ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



2011 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES

Karadzhinov, I.: Miniature Axes with Zoomorphic Protomes from Greek Sanctuaries in the Light of Thraco-Greek Contacts in the 8th-6th Century BC 1

Tzochev, Ch.: The Date of the Tholos Tomb in Chetinyova Tumulus, Starosel 13

Christov, I. / Manov, M.: Ancient Macedonian Sling Bullets from the Area of a Thracian Rulers' Residence near the Peak of Kozi Gramadi 21

Ivanov, S.: Circulation of Bronze Coins of Amphipolis and Their Barbarian Imitations from the 2nd Century BC to the 1st Century BC on the Territory of Southwest Bulgaria 35

Varbanov, V.: Late Hellenistic Anepigraphic Amphora Stamps from Northeastern Bulgaria 53

Penchev, V.: Newly Found Bronze Coin of the Thracian King Sadalas II (ca. 48-42 BC) 61

Milčeva, R.: Ein marmorner Frauenkopf aus Apollonia Pontica 63

Tapavički-Ilić, M.: The "Vranj" Find of Iron Tools from the Vicinity of Požarevac in Eastern Serbia 69

Todorov, B. / Kuleff, I.: On the Chemical Composition of the Ingot from Cape Kaliakra (Bulgaria) 77

REVIEWS

Vagalinski, L.F. (ed.): In search of Celtic Tylis in Thrace (III C BC). Proceedings of the Interdiscplinary Colloquium arranged by the National Archaeological Institute and Museum at Sofia and the Welsh Department, Aberystwyth University held at the National Archaeological Institute and Museum Sofia, 8 May 2010, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – National Archaeological Institute and Museum. Sofia, 2010. (**Megaw, J.V.S.**) 83

Zahariade, M.: The Thracians in the Roman Imperial Army. From the First to the Third Century A.D. Vol. I. Auxilia. Cluj-Napoca, 2009. (**Mrozewicz, L.**) 87

Dimnik, M. / Dobrinić, J.: Medieval Slavic Coinage in the Balkans. London, 2008. (**Penchev, V.**) 91

Editor-in-Chief: Lyudmil F. VAGALINSKI PhD (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Editorial Advisory Board: László BARTOSIEWICZ PhD DSc (Budapest, Hungary); Prof. Florin CURTA PhD (Gainesville, Florida, USA); Prof. İnci DELEMEN PhD (Istanbul, Turkey); Prof. Haskel J. GREENFIELD PhD (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada); Jean-Luc GUADELLI PhD (Bordeaux, France); Prof. Bernhard HÄNSEL PhD (Berlin, Germany); Prof. Ulla Lund HANSEN PhD (Copenhagen, Denmark); Prof. Boris MAGOMEDOV PhD (Kyiv, Ukraine); Prof. J.V.S. MEGAW MA DLitt (Adelaide, Australia); Prof. Aristotle MENTZOS PhD (Thessaloniki, Greece); Prof. Marcel OTTE PhD (Liége, Belgium); Nicolay SHARANKOV MA (Sofia, Bulgaria); Rastko VASIĆ PhD (Belgrade, Serbia); Prof. John WILKES PhD (London, United Kingdom); Prof. Jak YAKAR PhD (Tel Aviv, Israel).

Language Editors: Sven CONRAD PhD (German), Leipzig, Germany; Jean-Luc GUADELLI PhD (French), Bordeaux, France; Emil NANKOV PhD (English), Sofia, Bulgaria; Diana Gilliland WRIGHT PhD (English), Seattle, WA, USA.

All articles in Archaeologia Bulgarica are submitted to peer review.

On the cover: gold Celtic torque found by accident on the Danube bank near the village of Tsibar (later Tsibar varosh or Gorni Tsibar), district of Lom, NW Bulgaria, third quarter of 4th century BC. Photo Krasimir Georgiev.

ISSN 1310-9537 **Printed in Bulgaria**

Miniature Axes with Zoomorphic Protomes from Greek Sanctuaries in the Light of Thraco-Greek Contacts in the 8th-6th Century BC

Ivaylo KARADZHINOV

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 1-12

The subject of the study are seven bronze miniature axes with zoomorphic protomes found in four sanctuaries in mainland and island Greece (the Artemision of Ephesus[1] (2 pcs.), the temple of Aphaia on the island of Aegina[2] (2 pcs.), Zeus' sanctuary in Dodona[3], the Acropolis of Athens[4], and an example of an assumed Northern Greek origin[5]) that add up to the information about the nature of the contacts between ancient Thrace and Greece in the period 8th-6th century BC (**fig. 1**; **fig. 4**)[6]. These contacts are seen as a specific combination of direct and indirect relations in different spheres of material and non-material culture, which take place between certain areas in the two regions (Гергова 1987, 56 f.; Ников 2000; Bozhkova 2002; Илиева 2006; Георгиева / Ников 2010).

The miniature axes have two or three zoomorphic protomes on the heel, as well as an opening for hanging. They are found solely in a ritual context and are not typical of toreutic traditions of the regions in which the relevant Greek sanctuaries are situated. These circumstances, along with the resemblance established by finds from Northwestern Thrace, allows their inclusion into the first group of bronze objects of Balkan origin differentiated by K. Kilian and found in Greek votive deposits in the Late Geometric and Archaic period (Kilian 1975b, 119-120). The presence of the bronzes in a Greek milieu is pointed out to be evidence of the existence of direct contacts with the inner Balkans in the period between the 8th and 6th century BC (Kilian 1975b, 119). Their deposition could have been done either by Greeks or by some population that was the bearer of the traditions of manufacturing and use of these artifacts (Kilian 1973, 431; Kilian 1975b, 119-120; Kilian-Drilmeier 1985; Kilian-Drilmeier 2002, 225-228). This phenomenon was part of a general Mediterranean pattern (**fig. 3/4-6**) (Kilian-Drilmeier 1985; for the distribution of the "Macedonian bronzes" in Greek sanctuaries cf. Bouzek 1974, 175 f.; Bouzek 1997, 110-112; see Verger 2003 on synchronous votives from Western Europe).

Closest parallels with the examples from Balkan Thrace are displayed by the miniature axe with the three zoomorphic protomes from the Artemision of Ephesus found near the early *peripteros* (**fig. 1/7-8**). In comparison with the finds from Teteven[7] and Chomakovtsi[8], considerable similarities are observed in the shaping of the edge and the positioning of the protomes, which follow an analogous species sequence (goat, ram, bull[9]) (**fig. 2/10-12**). Differences can be noticed with respect to the holes made. In the case of the find from Ephesus they are located sideways from the protomes (**fig. 2/10**). The adaptation of the shape of the axe with the need to make holes could indicate a further typological development. The find from Teteven has an opening for a handle, while the one from Chomakovtsi is equipped with holes for hanging that do not have an impact on its shape (**fig. 2/11-12**). This would mean that the Ephesus exemplar is a later one and can be dated to the first half of the 7th century BC according to the dating

[1] H: 11.1 cm (Bammer 1999, 400-401, Taf. 72/1; Klebinder-Gauß, 2007, Taf. 58/796, Taf. 110/796) (**fig. 1/7-8**); H: 5.7 cm (Klebinder-Gauß 2007, 122-123, 226, Taf. 58/795) (**fig. 1/6**).

[2] H: 7.2 cm (Furtwängler 1906, 418, #176, Taf. 118/17; cf. Bouzek 1997, 200, fig. 232/1) (**fig. 1/1-2**); H: 4 cm (Maaß / Kilian-Dirlmeier 1998, 83, Abb. 14/73) (**fig. 1/3**).

[3] Preserved H: 6.1 cm (Carapanos 1878, 100, pl. LIV/6; Kilian-Dirlmeier 1979, 243, Taf. 90/156) (**fig. 1/5**).

[4] Unpublished. Cf. Bouzek 1997, 200-201, #1; Klebinder-Gauß 2007, 123, #866-867.

[5] H: 5.1 cm (Kilian-Dirlmeier 1979, 243, Taf. 90/1562) (**fig. 1/4**).

