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On the cover: seal with a depiction of Christ *Philanthropos*, 12th C AD; see the paper of P. Charalampakis in this issue; photo P. Charalampakis.

Ceramic Assemblage from the Beginning of the Late Eneolithic from Tell Poroy, Municipality of Pomorie

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Margarita POPOVA / Stanimir PARVANOV

Abstract: This article examines a ceramic complex from a building that was partially studied during archaeological excavations in 2020-2022 at the Tell Poroy (“Skritata Mogila”), Pomorie Municipality, Burgas Province. The material is extremely curious as it illustrates the formation of the ceramic complex of Kodzhadermen – Gumelnița – Karanovo VI culture in the region. Some of the vessels have similarities with Early Eneolithic materials from the region, while others also have characteristic features of Middle and Late Eneolithic sites from North-Eastern Bulgaria, the Dobrudzha region and the northern Bulgarian Black Sea coast. In this form, the complex really does not find an exact parallel.

Key words: ceramic complex, ceramic vessels, typology, Eneolithic, Kodzhadermen-Gumelnița-Karanovo VI, Varna, South Black Sea.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The Tell Poroy (Skritata Mogila) is located in a wooded area near the Poroy dam, about 12 km from the modern Black Sea coast (**fig. 1**). Its surface was disturbed by numerous looters’ pits, one of which was even dug up with earthmoving equipment. In the course of the archaeological digs, which started in 2018 around one of the looter’s holes on the southwestern slope of the tell, five settlement levels with the respective stages of reconstruction were recorded, comprising the period from the beginning of the Late Eneolithic to its middle period (Kodzhadermen-Gumelnița-Karanovo VI culture, I-II phase) (Popova 2020, 9 -35; 2021, 35-56; 2022a, 45-62; Popova 2022b, 1-24; Popova / Parvanov *in print*). As to the territory of Bulgaria, it has been established that in absolute dates the development of the culture covers the period 4500/4400 – 4000/3900 cal. BC (Boyadzhiev 1995, 171). The studies carried out in the last fifteen years yielded new data, which raises the question of shifting the beginning of the Late Eneolithic to slightly earlier than the accepted dates.

In the course of the excavation of a building from settlement level 3 and clarification of the stages of its existence, it was found out that it was built on the burnt debris of another building, associated with an earlier settlement level, designated as level 4 (**figs. 2-3**) (Popova et al. *in print*).

The two buildings and the levels associated with them are consecutive, with non-discontinuity stages in the habitation of the terrain in between. Stratigraphic observations give reason to assume that the inhabitants of level 3 first flattened the debris from the level 4 building and laid a 0.20-0.40 m thick layer of yellow clay sediment on top, thus designating the walk level of the new settlement. Due to the numerous disturbances from animal burrows, the layout of the two buildings and exactly how they overlapped cannot be ascertained. In places the remains of level 3 were buried in those of level 4, in other areas, the destructions of the earlier building were evened almost to the floor level.

Fig. 9. Part of whole and almost whole vessels from the building from level 4 (photo: T. Dimitrov and Margarita Popova)



and object wreckage to the north of the looters' pit, and in the north-eastern part of the researched area.

Several vessels were found *in situ* in the area around the thermal facility. Two storage vessels were unearthed to the east of it. One vessel (**fig. 20a**), most of which was preserved, was found together with its lid (**fig. 22h**). The other (**fig. 20b**), which contained several stone tools and a small amount of charred grain, was partially preserved and subjected only to graphic reconstruction. Several deep and open vessels of various sizes were uncovered to the south of and next to the thermal facility. One of them was completely preserved and standing on its base (**fig. 18g**). The other vessels were almost whole and subjected to restoration and graphic reconstruction (**fig. 17b, 18a, 19a**). Several almost whole vessels were found at the northwest corner of the thermal facility (**figs. 10i, 15a-b, 17d**).

As already noted, the largest assemblage of objects (vessels, tools and objects of bone, flint, and stone) occurred in the area with piled wall debris to the north of the looters' pit. What was discovered included a highly fragmented storage vessel, which is still in the process of restoration, vessels of various sizes (**figs. 15c, 17a, 18e**), including a lily-shaped one (**fig. 22a**) and several miniature vessels (**fig. 22b-f**), as well as parts of a large lid (**fig. 22i**). Three vessels of similar shape and size were uncovered *in situ* on the floor in this section of the building, side by side and partially inside each other (**fig. 11a-c**).

