
A GROUP OF BLACK AND RED – FIGURE LEKYTHOI FROM CLASSICAL PERIOD (5TH – 4TH CENTURY BC)

CÜNEYT ÖZ
NİZAM ABAY

ABSTRACT

The study examines seven lekythoi donated to the collection of the Selçuk University Museum between 2019-2020. The analysed vessels can be categorized into two groups: plain or shouldered and squat. They were painted in black-figure and red-figure techniques. Their decorative motifs include figural (female head), floral (palmette) and geometric (meander, running dog, stripe, net pattern, white dot) elements. The plain or shouldered lekythoi date to the first half of the 5th century BC and the squat lekythoi to the 4th century BC. Some of the lekythoi have been attributed to the Bulas Group, while others were assigned to the Megera painter and his workshop. The clean clay content of the lekythoi, the lustre and quality of the firing and the fine workmanship of the decoration suggest they were likely imported from Attica.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG: EINE GRUPPE SCHWARZ- UND ROTFIGURIGER LEKYTHOI AUS KLASSISCHER ZEIT (5. – 4. JH. V. CHR.)

Sieben Lekythoi, die 2019-2020 in die Sammlung des Museums der Universität Selçuk aufgenommen wurden, sind Gegenstand dieser Studie. Die Lekythoi, die sich in zwei Gruppen unterteilen lassen, nämlich glatte Lekythoi und Lekythoi mit Schultern und Lekythoi mit gedrunghenen Schultern, sind in schwarzer und roter figurativer Technik bemalt. Die Dekoration der Lekythoi umfasst figürliche (Frauenkopf), florale (Palmette) und geometrische (Mäander, laufender Hund, Streifen, Netzmuster, weißer Punkt) Darstellungen. Die schlichten oder geschulterten Lekythoi stammen aus der ersten Hälfte des 5. Jh. v. Chr., die gedrunghenen Lekythoi aus dem 4. Jh. v. Chr. Einige der Lekythoi gehören nachweislich zur Bulas-Gruppe, während andere vom Megera-Maler und seiner Werkstatt gemalt wurden. Der reine Tongehalt der Lekythoi, der Glanz und die Qualität des Brandes sowie die feine Ausarbeitung der Dekoration lassen vermuten, dass sie aus Attika importiert wurden.

KEYWORDS: Lekythoi, Selçuk University Museum, plain or shouldered lekythos, squat lekythos.

SCHLÜSSELWÖRTER: Lekythoi, Museum der Universität Selçuk, schlichten oder geschulterte Lekythoi, gedrunghene Lekythoi.

Introduction

Seven lekythoi donated to the, recently established Selçuk University Museum ¹, constitute the subject of this study. The lekythoi painted in black-figure and red-figure techniques can be divided into two different types according to their body profiles: plain or shouldered (Fig. 1) and squat (Fig. 2). These lekythoi date to the period between the first quarter of the 5th century BC to the first half of the 4th century BC. It is understood from the museum inventory records that all analysed lekythoi were donated. Except for one (Cat. No: 2= Konya-Kayapınar around), no information is available on the locations of the other specimens. For this reason, analogical methods were used to determine their workshop and chronology.

Plain or Shouldered Lekythoi (Cat. No. 1-4, Fig. 1/1-4)

There are four plain or shouldered lekythoi painted in black figure technique (Fig. 1). The lekythoi belonging to this group have funnel mouths, long cylindrical necks, slightly sloping and broad shoulders, vertical strip handles, cylindrical bodies narrowing downwards in a 'V' shape and disc (*torus*) bases (Fig. 1/1-4). The lekythoi of cat. no. 1 and 2 (Fig. 1/1-2) have flatter and wider shoulders than the others (Fig. 1/3-4). The transition from the shoulders

¹ Ministry of Culture and Tourism approval - number 504804, dated 11/06/2018.

to the body is sharp and angular. The first example has a stripe motif on the shoulder and the beginning of the body (Fig. 1/1). The densely textured and non-porous clay is reddish yellow and well sieved. The outer rim, most of the body and the upper part of the pedestal are black glossed. There is some spalling on the glossed surface. A close analogy was found in the collection of the National Archaeological Museum of Agrigento in Italy and dated to 490-480 BC.² The same date is suggested for the analysed specimen.

