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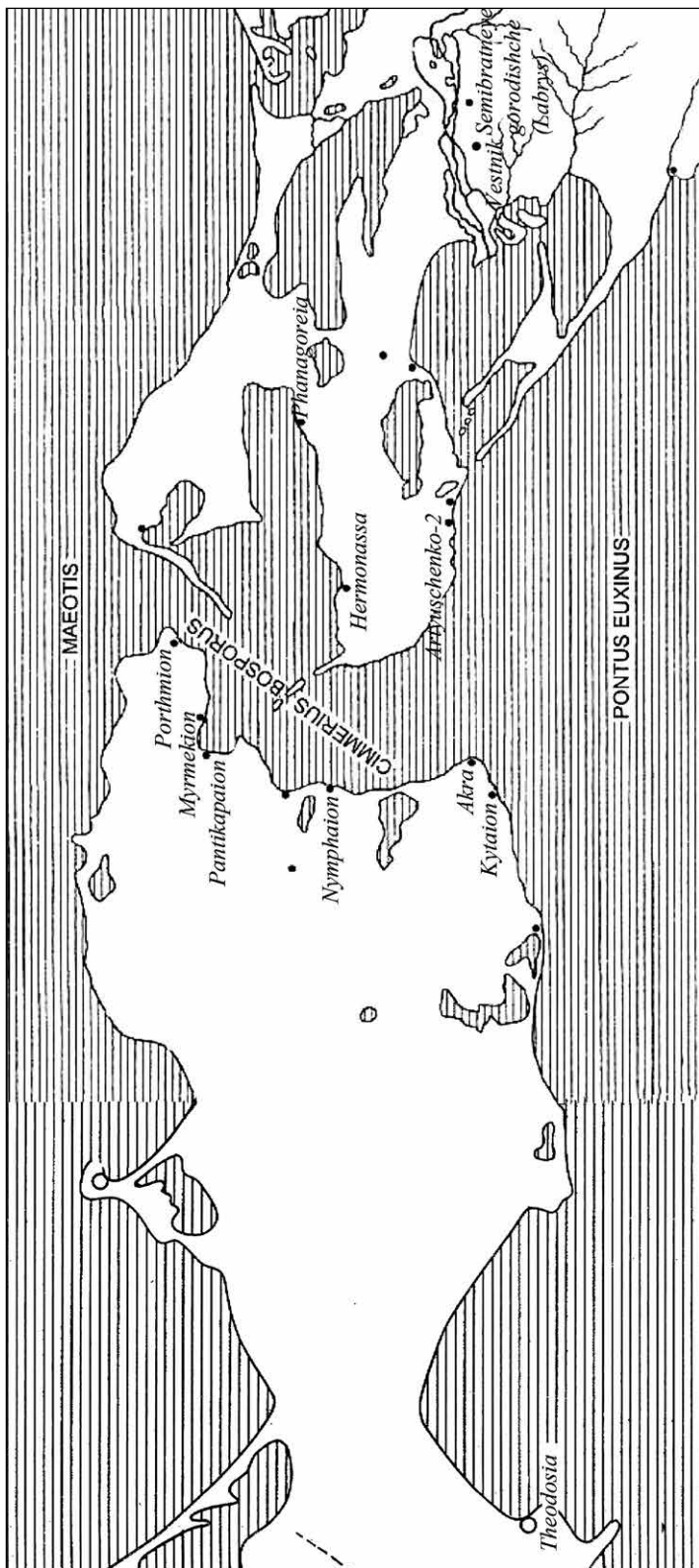
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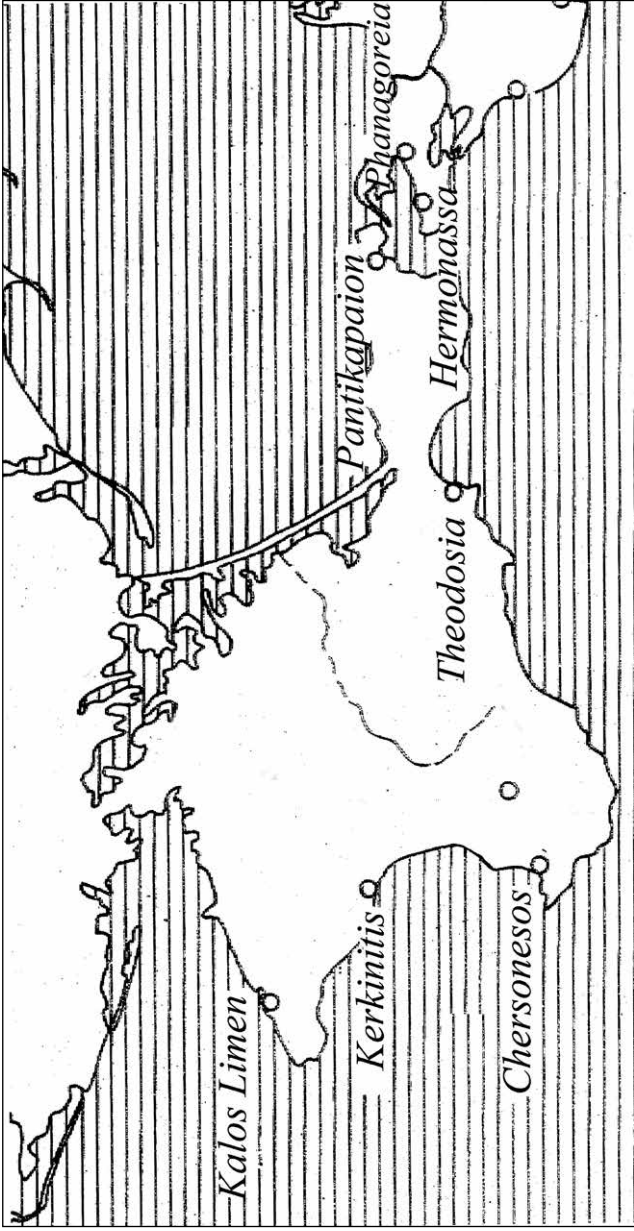
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ARCHAEOLOGICA





Anna Ereemeeva

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE SITE OF
THE ANCIENT TOWN OF KALOS LIMEN.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
2019 AND EXCAVATIONS OF 2021–2022

Kalos Limen (“Beautiful Harbor”) was the name of the small ancient town founded by Greek colonists on the shores of northwestern Crimea in the first quarter of the 4th century BC.¹ The ancient town is located on the rocky shore of Uzkaja Bay, protruding westward into Karkinitzky Bay of the Black Sea. The necropolis of Kalos Limen is traditionally divided into three groups of mounds, the largest of which is located to the east and southeast of the town. The second group, lost to science as a result of the residential development of the 1970s, was located on a cape south of Beautiful Harbor. The third mound group follows the watershed to the north of the town and ends with a rocky outcrop facing Uzkaya Bay.²

Starting at the end of the third quarter of the 4th century BC, Kalos Limen was part of a powerful state centered in the ancient city of Chersonesos. Its territory covered the lands along the western and northwestern Crimean coast of the Black Sea.³ As a result of the intensification of the Scythian military onslaught in the middle of the 2nd century BC, Beautiful Harbor, despite its strategic importance, was surrendered to enemies, along with many other settlements in the Chersonesos chora. From that moment on, with the exception of a short period (from the last decade of the 2nd century BC to the first half of the 1st century AD) of the town’s recapture by the Chersonesians with the military support of Pontic king Mithridates VI Eupator, a late Scythian settlement arose here that existed until the end of the first half of the 2nd century AD.⁴

¹ Smekalova–Kutajsov 2017 [Т. Н. Смекалова, В. А. Кутайсов, “Материалы к археологической карте Крыма”, in: *Археологические атласы Северного Причерноморья*, Вып. XVIII, т. 2], 248–249; Uzhentsev 2006 [В. Б. Уженцев, *Эллины и варвары Прекрасной Гавани (Калос Лимен в IV в. до н. э. – II в. н. э.)*], 4.

² Smekalova–Kutajsov 2017, 248–256.

³ Shcheglov 1976a [А. Н. Щеглов, *Полис и хора*], 14–26.

⁴ Uzhentsev 2006, 19–35.

The history of the investigations of the site of the ancient town of Kalos Limen, its necropolis, and the surrounding area spans more than a century and a half,⁵ albeit with interruptions. Despite the undeniable merits of many researchers in the study of these archaeological sites,⁶ the scope for further research remains enormous.

In the 2019 season, the State Hermitage expedition began archaeological research on the territory of the ancient town of Kalos Limen, as well as in the adjacent territory where the nearby chora and necropolis of Beautiful Harbor are located. Extensive surveys were carried out: an aerial photographic survey by means of a drone (Fig. 1), a 3D model, and an orthophotomap (Fig. 2) were compiled, on the basis of which a new topographic plan of the area was constructed. Together with visual surveys involving the collection of surface finds and a description

⁵ Shmakov 1844 [А. И. Шмаков, “Пирамидки из глины, найденные при Акмечетской бухте”, in: *Заметки Одесского общества Истории и Древности*], 633–635; Shul'ts 1941 [П. Н. Шульц, “Евпаторийский район”, in: *Археологические исследования в РСФСР. 1934–1936 гг.*], 265–277; Grinevich 1949 [К. Э. Гриневич, “Городище Прекрасная Гавань в свете новейших данных”, *ВДИ*], 156–162; Nalivkina 1957 [М. А. Наливкина, “Раскопки Керкинитиды и Калос Лимена 1948–1952”, in: *История и археология древнего Крыма*], 264–281; Bernhard 1961, 3–10; Shcheglov 1967 [А. Н. Щеглов, “Исследование сельской округи Калос Лимена”, *Советская археология*], 234–256; Shcheglov 1976b [А. Н. Щеглов, “Жилой дом эллинистического Калос-Лимена”, in: *Художественная культура и археология античного мира*], 232–238; Uzhentsev 2006; Kutajsov 2011 [В. А. Кутайсов, *Курганный некрополь Калос Лимена*]; Smekalova 2015 [Т. Н. Смекалова, “Усадьба в бухте Ветреной”, in: *Античные памятники Тарханкута: Альбом-каталог музейных экспонатов из фондов ГБУРК ИАМЗ “Калос Лимен”*], 141–142; Denisenko–Lantsov 2017 [Ю. А. Денисенко, С. Б. Ланцов, “Краткий обзор полевого археологического изучения территории Тарханкутского полуострова в границах современного Черноморского района Республики Крым”, in: *Археология Северо-Западного Крыма. Материалы III Международной научно-практической конференции, посвященной 20-летию создания заповедника “Калос Лимен” и 30-летию открытий Черноморского историко-краеведческого музея*], 66–79; Kutajsov–Smekalova 2017 [В. А. Кутайсов, Т. Н. Смекалова, “Античная усадьба у стен Калос Лимена”, in: *Археология Северо-Западного Крыма. Материалы III Международной научно-практической конференции, посвященной 20-летию создания заповедника “Калос Лимен” и 30-летию открытий Черноморского историко-краеведческого музея*], 92–101, and others.

⁶ I would especially like to note the contribution of the prematurely deceased, well-known Crimean archaeologist V. A. Kutaisov and his student and colleague V. B. Uzhentsev.



Fig. 1. Aerial photographic survey by means of a drone. Kalos Limen, 2019.



Fig. 2. Fragment of the orthophoto map of Kalos Limen.

of the current state of the town, necropolis, and chora, this formed the basis for planning measures to ensure the preservation of archaeological sites. Determining the boundaries of the cultural layers of the ancient town of Kalos Limen as a result of comprehensive research, clarifying the boundaries of old excavations for drawing up a general plan, and mapping the mounds in the necropolis are important results of the season that contribute to solving a number of scientific and rescue tasks. In addition, a number of remarkable finds were made dating back to the 4th century BC – 2nd century AD (Fig. 3), as well as to the period of the Great Patriotic War.

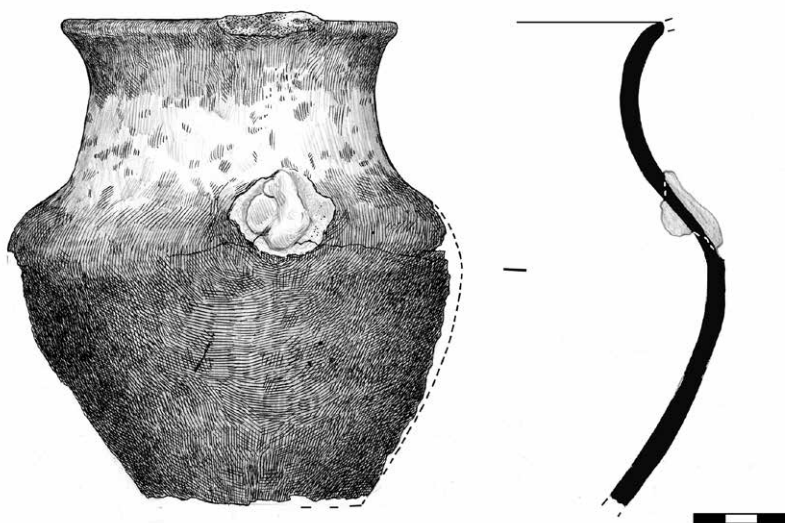


Fig. 3. Fragmented pot with a repair in the form of a lead bracket in place of the broken handle, from the 2nd century BC to the 2nd century AD (no. KL-2019.34-1).

Based on the results of the surveys described above, which showed the scientific promise of the site, a new excavation with a total area of 100 square meters was laid out in 2021 in the south of Kalos Limen. The main aim of the work was to conduct excavations in a barely studied part of the ancient town – directly in its residential sector, near the defensive line. Undoubtedly, the discovery of a large multi-component residential complex that existed with traceable alterations from the first quarter of the 4th century BC to the first third of the 3rd century BC can be considered a great success (Fig. 4). In 2022, the excavation of the complex was continued from the west, on an extension of 50 square meters.



Fig. 4. The orthophoto plan of the excavations of 2021–2022.

1. Structures of the First to Early Third Quarter of the 4th Century BC (Stratigraphic Horizon A⁷)

The earliest period in which the residential complex functioned was discovered in the southwest of square no. 2 (Fig. 4). Here, we traced masonry no. 4 and the first construction horizon of masonry no. 6 form the southeastern corner of room no. 1 and the northeastern corner of room no. 3 at the first stage that we traced of their construction. Also, it is quite possible that the fragmented masonry no. 10 and no. 11 in the southeast of square no. 6 can be attributed to this period. None of the listed walls have been fully explored; in part, they lie deeper than the level opened in the 2021–2022 seasons.

It is worth noting some finds from the upper layers of the ash dump (in the east of the excavation), which was probably formed as a result of the destruction of the complex after the first stage of its existence. Discovered there were some remarkable finds from the 4th century BC: three fragments of vessels with stamped ornament and graffiti (Fig. 5. 1–3).

2. Structures of the End of the Third Quarter of the 4th Century BC to the First Third of the 3rd Century BC (Stratigraphic Horizons B1–3⁸)

Room no. 1 (Fig. 4) within the large residential complex was rebuilt at the end of the third quarter of the 4th century BC and existed with alterations until the first third of the 3rd century BC. The southeastern corner of the room under consideration has not been preserved. The room's area is 5.2 square meters. The room is bounded on the north by masonry no. 2, separating it from the courtyard. The threshold of the doorway leading to the courtyard has been preserved. Masonry no. 2 continues beyond the borders of room no. 1 to the west and east. The section of masonry no. 2 from the northeastern corner of room no. 1 to drain no. 1, which ends the wall from the east, can be considered as belonging to the next construction period.

Only the northern part remains of room no. 3 to the south of room no. 1. To the west of room no. 1 was room no. 2 (Fig. 4). On the north, the room was separated from the courtyard by wall no. 2 with a revealed threshold. In the northwestern part of the room, two ovens were discovered. The ovens are oriented at right angles to each other. Unfortunately, the

⁷ Uzhentsev 2006, 21–23.

⁸ Uzhentsev 2006, 23–27.

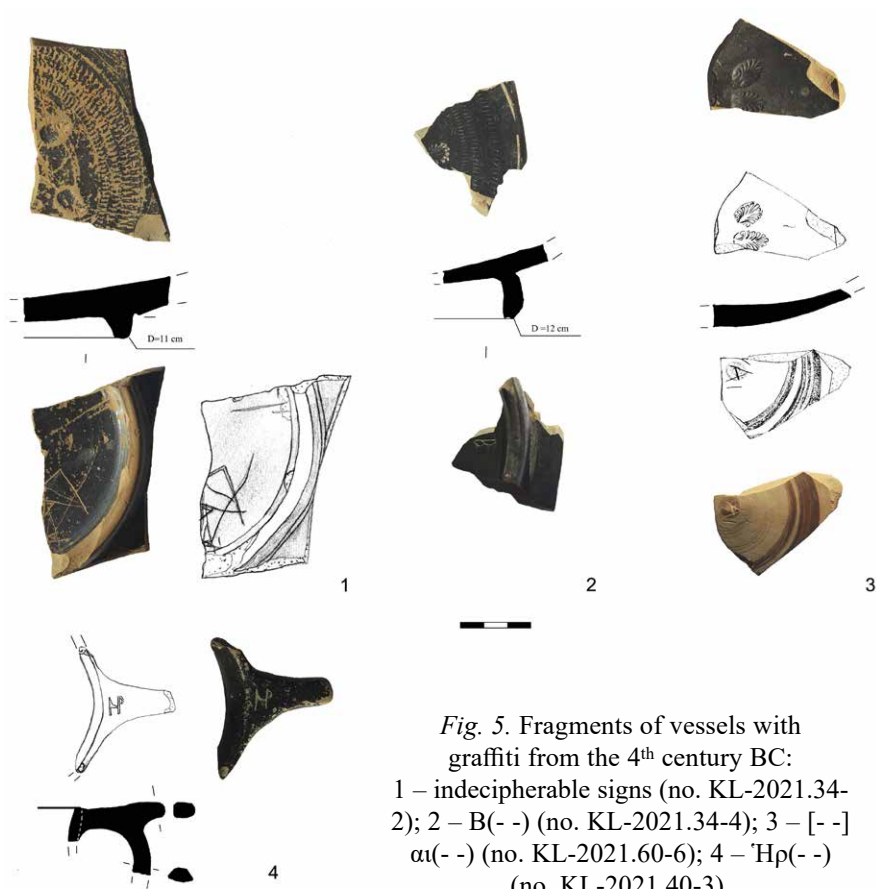


Fig. 5. Fragments of vessels with graffiti from the 4th century BC:
 1 – indecipherable signs (no. KL-2021.34-2); 2 – Β(- -) (no. KL-2021.34-4); 3 – [- -] αΙ(- -) (no. KL-2021.60-6); 4 – Ἦρ(- -) (no. KL-2021.40-3).

southwestern corner of the room has not been preserved due to a modern trench on square no. 6. There is also an assumption that the southwestern corner of the room did not exist and that the ovens could be approached from the outside. The total open area of the room is 7.8 square meters.

There the Chersonesos fabricant stamp ΣΕ (Fig. 6. 1) was found in the destruction layer inside room no. 2 above pavement no. 3, which covered the floor. A similar stamp was found in combination with the names of the astynomos Aeschines⁹ and Choreios,¹⁰ belonging to group I-B according

⁹ Brashinsky1980 [И. Б. Брашинский, *Греческий керамический импорт на Нижнем Дону в 5–3 вв. до н. э.*], no. 760.

¹⁰ Монахов 1999 [С. Ю. Монахов, *Греческие амфоры в Причерноморье: комплексы керамической тары VII–II вв. до н. э.*], 489.

to the classification of V. I. Katz, and dates back to 304–295 BC.¹¹ As we shall see, the date coincides with the period of use of the latest stamp from the backfill of pit no. 2/2021.

The residential complex with pavement no. 1 (Fig. 4) had a courtyard, north of wall no. 2. The courtyard area was discovered to have an area of about 16.5 square meters. The pavement is covered with masonry no. 8 of the late Scythian period and is damaged in its western part. Pit no. 2/2021 is lower than the level of pavement no. 1, reaches a depth of 1.93 m, and is pear-shaped in cross-section. Numerous finds were discovered in the context, including the bones of a young wild boar. Of particular note are the finds of stamped material: a fragment of a handle of an amphora with an unclear stamp (Fig. 6. 3), a fragment of a handle of a Chersonesos amphora (Fig. 6. 2) with a broken stamp, presumably of the astynomos Philippos,¹² which belongs to group I-B according to the classification of V. I. Katz – 304–295 BC,¹³ and a fragment of the neck and handle of a Chersonesos amphora (Fig. 6. 4) with the stamp of the astynomos Telamon,¹⁴ belonging to group I-B according to V. I. Katz – 316–305 BC.¹⁵

In the northwestern part of square no. 1, pavement no. 2 was identified. It has been partially preserved over an area of 2.8 square meters. Probably its construction belongs to the same period as pavement no. 1. Pavement no. 2 was dismantled due to its fragmentary preservation and to enable the subsequent study of the underlying ash layers. When removing the pavement, a Chersonesos coin was found. On its obverse on the right is a quadriga; a woman with a torch stands in the chariot. On the reverse: a naked kneeling warrior with a shield and a spear to the left. This numismatic find dates back to 350–330 BC.¹⁶

Structure no. 1/2021 is a dugout, or, more likely, a utility reservoir (Fig. 4). The presence of drain no. 1 above this reservoir and emptying directly into it, testifies in favor of the latter version. The complex was

¹¹ Katz 2007 [В. И. Кац, “Греческие керамические клейма эпохи классики и эллинизма (опыт комплексного изучения)”, in: *Боспорские исследования*], 442. Appendix X.

¹² Monakhov 1999, Tab. 216. 2.

¹³ Katz 2007, 442. Appendix X.

¹⁴ Katz 1994 [В. И. Кац, *Керамические клейма Херсонеса Таврического. Каталог-определитель*], Tab. XCVII no. 1–118.1–3.

¹⁵ Katz 2007, 442. Appendix X.

¹⁶ Anokhin 1977 [В. А. Анохин, *Монетное дело Херсонеса, IV в. до н. э. – XII н. э.*], 136 no. 35, 36.

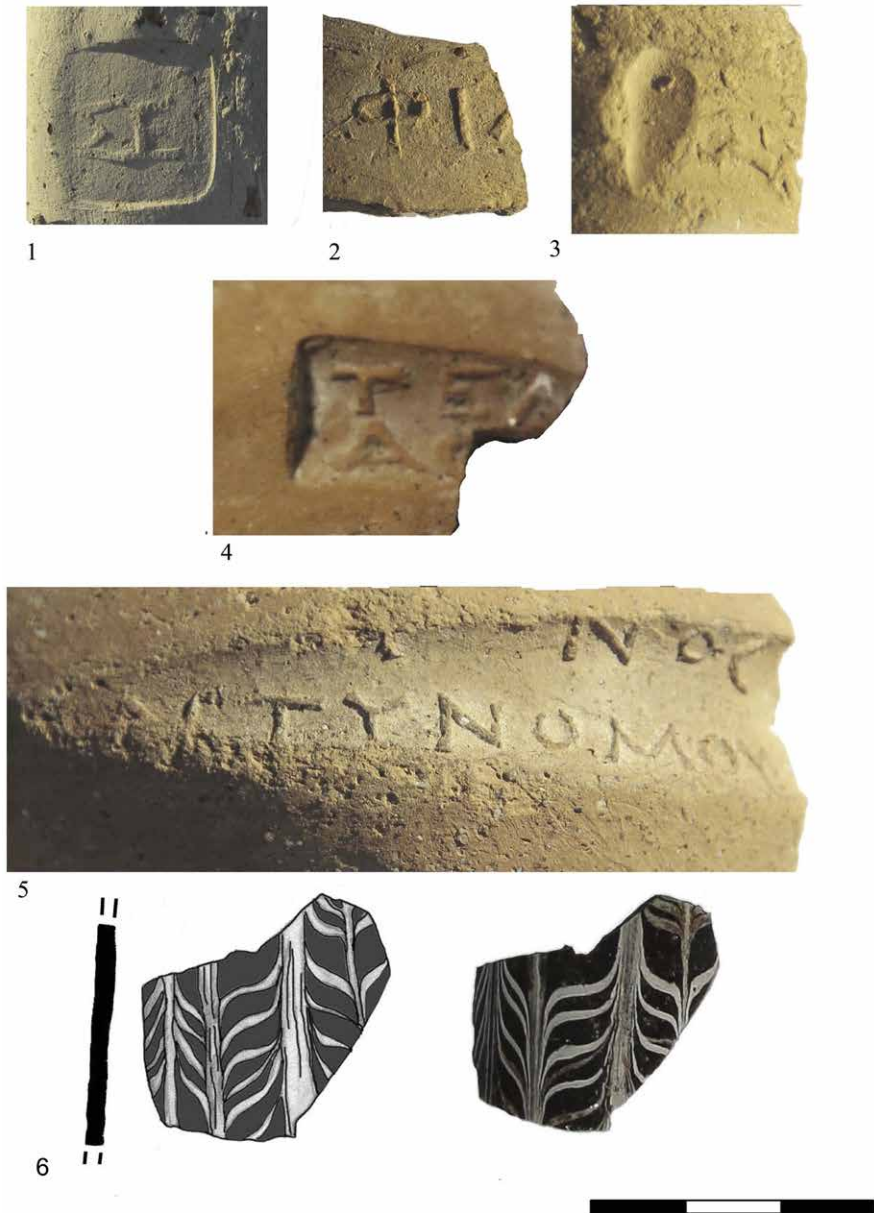


Fig. 6. Finds from the excavations of the Hellenistic complex. Stamps: 1 – Στε(-) retrograde, 304–295 BC (no. KL-2021.75-16); 2 – Φι[-], 304–295 BC (no. KL-2021.56-14); 3 – indecipherable stamp (no. KL-2021.56-13); 4 – Τελ[αμῶνος] | ἄσ[τυνόμου], 316–305 BC (no. KL-2021.56-141); 5 – [-]νος | ἄστυνόμου (no. KL-2021.23-9). 6 – fragment of glass vessel, from the turn of the 4th to the 3rd century BC (no. KL-2021.65-1).

explored in the south of squares 1 and 2 and goes into the southern side of the excavation. The diameter of the round pit is 7.11 m, and the depth reaches 0.85 m. The difference in altitude in the relief before the start of work in this place reached 1.08 m. The extensive depression was actively used as a garbage dump, starting from the late Scythian period of the existence of Kalos Limen and ending in the present day. One of the most memorable finds of the season, originating from the mixed layers of this complex, can be called a fragment of a glass vessel (Fig. 6. 6) from the turn of the 4th–3rd centuries BC,¹⁷ a rare import from the Eastern Mediterranean or Italy in this region.

The bottom of the complex was covered with brown loam with the inclusion of ceramic material from the 4th century BC. Apparently, this layer was the only one formed as a result of the direct use of the reservoir. Among other finds, a handle of a Chersonesos amphora was found here with a broken stamp (Fig. 6. 5), presumably belonging to the astynomos Pasion¹⁸ of group I-B, according to the classification of V. I. Katz – 316–305 BC.¹⁹ In addition, worth noting is the find of a fragment of a kantharos²⁰ from the second half of the 4th century BC with graffito HP at the upper attachment of the handle (Fig. 5. 4).

In conclusion, three seasons of work by the State Hermitage expedition at Kalos Limen have achieved significant scientific results. Extensive archaeological surveys and excavations were carried out, uncovering a Hellenistic residential complex. The discovered constructions from the residential structure are as follows: three living rooms, two ovens, a courtyard with stone pavement and a pit, a stone pavement, two building masonries that separated the courtyard from the other constructions, and half of a dugout, or most probably, a reservoir for household needs.

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¹⁷ Zhizhina–Khodza 2010 [Н. К. Жижина, Е. Н. Ходза (ред.), *Стеклянная феерия. Античное стекло в Эрмитаже. Каталог выставки*], 42 no. 7.

¹⁸ Katz 1994. Table XXXIX. no. 1–93.5–8.

¹⁹ Katz 2007, 442. Appendix X.

²⁰ Sparkes–Talcott 1970, 287 Pl. 29 Cat. 712.

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In 2019, the archaeological mission of the State Hermitage Museum carried out an extensive archaeological survey on the site of the ancient town of Kalos Limen and on its necropolis and chora. As a result of the survey, excavations were conducted at Kalos Limen during the seasons of 2021–2022. These excavations led to the discovery of a large residential complex, which existed with some modifications from the early 4th century BC to the first third of the 3rd century BC. The residential structure was destroyed in the first third of the 3rd century BC, which should be associated with the nomads' attack at the chora of Chersonesos. The ruins of the residential structure apparently have never been restored. Partly it was turned into a dump in antiquity.

В 2019 году силами экспедиции Государственного Эрмитажа были проведены масштабные археологические разведки на городище Калос Лимен, а также его некрополе и близлежащей хоре. По результатам разведок, в сезонах 2021–2022 гг. на городище Калос Лимен произведены раскопки, результатом которых стало обнаружение крупного жилого комплекса, просуществовавшего с некоторыми перестройками с первой четверти IV в. до н. э. до первой трети III в. до н. э. Эллинистический жилой комплекс, судя по клейменому амфорному материалу, погибает в первой трети III в. до н. э., что связано с нападением номадов на хору Херсонеса Таврического. Руины жилого комплекса, по-видимому, не были восстановлены, часть его превратилась в свалку еще в древности.

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THE SOUTHERN SUBURB OF TAURIC CHERSONESOS*

The creation of the Historical and Archaeological Park on the territory of the Southern Suburb of Tauric Chersonesos demanded conducting large-scale archaeological studies. The excavations were conducted from 2021 to 2023 by the joined archaeological expedition of the IHMC RAS with the participation of the State Hermitage, the State Museum-Preserve “Tauric Chersonese”, the Institute of Archaeology of Crimea RAS, the Sevastopol State University, and the private joint stock company “Nasledie Kubani”.¹ According to the records, the total area of the archaeological heritage site “Southern Suburb of the Ancient Town of Tauric Chersonesos” was 139 444 m². By the end of 2023 85 797 m² were fully explored (Fig. 1).

The territory where archaeological studies were conducted in 2021 is adjacent to the areas of Chersonesos necropolis and ancient household development near the defensive walls of the city site studied at various times. The first excavations of southern Chersonesos necropolis were conducted by K. K. Kostsyushko-Valyuzhinich as early as 1891–1895.²

Today, the development dynamics of this territory are represented as follows.

* This study was completed within the scope of the program of the Fundamental Scientific Studies of the State Academy of Sciences, state assignment topic No. FMZF-2022-0013, “Improving the methodology of conducting security and rescue archaeological activities and the introduction of digital technologies into archaeology”.

¹ Solovyova et al. 2021 [Н. Ф. Соловьева, В. Л. Мыц, С. Л. Соловьев, “Южный пригород Херсонеса Таврического (предварительные итоги археологических раскопок в 2021 г.)”, *Бюллетень Института истории материальной культуры РАН (Охранная археология)*], 183–188; Solovyova et al. 2022 [Н. Ф. Соловьева, С. Л. Соловьев, В. Л. Мыц, “Краткие результаты раскопок в южном пригороде Херсонеса Таврического в 2022 г.”, *Бюллетень Института истории материальной культуры РАН (Охранная археология)*], 161–169.

² *ОАК* 1893 [*Отчеты Императорской Археологической Комиссии за 1893 год*], 14; 15; *ОАК* 1894, 19; 20.



Fig. 1. The Southern Suburb of Tauric Chersonesos during the excavations. View from the south.

The intensive development of the suburban territory began in the Classical Age. It was mostly linked to the agricultural and craft activity of the first Chersonesos residents, as evidenced by the unearthed remains of the rural buildings with wells and ceramic kilns. As recently as the first half of the fourth century BC, the territory in front of the city gates was granted a special status. The sacred area with a heroon, a temple in antis, an altar, rooms for sacraments, pilgrims and priests, a paved stone yard for processions, and a sacred spring (nymphaeum) were established there.

Among the most important objects is the heroon, the unique site of the burial architecture of 400–350 BC in the Northern Black Sea Coastal Region (Fig. 2). The heroon was a monumental building. Its lower closed part sheltered a sarcophagus with the remains of a hero, probably one of the Chersonesos archegets.³ The outside was decorated with a relief frieze carved with scenes of an Amazonomachy. The ground adjacent to it was used as an open colonnade and, possibly, the place for the hero's statue.

³ Malkin 1987, 204–240; Antonaccio 1995, 245–268; Lane 2009, 248–254; Herda 2013, 67–122.



Fig. 2. The heroon. 4th century BC. View from the northwest.

One of the fragments of the relief frieze with an Amazonomachy scene (Fig. 3) turned out to be one of the most important finds from the territory of the heroon. The iconography of the scene matches the details of the known examples from the mid-fourth century BC. The relief is not high. The “heroic diagonal” is clearly read in its composition. It is the main artistic technique of Scopas used in the reliefs of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus depicting battles between Amazons and Greeks. Such friezes with battle scenes and Amazons decorated the monumental sanctuaries of Lycia and Caria. These exemplars spread their influence all over Anatolia, Greece, Italy, and other regions in “minor forms” at sites with a burial context. Furthermore, similar to the architectural reliefs from Tarentum and Athens, the Chersonesos frieze decorated the high podium of a small temple built at the gravesite of the deified deceased person.⁴

Of particular interest is a big fragment of the red-figure pelike of the mid-fourth century BC with the depiction of a winged Nike on a quadriga found during the excavations of the heroon (Fig. 4).

⁴ Solovyev 2022 [С. Л. Соловьев (ред.), *Сокровища Южного пригорода Херсонеса Таврического. Каталог выставки*], 31.



Fig. 3. The marble frieze with the Amazonomachy scene. Fragment. From the middle of the 4th century BC.



Fig. 4. The red-figure pelike with the depiction of a winged goddess Nike on a quadriga. Fragment. Attica. From the middle of the 4th century BC.

One of the earliest Chersonesos religious buildings, the temple in antis of the first half of the fourth century BC, has been discovered near the heroon. This temple served as a sanctuary and a place for hero worship, possibly of one of the Chersonesos archegets (Fig. 5). It was built in the Doric order with a four-column portico, a pronaos and a naos for installation of the statue of a deity, and a place for sacraments.⁵ The remains of a big temenos, including a large, paved yard and a multiroom building for priests, sacraments, pilgrims and holding *συσσίτια*, have been unearthed close to the temple (Fig. 6).



