

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



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On the cover: the bronze portrait of the Early Hellenistic Thracian ruler Seuthes III, ca. BC 300, National Archaeological Museum in Sofia; see the paper of E. Formigli in this issue; photo by Krassimir Georgiev.

The Restoration of the Early Hellenistic Shipka Bronze Head

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XIX, 3 (2015), 1-22

Edilberto FORMIGLI

Abstract: The bronze portrait head from Shipka was unearthed in a Thracian tumulus of central Bulgaria by Dr. Georgi Kitov (archaeologist at the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum / Sofia), in 2004. This paper presents the investigation and restoration work carried out on the head under an Italian-Bulgarian project of scientific cooperation. The results of scientific analysis on the alloy, eyes and remains of the casting core are presented, along with details on the restoration process, which involved cleaning and some minimal interventions aimed at consolidating compromised parts of the object. The aim of the investigation was to obtain information on the materials used for the realization of the head and to reconstruct the history and technology of the object. Corrosion processes and patina formation were addressed as they also provide important clues on the history of the object. This approach guaranteed not only the preservation of the head itself, but also of the “historical events” it went through, ensuring their survival into the future.

Key words: restoration, bronze head, Early Hellenistic period, Bulgaria.



Fig. 1. The bronze head in the Thracian burial mound of Golyama Kosmatka. Photograph by St. Dimov

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological restoration of ancient bronze statues/sculptures developed in Italy in the 1970s with the restoration work of important monuments, such as the horses of Saint Mark, the Riace bronzes, the Cartoceto bronzes, the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, the Chimaera of Arezzo, the Idolino of Pesaro, the Boxer at Rest, the Brindisi bronzes, the Dancing Satyr and many others.

Based on this experience, the concept of archaeological restoration broadened and deepened, requiring a multidisciplinary approach that benefited significantly from developments in the field of natural sciences. Nowadays it is inconceivable to conduct conservative restoration alone without archaeometric analysis. The study of casting and finishing methods, artificial patination, as well as the identification of tool marks and ancient treatments, is essential to preserve the history of an object as well as making it possible to reconstruct the technology that produced that object. In the light of this, a new concept of restoration emerged: “Restoration as knowledge”. The object is considered as a historical document through which we can “read” the past, rather than being appraised for its aesthetic values alone.

The restoration project

The bronze head, on display at the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIAM)¹, was found by Dr. Georgi Kitov on the 21st September 2004 during excavations of the Golyama Kosmatka burial mound, near Shipka, in the Kazanlak valley, South Bulgaria (**fig. 1**) (Kitov 2005; 2006, 69-83; Китов 2008, 214-236; Dimitrova 2015). The restoration was undertaken under an Italian-Bulgarian project of scientific cooperation

¹ Inventory number 8594; height 32.5 cm; pupillary distance 6.9 cm; intercanthal distance 3.4 cm; distance between outer corners of the eyes 11.7 cm; weight 12 kg.

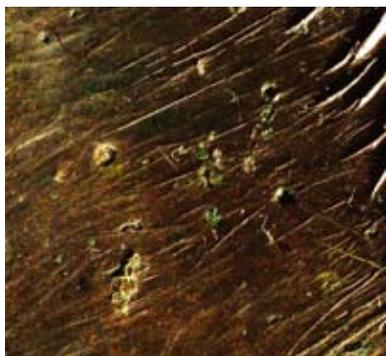


Fig. 29. Detail of the black patina found on the neck

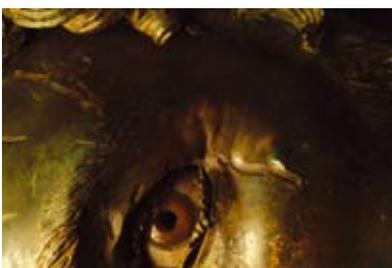


Fig. 30. Details of the marks left by intentional blows inflicted in antiquity

Then, the head was bent to the right side, where it was welded to the body. In this way it was possible to detach it completely. The final bending is still visible at the back (fig. 32b).

It is not known whether the head was still filled with the casting core. However, since sand-clay material was also necessary to keep in place the welding material, it is feasible to suggest that the head still had the casting core when it was separated from the body, and that it was emptied at a later stage to facilitate its transport.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of the investigation on the bronze head allow for the history of the object to be reconstructed, providing information on the casting and metal joining techniques, on the manufacture of the eyes, as well as on the deliberate and the unintentional patina formations.

To summarise, the evidence points towards the use of the indirect method for the casting of the head. In particular, the removal of the wax from the inside, the lifting at the base of the spacer nails and the cavities around the eyes, suggest the use of a hollow wax model.

For the hair, a mixture of both direct and indirect techniques was employed; some of the curls were first modelled in wax, then cut and cast separately before being attached to the head. This is confirmed by the presence of a nail underneath one of the curls.

The walls are 6-8 mm thick and correspond to the thickness of the original wax model.

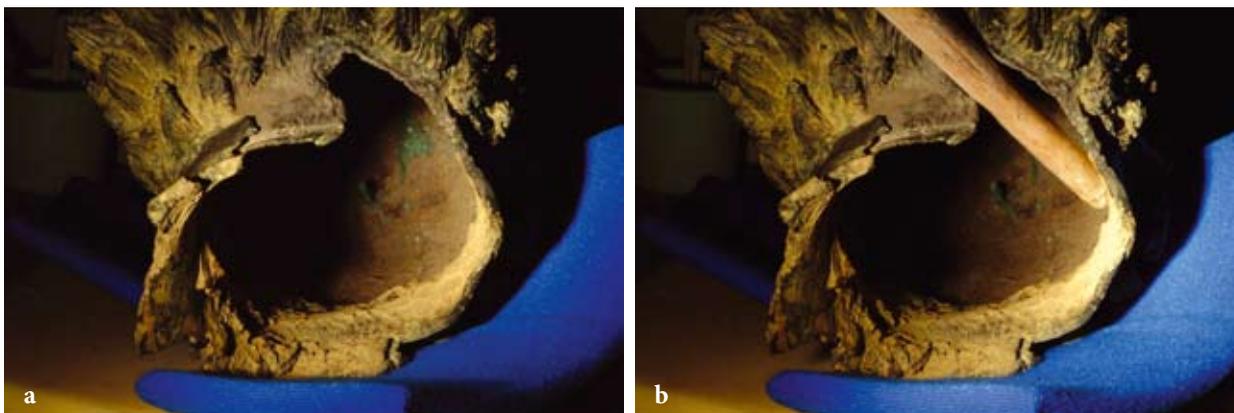


Fig. 31. Photographs showing the area where the head was separated from the torso (a). Simulation with a wooden rod of the operation performed to detach the head (b)

