

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



XXII 2018 2

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On the cover: a hoard of Chalcolithic copper tools, NE Bulgaria; see the paper of D. Chernakov in this issue; photo by D. Chernakov.

A New-Found Hoard of Chalcolithic Heavy Copper Tools from Northeastern Bulgaria¹

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 1-13

Dimitar CHERNAKOV

Abstract: This is the first publication of a new hoard of heavy copper tools (22 pcs.) which was found by chance near the village of Polkovnik Taslakovo, municipality of Dulovo, region of Silistra. They belong to two main typological groups – flat axes (18 pcs.) and axes-hammers (4 pcs.). They are made of alloy with a high content of copper which was cast into molds and their total weight is 11.629 kg. The collective hoard is the first and biggest one found, even if found by chance in the North-Eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. On the basis of analogues its date may be defined to be in the late Chalcolithic and the second/third phase of the cultural complex Kodjadermen – Gumelnița – Karanovo VI (KGK VI). Its location is in a region which is in the periphery of intense long-lasting populating and cultural processes in the area of KGK VI. In view of the intensely spread similar hoards in the Black sea area it may not be excluded for the copper axes to be manufactured in local metal working centres (Varna, Durankulak, Sozopol), then prepared and sent for distribution into the internal part of the Balkan Peninsula.

Key words: Chalcolithic, metallurgy, hoard, copper tools.

INTRODUCTION

A hoard, comprising of 22 pieces of heavy copper tools, was discovered by accident in 2013 and referred by the authorities of the Ministry of Interior to the Regional Historical Museum (RHM) – Ruse² for an expert analysis. Following expert opinion, the objects have been placed with the RHM – Silistra for long-term storage and curation. The purpose of this publication is to make them available to public.

The hoard was discovered during the autumn-winter farming of a land plot in the area of Sara Kaya³. It is located 2.3 km southeast of the village of Polkovnik Taslakovo, Dulovo municipality, Silistra region (**fig. 1**). The axes are found together at a single place at a depth of about 1 m in the nowadays topsoil. Approximately 0.30 meters above them, an egg-shaped limestone rock was found, and there were fragments of ceramic vessels nearby. Site observation was carried out by V. Slavchev⁴, archaeologist at the RHM – Varna, in whose opinion the materials in the topsoil and ceramic finds discovered are diachronous to the copper tools and belong to the Late Iron Age. On the one hand, the lack of an archaeological field survey conducted to date is a reason for not being able to claim with certainty that chalcolithic layer is not present. However, it is not unthinkable that the find has been deposited in this particular place for subjective reasons, without being contingent on settlements in antiquity, and therefore other Chalcolithic materials are absent. It should be noted that there are 4 settlement mounds in the region of the find-spot – near the town of Dulovo and the villages of Mezhdzen, Razdel (Бъчваров 1981, 43-44; 1988, 65-67) and Poroyno⁵ and it is not excluded that the hoard is linked with one of them.

¹ I make use of the term “heavy tools”, which has been adopted and used in archaeological literature especially in reference to axes and hammer-axes made of copper. In view of their so-far uncertain functional typology this designation is only used provisionally.

² I thank D. Dragoev at the RHM-Ruse for giving me the opportunity to see and work with the find.

³ It was found by a local, named Erdoan Ismet Shaban, whom I met in person to establish the facts and circumstances of discovery.

⁴ I thank V. Slavchev and K. Dimitrov for the information provided.

⁵ Thank S. Gancheva and K. Mihaylov at the RHM-Silistra for the information provided.

hammer. Smooth surface with small air pockets, celadon green patina layer with bright green colour zones. RHM – Silistra, Inventory #I-474 (fig. 8/19).

20. Copper hammer-axe, pentangular shape – triangular tip and trapezoidal butt; at the joint of convergence there is an elliptical shaft-hole. Narrow elongated butt gradually growing towards the curved cutting edge. Butt and trapezoidal areas with rectangular section, the broad part is straight. From the shaft-hole onwards it gradually becomes square, and at the lower half it is rectangular again, but the broadest part is straight. At the butt (after the hole's gap-line) there is a hammer part sharp chamfering. Smooth surface with small air pockets, celadon green patina layer with bright green colour zones. On one of its broad sides there are limestone deposits. RHM – Silistra, Inventory #I-475 (fig. 8/20).

21. Copper hammer-axe, pentangular shape – triangular tip and trapezoidal butt; at the joint of convergence there is an elliptical shaft-hole. Narrow elongated butt gradually growing towards the curved cutting edge. Butt and trapezoidal areas with rectangular section, the broad part is straight. From the shaft-hole onwards it gradually becomes square, and at the lower half it is rectangular again, but the broadest part is straight. Smooth surface with small air pockets, celadon green patina layer with bright green colour zones. On one of its broad sides and on the adjacent lateral one there are limestone deposits. RHM – Silistra, Inventory #I-476 (fig. 9/21).

22. Copper hammer-axe, pentangular shape – triangular tip and trapezoidal butt; at the joint of convergence there is an elliptical shaft-hole. Narrow elongated butt gradually growing towards the curved cutting edge. Butt and trapezoidal areas with rectangular section, the broadest part is straight. From the shaft-hole onwards it gradually becomes square, and at the lower half it is rectangular again, but the broadest part is straight. At the hammer part butt (after the hole's gap-line) there is a sharp chamfering. Smooth surface with small air pockets, celadon green patina layer with bright green colour zones. On one of the faces, close to the hammer, there is a crack. On one of its broad sides and on the adjacent lateral one there are limestone deposits. RHM – Silistra, Inventory #I-477 (fig. 9/22).

Typologically, copper finds belong to two main groups – flat axes and hammer-axes (Todorova 1981, 35-36, Taf. 3-4, 6). According to Chernykh's typology they belong to ТД-6 and ТД-8 (#1-18), type ТМ-6 (#19,20, 22) and type ТМ-8 (#21) (Черных 1978, 105, 107, Table 11, 98-99, Table 6, 100, Table 7).