The body of the specimen from cat. no. 2 is narrower than that of the lekythos from cat. no. 1. There is a strip on the shoulder, a meander at the beginning of the body and *running dog*³ motif on the lower body (Fig. 1/2). Except for the decorations, most of the remaining areas are covered with black gloss. The clay is densely textured and non-porous, reddish yellow in colour and well sieved. Similar artefacts found in the National Archaeological Museum of Agrigento at Italy⁴, Sindos⁵ and Kyme⁶ are generally dated to the first half of the 5th century BC. The artefact in question is thought to date to the same period.



Fig 1. Plain or Shouldered Lekythoi/ Cat. No. 1-4 (© C. Öz).

Cat. no. 3 and 4 are thought to belong to the Megera painter or his workshop. The lekythoi have a stripe motif on the shoulder and single (Fig. 1/3) and double palmettes (Fig. 1/4) separated by long lotuses all over the body. The single palmette motif on the body of cat. no. 3 has semicircular incised lines above the eyes left in ground colour below. Just above these, the outer contours of the palmettes painted in black figure technique are again formed with incised lines. There are long lotuses between them. These lotuses are joined at the top by semicircles drawn

² Calderone 1985, 2769, Tav. 85/4 (C. 729).

³ Sanev 2013, 36, 38, No. 42, 49.

⁴ Calderone 1985, 2774, Tav. 90/2 (C. 717).

⁵ Misailidou-Despotidou 2019, 447, Fig. 3.

⁶ Foça 2020, 204, Fig. 9/1.

with a white brush (Fig. 1/3). The double palmette motif on the body of the lekythos from cat. no. 4 has eyes in the centre surrounded by semicircular incised lines left in ground colour. There are palmette motifs painted in black on the upper and lower parts of these eyes. The outer contours of the palmettes are indicated by incised lines. The long lotuses between them are joined by brush-applied white semicircles at the top and bottom (Fig. 1/4). The lekythoi of the Megeira painter and workshop have a long neck, cylindrical body with a slightly convex profile towards the top, and the shoulder-body junction forms an acute angle. There are also incised lines under the palmettes and *trochilus* bases.⁷ Among the analysed lekythoi, the example from the painter's workshop bears the characteristics of the examples from cat. no. 4. The base of the lekythos cat. no. 3 is in *torus* form (Fig. 1/3). This situation points to another workshop in the construction of the lekythos. However, it is thought that the decorations were painted by the Megeira painter or workshop. Similar⁸ lekythoi of cat. no. 3 and 4 are found in the Reiss Museum⁹, Württemberg State Museum¹⁰, Heidelberg University at Germany¹¹, Athens¹², National Archaeological Museum of Agrigento at Italy¹³, Seyitömer Hoyuk¹⁴, Jagiellonian University Archaeological Institute and Museum at Poland¹⁵, Sindos¹⁶ and Sinope.¹⁷ Compared to their counterparts from the first half of the 5th century BC, the analysed lekythoi are thought to date from the same period.

Squat Lekythoi (Cat. No. 5-7, Fig. 2/1-3)

There are three examples of squat lekythoi in the museum (Fig. 2/1-3). Two of the lekythoi are painted in red-figure technique (Fig. 2/1-2). This type of lekythos has a flaring funnel or bell-shaped mouth, short cylindrical neck, vertical band handle, flat (stunted) body and low ring base. The example from cat. no. 6 has a shorter and flatter neck and body than the others (Fig. 2/1, 3). The body of the lekythos from cat. no. 5 bears a single palmette (*anthemion*) motif painted in red-figure technique with a dot-shaped heart and 14 leaves surrounded by a semicircle (Fig. 2/1). The motif covers half of the body of the lekythos. The other half is painted with black firnis. The tips of the leaves are oval in some and blunt in others. The densely textured and non-porous clay is light brown and tempered with mica and lime. The *anthemion* motif seen on lekythoi was widely used in the 4th century BC.¹⁸ Close analogies found at the University of Vienna¹⁹, Olynthus²⁰, Tours Museum of Fine Arts and Bourges Berry Museum²¹, Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts²², Silifke Museum²³, Seyitömer Hoyuk²⁴, Pydna²⁵, Jagiellonian University Archaeological Institute and Museum in Poland²⁶, Macedonia²⁷, Ainos (Enez)²⁸ and Sinope²⁹ are generally dated to the first half of the 4th century BC. We can suggest the same date for the analysed specimen.

