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АНТРОПОМОРФНАЯ ПОДВЕСКА ИЗ СОБРАНИЯ ХЕРСОНСКОГО ОБЛАСТНОГО КРАЕВЕДЧЕСКОГО МУЗЕЯ¹

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ABSTRACT

The paper presents an unpublished anthropomorphic pendant found in the early 20th c. in the Lower Dnieper area and now kept in the depot of the Kherson Regional Local Lore Museum. The pendant is made out of metal, probably bronze, and is in the shape of a stylized human figure. In order to establish its chronology and possibly give an interpretation about its function and eventually relation to a certain ethnic group, the authors take into consideration all other similar finds from the North Caucasus, the Crimea, the Sea of Azov, the Lower Don and Volga areas. Most of these items were found in tombs and burials as part of the grave goods. Based on them, the anthropomorphic pendant under discussion could be dated to the 4th – 7th c.

Key words: Alans, end of the 4th – 7th c., Early Middle Ages, Black Sea Region

Вступление

В 2020 г. Херсонский областной краеведческий музей отмечает 130 лет с момента основания в качестве Археологического музея по инициативе будущего директора учреждения В. И. Гошкевича (Былова 1993).

В 1900 или 1905 г. в Губернскую ученую архивную комиссию поступила антропоморфная подвеска (обр. 1, обр. 2), которая была обнаружена в Нижнеднепровских песках (Алешковские пески), на левом берегу Днепра. Позднее находка была передана музеем и с тех пор она стала одним из наиболее интересных экспонатов. Поскольку подвеска не была опубликована, именно ей посвящена данная работа.

Изучение подобных украшений является важным для понимания этнокультурных, миграционных, религиозных или торгово-обменных отношений в Северном Причерноморье на финале позднеримского времени и в раннем средневековье.

Антропоморфная фигурка с ушком с обратной стороны представляет из себя стилизованную фигурку человека (обр. 1, обр. 2). Она имеет каплевидную голову с шапкой, которая отделена от лица двумя врезными параллельными линиями. На лице виден стилизованный выступ носа и небольшие углубления на месте рта и глаз. Фигурка имеет тонкую шею, прямоугольные плечи, прямые руки с выделенными кистями с насечками, прямое туловище, стилизованные ноги, согну-

¹ Работа выполнена одним из авторов в рамках общего проекта Болгарской Академии наук и Национальной академией наук Украины „Восточноевропейская степь и Нижний Дунай в VII – XI веках (Тренсеры народов, идей, технологий)“.

тые в коленях, выделенные стопы, развернутые в противоположные стороны. Руки соединены с ногами в районе колен. Между ногами находится третья прямая нога (гиперболизированный фаллос), соединенная с другими ногами в районе стоп дуговидными выступами. На плечах нанесены врезные линии (следы повреждений?). Кисти украшены перпендикулярными врезными линиями. Обе боковые ноги имеют трещины. Подвеска цельнолитая, изготовлена из бронзы,² возможно, по восковой модели в глиняной формочке. Высота 6 см, ширина головки 1,2 см, ширина в плечах 2 см, ширина в районе кистей рук 2,4 см, ширина в районе стоп 2,4 см, толщина 0,2 см, толщина с петель 0,8 см, диаметр отверстия в петле 0,2 см. Инвентарные номер – ХЕМ-а-4211, КП-25323.

Фигурка принадлежит к черноморско-кавказским изделиям IV – VII ст. (Гавритухин 2004, 210). Типологии подобных украшений были предложены рядом исследователей – В. Б. Ковалевской (Ковалевская 1983; Ковалевская 1995), В. В. Кондрашиным (Кондрашин 1996), Г. И. Матвеевой (Матвеева 2004), З. Х. Албеговой (Албегова 2008) и М. И. Бажиним (Бажин 2018). Украшения представляют собой небольшие бронзовые или серебряные односторонние фигурки со средней высотой 4,5 + 0,19 см, шириной 1,8 + 0,1 см. Изображение мужское, обнаженное, фаллическое. Голова округлая или в коническом головном уборе. Черты лица отсутствуют или схематические. Плечи прямые, туловище вытянутое, прямоугольное. Линия ног повторяет линию рук. Ноги часто с выделенными ступнями. Ушко для подвешивания находится с обратной стороны (Ковалевская 1983, 44 – 45, обр. 1: 1 – 4; Шелов 1984, 242).



Обр. 1. Антропоморфная подвеска с петлей с обратной стороны из „Алешковских песков“ (Снимка: Я. В. Володарец-Урбанович)

Fig. 1. Anthropomorphic pendant with a loop on the back from „Oleshkovsky Piski“ (Photo: Ya. V. Volodarets-Urbanovich)

Каталог аналогий

Все находки довольно индивидуальны. Поэтому, при поиске аналогий, в качестве определяющего признака было использовано наличие трех ног³ – данные находки принадлежат к типу 1

² Спектральный анализ металла, из которого изготовлена находка, не производился. Определение проведено визуально.

³ Условия обнаружения и ссылки на источники см. в табл. 1.

К сожалению, не все находки иллюстрированы или детально описаны. Со временем этот каталог может быть существенно дополнен.

по В. Б. Ковалевской (Ковалевская 1983, 44), типу 1 по Г. И. Матвеевой (Матвеева 2004, 59 – 60), отделу 3, типу 1 по З. Х. Албеговой (Албегова 2008, 9) или типу III по М. И. Бажину (Бажин 2018, 150).

В Предкавказье подобные подвески выявлены на могильниках Лермонтовская Скала 2, погребение 13 (обр. 3: 1, обр. 4), Пашковский 1, погребение 20.8.1927 г. и погребение 3.1936 г. (обр. 3: 2, 3а, 3б), а также на речке Подсумок, разрушенная катакомба 1937 г. (обр. 3: 4), расположенная недалеко от Кисловодска.

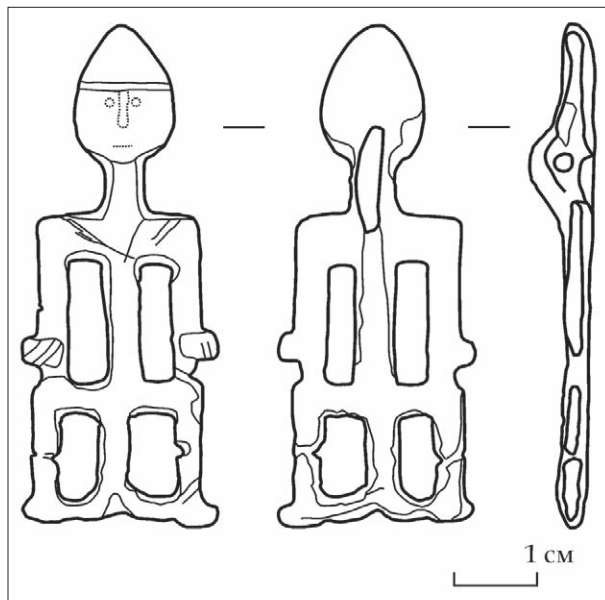
А. В. Мاستыкова датирует эти комплексы шиповским культурно-хронологическим периодом – между 430/470 – 530/570 гг. (Мастыкова 2009, 83; Мاستыкова и др. 2016, 81).

В Крыму подобные „трехногие“ подвески обнаружены в Айвазовском, отдельное погребение (обр. 3: 5а, 5б, обр. 5), Чуфут-Кале, склеп 118 (обр. 3: 6), Тиритаке (обр. 3: 7), Херсонесе (обр. 3: 8)⁴ и Карши-Баир I, склеп 5, погребение 2⁵ (обр. 3: 9, обр. 6).

Целая серия таких находок выявлена на Боспоре: детская земляная гробница из Глинища (обр. 3: 10), из разрушенного детского погребения на горе Митридат (обр. 3: 11), из погребения 5 склепа 78 1907 г. (обр. 3: 13, обр. 7) и склепа 52 1909 г. (обр. 3: 12а, 12б). Еще одна подвеска происходит из приобретений К. Е. Думберга (обр. 3: 14).

Часть находок из Крыма происходит из плохо задокументированных комплексов, что усложняет определение их датировки. А для некоторых погребений хронология дискуссионная.

Тем не менее, комплекс из Айвазовского принадлежит к периоду второй половины VII в., причем это единственное погребение Сивашовского круга с подобными находками (Баранов 1990, 19). Комплекс из Чуфут-Кале не опубликован, но сам склеп А. И. Айбабин датирует последней четвертью VII в. (Айбабин 1990, 58). Наиболее проблематичным является хронология склепа 5, погребения 2 из могильника Карши-Баир I. С предложенными датировками С. В. Ушакова (Ушаков 2010, табл. 3) (вторая половина V в.) сложно согласится, так как в погребении выявлена пряжка (или псевдопряжка), которая принадлежат к геральдическому кругу древностей (вторая половина VI – конец VII в.).



Обр. 2. Антропоморфная подвеска с петлей на обратной стороне из „Алешковских песков“ (Рисунок: Я. В. Володарец-Урбанович)

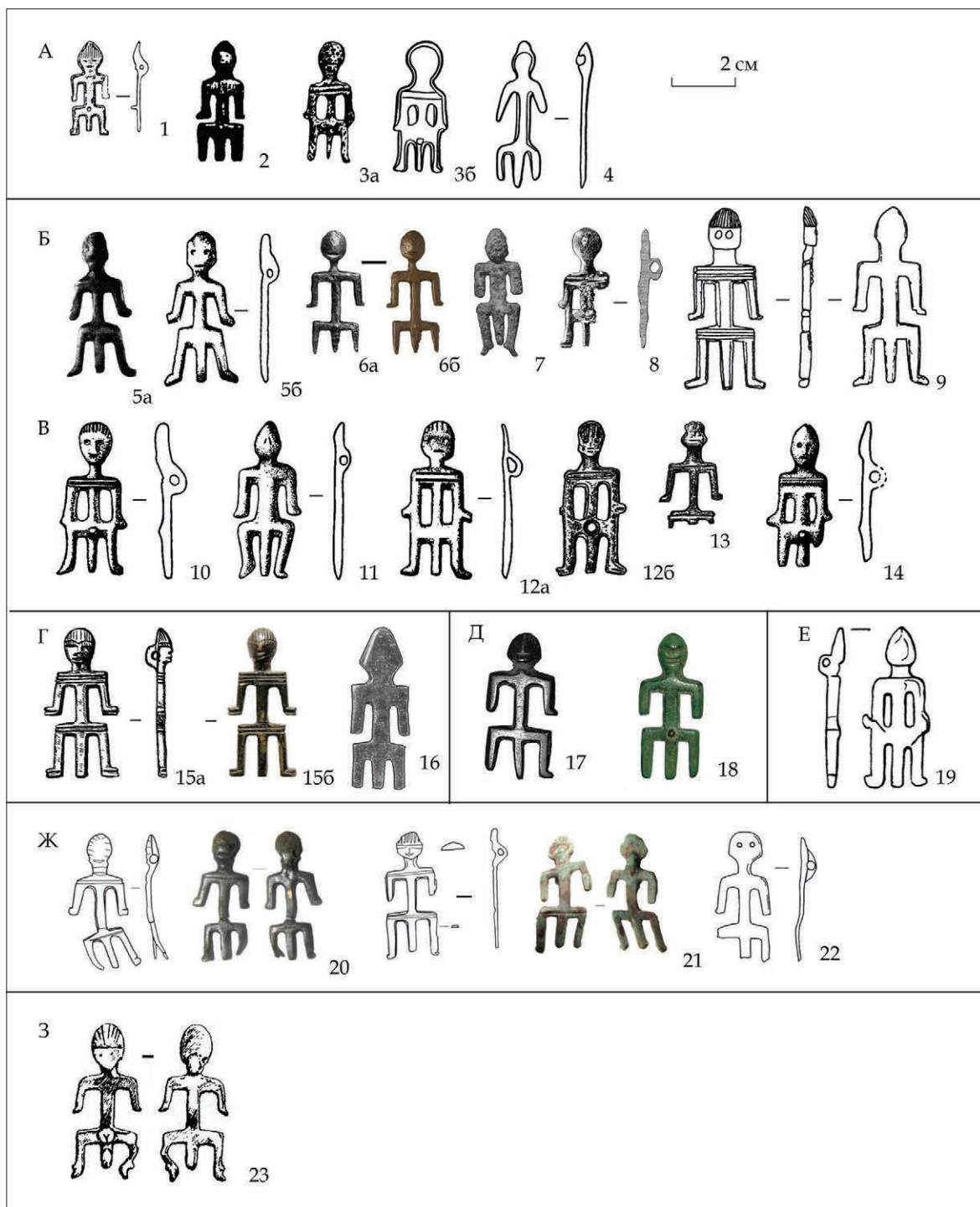
Fig. 2. Anthropomorphic pendant with a loop on the back from "Oleshkovsky Piski" (Drawing: Ya. V. Volodarets-Urbanovich)

К примеру, находка из Марынки описана лишь словесно. Аналогии М. Л. Швецова в качестве косы Бело-сарайской указывают на то, что находка может принадлежать в кругу „трехногих“ подвесок (Швецов 2009). Данное предположение подтверждает фото и рисунок, любезно предоставленные А. М. Обломским.

Остается не до конца понятны особенности двух утраченных амулетов из Кыз-аульского некрополя (Гайдукевич 1959; Шелов 1984, 245) и одной подвески из детской гробницы 1897 г. в Сюр-Таше (Шкорпил 1898, 10, 11), так как в публикациях отсутствуют рисунки, а описания не позволяют делать однозначных предположений об их особенностях.

⁴ Есть информация о еще одной находке антропоморфной подвески из Херсонеса, не относящейся к коллекции К. И. Ольшевского. Точный контекст, рисунки и фото отсутствуют.

⁵ У данной находки нет петли с обратной стороны.



Обр. 3. Находки антропоморфных фигурок с „тремя ногами“

- А. Предкавказье: 1. Лермонтовская Скала 2, погребение 13 (по Мاستыкова 2009, 82 – 83, обр. 87: 1); 2. Пашковский 1, погребение 3.1936 г. (по Мастыкова и др. 2016, 23, табл. 21: 10); 3а. Пашковский 1, погребение 20.8.1927 г. (по Покровский 1936, обр. 5); 3б. Пашковский 1, погребение 20.8.1927 г. (по Ковалевская 1983, 44, обр. 1: 1); 4. окрестности Кисловодска, р. Подсумок (по Ковалевская 1983, 44, обр. 1: 2);
- Б. Крым: 5а. Айвазовское (по Кругликова 1957, обр. 1: 3); 5б. Айвазовское (по Баранов 1990, обр. 6: 12); 6а. Чуфут-Кале, склеп 118 (по Кропоткин 1965, обр. 44: 6); 6б. Чуфут-Кале, склеп 118 (по <https://www.agefotostock.com/age/en/Stock-Images/Rights-Managed/FAI-13901>); 7. Тиритака (по Гайдукевич 1958, 172, обр. 27); 8. Херсонес (по V AC в Тифлисе... 1882, табл. VIII); 9. Карши-Баир I, склеп 5, погребение 2 (по Ушаков 2010, 96, обр. 74: 7);
- В. Боспор: 10. детская земляная гробница из Глинища 1909 г. (по Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 1); 11. разрушенное детское погребение на горе Митридат (по Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 2); 12а. склеп 52 (по Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 6); 12б. склеп 52 (по Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 5); 13. Боспор, катакомба 78, погребение 5 (по Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 6); 14. Боспор, случайная находка из приобретений К. Е. Думберга (по Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 4);
- Г. Побережье Азовского моря: 15а. коса Белосарайская (по Мihin 1972, 95, обр. 1); 15б. коса Белосарайская (по Тарасенко б/г, обр. 4.2: 2); 16. Танаис (по Шелов 1984, 241, обр. 1);
- Д. Нижнее течение р. Дон: 17. станция Нижнекундрюченская (по Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 5); 18. станция Филипповская (по Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 3);
- Е. Тамань: 19. Ильичевское городище (по Гавритухин, Паромов 2003, 153, табл. 61: 72);
- Ж. Верхнее течение р. Воронеж: 20 – 22. Стаево-5 (по Обломский, Масленников 2017, обр. 2: 11, 12; Обломский 2019, обр. 1);
- З. Среднее течение р. Волга: 23. Шелехметь (по Матвеева 2004, обр. 27: 1).

Fig. 3. Finds of anthropomorphic pendants with "three legs"

- A. North Caucasus: 1. Lermontovskaya Skala 2, grave 13 (after Мастыкова 2009, 82 – 83, обр. 87: 1); 2. Pashkovskiy 1, grave 3.1936 (after Мастыкова и др. 2016, 23, табл. 21: 10); 3а. Pashkovskiy 1, grave 20.8.1927 (after Покровский 1936, обр. 5); 3б. Pashkovskiy 1, grave 20.8.1927 (after Ковалевская 1983, 44, обр. 1: 1); 4. Kislovodsk area, Podsumok river (after Ковалевская 1983, 44, обр. 1: 2);
- B. Crimea: 5а. Ayvazovskoe (after Кругликова 1957, обр. 1: 3); 5б. Ayvazovskoe (after Баранов 1990, обр. 6: 12); 6а. Chufut-Kale, tomb 118 (after Кропоткин 1965, обр. 44: 6); 6б. Chufut-Kale, tomb 118 (after: <https://www.agefotostock.com/age/en/Stock-Images/Rights-Managed/FAI-13901>); 7. Tiritaka (after Гайдукевич 1958, 172, обр. 27); 8. Khersones (after V AC в Тифлисе... 1882, табл. VIII); 9. Karshi-Bair, tomb 5, grave 2 (after Ушаков 2010, 96, обр. 74: 7);
- C. Bosphorus: 10. child's earthen tomb from the Glinishcha in 1909 (after Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 1); 11. destroyed child's grave in Mount Mitridat (after Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 2); 12а. tomb 52 (after Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 6); 12б. tomb 52 (after Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 5); 13. Bosphorus, catacomb 78, grave 5 (after Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 6); 14. Bosphorus, an accidental find from the acquisitions of K. E. Dumberg (after Кругликова 1957, обр. 2: 4);
- D. Sea of Azov coast: 15а. Belosarayskaya kosa (after Mihin 1972, 95, обр. 1); 15б. Belosarayskaya kosa (after Тарасенко б/г, обр. 4.2: 2); 16. Tanais (after Шелов 1984, 241, обр. 1);
- E. The lower course of the river Don: 17. Nizhněkundryuchenskaya station (after Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 5); 18. Filippovskaya station (after Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 3);
- F. Taman: 19. Il'ichevskoe gorodishche (after Гавритухин, Паромов 2003, 153, табл. 61: 72);
- G. Upper course of the river Voronezh: 20 – 22. Staevo-5 (after Обломский, Масленников 2017, обр. 2: 11, 12; Обломский 2019, обр. 1);
- H. The middle course of the river Volga: 23. Shelekhmet' (after Матвеева 2004, обр. 27: 1).

Склеп 78 1907 г. из Керчи И. П. Засецкая датирует второй хронологической группой (вторая половина V – первая половина VI вв.) (Засецкая 2003, 37, 38), И. О. Гавритухин, М. М. Казанский и А. В. Мастыкова – первой половиной VI в. (Гавритухин, Казанский 2006, 304; Мастыкова 2009, 83).

В Приазовье подобные находки известны как на побережье Азовского моря – коса Белосарайская, недалеко от села Ялта Донецкой области (обр. 3: 15) и Танаис (обр. 3: 16), так и далее вглубь территорий – Марьинка.⁶

Далее, в нижнем течении р. Дон, аналогичные находки выявлены в окрестностях станицы Филипповской (обр. 3: 18) и Нижнекундрюченской (обр. 3: 17).

Из всех находок в этом микрорегионе лишь „танаиская“ имеет четкую дату – конец IV – первая половина/середина V в. – самая ранняя подвеска данного круга (Шелов 1984, 244; Обломский 2019, 215). Следует отметить, что население памятника в этот период было смешанным (Обломский 2010а, 180; Обломский 2010б).

На Тамани подобная находка представлена на Ильичевском городище (обр. 3: 19),⁷ которое также, как и Танаис, имеет довольно раннюю дату – V – середина/третья четверть VI в.

В верхнем течении р. Воронеж три подвески выявлены на поселении Стаево-5 (обр. 3: 20 – 22), которое существовало с конца V – третьей четверти VII в.

В Среднем Поволжье известна одна находка из окрестностей села Шелехметь (обр. 3: 23).

Историография

История исследований данных подвесок насчитывает более шестидесяти лет. Вопросы, связанные с изучением можно сгруппировать по нескольким направлениям: датировка, этническая принадлежность и регион, с которым можно связать эти находки, семантика изображения.

И. Т. Кругликова связала появление данных амулетов с гуннами и датировала их IV – началом V в. (Кругликова 1957, 257). Этой же точки зрения придерживался Б. Ю. Михин (Міхін 1972). Поэтому плоские амулеты в форме мужской фигурки некоторые исследователи стали именовать „гуннскими“ (Матвеева 2004, 59; Гарустович 2015, 58) или связывали с гуннами (Пятышева 1967, 186; Субботин, Черняков 1982, 164).

В. Ф. Гайдукевич считал, что бронзовые антропоморфные амулеты принадлежат алано-сарматам, откуда они проникают на Боспор (Гайдукевич 1958, 172).

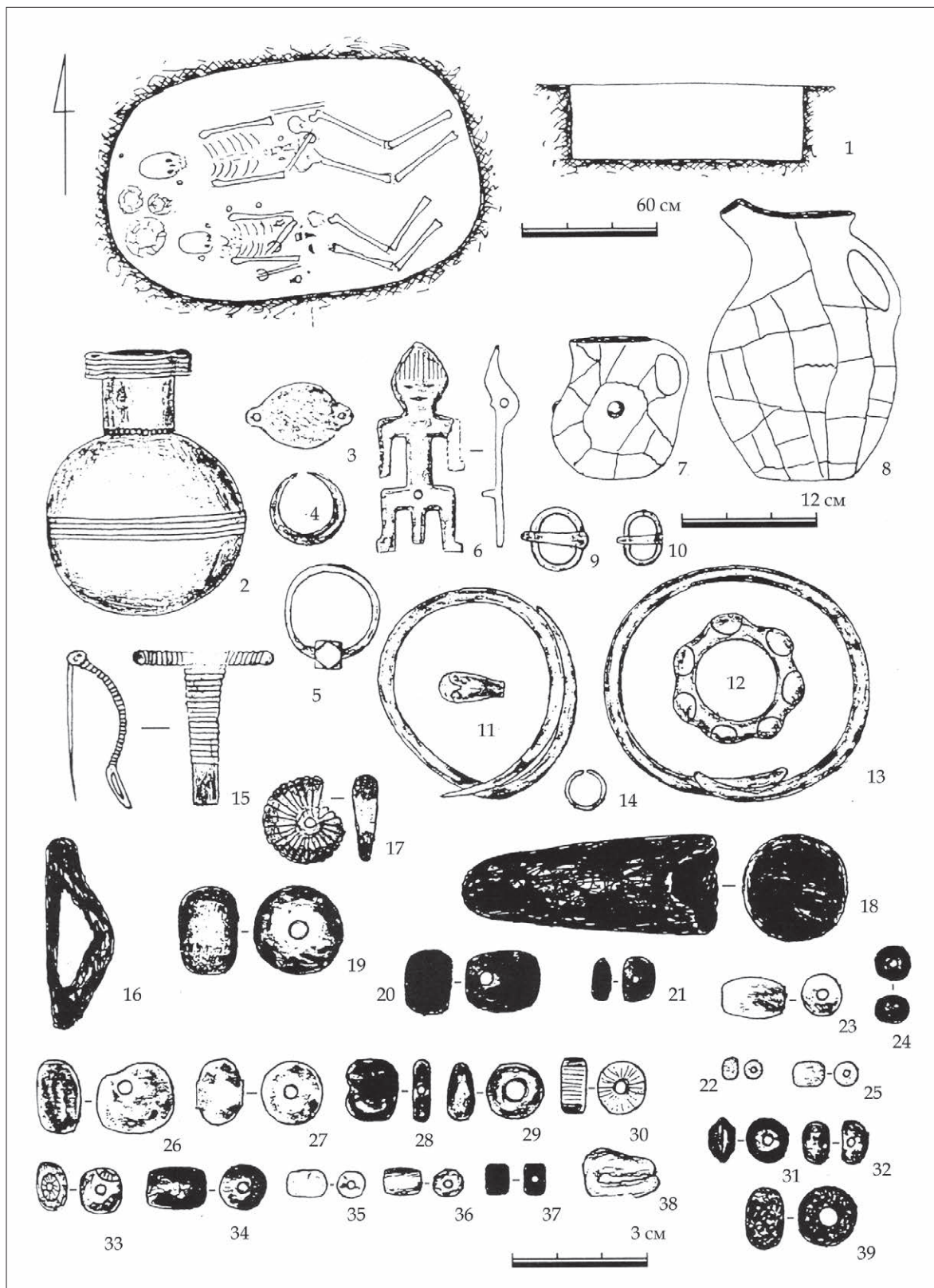
Д. Б. Шелов первоначально связал данные находки с гуннами (Шелов 1978, 87), но позже отказался от определения их как „гуннских“, указав, что больше оснований связать их появление с сармато-аланской этнической и культурной средой, хотя отстаивал их раннюю дату, на основании находок из Танаиса (Шелов 1984, 244).

В. Б. Ковалевская рассматривала подобные украшения в контексте антропоморфных амулетов северокавказских алан и указала на их алано-болгарскую принадлежность. Находки из Северного Кавказа исследовательница датировала VI – VII вв. (Ковалевская 1981, 87, обр. 64), отметив, что они более характерны для западного ареала аланской культуры. Поскольку большинство находок выявлено в погребениях детей или подростков (обычно у девочек), В. Б. Ковалевская связала их с погребальным обрядом, загробным супружеством или предшествующими этому обрядами инициации (Ковалевская 1983, 45 – 46; Ковалевская 1995, 142).

А. К. Амброз датировал подобные находки серединой – второй половиной VII в. (Ам-

⁶ По сообщению В. К. Гриба в северо-восточном Приазовье известны ещё две фигурки, найденные случайно. Третья фигурка относится к кругу „ушастиков“ (ладони приставлены к голове). Материалы готовятся к печати.

⁷ По сообщениям, на памятнике выявлено не менее пяти экземпляров. Опубликован лишь один (Гавритухин, Паромов 2003, 154).



Обр. 4. Лермонтовская Скала 2, погребение 13 (по Мاستыкова 2009, 234 – 235, табл. 145)

Fig. 4. Lermontovskaya Skala 2, grave 13 (after Мастыкова 2009, 234 – 235, табл. 145)

бронз 1989, 76, обр. 45; Амброс 1992, 84), его точку зрения поддержал И. В. Баранов (Баранов 1990, 19).

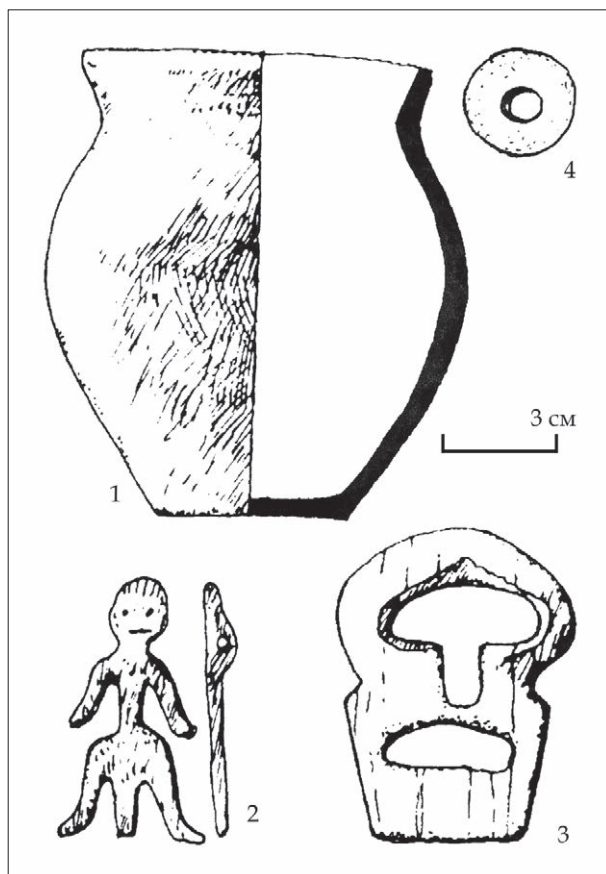
А. И. Айбабин датирует подобные находки второй половиной VII в. и связывает их с сармато-аланами (Айбабин 1990, 58).

Находки антропоморфных подвесок из Среднего Поволжья В. В. Кондрашин рассматривает в контексте турбаслинских племен, в культуре которых отмечается ряд других общих черт с культурой аланских племен Северного Кавказа (Кондрашин 1996, 51).

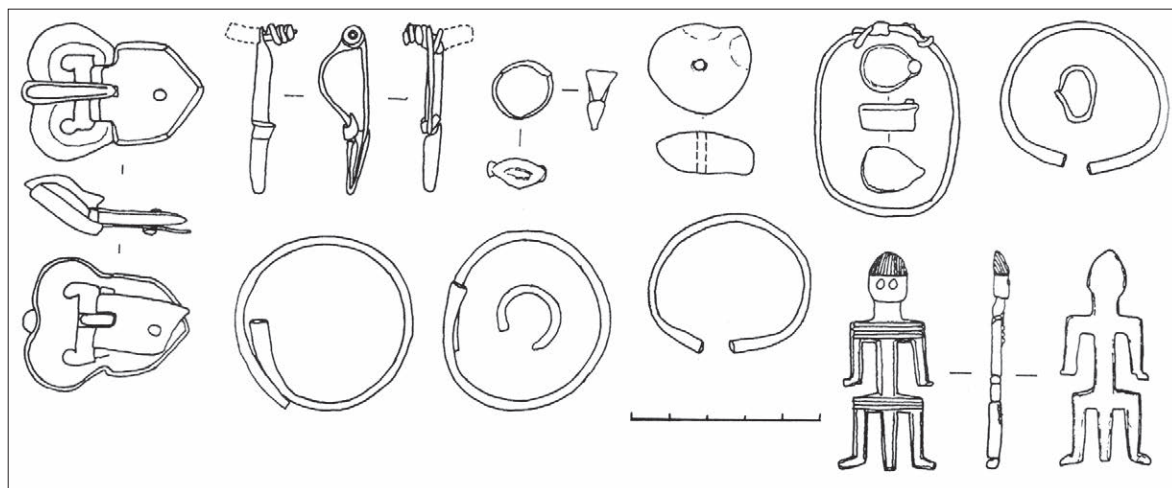
И. О. Гавритухин и А. В. Паромов считают, что подобные подвески следует связать с территорией Боспора, а не с Северным Кавказом, за счет большой концентрации таких украшений (Гавритухин, Паромов 2003, 154).

И. П. Засецкая, анализируя материалы Боспорского некрополя, относит антропоморфные фаллические амулеты ко второй хронологической группе Древностей, которую датирует второй половиной V – первой половиной VI вв. (Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 5 – 7).

А. М. Новичихин считает, что подобные находки происходят от скульптурных подвесок с выраженными мужскими признаками, распространенными в Северном Причерноморье, в том числе на Боспоре, в I – III вв. А сами амулеты раннего сред-



Обр. 5. Айвазовское (по Рашев 2004, 17, табл. 11: 14 – 17)
Fig. 5. Ayvazovskoe (after Rachev 2004, 17, табл. 11: 14 – 17)



Обр. 6. Карши-Баир I, склеп 5, погребение 2 (по Ушаков 2010, обр. 74)
Fig. 6. Karshi-Bair, tomb 5, grave 2 (after Ushakov 2010, обр. 74)

невскова не несут четкой этнической информации, а отражают какую-то сторону духовного мира, общую для разных народов, населяющих в позднеантичный и ранне-средневековый период северо-причерноморский регион. Находки таких подвесок на городищах (Танаис, Ильичевское городище), по мнению А. М. Новичихина, может исключать их атрибуцию как предметов погребального обряда (Новичихин 2007, 59).

З. Х. Албегова считает, что время бытования таких амулетов может иметь и более раннюю дату, на основании находки из городища Зилги, время расцвета которого приходится на II – IV вв. В вопросе этнической принадлежности данных украшений исследовательница отмечает, что они широко распространены во времени и территории (Албегова 2008, 9).

Е. В. Вдовченков считает, что из всех трех версий происхождения подобных амулетов (гуннская, кавказская, сармато-аланская) более правдоподобной является „иранская“ – связь амулетов и изображений с сармато-аланским миром накануне и в эпоху Великого переселения народов (Вдовченков 2010а, 107 – 108; Вдовченков 2010б, 137 – 138; Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56). Первоначально, по мнению исследователя, такие амулеты зародились в Приаралье, откуда они проникают в Восточную Европу – сначала в Крым, а потом на Кавказ, где получают широкое распространение и эволюционируют в новые варианты (Вдовченков 2010а, 106; Вдовченков 2010б, 136 – 137, 138). Рассматривая семантику данных подвесок, Е. В. Вдовченков пришел к заключению: они могут представлять собой разных мифологических персонажей, что подтверждается не только костюмом, но и анатомией (Вдовченков 2010а, 109). Хотя они явно связаны с культом плодородия и функционировали в качестве погребального инвентаря в среде иранцев (Вдовченков 2010б, 138).

С. В. Ушаков считает, что подобные изделия бытовали у сармато-аланов в VI – VII вв. (Ушаков 2010, 96).

А. В. Богачев подвески с петелькой связывает с некими личностными моментами жизни (и смерти) индивида, с этапами социального становления личности. Сама петелька как бы закрепляет амулет за конкретным человеком, „объединяя“ их неким конкретным механизмом.



Обр. 7. Боспор. Находки из погребения 5, склепа 78
(по Засецкая 1998, табл. XV)

Fig. 7. Bosphorus. Finds from tomb 78, grave 5 (after Засецкая 1998, табл. XV)



Обр. 8. Карта распространения антропоморфных фигурок с „тремя ногами“: 1. „Алешковские пески“; 2. Лермонтовская Скала; 3. Пашковский; 4. окрестности Кисловодска, р. Подсумок; 5. Айвазовское; 6. Чуфут-Кале; 7. Тиритака; 8. Херсонес; 9. Карши-Баир I; 10. Боспор; 11. коса Белосарайская; 12. Танаис; 13. Мар'инка; 14. станция Филипповская; 15. станция Нижнекундリュченская; 16. Ильичевское городище; 17. Стаево-5; 18. Шелехметь

Fig. 8. Distribution map of the anthropomorphic pendants with "three legs": 1. "Oleshkovsky Piski"; 2. Lermontovskaya Skala; 3. Pashkovskiy; 4. Kislovodsk area, Podsumok river; 5. Ayvazovskoe; 6. Chufut-Kale; 7. Tiritaka; 8. Khersones; 9. Karshi-Bair; 10. Bosporus; 11. Belosarayskaya kosa; 12. Tanais; 13. Mar'inka; 14. Filippovskaya station; 15. Nizhněkundryuchenskaya station; 16. Il'ichevskoe gorodishche; 17. Staev0-5; 18. Shelekhmet'

Появление этих украшений А. В. Богачев связал с сармато-аланами (Богачев 2011, 112 – 115, обр. 34: 2; Богачев 2016, 40).

В последнее время эти подвески исследовал А. М. Обломский в контексте находок из поселения Стаево-5, среди материалов которого преобладают украшения „южного“, керченского круга (Гавритухин, Обломский 2018). Исследователь собрал каталог находок, правда часть из них происходит из грабительских раскопок и не поддаются верификации. Также А. М. Обломский проанализировал хронологию и ареал, выделив микрорегионы концентрации (Обломский 2019).

Заключение

Находка из Алешковских песков из собрания Херсонского областного краеведческого музея, к сожалению, не имеет точного этнокультурного контекста и хронологии, т. к. происходит из случайных сборов. В данном районе известны разновременные памятники и комплексы IV – VII вв. (Ратнер 1984, 77 – 82; Ратнер, Костюк 1989). Фигурка принадлежит к черноморско-кавказским изделиям IV – VII ст. На сегодняшний день собран каталог аналогичных изделий, в который включена информация о 18 украшений – от Нижнего Днестра до среднего течения Волги. Значительная концентрация представлена на памятниках Крыма, Приазовья, низовья Дона, Тамани и Предкавказья. Подвеска из Алешковских песков является одной из самых западных (обр. 8) и попадает в этот регион. Она может отражать продвижение сармато-аланов в Нижнее Поднепровье. Приток небольших групп аланского населения в Поднепровье фиксируется с гуннского времени (Казанский, Мастыкова 1999) до рубежа VII – VIII вв. или начала VIII в. (Володарец-Урбанович 2016, 83). Возможно, ее следует связать с торгово-обменными или миграционными связями Нижнего Поднепровья и Боспора. В частности, в районе Надпорожья (выше по течению Днестра) известна серия фибул боспорского производства (Гавритухин 1997).

* * *

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Табл. 1. Находки антропоморфных подвесок с „тремя ногами“

№ на карте (обр. 8)	Памятник	Тип памятника	Тип комплекса	Датировка	Обр.	Литература
Низовье Днепра						
1.	Алешковские пески	–	случайная находка	–	1; 2	
Предкавказье						
2.	Лермонтовская Скала 2	могильник	погребение 13	430/470 – 530/570 гг.	3: 1; 4	Мастыкова 2009, 82 – 83, обр. 87, 1, табл. 145: 6
3.	Пашковский 1	могильник	погребение 20.8.1927 г.	430/470 – 530/570 гг.	3: 2	Покровский 1936, 159 – 169; Ковалевская 1983, 103 – 107; Ковалевская 1984
3.	Пашковский 1	могильник	погребение 3.1936 г.	430/470 – 530/570 гг.	3: 3а, 3б	Покровский 1936, 159 – 169; Ковалевская 1983, 103 – 107; Ковалевская 1984
4.	на речке Подсумок	могильник	разрушенная катакомба 1937 г.	–	3: 4	Ковалевская 1983, 44 – 45, обр. 1
Крым						
5.	Айвазовское	отдельное погребение (?)	детское погребение	вторая половина VII в.	3: 5а, 5б; 5	Кругликова 1957, 254 – 257, обр. 1: 3; Баранов 1990, 18 – 19; Рашев 2004, 17, табл. 11: 14 – 17
6.	Чуфут-Кале	могильник	склеп 118	последняя четверть VII в.	3: 6	Кропоткин 1965, 108 – 115, обр. 44: 6
7.	Тиритака	город	–	–	3: 7	Гайдукевич 1958, 172, обр. 27
8.	Херсонес	город	–	–	3: 8	V AC в Тифлисе... 1882, табл. VIII
9.	Карши-Баир I	могильник	склеп 5, погребение 2	вторая половина V в. (?)	3: 9; 6	Ушаков 2010, 96, обр. 74: 7
10.	Боспор	могильник	детская земляная гробница из Глиница	–	3: 10	Шкорпил 1913, 31, примеч. 1; Кругликова 1957, 254
10.	Боспор	могильник	разрушенное детское погребение на горе Митридат	–	3: 11	Шкорпил 1898, 31; Кругликова 1957, 255

10.	Боспор	могильник	катакомба 52, 1909 г.	вторая половина V – первая половина VI в.	3: 12а, 12б	Шкорпил 1913, 19; Кругликова 1957, 255; Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 5
10.	Боспор	могильник	катакомба 78, погребение 5, 1907 г.	первая половина VI в.	3: 13; 7	Шкорпил 1913, 32 – 33; Засецкая 1998, 430, табл. XV: 6; Засецкая 2003, табл. 17: 6
10.	Боспор	–	случайная находка из приобретений К. Е. Думберга	–	3: 14	Кругликова 1957, 255
Приазовье						
11.	коса Белосарайская	–	случайная находка	–	3: 15	Міхін 1972, 95 – 96
12.	Танаис	город	постройка ДО	конец IV – первая половина V в.	3: 16	Шелов 1984, 241
13.	Марынка	–	–	–	–	Швецов 2009, 432
нижнее течение р. Дон						
14.	станция Филипповская	–	случайная находка	–	3: 18	Вдовченков 2013, 24; Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 3
15.	станция Нижнекундрюченская	–	случайная находка	–	3: 17	Вдовченков, Курасова 2019, 56, обр. 1: 5
Тамань						
16.	Ильичевское городище	город	культурный слой	V – середина/ третья четверть VI в.	3: 19	Гавритухин, Паромов 2003, 153, табл. 61: 72
верхнее течение р. Воронеж						
17.	Стаево-5	поселение	–	конец V – третья четверть VII в.	3: 20 – 22	Обломский, Маслениников 2017; Обломский 2019
среднее течение р. Волга						
18.	Шелехметь	–	случайная находка	–	3: 23	Матвеева 2004, 59, обр. 27: 1

ANTHROPOMORPHIC PENDANT FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE KHERSON REGIONAL LOCAL LORE MUSEUM

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SUMMARY

In this paper, we will discuss a bronze anthropomorphic pendant from the Lower Dnieper region – “Oleshkovsky Piski” locality. The find was uncovered at the beginning of the 20th c. and immediately transferred to the collection of the Kherson Regional Local Lore Museum.

The anthropomorphic pendant is a stylized human figure. There is a loop behind for suspension. It has a drop-shaped head with a hat. The face has a slightly visible stylized protrusion representing the nose, and small indentations in place of the mouth and eyes. The figure has a thin neck, a rectangular protrusion for the shoulders, straight arms with distinguishable tassel-like hands, and a straight torso. The stylized legs are bent at the knees, which have distinguishable feet pointing in opposite directions. The hands are connected to the legs at the knee area. Between the legs, there is a third straight protrusion (exaggerated phallus), connected to the legs in the area of the feet (fig. 1, fig. 2).

The find belongs to the end of the 4th – 7th c. and it relates to the products of the Black Sea and the Caucasus region, Kovalevska/type 1, small bronze or silver one-sided pendants (fig. 3). The depiction is male, nude and phallic. The head is rounded or with a cone-shaped headdress. Facial features are either absent or schematic. Shoulders are straight and body is elongated. The line of the legs repeats the line of the arms. The loop for hanging is on the back of the head. Similar finds have been discovered at sites in the North Caucasus, the Crimea, and on the coast of the Azov Sea (fig. 8).

Key words: Alans, end of the 4th – 7th c., Early Middle Ages, Black Sea Region

THE RISANO “CAPSULE” AND THE PRES LAV TREASURE

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ABSTRACT

The Risano capsule is a two-sided round cassette consisting of two cloisonné enamel plaques. It was discovered by Arthur Evans in Croatia at the end of the 19th c.

On one plaque is depicted a predatory animal with an open mouth and a protruding tongue, and on the other one there is a multi-leaf rosette.

With the first image the author has formed a typological order, which starts from a Central Asian silver vessel and ends, for example, with a similar image on the gold medallion (disc) discovered during excavations in Veliki Preslav. The animal on the capsule wears on his neck a simplified version of a necklace called “patif” in Sasanian Iran. The dog-headed griffin on one of the plaques from the Preslav treasure has a similar insignia, depicted in more detail.

The multi-leaf rosette from the other plaque is also part of a typological order, divided territorially into Central Asian and European, and it is difficult to perceive the chronological connection between them. On one of the enamel earrings from the Preslav treasure there is almost the same rosette, and on the wing of the eagle-headed griffin from the diadem from the same complex – its variant.

The article emphasizes on a direct connection between the Sasanian art arsenal and the patterns on Byzantine enamel jewelry from the 9th – 10th c. In its context, however, it asks as many questions as it offers answers.

Keywords: Risano, Preslav treasure, capsule, cassette, patif

The piece of this luxury jewel that is kept in the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford) was found during excavations in the late 19th c. in the Dalmatian town of Risano (Rhizon). In the scholarly literature it is called a “capsule” (Haseloff 1990, 22 – 23, 49, Abb. 25a – b; MacGregor 1997, No. 112.1; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 136 – 137, 385, Abb. 81a – b), but in the sense of the terminology I have adopted here, this is a “cassette” (fig. 1: 2, 3). It has a round shape and consists of two-sided enamel plaques connected by a narrow strip framed by beaded wire. The depictions on each side of the jewel are respectively a predatory animal and an intricate rosette. The animal is facing to the left and its right front leg is raised. Judging by the upright large ears and necklace, this is a dog with a long tongue with a large “drop” at the end protruding from its mouth. At the back, behind the ears, there are two semicircles, probably representing a mane. The tail is curved towards the back and also ends with a “drop”. The animal has a necklace on his chest with three large drop-shaped pendants at the front. His body is decorated with two circles – one on the side of the ribs, the other high on the hind thigh and below this circle there is something that resembles a muscle. Along the line of the chest and the abdomen there are three spiral coils of ribbon, similar to those used for the cloisonné enamel. The rosette is “double-layered”: the center consists of two concentric circles,

around which are arranged eight symmetrical leaves. At the back, between the sharp leaves, there are four other leaves with a convex fold in the middle in which are placed short drop-shaped leaves with tips pointing towards the fold.

The color of the enamels is very faded and without technological analysis is not very legible. Undoubtedly, the background behind the animal is dark blue, which is a rare case for enamel jewelry. The body appears to be green, the head (?), the ears, the nose, the hind right leg, the circles on the thigh and under the abdomen are red. The upper band of the collar, the two side drops of the patif, the circle on the ribs, the drop on the tip of the tail are white. The color of the middle drop of the patif and the upper lock of the mane is light blue. The background of the rosette is green, the leaves of the second layer are dark blue, the enamel of those from the first layer is now missing, as well as that of the inner circle. The outer circle is red.

On one side, the capsule has knuckles for a hinge and on the other side – there are three symmetrically soldered discs, through which a wire for a pearl string was undoubtedly pierced. The attempt for a digital reconstruction undoubtedly shows a general constructive and a partial morphological similarity with the pendants of the first necklace from the Preslav treasure (fig. 1: 1, 5, 6). The author's special attention to the capsule was drawn in the first place by the attempt to establish the period when the two-sided enamel plaques forming cassettes appeared, and later from the general relation of the item to the enamel jewels from the Preslav treasure.

A very similar type of cassette (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 384, Abb. 78a – b) is kept in the Benaki Museum (Athens) for which cloisonné and champlevé enamelling techniques were used to form the pattern (fig. 1: 9). Christ and the Holy Virgin are depicted on a gold background. Their faces have eyes with no pupils and there are no enamel eyebrows. On one side there is a loop for a wire holding a pearl string, on the other two opposite sides there are knuckles for a hinge, the same as the ones on the Risano “capsule” and the necklace from the Preslav treasure. In the Dumbarton Oaks collection there are two round silver medallions with niello images of Christ and the Holy Virgin and the same construction as the gold quatrefoil. One has loops for a pearl string (Ross 2005, No. 198, 211 – 212, Pl. CXXX), the other is thin and has no such loops. A foxtail chain is attached to its rings pointing out to its function as a pectoral (Ross 2005, No. 197, 208 – 209, Pl. CXXIX) (These objects, as well as the Risano “capsule”, have not been studied in terms of morphology of the jewels, which may increase the certainty that the morphological parameters coincide in time.). The three cassette medallions are dated to the second half of the 10th – first half of the 11th c.

A similar type of cassette jewel with enamels is a quatrefoil, also dated to the 11th c., from the collection of Dumbarton Oaks: enamel plaques with busts of Christ and the Holy Virgin, but in cloisonné and champlevé technique, where the background is the gold plate (fig. 1: 10) (Ross 2005, No. 199, 213 – 215 Pl. CXXXI, color Pl. L.; Dumbarton Oaks 2008, 114). The frame is made of thin metal tape framed with beaded wire. Round loops are soldered in the four folds between the arches with a wire for a pearl string, the pearls themselves now missing. Hinges are soldered to the two opposite sides of the quatrefoil and the loops are constructed in exactly the same way as the clasp of the necklace from the Preslav treasure. The quatrefoil fully corresponds in size to the panels and pendants from the Preslav necklace: 23 x 23 mm, thickness 5 mm, length with the hinge 50 mm. Consequently, it is a direct successor of the morphology and its technology in the production of cassette enamels in the Byzantine goldsmithing tradition.

It is difficult to say what kind of adornment the “capsule” was part of. On the one hand it is undoubtedly a pendant, but on the other hand it looks like the round pieces above the lower part of the hoop of the enamel earrings, such as the example with the peacock (fig. 1: 4) from the same Preslav treasure (Тотев 1983, 21 – 23, 52 – 53, фиг. 15; Тотев 1986, 97 – 98, Табл. XIII, 1, 3; Тотев 1993, 50, обр. 24, 54 – 55; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 244 – 246, Kat. Nr. 63a, fig. 1 – 4;

Аладжов (под печат)). The preserved round piece from the other pair of earrings, again from the same treasure, also lacking its pearl string, stands even closer to the Risano capsule. The rosette on one side (fig. 1: 7) is in the same dark range in which the dog is depicted (fig. 1: 2), and the one on the other side (fig. 1: 8) is identical in shape to the rosette (fig. 1: 3) on the capsule, although they are completely different in color. Such "capsules" are also found on other enamel earrings – some are round in shape (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 247 – 248, Kat. Nr. 64b, fig. 1, 6, 7, 393, Abb. 115, 394, Abb. 121), and others are teardrop-shaped (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 248 – 251, Kat. Nr. 65a, fig. 1 – 7, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6, 393, Abb. 116a, 117, 394, Abb. 1190).

Günther Haseloff (Haseloff 1990, 22) presumes an early chronology for the "capsule" commenting on the Risano find, quoting Arthur Evans. Antje Bosselmann-Ruickbie (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6), however, uses the dating of Arthur MacGregor (MacGregor 1997, № 112.1) – in the 9th – first half of the 10th c., without commenting on his arguments.

The "capsule" and the cassettes of the Preslav necklace are connected by several characteristic features:

1. The construction method of the cassette – two enamel plaques, bilaterally connected by a narrow band, framed by a beaded round wire, where the thickness (about 5 mm) of both objects is almost the same;
2. The pearl string is attached at the periphery of the pendants and the "capsule" in a similar manner – passing through three round loops;
3. The enamel background of the depictions, which refers the examples to the early stage of the development of jewelry in the Byzantine cultural circle, when the cloisonné technique was not yet combined with the *champlevé* technique;
4. In the depiction of the predatory animal, "drops" are placed at the end of the protruding tongue and the tail, similar to the circles at the ends of the twigs in the beaks and at the ends of the tails of two of the bird images of the necklace;
5. In the organization of the space, around the depiction of the animal there is a circle, as in one of the depictions of a bird and in the depictions of palmettes from the segments of the necklace;
6. The use of spiral ribbons ("snails"), which in the Risano capsule have no pictorial value, while in the depiction of the Holy Virgin from the necklace of the Preslav treasure they represent the characteristic stars of her garment.

These analogies require a comment to be made upon the identification of the Risano "capsule". Günther Haseloff (Haseloff 1990, 23 and following) considers that the capsule was produced in the Eastern half of the Empire in the 6th – 7th c. under the strong influence of Sasanian art, which began during the reign of Justinian (527 – 565). He rejected E. Margulis' view of the Sasanian origin of the capsule as inappropriate "since Eastern influence was reflected in the entire Byzantine art of the time". This is true, were it but for the fact that there are no reliable objects of Sasanian enamel from that time. Not to mention the technique of constructing cassettes, which he documented for the first time in his research in the case of the capsule. The strong Eastern influence is expressed mainly in the images on the enamels. First in the predatory animal, then in the rosette.

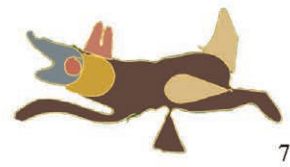
When publishing the two openwork circles from Veliki Preslav (Акрабова-Жандова 1984, 173 – 180; Михайлова 2008, 385, обр. 1а, 3; 16, 2; Stanilov 2010, 159 – 174) the author noticed the "wandering" pattern of the predatory animal with a *protruding tongue*, facing to the left with raised front paw. The lion, which is more likely to be a dog, follows the same depiction (fig. 2: 1), as documented on a Sogdian bowl (Marschak 1986, 55, No. 51) from the National Library of Paris, on the handle of a vessel No. 8 (fig. 2: 2) from the treasure of Nagyszentmiklós (Mavrodinov 1943, tab. XV; Freiburger, Bühler 2015, 22, Abb. 3, 5, 6), and of the already mentioned "disc"



(fig. 2: 3) from Veliki Preslav, which was part of the uniform of a high-ranking Byzantine official (Stanilov 2010, 161 – 164, Abb. 4, 1 – 2, 168 – 170, Abb. 5). To these can be added the depictions of dogs with *protruding tongues* (fig. 2: 5) on the earrings from Crete, with an Arabic inscription (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6). Due to the small size of the images, the tongues are transmitted only with a metal thread, but without a drop at the end, as in the case of the dog on the Risano "capsule". The five objects fit into the chronological framework from the second half of the 7th to the second half of the 10th c. It is very important to note here that there is an 8th c. image on the Nagyszentmiklós bowl, as the connections between objects from the Early Byzantine and Middle Byzantine periods usually discontinue, i.e. they cannot be traced to the 8th c., when the bowl is dated. The question is where does the "lion" from the capsule fit? The animal has characteristic features that have been neglected or identified incorrectly by scholars. It is first of all about the mane on the back of the neck, rendered by two semicircles, because of which the animal was probably declared a lion. However, the prototypes of a predatory animal with a protruding tongue also have locks on the neck, which led Ivanka Akrabova-Zhandova to interpret the image on one of the golden discs from Veliki Preslav as a lion (Акрабова-Жандова 1984, 173 – 180). The dog was identified along with the publication of the disc with the peacock in a detailed commentary on the two objects in an attempt to determine their place on, as I have already noticed, the undoubtedly uniformed costume of a prominent Byzantine official (Stanilov 2010, 161 – 164). As can be seen, however, from the typological order presented here, the image fits perfectly (fig. 2: 4) into the group formed by the Central Asian pattern. The second feature of the image of the Risano capsule is the necklace with three large teardrop-shaped pendants, which occupies the entire chest area of the animal (fig. 3: 1). I think, due to the small size of the object, that this is a simplified depiction of a patif – a solid torque with a specific shape. For now, it has an indefinable specific semantic function, but it is certainly an insignia of power in the Sasanian Empire. There is a patif on the chest of the dog-headed griffin on an enamel plaque (fig. 3: 2, 2a) from the Preslav diadem (Тотев 1981, 33 – 36; Тотев 1983, 9 – 13, 32 – 33, фиг. 1; Тотев 1986, 89, Табло VII, VII прим, VIII, 2; Тотев 1993б, 19, обр. 6, 20 – 21, обр. 7, 24, обр. 9, 26, 28; Тотев 1993а, 102 – 117; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 22 – 24, 369, Abb. 7; Inkova 2018, 46, No. 40; ИНКОВА 2019, 138 – 139, № 193.1; ИНКОВА (под печат)). Such torques, worn by birds (mostly pheasants) on fabrics or artistic metal

Fig. 1: 1. A pendant-cassette from the first necklace of the Preslav treasure (from photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 2 – 3. The Risano capsule (after Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 385, Abb. 81a – b); 4. A medallion-cassette over the lower arch of the hoop of an earring from the Preslav treasure (from photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 5 – 6. Exemplary reconstructions of the Risano capsule (Author: St. Stanilov, based on photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 7 – 8. A medallion-cassette over the lower arch of the hoop of an earring from the Preslav treasure (from photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 9. A medallion-cassette from the Benaki Museum in Athens, Greece (after Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 384, Abb. 78a – b); 10. Quatrefoil-cassette from the Dumbarton Oaks Collection, Washington D.C. (by courtesy of the Dumbarton Oaks)

Обр. 1: 1. Пандантив-касета от първата огърлица в Преславското съкровище (от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 2 – 3. Капсулата от Ризано (по Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 385, Abb. 81a – b); 4. Медальон-касета над долната дъга на кръжилото на обеца/наушник в Преславското съкровище (от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 5 – 6. Примерни реконструкции на капсулата от Ризано (автор Ст. Станилов от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 7 – 8. Медальон-касета над долната дъга на кръжилото на обеца/наушник в Преславското съкровище (от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 9. Медальон-касета от фонда на музея Бенаки в Атина, Гърция (по Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 384, Abb. 78a – b); 10. Квадрифолио-касета от колекцията на Центъра за византоложки проучвания Дъмбъртън Оукс, Вашингтон, САЩ (с разрешение на Центъра)



reliefs, are more common. As far as can be read from the objects the patif has a moon-shaped metal part, closed at the back with a knot of two ribbons depicted always folded. It is probably an insignia with a special role, because in the depictions of a pheasant (Overlaet 1993, 242, No. 91) once it is on the bird's neck (fig. 3: 3) but in another case (Overlaet 1993, 217, No. 69) the bird carries in its beak (fig. 3: 4). As a ruler's torque, part of the ruler's investiture, however, in the chronology of the Sasanian Empire, the patif appears late: for example, on a plate from the early 7th c. (fig. 3: 5), which depicts Varahran VI (590 – 591) hunting (Тревър, Луконин 1987, 109 – 110, № 11, Табл. 22 – 23). In any case, such a characteristic relates this insignia, which is difficult to comment on, to the Sasanian imagery.