Flat axes are 18 pcs. in total (fig. 2-7). Taxonomic data are given in table 1. All of them have elongated trapezoidal shape with arch-shaped flaring at the blade. According to typology proposed by Schubert (Schubert 1965, 274-295) and further completed and used by K. Dimitrov, all flat axes appertain to "Gumelnița" type. Two subtypes can be differentiated: 1. Of smaller size (up to 15.3 cm in length) (7 pcs.); 2. Massive (with a length of 16 and 19.5 cm) (11 pcs.) The second subtype allows for them to be assigned to Vinitsa variant with the stipulation that the axes from Polkovnik Taslakovo are flatter and have rectangular cross section (Димитров 2007, 15, Табл. 3/16).

Hammer-axes are 4 pcs. in total (fig. 8-9). Taxonomic data are given in table 2. They are complex/compound-shaped – the tip is triangular and elongated, while the butt is trapezoidal and shortened, at the joint of convergence there is a hole through. According to ty-

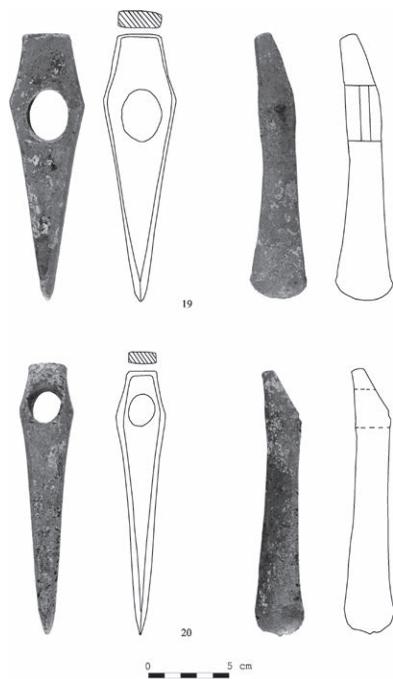


Fig. 8. A hoard of copper heavy tools from the village of Polkovnik Taslakovo. Hammer-axes

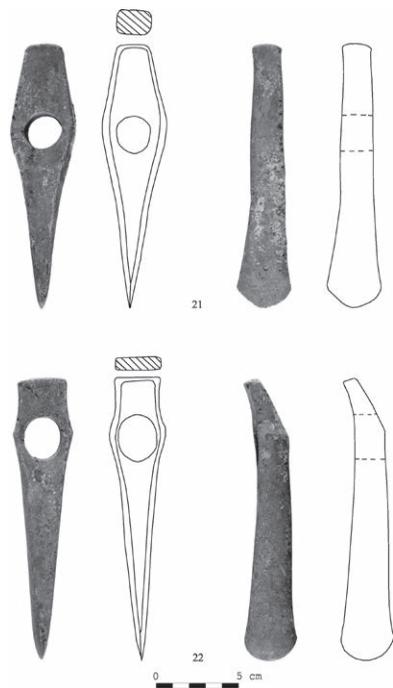


Fig. 9. A hoard of copper heavy tools from the village of Polkovnik Taslakovo. Hammer-axes

Wagon-Models from the Second Iron Age. Journey to the Outer World or Gifts for the Gods?

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 15-32

Cristian DIMA / Cătălin BORANGIC

Abstract: The miniature or model wagons and chariots made in iron, bronze or even clay represent a rare category of objects with special significance and symbolism. During the Late Iron Age this artefact was missing from the archaeological contexts in all over Europe, despite a well-attested tradition of First Iron Age or Bronze Age. However, an exception of this rule appears to be in the Dacian milieu, where a wagon model and other four wheel fragments were discovered. Thus, an issue that will be discussed here is related with the unclear archaeological contexts where this objects were found and, further, to understand the signification and symbolism of such deposition. The majority of the miniature or model wagon belonging to earlier periods were discovered in funerary contexts, but, for the ones discovered in pre-Roman Dacia, the understanding of archaeological context seems to be difficult and some of the objects could be placed in connection with miniature or model wheel votive deposition from Celtic sanctuaries.

Key words: model wagon, chariots, wheels, Iron Age, pre-Roman Dacia.

INTRODUCTION

Miniature wagons made of iron or bronze or other material represents a very rare category of small-finds with special significance and symbolism that could be encountered in different periods of time. However, beginning with the 4th century BC, this type of artefact is no longer present in Europe in the space occupied by Celts, Thracians, Illyrian, Scythian or other barbarian population, despite a well attested tradition of the First Iron Age or Bronze Age. In the Greco-Roman cultural space, the metal miniature chariots are also rare, with only few representations. Whilst, small terracotta chariots or wheeled animals are wider-spread and discovered in votive pits, *favissae*, and funerary contexts. In the pre-Roman territories from Central Europe and, later, in different northern Roman provinces, this phenomenon could be related through a large variety of miniature and model-wheels with symbolic character found in several sanctuaries or temples, votive pits or graves, even though none of this wheels could be related by now with votive or funerary wagons or carts.

In this paper it will be presented a special case, quite uncommon for the Second Iron Age. New discoveries come to prove that this type of artefact is present in Dacian milieu. The wagon models, model-wheels belonging to a wagon and miniature wheels were discovered in a small proportion and exclusively in the intra-Carpathian space, mostly south-western Transylvania. Of all these discoveries, two are miniature wheels in form of pendants with plenty of analogies in Central European La Tène repertoire; four are fragmentary model-wheels that could have belong to a wagon; and one model-wagon, recently discovered, which has almost all its components, with no analogies in the same chronological sequence. The main core of this study is to discuss the archaeological contexts and chronology of the Dacian model-wagons, miniature and model-wheels in relation with the other category of artefacts associated in the context. It will be presented