[6] The sites mentioned in the text in which miniature axes with zoomorphic protomes were found, are underlined.

[7] H: 12.5 cm (Милчев 1955, 359, обр. 2) (**fig. 2/12**).

[8] H: 10.2 cm (Милчев 1955, 259, обр. 1; cf. Китов 1979, 14, 18, #14) (**fig. 2/11**).

[9] Adherence to this sequence is defined as "canonical" and the species as preferred sacrificial animals (Фол 1993, 58; Klebinder-Gauß 2007, 123).

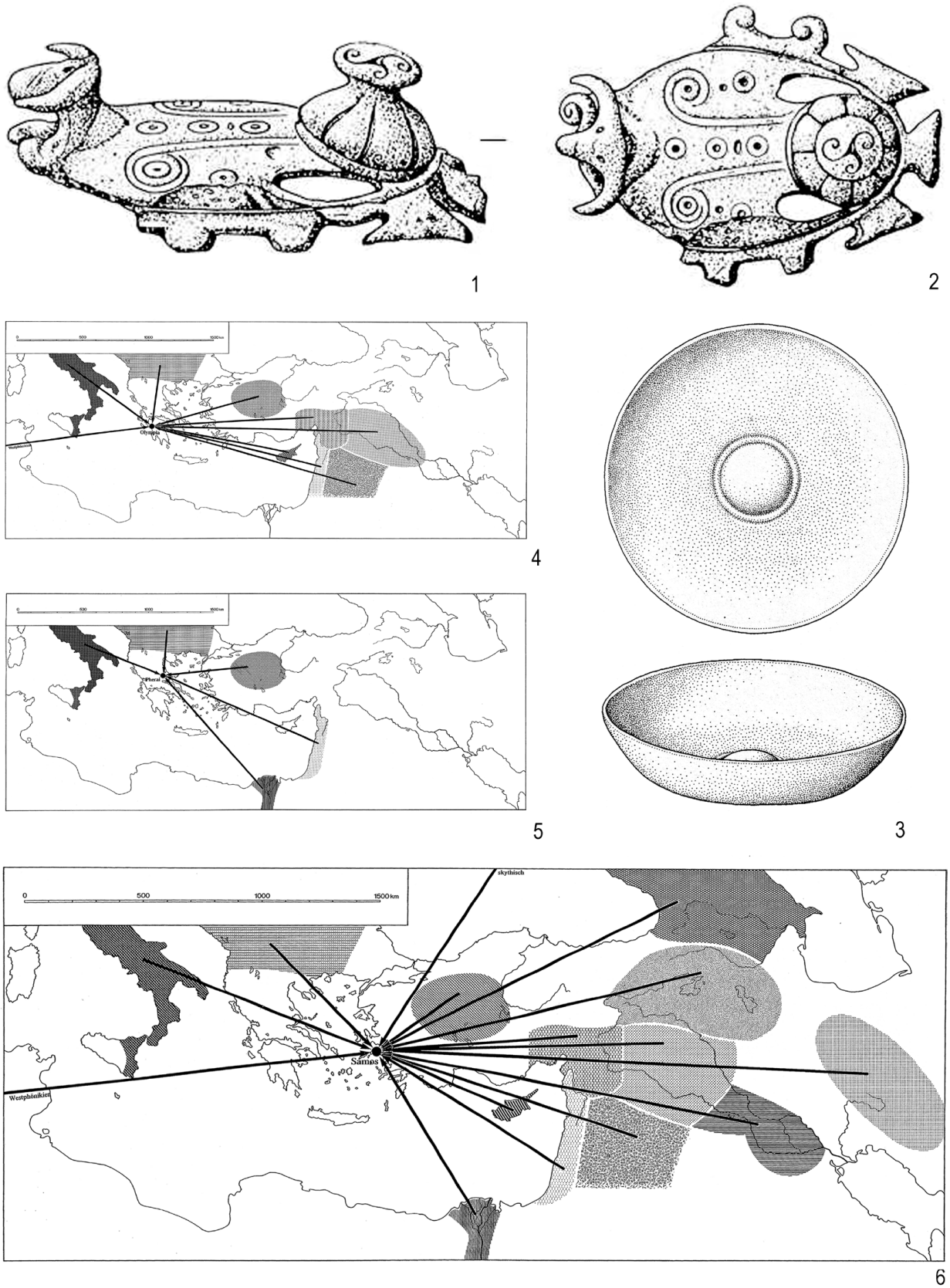


Fig. 3: **1-3** Sofronievo; **4-6** Votive offerings of non-Greek origin found at Olympia, Pherai and Samian Heraion during the 8th and the beginning of the 7th century BC (according to Kilian-Dirlmeier 1985, 233, Abb. 15, 223, Abb. 5, 239, Abb. 20).

The Date of the Tholos Tomb in Chetinyova Tumulus, Starosel

Chavdar TZOCHEV

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 13-19

The Tholos tomb in Chetinyova tumulus is certainly one of the most fascinating discoveries of modern Bulgarian Archaeology; and one of many, which remain widely unknown beyond the local archaeological community, due to the lack of adequate publication. Soon after the monument was revealed by excavation in 2000, preliminary reports and popular booklets spread pictures, excavation data and interpretations. But hopes for a forthcoming comprehensive study were dashed in 2008, after the sudden demise of the leading excavator Georgi Kitov.

In advance of a much-needed architectural study of the monument, opinions about its date already have been published, based, paradoxically, on the architecture. The time period when the complex was built turned out to be a central issue, which is fully understandable, since setting the historical context in advance will certainly affect any further scholarly work on the topic. The present article aims at establishing a date for the building based exclusively on archaeological evidence[1].

Chetinyova tumulus is a part of a necropolis located at the southern foot of Sredna gora Mountain, in the vicinity of the modern village of Starosel[2] (**fig. 1**). Apart from the extraordinary size of the mound and the surrounding stone crepida, which is comparable with the one from the famous Mezek tumulus, the complex is remarkable for its architectural appearance, featuring a propylon, an open vestibule, entrance with an Ionic door-frame, antechamber with rectangular plan and corbel vault, as well as a tholos, decorated inside with Doric semi-columns and entablature (**fig. 2, 3**)[3]. The tomb was plundered probably several times before being archaeologically excavated. Objects left inside the chambers were very few and insignificant for dating purposes. There were parts of weapons and of a funerary wreath. Two coins of Philip II were found in the embankment (Китов 2003, 18; Kitov 2003, 511).

Georgy Kitov was the first to propose a construction date. He opted for the last decades of the 5th c. BC, mentioning the style of the semi-columns as a reason, but without providing more detailed considerations (Kitov 2003, 511). He ascribed the building to king Sitalkes, and suggested a primary function as a temple in which the king was buried after his murder in 424 BC. Kitov interpreted the coins of Philip II as a proof that the temple was still in use in the 4th c. BC (Kitov 2003, 511).

The 5th century date was contested by T. Stoyanov and D. Stoyanova, who stated that the Doric order employed in the tholos is rather Early Hellenistic: "last decades of the 4th or the beginning of the 3rd century BC" (Stoyanov / Stoyanova forthcoming). They based their dating on the slenderness of the columns, the moulding of the echinus, and the enlarged intercolumniation.

Both the above-cited opinions are based on visual appearance rather than on precise measurements and concrete parallels, which makes them difficult to discuss. Instead, I will turn attention to the archaeological situation and the finds associated with the building.

Since the coins of Philip II were found in the embankment, and not inside the building, they apparently cannot come from use of the latter. They rather fell

[1] I am grateful to Diana Dimitrova, the present owner of the publication rights for G. Kitov's excavation of Chetinyova tumulus, for granting me permission to study the amphora material from the tomb. Some details of the archaeological situation were made clear to me by the supervisor of the excavation, Meglena Parvin, to whom I express my gratitude. I am much indebted to Daniela Stoyanova and Kristian Lorenzo for taking their time to read the initial manuscript of this paper and make critical remarks on it.

[2] The landscape and climate of the area have already been described in Kitov 2003, 505.