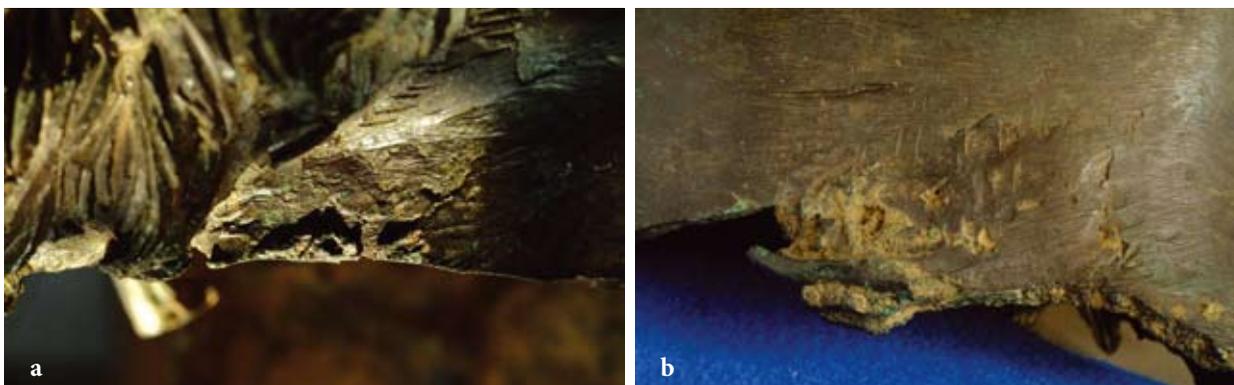


Fig. 32. Details showing the action of the metallic rod on the bronze that left marks and a flattened surface (a). The final bending is shown in (b)

An Early Hellenistic *Xiphos* from *Apollonia Pontica*

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XIX, 3 (2015), 23-36

Margarit DAMYANOV

Abstract: The article presents a *xiphos* that was discovered in Sozopol, ancient *Apollonia Pontica*. There are more such weapons from present-day Bulgaria, but this is the only example discovered during archaeological excavations. The *xiphos* was deliberately bent and discarded in a dump of fragmentary pottery, mostly amphorae. The materials from the dump date from the later 4th and early 3rd c. BC, which corresponds to the chronology of dated parallels, mostly from ancient Macedonia.

Key words: *Apollonia Pontica*, *xiphos*, Early Hellenistic, amphorae, black-glazed pottery.

In early 2014, rescue excavations in the Late Archaic and Classical necropolis of *Apollonia* in present-day Harmanite neighbourhood of the town of Sozopol (Bulgarian Black Sea coast) brought to light an intriguing find: an almost intact iron *xiphos*¹. Unfortunately, it was not discovered in a grave and the context raises some questions. There is one more puzzling detail – the weapon was deliberately bent (**fig. 1-2**).

THE SITE AND THE CONTEXT

The investigations in 2013-2014 explored a relatively large area (c. 60 x 20 m) (Панайотова et al. 2014a; 2014b; Дамянов et al. 2015), with highest concentration of archaeological materials in the northeastern quarter of the site. This situation could be explained with the specific topography and environment. The site is situated at the base of a relatively high hill and collects the draining rainwater from the slope. The entire southern half of the excavated area is occupied by a gully that was dug by the water in the bedrock clay and gradually filled with sandy deposits. In these deposits, mainly close to the edge of the gully, scattered archaeological materials and human remains were discovered, apparently from graves that were disturbed by the erosion of the slope. The chronology of the materials indicates that the necropolis here spanned the period from about 500 to about 350 BC².

The situation in the northeastern part of the site is different, as there the terrain was disturbed to a lesser extent by the draining rainwater. Here, one can clearly trace the slope descending to the gully and, respectively, the archaeological strata were better preserved. A total of 16 graves were excavated, with grave goods dating from the second and the third quarter of the 5th c. BC (Дамянов et al. 2015). Significantly later, a large accumulation of materials, most of all fragmentary amphorae, formed on the slope to the gully (**fig. 3**). It resembled a broad arc, open to the northeast, more than 10 m long and about 4 m wide in the middle. The thickness of the layer of fragmentary pottery did not exceed 0.20-0.30 m, and the descent down the slope to the gully is about one meter (from c. 7.50 m to c. 6.50 m above sea level). These details and the compact structure of the layer indicate a relatively short period of deposition of the materials. The amphorae were dumped here

¹ National Archaeological Museum, Sofia, inv. # 9222.

² The materials from the gully will be presented and commented on in a separate publication.

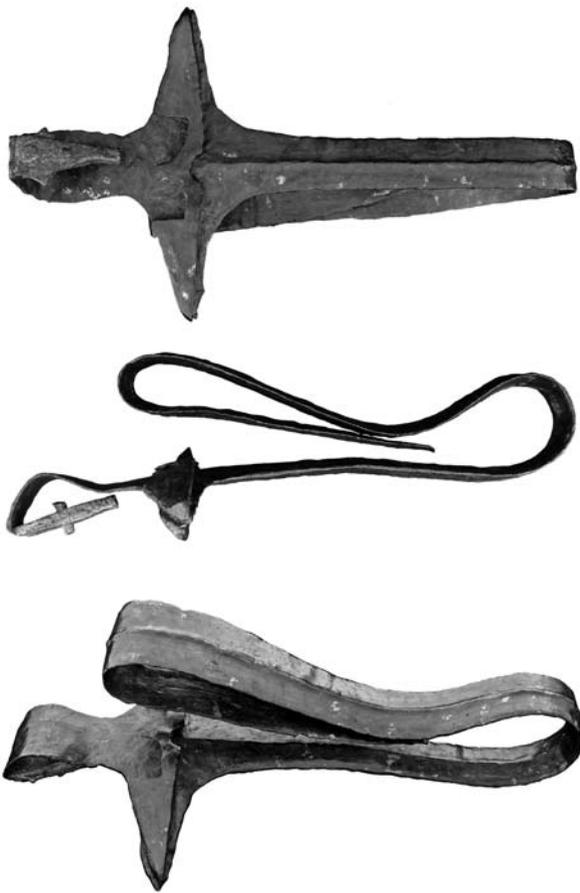


Fig. 1. The iron *xiphos* (photographs after conservation)