The next interrelation of the image of the predatory animal no longer concerns the first necklace of the Preslav treasure, but the earrings in it. It is the same earring (Тотев 1983, 21 – 23, фиг. 16 – 19; Тотев 1986, 25, Табл. XIV, 2; Григоров 2007, 37 – 39, обр. 22; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 25 – 26, 105 – 107, 64) with the enamel depictions of the dogs (fig. 2: 6), where the comparison has another side. It concerns the treatment of the ears (fig. 2: 7) – the same treatment as the one of the dog on the capsule (fig. 2: 9) and even more, as the one of the dogs (fig. 2: 8) on the earring from Crete (Coche de la Ferté 1957, Nr. 5A, B; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 250 – 251, Kat. Nr. 66a, b, fig. 1, 3, 5). Which has the same head as the dog on the Preslav earring, but it has a protruding tongue and a drop-like shape on the tail, which does not exist in the case of the Preslav earring. The front and rear legs of the dogs from Preslav (fig. 2: 7) and Crete (fig. 2: 8) are depicted in profile so that only one front leg and only one rear leg are visible, unlike the dog from Risano with its four legs. In addition, they have a support on the abdomen, which cannot be identified in the space of the Byzantine imagery. By the way, such dogs, in all

Fig 2: 1. Image of a predatory animal on a silver bowl from the collection of the National Library in Paris (after Marschak 1986, 55, No. 51); 2. Image of a predatory animal on vessel No. 8 from the Nagyszentmiklós treasure (after photography in Freiberger, Bühler 2015, 22, Abb. 3, 5, 6); 3. Image of a predatory animal on a medallion from Veliki Preslav (after photography by Krassimir Georgiev); 4. Image of a predatory animal on the Risano capsule (after photography in Haseloff 1990, Abb. 25a – b); 5. Image of a predatory animal on an enamel earring from Crete (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6); 6. Enamel earring from the Preslav treasure (photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 7. Image of a predatory animal on an enamel earring from the Preslav treasure (after Аладжов (под печат)); 8. Image of a predatory animal on an enamel earring from Crete (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6); 9. Image of a predatory animal on the Risano capsule (after photography in Haseloff 1990, Abb. 25a – b); 10. Enamel earring from the British Museum (after Аладжов (под печат)); 11. Image of a bird on the enamel bracelets from Thessaloniki (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 274 – 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b); 12. Image of a bird on a panel-cassette of the necklace/maniakon from the Preslav treasure (from photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 13. Image of a bird on an enamel earring from the British Museum (after photography in Аладжов (под печат))

Обр. 2: 1. Изображение на хищно животно върху сребърна купа от Парижката национална библиотека (по Marschak 1986, 55, No. 51); 2. Изображение на хищно животно върху съд № 8 от съкровището Наги сент Миклош (по фотография у Freiberger, Bühler 2015, 22, Abb. 3, 5, 6); 3. Изображение на хищно животно върху медальон от Велики Преслав (от фотография на Красимир Георгиев); 4. Изображение на хищно животно върху капсулата от Ризано (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, Abb. 25a – b); 5. Изображение на хищно животно върху емайлова обеца/наушник от остров Крит (от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6); 6. Емайлова обеца/наушник в съкровището от Велики Преслав (фото С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 7. Изображение на хищно животно върху емайлова обеца/наушник в съкровището от Велики Преслав (по Аладжов (под печат)); 8. Изображение на хищно животно върху емайлова обеца/наушник от остров Крит (от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 251 – 252, Kat. Nr. 66a – b, fig. 1 – 6); 9. Изображение на хищно животно върху капсулата от Ризано (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, Abb. 25a – b); 10. Емайлова обеца/наушник от Британския музей (по Аладжов (под печат)); 11. Изображение на птица върху емайловите гривни от Солун (от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 274 – 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b); 12. Изображение на птица върху панел-касета на оърлицата/маниакон в съкровището от Велики Преслав (от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 13. Изображение на птица върху емайлова обеца/наушник от Британския музей (от фотография у Аладжов (под печат))

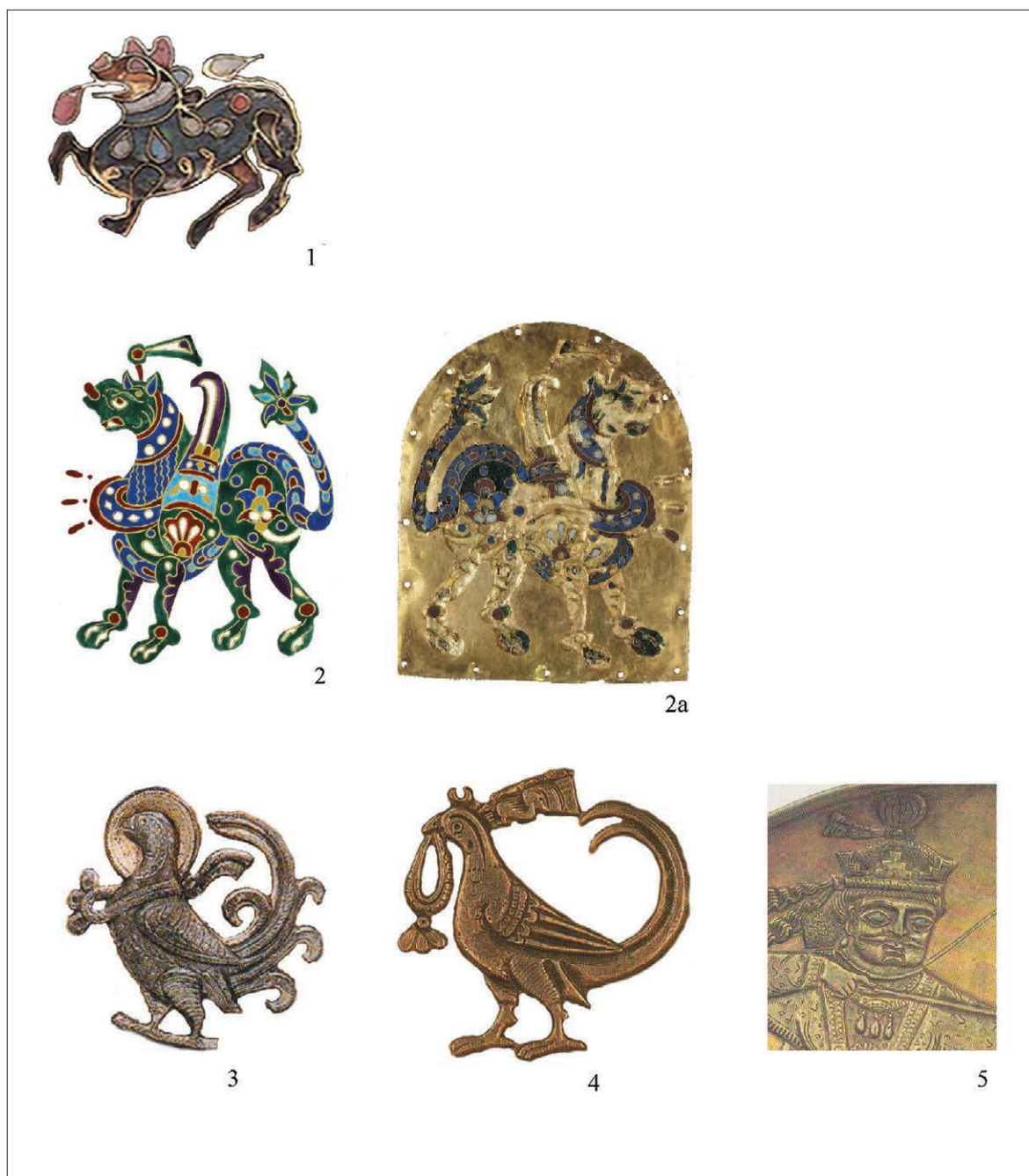


Fig. 3: 1. Image of a predatory animal on the Risano capsule (after photography in Haseloff 1990, Abb. 25a – b); 2 – 2a. Image of a griffin with patif on an enamel plaque from the diadem from the Preslav treasure. Reconstruction and original (after Инкова (под печат)); 3. Image of a pheasant with patif on the neck on a Sasanian vessel (after photography in Overlaet 1993, 242, No. 91); 4. Image of a bird with patif in the beak (after photography in Overlaet 1993, 217, No. 69); 5. Image of Shahanshah Varahran VI (590 – 591) with patif on the neck on a Sasanian vessel (after photography in Тревер, Луконин 1987, табл. 22 – 23)

Обр. 3: 1. Изображение на хищно животно върху капсулата от Ризано (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, 49, Abb. 25a – b); 2 – 2a. Изображение на грифон с пати́ф върху емайлова плочка от диадемата в съкровището от Велики Преслав. Реконструкция и оригинал (по Инкова (под печат)); 3. Изображение на фазан с пати́ф на шията върху сасанидски съд (от фотография у Overlaet 1993, 242, No. 91); 4. Изображение на птица с пати́ф в човката (от фотография у Overlaet 1993, 217, No. 69); 5. Изображение на шахиншах Варахран VI (590 – 591) с пати́ф на шията върху сасанидски съд (от фотография у Тревер, Луконин 1987, табл. 22 – 23)

probability, are present on the earring from the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. However, it is strongly damaged and the scene is hardly legible (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 394, fig. 119).

The other images I have given here also do not have such supports. At first glance, the images from Crete give the impression that the hind legs are two in motion, and only the front legs are rendered as one as in a jump. Another way to interpret this "leg" is as the dog's penis and the circles above it as the testicles. Such a hypothesis explains their common coloration in light blue. However, if we accept the image of the dog from the Preslav earring as a derivative of the one from Crete, the explanation will be exactly what follows here.

These supposedly Byzantine objects have another feature – the depicted scenes are not Christian. Byzantine jewels are distinguished by the emphasized presence of Christian symbolism. Thus, the other enamel earring from the Preslav treasure features a vine with grapes – a symbol of the life-giving spring (the pagan cornucopia, already "read" as heavenly abundance) and a peacock – a bird of paradise, a hypostasis of the Holy Virgin and in the insignia of the Byzantine empress. On the numerous Early Byzantine moon-shaped earrings in the style of *διάτρητα*/opus interrasile between the pair of peacocks is the cross or the life-giving spring in the form of a kantharos, and the tree of life growing from it is in the form of a palmette (Stanilov, Sengalevich 2019, 3, 113 – 216). The already mentioned earrings from Preslav and Crete, however, have only palmettes. The peacocks turn their backs to it, and the dogs are not typical of the insignia of the Byzantine emperors. They are present in the Arabic art, as accompanying the ruler in his exploits. Here slips the hypothesis that the earrings in question were made by Arab masters on Crete during the Arab rule (824 – 960) or in the ergasterion at the Imperial court as diplomatic gifts to his Arab opponents. In the 10th c., diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Constantinople were extremely active, and according to sources, the exchange of gifts was constant (Mundell Mango, 2003, 365 – 374). In fact, the Risano capsule could be part of an Early Arabic jewel, because of the Sasanian patif, transferred through the Arab culture in the Byzantine imagery, in order to be found on the Preslav diadem.

The question remains how the pair of enamel earrings, with features of Arab production or Byzantine export for the Arab elite, found themselves into the treasury of the Bulgarian kings, rather into the vestment of the Bulgarian queen, also called "Empress of the Bulgarians".

The comments on these objects suggest another direction in the development of the ornamental arsenal in the Byzantine goldsmithing. It is about the disintegration of the pattern, by ignoring the doctrine that created it. The original pattern is the life-giving spring (kantharos – tree – palmette – cross – monogram, which is always cruciform) from which the birds of paradise (peacocks) "drink". In the depictions from Veliki Preslav, the peacocks on one side are replaced by dogs. Moreover, the peacocks and the dogs are turning their backs to the palmettes. In this form, the scene does not correspond to the semantics of the original and it can be assumed that the masters were not familiar with it at all. Depictions of birds (fig. 2: 10) from a pair of earrings in the British Museum (Buckton 1994, 133, No. 142; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393, fig. 115) can receive a similar comment. There they do not only turn their backs, but between them the palmette is replaced by the same bird facing to the left, with the head turned upwards (fig. 2: 13). By the way, these are not even peacocks, but ducks or hens very similar to those (fig. 2: 11) from the Thessaloniki bracelets (Pelekanides 1959, 55 – 71; Grabar 1962, 293 – 296; Wessel 1967, 64, Nr. 14; Haseloff 1990, 31 – 33; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 274 – 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b, fig. 1 – 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26, 28, 32, 36, 38, 42) or the necklace (fig. 2: 12) from the Preslav treasure (Тотев 1983, 13 – 20, 42 – 43, фиг. 9, 46 – 47, фиг. 11, 48 – 49, фиг. 13; Тотев 1986, 92 – 97, Табл. X, 1, 2, 3, XI, 1, 2, 3; Тотев 1993б, 32, обр. 15а – в, 35, обр. 26а, б, 36, 37, обр. 17а – е, 38, обр. 18 а – в, 39 – 49, обр. 18г, 19а, б; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 212, Kat. Nr. 1, fig. 6, 213, Kat. Nr. 1, fig. 12).

Günther Haseloff pays special attention to the rosette depicted on the other plaque of the

capsule. He offers a comparison of more than ten rosettes on pieces of enamel jewelry, dated according to him in the Early Byzantine period, starting from the 3rd – 5th c. and ending in the 6th – 7th c. (Haseloff 1990, 24 – 25, 50 – 53, Abb. 26 – 36.) It should be noted that the first six-leaf rosette (fig. 4: 8) has direct parallels in the Sasanian metal art (Overlaet 1993, 190 – 191, No. 50, 243, No. 93; Harper, Meyers 1981, 219, Pl. 18.), where in one of the cases should be mentioned a “spoon-like” vessel from the treasure from Malaya Pereshchepina, whose morphology represents such a rosette (Overlaet 1993, 226, No. 76). In the author’s opinion, this connection may be questionable, because the configuration of the leaves on the European example only looks like a bad derivative of the Sasanian images.

In the next typological order, the German scholar has even included the rosette (fig. 4: 10) from the pair of earrings from the British Museum (Haseloff 1990, 21 – 22, 47, Abb. 22b), which he believes fall also within the chronological framework of the 6th – 7th c. However, after the discovery of the group of earrings with enamel plaques on the lower arch of the hoop from Veliki Preslav (Тотев 1983, 52 – 61; Тотев 1993б, 50 – 51, обр. 24, обр. 25а – г, 52 – 57; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 244 – 248, Kat. Nr. 63a – b, 64a – b; Алладжов (под печат)), well dated and directly related to the earrings from the Stathatos Collection at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 248 – 253, Kat. Nr. 65a – b, 66a – b, 67), from the Canellopoulos Museum in Athens (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393 – 394, Abb. 116a – b, 121, 122a – b), from Crete (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393 – 394, Abb. 117), and from Corinth (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 394, Abb. 124), they were to be given a new chronology in the end of the 9th – 10th c. (Evans, Wixom 1997, 244, No. 166; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393, Abb. 115).

However, the rosettes presented by Günther Haseloff, from the aforementioned six-leaf example (fig. 4: 8) onwards, are very different and, if they represent a chronological group, can hardly be organized in a typological order because there is no principle by which to classify them. Of course, there are rosettes that could be set in a typological order, but all those described by the German scholar together cannot be used to identify the rosette on the Risano “capsule”.

I accept construction on the principle of the layered leaves as the most characteristic feature of the rosettes of the Middle Byzantine enamels. The basic scheme is a circle and around it there are four symmetrically arranged leaves in the shape of an elongated almond or drop. Four more are added between them, the outlines of which do not reach the circle, and so it seems that they stand behind these first four leaves. A “two-layered” Sasanian palmette is created (Harper, Meyers 1981, XVI, 236, Pl. 35), as shown in the Plate (fig. 4: 2) and its Byzantine derivatives (fig. 4: 9 – 11). Among them, the rosettes commented by Günther Haseloff in the 6th – 7th c. are two – on the ring from Milan (Haseloff, 1990, 23, 50, Abb. 27) and on the earrings from London (Haseloff 1990, 21 – 22, 47, Abb. 22a – d), and the other two certainly date to the 10th c. – on the earring from Preslav (fig. 4: 15) (Тотев 1983, 60 – 61, фиг. 19; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 248, Kat. Nr. 64a – b, fig. 6) and on the ring from Pliska (fig. 4: 11) (Въжарова, 1980, 52 – 56; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 407, Abb. 192).

If for the European typological order, with some doubts and conventions, we can be sure that the framework – the second half of the 9th – 10th c. – is well-set, the same is valid for the framework of the typological order of the patterns from Central Asian – 3rd – 7th c., which in most cases can be narrowed to the 5th – 7th c. The comparison of the mentioned six-leaf rosette from the pendant in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (fig. 4: 6), dated to the 3rd – 5th c. with similar rosettes on examples of Sasanian metal art has a formal logic, although there they date to the 6th – 7th c.: a plate with royal hunting scene from Bashkortostan (Overlaet 1993, 190 – 191, No. 50), a bottle from Dagestan (Overlaet 1993, 243, No. 93) a spoon-like bowl from Malaya Pereshchepina, whose morphology represents such a rosette (Overlaet 1993, 26, No. 76), and a plate with royal hunting scene from Ufa (Harper, Meyers 1981, 219, Pl. 18). This, “classical” for the Sasanian patterns, rosette (fig. 4: 1) is

not transferred on a mass scale to the Byzantine enamel patterns, because its subsequent forms are far more spectacular. They belong to the group of the layered leaves and some of them can be traced in parallel, both in Central Asia and in Europe. The second rosette of the "Sasanian"/from Central Asia row (fig. 4: 2) has the perfect "classical" construction with four elongated almond-shaped leaves and four broader leaves placed behind them. It was used for the spokes on the wheels of the enthronement construction (?) pulled by four bulls on a silver plate from Klimova (Harper, Meyers 1981, XVI, 236, Pl. 35). According to Boris Marschak, the plate was produced in the late 7th – early 8th c., but the image of Shahanshah Khosrow II Parviz (590 – 628) was reproduced (Marschak 1986, 291 – 292, No. 195, 437). The exact same rosette with only the addition of small circles on the tips of the front leaves (fig. 4: 11) is represented on the already mentioned gold enamel ring from Pliska (Въжарова 1980, 52 – 56; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 407, Abb. 192), accurately dated to the end of the 9th – beginning of the 10th c. The other three (in reverse order) rosettes – on the earring (fig. 4: 10) from the British Museum (Haseloff 1990, 21 – 22, 47, Abb. 22b), on the earring (fig. 4: 15) from the Preslav treasure (Тотев 1983, 60 – 61, фиг. 19), on the ring (fig. 4: 9) from Milan in the Berlin Antiquities Collection (Haseloff 1990, 24, 52, Abb. 32) are variants of the rosette from Pliska and hence of the Sasanian rosette. Given the enamel backgrounds of the depictions and the interrelationship between the patterns, they are not later than the middle of the 10th c.

The third rosette from the row of the Central Asian items (fig. 4: 3) is set on the shoulder armor or embroidered garment of the hunting Shahanshah Shapur III (383 – 388), depicted on a silver plate from the Hermitage Museum (Harper, Meyers 1981, XVI, 236, Pl. 35; Тревер, Луконин 1987, 107 – 108, № 4, обр. 10 – 11). Part of it is obviously placed on the ruler's back, but nevertheless, 7 front leaves and 4 leaves placed behind them are easily discernible, the other 3 leaves are presumable. This example shows that the "multi-layered" rosette in Persian art had a clearly legible appearance as early as the 4th c.

The next three rosettes from Central Asia represent an almost flawless typological order. The first one (fig. 4: 4) is from a silver plate found near Lukovka, near Perm and represents a Shahanshah among musicians and dancers. The rosette is above the ruler's head, composed of four heart-shaped leaves (Overlaet, 1993, 243, No. 93), which are also used separately in Sasanian decorative art. The object is dated to the 7th – 8th c., which means the Post-Sasanian period (Marschak 1986, 276 – 277). The second example (fig. 4: 5), from Klimova, Perm province, as a part of a floral swirl along the rim of a gilded plate depicting a tiger under a tree (Overlaet 1993, 214 – 215, No. 67), combines the first rosette with the familiar quatrefoil and circle in the center, where the already framed heart-shaped leaves remain postpositional. The third (fig. 4: 6) lacks the second framing line, but another framing line, internal, close to the center has been added. It is depicted on the harpist's garment (fig. 4: 6a) in the stone reliefs of Taq-e Bostan (Overlaet 1993, 114, fig. 99). An interesting variant of the same pattern (fig. 4: 7) is repeatedly represented on a gold plate with inlays of glass and quartz crystals kept in the collection of the National Library in Paris (Harper, Meyers 1981, 234, Pl. 33). Here the leaves are shortened and are placed away from the center, so that they stand with no connection with it. This typological order finds a direct analogy with an unpublished fragment from an earring (fig. 4: 12), which is kept in the Canellopoulos Museum in Athens (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393 – 394, Abb. 116a – b, 121, 122a – b), with the rosette (fig. 4: 13) from the earring, found on the island of Crete, where the leaves are gathered close to the circle (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393, Abb. 117), and finally with the image of an eagle-headed griffin (fig. 4: 14) on the plaques of the diadem from the Preslav treasure (Тотев 1983, 38 – 39, фиг. 5; Тотев 1993, 29, обр. 12, 33 – 34; Инкова (под печат)). The rest of the rosettes forming the European row represent only development and complication of the pattern – on the earring from the Preslav treasure (fig. 4: 15) (Тотев 1983, 58 – 59, фиг. 18; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 246 – 247, Kat. Nr. 64a – b, fig. 7), on the Risano capsule (fig. 4: 16) (Haseloff 1990, 22 – 23, 49,

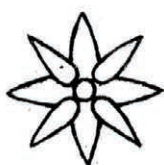


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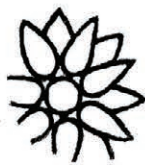
CENTRAL ASIA



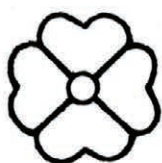
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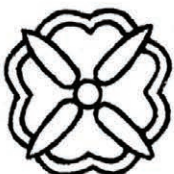
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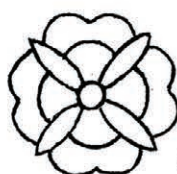
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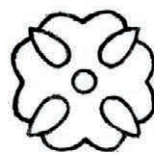
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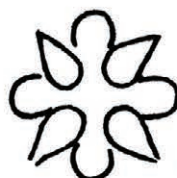
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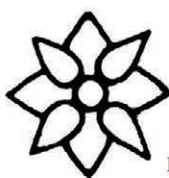
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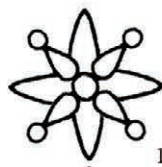
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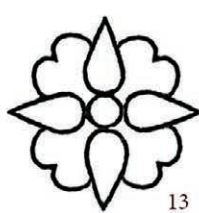
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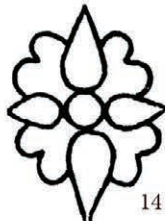
11



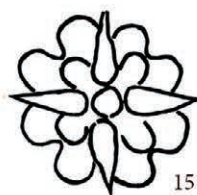
12



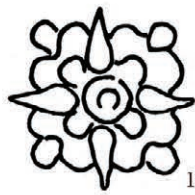
13



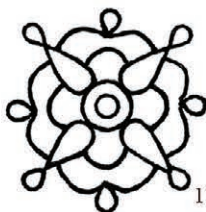
14



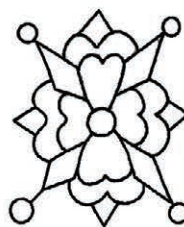
15



16



17



18

Fig. 4: 1. Six-leaf rosette from a plate with depiction of Shahanshah hunting gazelles and from the shape of a bowl from the Malaya Pereshchepina treasure (after photography in Overlaet 1993, 190 – 191, No. 50, 243, No. 93); 2. Eight-leaf "double-layered" rosette on a plate depicting "the hours of Khosrow" (after photography in Marschak 1986, 291 – 292, No. 191); 3. Fourteen-leaf "double-layered" rosette on the armor of the hunting Shahanshah Shapur III (383 – 388) on a silver plate (after photography in Harper, Meyers 1981, XVI, 236, Pl. 35); 4. Rosette composed by four heart-shaped leaves on a silver plate with the depiction of Shahanshah with dancers and musicians (after photography in Overlaet 1993, 243, No. 93); 5. Eight-leaf "double-layered" rosette with double outline of the postpositional leaves from the rim of a silver plate (after photography in Overlaet 1993, 214 – 215, No. 67); 6 – 6a. Eight-leaf "double-layered" rosette with inner circle as a decorative pattern on the garment of a harpist from a stone relief at Taq-e Bostan (after drawing in Overlaet 1993, 114, fig. 99); 7. Eight-leaf rosette with narrow leaves detached from the center on a gold plate with inlays of glass and quartz crystals (after photography in Harper, Meyers 1981, 234, Pl. 33); 8. Six-leaf rosette on a gold enamel pendant from the Dumbarton Oaks Collection, Washington D.C. (after photography in Haseloff 1990, 24 – 25, 50 – 53, Abb. 27); 9. Eight-leaf rosette, variant with no center, on a gold enamel finger ring from the Berlin Antiquities Collection (after photography in Haseloff 1990, 24 – 25, 50 – 53, Abb. 32); 10. Eight-leaf rosette on a gold enamel earring from the British Museum (after photography and drawing in Аладжов (под печат)); 11. Eight-leaf rosette on a gold enamel finger ring from Pliska (drawing based on photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 407, Abb. 192); 12. Eight-leaf rosette with narrow leaves detached from the center on a gold enamel earring from the Canelloupolous Museum in Athens, Greece (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 193 – 194, Abb. 116a – b, 121, 122a – b); 13. Eight-leaf "double-layered" rosette with postpositional heart-shaped leaves on a gold enamel earring from Crete, Greece (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393, Abb. 117); 14. Eight-leaf "double-layered" rosette with postpositional heart-shaped leaves on the flank (wing) of an eagle-headed griffin on a plaque from the diadem of the Preslav treasure (after Инкова (под печат)); 15. Eight-leaf "triple-layered" rosette on a gold enamel earring from the Preslav treasure (after photography by S. Steidl, Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum – Mainz); 16. Eight-leaf "triple-layered" rosette with buds in the folds of the wide leaves on the Risano capsule (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 385, Abb. 81b); 17. Eight-leaf "triple-layered" rosette with buds in the folds of the wide leaves and in the tips of the sharp leaves on the Saint-Maurice jug (after photography in Haseloff 1990, 54 – 61, Abb. 37aj); 18. Eight-leaf "triple-layered" geometric rosette with buds in the folds of the wide leaves and in the tips of the sharp leaves on the bracelets from Thessaloniki (after photography in Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b, fig. 43; Email B19)

Обр. 4: 1. Шестлистна розета от блюдо с изображение на шахиншах на лов за газели и от формата на купа в съкровището от Малая Перешчепина (по фотографии у Overlaet 1993, 190 – 191, No. 50, 243, No. 93); 2. Осемлистна „двуетажна“ розета върху блюдо с изображение на „часовете на Хосрой“ (от фотография у Marschak 1986, 291 – 292, No. 191); 3. Четиринадесетлистна „двуетажна“ розета върху бронята на ловуващия шахиншах Шапур III (383 – 388) върху сребърно блюдо (от фотография у Harper, Meyers 1981, XVI, 236, Pl. 35); 4. Розета съставена от четири сърцевидни листа върху сребърно блюдо с изображение на шахиншах с танцьорки и музиканти (от фотография у Overlaet 1993 243, No. 93); 5. Осемлистна „двуетажна“ розета с двоен контур на задпоставените листа от бордюра на сребърно блюдо (от фотография у Overlaet 1993, 214 – 215, No. 67); 6 – 6a. Осемлистна „двуетажна“ розета с вътрешен кръг като орнаментален мотив върху дрехата на арфист от каменен релеф в Так-и Бустан (от рисунка у Overlaet 1993, 114, fig. 99); 7. Осемлистна розета с отделени от центъра тесни листа върху златно блюдо с инкрустации от стъкло и планински кристали (от фотография Harper, Meyers 1981, 234, Pl. 33); 8. Шестлистна розета върху златен пандантив с емайли от колекцията на Центъра за византоложки проучвания Дъмбъртън Оукс във Вашингтон (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, 24 – 25, 50 – 53, Abb. 27); 9. Осемлистна розета, вариант без център, върху златен пръстен с емайли от колекцията на Античния музей в Берлин (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, 24 – 25, 50 – 53, Abb. 32); 10. Осемлистна розета върху златна обеца с емайли от Британския музей (по фотография у графика у Аладжов (под печат)); 11. Осемлистна розета върху златен пръстен с емайли от Плиска (рисунка от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 407, Abb. 192); 12. Осемлистна розета с отделени от центъра тесни листа върху златна обеца/наушник с емайли от музея Канелопулос в Атина, Гърция (от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 193 – 194, Abb. 116a – b, 121, 122a – b); 13. Осемлистна „двуетажна“ розета със задпоставени сърцевидни листа върху златна обеца с емайли от остров Крит, Гърция (от фотография Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 393, Abb. 117); 14. Осемлистна „двуетажна“ розета със задпоставени сърцевидни листа върху хълбока (крилото) на орлоглав грифон на плочка от диадемата в съкровището от Велики Преслав (по Инкова (под печат)); 15. Осемлистна „триетажна“ розета върху златна обеца/наушник с емайли в съкровището от Велики Преслав (от фотография на С. Щайдл, Римско-германски централен музей – Майнц); 16. Осемлистна „триетажна“ розета с пъпки в гънките на широките листа върху капсулата от Ризано (по фотография Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 385, Abb. 81b); 17. Осемлистна „триетажна“ розета с пъпки в гънките на широките и върховете на острите листа върху каната от Сент Мориц (от фотография у Haseloff 1990, 54 – 61, Abb. 37aj); 18. Осемлистна „триетажна“ геометризирана розета с пъпки в гънките на широките и върховете на острите листа върху гривните от Солун (от фотография у Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b, fig. 43; Email B19)

Abb. 25a – b), on the Saint-Maurice jug, (fig. 4: 17) (Haseloff 1990, 26 – 32, 54 – 61, Abb. 37aj), on the Thessaloniki bracelets (fig. 4: 18) (Pelekanides 1959, 55 – 71; Grabar 1962, 3 – 296; Wessel 1967, 64, Nr. 14; Haseloff 1990, 31 – 33; Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 274 – 279, Kat. Nr. 118a, b, fig. 1 – 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26, 28, 32, 36, 38, 42). These, very similar in configuration and proportions, representations of the pattern can hardly be set within nearly four centuries – from the 7th c. for the Risano capsule to the 10th c. for the diadem and earrings from Preslav.

The detailed analysis of the Saint-Maurice jug, however, shows that it was made in the time of Charlemagne (768 – 814) or rather of his grandson Charles the Bald (823 – 877), but the enamels were produced for another vessel and here are used only as spolias (Haseloff 1990, 27 – 28). If so, the most probable date of the rosette attached in the upper row is the end of the 8th – first half of the 9th c. Here I must recall that the pair of enamel earrings from the British Museum were given a new chronology by David Buckton (Buckton 1994, 133, No. 142) from the 6th – 7th c. to the first half of the 10th c. on the basis of the objects from the Preslav treasure. In the same sense, regardless of the stipulations, the date of the Risano capsule can be set no later than the end of the 9th c. This makes the frame too wide, but for now it cannot be narrowed. This made it possible for the Risano capsule to be **the earliest for the present moment example with enamel cassettes** in the Byzantine goldsmithing. The next in this regard are the cassette plaques and the cassette pendants of the Preslav necklace. What has been said so far suggests the chronology of the necklace could have been set earlier than the end of the 9th – beginning of the 10th c., instead of the chronology proposed until now by most of the scholars. There can hardly be any doubt that this is the maniakon of Maria-Irina “Empress of the Bulgarians” (Bosselmann-Ruickbie 2011, 20 – 21, 35 – 38, 40) and here the question arises whether the necklace was commissioned for the royal marriage or was it taken as a finished product from the imperial treasury in Constantinople, where it had come from the goldsmith’s workshop several decades before? This extremely intricate and expensive item of the goldsmithing requires considerable time to be specially made for a politically motivated event. Examples of the constant sending of expensive gifts to foreign rulers from Constantinople, especially in the 10th c. (Mundell Mango 2003, 365 – 374), suggest not only a commission for a particular occasion, but also a constant stock of jewelry, including insignia. For this I guess continuous production of luxury items of gold, silver, enamels, and precious stones and a constant reserve of them in stock.

Placing the Risano capsule among the jewels from the Preslav treasure offers more questions than answers.

An eloquent example is the mentioned use of circles independently in or outside the depictions and the decorative patterns, only for the organization of the space. There is such a circle (white?) under the predatory animal of the Risano capsule, there are two other circles (red and white) on the back of the body. The same circles were used in the fine arts program of the maniakon from the treasure of Veliki Preslav – on both sides of the palmettes and over the backs of the birds with split tails on the trapezoidal panels. They are also found on the bracelets from Thessaloniki on both sides of one of the palmettes and around several of the depictions of birds. There are many circles in different colors between the depictions of animals on one side of the Saint-Maurice jug, but on the other side they have a limited use.

As another example, in an even more detailed parallel analysis, an extremely characteristic detail of the decorative pattern must be mentioned. Three golden threads, with swirling ends like snails, appear on the chest and abdomen of the predatory animal. Similar, with more coils and already compact, “snails” mark the stars of the garment of the Holy Virgin Oranta from the necklace in the treasure of Veliki Preslav. Such a snail is present at the base of the dog’s front leg on the earrings from Crete, also on the plaques from the diadem from the treasure of Veliki Preslav – on the hindquarters of one of the griffins pulling the chariot of Alexander the Great, on the beak of the eagle-headed

griffin, between the ears of the dog-headed griffin. Coils, though not as compact, head from the periphery towards the center of the image with the griffins on the Saint-Maurice jug, while on the other side (with the lions) they are not present. Is there any semantic relation in this pattern or is it simply involved in the organization of the space?

The answers can become more than the questions only when the heterogeneous detailed developments become unified into a common concept with the participation of archaeometry, which for now has a weak, rather accidental participation in the study of enamels.

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„КАПСУЛАТА“ ОТ РИЗАНО И ПРЕСЛАВСКОТО СЪКРОВИЩЕ

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Капсулата от Ризано е паметник на ранносредновековната бижутерия, намерен от Артър Еванс при разкопки в Хърватия към края на XIX век. Представлява двустранна кръгла касета от две плочки с украса от клетъчен емайл, свързани от тясна, бордирана по ръбовете със зрънчеста тел лентичка. Върху нея са спосени шайби за шарнирна връзка, а от три страни – телени кръгли уши за монтиране на перлен наниз. От едната страна има изображение на хищно животно с огърлица, на която висят три големи капковидни пандантива. От другата страна е изобразена многолистна розета.

Капсулата е идентифицирана в няколко публикации с различна датировка, най-новите от които я отнасят към IX – X век. Авторите им акцентират върху вероятен източен средноазиатски произход или влияние без конкретна аргументация.

В настоящата статия се предлагат конкретни аргументи за връзката между паметниците в Преславското съкровище и капсулата от Ризано.

Първият акцент е върху хищното животно и огърлицата, която според автора е „патиф“ – инсигния на шахиншаха в сасанидски Иран, наблюдавана и на врата или носена от животни и птици. Такъв патиф, много по-детайлно предаден, има на гърдите на кучглавия грифон, изобразен на една от плочките на преславската диадема. Това показва силното влияние на сасанидската култура, чиято метрополия е мъртва от близо два века преди да бъде изработена диадемата, намерена в Преслав. На изображението на хищното животно върху капсулата има и други детайли, които се забелязват на паметниците от Преславското съкровище – „капки“ и кръгчета при изображенията на птици и палмети върху касетите на огърлицата.

Вторият акцент е върху многолистната розета, при което се предлага типологичен ред от група розети от сасанидското и постсасанидско изкуство и от друга група от изкуството на византийския културен кръг. Ясно се вижда как втората произхожда от първата и едни и същи форми се възпроизвеждат през две-три столетия. Въпросът как и кога е станало това остава без отговор, подкрепен от паметници датирани в VIII век.

Авторът датира капсулата от Ризано в IX век и смята, че това е най-ранният паметник на ранносредновековната бижутерия, който представя касетирани емайлови плочки. Заключение е, че капсулата от Ризано поставя повече въпроси, отколкото дава отговори.

Ключови думи: Ризано, Преславско съкровище, капсула, касета, патиф

HAYREDINSKI RAMPART – ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE TERRITORY OF BUTAN VILLAGE, KOZLODUY MUNICIPALITY

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ABSTRACT

Hayredinski rampart is located in Northwestern Bulgaria. This fortification structure is part of the so-called “Western Bulgarian ramparts”, among which are also Lomski and Ostrovski ramparts. The length of the Hayredinski rampart is 24 kilometers. In its northern end, the structure starts from the 25-metre-high Danube river bank six kilometers west of Kozloduy. The southern end of the rampart is near the village of Manastirishte.

In a relation with the extension of the gas transmission infrastructure of the Republic of Bulgaria, in 2019, rescue excavations were conducted on an archaeological site registered as No. 25/2006.

A geomagnetic survey was conducted on the entire area of the site aiming to establish the presence or the absence of sunken structures in or underneath the embankment of the rampart. The results of the magnetic survey showed the presence of two linear anomalies – the first, related to the rampart embankment, and the second, probably, related to the fill of the ditch. The two tomographic profiles resulting from the electrical resistivity survey show that there is no data for the reconstruction of the lithological-stratigraphic and facial-stratigraphic sequence.

The earthen structure is composed of two elements – a rampart and a ditch. The rampart’s height is around 3.50 m and is formed as a result both of geomorphologic processes and anthropogenic activities. During the excavations neither berm, nor palisade were registered. The pass to the ditch and the ditch itself are also a result both of geomorphologic and anthropogenic processes. The ditch is a natural settling of the ground, which was additionally excavated. Archaeological materials are registered solely in Section No. 1 – fragmented oxshoe, an indistinctive pottery sherd thrown on a fast wheel, and another, very small indistinctive sherd from the bottom of the ditch. None of these is Medieval.

Key words: Hayredinski rampart, excavations, chronology, geophysical surveys

In memory of Prof. Rasho Rashev (1943 – 2008)

Research interest in what are known as “The Western Bulgarian Border Ramparts”, one of which is the Hayredinski rampart, arose together with the first independent steps of Bulgarian archaeology, on the border of the 19th and 20th c. With a total length of over 100 km, these man-made earthworks have provoked the interest of archaeologists and historians, giving birth to various interpretations and lively debates. Their focus is still mainly on the question: Who are the builders who constructed these large-scale earth barriers in such a short (as is assumed) period of time? Undoubtedly, they

were constructed for a specific purpose, required serious organization of the work and significant workforce, almost no material evidence of which has been found so far, except the construction. The archaeological materials are limited in number and dating value, which naturally gives rise to the problems of chronology which is still determined mainly by general historical arguments.

Although the problem of “Medieval ramparts” is still actively researched and discussed in scholarly literature to present day,¹ it remains a central topic in the work of two memorable figures in Bulgarian archaeology – Karel Škorpil (1859 – 1944) and Rasho Rashev (1943 – 2008).

A little after the first short descriptions were published by Václav Dobruský (1858 – 1916) and Konstantin Jireček (1854 – 1918) (Добруски 1890, 14, 36 – 38, Иречек 1974, 335), Karel Škorpil was the first scholar who carried out field surveys of the three “Western Bulgarian Ramparts”, situated between the Iskar and Lom rivers – the Lomski, Hayredinski and Ostrovski ramparts. The results from these became known in 1905 in the background paper “Trenches and Earthwork Structures in Bulgaria” published in *Izvestiya Russkogo Arkheologicheskogo Instituta v Konstantinopole* (Bulletin of the Russian Archaeological Institute in Constantinople). There, Škorpil divides the ramparts into 7 groups on a geographic principle and the “Western Bulgarian” ones fall into the fifth group (Шкорпил 1905, 503, 528 – 533). In his relatively detailed description, he includes the distance between the Hayredinski rampart and the Lomski and Ostrovski ones, the length of each of the ramparts, as well as different sections of their routes, mapped after the surveys he carried out (fig. 1) (Шкорпил 1905, 503 – 504, табло CXVI).

Significant progress in the research of Hayredinski rampart was made at the end of the 1970s and in the mid-1980s by Rasho Rashev. At first, while preparing his doctoral dissertation, he made the first section of the rampart in its southern end on the territory of Hayredin village (fig. 2), and then surveyed and mapped the rampart along its whole length of 24 km together with Plamen Ivanov (fig. 3). The results were published in his monograph “Old Bulgarian Fortifications of the Lower Danube (7th – 11th c.)” (Рашев 1982, 28, 67, 75) and in the short but informative paper “The Hayredinski Rampart” (Рашев, Иванов 1986, 11 – 25). The field documentation from the excavations and surveys of Rasho Rashev in 1978 and 1984 is kept at the Scientific Archive of NAIM – BAS and the Archive of RMH – Vratsa.²

In 2019, in connection with the expansion of the gas transmission network of the Republic of Bulgaria, rescue archaeological excavations were carried out on site No. 25/2006, which is the Hayredinski rampart at its intersection with the gas supply pipeline on the territory of Butan village, Kozloduy municipality.³ It is located on the eleventh kilometer from the northern end of the rampart (fig. 4b).

¹ A comprehensive review of the history of the archaeological surveys of the “Western Bulgarian Ramparts” can be found in: Аладжов 1975, 114 – 125; Рашев 1982, 65 – 75; Григоров 2011, 128 – 131.

² The field documentation from Rasho Rashev’s excavations used here was provided to me by the Scientific Archive of NAIM – BAS with the written permission of the Institute Director. The cartographic survey of the rampart route carried out during the surveys of Rasho Rashev and Plamen Ivanov is published for the first time. It was provided to me personally by Plamen Ivanov, for which I would like to express my gratitude (note E.K.).

³ Site No. 25/2006 was registered during surveys – km 424-345 – 424+365 (AIS AMB 0300014). The rescue excavations were carried out because of a project on “Expansion of the Gas Transmission Network of ‘Bulgartransgaz’ EAD in parallel to the northern (main) gas pipeline to the Bulgarian-Serbian border, phase “Linear Part”, sub-phase A. The excavations were carried out by a team comprising: Evgenia Komatarova-Balinova (NAIM – BAS) – dig director, Kamen Klisuranov (SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”) – deputy director, Vladislav Todorov (IEMPAM – BAS), Rumen Parvanov (RMH – Montana). The geomorphologist Prof. Georgi Alexiev (NIGGG – BAS) joined the team in the last phase of the field scan. Stanimir Stoychev (RMH – Shumen) and eng. Atanas Kamenarov also took part in the preparation of the photo and graphic documentation. Field work continued for 42 days with 32 workers from Mihaylovo village, municipality of Hayredin. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of them – colleagues and workers – for their diligent work and the atmosphere of goodwill they created (note E.K.).!



Fig. 1. Northern part of the route of the Hayredinski rampart (after Шкорпил 1905, табло CXVI)
Обр. 1. Северният участък от трасето на Хайрединския вал (по Шкорпил 1905, табло CXVI)

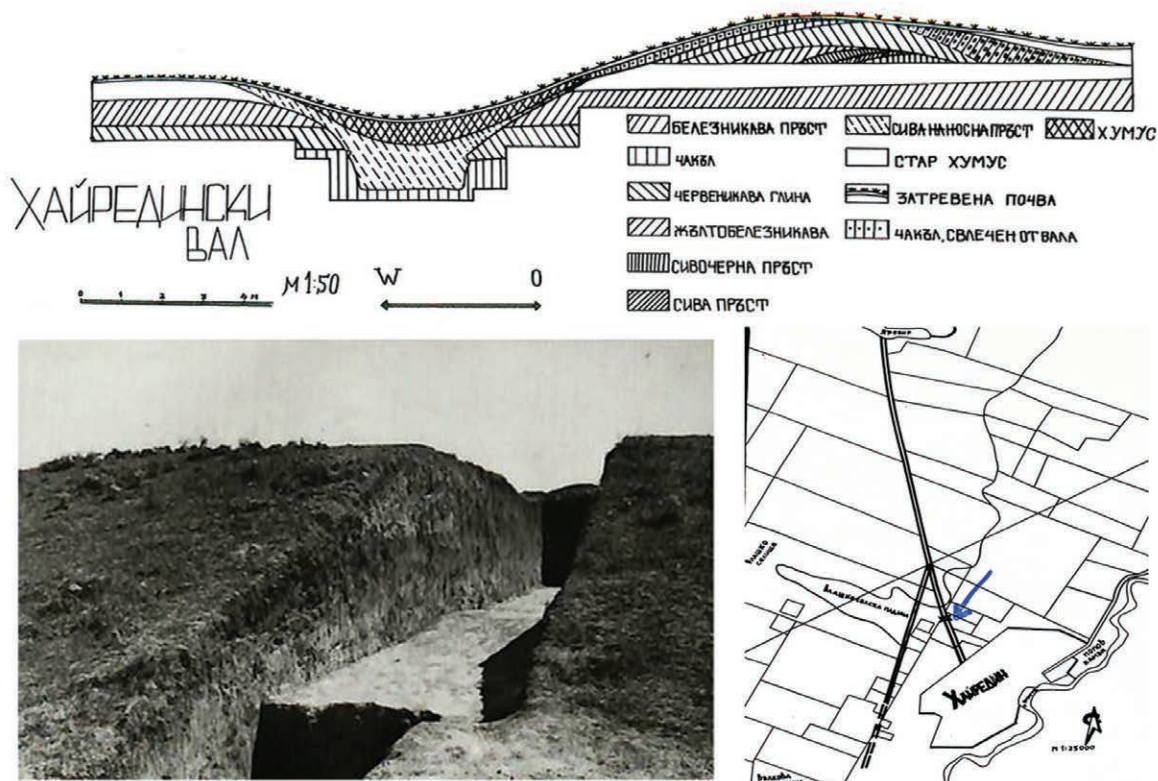


Fig. 2. Southern part of the route of the Hayredinski rampart (after Пашев 1978, Scientific archive of NAIM – BAS)
Обр. 2. Южният участък от трасето на Хайрединския вал (по Пашев 1978, Научен архив на НАИМ – БАН)

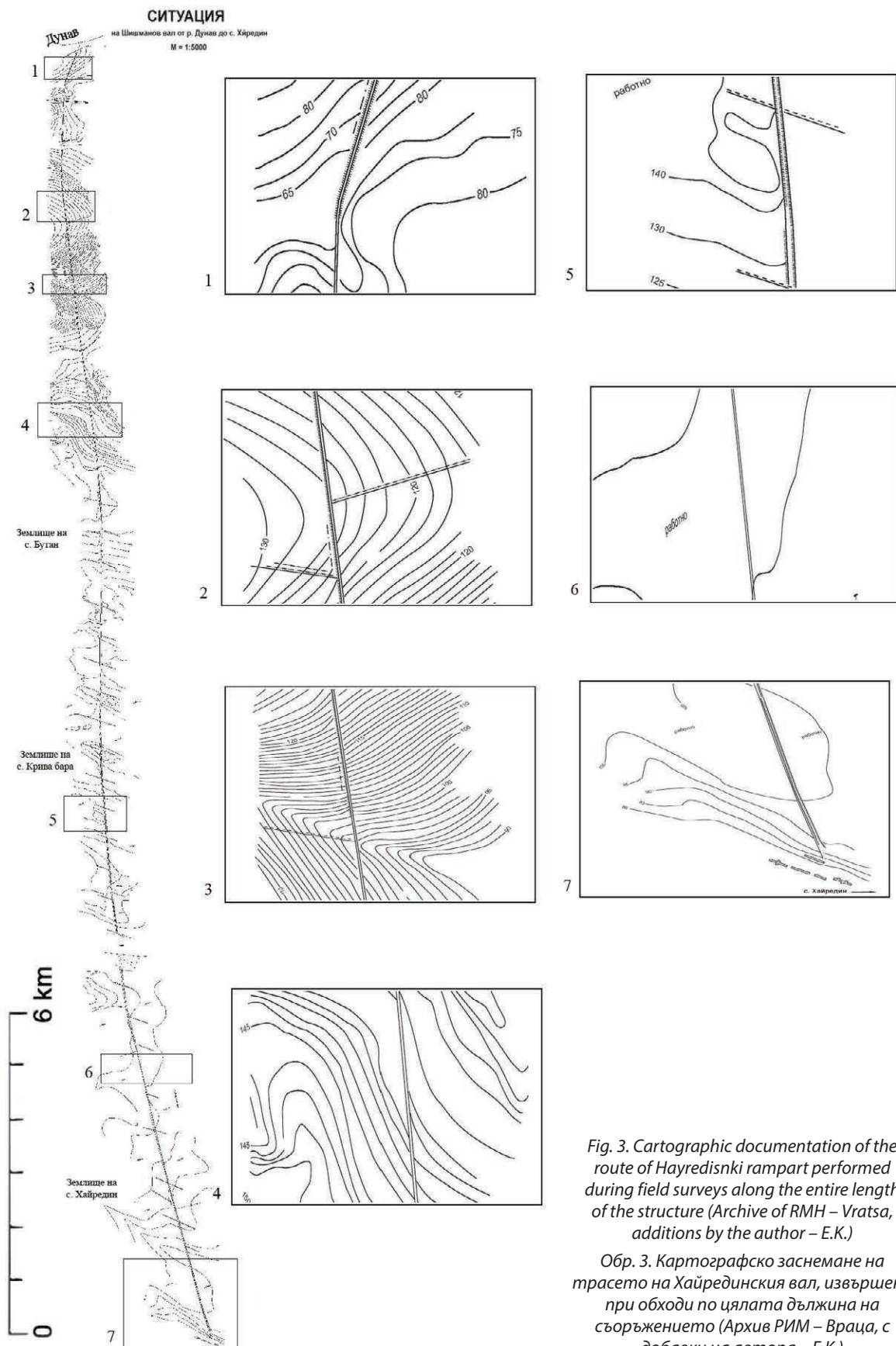


Fig. 3. Cartographic documentation of the route of Hayredinski rampart performed during field surveys along the entire length of the structure (Archive of RMH – Vratsa, additions by the author – E.K.)

Обр. 3. Картографско заснемане на трасето на Хайрединския вал, извършено при обходи по цялата дължина на съоръжението (Архив РИМ – Враца, с добавки на автора – Е.К.)

Route of the rampart and brief geographical and geomorphological characteristics of the region

The route of the Hayredinski rampart, also known as Shishmanov rampart, begins from the north, from the 25-metre-high bank of the Danube river, 6 km west of the town of Kozloduy, in the “Kiler Bair” area (fig. 3, fig. 4b). To the south, it runs in an almost straight line to the village of Butan. South of the village of Butan, the rampart remains on the lands of the villages of Kriva Bara and Hayredin. At its fifteenth kilometer, it turns with a declination of 10° to the southeast, ending at the village of Manastirishte and is lost in the alluvial lowlands of the river of Ogosta. In the section north of Hayredin village, the route branches into two. The east branch has a length of 3 km and is almost obliterated by modern construction, and the west branch, with a length of 4.8 km, reaches the bank of the river of Ogosta (fig. 2).

The Hayredinski rampart crosses from north to south the waterless plain “Zlatiyata”, enclosed by the Danube, Ogosta and Tsibritsa rivers. The area is characterized by climatic and geomorphological features typical of steppe regions (Рашев, Иванов 1986, 11). In present days, it offers conditions for cultivating wheat, maize and sunflower. The rampart, like the Lomski and Ostrovski ramparts, crosses from north to south two of the three subparallel developed types of sedimentary loess cover within the Moesian epiplatform plain. The thickness of the loess massif in the two zones varies from 20 to 50 m, but near the valley of the Danube river it reaches 100 m (Яранов 1960, 281; Минков 1968, 201; Стоилов 1984, 352).

Archaeological site No. 25/2006 is situated south of the low watershed diving the catchment area of Shishmanov Dam from the hollow loess depression formed as a result of subsidence or sinking of the loess massif in the rear parts of the representative inclined level from the Early Pleistocene (fig. 4b) (Агаларева 2006, 38; Алексиев 2009, 71).