Fig. 5. The temple in antis. 4th century BC. View from the southwest.

During the Hellenistic period, the first burials appeared in the vicinity of temenos. Thirty-one graves have been unearthed, primarily in simple pits, paved with stones or carved into rock (Fig. 7); some of them were covered with tiles. Five funerals were performed according to the rite of cremation. Four child burials were placed in amphorae. Two graves with the remains in a crouched position were found. The territory of the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos, allocated for the necropolis, did

⁵ Chistov 2022 [Д. Е. Чистов, “Древнейшие антовые постройки Северного Причерноморья”, *Археологические вести*], 190, Fig. 1. 5, 6.

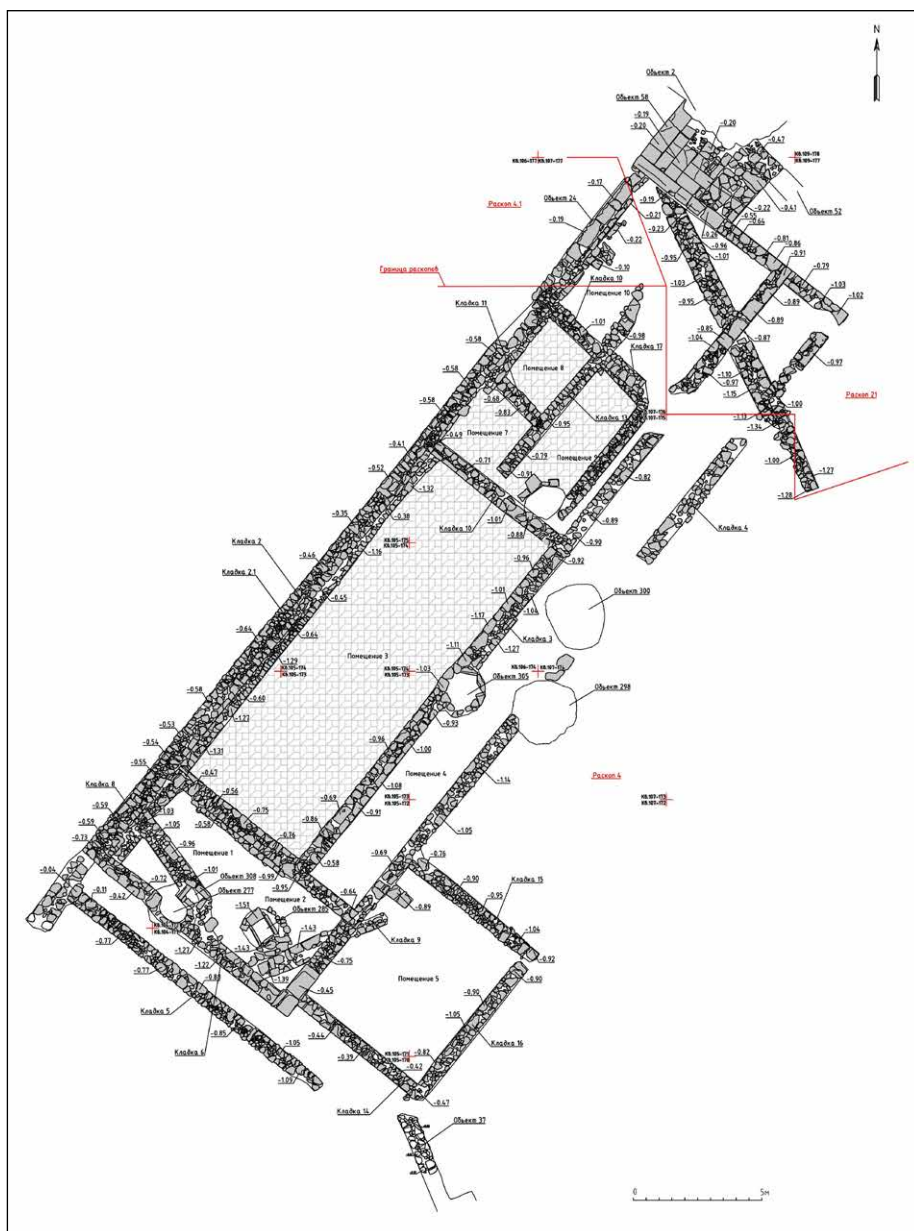


Fig. 6. The temenos. 4th-2nd centuries BC.



Fig. 7. The grave. 3rd-2nd centuries BC.

not lose its special meaning for the Chersonesos inhabitants. During the Diophantine wars, it even required an additional fortification in the form of a solid defensive wall with buttresses (Fig. 8), which separated the emerging necropolis from the agricultural territory. This wall probably



Fig. 8. The defensive wall. 2nd century BC. View from the northeast.

served as an additional barrier for the soil drained across the floor of the Chersonesos gully towards the city walls.⁶

In the first centuries AD, the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos had already become a formed necropolis with its inner spatial organization. Its graves demonstrate the great variety of burial rites of Chersonesos inhabitants of that time. The territory of the necropolis was divided into sections. If they belonged to wealthy citizens, they could be richly decorated with stepped stylobates with pylons. The most privileged section was adjacent to the city gates. The unique monumental burial buildings were situated in this section. They were placed at the eastern side of the ancient street that went from Chersonesos' gates through the territory of the city necropolis.

A burial complex of the second century AD unique for the northern Black Sea coastal region, a tholos (a round building with a dome-shaped roof), contained a stone sarcophagus with a lead funerary urn (Fig. 9; 10). A complex of monumental burial buildings of the second century owned by eminent Chersonesos citizens combined the columbarium for the members of one noble family made of massive, profiled slabs with multiple grave stelae, inscriptions and anthropomorphic tombstones and slab tombs of Ariston and Annion, as well as the graves of nameless Chersonesos citizens (Fig. 11).

Another burial complex was an exedra-crypt with stone benches and four burial chambers (Fig. 12; 13).⁷ As a distinct architectural building, an exedra was a special type of burial gazebo. It was usually built in places of special social or religious significance, at the key streets of a city or a necropolis. Exedrae were popular during the Hellenistic age at Greek and Asia Minor agorae and sanctuaries.⁸ In the Roman era, they

⁶ Vakhoneev et al. 2023 [В. В. Вахонеев, В. В. Глазунов, А. А. Букатов, В. В. Панченко, “К вопросу о водоснабжении Херсонеса в античный и средневековый период (по материалам раскопок южного пригорода Херсонеса)”, *Боспорский Феномен: quarta pars saeculi*], 436–440; Glazunov et al. 2023 [В. В. Глазунов, А. А. Букатов, В. В. Вахонеев, Н. Н. Ефимова, В. В. Панченко, “Геоморфология и водоснабжение прибрежной территории Херсонеса Таврического у Карантинной бухты по данным междисциплинарных исследований”, *Материалы по археологии, истории и этнографии Таврии*], 29.

⁷ Vakhoneev–Solovyev 2023 [В. В. Вахонеев, С. Л. Соловьев, “Новый погребальный комплекс II в. н.э. из раскопок Южного пригорода Херсонеса (предварительное сообщение)”, *Античные реликвии Херсонеса: открытия, находки, теории. Материалы научной конференции (Севастополь, 18–22 сентября 2023 г.)*], 13–18.

⁸ Thüngen 1994, 3, 36–39; Lepore 2004, 127–142.

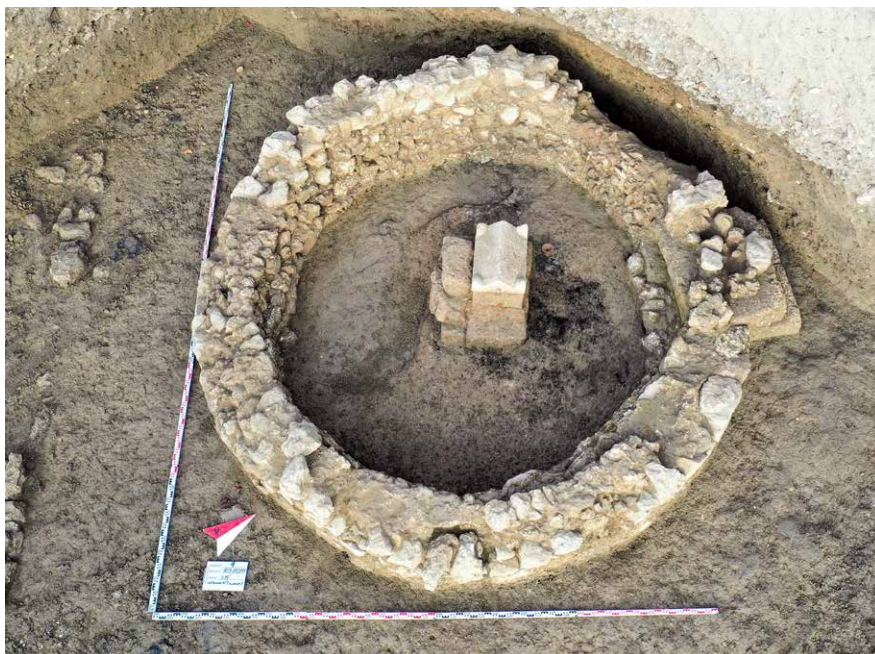


Fig. 9. The tholos. 1st-2nd centuries. View from the southeast.



Fig. 10. The lead
funerary urn.
1st-2nd centuries.



Fig. 11. The columbarium. The tombs of Ariston and Annion.
1st–2nd centuries. View from the northwest.



Fig. 12. The exedra. The intersection of the streets of the necropolis.
1st–2nd centuries. View from the northwest.

were used to bestow honors on high-ranking Roman officials in these eastern Roman provinces.⁹ However, the Chersonesos exedra had its own distinctive features: its lower part was used as a family tomb for one of the noble Chersonesos families. The lower part of the building was a burial complex with two sarcophagi carved from solid limestone blocks and with two slabbed graves (Fig. 13). The tombstone of Casandra, daughter of Antisthenes, was used as a covering of one of the sarcophagi; the tombstone was dated to the brink of the eras based on the font. It is worth noting that the name Casandra was registered here for the first time in the Chersonesos epigraphy. After the removal of the covering of the burial chambers and sarcophagi, it has been discovered that burials were performed in accordance with the rites of both inhumation and cremation.



Fig. 13. The exedra crypt. 1st–2nd centuries. View from the northwest.

The sector divided by a monumental propylon with stone steps (Fig. 14), was adjacent to the privileged necropolis from the east. Behind it there were graves in pits and crypts, many of which belonged to noble

⁹ Balty 2009 [Ж.-Ш. Балти, “Большая колоннада Апамеи: письменные источники, эпиграфические свидетельства и данные археологии. Хронологические ориентиры для исследования главного памятника”, *ВДИ*], 197.



Fig. 14. The propylon. 1st–2nd centuries. View from the north.

citizens. Ordinary citizens of that time were buried to the south of these two sectors, in simple pits or stone boxes (Fig. 15). An important feature of the burial practice of Chersonesos citizens in antiquity was the constant combination of inhumation and cremation, the latter tradition being



Fig. 15. The grave. 1st–2nd centuries. View from the northwest.

predominant.¹⁰ There are surprisingly many cremation grounds (Fig. 16), funerary urns, ossuaries, and columbaria (nearly 300 objects) unearthed in all sectors of the necropolis.



Fig. 16. The cremation ground. 1st–2nd centuries. View from the north.

In the Middle Ages, with the beginning of Christianity, the tradition of burial in family crypts started to predominate in the territory of the Southern Suburb, gradually displacing other funeral rites. The crypts usually consisted of an entrance passage (*δρόμος*) and a vaulted chamber with one- or two-tiered beds (Fig. 17). These burial buildings were used as family tombs for a long time.

From the tenth to the thirteenth centuries the intended function of the Southern Suburb changed. The territory was used mainly for utility purposes, as in the earliest age. The network of roads, wells, water cisterns, lime-burning kilns, and residential and utility buildings were constructed. The land sectors were delimited with stone walls. During all

¹⁰ Solovyova et al. 2023 [Н. Ф. Соловьёва, С. Л. Соловьёв, В. В. Вахонеев, “Особенности погребальной практики жителей Херсонеса-Херсона (по материалам раскопок в Южном пригороде)”, in: *Археология и история Боспора. Сборник материалов Международной научно-практической конференции “Археология и история Боспора” (Результаты новейших исследований памятников Боспорского царства)*], 116–123.



Fig. 17. The crypt. 2nd–5th centuries. View from the east.

of Antiquity and later, the territory of the Southern Suburb was used as an inexhaustible source of fresh water for Chersonesos citizens. Since the Classical age, cisterns and wells were built there (Fig. 18). Most probably, they were used as water sources, sanctuaries of water deities, and later as baptismal fountains for the first Christians (more than 150 objects were found).

The Middle Age sites in the territory of the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos occupy almost one third of its area. In the Middle Ages, the suburban area was used both for utility purposes and as a necropolis. The Roman-era crypts were often adapted for burials, but new family tombs were also constructed. Families buried their kinsmen there from the fifth to the thirteenth centuries.

At different times in the Middle Ages, the dynamics and character of the use of the suburban area varied significantly. From the fifth to the seventh century, it was occupied by the necropolis, roads leading to the southern and harbor city gates, wells, and household waste disposal sites where animal bones, fish scales, lots of ceramic ware remains, etc. were accumulated. In the next stage (the eighth to tenth centuries), the road network was extended. Vineyards appeared; next to them, the utility buildings and wineries with the pressing grounds (the tarapans) were constructed. The number of wells tripled. The end of this stage was



Fig. 18. The water source (the cistern). 5th–8th centuries.
View from the east.

marked by mass burials not only in crypts, but also in one of the wells, where more than 80 people were buried, mainly of young age with signs of violent death. In the tenth century, another defensive wall was built parallel to the city wall. It is probably connected with the time of the siege of Chersonesos by the armies of Prince Vladimir (Fig. 19). However, it is more likely that the wall was built in the first quarter of the eleventh century, when Chersonesos was severely damaged by an earthquake. The city walls and towers were ruined; Chersonesos citizens had to build new temporary curtain walls outside of the old ones immediately. They were



Fig. 19. The defensive wall. 10th–11th centuries.
View from the northeast.

constructed of rubble stone of different sizes with clay or without mortar. When the city walls were repaired, the temporary curtain walls were dismantled. Only individual fragments of the foundation masonry remain today. The third stage in the history of the Southern Suburb (the eleventh–thirteenth centuries) was a period of decline of economic activity. Only four wells are attributed to that time. In the last third of the thirteenth century they were covered with household waste, which contained some objects made of wood.¹¹

The extent of archaeological research in the Southern Suburbs of Chersonesos is also evidenced by the collection of archaeological finds from 2021–2023. It included 6 290 696 artefacts, of which 351 780 objects reflecting the centuries-old history of this section of the ancient city were selected for transfer to the Chersonesos Museum.

The most significant part of the archaeological finds consists of amphorae assemblage from various Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal region centers of production. The collection of ceramic stamps on more than five thousand objects provides evidence of Chersonesos' economic ties from the fourth to the first century BC. Among its trading counterparts were the largest Mediterranean and Aegean production centers of wine and olive oil such as Rhodes, Thasos and Knidos, as well as the Black Sea

¹¹ Solovyev 2022, 35.

coastal region poleis – Sinope and Heraclea Pontica. In addition, many stamps on the amphorae of local Chersonesos production were found.¹²

In the burials of the Chersonesos necropolis metalware, iron weapons, bronze lamps, and even silver medical instruments are sometimes found. However, the most widespread metal objects at excavations are details of clothes and simple jewelry: buckles, clasps/fibulae, pins, bracelets, rings, earrings, and amulets/charms, including those of late times.

Bone artefacts are less common. Bone was used mainly to manufacture small objects – pins, small spoons for perfume and medicine, knife handles. In the Middle Ages, caskets were commonly decorated with bone plate incrustation. A notable bone find, a small carved support from the second or first century BC with the depiction of a fantastic winged creature resembling a sphinx (Fig. 20), testifies to the ties between antique Chersonesos and the East – Parthia or Mesopotamia.¹³

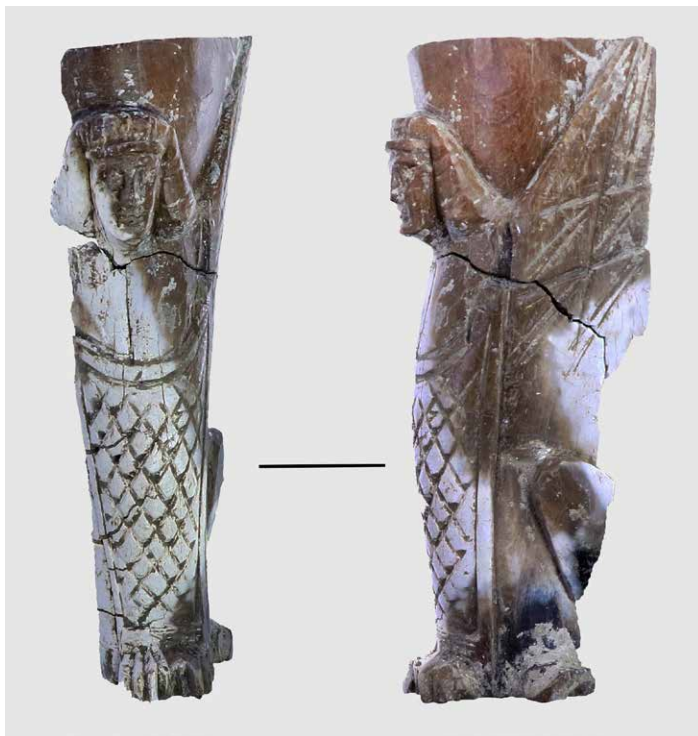


Fig. 20. The fragments of the overlay of the table's support. Ivory. 2nd–1st centuries BC.

¹² Solovyev 2022, 29.

¹³ Solovyev 2022, 20–23.

Found during the excavations of the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos were many pieces of jewelry made of precious metals – gold and silver that were part of the grave goods placed in tombs of deceased citizens of Chersonesos urban community (Fig. 21).¹⁴



Fig. 21. Pieces of jewelry from the ancient burial complexes.

The majority of terracotta statuettes from the excavations of the Southern Suburb were found in graves. They were related to the chthonic gods, which included, as everywhere in Greece, Demeter and her daughter Kore-Persephone, Dionysus and his companions, and Eros-Thanatos. One of most remarkable imported statuettes of the Hellenistic period is a small figurine of Thanatos – the winged genius of death who was represented as a standing naked young man with a calathus on his head, spreading long wings and

¹⁴ Solovyev 2022, 25.



Fig. 22. The terracotta statuette of Thanatos.
4th–3rd centuries BC.

wearing a cloak with many folds (Fig. 22). The terracotta figurine is covered with solid white paint. From the fourth to the third century BC, such small figurines were imported to Chersonesos from Callatis.¹⁵

Most of the lapidary inscriptions (about 30 of them) are various epitaphs of a wide chronological range. They are dated from the Hellenistic age to the first centuries AD.¹⁶ Among them are lengthy epitaphs, dedicated, for example, to Philo, daughter of Apollonius (Fig. 23) and to Pharnaces, son of Dionysios.¹⁷ However, the majority of the funeral stelae have only a name and a patronymic of the deceased (Fig. 24). Another interesting group of funeral artefacts consists of small marble inserts with names of the deceased. They were placed into limestone stelae (Fig. 25).

Of special interest in the large numismatic collection from the excavations of the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos is the golden stater of Mithridates Eupator (Fig. 26) with the date ΓΚΣ ΙΒ (twelfth month of the 223rd year of the Bithyno-Pontic era = September 74 BC). Among the known coins of this denomination, it is the only specimen with such a date so far.¹⁸

¹⁵ Solovyev 2022, 27.

¹⁶ One of them, the epitaph of Metrodor, son of Apollonides, from the middle of the 2nd century AD, has already been published, see Trofimova–Pavlichenko 2022, 123–143.

¹⁷ See this volume, Almazova etc. 2024, p. 149–158.

¹⁸ Abramzon–Tereshenko 2022 [М. Г. Абрамзон, А. Е. Терещенко, “Статер Митридата с датой ΓΚΣ ΙΒ из раскопок Херсонеса”, *Нумизматические чтения Государственного исторического музея 2022 г.*], 21–25.



Fig. 23. The poetic epitaph to Philo, daughter of Apollonius. Marble.
From the middle to the end of the 2nd century BC.



Fig. 24. Epitaph to Antibion, son of Niceas. Limestone. Fragment.
2nd century BC.



Fig. 25. The plaque insert into the tombstone of Clymene, daughter of Apollo, the wife of Herogeitos. Marble. 1st–2nd centuries AD.



Fig. 26. The stater. Gold. Mithridates VI Eupator. 74 BC.



Fig. 27. The thalweg of the Chersonesos gully flooded by groundwater after the end of the archaeological excavations. View from the south.

Considering the uniqueness of the series of the funerary buildings of the Southern Suburb of Tauric Chersonesos, it was decided to museumify them. But since the preservation *in situ* of the sites unearthed at two meters below sea level and constantly flooded with groundwater (Fig. 27) was impossible, it was decided to disassemble them and to restore them later using the anastylosis technique¹⁹ for future exhibition on the territory of the Historical and Archaeological Park.

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¹⁹ Thuswaldner et al. 2009; Petzet 2016; Stubbs–Thomson 2016; Yavein et al. 2022 [Н. И. Явейн, Г. С. Иванов, И. В. Сабанцев, О. А. Блинов, Д. П. Кресов, “К вопросу об идеологическом и проектном подходе к реставрации Триумфальной Арки Пальмиры методом анастилоза”, *Бюллетень Института истории материальной культуры РАН (охранная археология)*].

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Large-scale archaeological studies were conducted from 2021 to 2023 on the territory of the Southern Suburb of Tauric Chersonesos. The territory is adjacent to the areas of Chersonesos’ necropolis and ancient household development near the defensive walls of the city site.

As recently as the first half of the fourth century BC, the territory in front of the city gates was granted a special status. A sacred area with a *heroon* was established there. One of the earliest of Chersonesos’ religious buildings, the temple in antis of the first half of the fourth century BC, was discovered near the *heroon*.

In the first centuries AD, the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos had already become the formed necropolis. The unique monumental burial buildings were situated close to the city gates. They were placed on the eastern side of the ancient street that went from Chersonesos’ gates through the territory of the city necropolis. Among them there were burial complexes of the second century AD, unique for the northern Black Sea coastal region: a tholos containing a stone sarcophagus with

a lead funerary urn, a columbarium for the members of one noble family made of massive, profiled slabs with multiple grave stelae, inscriptions and anthropomorphs, and slab tombs. The burial complex also included the exedra crypt with stone benches and four burial chambers.

The extent of archaeological research in the Southern Suburbs of Chersonesos is also evidenced by the collection of archaeological finds from 2021–2023: 6290696 artefacts, including an assemblage of amphorae from various Mediterranean and Black Sea coastal region centers of production, coins, lapidary inscriptions, ceramic stamps, terracotta statuettes, many pieces of jewelry made of precious metals, and other groups of artefacts.

В 2021–2023 гг. на территории Южного пригорода Херсонеса Таврического были проведены масштабные археологические исследования. Территория примыкает к изученным в разное время участкам херсонесского некрополя и древней хозяйственной застройки возле оборонительных стен городища.

Уже в первой половине IV в. до н. э. местность перед городскими воротами наделяется особым статусом. Здесь обустраивается священный участок, на территории которого находился героон. Рядом с герооном открыта одна из самых ранних культовых построек Херсонеса – храм в антах первой половины IV в. до н. э.

В первые века н. э. Южный пригород Херсонеса – уже сформировавшийся некрополь. В непосредственной близости от городских ворот находились уникальные монументальные погребальные сооружения, расположенные на восточной стороне древней улицы, идущей от ворот Херсонеса по территории городского некрополя. Среди них были уникальные для Северного Причерноморья погребальные комплексы II в. н. э.: толос, который содержал каменный саркофаг со свинцовой погребальной урной, сложенный из массивных профилированных плит; колумбарий для членов одной знатной семьи с многочисленными надгробными стелами, надписями и антропоморфами; плитовые гробницы. Сюда же входила экседра-склеп с каменными скамьями и четырьмя погребальными камерами.

О масштабе археологических исследований в Южном пригороде Херсонеса также свидетельствует коллекция археологических находок 2021–2023 гг., в состав которой вошли 6290696 артефактов, среди которых амфорная тара разных средиземноморских и причерноморских центров производства, монеты, лапидарные надписи, керамические клейма, терракота, большое количество ювелирных изделий из драгоценных металлов и другие группы памятников.

Maria Akhmadeeva

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON
THE CLOSEST SUBURBAN AREA OF
ANCIENT THEODOSIA. INVESTIGATIONS
OF THE THEODOSIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXPEDITION OF THE STATE HERMITAGE
MUSEUM IN 2019–2022

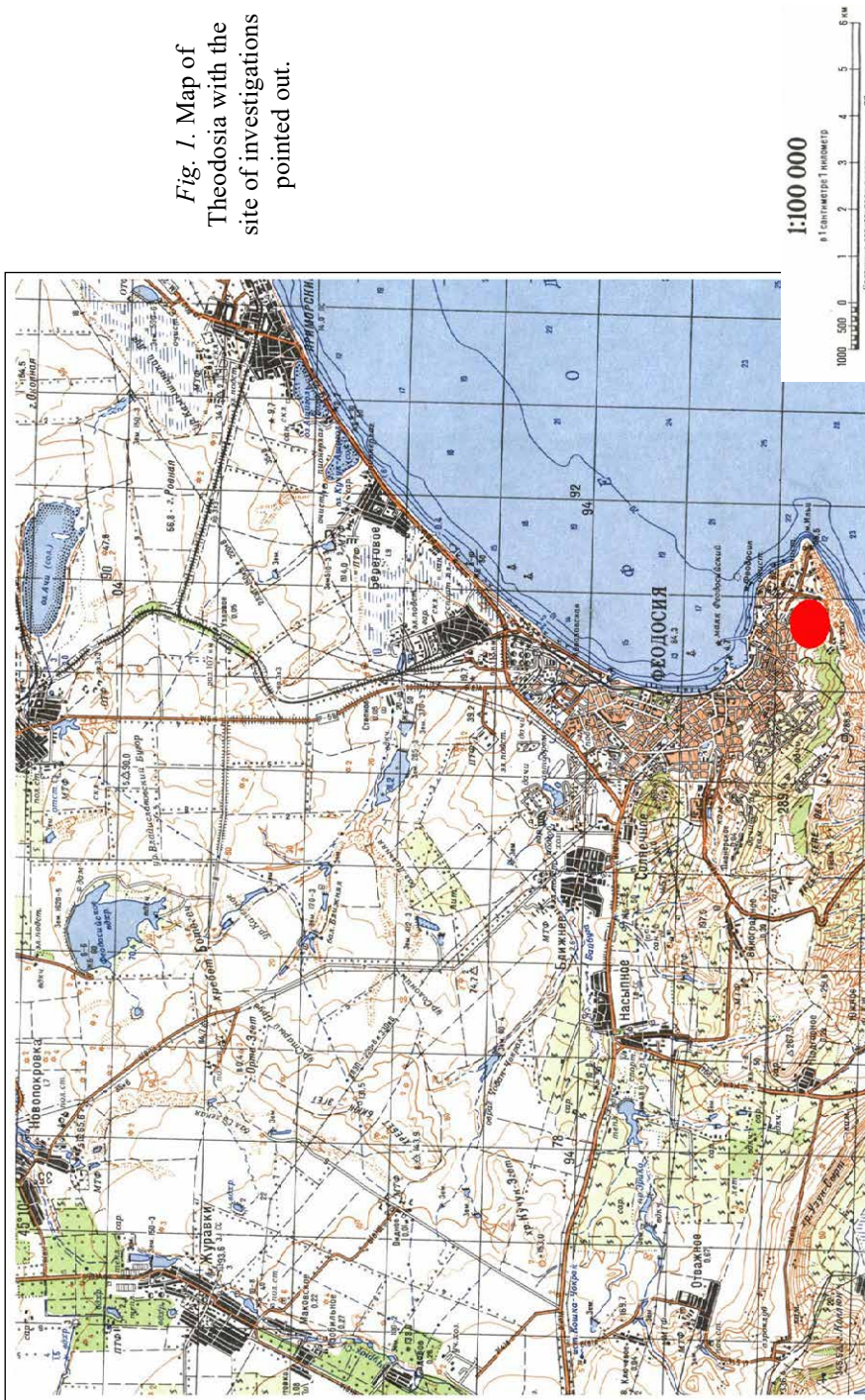
Ancient Theodosia was located near the western border of the Bosporan Kingdom, 90 km west of the capital site of Pantikapaion. It was an important, wealthy polis possessing extensive chora and considerable economical weight. Obviously, it occupied an exceptional place in the Bosporan state structure. Despite its significance, Theodosia is almost unknown archaeologically up to this day. The site attracted scholars' attention only a hundred and fifty years ago, when Theodosian burial mounds were excavated and famous jewelries were found.¹ Some limited investigations of a nearby necropolis and the vicinity were conducted by the Theodosian Museum expedition, led by Yevgeniy Katyushin in the 1970s–1990s.²

The State Hermitage Museum launched the Theodosian Archaeological project in 2017 with a complex survey generally focusing on the closest suburban area and on a vast burial mound necropolis located on the slopes of Tepe-Oba and surrounding the city. Particular attention was devoted to the area near Trench A; research was started by Katyushin in 1982. The site is located 1.5 km south of the citadel of medieval Kaffa, the place where the acropolis of ancient Theodosia is supposed to have been, and 200 m south of Zelenaya Street (Fig. 1). The site occupies a rather flat plateau on the very edge of a deep lowland called Genoese. Trench A, with an estimated 36 m², has been explored only during one season of 1982. A small part of a building was uncovered here, consisting of 4 walls

¹ Tunkina 2011 [И. В. Тункина, *Открытие Феодосии. Страницы археологического изучения Юго-Восточного Крыма и начальные этапы истории Феодосийского музея древностей*].

² Veysens et al. 1997 [Д. Бейсанс, А. Жиода, Ж.-П. Морель, Е. А. Катюшин, А. А. Евсеев, “Раскопки на окраине Феодосии”, *Археологические исследования в Крыму 1994*].

Fig. 1. Map of Theodosia with the site of investigations pointed out.



and a kind of paved platform between them. Katyushin dated this structure to the 3rd century BC, but noted the presence of earlier finds. The function of the building has not been defined, but it was supposed that it could be connected to the city's necropolis, since the nearest burial mounds are located only 400 m to the west.

In 2017–2019, the area in focus was explored using various methods: archaeological surveys, trial trenches, and geophysical investigations using several techniques. As a result, we can definitely see the traces of quite dense city-like building structures dating back to the 4th century BC on an area of 6100 sq. m.

Starting in 2019, the Theodosian Archaeological project of the State Hermitage revived the investigations of this mysterious structure. During several excavation campaigns, a part of a large Building A was uncovered.³ The dimensions of the building are 10.5 × 16.5 m, and its square amounts to 150 sq. m. Still, only the northern part of the complex has been unearthed (Fig. 2). Parts of two winepress platforms were uncovered in the southern part of the building. This definitely indicates that Building A and the whole site were not part of any burial or ritual

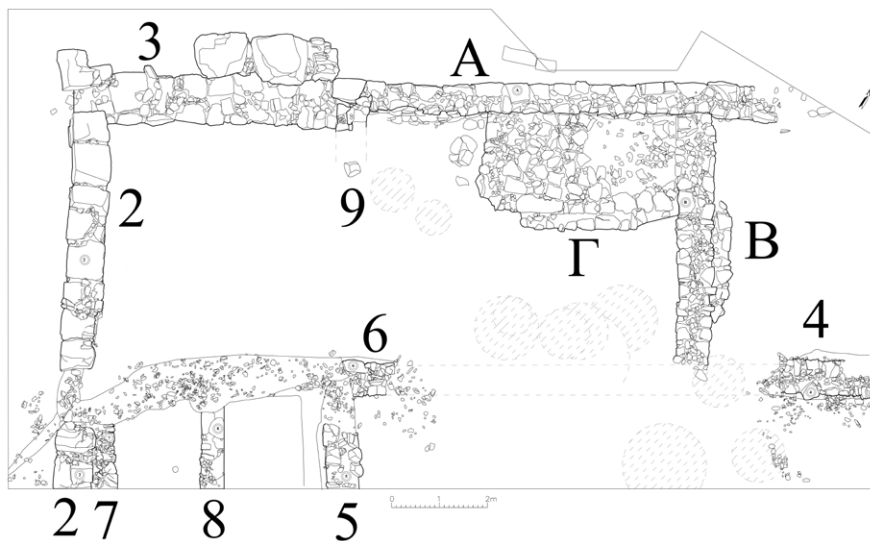


Fig. 2. Manor A plan. 2019–2023.

³ Akhmadeeva 2020 [М. М. Ахмадеева, “Новые исследования в ближнем предместье Феодосии”, *Археологические вести*]; Akhmadeeva 2023 [“Усадьба А в ближнем предместье Феодосии: предварительные итоги исследования”, *Древности Боспора*].

funeral complex, but constituted a part of a suburban manor with a winery function. Preliminary analysis of the uncovered building remains allows us to state that the structure was evidently rearranged several times and to define three main stages of Building A's life.