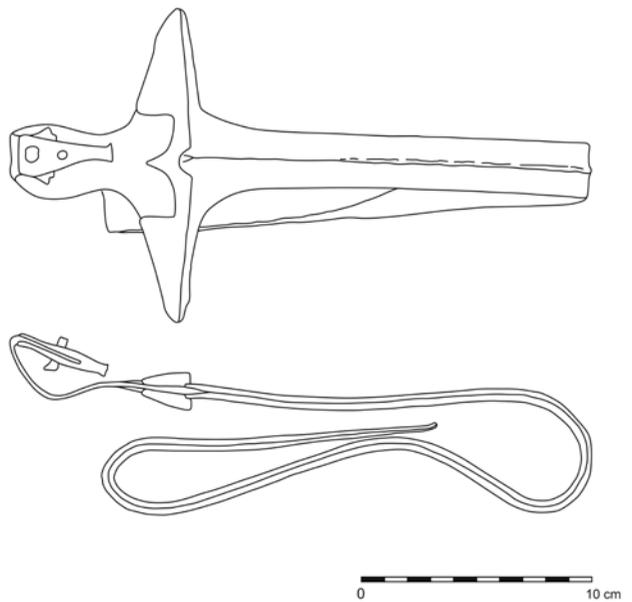


Fig. 2. The iron *xiphos*

already in fragmentary state – the toes number in the hundreds, but there are far less upper parts with rims and handles; the latter circumstance could explain the complete absence of amphora stamps among the materials. Only a few better preserved amphorae were discovered. Smaller accumulations of fragments of amphorae, in some cases in shallow pits, were also discovered. The materials from the dump have a relatively homogeneous chronology and belong to the later 4th and the first decades of the 3rd c. BC (see below). Sporadically, earlier finds were also discovered, most probably from disturbed 5th c. BC graves. Nothing in the character of the accumulation contradicts the interpretation as a dump on the territory of the already discontinued necropolis. The place – the slope of a gully that collected the rainwater from the surrounding heights – seems suitable for the purpose.

The iron *xiphos* was discovered at the southernmost end of the dump, at 6.36 m above sea level, at the base of the layer of fragments (with some fragments also beneath it).

CHRONOLOGY OF THE “DUMP”

The analysis of the huge amount of fragmentary amphorae from the site goes well beyond the limits of this text. For the task at hand, only specific fragments were selected from the area where the *xiphos* was found.

There are quite a few lower parts of Chian amphorae with “hood-like” toes (fig. 4) that could be attributed to Monachov’s Type V-B from the 4th c. BC; the toes are tall and feebly detached from the body, indicat-

Archaeomagnetic Study of a Thracian Settlement (ca. 325-250 BC) near the City of Isparih, NE Bulgaria – Ancient Firing Influence

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
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Mary KOVACHEVA / Neli JORDANOVA /
Maria KOSTADINOVA-AVRAMOVA

Abstract: A part of a Thracian settlement in the archaeological complex Sborjanovo (North-eastern Bulgaria) has been studied archaeomagnetically. The main goal of the research is to restore the geomagnetic field elements from the remains of burnt clay in the settlement which is supposed to be the capital *Helis* of Getic ruler Dromichaites. The archaeomagnetic research is conducted over the collections of oriented samples gathered in two field campaigns (1989 and 1992) from ovens remains and destructions of South Gate. Altogether burnt clay remains from 8 localities were studied. According to the archaeomagnetic determinations (given in two tables) all the studied structures are simultaneous and form an archaeomagnetic reference point (Labno=274). The directional results of samples taken from the burnt earth below the ovens' floor in squares 106/22 and 123/1 are excluded (given with asterisks in **table 2**). These from square 106/22 show unacceptable discrepancy between the values of individual samples and those from square 123/1 being very aberrant of the well grouped values from all the other ovens. The obtained three final geomagnetic field elements (declination=350.23°, inclination=63.22° and intensity=71.85 µT) are related to the end of the town existence at the middle of the 3rd century BC. These results are included in the Bulgarian archaeomagnetic database. The relatively high value of the intensity of the ancient magnetic field is characteristic for the Early Hellenistic period in our lands. By the means of magnetic measurements the degree of different ancient firing is determined. The supposed fire at the area of South gate in the time of an earthquake is confirmed by the registered higher firing temperatures of the samples gathered from this region. This temperature is 500-550°C when the firing temperature of the *eschara* and the ovens is about 420-450°C. The discrimination of two levels in the site's existence is not possible on the basis of the obtained results. Thus the archaeologists' opinion that the *eschara* of the square 106/22 should be simultaneous with the oven in Borehole I (square 122/3, 8) is independently confirmed. The investigation of magnetic susceptibility anisotropy has shown that from 5 studied ovens, 3 have well expressed tilt. Such a phenomenon is often observed by the archaeologists. The influence of the supposed seismic shock in North-East to South-West direction is proved by probable additional tilt of the oven in sq. 123/1 expressed by the systematically lower values of the inclinations obtained from the samples (**table 2**). This is an independent conclusion proving the archaeological supposition that the earthquake has provoked the end of the settlement life.

