

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



2013 2

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On the cover: a red-figure lekythos with polychrome decoration and gilding from the 4th c. BC *Apollonia Pontica*; see the paper of D. Cherneva in this issue. Photo K. Georgiev.

Cultural and Chronological Position of the Chalcolithic Horizons III and IV at Bubanj Site – Excavations from 1954¹

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 1-16

Dragan MILANOVIĆ

Abstract: In 1954 archaeological excavations were conducted at the site of Bubanj on its eastern side. An examination of the excavation journal and finds allowed the reconstruction of the site's vertical and horizontal stratigraphy. In the third and fourth horizons, which consisted of the remains of collapsed settlement structures, distinctive archaeological material was found. According to the technological, morphological and ornamental features of the ceramic vessels, the remains of the settlement structures in horizon III belong to the community of the Cernavodă III culture. In horizon IV some of the finds can be attributed to the Cernavodă III culture while the majority of finds belong to the Krivodol-Salcuța-Bubanj cultural complex. The preliminary analysis of the material culture allows one to determine the cultural provenience and respective chronology of the settlement horizons in Serbia and to reconstruct economic activities carried out at Bubanj site.

Key words: Bubanj site, stratigraphy, settlement horizons III and IV, Cernavodă III and Krivodol-Salcuța-Bubanj ceramic styles, Late Chalcolithic, Early Chalcolithic, economic activities.

The archaeological site of Bubanj is located west of the city of Niš, on the high ground above the left bank of the Nišava river, at the entrance to Novo Selo (**fig. 1**). The site's location enabled the confluence zone of the Nišava into Južna Morava river to be surveyed and provided protection against flooding and rich alluvial land.

During the twentieth century most of the site was destroyed, leaving only its northeastern portion preserved (Трајковић-Филиповић et al. 2008, 309, fig. 2). The site originally had an ellipsoidal shape, oriented NW-SE; with a length over 300 m and a width of up to 170 m (**fig. 2**). The southern and western slopes were the most accessible, whereas, on the east side, the site was once connected to a high natural terrace. The north side, facing the river Nišava, was inaccessible due to the steep inclination of the terrain. The gentle slope on the west side led to the plain which surrounded the confluence of the Nišava and Južna Morava.

The first survey was conducted by A. Oršić Slavetić in 1935, when the existence of four prehistoric layers with three horizons was noted (Orssich de Slavetich 1940, 26-38, fig. 2)².

Archaeological excavations on Bubanj were continued by M. Garašanin in 1954-1958. Research enabled him to define the cultural

¹ The article presents the results of the project "Archaeology of Serbia: Cultural Identity, Integrative Factors, Technological Processes and the Role of the Central Balkans in Development of Prehistory in Europe (OI177020)" of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic Serbia.

² The material was severely damaged during the Second World War; only a small amount is preserved today, but it lacks any data regarding context and the complete documentation is missing.