Phase 1

The initial base of Building A consists of walls 2 and 3, as well as two winepress platforms built up to the inner facade of wall 2 (Fig. 3). The total dimensions of the two winepress platforms are 3.9×1.9 m, each having a slight incline of about 0.09 m or 3° . The surface of the platforms is covered with a smooth clay layer with numerous inclusions of tiny sea pebbles, chamotte, and limestone grit. The platforms and wall 8, which divides the structure into two parts, have only partially been unearthed so far. Near the winepress platforms, to the north and west, a group of at least 10 traces of pithoi pits was found. Evidently, a kind of storage room for wine was located here. A row of finds indicates that Building A was erected as a winery at the end of the 5th century or at the very beginning of the 4th century BC. First, a fragment of a Heracleian amphora with a stamp $\text{Αρισ[τοκλής]} / \text{Κόας}$ can be mentioned (Fig. 4. 1). It can be dated within the 390s BC.⁴

Phase 2

After a while, the complex was enlarged to almost double its former size: the corner of walls A and 9 was built up to the western side of wall 3. It seems that the western part of wall 3 was dismantled during these works. Wall B and a mysterious paved platform were constructed during this period, too. Based on ceramic finds, such as amphorae and black-glazed pottery fragments, we can generally date the beginning of this phase to 375–325 BC. One of the latest finds from this stage is a fragment of a Heraclea Pontica amphora with Democrates' stamp $[\acute{\epsilon}]πὶ \text{Δημο[κρά]} \text{τεος Σι(- -)}$ (Fig. 4. 2), which is usually dated to the last quarter of the 4th century BC.⁵

⁴ Kats 2007 [В. И. Кац, *Греческие керамические клейма эпохи классики и эллинизма (опыт комплексного изучения)*, Боспорские исследования], 428, Suppl. V.

⁵ Kats 2007, 243, Suppl. V-6.

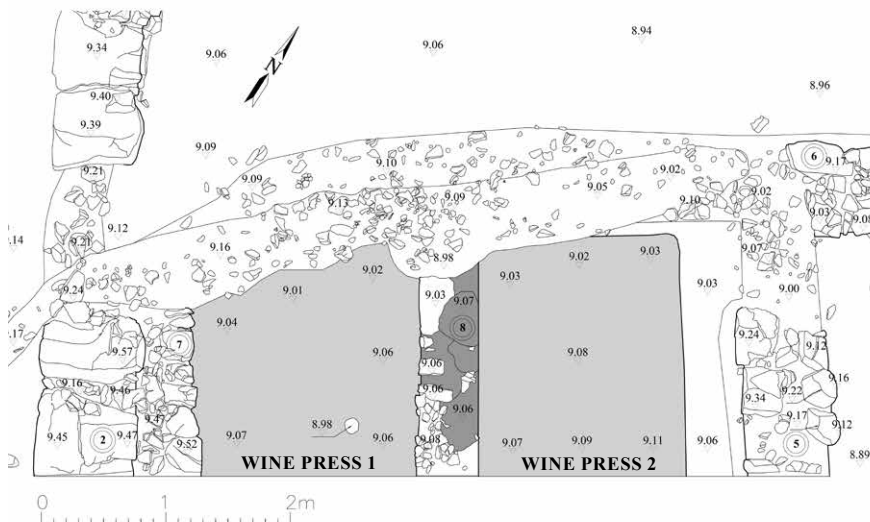


Fig. 3. Winepress platforms. Orthophoto, plan.

Phase 3

During the next phase, the southwestern part of Building A, namely wall B and the pithoi room, was damaged when a new building was constructed, consisting of walls 4, 5, 6, and 7. Only the northern part of this new building has been unearthed, and we can't estimate its dimensions. This new construction was probably erected at the turn of the 4th to the 3rd century BC, not later than the 1st quarter of the 3rd century BC.

The majority of finds deriving from Building A are dated to the middle and late 4th century BC. However, the earliest pieces can be dated

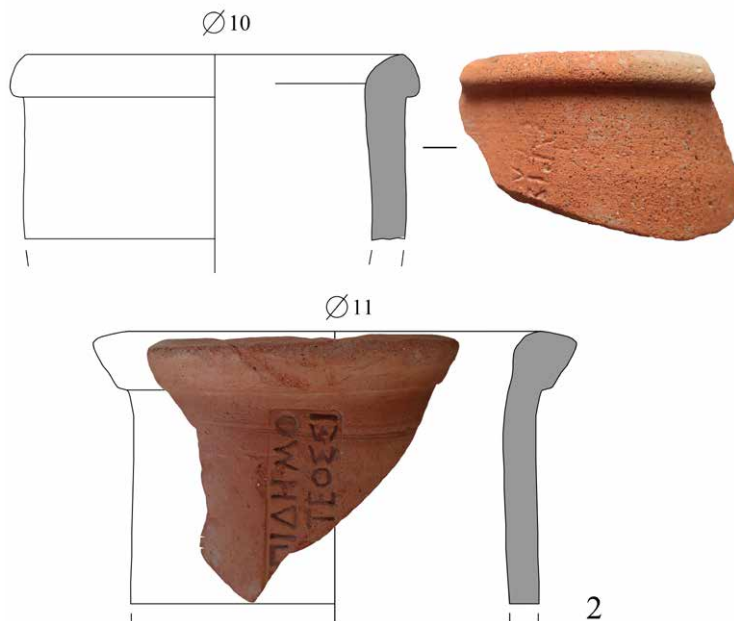


Fig. 4. Heraclea Pontica amphorae fragments with stamps.

back to the late 5th century BC. The latest finds can be placed in the first quarter of the 3rd century BC. E.g. it can be presumed that the winery complex Building A, being a part of a large suburban mansion located in close proximity to the city of classical Theodosia, was built at the very beginning of the 4th century BC and functioned for more than one hundred years, surviving at least two general reconstructions.

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The paper offers preliminary results of the archaeological investigations of the Theodosian Archaeological Expedition of The State Hermitage Museum. The expedition has been exploring the closest suburban area of the ancient city of Theodosia since 2017. The point of particular interest is located 1.5 km to the south of the ancient city’s supposed acropolis. Survey studies using geophysical methods revealed the traces of quite dense building structures on a significantly sized territory. One of these building complexes, named Building A, was found in 1982 and has been explored since 2019 by the Hermitage expedition. Part of a large building currently containing about 150 m² was unearthed. Finds discovered during the excavations enable us to date Building A to the period from the turn of the fifth to the fourth century BC up to the end of the fourth or the very beginning of the third century BC. Building A was reconstructed at least twice during its lifetime. During the first stage, the structure functioned as a winery: parts of two pressing platforms and a space for placing pithoi indicate it clearly.

В статье приводятся предварительные результаты исследования памятника усадебного типа, расположенного в ближнем южном предместье античной Феодосии, в 1,5 км к югу от городища. Памятник был обнаружен в 1982 г.: в небольшом раскопе А на краю Генуэзской балки были открыты остатки постройки. С 2017 г. исследования ведет Феодосийская археологическая экспедиция Государственного Эрмитажа. В результате комплексных геофизических изысканий были зафиксированы следы относительно плотной застройки, занимающей значительную площадь. Одно из этих сооружений, Постройка А, было обнаружено в 1982 г. Е. А. Катюшиным и стало объектом исследования начиная с 2019 г. К настоящему моменту открыта часть крупной Постройки А, входящей в структуру Усадьбы А, площадь которой сейчас составляет не менее 150 м². Датировка сооружения: рубеж V–IV вв. до н. э. – начало III в. до н. э. Зафиксировано, как минимум, три основных строительных этапа. Постройка первоначально была сооружена как винодельческий комплекс: об этом свидетельствует находка двух давящих площадок, а также участка для установки пифосов. Исследование строительного комплекса не завершено.

Vladimir Khrshanovskiy

EXCAVATIONS OF KYTAION'S SOUTHWESTERN SUBURB IN 2019–2022

In 2019–2022, the Kytaiion archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology RAS continued excavations in the southwestern suburb of the Bosporan city of Kytaiion, in the area of coastal erosion. Starting in 2010, the study of this section since 2016 has been conducted in two excavation areas – XLVI and XLVII (Fig. 1. 1).¹ To date, the area of the first one has exceeded 400 m² (Fig. 1. 2) and the area of the second one has exceeded 200 m² (Fig. 1. 3).

The excavation area XLVI

In recent years, after the northward and eastward expansion of the excavation area XLVI, in addition to the previously studied unearthed ritual and memorial complexes, two more ritual pits nos. 389 and 393, the ritual complex no. 400, and the grave without inventory no. 398 have been excavated. In accordance with the formerly determined archaeological context, they are attributed to the same Late Antique period – the 4th–5th centuries AD.

The relatively shallow depth of pits nos. 389 and 393 (0.7–0.8 m and 0.3 m respectively), as well as of the majority of the other pits in this excavation area, was evidence of their ritual (rather than domestic) purpose.² The variety of dates and the diversity of the finds, considering their scarcity, confirm this theory. There were asynchronous Hellenistic objects in almost every pit. According to the archaeological context and the latest material, their attribution to the same historical time and antique culture is beyond doubt. The composition of bones of sacrificial animals

¹ Khrshanovskiy 2019, 133–139.

² Khrshanovskiy 2020a [В. А. Хршановский, “Позднеантичные ритуальные ямы на юго-западном участке некрополя Китея”, *Древности Боспора*], 424.



1.1.



1.2.



1.3.

Fig. 1. 1. The southwestern suburb of Kytaiou. Excavation areas XLVI and XLVII. Aerial photograph.

Fig. 1. 2. Excavation area XLVI. 2022. Aerial photograph.

Fig. 1. 3. Excavation area XLVII. 2022. Aerial photograph.

was different from the bones found in the mound covering the whole excavation area. Its filling suggests the ritual character of the pits.³

Ritual complex no. 400 was also unearthed in the eastern excavation extension on the level of the ancient horizon under the thick rubble backfill. According to the fixed part, in ancient times it was a circle made of relatively large limestone fragments, plain limestone small slabs, and a mound composed of soil with rubble. Its diameter, calculated by the external contour, is about 8 m. On the north, the complex was fenced in by a wall made of large stones, roughly processed but stacked together with rubble and soil. Its length is 5.5 m, its width about 1 m.

During the deepening and clearing of the eastern excavation extension and the upper layer of burial complex no. 400 (the study has not been finished), a significant amount of asynchronous, mass ceramic material was also found: fragments of black-lacquered vessels and “Megarian” bowls, red-lacquered, black-glazed, wheel-thrown and handmade ware. In addition to fragments of late light-clay amphorae with narrow necks of the Shelov Types E and F and the red-clay amphora of the Type C SNP I (“Delakeu”), which date the complex to times no later than the 4th–5th centuries BC, much older Hellenistic amphorae, including some with stamps, were found here. The Rhodian amphora with two stamps on its handle (Fig. 2. 1) is dated to ca. 129 BC. The other stamp (Fig. 2. 2), found in the eastern excavation extension, was on the handle of a Sinopian amphora from the early 220s BC.

The bone remains found during the study of ritual complex no. 400 belonged mainly to the same animals that were unearthed in the other objects of this excavation area: a horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, and dog.

In the northern excavation extension in the northwestern corner of the excavation area, the grave of a woman of 35 to 45 years old was unearthed. It was precisely meridionally oriented (the head towards the north). It is possible that the plain round stone that lies to the east of the body at a certain elevation was used as a small primitive altar. The animal bones and ceramic fragments found close to the grave could be the traces of a funeral feast. Among them was part of the bottom of a black-lacquered vessel with the graffito [- -]νικα(- -) or Νικα(- -) on its outer side. Apparently, this abbreviation of the theophoric name, derived from Νίκη, was the mark of the owner (Fig. 2. 3).

³ Kasparov–Khrshanovskiy 2019 [А. К. Каспаров, В. А. Хршановский, “Фаунистические остатки на юго-западном участке Китейского некрополя (по итогам раскопок 2010–2018 гг.)”, *Боспорские чтения: Боспор Киммерийский и варварский мир в период античности и средневековья. Основные итоги и перспективы исследований*], 274, 277–278.



Fig. 2. 1. A fragment of the handle of the Rhodian amphora with two stamps: ἐπι Ἀρ[ιστογ]ένευσ Π[άνα]μος in the circle around the “head of Helios” emblem and the additional stamp ΑΛΩ, c. 128 BC. These and the following stamps and graffiti were read and attributed by N. A. Pavlichenko.

Fig. 2. 2. A fragment of the handle of a Sinopian amphora with the stamp [ἄστυνομ]ῶντος / [Λεωμέδον]τος το[ῦ] / [Ἐπιδήμου] horseman → / [- -]. From the early 220s BC.

Fig. 2. 3. A fragment of the bottom of a black-lacquered vessel with part of the graffiti [- -]νικα(- -) or Νικα(- -).

Fig. 2. 4. A fragment of the handle of a Sinopian amphora with the stamp Ἀπαυρ[ίου] / ἄστυνόμου cantharos↑ / Σμία. From the middle of the 260s BC.

Fig. 2. 5. A fragment of the handle of a Sinopian amphora with the stamp ἄσ[τυνόμου] / Αισχίν[ου] / Κτή[σων] bunch. From the middle of the 250s BC.

Earlier, in the eastern part of the northern extension of the excavation area XLVI, two more Sinopian stamps, dated to the mid-260s and mid-250s BC, were found among a significant amount of remains of ceramic ware: black-lacquered, red-lacquered, wheel-thrown, and handmade vessels (Fig. 2. 4–5).

Despite the impressive size of excavation area XLVI, only five graves were found in it. This seems disproportionate to the number of traces of ritual activities performed in this area. Found here in addition to the βόθροι, ritual grounds with the remains of funeral feasts and sacrifices, were many primitive stone altar constructions built right on the ground, and approximately ten small monolithic stone altars.⁴ All of this is the good indicator of the chthonic character of the unearthed complex. Its dimensions indicate the possibility of the special sacral status of the sanctuary, combined with the necropolis.

Excavation area XLVII

During 7 field seasons starting in 2016, the study of the other high (up to 3 m) bank has been conducted in the southwestern suburb of Kytaiion. This bank is situated 60–80 m to the west of the fortified western wall of the city site. The excavation area there received the number XLVII. In contrast to excavation area XLVI, not a single grave complex has so far been discovered here. However, earlier, under the thin humus layer, sacrificial pit no. 394 and ash hill no. 395 were unearthed and partly studied. They are located in the southeastern part of the excavation area.⁵ In 2019–2022, during the extension of the excavation area to the north and its deepening throughout, the other ash hill was discovered in the northwestern part. It received the number 396. The other pit, no. 397, was also found. The set diameter of the southern ash hill base is at least 10 m, the diameter of the northern ash hill is at least 8 m.

After this discovery, the finds from both the southern and the northern parts of the excavation area can be considered to be offerings linked to the rituals performed on the two ash hills and near the ritual pits. Among such offerings, apart from the bone remains of

⁴ Moleva–Khrshanovskiy 2024 [Н. В. Молева, В. А. Хршановский, “Алтари из юго-западного предместья Китея”, *Древности Боспора*], 336–350.

⁵ Khrshanovskiy 2020b [В.А. Хршановский, “Новый ритуальный комплекс на позднеантичном участке некрополя Китея”, *Боспорский феномен: Боспорское царство М. И. Ростовцева (взгляд из XXI века)*], 130–136.

domestic and wild animals (a horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, dog, red deer, boar, fox, badger, and European hare), were also birds, dolphin, fish, and crab claws⁶ and many (more than 26 thousand) fragments of amphorae, wheel-thrown and handmade ceramics, copper coins,⁷ and terracotta figurines,⁸ dated to the same broad period between the 4th century BC and the 4th–5th centuries AD. There were far more recent “asynchronous” objects here compared with the other excavation areas of the southwestern part. However, such things were discovered in the mounds of the two ash hills. The fragments of painted red-figure and black-lacquered vessels and the remains of imported amphorae from the Classical and Hellenistic ages, including stamped amphorae from Thasos, Heraclea, and Sinope, were found there. In the last few years, the collection has been replenished with a few more objects. Three Herakleian stamps of the 370s–360s BC (Fig. 3. 1–3) were found in the mound of the northern ash hill (no. 396).

The most interesting epigraphic find of recent years is the graffito ΑΓΛ on the wall of the red-clay amphora (Fig. 3. 4) unearthed in the southern half of the excavation area (ash hill no. 395). Considering the location of this graffito on the amphora's shoulders, where indications of the variety of wine in the vessel were often placed, it could be the abbreviation of ἀγλ(ευκήσ οἶνος).

Besides the clay and stone spindle whorls,⁹ sinkers, bone borers, and needles that were often found among the offerings in this ash hill, the golden ax-shaped pendant (Fig. 4. 1) from the 4th century AD,¹⁰ the Hellenistic terracotta statuette from the 4th century BC (Fig. 4. 2),¹¹

⁶ Kasparov–Khrshanovskiy 2019, 273–274.

⁷ Abramzon–Khrshanovskiy 2022 [М. Г. Абрамзон, В. А. Хршановский, “Монеты из раскопок юго-западного участка некрополя Китея (2011–2021 гг.)”, *Боспорский феномен: Большие и малые города Боспорского царства: Круглый стол, посвященный 75-летию Е. А. Молева (1937–2021)*], 236–238.

⁸ Khanutina–Khrshanovskiy 2023 [З. В. Ханутина, В. А. Хршановский, “Терракоты из юго-западного участка некрополя Китея”], 53, рис. 4, 5–6; 56.

⁹ Simonova 2018 [“М. А. Симонова, “Пряслица и грузила в погребально-поминальных комплексах IV в. н. э. юго-западного участка некрополя Китея”, *Боспорский феномен: Общее и особенное в историко-культурном пространстве античного мира*], 259–265.

¹⁰ Kravchenko–Khrshanovskiy 2022 [А. В. Кравченко, В. А. Хршановский, “Золотая топовидная подвеска из позднеантичного ритуального комплекса некрополя Китея”, *Боспорский феномен: Большие и малые города Боспорского царства*], 241–247.

¹¹ Khanutina–Khrshanovskiy 2023, 53, Fig. 4. 5; 56.



Fig. 3. 1. A fragment of the neck of a Herakleian amphora with the stamp
[Ἡρ]ακλέδης club↓ / [Κερκί]νος, H, P and Δ, A in ligature.

Fig. 3. 2. A fragment of the neck of the Herakleian amphora with the stamp
[Εὐά]ργος / [horned moon ↑] / [ἐπὶ Διονυ(σίου)] (alleged restoration).

Fig. 3. 3. Διονυ[σίου] / ἐπὶ Σ[- -]. From the 370s–360s BC.

Fig. 3. 4. A fragment of the wall of the red-clay amphora with the graffito ΑΓΛ.

the incense cup (Fig. 4. 3) and the dipinto with tamga on the light-clay amphora with a narrow neck (Fig. 4. 4) were unearthed there. In the future, deciphering this tamga will probably help answer the question of the ownership of these monumental ritual buildings of the Migration Period.

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Fig. 4. 1. The golden ax-shaped pendant. From the 4th century AD.

Fig. 4. 2. The terracotta statuette. From the 4th century BC.

Fig. 4. 3. The handmade incense cup.

Fig. 4. 4. A fragment of the neck of a light-clay amphora with the dipinto (the tamga?). From the first centuries AD.

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The article summarizes the results of the security and rescue works of the Kytaiou archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology RAS in the area of coastal erosion of the Bosphoran city of Kytaiou in 2019–2022. The study of this section has been conducted since 2016 in two excavation areas – XLVI and XLVII. In excavation area XLVI, in addition to the previously studied unearthened ritual and memorial complexes, two more ritual pits nos. 389 and 393, the ritual complex no. 400, and the grave without inventory no. 398 have been excavated. In accordance with the formerly determined archaeological context, they are attributed to the same Late Antique age – the 4th–5th centuries AD. Besides 5 graves, more than 10 ritual pits and at least 2 ritual grounds with the remains of funeral feasts and sacrifices and many primitive stone altar constructions were found in this excavation area. The size of the unearthened complex allows us to presume that it was the sanctuary combined with the necropolis. In the same years in excavation area XLVII, the second ash hill no. 396 was found and one more pit no. 397 was unearthened. After this discovery, all finds from the excavation area can be considered to be offerings, linked to the rituals performed on the two ash hills and near the ritual pits. As before, asynchronous material from the 4th century BC to the 1st–3rd centuries AD, along with many animal bones, was found in the excavation areas XLVI and XLVII.

В статье подводятся итоги охранно-спасательных работ Китайской археологической экспедиции Института археологии РАН в зоне береговой абразии юго-западного предместья боспорского города Китея в 2019–2022 годах. С 2016 г. исследование этого участка ведется на двух раскопах – XLVI и XLVII. На раскопе XLVI в дополнение к открытым и исследованным ранее погребальным и поминальным комплексам, были раскопаны еще две ритуальные ямы №№ 389 и 393, ритуальный комплекс № 400 и безынвентарное погребение № 398, относящиеся по установленному раннее археологическому контексту к тому же позднеантичному времени – IV–V вв. н. э. Помимо 5 могил, более 10 жертвенных ям и не менее 2 ритуальных площадок с остатками тризн и жертвоприношений в этом раскопе были найдены многочисленные примитивные алтарные конструкции из камней. Размеры открытого комплекса позволяют предположить, что он представляет собой святилище, совмещенное с некрополем. В XLVII раскопе в те же годы был обнаружен второй зольник, № 396 и зафиксирована еще одна яма – № 397. После этого открытия все находки в раскопе могут рассматриваться как приношения, связанные с совершавшимися на обоих зольных холмах и возле ритуальных ям обрядами. Как и ранее, в раскопах XLVI и XLVII наряду с многочисленными костями животных встречался асинхронный материал IV в. до н. э. – I–III вв. н. э.

Sergey Solovyev, Viktor Vakhoneev

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON
THE ANCIENT CITY SITE OF AKRA IN
EASTERN CRIMEA*

The ancient city site of Akra, situated near the modern village of Zavetnoe 30 km south of Kerch (the Republic of Crimea), was discovered as recently as the early 1980s. The main problems of its localization before that time were connected primarily to the site's topographic features. Almost all Bosphoran cities were founded on high rocky capes or high ground. The ancient city site near the village of Zavetnoe was situated on a very low cape that stretched far out to sea. A small river flowed to the sea north of the site. This feature still calls into question the identification of this site with the city of Akra mentioned by Strabo (11. 2. 8) and by Pliny the Elder (*NH* 4. 86).¹ However, the discovery of a developed fortification system and the development of urban quarters clearly indicates that an important urban centre existed in this location. Nowadays, most of the cape has been flooded by the waters of the Kerch Strait (Fig. 1).

There are three main stages in the history of the site's exploration. The initial stage is connected to discoveries made by A. V. Kulikov, V. N. Kholodkov, and K. K. Shilik in the first half of the 1980s. After winter storms, Kulikov, who was a schoolboy at the time, compiled a representative collection of ancient coins, including a golden stater of Cotys II dated to 132 AD. He also made the first visual plan of the coastal territory with indications of discovered areas of urban development.²

* The study was completed within the scope of the program of the Fundamental Scientific Studies of the State Academy of Sciences, state assignment topic No. FMZF-2022-0013 "Improving the methodology of conducting security and rescue archaeological activities and the introduction of digital technologies into archaeology".

¹ Maslennikov 2023 [*А. А. Масленников*, "Изнутри или снаружи? (О 'статусе' поселения на мысе Зюк, малых городах и 'внутренней' колонизации Боспора)", *Проблемы истории, филологии, культуры*] 177; Agbinov 1987 [*М. В. Агбунов*, *Античная лоция Черного моря*], 107–108.

² Shamray 2012 [*А. Н. Шамрай*, "Следы античных построек на берегу пролива у села Набережное (к истории открытия Акры)", in: *XIII Боспорские чтения*], 450.



Fig. 1. General view of the Akra city site from the south-east.

A key event in the localization of Akra was the creation of the Bosporan Underwater Archaeological Division headed by K. K. Shilik in the Sector of the Ancient Archaeology, Leningrad Department of the Institute of Archaeology AS USSR (now the Institute for the History of Material Culture RAS) in 1982. From 1983 to 1986, he discovered a defensive wall and towers of the flooded city site, along with an Early Hellenistic well.³

The second stage of Akra exploration took place during the mid-1990s. The expedition of the Kerch Historical and Cultural Reserve headed by A. V. Kulikov conducted work both on land and underwater from 1994 to 1997. The aboveground archaeological excavations of 1994–1997 in the coastal area at a part of the spill outlined prospects for research on the Akra of the Roman period. Unearthed areas of urban development from that period strongly suggest that Akra homebuilding in the first centuries AD was conducted according to planning principles developed back in the Hellenistic Age. In addition, it was established that Akra archaeological findings dated to the Middle Ages were not accidental at the site. They

³ Shilik 2013 [К. К. Шилик, “Античные города на дне Керченского пролива (история поисков и открытий)”, in: П. Е. Сорокин (ed.), *Изучение памятников морской археологии*].

originate from a cultural layer of that time, areas of which were discovered during the archaeological excavations.⁴

Along with the aboveground excavations, underwater surveys of Akra were conducted. They focused on examining the defensive wall of the city and the secondary fixation of the tower. During the underwater surveys, stone pavements and masonry walls were also traced.⁵

The third stage of the archaeological research on Akra is linked with the work of a complex archaeological expedition, created in 2011 on the initiative of the State Hermitage to study the flooded part of the ancient town.⁶ This study is ongoing. Its tasks include conducting an archaeological survey in the water area of the ancient town, as well as conducting systematic full-scale underwater excavations to study the planning and character of the urban development, the typology, the features of homebuilding, the system of fortification and its elements, the examination of previously discovered archaeological objects, and the search for new ones to make a relevant topographic plan of the city. This is urgent because the underwater and coastal parts of the site are gradually disappearing as a consequence of natural influences (wind, water, chemical erosion) and human activity.⁷

Overall, the ancient city site of Akra presently has two distinct areas of study. The first one lies underwater. It accounts for about 70 % of the site's area and avoided complete destruction by breakers in the strait due to lucky circumstances. In the fourth century BC, the small low cape the settlement was founded on was cut off by the sturdy defensive stone wall. It served as a kind of protection that preserved cultural layers adjacent to it from water erosion. The degree of preservation of the wall greatly varies in different areas – from 0.3 m in the sea area to 1.6 m in the coastal area (Fig. 2). It directly affected the thickness of the preserved cultural layers. Another important feature of the flooded part of the city site is that all deposits of the cultural layer and the underwater remains of buildings are dated exclusively to the Hellenistic period (Fig. 3). Layers that formed in Akra in the Roman period were completely destroyed in the underwater area.

⁴ Kulikov 2001 [А. В. Куликов, “Отчет об исследованиях античного городища Акра в полевом сезоне 1997 г.”, *Архив ГБУ РК “Восточно-Крымский историко-культурный музей-заповедник”*], 21; Kulikov 2007, 1040.

⁵ Grabovetskiy–Kulikov 1998 [С. В. Грабовецкий, А. В. Куликов, “Обследование античного поселения в районе озера Яныш (Восточный Крым)”, *Изучение памятников морской археологии*], 82.

⁶ Solovyev–Vakhoneev 2015, 188–201.

⁷ Solovyev et al. 2021 [С. Л. Соловьев, В. В. Вахонеев, Л. Г. Шепко, *Акра – античный город на Европейском Боспоре*], 11, 30, 31.



Fig. 2. The masonry of the underwater defensive wall in the coastal area.

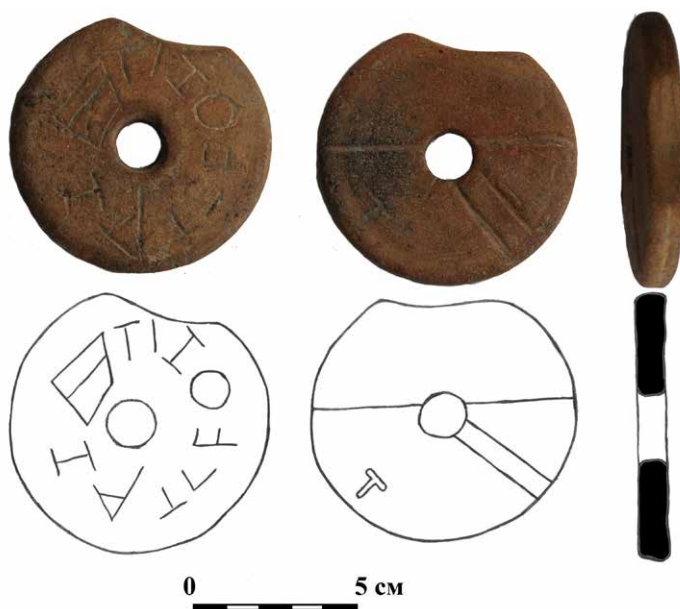


Fig. 3. Ceramic spindle whorl with graffiti found in an Hellenistic house.

It is worth noting that the founding of the city on a very low cape that stretches far out to sea, in a place so unusual for other Bosporan coastal cities, had a very negative effect on the entire subsequent history of Akra despite the convenience of its defence. We can assume that Akra was founded in the Phanagorian regression period.⁸ The sea level was lower, and the cape itself was accordingly higher. After the end of the regression, the coastal areas of the city began to be regularly flooded and even swamped. One should add that, just before the dawn of the Common Era, Strabo (11. 2. 8) called Akra “a small village” (κωμίον). If we consider that he borrowed some information from the periplus of Artemidorus of Ephesus, Akra could already have had such a status at the end of the second century BC.⁹ Obviously, there had to be important reasons for the change in the city’s status. It appears that the worsening of ecological and sanitary conditions due to constant floods may have significantly influenced this process.

Another observation made during the excavations that can also indirectly point to the floods is that significant sterile sand beddings were traced under some areas of Hellenistic development.¹⁰ They could have been arranged specifically for groundwater drainage. It is no coincidence that all storage pits discovered underwater had stone facings with clay daubs (Fig. 4). In the base of a tower construction near the defensive wall (Fig. 5), wooden crates built of longitudinal and transverse beams were found. One of the reasons for such a construction of the foundation could be the high groundwater or seawater level that came to an ancient surface during the construction of the tower in the second half or the end of the fourth century BC.

We should note another important feature of the modern site’s topography – cultural layers preserved only in areas close to the defensive wall and as far as a few dozen meters from it. The further away from the wall, the worse is the preservation of the layer. Thus, we can assume that the area of the preserved cultural layer from the Hellenistic period occupies about 1.7 thousand m² out of 3 hectares of the flooded part. The aboveground area of about 0.45 hectares was not considered.

⁸ Vakhoneev 2015 [В. В. Вахонеев, “Подводное городище Акра и изменение уровня моря в IV в. до н. э.”], in: *XVI Боспорские чтения*], 44.

⁹ Zavoуkin 2022 [А. А. Завойкин, “Китей: размышления о ‘малом боспорском городе’”, *Древности Боспора*], 106.

¹⁰ Vakhoneev–Solovyev 2023 [В. В. Вахонеев, С. Л. Соловьев, “Археологические исследования античного городища Акра в 2023 г.”], *Бюллетень ИИМК РАН: охранный археология*], 189.

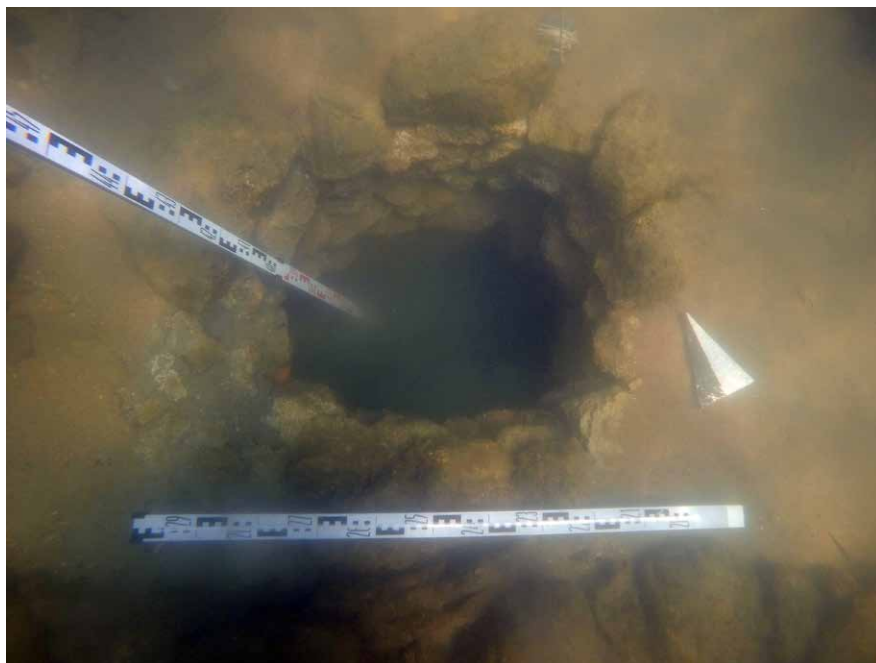


Fig. 4. The storage pit no. 3/2017c with stone facing.



Fig. 5. A part of the Akra defensive wall with a tower. Aerial photograph.

Currently, the defensive wall has been explored to a length of just over 150 m. The whole length of the wall could reach 250 m.¹¹ It starts at a distance of 94–98 m from the modern water's edge (in different years, the line of the water's edge has been moving) at a depth of –3.60 m according to the Baltic system. It is evident that in ancient times the defensive wall started right in the sea, where a section entering the water was composed of large blocks. Then it went north-west over the land, shielding the low cape with the settlement on it. The wall was built in the first half of the fourth century BC. It was partly rebuilt in the last quarter of the fourth to the beginning of the third century BC. The defensive wall ceased to be used for its intended purpose no later than the turn of the third to the second century BC. The excavations of the coastal area Beregovoy in 2016, as well as the prospecting shafts of 1985, showed that the wall was blocked by the remains of buildings from the first to the third centuries AD.¹²

The Hellenistic urban development of Akra included residential houses of the typical planning scheme, arranged in city blocks.¹³ The area of the city itself was about 3.5 hectares. Currently, the remains of at least six building complexes from the second half of the fourth to the early third century BC and from the third to second century BC were discovered underwater.¹⁴

The layers of the Roman period are preserved only in the aboveground part of the site – about 4.5 thousand m².¹⁵

¹¹ Vakhoneev 2021 [В. В. Вахонеев, “Оборонительные сооружения боспорского города Акра”, *Боспорские исследования*], 42–64.

¹² Shilik 1987 [К. К. Шилик, “Исследование античной Акры”, *Археологические открытия 1985 г.*], 632; Solovyev 2017 [С. Л. Соловьев, *Отчет о научно-исследовательской работе. Археологические раскопки на выявленном объекте археологического наследия “Античное городище Акра” на восточной окраине пос. Заветное в Ленинском районе Республики Крым в 2016 г.*], 29.