Key words: archaeomagnetism, fired clay, temperature of ancient firing, Early Hellenistic period, Thrace.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeomagnetic studies in Bulgaria have a long standing history and cover almost completely the last 8000 years. As an interdisciplinary scientific branch they reflect the development of two sciences: geophysics and archaeology. The basic hypothesis in archaeomagnetic investigations is that the burnt clay of different but synchronous structures fossilizes the same or very similar values of the past geomagnetic field ele-

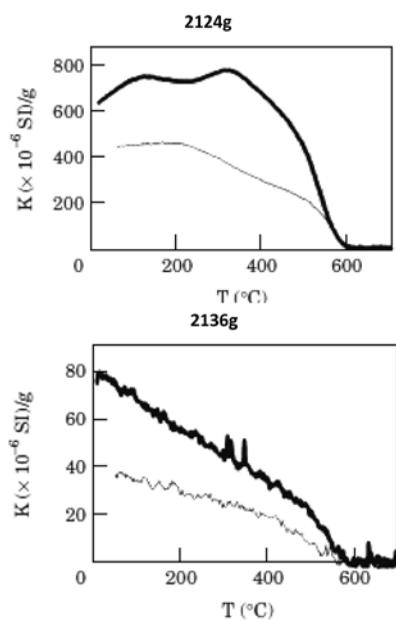


Fig. 2. Examples for thermomagnetic analyses (solid line – magnetic susceptibility during heating to 700°C and thin line – magnetic susceptibility during cooling to room temperature)

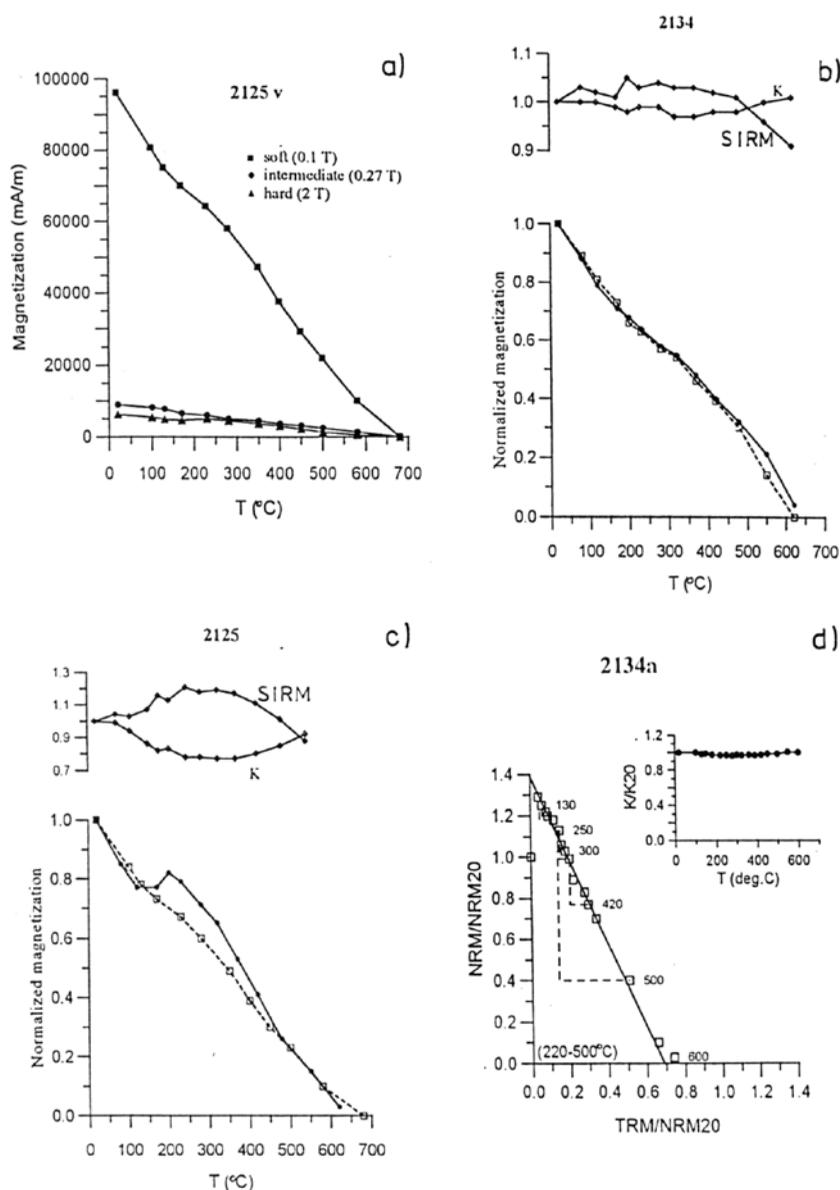


Fig. 3. The results of: **a** thermal demagnetization of the 3-axis laboratory induced IRM; **b** and **c** SIRM test; **d** successful experiment for the palaeointensity determination. The numbers correspond to the field numbers of the samples

Fig. 3d shows one successful experiment for palaeointensity determination carried out on sister specimen of that giving a positive SIRM test (**fig. 3b**). The mineralogical stability monitoring during the experiment of the palaeointensity determination is performed through measurements of the volume magnetic susceptibility (K) after successive temperature steps (the included graph for K/K₂₀ in **fig. 3d**). In all chosen temperature intervals for the palaeointensity determination K remains stable. These intervals are shown in the low left corner of **fig. 3d**, when the choice is made according to the criteria applied in our laboratory (Kovacheva / Toshkov 1994).

As a conclusion about the suitability of the examined collection it can be stated that it is quite good for the palaeodirection determination, while the palaeointensity results should be acceptable after a cautious selection (Kovacheva / Jordanova 2001).

Of Horses and Men...

A Late Iron Age Gold Appliqué from Vețel (Hunedoara County, Romania)

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XIX, 3 (2015), 51-62

Aurel RUSTOIU

Abstract: The article discusses a fragmentary appliqué made of gold sheet which was discovered at Vețel and was preserved in the Museum of Cluj in the 19th century, but is lost nowadays. The artefact is only known from the archaeological notes of I. Téglas, who drew it in 1886. As for the function of this object, it has been identified as a horse forehead ornament (*prometopidion*). Other similar objects were probably discovered at Békéscsaba, one being still preserved in the National Hungarian Museum in Budapest, as well as another at Cugir. The inventory of tumulus # 2 from Cugir allows the dating of these decorative artefacts to the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the 1st century BC. The appliqué from Vețel could have come from a funerary context belonging to the Padea-Panagjurski Kolonii group.

Key words: gold forehead ornament, *prometopidion*, Late Iron Age burial, pre-Roman Dacia, Padea-Panagjurski kolonii group, Romania, Bulgaria.

The extensive archaeological notes of István Téglas, an antiquarian of the late 19th – early 20th century from Turda, in Transylvania (then part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire), have recently been published (Bajusz 2005). These notes contain, among other things, important data regarding a series of archaeological artefacts discovered in Transylvania at the end of the 19th century, which are nowadays lost. Amongst them is a decorative gold appliqué discovered at Vețel (Hunedoara County), which in 1886 was preserved in the Museum of Cluj, according to István Téglas. The artefact is now lost, so the drawing of I. Téglas remains the sole visual reference that can allow its identification and analysis. The scope of this article is to discuss the gold applique from Vețel from the morphological, typological and chronological point of view.

