Pottery was produced in enormous quantities in ancient Rome, mostly for utilitarian purposes. It is found all over the former Roman Empire and beyond. Monte Testaccio is a huge waste mound in Rome made almost entirely of broken amphorae used for transporting and storing liquids and other products in this case probably mostly Spanish olive oil, which was landed nearby, and was the main fuel for lighting, as well as its use in the kitchen and washing in the baths. Callender 1965 Callender, M.H., Roman Amphorae, with Index of Stamps, London. Cankardeş-Şenol (forthcoming). Cankardeş-Şenol, G., “Stamps on Italian Amphoras from The detailed analysis of these amphora stamps, the main focus of this study, should provide the first solid data to illuminate the trade affairs of Patara and particularly of Western Lycia during the early Roman period and it presents the first preliminary information regarding the overseas trade activities of the city during this period.
The Romans used amphorae in much the same way as the Greeks but with the addition of such Roman staples as fish sauce (garum) and preserved fruits. For this reason, amphorae were sealed using clay or resin stoppers, some also had a ceramic lid when used to store dry goods. Very few lids have survived in proportion to amphorae but those that do commonly have a single knob handle, sometimes made into the shape of a fruit. In addition to stamps, the Romans painted information labels on their vessels to make their contents easily identifiable. Stamped Rhodesian Amphora Handle from Jordan. by Osama Shukir Muhammed Amin (CC BY-NC-SA).

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