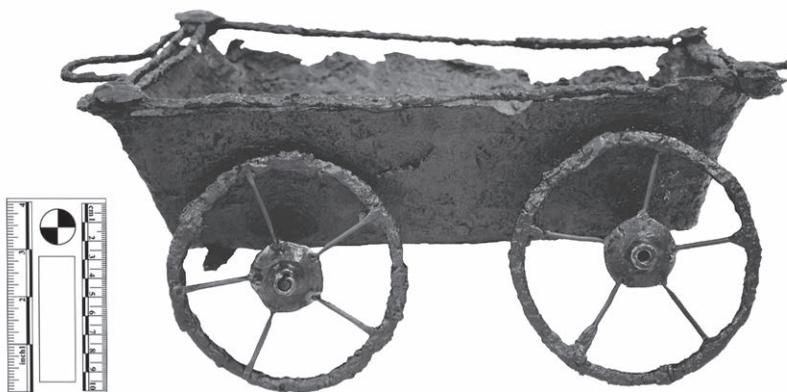


Fig. 2. Model-wagon: Miercurea Sibiului (after Natea 2016).

purposes, belonging to a cult cart or wagon. The wheel was found in a pit at 60 cm depth, near a silver brooch.

A fragmentary wheel was also found during old excavations at the Piatra-Craivii fortress (Alba County, Romania). The wheel, made of iron, has a diameter with a range of 13 and 15 cm. The object was discovered on the 5th terrace of the settlement (Plantos 2016).

The complete model wagon was discovered during the preventive researches on the Transylvania highway project, on the archaeological site of Miercurea Sibiului IV (Sibiu County, Romania). The wagon has 13.5 cm height, a length of 42 cm and a width of 25.5 cm (**fig. 2**). All components were made by forging and riveting of three layers of iron with a thickness of 5 mm, welded by 8 rivets. In the upper part, the wagon has twisted bars on each side, and, on the shorter sides, handles were provided. In the corners, these bars are fixed on the wagon with an iron button. The four hubs of the wheels were bronze casted. The five spokes of the two restored wheels were also made of iron. The diameter of the hub was 3.7 cm, whilst the hole for the axle was 0.8 cm and the total diameter of wheel 13 cm (Luca et al. 2013, 68; Natea 2016, 76-78, pl. 16-17).

Miniature wheels are a small frequency discovery. Only two of these types were discovered in Dacian archaeological sites, in form of pendants. The first one comes from the Sighișoara-Wietenberg settlement (Horedt / Seraphin 1971, fig. 63/2; Rustoiu 1996, 126, fig. 87/6; Andrițoiu / Rustoiu 1997, 114, fig. 118/6), probably from a pit similar with the one where the model wheel was discovered. The wheel is made of bronze with four spokes. At the end of the spokes, outside the rim, it had two ornaments (**fig. 1/b**). The dimension of the wheel is 4.4 cm in diameter and it was dated between the second half of 2nd century BC and the 1st century BC, according with the analogies from Central Europe (Rustoiu 1996, 126).

The second miniature wheel comes from Măgura Moigradului (Zalău County, Romania) (Matei / Pop 2001, 262, pl. 2/2), discovered in a grave-pit, together with a globular pendant, pottery fragments and the upper parts of a woman skeleton. The fragmentary wheel pendant made in silver has three spokes and its diameter has 3.5 cm (**fig. 1/c**). Chronologically, this wheel was dated in the same period as the one mentioned above, according to the same analogies and also in relation with another pendant found in the same context.

MINIATURE WHEELS AND MODEL WAGONS IN OTHER CULTURAL SPACES AND TIME FRAMES

For the La Tène period, in Central Europe, there is no evidence of complete model-wagons, or even parts of wagons, as there are known

Gates to the Otherworld. Jewellery and Garment Accessories of the Celtic Horizon from Isolated Places in Transylvania

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 33-46

Aurel RUSTOIU / Iosif Vasile FERENCZ

Abstract: The mapping of archaeological sites in Transylvania has shown that the discoveries belonging to the Celtic horizon (corresponding to the La Tène B1/B2-C1 phases: 350-330/320 – 190/175 BC) are missing almost completely from the mountainous areas surrounding the plateau inside the Carpathians range. There are only a few isolated discoveries: one silver brooch found in a cave at Ohaba Ponor, one silver bracelet from Bănița, and one bronze brooch from Racoșul de Jos / Augustin. The article is discussing the significance of these artefacts on the basis of their context of discovery, taking into consideration their cultural and social biography and the particularities of the Celtic horizon in Transylvania. These artefacts were more likely votive offerings and the places chosen to make these offerings had a powerful spiritual meaning, being perceived as symbolic gates through which the human beings were able to communicate with the otherworld. Accordingly, the presence of these objects in isolated locations, far away from the ordinary social and economic environment, point to a complex symbolic perception of the community's territory and the surrounding landscape.

Key words: votive offerings, ritual, magic, Celtic horizon, bodily ornaments, Transylvania.

The Late Iron Age in Transylvania consists of two culturally and historically distinct horizons. The first is the so-called "Celtic horizon" which covers chronologically the La Tène B1/B2-C1 sub-phases (350-330/320 – 190/175 BC), while the second is the so-called "Dacian horizon" which ended with the Roman conquest at the beginning of the 2nd century AD.

The Celtic horizon was characterized by a general orientation towards Central – Western European social and cultural models. The rural organization of local communities is one major feature of this period (Rustoiu 2008; 2015). The settlements were located on valleys or terraces along the rivers which cross the Transylvanian plateau from the east to the west. Their cemeteries were located in the vicinity, usually on higher terraces or on hilltops and slopes, being visible from the distance. Their more likely symbolic role was to visually delimitate the ancestral territory of the community within the surrounding landscape (Ferencz 2007; Berecki 2008; 2015; Rustoiu et al. 2017).