The drawing of I. Téglas is rather rough, but the details allow the identification of the artefact (Bajusz 2005, 457, fig. 7/84/1). The appliqué was made of gold sheet and was very probably decorated in the *au repoussé* technique with six rows of three conical protuberances each. One extremity was intact when the sketch was made, whereas the other was missing, together with a part of the body, so the artefact was already fragmentary. The intact extremity ended with a stem. The original dimensions of the artefact are unknown (**fig. 1/1**).

The closest analogy of the object found at Vețel, also made of gold sheet, is preserved in the National Hungarian Museum in Budapest. This example was acquired in 1891 from an antique dealer, together with another similar piece that disappeared afterwards during the WWII. According to the dealer, the artefacts came from Békéscsaba, in eastern Hungary, but the information is unreliable (Kemenczei 1987,

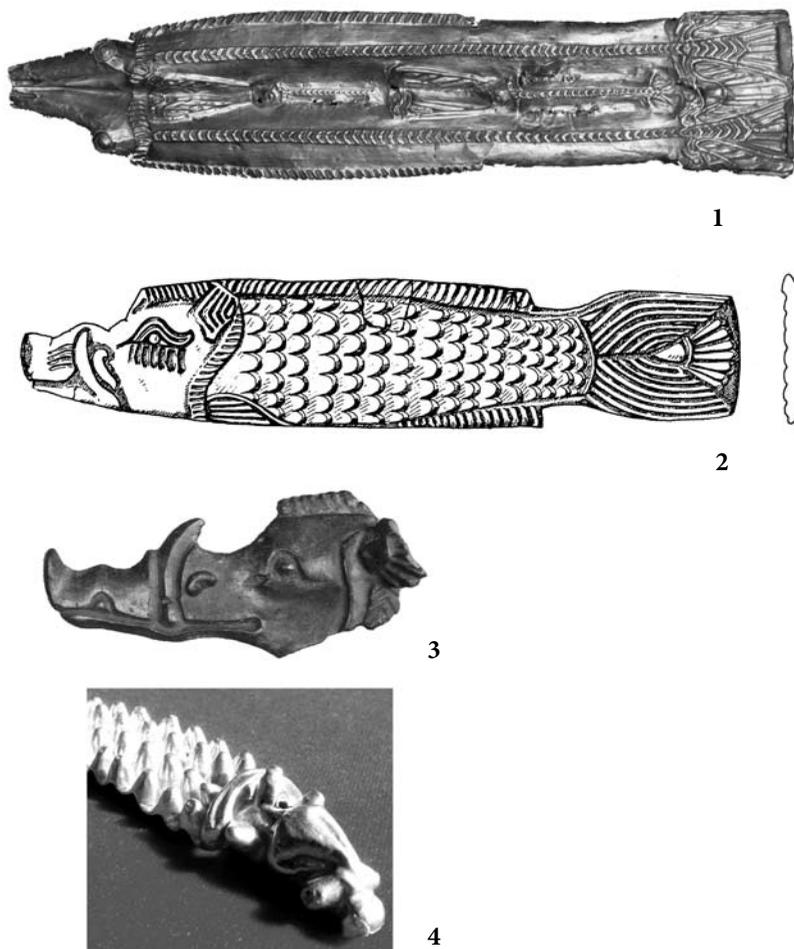


Fig. 4: 1 Gold appliqué from Solocha (after Skythische Kunst 1986); 2 Gold appliqué from Stâncești (after Florescu / Florescu 2005); 3 Bronze appliqué from tumulus # 4 at “Seven Brothers” (after Skythische Kunst 1986); 4 Zoomorphic head of the gold appliqué from Cugir (photo National Museum of Unification Alba Iulia). Different scales

the northern Black Sea and the Mediterranean basin (see for instance Pfrommer 1993, 13-16, with previous bibliography).

Prometopidia having a lanceolate, rectangular or rhombic shape and larger dimensions are documented, for example, in the Scythian northern Pontic environment. One example dated to the 4th century BC was found in a tumulus burial at Solocha, on the lower Dnieper; it was decorated with two fishes and had a length of 38.8 cm (Skythische Kunst 1986, # 147) (**fig. 4/1**). Another forehead ornament having a zoomorphic shape, dated to the 5th century BC, was found together with other harness elements (gold and bronze decorative appliqué and a horse-bit) in a house from the eastern Carpathians fortified settlement at Stâncești, Botoșani County, Romania (Florescu / Florescu 2005, 70-71, fig. 110-111; Trohani 2013, 67) (**fig. 4/2**).

In the northern Balkans and the Lower Danube region, disc-shaped *prometopidia* made of precious metals or bronze were included in some funerary inventories (Minchev 2007; Tonkova 2010) (**fig. 5/1-2**). Three appliqué made of gold sheet and having a fish shape were discovered in the Kukova tumulus at Duvanlij, in Bulgaria, being dated to the 5th century BC (Filow 1934, pl. 1; Gold der Thraker 2007, 178, # 124e; for the chronology of the tumulus, see Tonkova 2002, 277-279; Tonkova / Penkova 2010). They could have been used as forehead ornaments for horses (**fig. 5/3**).

Rhombic *prometopidia* made of silver or bronze sheet, and having nearly similar dimensions to those of the pieces from Transylvania

Sixth-century Pottery Kiln from *Novae* (*Moesia Secunda*).

A Contribution to the Studies on the Local Pottery Manufacturing

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XIX, 3 (2015), 63-73

Agnieszka TOMAS

Abstract: The latest occupation phase traced in the excavated section of the northern defensive wall of *Novae* dates to the sixth century AD. The excavations uncovered the earthenware pottery kiln containing the broken, but entire pots. The moment of its destruction is dated by a *foliis* of Justinian I. Among almost forty kilns unearthed so far at *Novae*, those placed within the walls of the fortress are dated mainly to the 4th – mid-5th centuries. The discussed kiln is a rare example of a 6th century feature of this type from the central part of Moesia II, preserved with its batch.

Key words: *Novae*, Moesia II, pottery kiln, sixth century, local pottery manufacturing.

