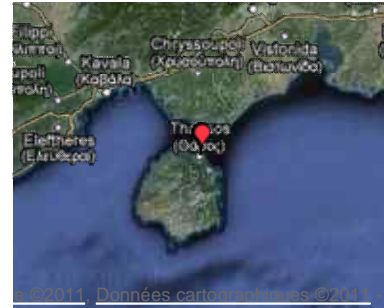


Thassos - Military Harbour

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 naval base is nowadays overbuild by the modern fishing boat shelter. The visible remains are dated from the Early Byzantine period.



Figures 

Main features

Region	Aegean sea
Use	Military
Prosperity period (centuries)	6th B.C. - 2nd B.C.
Existence of contemporary port	Yes
Findings on site	Yes

General description

The military harbour had a quadrilateral shape and was located in front of the city's market, intercommunicating by two gates. The northeastern side (A-B Fig. 2) was 148.6m long and then extended southwestern (B-C) for another 45m, as long as the length of the ship sheds was. Equivalently, the southern side (H-G) extended northeastern (G-F) for 31m. Right after this section, the contemporary harbour's entrance begins. The western sea-exposed side existed in the extension of this part (F-D), until the Early Byzantine period. The original entrance is presumed to have been located in between section D-C. The city's walls were built upon the breakwaters. Their width was approximately 3m. They consisted of marble blocks in the exterior, while the interior was filled with smaller stones.

Researchers (French Archaeological School and Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities - Ministry of Culture), have determined the existence of three complexes of ship sheds inside the harbour's basin at the northeastern, the southeastern and western sides, hosting 7, 6 and 7 ships respectively. The buildings are dated to the middle of the 5th century B.C. and therefore are the oldest remnants from edifices of this use from the Classical period.

Technical features

Construction period (centuries)	6th B.C.
Port configuration	Natural Harbour, Inner Harbour
Port basin size	22500 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	Basins
Land facilities	Temples, Shipsheds, Defence Structures, Stoes
Construction method	
Neotectonic history	
Shore line displacement	

Function and operations

The harbour was used as a naval base from the 6th century B.C. until the 2nd century B.C. After the renovations during the Early Byzantine period (4th-7th century A.C.) it was transformed to a trade port and since the 10th century A.D. the installations were used solely for trading purposes.

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Related researches	Archeological
Findings in museums	Yes
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