<sup>7</sup>, but conversely validating as soon as the archaic period the existence of amphorical *koinai*, denied by him<sup>8</sup>. Furthermore, it appears that, among these finds of Zeest's "Samian" type of North-Ionian origin brought to light in the same necropolis of Clazomenian Abdera, those of Clazomenian manufacture, though largely represented, are supplemented by others of Erythraean origin, as well as by a few ones made in Teos.

<sup>1</sup> Zeest 1960, p. 70, 79, pl. I/3 (Samos) and VI/15 (Protothasos).

<sup>2</sup> Grace 1971.

<sup>3</sup> Dupont 2019; Dupont, Skarlatidou 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Monakhov 2003a; Sezgin 2012; Monakhov *et alii* 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Worth noting appears the slight evolution of mouth profile within the Samian lineage between ABR 67 and ABR 24, both rim and cylindrical neck of which seem already inspired by Zeest's "Samian" type.

<sup>6</sup> Peristeri-Otatzis 1986, esp. p. 495, fig. 13–14.

<sup>7</sup> Gras 1987, p. 41.

<sup>8</sup> Gras 1987, p. 43.