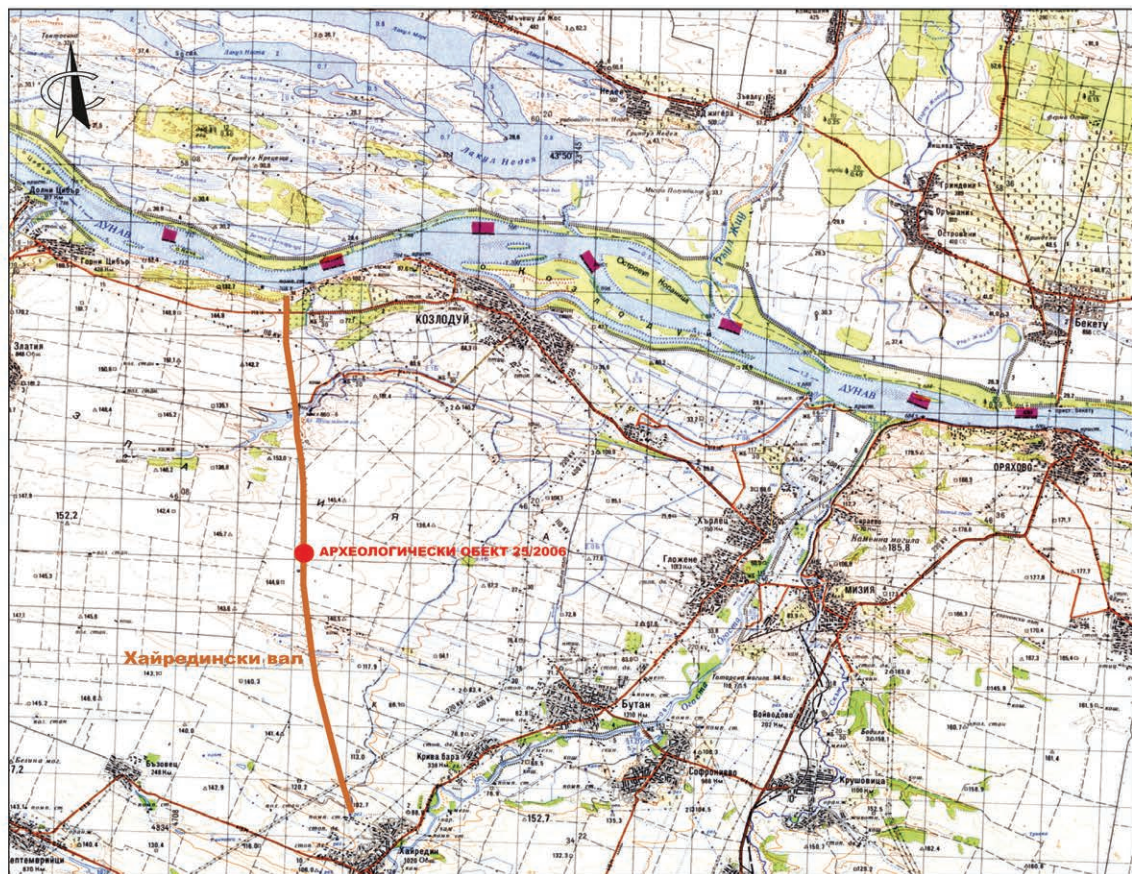
The borders of the easement of site No. 25/2006 include an area of 1,800 sq.m, which is in present day arable agricultural land and a low acacia forest planted in the 1930s – 1960s on the ridge of the rampart (fig. 5a). In the sections which are significant in length, it is only this forest belt that fixes the route of the rampart, heavily disfigured as a result of active agricultural activities and the presence of dirt roads (fig. 5b).

Geophysical and tachymetric surveys⁴

A complete geomagnetic survey was carried out on the designated area in order to establish presence or absence of dug in structures in or under the embankment of the rampart (fig. 6). The results showed clearly the presence of two linear anomalies – one related to the embankment of the rampart, and the other – (probably) to the fill of the ditch. One isometric anomaly was registered in the very SW corner of the easement (grid squares G/10 – H/10).

The electrical resistivity survey was carried out along the line of grid squares A and H, which mark the northern and southern borders of the site and cross the earthwork perpendicularly (fig. 7). According to the two tomographic profiles made, there are no data for restructuring the lithological-stratigraphic and lithological-facial sequences. Two symmetric and analogous geophysical anomalies were established with high electrical conductivity and lowered resistivity on both sides of the ditch, which is probably related to the high porosity of the loess massif. The

⁴ The geophysical surveys were carried out by Assist. Prof. Hristiyan Tsankov and Assist. Prof. Atanas Kisiov from the Applied Geophysics Department of the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski” in Sofia. The results were read and interpreted by prof. DGSc Georgi Alexiev. The tachymetric survey was carried out by eng. Atanas Kamenarov.



а



б

Fig. 4. a. Route of the Hayredinski rampart; b. Location of site No. 25/2006 in respect of the route of the rampart and the gas pipeline
Обр. 4. а. Трасето на Хайрединския вал; б. Местоположение на обект 25/2006 спрямо трасетата на вала и газопровода



a



b

*Fig. 5. a. Present day state of the route of the rampart (view from the southwest);
b. Aerial photography of the route of the rampart in the land of Butan village*
*Обр. 5. а. Сегашно състояние на трасето на вала (изглед от югозапад);
б. Въздушна снимка на трасето на вала в землището на с. Бутан*

longitudinal axis of the linearly elongated depression within which the earthwork is situated is fixed by a slightly asymmetrical V-shaped cross profile of the submeridionally elongated ditch and the rampart, spatially connected with it.

Compared to the modern surface documented through the tachymetric survey (fig. 8a, b), the ditch has a depth of about 1 m, flat bottom, rounded walls and shoulders, which reach levels up to 141.47 m to the west and 142.60 m to the east. The rise of the eastern part of the rampart is due to the accumulation of loess rock mass with visible thickness of about 1 m and its turf cover.

Methodology of the archaeological survey

The methodology of the archaeological survey took into account the data from the geophysical and tachymetric surveys and the results of the excavations of the rampart carried out in 1978 by Rasho Rashev near the village of Hayredin. Three cross stratigraphic sections were put in with a length of 30 m and width of 5 m. Two of them (sections Nos. 1 and 3) were positioned relative to the highest points of the rampart ridge, and allowed optimal clarification of the sequence of its accumulation (fig. 9, fig. 10). The third (section No. 2) was put in relative to a region in a worse state of preservation in order to track the fracture of the earth embankment to the extent possible. The three sections have a total area of 450 sq. m and their length allowed documenting profiles with a total length of 180 m. They are such distance apart from each other (fig. 9, fig. 10) that, in addition to data on the rampart structure, they could show in a horizontal plan the ditch route and the distance from the western face of the rampart in a segment with a total length of 25 m.

Due to the complexity of the stratification in the rampart documented by Rasho Rashev in the area near the village of Hayredin (fig. 2), two longitudinal profiles oriented along the ridge of the earth embankment were made in addition to the cross profiles, in sections Nos. 1 and 2 and with a total length of 10 m (fig. 11). This allowed precise 3D documenting and careful tracking of data of a potential palisade in it.

The embankment of the rampart in sections Nos. 1 and 2 was taken down in mechanical layers with a thickness of 0.20 m each until a sterile layer was reached. The mechanical layers in section No. 1 were taken off following the denivelation of the ground and in section No. 2 these layers were horizontally graded. The aim in both cases was to track the sequence of accumulation of the earth embankment. The fill in the ditch, after the depository layer was taken off, was excavated in mechanical layers with a thickness of 0.10 m until its bottom was reached.

In addition to the three stratigraphic sections, two trenches were set. One – in grid sq. G/10 – H/10, where a clear geomagnetic anomaly was registered, and the other – immediately in front of the western front line of the rampart, in grid sq. F/2 – G/2, in order to measure the thickness of the natural stratification on a ground which is unaffected by anthropogenic activities.

The soil was dumped within the borders of the easement of the site, along the lines of grid squares A/1 – H/1 and west of them. The shape of the spoil heap aimed to recreate the size of the rampart on a “clean” ground in order to compare the volumes of the earth mass and the speed of its accumulation, in accordance with the human work force and the time put in.

In order to compare the composition of the layers from the rampart's embankment and the fill of the ditch, a sedimentological analysis was carried out, for which 10 samples were selected from sections Nos. 1 – 4 of the northern profile (at the ditch) and 6 – from the eastern longitudinal profile (at the rampart).⁵

⁵ The sedimentological laboratory analysis includes: Sieve analysis of fraction 0.05 to 2.00 mm and hydrometric analysis of fraction < 0.05 mm after treatment with H₂O₂ (hydrogen peroxide) for presence of clay or organic matter, presented in cumulative curves or percentages for particle size, as well as through HCL – for establishing carbonates

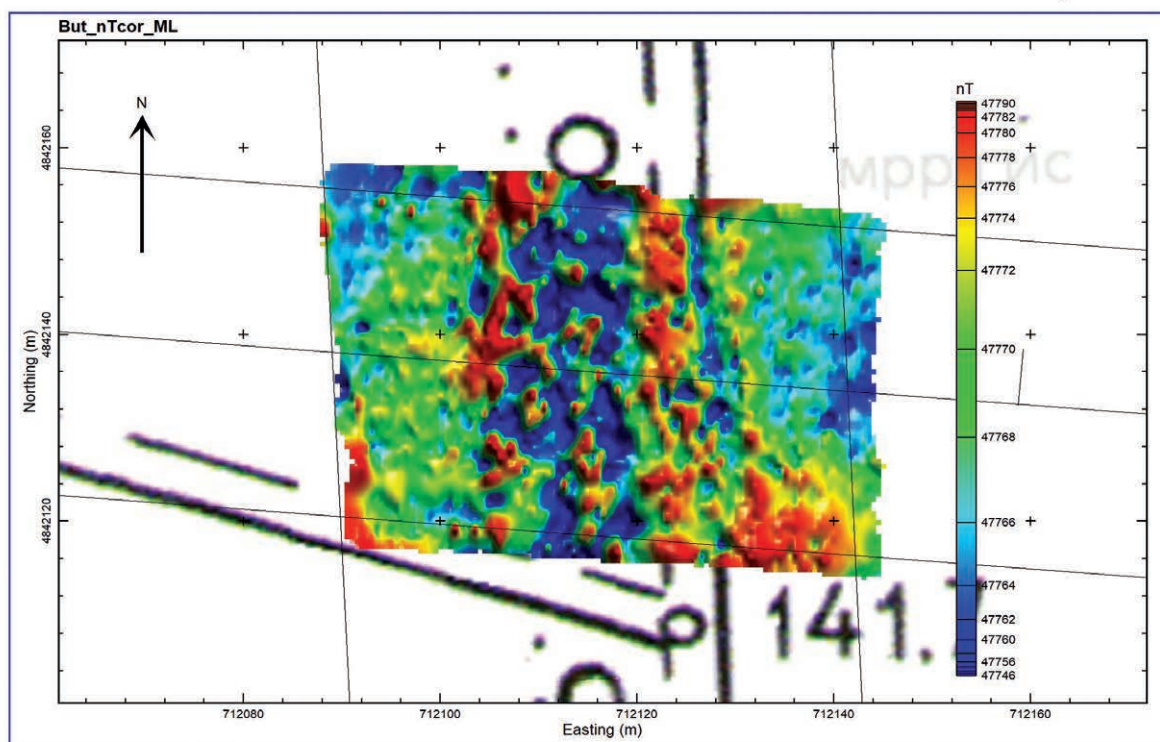


Fig. 6. Geomagnetic survey

Обр. 6. Геомагнитно заснемане

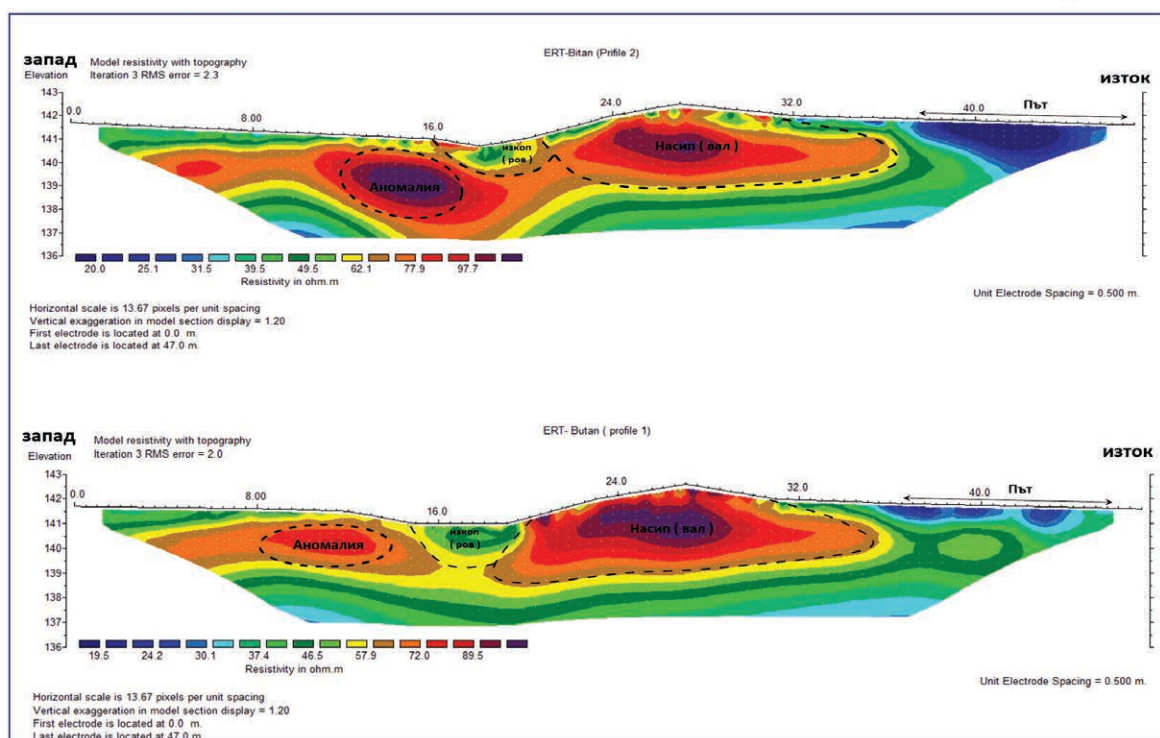


Fig. 7. Electrical resistivity survey

Обр. 7. Електросъпротивително заснемане

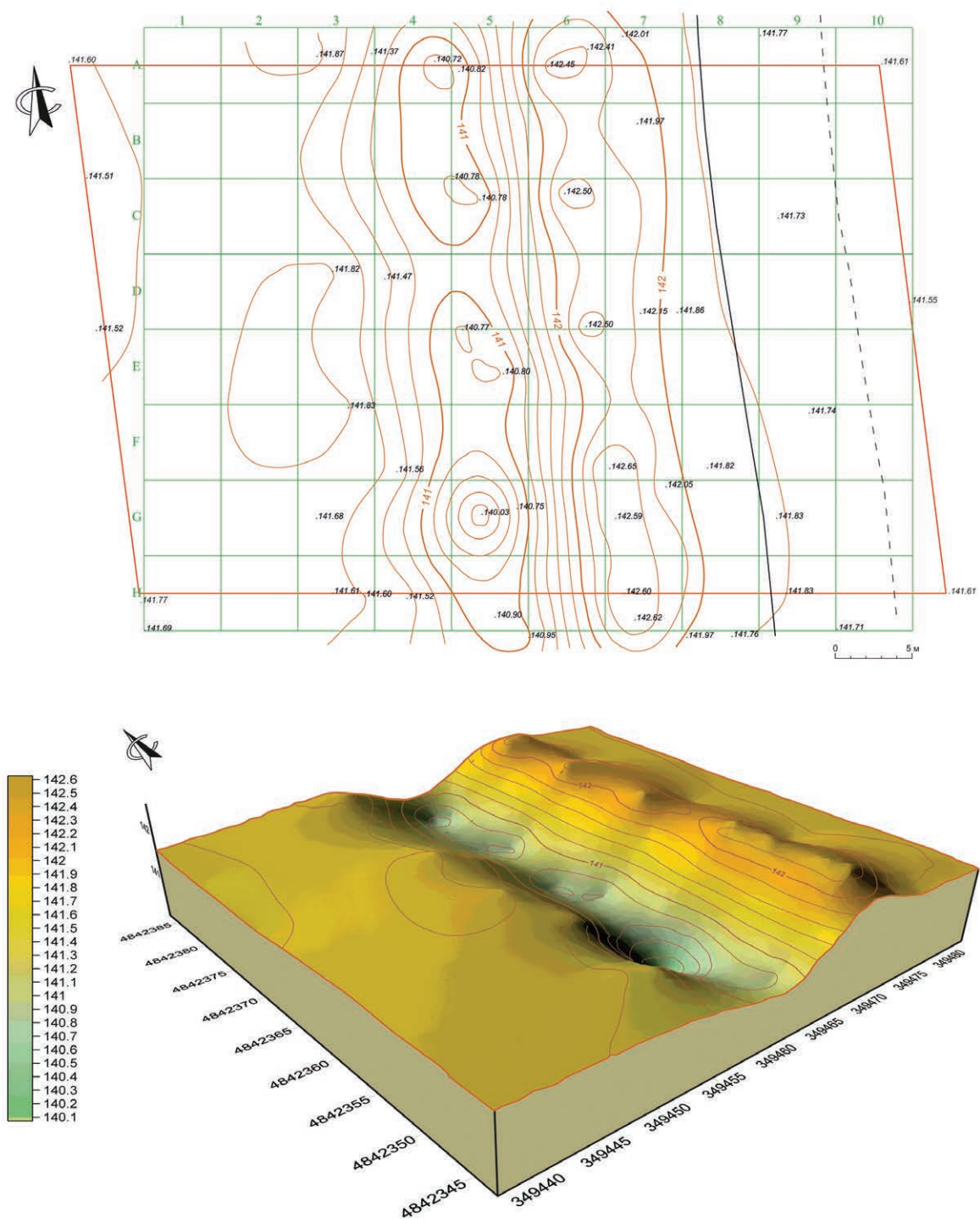


Fig. 8. Tachymetric survey
Обр. 8. Тахиметрично заснемане

Structural specifics of the earthwork

The earth barrier includes two spatially connected elements: a rampart and a ditch. Its maximum preserved height – from the bottom of the ditch to the ridge of the rampart – is 4.35 m (in section No. 1), 4.31 m (in section No. 2) and 4.42 m (in section No. 3) (fig. 9, fig. 10). The insignificant differences in height are due to the slight slope of the ground from north to south.

The embankment of the rampart shows similar features in all three cross-sections (fig. 12, fig. 13). It is asymmetrical from the western face, which is due to its erosion in the direction of the ditch. The embankment is made up of four layers: 1 – the bottom one is the loess bedrock which consists of very fine, fine, medium, and coarse sand; 2 – a transitional layer follows, which is a mixture of fine and coarse siltstone with humus pockets; 3 – re-deposited loess and 4 – sustained soil layer with a high content of clay or organic matter. The borders of these layers are barely visible in a horizontal plan, with the exception of the one between the old humus and the loess layer deposited on top of it (fig. 14a, b).

No core in the center of the rampart's embankment is distinguished in the stratification thus described. The first three layers in the individual sections are deposited evenly, almost in parallel to each other, and are approximately equal in thickness, composition and density. There are no data about restructuring or any other transformation processes. Insignificant differences in the sequence of the layers can be observed only along the eastern longitudinal profile in section No. 1, where between layers Nos. 3 and 4 a thin strip of grey compact soil is registered, probably accumulated from the old terrain where the excavation of the ditch began (fig. 15a, b).

The asymmetry of the earthwork and the height of the rampart ridge is due only to the layer of re-deposited loess with average thickness of 0.55 to 1 m and width up to 12 m, whose borders are also the most distinct in a vertical and horizontal plan (fig. 14a, b). On the west this layer follows the slope of the western face of the rampart, and on the east it becomes thinner but is clearly traceable (fig. 12, fig. 13). In contrast to the first three layers, that of re-deposited loess is distinguished by high porosity. In individual places along the longitudinal profiles, vertical interlayers of humus soil with a thickness of 0.25 m were registered. The initial assumptions that they are traces of palisade were not confirmed due to the lack of metric dependency and interval of their position (fig. 14e).

The earthwork has an open front to the west. The ditch is the same distance from the western face of the rampart and follows the direction of its ridge. Between the fore of the rampart and the ditch, no berm was registered (fig. 9, fig. 10).

The bottom of the ditch in the sections made is horizontally graded and the difference in the three trenches is up to 0.14 m, which is due to the slight slope of the ground from north to south (fig. 9, fig. 16). The outlines of the ditch and its precise excavation at the bottom are fixed by interlayers of dark humus soil which has slid back from the rampart's ridge (fig. 17). The width of the ditch at the bottom is 2.10 m and its route is traced most distinctly along the layer of the fill, formed by a mixture of humus soil that has slid down, and loess (fig. 18).

There are three layers in the fill of the ditch (fig. 12, fig. 13, fig. 17). The bottom-most layer was formed as a result of the damage on the ridge of the rampart. The porous loess and the old humus are represented by thin alternating interlayers with a total thickness of up to 0.50 m. Above them is the slid transitional layer of light brown siltstone, and above it is the depository layer of humus with many organic admixtures, which is also the one with the biggest thickness. The thickness

within the lithological-stratigraphic and lithological-facial vertical sediment section (in the northern profile of section No. 1). The analyses were carried out in the Sedimentology Laboratory with the Faculty of GeoExploration of the University of Mining and Geology "St. Ivan Rilski".

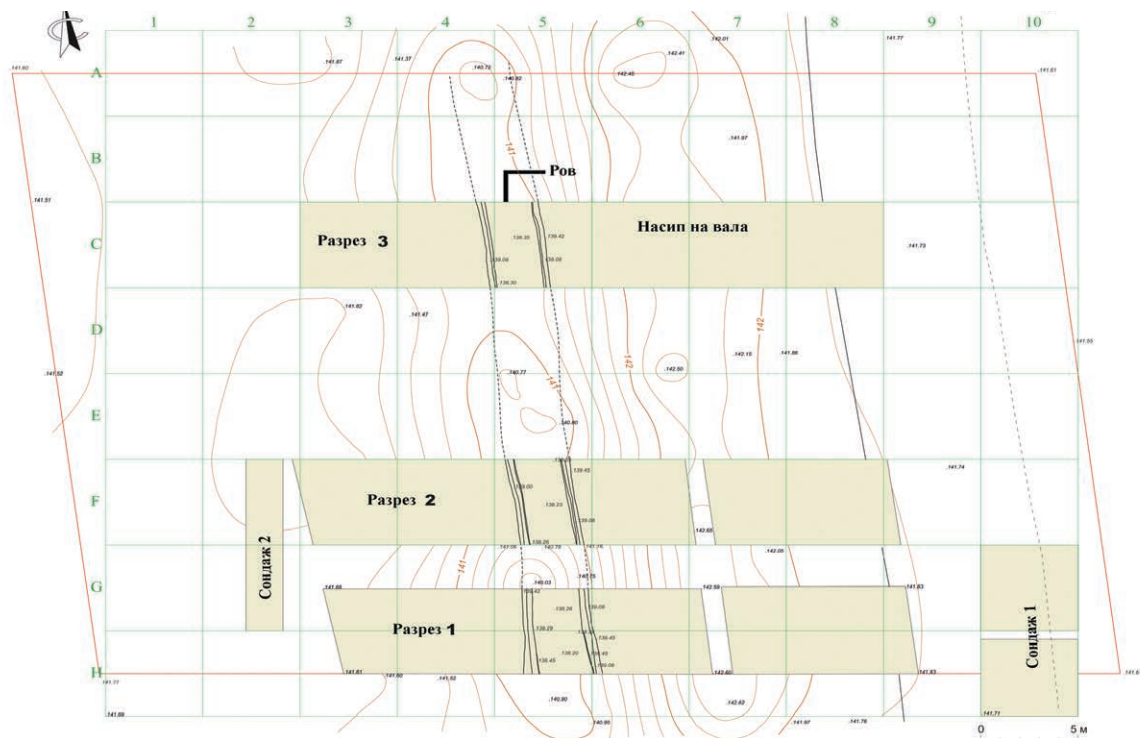


Fig. 9. General plan of site No. 25/2006

Обр. 9. Общ план на обект 25/2006

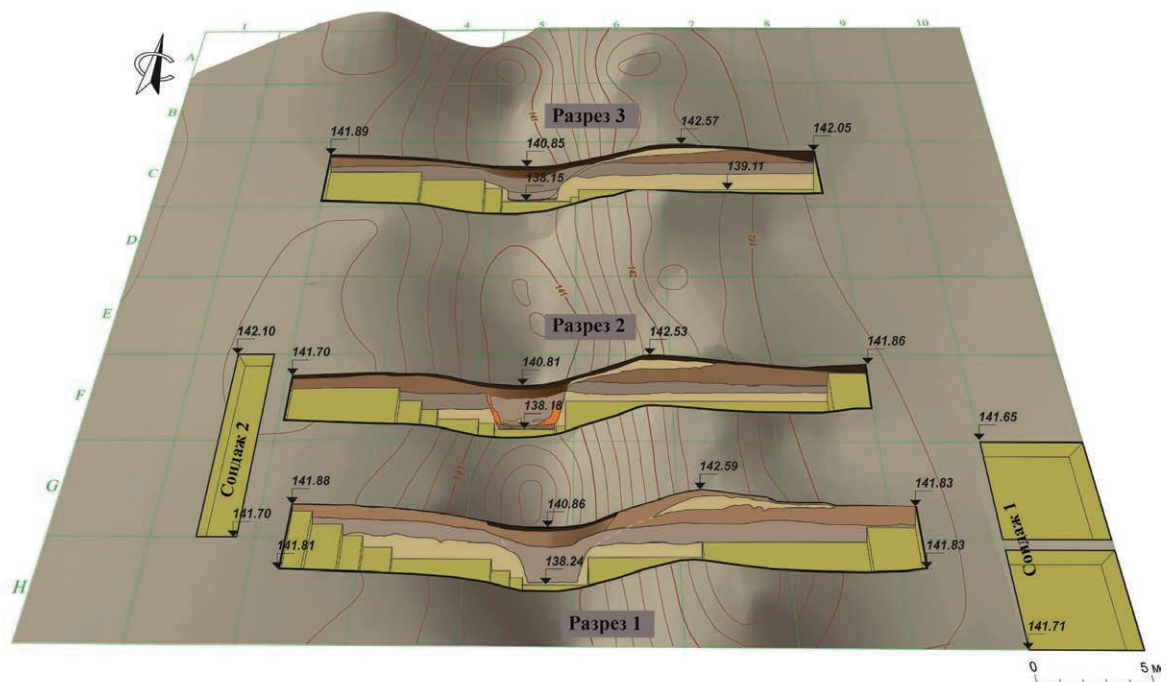


Fig. 10. Outlook plan of site No. 25/2006

Обр. 10. Перспективен план на обект 25/2006

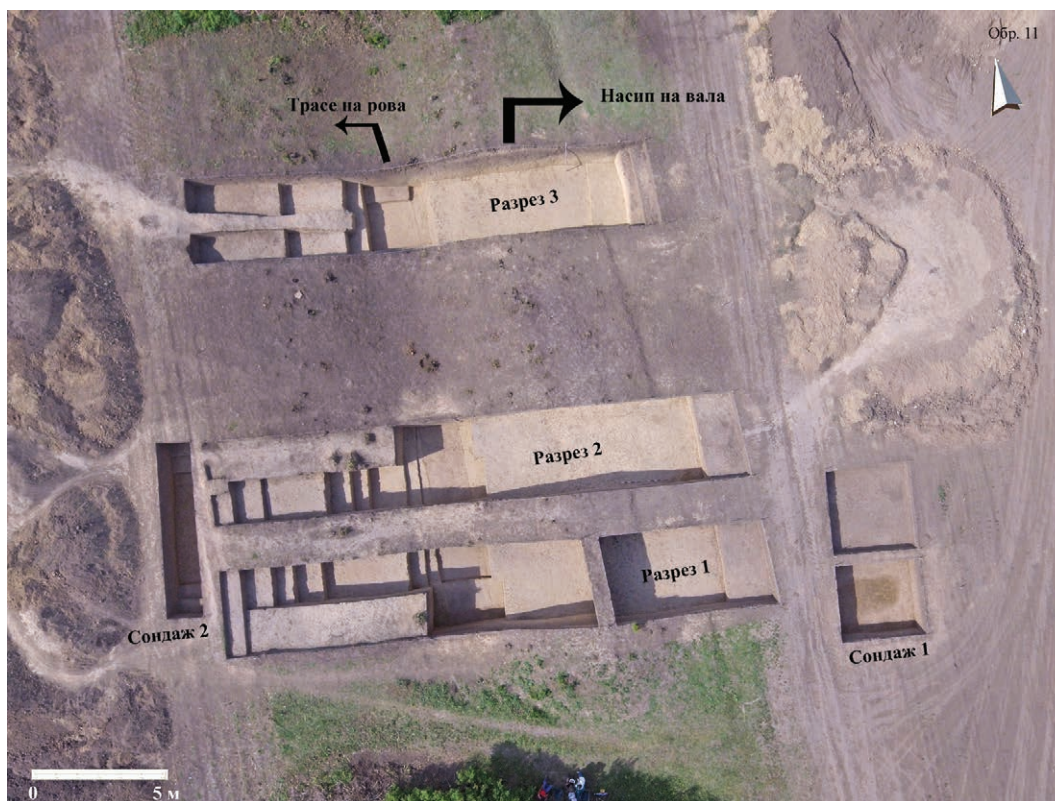


Fig. 11. Site No. 25/2006 – orthophoto

Обр.11. Объект 25/2006 – ортофото

of this layer is due to the construction of the irrigation systems in the vicinity of the earthwork when the nearby terrains began to be used actively for growing agricultural crops. It is in this latest period – the 1950s and the 1960s – that the ditch was regularly filled by water. As a consequence, its fill became swampy and gradually acquired its present state.

Paleo(geo)graphic reconstructions

In the morphology of the accumulative loess surface, the route of Hayredinski rampart is significantly disfeatured and hard to decipher. This indistinctiveness of individual areas along its length is related to the different conditions and factors of natural and anthropogenic character: active destruction in the loess terrains and continuous transformation of the near-surface layers of the earth core under the impact of climatic fluctuations and gravity, as well as the anthropogenic pressure in the form of active land use and search for hydrocarbons (Яранов 1960, 281; Агапарева 2006, 38; Алексиев 2009, 71).

The monitoring and sediment analyses of samples from the northern cross and eastern longitudinal profile in section No. 1 (Table 1) show a certain anthropogenic restructuring. Such is also noticed in the vertical section of lithological-facial sequences or of the sedimentary and soil layers within the rampart. A sharp increase of clay particles from 24 to 30 % is marked within the soil and transitional horizon. In addition, on the east, at the rampart embankment and within the facial sequences, a predominant participation of siltstone particles of 53 – 64 % and insignificant sand volumes – from 15 to 20 % – is observed. Within the rampart an anomalous increase of the thickness of the chernozem soil horizon is identified, the result of human excavation and embankment works, and the accumulated lenticular loess rock mass has a thickness of up to 0.60 – 1 m and is covered by turf.



Fig. 12. Section No. 1, Northern profile
Обр.12. Разрез 1, Северен профил

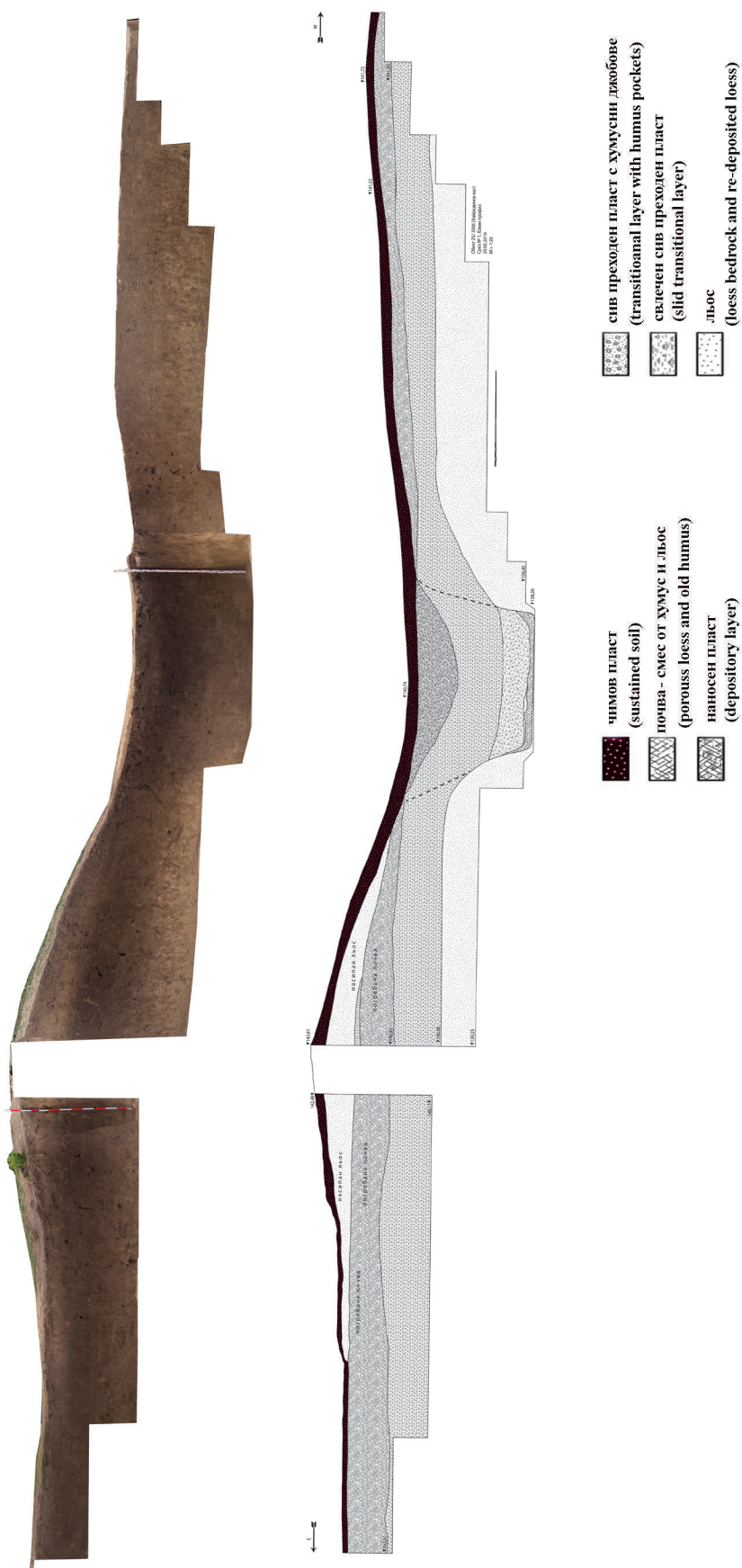


Fig. 13. Section No. 1, Southern profile
Обр.13. Разрез 1, Южен профил



Fig. 14. Stages of the excavations of the embankment of the rampart: a. section No. 1, grid sq. G/4 – H/4, southern profile, border between the old humus and the re-deposited loess in a vertical plan, elevation 141.66; b. section No. 1, grid sq. G/4 – H/4, southern profile, border between the old humus and the re-deposited loess in a horizontal plan, elevation 141.66; c. stages of the excavations of the rampart in sections Nos. 1 and 2; d. section No. 2, grid sq. F/6 – northern profile, elevation 141.63; e. section No. 2, grid sq. F/6, eastern profile, elevation 141.63

Обр.14. Етапи от проучването на насипа на вала: а. разрез 1, кв. G/4 – H/4, южен профил, граница между стария хумус и преотложения лъос във вертикален план, кота 141,66; б. разрез 1, кв. G/4 – H/4, южен профил, граница между стария хумус и преотложения лъос в хоризонтален план, кота 141,66; в. етапи на проучване на вала в разрези 1 и 2; г. разрез 2, кв. F/6 – северен профил, кота 141,63; е. разрез 2, кв. F/6, източен профил, кота 141,63

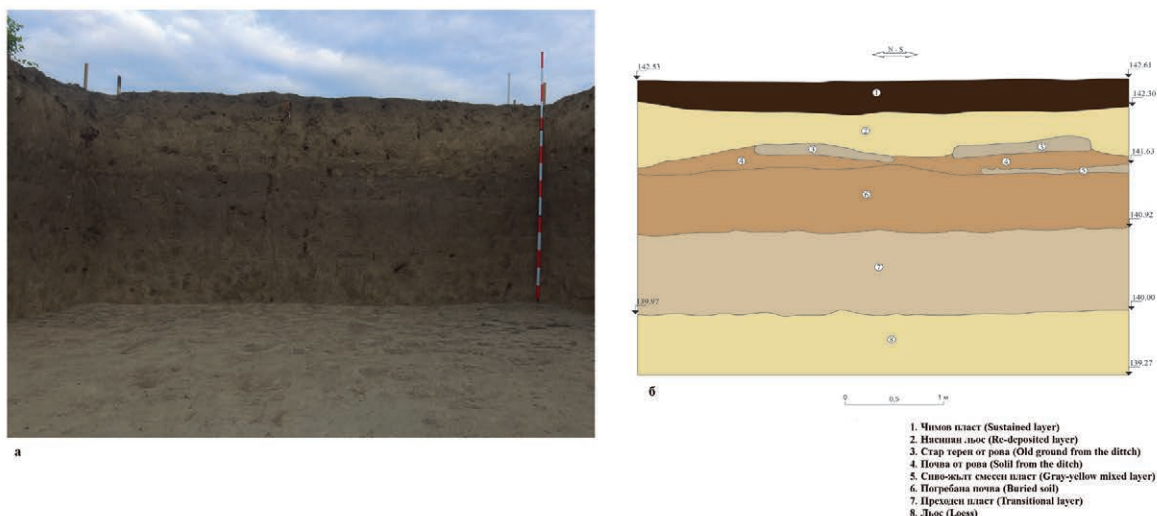


Fig. 15. Longitudinal profile along the ridge of the rampart in Section No. 1, grid sq. G/7 – H/7

Обр. 15. Надлъжен профил, ориентиран по билото на вала, в Разрез 1, кв. G/7 – H/7

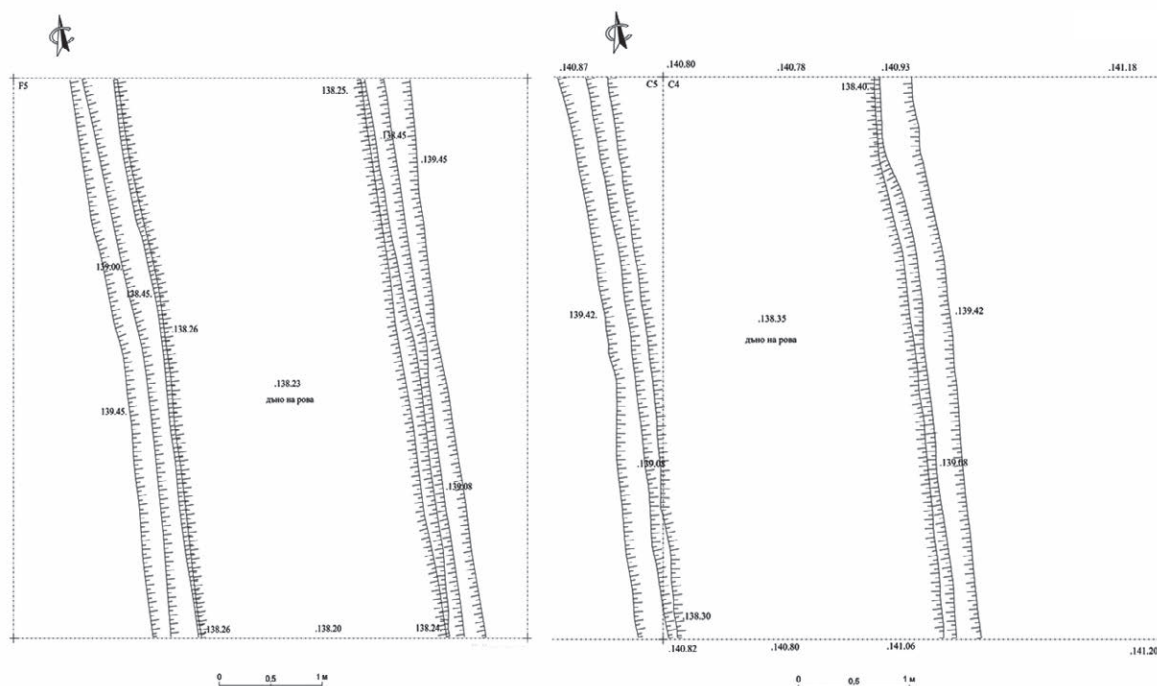


Fig. 16. The route of the ditch in sections Nos. 1 and 2, grid sq. F/5 – C/4 – C/5

Обр. 16. Трасето на рова в разрез 1 и 2, кв. F/5 – C/4 – C/5

The analysis of the cross section (in the western area) of the rampart did not establish serious markers and signs to help the identification of active anthropogenic activity which would cause restructuring in the lithological-stratigraphic and lithological-facial sequences. All this gives the authors grounds to assume that the ditch initially had a natural genesis related to the burial of paleo-plains or karst depressions during loessing. The funnel-like widening of the ditch from the west, which increases its width to 5 m, is probably not the result of human activity since there are no disturbances of the natural stratigraphic order along its whole length. The sequence and thickness of the natural stratification here completely coincide with those



Fig. 17. Cross-sections of the fill of the ditch: a. section No. 1, southern profile, grid sq. G/4 – H/4, elevation 138.23; b. section No. 1, southern profile, grid sq. G/4 – H/4 – a detail; c. section No. 1, northern profile, grid sq. G/4 – H/4; d. section No. 2, southern profile, grid sq. F/4, elevation 138.20; e. section No. 3, southern profile, grid sq. C/5, elevation 138.25; f. section No. 3, southern profile, grid sq. C/5 – a detail

Обр. 17. Профили на запълнителя на рова: а. разрез 1, южен профил, кв. G/4 – H/4, кота 138,23; б. разрез 1, южен профил, кв. G/4 – H/4 – детайл; с. разрез 1, северен профил, кв. G/4 – H/4; д. разрез 2, южен профил, кв. F/4, кота 138,20; е. разрез 3, южен профил, кв. C/5, кота 138,25; ф. разрез 3, южен профил, кв. C/5 – детайл

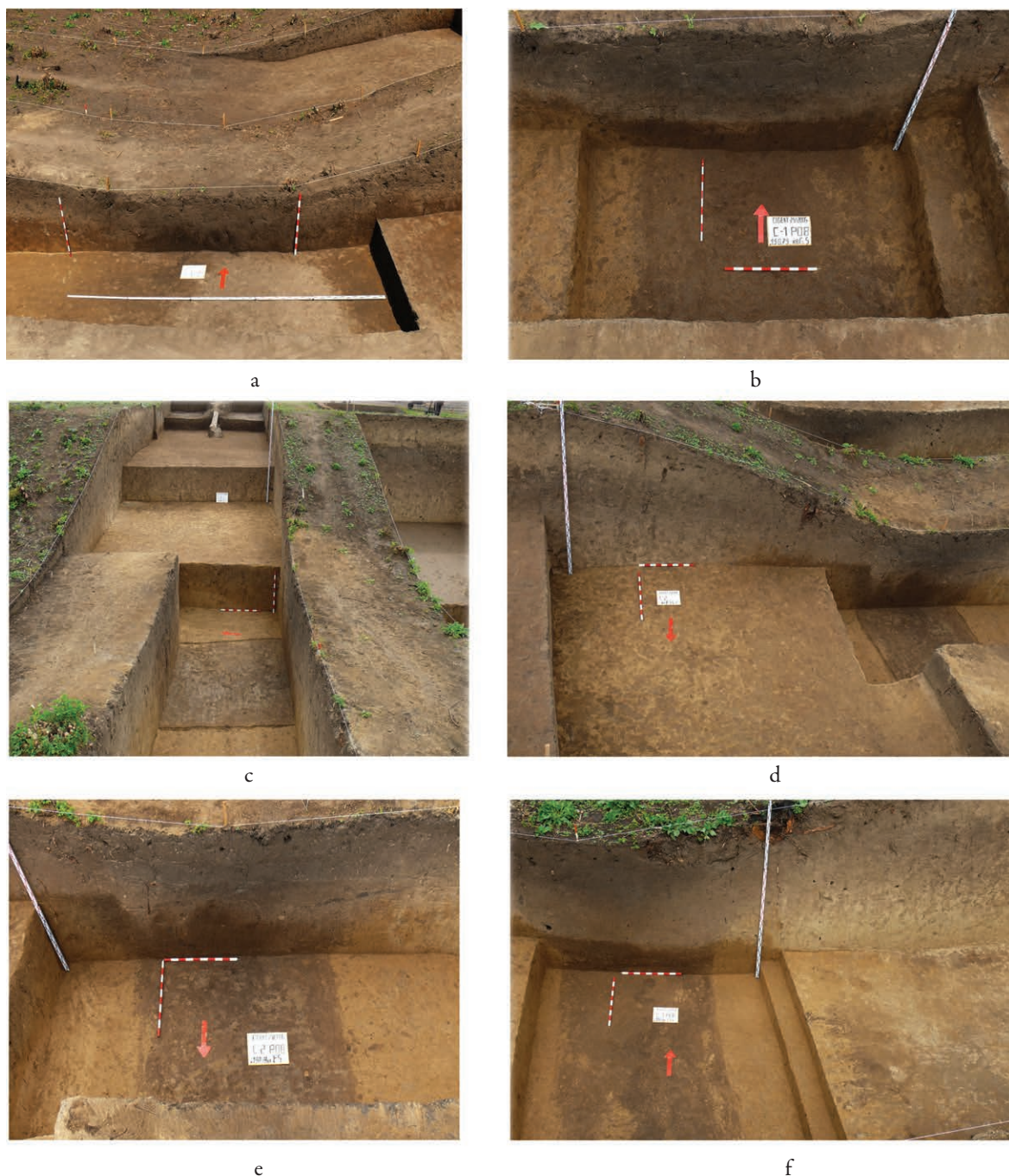


Fig. 18. Stages of the fill of the ditch: a. section No. 1, grid sq. G/5 – H/5, elevation 139.88; b. Section No. 1, elevation 138.57; c. – d. Section No. 2, grid sq. F/5, elevation 139.41; e. Section No. 2, elevation 138.78; f. Section No. 3, grid sq. C/4 – C/5, elevation 138.57

Обр. 18. Етапи от запълването на рова: а. разрез 1, кв. G/5 – H/5, ко̀та 139,88; б. разрез 1, ко̀та 138,57; в. – д. разрез 2, кв. F/5, ко̀та 139,41; е. разрез 2, ко̀та 138,78; ф. разрез 3, кв. C/4 – C/5, ко̀та 138,57

from trench No. 2, located on the “clean” ground before the western front of the rampart, in grid sq. F/2 – G/2.

The surveys along the route of the rampart between site No. 25/2006 and the Shishmanov Dam (fig. 4b) also established spatial connection between the loess depressions and the buried funnel-like paleo-plains which drained the loess lowerings (Агаларева 2006, 38; Алексиев, 2009, 71).

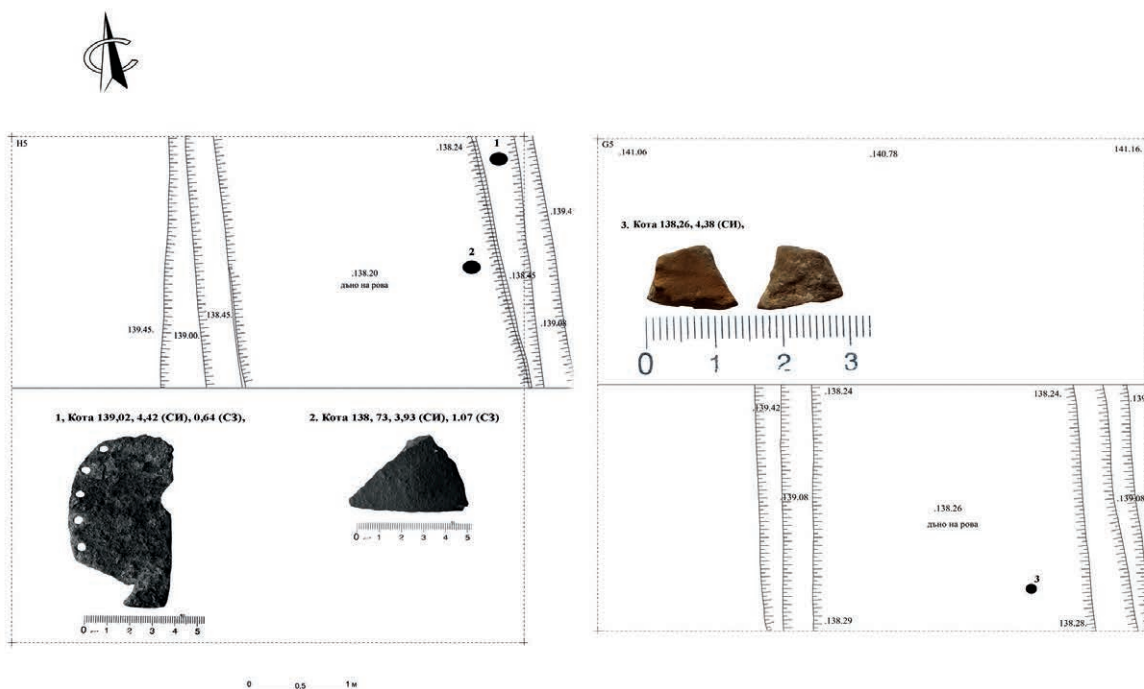


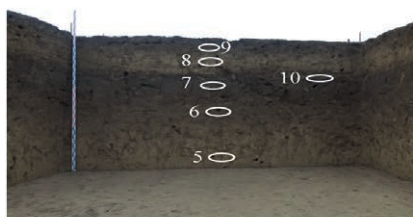
Fig. 19. Context of the materials found

Обр. 19. Контекст на откритите материали



1. Северен напречен профил на Разрез 1 (ров)
Northern transverse profile of Section No.1 (ditch)

Проба Sample	ГЛИНА/CLAY (%)	АЛЕВРИТ/SILTSTONE (%)	ПЯСЪК/SAND (%)
№1	24,31	65,80	9,89
№2	28,25	51,91	19,84
№3	27,06	57,97	14,97
№4	19,15	67,11	13,74



2. Източен надлъжен профил в Разрез 1 (насип на вала)
Eastern longitudinal profile of Section No.1 (embankment of the rampart)

Проба	Глина (%)	Алеврит (%)	Пясък (%)
№ 5	19,72	66,33	13,95
№ 6	26,72	53,66	19,62
№ 7	30,06	54,69	15,25
№ 8	29,58	54,37	16,05
№ 9	25,58	55,17	16,25
№ 10	23,78	56,25	19,97

Table 1. Sedimentological analysis

Табл. 1. Седиментоложки анализ

This paleogeographic situation probably later facilitated the active excavation and embankment human activity in the formation of the earthwork. The comparison of the volumes of earth mass from the ditch and the rampart also point towards such an assumption since, due to the smaller size of the ditch, the soil excavated from it could not form a rampart which is 12 m wide in its base.

Possibilities for cultural-historical interpretation

The excavations carried out in 1978 and 2019 show that in two of its segments – near the village of Hayredin and the village of Butan – the Hayredin rampart has a different structure. In its southern end, the rampart comprises 10 layers, accumulated around its significantly large core

and a clearly established archaeological base, and its ridge is fortified with gravel (fig. 2). In the excavated region near the village of Butan, the structural specifics of the earthwork are completely different and take into account the paleo(geo)graphic characteristics of the ground (fig. 12). The builders of the rampart probably took into account the natural conditions in other areas along the route as well. This is supported by the big differences between the profiles of the rampart embankment and the ditch, in particular, surveyed by Rasho Rashev and Plamen Ivanov during their comprehensive surveys along the whole length of the earthwork (Пашев, Иванов 1986, 15, обр. 3). It seems that the construction of the rampart in its southern end began on a relatively even ground (fig. 3: 7), due to the lack of a natural karst depression and aimed to extend the route so that it reached the bank of the Ogosta river. Thus a territory is differentiated, which is bordered on the north by the Danube river, and on the southeast – by the Ogosta river, and on the south it is fenced off by the route of the rampart (fig. 4a). The territory between the Danube river and Tsibritsa river is similarly fenced off to the west of the Hayredinski rampart and the artificial earthwork barrier there is the Lomski rampart. The situation on the east is significantly different, near the Ostrovski rampart, whose northern end does not begin from the Danube and the southern does not reach the Iskar river. Its southern end is in the foot of the Usoya mountain between the villages of Tlachene and Gabare (Григоров 2011, 130, 134).

The almost complete lack of materials hinders the archaeological dating of the Hayredinski rampart. Finds were discovered only in section No. 1. They were part of an oxshoe, an uncharacteristic pottery sherd thrown on a fast wheel, and a very tiny, disfigured fragment found at the bottom of the ditch (fig. 19). None of those is Medieval. The first two artifacts are from the depository layer in the ditch and from modern times. The pottery sherd at the bottom of the ditch is from a vessel made from well-purified fine clay and is distinguished by high-quality firing. This could be interpreted in two ways: as close to the time immediately after the ditch was excavated or as having got there immediately after the rampart began to collapse.

The functioning of structures of the type of the Hayredinski rampart presupposes systematic or temporary guards and the absence of dating and other artifacts shows that it and the other two “Western Bulgarian Ramparts” were constructed quickly and used for a short period of time.⁶ The latter is also suggested by its rapid collapse during which the embankment from the ridge and its front fell on the bottom of the ditch and there are no visible traces of cleaning or restructuring of the rampart in the soft loess rock (fig. 17).

Due to the long-term lack of systematic archaeological excavations in Northwestern Bulgaria, the cultural-historical interpretation of the Western Bulgarian Ramparts is extremely difficult and based almost entirely on general historical considerations. The leading hypothesis in Bulgaria that they belong to the cultural-historical dimension of the first Bulgarian State is also of such nature. The main postulates for this are:

- “Until the beginning of the 9th c. Bulgaria was the only Early Medieval state in Europe which marked its borders in this way, reviving the tradition of the Roman fortified borders” (Пашев 1982, 34). This happened in the dawn of its foundation since what is known as the Ongal is enclosed from the north and south with ramparts. These are the Southern Besarabski, Galatski and Small Dobrudzhanski (Шкорпил 1905, 503; Александров 1980, 201; Атанасов 2015, 173). Only Dimitar Krundzhalov opposes the arguments of this thesis. According to him, these lands

⁶ Within the three sections with a total width of 15 m, the layer of re-deposited loess has a length of 12 – 14 m. Its maximum thickness in the highest points at the ridge of the rampart reaches 0.60 – 1 m. This is the only layer for which it can be claimed with certainty that it was artificially piled. Its excavation was carried out by 22 people for 4 days, and it should be noted here that in this period the earth mass was taken out mechanically 30 m to the side.

did not “come to light in history as late as the arrival of the proto-Bulgarians,” so the ramparts in question could be referred to earlier ages, Antiquity, to be more precise (Крънжалов 1943, 59).

- “During excavations of the Ostrovski entrenchment, traces of Sclaveni and proto-Bulgarian settlers were found. These data (*without specific ones being pointed out – note by the author*) give sufficient grounds to assume that the settlements of the proto-Bulgarians and, respectively of “the Interior region” reached the Ostrovski entrenchment to the west” (Коледаров 1979, 14).

- The three Western Bulgarian Ramparts have an open front to the west. This excludes them from the antique earthwork-defense system, which is directed towards an enemy from the north (Рашев, Иванов 1986, 19). Thus, they represent a “unitary three-echelon defense line” against an attack from the west. Such, until the beginning of the 9th c., could be implemented by the Avar Khaganate (Рашев 1981, 100). At that time, the ramparts marked the northwestern border of Bulgaria in the region of the Middle Danube (Рашев, Иванов 1986, 19). On the other hand, “the discovery of Slavic-Bulgarian settlements with the earliest Slavic ceramics from the 7th c. south of Kozloduy, around the Hayredinski rampart... means that the construction of the border ramparts and the protection of the western border of the state, respectively, was entrusted to the Slavs (The Seven Slavic Tribes according to Sources)” (Атанасов 2015, 200).