In the northeastern part of the research area, mostly partially preserved vessels of different shapes and sizes were discovered (**figs. 11d, 12a, 13a, 15d-e, 17c,f, 19b**) as well as an intact lid (**fig. 22g**). A highly fragmented storage vessel uncovered in the northeastern corner of the research area, is still undergoing restoration. In its volume, it contained, as noted, a small amount of charred grain.

Sherds of vessels and lids of different shapes and sizes were also found in all areas of the building.

CLASSIFICATION AND RELATIVE CHRONOLOGY

The present work is an attempt at classifying the different types of vessels and lids found in the part of the building studied so far.

The classification is based on the general tectonics of the vessels

Byzantine Roof Tiles from Chersonesos (Crimea, Ukraine): A techno-morphological approach

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Elena KLENINA / Dmytro MOISIEIEV

Abstract: The present paper provides an overview of the building ceramic material used during the functioning of a Byzantine Christian complex with a five-apse church and of a dwelling house in Chersonesos. The aim of this work is to broaden our knowledge of Byzantine ceramic construction material based on an in-depth analysis of items discovered during the excavation of block # 55 in the western part of Chersonesos using the techno-morphological method. Our investigation was carried out to clarify the origin and dating of some subgroups and variants of flanged tiles. This work makes a significant contribution to the study of Byzantine building ceramics, constituting the first attempt to construct a relative chronology of building periods in the history of the important Byzantine provincial town of Chersonesos in Crimea. It is based on a comprehensive and comparative analysis of building ceramics found during the excavation of blocks # 45 and # 55. Earlier similar analyses of roof tiles did not yield significant results due to the inaccurate dating of the material. The present study is expected to contribute to our understanding of the technological specifics of tile production in the Byzantine provinces and its chronology. The research provides a relevant insight into the specific shapes, context distribution and the associated chronology of Byzantine tiles.

Key words: Byzantine period; ceramic building material; Chersonesos; craftsmen's marks; Crimea; tile.

INTRODUCTION

Roof tiles were a used ceramic building material in the Mediterranean and in the Black Sea region during the Antiquity and in the Byzantine time. Roman architectural terracotta is the most studied construction material from those periods (McWhirr 1979). Investigations have shown that various forms of tiles and roof systems were used in various areas of the Roman Empire (Hamari 2017; Helen 1975; McComish 2012; 2015), including Chersonesos (Klenina 2018, 272-276; Sarnowski 2005, 45-50). However, most researchers of building material have overlooked Byzantine building ceramics. Chersonesos is a reliable source for expanding our knowledge of Byzantine ceramic building material. Originally, the site was a colony in the south-western part of the Crimean Peninsula (**fig. 1**), in the territory of the modern city of Sevastopol, and founded by Greek colonists from Heraclea Pontica in the 5th century BC at the site of an earlier Greek settlement from the late 6th century BC.

In the Hellenistic period, Chersonesos became one of the most important democratic cities on the northern coast of the Black Sea with great economic potential. The geopolitical interests of Rome resulted in the Empire's concern over Chersonesos as a convenient strategic transit point for the relocation of Roman armies to Asia Minor, and in the mid-2nd century AD Roman troops began to be stationed in Chersonesos and its vicinity. The military presence of Rome lasted about a hundred years, until the mid-3rd century AD (Klenina 2018, 272-276). After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in AD 395,