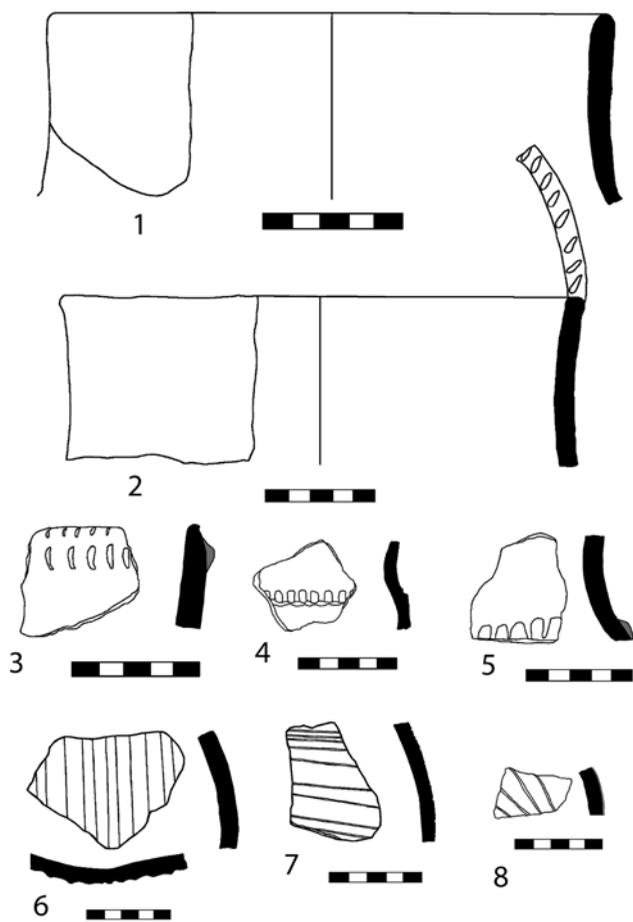


Fig. 8. Level IIIa, finds found on the floor

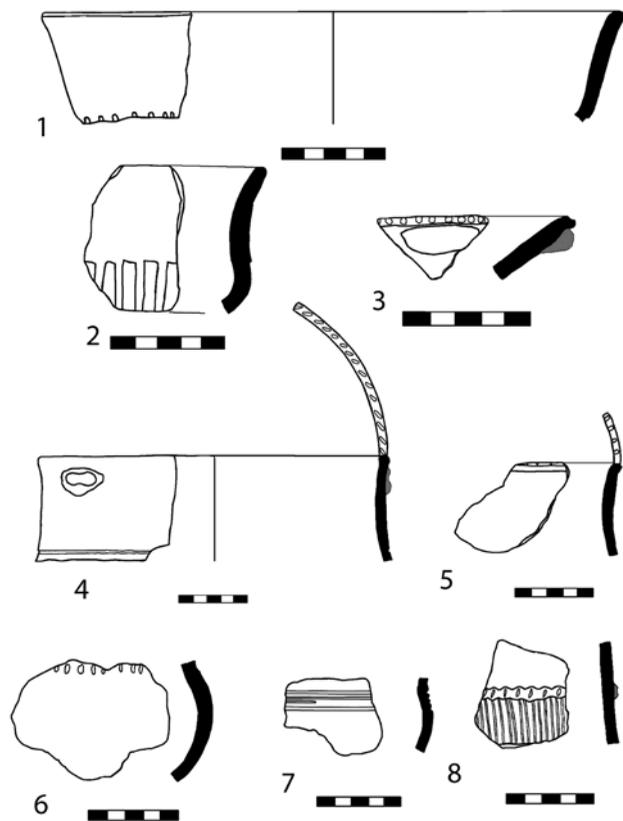


Fig. 9. Level IV, finds

Rockshelter Mokranjske Stene – A New Late Prehistoric Site in Eastern Serbia Region

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 17-37

Aleksandar KAPURAN / Stefan MILOŠEVIĆ

Abstract: Archaeological research in Mokranjske stene rockshelter represents the first survey in the region of northeastern Serbia after a three decade long pause, since salvage archaeological work had been conducted prior to the construction of the Đerdap II dam. Beside the Byzantine forts dating back to the Middle Ages, finds and cultural horizons had been identified from the La Tène period, the Late Iron Age (Zlot group), the Middle Bronze Age (Verbicioara group), the Late Eneolithic period (Coțofeni group) and the Middle Eneolithic period (Bubanj-Sălcuța-Krivodol cultural complex). The previously unknown Byzantine fort is associated with a larger neighboring fort above the rockshelter. The La Tène period at the rockshelter site is best represented by the find of the infant grave. The settlements from the Late Iron Age and the Middle Bronze Age were probably short-term in contrast to the horizon of the Late Eneolithic Coțofeni-Kostolac group, which presence was the most intense through the stratigraphy. The horizon with finds from the Bubanj-Sălcuța-Krivodol cultural complex is the oldest horizon reached by the test trench, although it contains very few finds.

INTRODUCTION

In this paper we present the results of archaeological test excavations conducted in the Mokranjske stene rockshelter. The site provides a solid stratigraphic-temporal context for later prehistory (the metal ages) in a specific landscape, with a stratigraphic sequence that is often found at the sites between the Timok and Danube rivers (Negotinska Krajina region). Archaeological research was conducted during the summer of 2011, after a three decade long pause, and this represents the first survey in this region since salvage archaeological work was conducted, prior to the construction of the Đerdap II dam. The survey was part of the project “Settlement and Coastal/Inland Interaction in the Iron Gates”, conducted by I. Radovanović from Kansas University and D. Mihailović from the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade¹. We present new archaeological maps of sites containing different cultural horizons from later prehistory found in this region, as well as indicate the relative placement of the Mokranjske stene rockshelter.

