

# The Roman Shipping Amphoras from Arikamedu

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Excavations at Arikamedu by Faucheux and others in 1943-1944, by Wheeler in 1945, and by Casal in 1947-1950 uncovered several hundred fragments of Roman shipping amphoras. Photographs and drawings of some 100 fragments have been studied. About half of those pieces come from Coan-type wine amphoras produced chiefly in Campania (Dressel's Forms 3 and 4, Will Type 12a). The importation of wine occurred as early as the first half of the first century B.C. and continued during the first century A.C. Similar finds are also known from other Indian sites. In addition to wine, Arikamedu imported other Mediterranean products. In the early Imperial period, olive oil jars arrived from the northern Adriatic area (Dressel Form 6, Will Type 14), and garum amphoras were imported from Spain (Dressel Forms 7 and 8, Will Type 16). The amphora finds thus reflect approximately two centuries of commercial contact between Arikamedu and the Roman World.

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