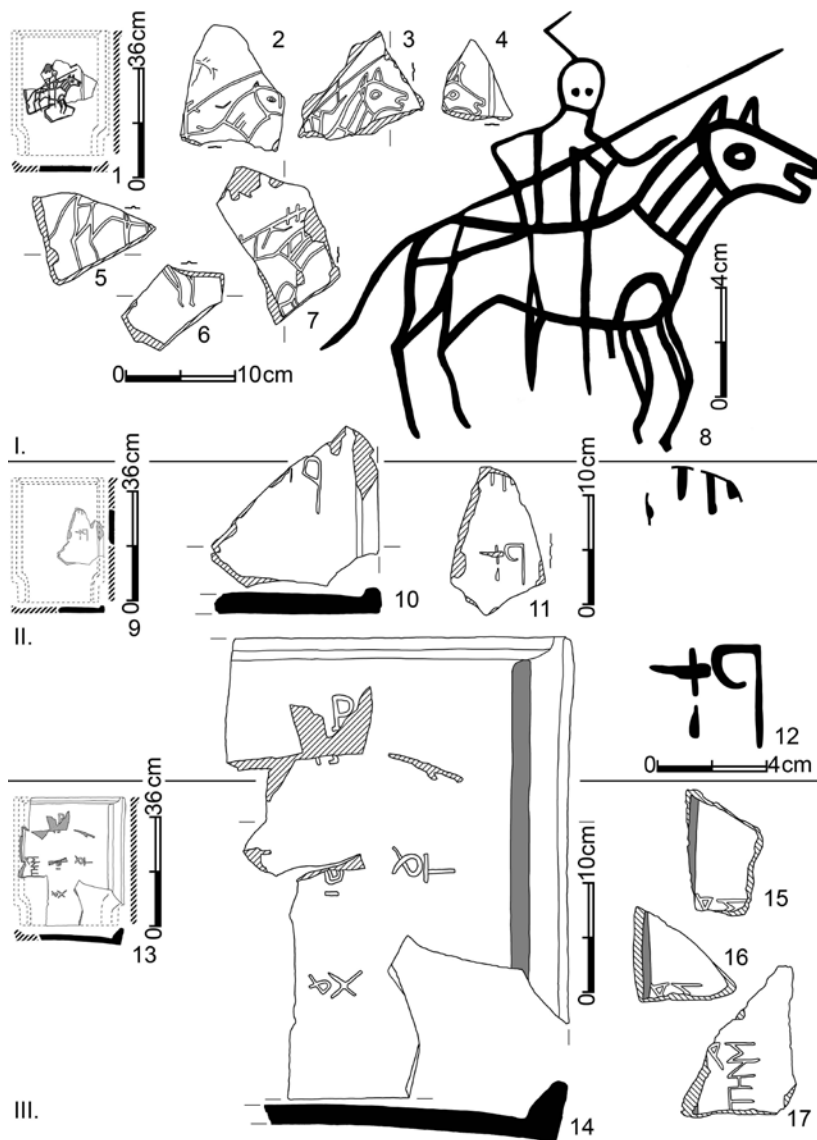


Fig. 9. Ceramic building material from block # 55. Subgroup Ich/2. **I** Variant Ich/2/28: **1** a reconstruction of the tile variant; **2** topsoil; **3** the five-apse church, room A; **4** room 12; **5** topsoil; **6** the five-apse church, room A; **7** the five-apse church, the narthex; **8** the craftsman's mark. **II** Variant Ich/2/42: **9** a reconstruction of the tile variant; **10-11** topsoil; **12** the craftsman's mark. **III** Variant Ich/2/43: **13** a reconstruction of the tile variant; **14-17** topsoil (drawn by P. Persvetov, computer processing of illustrations by D. Moisieiev)

the letters "IO"; the fourth one (2.6 × 5.0 cm), located in the center of the flanged tile at the lower edge, consists of the letters "XX" placed one below the other (from top to bottom); and the fifth one (?7.0 × 5.1 cm), located under the left side border, consists of the letters "A" and "...THNM" in two rows. The flanged tile has a size of 42.2 × ? cm. The forms of the top flange and the lower curves are unknown. The triangular side flange with a wide upper edge is 4.0 cm high.

An undefined variant and other fragments (fig. 8/III). Some fragments were identified as variants: Ich/2/1: in the stone collapse layer and the destruction layer on the level of the floors of room 13 (fig. 8/7); Ich/2/12: in the topsoil (fig. 8/9); Ich/2/13: in the layer from the level of the floors of room A (fig. 8/8); Ich/2/40: in the stone collapse layer and the destruction layer on the level of the floors of room 13 (fig. 8/14); and Ich/2/41: in the topsoil (fig. 8/13 and 8/15). Ten fragments have not been assigned to variants (fig. 8/10-12 and 8/16-22). One of these finds may bear a variation of the craftsman's mark of Ich/2/1 (fig. 8/11), but located under the side flange: we can see the long, upwardly curved tail of an animal and its haunch. Undoubtedly,

A Byzantine lead seal depicting Christ *Philanthropos* found near Sozopol, Bulgaria

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Pantelis CHARALAMPAKIS

Abstract: The paper presents a Byzantine lead seal found in the area of Sozopol, Bulgaria. The specimen shows Christ *Philanthropos* on one side and Saint Demetrios on the other, both accompanied by inscriptions, and is dated in the second half of the 12th c. It is related to the famous Constantinopolitan monastery of Christ *Philanthropos*, established by emperor Alexios I Komnenos. The seal provides further evidence on the connection between religious foundations in the capital and in the provincial area of Sozopol (medieval *Sozopolis*) during the 12th c. The study also includes a catalogue of seals related to the said monastery.