¹³ Solovyev–Vakhoneev–Kuznetsov 2017 [С. Л. Соловьев, В. В. Вахонеев, А. В. Кузнецов, “Подводные археологические раскопки античного города Акра в 2015 году”, *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*], 165–176.

¹⁴ Vakhoneev–Solovyev 2018, 247.

¹⁵ Kulikov 2007, 1040; Solovyev et al. 2019 [С. Л. Соловьев, В. В. Вахонеев, М. М. Ахмадеева, А. В. Кузнецов, “Исследования античного города Акра в 2016 году”, *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*], 135–154; Vakhoneev 2012 [В. В. Вахонеев, “Топография и планировка античного городища Акра”, *XIII Боспорские чтения*], 75–79.

The discovery of developments dating to Roman times suggests that Akra had sufficiently dense development on the high part of the ancient cape during that period. The same situation is observed in the other Bosporan town, Myrmekion, which Strabo (11. 2. 6) defined as κώμη. Earlier it was thought that, in Roman times, Myrmekion consisted of a series of estates, sometimes even fortified, with wastelands between them. However, excavations in recent years have convincingly shown that, despite significant changes in the spatial organization of the city in Roman times compared with the Hellenistic age, Myrmekion had fairly dense development in the western and central parts of the city site.¹⁶

Additionally, traces of life in the early medieval period were found in the aboveground excavations in Akra. In excavation area I, part of a layer from the eighth and ninth centuries AD was traced. In the upper layers of the Zapadnyy excavation area, an oval (in the ground plan view) pit no. 2 with a depth of 0.8 m was unearthed (Fig. 6). At the bottom



Fig. 6. The medieval pit in the excavation area Zapadnyy.

¹⁶ *Milikhina* 2022 [Н. Н. Милихина, “Проблемы исследования Мирмекия римского времени (топографический аспект)”, *Археологические вести*], 105.

of the pit, a jar of the Taman type from the ninth to eleventh centuries AD was found. There were also a few fragments of such vessels in the filling. Due to the discovery of this pit, we can assume that there are other early medieval complexes in the aboveground part of Akra.

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The article is devoted to the latest archaeological research on the ancient settlement of Akra on a sandy embankment near the village of Zavetnoye in eastern Crimea. This ancient settlement was localized only in the early 1980s, and the history of its study has 3 stages. The authors analyze the reasons why the cultural layer was preserved underwater and was not destroyed by surf waves as on other coastal

archaeological sites. Special attention is paid to the topography and layout of the monument in the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

The settlement is divided into two very different research sites: underwater and terrestrial. The underwater part accounts for about 70 % of the monument's territory. It was preserved due to the presence of a powerful defensive wall built in the 4th century BC. Cultural layers under water were preserved only in areas close to this wall. The Hellenistic urban development of Akra included residential houses of the typical planning scheme, arranged in city blocks. At least six building complexes from this time were studied there.

Unfortunately, the layers from Roman times have not been preserved underwater, while on a small piece of land, areas of dense buildings from the first centuries AD have recently been discovered. Finally, the latest research has also confirmed the presence of life in the settlement in the early medieval period.

Статья посвящена последним археологическим исследованиям античного городища Акра на песчаной насыпи у села Заветное в Восточном Крыму. Это античное городище было локализовано только в начале 1980-х гг., и история его изучения насчитывает 3 этапа. Авторы анализируют причины, по которым культурный слой сохранился под водой, а не был разрушен волнами прибоя, как на других прибрежных археологических объектах. Особое внимание уделяется топографии и планировке памятника в эллинистический и римский периоды.

Городище разделено на два совершенно разных участка: подводный и наземный. Подводная часть составляет около 70 % территории памятника. Она сохранилась благодаря наличию мощной оборонительной стены, построенной в IV веке до н. э. Культурные слои, находящиеся под водой, сохранились только в районах, непосредственно прилегающих к этой стене. Городская застройка Акры в эллинистический период включала жилые дома типичной планировочной схемы, расположенные в городских кварталах. Здесь было изучено по меньшей мере шесть комплексов зданий этого времени.

К сожалению, слои, относящиеся к римскому периоду, не сохранились под водой, в то время как на небольшом участке суши недавно была исследована плотная застройка первых веков нашей эры. Наконец, последние исследования также подтвердили присутствие жизни на поселении в период раннего средневековья.

Nadezhda Novoselova, Olga Sokolova

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF
THE STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM AT
THE SITE OF NYMPHAION IN 2019 AND 2021

The review focuses on archaeological research of the State Hermitage Expedition at the site of Nymphaion in 2019 and 2021. The site is located on Kamysh-Burun Cape, 17 km southwest of Kerch center (Russian Federation, Republic of Crimea, Eltigen District). The works were concentrated in two locations of the site, Sector M and Sector O.

Sector M

Sector M is situated on the southern border of the Nymphaion site. The sector has already been under investigation for more than 40 years. An ancient theater has been partly uncovered here (since 2009, Fig. 1). The complex of the theater was accessible through propylaea bearing an inscription on their architrave: Θεοπροπίδης Μεγακλέος τὴν εἴσοδον ἀνέθηκεν Διονύσῳ ἀγωνοθετῶν Λεόκωνος ἄρχοντος Βοσπόρου καὶ Θεοδοσίης καὶ τῆς Σινδικῆς πάσης καὶ Τορετέων καὶ Δανδαρίων καὶ Ψησῶν. Mention of King Leukon I and his titles points to the 4th century BC as the date of construction of the theater complex.¹

Excavations of the theater were continued in 2019 and 2021. For the moment, the diameter of the structure is estimated to be about 30 m. The maximum height of the rows was 5 m. We can assume that the theater was erected during the rule of Leucon I (389/388–349/348), while the date of its destruction has not been determined yet. It also remains unclear whether the building was completed or unfinished. After the theater collapsed, all its area was covered with a layer of soil more than 6 m deep. In 2019 and 2021, the Expedition of the State Hermitage removed this mound from the western part of the theater. The mound included strata of yellow, grey, and ashen soil sloping towards the center of the theater at a 45° angle.

¹ Sokolova–Pavlichenko 2002 [О. Ю. Соколова, Н. А. Павличенко, “Новая посвятельная надпись из Нимфея”], 99–121.



Fig. 1. Sector M. General theater view.

The great majority of ceramic artifacts from the layer above the theater are fragments of amphorae from the Hellenistic period, making up 80 % of the total number of finds, not counting roof tiles. The finds excluding amphorae are identified as follows: 46 % – redware pottery, 27 % – handmade vessels, 18 % – kitchenware, 5 % – glazed Hellenistic tableware, 3% – greyware with grey polished surface, 1% – both red-figure and black-figure pottery.

Ceramic materials belong mostly to the 240s–210s BC, as becomes clear from epigraphic data – the stamps of Sinope and Rhodos.² The latest of these is a Rhodian rhomboid stamp [ἐπι] / Ἀλεξιμά[χου] / Πανάμ[ου] (inv. no. H.19.45) dated back to ca. 147 BC.³

A large group of black-glaze pottery decorated in the West Slope style and fragments of “Megarian” bowls also belong to the late 3rd to 2nd centuries BC.

Among the rare ceramic finds, a fragmented kernos should be mentioned (inv. no. H.19.159, Fig. 2). Pieces of such vessels have been previously found in Nymphaion (State Hermitage, inv. nos. НФ.82.376, НФ.88.256, НФ.89.117), mainly along with materials from the 4th to 3rd centuries BC. Similar kernoi were discovered in the sanctuary of Demeter in Beregovoye 4.⁴ They are traditionally treated as ritual artifacts.

² All the finds of the seasons of 2019–2021 are stored in the Eastern Crimean Historical and Cultural Museum Preserve.

³ Finkielsztejn 2001, 193 gr. IVb.

⁴ Zavojkin 2015 [А. А. Завойкин, “Керносы в святилище Деметры и Коры на Азиатском Боспоре”, *Вестник Нижегородского университета*], 46–53.



Fig. 2. Sector M. Fragmented kernos (inv. no. H.19.159).



Fig. 3. Sector M. Greyware oinochoe with a stamp (inv. no. H.19.36).

Another remarkable find is a stamp impressed on the body of what was probably a greyware oinochoe (inv. no. H.19.36, Fig. 3). Similar containers have been collected by A. V. Kovalchuk and are considered to be measuring vessels.⁵ The discovery of new samples of the type contributes to a greater understanding of this group of material.

⁵ Kovalchuk 2012 [А. В. Ковальчук, “Боспорские мерные сосуды IV–III вв. до н. э.”, *Древности Боспора*], 220–238.

Sector O

Sector O was started in 2021 in the western field outskirts of the site in order to find the main city gate, revise the planigraphy, and trace the defense line of the site (Fig. 4). To lay out the sector, a plan of the Nymphaion site by



Plan of Nymphaion site by P. Du Brux (scaled to 1:2000)



-  Location of Sector 'O' at the place of intended gate towers and a segment of main street
-  Intended line of the main street from gate towers to acropolis

Fig. 4. Sector O. General plan of the sector. Overlay of the plan by P. Du Brux and the modern topographic base.

P. Du Brux was used.⁶ The plan was overlaid over the modern topographic base made by the experts of the Credo-Dialogue company (Minsk) under the leadership of A. P. Pigin in 2014–2015.

On the relief of the area were two hills, 70 m in diameter and approximately 2.5 m in height, hypothetically identified as remains of two gate towers. Between the hills there was a narrow passage, about 8 m in width, correlating with a pass way between towers. Behind the hills is a ravine that bore water in antiquity.

Sector O covers the surface of the intended towers and a part of the intended main road (Fig. 5). The planned dimensions of the sector are 100×100 m, measured on the north and south axes. In the field season of 2021, only six 5×5 m squares were excavated. The three most promising sections were chosen to test the hypothesis of the location of the gate towers and a road.

The most interesting results were obtained in Section 2, situated at the place of the posited road between two gate towers. A depression of the daylight surface is visible in this area. Furthermore, reconstruction of the city's road network based upon discovered segments of streets shows



Fig. 5. Sector O. Segment of the main street next to the gate towers.

⁶ Tunkina 2002 [И. В. Тункина, *Русская наука о классических древностях Юга России (XVIII – середина XIX в.)*], fig. 52.

that the supposed segment lies on the same line with the street partially unearthed in Sector BC.⁷

Under a topsoil layer and a mixed surficial layer of clayish soil, at a depth of 0.6–0.7 m, there was a rammed surface composed of small stones, large sherds, and clayish soil. The surface may be interpreted as part of an ancient road, namely a segment of the main street of the city stretching from the gate towers (Sector O) towards the acropolis (Sector BC). The segment was pierced by several utility pits evidently belonging to the Roman period. The pits were not excavated in the season of 2021. Material from the layer of yellow clayish soil covering the causeway is dated to the first centuries AD.

The results of studies in the seasons under discussion have enriched our knowledge about the key objects of city infrastructure, such as the theater and the main street connecting the gate towers and the acropolis. In the following years, it is planned to expand Sector O to obtain new information on the planigraphy of Nymphaion site.

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The review focuses on archaeological research of the State Hermitage Expedition on the site of Nymphaion in 2019 and 2021. The site is located on Kamysh-Burun Cape, 17 km southwest of Kerch center (Russian Federation, Republic of Crimea, Eltigen District). The works were concentrated in two locations of the site, Sector M and Sector O. In Sector M, an ancient theater constructed in the first half of the 4th century BC was studied. In Sector O, a main city street and gate towers became the subjects of research.

В данном обзоре представлены археологические работы экспедиции Государственного Эрмитажа на городище Нимфей в 2019 и 2021 гг. Городище Нимфей расположено на мысу Камыш-Бурун в 17 км к юго-западу от центра Керчи (Российская Федерация, Республика Крым, г. Керчь, микрорайон Эльтиген). В 2019 и 2021 годах работы проводились на двух участках – участок М и участок О. На участке М проводились исследования античного театра, сооруженного в 1-й половине IV в. до н. э.; на участке О – исследования Главной городской дороги и воротных башен.

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EXCAVATIONS AT MYRMEKION IN 2019–2023*

From 2019 to 2023, Myrmekion Archaeological Expedition of the State Hermitage Museum continued its systematic investigation of the settlement-site Myrmekion. Research was carried out in three distinct areas within the site, each located in different parts of the settlement. In the TS area, situated in the southwestern part of Myrmekion near the base of the ancient acropolis, a substantial building dating from the 1st to the 3rd century AD was investigated. This structure is presumed to have been an aristocratic estate. In the I excavation area, located in the monument's centre, efforts were made to explore the ancient city's structure to the north of the previously uncovered area. The goal here was to unearth the late archaic city layer; however, this has not yet been accomplished, with only Roman and Hellenistic period layers being excavated. Finally, in the M area, situated on the south-eastern edge of the monument, investigations aimed to trace the defensive wall's route and to examine the necropolis dating back to the 6th century BC located beneath it. Excavations were halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the 2019 field season, no additional excavation areas were initiated. Within the I area, the exploration of Roman period layers was extended, leading to the uncovering of well-preserved walls belonging to a residential structure from this era. The excavation of a large pit was also continued. Among the notable discoveries in this area were numerous fragments of terracotta marionettes and a fragment of a large, ribbed glass bowl.

Within the area M, excavation extended across the part not hindered by construction remnants, uncovering minor masonry fragments

* The study by N. Milikhina (*Institute for the History of Material Culture, RAS*) was conducted within the framework of the implementation of the Federal Research Institute programme “The oldest heritage of the South Russia: cities, rural settlements, economic transformations according to natural science data” (FMZF-2022-0013).

and pavements dating back to the Classical and Hellenistic periods. Additionally, the fill of an early defensive wall was exposed, parts of its facades having been taken apart in antiquity. Beyond this later defensive wall, faint traces of structures, presumably dating back to the early 5th century BC, were identified. Notably, several pits were discovered, including one containing a Chian amphora dug into the ground, which stands out among the findings. Of particular significance were two pits that destroyed the masonry of the defensive wall. The artefacts retrieved from these pits suggest that the wall's construction cannot be dated earlier than the beginning of the 3rd century BC, significantly later than previous estimations had proposed. This timeline also pertains to the initial, subsequently dismantled masonry of the so-called "B" wall, implying that the construction of the later "A" wall occurred even more recently.¹ The necropolis excavation revealed four burials dating to the second half of the 6th century BC, including three in-ground burials (two children's and one adult's), two of them containing Ionian-manufactured vessels. An important finding was a small stone sarcophagus, seemingly intended for a child, hewn from a single stone block (Fig. 1). After removal of the lid, no skeletal remains were found, indicating possible complete decomposition. Such sarcophagi from the archaic period are remarkably rare in the Bosporus region.²

In the TS area, the destruction layer associated with Roman buildings was excavated. The primary focus was on layers dating to the 1st–3rd centuries AD. Upon removal of the debris, it was observed that a significant portion of the structures had succumbed to fire, as indicated by a dense layer of burnt material, replete with numerous amphorae fragments. In the central square, a well-preserved furnace, featuring parts of the vault and internal constructions, was unearthed. Additionally, a lengthy covered drain was discovered on the western edge of the excavation area, elucidating the layout of the presumed estate. The investigation encompassed a total of seven rooms. Meriting special attention among the artefacts is a bronze gemstone ring fragment with an insert of a carnelian seal, engraved with a deity's figure. Furthermore, a series of pits dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries AD was revealed, one of which contained an undamaged ceramic flask.

¹ Butyagin–Kolosov 2023 [А. М. Бутягин, В. П. Колосов, “К проблеме датировки восточной части оборонительной системы Мирмекия”, in: *Археологические вести*], 300–308.

² Butyagin 2022, 195–204.



Fig. 1. Myrmekion. Uncovering of the stone sarcophagus. View from the south-west. The 2nd half of the 6th century BC.

In the southern part of the TS area, excavations reached the virgin soil layer, uncovering numerous pits dating back to the early 5th century BC. Among the findings in this area there is a rare Bosporan coin-arrow from the archaic period, along with several fragments of Attic and Eastern Greek pottery. Additionally, beneath the masonry of the estate located in the eastern section of the area, a burial dating to the 11th–9th centuries BC was discovered. This contracted burial accompanied by a handmade bowl represents the third burial from this period unearthed in proximity to the acropolis, allowing us to assume the location of a Late Bronze Age necropolis.

Besides the main excavation, during a reconnaissance beyond the north-eastern edge of Myrmekion, remnants of a settlement of the 4th century BC were identified, characterized by pits and potential dugouts, indicating an extended occupation of this area. Preliminary investigations of the seabed near the site's boundaries also took place, unveiling areas dense with ceramic fragments. These seabed explorations suggest significant potential for future underwater archaeological endeavours.

In 2021, the expedition faced operational limitations due to reduced funding. Despite these constraints, in the M area, an excavation was extended southward to investigate the route of the defensive wall dating back to the 3rd century BC. The top layers exposed during this endeavour contained poorly preserved masonry and stone paving accompanied by several pits that were attributed to the Roman period.

Concurrently, in the I area, investigation was focused on both the central and northern sections. A concrete shelter, constructed in the 1960s to protect a winery of the 3rd century BC, was dismantled by the team. Its removal allowed for the complete uncovering of the winery room. Subsequent excavations within this room aimed to authenticate the chronology of a previously identified pit, uncovering a cellar dating to the 4th century BC, dug into an earlier layer.

In the northern section of the I area, further excavation refined the understanding of the spatial arrangement of rooms revealed in prior years. Preliminary analysis suggests that these Roman period structures were constructed extending into Ash Hill II, an area associated with the Hellenistic period.

In the vicinity of the layer situated beyond the urban confines, identified in the preceding reconnaissance, a targeted excavation was initiated. This research revealed a cultural layer 2 meters thick, rich with artefacts dating to the 4th century BC. Given the amount of material uncovered, the decision has been made to extend the exploration of Myrmekion's suburbs during the forthcoming seasons.

During 2022, comprehensive research on the cultural layer encompassing nearly the entire TS area was concluded. This investigation revealed pits dating from the Archaic to the Roman period. Remarkable complexes containing pottery from the early 6th century BC were identified, aligning with the estimated time of the settlement's foundation. In the M area, the remains of gates within the defensive wall, dating back to the 3rd century BC, were uncovered for the first time in the history of the site's exploration. Originating from these gates, a paved street extends westward, its northern side flanked by the wall of a monumental structure. Additionally, in a pit dating to the Roman period, a fragmented tombstone bearing the inscription Περίανδρος Μύρμηκος was found (Fig. 2). This discovery is particularly significant as it marks the first direct evidence of the rare Bosporan name "Myrmex" within the settlement's vicinity.³

³ Bekhter–Butyagin 2023a [А. П. Бехтер, А. М. Бутягин, “Надгробная стела Перияндра, сына Мирмека”, in: *Археологические вести*], 175–179.



Fig. 2. Myrmekion. The funeral stele of Periandros, son of Myrmex. Limestone. The 1st half to the middle of the 4th century BC.

Research in the I area situated in Myrmekion's central part has been continued to investigate the Roman-period layer. This exploration revealed masonry extending from east to west, demarcating Roman constructions from the Hellenistic-period Ash Hill II layers to the south. Within these Hellenistic layers, a substantial quantity of period-specific materials was unearthed, including a significant number of amphora stamps. Particularly remarkable was the discovery of two large lead letter fragments, a rarity since only one such artefact had been previously discovered at Myrmekion (Fig. 3).⁴ The most important finding of 2022 was a hoard of gold coins found within a small clay jug during the clearing of a Roman period pit's edges, lying in older Hellenistic layers. This vessel contained 30 coins: 26 issued by Alexander the Great and 4 by his brother Philip Arrhidaeus, marking the largest known accumulation of such coins within the Bosphoran Kingdom (Fig. 4). This artefact challenges previous assumptions about the absence of these coins in the region.⁵

In 2023, an extensive excavation of a large pit was conducted within the TS area, and a new excavation trench directed southward has been started. This work involved the removal of layers associated with wartime activities and the remnants of a 19th century cellar. Additionally, investigations partially uncovered layers and pits dating to the late medieval period. The excavation of a well, first opened in 2000 and subsequently preserved, was resumed, allowing for its clearance from stone and earth debris down to a depth of 4.5 meters. Among the notable finds were stone anchors, one of which uniquely bore the letter Δ.

In the M area, to facilitate the examination of the layers beneath, the paving of a street leading to the gates was dismantled. This process unveiled the street's underlying layers, the foundation of the wall adjacent to the gates, and a scattering of small stones where the wall and street intersect. A significant find in this area was numerous iron scales, potentially from Scythian armour. Moreover, a late Archaic-period furnace was discovered, featuring a chimney made of amphora necks and a firebox made from an amphora body.

⁴ Bekhter–Butyagin 2023b [А. П. Бехтер, А. М. Бутягин, “Свинцовый архив Мирмекия (обзор)”, in: *Боспорский феномен: quarta pars saeculi. Итоги, вопросы, дискуссии (материалы международной научной конференции)*], 365–370.

⁵ Butyagin 2023 [А. М. Бутягин “Монеты Александра Великого на Боспоре и Мирмекийский клад 2022 года”, in: *Александр Македонский: путь на Восток*], 89–90.



Fig. 3. Two fragments of lead letters. The 4th–3rd centuries BC.



Fig. 4. Uncovering of the hoard of staters of the Alexander the Great type.

Meanwhile, in the I area, the exploration was focused on the floors of buildings of the first centuries AD, reaching down to the levels dating to the late Classical and early Hellenistic periods.

The investigations carried out by the Myrmekion expedition over the recent five-year period have been remarkably successful.⁶ This period has seen considerable advancements in understanding the settlement's topography, a revision of the defensive wall's construction date, the uncovering of a unique hoard of gold coins, and the discovery of new epigraphic materials. These achievements not only enhance our comprehension of the site, but also contribute significantly to the broader field of archaeological research, offering new insights into the historical and cultural dynamics of the region.

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⁶ Butyagin et al. 2022 [A. M. Бутягин и др. “Археологические открытия Мирмекийской экспедиции в 2022 году”, in: *Боспорский феномен: Большие и малые города Боспорского царства (материалы международной научной конференции)*], 313–320.

carstva (materialy mezhdunarodnoj nauchnoj konferencii) (St Petersburg 2022) 313–320.

- A. M. Butyagin, V. P. Kolosov, “K probleme datirovki vostochnoj chasti oboronitel’noj sistemy Mirmekija” [“The Problem of Dating an Eastern Part of the Defensive System of Myrmekion”], in: *Arkheologicheskie vesti* 41 (2023) 300–308.
- A. P. Bekhter, A. M. Butyagin, “Nadgrobnaja stela Periandra, syna Mirmeka” [“The Funeral Stele of Periandros, Son of Myrmex”], in: *Arkheologicheskie vesti* 41 (2023a) 175–179.
- A. P. Bekhter, A. M. Butyagin, “Svincovyj arkhiv Mirmekija (obzor)” [“Myrmekion lead archive”], in: *Bosporskij fenomen: quarta pars saeculi. Itogi, voprosy, diskussii (materialy mezhdunarodnoj nauchnoj konferencii)* (St Petersburg 2023b) 365–370.

From 2019 to 2023, excavations at the Myrmekion settlement site were conducted in three main areas: the central (I), the western (TS), and the eastern (M). Within the area M, a necropolis from the second half of the 6th century BC was discovered, as well as a section of a defensive wall with a gate and a paved street leading to it. The construction of the wall dates back to the turn of the 3rd to the 2nd centuries BC, judging from the found materials. A fragmentary tombstone stele with the inscription Περíανδρος Μύρμηκος was found near a Roman era pit. At the site I during the study of a house from the first centuries AD and layers of the Hellenistic Ash-Hill II, fragments of two lead letters were found. In addition, a hoard of 30 gold staters of the Alexander the Great type, dating back to the late 4th century BC, was found in a ceramic vessel. Excavations in the TS area have been continued to uncover estates of the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. A Late Bronze Age grave was also found under one of the Roman era walls. An area to the northeast of the settlement with a layer from the 4th century BC was studied, as well.

В 2019–2023 гг. городище Мирмекий исследовалось в центральной (участок И), западной (ТС) и восточной (М) частях. На участке М открыт некрополь второй половины VI в. до н. э., а также часть оборонительной стены с воротами, к которым ведет мощеная улица. Открытые материалы позволяют отнести сооружение стены к рубежу III–II вв. до н. э. Рядом в яме римского времени найдена фрагментированная надгробная стела с надписью “Периандр, сын Мирмека”. На участке И исследовался дом римского времени и слой зольника II. При этом обнаружены фрагменты двух свинцовых писем. Здесь в глиняном сосуде открыт клад из 30 золотых статов типа Александра Македонского, относящийся к концу IV в. до н. э. На участке ТС продолжались раскопки усадеб I–III вв. н. э. Открыто также погребение эпохи поздней бронзы в скорченной позе. К северо-востоку от городища исследовался участок со слоем IV в. до н. э.

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RESCUE EXCAVATIONS AT THE PARTHENION CITY SITE IN 2020*

Ancient written tradition has preserved information about two Bosporan cities situated in the coastal zone of the northeastern tip of Kerch peninsula to the northeast of the modern city of Kerch (The Republic of Crimea), Parthenion and Porthmion. They are associated with ancient ruins located between the modern villages of Opasnoe and Zhukovka.¹ The distance in a straight line between the two ancient cities is just 1.3 km. Parthenion sits near the northern outskirts of the village of Opasnoe. It occupies part of an elevated plateau with an area of about 3.5 ha that juts out in the form of a small cape to the southeast to a low-lying part of the drying Celimbernyj (Yeni Kale) firth. This site is one of the least-studied Greek cities of the European Bosphorus. To date, almost 400 m² of the area of the site have been unearthed.² The obtained data allow us to assert with confidence that

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¹ Grinevich 1927 [К. Э. Гриневич, “Археологические разведки в северо-восточной части Керченского полуострова”, in: *Известия Таврического общества истории, археологии и этнографии*], 51; Veselov 1952 [В. В. Веселов, “Древние городища в районе Сипягино (К вопросу о местоположении Парфения и Порфмия)”, in: *Археология и история Боспора*], 227–238; Veselov 2005 [В. В. Веселов, *Сводная ведомость результатов археологических разведок на Керченском и Таманском полуостровах в 1949–1964 гг.*], 15.

² On the exploration of Parthenion, see Kastanayan 1958 [Е. Г. Кастанаян, “Археологическая разведка на городище Парфений в 1949 г.”, in: *Боспорские города*], 254–265; Bessonova–Stolyarenko–Kropotov 2010 [С. С. Бессонова, П. Г. Столяренко, В. В. Кропотов, “Начало исследований на городище Парфений”, in: *СУМВОЛА. Античный мир Северного Причерноморья. Новые*

the city site existed continuously from the second half of the sixth century BC to the first half of the second century AD.³

In 2020, a rescue archaeological expedition of the IHMC RAS conducted rescue archeological excavations of the ancient city and its necropolis.⁴ These measures were urgently needed because of the construction of a supply water line to the settlements of the eastern tip of the Kerch Peninsula. A route of the water line crossed a protective zone of the city site from the northeast. It cut into a lower part of a steep southeastern slope under a central part of the site.

In 2020, the archaeological excavations were carried out at the Parthenion city site on an area of 520 m² and at its southwestern necropolis on an area of 420 m².

Excavations of the City Site

An explored part of the city site was located on the southeastern slope of the cape, along a railway technological platform, and turned to the West along a road paved with gravel.⁵ Before the beginning of the work, a construction company dug a trench for the water line with the width of 1.5 m and the depth of 1.3 m through almost the entire area. During the field works, the trench was divided into sections with a length of 10 m to ease the fixation of the stratigraphy of cultural layers (Fig. 1). The layers of the Ancient Period were a thick layer of loose lumpy loam of a light brown color and its shades. There were multiple heaps of rocks in the

находки и открытия], 22, 23; Stolyarenko–Kropotov 2012 [П. Г. Столяренко, В. В. Кропотов, “Исследование городища Парфений”, in: *Археологічні дослідження в Україні в 2011 р.*], 120–122; Stolyarenko–Kropotov 2013 [П. Г. Столяренко, В. В. Кропотов, “Работы экспедиции ‘Парфений’”, in: *Археологічні дослідження в Україні в 2012 р.*], 89–91; Stolyarenko 2014 [П. Г. Столяренко, “Исследования на городище Парфений”, in: *Археологічні дослідження в Україні в 2013 р.*], 77–78.

³ In the previous years during the excavations led by N. G. Stolyarenko, the remains of residential houses of the Late Archaic Period, a base of a defensive wall from the first half of the 5th century BC, and the complex of the Late Hellenistic period were unearthed.

⁴ Vakhtina et al. 2021 [М. Ю. Вахтина, С. Л. Соловьев, П. Г. Столяренко, В. В. Вахонеев, Е. В. Четверкина, “Спасательные археологические раскопки на городище и некрополе Парфения в 2020 г.”, *Бюллетень ИИМК РАН: охранный археология*].

⁵ Vakhtina et al. 2021.



Fig. 1. Parthenion. A trench with the remains of Hellenistic Period buildings.

layer. Material from the first centuries AD prevailed in it. Most of the explored layer under it was of similar shades but denser. It contained materials mostly from the Hellenistic Age. Lower there was another denser dark brown loam on top of the bed soil, almost without findings. The bed soil along the entire length of the trench is a white-eye clay. Its upper part has shades from dark grey to grayish-yellow. Besides the described basic layers along the entire length of the trench, lots of different local layers, sublayers, and lenses were fixed.

During the archaeological excavations conducted in this area, remains of urban buildings of the Hellenistic Period were found: different aboveground remains of buildings and soil structures, mainly household pits. The aboveground remains of buildings consisted of: (1) large-scale residential houses of an urban type with stone wall bases, stone pavements of yards, and a drain; (2) a winery, whose construction includes two reservoirs coated with caementum, part of a pressing ground, and a tarapan (the lower part of a grape press). A representative collection of archeological material was found. It includes fragments of amphorae from different Black Sea coastal region and Mediterranean centers of production,

fragments of table and cooking ware, and roofing tile. Meanwhile, among the archaeological materials from the filling of the rooms of the residential houses were also examples of Attic painted dinner and black-glazed ware, relief pottery made in Asia Minor, Pontus, and Bosphorus. Of particular note are the findings of bronze coins, fragments of terracotta figurines, lamps, different types of bronze, and lead and stone artifacts. Most of the finds can be dated to the Hellenistic Period. There was also pottery dated to the first centuries AD.

Among the most interesting of the uncovered buildings are the remains of a composite winery, the first one found on this site.⁶ Three standardly positioned adjacent reservoirs measuring 1.60×1.02 m, with a depth of 1.35 m and with three pressing grounds, belong to the winery complex (Fig. 2). One of the stone drains was found in a heap of rocks in the filling of reservoir 3. The walls of the reservoirs are made of big and



Fig. 2. Parthenion. Sector 9. The remains of the winery. View from the west.

⁶ Vakhtina et al. 2021, 128–129, fig. 8, 9.

medium-sized rubble stone. The partition walls between them consist of small, carefully hewn limestone blocks with a width of 0.25 m. The walls of the reservoirs and the beds of the pressing ground are covered with 4 to 5 layers of cement plaster. The filling of the reservoirs consisted of three layers: the upper part was filled with loose, light brown loam; under it there was a layer of loam with a heap of small and medium-sized stones and collapsed plaster; underneath that were sublayers of loam, sea sand, shells and seagrass. The trench of the water line had partially destroyed reservoirs 1 and 2 and the pressing grounds adjacent to them from the east. From the north, the winery was limited by a stone wall 27, unearthed to the length of 5.05 m in length, with a width of 0.70 m. The masonry was single-row, self-faced and two-faced. It is made of stones of different sizes and is oriented to the east and west. Two pressing grounds were adjacent to it. A pit for a weight for the press was found 1.50 m away to the west of the reservoirs. It was square and lined with stone. Its sides were 0.80 m long. A fragment of the weight was found in a soil heap of the supply water line trench. Pavement 9 was adjacent to the pit on the west.

Among the individual finds, noteworthy is a fragment of a bottom and a near-bottom part of a ceramic mold for fabricating relief bowls (Fig. 3. 1, 2) found in sector 3.⁷ The mold was made of gray clay with single inclusions of limestone. A light grey engobe was applied to its outside surface. A preserved part of the mold was about 5.5 cm tall, the diameter of its bottom was 6.8 cm, and the width of its walls ranged from 0.5 cm in the upper part to 0.9 cm in the lower part. On an inside part, a fragment of a floral ornament was preserved. Groups of four narrow leaves alternated with broad ones. One such broad leaf is best preserved in a central part of the fragment. Vertical lines of dots are placed between the leaves. On the inside surface of the bottom is part of an eight-petal rosette and a signature “ΔΗΜΗ[ΤΡΙΟΥ]”. The mold was intended for fabricating relief bowls in a “workshop by Demetrios”. Nowadays its traces in Bosphorus are relatively well-known and studied.⁸ Bowls made in

⁷ Vakhtina et al. 2021, 123–132, fig. 12.