At this stage, it can hardly be said that the archaeological data obtained during our surveys support categorically either of the above statements. Although they are incomplete, the data on the settlement system show, at least for now, a complete lack of territorial and chronological coordination with the data about the ramparts. In other words, there is lack of clarity on the question of the type of population that the “Western Bulgarian borderline ramparts” defended. The relatively dense settlement network (Григоров 2011, 3) is represented by the partially studied settlements near Bukyovtsi, Dolni Lukovit, Galiche, and Borovan (Григоров 2011, 128, обр. 1). The necropolises discovered near the first two of these settlements are also close territorially or belong to their population. The data from both, especially if we add the settlements near Kozloduy and Valchedram, presuppose that they existed for at least two centuries. The short period of functioning of the three ramparts shows that even if they were synchronous to the settlements and necropolises mentioned above, they performed their defensive role for a very short period of time. The Early Medieval settlements in the near vicinity of Hayredinski rampart are important for its cultural-historical interpretation. Such are registered mainly in its southern part – near the villages of Mihaylovo, Manastirishte, Hayredin, Sofronievo, and Golozhene (fig. 4a, b). The first three are in the immediate vicinity of the rampart and, according to the scarce published materials from there, they are dated within the broad range of the 9th and the 11th c. (Рашев, Иванов 1986, 20 – 24). This means that the initial date of these settlements is related to the time when the Western Bulgarian Ramparts, the Hayredinski one, in particular, had already ceased to function. The assumption that it was constructed before this date is based solely on the western orientation of the ditch (Рашев 1982, 67).

It is accepted that these earth embankment structures are of defensive nature also because of the fact that earthwork fortifications with a rectangular plan have been registered near their northern end. Near the Hayredinski rampart, one such fortification in the “Kiler Bair” area (also known as “Kale Kiler Bair – I”) 6 km west of the town of Kozloduy (fig. 1). According to Rasho Rashev, the connection between the fortification and the rampart has been obliterated, but one undoubtedly existed because the southwestern side of the fortification is coordinated with the route of the rampart (Рашев 1982, 67). The latest field surveys have entirely revised the date of the earth fortification on Kiler Bair, relating it to the period of the Late Iron Age (Торбатов и др.

2015, 795). One part of the pottery discovered there during surveys relates to that period, and another – to Late Antiquity (Рашев 1982, 67; Рашев, Иванов 1986, 24). This most probably means that the last phases of functioning of the fortification date back to Antiquity. What is most important, however, is that to this day, no Medieval ceramics or materials are known from there. Near the Ostrovski rampart, one more earthwork fortification has been registered – the one near the Alibash hill, but its connection to the rampart remains unclear (See Григоров 2011, 134).

The construction of earth embankments in the First Bulgarian State – borderline and (or) defensive ones – has also left a very weak trace in the written historical tradition. Data about them are also almost absent in the works of Byzantine authors, although one of them – the Erkesia – is considered to be the border between Bulgaria and the Byzantine Empire (Георгиев 1999, 131 – 140). The only, but insufficiently clear, data are those of Leo the Deacon about the siege of Drastar in 971 and of Al-Masudi about the country of the Burdzhan, both dating to between 150 and 200 years, after the Western Bulgarian Ramparts ceased to function, if, of course, we can trust their established dating. The two sources have been included in a publication dedicated to the Ostrovski rampart, which quotes the description of the Arabian geographer: “The country of the Burdzhan (Bulgarians) is fenced by a wooden fence, in which there are openings, resembling wooden windows; this fence resembles a wall beside a ditch” (Григоров 2011, 133). In another, more complete translation of a work of Al-Masudi, preserved only in fragments, it is written that this wall is known as the “Long Wall”, which serves as a barrier between the country of the Burdzhan and the five regions situated around Constantinople. The wall was constructed between two high mountains and behind an enormous river which in the “Slavic” language is called Danuba. Many Bulgarian (Al-Burgar), Slavs and other peoples who came from the north live on its shores (translation from: Калинина 2013, 196 – 197). The mixing of different ethnonyms in a short extract – “Burdzhan” and “Al-Burgar” has given rise to certain debates, one side of which is united around the idea that the information by Al-Masudi actually reflects legendary events related to the Bulgarians prior to their arrival at the Danube (Крюков 1983, 194 – 208). Other authors are inclined to see this “wall” as the defense ramparts of Pliska, and others still suspect that in some passages of his work “Stories of time and the wonders of countries” Al-Masudi confuses the Burdzhan with the Burgundians (review of debates on the issue in: Krandžalov 1960, 467 – 495; Калинина 2013, 197).

The excavations of the three Western Bulgarian Ramparts carried out in 2019 and those of Hayredinski rampart, in particular, provide most of all additional, significantly more detailed from any before, information regarding their structural specifics. They do not provide definite answers, neither in terms of chronology, nor in terms of their cultural-historical belonging to the First Bulgarian State. Regardless of the skepticism expressed above about the arguments in favour of this hypothesis, to present date, this cannot be entirely rejected. It seems very probable that the three ramparts are “border” ones and fence off from the west lands, which did not belong to the state, but to smaller local communities, whose territories on the east and north had their natural barriers, like the Danube river and its tributaries Tsibritsa, Ogosta, and Iskar. When and how (according to archaeological data) these lands, together with their population, were included in the borders of the First Bulgarian State is a question that would hardly be resolved by future excavations and sections of these structures. It is more likely that this would happen if the number of surveyed settlements is increased, in order to see how the three ramparts fit in the settlement system of the First Bulgarian State.

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ХАЙРЕДИНСКИЯТ ВАЛ – АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКО И ГЕОМОРФОЛОЖКО ПРОУЧВАНЕ В ЗЕМЛИЩЕТО НА С. БУТАН, ОБЩ. КОЗЛОДУЙ

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Хайрединският вал се намира в Северозападна България. Той е част от т.нар. „Западно-български погранични валове“, каквито са Ломският и Островският, известни от множество научни публикации. Трите вала имат обща дължина от над 100 км и се намират между реките Искър и Лом. Първите теренни изследвания и картиране са извършени от Карел Шкорпил в началото на XX век (обр. 1), а първият разрез на вала е направен в края на 70-те години от Рашо Рашев (обр. 2).

Дължината на Хайрединския вал е 24 км (обр. 3, обр. 4). В северния си край той започва от високия 25 м бряг на р. Дунав, на 6 км западно от гр. Козлодуй, в м. „Килер баир“. На юг, почти по права линия, се насочва към с. Бутан, където при единадесетия километър са проведени спасителните археологически разкопки. Южният край на вала е близо до село Манастирище. Там трасето се загубва в алувиалната низина на р. Огоста.

През 2019 г., във връзка с инвестиционен проект по разширение на газопреносната инфраструктура на Република България, се наложи провеждане на спасително археологическо проучване на обект 25/2006, както е обозначен Хайрединският вал при неговата пресечка от газопровода в землището на с. Бутан, община Козлодуй.

На предвидената за проучване площ се извърши цялостно геомагнитно заснемане, с цел да се установи наличие или отсъствие на вкопани структури в или под насипа на вала (обр. 6). Резултатите показаха ясно наличието на две линейни аномалии – едната, свързана с насипа на вала, другата – (вероятно) със запълнителя на рова. Една изометрична аномалия беше регистрирана в самия ЮЗ ъгъл на сервитута (квадрати G/10 – H/10).

Електросъпротивителното проучване се извърши по линията на квадратите А и Н, които маркират северната и южната граница на обекта и пресичат перпендикулярно земленото съоръжение (обр. 7). Според направените два томографски профила, няма данни за реструктуриране на литолого-стратиграфските и литолого-фациалните последователности.

Земленото съоръжение се състои от два елемента – вал и ров (обр. 9, обр. 10, обр. 11). Височината на вала е около 3,50 м и е резултат от геоморфоложки процеси и човешка дейност (обр. 12). По време на разкопките не е регистрирана нито берма, нито палисада. Стратиграфската последователност на слоевете показва, че насипът на вала е образуван от пясъчлив лъос, сив междинен слой, в който се наблюдава инфилтрация на чернозем, и почвен слой. Билото на вала е формирано от лъос и почвен слой. Съдейки по стратиграфската последователност, може да се каже, че само преотложеният лъос от най-високата точка на билото е резултат от антропогенна дейност.

Преходът към рова и самият ров също са резултат както на геоморфоложки, така и на антропогенни процеси. Ровът е естествено слягане на терена, което е било допълнително изкопано – това заключение се потвърждава от наблюдения върху всичките направени разрези. Очертанията на рова – хоризонталното дъно и на някои места вертикалните стени – са маркирани от прослойки чернозем и почва, свлякла се от билото на вала.

Археологически материали са регистрирани само в разрез 1 – фрагментирана волска подкова, нехарактерен фрагмент от съд, източен на бързо колело, и един съвсем дребен и обезличен фрагмент, намерен при дъното на рова (обр. 19). Нито един от тях не е от средновековието.

Ключови думи: Хайредински вал, проучвания, хронология, геофизични проучвания

OSTROVSKI RAMPART. PROBLEMS OF RESEARCH AND CHRONOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to summarize the results of the archaeological excavations of Ostrovski rampart. The excavations in 2011 and 2019 clarified the main dimensions of the earthwork structure and shed new light on the problem of its chronology.

The Ostrovski rampart is the largest earthwork structure in present-day Northwest Bulgaria, with a linear length of about 58 km. It encloses the steppe area between the Danube River and the low hills of the Fore Balkans. The earthwork structure consists of two elements: a ditch about 3 m deep and a rampart embanked on its eastern side. During the last archaeological excavations, two sherds of Early Medieval pottery dating to the first half of the 9th c. were found at the bottom of the ditch. Calf bones were also found in the silt that partially filled the ditch. Radiocarbon analysis of the bones dates them between 767 and 900.

Different opinions have been expressed about the purpose of the earthwork ramparts. Most scholars believe that they were built to strengthen militarily important areas. The data from the archaeological map of the region show that the most significant demographic resource necessary for the construction and protection of such a large-scale fortification line existed in the first half of the 9th c., when a large number of settlements appeared between the rivers Iskar and Tsibritsa. Historical sources note that at the same time, west of Bulgaria, the political and military situation is very unstable, which is probably the reason why the Bulgarian authorities organized a preventive strengthening of the endangered West Bulgarian areas.

Key words: Ostrovski rampart, excavations, chronology, reconstruction

Introduction

The Ostrovski rampart (the entrenchment) is the largest earthwork structure in present-day Northwest Bulgaria, with a linear length of about 58 km.¹ It has been known to historians since the end of 19th c. The earliest records about it are provided by V. Dobruský (Добруски 1890, 14, 36, 38), K. Jireček (Иречек 1974, 335) and K. Škorpil (Шкорпил 1905, 528 – 530). Škorpil carried out the first field surveys and described its route (Шкорпил 1905, 528 – 530).

Two other similar earthworks lie west of the Ostrovski rampart (Hayredinski rampart and Lomski rampart). The three ramparts lie at approximately the same distance away from each other (between 35 and 45 km) across the plain on the right bank of the Danube river (fig. 1). The close proximity of the earthworks and their identical features give grounds for some researchers to assume that they were constructed simultaneously, or within a short period of time and form one uniform echeloned defense with frontal orientation to the west (Пашев 1982, 68).

¹ The approximate length of the earthwork measured by K. Škorpil is 58 km. Modern measurements made on a topographic map show that the length of the facility is about 55 km.



Fig. 1. Ramparts in Northwest Bulgaria
(Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 1. Землени валове в Северозападна България
(автор В. Григоров)

The aim of this study is to summarize the results from archaeological excavations of the Ostrovski rampart carried out to present date. The reason for reviewing this topic in more detail is that the excavations carried out in 2011 (Григоров 2011, 128 – 136; Григоров, Петрова 2012, 497 – 499) complement the results from the latest archaeological excavations in 2019. The discoveries in the last decade cast new light on the problem of the chronology of the earthwork structure.

Description of the route of Ostrovski rampart

We owe the first description of the Ostrovski rampart to K. Škorpil and it has been used as the basis for all further field surveys. The earthwork represents an excavated ditch with an embankment on its western side.² In 1985, P. Ivanov (curator at the Museum of History – Vratsa) organized a field survey along the Ostrovski rampart, his aim being to map the earthwork and document with graphic profiles its current state. In the last decade, a significant part of the rampart's route has been mapped with modern geodesic tools. Aerial and satellite photos which allow remote analysis have also been used for more precise identification of the traces of the earthwork. The processed information from all field surveys allowed us to reconstruct quite fully the whole route of the Ostrovski rampart (fig. 2).

The beginning of the earthwork is registered at the eastern end of Ostrov village (coordinates: 43.671755° N; 24.143872° E). Then it crosses a deep ravine, runs along the western slope of Alibash hill and heads in a straight line to the southwest (215°). The rampart passes near Galovo village, about 2 km west of it, then crosses the Knezha – Oryahovo road, in the Marinov Geran area.

During the first surveys K. Škorpil noted that from the village of Ostrov to the place where the rampart was crossed by the Knezha – Oryahovo road, there are traces of an old road paved with stone slabs parallel to the rampart. According to him, this was a Roman road connecting Oescus with Montana (Шкорпил 1905, 530 – 531). In modern times (about the middle of 20th c.), the road was moved on the rampart itself and on the filled in and leveled ditch, and it was used by buses connecting the villages of Ostrov and Galovo until the 1970s. Today the route of the road (fig. 3) is mainly used by agricultural machinery.

From the Knezha – Oryahovo road, the rampart continues in a straight line to the southwest (215°) without changing direction. After 5 – 6 km, the rampart crosses the ravine in the Zahlupen Geran area, east of the village of Bardarski Geran, and reaches a low tumulus (fig. 4), piled up immediately in front of the ditch (coordinates: 43.542218° N; 24.014062° E). After the tumulus, the

² Up to the 1950s Ostrovski rampart was significantly better preserved, but after the introduction of heavy mechanized machinery for land cultivation, in many places the facility was ploughed and partially or completely obliterated.

rampart curves smoothly to the south and continues in a nearly straight line to the south – southwest (196°), following the watershed between the rivers of Skat and Gostilya. The rampart crosses in sequence the Varbitsa river, the Knezha – Byala Slatina road and the road between the town of Byala Slatina and Tarnak village.

Southeast of Byala Slatina, the earthwork reaches about 1 – 1.5 km to the Skat River, then continues to the south, following the river almost in parallel (fig. 2). At the turn of the Skat river, near the villages of Popitsa and Barkachevo, the rampart also turns and changes its direction to the southwest (224°). Today, in this area the earthwork is almost completely obliterated. Southeast of Barkachevo village, the rampart can be traced again, crossing the road between the villages of Barkachevo and Vranjak, passing west of Vranjak village and heading southwest (221°). After that, the rampart crosses the Ivanov Kladenets area (between the villages of Vranjak and Tlachene), in individual places the route is disfeatured. The southern end of the earthwork curves in an arc to the south and ends at the foot of the Usoya hill, west of Gabare village (coordinates: 43.319239° N; 23.889886° E) (fig. 2).

The spatial analysis shows that the route of the Ostrovski rampart was dug out almost in the middle of the plain, between the Iskar and Ogosta rivers (fig. 1). Its direction follows the main inclination of the West Danube Plain, which is to the north – northeast. The defense line encloses completely a region with a marked steppe landscape – from the Danube river on the north, to the low hills of the Fore Balkan on the south. The rampart follows the watershed between the two biggest rivers in the region – Iskar and Ogosta, and its route divides the plain longitudinally into two almost equal parts.

The field surveys of the Ostrovski rampart allow us to differentiate three sections – northern, middle and southern. The northern section of the structure has a length of about 20 km and covers the

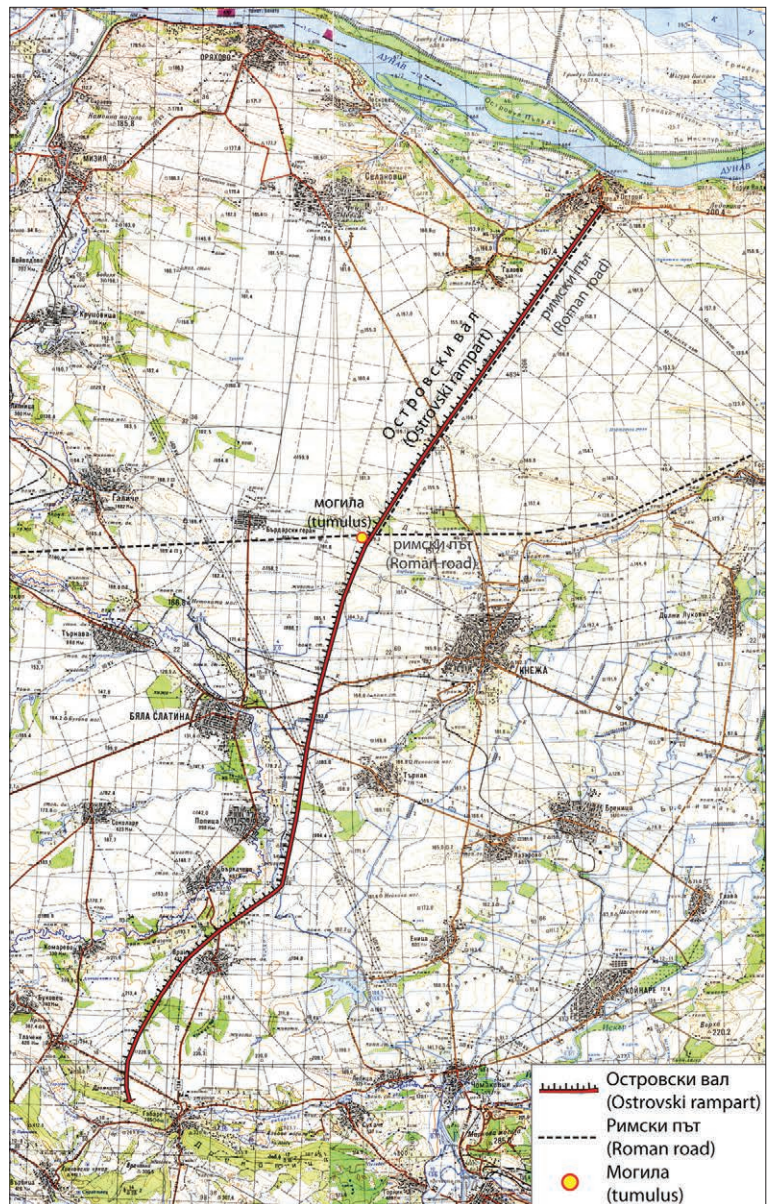


Fig. 2. Mapping the route of the Ostrovski rampart (Author: V. Grigorov)
Обр. 2. Картиране трасето на Островския вал (автор В. Григоров)

route from Ostrov village to the tumulus, registered in the Zahlupen Geran area (fig. 5). This section of the facility has the most regular linear route. The middle section of the rampart has a length of about 19 km and covers the route to the turn of the Skat river, near the villages of Popitsa and Barkachevo (fig. 6). In this section, the rampart also has a relatively regular linear routing. The southern section of the rampart has a length of about 16 km and covers the route between the villages of Barkachevo and Gabare (fig. 7). In this section, the line of the rampart curves in an arc and ends at the Usoya hill.

During the first field surveys, when the earthwork was much better preserved, K. Škorpil paid special attention to the circumstance that the northern end of the Ostrovski rampart does not reach the Danube and the beginning of the entrenchment is at 1.5 km south of the river. This fact can be explained by the Ostrovsko Marsh, situated to the west of the rampart. Before it was drained, it

occupied an area of about 20 sq. km and completely shut off access to the northern wing of the earthwork facility (fig. 5).

Another peculiarity of the Ostrovski rampart is that its southern end does not close at a full-bodied river like the other two ramparts (Hayredinski and Lomski). The hydrological characteristics of the region allow the earthwork to be completed at Skat river, east of the town of Byala Slatina (fig. 2). Instead, the builders preferred to construct twenty more kilometers of the earthwork, its route running along the Skat river almost in parallel. Thus, the full-bodied river and the coastline, over-



Fig. 3. The road near Ostrov village, built on top of the Ostrovski rampart, view to the south (Photo: V. Grigorov, April 2019)

Обр. 3. Пътят при с. Остров, изграден върху Островския вал, поглед на юг (фото В. Григоров, април 2019 г.)



Fig. 4. Tumulus, located near the Ostrovski rampart (Photo: V. Grigorov, June 2011)

Обр. 4. Могила, разположена до Островския вал (фото В. Григоров, юни 2011 г.)

grown with thick vegetation and swampy in places, was used as a natural barrier 1 – 2 km before the front line. One of the right tributaries of Skat river, which meanders at about 200 – 600 m before the southern section of the earthwork, was used in an identical way (fig. 7).

The southern end of the Ostrovski rampart stops next to a low hill, after which the relief becomes hilly and forested. The region is relatively closed and difficult to cross. The Vrachanski Venets hill encloses the valley of Brisha river (Gabarska river), and its numerous tributaries form parallel ravines and thus a series of natural obstacles (fig. 7).

At the two ends of the Ostrovski rampart, small earthwork strongholds have been registered, which some researchers relate to the structure of the defense line. In the northern end of Ostrovski rampart, K. Škorpil describes an earthwork stronghold called Os-

trovsko Kale (Шкорпил 1905, 528). “It is situated at the beginning of the Okop (entrenchment) near Ostrov village, at the northern slope of Alibash hill (fig. 5). The stronghold has a trapezoid, irregular shape with dimensions: north – 250 feet, west – 200 feet, east – 170 feet, south – 60 – 90 feet. Most probably, there were entrances from the south and north” (Шкорпил 1905, 530). The fortification has not been specially excavated, but R. Rashev assumes that it was probably connected with the rampart’s guard (Рашев 1982, 65).

Three small strongholds have been registered in the southern end of the Ostrovski rampart – Brisha Gradishte (Николов 2014, 92), Dolno Kale³ and Marlenko Kale.⁴ According to B. Nikolov, Brisha Gradishte “was a temporary fortress or garrison of the Ostrovski entrenchment”.

History of the exploration of Ostrovski rampart

Despite the initial interest of Bulgarian historians in the Ostrovski rampart, its exploration at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th c. was limited only to field description and the mapping of its route, and marking the nearby archaeological sites (Шкорпил 1905, 528 – 530). It is only at



Fig. 5. Northern part of the Ostrovski rampart (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 5. Северен дял на Островския вал (автор В. Григоров)

³ Registration card No. 10000634 from AIS AMB.

⁴ Registration card No. 10000633 from AIS AMB.



Fig. 6. Central part of the Ostrovski rampart (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 6. Централен дял на Островския вал (автор В. Григоров)

the beginning of the 1960s that B. Nikolov and S. Mashov (the curators at the Museum of History – Vratsa) carried out large-scale field surveys in the vicinity of Ostrovski rampart (Николов 1962, 33 – 37). Their research mainly concerned the registration of a large number of new archaeological sites from different historical periods, and collecting finds which were discovered accidentally by local residents.

In 1961, B. Nikolov also carried out the first excavations at Ostrovski rampart. Unfortunately, we have no documentation from the excavations. From the scarce information published, we find out that the rampart was sectioned on the territory of Ostrov village. The structure of the earthwork is also described very briefly: “The entrenchment has a depth of 3 m, width in the upper part – 5 m and width at the bottom – 2.50 m.

The excavated clay was thrown only to the east of the entrenchment, where it was rammed and reinforced with turf rolls and hedge. Thus, an earthwork rampart was formed with a height of up to 2 m” (Николов 2014, 291).

“Asparuhov rampart” expedition (2010 – 2011)

After a long period of suspension, systematic archaeological exploration of Ostrovski rampart was renewed in the last decade. In 2010, the GEOS 92 company carried out geodesic mapping of the rampart from Ostrov village to the Byala Slatina – Tarnak road. The route was entered into a cadastral and satellite map and served as the basis of the archaeological exploration. In the following year, 2011, within the “Asparuhov rampart” expedition, archaeological excavations were carried out north of the town of Knezha.⁵ We made control archaeological sections in three places along the rampart’s route (fig. 8). Two of the trenches are located in the Marinov Geran area, on the two sides of the Knezha – Oryahovo road. A third trench was made in the Zahlupen Geran area.

In the Marinov Geran area, the earthwork has been completely disfeatured and the sections made there yielded no results (Григоров 2011, 130). A geomagnetic survey was performed along with the

⁵ The initiative for carrying out the “Asparuhov rampart” expedition came from the dentist Dr. Anatoliy Kanev, who is also the main sponsor of the field surveys. Associate Professor Valeri Grigorov (NAIM – BAS), Aleksandra Petrova (RMH – Vratsa), Tsvetina Petkova, and Angel Bachiyiski (Museum of History – Knezha) took part in the archaeological exploration.

excavations. It was carried out by P. Zidarov from the Laboratory of Archaeometry and Experimental Archaeology with NBU. North of trench II, two polygons were investigated, which cross the line of the supposed earthwork. The obtained geomagnetic data presented similar results. From the east and the west of the studied strip, zones with higher values of the magnetic field are formed, which should be connected to the field boundaries of the two agricultural blocks (fig. 9). In the western end of polygon No. 2, there is a zone with low values of the magnetic field, which should be connected with the location of the dirt road. The results from the two surveys did not provide definite indications of the presence of an earthwork structure. At this stage of research, we cannot explain the

lack of an archaeological result in the Marinov Geran area. It is possible that the route was dislocated from the original line of the earthwork during the modern leveling of the rampart and the afforestation that followed. The limited scope of the two trenches I and II (with a length of 22 and 16 m, respectively) most probably does not cover the line of the ditch.

A third archaeological trench was made in the Zahlupen Geran area, where the rampart is much easier to detect on site (fig. 10). A linear sinking of the ditch is outlined and the rampart's embankment is piled at its eastern side. The study was carried out through a trench of 20 x 1 m, which crosses transversely the whole width of the earthwork and exits outside at both ends. The results of the performed archaeological section showed that the total width of the structure is about 15.50 m (fig. 11). In its upper part the ditch is 4.50 m wide and in depth its width decreases to 2 m. The bottom of the ditch is a narrow trench with a step on the eastern side, where the excavated soil for the rampart's embankment was carried out. The ditch's walls are scarped with a slope to the outside. The depth of the ditch is 3.10 m.

There is no berm between the ditch and the rampart, the rampart's embankment was made right next to the ditch, and a narrow path was left with a width of about 0.50 m. The rampart is about 10.50 m wide in its base and the preserved maximum height is 1.30 m. The rampart's embankment is mainly made of humus soil forming a layer with thickness of about 0.85 m. A layer of lighter loess soil was piled over it. On the top of the rampart, an additional humus layer was piled, probably with the aim of covering it with turf or tree-bush vegetation to protect the surface from erosion.⁶ The total denivelation of the rampart from the bottom of the ditch to the present ridge of the rampart is 4.40 m.

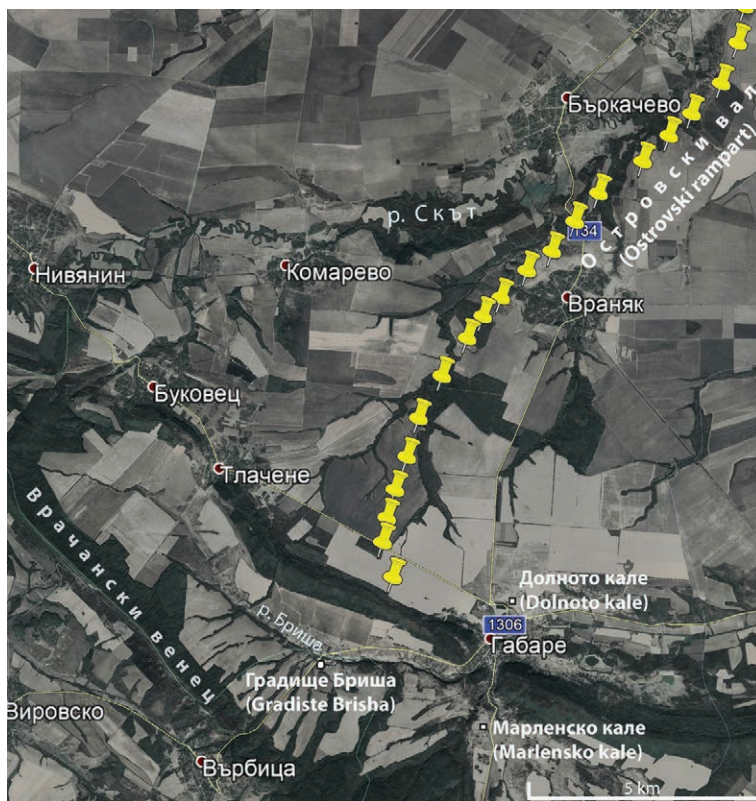


Fig. 7. Southern part of the Ostrovski rampart (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 7. Южен дял на Островския вал (автор В. Григоров)

⁶ Analogous piling of humus layer on the ridge of the rampart has been documented during the investigation of another similar structure – Erkesia rampart, in East Thrace (Григоров, Василев 2007, 165).



Fig. 8. Geodetic documentation of the layout of the Ostrovski rampart (performed by GEOS 92). The yellow spots mark the placement of the archaeological excavations (trenches I, II, III, and site No. 28), the blue spots mark the polygons for the geomagnetic survey, while the white spot marks the tumulus (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 8. Геодезично заснемане на трасето на Островския вал (извършено от GEOS 92). С жълто кръгче са отбелязани местата на археологическите проучвания (сондажи I, II, III и обект 28), със синьо кръгче са отбелязани полигоните за геомагнитно изследване, а с бяло кръгче е отбелязана могила (автор В. Григоров)

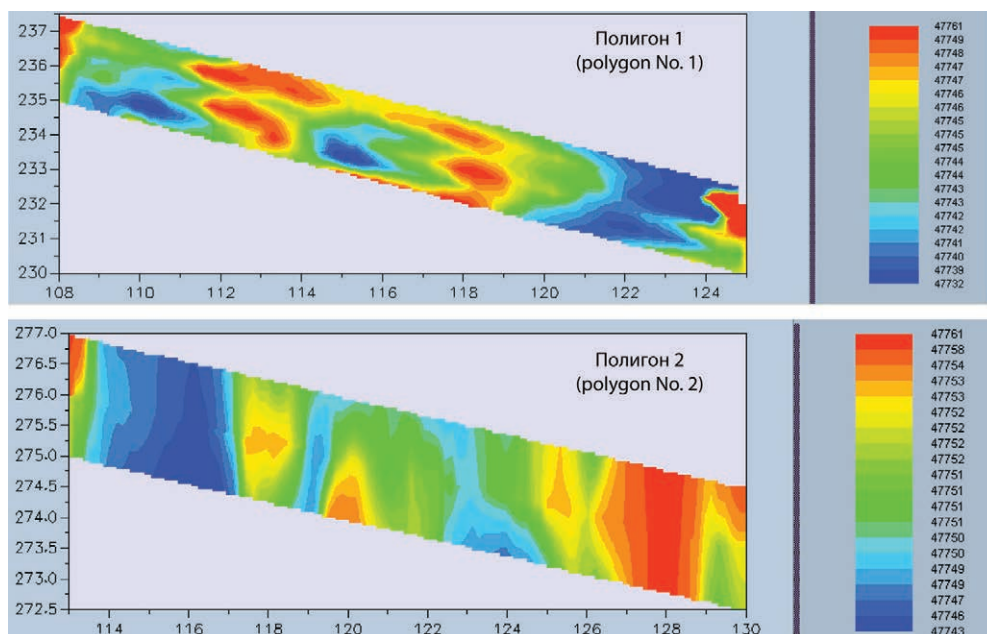


Fig. 9. Magnetograms of polygons Nos. 1 and 2 (Author: P. Zidarov)

Обр. 9. Магнитограми на полигони 1 и 2 (автор П. Зидаров)



Fig. 10. Trench III, at Zahlupen geran area, view to the north (Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 10. Сондаж III, в местността Захлупен геран, поглед на север (фото В. Григоров)

Archaeological exploration of site No. 28 (Ostrovski rampart) along the route of “Balkan Stream” gas supply pipeline

In 2019, the authors had another opportunity to carry out an archaeological exploration of Ostrovski rampart.⁷ The rescue excavations were carried out in connection with the expansion of the gas transmission infrastructure of “Bulgartransgaz” EAD along the route of “Balkan Stream”. The area designated for archaeological exploration is marked as site No. 28 and is located at 3.7 km south (172°) of Galovo village (fig. 8). In this sector, the earthwork is heavily disaffected, the rampart’s embankment has been scattered and leveled (fig. 12), and the location of the assumed ditch has been completely filled in, with a dirt road passing over it.

⁷ Associate Professor Valeri Grigorov (NAIM – BAS), Assistant Professor Svetlana Venelinova (RMH – Shumen) and Evgenia Naidenova, PhD (MH – Oryahovo) took part in the archaeological exploration.

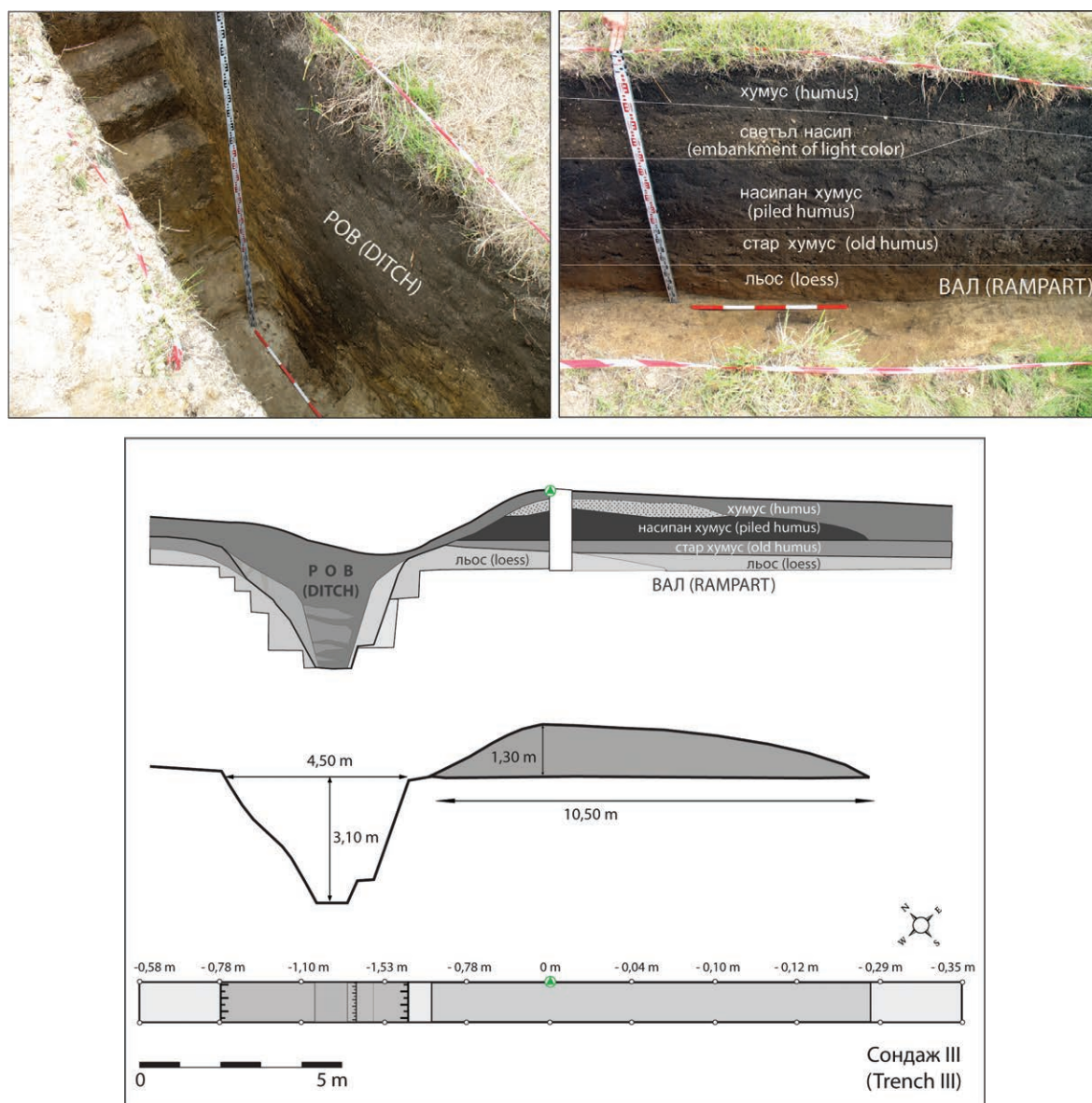


Fig. 11. Trench III. Photo and graphic documentation of the earthwork structure (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 11. Сондаж III. Фото и графично заснемане на земеното съоръжение (автор В. Григоров)

Exploration of the site began with a geophysical survey⁸ using an electrical resistivity method. Two tomographic profiles with a length of 47 m were drawn transversely to the earthwork (fig. 13). The results obtained are identical, and at both profiles the earthwork was identified by the higher values of electrical conductivity compared to the surrounding terrain.

The archaeological exploration was carried out through two trenches of 35 x 2 m. They are oriented along the southeast – northwest axis and cross transversely the whole width of the earthwork and exit outside at both ends (fig. 14). During the excavations, a third trench was opened, 40 x 2 m, positioned in parallel to the first two, as well as several smaller trenches, located at the eastern end of the easement land.

⁸ The geophysical survey was carried out by Atanas Kisyov, Assistant Professor at the University of Mining and Geology in Sofia.



Fig. 12. Site No. 28 (Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 12. Обект 28 (фото В. Григоров)

Stratigraphy of the structures

The latest structures are documented in the eastern end of the site, where 13 holes from a solid pillar structure were uncovered, positioned in a line, oriented northeast – southwest (fig. 14). The holes were detected immediately under the turf layer, have a diameter of about 0.60 – 0.65 m, and are dug to a depth of 1.40 m (fig. 15). A piece of nylon was found in one of the holes, in another – a piece of sheet metal, evidencing the modern origin of the structure. We subsequently received additional information from an elderly resident of Galovo village, according to which electricity supply pillars were placed at that location in the 1960s/1970s and removed at the beginning of the 1990s.

In the next stratigraphic level, thousands of holes with a diameter of 5 – 8 cm were uncovered in the whole explored area. They are registered at 0.50 – 0.70 m under the present surface and reach the loess in depth (about 1.70 – 2 m). The holes have the nature of vertical canals and, because of their great length, they were sectioned and documented in sequence at different levels (fig. 16). Small rodent bones were found in some of the holes. Consultations with experts-biologists⁹ allowed specifying that this was probably bioturbation by rodents (European ground squirrels).

The earliest archaeological structure is the earthwork. Unfortunately, in the area designated for exploration, the rampart is completely disfeatured, which did not allow us to determine its characteristics and dimensions. It was established in the profiles of the sections that the embankment was subsequently scattered and leveled and forms a homogeneous compact humus layer, about 0.40 – 0.50 m thick (fig. 17).

The ditch was registered in the western end of the easement land, in trenches Nos. 1 and 2. In the upper layers the ditch's outlines are not clearly separate, they are definitely documented at a depth of 0.90 – 1.10 m from the present-day surface where its width is over 4 m (fig. 18a). At the border with the loess, the width of the ditch decreases to 2.20 m (fig. 18b) and at the bottom the width is 1.70 – 1.73 m. Measured from ground level, the ditch is 3 m deep (fig. 19).

Several layers of fill are documented in the ditch's profiles (fig. 20). The bottom is covered with a layer of brown-black alluvial soil, then a grey-brown layer, the upper part of the ditch is filled with brown mixed soil and dark brown compact one. In trench No. 1A, in the alluvial layer of the ditch,

⁹I would like to thank Professor Zlatozar Boev and Associate Professor Yordan Koshev for their expert opinion.

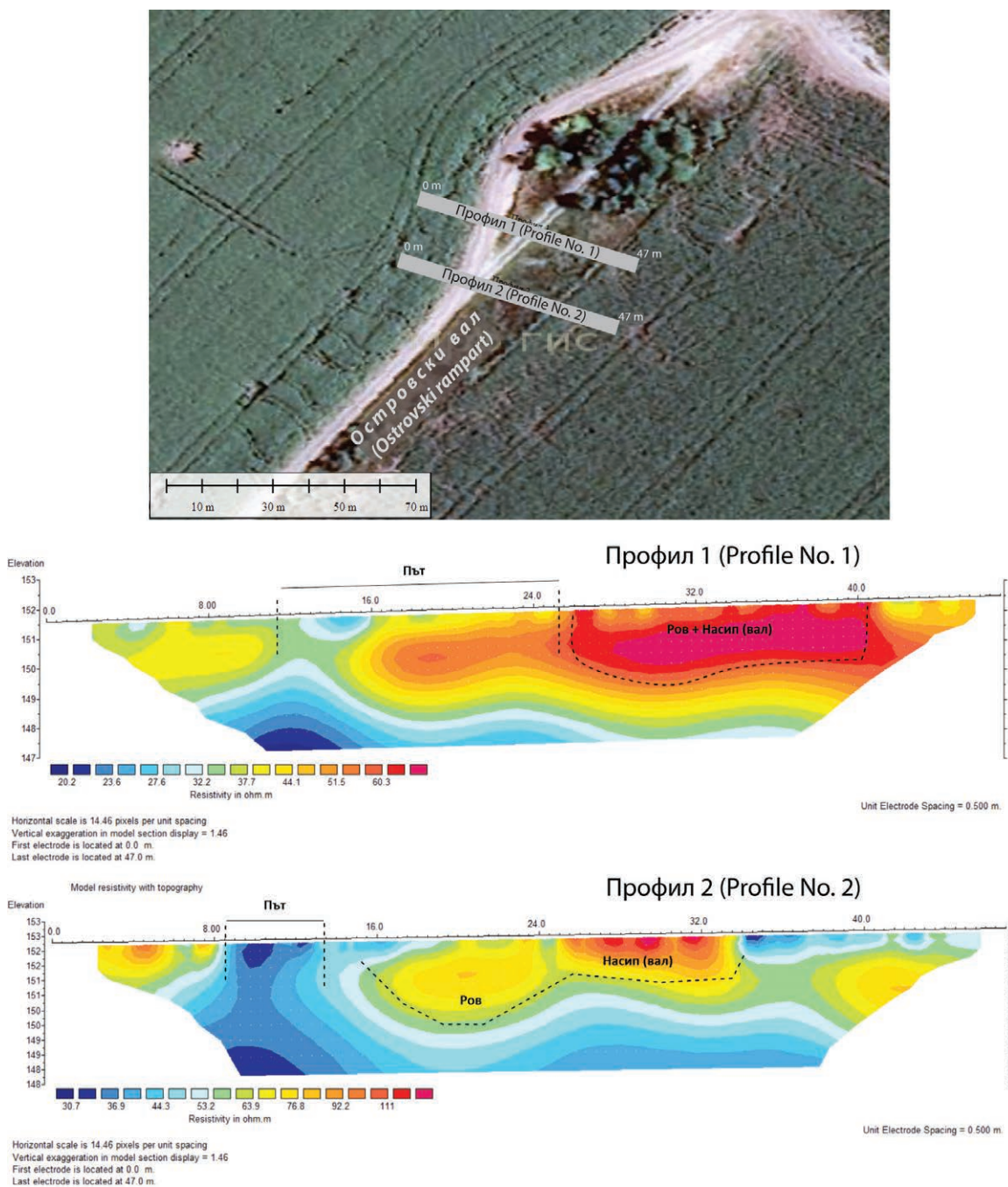
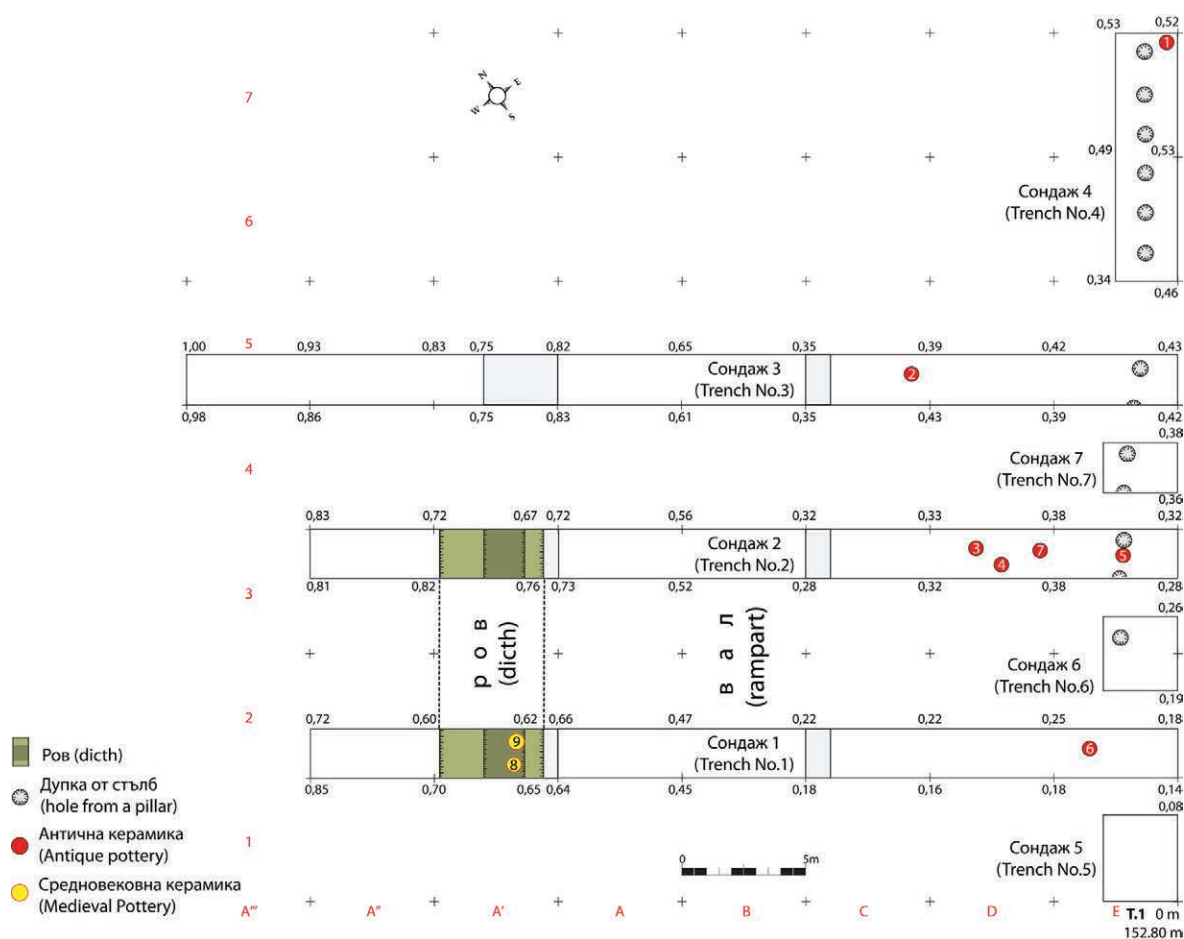


Fig. 13. Geophysical survey of site No. 28, tomographic profiles (Author: A. Kisyov)

Обр. 13. Геофизично изследване на обект 28, томографски профили (автор А. Кисьов)

two fragments of early medieval ceramics were found, and in trench No. 2A, 1 meter above the bottom of the ditch, we found bones from a calf.

In order to clarify the nature of the fill in the ditch at a micro level, Prof. G. Aleksiev carried out sediment laboratory analysis of 4 samples taken from the northern archaeological profile in trench No. 1A'. The analysis includes: sieve analysis of fraction 0.05 to 2.00 mm and hydrometric analysis of fraction < 0.05 mm after treatment with hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) for presence of clay or organic matter, presented in cumulative curves or percentages for particle size, as well as through



Обр. 14. Обект 28. План на изкопите. Отбелязани са очертанията на рова и дупки от стълбове. Планиграфски са отбелязани откритите керамични находки: с червено кръгче – антична керамика; с жълто кръгче – средновековна керамика (автор В. Григоров)

HCL – for establishing carbonates within the lithological-stratigraphic and lithological-facial vertical sediment section.

The following lithological-stratigraphic sequence was established in the vertical sediment section: in the top two layers (samples Nos. 5 and 6), chernozem humus layer with thickness up to 2 m was identified, enriched with organic matter including fine clays (up to 24 – 30 %) and siltstone (up to 55 – 64 %) and a transitional horizon with thickness of about 1 m (samples Nos. 7 and 8), comprising mainly siltstone and pockets of humus matter and bedrock (loess) of fine, small and coarse sand.

Samples	Clay (%)	Siltstone (%)	Sand (%)
No. 5	23.39	64.15	12.46
No. 6	29.37	54.92	15.71
No. 7	16.13	71.35	12.35
No. 8	19.45	67.28	13.27



Fig. 15. Holes from a pillar structure documented in trenches Nos. 2, 4, and 7
(Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 15. Дупки от стълбова конструкция, документирани в сондажи 2, 4 и 7 (фото В. Григоров)

Chronology of Ostrovski rampart

The chronology of Ostrovski rampart is a major problem that has not found a satisfactory solution for more than a century. Different opinions arose at the very beginning of the exploration of the “West Bulgarian” ramparts. V. Dobruský assumes that they are from Roman and Celtic times (Добруски 1890, 37), whereas K. Škorpil relates them to the early period of the Bulgarian state (Шкорпил 1905, 530).

Despite the lack of specific archaeological evidence for dating the ramparts, Bulgarian historiography widely supports K. Škorpil’s opinion of their Early Bulgarian origin. V. Zlatarski and researchers after him have assumed that the “West Bulgarian” ramparts were constructed in the early period of the Bulgarian state, and that they marked the west border of Bulgaria from the time of Asparuh (Златарски 1970, 152; Рашев 2008, 37). On the grounds of historical sources which mention Bulgarian

expansion to the west after 818 (ЛИБИ 1960, 42 – 43), it is assumed that by that time the border reached the three ramparts (Аладжов 1975, 114). Under the influence of the established opinion among Bulgarian historians, local teachers and ethnographers started to call the three ramparts “Asparuhovi” (Asparuh’s).

The first attempts to find archaeological artifacts related to Ostrovski rampart were in the 1960s, when B. Nikolov and S. Mashov carried out large-scale archaeological surveys. A number of Medieval settlements and necropolises have been registered in a wide perimeter around the Ostrovski rampart near the villages of Galiche, Bukyovtsi (present-day town of Mizia), Dolni Lukovit, Gabare, Borovan, the town of Knezha and in the Gostilya area, north of Knezha (НИКОЛОВ 1962, 33 – 37; НИКОЛОВ 2014, 30, 92, 99, 150, 183). The archaeological excavations of Zh. Vazharova which followed provide more detailed information about some of the sites. Three early Medieval necropolises have been excavated near the village of Dolni Lukovit, necropolises near the villages of Galiche, Mihaylovo and Bukyovtsi have also been partially excavated (Въжарова 1959, 20 – 22; Въжарова 1976, 173 – 247, 262 – 263, 265). For the necropolis near the village of Galiche, it is as-

sumed that it contained over 500 graves, i.e. it is related to a settlement with quite a large population (Въжарова 1976, 220). In the past years, during rescue excavations in the town of Oryahovo, 6 earlier Medieval graves were discovered in the yard of “Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodiy” school (Торбов, Ганецовски 2009, 730 – 731).

The multitude of archaeological field surveys in the region have been a major contribution to completing the register of the Archaeological Map of Bulgaria (Luka 2015, 439, fig. 2). A significant number of archaeological sites were discovered during the comprehensive surveys along the routes of the large gas transmission projects “South Stream”, “Nabuko” and “Balkan Stream”. Therefore today we have much more complete archaeological information about the region. The data outline a well-developed network of settlements and necropolises during the Early Middle Ages, with a high concentration around the ramparts (fig. 21).

Archaeological excavations show that a large number of the settlements appeared in the 9th c. (Въжарова 1959, 22; Въжарова 1965a, 123 – 126, 188; Въжарова 1965b, 231, обр. 1a, 245; Въжарова 1976, 418 – 421; Fiedler 1992, 332 – 342, 458 – 461, Taf. 52, 53, 54, 55, 56). The rapid increase of the population in that period is related to an organized influx of migrants from other regions (Рашев 2008, 149) and captured Christians from East Thrace (Григоров 2007, 95 – 96).

No traces of habitation in the immediate vicinity of Ostrovski rampart have been found so far, and there are not sufficient archaeological finds to direct us on the chronology of the earthwork. For a long time, the only artifact which was directly connected with the rampart was the sword from the village of Galovo. B. Nikolov claims that the weapon was discovered in the embankment of the rampart during tillage with tractor (Николов 1962, 36 – 37, обр. 9; Николов 2014, 103). The find is extremely interesting and has been the subject of various studies. Initially the sword was defined as “Early Bulgarian” (Николов 1962, 37, обр. 9; Николов 2014, 291), and later – as “Byzantine type, manufactured somewhere in the Balkans in the 9th – beginning of the 10th c.” (Йотов 2004, 41 – 42, табло XXIX – 421). In recent years, S. Kamburov has made a justified reinterpretation of the find, relating the sword “with the Arab military tradition from the early Caliphate period” (Камбуров 2017, 270).

During the archaeological excavations of site No. 28, we had the chance to discover a small number of ceramic sherds which represent two historical periods – Antiquity and Middle Ages.