Key words: Byzantine lead seal, Christ *Philanthropos*, Saint Demetrios, monastery of Christ *Philanthropos*, Constantinople, Sozopol

INTRODUCTION

In early 2023, a Byzantine lead seal was found accidentally – out of any archaeological context – in a non-regulated construction waste dumpster at the village of Ravadinovo, about 5 km to the southwest of the coastal city of Sozopol, in Bulgaria. Other pieces of archaeological value dated to the Middle Ages were also found at the same place. The persons who discovered the item delivered it to Pavlina Devlova¹, archaeologist at the National History Museum-Sofia. The prevailing opinion is that the waste originated from illicit building activity inside the resort city of Sozopol or its environs, possibly moved to Ravadinovo in order to be concealed. The exact find-spot and context of the seal and the other artefacts remain unknown.

The seal is currently part of the numismatic collection of the National History Museum in Sofia. When the item was first presented to the author, it became immediately apparent that it bears some unusual iconography, showing the standing figure of Christ accompanied by an epithet on one side, and a standing Saint Demetrios on the other. Despite the lack of information regarding the original context of the find, the rarity of the specimen prompted the writing of the present paper which, hopefully, will contribute to the research on iconography of Byzantine seals, as well as to the study on the relation between the issuers and their sealings.

THE SEAL

The seal (**fig. 1**) consists of a medium-sized disc (total diameter: 23.5 mm; field diameter: 20.5 mm; thickness: 3 mm; weight: 12.45 g), rather well preserved and matching the size of the matrices of the *boulloterion*, despite the fact that it was struck slightly off-centre. Both edges of the channel are preserved and the disc shows only minor traces of corrosion, without much further wear.

Obverse: Standing figure of Christ, blessing (r. hand) and holding a closed, holy book (l. hand); on each side, sigla and inscription in Greek, in three rows; border of dots. Just below the alpha there are traces of a circular line which might suggest the existence of a sign at a position similar to that of the star on the reverse (see below). Its shape

¹ The author is grateful to Pavlina Devlova (National History Museum, Sofia) for bringing this seal into his attention and for allowing him to publish it. Special thanks also go to Prof. Costel Chiriac (Romanian Academy, Institute of Archaeology – Iași branch) for his valuable remarks on this text.



Fig. 1. Seal with a depiction of Christ *Philanthropos* found near Sozopol: a) obverse; b) reverse (photo by the author).

resembles the so-called “tongues of fire”, but the slightly corroded surface in this spot does not allow for a more precise identification (see also the commentary below).

Ι̅	Χ̅
Ο	Θ̅Ρ̅Ψ
ΦΗ	Π̅Θ̅
ΛΑΝ	Ϛ

Ἰησοῦς Χ(ριστός)ς Ὁ Φ(ι)λάνθρωπος.

Jesus Christ *Philanthropos*.

Reverse: Standing figure of Saint Demetrios, holding spear (r. hand) and shield (l. hand); on each side, vertical inscription in Greek; on the left side, below the inscription, there is a decoration sign that resembles a six-ray star (see also the commentary below); border of dots.

Θ̅	Τ
ΔΗ	ΡΙ
ΜΗ	ΟϚ
*	

Ὁ (ἅγιος) Δημήτριος.

Saint Demetrios.

CHRIST *PHILANTHROPOS* ON BYZANTINE SEALINGS AND OTHER ART IMAGERY

The image of Christ accompanied by the epithet *Philanthropos* (man-loving; human-loving; lover of the human being) is rather rarely depicted, not only on seals, but in Byzantine art altogether, including portable icons and wall-paintings (Bartlett 2020, 285-287 with # 153-158 for seals, # 159-160 for icons, and # 161-162 for wall-paintings).