⁸ Blavatsky 1959 [В. Д. Блаватский, “О производстве ‘мегарских’ чаш в Пантикапее”, *Краткие сообщения Института истории материальной культуры*], fig. 62; Shurgaya 1962 [И. Г. Шургая, “О производстве эллинистической рельефной керамики на Боспоре”, in: *Материалы по археологии Северного Причерноморья*], 117; Loseva 1962 [Н. М. Лосева, “Об импорте и местном производстве ‘мегарских’ чаш на Боспоре”, in: *Пантикапей*], fig. 6, 2; Gajdukevich 1958 [В. Ф. Гайдукевич, “Раскопки Мирмекия и Тиритаки в 1946–1952 гг.”], in: *Боспорские города*], 209, рис. 66; Gajdukevich 1959 [В. Ф. Гайдукевич,

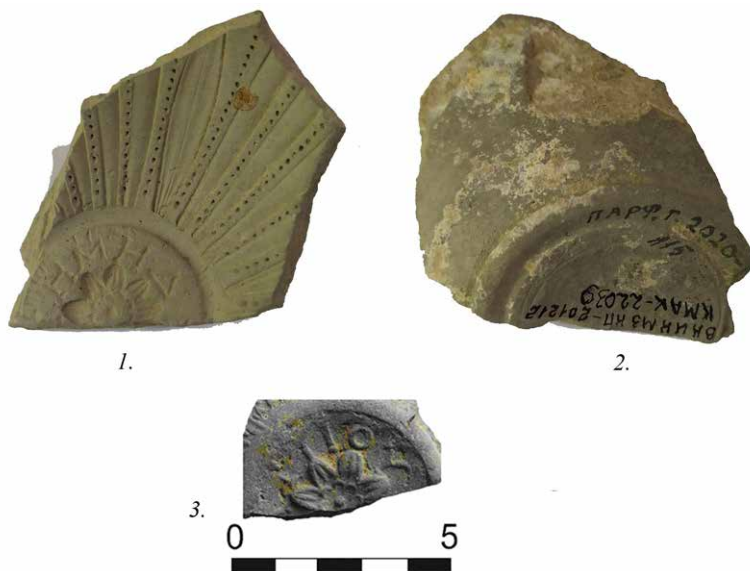


Fig. 3. Parthenion. 1, 2 – the fragment of the mold for fabricating “Megarian” bowls; 3 – the fragment of the bottom of the relief bowl with the signature.

the workshop by Demetrios imitated imported Ephesian vessels that had a similar system of decoration. At that time, relief pottery from Ephesus was widespread in materials from Panticapaeum.⁹ Bowls with floral ornaments from the workshop by Demetrios are dated within the first half of the second century BC¹⁰ or to the end of the second or the beginning of the first century BC.¹¹ One of the departments of this workshop probably existed in Parthenion. During the excavations of the city site, fragments of “Megarian” bowls made in the workshop by Demetrios were also

Мирмекий П. Советские раскопки в 1956 г. (1934–1956), 79, fig. 85; Gajdukevich–Mikhailovsky 1961 [В. Ф. Гайдукевич, К. Михайловский, “Мирмекий в свете советско-польских исследований”, in: *Исследования по археологии СССР. Сборник в честь профессора М. И. Артамонова*], 131, fig. 3; Butyagin–Kasparov 2019, 111–112, fig. 5.

⁹ Zhuravlev 2011 [Д. В. Журавлев, “Новые находки позднеэллинистической керамики и светильников из Пантикапея”, *Проблемы истории, филологии, культуры*], 223.

¹⁰ Grzegorzóka 2010, 30, see catalogue.

¹¹ Kovalenko 1996, 55–57; Vnukov–Kovalenko 1998 [С. Ю. Внуков, С. А. Коваленко, “‘Мегарские’ чаши с городища Кара-Тобе”, in: *Эллинистическая и римская керамика в Северном Причерноморье*], 71; Zhuravlev 2011, 224.

found. There is a fragment of a bottom with a signature among them (Fig. 3. 3). No doubt the finding of the fragment of the mold expands our understanding both of the work of the workshop by Demetrios and of the economic life of the ancient city.

Among the individual findings we should also note the find of a clay model of a Greek warship.¹²

Excavations of the Necropolis

The necropolis of Parthenion is located about 750–1000 m to the southwest of the city site on top of a ridge dominating the village of Opasnoe.¹³ From here, you have a picturesque view of the northeastern tip of the Kerch peninsula, of the northern part of the Kerch Strait, and of its eastern coast. The area of the necropolis is a narrow strip that extends along almost all of the crest of the elevated range for about 1 km. First finds connected with the Parthenion necropolis – two limestone tombstones – were discovered by V. V. Veselov during construction works at the beginning of the 1950s.¹⁴ Veselov described the western part of the necropolis based on material from his excavations “400 m to the west of the northern outskirts of Opasnoe village, near a small destroyed burial mound close to the territory of a Bronze Age settlement”.¹⁵

After Veselov’s explorations, the Parthenion necropolis did not draw scientific interest for a long time. Earthworks and planning from the end of the 1980s to the beginning of the 1990s on different parts of the ridge impacted much of its territory. During these works in the eastern part of the necropolis, a vault from the second to the first century BC was found.¹⁶ In the first half of the 1990s, the necropolis was actively looted. About 20 grave constructions, including the vaults, were partly or fully breached.

¹² Vakhtina et al. 2021, 131, fig. 14; Vakhoneev–Petrovsky 2024 [В. В. Вахонеев, В. М. Петровский, “Глиняная модель корабля из Парфения”, *Археологические вести*].

¹³ Stolyarenko–Mikhailov 2015 [П. Г. Столяренко, А. М. Михайлов, “К топографии некрополя Парфения”, *Таврические студии*].

¹⁴ Veselov 1959 [В. В. Веселов, “Археологические разведки в восточной части Керченского полуострова”, *Советская археология*], 231; *CIRB 896 with CIRB album*.

¹⁵ Veselov 2005, 15; 16.

¹⁶ Shestakov 1991 [С. А. Шестаков, “Отчет о разведках на Керченском полуострове в 1991 году”, *Архив ГБУ РК “Восточно-Крымский историко-культурный музей-заповедник”*], 5–8.

In the area of the southwestern Parthenion necropolis examined in 2020 (Fig. 4), three graves from the Hellenistic Age were explored.¹⁷

Grave 1 (Fig. 5) was in sector 8 under the layer of turf. The boundaries of the burial pit sized 0.65 m were unclear, its grey, loamy soil filling was



Fig. 4. The southwestern Parthenion necropolis.
The area where excavations were carried out. View from the south.



Fig. 5. Grave 1. View from the east.

¹⁷ Vakhtina et al. 2021, 132–137.

hard-packed. The bottom of the pit was at the level of a rock underlying the cultural level. The western wall of the grave was lined with three stone slabs, one of which, an anthropomorphic tombstone, was laid on its edge for a secondary use. It is $0.58 \times 0.23 \times 0.14$ m in size. The grave is oriented along a north-northwest to south-southeast axis. A skeleton was placed with the skull facing north-northwest, on its back, with its hands extended alongside the body. Bones of a left forearm, soles, and part of a shin are missing. Near a lower jaw to the right a bronze Bosphorus coin from the second to first century BC was found (with a triangle emblem). The skeleton belonged to a 20- to 30-year-old woman.¹⁸

Grave 2 was also found in sector 8. It was embedded in the rock for 0.10 m. The oval burial pit with a length of 1.50 m, a width of 0.40 m, and a depth of 0.40 m was oriented along the northwest-southeast axis. It was filled with dark grey loamy soil with small limestones. Two limestone slabs covering the pit near a torso and a head were partially preserved. The buried skeleton lay with its head facing northwest, on its back, with its hands extended alongside the body. A flat stone of irregular shape and sized $0.25 \times 0.20 \times 0.10$ m was placed under the head. Grave goods are lacking.

Grave 3 was in Sector 6. One meter deeper than the modern surface, a spot of the burial pit was traced. It was 3.87×3.0 m in cross section and 0.70 m deep. It was oriented along the northwest-southeast axis. The western, southern, and eastern sides of the burial pit were carved in the rock; the northern side was carved in yellow bed soil loam. The grave was filled with grey-brown loamy soil. At a depth of 1.20 m from the modern-day surface in the southeastern part of the burial pit are ruins of stones sized $0.41 \times 0.31 \times 0.13$ m, $0.38 \times 0.43 \times 0.16$ m, and $0.43 \times 0.40 \times 0.05$ m. Below the traces of the destroyed grave, redeposited human bones (not in an anatomical order) were found on an area of 1.5 m².

In the process of disassembling the filling, 106 glass beads were found. 87 specimens are chopped blue glass beads, 2–5 mm in diameter and 1–3 mm in length. Such beads, cut from thin glass tubes, were common in the northern Black Sea coastal region from the second half of the third century BC.¹⁹ Three beads (type 197 by E. M. Alekseeva) are arrow-shaped, dark blue pendants with a thin strip of blank white glass. Two eye-shaped beads were made of blue and light blue glass. Beads of other types made of polychrome and monochrome glass were also found (Fig. 6).

¹⁸ This anthropological determination was made by D. Yu. Ponomarev.

¹⁹ Alekseeva 1978 [E. M. Алексеева, *Античные бусы Северного Причерноморья*], 62.



Fig. 6. Grave 3. Beads and pendants of different types.

Heavily corroded fragments of bronze products were also found in the filling: four rings of different diameters, the remains of fibulae, a bell, and a round object (a coin?) with a hole. In addition, fragments of at least three terracotta statuettes were found in the western part of the grave (Fig. 7).

The archaeological finds from the cultural layer of the necropolis are mainly the amphorae fragments from the Black Sea coastal region and Mediterranean centers of production. Less common are fragments of kitchenware. There are also silicone flakes, probably from the Bronze Age.

In terms of dating, construction of the grave structures and the nature of the rite, the graves found during the excavations of the Parthenion necropolis have similarities with the grave complexes discovered during the study of the Hellenistic area of the necropolis of neighboring Porthmion.²⁰

²⁰ Vakhtina–Stolyarenko 2013 [М. Ю. Вахтина, П. Г. Столяренко, “Некрополь Порфмия (по материалам раскопок 2004–2012 гг.)”, in: *Культурный слой*]; Vakhtina–Stolyarenko 2014 [М. Ю. Вахтина, П. Г. Столяренко, “Грунтовый некрополь Порфмия. Особенности погребального обряда ‘малого’ боспорского города”, in: *Погребальная культура Боспорского царства. Материалы Круглого стола, посвященного 100-летию со дня рождения М. М. Кубланова*].



Fig. 7. Grave 3. Fragments of terracotta figurines.

The part of the Hellenistic Parthenion urban area unearthed during the rescue archaeological excavations has huge significance for studying the appearance of the ancient city and the economic activities of its inhabitants. In this regard, it was decided to move the water pipeline under construction to the site of the former water pipeline laid in the 1970s to the south of the urban development area of Parthenion, identified during archaeological research in 2020, which was mothballed for further research.

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The article is devoted to the results of the archaeological rescue excavations of ancient Parthenion and its necropolis conducted in 2020 by the rescue archaeological expedition of the Institute for the History of Material Culture RAS. The need for urgent implementation of these works was caused by the construction of the supply water line, whose route crossed a protective zone of the site. At the city site, the studies took place on an area of 520 m²; at the necropolis, they were conducted on an area of 420 m². During the excavations, the remains of urban buildings of the Hellenistic Period – various aboveground objects and utility pits – were unearthed. One of the most interesting of the revealed buildings is the winery, the first one known on this site. A representative collection of archaeological material, mostly belonging to the Hellenistic period, was found. Worth noting among the individual finds is a fragment of a mold for fabricating relief bowls with a ΔΗΜΗ[ΤΠΙΟΥ]

stamp. It testifies to the existence of a workshop there. In the examined area of the southwestern Parthenion necropolis, three graves from the Hellenistic Age were found. The first was made in a pit, lined with limestone slabs; the second was situated in a pit, embedded in bed soil rock; the third was found in a simple ground pit. Beads of different types, fragments of terracotta statuettes, and a bronze Bosporan coin were found among the grave goods. The grave structures and the rite show similarities with the grave complexes of the Bosporan necropoleis. The materials found during the rescue excavations of Parthenion are of great importance for the reconstruction of the appearance of the ancient city and the economic activities of its inhabitants in the Hellenistic period.

Статья посвящена результатам спасательных археологических раскопок античного городища Парфений и его некрополя, проведенных в 2020 г. античной новостроечной археологической экспедицией Института истории материальной культуры РАН. Необходимость срочного проведения этих работ была вызвана строительством подводящего водовода, трасса которого пересекала охранную зону городища. На городище исследования велись на площади 520 кв. м, а на некрополе – на площади 420 кв. м. В ходе раскопок на городище были открыты остатки городской застройки эллинистического времени: разнообразные наземные объекты и хозяйственные ямы. Одним из интереснейших открытых сооружений являются остатки винодельни, первой известной для этого памятника. Собрана представительная коллекция археологического материала, основная масса которого принадлежит эллинистическому периоду, также встречается керамика первых веков н. э. Среди индивидуальных находок заслуживает внимания фрагмент керамической формы для производства рельефных чаш с клеймом ΔΝΜΗ[ΤΡΙΟΥ], свидетельствующей о существовании здесь собственной мастерской. На исследованном участке юго-западного некрополя Парфения были выявлены три погребения эллинистической эпохи. Одно из них было совершено в яме, обложенной плитами известняка, второе – в яме, заглубленной в материковую скалу, третье – в простой грунтовой яме. В числе погребального инвентаря – бусы разных типов, фрагменты терракотовых статуэток, бронзовая боспорская монета. Погребальные сооружения и обряд демонстрируют сходство с погребальными комплексами боспорских некрополей III–I вв. до н. э. Материалы, обнаруженные в результате спасательных археологических раскопок Парфения, имеют большое значение для реконструкции облика древнего города и хозяйственной деятельности его жителей эллинистического времени.

Sergey Kashaev

EXCAVATIONS AT THE NECROPOLIS OF THE ARTYUSHCHENKO-2 SITE IN 2019–2023*

In 2019–2023, the Taman team of the Bosporan Expedition of IHMC RAS conducted excavations of the archaeological sites of the necropolis and settlement of Artyushchenko-2. As in the previous years, the main investigations were carried out at the necropolis.¹

During four seasons, an area of ca. 650 m² was investigated at the necropolis.² In the course of the excavations, 26 graves were discovered (nos. 188–210, Г18–Г20), three of which were finally investigated after modern illegal excavations (Fig. 1–4).

The following features are characteristic of graves in the necropolis of Artyushchenko-2: the depth from the modern surface to the bottoms of the graves varies from 1.0 to 2.0 m and as a rule is about 1.5 m. The state of preservation of the skeletons is mostly poor or very poor. In rare cases, they are in a fair condition. The most frequent position of the skeletons is lying outstretched the back, hands beside the body, with straight legs. Most often, the burials were made in simple fossa graves with or without a roofing. Approximately 10 % of the grave constructions are mudbrick vaults; earthen tombs are rather rare.

The skeletons in the oldest graves (5th to 4th centuries BC) are oriented with the head to the east or north-east. In the graves from the 3rd to 2nd centuries BC, the skeletons are more frequently oriented with the head toward the southern and eastern sectors, and in the graves from the 4th to 5th centuries AD, with the head oriented toward the north. The graves without grave goods and the disturbed ones cannot be exactly dated.

Below, a description of the discovered grave complexes is presented.

* The investigation was conducted as part of the programme of fundamental scientific investigations “The oldest heritage of the South of Russia: cities, rural settlements, necropoleis, economic transformations after natural scientific data” (FMZF-2022-0013).

¹ Kashaev 2019.

² In 2022, no works were conducted.



Fig. 1. Necropolis of Artyushchenko-2. Finds, 5th century BC.
 1 – black gloss bowl; 2 – Lesbian amphora (Grave 188); 3 – small jug;
 4 – black gloss kylix; 5 – oinochoe (Grave 193).

Grave 188 is a vault whose walls are constructed of mudbricks. The outer dimensions of the installation are 2.95 to 3.0 × 2.0 m; the internal dimensions of the funerary chamber are 2.0 × 1.1 m. It was possible to trace the mudbrick masonry to a height of 0.55 to 0.6 m. The bottom of the vault is formed by the virgin loam; it is even, without grooves or pits. The skeleton lay extended on its back, with the skull oriented toward the east. It was poorly preserved and presumably belonged to a male 20–25 years old. The grave inventory of this grave included a Lesbian amphora of an archaic type from the second half of the 6th century BC (Fig. 1. 2),³ a black-gloss bowl dated to about 500 BC (Fig. 1. 1),⁴ and a silver signet ring. The weapons and elements of a horse bridle preserved in the grave are typical of military burials: a spearhead, a sword, the butt-weight of a spear, and a strap ornament. Generally, on the basis of the grave goods, this grave is datable to the turn from the 6th to the 5th centuries BC or the early 5th century BC.

Grave 191 had a grave pit measuring 0.85 × 2.15 m 0.95 m deep from the modern surface to the bottom. The skeleton lay extended on its back with the skull oriented toward the east, the legs were straight, and the hands extended along the body. The skeleton is poorly preserved; it belonged to a male (?) 20–30 years old. The grave goods included the body of a redware pitcher (or oinochoe) and a redware aryballic lekythos that was placed inside the pitcher, a situation recorded at our site for the first time. The grave is datable to the end of the 5th to the 4th century BC.

Grave 193 is an earthen fossa grave with a roof. The dimensions of the grave pit are 0.6 × 1.9 m, the depth from the modern surface to the bottom is 1.35 m. The skeleton lay extended on its back with its skull oriented toward the east; the legs were straight, the hands extended along the body. The skeleton was poorly preserved and belonged to a male 25–30 years old. The grave goods included a redware oinochoe (Fig. 1. 5), a black-gloss kylix dated to about 480–460 BC (Fig. 1. 4),⁵ a miniature pitcher (Fig. 1. 3), and a handmade spindle whorl. The grave is datable to the first quarter of the 5th century BC.

In Grave 195, the grave pit measured 0.55 × 1.65 m, and the depth from the modern surface to the bottom was 1.50 m. The skeleton lay extended on its back with its skull oriented toward the south; its legs were straight, and its hands extended along the body. The skeleton was poorly preserved.

³ Monakhov 2003 [С. Ю. Монахов, *Греческие амфоры в Причерноморье. Типология амфор ведущих центров-экспортеров в керамической таре. Каталог-определитель*], 48, 260, Tab. 30.

⁴ Sparkes–Talcott 1970, no. 964.

⁵ Sparkes–Talcott 1970, no. 443.

It belonged to a woman 50–55 years old. Found in the grave were a pitcher (Fig. 2. 3), a redware vessel with a spout (Fig. 2. 2), a small redware plate (Fig. 2. 1), and an unidentifiable copper alloy coin. On the basis of the grave inventory, the grave is datable to within the 3rd century BC.

Grave 200 belonged to a newborn baby, whose body was placed in an amphora (during investigation of the fill of the amphora, only small fragments of skeletal remains were recorded). Presumably we are dealing with a Chian straight-necked amphora of variant IV-B.⁶ The amphora lay with its neck oriented toward the north-west. Its neck and handles were broken off in antiquity, while the foot has survived (Fig. 2. 7). The grave may be dated to the second half (the turn from the third to the fourth quarter) of the 5th century BC.

Grave 209 was in a grave pit measuring 0.75×1.45 m; the depth from the modern surface to the bottom is 1.37 m. The skeleton lay extended on its back, with its skull oriented toward the west; the legs lay straight, and the hands were beside the body. The skeleton was in a very poor state of preservation; it belonged to a woman 20–30 years old. The grave offerings included a redware oinochoe (Fig. 2. 4), a black-glossed kylix dated to the late 6th century BC (Fig. 2. 5),⁷ a redware bowl (Fig. 2. 6), a fragment of a pitcher (or oinochoe), a bronze pendant, a ceramic spindle whorl, and an iron knife. Judging from the grave goods, the grave can be dated to the late 6th century BC.

Grave 209, found in 2023, was constructed as an earthen vault buried in the virgin loam. It is a new type of funerary structure in the necropolis under consideration.

The tomb is oriented along the line south-west to north-east. The dromos was from the south-west, while the chamber of the vault was from the north-east. The dromos was filled with dark brown loamy soil and measured 1.2×1.3 m in plan; its measured maximum depth was 0.46 m. From the south-western side of the dromos, the remains of two steps dug in the virgin loam were preserved. The height of the steps was 0.20 to 0.25 m, the width 0.3 to 0.65 m, the length 1.0 to 1.2 m. The depth from the modern surface to the bottom of the dromos was 2.50 m.

From the north-eastern side of the dromos there was a passage to the chamber of the vault; it measured 1.0×1.4 m in plan. The passage was filled with light brown loam formed by the collapsed virgin-ground arch of the tomb.

⁶ Monakhov 2003, Tab. 9. 3.

⁷ Bujskikh 2013 [А. В. Буйских, *Архаическая расписная керамика из Ольвии (восточногреческая, лаконская, коринфская, имитации)*], no. 11. 27.



Fig. 2. Necropolis of Artyushchenko-2. Finds.

1 – plate, 3rd century BC; 2 – redware vessel, 3rd century BC; 3 – jug, 3rd century BC (Grave 195); 4 – oinochoe, 6th century BC; 5 – black gloss kylix, 6th century BC; 6 – bowl, 6th century BC (Grave 208); 7 – Chian amphora 5th century BC (Grave 200).



*Fig. 3. Necropolis of Artyushchenko-2. Finds, 2nd century BC.
 1 – red gloss lekythos; 2 – jug; 3 – pelike; 4–7 – unguentaria; 8 – red
 gloss saltcellar; 9 – lid; 10 – lekane; 11 – plate (Grave 209).*

The chamber of the tomb is rectangular and measures 1.4 × 1.7 m. Along the entire length of the centre of the chamber, a passage 0.15 to 0.17 m deep and 0.3 m wide was dug into the virgin loam. To the left and right of the passage, two benches were arranged, onto which the bodies of the deceased were placed. The benches were 0.50 to 0.55 m wide. The fill of the chamber of the vault was the light brown virgin loam formed by the collapsed virgin soil of the tomb. The depth from the modern surface to the bottom of the chamber is 2.90 m. The measured height of the chamber is at least 0.6 m, the reconstructed height may have been up to 1.2 m. The general length of the vault and dromos is 4.1 m.

It seems there were repeated burials in the tomb, and the skeletal remains of the previously buried were moved towards the southern wall. As a result, on the right (southern) bench and near the southern wall, a chaotic accumulation of various bones (mostly legs and hands) formed. At the same time, of note is the absence of skeletal remains preserving anatomic order. The vault may have been robbed more than once in antiquity.

In total, the remains of at least 6 to 7 people were found in the tomb. It was impossible to determine the exact number of the buried. It can be stated only that the interred included adult (30- to 50-year-old) men and women, as well as children (5–6 years old). The state of preservation of all the skeletons was very poor.

In the burial chamber of the vault, on the benches, and in the passage, various items of the grave inventory were found, including a red-slip lekythos (Fig. 3. 1), a jug with a black coating (Fig. 3. 2), a redware pelike (Fig. 3. 3), unguentaria (Fig. 3. 4, 5, 6, 7), a red-slip saltcellar (Fig. 3. 8), a redware lekane with a lid (Fig. 3. 9, 10), and a plate with a black coating (Fig. 3. 11).

Also found here were a stone whetstone, a small fragment of a flat Bosphoran (?) ribbed tile, four iron knives, two iron buckles, bronze ornaments (bracelet, earrings, small finger rings), and a set of various beads.

In this vault, four poorly preserved Bosphoran bronze coins were also found:

1. Tetrachalkon (?), copper. D 11 mm. Weight 1.53 g.
Obv. – head of a bearded satyr right.
Rev. – bow and arrow right, below – ΦΑ.
2. Tetrachalkon (?), copper. D 12 mm. Weight 1.68 g.
Preservation: bad, worn and corroded.
Obv. – head of Apollo to the right.
Rev. – bow, below – ΠΑΝ.

3. Tetrachalkon (?), copper. D 12 mm. Weight 1.85 g.
 Preservation: bad, obverse obliterated by corrosion.
Obv. – head of Apollo to the right.
Rev. – gorytos left, below – ΠΑΝ.

4. Tetrachalkon (?), copper. D 11.5 mm. Weight 1.34 g.
 Preservation: bad, worn and corroded.
Obv. – head of a bearded satyr in an ivy wreath to the left.
Rev. – a cornucopia in the centre, at its sides the caps of the Dioscuri. ΠΑΝ-ΠΙ.

In the opinion of A. E. Tereshchenko who identified the coins, all the copper coins from Grave 209 are datable to the last decade of the 2nd century BC.

Judging from the found grave goods and the number of interred persons, the vault was used for a long time throughout the 2nd century BC. It was probably a family tomb where members of several generations of a single family were buried.

In addition, a number of graves disturbed in 2009 by robbers' trenches were investigated.

Grave Γ18, destroyed by robber's trench ΓIII no. 5, is an earthen pit with shoulders over which the boards of the roofing were laid and onto which a layer of mudbricks was placed. The robber's dig was in the central part of the grave. Found in the fill of the dig were fragments of human bones and items of the grave inventory that illicit excavators retrieved but did not collect. The external dimensions of the structure around the shoulders are 1.8 × 3.0 m, the size of the grave pit is 2.35 × 1.35 m, and the depth from the shoulders to the bottom of the pit is 0.25 m. The bottom of the grave is even, with no grooves or pits; it is formed from virgin loam. The skeleton probably lay extended on its back, with its skull oriented toward the east. The skeletal remains found in the fill of the robbers' trench belong to a male 25–30 years old. Among the preserved grave offerings are an iron spearhead, a spear butt, an iron sword, five iron and one bronze arrowhead, two lead spindle whorls, and the handle of a black gloss lekythos. The grave goods date the grave to the early 5th century BC.

Grave Γ19, destroyed by robbers' trench ΓIII no. 42, has a construction similar to Grave Γ18. The illegal dig was also in the central area of the grave. In its fill, fragments of human bones and items of the grave inventory were found. Judging by the distribution of the adobe spots, the structure's external dimensions were 1.4 × 2.0 m. The thickness of the adobe roofing was 0.5 to 0.6 m. The skeleton probably lay extended on its back with its

skull oriented toward the east. The skeletal remains found in the fill of the robber's dig belong to a male 25–30 years old. The surviving grave inventory comprised an iron spearhead, an iron sword, and an unidentified iron object resembling a spoon. The inventory dates the grave also to the early 5th century BC.

Grave Γ20 may be the grave of a baby in an amphora. The fragments of the amphora from an unidentified manufacturing centre were retrieved by the robbers and then thrown out into the fill of the trench. No human bones or items of the grave goods have been found. The upper body of the amphora with the neck and the rim and two handles are preserved. We found a similar amphora in Grave 120. The grave under consideration is datable to approximately the 2nd century BC.

Ritual deposit 29 was located at the eastern boundary of the necropolis and consisted of two vessels arranged along the west–east line. The depth from the modern surface to the level of the vessels was 0.93 m. On the west was a redware pitcher (Fig. 4. 1), on the east was a black-gloss kantharos (Fig. 4. 2). The kantharos on a small ring foot is of Attic manufacture. The slip is black and dense, glossy, and of good quality; in places, the slip has reddish spots caused by low-temperature firing. The vessel is strongly worn and chipped: the two handles are both lost, as is the ring foot; the place of the broken foot was carefully smoothed. The rim is almost entirely lost with only a small fragment preserved. On the internal surface of the bottom is a stamped pattern of five palmettes arranged around a circle and a ring of strokes. Similar kantharoi are dated to the first quarter of the 4th century.⁸

On the outer side, around a circle, a graffito Λάκαινα is scratched (the letters are 5 mm high) (Fig. 4. 3). This can be either a common noun (“Laconian woman”), an adjective (“Laconian”), or a personal name (see *LGPN* s. v.).⁹

On the opposite (internal) side of the bottom of the kantharos, remains of another graffito are preserved – a cross (?), into which a hole was intentionally punched. This fact very probably indicates the use of the vessel for a magic purpose. This supposition is indirectly confirmed by the fact that the kantharos was uncovered in the cultural layer of the necropolis where, according to some well-known papyri,¹⁰ it was prescribed to bury objects with magic inscriptions and signs on them; besides, the text prescribed that the traced symbols should be pierced.

⁸ Sparkes–Talcott 1970, no. 649–653.

⁹ The inscription was interpreted by A. S. Namoylik.

¹⁰ Preisendanz–Henrichs 1974, 304–369.

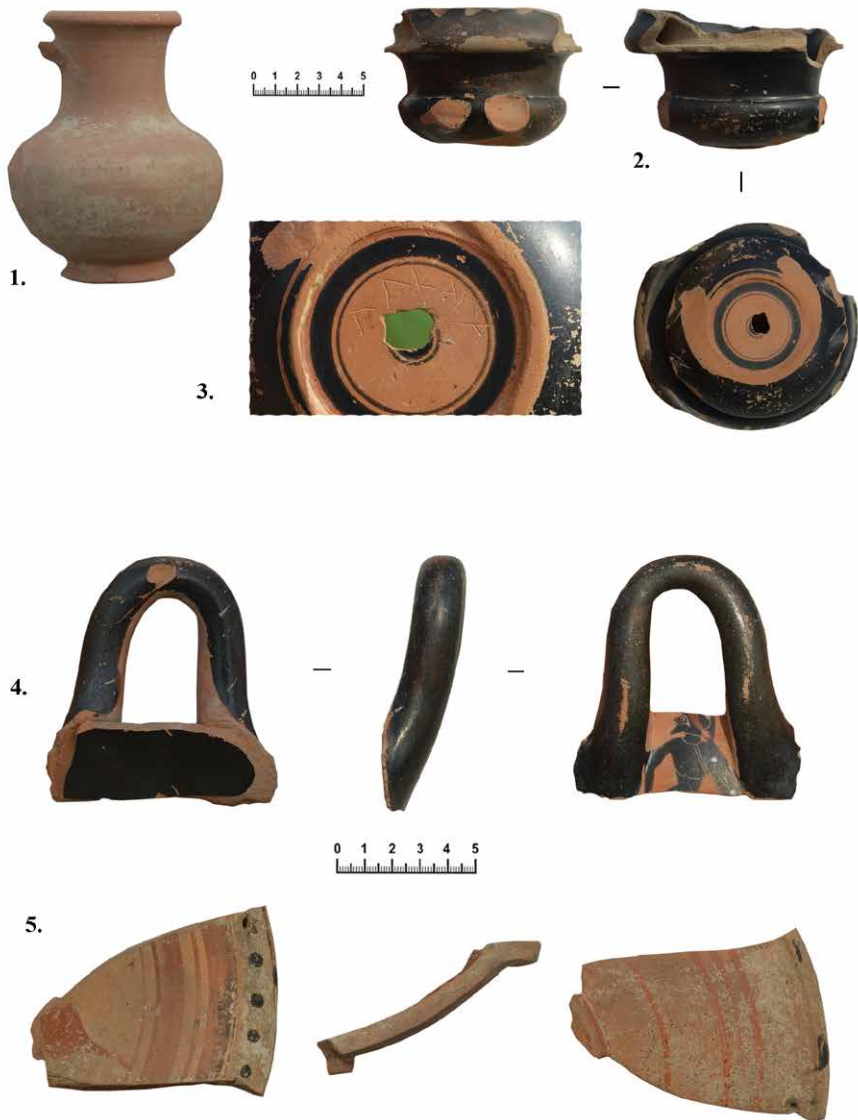


Fig. 4. Necropolis of Artyushchenko-2. Finds, 2nd century BC.
 1 – jug, 4th century BC; 2 – black gloss kantharos, 4th century BC; 3 –
 inscription on the bottom of the kantharos, 4th century BC (Ritual deposit
 29); 4 – fragment of a kylix, 6th century BC; 5 – fragment of a bowl,
 6th century BC (Pit 1/2021).

The state of preservation of the kantharos at the moment when it was brought to the cemetery (strongly damaged but all the breaks smoothed) also suggests its presence among objects that served magical or ritual purposes. The hole in the bottom of the vessel could have functioned similarly to the holes that were made with a calamus in a papyrus or with a nail in a lead plate, i. e., to damage the object. However, the main inscription, $\Lambda\acute{\alpha}\kappa\alpha\upsilon\alpha$, remained undamaged. Possibly this circumstance is explained by the fact that the magical action had no negative intention. On the other hand, the graffito may have appeared earlier than the time when the kantharos entered the sphere of sacral use. Meanwhile, the presence of an accidental inscription on an object of that kind seems improbable.¹¹ The complex under consideration is datable to the first quarter of the 4th century BC.

In Ritual deposit 30, which was found between graves $\Gamma 19$ and $\Gamma 20$, there was a fragmentary body of a Chian plump-necked amphora of the advanced type III-B from the first quarter of the 5th century BC.¹² The amphora was crushed by the earth into numerous fragments.

At the settlement site of Artyushchenko-2, in recent years, the investigations comprised a monitoring of the condition of the shore taluses along the entire southern boundary of the site, as well as investigations of the complexes under erosion.

Thus, at the edge of the shore precipice, Excavation 8 was started measuring 2×12 m and with an area of about 25 m^2 . Within the area of the excavation, pit no. 1/2021 was investigated (Fig. 5). The southwestern part of the pit was destroyed by a shore slide. The pit was poorly traceable on the vertical earthen wall formed by the slide and facing the south-west, so that the place was discovered through the presence of ceramic fragments and animal bones in the fill, some of which were found already beneath the precipice. The pit had a pear-like cross section and a flattened bottom. The diameter of its mouth was about 1.2 m, the diameter of the bottom 2.2 m, and the measured depth 1.56 m. The fill of the pit was homogeneous with a grey-brown loam, without visible intercalations; no admixtures of ashes were observable; in the fill, also fragments of ceramic pottery, stones, burnt clay lumps, animal bones, and mollusc shells were encountered.

¹¹ Kashaev–Namoylik 2023 [С. В. Кашаев, А. С. Намойлик, “Тризна 29 из раскопок некрополя Артющенко-2”, in: *Боспорские исследования*].

¹² Monakhov 2003, Tab. 6.

