A104-Eur-Roman-Lamp-Clay

**Case No.: 4**

**Accession Number: A93-A94-A95-A96-A97**

**Formal Label: Roman-Lamp-Clay**

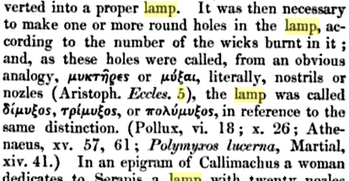
**Display Description:**

For the ancient Romans, lamps were more than just a way to be able to see in the dark—they were mythical muses, witnesses to secrets, and instruments of the supernatural. Far more familiar to the average Roman than the high art of mosaics, statues, or frescos, lamps created the atmosphere of day-to-day life in the homes, workshops, and public houses of Roman provincial towns.

It is especially within sanctuaries that we have evidence for their large-scale employment. In the Greek world and in Cyprus a significant growth in the sophistication, scale and proliferation of forms and materials of lamps can be observed from the 7th century BC onwards24. Finely made decorated and occasionally inscribed lamps were frequently dedicated in sanctuaries, from which they were regularly cleared to be deposited in bothroi along with other dedications. Large quantities of lamps were uncovered in some sanctuaries in East Greece, for example at Miletos, Knidos and Halicarnassos;25 more modest yet still substantial numbers were found at Naukratis.26

The integral role of lamps in the cults of the gods meant that new forms were developed for specific use within Greek sanctuaries, such as multiple nozzle ‘sanctuary lamps’ (Fig. 5).27 Lamps were integral to a variety of different ritual practices: as a votive gift to the gods for use during specific rituals such as sacrifices, during oath taking, ritual meals and nocturnal feasts.28 The important role of lamps in funerary rituals meant that they became a significant part of the furniture of burials, something also seen at Naukratis.29

24 Bailey 1975, 9;



Bailey, D.M. 1975, Catalogue of the Lamps in the British Museum 1: Greek, Hellenistic and Early Roman Pottery Lamps, London.

Parisinou 2000, 11–19, 136–9, 162.

Parisinou, E. 2000, The Light of the Gods: The Role of Light in Archaic and Classical Greek Cult, Trowbridge.

25 Selesnow 1997;

Selesnow, W. 1997, ‘Ausgewählte Lampen vom Kalabak- und Zeytintepe’, Archäologischer Anzeiger 1997, 137–43.

Bailey 1975, 9.

26 Petrie 1886a, 45, pl. 44;

Gardner 1888, 48;

Gardner, E.A. 1888, Naukratis. Part II (Sixth Memoir of the Egypt Exploration Fund), London.

Hogarth 1898–9, 30, 55.

Hogarth, D.G., Edgar, C.C. and Gutch, C. 1898–9, ‘Excavations at Naukratis’, The Annual of the British School at Athens 5, 26–97.

27 Bailey 1972, 12;

Barrett 2008, 58;

Barrett, C.E. 2011, Egyptianizing Figurines from Delos: A Study in Hellenistic Religion, Leiden.

Broneer 1977, 1.

Broneer, O. 1977, Isthmia, 3. Terracotta Lamps, Princeton.

28 Parisinou 2000, 136–61.

29 Gardner 1888, 26, 29.

Naukratis: Greeks in Egypt

Alexandra Villing, Marianne Bergeron, Giorgos Bourogiannis, Alan Johnston, François Leclère, Aurélia Masson and

Ross Thomas

With Daniel von Recklinghausen, Jeffrey Spencer, Valerie Smallwood, Virginia Webb and

Susan Woodford

http://www.britishmuseum.org/naukratis

Lamps in terracotta and bronze

Ross Thomas

2. Production

|  |
| --- |
| Period: Roman   Origin: Balkans, possibly Pannonia   Date: 70 – 200 AD |
| Description:  Box lamp, with three nozzles. Handle decorated as leaf. |

Cf. Szentléleky, 167, 268;

Menzel, 489, 492;

Krunic, 32-3;

(Egyptian) BMC III, Q1971-6;

Menzel, 488;

Hayes, 186-9;

Djuric, C146-7;

(Palestinian) Israeli & Avida, 130.

**D.M. Bailey, *A Catalogue of Lamps in the British Museum*, British Museum, 1975-96.**  
(ISBN 0714112437, 0714112593, 071411278X, 0714122068)  
Huge catalogue in four quarto volumes, THE lamp bible but extremely expensive even second-hand. Referred to as BMC.  
  
**H.B. Walters, *Catalogue of the Greek and Roman Lamps in the British Museum*, British Museum, 1914.**  
Superceded by Bailey but still worthwhile and much cheaper if you can find an old copy.  
  
**J.W. Hayes, *Ancient Lamps in the Royal Ontario Museum - I: Greek and Roman Clay Lamps*, ROM, 1980.**  
(ISBN 0888542534)  
Another superb catalogue and excellent reference, perhaps second only to Bailey.  
  