The Village of Mokranje is located 5 km south of Negotin, in the valley of the Sikolska river, which flows into the river Timok, near the meeting point of the Serbian, Romanian and Bulgarian borders (**map 1**). During the survey, the Sikolska river gorge was recognized as an

¹ The Museum of Krajina in Negotin had an important role in this project, with curator G. Janjić, as well as A. Kapuran from the Archaeological Institute in Belgrade.

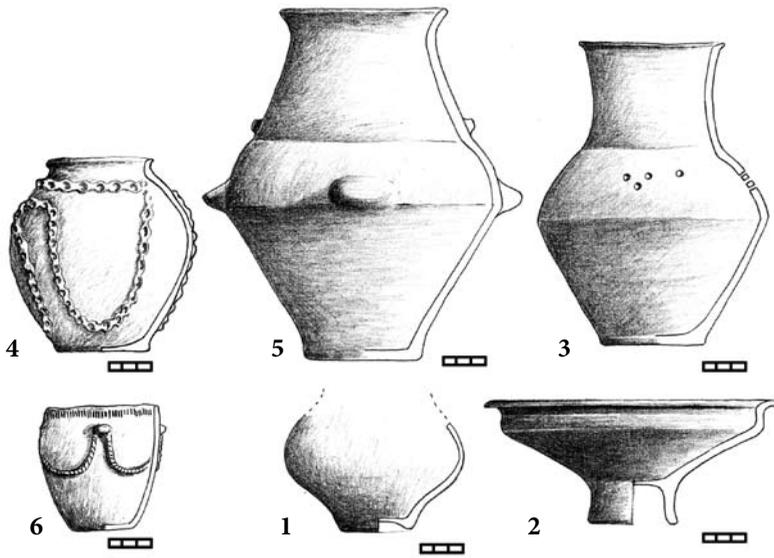


Fig. 7. Ceramic finds from the grave
(drawings: A. Kapuran)

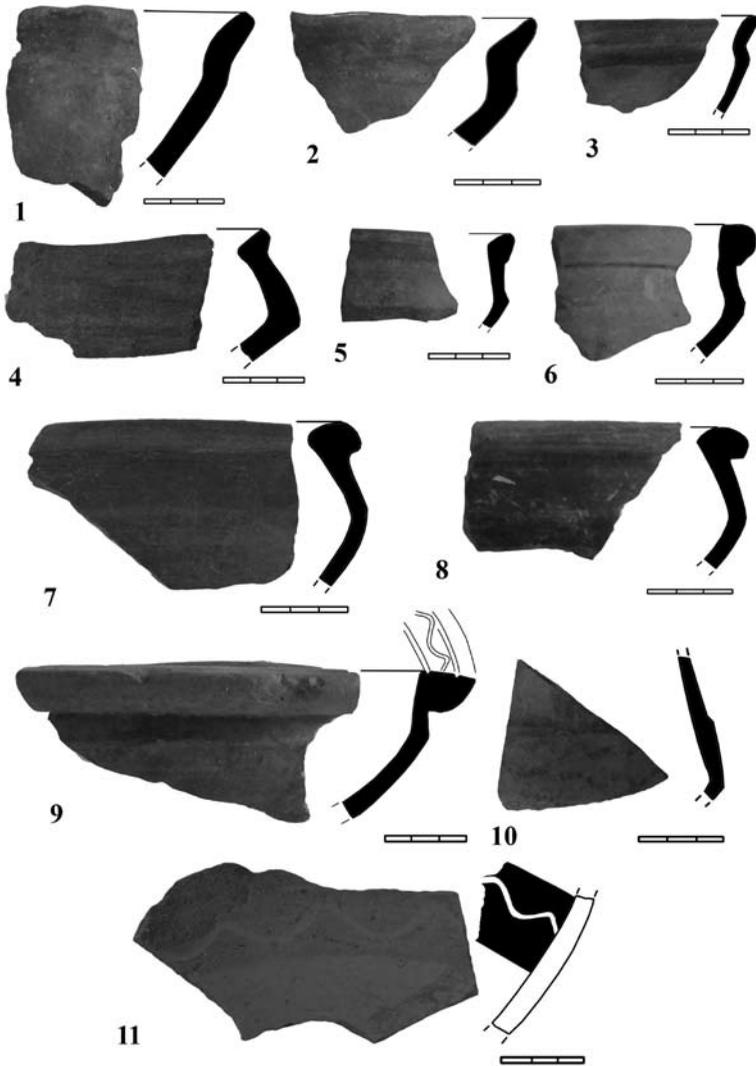


Fig. 8. Late Iron Age ceramic
(photos and drawings: A. Kapuran)