[3] It is important to note that the plan reproduced here is a tentative reconstruction, which is far from being precise, and obviously did not take into account elements of the architectural decoration displaced, or set apart by the archaeologists. I am grateful to Daniela Stoyanova for bringing these details to my attention.

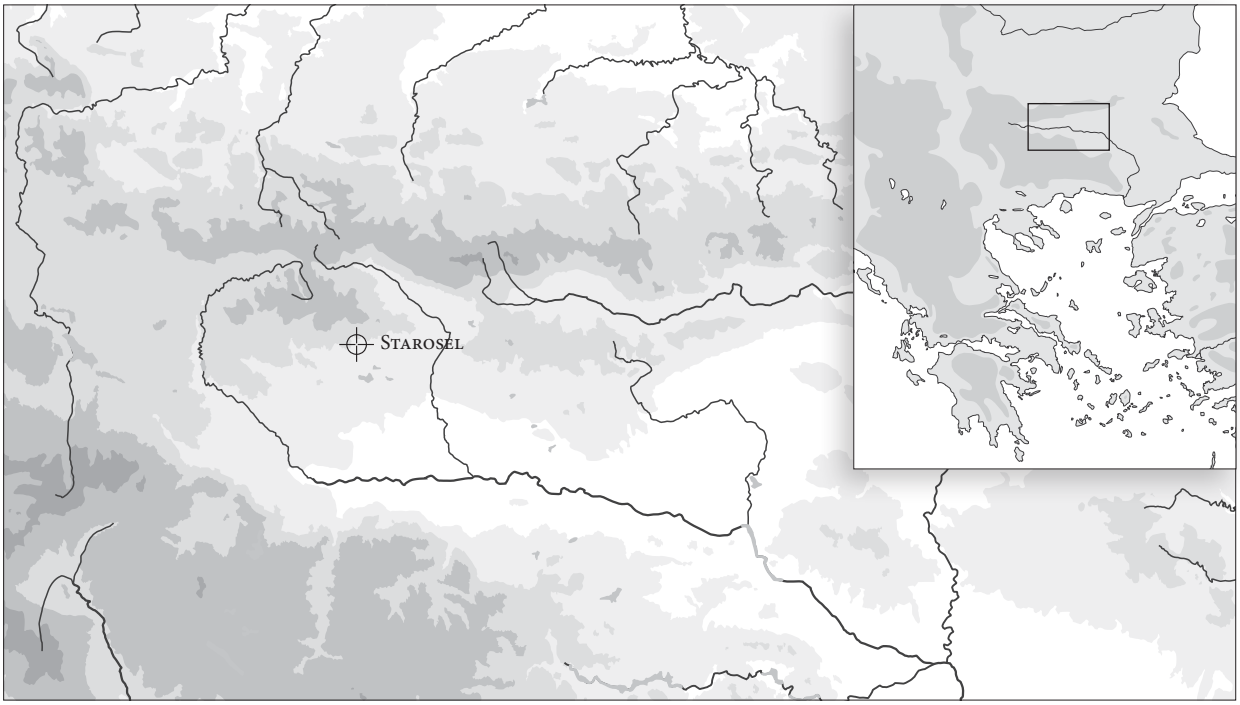


Fig. 1. Map with the location of Starosel.

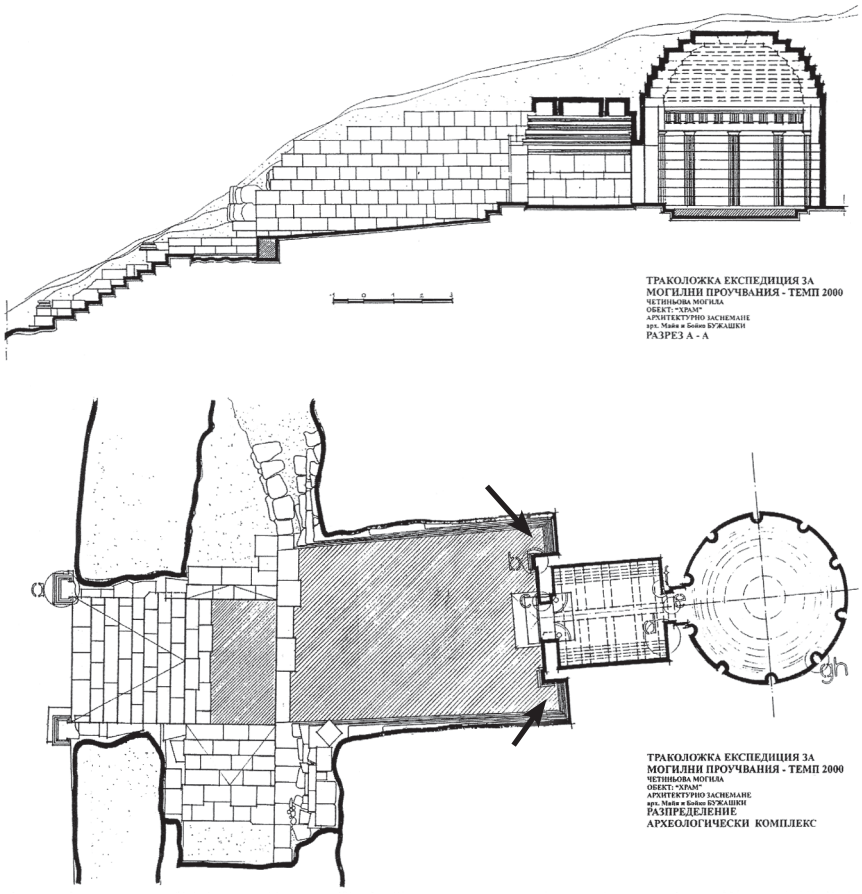


Fig. 2. Plan of the tomb in Chetinyova tumulus (after Китов 2008, 149; see note 3 here). The arrows are added by the author to indicate the findspots of the two transport amphorae.

Ancient Macedonian Sling Bullets from the Area of a Thracian Rulers' Residence near the Peak of Kozi Gramadi

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 21-33

Ivan CHRISTOV / Metodi MANOV

The archaeological investigations at the fortified Odrysian rulers' residence started in 2005. The residence is situated 1113 m above sea level, at the south-eastern foot of Kozi gramadi Peak (Goats' cairns), near the village of Starosel, municipality of Hisarya, central part of South Bulgaria (Christov 2008, 213-220).

The residence covers an area of about 4.5 ha. The western half of the site forms a rectangle, while the eastern part is diamond-shaped and extended eastward. A huge representative building (a temple or a *hestiatorion*, i.e. dining hall?) occupying approximately 104 m^2, is prominently placed in the centre of the complex; it has no parallel in present-day Bulgaria (**fig. 1**).

The external wall of the fortified site/structure is 218 m long (**fig. 2**). The wall is built in *emplecton* technique – double-faced, with filling in the space between the two outer faces. The masonry could be conditionally defined as polygonal; the levelling out tends to 5-6 rows of coarsely hewn and fitted stone blocks, the joints between filled with smaller flat and polygonal stones. At present, interior bastions and rectangular towers projecting from the curtain wall have been documented in certain key points of strategic importance for defence (**fig. 3**). These elements commanding the foreground and reinforcing the protection of the site first appeared in Thrace in the middle of the 5th century BC, the earliest example being *Pistiros* (Попов 2002, 101). In Christo Popov's opinion, the towers and the bastions in inner Thrace appear in the second half of the 4th century BC and later – comparable cases are *Seuthopolis*, *Kabyle*, Sboryanovo and Bosnek.

Loosely attributed, the site was functioning in the first half of the 4th century BC (*terminus ante quem* – 342/341 BC), a conclusion based on both the unearthed coins, pottery shards from black-figured vessels, amphorae, as well as the fortification characteristics and the decoration of the entrance to the representative building. It is located within the boundaries of a residential micro-region in the interior of the Odrysian kingdom (Христов 2010), in an area abounding with monumental structures (tombs and temples). The expansion of the site involves representatives of the Odrysian dynasty after the death of Cotys I (383-359 BC).