The body of the lekythos from cat. no. 6 has a red figure technique depiction of a woman's head in profile, facing right. There is an embroidered sakkos on her head and a necklace around her neck. Some of her hair hangs down

⁷ Calderone 1985, 40.

⁸ Volioti 2014, 151, Fig. 2: III/3.

⁹ Greifenhagen 1958, 605, Taf. 19/14 (309).

¹⁰ Kunze-Götte 1965, 1236, Taf. 24/12-13 (KAS 98).

¹¹ Gropengiesser 1970, 1516, Taf. 177/6 (L 14).

¹² Kurtz 1975, Pl. 69/5; Brendle 2018, 129, Fig. 7.

¹³ Calderone 1985, 2775-2776, Tav. 91/1-2 (C. 741-42), 92/8 (C. 758).

¹⁴ Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/54.

¹⁵ Papuci-Władyka 2012, 514, Pl. 52/2 (195).

¹⁶ Misailidou-Despotidou 2019, 448, Fig. 4a-b.

¹⁷ Gökay 2020, 436, Att. 32-33.

¹⁸ Kurtz and Boardman 1971, 102; For the specimens with a single palmette, also see Robinson 1933, Pl. 141/ 412; Kenner 1942, 225, Taf. 31: 11 (1003)-12 (1004); Rouillard 1980, Pl. 8: 5 (883.71.31), Tugusheva 2003, 295, Pl. 50/11; Alkaç 2006, 74, Fig. 7-8; Zoroğlu 2009, Pl. 8: 7-8(747); Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/62; Papuci-Władyka 2012, 558, Pl. 96/5-6 (240); Sanev 2013, 37, 40, Nr. 47, 56; Gökay 2020, 450, Att. 111-127.

¹⁹ Kenner 1942, 225, Taf. 12 (1004).

²⁰ Robinson 1933, Pl. 141/417.

²¹ Rouillard 1980, Pl. 8/5.

²² Tugusheva 2003, 57, Pl. 50/9-12.

²³ Zoroğlu 2009, Pl. 7/7-8 (747).

²⁴ Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/62.

²⁵ Kotitsa 2012, 83, Fig. 7-8.

²⁶ Papuci-Władyka 2012, 558, Pl. 96/5 (240).

²⁷ Sanev 2013, 37, 39-40, cat. 47, 56.

²⁸ Şahin 2016, 339, Fig. 4/12.

²⁹ Gökay 2020, 450, Att. 118, 120.

