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THYSDRUS, THE TROAD, SAGALASSOS AND GORTYN

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## THYSDRUS, THE TROAD, SAGALASSOS AND GORTYN

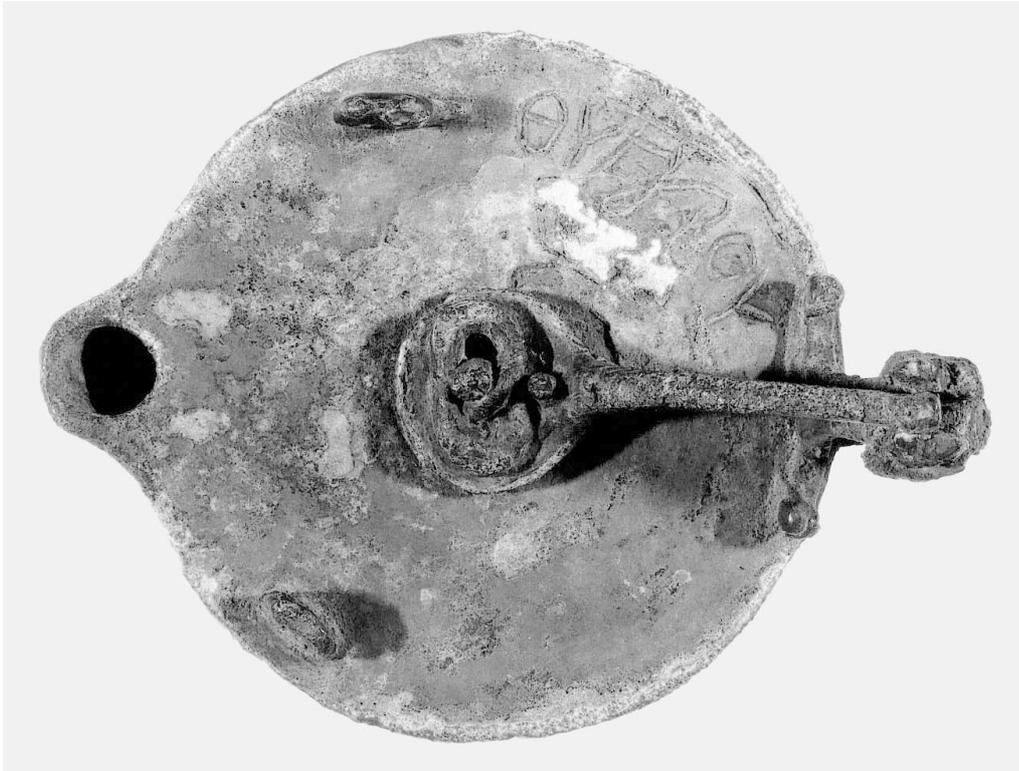
Professor Eric Birley's paper on Thysdrus in ZPE 84, 1990, 100-104 prompts me to present but not explain a reference to that city or, more probably, to a person whose name is derived from it, written in Greek on a bronze lamp in the British Museum (Reg. No. GR 1926.4-15.42). The lamp was acquired in Alexandria by the Revd Greville J. Chester during one of his annual trips to Egypt and sold by him to the Museum in 1877. It is of a shape (Pl. Xa) that cannot readily be paralleled or dated, but is probably of the second or third century AD. At the edge of the flat top (Pl. Xb) is incised ΘΥΣΔΡΟΥ (the sigma is square and the delta is lower case); although it is just possible that this incision was done after casting by an owner, it is far more likely that it was the result of the cutting of the name into the wax archetype before it was invested in clay for its production; there is little doubt that the lamp was made in Egypt. In addition, references, apparently adjectival, to cities or areas outside Egypt, are found also on Egyptian pottery lamps, again of a rather unusual shape, and probably of the second or third century AD, but underneath the lamp, in upper case letters formed in the mould: sigmas and omicrons are normally squared. Thus, a lamp from the Polish excavations at Athribis (Exc. No. 86/148) has ΤΡΟΑΔΙΗΣΙΑ; ΣΑΓΑΛΙΑΣΣΙΙΚΟΝ is found on a similar lamp recently acquired by the British Museum (Reg. No. GR 1987.4-2.1) from a collection formed in Alexandria by the late Gustav Moustaki during the second quarter of the twentieth century; the same inscription, written ΣΑΓΑΛΙΑΣΣΙΚΙΟΝ, occurs together with a palm-branch on the base of a lamp of the same shape from the Polish work at Kom el-Dikka in Alexandria (Exc. No. SU 3801/82, from a probable second-century context); and the curious construction ΓΟΡΤΥΝΙΝΙΝ appears on a lamp found during the extraction of seabkh at Kom Truga, within the Inspectorate of Alexandria, in the Lake Mareotis region (A. Adriani, in *Annuario del Museo Greco-Romano, Alexandria*, 1, 1932-33, 45, fig. 13 = SB v, 7836). These four mouldmade lamps are of a shape unparalleled by other lamps of Egyptian manufacture; they are not of Nile silt but of a clay similar to that available to some of the lamp workshops probably situated in Alexandria (their shape is not unlike certain wheelmade lamps of second-century date made in Asia Minor, such as BMCat Lamps iii, London, 1988, Q 3336).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Dr Ute Wartenberg for a discussion of these inscriptions and to Dr Jolanta Młynarczyk for details of the Athribis and Kom el-Dikka lamps.



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b)

a) Bronzelampe (British Museum, Reg. No. GR 1926.4-15.42), b) Detail