A number of sling bullets were found during the excavations carried out in 2005 and 2010 at the Thracian residence in Kozi gramadi site. Because of the relative scarcity of such finds from archaeological investigations little attention has so far been paid to these items. Some years ago a more detailed treatment of this specific kind of objects was attempted – comprising sling bullets, discovered sporadically as stray or collective finds in the present-day Bulgarian lands as elements of the ancient weaponry (Paunov / Dimitrov 2000, 44-57). The observations and the results from this study proved considerably useful for a more precise subsequent study of this kind of ancient finds. The inscribed sling bullets always bear concrete information about certain individuals and events, which might, under favourable circumstances, lead to unexpected and surprising conclusions.




7. Weight 27.16 g; length 2.1 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




8. Weight 23.15 g; length 2.3 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




9. Weight 24.07 g; length 2.2 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




10. Weight 24.07 g; length 2.5 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: [Ξ]AN(ΔPOY)




11. Weight 24.81 g; length 2.2 cm; width 1.3 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




12. Weight 26.85 g; length 2.6 cm; width 1.3 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




13. Weight 24.81 g; length 2.2 cm.width 1.3 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)




14. Weight 30.17 g; length 2.7 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: [Ξ]AN(ΔPOY)




15. Weight: 29.29 g; length 2.4 cm; width 1.4 cm.
Obv.: ANA
Rev.: ΞAN(ΔPOY)

Circulation of Bronze Coins of Amphipolis and Their Barbarian Imitations from the 2nd Century BC to the 1st Century BC on the Territory of Southwest Bulgaria

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 35-51

Sotir IVANOV

The dream of Philip V was to turn Macedonia into a generally recognized hegemony of Greek cities, despite the resistance of the Roman Republic, which used all opportunities to conquer Macedonia. The interests and ambitions of both sides caused two wars between Philip V and Rome. The first ended in 205 BC with no change of the status quo but at the end of the second – in 197 BC – the influence of Macedonia in the Greek world became limited. According to the peace treaty, Philip V had to accept a series of restrictive measures: to provide a number of hostages, to surrender its battle fleet except six ships, to reduce his army to 5000 people, to pay 1000 talents indemnity, to surrender the key fortresses Demetrias, Chalkis and Corinth. In fact, the Macedonian king gave up his role as a *hegemon* in Greek deeds as well as his independent foreign policy (he had no right to declare war without being permitted by Rome). During the Isthmian Games in Corinth in 196 BC the Greek states were declared free and the power of Macedonia was confined within the frames of its narrow borders. Only just in 188 BC, with the peace in Apameia, was the position of Rome softened and Philip V was allowed to broaden his territories to Thessaly and Thrace (Franke 1957, 32-50).

Despite the change in the policy of Rome it was clear to Philip V that a decisive clash between the two countries was inevitable. To mobilize the whole economic and political potential of Macedonia the king carried out a significant monetary reform (Touratsoglou 1993, 39; Draganov 2001, 113-119; Mamroth 1935, 276-279). The changes from 186 BC could be summarized as follows:

The royal coinage with the name of Philip V was resumed and continued later by his son Perseus;

A number of cities and regions were allowed to coin their own inscribed autonomous silver and bronze emissions. Most active were the cities of Thessalonica, Pella and Amphipolis.

For the first time, on the coins of silver and bronze, there appeared the inscription ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΩΝ.

The troubled years of disagreement between Rome and Macedonia, as well as the reform of Philip V, influenced the economic life in the region and the adjacent areas (Crawford 1985, 116-132). In particular, that had an impact on the daily payments of the population and the circulation of the bronze coins. Because of the specifics of the bronze coins as a local means of payment, it is striking to observe their spread on the territory of southwest Thracian lands, or the present southwest Bulgaria, which was geographically determined by the valleys of the rivers Struma (the ancient Strymon) and Mesta (the ancient Nestos) and their main tributaries. The valleys of the Strymon and the Nestos were the contact zone between Macedonia and Thrace and later between Rome and Thrace. During the whole



2. AE; 8.25 g, 21/20 mm, Amphipolis 187-168 BC

Obv. Head of the river-god Strymon right
Rev. MAKE (above) ΔONΩN (below)
Ornate trident with monograms below
Monograms: ⋀ (above) ⊢ (below)
Location: the area of Kozhuh, municipality of Petrich
Parallels: Gaebler 1935, Bd. III, Taf. II/25, variant; Драганов 2001, 788, variant; SNG Cop., 1299, variant; CCCHBulg., II, 98-103.



3. AE; 9.0 g, 19/23 mm, Amphipolis 187-168 BC

Obv. Head of the river-god Strymon right
Rev. MAKE (above) ΔONΩN (below)
Ornate trident with monograms below
Monograms: ⋀ (above) ⊢ (below)
Location: the area of Kozhuh, municipality of Petrich
Parallels: Gaebler 1935, Bd. III, Taf. II/25, variant; Драганов 2001, 788, variant; SNG Cop., 1299; CCCHBulg., II, 98-103.



4. AE; 7.2 g; 20/18 mm, Amphipolis 187-168 BC

Obv. Head of the river-god Strymon right
Rev. MAKE (above) ΔONΩN (below)
Ornate trident with monograms bellow
Monograms: ⋀ (above) ⊱ (below)
Location: the area of Kozhuh, municipality of Petrich
Parallels: Gaebler 1935, Bd. III, Taf. II/25, variant; Драганов 2001, 788; SNG Cop., 1299; CCCHBulg., II, 98-103.



5. AE; 14.10 g, 21/21 mm, Amphipolis 187-168 BC

Obv. Head of the river-god Strymon right
Rev. MAKE (above) ΔONΩ (below)
Ornate trident with monograms below
Location: the area of Kozhuh, municipality of Petrich
Parallels: Gaebler 1935, Bd. III, Taf. II/25, variant; Драганов 2001, 788, variant; SNG Cop., 1299; CCCHBulg., II, 98-103.



6. AE; 8.5 g, 22/24 mm, Amphipolis 187-168 BC

Obv. Head of Poseidon right in *tainia*
Rev. MAKE (above) ΔONΩN (below)
Club within oak-wreath
Monogram: ⊢
Location: the area of Kozhuh, municipality of Petrich

Late Hellenistic Anepigraphic Amphora Stamps from Northeastern Bulgaria

Varbin VARBANOV

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 53-59

More than 40 years ago D. Tudor examined Hellenistic amphora stamps, discovered on the territory of Romania. Among them was also the group of the anepigraphic ones (Tudor 1967, 37-80). At that time it was not specified whether the group in question had been attested in south of the Danube River, due to the lack of published information from the territory of Bulgaria (Tudor 1967, 50). The situation has not changed even today. In a comprehensive article about the vessels related to transportation, conservation and drinking of wine during the Hellenistic period, more than 100 anepigraphic amphora stamps were mentioned; stamps, discovered in ca. 20 settlements on the territory of Romania (Sîrbu 2003, 101). The amphorae (local production), stamped with anepigraphic stamps, were used for conservation and trading of local wines. At this stage of the research it has not been established if the stamps were direct imitations of the Greek originals, marks of the production centers or if they were distinctive marks of the particular Getic dynasties (Sîrbu 2003, 100-103). The fact that the stamps originate mostly from the South and Southeastern Romania shows that the production centers of such amphorae and wines were located in these places, certainly, one of them being Popești.

The "absence" of such stamps south of the Danube River is due to the fewer excavated sites from the late Hellenistic period on the territory of Northern Bulgaria. To date I am aware of ten anepigraphic amphora stamps, although their number in museum holdings is larger[1].

The first stamp was discovered during the archeological excavations in Sboryanovo reserve, Razgrad district. The stamp has a rectangular shape and three framed X signs in relief (**fig. 1/8**, **fig. 2/13**)[2]. It was discovered in sector "Zapaden kvartal" in a context dated between the 220s – 210s BC and the last quarter of the 2nd century BC. No exact parallel of the stamp has been discovered.