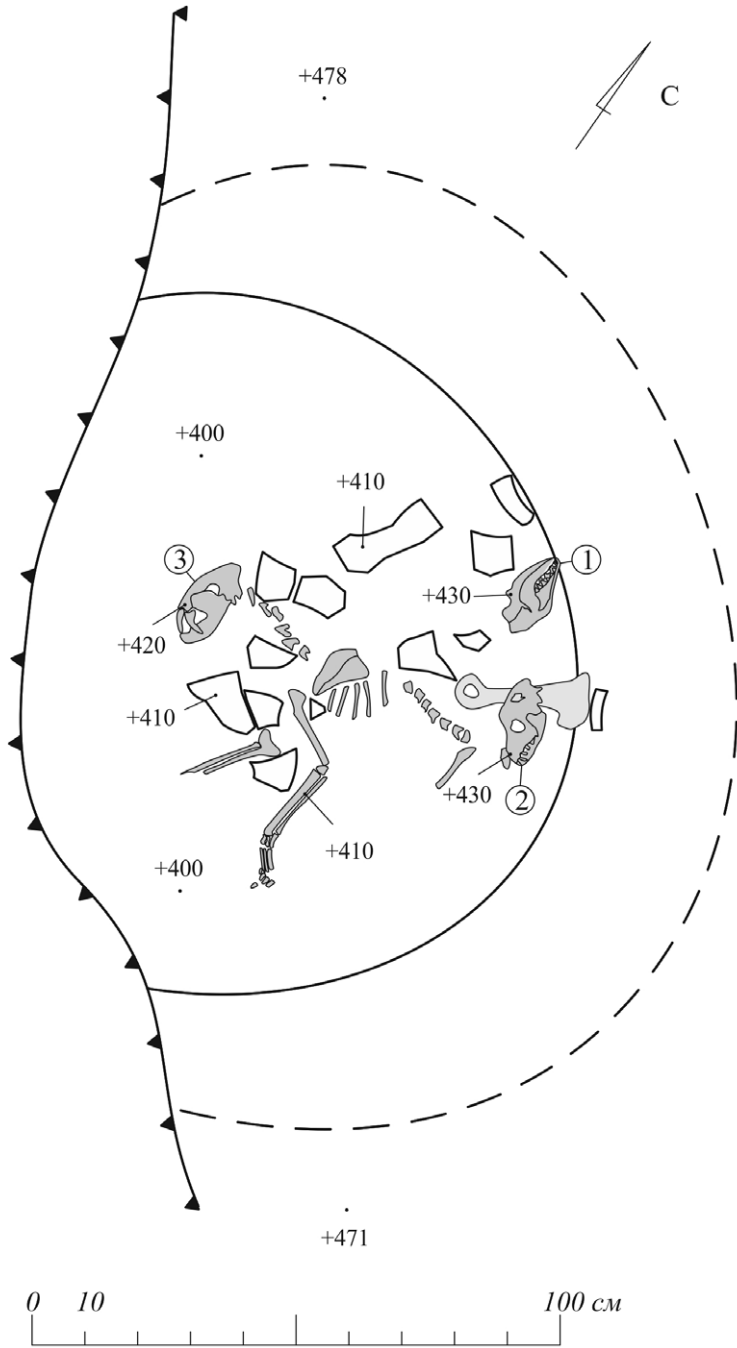


Fig. 5. Necropolis of Artyushchenko-2. Pit 1/2021, 6th century BC.
Plan of the first level, skeleton of a dog and two dog skulls.

In the course of clearing the pit, investigations were conducted at three levels:

Level 1 – found were dog skeleton no. 1, two skulls of other dogs in the area of the hind legs, and several pottery fragments beneath them. It is of note that the positions of the skulls we recorded may differ from the initial ones. This fact may be caused by very different processes.

Level 2 – found were dog skeleton no. 2 and bones of a piglet.

Level 3 – found in the near-bottom and bottom part of the pit was an accumulation of ceramic fragments, including a fragment of a black gloss kylix measuring 8.5×8.5 cm and a fragment of a painted bowl measuring 6.5×8.0 cm (Fig. 4. 4, 5).

The grave of the “three-headed” dog found at the first level is an untypical find (which still awaits interpretation), although graves of dogs in pits at the settlement site have been encountered before.

The ceramic materials discovered in the fill of the pit under consideration vary chronologically within the range of the second half of the 6th century BC. These are the earliest finds at the settlement of Artyushchenko-2. Judging by the latest pottery fragments, the pit can be dated to ca. the end of the 6th century BC.

Thus, in addition to other funerary complexes dated to the 5th to 3rd centuries BC, the investigations conducted in 2019–2023 have resulted in the discovery of a type of grave structure previously unknown at the site – an earthen tomb structure. The early material of the second half of the 6th century BC found both at the necropolis and at the settlement site possibly dates the time of the foundation of the settlement and the beginning of the functioning of the necropolis of Artyushchenko-2.

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In 2019–2023, systematic investigation of the necropolis and the settlement Artjuschenko-2 continued. During the four last campaigns, an area of about 600 m² was under examination. In the course of the excavations, 26 graves were discovered (nos. 188–210, Г18–Г20), three of which were examined after modern robbers excavated them.

The revealed graves belong to three periods. The earliest ones date to the 5th to 4th centuries BC, the next group to the 3rd to 2nd centuries BC, and the latest to the 4th to 5th centuries AD. It is impossible to precisely date graves that have no inventory or those that have been destroyed by erosion.

Various grave constructions have been examined, e. g. crypts built of mudbricks, ground graves with covering, ground vaults, undercut graves, and children's graves in amphorae.

At the settlement, a domestic pit was studied. The ceramic material found in its filling has chronological limits within the second half of the 6th century BC. Thus, the pit contained the earliest finds known for the settlement Artjuschenko-2.

В 2019–2023 гг. продолжались систематические раскопки Некрополя и поселения Артющенко-2. За четыре сезона на некрополе исследована площадь около 650 кв. м. В ходе раскопок было обнаружено 26 погребений (№№ 188–210, Г18–Г20), 3 из которых доследованы за современными грабителями.

Обнаруженные погребения относятся к трем хронологическим периодам: ранние захоронения V–IV вв. до н. э., захоронения III–II вв. до н. э. и поздние погребения IV–V вв. н. э. Безынвентарные погребения, а также комплексы, разрушенные абразией, не поддаются точной датировке.

Исследованы различные погребальные сооружения, например, склепы из сырцовых кирпичей, грунтовые могилы с перекрытием, грунтовые склепы, подбойные могилы, захоронения младенцев в амфорах.

На поселении исследована хозяйственная яма. Керамический материал, обнаруженный в заполнении этой ямы, имеет хронологический разброс в пределах второй половины VI в. до н. э. Это самые ранние находки на поселении Артющенко-2.

Dmitry Chistov

INVESTIGATIONS OF VESTNIK-1 SITE IN 2021–2023

In 2021, the Hermitage Museum organised a new East Bosporan expedition, whose main task was to study ancient sites in the Asian part of the Bosporan kingdom. The first object of research of the Hermitage mission was the rural site of Vestnik-1, located near the village of Vestnik in the vicinity of the city of Anapa. It is located in direct line of sight from the most important centre of ancient Sindike, the Semibratnee city site – the ancient Labrys¹ – at a distance of about 6.5 km in a straight line to the south-west. There is no doubt that there was a close connection between these points in antiquity.

The main result of previous excavations, conducted in 2010–2014,² was the discovery of a monumental Greek public or cult building of the 5th–4th centuries BC at excavation Sector I (Fig. 1). The walls of Structure 1 had stone plinths up to 0.8 m thick, made of large limestone blocks. The southwest-facing entrance was decorated with a covered portico between two *antae*, and the interior space was divided into three adjacent rooms of unequal area. In addition, the remains of another building (Structure 2) with a smaller area, possibly a single chamber, located about 60 metres to the south-west and up the slope, were found in Sector II. The necropolis research uncovered 10 burials from the late 6th to the first half of the 5th century BC. The burial rites are identical to the barbarian sites of

¹ Vinogradov 2002 [Ю. Г. Виноградов, “Левкон, Гекатей, Октамасад и Горгипп (Процесс интеграции Синдики в Боспорскую державу по новелле Полиэна (VIII, 55) и вотивной эпиграмме из Лабриса)”]; Tokhtas’ev 2006, 2–22.

² Chevelev–Kashaev–Sudarev 2011 [О. Д. Чевелев, С. В. Кашаев, Н. И. Сударев, “Новые исследования в Анапском районе Краснодарского края”, in: *Боспор Киммерийский и варварский мир в период античности и средневековья. Взаимовлияние культур (XII Боспорские чтения)*]; Ivanov–Sudarev–Kashaev 2021 [А. В. Иванов, Н. И. Сударев, С. В. Кашаев, “Поселение и могильник у хут. Вестник”, in: *Боспор Киммерийский и варварский мир в период античности и средневековья. Новые открытия, новые проекты (XXII Боспорские чтения)*].

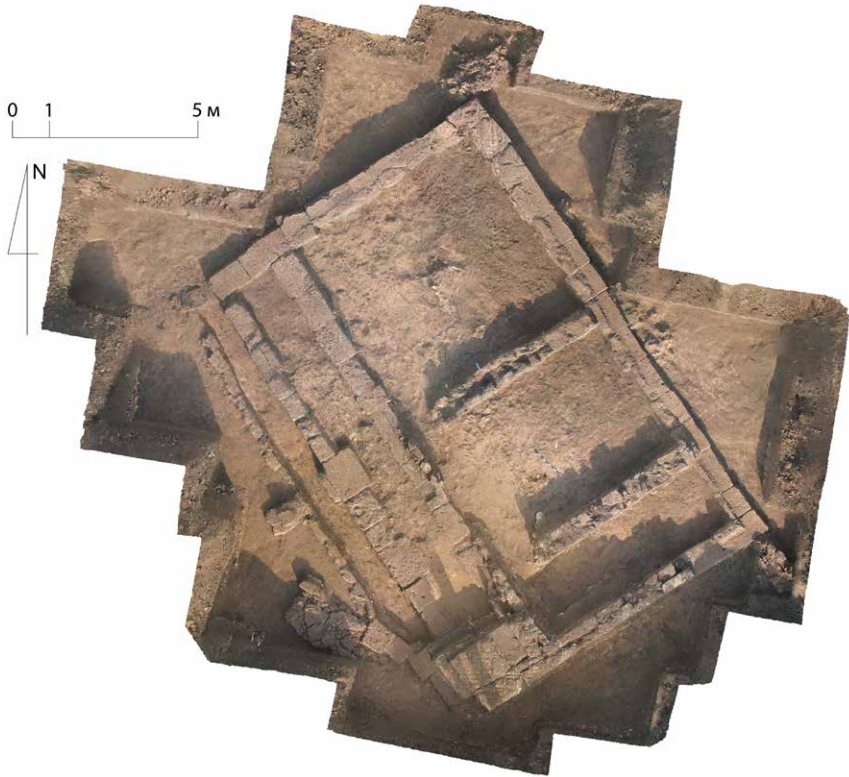


Fig. 1. Monumental Structure 1 of the 5th–4th centuries BC.
 Orthophoto map made by the author on the basis of field photographs of
 the excavated building by S.V. Kashayev (*IHMK RAS*), 2010.

the Anapa–Novorossiysk necropolis circle, and the necropolis itself obviously belonged to the indigenous Sindian population.

The excavations resumed in 2021–2023 aimed at continuing the study of the immediate surroundings of the monumental building, and limited research was also carried out in the area of Structure 2. The most important result was the discovery of room no. 5, attached on the narrow side to the previously investigated public building (Structure 1) from the south-east (Fig. 2). This extension was built much later than the main building. The presence of an annex (and possibly another one on the opposite side, from the north-west, where excavations in 2010–2014 also revealed fragments of masonry) does not favour interpreting the monumental building as a temple, although it does not exclude its public function.

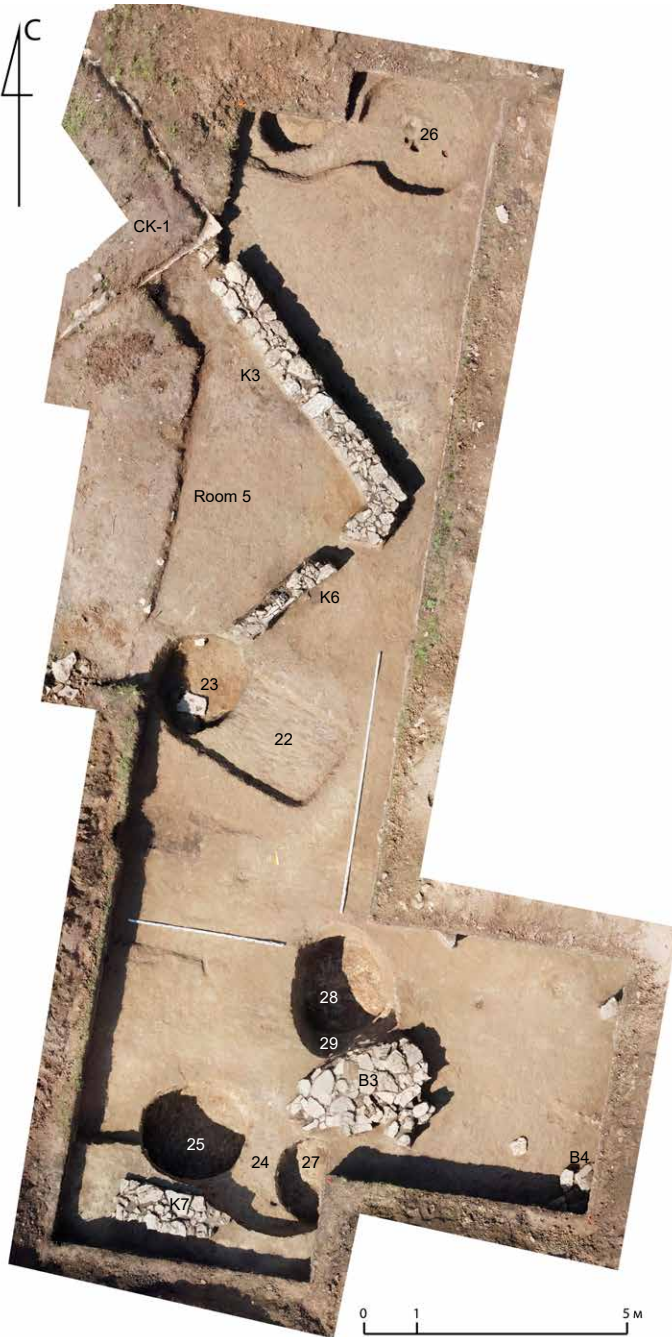


Fig. 2. Later annex (room no. 5) to the south-west of the Structure 1 and its surroundings. Orthophotomap of the field season 2021.

The annex ceased to exist no later than the second quarter or middle of the 4th century BC. To the south and south-east of it, fragments of slab limestone pavements and walls from the same period were discovered. They are probably traces of a fenced courtyard in front of the entrance to the monumental building or fragmentary remains of neighbouring buildings.

A series of structures dug into the ground from two different periods of the settlement were also investigated. The most expressive finds are related to the structures dating back to the first three quarters of the 4th century BC. Their cluster was revealed around room no. 5, from the south, south-east, and north-east of the building. It consists of seven household pits, circular in plan, with vertical or downward-extending walls. Four more pits look different – like relatively shallow rectangular depressions with rounded corners, or rounded or oval-shaped with traces of postholes at the bottom. In their construction and size, they resemble small dugouts of curvilinear plan, well known in the early levels of ancient sites of the Northern Black Sea coast.

The most outstanding find, made in the filling of one of these structures (no. 24), was a red-figure *pelike* (Fig. 3) depicting a battle between an equestrian Amazon and a griffin. It is a typical example of the so-called Bosporan pelikai, or pelikai of the Kerch style – a large group of vases painted in Athens in the 4th century BC. Such vases are identified in the large group G, which is usually dated to the second half or third quarter of the 4th century.³ Based on the closest analogues, the *pelike* from Vestnik can be dated to about 350 BC.

Large fragments and complete amphorae of Heraclea Pontike (Fig. 4. 1)⁴ and Chios (Fig. 4. 2)⁵ from the second to third quarters of the 4th century BC and fragments of both Laconian and Corinthian type tiles were also found in the filling of these structures. Some of them may have been contemporaneous with later annexes to the public building, but the appearance of others, including dugout no. 24, most likely coincided with its decline.

³ Beazley 1963, 1462–1470.

⁴ Heracleian amphora with the retrograde stamp Διονυσίο / leaf / ἐπὶ Λυκῶ(-). Magistrate Lykon is attributed to the group MG III-A, which is dated to the 360s–350s BC (Кас 2003, 276).

⁵ Chian amphora of the type V-B. The closest analogies to its shape are currently dated to the second half of the 4th century BC (cf. Monakhov et al. 2016 [С. Ю. Монахов, Е. В. Кузнецова, Н. Ф. Федосеев, Н. Б. Чурекова, *Амфоры VI–II вв. до н. э. из собрания Восточно-Крымского историко-культурного музея-заповедника. Каталог*], 77 Ch. 34; 78 Ch. 36).



Fig. 3. Red figure attic pelike from the pit no. 24.



Fig. 4. 1 – Heracleian amphora with the stamp of the 360s–350s BC from pit no. 24; 2 – Chian amphora, second half of the 4th century BC from pit no. 26.

It is noteworthy that there are far fewer traces of economic activity in the second half of the 5th century BC, i. e. the time of the monumental Structure 1 itself, in the investigated area. Only four storage pits can be attributed to the Late Classical period.

As the earlier works have shown, the earliest chronological level of the settlement belongs to the second half of the 6th to the early 5th century BC and is represented mainly not by cultural layers, but by storage pits. Finds from them are mostly handmade vessels of local forms. Greek amphorae and table pottery are much rarer in these structures.⁶ Investigations in 2021–2023 confirmed these observations. Eleven Late Archaic storage pits were uncovered, as well as one recessed structure (no. 34) of rectangular plan with rounded corners (dimensions: 1.40–1.60×3.85 m). The most important find from this structure is a silver *Pantikapaion triobolos*, dated between the late 6th and the first quarter of the 5th century BC.⁷

In the course of excavations at Vestnik-1 necropolis in 2023, eight new burials were uncovered (nos. 11–18). These burials, as well as those investigated earlier in the same sector, are grouped into several funerary structures, which were probably family or clan tombs. The boundaries and construction of three such structures, located close to each other, have been identified. They had a rounded form, 5–8 metres in diameter, and were made of roughly chipped slabs of limestone and limestone rubble (Fig. 5). The burial installations of the Vestnik-1 necropolis resemble the circular stone structures or cromlechs built around most of the graves of the Sindian necropolis near Rassvet village⁸ and the burial ground on the territory of the experimental farm “Anapa”,⁹ but also have distinctive features: a much larger size and the presence of additional burials along the perimeter, in addition to the central grave. The burials differ in design: they include both shallow earth graves with perimeter stone linings and burials in stone boxes. This burial ground (as well as barbarian necropoleis of the Anapa–Novorossiysk area in

⁶ Ivanov–Sudarev–Kashaev 2021, 145–146.

⁷ Tereshchenko–Chistov 2023 [А. Е. Терещенко, Д. Е. Чистов, “Монеты из раскопок поселения Вестник-1”, *Археологические вести*], 222–223, Fig. 2.1.

⁸ Novichikhin 2010 [А. М. Новичихин, “Глава 3. Погребальный инвентарь некрополя у хутора Рассвет”, in: А. А. Малышев (ed.), *Население архаической Синдики: по материалам некрополя и хутора Рассвет*, Некрополи Черноморья 3], 191–194, Fig. 7.

⁹ Alekseeva 1991 [Е. М. Алексеева, *Греческая колонизация Северо-западного Кавказа*], 64.

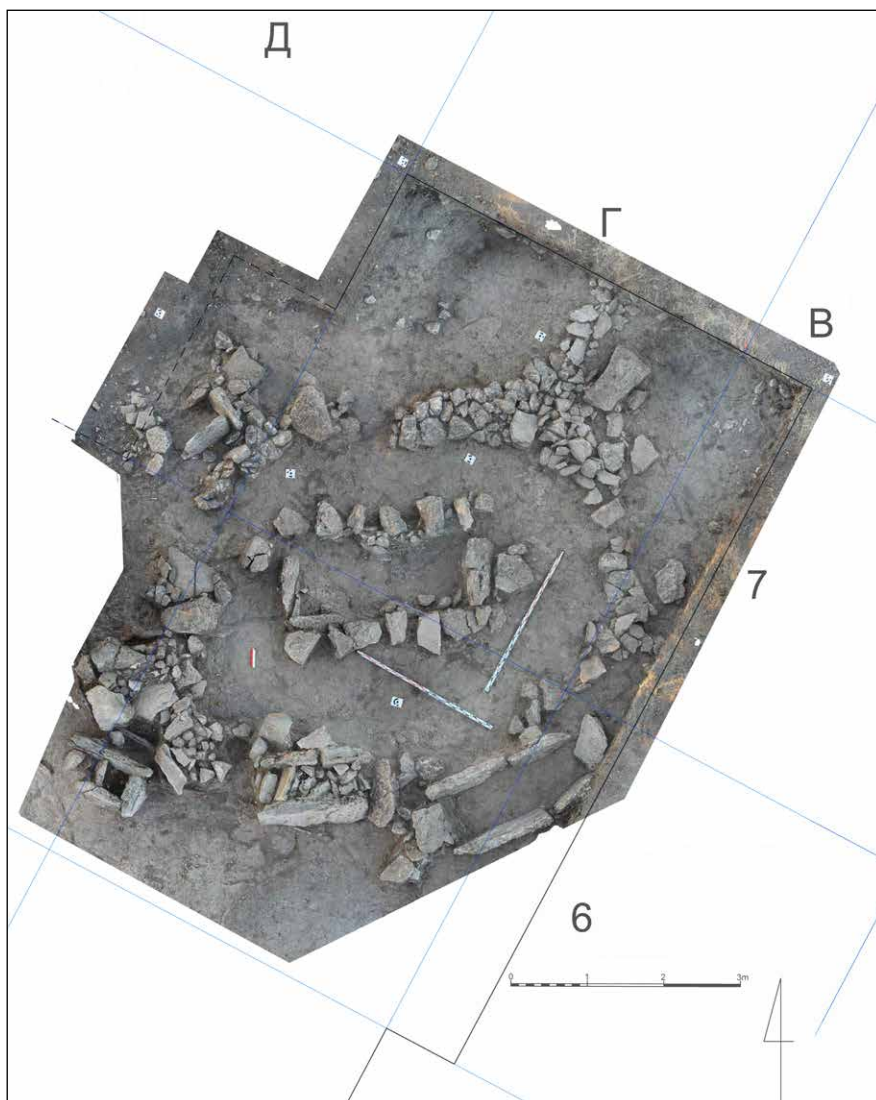


Fig. 5. Burial structure no. 1, orthophoto map of the field season 2023.

general) is characterised by the elongated position of the bodies and their dominant easterly orientation.¹⁰ However, in the Vestnik-1 necropolis, the orientation of a certain burial depended on the place occupied by it on the periphery of the rounded burial structure.

Two warrior burials (nos. 13 and 15) are the earliest on the necropolis. A very similar set of grave goods (Fig. 6) – daggers-*acinaces* with volute pommels and heart-shaped guards, bronze unclasped bracelets, and handmade pottery – allow us to assume that these burials were approximately simultaneous. Thanks to the discovery of a “proto-Thasian” amphora of the II series (Fig. 6. 6)¹¹ in burial no. 13 and in accordance with the dating of the armoury items, both burials can be dated to the third quarter of the 6th century BC. The latest grave (no. 17) in a stone box is dated by the “proto-Thasian” amphora of the V series to the second quarter of the 5th century BC,¹² but some activities on the necropolis could have taken place even later. This is evidenced by traces of a memorial rite – the broken North Aegean amphora from the middle to the third quarter of the 5th century BC¹³ on the surface of one of the limestone rubble structures.

The clarified chronology of the Vestnik-1 settlement looks as follows: from the third quarter of the 6th century BC, there was a small rural settlement with non-Greek, Sindian population. Considering the chronological framework of the indigenous burials of the necropolis, which definitely correlates with this period, we can say that it lasted until the second quarter, perhaps even the middle of the 5th century BC. Then the settlement sharply changes its appearance – economic activity comes to naught, and burials on the investigated area of the necropolis are no longer carried out. Apparently, it was at this time that a monumental public or cult building was erected in the tradition of Greek architecture, which existed until approximately the second quarter to the middle of the 4th century BC. In the 4th century BC, the building was also enlarged by additions; its purpose may have changed. At the final stage of this structure’s existence, or after the building had fallen into decay, traces

¹⁰ Ivanov–Sudarev–Kashaev 2021, 150.

¹¹ Monakhov 2003 [С. Ю. Монахов, *Греческие амфоры в Причерноморье: типология амфор ведущих центров-экспортеров товаров в керамической таре*], 39–40; Monakhov et al. 2019 [С. Ю. Монахов, Е. В. Кузнецова, Д. Е. Чистов, Н. Б. Чурекова, *Античная амфорная коллекция Государственного Эрмитажа VI–II вв. до н. э.*], 113, An.2.

¹² Monakhov 2003, 41–42, Tab. 2.

¹³ Cf. Monakhov et al. 2019, 139, An.3.

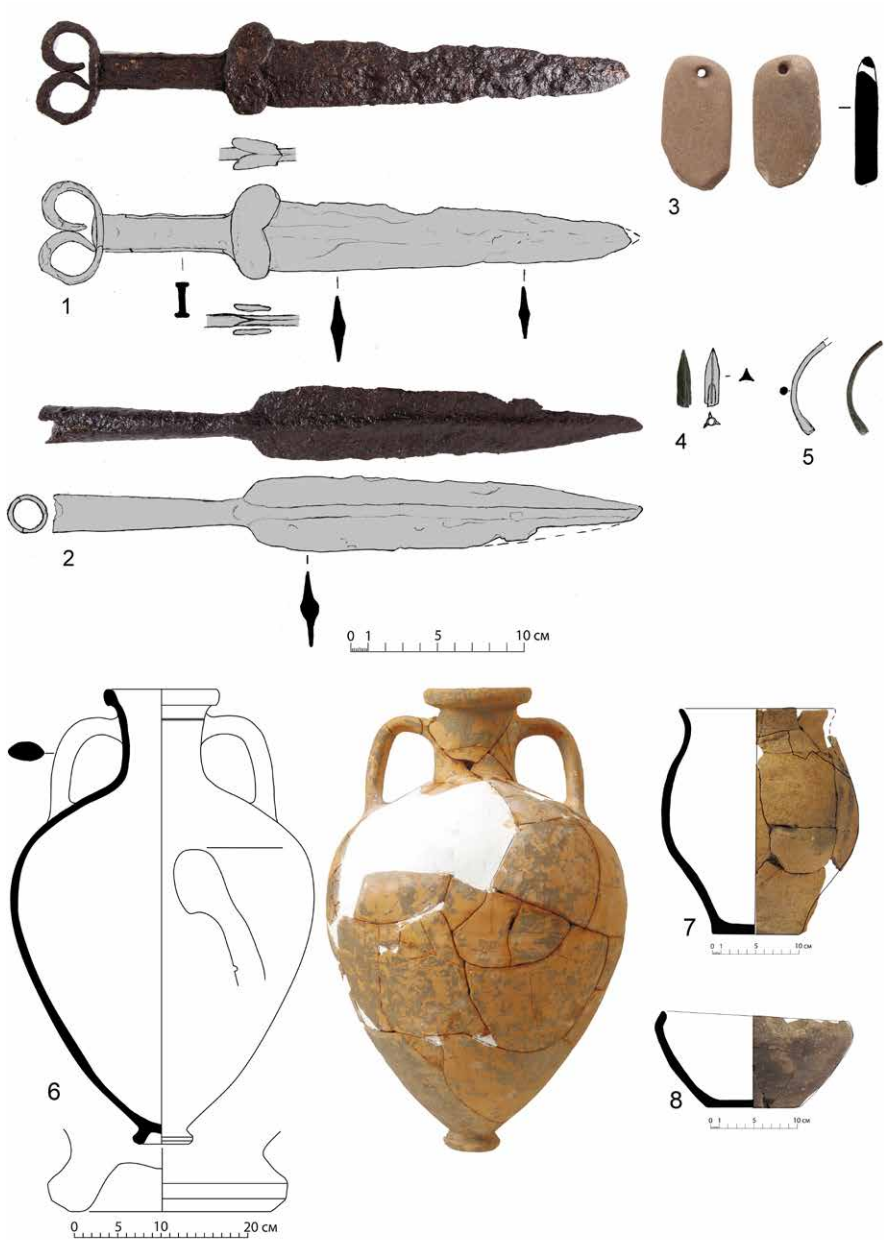


Fig. 6. Grave goods from burial no. 15, 3rd quarter of the 6th century BC. 1 – acinaces, 2 – spearhead, 3 – touchstone; 4 – arrowhead, 5 – fragmented bronze bracelet, 6 – “proto-Thasian” amphora, 7–8 – handmade ceramics: pot and bowl.

of intensive economic activity – pits and small dugouts for residential or economic purposes – began to reappear in its surroundings. The latest ceramic finds, amphorae stamps and coins, most of which belong to the second half of the 4th century BC,¹⁴ allow us to trace the existence of the site to the last two decades of the 4th century BC.

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¹⁴ Tereshchenko–Chistov 2021.

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In 2021, the Hermitage organized a new East Bosporan expedition whose main task was to study ancient sites from the Asian part of the Bosporan Kingdom. The first object of research of the Hermitage mission was the rural site Vestnik-1, located near the village of Vestnik in the vicinity of Anapa. During three field seasons on the site, the immediate surroundings of the monumental Greek public building discovered earlier were investigated. A late annex to it, dating back to the first half of the 4th century BC, was uncovered. Three funerary structures were discovered on the necropolis, probably serving as collective family tombs. The investigated burials belong to the indigenous Sindian population and date from the third quarter of the 6th to the second quarter of the 5th century BC.

В 2021 г. в Эрмитаже была организована новая, Восточно-боспорская экспедиция, основной задачей которой стало изучение античных памятников азиатской части Боспорского царства. Первым объектом исследований эрмитажной миссии стало поселение Вестник-1, расположенное у хутора Вестник в окрестностях города Анапы. В течение трех полевых сезонов велись раскопки самого поселения, где было исследовано ближайшее окружение ранее обнаруженного монументального греческого общественного здания. Удалось раскрыть позднюю пристройку к нему, датируемую первой половиной IV в. до н. э. На некрополе выявлены три погребальных комплекса, вероятно, служившие коллективными родовыми усыпальницами. Исследованные погребения принадлежат местному синдскому населению и датируются от третьей четверти VI до второй четверти V в. до н. э.

EPIGRAPHICA

Yuri Belik, Nina Kucherevskaya, Natalia Pavlichenko

DEDICATION TO PAN FROM
THE PANTIKAPAION SUBURBS*

Construction work on the territory of a private household in Kerch's micro-district of Michurino (Fig. 1), near the Mithridates mound ridge, led to the accidental discovery of a marble block with an inscription. In antiquity, the necropolis of Pantikapaion was situated there, and in the 19th century there was a village named Scassi's Fountain.¹ Yu. L. Belik, who was studying 18th-century military fortifications, received this find from the workers in 2022. For some time, the artefact was kept on the territory of the Kerch Fortress. In 2023, it was brought to the Lapidarium of the Eastern Crimean Historical and Cultural Museum Preserve for restoration. Later, it was deposited for safekeeping in the museum stocks.

This marble block turned out to be a pedestal with a dedicatory inscription. In secondary use, it was converted into a basin.²

The pedestal had the shape of a parallelepiped. Its front plane and side edges were sanded (Fig. 2). The upper plane was carefully hewn and sanded. There is a shallow recess on its surface for the installation of a stone statue (Fig. 3, 4). The reverse side was polished with a final trimming. Its dimensions are: 25.5 cm high, 56.0 cm long, and 48.5 cm wide. The five-line inscription was carved on the front facade, above the small, partially chipped, 8 cm-high shelf.

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¹ Sanzharovets 2019 [В. Ф. Санжаровец, “Скасиев Фонтан и его основатель Р. А. Скасси (опыт историко-топонимического исследования)”), 201–202.

² There are many examples of the secondary use of stelae with inscriptions among the Bosphoran lapidary items. In modern times, they were used as building material, including material for hydraulic structures. For example, P. Pallas mentions a find of a marble tombstone with an inscription. It was “taken from the lining of an old fountain located near the road to Kerch, on the western side” (Pallas 1871, 279, Tab. 18, no. 2; *CIRB* 833). According to I. Stempkovsky, in the 1820s a pedestal with a dedicatory inscription was used as a decoration of the Kerch fountain (*CIRB* 50).



Fig. 1. A map of Kerch indicating the location where the inscription was found.

In the 19th or early 20th century, in the construction of a fountain, the pedestal was used as a building material for a bowl-shaped water reservoir with vertical walls and drains.

The terrain where the artefact was found is a fertile valley teeming with sources of fresh water. The valley is known for its gardens. This is reflected in the toponyms Skassiev Fontan (Scassi's Fountain) and Skassievyy sady (Scassi's Gardens), named after R. Scassi.³ In the 1830s, Scassi, who planted a garden there, also constructed a water distribution system that existed until the 1960s. V. F. Sanzharovets suggests that Scassi's Fountain was not a well, but a hydraulic structure, a fountain that could have been constructed as early as the Middle Ages.⁴ Apparently, R. Scassi restored the destroyed captured spring and used its water to irrigate his own garden.

V. F. Sanzharovets suggests a reconstruction of Scassi's Fountain as follows: a few (according to various sources, from two to ten) stone "troughs" were located in a cascade along a wall. They had a special

³ Rafael Scassi (1785 – no earlier than 1834) was of Genoese origin. He was one of the initiators of the establishment of the city government in Kerch and the opening of a port there. He was involved in organizing trade with the highlanders of the Caucasus (the Adyghe and Abazinians). He owned a house in Kerch as well as a country house. P. I. Keppen admired the magnificent garden Scassi had planted 3 versts away from Kerch, where the trees and grapes he had brought from southern France had taken root perfectly. He had a reputation as an adventurer and a smuggler. He collected antique coins and other Bosphoran antiquities and conducted excavations in the Pantikapaion acropolis (Tunkina 2002 [*Русская наука о классических древностях Юга России (XVIII – середина XIX в.)*], 157–158).

⁴ Sanzharovets 2019, 211.