The mapping of archaeological sites in Transylvania has shown that the discoveries belonging to the Celtic horizon are missing almost completely from the mountainous areas surrounding the plateau inside the Carpathians range (Berecki 2015, 38-39). There are only a few isolated discoveries¹ (fig. 1), for example one silver brooch found in a cave at Ohaba Ponor and one silver bracelet from Bănița (Hunedoara County), both in south-western Transylvania. Another brooch, made of bronze and probably also coming from an isolated context, was found at Racoșul de Jos / Augustin, on Tipia Ormenișului hill (Brașov County), in south-eastern Transylvania². The article is discussing the significance of these discoveries on the basis of their context of

¹ The term "isolated context" designates a find-spot in which one or several objects were found and which is outside the settlements and cemeteries, in locations where no other contemporaneous anthropic activities were observed.

² The site was initially located in archaeological literature on the territory of Racoșul de Jos village (see for example Costea 2000). However, the site was later ascribed to the nearby village of Augustin (see Costea 2006). In order to avoid possible confusions, both localities are listed in this article.

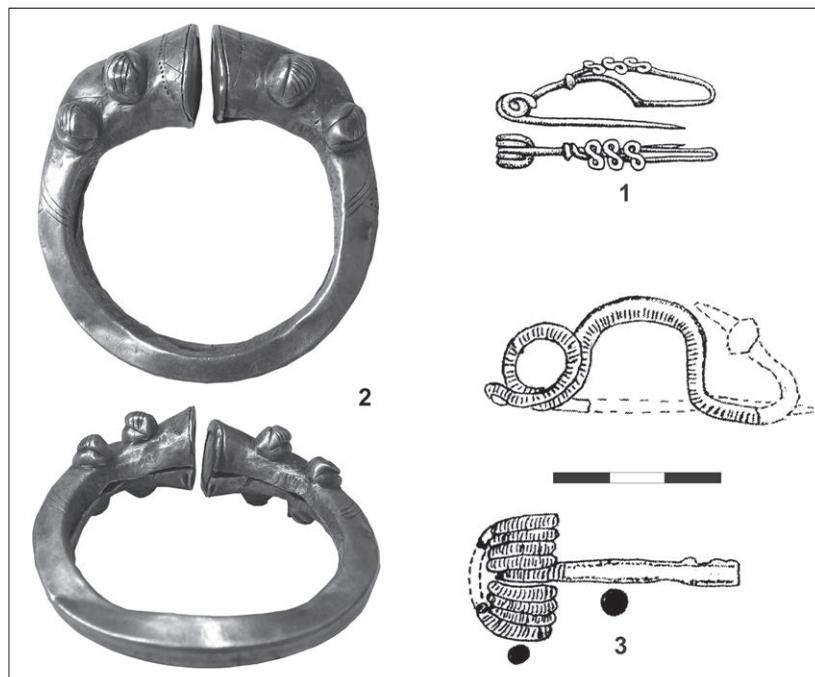


Fig. 2. 1 Silver brooch from Ohaba Ponor (after Nicolăescu-Plopșor 1957); 2 Silver bracelet from Bănița (photo I. V. Ferencz); 3 Bronze brooch from Racoșul de Jos / Augustin (after Costea 2000)

type brooch was probably also discovered (Nicolăescu-Plopșor 1957, 47; Roman 2008, 126, 288-290, Pl. 174/6-7). Since no other artefacts belonging to the middle La Tène period were found in the cave, it could be presumed that the brooch is an isolated discovery that has no connections with the later dated habitation belonging to the Dacian horizon. More than that, no other artefacts belonging to the Celtic horizon were identified in caves from south-western Transylvania (see Roman 2008). More recent archaeological investigations in the Bordu Mare cave confirmed earlier observations regarding both the stratigraphy and the chronology of habitations inside the cave (Andrițoiu et al. 2001).

As a contrasting example, we mention a fragmentary bracelet made of blue glass, dated to the LT C1 and discovered in the Omului cave from Iabalcea (Carașova commune, Caraș-Severin County). The bracelet was found together with numerous ceramic fragments belonging to different types of kitchenware and tableware, which suggest that the cave was inhabited during the respective period (Petrescu 2000, 72-74). The fragmentary state of the bracelet also indicates that it was probably worn daily, until it was broken. Unlike in this case, the archaeological situation from Ohaba Ponor cannot be related to a habitation, either temporary or permanent. More than that, archaeological surveys and trial excavations carried out in the surrounding area failed to identify any traces of habitation that can be dated to the Late Iron Age (Celtic horizon), and only finds belonging to the Coțofeni culture were discovered (Andrițoiu et al. 2001).

The silver bracelet from Bănița has a completely different biography. It was previously considered that the artefact came from the Dacian fortress at Bănița³, but a recent study has demonstrated that it was found on Peștera Bolii hill, in an old limestone quarry (Rustoiu / Ferencz 2017). The hill is located at around 500 m E – NE away from the hilltop on which the Dacian fortress was built, on the opposite left bank of the Bănița River, at the confluence with the Jigoreasa stream and above the Bolii cave, which is the source of this stream (fig. 3/3). No traces of habitation or funerary contexts that can be dated to the

³ The bracelet was published for the first time in 1966 by Octavian Floca in a brief synthesis regarding the Dacian fortress at Bănița, which was archaeologically investigated several years before. The bracelet was illustrated in a photograph next to other objects identified in the fortress, but without further information regarding the context of discovery (Floca 1966, 31, fig. 12). As a result, most scholars who referred to this artefact considered that it belonged to the assemblage of finds from inside the fortress and therefore dated it to the period of the Dacian kingdom (1st century BC – 1st century AD), as a product of the Dacian jewellers (Horedt 1973, 139; Medeleț 1992, 226; Medeleț 1994, 193; Rustoiu 1996a; Rustoiu 1996b, 100-101; Spănu 2012, 58, 215, places the object in the Dacian fortress, but considers it to be a “Celtic-Scordiscian import”).

Heraclean Amphorae in Roman Thrace

Nadezhda BORISLAVOVA

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

XXII, 2 (2018), 47-60

Abstract: The study is aimed at introducing Heraclean amphorae found in the Roman province of Thrace. The distribution of these amphorae at the territory of the province is presented considering their development in subtypes and variants. As a result, the overall picture of the wine trade of *Heraclea Pontica* in the Black Sea region has been expanding.