Scanty information is available about the second anepigraphic stamp. It has a rectangular shape representing two triangles with converging apices (**fig. 2/15**). As a matter of fact, its design was published in an overview article about the history of the town of Belene (Митова-Джонова 2003, 47, обр. 7/8). According to the legend the image represents late Roman amphorae, even though some of them could refer to an earlier period (Митова-Джонова 2003, 47, обр. 7/3, 5, 9). During the construction of the town of Belene were discovered a large number of amphora fragments, "… some of them were found amassed in one place as in septic pit and others – standing alone …". According to the author these fragments are evidence for the existence of a big commercial center on the territory of the present town of Belene during the period 2nd century BC – 1st century AD. (Митова-Джонова 2003, 47). Two stamps could be adduced as *comparanda* for this stamp: from Popești and Cetățeni (Rosetti 1960, 397, fig. 5/11, 12, 398, fig. 6/4).

Ca. 2 km south of the village of Brestovitza, Ruse district, during construction works a third stamp of this type was found, on the handle of an amphora "of local production…". On the basis of the pottery, the localized Thracian settlement was dated to 4th – 2nd century BC (Дремсизова-Нелчинова / Иванов 1983, 30).

[1] Stamps of the type in question are not kept in the museums in Varna, Razgrad, Targovishte or Veliko Tarnovo. This information I owe to my colleagues, the archeologists from these museums, for which I would like to thank them.

[2] The information and the picture of the anepigraphic amphora stamp from Sboryanovo I owe to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Totko Stoyanov, for which I express my sincere gratitude. The stamp was registered under inventory #31/ 2006.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

0 3 cm

Fig. 1.

Newly Found Bronze Coin of the Thracian King Sadalas II (ca. 48-42 BC)

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 61-62

Vladimir PENCHEV

The paper presents a remarkable and very rare Thracian bronze coin discovered in 2010 during the archaeological research at the site of Kladarsko Gradishte within the territory of Slivarovo village, Malko Tarnovo region, southeastern corner of Bulgaria. Thanks to the kind permission of Dr. L. Vagalinski of the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum – BAS, head of the research team of this antiquity fortress, we had the opportunity to study and publish this noteworthy numismatic piece.



Fig. 1.

The description of the coin is as follows (**fig. 1**):

Obverse: The legend is illegible. Bust of the king, with a diadem, to right.

Reverse: The legend is illegible. Eagle with wings folded up resting on lightning, to left.

Bronze. A piece half-erased due to long circulation. Diameter 14 – 15 mm. Weight 1.82 g.

It has been long determined that the here discussed very rare coin type known so far from just a few published specimens, belonged to the Thracian king Sadalas II (ca. 48 – 42 BC) (Юрукова 1992, 282, #144-146). The king was a representative of the Astai – Odrysian Dynasty (Юрукова 1992, 176). The written sources report that in 48 BC Sadalas II was the leader of a Thracian army fighting on the side of Pompeius during his conflict with Julius Caesar on the Balkans (Велков 1979, 282; Тачева 1987, 69-70). In Thessaly, the Thracian cavalry of Sadalas II defeated the Roman army headed by one of Caesar's generals, Cassius Longinus (Тачева 1987, 70). Sadalas II was not punished after the final defeat of Pompeius in the civil war against Julius Caesar in the battle of Pharsalus. On the contrary, Caesar gave voice publicly to his admiration for Sadalas' loyalty to the cause of Pompeius (Юрукова 1992, 179).

A very interesting coin hoard dating from the same time (the second half of 1st c. BC) originates from the same territory of Slivarovo village, Malko Tarnovo region. Unfortunately, it was not preserved intact. Probably the hoard comprised at least some dozens of silver coins of high nominal – tetradrachms (Карайотов 1990). They were Thracian imitations of Thasian tetradrachms from the 1st c. BC and pieces of the rare Thracian tetradrachms with legend of KOTYOC XAPAKTHP on their reverse. The latter is associated with the father of Sadalas II, Cotys II

Ein marmorner Frauenkopf aus Apollonia Pontica

Rumjana MILČEVA

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 63-68

Im Archäologischen Museum Sozopol, dem antiken *Apollonia Pontica* (heute Sozopol, bulgarische Schwarzmeerküste), befindet sich ein unterlebensgroßer Frauenkopf (**Abb. 1-5**), der bislang keine Beachtung gefunden hat[1]. Herkunft und Fundumstände sind unbekannt. Die Gesamthöhe mit Hals beträgt 16.5 cm, die Distanz vom Kinn zum Scheitel 13 cm. Der Kopf ist aus weißem (kleinasiatischem?), feinkristallinem Marmor gefertigt; er zeigt leichte hellbraune Patina. Die Oberfläche ist verwaschen. Der Kopf ist unter dem Hals aus einer Statue oder Büste gebrochen. Die Nasenspitze und das rechte Ohrläppchen sind bestoßen. Die Haare sind über der Stirn links ausgebrochen, ebenfalls ein Teil des Halses unten rechts. Er zeigt kleine Verletzungen im Gesicht. Auf der rechten Kopfhälfte verläuft ein Riss vom Scheitel bis zum Nacken. Die Rückseite des Kopfes, die getrennt gearbeitet war, fehlt. Sie war angestückt, wovon die große rechteckige Höhlung und der darüber eingesetzte Eisenstift zeugen (**Abb. 2**). Diese Stückungstechnik erscheint in allen Zeiten, am häufigsten aber im Hellenismus und in der frühen Kaiserzeit (Claridge 1990, 135 ff.).

Das Porträt stellt eine junge Frau in ruhiger Haltung dar. Der Kopf wendet sich mit einer leichten Neigung nach rechts. Das Haupt wird von einem kräftigen, glatten Hals getragen. Das Gesicht hat einen annähernd viereckigen Umriss. Die relativ niedrige Stirn legt sich breit über die Augen und die Nase. Die flach geschwungenen Brauen fallen nach außen ab. Die mandelförmigen, etwas asymmetrisch gebildeten Augen stehen weit auseinander. Sie sind von schmalen wulstartigen Lidern eingefasst, deren oberes jeweils das untere im äußeren Augenwinkel überschneidet. Die Wangen sind leicht füllig; die Nasolabialfalten sind kaum ausgeprägt. Die Nase ist gerade, nicht zu klein und nicht zu groß. Die Mundwinkel des kleinen, vollen Mundes sind leicht hochgezogen. Das breite und kräftige Kinn ist durch eine Einsenkung von den Lippen abgesetzt. Insgesamt zeigt das Gesicht großflächige Einzelformen und ein glattes, weiches Inkarnat.

Die sorgfältige Ausarbeitung des Gesichtes und des Halses steht in seltsamem Gegensatz zu der rohen und summarischen Marmorarbeit im Bereich der Frisur. Die nur als undifferenzierte Gesamtmasse gegebenen Haare über der Stirn und auf der Kalotte sprechen dafür, dass das Frauenporträt durch Umarbeitung aus einem anderen Bildnis entstanden ist. Das erschwert sowohl eine chronologische Einordnung als auch die Möglichkeit zur Identifizierung der dargestellten Frau.

Von der ursprünglichen Frisur sind nur die Schläfenhaare rechts erhalten: sie sind in welligen Strähnen nach hinten gestrichen. Bei genauer Beobachtung wird deutlich, dass die Umrisse der beiden unteren Strähnen vom Ohrläppchen unnatürlich unterbrochen werden. Offensichtlich fielen die Haare etwas weiter nach unten und bedeckten den Abschnitt, der jetzt ein Ohrringloch aufweist. Die etwas flacher und schematischer gestaltete Strähnengruppe links gehört hingegen mit Sicherheit zur zweiten Fassung. Soweit die nicht ausgebildete Haarmasse eine Vorstellung von der Frisur gibt, müsste diese leicht vorspringendes Stirnhaar gehabt haben. Letzteres ist, wie auch das dahinter liegende Kalottenhaar, von der übrigen Masse mittels zweier parallel nach hinten gezogener Einkerbungen klar abgegrenzt (diese sind im Profil, noch besser von oben zu erkennen) (**Abb. 3-5**).