Fig. 16. Documenting holes from bioturbations (Photo: V. Grigorov)
Обр. 16. Документиране на дупки от биотурбация (фото В. Григоров)

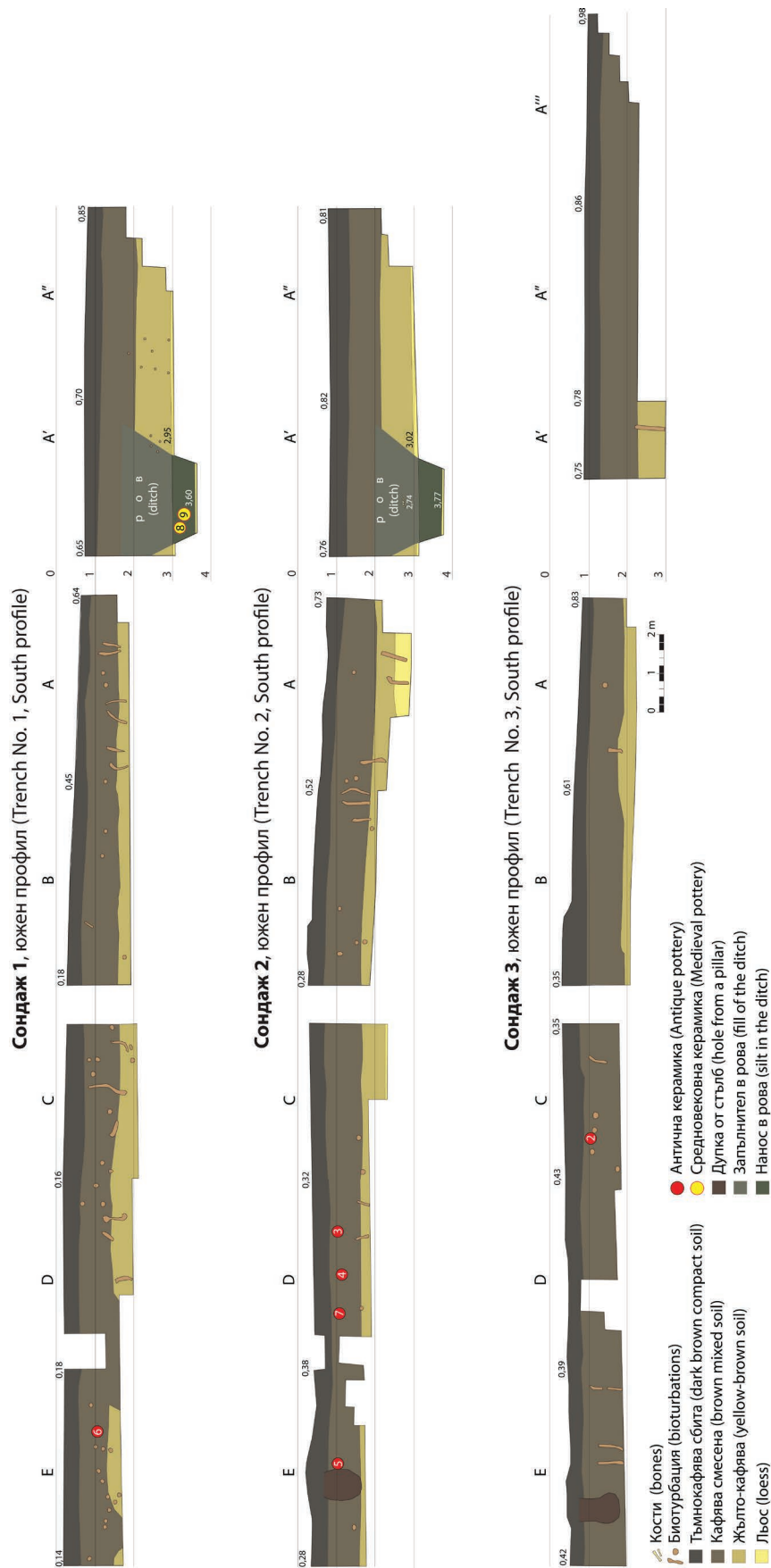


Fig. 17. Graphic documentation of the south profiles in trenches Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The stratigraphic levels of the ceramic finds are marked accordingly: red spot – Antique pottery; yellow spot – Medieval pottery (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 17. Графично документиране на южните профили в сондажи 1, 2 и 3. Отбелязани са стратиграфските нива на откритите керамични находки: с червено кръгче – антична керамика; с жълто кръгче – средновековна керамика (автор В. Григоров)

The Antique ceramics (fig. 22: 1 – 7) were discovered in the area right next to the rampart, on its eastern side (fig. 14). The sherds were discovered at the ancient ground level, under the subsequently scattered and leveled embankment of the rampart. The pottery is very fragmented and damaged, probably due to numerous displacements. Some of the sherds are made of sandy clay on a slow potter's wheel, and after firing the vessels' surface acquired a brown or grey-brown colour. One of the indicative specimens is a pot rim with an intricate profile (fig. 22: 1). Another sherd is from a jug thrown on a fast wheel from purified clay with traces of red slip on the inside (fig. 22: 2). The dating of the ceramics is debatable, but the two more informative sherds can be referred to the Late Roman period (end of the 3rd – beginning of the 5th c.).¹⁰

The two fragments of Medieval ceramics are also of special interest (fig. 22: 8 – 9). They were discovered during the investigation of the ditch, in trench No. 1A' (fig. 14, fig. 20).

The sherds were found in the alluvial layer which clogged the bottom of the ditch. The ceramics come from pots made of sandy clay with incised decoration. The technological and decorative characteristics allow dating them for sure in the 9th c.

The ceramic finds discovered, although limited in number, are extremely valuable, since they represent the first archaeological evidence in immediate stratigraphic link with the earthwork. Their presence raises important questions about the possible presence of sites from the two historical periods in the vicinity of the rampart. During the field survey, however, no traces of Antiquity or Medieval sites were found in the perimeter around the earthwork.

The only information to date which explains the presence of Late Roman ceramics is the Roman road noted by K. Škorpil and registered along the rampart (Шкорпил 1905, 530 – 531) (fig. 2). Unfortunately, the excavations did not provide specific data about the road. Its route should be sought east of the rampart, in the agricultural areas which are ploughed and deep-ploughed at a big



Fig. 18. Documenting the outlines of the rampart in trench No. 1: a. depth 1.10 m; b. depth 2.35 m (Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 18. Регистриране на очертанията на рова в сондаж 1: а. дълбочина 1,10 м; б. дълбочина 2,35 м (фото В. Григоров)

¹⁰ I would like to thank Gergana Kabakchieva and Stiliyan Ivanov for their consultations and dating the ceramics.



Fig. 19. Documenting the bottom of the ditch in trenches Nos. 1 and 2
(Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 19. Документиране дъното на рова в сондажи 1 и 2
(фото В. Григоров)

depth, which has led to the complete obliteration of its traces.

K. Škorpil mentions another route of the Roman road which crosses the “entrenchment” north of Knezha (fig. 2) and continues west to the villages of Bardarski Geran, Altimir and Sirakovo, and east – to the villages of Dolni Lukovit and Gos-tilya. In present days, the traces of this road are completely obliterated, but in the cross point between the two presumed routes, immediately before the ditch, a small tumulus has been piled (fig. 2, fig. 4, fig. 8). The above data point towards the possibility that the northern section of the Ostrovski rampart (about 20 km long) was aligned with the route of an older road. The linear precision of the earthwork structure indirectly supports this assumption. At the same time, without a solid topographic reason, the route of the earthwork changes direction south of the mentioned tumulus and makes a smooth curve southwards (fig. 8).

The Early Medieval ceramics discovered at the bottom of the ditch also require additional excavations in the region. The closest settlement site from this

period is 6 km east of the rampart, in the Partenchov Geran area. It was registered during the field surveys along the gas supply pipeline and marked as site No. 29 (fig. 23). In 2019, a significant part of the site was investigated by Y. Dimitrov and the chronology and function of the settlement was clarified.¹¹

In our efforts to solve the problem of dating the Ostrovski rampart, we also used the animal bones discovered in the ditch (fig. 24). They lie on a grey-black layer, at 1 m above the bottom of

¹¹ The Early Medieval settlement in the Partenchov Geran area is the only settlement unit in the region of Ostrovski rampart that has been more comprehensively researched for the time being. Ovens for preparing food and baking bread in large quantities, a production furnace for iron extraction and processing has been uncovered, and a well for potable water has been registered. The large number of quern and grindstone fragments, and the significant number of arrowheads stand out. According to data from the investigation, the settlement is dated in the 9th – middle of the 10th c. I would like to thank Y. Dimitrov for the information provided.

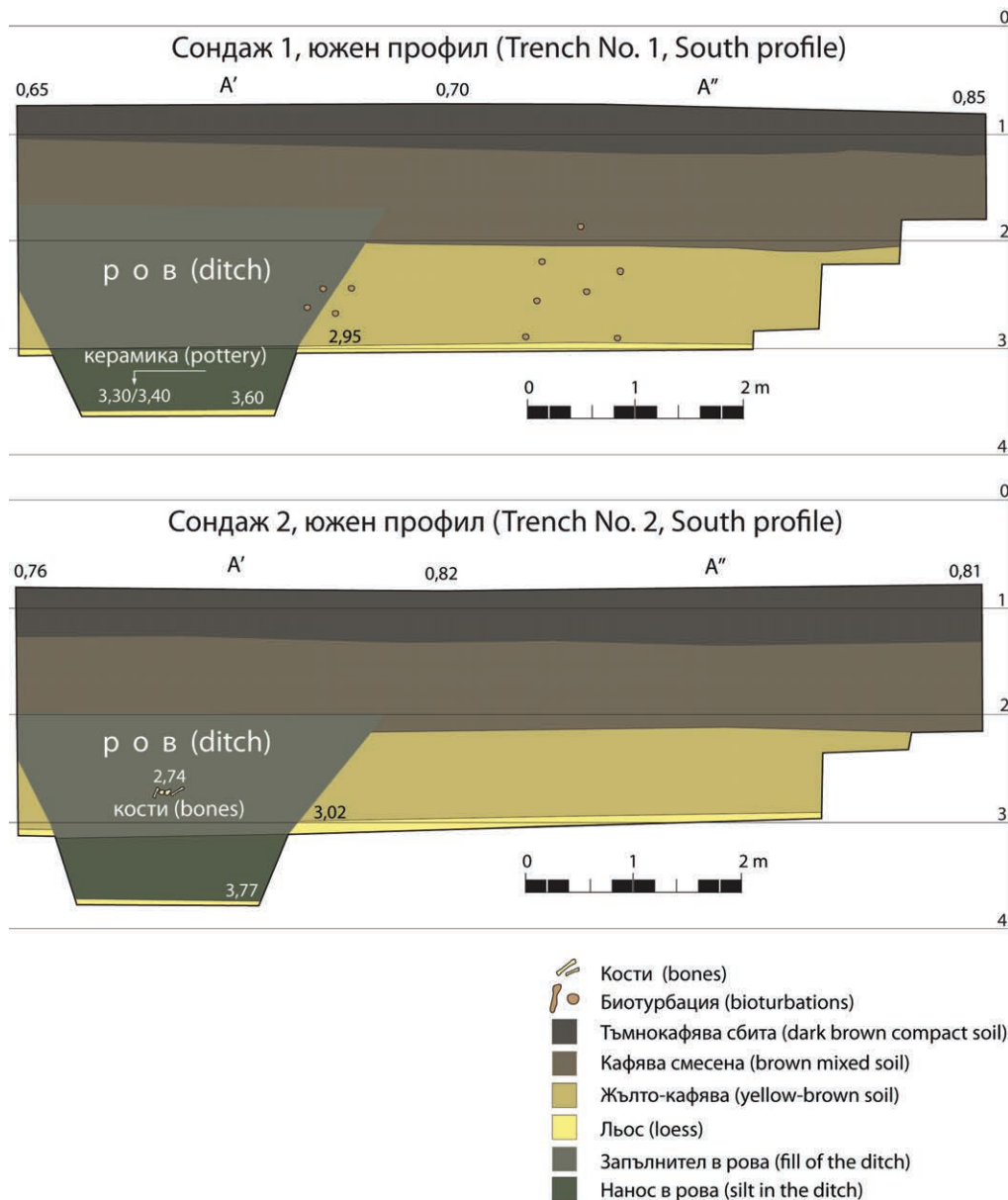


Fig. 20. Graphic documentation of the profiles of the ditch in trenches Nos. 1 and 2 (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 20. Графично документиране на профилите на рова в сондажи 1 и 2 (автор В. Григоров)

the ditch, in trench No. 2A. The stratigraphic position suggests that the animal remains got there at a moment when the ditch was filled in about 1/3 of its authentic depth.

A sample of the bones was submitted for radiocarbon dating in the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre in Glasgow (SUERC). Calibrated data determine a dating period between 767 and 900 (fig. 25). Within this wide time range three narrower phases are outlined, the stratigraphic coordination with the ceramics discovered at the bottom of the ditch giving priority to the dates 802 – 845 or 853 – 885. The analysis of the bone material gave us the possibility to date a stage of the clogging the bottom of the ditch with a one-meter layer of deposits.

The analysis of the results brings out the almost complete overlap of the dates of the Early Medieval ceramics and the radiocarbon dating. This means that the animal bones got into the ditch

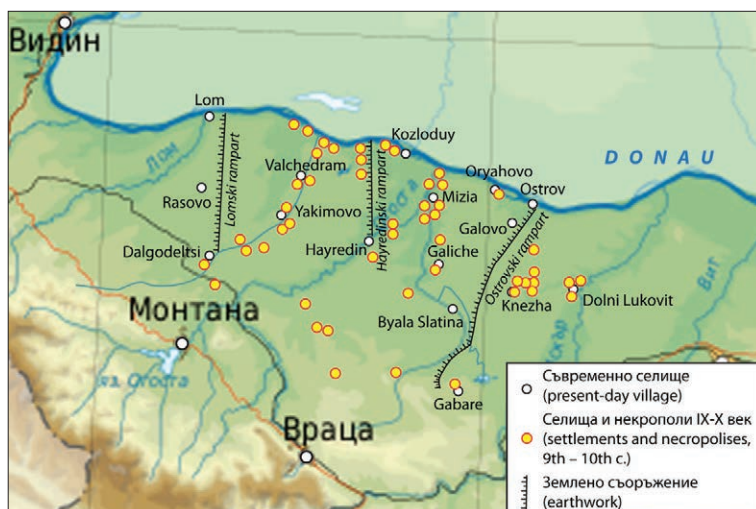


Fig. 21. Earthwork ramparts in Northwest Bulgaria on the background of the Early Medieval settlement system (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 21. Землени валове в Северозападна България в контекста на ранносредновековната селищна мрежа (автор В. Григоров)

very soon after the ceramics. The accelerated clogging of the ditch's bottom can be explained mainly with the dynamic erosion processes, characteristic of this type of earthwork. They usually have a short service life in their original state. Another factor for the rapid accumulation of an alluvial layer on the bottom of the ditch is the topography of the region. Along the earthwork, the ground level at site No. 28 is lower compared to the surrounding relief and during heavy rains, sludge flowed down by gravity from the higher parts of the structure (fig. 23).

Reconstruction of Ostrovski rampart

The data from the archaeological investigations of Ostrovski rampart which have been carried out so far allow us to reconstruct the form of the earthwork (fig. 26). The most complete and reliable information we have is about the ditch. It has been documented in different sections of the feature and has identical dimensions. The ditch is about 3 m deep, width in the upper part – 4.50 – 5 m and at the bottom it narrows down to 1.70 – 2 m. The ditch walls are scarped with a slope to the outside, which was done to protect the edges of the pit from erosion and collapse.

The soil excavated from the ditch was mounted on the eastern side. Layers have been piled up in sequence, forming a rampart with a width of 10 – 11 m at the base. The rampart's height has not been preserved in its original state, but can be hypothetically reconstructed at about 2 m. The ridge of the rampart is towards the front line (western) side of the earthwork and has a slope of about 30 – 35°. B. Nikolov states that the rampart was rammed. No such data were established during our excavations in another section of the feature. The embankment of the rampart has a normal structure, slightly compacted, but with no indications of intentional ramming. The total denivelation of the feature from the bottom of the ditch to the presumed ridge of the rampart was about 5 m.

The construction of such an impressive in scale earthwork, which was many kilometers long, required the mobilisation of a large number of workers and various experts. The implementation of the construction project could be divided in two main stages. The first stage is related to the engineering works on routing the earthwork. They required a detailed examination of the topographic and hydrographical characteristics of the region. The linear planning also required advance removal of the shrub and tree vegetation in a wide line along the whole length of many kilometers.

The second stage is related to the excavation works for construction of the earthwork. Reconstructed metric data of the earthwork allow estimating of the workforce used. One linear meter excavated from the ditch contained about 9 – 10 m³ of soil. A humus layer (about 1 – 2 m³) was additionally piled on the ridge of the rampart, probably excavated from the rear side of the earthwork. The total volume of the soil excavated along the whole route is about 600,000 m³. At an

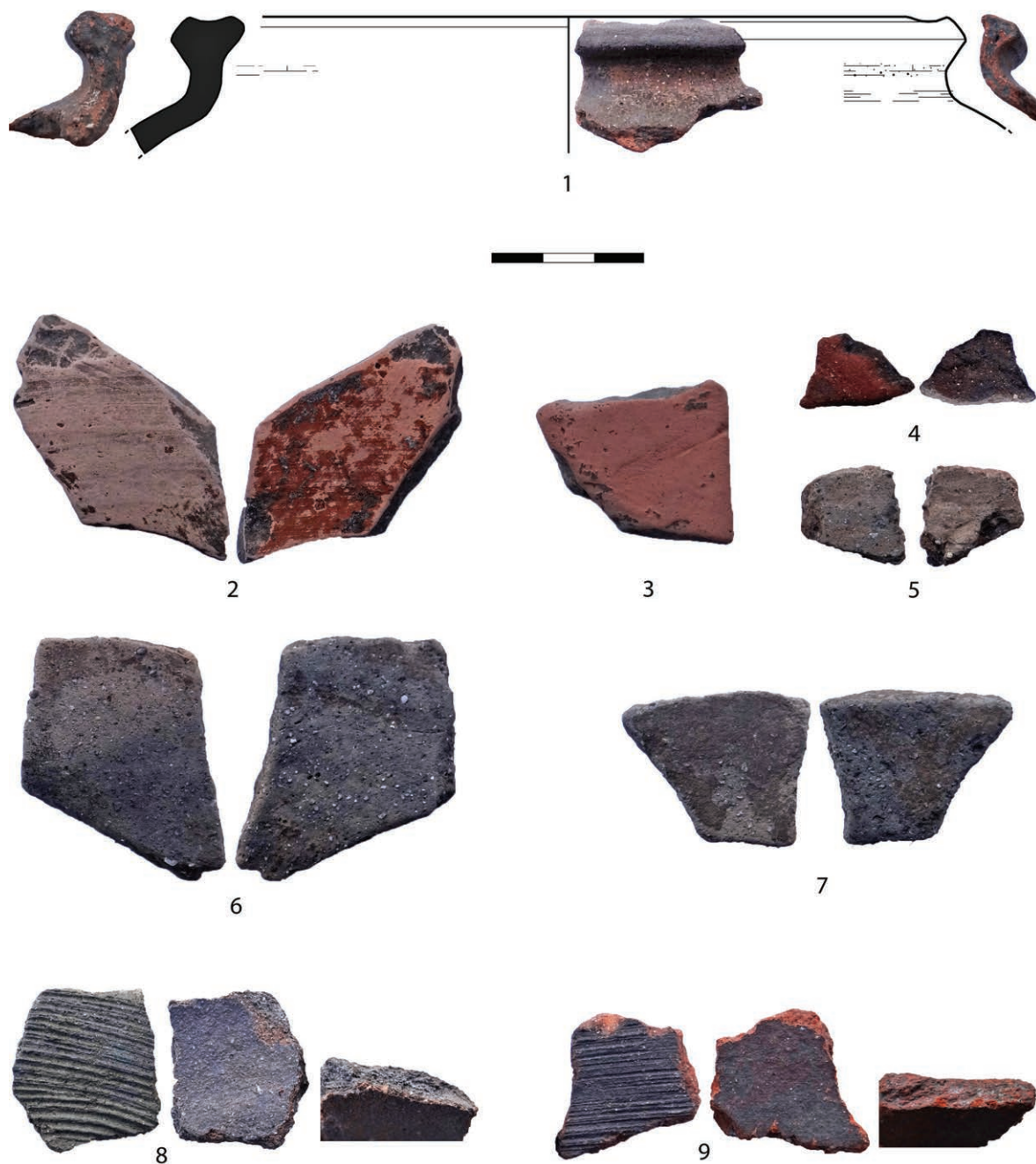


Fig. 22. Pottery from site No. 28: 1 – 7. Antique pottery; 8 – 9. Medieval pottery (Authors: V. Grigorov and S. Venelinova)

Обр. 22. Керамика от обект 28: 1 – 7. антична керамика; 8 – 9. средновековна керамика
(автори В. Григоров и С. Венелинова)

average excavation rate of 1 m³ per man-day,¹² about 5,000 people were necessary for 120 working days for the excavation of the ditch. Another group of workers had to take out the soil and pile it on the inside, forming the embankment of the rampart.

In addition to the workers directly engaged with the excavation and embankment of the earthwork, a significant number of people were necessary for logistical support. First, these were

¹² Man-day is a unit for reporting the amount of work which is done by one person in one working day.

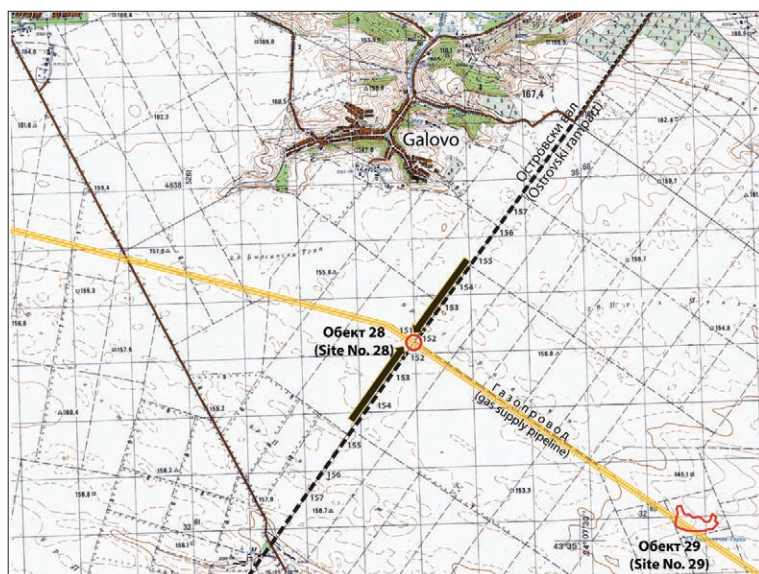


Fig. 23. Sites Nos. 28 and 29 documented along the outline of the pipeline "Balkan stream". Emphasis is set on the topography of the Ostrovski rampart and the drop of the ground at site No. 28 (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 23. Обекти 28 и 29, регистрирани по линията на газопровода „Балкански поток“. Акцентирано е на топографията на Островския вал и понижението на терена при обект 28 (автор В. Григоров)

carpenters, blacksmiths and basket makers engaged with the crafting of a large number of tools and devices. It can be assumed that the usual farming tools (shovels, hoes and picks) were used for the excavation works, and that the soil was taken out with the help of wicker baskets and ropes.

To feed the multi-thousand workforce, hundreds of food and drinking water suppliers, cooks, potters and lumberjacks were also engaged. Domestic ovens used for the preparation of significant amounts of food were discovered in the Early Medieval settlement in the Partenchov Geran area. The data on iron extraction and processing and the registered well for potable

water correspond to the characteristics of such a type of logistics-orientated settlement. According to Squatriti, such large-scale construction projects and the mobilization of numerous workforce on one site over a long period were obviously implemented by force and could only be completed under the control of a central authority (Squatriti 2005, 87, 90).

Function of Ostrovski rampart

Different opinions have been stated on the function of earthen ramparts. Most researchers believe that they were constructed to fortify zones of strategic military importance. Military experts usually classify them as strategic facilities (Ангелов и др. 1983, 157). The positioning of barrier ramparts in peripheral regions often defines them as border furrows, outlining the political or demographic borders of the state (Овчаров 1971, 459; Fiedler 1989, 156). According to R. Rashev, the ramparts were constructed at a certain depth from the actual border of the state and were used as a base for control of the lands beyond the earthwork (Петров 1981, 245 – 347; Пашев 1982, 64). The system of three parallel ramparts in Northwest Bulgaria very much resembles the scheme of Avar "rings", which form an echeloned defense along the periphery of the inland territories of the state.

There is no unanimous opinion about the defense capacities of the ramparts. Entrenchments of greater length have been defined as marking rather than defensive structures (Пашев 2008, 34). Their simple earth embankment structure reflects a basic technological level in the construction of this type of fortification barriers, which, to a small extent, demonstrate common features with the more developed Roman defensive systems in terms of engineering. The great length of the structures and the lack of a system of military camps suggests that they were not guarded by a large number of soldiers. Border control at the fortification line was probably carried out by small horse patrols camping at the two ends of the earthwork, or in settlements situated behind the rampart.

The archaeological data on the structure of Ostrovski rampart show that it had two main defense components: a ditch excavated in front and an embankment in the rear. The ditch, which was about 3 m deep, served as the main deterrent and soldiers had to use additional means to overcome it. The rampart had a secondary function, but its 2-metre height provided a certain tactical advantage to the defenders. Research so far has not established traces of wooden structures on the ridge of the rampart. Such structures either did not exist or were not fixed due to the bad state of preservation of the earthwork.

The results from excavations at site No. 28 showed that the earthwork was subjected to dynamic erosion processes, which led to the rapid clogging (within several decades) of the bottom of the ditch. It is not clear whether it was used for the same functions after that. Left without special maintenance, favourable conditions for development of tree and shrub vegetation were created on the rampart and the ditch, clogged with humus soil. At a later period, the earthwork probably looked more like a barrier wall of naturally grown “hedge”.

Research has not clarified to a sufficient degree the question of the use of earthworks in real military operations. The armament items discovered during archaeological excavations are too few in number. At this stage, we can only point out the sword discovered near Ostrovski rampart (Николов 1962, 36 – 37, обр. 9), and several stone battle balls discovered in the ditch of the “Erkesia” earthwork facility (Григоров, Василев 2007, 162, 172, обр. 5). Most researchers agree that the main function of the ramparts was to temporarily hold off the offensive of enemy troops while the main military troops were mobilized and moved to the areas under threat. The most important function of the earthwork barriers was to restrict the possibilities for quick and large-scale advance of the enemy cavalry. Regardless of the disputable effectiveness of the kilometers-long facilities, their mass-scale construction in Eastern Europe suggests that they did play a certain strategic and tactical role in the defence of Early Medieval states.



Fig. 24. Bones from a calf found in situ in the ditch, trench No. 2, depth 2.74 m/R (Photo: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 24. Кости от теле, открити in situ в рова, сондаж 2, дълбочина 2,74 м/ R (фото В. Григоров)

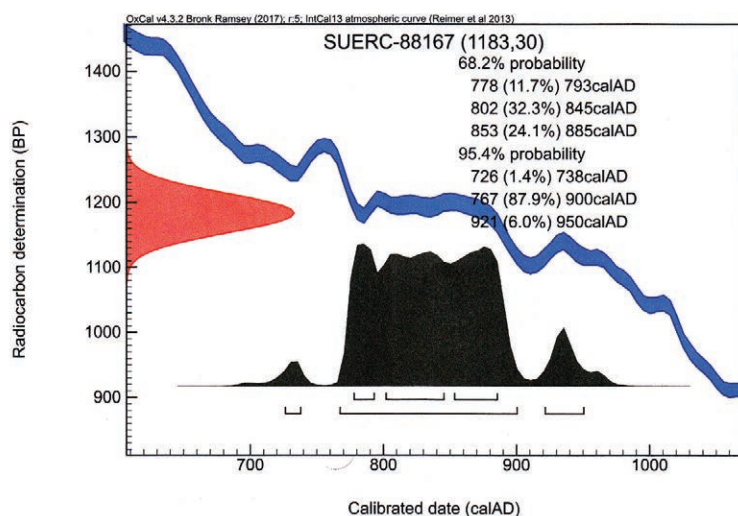


Fig. 25. Radiocarbon analysis, performed by the Scottish Universities Environmental research Center in Glasgow (SUERC)

Обр. 25. Радиоуглеродно датиране. Изследването е извършено в Шотландския университет по околна среда в Глазгоу (SUERC)

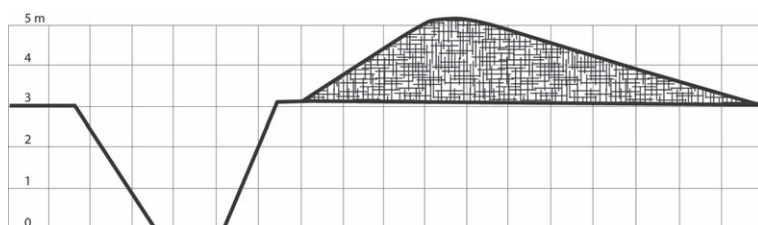


Fig. 26. Reconstruction of Ostrovski rampart (Author: V. Grigorov)

Обр. 26. Реконструкция на Островския вал (автор В. Григоров)

which we could relate to the existence of an old road without, however, excluding the possibility that it could be related to the time of construction and functioning of the earthwork. If the rampart was constructed as early as that time, the Medieval materials discovered in the ditch could be explained by a possible secondary cleaning of the ditch and re-use of the facility in the Early Middle Ages.

The second possibility is based on the Medieval materials discovered in the ditch. They are evidence that the facility was used in the early period of the Bulgarian State, probably in the first half of the 9th c., and around the middle of the 9th c., the bottom of the ditch (at site No. 28) was already clogged with a one-meter alluvial layer.

The construction and protection of such of a large-scale fortification line required the mobilisation of significant human resources. The data from the archaeological map of the region show that in the first half of the 9th c., a large number of settlements appeared between Iskar and Tsiabitsa rivers (fig. 21), with significant human resources allowing the construction and protection of fortification lines of similar scale. Historical sources mention that at that time, the political and military situation west of Bulgaria is characterized by rising instability. The collapse of the Avar Khaganate created a temporary political vacuum (ЛИБИ 1960, 42 – 43; Божилов, Гюзелев 1999, 150 – 153; Рашев 2008, 20 – 22) which provoked dynamic rearrangement of the political map of the West Balkans. The secession of the Abodrite, Guduskian and Timochan tribes from the alliance with the

Conclusion

Despite the long-standing interest of Bulgarian historians in what are known as the “West Bulgarian” ramparts and the Ostrovski rampart, in particular, their exploration is still in its initial stage. The lack of comprehensive archaeological excavations has limited the opportunities for clarifying the chronology of the earthwork for more than a century. It is only in the last decade that more complete data on the characteristics of Ostrovski rampart were obtained during systematic archaeological exploration. The finds which are in a stratigraphic relation with the earthwork are of special value and give us the chance to analyse and discuss the problems of chronology. At this stage, we can offer two chronological interpretations.

The first one focuses on the presence, right next to the rampart, of Late Roman ceramics,

Bulgarians (ГИБИ 1960, 34 – 35) significantly increased the risk of future military conflicts and predetermined the need for preventive fortification of the West Bulgarian areas.

Despite the research progress made in the last decade and the alluring optimism that the time has finally come to clarify the chronology of Ostrovski rampart, we should note that the archaeological data are still insufficient to allow reliable dating of the feature. This is why the chronological and political interpretations put forward here should be viewed as working hypotheses which will be subject to additional examination in future investigations.

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ОСТРОВСКИЯТ ВАЛ. ПРОБЛЕМИ НА ПРОУЧВАНИЯТА И ХРОНОЛОГИЯТА

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Островският вал е най-голямото землено съоръжение в днешна Северозападна България (обр. 1), с линейна дължина около 58 км. Той е известен на историческата наука още от края на XIX в. Най-ранни сведения за него дават В. Добруски, К. Иречек и К. Шкорпил, като Шкорпил провежда и първите теренни обходи и описва трасето му.

Целта на настоящото изследване е да бъдат обобщени резултатите от досегашните археологически проучвания на Островския вал. Повод да се занимава по-подробно с тази тема са проучванията, които бяха проведени през 2011 г., допълнени с резултатите от последните археологически разкопки (през 2019 г.), които поставиха в нова светлина проблема за хронологията на земленото съоръжение.

През последното десетилетие значителна част от трасето на вала беше картирано със съвременни геодезични уреди. За по-прецизното идентифициране на следите от земленото съоръжение са използвани също въздушни и сателитни снимки, които позволяват дистанционен анализ. Трасето на земленото съоръжение започва от източния край на с. Остров (координати: 43.671755° N; 24.143872° E), а южният край завършва в подножието на възвишението Усоя, западно от с. Габаре (координати: 43.319239° N; 23.889886° E) (обр. 2). Пространственият анализ показва, че трасето на Островския вал е прокопано почти в средата на равнината, между реките Искър и Огоста. Защитната линия затваря изцяло район с подчертано степен ландшафт – от р. Дунав, на север, до ниските възвишения на Предбалкана, на юг.

Теренните наблюдения на Островския вал ни позволяват да обособим три дяла – северен (обр. 5), среден (обр. 6) и южен (обр. 7). Островското блато е затваряло изцяло достъпа до северния фланг на земленото съоръжение (обр. 5), а южният му край завършва до ниско възвишение, след което релефът придобива хълмисто-горски характер (обр. 7). Хидроложките дадености на района позволяват да се използва р. Скът като допълнително естествено препятствие, изнесено на 1 – 2 км пред фронта на земленото съоръжение.

В началото на 60-те години на XX в. Б. Николов и С. Машов провеждат мащабни теренни издирвания в околностите на Островския вал. През 1961 г. са направени и първите разкопки на вала. Резултатът от тях е описан лаконично: „Окопът показва дълбочина 3 м, ширина в горната част – 5 м и ширина в дъното – 2,50 м. Изкопаната глина е хвърляна само на изток от окопа и там е била трамбована и укрепявана с чимове и плет. Така се е получил земен вал с височина до 2 м“.

След дълъг период на прекъсване системните археологически проучвания на Островския вал бяха подновени в последното десетилетие. През 2010 г. фирма GEOS 92 извърши геодезично картиране на вала, от с. Остров до шосето Бяла Слатина – Търнак. Нанесеното върху кадастрална и сателитна карта трасе послужи за основа на археологическото проучване. През 2011 г., в рамките на експедиция „Аспарухов вал“, бяха проведени археологически разкопки северно от гр. Кнежа (обр. 8).

Най-пълни археологически данни получихме от сондаж III. Тук съоръжението е много добре различимо на терен (обр. 10), очертава се линейното хлътване на рова, а от източната му страна е натрупан насипа на вала. Резултатите от направения археологически разрез показаха, че общата ширина на съоръжението е около 15,50 м (обр. 11). В горната си част ровът е широк 4,50 м, а дълбочина ширината му намалява до 2 м. Стените на рова са шарпирани с наклон навън. Дълбочината на рова е 3,10 м. Насипването на вала е извършено непосредствено до рова, от източната му страна. Валът е широк в основата си около 10,50 м и има запазена максимална височина – 1,30 м. Насипът на вала е изграден основно с хумусна пръст, която оформя дебел около 0,85 м пласт. Над него е насипан пласт от по-светла лъсоча пръст. Отгоре на вала е натрупан допълнителен хумусен пласт, вероятно с цел да се покрие с чим или с дървесно-храстова растителност, която да предпазва повърхността от ерозия.

Общата денивелация на съоръжението от дъното на рова до сегашното било на вала е 4,40 м.

През 2019 г. отново имахме възможност да извършим археологическо проучване на Островския вал. Разкопките бяха със спасителен характер, във връзка с разширение на газопреносната инфраструктура по трасето на т.нар. „Балкански поток“. В този сектор земното съоръжение е силно обезличено, насипът на вала е разнесен и заравнен (обр. 12). Проучването на обекта стартира с геофизично изследване, което ни предостави предварителна информация за местоположението и размерите на земното съоръжение. На двата томографски профила земното съоръжение се идентифицира с по-високите стойности на електропроводимост спрямо околния терен (обр. 13). Насипът на вала е вторично разнесен и заравнен и оформя еднороден сбит хумусен пласт, дебел около 0,40 – 0,50 м (обр. 17). Ровът е регистриран в сондажи 1 и 2. В горната си част ровът е широк над 4 м (обр. 18a). На границата с лъоса ширината на рова намалява до 2,20 м (обр. 18b), а при дъното ширината е 1,70 – 1,73 м. Измерен от нивото на терена ровът е дълбок 3 м (обр. 19).

В профилите на рова са документирани няколко пласта на запълване (обр. 20). Дъното е покрито със слой кафяво-черна, наносна пръст, над него следва сиво-кафяв пласт, горната част на рова е запълнена с кафява смесена пръст и тъмнокафява сбита. В сондаж 1A' в наносния пласт на рова бяха намерени два фрагмента ранносредновековна керамика, а в сондаж 2A' на 1 метър над дъното на рова, са открити кости от теле.

Последните археологически проучвания ни предоставиха нови данни за хронологията на Островския вал. Имахме шанса да открием малък брой керамични фрагменти, които представят два исторически периода – Античност и Средновековие. Античната керамика (обр. 22: 1 – 7) е намерена в пространството, непосредствено до вала, от източната му страна (обр. 14). Фрагментите са открити на нивото на стария терен, под вторично разнесен и заравнен насип на вала. Датировката на керамиката е дискуссионна, но двата по-информативни фрагмента могат да се отнесат към късноримската епоха (края на III – началото на V в.).

Двата фрагмента средновековна керамика (обр. 22: 8 – 9) са открити при проучването на рова, в сондаж 1A' (обр. 14, обр. 20). Фрагментите са намерени в наносния слой, който е затлачил дъното на рова. Технологичните и декоративни характеристики позволяват с голяма сигурност керамиката да се отнесе в IX в.

В усилията ни да изясним проблема с датирането на Островския вал използвахме също и откритите в рова животински кости (обр. 24). Те лежат върху сиво-черен пласт, на 1 м над дъното на рова, в сондаж 2A'. Стратиграфската позиция предполага, че останките от животното са попаднали там в момент, когато ровът е бил запълнен около 1/3 от автентичната му дълбочина.

Проба от костите беше предоставена за радиовъглеродно изследване в Шотландския университет по околна среда в Глазгоу (SUERC). Калибрираните данни определят датиращ период между 767 и 900 г. (обр. 25). В рамките на този широк времеви диапазон се оформят три по-тесни фази, като стратиграфското съгласуване с керамиката, намерена на дъното на рова, дава приоритет на датите 802 – 845 г. или 853 – 885 г. Изследването на костния материал ни предостави възможност да датираме етап от затлачване дъното на рова с еднометров пласт наноси.

Данните от проведените досега археологически проучвания на Островския вал ни позволяват да реконструираме вида на земното съоръжение (обр. 26). Най-пълна и достоверна информация имаме за рова. Той е документиран в различни сектори на съоръжението и има идентични размери. Ровът е дълбок около 3 м, широк е в горната част – 4,50 – 5 м, а на дъното ширината му се стеснява до 1,70 – 2 м. Стените на рова са шарпирани с наклон навън, което е направено с цел ръбовете на изкопа да бъдат предпазени от ерозия и срутване.

Изкопаната от рова пръст е насипана от източната страна. Последователно са натрупани пластове, с които е оформен вал, широк в основата 10 – 11 м. Височината на вала не е запазена в автентичен вид, но хипотетично може да се реконструира около 2 м. Общата денивелация на съоръжението, от дъното на рова до предполагаемото било на вала, е била около 5 м.

Изграждането на такова внушително като мащаби многокилометрово земно съоръжение е изисквало мобилизацията на огромен брой работници и различни специалисти, изпълняващи логистична подкрепа. Няма съмнение, че такъв род мащабни строителни проекти и мобилизацията на хиляди работници е можело да се реализират единствено под контрола на централна власт.

За предназначението на землените валове са изказани различни мнения. Повечето изследователи приемат, че те са изградени, за да укрепват важни във военностратегическо отношение зони. Съоръжението притежава два основни защитни елемента: изкопан отпред ров и натрупан откъм тила насип. Главна възпираща функция е изпълнявал дълбокият ров, за чисто преодоляване войниците е трябвало да използват помощни средства. Валът е имал второстепенна функция, но с височината си е осигурявал известно тактическо предимство на защитниците. Досегашните проучвания не са установили следи от дървени конструкции на билото на вала. Такива или не са съществували, или не са фиксирани поради лошата запазеност на съоръжението.

Въпреки отбелязания в последното десетилетие напредък в проучванията, трябва да се признае, че наличните до този момент археологически факти все още са недостатъчни, за да бъдем категорични при датирането на съоръжението. Откритите находки при обект 28 са първите, които се намират в стратиграфска връзка със земленото съоръжение и ни дават възможност да анализираме и коментираме проблемите на хронологията. На този етап можем да предложим две хронологически интерпретации, които трябва да се приемат засега единствено като работни хипотези, които ще подлежат на допълнителни проверки при бъдещи проучвания.

Първата акцентира върху присъствието, непосредствено до вала, на късноримска керамика, която можем да свържем с информацията за съществуването на стар път, без да изключваме обаче възможността тя да има отношение и към времето на изграждане и функциониране на земленото съоръжение.

Втората възможност се позовава на намерените в рова средновековни материали. Те свидетелстват, че съоръжението е използвано в ранния период на българската държава, вероятно в първата половина на IX в., а към средата на IX в. дъното на рова (при обект 28) вече е било затлачено с еднометров наносен пласт.

Данните от археологическата карта на района показват, че най-значим демографски ресурс, необходим за изграждането и охраната на такава мащабна фортификационна линия, е съществувал в първата половина на IX в., когато между реките Искър и Цибрица възникват голям брой селища (обр. 21). Историческите извори отбелязват, че по същото време на запад от България политическата и военната ситуация е много нестабилна, което вероятно е причина българските власти да организират превантивно укрепване на застрашените западнобългарски области.

Ключови думи: Островски вал, проучвания, хронология, реконструкция

ON THE ORIGIN OF LATE ANTIQUE MATERIALS DISCOVERED IN A MEDIEVAL CONTEXT ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS OF THE SETTLEMENT IN PETROVA NIVA LOCALITY, “SBORYANOVO” ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESERVE

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ABSTRACT

The article analyzes the results of the study of a complicated stratigraphic situation excavated within a single grid square (grid sq. 34/23) of the settlement at Petrova Niva locality, “Sboryanovo” Archaeological Reserve.

The best preserved structure in height is a Medieval utility building. The large number of finds from it, as well as the stratigraphic observations so far, allow dating its destruction in the period from the last third of the 10th c. to the first quarter or mid-11th c. Consequently it was built and inhabited in the 10th c.

The presence of a utility building close to the excavated dwellings from the same period indicates advance planning and differentiation of zones with different functions in the arrangement of space in the researched household.

The most significant feature, which was completely covered by the remains of the utility building, is a Late Antique dwelling. It has an almost regular oval shape, dug into the sterile soil. It can be dated to the second half of the 4th c. One of the structures that can be connected with the functioning of the dwelling is a pit (No. 3). This pit, as well as the nearby pit (in grid sq. 34/22), were probably used by the occupants of the dwelling for the storage of grain.

The earliest documented structure is a Neolithic pit. The rest of the pits disturb the fill of the Late Antique dwelling and precede the construction of the medieval utility building.

The situation uncovered in Petrova Niva locality offers a possible answer to the question of the presence of ancient materials in a Medieval context and opens the door to clarifying the nature of the early habitation of the site.

Key words: Late Antiquity, Middle Ages, settlements, chronology

The Medieval settlement in Petrova Niva locality, within the archaeological reserve of Sboryanovo, has been excavated purposefully in the past decade by a joint team from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and the Historical Museum in the town of Isperih.

It is located on the upland non-floodplain of the Krapinets (Tsaratsar) River, which in this area forms intricate meanders cutting into the rocks. The area has a smooth slope to the southwest, which provides protection from local winds and sun exposure. The proximity of the river and one

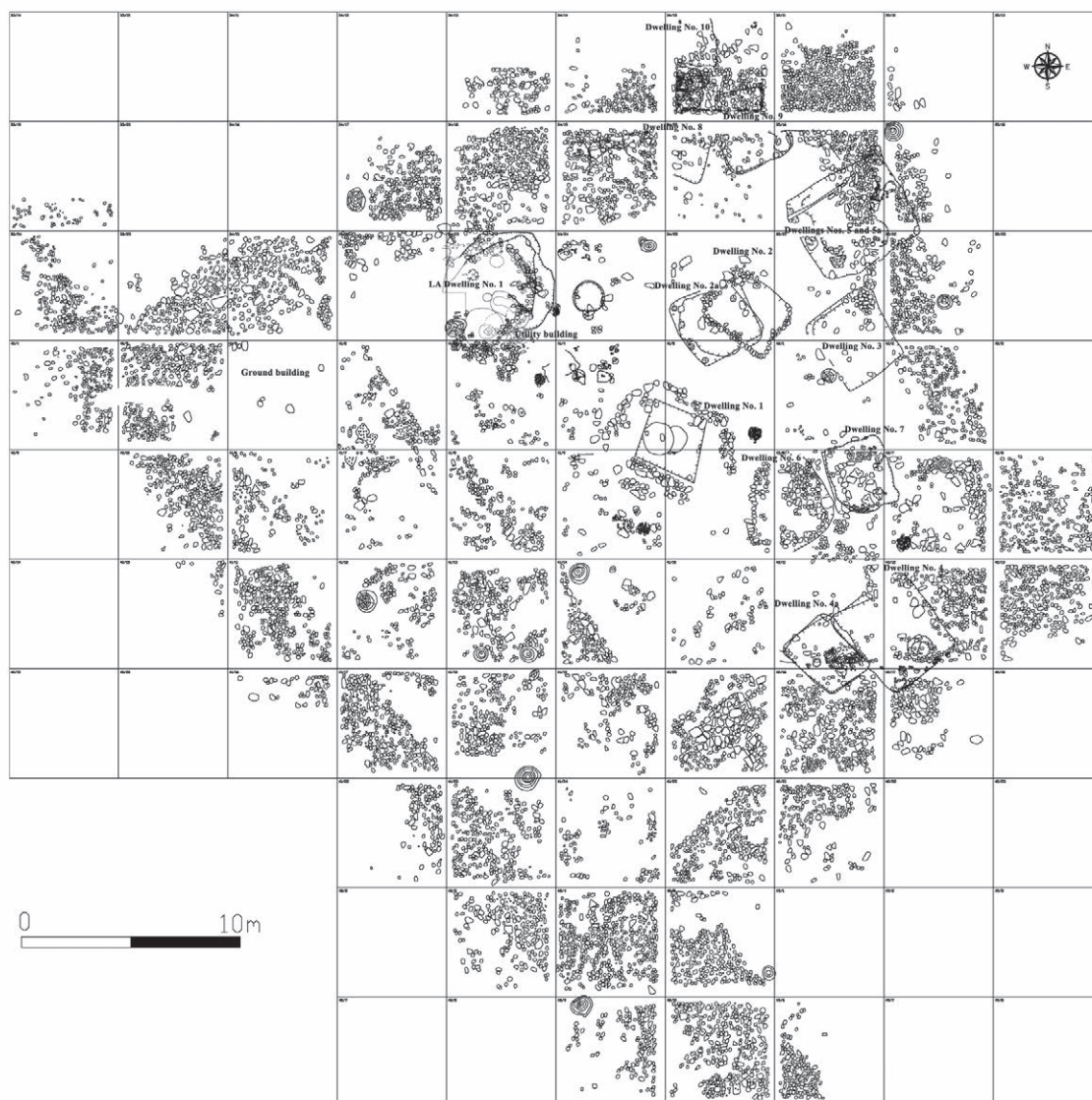


Fig. 1. General plan of the structures in the excavated area of the settlement at Petrova Niva locality, "Sboryanovo" Archaeological reserve

Обр. 1. Общ план на структурите в проучвания участък на селището в м. „Петрова нива“, АР „Сборяново“

of the springs with the highest flow rate in the region provided the water for household and utility needs, and the surrounding areas offer flat terrains suitable for growing different crops. The place also offers extremely good communication networks. All these advantages have been appreciated and utilised by its inhabitants during different periods. Now the site is covered by an oak forest, which was artificially planted in the 1980s, and among which the archaeological structures have been discovered. Some of them have been disturbed in the recent past during stone extraction related to a number of private and public construction works and afforestation activities.

The settlement shows an unusual arrangement in comparison with known villages from the 9th – 10th c. One of its specific characteristics is the presence of enclosure walls with stone construction near the ground which enclose areas of different sizes, and form a complex structure. We have tentatively called these “courtyards” – households and, besides the enclosure walls, they include

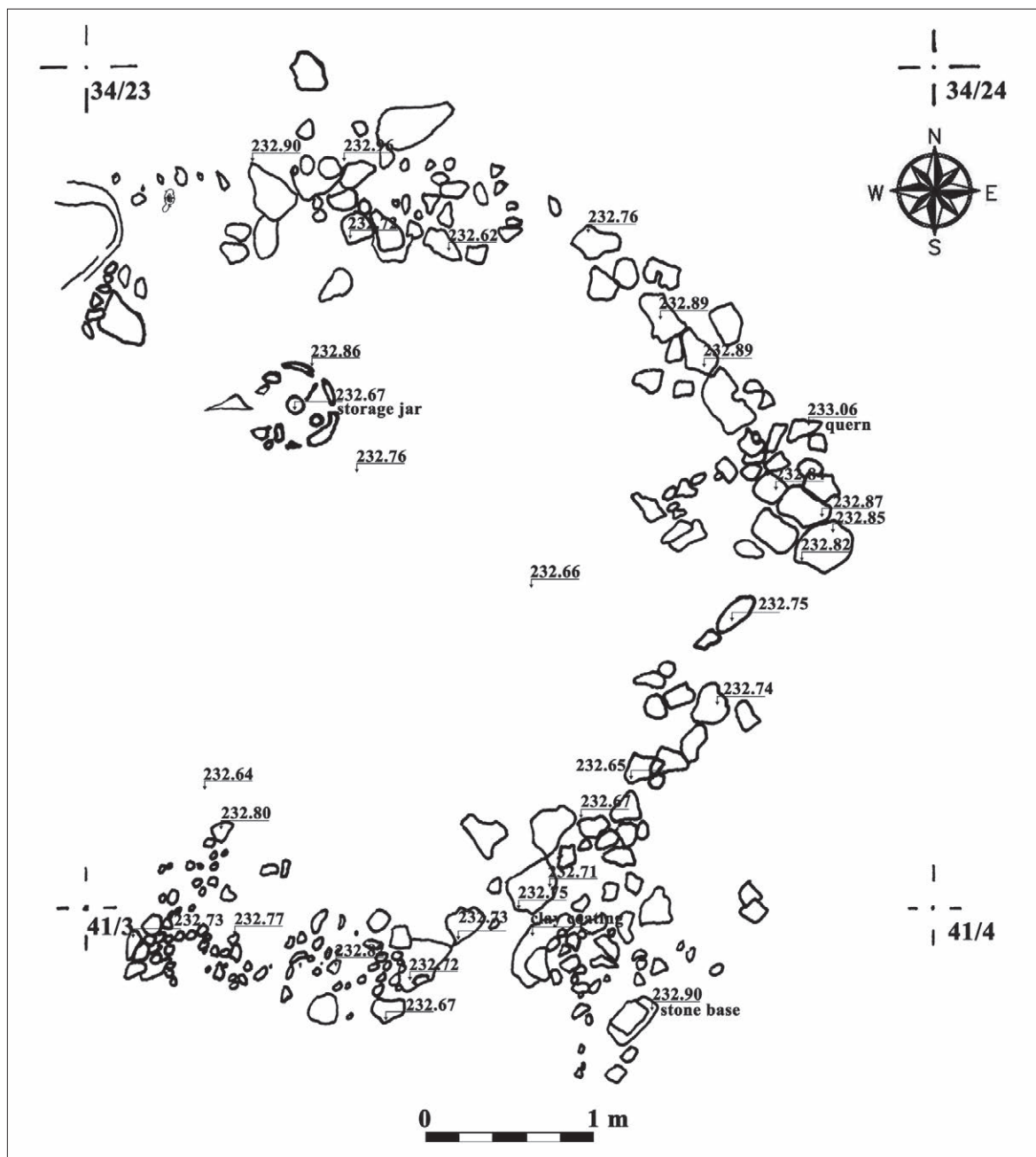


Fig. 2. Plan of the Medieval utility building in grid sq. 34/23

Обр. 2. План на средновековната стопанска сграда в кв. 34/23

various residential and utility facilities, which we assume were part of one and the same settlement. Our efforts in the past years have been focused mainly on excavations in one such household with an area of approximately 600 sq.m (fig. 1).

In 2009, in the northern part of the courtyard area researched by us, we discovered a partially dug-in facility (fig. 2) (Пенчева, Николаева 2010, 569 – 570). It falls almost entirely within the borders of grid sq. 34/23. Its remains were uncovered immediately under the turf layer, where the remains of the enclosure wall were also documented (fig. 3, fig. 4). Taking into account the denivelation of the ground, it was more deeply dug in the northeastern part of the room and the southwestern cor-



Fig. 3. Northern part of the utility building. View from the south
Обр. 3. Северна част на стопанската сграда. Поглед от юг

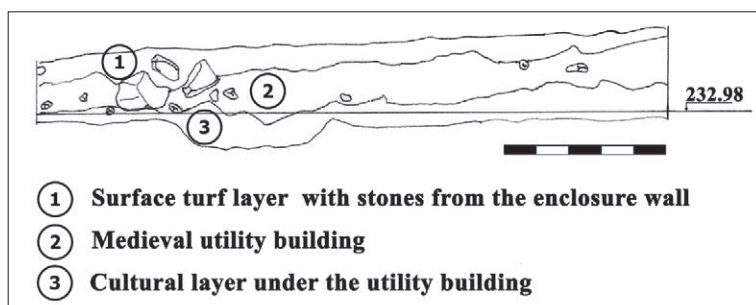


Fig. 4. Graphic documentation of the northern cross-section
of grid sq. 34/23. Stage of the research

Обр. 4. Графично заснемане на северния профил на кв. 34/23. Етап от проучването

stone foundation for a wooden column in the southeastern corner suggest a wooden structure.¹ The room's dimensions are 3.40 x 4 m, so its internal area could be calculated at approximately 13.6 sq. m (the southwestern corner remains unstudied since it is located under the roots of an oak tree).

In the upper end of the fill of the residential pit, there is a concentration of pebbles which do not form clear structures (fig. 6, fig. 7). It is possible that they might have to do with the outside

ner was probably almost at the ancient ground level. This can also be seen in the way the walls were constructed and arranged. The dug-in part is revetted with stone masonry, the stones also probably used as foundation for the construction in height. These stone walls have a north-east – southwest orientation. They were constructed with medium-sized stones, which were carefully matched by shape and size. The northeastern part of the room is the one that was most carefully constructed (fig. 5) and it was dug in the deepest, so the stone facing had to withstand the ground pressure. It is possible that the rest were also constructed with the same precision, but stones in the area are not resistant to climatic influences, weather quickly and create the impression that smaller and less well-shaped ones were used in the construction of the walls. Pieces of clay plaster were uncovered in the southeastern part of the building, which probably covered the stone facing and the whole structure in height. The room was partially dug-in and almost nothing has been preserved from the above-ground part, which was probably constructed of perishable material. The traces of rotted (oxidized) wood in the room's fill and the partially preserved

¹ Coordinates: grid sq. 41/3. Elevation 232.90 m. 1.70 m from the East and 0.40 m from the North.

layer of the building or the weathering of the upper parts of the facing masonry. The level at which they are uncovered is at an elevation of 233.10 m. In depth, the next layer has a thickness of 0.20 – 0.30 m, where the soil is black and saturated with charcoal from the burning of the wooden structure. The floor (at elevation 232.67 – 232.64 m) is made of rammed earth. In places, there are evident traces of fire.

No heating facility was found anywhere in the uncovered part of the room, which implies that it served utility purposes. This is also supported by the lower part of a large vessel (earthen jar?) discovered in the northern part of the room (fig. 3, fig. 8), probably used for storage (Cat. No. 77, Pl. XII: 77). The absence of fragments from the upper part of the vessel indicates that the vessel continued to be used as intended even after it broke and its original volume decreased significantly.