Investigations on the Gilding Technology of Antique Ceramics from *Apollonia Pontica*

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 39-53

Daniela CHERNEVA

Abstract: More than 90 pottery vessels which belong to the “Kerch-Style” vases were found during the archaeological investigations of the ancient *Apollonia Pontica* (the present-day Sozopol in Bulgaria), and were dated to the middle of the 4th century BC according to their production technique. These were pottery vessels of classical shapes made of washed clay. They were defined as red-figure pottery with black gloss coating. Many of them were decorated with relief in “barbotine” technique. The rich decoration and partial gilding could be considered as a variety of the red-figure Greek pottery known from earlier periods. The gilding of the selected zones had been done by a plating of 22-karat native gold – a gold foil of thickness 1.5-8 µm. The studies and analyses made on the archaeological material available proved that glair was used as adhesive for the foil. In most of the cases, red under drawings were used for gilding the relief ornaments – the said underdrawings are observed as a very thin azure layer applied on the red clay. Extract of madder – alizarin (detected as one of the ingredients of the glue) was used for red-dyeing. By many of the artifacts the red color of the underdrawings is due to slip enriched with iron-oxide pigments, which is applied before firing.

The vessels that the gold foil was directly adhered to the kaolin coating or poliment (a natural pigment layer with water-soluble glue used as a binder) were less in number. In this case, the type of the glues used was not proved. Presumably, the glue was a water-based one, such as bone-glue solution, fish-glue or gum, as well as glair. As a whole, the achieved results confirm the information provided by the ancient literary sources.

Key words: gilding of ceramics / artifacts from *Apollonia Pontica*; technology of gilding / ancient gilded pottery

The archaeological investigations of the necropolis belonging to ancient settlement of *Apollonia Pontica* (the present-day city of Sozopol, Bulgaria) during the past 15 years have been led by Assoc. Prof. Krastina Panayotova from the National Archaeological Institute with Museum at Sofia and Dimitar Nedev – Director of the Archaeological museum of Sozopol. A number of ceramic artifacts with polychromic decoration and gilding were found during these investigations. They were mainly *lekythoi*, *oinochoai*, *pelikai*, *hydriai*, ceramic beads for jewelry and accessories, and they were classified as red-figure Attic pottery of the type “Kerch-style” vases¹.

¹ It was named after Kerch in Crimea, on the site of the ancient city of *Pantikapaion*, where many such ceramic vessels were found. They were export commodity from Athens for grain barter (Weiß 1991).



Fig. 1. Red-figure *lekythos* with polychrome decoration and gilding. Regulated land plot # 5172, grave # 4 / 2007 (photo K. Georgiev)

Vier interessante antike Münzen aus der Befestigung beim Dorf Slivarovo, Gemeinde Malko Tärново, Südost-Bulgarien

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 55-58

Vladimir PENTSCHEV

Gegenstand der vorliegenden Publikation sind vier interessante antike Münzen, die im Sommer des Jahres 2011 während der archäologischen Ausgrabungen im Ort "Kladarsko gradište" in der Gemarkung des Dorfes Slivarovo, Gemeinde Malko Tärново, entdeckt wurden. Dank der Liebenswürdigkeit des wissenschaftlichen Leiters dieser Ausgrabungen¹, Herrn Dr. L. Vagalinski aus dem Nationalen Archäologischen Institut mit Museum an der Bulgarischen Akademie der Wissenschaften Sofia, bekamen wir die Möglichkeit, diese numismatischen Materialien zu erforschen und zur Veröffentlichung vorzubereiten. Dafür sei ihm herzlich gedankt.

1. THRAKISCHE NACHAHMUNG EINER BRONZEMÜNZE VON MARONEIA AUS DER I. PERIODE DER MÜNZPRÄGUNG DER STADT (4. JH.V.CHR.)

Avers: Grobe und schematische Darstellung eines Pferdes nach rechts, auf vier Beinen stehend. Der Körper ist als Zylinder dargestellt, Hals und Kopf sind unnatürlich verlängert. Es fehlt ein Monogramm unter dem Bauch des Pferdes.

Revers: Sehr schematische Darstellung eines Weinstocks im quadratischen Rahmen. Ringsum teilweise geprägte, grob ausgeschriebene buchstabenähnliche Zeichen, welche die Inschrift ersetzen.

Bronze. Halb verrieben. Durchmesser 12-13 mm. Gewicht 2.47 g (Abb. 1).