The Carronades from Ezerets: Archaeology and Conservation of an Underwater Chance-Find from the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast

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Dragomir GARBOV / Nayden PRAHOV / Ivan HRISTOV /
Kroum BATCHVAROV

Abstract: We report on the salvage, conservation and archaeological analysis of two cast iron naval guns from the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. The artefacts were discovered by recreational divers in three metres of water off the beach of Ezerets. They are nearly identical and represent mid-19th century 12-pounder carronades. The exposed shallow-water nature of the site and the threat of illicit salvage warranted recovery and conservation efforts to ensure their preservation. In December 2022, the guns were salvaged by an archaeological mission of the Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Sozopol, and transported to the Central Laboratory for Conservation of the Bulgarian National Museum of History. After undergoing conservation, the carronades are now displayed in replica carriages as part of the museum's maritime collection.

Key words: underwater archaeology, Black Sea, cast iron, naval guns, cannon, carronades.

INTRODUCTION

Ezerets beach is located on the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, c. 3.3 nm north of Cape Shabla, the eastern-most point of Bulgaria's mainland, and c. 3 km east of the eponymous village. This portion of Bulgaria's 378 km-long coastline represents an exposed and open lee shore with a flat rocky seabed, characterised by strong winds and variable currents. Wave action is significant and contributes to extensive dispersal of archaeological material. During the Age of Sail, this area was the scene of numerous shipwrecks, with multiple incidents reported in the historical sources, and reflected in the underwater archaeological record (**fig. 1**; see e. g. Прахов et al. 2021; 2022; Прахов / Петкова 2023).

While in Bulgaria archaeological research on shipwrecks and related objects commenced relatively early (see e. g. Тончева 1964; 1968; Toncheva 1975), the first systematically excavated and published shipwreck from Bulgarian waters became the Kitten ship, discovered and test-excavated between 1983 and 1986 (Porozhanov 2000), and fully excavated between 2000 and 2003 (Batchvarov 2009; 2011; 2014a; 2014b; Batchvarov / Todorov 2022). It was followed by the Saint Nicholas Bay wreck, discovered in 2014 (Ангелова et al. 2015) and excavated in 2015 (Гърбов et al. 2016; Garbov et al. 2021; Garbov 2021; 2022; Гърбов 2023), then Atliman 1 – partially cleared and recorded in 2022 (Прахов et al. 2022; Гърбов et al. 2022), and Urdoviza, the systematic excavation of which commenced in 2022 and is currently ongoing (Гърбов et al. 2023). All above-mentioned sites date from what we refer to in Braudelian terms as the “Long nineteenth century” (1789-1914)¹. Together with the historical studies on the wrecks of the barque *Helpmeet* (Гърбов 2021; 2022) and the steamer *Edinburgh* (the latter to be sought in proximity to the current study's area of interest;

¹ Fr. *Le long seizième siècle* (1450-1560; Braudel 1972).

NIM67632-1



NIM67632-2



Fig. 3. The carronades after conservation (photographs by D. Garbov)

drying. The procedure was conducted in three cycles and was followed by final mechanical removal of any remnant concretions, and treatment with corrosion inhibitors: including ethanol (EtOH) Tanic acid, and the few cracks and pores mentioned earlier were filled with epoxy filler. As a final treatment, the artefacts were covered with three layers of toned moisture repellent – anticorrosion primer PF-07.

Upon their arrival in the NHM's Central Laboratory of Conservation, the artefacts were gazetted in the museum's maritime collection. For the final display, the conserved guns from Ezerets were mounted on custom-built gun-carriage replicas (**fig. 4**).

DESCRIPTION

The size, shape and proportions of the cast iron guns from Ezerets determine their identification as carronades, a category of smoothbore close-range muzzle loading ordnance popular with both merchant marines and navies of the late 18th and 19th centuries. The artefacts were recorded after conservation, on 12 August 2023, using standard archaeological methods (**fig. 5**). The comparison of dimensions suggests that for the purpose of this text the guns should be considered identical (**table 1**). The only notable variations of scale (20 mm difference) were recorded at the trunnions. These as well as the rest of the negligible variations of scale² as recorded on the rest of the cannons' features can be attributed to minor dissimilarities of the individual casting moulds and varying corrosion damage as suffered by the artefacts within the marine environment.

The guns from Ezerets have overall lengths of 1250 mm (NIM67632-1) and 1254 mm (NIM67632-2). The breaches are conical, with the cascabels formed by four concentric rings of identical thickness (c. 30 mm), and ending with a thimble pomelion (*i.e.* 'knob-and-loop' button). The barrels are tapered. The base rings are of similar diameter

² Apart from the trunnions all other differences are within single-digit millimetre margins.