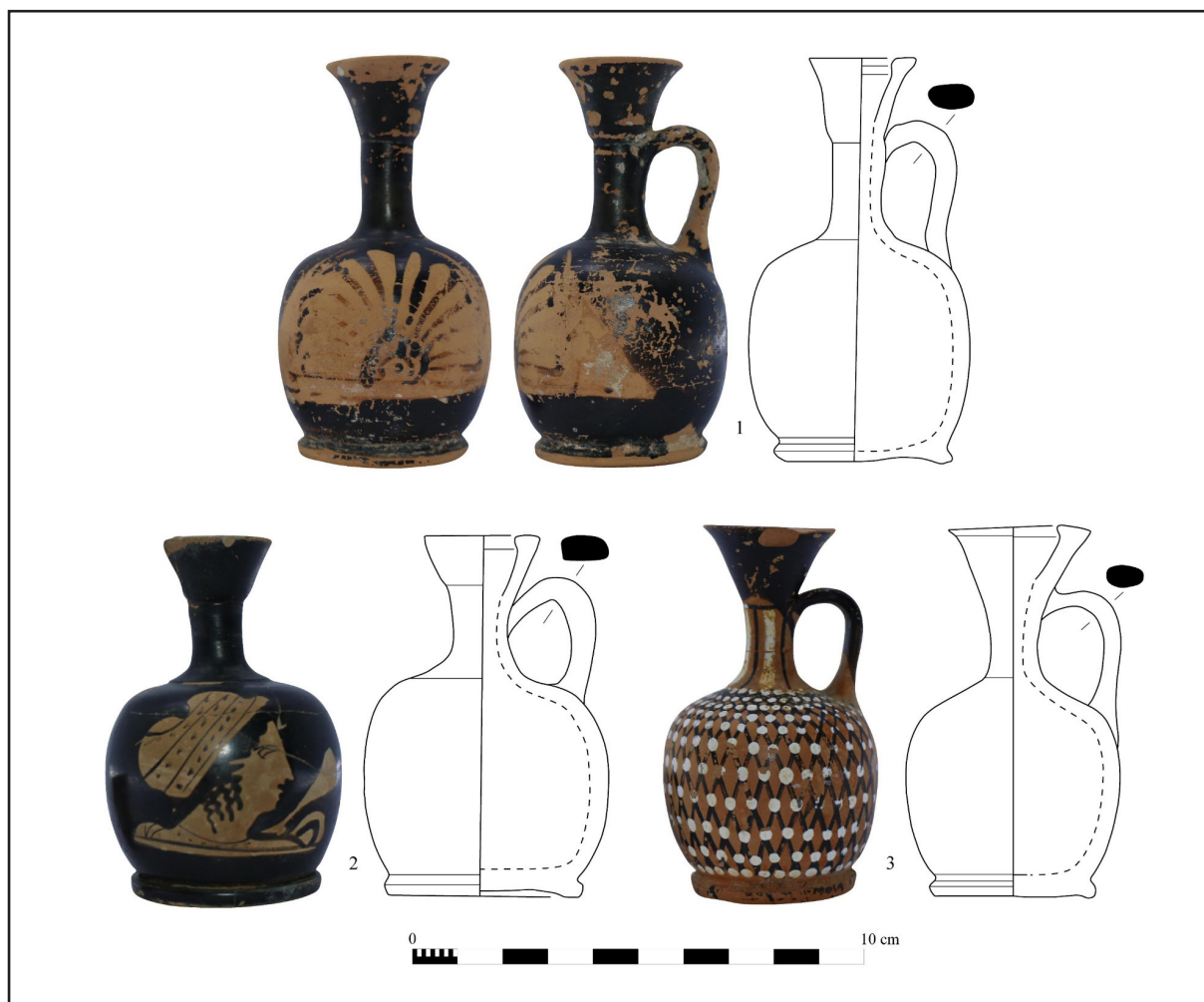


Fig. 2. Squat Lekythoi/ Cat. No. 5-7 (© C. Öz).

towards her neck. In front of her is a leaf of a plant (Fig. 2/2). The densely textured and non-porous clay is lime tempered and light brown in colour. It is glossy black fired. Close analogies are found in Olynthus³⁰, Macedonia³¹ and Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts.³² With the help of similar examples, a 4th century BC date is suggested for the lekythos of cat. no. 6.

The body of the last example in the stumpy lekythos group bears a net pattern with diagonal lines, all in black (Cat. No. 7, Fig. 2/3). There are white dots where these lines intersect. On the cylindrical neck, there is a decoration with thick white lines between the black lines downwards. The dense textured and non-porous clay is mica tempered and reddish yellow in colour. The outer rim and the base are black glossed. The lekythoi with a net pattern on them are thought to belong³³ to the *Bulas Group*.³⁴ The analysed specimen should belong to this group, as well. Close analogies are found in Olynthus³⁵, Silifke Museum³⁶, Seyitömer Hoyuk³⁷, Pydna³⁸, Macedonia³⁹ and Sinope.⁴⁰ By analogy, we can date the specimen from cat. no. 7 between 400-350 BC.

³⁰ Robinson 1933, Pl. 116/251-252.

³¹ Sanev 2013, 29, Cat. 23.

³² Tugusheva 2003, Pl. 48: 1.

³³ Gökay 2020, 357.

³⁴ Bulas 1932, 388-398.

³⁵ Robinson 1933, Pl. 147: 495-496.

³⁶ Zoroğlu 2009, Pl. 8/7-8 (939, 936).

³⁷ Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/63.

³⁸ Kotitsa 2012, 87, Fig. 12.

³⁹ Sanev 2013, 36-37, Cat. 45-46.

⁴⁰ Gökay 2020, 452, Att. 135.