Key words: amphorae, Roman period, *Heraclea Pontica*, *provincia Thracia*, Black Sea region.

¹ Large number of amphorae were found at *Tanais*, the region of the Lower Don and the Bosporan Kingdom; a lower number of amphorae were found at the Western Crimea (Бѣтггер/ Шелов 1998, 56; Зеест 1960, 110, 117-118; табл. XXVIII/64, 65; XXIX/66; XXXVII/91-93; XXXVIII: 94; Каменецкий 1963, 29-33; Шелов 1978; Науменко 2006, 262-263, 263, рис. 2: 1; Ильяшенко 2008; Науменко 2012, 64-66, 68-70, 73, 76-83, рис. 2/1-9, рис. 3/1-3, рис. 4, рис. 5/2, рис. 6/6, рис. 7/12-14, рис. 8-10, 85, рис. 12/4, 5, 88, рис. 5/6, 19, 20), *Olbia* (Крапивина 1993, 26, рис. 29/1-7, 94), etc.; on the territory of Moesia Inferior they were found at *Tomis*, *Callatis*, *Histria*, *Histria* β (Rădulescu 1976, 102, 113, pl. I/2, 3; Băjenaru 2014, 125, fig. 4/43, 44, 129, fig. 8/111-120; Lungu/ Bounegru/ Avram 1984, 94-95, fig. 1/7), *Dinogetia*, *Karaklia*, *Troesmis* (Ораїт 1980, 300-303, pl. VI/1, VII/1-3), *Ovidiu*, *Straja*, *Neptun*, *Salsovia*, *Aegyssos*, *Noviodunum*, *Isaccea-Suhat*, *Telița* – *Amza*, *Revărsarea* – *Cotul Tichilești*, *Luncașița*, *Arrubium*, *Beroe*, *Carsium*, *Tropaeum Traiani*, *Argamum*, *Insula Șerpilor*, *Sfântu Gheorghe*, *Făgărașu Nou*, *Caraibil*, *Slava Rusă* – *Coșari*, *Caugagia*, *Mihai Bravu*, *Babadag-Topraichioi*, *Halmyris* (Paraschiv 2006, 20-22), *Bizone*, *Acrae* (Кузманов/ Салкин 1992, 35-36, табл. III/27-30, 32), *Novae* (Dyczek 2001, 204), *Mesambria* (Nessebar Archaeological Museum – Inv. # 1505, Inv. # 1724, etc.), *Odessus* (Varna Archaeological Museum's exposition – according to the present study: Hr I, Hr II, Hr III-1 and Hr III-2), etc.; *Moesia Superior* – *Viminacium*, *Transdierna*, *Pontes*, *Taliata*, *Diana* (Bjelajac 1996, 65-67, sl. XXII/116-118, 121, 122); *Dacia* (Paraschiv 2006, 22); *Moldova*, *Muntenia* (Ораїт 1980, 304), the village of *Kazakliya*

The Heraclean wine, along with the wines of Western Asia Minor and the Aegean islands, was one of the most popular in Thrace. The amphorae of *Heraclea Pontica* were very common in the Black Sea region and the Lower Danube during the Roman period¹. They were widely present in closed and well-established contexts at sites along the Northern Black Sea coast, and therefore are a reliable chronological indicator (Внуков 2016, 38). The evolution of the shape of the Heraclean amphorae has been a subject of many studies. Classifications and typological charts have been developed by I. Zeest (Зеест 1960, табл. XXVIII/64, 65; XXIX/ 66; XXXVII/91-93; XXXVIII/94), I. Kamenetskiy (Каменецкий 1963, 30-33), D. Shelov (Шелов 1978), S. Vnukov (Внуков 2003, 117-128, Внуков 2006, 106-169), etc. D. Shelov's typological scheme, which presents the development of the Heraclean wine amphorae by six chronological types A – F (A – D are dated back to the Roman period), is relevant to recent studies. The accumulation of new information from archaeological excavations at sites along the Northern Black Sea coast resulted in the updating and further development of this scheme without any basic reconstructions. S. Vnukov refined the chronology of subtype C IVA (Shelov's type A) by dividing it into variants C IVA1 and C IVA2. He also proposed the introduction of a new subtype – C IVJ, which is relevant to the Heraclean amphorae with a wide base; it was used together with the other varieties of the type (Внуков 2003, 117-128). S. Naumenko proposed to divide Shelov's type B into B1 and B2 based on contexts with reliable dates excavated at *Tanais* and its immediate vicinity. She specified the chronology of Shelov's type C and provided evidence that it was found along with variant B2 in deposits dated until the middle of 2nd century AD (Науменко 2012, 64–65). In a summarizing publication on the Heraclean amphorae dated back to the Roman period, S. Vnukov differentiates a transitional shape preceding variant A – C IVZ and expands his thesis that the Heraclean amphorae developed in parallel evolutionary lines – a pointy-bottomed shape: from C IVA to C IVB; C IVC to C IVD and a flat-bottomed shape: from C IVA to C IVJ. He accepts S. Naumenko's assumption that C IVC developed from the early version of C IVJ (Внуков 2016, 38-41). In the current study, another option for the introduction of C IVC is assumed – its appearance was not a result of the evolution of the shape but rather it was introduced as a composite form of the simultaneously used B2 (after Науменко 2012)