An almost entirely preserved pot (Cat. No. 76, Pl. XI: 76) was discovered in the fill of the residential pit among stones from the destructions, lying on a charcoal-saturated layer (fig. 9). Its bottom surface obtained secondary black colouring as a result of being heated in a reduction environment. The circumstances of its discovery imply that the vessel was positioned on a shelf or beam from the roof structure and that it fell during the burning of the building amongst the partially destroyed and still burning remains, which led to the grey-black colouring on one side.

Amongst the stones from the destructions at the southeastern wall of the building, an iron arrow was discovered with an arrowhead bent from hitting the stone next to which it lay (Cat. No. 69, Pl. X: 69). In addition to the mentioned finds, parts of querns were discovered in the room, one of which was re-used in the construction of the stone cladding in the ground floor part of the room (fig. 2).



*Fig. 5. The utility building with a segment of the enclosure wall.
View from the south*

Обр. 5. Стопанската сграда с част от оградния зид. Поглед от юг



*Fig. 6. Southern cross-section of grid sq. 34/23 with a cross-section
of the fill of the utility building*

*Обр. 6. Южен профил на кв. 34/23 с разрез на запълнителя
на стопанската сграда*

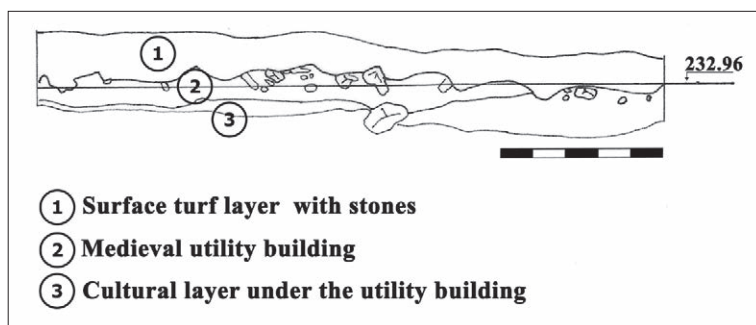


Fig. 7. Graphic documentation of the southern cross-section of grid sq. 34/23. Stage of the research

Обр. 7. Графично заснемане на южния профил на кв. 34/23. Етап от проучването



Fig. 8. Storage vessel on the floor of the utility building. View from the south

Обр. 8. Делва на пода на стопанската сграда. Поглед от юг

Fragmented vessels were discovered in the fill of the utility building, which makes their typological identification difficult and quite relative (Cat. Nos. 78 – 85, Pl. XIII: 78 – 82, Pl. XIV: 83 – 85). The bulk of them belong to the group of vessels made of sandy clay with more or less coarse inclusions and incised decoration. They were all thrown on a slow potter's wheel. The presented forms are only pots and they have similarities with vessels found in a number of Early Medieval sites (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 41 – 43; Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, 64 – 69; Дончева-Петкова и др. 2016, 67 – 68, 258; Fiedler 1999, 127 – 128; Рашев 2008, 178 – 180). Probably most of them should also be classified as variant A₃ of type I (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 41 – 43).

The fragments of a small vessel (Cat. No. 85, Pl. XIV: 85) of purified grey-black mica clay deserve special attention. The preserved parts are from a thin stem with a funnel-like “rim” and longitudinal cuttings made before firing. The whole external surface is decorated with a grid of incised lines. The fragments found do not allow reconstruction of the form, but we could assume several possibilities. One of them is that the fragments were part of a hollow stem, similar to the chalice from Pliska, dated to the second half of the 9th – 10th c. (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 94, 190, табл. XXVII₃₃₅). The second possibility is based on the similarity of the form with later artifacts and implies a cande-

The simultaneous application of the two main technological groups of Medieval ceramics is unequivocally evidenced by the two relatively well-preserved vessels, which we can connect to the last phase of existence and use of the room.

The almost entirely preserved pot discovered among the destructions of the building can be referred to variant A₃ of type I under L. Doncheva-Petkova (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 41 – 43). Most of the vessels of this variant that have been dated with certainty can be dated to the 10th c. (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 43).

The partially preserved earthen jar (Cat. No. 77, Pl. XII: 77) has a relatively exact parallel with a vessel originating from Targovishte, dated at the second half of the 10th c. (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 104, 196, табл. XXXI₃₇₆). Similar vessels come from Mound No. XXXIII in Pliska and the commercial premises in Preslav, where their use could be dated within the 9th – 10th c. (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 104).

labrum/lamp with well-formed incisions along the body, these incisions probably had a solely decorative and no functional use (Манолова-Войкова 2019, 92, обр. 9). Vessels with functional incisions are known from Drastar, Skala, and the fortress at the village of Tsar Asen, Silistra region (Димитров 1993, 96, табл. XVIII: 23; Йотов, Атанасов 1998, 78, табло CIV₃₅₀; Колева 2009, 277 – 278, обр. II₅). Some of the examples given are covered with glaze and all have been discussed as censers (Димитров 1993, 96, табл. XVIII: 23; Йотов, Атанасов 1998, 78, табло CIV₃₅₀; Колева 2009, 277 – 278), but the shape



Fig. 9. Pot found among the stone ruins in the southern part of the utility building

Обр. 9. Гърне, открито сред каменните деструкции в южната част на стопанската сграда

and crafting technique differ from those presented here. The fragments closest to our vessel were also found in Skala fortress (Йотов, Атанасов 1998, 78, табл. CIV₃₄₉), commented upon as the stem of a vessel for heating liquids, but, unfortunately, the form cannot be reconstructed there either.

One of the main arguments for the dating of the complex are the fragments of the wall of an amphora scattered over a large area, which were found in the fill of the building (in grid sq. 41/1, 41/2, 41/3, 34/22, as well as in the grid sq. discussed here, 34/23).² The amphora is of the Günsenin type I (10th – 11th c.) (Günsenin 1990, 21 – 24), Hayes type 54A (from the end of the 10th – to the end of the 11th c.) (Hayes 1992, 73 – 75), Doncheva-Petkova type IA (10th – 11th c.) (Дончева-Петкова 1977, 102, 193, табл. XXX₃₅₆). Arguments for a narrow date of the type (type VIII, variant 1) are put forward by E. Todorova³ in her dissertation, referring them to the last third of the 10th – first quarter, to the middle of the 11th c. (Тодорова 2012, 49 – 50). To the extent that some of the fragments fall into the fill of the building discussed here, they should be used as *terminus ante quem* for the existence of the complex.

The arrow, probably related to the time of destruction of the settlement (Cat. No. 69, Pl. X: 69), is classified as one of the most widespread types in the Middle Ages (type I, variant 3) (Йотов 2004, 27), where the blade has a triangular shape and an elliptical cross-section. Observations show that their use was extremely widespread in the 9th – 11th c., but they are found both before and after this period (Дончева-Петкова и др. 1999, 108, бел. 167; Йотов 2004, 28). The possible date does not contradict the observations on the ceramic material.

² The better-preserved upper part of the vessel was discovered in grid sq. 41/2, which is why it is not illustrated here. From the fill of the building discussed here, there are only small wall fragments. Despite the differences in actual levels at which the parts of this vessel are found, due to the natural denivelation of the ground (Grid sq. 41/2 – level 232.59 – 232.41 m; Grid sq. 41/1 – level 232.24 – 231.95 m; Grid sq. 41/3 – level 232.78 – 231.95 m, etc.), the fragments come from first and second mechanical layer in the respective grid squares, i.e. they are found in the top layers connected with the latest inhabitants of the site.

³ We would like to express our sincere gratitude to E. Todorova, PhD, for the consultations and the opportunity to use her yet unpublished doctoral thesis on the topic.

A bone awl (Cat. No. 75, Pl. X: 75) was also found in the fill of the building. Such artifacts are among the most common finds from the Medieval settlement. Since they were small and not especially valuable objects, they were easily ignored when packing the household belongings before leaving the dwellings. Probably some of them were damaged or worn out long before that. Crafting them did not require special knowledge or skills and the raw materials for them were easily accessible – mainly bones from the animals used for food. The artifact is evidence that leather processing was a well-developed craft among the residents in the household.

Besides the direct chronological evidence for dating, based on the finds from the building we would like to add some stratigraphic observations regarding the researched household.

The utility building is one of the latest structures registered in the excavated section. The latest evidenced structure on the site is uncovered in the surface turf layer lying immediately on its remains, namely the enclosure walls of the researched “household”. However, since the enclosure walls belong to a structure built at the ancient ground level and the building discussed here is partially dug in, disturbing some earlier Medieval structures, it is possible to assume that they were used simultaneously. This is indicated not only by the identical orientation of the walls, with the characteristic shift to the four cardinal directions, but also by the absence of later structures to overlap or disturb the complex under discussion. Some of the stones from the enclosure wall fall partially on the northern corner of the utility building (fig. 3, fig. 4), but insofar as the aboveground building has no specially constructed foundation and has survived to present day in a destroyed form, it is possible that the partial overlap of the two structures is due to later destructions and subsidence of the ground. If we assume that the two structures come from different time periods, then the utility building must have preceded the construction of the enclosure wall, while at the same time overlapping and partially disturbing a number of earlier Medieval structures registered on the site, i.e. it should again be referred to the latest levels of habitation. In support of this, we should also point out that the stratigraphic observations in the whole studied section show that the later stages of habitation of the settlement include the buildings with the highest use of stones in the construction, used mainly for wall cladding. This observation could have various explanations, both in the need for additional securing of the structures when building on an unstable ground, and in the purely practical extraction of reusable building material from destroyed dwellings. Another argument is that the construction technique of the commercial building also implies a relatively late, in comparison with the other documented structures, date of the complex.

The direct and indirect evidence for dating the complex show that the most probable time of construction and function of the reviewed utility building is somewhere within the 10th c. The moment of its destruction is most probably related to dramatic events which led to abandoning some of the household belongings and its being burned down. The data we have do not allow us to uncover the circumstances under which this happened, but the bent arrowhead does not preclude a potential military conflict. The artifacts that have survived to present day should be referred to the days immediately preceding the destruction. The latest materials in the complex, as well as the stratigraphic observations, allow us to assume that the time when this happened was probably during the decades after the middle of the 10th c.

The other materials discovered in the fill of the utility building are ancient coins (Cat. Nos. 12, 14, and 16, Pl. II: 12, 14, and 16), plus some metal objects which are difficult to date (Cat. Nos. 70 – 74, Pl. X: 70 – 74).

The discovery of Late Antique materials in a Medieval context is a situation characteristic of almost all negative structures from the part of the village under research. Their re-deposition in a later environment in itself is a positive indication for the more or less long-lasting presence and/or habitation of the site in Antiquity. Nevertheless, our observations to this day do not show presence

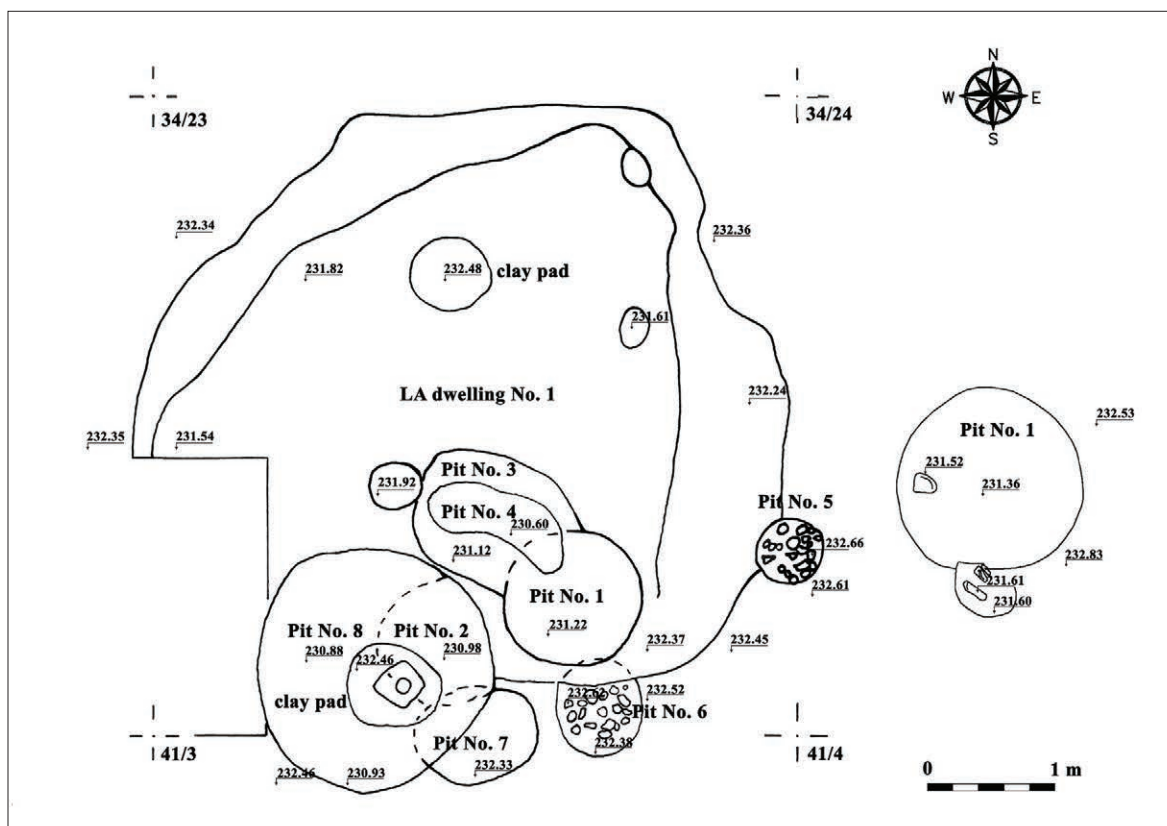


Fig. 10. Plan of Late Antique dwelling No. 1 with pits, explored in grid sq. 34/23 and 34/24

Обр. 10. План на късноантично жилище № 1 с ямите, разкрити в кв. 34/23 и 34/24

of structures earlier than the Medieval dwellings. It is namely the complexes uncovered below the floor level of the utility building under discussion that confirmed the initial hypothesis and allowed to shed light on the nature of this early habitation.

Our initial approach to the study of the cultural layers under the floor of the utility building was through a trench (in 2013), aiming to get an idea of the stratification in depth, without damaging the preserved remains of the Medieval complex (Пенчева, Николаева 2014, 577 – 579). The thus documented negative structures required a comprehensive study of the cultural layers, which led to the remains of the utility building being removed.

The most significant complex which falls entirely under the remains of the utility building is a Late Antique dwelling (fig. 10) (Пенчева, Николаева 2016, 657 – 660; Пенчева, Николаева 2017, 606 – 608; Пенчева, Николаева 2019, 546 – 549; Пенчева и др. 2018, 537 – 539). It has an almost regular oval form, dug into the sterile soil. The depth of the residential pit from the level at which it was registered (232.57 – 232.35 m) to the floor level (231.61 – 231.54 m) is approximately 0.90 m. To the extent, however, that the fill was disturbed by later digging and by the overlapping utility building, we can assume that it used to be more than one meter. This is also indicated by the level of the present-day ground, which did not undergo significant changes from Antiquity and the Middle Ages to present day. The boundaries of digging in are registered with certainty from the east, north and northwest. To the southwest, the periphery of the dwelling falls under the roots of a tree and excavating it is difficult and uncertain, and the whole south periphery is disturbed by later pits. The approximate diameter of the residential pit is 5 m, which implies a residential area of about 20 sq. m. The floor level is of a relatively levelled sterile layer. The preserved traces of wooden

pillars in the sterile layer and the nature of the fill of the residential pit with a concentration of oxidized wood allow us to assume a wooden construction of the building to its eventual height. The paleobotanical tests of soil from the fill confirmed presence of remains from beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) and oak (*Quercus* sp.).⁴ There are no data attesting to a tiled roof. No heating facility has been documented in the uncovered area, but the high number of later disturbances does not preclude the possibility that it was destroyed by later digging.

The finds discovered in the building are not *in situ*, at floor level, but originate from the fill of the residential pit. Some of them are fragmented and more probably not related to the final stages of habitation in the dwelling, but got there later when the pit was filled in. Some bear traces of intensive oxidization due to exposure to high temperatures. The question stands, however, whether the complex perished due to a fire or these traces are the result of later habitation of the site.

The coins discovered in the study of this section are 21 (Cat. Nos. 1 – 21, Pl. I – III: 1 – 21). Some of them are from upper levels as a result of later disturbances of the building, but most are from the soil filling the residential pit. The earliest among those is a commemorative coin of Emperor Constantine I minted following his death in 337 (Cat. No. 1). A more interesting fact is that the latest coins from this complex belong to the Emperors Valentinian I (364 – 375) and Valens (364 – 378) (Cat. Nos. 14 – 21) and are not older than the 370s, clearly indicating that habitation of the site in Late Antiquity was not suspended in that period. Probably it is with these later stages of habitation of the settlement that the filling in of the residential pit should be related.

The other finds from the fill of the residential pit do not contradict the chronological boundaries outlined by the coin material. A small belt strap-end made of copper alloy (Cat. No. 22, Pl. III: 22) finds parallels in closed complexes from the 4th c. (Гетов 1982, 70, 73 – 77, табл. XXVII, 6; Petre 1987, 133 – 134, Planche 106, 154, Planche 108, 160_b; Preda 1980, 214, Pl. LXXXIV, M324.1).

The partially preserved and highly oxidized fibula (Cat. No. 23, Pl. III: 23) is of the type of *Fibeln mit umgeschlagenem Fuß*, which were extremely widespread in the region during Late Antiquity. The fragmented form in which it has survived does not allow us to determine precisely its type, but its small size and flat bow point towards the forms which were widespread within the 4th – 5th c. (Генчева 2004, 51 – 55, 169, табл. XVI; Diaconu 1971, 239 – 267; Gomolka-Fuchs 1982, Taf. 55, 56; Gomolka-Fuchs 1991, 169 – 170, Taf. 56, 57; Uenze 1992, 141 – 146, Taf. I, II). A specimen similar to ours originates from grave No. 92 of the Callatis necropolis, where the date is indisputable based on the five coins found in the grave, the latest of which is of Emperor Constantius II, minted between 330 and 335 (Preda 1980, 68 – 69, 92, 163, Pl. XXXIII, M92.3).

Also found in the Callatis necropolis (Preda 1980, 159, 193, Pl. XXV, M101, M360.2, Pl. LXIII, M 101) is an exact analogue of the ring discovered among the remains of the dwelling (Cat. No. 24, Pl. III: 24). Such were mass produced and widespread in the empire, and their discovery in a series of closed and well dated complexes shows that they were used within the 4th c. (Preda 1980, 56; Salamon, Barkóczi 1971, 64 – 65, 71).

The data from the necropolises show that the use of bracelets made of blue glass, found in fragmented form in the fill of the residential pit, should also be placed within the 4th c. (Cat. Nos. 30 – 31, Pl. IV: 30 – 31) (Preda 1980, 157, 163, 193, 194, 202, Pl. XXIII, M331, Pl. XLVI, 8, Pl. LXIII, 101.3, Pl. LXIV, 124.2, Pl. LXXII, M197.1).

⁴We would like to express our sincere gratitude to H. Hristova, PhD student with the Department of Interdisciplinary Research and Archaeological Map of Bulgaria at NAIM – BAS, for her research and comments. In relation to the results of this research, also quoted below, we would like to specify that samples were collected from structures excavated in 2019, so we have data only on some of the complexes discussed here.

One of the iron tools (Cat. No. 25, Pl. III: 25), probably originating from the fill of the residential pit, deserves special attention. The shape of the working part approximates that of some tools with various applications in medicine, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in the Roman Age, known as spatula probes (Кирова 2010, 56 – 57). They were made of various materials – bronze, iron, and copper (Кирова 2010, 56). In the cases when they were not for measuring or mixing different substances but for wound treatment, the iron tools were supposedly wrapped in fabric to avoid contamination of the wound from contact with the metal. At the end of the shaft there is an annular thickening, providing a stable grip during use. The shape of the spatula finds an analogue with well-dated specimens characteristic of the 3rd – 4th c. (Кирова 2010, 56, 273, табл. VIII, B1.1.76). The unusual rounding of the edges (possibly a result of secondary processing) approximates it to the scoop probes (Кирова 2010, 57 – 58) most often made of bronze. The opposite end, unfortunately, is broken off and this, as well as the shape of the scooping part, does not allow unequivocal identification. Similar tools were widespread in the Roman provinces in present-day Bulgarian territory and, evidently, well-known and used by the local population.

It is possible that the tool described under Cat. No. 27 (Pl. III: 27) was also used for more specialized applications, but we cannot say anything definitive about its purpose.

The other objects discovered among the remains of the dwelling are ones commonly used in daily life – a small knife (Cat. No. 26, Pl. III: 26), a grindstone (Cat. No. 38, Pl. IV: 38), spindle whorls (Cat. Nos. 32 – 33, Pl. IV: 32 – 33), and ceramic discs (Cat. Nos. 36 – 37, Pl. IV: 36 – 37). It is possible that the manually crafted ceramic “loafs” (Cat. Nos. 34 – 35, Pl. IV: 34 – 35) belonged to earlier structures and got there during the filling of the residential pit, but the similar signs incised on one of the surfaces imply that they were used as a set (game, fortune-telling set?).

The ceramics discovered in the dwelling are highly fragmented and could rather relate to the time of the filling of the residential pit than the last stage of habitation. Due to the spate of digging interference which later disturbed the residential pit, it is hard to differentiate these interferences in the cultural layer, it is possible that some of the reviewed fragments got there at a later stage.

Most of the fragments are from kitchenware – pots (Cat. Nos. 39 – 61, Pl. V – VIII: 39 – 61), and several lids (Cat. Nos. 64 – 65, Pl. IX: 64 – 65). They were shaped from a fabric with many sand inclusions, which acquired grey colouring after firing, and there are visible traces of use – soot and smoking.

Only the preserved fragments from the bottom part of a vessel (Cat. No. 62, Pl. IX: 62) could be from an amphora. Unfortunately, only some of the walls have survived. There are no diagnostic fragments from the rim and bottom which would allow a more precise classification and dating. The fabric of the vessel is not significantly different from that of local ceramics – high amount of sand inclusions and grey colouring acquired during firing, which implies that it is more probably the bottom part of a pot.

Only a few fragments are from fine tableware, from jugs and dishes (Cat. Nos. 66 – 68, Pl. X: 66 – 68).

The ceramic complex does not go beyond the chronological boundaries outlined on the basis of the coins and metal, which is also confirmed by analogy with published complexes (Böttger 1982, 33 – 148; Кузманов 1985, Kuzmanov 1992, 201 – 221). It represents a set of items, mainly from local workshops, among which there are practically no amphorae as evidence for food, drinks and luxurious cosmetics being delivered from outside.

One of the structures we can relate to the functioning of the dwelling is pit No. 3⁵ (fig. 10, fig. 12, and fig. 13), where the digging is at floor level (at elevation 231.78 m), approximately in the

⁵The numbering of the pits in the grid square does not follow their chronological sequence, but the order in which they were registered and excavated.



Fig. 11. Late Antique dwelling No. 1. Stage of the research.
View from the north

Обр. 11. Късноантично жилище № 1.
Етап от проучването. Поглед от север



Fig. 12. Late Antique dwelling No. 1. View from the north
Обр. 12. Късноантично жилище № 1. Поглед от север

central part of the dwelling. It has a diameter of 1 – 1.20 m and oval outlines in plan, its long axis with a northwest – south-east orientation. Its diameter narrows towards the bottom, which is approximately at elevation 231.07 m. No ceramic fragments have been discovered in its fill and the paleobotanical samples show only presence of oak remains (*Quercus* sp.) and do not unequivocally confirm its being used for storing grain.

About a meter away from the eastern periphery of the Late Antique dwelling, a pit was excavated (fig. 10, fig. 14, and fig. 15), the latest dating material from which comprises several fragments of Late Antique ceramics (fig. 16, Cat. No. 88, Pl. XV: 88). The pit was registered at levels 232.83 – 232.53 m. It has round outlines in plan and a diameter of 1.20 – 1.50 m, widening towards the bottom. The depth from the level of registration is nearly 1.50 m (elevation of the bottom 231.36 m), which shows an internal volume of about 2.650 m³. In the upper layers of the fill, there is a large number of limestone inclusions due to digging the pit into the continental rock. Relatively few ceramic fragments were discovered in the fill; burnt animal bones and charcoal, as well as a few medium-sized stones at the

bottom. The immediate proximity of the pit to the dwelling and the fill materials with close dating imply joint use. It can be assumed that it was used to store the grain reserves of the inhabitants of the nearby dwelling (its capacity could be approximately calculated at more than two tonnes of grain).

The Late Antique dwelling reviewed here, and the pit excavated nearby allow the assumption of a rural household of modest means, whose main activities were farming ones. The absence of agricultural inventory and tools could be justified by the packing of valuable household belongings from the dwelling when it was abandoned.

One of the structures within the outlines of the Late Antique dwelling precedes its construction. This is pit No. 4 (fig. 10). Its outlines are uncovered at the bottom of pit No. 3 (at elevation 231.07 m) as an irregular oval with its long axis directed East – West (1.05 m). The bottom was reached at level 230.60 m. A stone block and a few fragments of a small vessel (Cat. No. 86, Pl. XV: 86), made by hand, with impressed decoration, filled with white paste and traces of red paint along the rim, were found in its fill. As shown by analogues, such vessels relate to the Late Neolithic phases⁶ (Тодорова и др. 1975, 87 – 88, 119, 120, табло 5, 14, табло 6, 14), which makes pit No. 4 the earliest structure in the grid square, by far preceding the construction of the Late Antique dwelling.

All other structures documented here disturb the fill of the Late Antique dwelling and precede the construction of the utility building. The earliest among them is pit No. 1 (fig. 10, fig. 11, and fig. 12). It has the outlines of an almost regular circle in plan and diameter of the bottom – 1.40 m. The preserved southern part of its periphery show that the pit has a truncated conical shape and a significantly smaller diameter of the opening. Its northwestern periphery partially disturbs the fill of pit No. 3 and overlaps the south end of the fill of pit No. 4, which is evidence that it was dug later than them. The fill is loose soil of dark colour, where three fragments from the wall of a vessel – amphora and a few animal bones (fig. 17). The level at which the beginning of the digging is registered is 231.96 m, about 0.5 m higher than the floor level of the Late Antique dwelling, and it is an indication that pit No. 1 is later not only than pits Nos. 3 and 4, but also than the dwell-



Fig. 13. Late Antique dwelling No. 1. View from the south
Обр. 13. Късноантично жилище № 1. Поглед от юг



Fig. 14. Pit No. 1 in grid sq. 34/24. Stage of the research
Обр. 14. Яма № 1 в кв. 34/24. Етап от проучването

⁶ We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Assistant Professor N. Todorova, Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski", for the consultations and directions she provided.



Fig. 15. Pit No. 1 in grid sq. 34/24. View from the north
Обр. 15. Яма № 1 в кв. 34/24. Поглед от север



Fig. 16. Pottery and bones from the fill of pit No. 1 in grid sq. 34/24
Обр. 16. Керамика и кости от запълнителя на яма № 1 в кв. 34/24

more precise dating. The bottom was reached at level 232.29 m. It is possible that pit No. 6 partially disturbs the upper end of the fill of pit No. 1, but at the well-documented levels, the opening of pit No. 1 lies at about 0.30 m under the bottom of pit No. 6. Stratigraphic observations allow us to

ing whose fill it disturbs (fig. 18, fig. 19, and fig. 20). Its bottom part is cut into the continental rock. The bottom was reached at level 231.22 m. The paleobotanical samples from its fill show presence of seeds from einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum* L.), common wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum* L.), club wheat (*Triticum aestivum* ssp. *compactum* L.), and proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.), as well as an insignificant amount of alder (*Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn. L.). These results are a convincing argument that the pit was used for storing grain. The few fragments originating from the fill and the stratigraphic observations serve as indication of the time the facility was made, which should be referred to the last phase of habitation documented here in Late Antiquity, namely – the last decades of the 4th – very beginning of the 5th c.

The southern part of pit No. 1 falls partially under pit No. 6 (fig. 19, fig. 20). It was registered after the stones from the southern wall of the utility building were removed, at elevation 232.60 m. At the uncovered level it looks like a stone circle⁷ with a diameter of 0.50 m (fig. 21). No materials were discovered in its fill that would allow

⁷ The functions of these facilities documented at several places on the site are not entirely clear. They are dug-in structures of medium size. At a certain depth, near the bottom, in the fill of the pit, there are densely arranged, one next to the other, stones forming a “stone circle”. The presence of remains from various plant species does not help unequivocal interpretation either. From the structure discussed here, the paleobotanical samples show remains of oak (*Quercus* sp.), seeds of hullless barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *Nudum*), proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.), grape (*Vitis Vinifera* ssp. *Vinifera*), and elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.).

assume that the functioning of this facility should be referred to the Medieval levels of habitation.

The next structure which disturbs the southwestern part of the fill of the Late Antique dwelling is pit No. 2 (fig. 18, fig. 19, and fig. 20). It is located west of the pits discussed above. It was registered at elevation 232.37 m. Taking into account later disturbances, its original size is hard to establish. Its bottom part is cut into the continental rock. The bottom was reached at level 230.98 m. The nature of the fill is indicative for differentiation from the other structures, characterized by a hard, nonhomogeneous structure with many limestone inclusions. The lack of dating materials makes it difficult to establish the time of use of the facility, but the paleobotanical samples show presence of einkorn wheat (*Triticum monococcum* L.), common wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum* L.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *Nudum*), bitter vetch (*Vicia ervilia* Willd.), and common corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.), which indicates that the pit was used for storing grain.

Pit No. 2 has been disturbed by pit No. 8 (fig. 18, fig. 19, and fig. 20). It was registered at elevation 232.57 m. It disturbs both the fill of pit No. 2 and the fill of the Late Antique dwelling. The bottom was reached at level 230.88 m. The pit has a truncated conical shape and a diameter of 1.50 – 1.60 m at the opening and 1.80 m at the bottom, which implies a significant volume, roughly calculated at more than 4 m³. Two small fragments of Medieval ceramics from its fill point towards its use in the Middle Ages.

The last two pits (Nos. 2 and 8) are disturbed in their eastern periphery by pit No. 7 (fig. 18, fig. 19, and fig. 20). It was registered at elevation 232.61 m, during scraping following the removal of the southwestern wall of the utility building. The fill is of brown soil containing fragmented ceramics,



Fig. 17. Pottery and bones from the fill of pit No. 1 in grid sq. 34/23
Обр. 17. Керамика и кости от запълнителя на яма № 1 в кв. 34/23



Fig. 18. View from the north towards the pits, disturbing the fill of the pit of the Late Antique building No. 1. Stage of the research
Обр. 18. Поглед от север към ямите, нарушаващи запълнителя на ямата на късноантично жилище № 1. Етап от проучването



Fig. 19. View from the north towards the pits, disturbing the fill of the pit of the Late Antique building No. 1

Обр. 19. Поглед от север към ямите, нарушаващи запълнителя на ямата на късноантично жилище № 1

small charcoal fragments, burnt animal bones, and pieces of fired plaster. The bottom was reached at level 232.33 m. The materials from its fill are mainly dated to Late Antiquity, but the presence of a small fragment of Medieval ceramic and the stratigraphic observations imply that the pit was from the Middle Ages (fig. 22).

A clay pad providing the foundation for a stone base of a wooden column also falls on the same pits (Nos. 2 and 8), partially disturbing their fills (fig. 10, fig. 23). It was documented during scraping under the floor level of the utility building. The pad has round outlines in plan and a diameter of about 0.60

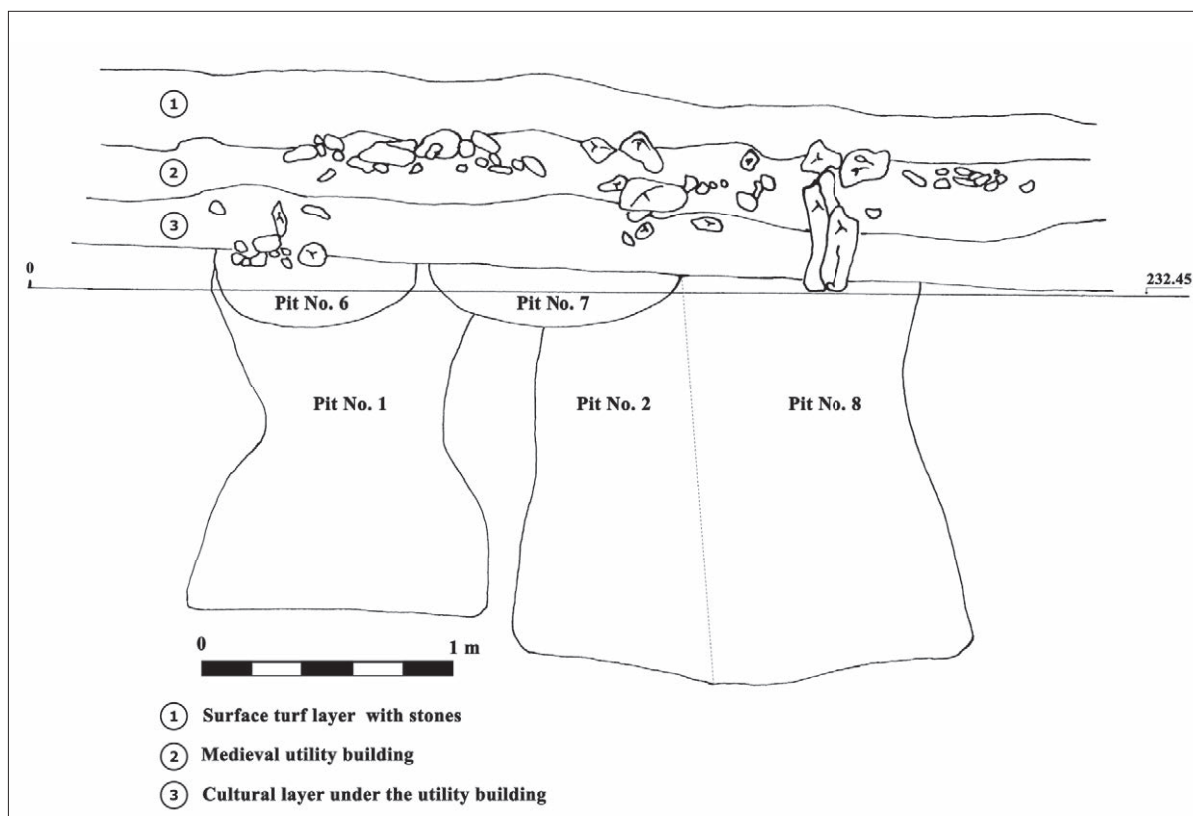


Fig. 20. Graphic cross-section of the structures in the south part of grid sq. 34/23

Обр. 20. Графичен разрез на структурите в южната част на кв. 34/23

m. The level at which it was documented is 232.46 m. It was probably made in relation to the construction of the above-ground structure with a wooden structure preceding the utility building. The need for securing a clay pad can be related to the fact that the construction is on an unstable ground. The pad is about 0.10 m thick and its bottom part was reached at elevation 232.26 m. The stone base is made of a reused block of almost regular form and canted corners. Approximate dimensions 0.45 x 0.35 x 0.18 m (fig. 24). On the top wide surface, approximately in the centre, there is a bed for a pillar with diameter 0.15 – 0.14 m and depth 0.10 m. On one of the side surfaces, there are visible traces of a groove with semi-circular outlines (diameter 0.05 m) and depth of 0.15 m, evidence of use in earlier constructions.

A second clay pad (fig. 5, fig. 10) was documented in the northern part of the grid square, in the immediate proximity of the northeastern wall of the utility building. It has approximately the same dimensions (diameter about 0.60 m) and depth (232.48 m) as the one described above. The similar form and stratigraphic position allow us to assume that they secured the same construction of perishable materials, which was built before the utility building. A small fragment of Medieval ceramic with incised decoration, which was discovered in its fill, is an indicator of the time of construction. We can assume that this is an earlier utility building, preceding the one with a stone plinth, whose location and dimensions were close to the one discussed herein. It is possible that at a later stage it was rebuilt with more stable materials without a change in its function. Unfortunately, we cannot link definite finds with the functioning of this facility, so the available data do not allow establishing a precise historical date. On the basis of relative chronology, we could specify that its construction took place after pit No. 8, defined above as Medieval, went out of use and was filled in prior to the construction of the utility building.

Finally, we would like to discuss one more negative structure (pit No. 5) (fig. 10, fig. 25) which partially disturbs the eastern periphery of the Late Antique dwelling. It belongs to what are known as stone circles.⁸ It was documented at elevation 232.66 – 232.59 m and the bottom was reached at



Fig. 21. Pit No. 7 (stone circle) at the level of discovery
Обр. 21. Яма № 7 (каменен кръг) на ниво регистриране



Fig. 22. Pottery from the fill of pit No. 7
Обр. 22. Керамика от запълнителя на яма № 7

⁸ See footnote 6 above.



Fig. 23. Clay pad (south) of a stone base for a wooden column
Обр. 23. Глинена подложка (юг) на каменна база за дървена колона



Fig. 24. Stone base for a wooden column
Обр. 24. Каменна база за дървена колона

level 232.36 m. The paleobotanical samples from the fill showed presence of various plant remains.⁹ The similar method of formation, depth and content of pits Nos. 5 and 7 implies that they had similar functions and were made at approximately the same time. Based on the observations at pit No. 7, we can assume that pit No. 5 is also Medieval.

In conclusion, we would like to underline the main results of this research: The utility building is partially dug in, and constructed mainly of wood. It is linked to the final phases of habitation in the Middle Ages. As evidence of this, we should point out that its walls lie on a series of Medieval structures, which precede its construction. Stratigraphic observations and the preserved finds show that the time of its existence should be placed somewhere within the 10th c., and its destruction by fire – after the middle of the century. The presence of a utility building close to the excavated dwellings from the same period indicates advance planning and differentiation of zones with different functions in the arrangement of space in the researched household. Among the complexes researched so far, this is the only one where we have preserved finds *in situ*, which

could probably also be used as an argument for its utility nature.

The Late Antique dwelling is also dug in. It was constructed mainly of perishable materials. The finds from the fill of the residential pit suggest that the time of habitation was during the second half of the 4th c. Its functioning should be linked to a pit approximately in the centre of the inhabited space, as well as to a second one to the east of the dwelling. The outlined complex of structures allow

⁹ Common wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum* L.), proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.), wild grape (*Vitis Vinifera* ssp. *sylvestris*), and common hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.)

the assumption of a rural household of modest means, whose main activities were farming ones. On the basis of just these observations we cannot draw more serious conclusions about the scale and the arrangement of the settlement to which the reviewed complexes belong, but they allow us to consider rural habitation all over the excavated area, whose existence could be placed within the second half of the 4th – early decades of the 5th c. It is to the final phases of this settlement that the Late Antique pits disturbing the fill of the pit of dwelling No. 1 should be linked. The terrain on which the settlement was developed offers, as mentioned above, extremely favourable conditions for living and farming.

It is the preferences in Antiquity and the Middle Ages for the same terrains for constructing rural settlements that makes possible the frequent discovery of Late Antique materials in a Medieval context. To the extent that Medieval dwellings are not only dug in, but also covered by earth from the surrounding terrain, it can be assumed that a significant part of Antique structures, especially aboveground ones, were almost completely destroyed. The most common finds that survive to present day are portable artifacts from the earliest phase of habitation and dug-in structures (mostly pits). The situation uncovered in Petrova Niva offers a possible answer to similar research problems and opens the door to clarifying the nature of the early habitation of the site.



Fig. 25. Pit. No. 5 (stone circle) at the level of discovery
Обр. 25. Яма № 5 (каменен кръг) на ниво регистриране

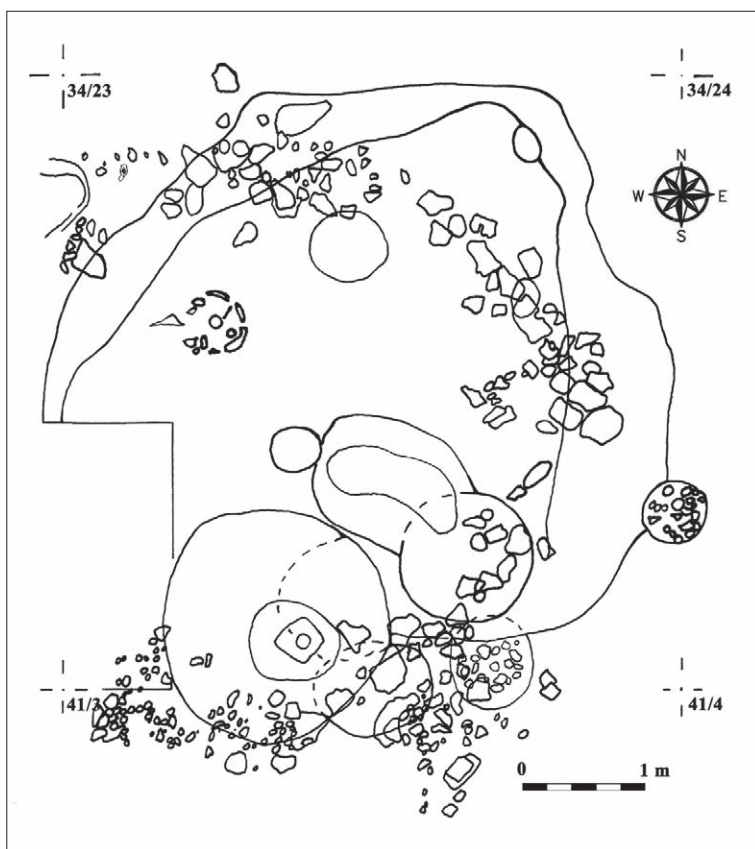


Fig. 26. General plan of the structures in grid sq. 34/23
Обр. 26. Общ план на структурите в кв. 34/23

CATALOGUE OF FINDS

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
1	2016	FIN 5	ΗΦ ΙΙ-χ № 169	Commemorative coin struck in honour of emperor Constantine I after his death in 337. Minted in Constantinople. Obverse: ----AN/---NVS---VG. Bust of Constantine I, veiled, right. Reverse: In the exergue --N MR CONSA. Slightly visible image of the emperor, standing, facing. Copper. Worn out, slightly corroded, oxidized	D = 16 – 13 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.41 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.98 m from N 1.02 m from E Depth 232.26	Plate I: 1
2	2015	FIN 60	ΗCΦ – Η № 22	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: ----/----- F AVG. Bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: FEL TEMP / REPA---. Virtus in military dress, helmeted, standing, left. Spearfing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm. Copper. Slightly corroded. Oxidized. Parts of the core are broken off.	D = 12 – 17 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 2.00 g	Grid sq. 34/23 Trench in central part 2.80 from N 2.50 from E Depth 231.73	Plate I: 2
3	2016	FIN 54	ΗΦ ΙΙ-χ № 171	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). Minted in Constantinople. Obverse: ----/TIVS PF AVG. Bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: ---MP R/EPARATIO. In the lower part of the exergue --ONS---. Virtus standing, left, spearfing fallen horseman. Copper. Slightly corroded, oxidized.	D = 16 – 17 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.74 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 3.63 m from S 2.47 m from E Depth 231.97	Plate I: 3
4	2017	FIN 11	ΗCΦ – Η № 30	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). Minted in Thessaloniki. Obverse: ----/TIV-----. Preserved upper part of the emperor's head, diademed, right. Reverse: ----/---. In the exergue -- MTS---. Slightly visible and partially preserved image of Virtus, standing, left, spearfing fallen horseman. Copper. Chipped, corroded, oxidized fragment.	D = 10 – 13 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 0.80 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 From northern spoil heap	Plate I: 4

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
5	2017	FIN 24	HΦ – H № 32	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: Inscription not visible. Slightly visible bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: SPES R-----, Slightly visible image of Constantius II in military dress, standing, facing. Holding globe in right hand, leaning on spear with left. Copper. Heavily corroded, oxidized.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.1 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.30 m from W 2.90 m from N Depth 232.17	Plate I: 5
6	2017	FIN 25	HΦ I-I-x № 173	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: -----S PF AVG. Bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: -----/PVBLIC--. In the exergue SM-Γ. Constantius II, in military dress, standing, facing. Holding globe in right hand, leaning on spear with left. Copper. Worn out, slightly corroded, oxidized.	D = 13 – 15 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.44 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 3.06 m from W 3.06 m from N Depth 232.05	Plate I: 6
7	2017	FIN 26	HΦ I-I-x № 174	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: DN CONSTAN/---. Bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: --EL TEMP RE/PA---. Inscription in the exergue not visible. Virtus in military dress, helmeted, standing, left. Spearing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm. Copper. Slightly corroded, oxidized.	D = 15 – 17 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.66 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.95 m from W 1.10 m from N Depth 231.98	Plate I: 7
8	2017	FIN 36	HΦ – H № 33	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: -----/--SPF---. Slightly visible bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. Reverse: -----/--AR---. In the upper part of the exergue S. Virtus in military dress, standing, left. Spearing fallen horseman with right hand and wearing shield on left arm. Copper. Broken in two, oxidized.	D = 16 – 18 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 2.47 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 231.90 – 231.80	Plate I: 8

No.	Year	FIN	Inventary No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
9	2019	FIN 1	ΗΦ ΙΙ-χ Ν ^ο 175	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Constantius II (337 – 361). The mint is not visible. Obverse: Inscription not visible. Bust of Constantius II, diademed, right. The image is slightly visible. Reverse: SPES REI /------. Slightly visible image of Constantius II in military dress, facing. Holding globe in right hand, leaning on spear with left. Inscription in the exergue not visible. Copper. Worn down, corroded, oxidized.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 1.56 g	Grid sq. 34/23 From the filler of LA dwelling No. 1 2.16 m from N 0.55 m from W Depth 232.33	Plate I: 9
10	2016	FIN 17	ΗCΦ – Η Ν ^ο 27	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Julian II as Caesar (355 – 360). Minted in Constantinople. Obverse: ---LIAN-----, Barely visible bust of Julian, bare-headed, right. Reverse: SPE-----, In the exergue CONST. Julian II in military dress, standing, facing. Not visible what he is holding in right hand. Leaning on spear with left hand. Copper. Heavily corroded, oxidized, bent.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.22 g	Grid sq. 34/23 0.56 m from N 1.20 m from E Depth 232.69	Plate I: 10
11	2016	FIN 42	ΗΦ ΙΙ-χ Ν ^ο 166	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Julian II as Caesar (355 – 360). Minted in Heraclea. Obverse: DN IVL ---- CAES. Bust of Julian II, bare-headed, right. Reverse: F----/----, In the exergue, top left M, bottom SMHT. Virtus, standing, left, spearing fallen horseman. Copper. Slightly corroded, oxidized.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.17 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.00 m from E 1.20 m from N Depth 232.45	Plate II: 11
12	2009	FIN 36	ΗΦ ΙΙ-χ Ν ^ο 140	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Julian II the Apostate (360 – 363). Minted in Heraclea. Obverse: DN FL CL IVLI/ ANVS P FAVG. Bust of Julian, bearded, helmeted and diademed, left. Holding spear in right hand, shield in left. Reverse: W/teath, inscription in it: VOT X MVLΤ XX In exergue HERACLB. Copper. Relatively well-preserved.	D = 20 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.3 g	Grid sq. 34/23 0.30 m from N 2.90 m from W Depth 233.17	Plate II: 12

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
13	2016	FIN 14	HΦ I-x № 163	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Procopius (365 – 366). Minted in Nicomedia. Obverse: DN PROCO/PIVS PF AVG. Bust of Procopius, diademed, right. Reverse: REPARATI/O FEL TEMP. In the exergue SMN. Procopius in military dress, standing, left. Holding labarum decorated with Christogram in right hand and resting left on shield. Copper. Well-preserved, oxidized.	D = 16 – 17 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 3.54 g	Grid sq. 34/23 1.52 m from E 1.15 m from S Depth 232.62 Under the stones of the utility building	Plate II: 13
14	2009	FIN 40	HΦ I-x № 11	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valentinian I (364 – 375). Obverse: Inscription not visible. Bust of Valentinian I, diademed, right. Reverse: Inscription not visible. Valentinian I in military dress, advancing right. Dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum in left. Copper. Corroded. Part of the core is broken off.	D = 15 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.3 g	Grid sq. 34/23 0.60 m from N 3.20 m from E Depth 232.73	Plate II: 14
15	2013	FIN 28	HΦ I-x № 17	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valentinian I (364 – 375). Minted in Thessaloniki. Obverse: DN VALENTINI/ANVS PF AVG. Bust of Valentinian I, diademed, right. Reverse: SECVRITAS/REIPVBLICAE. In the exergue TESA. Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm. Copper. Worn out. Part of the core is broken off.	D = 16 – 19 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 1.7 g	Grid sq. 34/23 1.80 m from E 2.74 m from N Depth 232.56 From the interior of the utility building	Plate II: 15
16	2009	FIN 31	HΦ I-x № 138	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valens (364 – 378). Obverse: DN VALEN/----- Bust of Valens, diademed, right. Reverse: ----- RIA RO----- Valens in military dress, advancing right. Dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum in left. Copper. Oxidized. Slightly corroded.	D = 16 mm Thickness = 2 mm Weight = 2.3 g	Grid sq. 34/23 3.60 m from S 1.80 m from E Depth 232.94	Plate II: 16
17	2015	FIN 54	HΦ I-x № 159	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valens (364 – 378). The mint is not visible. Obverse: DN VALEN/----- . Bust of Valens, diademed, right. Reverse: ----- /REIPVBLICAE. Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm. Copper. Corroded and oxidized.	D = 16 – 17 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.90 g	Grid sq. 34/23 0.90 from N 1.80 from E Depth 231.90 Trench in the central part	Plate II: 17

No.	Year	FIN	Inventary No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
18	2016	FIN 20	НФ И-х № 169	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valens (364 – 378). Minted in Heraclea. Obverse: ---ALEN/S PFA ---. Bust of Valens, diademed, right. Reverse: --ECVRITA--/REIP--ICAE. In the exergue -- MHB. Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm. Copper. Partially corroded. Oxidized.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1 mm Weight = 1.76 g	Grid sq. 34/23 1.70 m from S 0.45 m from E Depth 232.67	Plate II: 18
19	2016	FIN 22	НФ И-х № 165	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valens (364 – 378). Minted in Kizik. Obverse: DN VAL--/SPFA---. Bust of Valens, diademed, right. Reverse: GLORIA RO/---. In the exergue -- MK--. Valens in military dress, advancing right. Dragging captive with right hand and holding labarum in left. Copper. Partially corroded, oxidized. Parts of the core are broken off.	D = 16 – 17 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 1.78 g	Grid sq. 34/23 1.00 m from E 1.80 m from S Depth 232.66	Plate II: 19
20	2016	FIN 53	НФ И-х № 170	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valens (364 – 378). Minted in Kizik. Obverse: DN VALEN/S P--AV--. Bust of Valens, diademed, right. Reverse: SECVRITAS--/REIPVBLICAE. In the exergue SMKB. Victory advancing left, holding wreath and palm. Copper. Partially corroded. Oxidized.	D = 18 – 19 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.65 g	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.00 m from N 2.48 m from E Depth 232.07	Plate II: 20
21	2016	FIN 18	НФ И-х № 28	Late Roman copper coin of emperor Valentinian I (364 – 375) or Valens (364 – 378). The mint is not visible. Obverse: DN VAL----- AVG. Bust of the emperor, diademed, right. Reverse: GLORI----- . Slightly visible image of the emperor in military dress, advancing right. Dragging kneeling captive with right hand. Copper. Heavily corroded, oxidized. Parts of the core are broken off.	D = 15 – 16 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm Weight = 2.49 g	Grid sq. 34/23 0.90 m from N 2.15 m from E Depth 232.66	Plate III: 21
22	2017	FIN 16	И-х А-ОФ № 3286	Belt strap end. Copper alloy. Wrought. Leaf-shaped. One end is bifurcated to grip the strap. The rivet for connecting to the strap has been preserved. Well-preserved. Patina.	Length = 16 mm Max. width = 11 mm Thickness = 0.5 mm Width of the opening for the strap = 1.5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 1.45 m from W 1.23 m from N Depth 232.28	Plate III: 22

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
23	2016	FIN 49		Fibula. Iron. Wrought. The bow is preserved. Arched. Quadrangular cross-section. Corrosion. In the transition from the foot to the bow – traces of corrosion, probably left by the coils attaching the pin-holder. Partially preserved. Corrosion.	Preserved length = 40 mm Max. width of foot = 4 mm Thickness = 2.5 – 3 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 2.10 m from N 1.60 m from E Depth 232.31 From the dug in structure in the square	Plate III: 23
24	2017	FIN 35	И-х АОФ № 3289	Finger-ring. Copper alloy. Round bezel with incised circle in the center. Hoop with nearly quadrangular cross-section. Wider and decorated with cross notches at the link with the bezel. On the side of the hoop is noticeable how the two overlapping tapered ends were forged together to close the hoop.	External D of the hoop = 17 – 18 mm Internal D of the hoop = 13 – 15 mm D of bezel = 15 – 16 mm Thickness of ring = 2 – 1 mm Thickness of bezel = 2 mm Thickness = 1.5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 2.70 m from E 1.33 m from N Depth 231.90 LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate III: 24
25	2017	FIN 56	И-х АОФ № 404	Part of an iron tool (spatula probe). Wrought. The working part has the shape of a flat leaf-like spatula with side edges folded at right angles. The front end is tapered. The opposite end of the spatula comes together and forms an annular thickening. Handle with circular cross-section. Broken off. Corrosion.	Preserved length = 65 mm Preserved length of the working part = 30 mm Preserved length of the handle = 28 mm Maximum width of the working part = 10 mm Thickness of the working part = 2.5 – 2 mm Thickness of handle = 2 – 1 mm	Probably LA Dwelling No. 1 Northern spoil heap	Plate III: 25

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
26	2016	FIN 5		Iron knife. Wrought. Single blade. Blade with triangular cross-section. Tang for attaching the handle. Part of the blade is missing. Corrosion.	Preserved length = 62 mm Thickness of the blade = 2 – 1 mm Thickness of the tang = 30 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 3.08 m from E 3.05 m from N Depth 232.01 At the western profile of the trench from 2015	Plate III: 26
27	2016	FIN 38		Iron tool. Wrought. Bipyramidal shape. Probably the short end is for attachment to a wooden part (base, handle?). At the end of the working part there is something like a miniature scoop. Corrosion.	Length = 123 mm Max. width = 5 mm Max. thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 2.65 m from N 1.70 m from E Depth 232.42	Plate III: 27
28	2017	FIN 45		Nail. Iron. Wrought. Tang with quadrangular cross-section. The two ends are broken off. Corrosion.	Length = 32 mm Thickness = 5 – 2 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 3.40 m from E 1.00 m from S Depth 231.77	Plate IV: 28
29	2013	FIN 35		Wire. Iron. Wrought. Quadrangular cross-section. Bent. Corrosion.	Thickness = 1.5 – 2 mm Width = 1 – 3 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 2.37 m from E 3 m from N Depth 232.35	Plate IV: 29
30	2015	FIN 65		Bracelet. Blue glass. Fragment. Oval cross-section. Iridescence. Fragment.	Thickness = 4 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Trench in the central part IV mechanical layer Depth 231.90 – 231.57	Plate IV: 30
31	2017	FIN 37	И-х А НСФ № 409	Bracelet. Blue glass. Semi-circular cross-section. Iridescence. Fragment.	D = 55 mm Width = 7.5 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth. 232.00 – 231.80	Plate IV: 31
32	2013	FIN 9	И-х А НСФ № 318	Spindle whorl. Clay mixed with very fine sand and mica, grey-black colour after firing. Bi-conical shape. Cylindrical hole. Partially preserved.	H = 18 mm D1 = 20 mm D max. = 30 mm D hole = 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 0.30 m from W 0.70 m from S Depth 232.77	Plate IV: 32
33	2017	FIN 28		Spindle whorl. Made of fine clay. Truncated cone-shaped. Cylindrical hole for attachment to the spindle. Only a quarter preserved.	D max. = 25 mm D hole = 11 mm H (pres.) = 11 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 3.18 m from W 3.06 m from N Depth 232.10	Plate IV: 33