**Srdjan Djuric, *The Anawati Collection Catalog I - Ancient Lamps from the Mediterranean*, Eika, 1995.**  
(ISBN 1896463029)  
Less academic than the museum catalogues and short on dating but comprehensive (within its specified area, i.e. not Northern Europe) and extensively illustrated.  
  
**Lyon-Caen & Hoff, *Catalogue des Lampes en terre cuite Grecques et Chretiennes*, Louvre, 1986.**  
(ISBN 2711820149)  
In French, good coverage of earlier and later lamps in the Louvre, well illustrated.

**Heinz Menzel, *Antike Lampen im Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseum zu Mainz*, Mainz, 1969 (enlarged reprint of 1954 edition).**  
(ISBN 380530174X)  
In German, classic catalogue, profusely illustrated by line drawings (this edition adds fifty more lamps with photographs).

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Western Europe:**  **Karin Goethert, *Römische Lampen und Leuchter, Auswahlkatalog des Rheinischen Landesmuseums Trier*, Trier, 1997.** (ISBN 392331938X) In German, emphasis on local lamps found in Trier but excellent coverage of all Roman types of the Rhineland.  **Hella Eckardt, *Illuminating Roman Britain*, Editions Monique Mergoil, Montagnac, 2002.** (ISBN 2907303708) Softback, frustratingly unindexed but a refreshing approach and well worth ploughing through.  **Siegfried Loeschcke, *Lampen aus Vindonissa*, Zurich, 1919.** In German, long out-of-print classic but a superb reference if you can find a copy.  **Annette Kirsch, *Antike Lampen im Landesmuseum Mainz*, Mainz, 2002.** (ISBN 3805328648) In German, catalogue of lamps.  **Laurent Chrzanovski, *Lumieres Antiques: Les lampes à huile du musée romain de Nyon*, Edizioni ET, 2000.** (ISBN 8886752156) Softback. In French with short summaries in English, Italian and German. Excellent general survey of lamps, detailed catalogue of the small collection of Roman oil lamps at Nyon. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |
|  |
| Balkans:  T. Szentléleky, Ancient Lamps, Amsterdam, 1969. General collection with emphasis on lamps from the region of Hungary. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |
| http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/images_shared/maroon_dot.gif |
|  |
| Aegean:  R.H. Howland, The Athenian Agora, Volume IV: Greek Lamps and their Survivals, American School at Athens, 1958. Classic study of lamps excavated at Athens.  Oscar Broneer, Corinth, Volume IV, Part II: Terracotta Lamps, American School at Athens, 1930. Catalogue of lamps excavated at Corinth.  Oscar Broneer, Isthmia, Volume III: Terracotta Lamps, American School at Athens, 1977. Good coverage of local lamps.  (booklet) Judith Perlzweig, Lamps from the Athenian Agora, American School at Athens, 1963. Excellent booklet, profusely illustrated and a recommended reference, very cheap used copies. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |
| http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/images_shared/maroon_dot.gif |
|  |
| Cyprus:  Oziol & Pouilloux, Salamine de Chypre - I: Les Lampes, Paris, 1969. In French, catalogue of lamps excavated at Salamis in Cyprus. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |
| http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/images_shared/maroon_dot.gif |
|  |
| Middle (Near) East:  R. Rosenthal & R. Sivan, Qedem 8, Monographs of the Institute of Archaeology: Ancient Lamps in the Schloessinger Collection, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1978. Standard reference, the collection includes a good general selection of lamps in addition to those specifically from the Levant.   Y. Israeli & U. Avida, Oil-Lamps from Eretz Israel: The Louis and Carmen Warschaw Collection at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel Museum, 1988. (ISBN 9652780693) Catalogue of lamps found in this region.  Noam Adler, Oil Lamps of the Holy Land from the Adler Collection, Israel, 2004. (ISBN 9655551660) Comprehensive coverage of lamps from Palestine region.  Stanislao Loffreda, Light and Life, Franciscan Printing Press, Jerusalem, 2001. (ISBN 9655160041) Softback, an interpretation of Christian inscribed lamps. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |
| http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/images_shared/maroon_dot.gif |
|  |
| North Africa:  Jean Deneauve, Lampes de Carthage, C.N.R.S., Paris, 1969. In French, catalogue of lamps in the Carthage Museum to the end of the Roman period.  J.L. Herrman & A. van der Hoek, Light from the Age of Augustine, Harvard, 2002. Softback, lavishly colour-illustrated guide to North African red slip ware including many lamps.  D.M. Bailey, Excavations at Sidi Khrebish, Benghazi, Volume III, Part 2: The Lamps, Tripoli, 1985. Detailed catalogue of lamps excavated at Sidi Khrebish in Libya.   E. Fabbricotti, Catalogo delle lucerne di Tolemaide (Cirenaica), BAR International Series 962, Oxford, 2001. (ISBN 1841711829) In Italian, detailed catalogue of locally found lamps. |
| [Back to top](http://www.romulus2.com/lamps/booklist/booklist.shtml#top) |

**LC Classification:** NB.150.R57

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS Coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Medium:**

**Dimensions**:   
**Weight:**

**Provenance:**

**Condition:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**