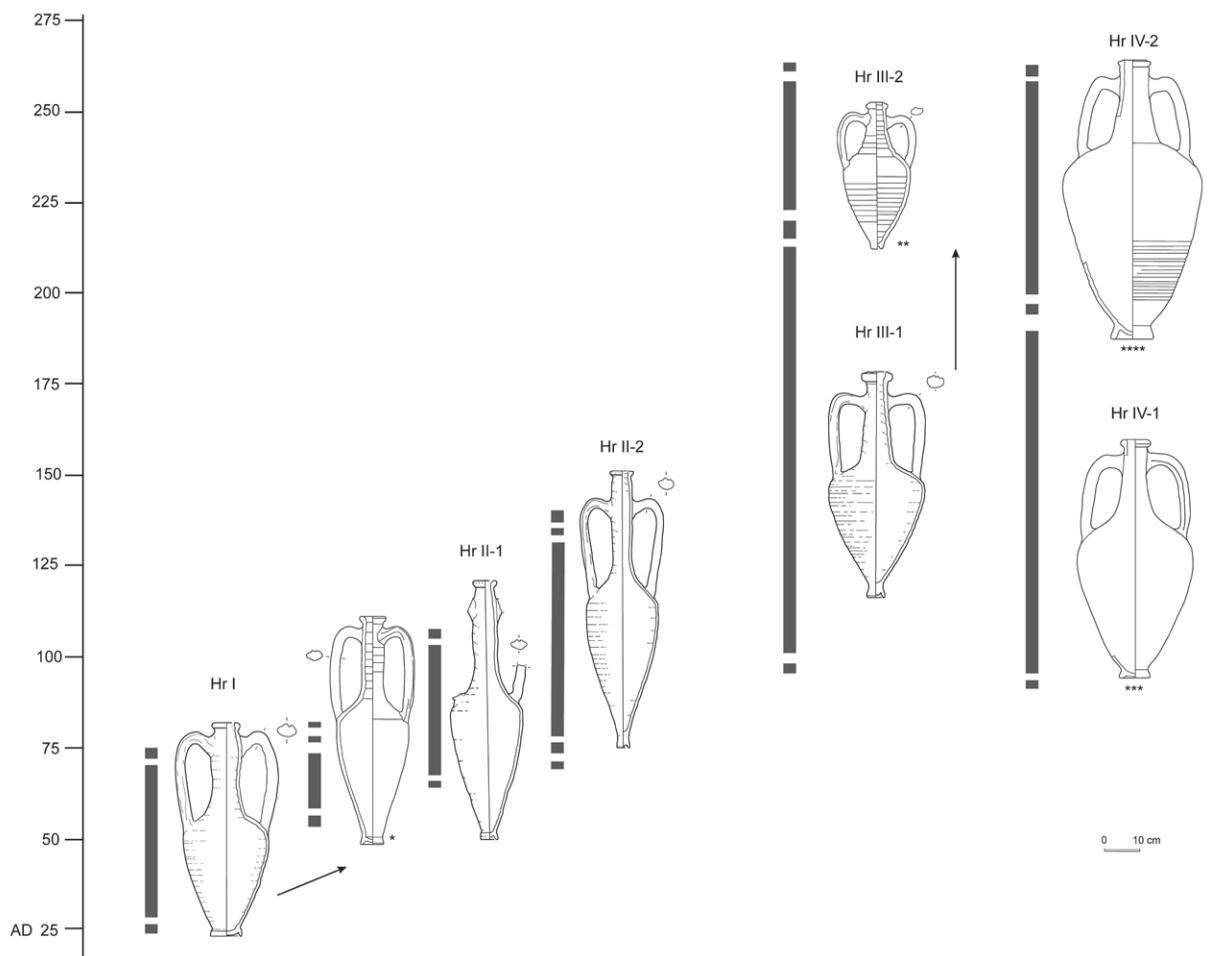
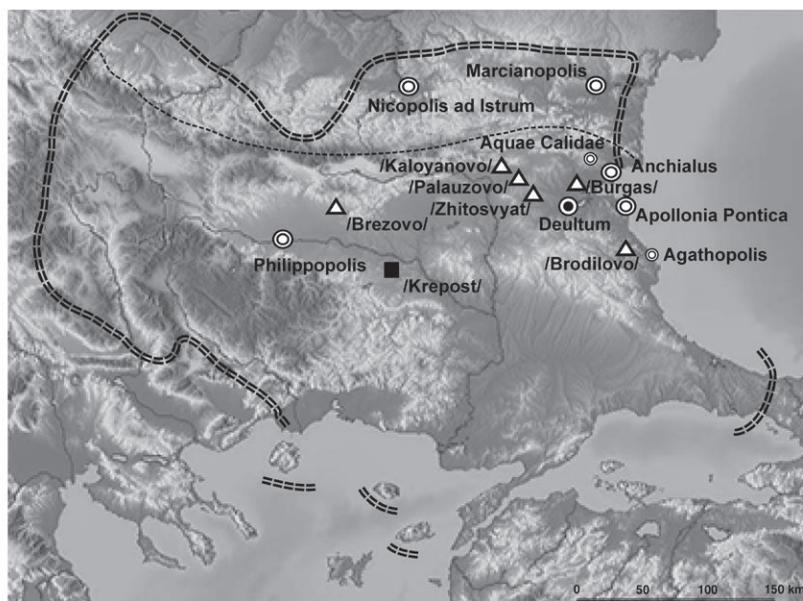


Fig. 1. Chronological development of the Heraclean amphorae (1st–3rd century AD) based on Науменко 2012, Внуков 2016 and according to finds from Thrace: Hr I – *Apollonia Pontica*; transitional shape – Nizhnegnilovskoe barrow cemetery, after Науменко 2012, 76, рис. 2/9; Hr II-1 – *Apollonia Pontica*; Hr II-2 – Kaloyanovo; Hr III-1 – *Anchialus*; Hr III-2 – Tanais, after Науменко 2006, 264, рис. 2/1; Hr IV-1 – Samsun, after Внуков 2016, 40, рис. 3/14; Hr IV-2 – Tanais, after Внуков 2016, 40, рис. 3/16



==== the border of provincia Thracia until 193 AD (after Gerov 1979)
 the border of provincia Thracia after the middle of the 3rd c. AD (after Геров 1950, обр. 4)
 ● colonia ○ urban center ○ settlement ▲ barrow cemetery ■ sanctuary