[1] Ich danke dem Direktor des Archäologischen Museums Sozopol, Dimităr Nedev für die Genehmigung, den Kopf studieren und publizieren zu dürfen.



Abb. 1.



Abb. 2.



Abb. 3.



Abb. 4.



Abb. 5.

The "Vranj" Find of Iron Tools from the Vicinity of Požarevac in Eastern Serbia

Milica TAPAVIČKI-ILIĆ

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 69-76

In 1997, at the site of Vranj near the village of Krepoljin, in Požarevac County in eastern Serbia (**fig. 1**), Krsta Jocić from the village of Osanica found a hoard of metal objects deposited in a ravine. The hoard consisted of: two axes, a pickaxe, two ploughshares, a chain, a scythe and a piece of horse-equipment (snaffle bit). This hoard is now a part of the Iron Age collection of the Požarevac National Museum[1].

The scythe (inv. C-3021, **fig. 2**) is 47.3 cm long and 15.5 cm wide, with a triangular cross-section. It weighs 400 g.

A part of a bridle, the cheek plate (inv. C-3020, **fig. 3**), is 19 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. Its shape is rectangular, and also its cross-section. There are four perforations on it. The perforation diameter measures 0.65 cm. The object shown here presents only a part of a broken bridle, while the snaffle bit and the other cheek plate are missing. Its lower part is twisted and possesses a round cross-section, although the end is flattened by hammering. At the very end of the piece of preserved bridle, a trace of another perforation can be recognized. The object weighs 25 g.

The chain (inv. C-3019, **fig. 4**) consists of three links, each of them being 13.2 cm long. The biggest link width is 3 cm, the smallest is 2.4 cm. Each link is in the shape of an "8" and they possess an irregular round cross-section. The preserved length of the chain is 35.5 cm. The weight of the whole object is 330 g.

The pickaxe (inv. C-3016, **fig. 5**) is 25.7 cm long and 8.2 cm wide. Its frontal part is rectangular, with rounded sides and a rectangular cross-section. The hoe part behind the round handle hole is delta-shaped, with a rectangular cross-section. It is 3.8 cm high. The object weighs 640 g.

The ploughshare (inv. C-3018, **fig. 6**) is 19.2 cm long, while its greatest width measures 4.6 cm. Its lower end is triangular, with rounded sides and a sickle-formed cross-section. The upper part is rectangular, with a semi-circular cross-section and two round perforations for fixing. The ploughshare weighs 220 g.

The ploughshare (inv. C-3017, **fig. 7**) is 23 cm long and its greatest width measures 6.2 cm. Its blade is triangular, with an irregular rectangular cross-section with upturned endings. Its upper part is slightly delta-shaped, with a semi-circular cross-section. The ploughshare weighs 660 g.

Two axes (inv. C-3014 and 3015) are approximately of the same size and shape.

The axe C-3014 (**fig. 8**) is 16 cm long and 7.7 cm wide at its lower ending. The axe is delta-shaped and the opening at the upper axe part is of rectangular shape with rounded sides. The opening measures 5 x 3.3 cm. On the longer upper edge, a trace of a circular perforation is visible. The axe weighs 680 g.

The axe C-3015 (**fig. 9**) is 14.6 cm long and 3 cm wide at its lower end. This axe is also delta-shaped and the opening at the upper axe part is of a regular rectangular shape, measuring 4.5 x 2.9 cm. At the lateral axe side, there is a circular perforation for fixing. Its diameter measures 0.5 cm. The axe weighs 490 g.

[1] I wish to thank D. Jacanović, custodian of the Iron Age collection of the National Museum in Požarevac, for putting this material at my disposal.

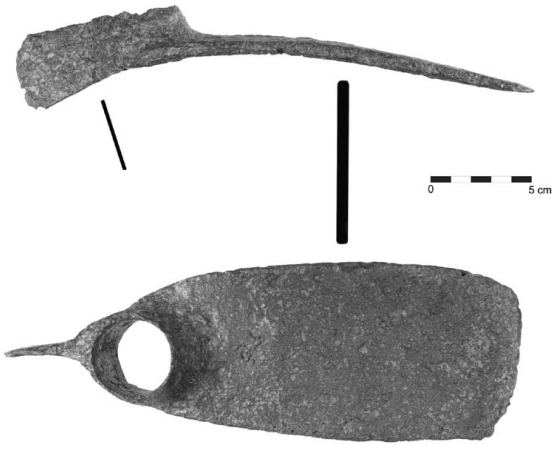


Fig. 5. Pickaxe (C-3016) from the Vranj hoard (photo by Veljko Ilić).

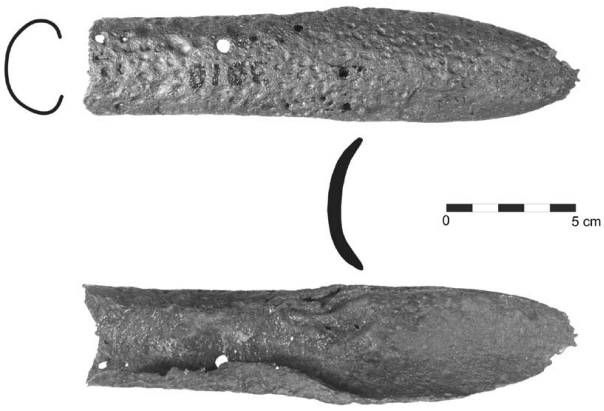


Fig. 6. Ploughshare (C-3018) from the Vranj hoard (photo by Veljko Ilić).

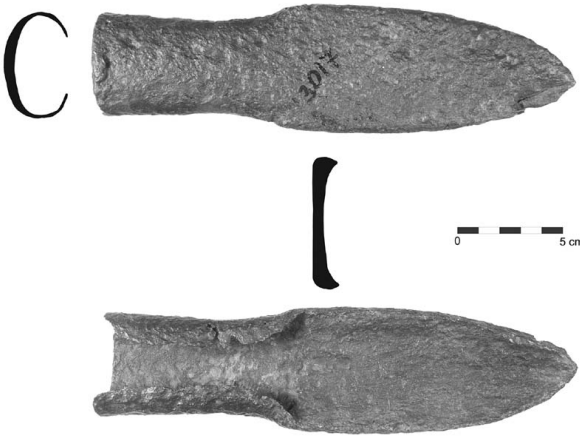


Fig. 7. Ploughshare (C-3017) from the Vranj hoard (photo by Veljko Ilić).

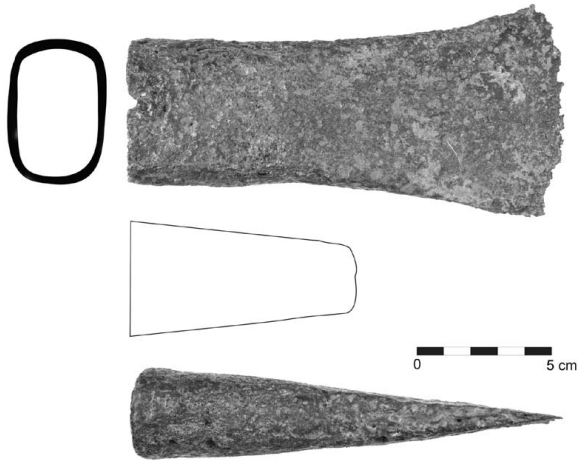


Fig. 8. Axe (C-3014) from the Vranj hoard (photo by Veljko Ilić).

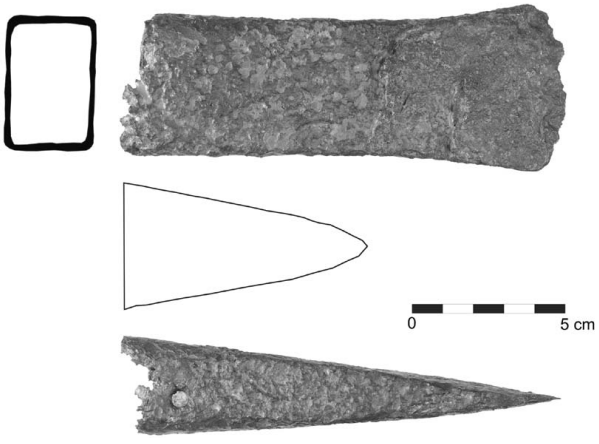


Fig. 9. Axe (C-3015) from the Vranj hoard (photo by Veljko Ilić).