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
34	2015	FIN 68	И-х АОФ № 3163	Ceramic "loaf". Modeled with fingers from clay mixed with sand, irregular grey-yellow colour after firing. Irregular oval shape. The sign "X" has been incised on one of the surfaces. Well-preserved.	Length = 25 mm Max. width = 20 mm Thickness = 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Trench in the central part At the lower clay coating level in the N part of the trench Depth 231.57	Plate IV: 34
35	2016	FIN 60	И-х А НСФ № 391	Ceramic "loaf". Modeled with fingers from clay mixed with sand, irregular brown-black colouring after firing. Irregular oval shape. The sign "X" has been incised on one of the surfaces. Part of the front surface is missing.	Length = 46 mm Max. width = 35 mm Thickness = 14 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 1.40 m from N 1.70 m from E Depth 232.11 From the dug in structure in the grid square	Plate IV: 35
36	2017	FIN 27	И-х А ОФ № 3284	Disc. Cut from the wall of a vessel, thrown on a fast wheel with brown slip on the outer surface. Almost regular circular shape. In the centre – round hole. Well-preserved.	D = 36 – 37 mm D hole = 7 mm Thickness = 3 – 5.5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 3.18 m from W 3.06 m from N Depth 232.10	Plate IV: 36
37	2017	FIN 31	И-х А ОФ № 3283	Disc. Cut from the wall of a vessel, thrown on a fast wheel. The surface is smoothed. Relatively regular oval shape. The sign "X" is incised on the surface. Well-preserved.	D = 37 – 44 mm Thickness = 7 – 9 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.76 – 232.30	Plate IV: 37
38	2017	FIN 32	И-х А НСФ № 403	Grindstone. Grey-green colour. Compact structure. Relatively regular parallelepiped shape. Traces of use on the upper and side short surfaces. Broken off.	Length = 40 mm Width = 29 – 31 mm Thickness = 15 – 18 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.76 – 232.30	Plate IV: 38
39	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Beige-grey fabric containing very coarse sand. Rim with a pointed upper edge and groove inside for a lid. Wide shoulders with conical widening. Fragment.	D1 = 220 mm H (pres.) = 34 mm Thickness = 6 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate V: 39
40	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Grey-brown fabric containing coarse sand. Thrown on a fast wheel. Oblique outwardly drawn rim with obliquely cut lip on the outside. Fire-blackened. Fragment.	D1 = 190 mm H (pres.) = 21 mm Thickness = 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47	Plate V: 40

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
41	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-black fabric containing sand and rubble. Truncated cone-shaped rim with obliquely cut lip on the outside. Conically shaped upper part of the body. Partially preserved – several fragments.	D1 = 180 mm H (pres.) = 40 mm Thickness = 4 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/24 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate V: 41
42	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-brown fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Brown core. Slightly outdrawn rim, rounded lip on the outside and top. Fragment.	D1 = 160 mm H (pres.) = 22 mm Thickness = 5 – 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth to 232.47	Plate V: 42
43	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing fine sand. Truncated cone-shaped rim with obliquely cut lip on the outside. Short neck. Wide, truncated cone-shaped shoulders. Partially preserved – several fragments.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 32 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate V: 43
44	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing coarse sand. Outwardly drawn rim with a groove for a lid and rounded lip. Fire-blackened rim. Fragment.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 22 mm Thickness = 5 – 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47	Plate V: 44
45	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-black fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Rim with an intricate profile with a wide obliquely cut lip on top. Short neck. Widening shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 130 mm H (pres.) = 30 mm Thickness = 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/24	Plate V: 45
46	2015			Part of the rim of a pot. Dark grey fabric containing sand, grog and few lime inclusions (pores). Thrown on a fast wheel. Conical rim drawn outwards, forming a groove for a lid. Plain lip on top, rounded on the outside. Short neck. Wide shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 200 mm H (pres.) = 38 mm Thickness = 5 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate VI: 46
47	2015			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Intricate rim, rounded on the outside and with a groove for a lid on the inside. Short neck. Wide shoulders. Fragment. Along the rim – coarse residue – probably from the food prepared in it.	D1 = 170 mm H (pres.) = 33 mm Thickness = 5 – 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Depth 232.48 – 231.90	Plate VI: 47

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
48	2015			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-brown fabric containing coarse sand. Evenly coloured core. Rim with an intricate profile with a rounded lip and a groove for a lid. Wide shoulders. Fragment. Residue along the outer surface.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 34 mm Thickness = 5 – 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate VI: 48
49	2015			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing sand. Outwardly drawn rim with a rounded lip. Short cylindrical neck. Wide shoulders. Fragment. The outside surface is unevenly fired.	D1 = 160 mm H (pres.) = 44 mm Thickness = 4 – 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.48 – 231.90	Plate VI: 49
50	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-black fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Wide, almost horizontally drawn rim. Short neck. Wide shoulders. Truncated cone-shaped upper part of the body. Fragmented. Partially preserved.	D1 = 130 mm H (pres.) = 57 mm Thickness = 4 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VI: 50
51	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Dark grey fabric containing fine sand and mica. Light brown core. Outwardly drawn rim with a rounded lip. On the upper surface – wide shallow groove. Short cylindrical neck. Wide shoulders. Partially preserved.	D1 = 190 mm H (pres.) = 40 mm Thickness = 7 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VII: 51
52	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing sand. Outwardly drawn lip, rounded on the outside. Wide spheroid shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 190 mm H (pres.) = 45 mm Thickness = 4 – 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/24 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VII: 52
53	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing fine sand. Truncated cone-shaped rim with obliquely cut on the outside and rounded lip. Fragment.	D1 = 190 mm H (pres.) = 26 mm Thickness = 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47	Plate VII: 53
54	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Red-brown fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Thrown on a fast wheel. Truncated cone-shaped rim with obliquely cut on the outside and round lip. Fire-blackened. Fragment.	D1 = 180 mm H (pres.) = 26 mm Thickness = 4 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth to 232.47	Plate VII: 54

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
55	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Dark grey fabric containing sand. Truncated cone-shaped rim with obliquely cut on the outside lip. Cylindrical neck. Wide, truncated cone-shaped shoulders. Partially preserved – several fragments.	D1 = 170 mm H (pres.) = 41 mm Thickness = 5 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VII: 55
56	2015			Part of the rim of a pot. Grey-brown fabric containing coarse quartz sand. Thrown on a fast wheel. Rim with an intricate profile with hanging and rounded lip. Wide shoulders, whose rounding starts straight from the rim. Fragment.	D1 = 190 mm H (pres.) = 40 mm Thickness = 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate VIII: 56
57	2018			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Dark grey fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Rim with an intricate profile with outwardly drawn and slightly hanging lip. Shoulders with truncated cone shape. Well-fired. The inner surface is brown. Fragment.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 40 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Cleaning of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate VIII: 57
58	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Outwardly drawn rim with a groove for a lid and a lip with an intricate profile on the outside. Fire-blackened rim. Fragment.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 22 mm Thickness = 5 – 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47	Plate VIII: 58
59	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Dark grey fabric containing sand and mica. Rim with a thickened and rounded on the outside lip. Cylindrical neck. Wide spheroid shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 170 mm H (pres.) = 39 mm Thickness = 4 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/24 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VIII: 59
60	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing sand. Outwardly drawn rim with obliquely cut and rounded lip. Short neck. Widening shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 130 mm H (pres.) = 32 mm Thickness = 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate VIII: 60
61	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Grey fabric containing sand. Thrown on a fast wheel. Slightly outwardly drawn rim, with a thickened on the outside and rounded lip. Fragment.	D1 = 80 mm H (pres.) = 28 mm Thickness = 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47	Plate VIII: 61
62	2018			Bottom part of a vessel (amphora/pot?). Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey fabric containing sand and mica. The inner surface is grey-brown. On the outer surface – wide shallow grooves. The lower part of the vessel is rounded. Several fragments from the lower part of the vessel.	D1 = 280 mm H (pres.) = 140 mm Thickness = 6 – 9 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 From the fill of the dwelling pit of LA Dwelling No. 1	Plate IX: 62

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
63	2017			Part of the bottom of a vessel. Thrown on a fast wheel. Fine sifted light beige fabric. Concave bottom with a relief ring along the periphery. Conically widening upwards body. On the inside – drops of red slip. Partially preserved.	D3 = 105 mm H (pres.) = 19 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Western part of the grid square above LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.76 – 232.30	Plate IX: 63
64	2017			Part of a lid. Thrown on a fast wheel. Fabric containing large amount of sand with irregular colouring after firing. The inner and outer surfaces are black. The core is red-brown. Wide inner rim. Truncated cone shape. Partially preserved.	D3 = 220 – 185 mm H (pres.) = 70 mm Thickness = 6 – 10 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate IX: 64
65	2017			Part of a lid. Thrown on a fast wheel. Grey-black fabric containing large amount of sand. Wide horizontal rim. Rounded body. Traces of secondary firing. Residue on the rim. Fragment.	D3 = 100 mm H (pres.) = 50 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Fill of the pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate IX: 65
66	2016			Part of the rim of a pitcher. Grey-black fabric containing sand and mica. Thrown on a fast wheel. Lip folded to the inside, forming a biconical widening of the rim. Fragment.	D1 = 110 – 140 mm H (pres.) = 22 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Layer under the utility building Depth NE 232.83 – 232.40 SW 232.83 – 232.40	Plate X: 66
67	2019			Part of the rim of a jug. Thrown on a fast wheel. Dark grey fabric containing fine mica. Lip tapered on top and emphasized rim on the outside. Conically shaped upper part of the body. Fragment.	D1 = 60 mm H (pres.) = 46 mm Thickness = 6 mm	Rib between grid sq. 34/23 Fill of LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.35 – 231.54	Plate X: 67
68	2019			Bowl. Thrown on a fast wheel. Black-grey fabric containing large amount of sand. Brown core. Wide and obliquely cut to the outside lip. On the outer surface – wide shallow grooves. Fragment.	D1 = 280 mm H (pres.) = 40 mm Thickness = 6 – 7 mm	Rib between grid sq. 34/23 Fill of LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.35 – 231.54	Plate X: 68
69	2009	FIN 37	И-х А НСФ № 203	Arrow. Iron. Wrought. Leaf-shaped. Tang for attaching the wooden part – broken off. The arrowhead is bent. Corroded.	Length = 31 mm Width = 21 mm Thickness = 3 – 1 mm Thickness of tang = 2 mm	Grid sq. 41/3 0.50 m from N 2.60 m from E Depth 232.94	Plate X: 69

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
70	2009	FIN 9	И-х А HCΦ № 199	Ring. Iron. Oval cross-section with irregular shape. The two ends are tightly pressed to each other. Well-preserved. Corroded.	D = 24 mm Thickness = 3 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 1.75 m from S 1.60 m from E Depth 233.02	Plate X: 70
71	2009	FIN 11		Buckle. Copper alloy. Oval frame. Traces of corroded iron prong. Broken.	Length = 17 mm Width = 10 mm Thickness = 2 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 2.05 m from N 0.90 m from E Depth 233.16	Plate X: 71
72	2013	FIN 48		Ring. Iron. Wrought. Wire with circular cross-section. The two ends are brought next to each other. Corrosion.	Length = 18 mm Thickness of wire = 2 mm	Grid sq. 34/18 and 34/23 (Rib) 1.15 m from N 0.42 m from E Depth 233.69	Plate X: 72
73	2009	FIN 35		Iron plate. Wrought. Rectangular shape. Bent. Heavily corroded.	Length = 37 mm Width max. = 12 mm Thickness = 2 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 0.60 m from S 2.30 m from E Depth 232.91 Near the pot	Plate X: 73
74	2009	FIN 42		Nail. Iron. Wrought. Round cross-section of the pointed part. Heavily corroded.	Length = 32 mm Thickness = 3 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 0.83 m from S 1.13 m from E Depth 232.24	Plate X: 74
75	2013	FIN 39	И-х А-ОΦ № 3116	Bone awl. Made of the left tibia (tibia sin.) of a sheep or goat. The distal part of the bone was used. The bone epiphysis is preserved. The blade was obliquely cut in two, followed by longitudinal split plus two longitudinal cuts, whose veneers are levelled by the polishing and probable handwork. The whole surface is polished, in some parts towards the point, pre-treatment with abrasive can be traced. The tip is blunted. There are slight linear traces and enhanced shine near the tip.	Length = 98 mm Epiphysis 19 x 22 mm Tip = 3 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Depth 233.00 On the N line of the grid square 3.70 m from E	Plate X: 75

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
76	2009	FIN K 2	И-х А ОФ № 2958	Pot. Fabric containing fine sand, irregular pink colouring after firing. Truncated cone-shaped rim with evenly cut off lip. Short neck. Biconical body. Flat bottom. The whole outer surface from the maximum diameter down, to 25 mm above the bottom, is decorated with incised horizontal lines made with a comb. Several bands of wavy lines have been made with a comb under the neck and partially on the horizontal incised lines. Well-preserved. Parts of the rim are missing. Fire-blackened on one side, probably as a result of a fire.	D1 = 100 mm D2 = 100 mm D3 = 100 mm H = 40 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 0.60 m from S 2.30 m from E Depth 232.91	Plate XI: 76
77	2009	FIN K 3		Bottom of a storage jar. Fabric containing large amount of sand, irregular brown-black colouring after firing. Thrown on a slow wheel. The bottom is partially preserved. The lower part of the vessel is preserved, truncated cone shape. The outer surface has grey colour, the result of reduction firing. On the outer surface, decoration of vertical burnished strips has been applied while the clay was still wet. At 150 mm from the bottom of the vessel, the vertical strips are crossed by horizontal incised lines.	D3 = 200 mm H = 260 mm Thickness = 10 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 0.90 m from N 1.20 m from W Depth 232.67	Plate XII: 77
78	2009			Part of the rim of a pot. Dark brown to black fabric containing large amount of coarse sand. Thrown on a slow wheel. Outwardly drawn rim with obliquely cut to the outside lip. Shoulders with truncated cone shape, decorated with two bands of wavy lines applied with a trident comb. Two fragments.	D1 = 200 mm H (pres.) = 75 mm Thickness = 8 – 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Depth 233.30 – 233.10	Plate XIII: 78
79	2009			Part of the rim of a pot. Brown-black fabric containing large amount of sand. Thrown on a slow wheel. Outwardly drawn rim with obliquely cut to the outside lip. Solid spheroid shoulders covered with densely applied horizontal incised lines. On the widest part – two bands of criss-crossing wavy lines applied on top of them. Several fragments.	D1 = 160 mm H (pres.) = 54 mm Thickness = 12 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Depth 233.50 – 233.30	Plate XIII: 79
80	2009			Part of the rim of a pot. Brown-black fabric containing sand, mica and rubble. Thrown on a slow wheel. Oblique outwardly drawn rim with slightly rounded on the outside lip. Solid spheroid shoulders covered with horizontal incised lines. On the upper part of the vessel, on top of them were applied with a comb vertical incised lines. Fragment.	D1 = 160 mm H (pres.) = 54 mm Thickness = 5 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Depth 233.50 – 233.30	Plate XIII: 80
81	2013			Part of the rim of a pot. Fabric containing sand, irregular brown colouring after firing. Thrown on a slow wheel. Outwardly drawn rim with groove for lid on the inside and almost vertically smoothed on the outside. Shoulders with truncated cone shape. Fire-blackened on the outside. Fragment.	D1 = 150 mm H (pres.) = 35 mm Thickness = 8 mm	Rib between grid sq. 34/23 and 34/18 Depth 233.50 – 232.45	Plate XIII: 81

No.	Year	FIN	Inventory No.	Description	Dimensions	Location	Figure
82	2017			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a slow wheel. Grey-brown fabric containing sand. Outwardly drawn rim with rounded lip. Short neck. Truncated cone shaped shoulders. Fragment.	D1 = 140 mm H (pres.) = 42 mm Thickness = 6 – 7 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 From the fill of the dwelling pit in LA Dwelling No. 1 Depth 232.30 – 231.87	Plate XIII: 82
83	2018			Part of the rim of a pot. Thrown on a slow wheel. Beige-pink fabric containing sand and lime particles. Outwardly drawn rim with rounded lip. Short neck. Truncated cone shaped shoulders. On the upper part of the vessel – decoration of bundles of wavy lines applied with a four-toothed comb. Fragment. The lip and the outer surface are fire-blackened.	D1 = 100 mm H (pres.) = 50 mm Thickness = 6 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 At the western periphery of the grid square Depth 232.80 – 232.57	Plate XIV: 83
84	2013			Part of the bottom of a pot. Fabric containing sand, irregular brown colouring after firing. Thrown on a slow wheel. On the bottom – a relief sign stamped during wheel throwing. Partially preserved.	D3 = 80 mm H = 23 mm Thickness = 10 mm	Rib between grid sq. 34/23 and 34/18 Depth 233.50 – 232.45	Plate XIV: 84
85	2013 2015			Several fragments from a vessel of unclear function. Grey-brown fabric containing coarse sand. Thrown on a slow wheel. Funnel-like rim and nearly cylindrical stem. Decoration of criss-crossed incised lines on the outer surface. Longitudinal incisions documented on all preserved fragments, formed in the clay while wet. Several fragments.	D1 = 160 mm H (pres.) = 22 mm Thickness = 5 – 7 mm Fragment Length = 48 mm Thickness = 12 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Scraping under the floor level of the Medieval utility building Depth 232.47 Grid sq. 34/23 Trench in the central part Depth 231.94	Plate XIV: 85
86	2019			Several fragments from a vessel made by hand. Brown-black fabric containing sand. Cylindrical rim and rounded shoulders. On the outer and partially on the inner surface of the rim – traces of red slip. The body of the vessel is decorated with notches filled with white paste. Partially preserved. Fragmented.	D1 = 110 mm H (pres.) = 34 mm Thickness = 5 – 8 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Pit No. 4 Depth to 231.07 – 230.60	Plate XV: 86
87	2019			Vessel handle. Dark grey fabric containing large amount of fine sand and mica. Brown core. Longitudinal grooves on the outer surface. Oval cross-section. Partially preserved.	Pres. length = 50 mm Width = 25 mm Thickness = 15 mm	Grid sq. 34/23 Pit No. 7 Depth 232.61 – 232.33	Plate XV: 87
88	2017			Part of the wall of a vessel, made by hand. Fabric containing large amount of sand and rubble. The external surface has brown-beige colouring, the internal – black colour. The external surface is decorated by relief bands on which oblique grooves were formed roughly. Fragment.	Thickness = 11 – 18 mm	Grid sq. 34/24 Pit No. 1 Depth to 232.83 – 231.36	Table XV: 88

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ЗА ПРОИЗХОДА НА КЪСНОАНТИЧНИТЕ МАТЕРИАЛИ, ОТКРИТИ В СРЕДНОВЕКОВЕН КОНТЕКСТ ПО ДАННИ ОТ АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИТЕ ПРОУЧВАНИЯ НА СЕЛИЩЕТО В М. „ПЕТРОВА НИВА“, АР „СБОРЯНОВО“

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Статията анализира резултатите от изследването на сложна стратиграфска ситуация, проучена в границите на един квадрат (кв. 34/23) от селището в м. „Петрова нива“, АР „Сборяново“ (обр. 1). Комплексите – средновековна стопанска сграда (обр. 2, обр. 5), късноантично жилище (обр. 10), осем разновременни ями и лека дървена постройка (обр. 10, обр. 26) са представени заедно с произхождащите от тях материали.

Най-високо запазената структура е средновековна стопанска сграда (обр. 2 – 6). Тя е частично вкопана, като от наземната част, вероятно изградена от нетраен материал, не е запазено почти нищо. За дървена конструкция във височина, говорят следите от изляла дървесина в запълнителя на помещението, както и частично запазената в югоизточния ъгъл каменна база за дървена колона.

Стопанската сграда се отнася към най-късните структури, регистрирани в проучвания участък. Освен многобройните находки, произхождащи от нея (Кат. №№ 69 – 85), в потвърждение на това следва да посочим, че зидовете ѝ лежат върху серия средновековни структури, предхождащи изграждането ѝ. Индикация за това е и ориентацията ѝ, идентична с тази на най-късната структура в проучвания участък, а именно оградната стена, както и липсата на по-късни структури, които да застъпват или нарушават коментириания комплекс. В подкрепа на късната дата трябва да изтъкнем и техниката на градеж с каменната облицовка на сутеренната част, която както показват стратиграфските наблюдения до момента, е обичайна за най-късните сгради в комплекса. Като един от основните аргументи за датировката на комплекса могат да се привлекат попадналите в запълнителя на сградата фрагменти от стена на амфора от последна трета на Х – първа четвърт, до към средата на ХІ в. (Тодорова 2012, 49 – 50).

От преките и косвени свидетелства за датировката на комплекса следва, че най-вероятното време, в което разглежданата стопанска сграда е изградена и функционирала, може да се отнесе някъде в границите на Х в. Най-късните материали в комплекса, както и стратиграфските наблюдения позволяват да допуснем, че времето, към което, с голяма степен на вероятност, се отнася унищожаването ѝ, е в десетилетията от последната трета на Х в.

Наличието на стопанска сграда в близост до проучени жилища от същото време подсказва предварителен замисъл и обособяване на зони с различно предназначение при организирането на пространството в проучваното домакинство (обр. 1).

Най-значимият комплекс, който изцяло попада под останките от стопанската сграда е едно късноантично жилище (обр. 10). То е с почти правилна овална форма, вкопано в стерилния терен. Дълбочината на жилищната яма от нивото, на което е регистрирана (232.57 – 232.35 м), до подовото ниво (231.61 – 231.54 м) е приблизително 0.90 м. Времето на съществуването му, въз основа на многобройните находки (Кат. №№ 1 – 68) от запълнителя на жилищната яма, може да се отнесе към втората половина на IV в. Една от структурите, която можем да свържем с функционирането на жилището е яма (№ 3) (обр. 10, обр. 12, обр. 13). На около метър от източната периферия на късноантичното жилище е проучена друга яма (обр. 10, обр. 14, обр. 15), най-късният датиращ материал, от която са няколко фрагмента късноантична керамика (обр. 16). Непосредствената близост на ямата до жилището и близките по време материали от запълнителите предполагат съвместно използване. Може да се допусне, че тя е била предназначена за съхраняване на зърнените запаси на обитателите на жилището в съседство.

Разглежданите тук късноантично жилище и яма, разположени в близост, позволяват да се мисли за селско домакинство със скромни възможности, чиито основни занимания са насочени към земеделие. Направените наблюдения не позволяват по-сериозни заключения относно мащабите и организацията на селището, на което принадлежат разглежданите комплекси, но позволяват да се мисли за селско обитаване, простиращо се на цялата проучвана площ, съществуването на което би могло да се постави в границите на втората половина на IV – началните десетилетия на V в. Именно с финалните фази от това селище следва да се свържат късноантичните ями, нарушаващи запълнителя на ямата на късноантично жилище № 1. Теренът, на който се развива селището, предлага изключително благоприятни условия за живот и земеделие.

Най-ранната документирана на място структура е яма (№ 4), отнасяща се към Неолита. Останалите ями, (освен № 3, която се свързва с функционирането на жилището), нарушават запълнителя на късноантичното жилище и предхождат изграждането на средновековната стопанска сграда.

Предпочитанията в Античността и Средновековието към едни и същи терени за изграждане на селски поселения, прави възможно честото откриване на антични материали в средновековен контекст. Доколкото средновековните жилища са не само вкопани, но и покривани с пръст от околния терен, може да се предположи, че значителна част от античните структури, особено наземните, са били почти напълно унищожени. До нас най-често достигат подвижни паметници от по-ранните фази на обитаване и вкопани структури (най-вече ями). Разкритата в м. „Петрова нива“ ситуация, предлага възможен отговор на подобни изследователски проблеми и открехва вратата към изясняване на характера на ранното обитаване на мястото.

Ключови думи: Късна Античност, Средновековие, селища, хронология

PLATES
ТАБЛА



PLATE I / ТАБЛО I



PLATE II / ТАБЛО II



PLATE III / ТАБЛО III



PLATE IV / ТАБЛО IV

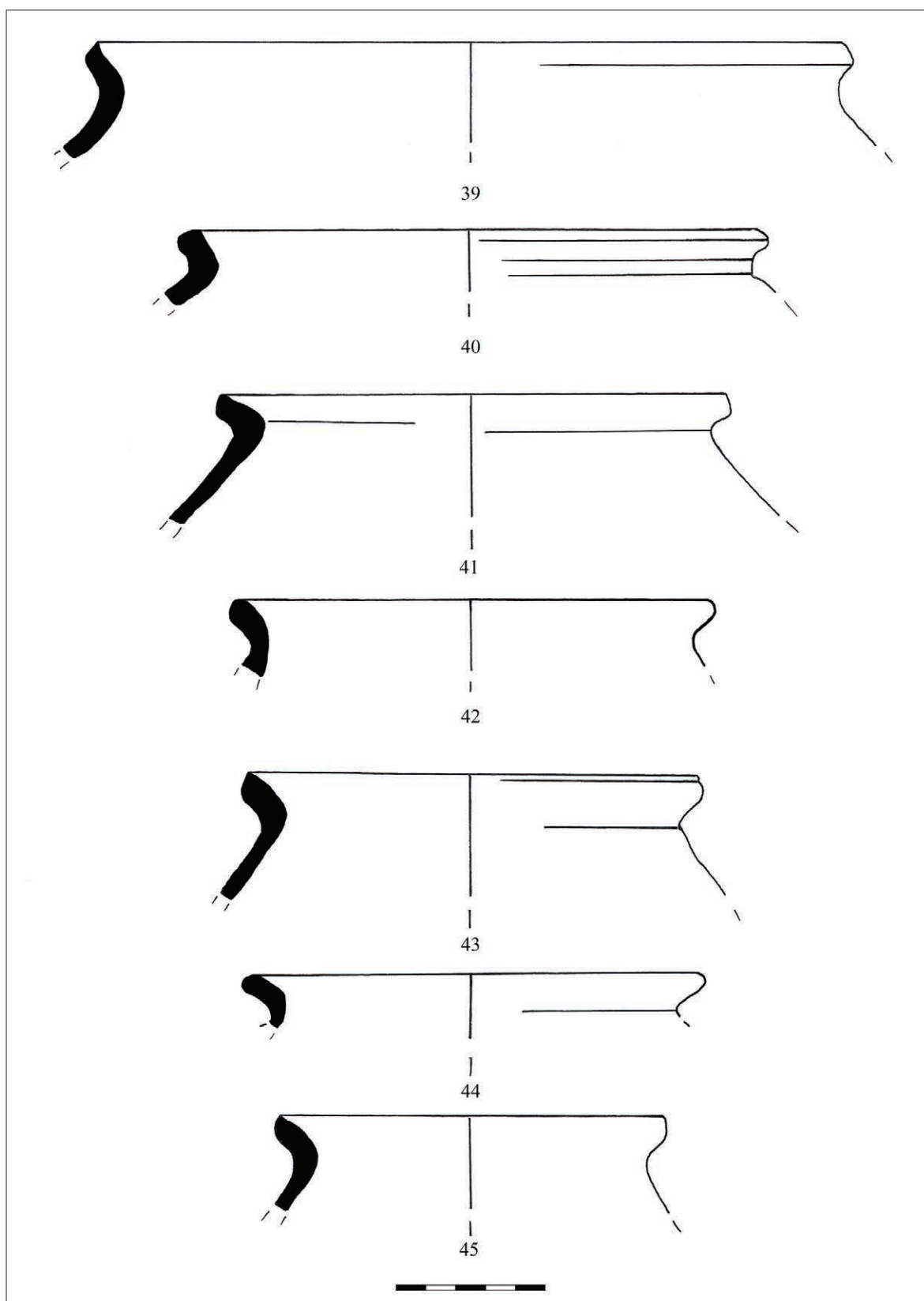


PLATE V / ТАБЛО V

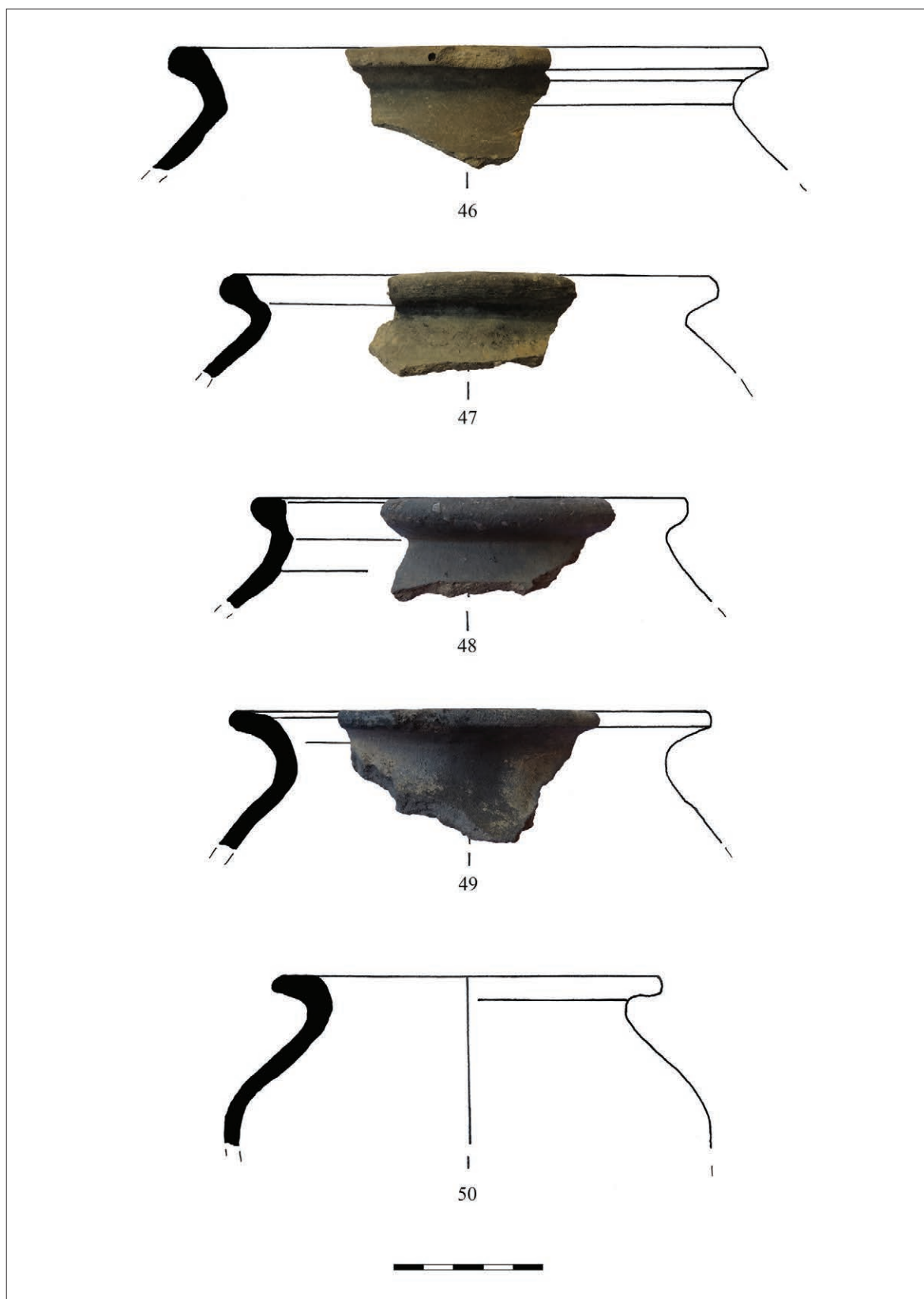


PLATE VI / ТАБЛО VI

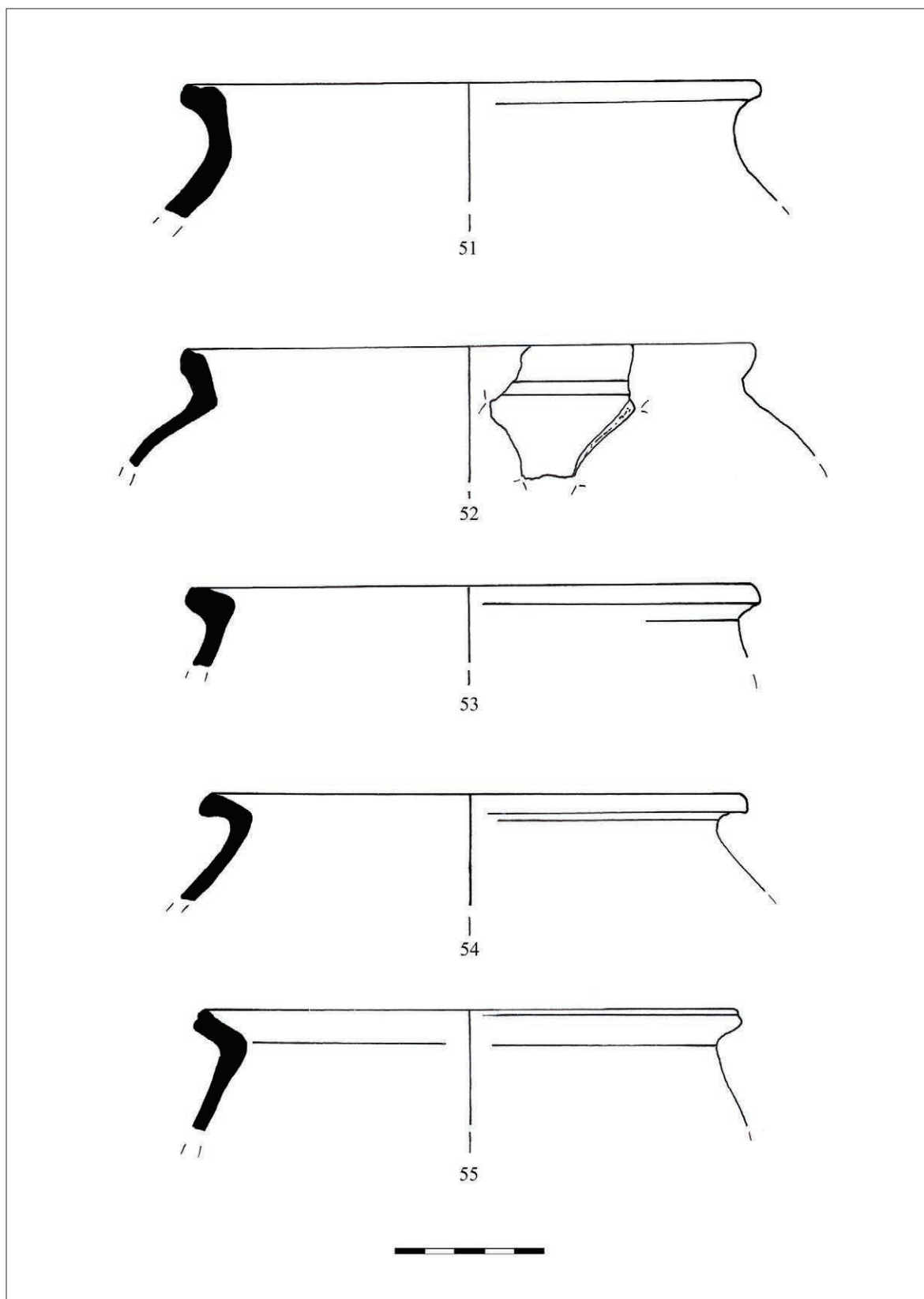


PLATE VII / ТАБЛО VII

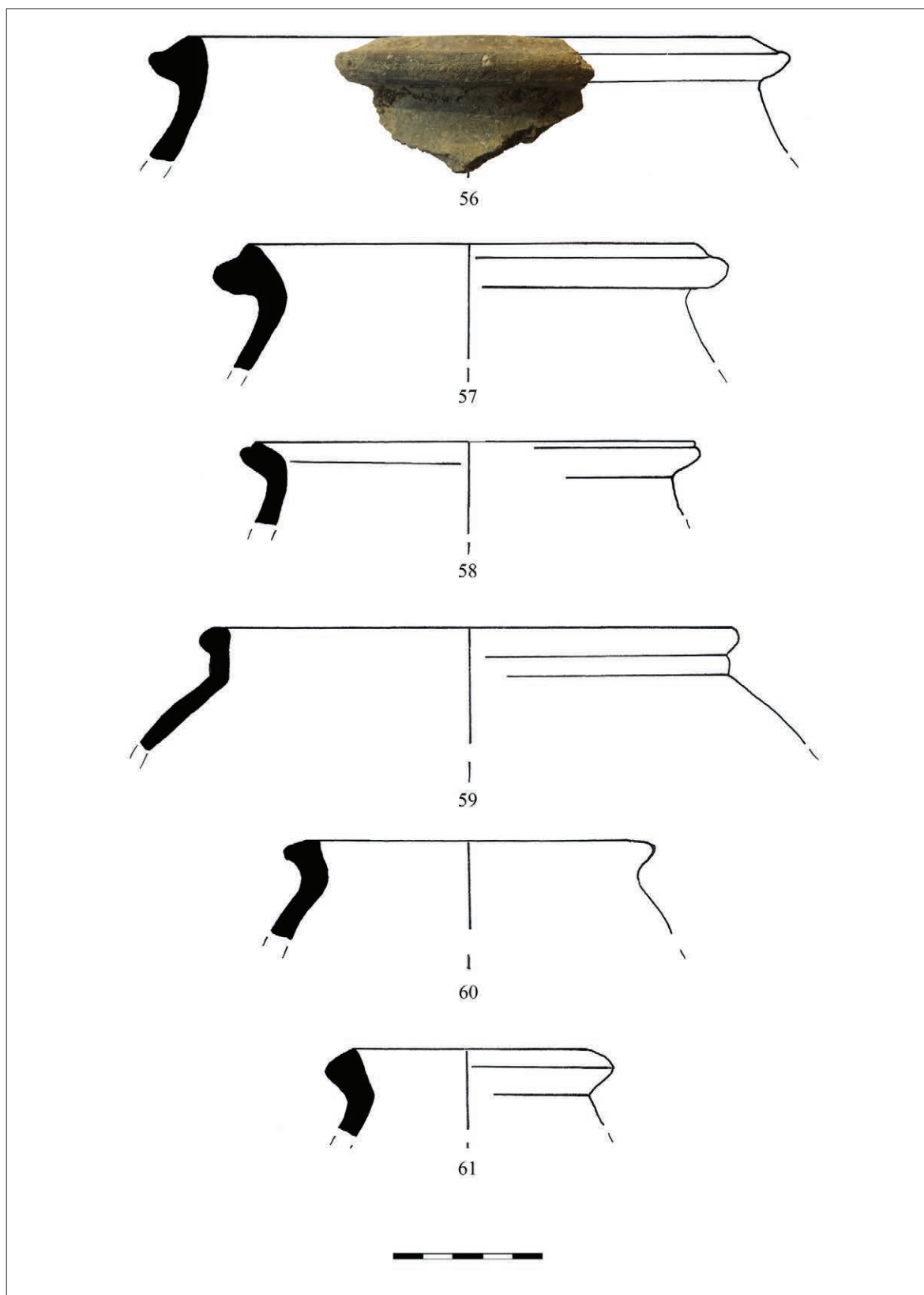


PLATE VIII / ТАБЛО VIII

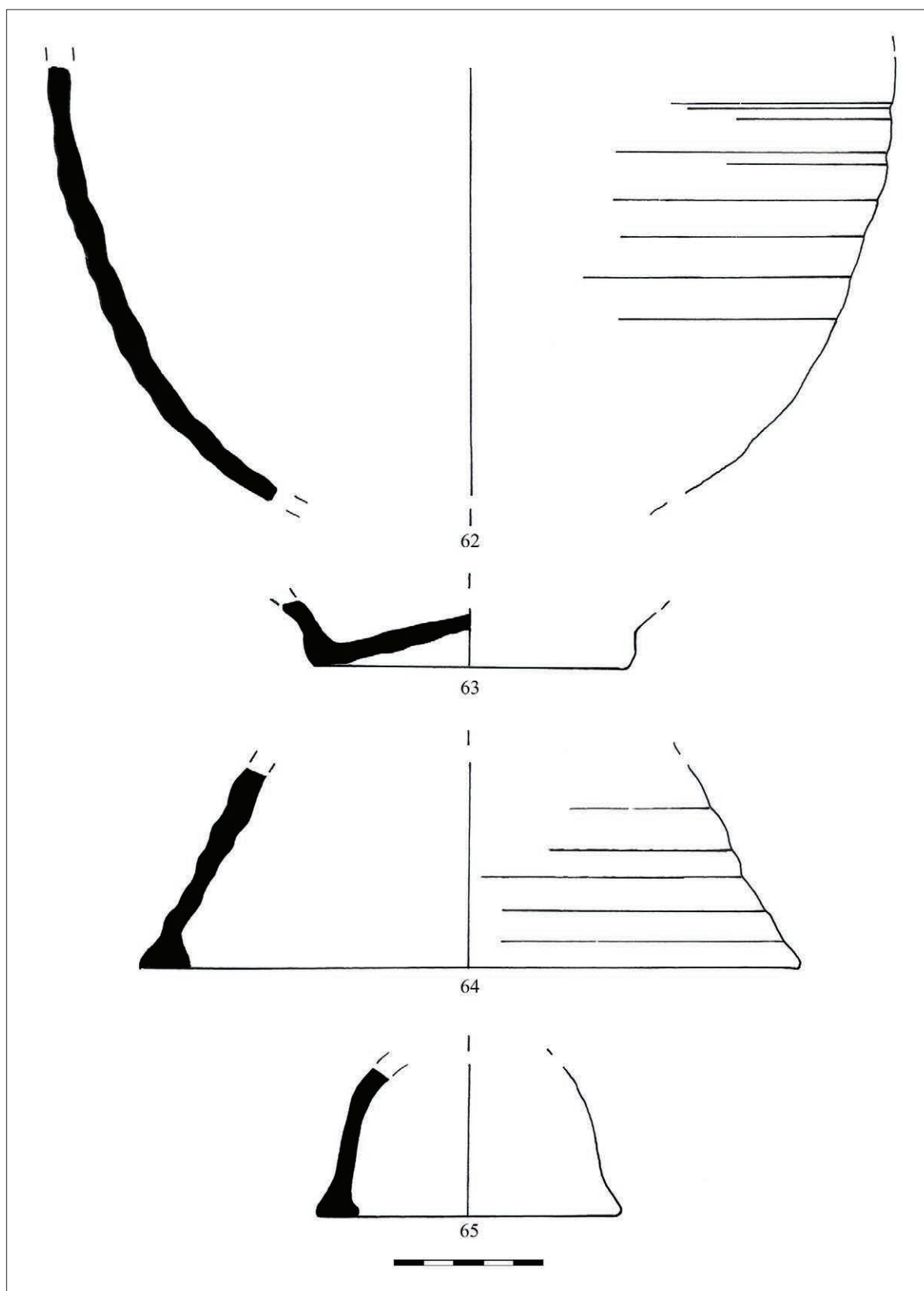
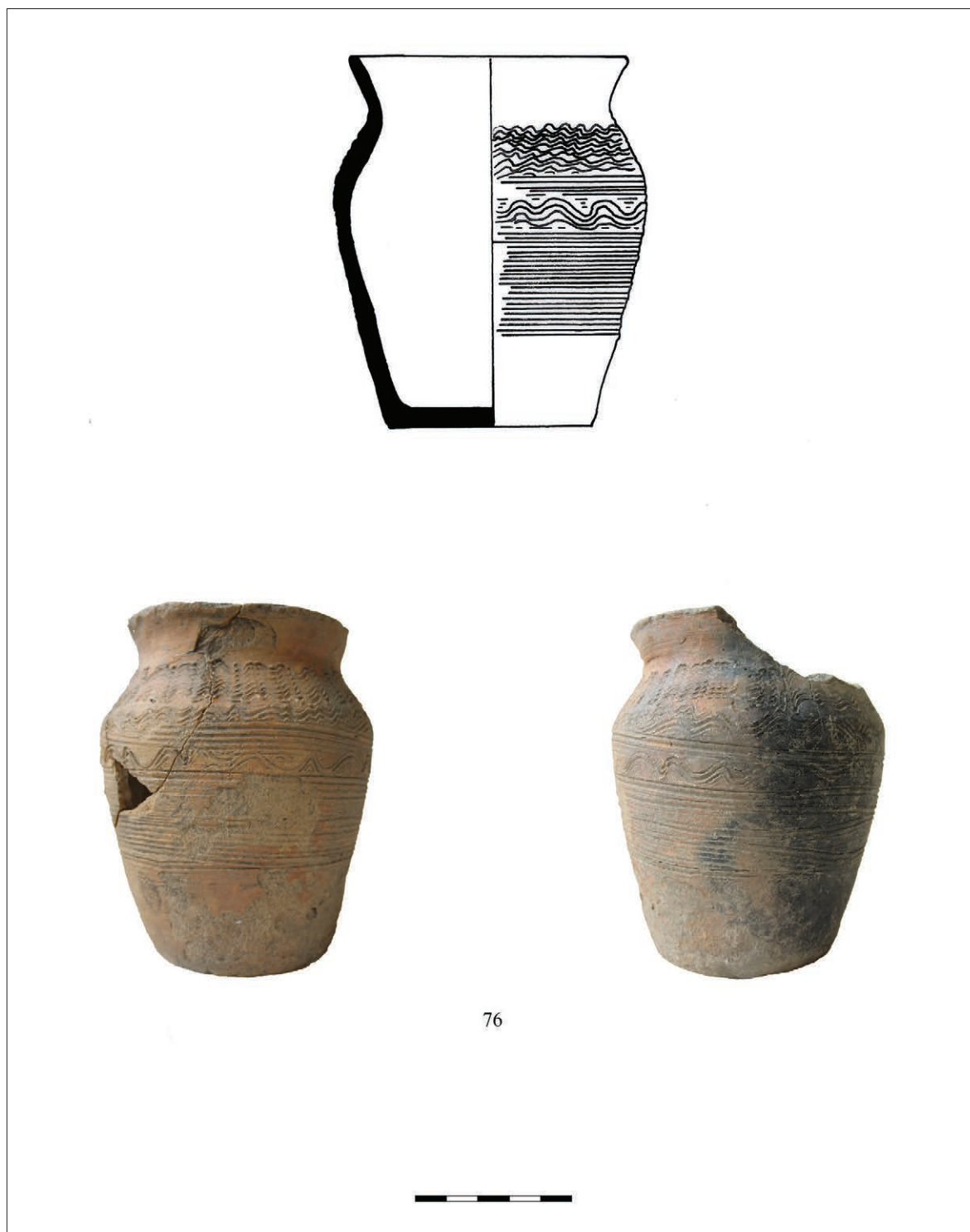


PLATE IX / ТАБЛО IX



PLATE X / ТАБЛО X



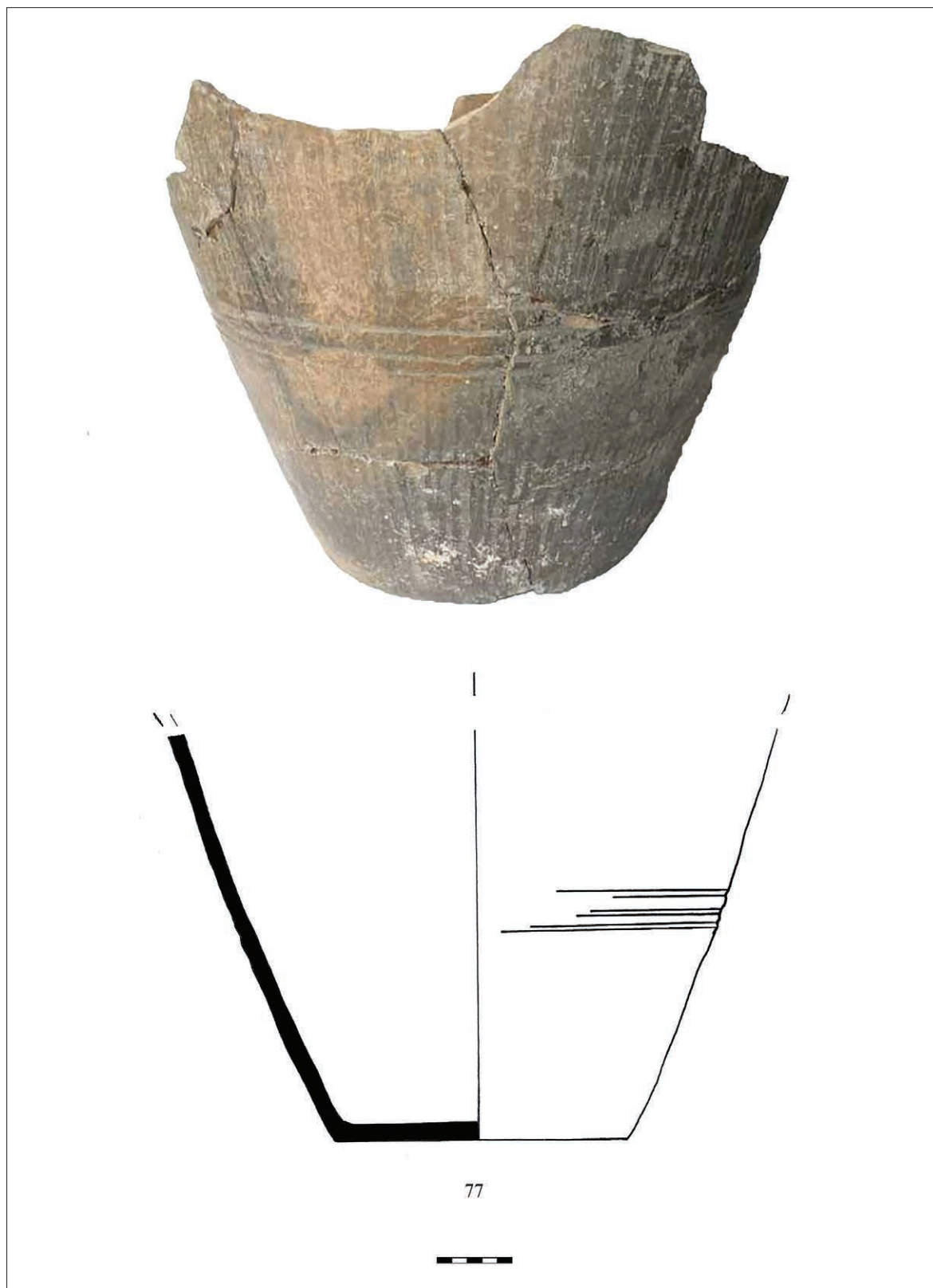
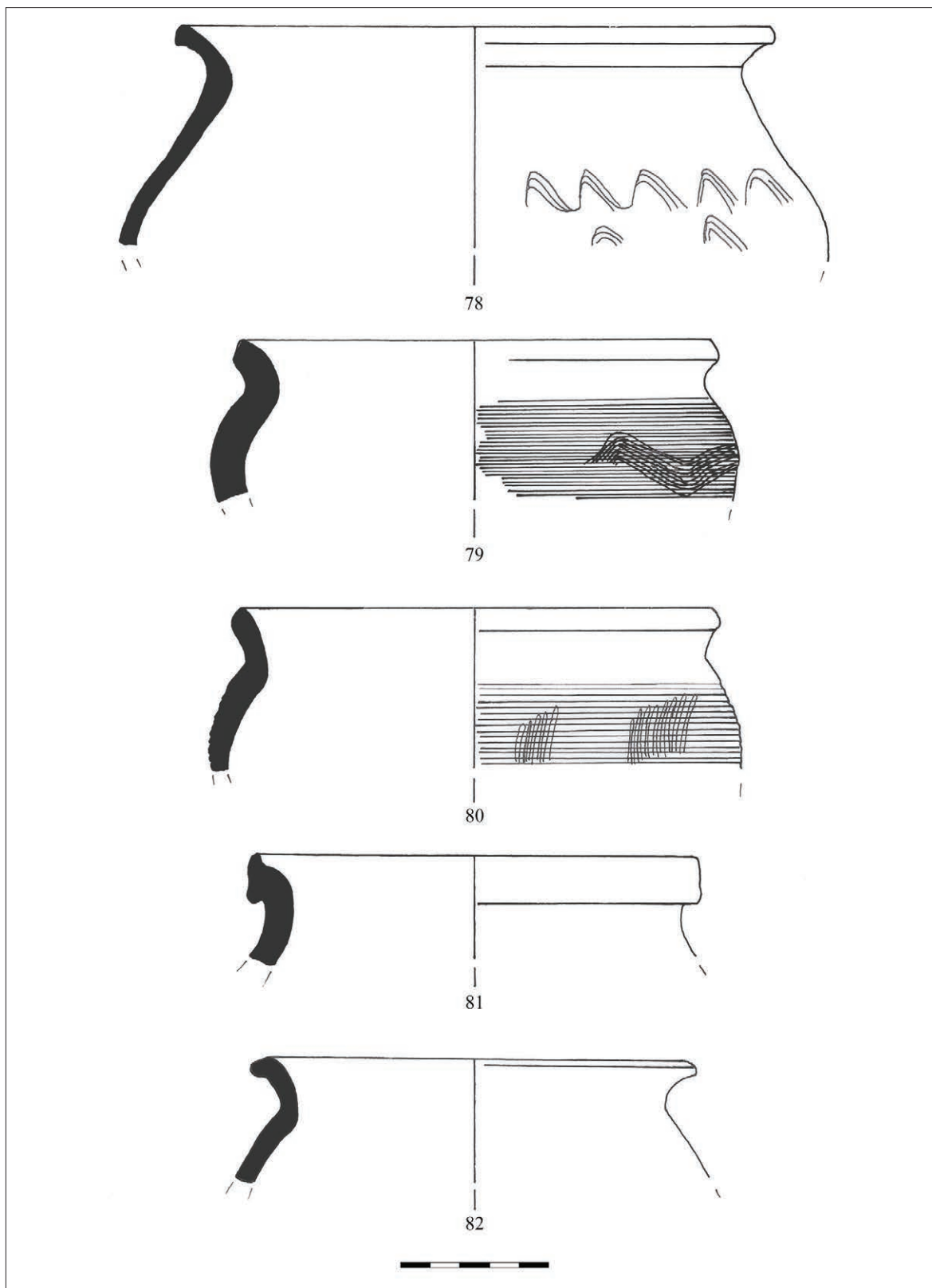