Die Bronzemünzprägung der Stadt *Maroneia* (I. Periode) wird im Großen und Ganzen in die erste Hälfte des 4. Jhs.v.Chr. datiert, genauer zwischen den Jahren 398/397–348/347 v.Chr. (Schönert-Geiss 1987, 170-180). Es wurde auch die Hypothese geäußert, dass das Ende dieser Münzprägung um das Jahr 341 v.Chr. gesucht werden muss (Юпкова 1965, 124). Wie die Einzel- und Münzschatzfunde zeigen, kommen die Bronzemünzen von *Maroneia* (I. Periode) in beträchtlicher Anzahl sowohl in den heutigen südöstlichen bulgarischen Territorien als auch allgemein in Südostthrakien vor (Юпкова 1965, 125). Als die Stadt *Maroneia* infolge der mazedonischen Invasion ihre autonome Münzprägung einstellte, begannen die in diesem Gebiet angesiedelten Thraker Imitationen der Bronzemünzen der Stadt anzufertigen, um den Bedürfnissen des lokalen Geldumlaufs zu entsprechen. Diese thrakischen Nachahmungen zeichnen sich durch den groben und schematischen Stil der Darstellungen, durch das Fehlen von Inschriften oder das Ersetzen der Inschriften durch buchstabenähnli



Abb. 1

¹ Zu den archäologischen Ergebnissen auf dieser antiken und mittelalterlichen Befestigung siehe Вaгaлински et al. 2011; 2012.

Contribution to the Study of the Danubian Horsemen Cult: Iconographic Syncretism of the Danubian Goddess and Celtic Fertility Deities

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 59-72

Bojana PLEMIĆ

¹ On the one hand, the monuments of this cult were found largely in the mentioned provinces and in lesser numbers in *Dalmatia* (12 pcs.), *Noricum* (1 pc.) and *Thracia* (2 pcs.). On the other hand, the results of the most recent research claim that apart from the *Pannonia* region, the frequency of the finds is higher in Upper Moesia, especially in the areas of *Singidunum* and *Viminacium*. See: Поповић 1992; Tudor 1976, 52; Зотовић 2001.

² Romanian scholar T. Antonescu (1889) compiled a corpus of the monuments of the cult, which had been discovered by his time, linking them to the Cabiri. At a later stage E. Nowotny (1896, 206) accepted this reasoning stating that it was a question of either Cabiri or Dioscuri. Some critical review of this interpretation was given in more recent literature by M. Tatcheva (2000).

³ Tudor (1976, 50, 94) based his opinion on the frequency of the finds of the monuments he classified as Class A, images that showed only one horseman with the goddess and were created according to the iconographic patterns of the Thracian horseman, which he considered to be chronologically the oldest. They were found in their largest numbers in the Roman province of *Dacia*.

⁴ Lj. Zotović in 1975 for the first time expressed her opinion that the goddess could be a solar deity, Luna, a central figure of the cult in which the horsemen were subordinate to her. At a later stage she developed this hypothesis, suggesting that the new religion was created under the influence of Mithraism, i.e. as an expression of the same solar theology. Since in Mithraism women were not allowed to participate in mystery rites, the new religion with a central female deity was to attract, among others, many women as devotees in the eastern provinces of the Empire, thereby becoming a counterpart to the growing religion of Christianity (Зотовић 2001, 176-177; 1998; 1978; 1975, 41).

Within the territory of the so called Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire – *Dacia*, *Moesia* and *Pannonia* – there can be found a large number of archaeological artifacts belonging to a syncretistic or mystical cult¹. These are mostly stone reliefs and small lead plaques without almost any trace of epigraphic evidence or votive inscriptions that could reveal more information about the deities in question, including their names. This, as well as the fact that for most of those artifacts we have no knowledge about the context of the finds, hampered attempts to understand their very complex iconographic and theological content that has intrigued many researchers since the second half of 19th century (Tudor 1976, 49-51).

The main element of this complex cult, since among various iconographic versions of these monuments it appears as a constant, is the representation of the cult's central figures, showing one or two horsemen approaching a goddess. Considering the portraits of these horsemen, whom some of the relevant authorities denote as Cabiri (Dioscuri)² or Thracio-Mithraic riders (Mladenova 1984; 1958), the cult was finally named the "Danubian horsemen". This was based on D. Tudor's belief that the cult had a local character within the territories of the middle and lower Danube basin, originating in the province of *Dacia*³. Opposing his view was an interpretation claiming that the central deity of this cult was a goddess while the horsemen were her subjects. According to that opinion, since her character could be seen as resulting from solar theology, the name of the cult could be changed to the Cult of the Lunar Goddess⁴.