Fig. 2. Distribution of Heraclean amphorae in the province of Thrace – Philippopolis (Hr II-2), the village of Brezovo (Hr III-1), the village of Krepost (Hr I, Hr II-2), *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Hr III-1), the village of Kaloyanovo (Hr II-2, Hr III-1), the village of Palauzovo (Hr II-1), the village of Zhitosvyat (Hr III-1), *Marcianopolis* (Hr III-1), *Anchialus* (Hr II-2, Hr III-1), *Aquae Calidae* (Hr II-2), Burgas (Hr II-2, Hr III-1), *Deultum* (Hr II-2, Hr III-1, Hr IV-2), *Apollonia Pontica* (Hr I, Hr II, Hr III-1), *Agathopolis* (Hr III-2), the village of Brodilovo (Hr II-2)

Unpublished and Little-Known Late Antique and Byzantine Artifacts from the Eastern Black Sea Region

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 61-102

Liudmila G. KHRUSHKOVA

Abstract: This paper addresses a group of previously unpublished and little known items, most of which are in two museums: the Abkhazian State Museum (Sukhum) and the Historical Museum of Soči (the Krasnodar Territory of the Russian Federation)¹. These objects were found in the coastal area of the Eastern Black Sea region, which in Byzantine sources was called Abazgia and Zikhia (fig. 1, 2). Many of them are random finds without an archaeological context. Some of them originate from our excavations in Sebastopolis (modern Sukhum), Pityous (modern Pitsunda), Lykhny and in other places in Abkhazia.

Key words: Late Antiquity, Byzantine, Eastern Black Sea.

OBJECTS OF METAL

THE CENSER WITH SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOČI

The bronze censer displayed in the Museum, was found in the vicinity of Monastyr', a village on the lower course of the river Mzymta, near Adler. The hemispherical censer on a short foot was suspended on chains, which were attached to the three loops at the top of the censer (Хрушкова 2011, 190-195) (fig. 3). There are also three loops for fastening on the censer's body. The flat upper rim is ornamented with a wavy stem of the grapevine. The foot is ornamented with medallions with inset Greek crosses. It is set off from the body of the censer with palmettes. The body of the censer is decorated with scenes from the life of Christ. The manufacturing process combined the techniques of casting and engraving. The images on the foot and the upper rim were engraved; while the scenes and the palmettes were cast, with a subsequent refinement of the details. Massive large-headed figures in rather high relief are sketched out with generalized smoothed lines with certain details enlarged for emphasis.

The five compositions on the main events of the earthly life of Christ follow one another on the censer's body from left to right, in accordance with the chronology of the Gospel narrative: Annunciation (fig. 4), Nativity (fig. 5), Baptism (fig. 6), Crucifixion, Resurrection (the Myrrh-Bearing Women at the Sepulchre) (fig. 7). On the foot of the censer we see the Mother of God enthroned with the Infant (fig. 8). These five images compose the typical pilgrim series pointing out the main *loca sancta* of the Holy Land. It is possible that such censers were used as eulogia, "pilgrim souvenirs" (Klausen-Nottmeyer 1995, 927) The Palestinian iconography of the main Evangelical scenes is well known from such artifacts as the flasks of Monza and Bobbio dated to the second half of the 6th century, the Rabbula Gospels dated to 586, and the wooden cover of a reliquary in the Vatican Museums.

¹ Translation by Zoya Y. Metlitskaya.

I am grateful to the Director of the Abkhazian State Museum Arkady I. Džopua, the researcher of the museum Diana V. Akhba and the Director of the Historical Museum of Soči, Alla V. Guseva, for their assistance during my work at the Museums.



Fig. 34. Bedia. Bishop's church 999, interior. Architectural detail (photo L. G. Khrushkova)



Fig. 35. Tkhaba-Erdy, church. Cornice (photo L. G. Khrushkova)



Fig. 37. Historical Museum of Soçi. Fragment of column (photo L. G. Khrushkova)



Fig. 36. Tkhaba-Erdy, church. Part of eastern façade (photo L. G. Khrushkova)



Fig. 39. Tsebelda. Slab of the chancel barrier (photo L. G. Khrushkova)

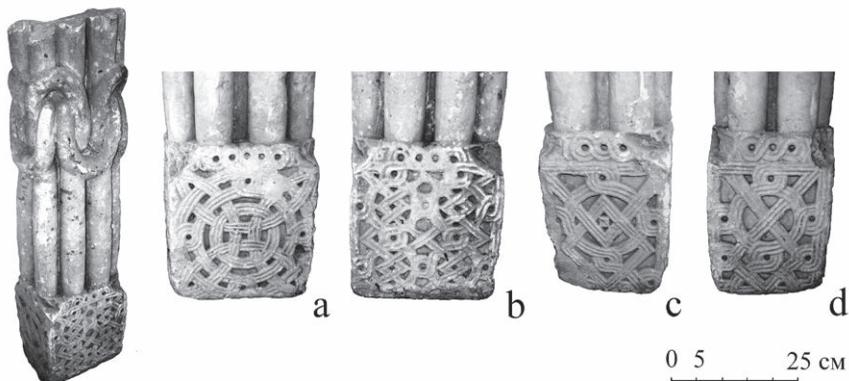


Fig. 38. Abkhazian Museum. Column from Ankhua (photo L. G. Khrushkova)

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 103-104

Marco VITALE. Das Imperium in Wort und Bild. Römische Darstellungsformen beherrschter Gebiete in Inschriftenmonumenten, Münzprägungen und Literatur. HISTORIA. Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte. Einzelschriften Band 246, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, 2017, 374 p., 185 illustr., ISBN 978-3-515-11554-4 (Print), ISBN 978-3-515-11555-1 (E-Book)

When working in the field of Roman history one often struggles with the simple truth that not all periods and questions are equally covered, or retrievable at all, through the narrative sources. That inevitably faces the researchers with the need to interpret various types of sources – numismatic, epigraphic, archaeological, papyri etc. A sophisticated task that requires a multileveled interdisciplinary approach. Nevertheless exactly such type of scientific works, seem to present us with a qualitatively different perspective on the ancient Roman society.