The legionary fortress of *Novae* (near the Danube city of Svishtov, North Bulgaria) founded around the middle of the 1st century AD developed into the late Roman town which survived probably until the beginning of the 7th century (Madgearu 2006, 153-154; Dimitrov 2013, 21; Sarnowski et al. 2012, 27). In 2007 excavations of the Polish sector carried out by the Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw were held in the area of the northern curtain wall and tower # 27 (Sarnowski et al. 2010, esp. 169). The excavated section covering the area of ca. 160 sq. metres was situated on the edge of today's escarpment (**fig. 1A**). The biggest trench – B, across the *intervallum* from the wall in the north to the one of the centurial barracks in the south (squares II 131, 151, 171, 191, 211) provided much information about the stratigraphy and complexity of this section of the site (**fig. 2**).

POTTERY KILN

The latest traceable occupation phase was marked by a pottery kiln located in the *intervallum* (square II 151) (**fig. 2**). The kiln had orange-clay walls of 20-30 cm and a large post supporting the clay grid (**fig. 3**). Its size (1.20 m wide and 1.30 high) is not considerable when compared to other kilns from *Novae* (Кленина 2006, 141, tab. 1). Grey coarse wares including cooking pots and jugs were the last kiln batch. Apart from the pottery fragments, the kiln was filled with broken roof tiles and small stones, apparently put there on purpose. A *terminus post quem* of AD 557-558 for dating its destruction was a *foliis* of Justinian I, found in the layer in which the chamber of the kiln had been dug out.

THE FABRIC, TECHNOLOGY AND FORMS

A set of kitchen ware was made from the same fabric, which was hard, fine-grained but sandy, containing large quantity of quartz and small, white stones, lime inclusions and average quantity of fine silver mica. Its texture was very rough, but the surface was powdery in touch. The

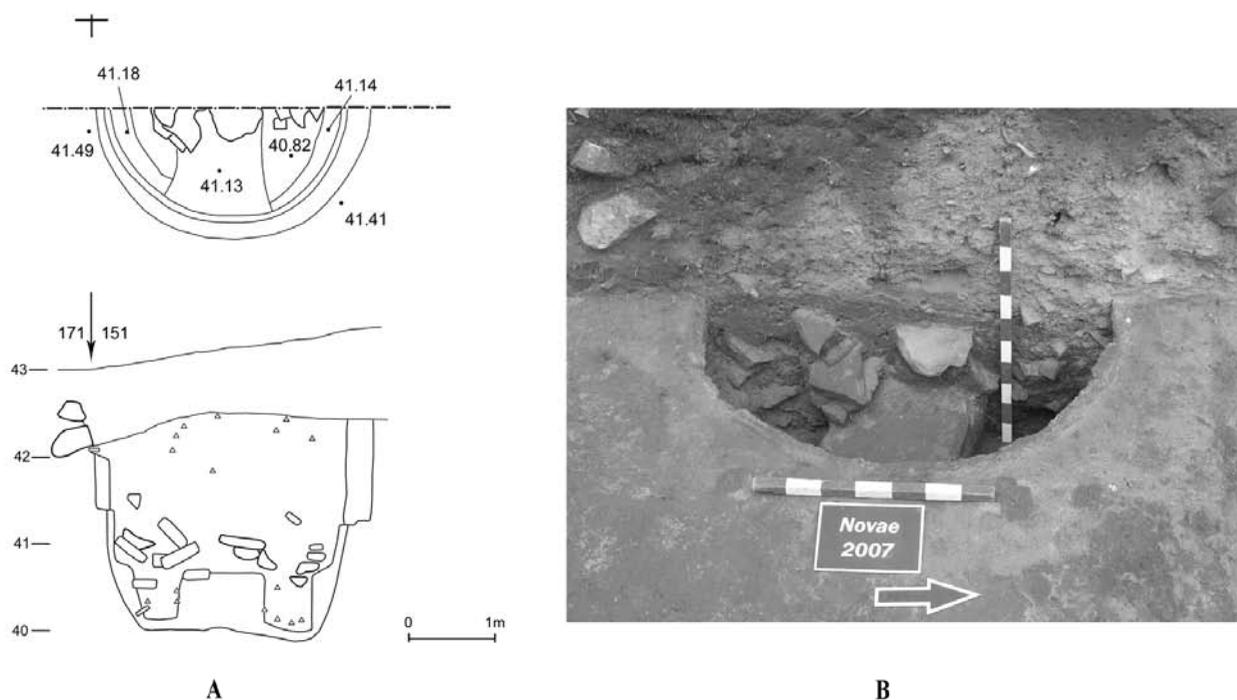


Fig. 3. *Novae*. Northern *intervallum* wall: A the pottery kiln; plan and section (by A. Tomas); B the pottery kiln (photo T. Sarnowski)

tery kiln suits the best to the sample MD 2549 of iron-rich high calcareous matrix with quartz, aggregates of clay and opaque minerals (Daszkiewicz et al. 2006, 209, fig. 7), but the analysed samples from *Novae* came from the 3rd – 5th century finds¹. Despite a number of the laboratory analyses of the material from *Iatrus* (by the Danube village of Krivina, district of Ruse, North Bulgaria) and *Novae*, which made a significant step forward in our knowledge about pottery finds (e.g. Daszkiewicz / Schneider 2007; Baranowski / Daszkiewicz 2009), this type of fabric was not subject to the detailed study.

The majority of pots from the kiln are two-handled medium-sized jars with bulbous belly without foot (**table I**). Other forms include smaller jars, jugs with the trefoil rims and bowls (**table II**). Their rim is usually everted, sometimes concave in section. Some forms have a ribbed, truncated conical neck (**table I/1, 2**) and some are without necks (**table I/3-12, table II/13-14**). The jars were to be covered with lids (**table II/18, 19**).