Conclusions

Seven lekythoi painted in black-figure and red figure techniques and registered in the inventory of the Selçuk University Museum were analysed in this study. According to the body profiles, they are divided into two types: plain or shouldered (Cat. No. 1-4, Fig. 1) and squat (Cat. No. 5-7, Fig. 2). Since they were donated to the museum between 2019-2020, there is no information about their whereabouts. Only the example from cat. no. 2 is recorded to come from the vicinity of Konya-Karapınar. The lekythoi were dated by analogy since their contexts and relationships with the sites and structures are not known.

Four examples of plain or shouldered lekythoi were analysed (Fig. 1). The first example has a stripe (Fig. 1/1), the second example has a stripe, meander and *running dog* motif (Fig. 1/2), while the third and fourth lekythoi have a stripe and single and double palmette motifs with lotus between them (Fig. 1/3-4). The dense textured and non-porous clays are well sieved and reddish yellow and light brown in colour. The firings are black. The first half of the 5th century BC is the common date for the plain or shouldered lekythoi. Cat. no. 3 and 4 are thought to have been painted by the painter or workshop of Megera.

Three examples of squat lekythoi were analysed (Fig. 2). The lekythos from cat. no. 5 has an *anthemion* motif on its body (Fig. 2/1). The example from cat. no. 6 has a female head facing right and a plant leaf in front of it. She wears a sakkos on her head and a necklace around her neck (Fig. 2/2). The last lekythos belonging to the *Bulas Group* has vertical black and white stripes on the neck, a net pattern and white dot decoration on the body (Cat. No. 7, Fig. 2/3). The dense textured and non-porous clays are reddish yellow and light brown in colour and tempered with mica and lime. They have a glossy black glaze. The squat lekythoi are dated by analogy to the first half of the 4th century BC and the 4th century BC.

While the lekythoi of the late 6th and early 5th centuries BC generally have figural decorations, the 5th century BC examples are characterised by floral or linear/geometric motifs.⁴¹ Such decoration can be recognized on some of the analysed lekythoi. Five of the lekythoi are painted in black-figure technique (Fig. 1/1-4; 2/3) and two in red-figure technique (Fig. 2/1-2).

The glossy black glaze of the lekythoi in the Selçuk University Museum, their densely textured, non-porous and well-sieved clay, and the fine workmanship of their depictions suggest that they were imported from Attica.

⁴¹ Lamb 1930, 26.

CATALOGUE

Abbreviations used in the catalogue:

Cat. No.: Catalogue Number,

Fig.: Figure,

Mus. Inv. No.: Museum Inventory Number,

Loc. in the Mus.: Location in the Museum,

Arr. at Mus.: Arrival at Museum,

M.D.: Mouth Diameter, **B.D.:** Base Diameter,

H.: Height,

W.: Width.

The Munsell Soil Colour Chart (2015) colour catalogue was used to determine the clay and slip colours.

Cat. No.; Fig.: 1; 1/1

Form: Plain or shouldered Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 38A

Loc. in the Mus.: Exhibition

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: **M.D.:** 3 cm, **B.D.:** 3.1 cm, **H.:** 13.4 cm, **W.:** 5.2 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 7/6 (reddish yellow), dense, non-porous and well-sifted clay.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black)

Decoration: On the shoulder and the upper body stripes.

Comparison: Calderone 1985, 2769, Tav. 85/4 (C. 729).

Date: 490-480 BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 2; 1/2

Form: Plain or shouldered Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 1475A

Place of finding: Konya-Karapınar around

Loc. in the Mus.: Exhibition

Arr. at Mus.: donation (25.02.2020)

Dimensions: **M.D.:** 3.3 cm, **B.D.:** 3.6 cm, **H.:** 13.1 cm, **W.:** 5.1 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 8/6 (reddish yellow), dense, non-porous and well-sifted clay.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black), semi-glossy.

Decoration: shoulder: stripes, upper body: meander, lower body: *running dog* motif.

Comparison: Calderone 1985, 2774, Tav. 90/2 (C. 717); Misailidou-Despotidou 2019, 447, Fig. 3; Foça 2020, 204, Fig. 9/1.

Date: First half of the 5th century BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 3; 1/3

Form: Plain or shouldered Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 35A

Loc. in the Mus.: Exhibition

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: **M.D.:** 2.9 cm, **B.D.:** 3.2 cm, **H.:** 12.9 cm, **W.:** 5 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 7/4 (light brown), dense, non-porous and well-sifted clay.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black).

