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**Sinopean, Heracleian, and Chersonesian "Carrot" Amphorae**

The Black Sea region of the Classical and Hellenistic times is usually regarded, not without good reason, as a secluded area, having contact only with the Aegean islands and the cities of the western Anatolian coast.

In spite of this relative isolation, the Greek colonies of the Pontic area show similar developments to the Mediterranean Greek cities; one of these developments is the imitation of the amphorae of the mother city in its colony. This is the case with Heraclea and Chersonesos, as well as with Sinope and its colonies of the eastern Pontic shore during the late Classical period. Later on, the mimetic phenomenon was extended to larger cities as Heraclea imitated the Sinopean and Rhodian jars during the late Hellenistic times. To the end of the Hellenistic period, both Heraclea and Sinope adopted the canonical Koan wine amphora shape, a process that was extended also to the central and western Mediterranean during the first century AD.

The purpose of this paper is to examine this mimetic process during the late Roman period when a new canonical form emerges on the Pontic market: the "carrot" amphora shape. Originally created by Sinopean potters, it was rapidly adopted by some Heracleian, Colchian and Chersonesian workshops. In most cases, these imitations were so well done that only a close look at the fabric of these jars can help us assign them to different workshops. Recent amphora discoveries made in the Chersonesos area and in the eastern part of Romania helped us enlarge the repertoire of carrot amphora variants and better understand the new amphora "*koiné*" that occurred in the Pontic basin during the fourth century AD. The reason behind this adoption, the marketable shape, or its contents, is still debateable.