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**A RHODIAN AMPHORA HANDLE
IN A PRIVATE COLLECTION IN HUNGARY**

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Abstract: Publication of an amphora seal signed with the name Ainêôtôr, from a Hungarian private collection.

Keywords: Rhodos, amphora, epônym, Ainêôtôr

In January 2009 I was invited to determine an amphora handle from Israel, kept in a private collection in Hungary. The amphora seal on the broken handle contains a short text in Greek:

ΕΠΙΑΙΝΗΤΟΡΟΣ
ΑΡΤΑΜΙΤΙΟΥ

The reading of the inscription:

ἐπὶ Αἰνήτορος
Ἄρταμιτίου

In the official year of Ainêôtôr
In the Artamitios month

Relying on the form of the letters, the inscription can be dated to 3rd/2nd century BC. On Rhodes it was common to stamp amphorae with the name of the eponym and the month of the production between the 4th and 1st centuries BC.¹ Ainêôtôr was eponym magistrate of Rhodes between c. 220–180 BC.² The number of surviving stamped amphorae from his period is relatively high, thus Hiller von Gärtringen rates the occurrence as “häufig”, i.e. frequent. As far as I

¹ Hiller von Gärtringen. Rhodos. In: RE Suppl. V. (1931) 835–840. To Rhodian month names see J. Sarkady, Studies in Greek heortology. Debrecen 1998, 15, 104.

² V. R. Grace, The eponyms named on Rhodian amphora stamps. Hesperia 22 (1953) 116–128. The name Ainêôtôr occurs on p. 122, Nr. 15. For dating, cf. Hiller op. cit. (note 1), 835. Nr. 23.

know, however, this one is the first amphora fragment with Ainêôtôr's seal in a Hungarian collection.



fig. 1: Photo of the seal



fig. 2: Drawing of the seal