

## Σηκώματα: Measures of Wine, Not Jars

In my article on σηκώματα (*BASP* 35 [1998] 153-8) I attempted to demonstrate that the term in Egyptian wine industry denoted "standard" measures of wine expressed in *xestai/sextarii*. The σηκώμα in physical terms was a measuring jar of some kind that was used to decant measures of wine from storage jars or wine presses into other containers. As a measure, *qua* measure, of a specific number of sextarii, σηκώματα are not to be equated with jars (e.g., knidia) that served as containers for wine or of other substances.

I note that in a recent article by N. Kruit and K.A. Worp in *APF* 45.1 (1999) 116, with part of the same information repeated in 46.1 (2000) 106, the list of "various jars with their capacities of sext." such as ἀγγεῖον and κνίδον, includes σηκώμα as a jar with a capacity of 4 to 8 sext. Also included as a jar is the term μέτρον. Viewing σηκώμα as a jar raises the question of the distinction between an amount placed in a container and the capacity of the container. The two can be the same provided that we know the capacity of the container, and that is rare, very rare.<sup>1</sup>

In light of Kruit and Worp's article I would like to restate my opinion and to put added emphasis on the use of the term σηκώμα in the late Roman documents as an aggregate measure of wine, much as we often use the word "gallons" without reference to any specific container. We can observe this in P.Mich. inv. no. 4291 (*ZPE* 100 [1994] 272), a contract in which a vintner states that for 246 sekomata he has received in full (l. 5) "τιμὴν ... οἴνου πενταξεστιαίων. The price in this instance is in terms of 5-sextarii meas-

---

<sup>1</sup> That rare case would be the tetrachoa in P.Oxy. L. 3595. See my article "The Value of the Maximian Kotyla in P.Oxy. L 3595 and PSI XII 1252," *ZPE* 131 (2000) 167-9.