In this paper, however, we shall not delve further into interpreting the cult's name, nor perform the iconographic analysis of the composition of these icons. It is our intention to bring to light one of its rather neglected artistic aspects that, in our opinion, was of significant importance for the formation of the iconic imagery. We shall be considering the portraits of Epona (and Celtic fertility goddesses, in general) whose influence can be found in the monuments that, according to Tudor's typology (1976, 94), belong to Class B, showing a goddess surrounded by two horsemen. Actually, this idea had been emphasized by some earlier researchers but abandoned at a later stage or treated just as one of the possible analogies in the goddesses' image, expressing its predominantly syncretistic character. We, however, believe that its presence was not of an accidental nature but occurred as a consequence of the natural evolution of the cult that has accordingly assumed specific iconography.



Fig. 5. Lead icon of the Danubian horsemen; Belgrade City Museum, Belgrade

Late Medieval Coat of Plates from the Lower Danube Fortress of Nikopol

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 1 (2013), 0-0

Deyan RABOVYANOV / Vladimir NAIDENOV

Fragments of armament constitute a small part of all the finds from the centres of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396). Finding larger pieces of defensive armour during an excavation is unlikely, but one such find is the subject of this article. The plates found in the Nikopol fortress belonged to a coat of plates and are only the second artifact of their kind, after the ones found in the royal palace of the Tzarevets, Veliko Tarnovo (Рабовянов / Димитров 2010). Of a great significance are the similar find locations of the two artifacts¹.

The remains of the Nikopol armour were found during the excavation of one of the most important fortresses north of the Balkan Mountains. Since the fortress of Nikopol became the capital of Bulgaria for a short while (until 1395) after the conquering of Tarnovgrad in 1393 the name of the fortress was chosen for the new Turkish administrative unit.

It is particularly interesting that armour from Nikopol has not been published. Though it has long been displayed in the Regional History Museum of Pleven it has remained relatively unknown.

LOCATION AND INITIAL INTERPRETATION

The plates were found during the excavations of Nikopol in 1973, under the leadership of Ekaterina Manova – that time an assistant at the Archaeological Institute with Museum in Sofia. The lack of documentation on the area and the provenience strongly hinders the object's study². Judging by the description in the report and the information in the Aerial Inventory book we can assume that the plates were found along with stone balls-trebuchet missiles (97 pieces of them) and numerous iron nails, brackets, and coatings at the edge of a considerably-sized room attached to the south-eastern wall of the fortress (Манова 1973). They were found at a depth of 110 cm and in square XXXVII4 (fig. 1). The layer in which they were found and the surrounding finds should belong to the period of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The artifact's find location makes its attribution to Late Antiquity or the Ottoman period doubtful. Especially significant is the expert's observation that the building or at least the explored ground floor was used as an arsenal. E. Manova attributes the military nature of the building to the presumable entrance towards the plateau, which had to be guarded (Манова 1973).

Having in mind the nature of the finds we can assume that the building had a storage function. The armour found at the Royal palace

¹ Both were found in store rooms in big administrative and military ensembles of the Second Bulgarian kingdom – the Fortress of Nikopol and the royal palace in Tarnovgrad.

² In the scientific archive of the Regional Museum of History – Pleven were deposited just the Aerial Inventory book and the report of the excavations executed in 1973 (Манова 1973). Neither the Aerial diary of the excavations, nor the photos and sketches giving out the exact situation and appearance of the armour's plates were deposited.