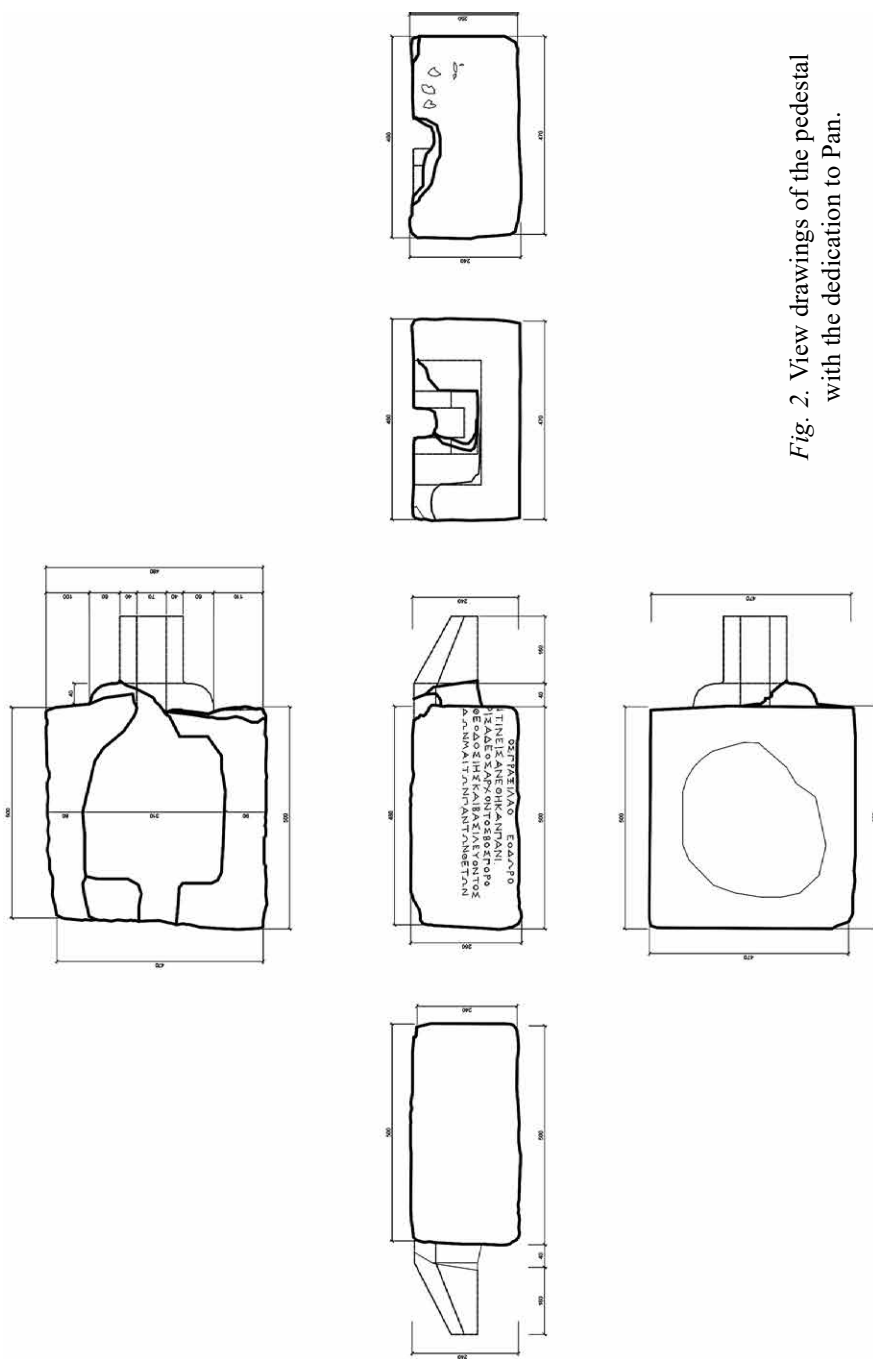


Fig. 2. View drawings of the pedestal with the dedication to Pan.

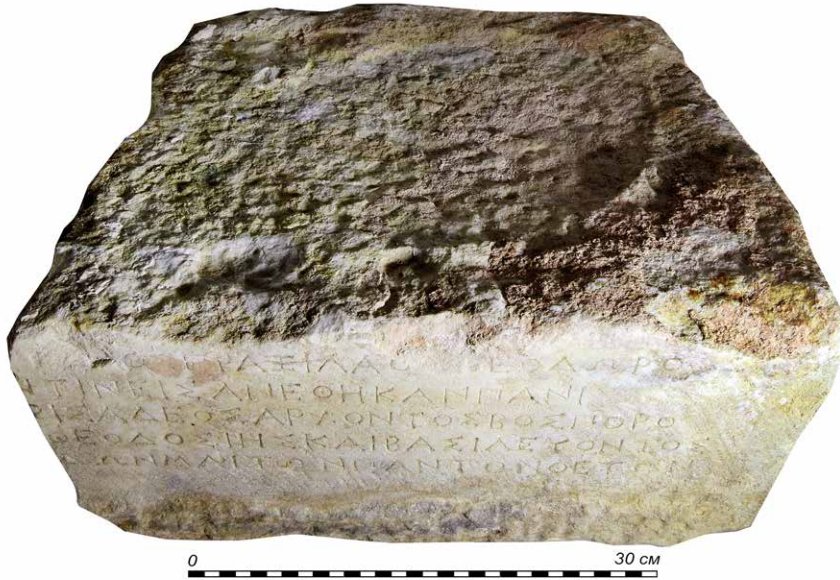


Fig. 3. The upper plane of the pedestal with the hollow for a statue's installation and the front facade with the inscription.



Fig. 4. The upper plane of the pedestal with the hollow for a statue's installation.

profile with hollows in the sides for pouring water into the lowest reservoir and then into an artificial channel feeding a river tributary. The big round basin was constructed in front of the “troughs”. It was more than 3 m in depth and approximately 2.5 m in diameter (Fig. 5). Gradually the level of the aquifers was depleted. The fountain dried up and was abandoned. In 1964, V. V. Veselov witnessed the remains of the “so-called Scassi’s Fountain”.⁵

It is tempting to identify the pedestal with the dedicatory inscription as the one of the “troughs” mentioned in the description of Scassi’s Fountain, once situated along the road. However, it is unlikely that Scassi, who was one of the first to realize the value of Kerch’s archaeological antiquities, decided to cut off a part of the ancient Greek inscription for decoration purposes during the reconstruction.

Probably the marble block belonged to another captured spring with a similar structure. The fact that the pedestal was intentionally redesigned as a fountain basin is confirmed by the changes to its construction.

For the secondary use, the pedestal was turned upside down. The plain square hollow (its sides are 31.5×31.5 cm, its depth is 5.0 cm) with rounded corners in the front part was cut in its former lower plane. Two drains were cut there (Fig. 6). To decorate the basin’s front surface, at

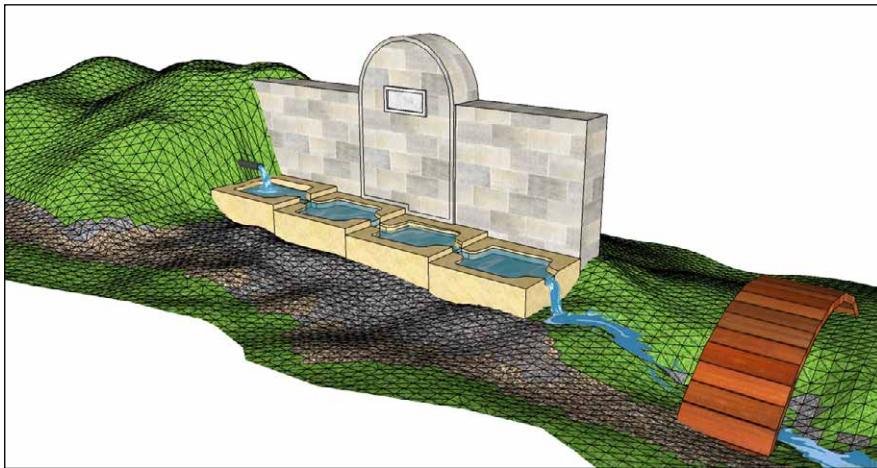


Fig. 5. The reconstruction of “Scassi’s Fountain”
(according to Sanzharovets 2018, 218–219; the reconstruction drawing
was made by V. S. Karelina).

⁵ Sanzharovets 2019, 218–219; Veselov 1964 [В. В. Веселов, “Водоснабжение старой Керчи”], 6.



0 30 cm

Fig. 6. The upper surface of the block with the hollow and drains carved in the lower surface of the pedestal during its secondary use.



Fig. 7. The front facade of the block with the hollow and the drain in the form of a cartouche.

least 7 cm were removed from the left part of the pedestal. As a result, the first letters of each of the five lines were lost. The drain was cut in the form of a figure cartouche imitating a scroll (Fig. 7).⁶ The left part of the pedestal became the front facade of the fountain's basin. It was again polished with final trimming, without sanding.

A thick and solidified layer of opus signinum solution covers the walls of the basin's bowl from the middle to the front surface. On top of it, some tool marks are visible in some places. The remains of opus signinum are also preserved on the lower plane and side edges of the artefact. Obviously, the "troughs" forming a cascade of water jets were bonded together with this solution.

The surface of the bowl's hollow and the back and left lateral surfaces of the basin are encrusted with a dense layer of biofoulers (brown algae), which confirms the use of the detail as the basin of a fountain.

A set of restoration works, including the local strengthening of the opus signinum daub on the edges of the basin's boards and the layer-by-layer clearing of the site's surface, was conducted in the Lapidarium of the Eastern Crimean Museum Preserve. The encrusted biofouler layers were partly removed. Their remains were neutralized by biocide cleaning. As a result of the conducted restoration, the text of the inscription was exposed (Fig. 8):

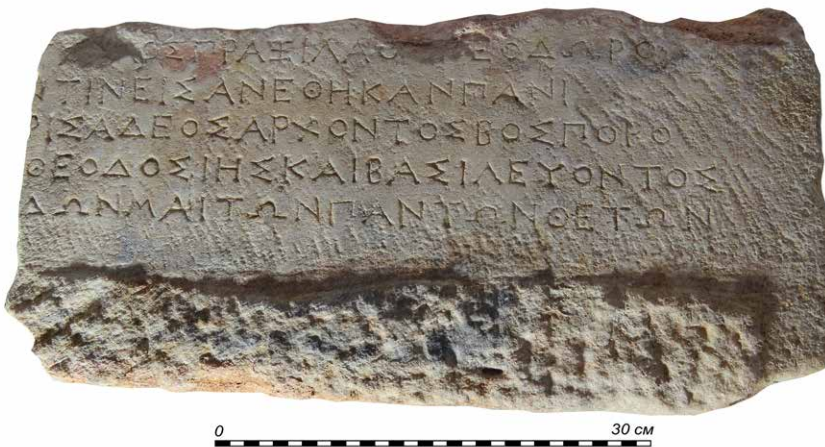


Рис. 8. The front plane of the pedestal with the dedication to Pan.

⁶ According to an unconfirmed message in the social networks, another small fragment of the drain of the similar hydraulic structure was found in the same area.

[--]ος, Πραξίλαο[ς Κλ]εοδώρο
 [Μα]ντινεῖς ἀνέθηκαν Πανὶ
 [Παι]ρισάδεος ἄρχοντος Βοσπόρο
 [καὶ] Θεοδοσίης καὶ βασιλεύοντος
 [Σίν]δων, Μαῖτων πάντων, Θ<α>τῶν.

Line 5: ΘΕΤΩΝ stone.

[-]os, Praxilaos, (the sons of) Kleodoros (?), the Mantineians, dedicated to Pan, during the times of Paerisades, the archon of Bosphorus and Theodosia and the king of the Sindoi, all the Maeotai, Thatoi.

The inscription was made without visible underlining. It was probably aligned to the left like, for example, the dedications from the times of Leucon I and Paerisades I (*CIRB* 6, 8, 14, 971, 972). The lines are straight. The upper line is carved at a distance of from 1.0 to 2.5 cm from the upper edge and is chipped. The letters are 0.15 cm high, with *alpha* and *lambda* 0.17 cm high. *Omicron*, *theta*, *delta*, and *omega* are smaller than the other letters, at a height of 0.1 cm.

The letters are distinct. Some of them have apexes at the end of the hastae in the form of straight lines, the others have triangular thickenings. *Alpha* and *lambda* have widely opened hastae. The *alpha*'s horizontal hasta is straight. *Alpha*, *delta*, and *lambda* have a vertical line on the top. The middle hasta of *epsilon* is shorter than the upper and the lower ones. *Theta* has a dot. *Kappa*'s slanting hastae are widely opened, their crossing hardly touches the vertical hasta. The *mu*'s hastae are slightly opened. The right lower corner of some *nus* is slightly raised. The *pi*'s right vertical line is shorter than the left. Some *sigmas*' lower and upper hastae become almost horizontal. *Chi* has an intermediate form between the standard one and the cross-shaped *chi*.⁷ *Omicron* and *omega* are slightly smaller than the other letters.

⁷ To date, 18 inscriptions with the preserved or restored name of the ruler are known from the time of the reign of Paerisades I (preserved: *CIRB* 1, 9–11, 113, 971, 972, 1014, 1015, 1039, 1040; Vinogradov–Tolstikov–Shelov–Kovedyaev 2002 [Ю. Г. Виноградов, В. П. Толстиков, Ф. В. Шелов-Коведьяев, “Новые декреты Левкона I, Перисада и Эвмела из Пантикапея”], 58–60; restored: *CIRB* 2, 5, 1041, 1042; Shelov-Kovedyaev 2018 [Ф. В. Шелов-Коведьяев, “Декреты, найденные в Пантикапее в 2015 году”], 278–279; Shelov-Kovedyaev 2023 [Ф. В. Шелов-Коведьяев, “Декрет Перисада I в честь саламинца?”], 169–173). However, the *chi* of this form appears in none of them.

These paleographic features, as well as the letters ΠΙΣΑΔΕΟΣ at the beginning of the third line, allow one to attribute this artefact to the time of the reign of Paerisades I.⁸

Since the form of this inscription is one of the standard varieties of the Bosporean dedicatory inscriptions of the 4th century BC (the names of dedicators, their status, the verb ἀνατίθημι, the deity's name in the dative case, the ruler's title in the genitive case), the three missing letters in the beginning of lines 3–5 and two missing letters at the beginning of line 2 can be restored with confidence. The difference in the number of letters is explained by the presence of the “narrow” *iota* in lines 3 to 5.

The first line is the worst-preserved, but the plural of the ethnicon [Μα]ντινεῖς and of the form ἀνέθηκον indicate that the dedication was made on behalf of at least two Mantineians. ΕΟΔΩΡΟ is a part of the personal name in the genitive case. So, most likely, there were two names in the nominative case and the patronymic in the genitive case in the line 1.⁹ Only the ending [-]ος of the first name was preserved.¹⁰ It was probably followed by Πραξίλαο[ς]. Apparently, although this name was not found in Arcadian inscriptions,¹¹ the personal names with stems originating from πρᾶσσω and λαός are relatively common in Arcadian inscriptions of the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.¹² The patronymic can be restored as [Θ]εοδώρο or [Κλ]εοδώρο. Both these names have been repeatedly witnessed from Arcadia in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC (*LGPN* III A. s. v.) However, since the size of the letter spacing ranges from 0.06 cm to 0.04 cm, the latter option seems more probable.

Up to now, three Bosporean epigraphic artefacts attributed to the Arcadians are known. These are the Pantikapaion decree of the Arcadian

⁸ Boltunova–Книпович 1962 [А. И. Болтунова, Т. Н. Книпович, “Очерк истории греческого лапидарного письма на Боспоре”], 12, pl. II; Zavoukin–Zavoukina 2020 [А. А. Завойкин, Н. В. Завойкина, “Третий декрет Спартокидов из Фанагории”], 144; Bekhter 2023 [А. П. Бехтер, “Лапидарные шрифты Боспора VI–I вв. до н. э.”], 28–32.

⁹ See, for example, the Pantikapaion epitaph of the second half of the 4th century BC: Ξενώ, Ξενοπειθης | Ξενοδήμο, “Xeno, Xenopeithes, (the daughter and son of) Xenodemus” (*CIRB* 214).

¹⁰ Before *omicron*, the lower part of the slanting hasta of probably *alpha* or *lambda* is visible.

¹¹ So far it is known only in Lesbos: *IG* XII. 2. 547, 554; 2nd century BC (?).

¹² See, for example, *LGPN*. III A s.v. Πραξίας, Πραξίδαμος, Πραξίνοος, Πραξίνοος, Πραξίτας, Πραξιτέλης, Πραξίων, Πραξωνίδης; s.v. Ανθεσίλαος, Αριστόλαος, Εὐθύλαος, Θρασύλαος, Περίλαος, Πρατόλαος, Χαρίλαος.

League in honor of Leucon I (*CIRB* 37), two Phanagorian inscriptions: *CIRB* 991 mentioning a γυμνάσιον and [- -] Μαντινέας πατρί[δος], and the epitaph of Tegean Pantias, deceased in Phanagoria.¹³ V. P. Yaylenko also dates both of these inscriptions to the times of Leucon I, i. e., to the first half of the 4th century BC. A. A. Zavoykin presumes that the Mantineians most likely appeared in Bosphorus between 386 BC, when Mantinea had ceased to exist as a town (*Xen. Hell.* 5. 2. 5–7), and 370 BC, when the city was rebuilt (*Xen. Hell.* 5. 5. 3–5).¹⁴ Yaylenko suggests that all three artefacts are linked to trade relations between Bosphorus and Arcadia. He believes that Tegean Pantias and the unknown Mantineian were merchants.¹⁵ However, some scientists strongly believe that they were mercenaries.¹⁶

During the reign of Paerisades I, Bosphorus fought many wars. Surely, skilled mercenary warriors were necessary for the defense of various fortifications. Demosthenes' speech *In Phormionem*, most probably dated to 327/326 BC, mentions the war between Paerisades and the Scythians.¹⁷ The tombstone of Paphlagonian Drosanis, dead μαχόμενος ἐμ Μαΐταις (*CIRB* 180), the abundance of the warrior burials in Meotian burial grounds of the 4th century BC,¹⁸ and, implicitly, the evolution of the titles of Paerisades I also indicate combat activity.

¹³ Yaylenko 2017 [В. П. Яйленко, “История и эпиграфика Ольвии, Херсонеса и Боспора VII в. до н. э. – VII в. н. э.”], 857–860. V.V. Latyshev and the publishers of *CIRB* attributed the inscription *CIRB* 991 to *Varia*. V. P. Yaylenko thinks that it was a tombstone.

¹⁴ Zavoykin 2013a [А. А. Завойкин, “Боспорские греки и ‘азиатские варвары’ в период архаики и раннего эллинизма”], 164.

¹⁵ Yaylenko 2017, 857–860; the publishers of *CIRB* dated *CIRB* 991 to the wide range of dates of the 4th century BC. However, the form of *nu* with the lower right corner on the same level with the left one is more common in the middle to second half of the 4th century BC.

¹⁶ Vinogradov 1991 [Ю. Г. Виноградов, “Фанагорийские наемники”], 29 n. 109; Zavoykin 2013b [А. А. Завойкин, “Образование Боспорского государства. Археология и хронология становления державы Спартокидов”], 331–333; Zavoykin–Tolstikov 2017 [А. А. Завойкин, В. П. Толстиков, “Очерк политической истории Пантикапея и Фанагории”], 55; *SEG* 37. 676.

¹⁷ ... ἐν τῷ Βοσπόρῳ μοχθηρὰ τὰ πράγματα διὰ τὸν συμβάντα πόλεμον τῷ Παρισάδῃ πρὸς τὸν Σκύθην ... (*Dem.* 34. 8), cf. also Polyaeen. *Stratag.* 7. 37.

¹⁸ Limberis–Marchenko 2010 [Н. Ю. Лимберис, И. И. Марченко, “Меоты”], 198–199; Kamenetskiy 2011 [И. С. Каменецкий, История изучения меотов], 260–261; Zavoykin 2013a, 178–179.

Therefore, since Mantinea was Pan's motherland according to one of the varieties of the myth, probably also the Mantineans mentioned in the inscription were mercenaries who made the dedication to Pan either as one of the supreme deities of their native land, or, more likely, due to his ability to inspire divine terror in enemy troops.¹⁹

Due to the absence of the archaeological context, the dating of the dedication to Pan is based solely on its paleographic and orthographic features and the titles of Paerisades I.

Overall, the font of the inscription combines early and late letter forms. For example, the lower right corner of some *nus* is lifted, whereas other *nus*' left and right corners are on the same level. The *sigma*'s slanting hastae can be straight or slightly bent. In line 3, the hastae are opened at a smaller angle and are almost parallel.

Genitive cases of the second declension ending with $-\bar{o}$ and not with $-\text{ov}$ ([Κλ]εοδώρῳ, Βοσπόρῳ)²⁰ are common in the inscriptions from the times of Leucon I. Besides, the text demonstrates a combination of the uncontracted form [Παι]ρισάδεος with the contracted form Θ<α>τῶν. Such variations (e. g. Τορετέων/Τορετῶν) are typical of the same period and have been found in chronologically relatively close inscriptions.²¹

All of the above could indicate the fairly early dating, i. e., the beginning of the reign of Paerisades. On the other hand, he is called “reigning over the Sindoi, all the Maeotai and Thatoi”, i. e., the same as in *CIRB* 9²² and 1015, which belong to the latest inscriptions of this Bosphoran king. It is worth noting that these two inscriptions look like a close analogy to the Mantineians' dedication, judging by the general character of the writing. Hence, the new inscription from the times of Paerisades I should probably be dated to the wide range between the middle and the second half of his rule, i. e., approximately to the period from the 330s to the 310s BC.²³

¹⁹ See e. g. Hdt. 6. 105, Paus. 10. 23. 7; Farnell 1909, 431–434; Pritchett 1978, 32–34, 45; Jost 1985, 456–476; Borgeaud 1988, 88–101.

²⁰ There are only two similar inscriptions from the times of Paerisades I: *CIRB* 10, 971.

²¹ *CIRB* 6, Sokolova–Pavlichenko 2002 [О. Ю. Соколова, Н. А. Павличенко, “Новая посвятельная надпись из Нимфея”], 101; *CIRB* 1037. See also *CIRB*, *A Brief Outline of the Grammar of the Bosphoran Inscriptions*, 811 No. II.1.3.

²² Belova 1968 [Н. С. Белова, “К надписи IOSPE II 8”], 43–53.

²³ Zavoykin 2013b, 398, 499–500. Recently a number of publications have appeared whose authors believe that the relative chronology of the inscriptions from the times of Leucon I and Paerisades I should be based not on the sequential change in the regal titles, but primarily on the paleographic and orthographic features of the

In Bosporus, the cult of Pan did not belong to the state religious pantheon. As the patron of gardens and forests, he could be honored together with the nymphs. As one of the companions of Dionysos, he could be honored with other deities of the Dionysian circle. M. I. Rostovtsev believed that the relief depiction of Pan at the entrance to the catacomb of the Nymphaion necropolis could evidence the presence of chthonic elements in his cult or serve as the apotropaion.²⁴

Regarding the secondary use, it is hard to determine the particular temple or sanctuary in which two Mantineians installed their dedication to Pan. Though joint dedications to Pan and nymphs were made very often,²⁵ it was probably one of the sanctuaries of the nymphs in Pantikapaion or nearby. Judging by the hollow on the upper plane of the pedestal, it

inscriptions (Yaуlenko 2010 [В. П. Яйленко, “Тысячелетний боспорский рейх. История и эпиграфика Боспора VI в. до н. э. – V в. н. э.”], 48–49; Bekhter 2022 [А. П. Бехтер, “Лапидарные шрифты Боспора VI–I вв. до н. э.”], in: В. Г. Вовина-Лебедева (ed.), *История письма от античности до Нового времени. Очерки по эпиграфике, палеографии и дипломатике*], 32–39. Unfortunately, there is a general consensus that the font of the inscriptions from the times of Leucon I and Paerisades I is very difficult to accurately date (see Boltunova–Knipovich 1962, 12; Zavoykin–Zavoykina 2020, 142–145; Bekhter 2022, 28). The orthographic changes, such as -ō/-ou in the genitive of the second declension, are found in the north Black Sea coastal region until the last quarter of the 4th century BC. Of course, the Achaemenid magnificence of the regal title (Tokhtas’iev 2001 [С. Р. Тохтасьев, “Происхождение титулатуры Спартокидов”], 164) most likely did not fully correspond to the real state of affairs, and the Bosporan kings were not the rulers of barbarian territories in the same manner as they were ἄρχοντες Βοσπόρου καὶ Θεοδοσίης (Balakhvantsev–Beglova 2011 [А. С. Балахванцев, Е. А. Беглова, “Арифарн – царь фатеев или сираков”], 578; Zavoykin 2021 [А. А. Завойкин, “Варварские племена и их территории под властью Спартокидов”], 68). It seems, however, that since the title of the Bosporan kings reflected the situation in various stages of interaction between the Spartokid state and the barbarian tribes, the relative chronology of Bosporan inscriptions from the 4th century BC should not be based mainly on their palaeographic and orthographic features, but on the content of the title along with the data of archaeological excavations.

²⁴ Rostovtsev 1914 [М. И. Ростовцев, “Античная декоративная живопись на юге России”], 394–397, tab. ХСVI; Grach 1999 [Н. Л. Грач, *Некрополь Нимфея*], 132–137.

²⁵ See, for example, the pedimental stele with a dedication to Pan and nymphs from the Cave of Pan in Marathon (Paus 1. 32. 7), 61/60 BC (*SEG* 36. 267), also *IG* II² 4646 (Attica, the 4th century BC) and the relief from the middle of the 4th century BC, found in Pentelikon with a depiction of Hermes, Pan, and nymphs and a dedication to nymphs (*LIMC* VIII. 1, p. 936 no. 236, *SEG* 12. 166).

could be a stone statue carved as a monolith with a plinth attached to the pedestal in this hollow.²⁶

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²⁶ The pedestals of bronze statues have other traces of attachments on their upper planes. They have hollows that follow the outlines of human feet and hollows, for example, for mounting a spear. See, for example, *CIRB* 9; Belova 1968, 48, fig. 3 etc. The corpus of the pedestals of the bronze statues found in the northern Black Sea coastal region was published by M. Yu. Treister (Treister 1999 [M. Ю. Трейстер, “Материалы к корпусу постаментов бронзовых статуй Северного Причерноморья”], 121–158). Besides, the statue could be installed not directly to the pedestal, but to the architectural finial placed on this pedestal. According to G. Velenis, an example of such a construction is the profiled marble base with the dedicatory epigram for Pan from Beroea from the 3rd century BC (Velenis 2000 [Γ. Βελένης, “Corrigenda et addenda σε ελληνιστικό ενεπίγραφο βάθρο από τη Βέροια”, in: Π. Αδάμ-Βελένη (ed.), *ΜΥΡΤΟΣ. Μελέτες στη μνήμη της Ιουλίας Βοκοτοπούλου*], 619–621, fig. 1; *SEG* 47. 893).

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In 2022, a marble block was accidentally found in Kerch. Its surface was covered with a layer of opus signinum and brown algae. One of its sides had a plain square hollow with two drains. These features indicate that the block was used as a building material for some hydraulic structure.

After a set of restoration measures, an inscription with partially preserved text was uncovered on one of the block edges. The inscription reads: “[-]os, *Praxilaos*, (the sons of) *Kleodoros* (?), the *Mantineians* dedicated to Pan, during the times of *Paerisades*, the archon of *Bosporus* and *Theodosia*, reigning over the *Sindoi*, all

the Maeotai, Thator". Judging by the hollow on the block's upper edge, it was a pedestal for a stone statue. The inscription is dated back to the 330s–310s BC. This is a votive offering by two Mantineians who probably were mercenaries in the army of Paerisades I. They made a dedication to Pan either as one of the supreme deities of their motherland Arcadia or, more likely, due to his ability to inspire divine terror in enemy troops.

There was no individual cult of Pan in Bosphorus; however, he could be worshiped together with the nymphs or the deities of the Dionysian circle.

В 2022 г. в Керчи был случайно найден мраморный блок. Его поверхность была покрыта слоем цемянки и бурых водорослей, а на одной из плоскостей имеется плоское квадратное углубление с двумя водосливами. Все это указывало на то, что блок использовался в качестве строительного материала для какого-то гидротехнического сооружения.

После выполнения комплекса реставрационных мероприятий на одной из граней блока был выявлен частично сохранившийся текст надписи: [- -]ос, *Праксилай, (сыновья) Клеодора (?), мантинейцы, посвятили Пану при Перисаде, архонте Боспора и Феодосии и царе над синдами, всеми меотами, фатейми*. Судя по углублению на верхней плоскости блока, он являлся постаментом каменной статуи. Надпись датируется 330–310-ми гг. до н. э. Это votivное приношение двух мантинейцев, вероятно, являвшихся наемниками в войске Перисада I, которые сделали посвящение Пану либо как одному из верховных божеств своей родины Аркадии, либо, вероятнее, благодаря его способности внушать ужас вражеским войскам.

Отдельного культа Пана на Боспоре не существовало, но он мог почитаться вместе с нимфами или божествами дионисийского круга.

*Nina Almazova, Denis Keyer,
Natalia Pavlichenko, Alexander Verlinsky*

METRICAL EPITAPHS FROM THE SOUTHERN SUBURB OF TAURIC CHERSONESOS*

From 2021 to 2023, about 30 lapidary inscriptions were found during large-scale archaeological research in the Southern Suburb of Tauric Chersonesos. In the Hellenistic age, this territory was used mainly for agricultural and craft activity. Burials appeared there at the same time. Thereafter, throughout the Roman period, a big necropolis was established at the site.¹ Among other tombstone inscriptions found on its grounds, three metrical epitaphs in various states of preservation were unearthed.

1. A sarcophagus-ossuary made of a single block of white marble (no. XT-21-P.4-1705-1) (Fig. 1–3). Its length is 70.0 cm, its height is 52 cm, its width is from 27.0 to 40.0 cm. The sarcophagus is fragmented. The lid is missing. The rear wall, a part of the bottom, and most of the side walls are completely lost. Only minor fragments and angular faces from the front side have survived. The upper ends of the walls have a profiled protrusion for the cover groove. A four-line inscription is chiselled into the front wall. Subsequently, the sarcophagus was reused, apparently as a collector in a water supply system. This is indicated by a hole in the bottom (d – 5.0 cm) and traces of two gutters opposite each other on the

* The authors express their sincere gratitude to Sergei Solovyev, field director of the archaeological project at Chersonesos, for permission to publish these artefacts. The archaeological context and general characteristics of the inscriptions were compiled by Natalia Pavlichenko, who carried out this work within the framework of the Program of Fundamental Scientific Research of the State Academies of Sciences, State Assignment no. FMZF-2022-0013. Nina Almazova (in the following: N. A.), Denis Keyer (D. K.), and Alexander Verlinsky (A. V.) read and reconstructed the inscriptions. We are grateful to Carlo Martino Lucarini (C. L.) for a number of proposals and fruitful criticism.

¹ Solovyova, Vinogradov et al. 2024 [Н. Ф. Соловьёва, Ю. А. Виноградов, В. Л. Мыц, С. Л. Соловьёв, В. В. Вахонеев, “Краткие итоги археологических раскопок Южного пригорода Херсонеса”], 17–29; Solovyova, Solovyev et al. 2024, 20–44.

preserved parts of the side walls. Running water flowed through the side gutters, and the round hole in the bottom of the sarcophagus served as a drain.

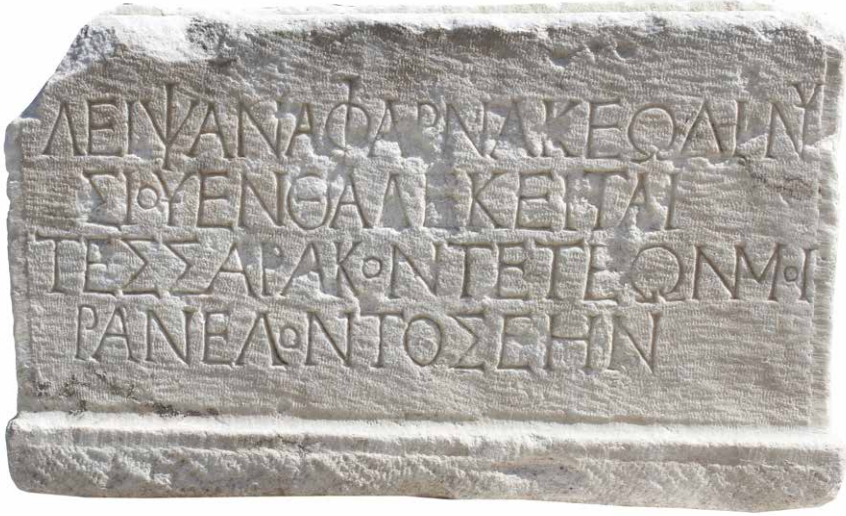


Fig. 1. Sarcophagus-ossuary of Pharnaces, son of Dionysios. Front wall.



Fig. 2. Sarcophagus-ossuary of Pharnaces, son of Dionysios.
Side wall with remains of the gutter.



Fig. 3. Sarcophagus-ossuary of Pharnaces, son of Dionysios. Top view.

It was found in the excavation area 4 during the dismantling of the southern edge at the level of the 4th stratum (2.15 m from point zero of the Baltic height system) of square 107/175 in a layer of mixed grey loose clay loam. As a result of construction and archaeological work, this layer was redeposited. Apparently, it was formed from construction and household debris and a large number of ceramic tare, for the most part from the 1st–3rd centuries AD, and single fragments of ceramics of the 6th–7th centuries AD.

The entire text clearly reads:

Λείψανα Φαρνακέω Διονυ|σίου ἔνθαδε κείται |
 τεσσαράκοντ' ἐτέων μοῖ|ραν ἐλόντος ἐήν.

Here lie the remains of Pharnaces, son of Dionysios, who obtained his death at the age of 40.