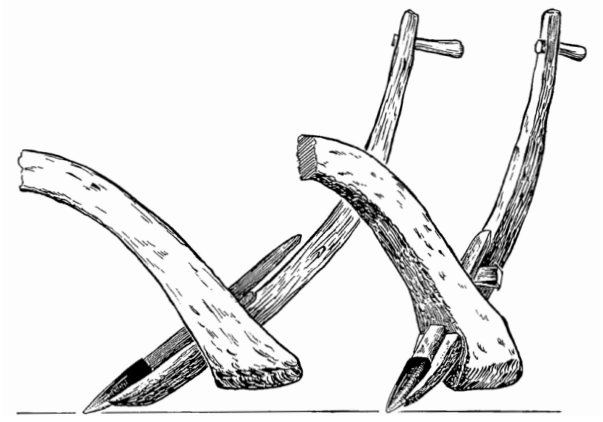


Fig. 10. Reconstruction of an Iron Age plough (after Spehr 1995, 65, fig. 10A).

On the Chemical Composition of the Ingot from Cape Kaliakra (Bulgaria)

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 77-81

Boyan TODOROV / Ivelin KULEFF

INTRODUCTION

In 1972 the group for underwater investigations at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences discovered a metal find near cape Kaliakra (western Black sea coast – see **fig. 1**), with weight of 1455 g and size: length 25 cm, width 12 cm, and thickness of 1.4 cm (Тончева 1973). Currently, the object is kept in the National Archaeological Institute with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NAIM-BAS) (**fig. 2**)[1].

The chemical analysis of the find carried out in 1972 determined the following composition: 32% gold; 18% silver; 43% copper. The analytical method used is not mentioned in the publication by Dr. G. Toncheva (Тончева 1973). The result, however, makes the find from cape Kaliakra unique. With the unique composition came the decision of the author to associate the metal find with the stone anchor found three years earlier in the same region – the Western Black sea coast (Тончева 1973). The hypothesis of the author is that the stone anchor and the metal find ended up on the sea bottom as a result of a shipwreck. Consequently, the finds (metal and stone anchor) were dated to 16th – 14th century BC. Based on this it was claimed that the ships in the Bronze Age brought to the Bulgarian coast of the Black sea metals in the form of oxhide ingot. This takes place a thousand years before the Greek colonists established the colonies on the Bulgarian Black sea coast (around 7th century BC). To support this suggestion, Dr. Toncheva adduced different finds of copper oxhide ingots known from the Mediterranean. The ingots ranging in weight (from 5.35 to 17.64 kg), quite close to the Kaliakra find, are those found near Kyme in Euboea (Greece) (see Bucholz 1959; Stos-Gale et al. 1997). All these finds, however, are produced from copper and none of them has such a high content of gold and silver (see **table 1** and e.g. Begeman et al. 2001; Gale 1989; Stos-Gale et al. 1997). The analytical results show that the concentration of gold and silver in copper oxhide ingots is at least three order of magnitude lower than that published by Dr. Toncheva. If the composition published by Dr. Toncheva was correct it would made the find from cape Kaliakra unique. Up until now no archaeological find has revealed such a chemical composition.

Due to the peculiar nature of the find, as well as the skepticism of specialists about the chemical composition of the Kaliakra finds[2], we analyzed again the chemical composition of the metal find from cape Kaliakra. This short paper presents our results.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

For analysis we used portable XRF instrument – Bruker model Tracer III–V with anode of rhodium, tube power of 40 kV, current of 3 μA, and Ti/Al filter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The concentration of determined elements in the alloy of the ingot from cape Kaliakra is presented in **table 2**. It allows us to conclude that the obtained chemical composition has noting to do with the one reported in 1973 by Dr. Toncheva

[1] A copy of the metal find produced from gypsum and painted is kept in the Historical museum in the city of Kavarna.

[2] Gale, N. Private communication, 2009.



Fig. 2. Pictures of the metal find from cape Kaliakra, various views (photo: Chavdar Tzochev).

REVIEWS

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 83-86

VAGALINSKI, L.F. (ed.): In search of Celtic Tylis in Thrace (III C BC). Proceedings of the Interdiscplinary Colloquium arranged by the National Archaeological Institute and Museum at Sofia and the Welsh Department, Aberystwyth University held at the National Archaeological Institute and Museum Sofia, 8 May 2010, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – National Archaeological Institute and Museum. Sofia, 2010. 131pp., 43ill.

Practically since the days of Polybios and his *pragmatike historia* and Pausanias' *Description of Greece* in which are described the arrival ca. 278 in Thrace of Komontorios and his part of the army of Brennos and his establishment of the kingdom of *Tylis*, there has been debate as to its location let alone the actual date and nature of the arrival of the Gauls. Recently, interest has also focussed on the nature of the Balkan population in the third and second centuries BC with a general consensus that the image of the Celtic "invasions" is a much more complex one than that contained in the surviving ancient sources. These and related issues are the subject matter of the present volume published – with commendable alacrity – by the Editor of *Archaeologia Bulgarica* ably assisted by one of the contributors, Simon Rodway's revision of the English texts.

We are presented with a fascinating range of approaches as one might expect from a cast list comprising two archaeologists, one historian, two linguists and three numismatists. Of the eight contributors – six Bulgarian, one British and one Russian – two are currently at the University of Aberystwyth, that important centre for Celtic studies, and it is one of these, Simon Rodway whose paper "Celtic – definitions, problems and controversies" (pp. 9-32) offers a sober analysis of the continuing debate on the nature or indeed existence of a Celtic past let alone present. As amongst those who still see the validity of retaining aspects of Celticity as a useful concept, we must confess to having carried out the first skirmishes in what evolved into major warfare between the Celtosceptics lead by our long-time friend John Collis (see Collis 2010, a revised reprint of Collis 2003 and add our latest repost: Megaw/Megaw 1998). Leaving aside such minor oddities as the citation of an 1980 exhibition catalogue essay by the late Ludwig Pauli being taken from a 2007 reprint, this is an invaluable summation of the current situation in the debate including Dzino's 2007 thesis of hybridization in south-eastern Europe in the fourth and third century BC. Rodway's concluding sentence deserves quotation in full: "The perhaps unconscious disdain perceptible in much of the recent "Celtosceptic" critiques, and the frequent absence of language issues from the discussion, betrays an attitude of linguistic and cultural entitlement at the "centre" which can only hasten [the process of linguistic diminution]. This should be resisted by all concerned with Celtic studies" (p. 25).

The second paper by Dilyana Boteva on "The ancient historians on the Celtic kingdom in south-eastern Thrace" (p. 33-50) offers an equally thorough review of the ancient sources identifying not one but four different Celtic waves in Thrace between the end of the fourth and during the first quarter of the third centuries BC. Of these it is the third wave comprising those under Komontorios who in BC 278 escaped from the debacle of the attack on *Delphi* who elected to remain in Thrace and established *Tylis* – it is only this third wave which is associated by the ancient sources with the Celtic kingdom. Boteva draws attention to a number of revisions to the orthodox view that the battle between the Celts and Antigonos Gonatas took place near *Lysimachia*. She also concedes that further information on Celtic activity in Thrace can only result from further archaeological research – particularly in the area between *Byzantion* and the Hellespont.