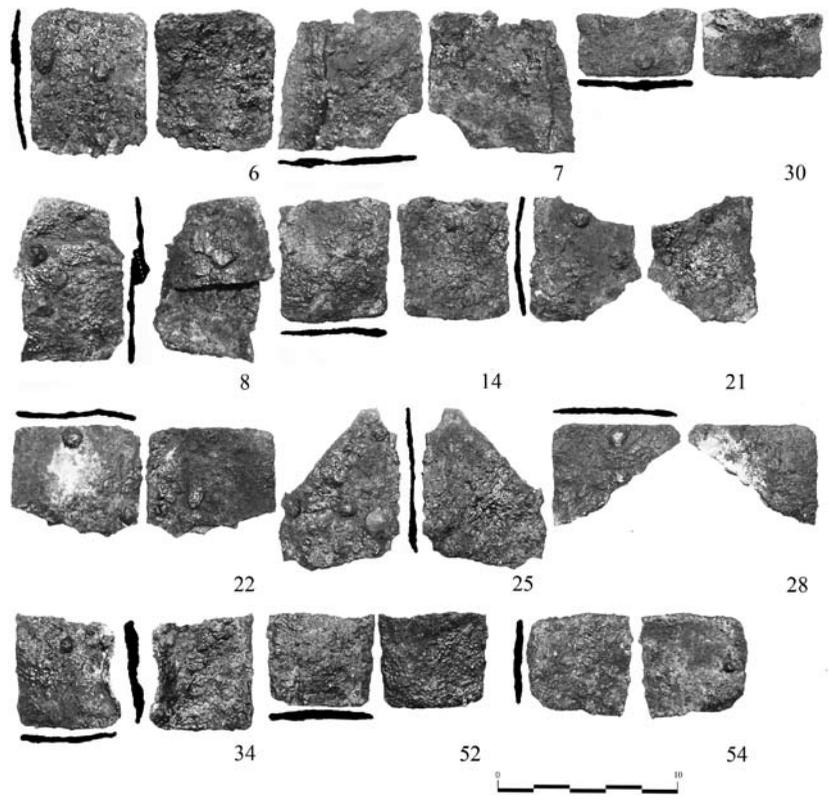


Fig. 4. Plates from the II group, numbers 6, 7, 8, 14, 21, 22, 25, 28, 30, 34, 52, 54

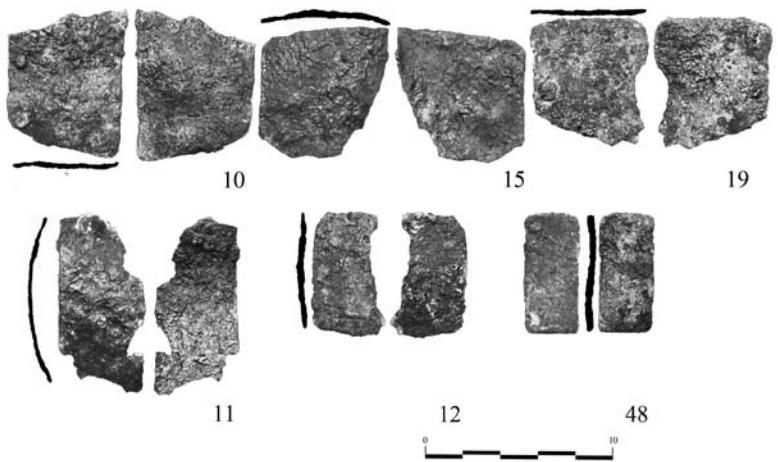


Fig. 5. Plates from the III group, numbers 10, 15, 19, and plates from group IV, numbers 11, 12, 48

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 89-95

V. F. STOLBA / E. ROGOV. *Panskoye I. Volume 2: The Necropolis.* Aarhus University Press, 2012, 414 pp., 78 Pls.

The necropolis of Panskoye I in Northwestern Crimea, in the “distant *chora*” of *Chersonesos Taurica*, was excavated between 1969 and 1986 and for a long time was known to scholars only through preliminary reports and valuable presentations of some of the materials (e.g. Моныхов / Рогов 1990a; 1990b; Rogov 2000). It is welcome, therefore, to see a full and detailed publication of this important and well-preserved monument that appears to shed light not only on the funerary practices, but also on the general historical development of the region and the contacts between Greeks and natives in the rural periphery of the Northern Pontic poleis. This monograph on the necropolis of Panskoye I appears as a second volume in the series “Panskoye I”, the first one being dedicated to monumental building U6 (or a “collective farmstead”, as it has been termed in Russian and Ukrainian publications) in the settlement (Hannestad et al. 2002).

The delayed appearance of the present monograph could be explained by the untimely death of E. Rogov in 2001. It is largely based on his preparatory files and three of the eight chapters of the book are signed by both V. Stolba and E. Rogov. This is the third of three major works dedicated to the necropolis of Panskoye I, published within the last three years. In 2011, a monograph in Russian was published, under the authorship of the late E. Rogov (Рогов 2011)¹, and in the preceding year the dissertation of J. H. Petersen appeared, with an extensive chapter dedicated to Panskoye I (Petersen 2010, 155-197).

