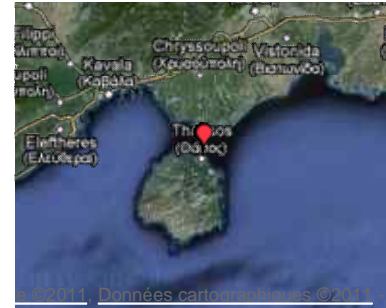


Thassos - Commercial Harbour

Settlers from Paros inhabited Thassos around 680 B.C. The island's strategic position upon the trade routes from Aegean to Thrace and Black Sea, the metal-rich subsoil (gold, silver), the vineyards and the forests enhanced the city's development to a significant naval and trade power. Thassos was an important member of the Athenian alliance and functioned as an advanced naval base of Athens. Thasian coins have been found in Egypt and Syria, while the characteristic Thasian amphora has been located in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The city was at its peak until the Roman period, when a decline began, but it flourished again during the Early Byzantine period.

The city of Thassos is located in the Northern part of the island, around the bay of Panagia, which was formed to two ports: an enclosed military harbour and a trade pier/breakwater.

The merchant harbour was built northeast of the naval base and was protected by a breakwater to the north.



Figures 

Main features

Region	Aegean sea
Use	Commercial
Prosperity period (centuries)	6th B.C. - 2nd B.C.
Existence of contemporary port	No
Findings on site	Yes

General description

The harbour intercommunicated with the ancient city agora by two gates. It was built outside the perimeter of the city walls as an extension of the naval base to the northeast. The breakwater to the North was the only construction of the merchant harbour. The construction was extended to East-West direction, being 115m. in length and 18-30m. in width. The breakwater head is of circular shape (with a diameter of 20m.), which can be attributed to the possible existence of a tower. The breakwater was fortified with walls in the exposed side and a quay was existed in the interior. The usage of the harbour ended during the 7th century B.C. Today the breakwater's remains can be seen in an average depth of -1 to -2m.

Technical features

Construction period (centuries)	6th B.C.
Port configuration	Artificial Harbour, Outer Harbour
Port basin size	m ²
Main wind direction	NW
Port land area	km ²
Port entrance	
Change of sea	

surface elevation	1 m
Sedimentation	
Outer port structures	Moles
Inner port structures	Quays
Land facilities	Shipheds, Temples, Defence Structures
Construction method	
Neotectonic history	
Shore line displacement	

Function and operations

Every kind of the island's trade goods were transported from the harbour. The famous wine of Thasos was exported in the recognizable Thasian amphorae with the pointed base. Specific laws, some of which have been found on inscriptions in the nearby city's agora, regulated the wine's trade. From the same inscriptions it is known that specific state officers were assigned to the supervision of the wine's transportation. Consequently respective regulations can be assumed for the commercial transactions in general.

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Related researches	Archeological
Findings in museums	Yes
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Protection
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