Similar forms are known from other parts of *Novae* (Klenina 1999, esp. fig. 4, 5 and 7; Кленина 2006, 79-88, tab. 41-46, esp. types 21, 22), as well as from nearby *Iatrus* and *Nicopolis ad Istrum* / by the village of Nikyup, district of Veliko Tarnovo, North Bulgaria (e.g. Böttger 1982, 141-142, Töpfe VII, period “D”); Falkner 1999, 105-106, fig. 6.7, ware 1). Some of them are dated slightly earlier, to the second half of the 5th century (Кленина 2006, 117, type 5; cf. here **table IV/3**). In *Nicopolis* among the forms dated to the latest period (450-600), there are vessels comparable to these from *Novae* (Falkner 1999, 66-67 and tab. 9.7, # 110-125; 71 and 9.8, # 218-221) and the fabric described in *Nicopolis* as ware 1 (grey coarse ware) resembles the one described at *Novae* as ware “D” (Falkner 1999, 274). However, this type of ware in *Nicopolis* was defined for all grey pottery fragments found in the contexts dated

¹ Personal information from Dr. E. Klenina, whom I would like to thank.

Some Aspects of Everyday Life in the Late Byzantine Tauric Chersonesos

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Andrzej B. BIERNACKI / Elena Yu. KLENINA /
Galina A. PASHKEVYCH

Abstract: Daily life in a provincial Byzantine town can hardly be imagined without attention to gastronomy, cookery, and other spheres of life where plants were used. The present study is an attempt to define which plant products found their way to table of the Chersonites, and to determine their origins. Over the last years, interdisciplinary studies including palaeobotanical analysis were continued in the central part of Chersonesos within the framework of the Ukrainian-Polish research project, "Topography and architecture of Tauric Chersonesos: An attempt to identify the development of agora – a center of the ancient city". Four samples for palaeoethnobotanical investigation were selected from well-preserved plant material from the fire level in the quarter # 45 happened about AD 1252-1281. According to the palaeoethnobotanical analysis the diet of the population of Byzantine Cherson consisted of traditional products such as wheat and rye bread, wheat and barley cereals, soups with wheat and barley grains, and beans. There were plant remains that had no connection with gastronomy in the materials from the quarter # 45. Among them, nutlets of cannabis should be mentioned. During the Byzantine period, hemp fibers were probably utilized mainly for making cords, ropes, and burlap. Evidently, seeds of cannabis were also used in medical purposes as anesthetic, anticonvulsant, and antiemetic remedy. Remains of marine eelgrass found in the quarter # 45 can be identified as building or packing materials.

Key words: Chersonesos, Taurica, daily life, Northern Black Sea region, Byzantine cuisine, palaeobotanical studies, Late Byzantine time.

Daily life in a provincial Byzantine town can hardly be imagined without attention to gastronomy, cookery, and other spheres of life where plants were used. The comparatively scanty narrative sources, of great importance for studying ancient diets and cookery as well as medicine, have recently become a matter of active interest to the scientific community (Anagnostakis 2013a; Kokoszko et al. 2014). They let us observe the tendencies that characterize every period of the Byzantine history. In the 6th/7th – 12th centuries, cookery goes through the process of establishment and stabilization, becoming gradually more distant from the ancient way of eating. Byzantine cuisine, which to a certain degree was a continuation or modified imitation of the antique one, differed not so much in ingredients and their preparation as in imposition of the Christian restrictions on eating delicacies. Innovations that came into the Byzantine cuisine in the late 11th – 12th centuries included the introduction of new foodstuffs, such as sugar, rice, citruses, eggplants, spinach, and Atlantic fish. Consumption of these products increased over time. More frequent contact with the Franks and Arabs as well as acquaintance with their traditions also contributed to innovations in Byzantine cookery (Anagnostakis 2013b, 62).

Human nutrition depends directly upon agriculture and the ability to grow foods in the region or import them. The present study is an

grape vine (*Vitis vinifera*) – 3 seeds

common hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) – 3 nutlets

The sample # 3 contains:

einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum*) – 2 grains

naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) – 1 grain

horse beans (*Vicia faba*) – 19 whole seeds and 6 halves

Three small charred fragments of eelgrass (*Zostera marina* L.) were discriminated in sample # 4.

Therefore, most of the kernels found in the samples from the quarter # 45 belong to rye (*Secale cereale*). They constitute the bulk of the samples from the *pithoi* and amphora discovered in room A. Seeds of horse beans (*Vicia faba*) take the second place. Grains of naked (*Triticum aestivum* s.l.) and hulled wheats – einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum*) and emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccon*) – are sporadic, grains of naked species insignificantly prevailing. Grains of hulled and naked barley – the former prevailing – were discriminated in small

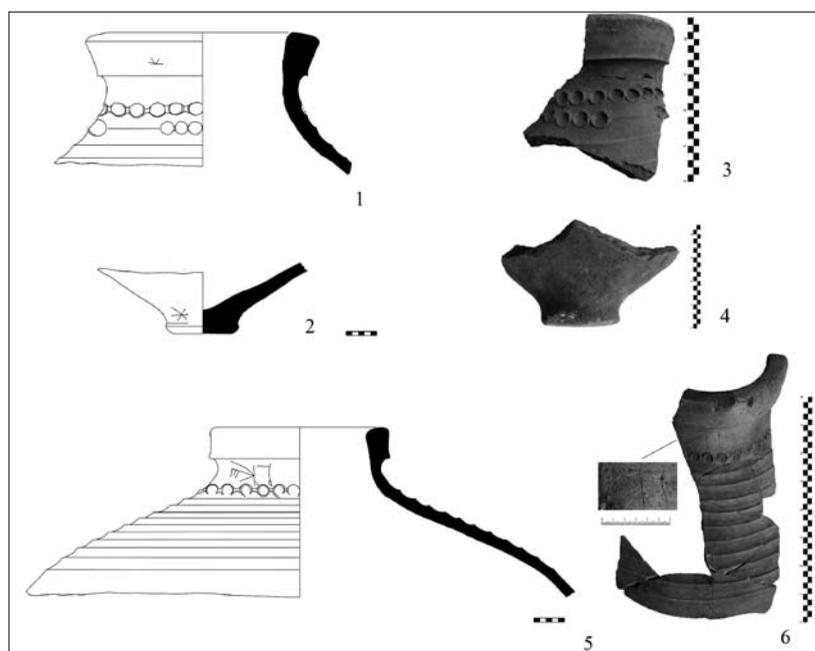


Fig. 4. Fragments of *pithoi* of the 12th-13th centuries from quarter # 45 (photo by K.V. Zykova, drawing by A.S. Namoilik)



Fig. 5. Palaeobotanical samples from the room A in quarter # 45: kernels from amphora (photo by K.V. Zykova)

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

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Петя АНДРЕЕВА. Празници в римската провинция Тракия (I – III век) (= Дисертации 8) [Petya ANDREEVA. Festivals in the Roman Province of Thrace (1st – 3rd c. AD) (= Dissertations 8)]. Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, 2014. 523 pages with 51 pages of English summary, 32 pages of 2 appendices, 3 tables, 4 maps, 39 plates with 226 figures. ISBN 978-954-9472-35-6.