The book of Marco Vitale is representative for this type of study. The author chose to approach the complicated subject of unlocking the intended notion behind the roman representations of the regions under the control of the Empire. He seeks the correct interpretation of these ideas through analyzing simultaneously the imagery on epigraphic monuments, coins and the information, offered by the narratives on the subject. An ambitious and dangerously massive endeavor, even if we just consider the quantities of materials to be analyzed, or the diversity and complexity of the processes in the Roman state. Important aspects of the chosen subject that the author very accurately recognizes and comments in the beginning of his work¹.

The book has 374 pages and 185 illustrations placed within the text, thus sustaining visually the observations of the author. It is also equipped with well-organized scientific apparatus. The research has a complex hierarchical structure that exposes very well the main issues and sub-issues addressed in the text. The so organized multileveled system actively helps, even with the detailed contents index itself, the orientation of the reader, making the work with the text more problem-focused and practical. Furthermore the list of the used literature is abundant, problem orientated, and adequate to the contemporary research state, hence very advantageous for the reader (pp. 343-371).

The study is divided in three main parts. The first is devoted to the definition of the main questions and sets the frames of the research. Special attention is paid to the source basis, the state of the scientific literature on the subject with commentary on main theories. The author combines the chronological presentation of the materials with the problem orientated approach (p. 43). Furthermore, he presents also the parameters of his own work as the used terminology, his research plan, work progress and methods. This first part successfully introduces the reader not just to the specifics of the thematic but also to the characteristics of the current work itself (pp. 13-48).

The second part of the research is devoted to the imagery generated by the central government of the Roman state. Through addressing different themes and separate cases the author searches to answer important questions as those connected to the difference in the representation logic of *gentes / nationes* and the provinces; the usage of *ethnica* and toponyms as

¹ Good example for that is his unambiguous statement concerning the materials on p. 18: *Eine vollständige Vorstellung von Denkmälern und archäologischen Einzelstücken kann aufgrund der Fülle an häufig homöoformen Zeugnissen nicht angestrebt sein und erscheint für die konsequente, systematische Verfolgung und Beantwortung unserer Fragestellung als methodisch nicht zwingend notwendig.* See also p. 30 on the subject of the process diversity in the Roman state.

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XXII, 2 (2018), 105-109

Diana DOBREVA. Tra oriente e occidente. Dinamiche commerciali in Moesia Inferior e Thracia in epoca romana. I dati delle anfore. Antenor Quaderni 42. Edizioni Quasar, Roma 2017, 438 Seiten, 251 Abbildungen, 38 Tafeln, 79 Tabellen

Die aus großflächigen Ausgrabungen resultierende Materialfülle ermöglichte in den letzten Jahrzehnten des 20. und zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts für den Ostbalkanraum und die westliche Schwarzmeerküste eine grundlegende typologische Ordnung der Amphorenfunde. Die Arbeiten von C. Scorpan (1977), A. Opaït (1980), G. Kuzmanov (Кузманов 1985) und wiederum A. Opaït (2004) betrafen zunächst fast ausschließlich die spätantiken Funde, unter denen die Amphoren einen besonders hohen Anteil im Fundmaterial einnehmen. Erst P. Dyczek (2001) legte eine Untersuchung zum kaiserzeitlichen Material aus dem Gebiet an der unteren Donau vor. Zu einem großen Teil beruhen diese Untersuchungen auf Material aus den Limeskastellen entlang der unteren Donau. Darüber hinaus wurden für einzelne Grabungsorte lokale Materialgliederungen erarbeitet, z.B. für *Iatrus* (Böttger 1982; 1991, ergänzt durch Conrad 2007) und *Nicopolis ad Istrum* (Falkner 1999). Die Autoren wandten sich zum Teil auch wirtschaftshistorischen Fragestellungen zu.

Bei der vorliegenden Veröffentlichung handelt es sich um die Druckfassung einer zwischen 2007 und 2011 an der Universität Padua erarbeiteten Dissertation, mit der die Autorin Diana Dobreva neue Wege beschreitet. Wie sie in der Einleitung ausführt, sollte das Ziel der Arbeit in erster Linie in einer Analyse und Rekonstruktion der Handelswege an Hand der Amphorenfunde in den Provinzen *Moesia Inferior* und *Thracia* bestehen (S. 13). Um die Schwierigkeiten zu überwinden, die aus dem Nebeneinanderbestehen lokaler und regionaler Typologien entstehen, entschied sie sich gegen eine eigene Typologie und bettet ihre Untersuchung – wie schon zuvor V. Swan (2004; 2007) in ihrer Untersuchung des Materials aus der Befestigung von Diçin - in die internationale Forschung ein.

Als chronologischen Rahmen legt Dobreva die Spanne zwischen dem 2./1. Jahrhundert v. Chr. und der Mitte des 5. Jahrhunderts zugrunde. Bereits an dieser Stelle sei angemerkt, dass es methodisch und historisch zweifellos korrekter gewesen wäre, die Späte Eisenzeit (wenn auch bereits römischer Einfluss sichtbar ist) strukturell und inhaltlich deutlicher von der eigentlichen römischen Epoche abzusetzen. Beispielsweise ist das im Bereich der Limesstation *Sexaginta Prista* aufgedeckte späteisenzeitliche Grubenheiligtum zweifellos unter anderen Vorzeichen zu betrachten als die spätere römische Siedlung bzw. das Militärlager. Die Entwicklung des Amphorenhandels über den Epochenwechsel hinweg ist trotzdem ein wichtiger und interessanter Aspekt der Arbeit.

Der historische Abriss im ersten Kapitel (S. 17-39: Il quadro storico e geografico) führt die wichtigsten Eckdaten in der Geschichte der Provinzen an. Er ist in drei Abschnitte geteilt: Die römische Eroberung, die Kaiserzeit und die Spätantike.

Der zweite große Abschnitt dieses Kapitels ist den geographischen Bedingungen der Region und damit den grundlegenden Voraussetzungen für Wirtschaft, Handel und Verkehr gewidmet.