The focus broadens with Kamen Dimitrov's essay on "Celts, Greeks and Thracians in Thrace during the third century BC. Interactions in history and culture" (p. 51-66). Writers such as Mieczyslaw Domaradzki (Домарадски 1984) and Petar Popović (1991) analysing the archaeological evidence have argued against the view of the Celts as a major invading force as opposed to a number of smaller groups some of which settled and were integrated locally. With an emphasis on numismatic evidence, Dimitrov begins with a review of the conflicting views as to the importance of the role played in Thrace by the Celts in general and the significance of *Tylis* in particular; this is followed by a chronologically ordered analysis of the ancient sources. On the key question of the location of *Tylis* and its area

REVIEWS

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 87-90

ZAHARIADE, Mihail: The Thracians in the Roman Imperial Army. From the First to the Third Century A.D. Vol. I. Auxilia. Cluj-Napoca, Mega Publishing House, 2009, 409 pp. (National Museum of Roman History. Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan". The Center for Military Studies 2)

Quite justifiably, the Roman auxiliary forces (*auxilia*), formed from the inhabitants of the provinces of *Imperium Romanum*, are not perceived solely in their military context. They played a significant role for the integration of the peoples of the extensive state through the processes of Romanization and unification in legal terms (*milites auxiliarii* received *civitas Romana* for their military service). Thus the interest in these armed units equals the attention devoted to legions. Systematization of knowledge in that field goes back to the comprehensive, now classic articles of C. Cichorius (1894 and 1901), which still constitute a starting point in any research concerning auxiliary forces. Such studies focus on establishing a general picture, as well as on the functioning of the *auxilia* in a given region. The most important include: Cheesman (1914), Wagner (1938), Kraft (1951), Alföldy (1968), Benseddik (1977), Beneš (1978), Holder (1980), Saddington (1982 and 1975); Le Bohec (1989) or the two grand monographs by J. Spaul, devoted to cavalry troops (1994) and infantry (2000). These works of the British scholar draw directly on the studies of Cichorius, and are, in his understanding, a new version of the latter.

On first inspection, the book by Mihail Zahariade (MZ) differs distinctly from those quoted above. The Romanian scholar is guided by an "ethnic" criterion: he is interested in those *alae* and *cohortes* which were defined directly as Thracian (*ala Thracum*; *cohors Thracum*), or bore the name of a Thracian tribe of the Bessi (*cohortes Flaviae Bessorum*). Although in the scholarly literature there is no shortage of works dedicated to such "ethnic" formations, Thracian included, all of these are derivative in character, while monographs are lacking (Bogaers 1969; 1974; Jarret 1969; Lörincz 1992; Dąbrowa 1986[1]). The reviewed book is therefore an utter novelty in that respect, and at the same time the first, if one disregards the paper by M.G. Jarret mentioned above, full study of "Thracian" units in the Roman army. As it turns out there were 38 of them (cf. pp. 119-162, 213): twelve cavalry regiments (*alae*) and twenty six cohorts, i.e. infantry troops essentially, but over a half of these (#2, 5, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38) were *cohortes equitatae*, in other words such in which a mounted unit (120 horses) was a salient component. Moreover, in each *cohors peditata* there served 80 riders, who performed liaison, reconnaissance, courier and other tasks. According to calculations of the author, all units of cavalry and infantry denoted as *Thracum* and *Bessorum* had a standing force of 9,200 mounted and 12,000 foot soldiers. This means that the permanent contingent of "Thracian" units in the Roman army amounted to approximately 21,000 soldiers in the first three centuries of the Empire (p. 117). Of this considerable number, only 255 *milites* are known; among the latter, in all certainty 220 have been identified as Thracians, the remaining probably so (cf. pp. 96, 213), serving in Thracian and non-Thracian troops, which best depicts the fragmentary nature of the preserved documentation on the one hand, and the risks of drawing conclusions, on the other.

The book is divided into two parts: a descriptive one (pp. 17-258) and the one containing appendices and illustrations (pp. 261-409). In the former, the author distinguished twelve chapters, opting for the same format – a singular choice – in the case of very short (pp. 213-214) conclusions (X), list of abbreviations (XI) and bibliography (XII). Chapters one and two are historical in character, serving to acquaint the reader with the Thracian issues in general (The background: Thrace and Thracians, pp. 17-38) and with the history of subjugation of Thrace by Rome (Rome and Thrace. A political and military history of the Roman conquest of Thrace, pp. 39-58). One should immediately note that these chapters are not original in nature. It might be worth some consideration whether it was necessary to elaborate on them to such an extent (over forty pages altogether). Here, MZ usually repeats well-known facts, which have been discussed in literature on many occasions. Certain issues (e.g. the list of Thracian tribes with their localisation) might have been presented in a tabular manner, correlated with the maps on pages 363-364, given that these deliberations bear no relation to later ones, concerning *auxilia Thracica* directly. The

[1] Incidentally, the last has not been noted by MZ.

REVIEWS

Archaeologia Bulgarica
XV, 1 (2011), 91-92

DIMNIK, M. / DOBRINIĆ, J.: Medieval Slavic Coinage in the Balkans. London, 2008, 252 p.

The authors of the book, two Croatian scholars, are experts in Medieval numismatics of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. They have the ambition to present to a western audience interested in numismatics, a general overview of the Medieval Slavic coinages on the Balkans.

As the authors rightly point out, all these coinages have been examined so far mainly in specialized works by scholars from the particular Balkan states. The works have been written in the corresponding national languages thus a western reader often finds them inaccessible. Furthermore, since the appearance of the remarkable though rather outdated work of S. Ljubić (1875) until today, we have not published any compendious study on the coinages issued by the various Slavic political authorities in the Medieval Balkans.

In geographical aspect, the authors distinguish five main regions of coinages: Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, and Bulgaria. The fifth region comprises the cities along the Eastern Adriatic coast that also strike their own coins during the Middle Ages.

The book is composed of eleven chapters divided in two parts. The chapters in the first part (chapters 1-5) concern the Medieval numismatic history of the particular regions mentioned above. They also present some brief summary inferences on the nature of the coin production and coin circulation in every region during the Middle Ages (chapter 6). The second part is even more significant containing a catalogue of the coinages discussed in the first part. The catalogue is presented in five chapters (chapters 7-11) as any one of them contains description and illustrations of the various sorts and types of coins minted during the Middle Ages in the abovementioned regions.

The book begins with a foreword and introduction explaining its goal and the problems the authors endeavor to solve with their study. It also contains a thorough exposition on the methodology employed by the authors as well as on the written sources used. A selected bibliography of the scholarly works used is also added at the end of the book, showing their detailed knowledge of the numerous studies on the subject under discussion. The various indexes and tables also appended at the end of the book appear to be valuable for the reader.

As one might expect, the chapters devoted to the Medieval coinages of Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and the cities along the Eastern Adriatic coast have been written very comprehensively and in agreement with the most recent studies on the topic. It is clear enough that the authors are experts in the field. However, things are a bit different with the section dealing with the Bulgarian Medieval coinages (chapter 5 in the first part and its corresponding chapter 11 of the catalogue in the second part). As the authors themselves frankly admit (p. 117), the section devoted to Bulgaria represents actually a rather synthesized resumé of two books on the subject written by Bulgarian authors (Юрукова / Пенчев 1990; Радушев / Жеков 1999). They have taken the information only from the works cited above, and from the latter one – mainly the drawings of the coins, which both Croatian scholars have adapted to illustrate the Bulgarian Medieval coinages presented in chapter 11 of the catalogue in their book.

As I have already mentioned, the second and more significant part of the book comprises the catalogue. It covers coinages issued in the course of a nearly four hundred years long period by about sixteen different political authorities. Considering the large number of these coinages, we can understand the choice of the authors to include in the catalogue only the various sorts and types of coins without their numerous variants. Despite the limitation, the catalogue gives quite a good picture of the wide variety of Medieval coinages produced by different Slavic rulers and cities in the Balkans. For the Bulgarian specialists in Medieval numismatics, this catalogue appears to be of the greatest value as it helps with the identification of Medieval Serbian and Bosnian coins discovered in Bulgaria and for some very specific peculiarities which are hard to identify.

At the end, we have to note that one of the greatest qualities of the book is its magnificent artistic design and print, a work of the renowned London publishing house of Spink & Son. Thus the work discussed here achieves the goal of its authors – to present the