The book based on Petya Andreeva Andreeva's Ph.D. thesis at Sofia University presents a compilation and re-evaluation of available epigraphic and numismatic data concerning festivals in the Roman province of Thrace. The material at hand is well-researched, well-analyzed, and comprehensively discussed. As a result, the book offers significant conclusions and proposals on the subject.

In the introduction (Chapter 1) Andreeva critically reviews the state of research laying down her aims in this study. She goes on to define the concepts of feast and festival and includes a brief account of festivals in antiquity with particular focus on the Roman period.

Of the festivals celebrated by the Thracian *koinon* (Chapter 2; also cf. Burrell 2004, 236-245), first the *Alexandreia Pythia* which provides the main collection of data is examined. After referring to the festival's organization in Philippopolis and its isopythian character, the date of its establishment is discussed in detail. The author successfully associates this with Caracalla's visit to the *metropolis* of the Thracian council in A.D. 215. Secondly gladiatorial games that were held in celebration of the imperial cult on behalf of the Thracian *koinon* are studied. Crucial in this respect are the inscriptions from Philippopolis.

An important set of festivals organized in the Roman province of Thrace has municipal character (Chapter 3). Within this group are the *Asklepieia* in Perinthos, the capital of the province (3.1; also cf. Erol-Özdizbay 2008, 84-85), the Pythian games in Serdica (3.2), and the festivals that can possibly be linked to the founding of neokoria (3.3; also cf. Burrell 2004, 335-340). P.A. Andreeva's analyses and discussion of epigraphic and numismatic evidence provide strong grounds to conclude that two cities in the province had received the neokoros title – not three as claimed earlier. According to Andreeva, Philippopolis initiated the *Kendreiseia Pythia* as a municipal festival on acquisition of the title in spring A.D. 219 when Elagabalus travelled through the city. Perinthos, on the other hand, celebrated the *Severeia* in mid A.D. 195 when it was granted the *neokoria* by Septimius Severus during his second visit to the city. The *Aktia Pythia Philadelphia* is connected to a later *neokoria* that Perinthos enjoyed possibly when a second temple was built to honor the joint rule of Caracalla and Geta in A.D. 211 just before their father's death. Municipal festivals also include the *Antoneineia Sebasta* in Byzantion (3.4; also cf. Erol-Özdizbay 2011, 77-95) and the *Severeia Nymphia* in Anchialos (3.5). For each of the above

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ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

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Slavica BABAMOVA. *Inscriptiones Stoborum* (= *Studies in the Antiquities of Stobi, Monograph Series, Book 1*). Stobi, 2012. 168 pp., ill.

The book of S. Babamova (assisted by T. Mitrova; photographs by M. Tutkovski and V. Kiprijanovski) is published as part of a series dedicated to the antiquities of Stobi (ἡ Στοβαίων πόλις / *municipium Stobensium*) in Macedonia. It is a corpus of the Greek and Latin inscriptions from the city (with the exception of the inscriptions on the seats of the theatre, as well as stamps on pottery, cf. p. 6) comprising 309 inscriptions, of which 201 are published for the first time.

The book starts with a foreword of the editor of the series, S. Blaževska (p. 9-10, in Macedonian, and 11-12, in English), and a rather short preface by the author (p. 13-14, in Macedonian, and 15-16, in English) which outlines the history of epigraphical research in Stobi and provides a few notes on the work on the corpus. One would have probably expected here some general notes about the history of ancient Stobi and its institutions, which could be useful for the reader.

The first part, “Inscriptions from the Roman Period”, presents 255 inscriptions, divided into dedications (p. 19-34, # 1-28), honorary inscriptions (p. 37-47, # 29-44), sepulchral inscriptions (p. 49-85, # 45-137), various (p. 87, # 138-139), ambiguous (p. 88-89, # 140-145), and uncertain (p. 91-117, # 146-255; mostly small fragments).

The second part, “Inscriptions of Late Antiquity”, comprises 54 inscriptions – “dedications”¹ (p. 119-124, # 256-269), sepulchral inscriptions (p. 127-135, # 270-295), various (p. 137-141, # 296-303), and uncertain (p. 142-143, # 304-309).

The inscriptions are presented in the usual manner. English translations are provided for almost all texts except the small fragments. Most inscriptions are illustrated with photographs; however, many of them are rather small so it is impossible to verify the readings of the editor. The critical apparatus is sometimes incomplete; for example, there are usually no comments about variant readings of partially preserved letters²; readings and restorations proposed by previous editors are sometimes not mentioned. There are a few misprints, mostly of letters and accents in Greek words.

It appears useful to present here a few notes on the readings or interpretation of some inscriptions³.

3. In l. 2-5, I would rather read: τὸν βωμ[ὸν ἐκ τῶν (τῆς)] | θεοῦ χρη[μάτων δι?] | ἀ τῶν το[ῦ θιάσου ἐ] | πιμελη[τῶν τοῦ δεινός καί], restoring in l. 3 the common expression ἐκ τῶν θεοῦ χρημάτων (i.e. the dedication was made at the expenses of the god/sanctuary, cf. *IGBulg V, 5923*: ἐκ τῶν τῆς θεοῦ χρημάτων; etc.) instead of an unattested name *Θεοῦχρη[στος].

5. In l. 2-3, one could restore, e.g., [κατὰ ὑπόσχε] | σιν δῶ[ρον? ἀνέθηκεν].

7. Βακχεῖον πρεσβύτερον is not “(statue of the) older Dionysos”, but a Dionysiac cult society.

10. In the translation, it should be “... set up the statues. They

¹ One should rather name this group of inscriptions “(Christian) invocations”.

² Besides, in the texts of the inscriptions, the author has dotted not only uncertain, but also unambiguous – though not entirely preserved – letters (*passim*, see, e.g., *divo* in # 18). Interpunction is not noted consistently, especially the use of ivy leaves (cf., e.g., # 66, 74, etc.).

³ I already proposed corrections to a few inscriptions in *AE* 2012.