The main bulk of the book consists of exhaustive burial descriptions and equally detailed catalogues of objects from the burials. Both are copiously illustrated and very useful for scholars in various fields, including those who examine burial rites, amphorae, pottery etc. The comments in the present review will be limited mostly to the analytical chapters.

The necropolis is associated with a large settlement on the shore of Lake Panskoye and occupies some 3.5 ha to the north of it. Thirty-three tumuli, most with stone crepis walls, and fifty-eight flat graves were excavated, comprising a total of 151 burials (the tumuli contained several burials each), individual and multiple (successive, mostly double, but some containing up to four skeletons); part of the cemetery was disturbed by agricultural activities and looters.

This combination of tumuli and flat graves is one of the distinctive features of the necropolis that allows for some interesting observations. The authors point to parallels at other (Greek) necropoleis in the Northwestern Pontic area (*Olbia* and rural necropoleis in its surroundings, but also *Histria* and *Orgame* on the Thracian shores of the Black Sea) and the *Bosporos*, and state that this combination is “confined to the borderlands between two cultural areas – the Greek and the Scythian/Thracian”, and is atypical for both *Scythia* proper and the Mediterranean (p. 67-68).

In Panskoye I, tumuli and flat graves coexisted from the first period onward, 410-390/80 BC (p. 62-63), which, according to Petersen, is earlier than in *Olbia* and could be explained by the rural setting and

¹ While working on the present review, I did not have access to this book.

REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA
XVII, 2 (2013), 97-98

**Nina HRISTOVA / Hans-Joachim HOEFT /
Gospodin JEKOV. The Coins of Moesia Inferior
1st – 3rd c. AD. Nicopolis ad Istrum. Southwestern
University “Neofit Rilski” Press. Blagoevgrad, 2012,
483 pp.**

The corpus of the coins from *Nicopolis ad Istrum*, remarkable for its size, was issued early in the autumn. This is the third of the thirteen volumes planned by the authors as two series named The Coins of Moesia Inferior 1st – 3rd c. AD and The coinage of Thrace 1st – 3rd c. AD. Within these series, the corpora representing the coinage of *Dionysopolis*, *Marcianopolis*, *Serdica* and *Nicopolis ad Nestum* have already been published. The new volume is actually a supplemented and revised work, in English, of the two Bulgarian editions under the same title, issued a few years ago. The authors of the corpus Nina Hristova, Hans-Joachim Hoeft and Gospodin Jekov have collected more than 1 000 types of coins, struck in the town, covering a period from the reign of Emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) up to that of Emperor Gordian III (238-244). A few dozens exemplars, which belong to the pseudo-autonomous coinage of the town, synchronous with that of the imperial coins, are also included.

The impressive coin material is presented in tables; the coins are arranged chronologically. An exception is made for the pseudo-autonomous exemplars, whose date of issue can not be established with certainty; therefore, they are presented at the beginning of the catalogue. Each of the coin types is illustrated with a black and white image at a scale of 1:1, followed by images of the variants known to the authors, variants, which most often reflect the change of matrices used for a specific emission. When necessary (for small denominations), their images are represented at scale of 2:1, which is always correctly indicated. Everywhere, the obligatory characteristics of the different coin types are pointed out: both dimensions and weights, which in itself is a significant contribution compared to the works of earlier authors, who worked on the subject¹.

For a better orientation in dealing with the catalogue, its introduction should be read most carefully; it contains the methodical guidelines on which the catalogue classification, in this case subjected to the decimal system, is based. The latter allows correct citation of the coins. This would, unfortunately, hamper many of the scholars who had previously worked with the series, because of the different, constantly supplemented editions of the corpus (already three in number) and the various smaller issues. It is this innovative arrangement, however, that contributes to the ease with which the classification might be amended in the future. The classification is uniform for the volumes already published, but also for the planned editions of the aforementioned series. The authors contribute to the enrichment of our knowledge by numerically comparing each represented type from *Nicopolis ad Istrum* with the two other corpora used to date – those of Behrendt Pick from 1898 (P.B.) and of Nikola Mushmov from 1912 (H.M.). The comparison indicates that sixty types of coins, unknown until now, occur in the new corpus.

Actually, the efforts of the authors to achieve absolute completeness in the catalogue have led them into a serious error. It concerns the at

¹ Behrendt Pick indicates only the weights of the exemplars he describes, while N. Mushmov gives neither their weights nor their diameters.