The front surface of the sarcophagus is not trowelled, but the inscription was carved very carefully with a decorative font. The letters have triangle thickenings at their ends and apices. *Alpha* has a straight crossbar. *Theta* has a detached crossbar. The lower parts of *nu*'s vertical hastae are at the same level. There are two types of *omicron*. One type is oval in the dimensions of the line and the other one is small, much smaller than the rest of the letters. *Rho* has an incomplete semicircle. *Sigma* is four-stroke with horizontal hastae. *Upsilon* has a crossbar. The circumference

of *phi* is almost in the dimensions of the line, and its vertical hasta extends beyond the line. *Psi* has straight hastae. Ligatures are N and Y, N and M. In the manner of writing and in the form of *theta*, *rho*, *sigma*, and *psi*, the epitaph of Pharnaces is close to the Chersonesos decree in honour of πατέρες Ἡρακλεῶται of 138 AD.² The presence of ligatures and the forms of *upsilon* and *phi* are similar to the inscriptions from the second quarter to the middle of the 2nd century AD,³ which does not contradict the archaeological context.

In Roman times, a complex of monumental burial structures, including a columbarium crypt, was built in the territory of excavation area 4, where temenos existed in the 4th century BC. In the first centuries AD, there also were cremation grounds (117 of them were discovered) and other burials performed according to the cremation rite.⁴

Ceramic and lead urns were among the most widespread options in Chersonesos for burying ashes after corpse cremation in the first centuries AD. They were placed in stone boxes with lids.⁵ Sometimes burials were carried out directly into small sarcophagi-ossuaries.⁶ Unlike ossuaries in Asia Minor, where epitaphs on osthothekai were often accompanied with images of garlands and various reliefs,⁷ Chersonesian ossuaries of the first centuries AD known to us were decorated much more simply. The marble ossuary of Helis, son of Helis from Amastris, is a rectangular marble box whose entire front wall is covered with an inscription. Helis built τὸν βωμὸν κὲ τὴν ὀστοθήκην for himself and his wife during his lifetime.⁸

² *IOSPE* I² 362, 363 (<https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.25.html>); see also *IOSPE* I² 357 (<https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.24.html>) (decree in honor of an Heracleian citizen Thrasymedes, first third of the 2nd century AD).

³ See for example, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.23.html> (decree in honor of an Heracleian citizen Papias, 130/131 AD).

⁴ Avetikov–Vakhoneev 2024 [A. A. Аветиков, В. В. Вахонеев, “Археологические исследования на раскопе 4”], 81.

⁵ Avetikov–Vakhoneev 2024, 81–82.

⁶ Zubar 1982 [В. Н. Зубарь, “Некрополь Херсонеса Таврического I–IV вв. н. э.”], 56–58.

⁷ Ahrens 2015, 190–191; see, for example, Laffi–Christof 2015, 200 no. 23 (Cilicia, 2nd century AD), *SEG* 60, 1163–1174 (Ephesos, 1st century BC – 1st century AD); see also Yildiz 2021, 367–375 (Ephesos, 1st–2nd centuries AD).

⁸ *IOSPE* I² 542, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.417.html> (height 30.0 cm, length 56.0 cm, width 36.0 cm). V. V. Latyshev dated the inscription to no later than the 1st century AD, I. V. Makarov to the 2nd century AD. It was reused for a baby burial. See also two non-joining fragments of a wall of a marble ossuary with a bilingual epitaph from the 2nd century AD (*IOSPE* I² 506, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.415.html>).

A limestone ossuary of Hemera, the wife of Metrodoros, found in an unrobbed catacomb, has the same shape. The inscription was placed on the wall facing the entrance. It occupies the entire wall and an edge of the lid (Fig. 4).⁹ Apparently, the only example of at least a minimal decorative design of an ossuary is a massive limestone sarcophagus-ossuary with a metrical epitaph for an 18-year-old woman. Only a part of its front wall with an inscription in a relief frame and several anepigraphic fragments have been preserved. Judging by the size of the preserved wall, this ossuary also had a rectangular shape (Fig. 5).¹⁰

Fig. 4. 3A. Limestone ossuary of Hemera, wife of Metrodoros (*IOSPE I² 513*).

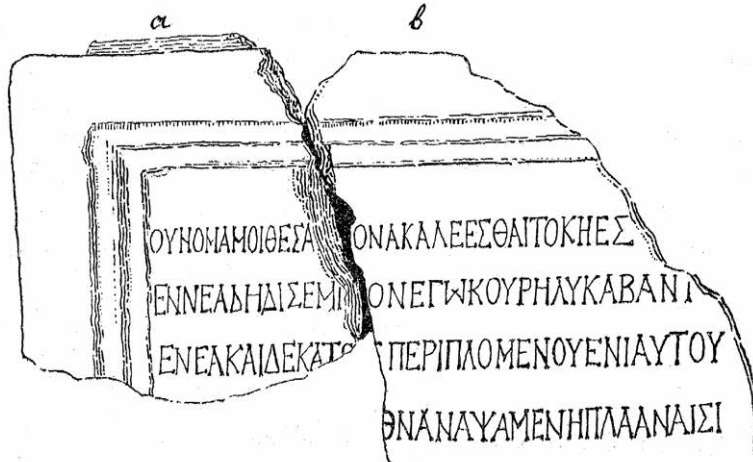
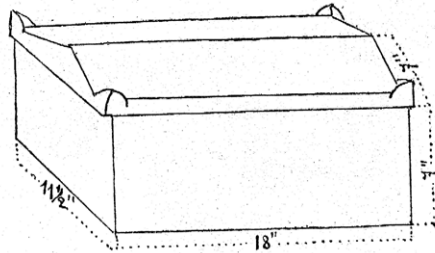


Fig. 5. 3B. The front wall of the ossuary with metrical epitaph for an 18-year-old woman (*IOSPE I² 516*).

⁹ *IOSPE I² 513* (height 18.0 cm, length 29.0 cm, width 20.0 cm), the second half of the 2nd – the early 3rd century AD. The inscription says that the ashes of Hemera were placed in the ossuary only εἰς ἔτη ε΄ ἡμ<ι>σιν.

¹⁰ *IOSPE I² 516*, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.204.html> (preserved height 78.0 cm, preserved length 88.0 cm), the second half of the 2nd – the early 3rd century AD. Among epitaphs of the 2nd century BC – 2nd century AD from Asia Minor, there were also metrical epitaphs mentioning cremation: Merkelbach–Stauber 1998–2004, Nos. 03/06/04, 03/07/17, 03/07/19, 09/05/05, 14/13/04, 16/52/02.

In Hemera's ossuary, glass vessels lay on top of burnt bones. Between the bones were various pieces of jewellery.¹¹ Based on the size of the sarcophagus of Pharnaces, it could also have contained grave goods besides bones or an urn with ashes.¹²

Pharnaces, the son of Dionysios, had been unknown so far. However, both the material of the sarcophagus and the accuracy of the font indicate the high social status of the buried. Unlike in Bosporus, where from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD the personal name *Φαρνάκης* occurs about 80 times, and its derivative *Φαρνακίων* occurs about 60 times (*LGPN* IV s.v.), in Chersonesos *Φαρνάκης* as the name of a local citizen is attested only in the inscription about the donation for the manufacture of columns from the second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd century AD and on a lead urn of the same period.¹³ *Φαρνακίων* was found on a tombstone stela from the 2nd century AD.¹⁴ Thus, Pharnaces, son of Dionysios, for whom this sarcophagus was built, could also have been of Bosporan origin. Given the close Bosporan-Chersonesos ties in the first centuries AD, this would not be surprising.

2. A tablet made of white marble (no. XT-21-P.7-823.1), broken off on the right (Fig. 6). Its height is 12.7 cm, surviving width is 17.4–16.1 cm, thickness is 3.0 cm. There is a seven-line inscription on the front side. The front surface and side planes are trowelled, but they are not smoothed. The front side displays finer processing than the back side. Judging by its small size, the tablet was a part of a funerary construction. For example, it could have been inserted into a wall of a sarcophagus or, probably, into a limestone stela similarly to many marble and limestone tablet inserts.

The tablet was found in excavation area 7, in the layer, during the removal of stratum 6 of square 156/85 (brown clay loam with stone) together with mixed amphorae material, which included a small number of fragments of amphorae and of other materials from the 3rd–2nd centuries BC from the underlying strata of the Hellenistic period. The excavation area 7 strata 3–7, located at a depth of 0.58 m to

¹¹ *ОАК* 1893 [*Отчеты Императорской Археологической Комиссии за 1891 год*], 142.

¹² See Zubar 1982, 58.

¹³ *IOSPE* P 442, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.142.html>; Solomonik 1987 [Э. И. Соломо́ник, “Свинцовые урны с надписями из Херсонеса”], 72–74.

¹⁴ Solomonik 1964 [Э. И. Соломо́ник, *Новые эпиграфические памятники Херсонеса*], 52, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.374.html>.



Fig. 6. Epitaph of Philo, daughter of Apollonios.

–0.34 m from R0, contained material of Roman amphorae fragments, tableware, and red-lacquered ceramics from the late 1st century BC – late 3rd century AD.

The name and patronymic in the first line are placed in the middle of the line, as is often the case with metrical epitaphs. The rest of the inscription was carved without margins, in close proximity to the tile edges. The inscription was carved without visible rulers. Some letters are at different levels. The height of the letters ranges from 1.0 to 1.2 cm: *omicron* is 0.5–0.7 cm high, *omega* is 0.9 cm high.

The letters have apexes in the form of triangular thickenings. They are mostly narrow. The slanting hastae of some *alphas*, *deltas*, and *lambdas* are slightly bent. *Alpha* has a straight crossbar. The *epsilon*'s middle horizontal hasta is shorter than both upper and lower ones. *Theta* is with a point. *Theta*, as well as *omicron*, is smaller than the dimensions of the line. The point of connection of the slanting hastae of *mu* and *upsilon* is closer to the upper part of the letter. The slanting lines of some *nus* do not reach the end of the vertical hastae. The right hasta of *pi* is shorter than the left one. The horizontal hasta protrudes to the right. *Rho* has a small

semicircle. *Sigma* is four-stroke. Its hastae are almost horizontal. *Omega* is almost in the dimensions of the line, with triangular thickenings at the ends of the horizontal hastae. Such palaeographic features find analogies in the decrees dating from the middle to late 2nd century BC.¹⁵

The epitaph can be reconstructed e.g. as follows:

Φιλῶ Ἀπολλωνίου θυ[γάτηρ (θύ[γατερ?] χαῖρε?)

οὐ τί σε μορφᾶς κάλλος ἐρύσ[σατο μορσίμου αἴσας]
 παρθένον, οὔτε χερῶν πάνσ[οφος εὐμαρία],
 ἀλλ' Αἴδης στυγεραῖσιν ἐρίπ[ναις τλήμονα μάρψας]
 τὰν ἀδαῆ θαλάμων τῶιδ' ἐ[κάλυψε τάφωι].
 γηραιῶι δὲ τοκῆϊ Φιλοῦς ἐπὶ σ[ήματι μίμνει] 5
 οὐνομα· τᾶλλα δ' ἔχει πάντα μ[έλας Αἴδης].

Philo, the daughter of Apollonios, farewell.

Neither virginal beauty of appearance saved thee [from mortal fate], nor the wisest [dexterity] of hands, but Hades, [having abducted thee, wretched,] in terrible rocks [hid] thee, who knew no bridal chamber, [beneath this grave.] For the aged parent, the name of Philo [on the gravestone is all that remains]; all the rest is owned by the [black Hades].

V. 1. ἐρύσ[σατο μορσίμου αἴσας] A. V. For μόρσιμος αἴσα cf. Peek *GVI* 796; *Anth. Gr.* 7. 343.

V. 2. πάνσ[οφος εὐμαρία] C. L. : πάνσ[οφοι ἐργασίαι] A. V. + D. K. For εὐμαρία χειρῶν cf. Eur. *Bacch.* 1128 ἀλλ' ὁ θεὸς εὐμάρειαν ἐπεδίδου χεροῖν. Although the form εὐμάρεια definitely dominates, there are some examples of εὐμαρία: Plat. *Lys.* 204 d 1; *IG II²* 11434 (Athens, 4th cent. BC); the grammarian Herodian (*De orthogr.*, *GrGr* III. 2. 1 p. 453. 15–20 Lentz) cites εὐμάρεια/εὐμαρία among examples of the alternative forms ending in εια/ια, the latter ones being ‘poetical’ according to him. Far less probable is πανσ[οφία φρονίμων] A. V. (πανσ[οφία would be a hapax).

For the motif “talents/virtues did not save from death”, cf. Peek *GVI* 1940 Ἰουλία Πρειμιγένεια μαῖα πολλὰς σώσασα γυναικας / οὐκ ἔφυγον Μοίρας; 1037 Ἡ δ' ἐπὶ σωφροσύνη δόξαν ἐν ἅπασι φέρουσα /

¹⁵ *IOSPE I²* 349, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.7.html> (decree honouring a man in the service of Mithridates Eupator, 120–63 BC); *IOSPE I²* 352, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.8.html> (decree honouring Diophantos of Sinope, ca. 110 BC).

οὐκ ἔφυγον θάνατον· Μοῖρα γὰρ εἶχεν ὄρους; 1169 ὃς προλιπὼν Ῥώμης δάπεδον Νείλου πόλιν ἐλθὼν / καὶ προκοπαῖς λάμψας, πολλοῖσι δὲ πολλὰ παρασχών, / μηδένα λυπήσας, ἀλλ' εἰς τὸ δίκαιον ἀθρήσας, / Μοιρῶν οὐκ ἔφυγεν τρισσῶν μίτον; 1728; 1732, etc.

V. 3. ἐρίπ[ναις τλήμονα μάρψας] A. V. For μάρπτω (about Hades, Moira vel sim.), cf. Peek *GVI* 567, 972 etc.

στυγεραῖσιν ἐρίπ[ναις] (the locative dative) suggests rocks or mountain peaks as the place of death; στυγερός often occurs with nouns that refer to the cause of death (such as νόσος).

Alternatively, ἐρίπ[ναις πάντ' ἀφανίζων] C. L. Since *sch. Apoll. Rhod.* 1. 581 (p. 50, l. 16 Wendel), along with the explanation of ἐρίπνας as ἀπορρῶγας κολώνας, 'precipitous peaks', which seems to be a more usual meaning, gives also σπήλαια κρημνώδη, viz. 'steep caves', one may suppose that it does not refer to the real circumstances of the girl's death, but metaphorically to Hades, who disguises (destroys) everything in his caves. For the caves that were thought of as entrances to Hades, cf. *Ap. Rhod.* 2. 735 σπέος [...] Αἴδαιο and the famous passage *Verg. Aen.* 7. 568 *specus... Ditis; ibid.* 6. 237 *spelunca alta*.

Apart from a form of ἐρίπνη, ἐρίπ[could be reconstructed as ἐρίπ[νοος, which occurs only once in a poetic text (anapests) on a papyrus (*P. Heid.* inv. G. 222 a-m).¹⁶

V. 4. ἐ[κάλυψε (ἐ[πέκρυσε) τάφω] A. V. For a combination of ὄδε in dative with τάφος see Peek *GVI* 39, 426, 677, 922. καλύπτω and (ἐπι)κρύπτω are the standard verbs in this context in epitaphs. The subjects of such actions are usually parents, friends, the motherland, the earth, etc., rather than Hades. However, cf. *SEG* 40, 1106 (223/224 AD, Lydia): ἐνθάδε ἡλικίην προπετής Ἄιδης ἐκάλυψεν; *EAD* 30 (Couilloud 1974), 477: μοῖρ' ἐκάλυψεν / Αἴδεω; *BCH* 1923, 378–380: Μοῖρα [κάλ]υψε κακή.

V. 5. σ[ήματι μίμνει] N. A. : σ[ήματ' ἐλείφθη] A. V. For the motif cf. Peek *GVI* 1764 Μίκκης οὔνομα μοῦνον ἔχει τάφος, εὐσεβέες δέ / ψυχὴν καὶ πεδίων τέρμονες Ἥλυσίων; more usual for cenotaphs: 1746 Οὔνομα μοῦνον ἔχει στάλα, ξένη, σῶμα δὲ πόντος; 1571 μοῦνον δ' ἡμέτερον βαιή [λίθος] οὔνομα φωνοῖ; 1814 Χῶ μὲν ἐν ὑγρῇ / νεκρός, ἐγὼ δ' ἄλλως οὔνομα τύμβος ἔχων / κηρύσσω πανάληθες ἔπος τόδε.

V. 6. μ[έλας Αἴδης] A. V. (cf. *Soph. OT* 29 f.) : μ[έλας θάνατος] D. K. (cf. *Batr.* 208; *Eur. Tro.* 1314–1315; *IG XII.* 7. 302. 15; for ἔχει θάνατος cf. *IG IX.* 2. 314. 2).

¹⁶ Bilabel 1925, 338 (cf. Heitsch 1963, 37).

It appears that the name Φιλώ has not yet been found in the Chersonesos onomasticon. Female personal names with -ω were common in Chersonesos primarily in the 3rd century BC, but there are isolated examples belonging to the 4th and 2nd centuries BC; there also seems to be a single example in the 2nd century AD.¹⁷

Chersonesos inscriptions show few personal names with the φιλ- stem. They appear since the 4th century BC. There are also several examples from the 2nd century AD (*LGPN IV s.v.*). It is evident that there are infinitely more theophoric names based on the name of Apollo, one of the most important deities of the Chersonesos pantheon. Ἀπολλώνιος is the most frequent of them. Such names are known since the Hellenistic age, when there was an official cult of Apollo, extending into the 2nd century AD (*LGPN IV s.v.*).¹⁸

3. A fragment (lower right corner) of a white marble tablet with an inscription on its front side (no. XT-21-P.4-2058/1, Fig. 7–8). Preserved height is 12.0 – 7.0 cm, preserved width is 11.5 – 9.0 cm, thickness is 3.0 cm. The front surface was carefully processed and trowelled. The back surface was smoothed. Traces of tool processing are visible in its lower part; the preserved part of the right-side face was smoothed. Just like the epitaph of Philo, the daughter of Apollonius, this tablet was probably part of some kind of funerary structure.

The tablet was found in excavation area 4 during the removal of stratum 8 of square 105/174 (brown clay loam), in a mixed layer. Its formation level is 0.93 m from the 0 point of the Baltic height system. The layer is characterized by a large number of fragments of amphorae from the Roman period (the 1st–3rd centuries AD), although isolated fragments from the 9th–11th centuries are also found there. Noteworthy is the large (compared with other layers) number of fragments of glass vessels and red-lacquered ware from the 1st–3rd centuries AD.

¹⁷ Examples from the 4th century BC: Ἀριστώ, Ματρώ, Solomonik 1973 [Э. И. Соломоник, *Новые эпиграфические памятники Херсонеса. Лапидарные надписи*], 139, 176; from the 3rd century BC: Ἀρχεσώ, *IOSPE I* 2 507; Μαρκό, Solomonik 1964, 30; Ἀρκεσώ, Μενδικώ, Ἡρώ, Ἰερώ, Solomonik 1973, 125, 147, 160, 174; from the 2nd century BC: Κλεώ, Solomonik 1978 [Э. И. Соломоник, “Несколько новых надписей Херсонесского музея”], 68; from the 2nd century AD: [N]εϊκασώ, *IOSPE I* 2 460.

¹⁸ Bondarenko 2003 [М. Е. Бондаренко, “Пантеон Херсонеса Таврического”], 74–77; Trofimova–Pavlichenko 2022, 134.



Fig. 7. Fragment of the marble tablet with part of the metrical epitaph. Front side.



Fig. 8. Fragment of the marble tablet with part of the metrical epitaph. Back side.

[- -]E[.]A[- -]
 [- -]Ι καὶ ματε-
 [- -] πενθεῖν ἄρε-
 [- -]μετεραν ξυνός
 [- -]α δόμος, ἀλλὰ τὸ σε- 5
 [- -]ι ζῶον κῦδος
 [- -] μόνοις *vacat*

The letters are slightly elongated, with apexes. *Alpha* has an open top and a broken crossbar. *Lambda* is with an open top. *Theta* has a detached crossbar. It is oval and in the dimensions of the line. The lower parts of *nu*'s vertical hastae are at the same level. The slanting line does not reach the end of the vertical hastae. The ends of the slanting *mu*'s and *nu*'s hastae do not reach the ends of the vertical lines. *Omicron* is small, much smaller than the other letters. The four-stroke *sigma* has horizontal hastae. In general, the font dates back to the last quarter of the 2nd century – the 1st quarter of the 1st century BC.¹⁹ Noteworthy is the space between]μετεραν and ξυνός.

¹⁹ IOSPE I² 349, <https://iospe.kcl.ac.uk/3.7.html> (decree honouring a man in the service of Mithridates Eupator, 120–63 BC).

Since the extant part of the tablet is its lower right-hand corner and the inscription is obviously metrical, *μόνοις* – its last word – must form the end of a pentameter. The sequence]ι ζῶν κῦδος (– – – – ◡) must be a part of the same pentameter.²⁰ The best metrical position of]ι ζῶν κῦδος inside the pentameter seems to be as follows:²¹

– ◡◡]ι ζῶν | κῦδος
◡ – ◡ μόνις.

This reconstruction presupposes only ca. 5 to 7 letters between *κῦδος* and *μόνοις*, while the lacunae in the other lines must have contained more letters. This poses a slight problem that might be explained by the fact that the letters in the last line are bigger and have wider spacing. Alternatively, one might assume that, contrary to the usual practice of starting with the left margin, the last line with the rest of the *hemiepes* was carved in centered lettering or contained an indentation to the left.²²

²⁰ Otherwise, the lines would be too long, for the last one would include at least three syllables from the final part of the hexameter (*ζῶν κῦδος*, as spondaic ending seems improbable) and the whole pentameter, and the empty space would still be left after *μόνοις*. However, if the verses do not start on a new line, but run successively, the lines are usually shorter than hexameters and pentameters. A tablet designed to be inserted into a funerary monument is not likely to be very long; its dimensions must be rather comparable to the tablet with Philo's epitaph.

²¹ Admittedly, it is difficult to exclude other options, e.g.:

]ι ζῶν κῦδος |
[– ◡◡ – ◡] μόνις.

However, in this case we failed to distribute the parts of the hexameter that contain *-α δόμος*, *ἀλλὰ τὸ σε-* (l. 5) and, most likely, start with *ξυνός* (l. 4) between the lines 4, 5, and 6, so that their restored parts would be of relatively equal length.

²² We have found no secure examples of this practice in the northern Black Sea region or Asia Minor, but metrical inscriptions in which verses are carved successively and the last line is considerably shorter than the rest seem altogether too rare to exclude or confirm this possibility. In *IK* 18. 509. 10 (see the drawing in Peek 1959, 19) the last line of a hexametric inscription reads *λογιζόμενοι παροδεῖται; νοι* starts at the left margin, while *παροδεῖται* is carved almost at the centre of the line. However, this analogy is not fully legitimate, since *παροδεῖται* is a structural element of the inscription that is occasionally carved in centred lettering for the purpose of decoration: cf. in prose *IPE* II. 402 (*ἄγει*), 421–422 (*ὁ δᾶμος*), 440 (*εἰς τὸν ναὸν τῆς Ἀφοδεῖτης*).

The last line of a metrical inscription is short and starts at the left margin in *CIRB* 138 ([*ἐ*]χει φθίμενο[ν]), 1017 (*ὠδε*), as well as in Merkelbach–Stauber, *SGO*; II. 186, no. 09/05/34 (*κατέλειπον*). Naturally, if a word is partly carried over to the

A hypothetical reconstruction can be proposed:

- 1 [-]E[.]A[-]
- 2 [οὐ γενέταν κλαίει]ν καὶ ματέ-
- 3 [ρα χρῆν ἐπὶ τύμβωι || ἦ] πενθεῖν ἀρε-
- 4 [τᾶν | μνάμονας ἦ]μετερᾶν· || ξυνὸς
- 5 [πᾶσι βροτοῖς Αἴδ]α δόμος, ἀλλὰ τὸ Σε-
- 6 [ύθου || ἦρωσ]ι ζῶν | κῦδος
- 7 [ἔπεστι] μόνους.

[There is no need for father] and mother [to weep over this grave or] grieve [remembering] our [virtues]. The house [of Hades] is common [to all mortals], but the living glory of Se[uthes? accompanies] only [heroes].

The first line probably contained the name and the patronymic. It seems less plausible that yet another distichon is omitted at the beginning, as it would add another 3–4 lines and the tablet would be too tall, while it should be comparable to that of the Philo inscription. The first visible letter looks very much like *epsilon*. The next visible letter may be *alpha* or *lambda*.

The epitaph itself consists of two elegiac couplets that are divided by a space between the words.

L. 2–3. [οὐ γενέταν κλαίει]ν κτλ. D. K. + N. A. In line 2, the lower part of a vertical hasta located close to καὶ most probably belongs to an *iota* or a *nu* (although one could also think of an *eta* or a *pi* with a long right hasta). Mentioning the mother after καὶ implies mentioning the father in the first part of the sentence, cf. Mitford, *AJA* 65 (1961) 132–133 no. 32 = VÉrilhac 1978, no. 119. 3 γενέταν κ[αὶ] μ[α]τέρα. A reference to ζῶν κῦδος makes one think of the consolation motif, which implies advice not to grieve (cf. Peek *GVI* 1969 = VÉrilhac 1978, no. 66 B 7–8 ἀλλὰ με πρηυτέρως πενθήσατε· καὶ γὰρ ἐς Ἄϊδην / ἔρχομαι ἠρώων οὐδενὶ λειπόμενος). Therefore, πενθεῖν should be preceded with δεῖ, χρῆ, πρέπει vel sim. with a negative particle. The one-syllable word that immediately precedes πενθεῖν might also be δεῖ or χρῆ. MATE[P- can be restored to vocative, dative, or accusative forms alike, so the text presented here stands *exempli gratia*.

last line, its ending also starts with the left margin without indention (Merkelbach–Stauber, *SGO* II. 72, no. 08/02/01 (πέ|παυκεν); II. 91, no. 08/05/07 (ἀγ|λά|ισαν|χάρισιν); II. 110, no. 08/07/08 (ἔνε|κεν); II. 113, no. 08/07/13 (ἀ|ιοιδότατον). In II. 187, no. 09/05/35 (μνήμη|ς|χάρην), there is a space between -ς and χάρην.

L. 3. A vertical hasta before πενθεῖν may have belonged to an *eta*, an *iota*, a *nu*, or a *pi*.

L. 3–4. ἀρε[τῶν μνάμονας ἤ]μετερᾶν D. K.]μετεραν might be restored as a form of ἡμέτερος or ὑμέτερος, likely referring to the deceased or to the grieving parents. ἀρε[might be a form of Ἄρης (Ἄρε[ως C. L.) or ἀρετή, and it is tempting to make]μετεραν be governed by the latter. At the same time, ἀρετᾶν seems unparalleled as a direct object with πενθεῖν (usually it governs the name of the deceased or the words expressing evil fate). Therefore, e.g. κλεινὸν ἔρεισμα δόμων] καὶ ματέ[ρι τλάμονι χάρμα / νῦν] πενθεῖν ἀρε[τῶν κάλλιπεθ' ὕ]μετέραν vel λείψαμεν ἤ]μετέραν (C. L.) looks less plausible.

L. 4–5. ξυνὸς [πᾶσι βροτοῖς vel [δὴ θνητοῖς D. K.

L. 5. Ἄιδ]α δόμος N. A.

The combination ξυνὸς – ἀλλὰ – μόνοις requires an opposition of something common to something exceptional.²³ For the realm of Hades as common dwelling of men, see *AP* 7. 266 (Plato) Ναυηγοῦ τάφος εἰμί, ὁ δ' ἀντίον ἐστὶ γεωργοῦ· / ὡς ἀλλὶ καὶ γαίῃ ξυνὸς ὕπεστ' Ἄιδης; Ps.-Phocyl. 112 f. κοινὰ μέλαθρα δόμων αἰώνια καὶ πατρὶς Ἄιδης, / ξυνὸς χῶρος ἅπανσι, πένησί τε καὶ βασιλεῦσιν.

L. 5–6. Σε[ύθου vel sim. (Σέ[μνου?)]²⁴ D. K. : σε[μνὸν N. A. The word beginning with σε[must be a two-syllable one, with the first syllable long, and at the same time compatible with the article τό. These conditions reduce the number of possible variants of reconstruction considerably. However, reconstructing a personal name in l. 5–6, we have to assume that the deceased first speaks of himself in the first person (ἀρετᾶν ἡμετερᾶν) and then in the third (τὸ Σεύθου κῦδος).²⁵ On the other hand, σε[μνὸν seems a proper epithet of κῦδος (cf. σεμνὸν ... κλέος Peek *GVI* 802. 8), but the order of words, as well as supplying κῦδος with two adjectives, has a clumsy result.

²³ We thank Sofia Egorova for this observation.

²⁴ In the first centuries AD Σεύθης is attested in the lapidary onomastics of the Northern Black Sea region: *IOSPE* I² 223 (Olbia, 2nd–3rd centuries AD); *CIRB* 543 (Panticapaeum, 1st century AD); *CIRB* 1282 (Tanais, 228 AD), and also in Scythia Minor et Thrace (*LGNP* IV s.v.). As for Σέμνος, it is apparently not known in the Northern Black Sea region, but attested in Scythia Minor et Thrace (*LGNP* IV s.v.).

²⁵ For speaking of oneself in the first and the third person within the same epitaph, cf. e.g. *CIRB* 134 πατρὶς μὲν ἐξέθρεψεν <...> Ἀμαστρίδης Ἡλιόδωρον, ἀποθανόντα δὲ | Βοόσπορος ἐθαψεν <...> ἔχω δὲ πατρίδας νῦν δύο <...>; 144 πρὶν με θανεῖν, κατὰ κεμ<αι> ἐνθάδε ἐπὶ στηλίδι γλυπτῇ κουριδίδης ἔνεκεν Κλεοπάτρας <...> εἵνεκα τῶ<ν>δε τα[ύ]την στηλίδα ἀνε[στήσατ]ο Ζεΐλας Ταρσα[νὸς νυμφευτ]ῆς ἀλόχοι.

L. 6. ἥρωσι] D. K. For a comparison with the virtue of ἥρωες, cf. Peek *GVI* 1305; 1452; 1471; 1477; 1515; 1731; 1733; for the form ἥρωσι, Peek *GVI* 1128.

For ζῶν κῦδος, cf. *AP* 7. 255. 3 (Aesch.) ζῶν δὲ φθιμένοις πέλεται κλέος.

L. 7. [ἔπεστι] D. K. (since a longer restoration is desired) : [ἄραρε] C. L. Otherwise, considering κῦδος an accusative and supplying some subject above, one might add [ᾧπασσε] N. A. (κῦδος ᾧπάζειν is frequent since Homer, e.g. *Il.* 8. 41 et saepius Ζεὺς κῦδος ᾧπάζει, *Ag. Equ.* 200 θεὸς μέγα κῦδος ᾧπάζει).

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The paper offers the first publication of three metrical inscriptions found in the Southern Suburb of Chersonesos Taurica: a brief epitaph on the ossuary of Pharnaces, son of Dionysios (the second quarter – the middle of the 2nd cent. AD) and two marble tablets, one containing a more extended but not fully preserved epitaph

of Philo, the daughter of Apollonios (2nd cent. AD), the other the fragmentary epitaph for an unknown person, possibly a warrior (the last quarter of the 2nd cent. – the 1st quarter of the 1st cent. BC).

Статья представляет собой первую публикацию трех стихотворных надписей, найденных в Южном пригороде Херсонеса Таврического. Это краткая эпитафия на оссуарии Фарнака, сына Дионисия (2-я четв. – сер. II в. н. э.) и две эпитафии на мраморных табличках: более развернутая, но сохранившаяся не полностью эпитафия Фило, дочери Аполлония (II в. н. э.) и фрагмент эпитафии неизвестного лица, возможно, война (посл. четв. II в. до н. э. – 1-я четв. I в. до н. э.).

KEYWORDS

AKHMADEEVA

ancient viney; Bosporan Kingdom; fourth century BC; Theodosia
античное виноделие; Боспорское царство; Феодосия; IV в. до н. э.

ALMAZOVA, PAVLICHENKO, KEYER, VERLINSKY

metrical epitaphs; ossuary; Southern suburb; Tauric Chersonesos.
Оссуарий; стихотворные эпитафии; Херсонес Таврический; Южный
пригород

BELIK, KUCHEREVSKAYA, PAVLICHENKO

Arcadian mercenaries; Bosporus, Paerisades I; Pan; votive inscription
Аркадские наемники; Боспор; Пан; Перисад I; посвятельная надпись

BUTYAGIN, KOLOSOV, GIBLOVA, MILIKHINA

Bosporus; coin hoard; defensive walls; lead letter; Мурмекion
Боспор; клад; Мирмекий; оборонительная система; свинцовое письмо

CHISTOV

Asiatic Bosporus; Bosporan kingdom; necropolis; Sindike
Азиатский Боспор; Боспорское царство; некрополь; Синдика

EREMEEVA

archaeological survey; excavations; Hellenistic period; Kalos Limen
археологические разведки; Калос Лимен; раскопки; эллинистический
период.

KASHAEV

Artjuschenko-2; burials; inventory; necropolis; pottery; Taman peninsula
Артющенко-2; инвентарь; керамика; некрополь; погребения; Таманский
полуостров

KHRSCHANOVSKIY

асинхронные находки; Боспорское царство; Китей; погребально-поминальные комплексы; святилище

asynchronous finds; Bosporan kingdom; Kytaiion; ritual and memorial complexes; sanctuary

NOVOSELOVA, SOKOLOVA

ancient theater; gate towers; main city street; Nymphaion; Republic of Crimea
античное городище Нимфей; античный театр; воротные башни; главная городская дорога; Крым,

SOLOVYOVA, SOLOVYOV, VAKHONEEV, POKROVSKAYA, NIZOV

columbarium; heroon; Southern Suburb; Tauric Chersonesos; tholos,
героон; колумбарий; толос; Херсонес Таврический; Южный пригород

SOLOVYEV, VAKHONEEV

Акра; Боспор; cultural layer; settlement; underwater archaeology

Акра; Боспор; культурный слой; подводная археология; поселение

VAKHTINA, SOLOVYEV, VAKHONEEV, CHETVERKINA

city-site; Hellenistic period; necropolis; Parthenion; rescue excavations
городище; некрополь; Парфений; спасательные раскопки; эллинистический период

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