Decoration: shoulder: stripes, body: single palmette frieze separated by long lotuses.

Comparison: Greifenhagen 1958, 605, Taf. 19/14 (309); Kunze-Götte 1965, 1236, Taf. 24/12-13 (KAS 98); Gropengiesser 1970, 1516, Taf. 177/6 (L 14); Kurtz 1975, Pl. 69/5; Calderone 1985, 2775, Tav. 91/1-2 (C. 741-42); Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/54; Papuci-Władyka 2012, 514, Pl. 52/2 (195); Volioti 2014, 151, Fig. 2/III/3; Misailidou-Despotidou 2019, 448, Fig. 4a-b; Gorkay 2020, 436, Att. 32-33.

Date: First half of the 5th century BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 4; 1/4

Form: Plain or shouldered Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 36A

Loc. in the Mus.: Exhibition

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: M.D.: 3 cm, B.D.: 3.5 cm, H.: 12.9 cm, W.: 5 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 8/6 (reddish yellow), dense, non-porous and well-sifted clay.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black).

Decoration: shoulder: stripes, body: double palmette frieze separated by long lotuses.

Comparison: Calderone 1985, 2776, Tav. 92/8 (C. 758); Brendle 2018, 129, Fig. 7.

Date: First half of the 5th century BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 5; 2/1

Form: Squat Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 40A

Loc. in the Mus.: Exhibition

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: M.D.: 2.7 cm, B.D.: 4 cm, H.: 10.4 cm, W.: 5.7 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 7/4 (light brown), dense textured, non-porous clay tempered with mica and lime.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black).

Decoration: body: 14 petalled single palmette (*anthemion*) motif.

Comparison: Kenner 1942, 225, Taf. 12 (1004); Robinson 1933, Pl. 141: 417; Rouillard 1980, Pl. 8/5; Tugusheva 2003, 57, Pl. 50/9-12; Zoroğlu 2009, Pl. 7/7-8 (747); Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/62; Kotitsa 2012, 83, Fig. 7-8; Papuci-Władyka 2012, 558, Pl. 96/5 (240); Sanev 2013, 37, 39-40, Cat. 47, 56; Şahin 2016, 339, Fig. 4/12; Gorkay 2020, 450, Att. 118, 120.

Date: First half of the 4th century BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 6; 2/2

Form: Squat Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 37A

Loc. in the Mus.: Storage

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: M.D.: 2.9 cm, B.D.: 4.8 cm, H.: 9.3 cm, W.: 6.3 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/3 (light brown), dense textured, non-porous clay tempered with lime.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black).

Decoration: body: female head.

Comparison: Robinson 1933, Pl. 116/251-252; Tugusheva 2003, Pl. 48: 1; Sanev 2013, 29, Cat. 23.

Date: 4th century BC

Cat. No.; Fig.: 7; 2/3

Form: Squat Lekythos

Mus. Inv. No.: 27A

Loc. in the Mus.: Storage

Arr. at Mus.: donation (23.10.2019)

Dimensions: **M.D.:** 3.6 cm, **B.D.:** 3.9 cm, **H.:** 9.6 cm, **W.:** 4.7 cm.

Clay: 7.5 YR 6/6 (reddish yellow), dense textured, non-porous clay tempered with mica.

Slip: 10 YR 2/1 (black).

Decoration: neck: black and white stripes, body: net pattern and white spots.

Comparison: Robinson 1933, Pl. 147/495-496; Zoroğlu 2009, Pl. 8/7-8 (939, 936); Coşkun 2010, 76, Fig. 6/63; Kotitsa 2012, 87, Fig. 12; Sanev 2013, 36-37, Cat. 45-46; Gorkay 2020, 452, Att. 135.

Date: 400-350 BC

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Abbildungsverzeichnis

Abb. 1: Schlichte oder geschulterte Lekythoi/ Kat. Nr. 1-4 (© C. Öz)

Abb. 2: Gedrungene Lekythoi/ Kat. Nr. 5-7 (© C. Öz)

CÜNEYT ÖZ

Assoc. Prof. Dr., Dicle University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Archaeology, Diyarbakır
cuneyt.oz@outlook.com

NIZAM ABAY

Assoc. Prof. Dr., Selçuk University, Faculty of Letters, Department of Archaeology, Konya
nizamabay21@gmail.com