PLATE XII / ТАБЛО XII



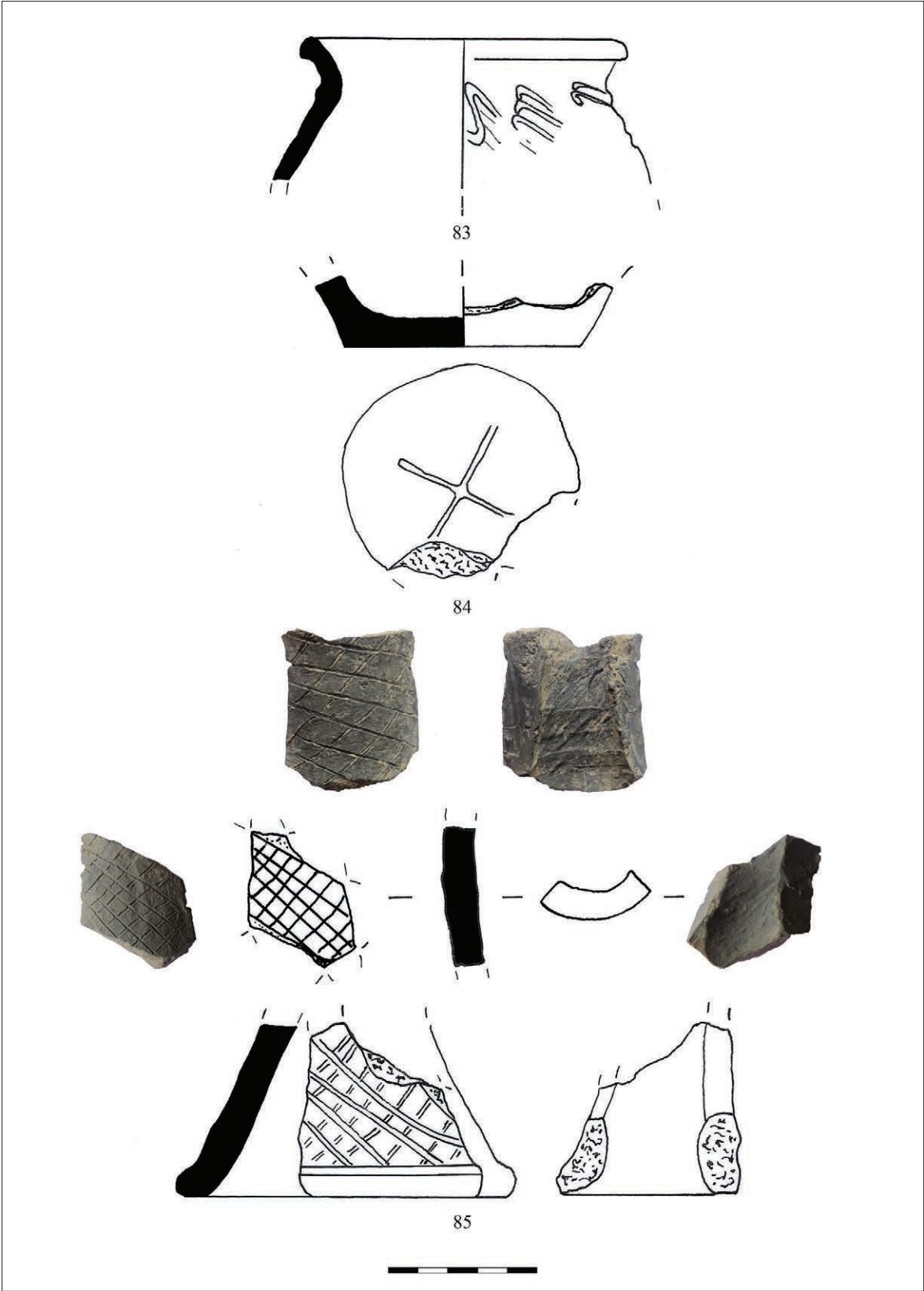


PLATE XIV / ТАБЛО XIV

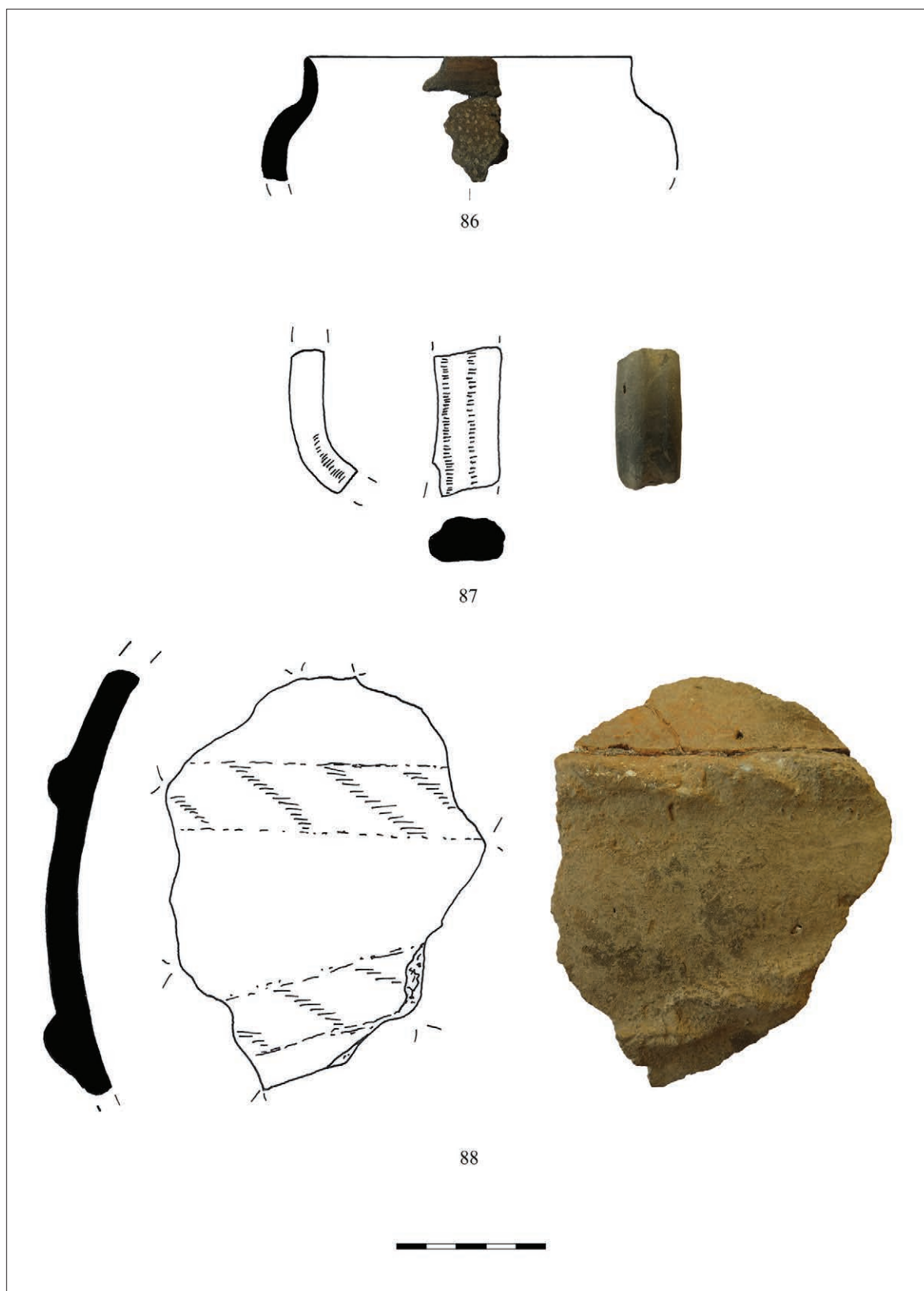


PLATE XV / ТАБЛО XV

THERMOMAGNETIC ANALYSIS OF MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM VELIKI PRES LAV. PART II

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ABSTRACT

This article is the second and final publication, completing the initial stage in the study of an unknown technological parameter of Medieval pottery – firing temperatures for different functional and technological groups of vessels. In 2016, within the project of the Laboratory of Paleomagnetism at the Earth Magnetism Department at NIGGG – BAS, were determined the characteristic temperature ranges of 15 pottery groups registered during the excavations of the Ruler's Church site in Veliki Preslav. In 2019, this was done for another 18 ceramic groups, represented by 22 samples. The selected finds were found in stratigraphic layers, which cover a wide chronological range – from the first half of the 10th to the middle of the 13th c. The comparison of the thermomagnetic results for the functionally identical vessels from different chronological series, helped outlining some tendencies in the development of the production during the 10th – 13th c.: kitchenware was fired at temperatures between 730 and 930 °C; tableware was fired at higher temperatures than the rest of the pottery groups – 790 and 950 °C and at 1100 °C for the elaborate Preslav painted pottery. The firing temperature for the imported faience vessels were also amongst the highest (1100 °C). Storiageware was fired at 790 – 950 °C. All this allowed making some comparisons with similar results from the thermomagnetic analysis of the Medieval pottery from Pliska.

Keywords: Veliki Preslav, Medieval household pottery, thermomagnetic study

The current article is the second and final publication completing the initial stage of the study of an unexplored technological aspect of Medieval pottery – firing temperatures for different functional-technological groups of vessels (Григоров, Костадинова-Аврамова 2019; Манолова-Войкова и др. 2019). In 2016, in the Laboratory of Paleomagnetism at the Earth Magnetism Department at NIGGG – BAS, the characteristic temperature ranges of 15 of the groups of household ceramics registered during the excavations of the Ruler's Church site in Veliki Preslav were determined. In 2019, the study was resumed for 18 of the other ceramic groups (Table 1), represented by a total of 22 samples (with laboratory numbers VP30 – VP51).

We will emphasize again that this study is part of the first (for Bulgaria) attempt to characterize a large and diverse collection of ceramic specimens, combining archaeological and thermomagnetic data. The main goal was not only to get a general idea of the firing temperatures of different groups of ceramic vessels from different periods, but also to demonstrate and promote the thermomagnetic method as easy, efficient and sufficiently accurate. The methodology used is based on the fact

that the magnetic-mineralogical transformations that take place during heating have a significant effect on the magnetic susceptibility. Detailed information about the nature of the method and its advantages has been repeatedly published (Rasmussen et al. 2012; Kostadinova-Avramova et al. 2018), so it is not necessary to describe here.

Archaeological context and chronology of the analyzed pottery

The greatest number of the samples provided for archeometric analysis are from the excavations of the Ruler's Church site in the Palace Center of Veliki Preslav. The selected finds were found in stratigraphic layers, which cover a wide chronological range – from the first half of the 10th to the middle of the 13th c. and represent three of the four main historical periods of the habitation of the second Bulgarian capital:

1. Metropolitan (893 – 971);
2. Early Post-Metropolitan (971 – 1040/50);
3. Late Post-Metropolitan (late 12th – 13th c.).

Three pieces of white clay decorative tiles from the previously studied production complexes in the areas of Selishte and Pod Manastira (VP47, VP48, VP49) were added to the study. Their inclusion in the analysis will make it possible to compare the technological parameters of two separate production centers specializing in the manufacture of similar products for architectural decoration (fig. 1).



Technological and functional-typological characteristics of the analyzed ceramics

The classification of pottery from the Ruler's Church and the related architectural monuments and spaces is an open system to which new ceramic categories are regularly added. By 2019, 28 main technological and functional-typological groups of household ceramics had been established. To these are now added 6 more types of amphorae and other vessels for storage and transportation of goods, 2 types of decorative ceramics for architectural decoration, as well as 2 groups of specific ceramic products used for production purposes. Thus, the total number of ceramic categories registered over the years reaches 38, 18 of which are the subject of this analysis. Two

Fig. 1. The Inner and Outer city of Veliki Preslav with designation of sites where the studied pottery sherds were discovered: 1. The "Ruler's Church"; 2. Production center "Pod Manastira"; 3. Production center "Selishte"

Обр. 1. Вътрешния и Външния град на Велики Преслав с обозначение на обектите, където са открити изследваните фрагменти керамика: 1. Владетелска църква; 2. Производствен комплекс „Под манастира“; 3. Граждански комплекс в местността „Селище“

samples were added to them for re-examination – representatives of two of the 15 groups already considered in the first part of the present study (Table 1).

Two types of potter's wheel were used to throw the vessels: a tournette and a kick-wheel. An exception is the first group of kitchenware, which is shaped by hand (group I.1). The tiles for architectural decoration are molded, and the ceramic pots for pouring metal are shaped by hand.

According to their function, household ceramics are divided into 3 categories: kitchen, table, and storage ware.

HOUSEHOLD WARE DOCUMENTED AT VELIKI PRESLAV	METROPOLITAN PERIOD (893 – 971)	POST- METROPOLITAN PERIOD		NUMBER OF ANALYZED SHERDS (LAB SPECIMENS)	RECORDED FIRING TEMPERATURE (°C)
		EARLY (971 – 1040/50)	LATE (late 12 th – 13 th c.)		
I. HANDMADE KITCHENWARE					
I.1. Kitchenware of rough- ly processed clay	-	+	-	1 (VP30)	730
II. KITCHEN AND TABLEWARE THROWN ON A TOURNETTE					
II.1. Sandy clay, plain or with incised decoration	+	+	-	1 (VP11a; VP11b)	720 – 810
II.2. Pure gray clay fired in reduction mode	+	+	-	2 (VP3a; VP3b; VP12)	810 – 930
II.3. Pure yellow-brownish clay	+	-	-	1 (VP9)	910
II.4. Pale clay with inclu- sions and incised decora- tion	+	-	-	Not analyzed	-
II.5. Pure pale clay, red slip coating	+	-	-	1 (VP10)	930
II.6. Pure gray clay, glazed	+	+	-	3 (VP5; VP13; VP4a; VP4b)	890 – 950
III. KITCHEN AND TABLEWARE THROWN ON A KICK-WHEEL					
III.1. Plain ware without slip or glaze, wasters in- cluded	-	+	+	2 (VP19a; VP19b; VP20; VP51)	750 – 790
III.2. With micaceous coat- ing	-	+	+	2 (VP24; VP25)	910
III.3. With red slip coating	-	-	+	Not analyzed	-
III.4. With white slip coat- ing	-	-	+	1 (VP31)	990
III.5. Painted with white slip	-	-	+	1 (VP32)	790
III.6. Painted with dark red and white slip	-	-	+	1 (VP23)	870
III.7. Green glazed or brown glazed	-	+	+	2 (VP8a; VP8b; VP17a; VP17b)	930 – 950
III.8. Polychrome sgraffito pottery	-	-	+	4 (VP15; VP16; VP26; VP27)	830 – 970
III.9. Glazed spout vessels	-	+	-	1 (VP6a; VP6b)	890
III.10. Preslav polychrome pottery – tableware	+	-	-	1 (VP33)	1110

III.11A. Byzantine GWW II	+	+	-	1 (VP28)	1010
III.11B. Byzantine GWW IV	-	+	+	1 (VP21)	950
III.12. Early sgraffito pottery	-	-	+	1 (VP34)	870
III.13. Champlevé	-	-	+	<i>Not analyzed</i>	-
III.14A. Monochrome sgraffito ware – Zeuxippus type (colorless glaze)	-	-	+	1 (VP35)	850
III.14B. Monochrome sgraffito ware – Zeuxippus type (yellow glaze)	-	-	+	1 (VP36)	990
III.14C. Monochrome sgraffito ware – Zeuxippus type (imitation of Class II?)	-	-	+	1 (VP37)	930
III.15. Local sgraffito, half-finished specimens included	-	-	+	2 (VP38; VP39)	850
III.16. With spots of diluted green or yellow-brownish glaze	-	-	+	1 (VP40)	890
III.17. Painted with white slip and glazed	-	-	+	1 (VP41)	850
III.18. Eastern faience with blue glaze	-	-	+	1 (VP42)	1110
IV. TRANSPORT CONTAINERS AND STORAGE JARS THROWN ON A KICK-WHEEL					
IV.1A. Günsenin I amphorae	+	+	-	3 (VP1; VP2; VP7)	790 – 850
IV.1B. Günsenin II amphorae	-	+	-	1 (VP43)	830
IV.1C. Günsenin III amphorae	-	-	+	1 (VP22a; VP22b)	830 – 850
IV.1D. Günsenin IV amphorae	-	-	+	1 (VP44)	930
IV.2. Spheroconical vessels	-	+	-	1 (VP45)	730
IV.3. Jars	-	-	+	1 (VP46)	950
V. CERAMICS FOR ARCHITECTURAL DECORATION, MOLDED OR THROWN ON A KICK-WHEEL					
V.1. Preslav polychrome pottery – tiles	+	-	-	3 (VP47; VP48; VP49)	1110
V.2. Rosettes for architectural decoration	-	-	+	<i>Not analyzed</i>	-
VI. PRODUCTION CERAMICS, HANDMADE					
VI.1. Pots for melting metal	-	+	+	1 (VP50)	730
VI.2. Tripods (kiln furniture)	-	-	+	<i>Not analyzed</i>	-

Table 1. Technological and functional-typological groups of household ceramics found in Veliki Preslav: the covered by current study are shown in bold

Таблица 1. Технологични и функционално-типологични групи битова керамика засвидетелствани във Велики Преслав: в тъмно са показани обхванатите от настоящото изследване

A more complete picture of the development of technology in Veliki Preslav is given by the specific analysis of each of the studied ceramic groups.

I. HANDMADE KITCHENWARE

Group I.1. Handmade kitchenware was first registered in Veliki Preslav in 2014 during the excavations of a terrestrial yurt-like building located north of the Ruler's Church, near the

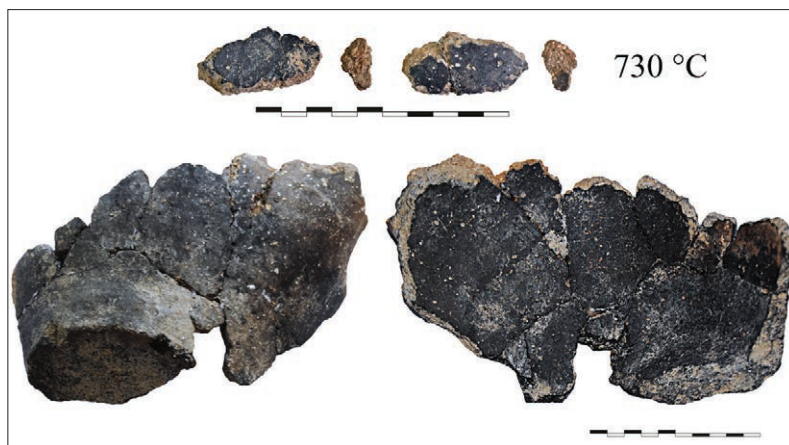


Fig. 2. Sample VP30 and exemplary vessel of Group I.1

Обр. 2. Проба VP30 и примерен съд от Група I.1

remains of a monumental building from the Metropolitan period – Building IV. The roughly made sherds discovered come from bottoms and walls, and fall into a stratigraphic layer from the first half of the 11th c. and are associated with the presence of late nomads in the former Palace Center (Димитров, Манолова-Войкова 2015, 620 – 621). Such finds from the Bulgarian lands are extremely rare. A whole pot and some sherds from Pliska have been published and are quite rightly attributed to the Pecheneg population who settled here in the 1030s and 1040s (Дончева-Петкова 1993, 250 – 251, обр. 1: 1, 2).

The handmade fragments from Veliki Preslav are few – some 30 walls and parts of bottoms, which do not allow graphic reconstruction of the forms. They are shaped from roughly processed clay mixed with coarse sand, limestone inclusions and crushed organics. After firing, the fabric has become porous due to the high content of organic material, which leaves large pores after burning (fig. 2). The walls have an uneven thickness, with rough vertical traces – the result of attempts to smooth the surface. The bottoms are shaped in the same clumsy way and the fingerprints of the potter are clearly visible. The outer surface of the walls is uneven in color, shading from gray-black to gray-brown. The interior is lighter brown or beige-brown. Due to the specific manufacturing technology and the raw material used, the walls of the vessels are brittle and difficult to restore. One fragment (sample VP30) was included in the series for thermomagnetic analysis, which according to the result was fired at 730 °C.

III. KITCHENWARE AND TABLEWARE THROWN ON A KICK-WHEEL

The ceramic assemblage from the Ruler's Church of Veliki Preslav covers 21 categories of kitchen and table ceramics thrown on a potter's kick-wheel. During the first stage of the thermomagnetic analysis carried out in 2016, the temperature ranges of 8 of them were determined (Манолова-Войкова и др. 2019, 66 – 71, табл. 1). The second stage of the study adds data for another 11 groups from the Metropolitan and Late Post-Metropolitan period of Veliki Preslav (Table 1, VP31 – VP42).

Group III.1. In 2016, two fragments of household vessels with no additional decoration were subjected to analysis, one of which was a deformed handle from a pitcher or a pot (Манолова-Войкова и др. 2019, 67 – 68, обр. 8). At the sample with regular firing, a temperature of 790 °C was recorded, and the above-mentioned deformed handle showed two different results – 750 °C and 790 °C for two adjacent sections (samples VP19a, VP19b). In order to clarify the characteristics of the local production, and more precisely the minimum temperature required for the

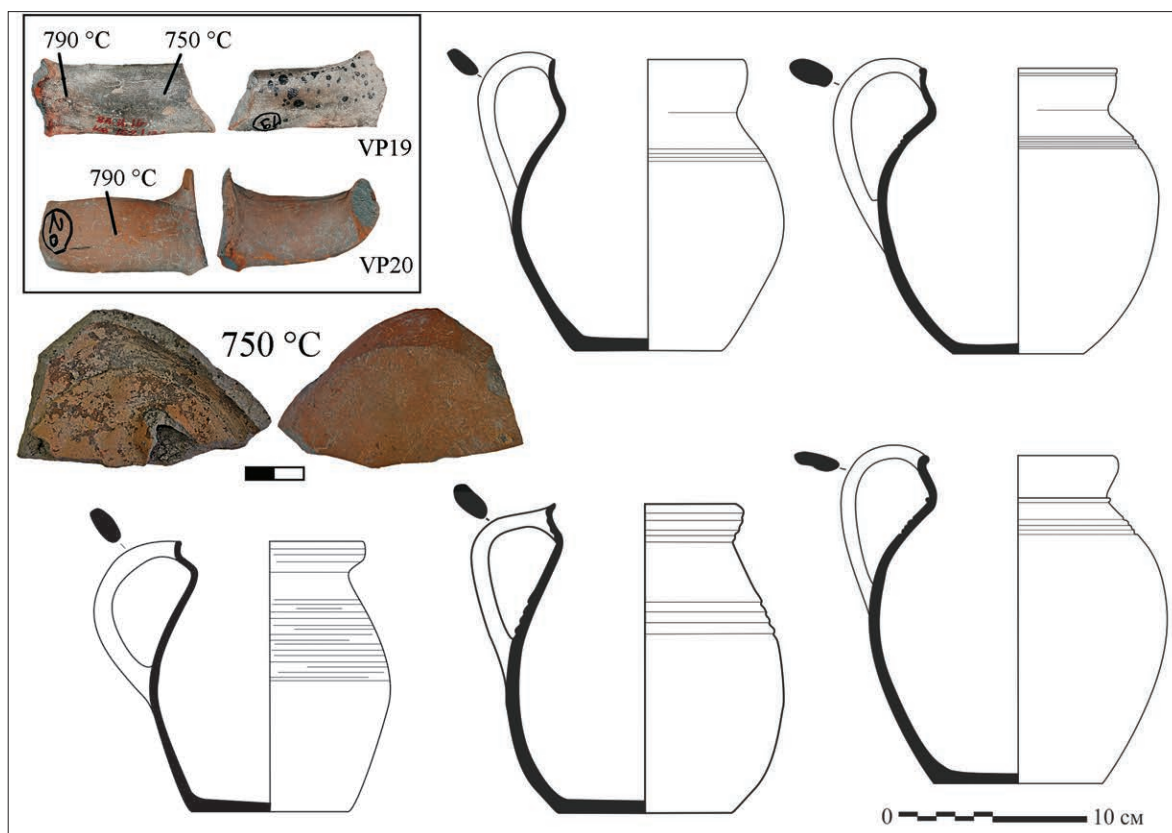


Fig. 3. Samples VP19, VP20, VP51 and exemplary vessels of Group III.1

Обр. 3. Проби VP19, VP20, VP51 и примерни съдове от Група III.1

production of a quality vessel, another badly deformed sherd was included in the second series of samples – a pot or a pitcher bottom (VP51, fig. 3). The recorded temperature is 750 °C and practically confirms the result of the first analysis.

Group III.4 has clear morpho-typological characteristics and a limited chronological range of distribution. Fragmented finds are most often found in the beds of dismantled walls of monumental architecture or in the surface layer formed during the inhabitation of the area during the final stage of the life in the Medieval city. The late chronology in the mid-13th c. and the 1260s is confirmed by several entirely preserved vessels and sherds from the fill of garbage pits, in which clipped scyphate coins and pottery typical of the mid-13th c. were deposited.¹ The forms of group III.4 are standardized – pitchers with one or two handles and jugs with trefoil rims. They are made of pure mica clay, evenly fired to orange-red or orange-brown color (VP31, fig. 4). A distinctive feature is the white slip coating, which has a different density, but always covers the entire outer surface of the vessels and the inside of the necks. The firing temperature determined by the thermomagnetic analysis is 990 °C.

Group III.5 is found in the stratigraphic layer from the Late Post-Metropolitan period of Veliki Preslav. In the 13th c. both kitchen and tableware were decorated with white slip. During the excavations of the Ruler's Basilica in the Palace Center, various shapes have been documented

¹ Pits Nos. 12 and 41 were excavated in 2005 and 2006. Type A Latin imitative coins from the first half of the 13th c. and imitative coins from the 1240s were found in them. The data originate from the field documentation of the excavations of the Ruler's Church site of Veliki Preslav in 2005 and 2006, submitted to the NAIM –BAS Archive.

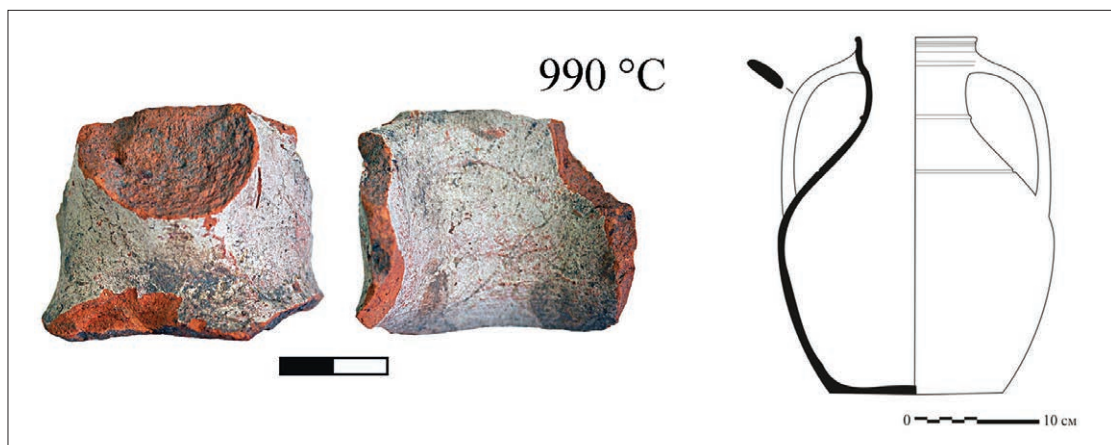


Fig. 4. Sample VP31 and exemplary vessel of Group III.4

Обр. 4. Проба VP31 и примерен съд от Група III.4

– pots with high raised shoulders, lids, pitchers with a spheroidal body with one or two handles, jugs. The vessels are thin-walled, made of micaceous clay mixed with a slight amount of fine sand, which after firing turned to light brown or orange-brown color (VP32, fig. 5). The technological features of the group under consideration do not differ significantly from those of the household ceramics without additional decoration (group III.1.1) and although no wasters with slip decoration have been found yet, it can be assumed that the two groups have the same local origin. This hypothesis is supported by the result of the thermomagnetic analysis of sample VP32. The temperature of 790 °C is identical to the one of group III.1.

Group III.10. The painted pottery, characteristic for the Metropolitan culture of Veliki Preslav, does not need additional presentation. However, it should be noted that during the long-term excavations of the Ruler's Basilica and its surroundings (from 2001 to 2019) very few representatives of the group were found. Despite the total quantitative and qualitative processing of the mass material ceramic assemblage, less than 70 sherds of the painted white clay tableware have been documented over the years. They are found in the later strata of the Early Post-Metropolitan and Late Post-Metropolitan periods, apparently introduced into them as a result of the long inhabitation of the area. The available finds are sherds of shallow plates or bell-shaped cups, decorated with the typical for the Preslav production geometric and vegetal patterns, applied with yellow, red, dark brown, dark blue, and green paint. They are made of pure clay, evenly fired to pale pink or white (VP33, fig. 6). The thermomagnetic analysis of sample VP33 shows that the vessels were fired in special kilns (with specific fuels?), in which it was possible to reach a temperature of over 1100 °C.

Group III.12. In the second half of the 12th c., Early sgraffito pottery held the major share of imported Byzantine pottery in the territories south of the Stara Planina Mountain and along the Black Sea coast. The same period, however, coincided with the economic collapse that occurred in the present-day Northeastern Bulgaria after the massive nomadic invasions from the first half of the 11th c. The urban life crisis in Veliki Preslav most severely affected trade and deprived the inhabitants of the former capital of access to a number of imported goods. Under these circumstances, the import of Early sgraffito pottery is sporadic and is represented by single finds found in loose layers without a definite archaeological context. The few fragments are of the typical for the class shallow plates with a low conical or ring-shaped foot. The entire surface is covered with a thick layer of white slip. The interior is decorated with a finely engraved vegetal pattern and is covered with high-

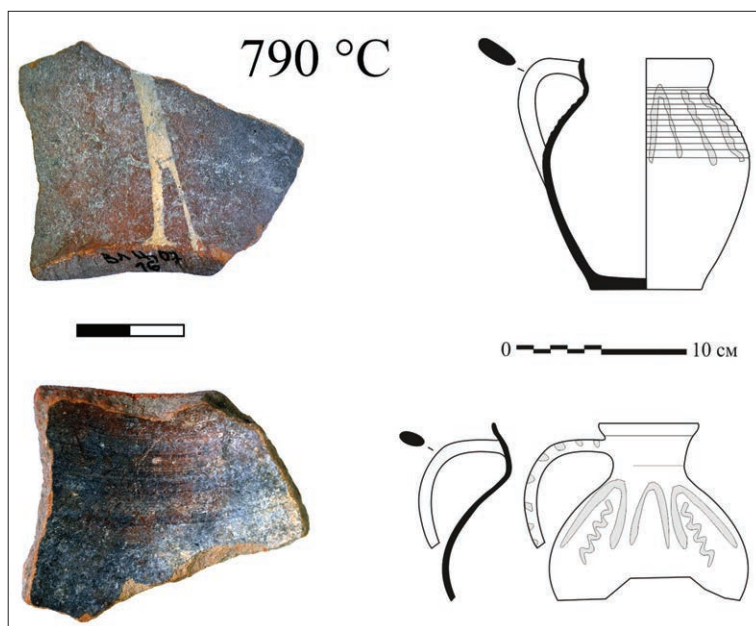


Fig. 5. Sample VP32 and exemplary vessels of Group III.5
Обр. 5. Проба VP32 и примерни съдове от Група III.5

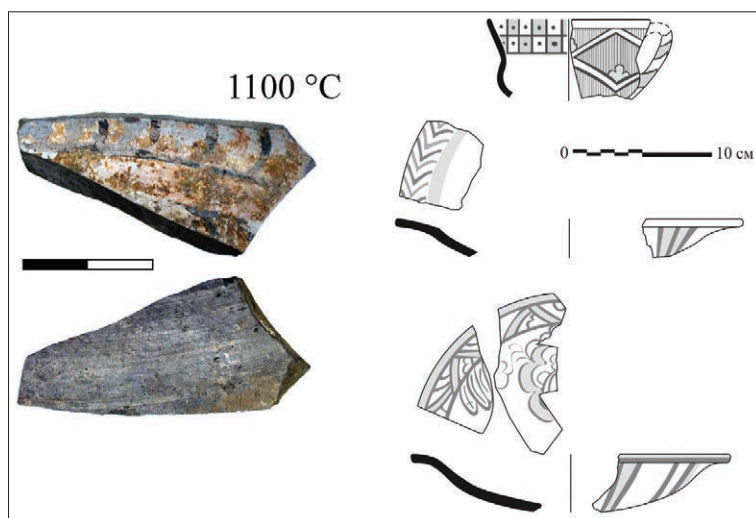


Fig. 6. Sample VP33 and exemplary vessels of Group III.10
Обр. 6. Проба VP33 и примерни съдове от Група III.10

quality colorless or light yellow glaze (VP34, fig. 7). As it is clear from the performed analysis, ~ 870 °C were enough for the good firing of the products.

The following three groups (III.14A, III.14B, and III.14C) make part of the largely discussed in the scholarly literature heterogeneous Byzantine class “Zeuxippus Ware” (Megaw 1968, 67 – 78) and its numerous variations referred as “Zeuxippus Ware Related Ceramics” (Megaw et al. 2003, 91 – 100), “Zeuxippus Ware Family” (Megaw 1989, 252 – 266), “Zeuxippus Ware Derivatives” (Armstrong 1992, 1 – 9), “Zeuxippus-Influenced Ware” (Stern, Waksman 2003, 167 – 180), “Zeuxippus Sub-type” (Vroom 2005, 111), etc.

The main characteristics of the *Zeuxippus* group are outlined in the late 1960s (Megaw 1968, 67 – 78). Later appeared dozens of publications, containing pottery from a vast geographical area, covering the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea region. The new finds correspond to a different extent to the initially outlined formal characteristics of *Zeuxippus* and gradually it is accepted that the specimens described in 1968 represent the “prototype” of *Zeuxippus* pottery, from

which local productions developed – mostly defined as derivative classes. The individual production centers cling to a different extent to the technological and decorative standards of the prototype – a natural result of the available raw materials and artistic preferences of the potters. Thus, in the 13th and the 14th c., a large group of sgraffito ware with similar characteristics, but hardly identifiable only by its outer appearance, emerged within the Byzantine cultural circle.

The problems concerning the identification of the different categories of *Zeuxippus* are entirely applicable to the pottery from Veliki Preslav, considering that there are only few sherds found that are very fragmented and have only partially preserved decoration. Regardless of this, according to their preserved technological characteristics (their specific fabric, slip and glaze), it is possible to discern

specimens belonging to some of the *Zeuxippus* types known from the scholarly literature.

Group III.14A includes fragments of plates and bowls with a wide periphery, made of finely purified clay, with gray-brown or gray color after firing. The inner and most of the outer surface are covered with a thick layer of white slip and high-quality colorless or pale yellow glaze. The incised decoration combines patterns applied with a thin blade and a wider spatula (VP35, fig. 8). These characteristics point to analogies with the *Zeuxippus* IA class from Constantinople from the late 12th c. (Megaw 1968, 69 – 70). In the area of the Ruler's Church of Veliki Preslav such examples are rarely found, mainly in archaeological contexts from the early 13th c. According to the thermomagnetic analysis, the vessels were fired at 850 °C.

Group III.14B. The group includes high-quality products, which according to the decoration and manufacturing technique belong to *Zeuxippus* IV class sgraffito ware (Megaw 1968, 71). The plates are made of purified clay, fired to an even orange-brown color. The decoration is simple and is limited to incised circles and spirals in the center of the bottoms. The decorated inner

surface is covered with a thick layer of golden-yellow glaze with the consistency of a glassy mass. White slip-painted patterns are applied on the outside (VP36, fig. 9). It is believed that the production of such vessels in Constantinople began in the early 13th c. and continued until the last decades of the 14th c. (Hayes 1992, 48). The production of Nessebar from the first half of the 13th c. has similar features (Даскалов 2010, 751 – 752). For this reason, the question of the exact source of imported plates in Veliki Preslav remains open. The fragments are found in the stratigraphic layer from the Late Post-Metropolitan period and in garbage pits from the first half of the 13th c. The highest firing temperature among sgraffito ceramics – 990 °C was recorded during the analysis of sample VP36.

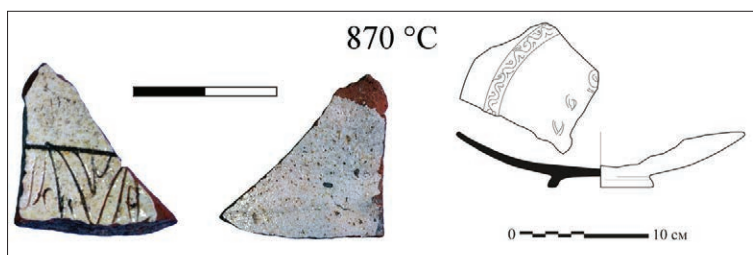


Fig. 7. Sample VP34 and exemplary vessel of Group III.12

Обр. 7. Проба VP34 и примерен съд от Група III.12

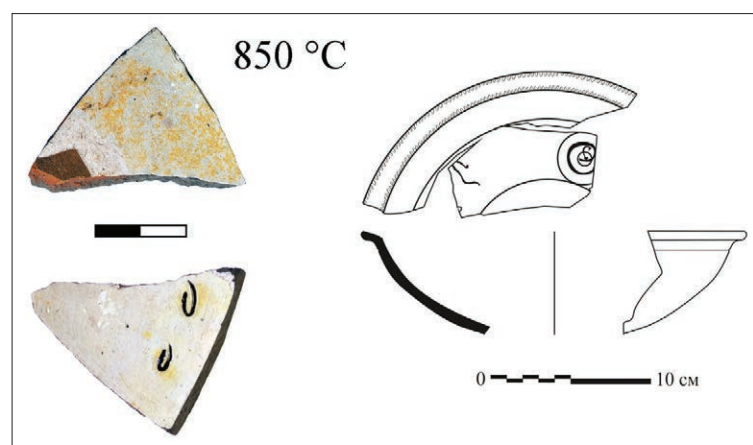


Fig. 8. Sample VP35 and exemplary vessel of Group III.14A

Обр. 8. Проба VP35 и примерен съд от Група III.14A

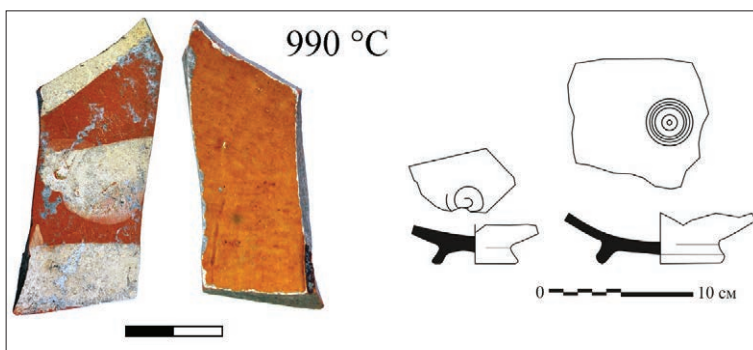


Fig. 9. Sample VP36 and exemplary vessels of Group III.14B

Обр. 9. Проба VP36 и примерни съдове от Група III.14B

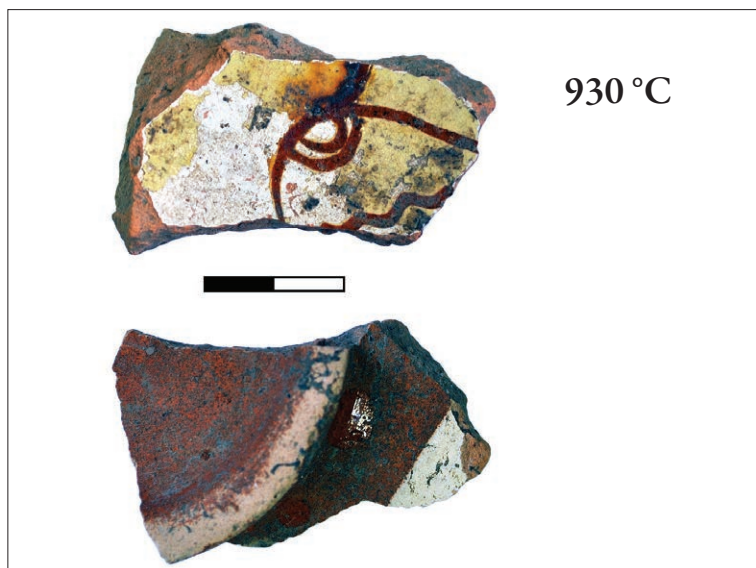


Fig. 10. Sample VP37
Обр. 10. Проба VP37

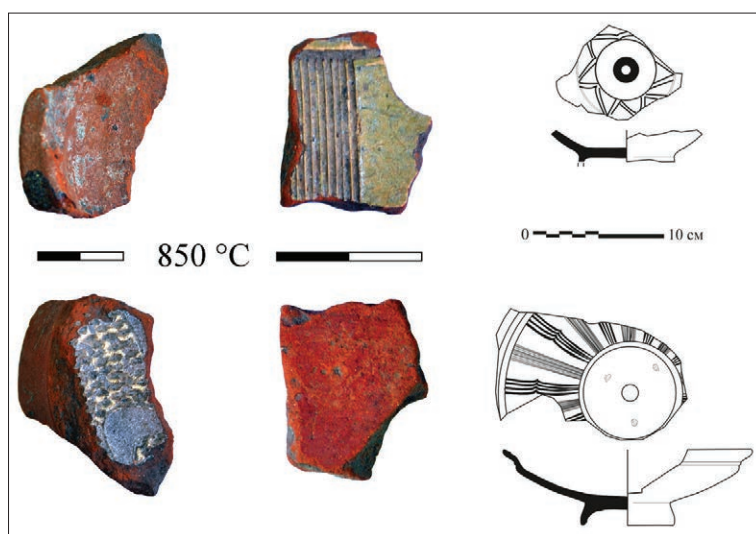


Fig. 11. Samples VP38, VP39 and exemplary vessels of Group III.15
Обр. 11. Проби VP38, VP39 и примерни съдове от Група III.15

Group III.14C was represented in Veliki Preslav by several small sherds of the surface mechanical layers, which according to the finds and coins found in them date to the mid-13th c. The lack of sufficient finds makes their interpretation uncertain. The high quality of the glaze and slip, as well as the use of iron oxide to further emphasize the incised pattern, bring them closer to the many varieties of *Zeuxippus*. More specific is the clay, in the composition of which small organic inclusions and finely ground brick are observed. The firing is uniform, at a visibly high temperature, as a result of which the surface layer has acquired a dark red color (VP37, fig. 10). The observations made are confirmed by the thermomagnetic study, which indicates a firing temperature at 930 °C.

Group III.15. The production of sgraffito ceramics in the Palace Center of Veliki Preslav in the first half of the 13th c. is certified by a small number of semi-finished products and tripod stilt for firing glazed vessels, some of which were published (Манолова-Войкова 2009, 219 – 220, обр. 4). At this stage of research, although

hypothetically, the most widespread group of sgraffito is defined as locally produced. It is made of clay identical to that of the kitchenware. Its distinctive features are the use of both a thin blade and a wider spatula when cutting the incised patterns and the thin layer of opaque pale yellow glaze covering the decorated surface (VP38, VP39, fig. 11). According to the results of the thermomagnetic study, the plates were fired at 850 °C.

Group III.16 is an integral part of the local production of household ceramics in the first half and mid-13th c., but is divided into a separate group due to some peculiarities of firing. Unlike group III.1, on the surface of the vessels, all over the body, there are small, randomly occurring spots of brownish or greenish glaze, looking like flaws, which however, did not impede the vessel being unusable (VP40, fig. 12). The reasons for the appearance of these flaws can be very different and some of them were

explained in an earlier publication: firing together with glazed vessels; penetration of wood ash into the chamber where the firing takes place; sprinkling of salt on purpose on the surface of the vessels or in the chamber (Манолева-Войкова 2009, 216 – 217). The present thermomagnetic study adds another well-established fact to the assumptions already made. Comparing the results of the mass-produced kitchen and tablewares from group III.1 (790 °C) with those of their related products from group III.16 (890 °C), a difference of 100 °C is noted. It is possible to assume that the significant increase of the temperature provoked spontaneous chemical reactions in which minerals from the composition of the fabric were vitrified and “emerged” on the surface as glazed spots.

Group III.17. The tablewares with underglaze slip decoration are part of the imports, which reached the city in limited quantities during the last stage of its inhabitation. The chronology of the imports in the 1250s and 1260s is confirmed by finds from garbage pits² and dwellings from the same period (Манолева-Войкова 2018, 306, 319, табло II: 16). Among the finds are plates and bowls, made of clay mixed with coarse sand, with dark red or reddish-brown color after firing. The patterns painted on the inner surface are mostly represented by intersecting circles with dots in their centers. The glaze has a light yellow shade and covers only the inner part (VP41, fig. 13). According to the thermomagnetic analysis, the pottery was fired at 850 °C.

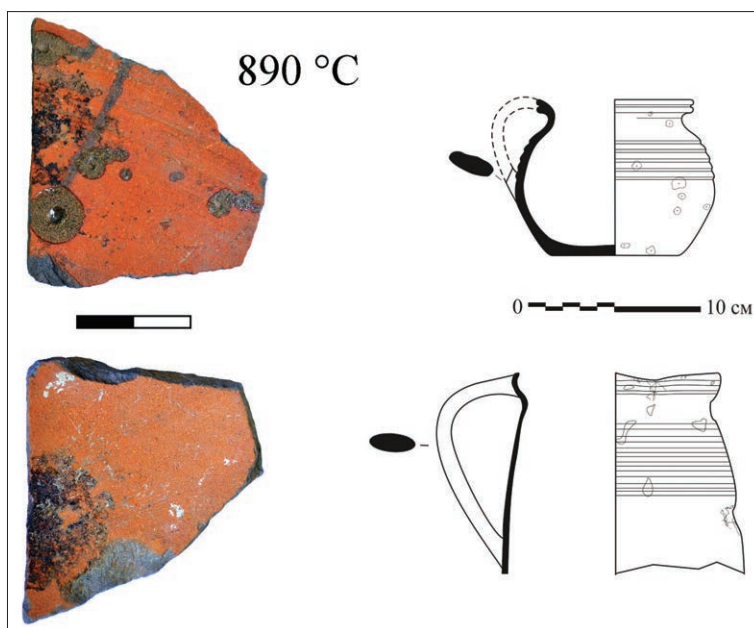


Fig. 12. Sample VP40 and exemplary vessels of Group III.16
Обр. 12. Проба VP40 и примерни съдове от Група III.16

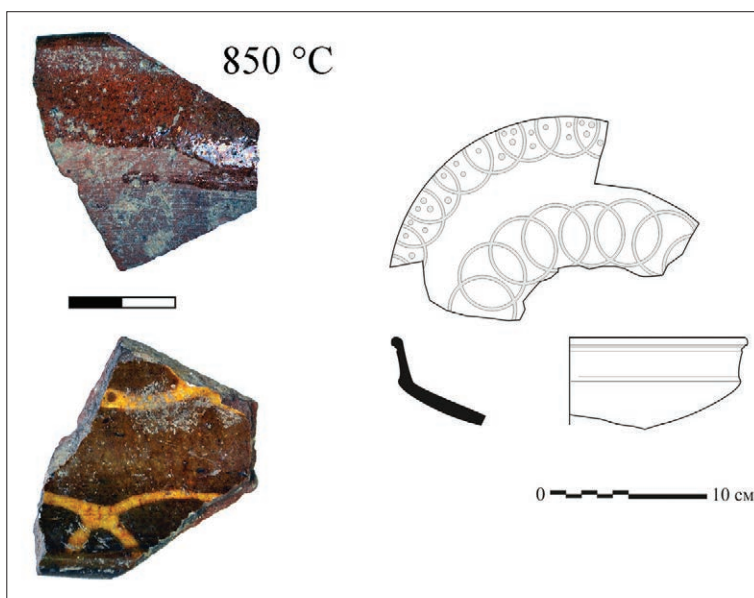


Fig. 13. Sample VP41 and exemplary vessel of Group III.17
Обр. 13. Проба VP41 и примерен съд от Група III.17

² A whole vessel and sherds with underglazed slip decoration were found in Pit No. 211 along with 11 clipped scyphate coins from the 1260s. Based on data from the field documentation of the excavations of the Ruler's church and Palace center site in 2012.



Fig. 14. Sample VP42
Обр. 14. Проба VP42

The origin of group III.17 can be linked to various production centers functioning from the 13th to the 15th c. in Asia Minor, Cyprus and Mainland Greece (Papanikola-Bakirtzi, Zekos 2010, 82 – 83; Залеская 2011, 179 and the literature cited there), but Mesembria can be pointed out as a more probable source. In 2009, pottery kilns for firing glazed ceramics were discovered there (Божкова и др. 2010, 285). Among the materials from the kilns are semi-finished products with slip painted patterns, similar to the vessels from Veliki Preslav.³

Group III.18 comprises small sherds of faience vessels with turquoise blue glaze – probably parts of bowls or plates. Their number is insignificant – no more than 30 samples from the stratigraphic layer from the Late Post-Metropolitan period. Despite their scarce number, the finds are of special interest as the only evidence of eastern imports to Veliki Preslav in the 13th c. Characteristic of group III.18 is the crumbly fabric, with a pumice-like structure – the main reason for the fragility of the vessels. The color of the fabric of the different sherds varies from white to dark beige. The inner and outer surfaces are covered with a thick layer of turquoise glaze (VP42, fig. 14). According to the preserved morphological and decorative features, the finds can be defined as a specific type of faience, corresponding to the descriptions of the Western European “Fritware” (Watson 2005, 41, 54 – 56) or the so-called “myaghkiy kashin” (soft kashin – translation MMV), widespread in the East from the 13th to the 17th c. (Коваль 2010, 22). Given the chronology of inhabitation of Veliki Preslav, the most probable source of imports is Iran, whose production began in the early or mid-12th c. and became widespread in the 13th c. (Watson 2005, 303 – 331). The laboratory analysis reported in the present study (1100 °C) confirms the already known data for the temperature range between 1000 °C and 1200 °C, in which the melting of the silicate mass took place (Коваль 2005, 18 and the respective literature cited there).

IV. TRANSPORT CONTAINERS AND STORAGE JARS

In the first thermomagnetic study samples of two types of Byzantine amphorae from Veliki Preslav were analyzed (Манолова и др. 2019, 72 – 74). The second series analyzed added data for two more types with limited distribution (group IV.1B and group IV.1D). It should be emphasized that the sherds were very fragmented, so their “affiliation” to the types described in the scholarly literature is based mainly on observations of the fabric, additional processing of the body surface, and partially preserved small characteristic sherds – rims, handles, walls with decoration.

Group IV.1B consists of parts of amphorae, widely known in scholarly studies as Günsenin’s type II (Günsenin 1989, 271; Günsenin 1990, 26 – 27). The few available specimens come from embankment layers and pits with heterogeneous fills, which can be dated to both the Early and Late Post-Metropolitan periods. They are made of purified clay, with a light orange or orange-brown color after firing. The thermomagnetic analysis records the firing temperature to be 830 °C (VP43, fig. 15).

³We would like to thank T. Marvakov, a colleague from the Ancient Nessebar Museum for this information.

Group IV.1D. The group includes single sherds of bulky, relatively thin-walled vessels, which can be identified almost with certainty as Günsenin's type IV (Günsenin 1989, 274 – 275). They are made of clay mixed with small quantity of sand, fired to a uniform orange-brown color, and their outer surface is covered with a beige slip (VP44, fig. 16). According to the thermomagnetic analysis, the amphorae were fired at 930 °C.

Group IV.2. Parts of spherocones are found only in the stratigraphic layer of the Early Post-Metropolitan period. Although few, the finds provide reliable evidence for the development of crafts and trade in the neighborhood around the Ruler's basilica, which emerged at the very end of the 10th c. They are made of clay mixed with a large amount of sand, limestone or coarse quartz. After firing, the outer surface turned to reddish-brown, while the inner is gray (VP45, fig. 17). A red slip coating was observed only in one case. The thermomagnetic analysis of sample VP45 documented that the firing temperature is at 730 °C – a value completely identical to the one established for the analyzed samples from Pliska (Григоров, Костадинова-Аврамова 2019, 41 – 43, обр. 13). This casts serious doubt on the theory that the spherocones were fired at a much higher temperature above 1000 °C (Йосифов 2018, 227 and literature cited there).

Group IV.3 includes parts of jars, which are found mainly near utility and residential premises from the 13th c. They are thick-walled, with a rim diameter between 0.25 and 0.35 m (VP46, fig. 18). They are made of clay mixed with large amount of sand, in some cases small limestone particles. The result of the thermomagnetic analysis shows firing at 950 °C.

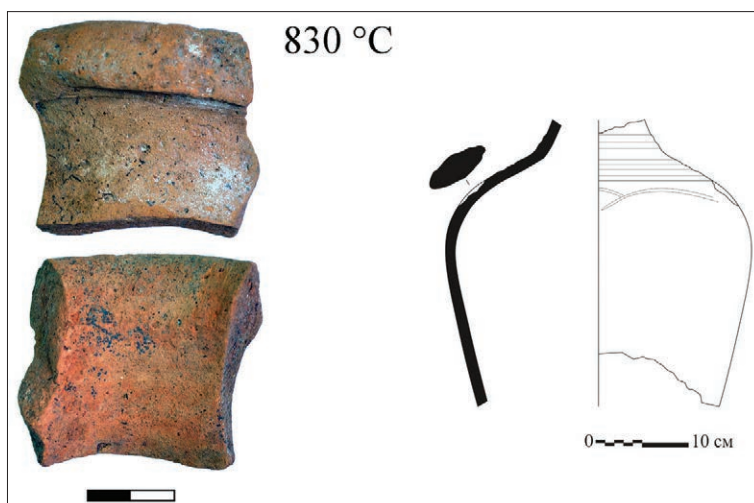


Fig. 15. Sample VP43 and exemplary vessel of Group IV.1B
Обр. 15. Проба VP43 и примерен съд от Група IV.1B

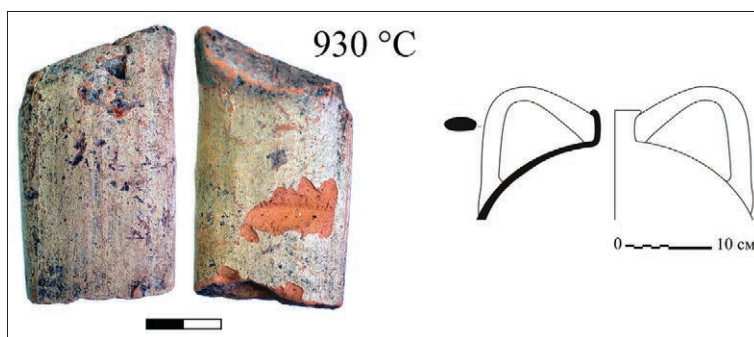


Fig. 16. Sample VP44 and exemplary vessel of Group IV.1D
Обр. 16. Проба VP44 и примерен съд от Група IV.1Г

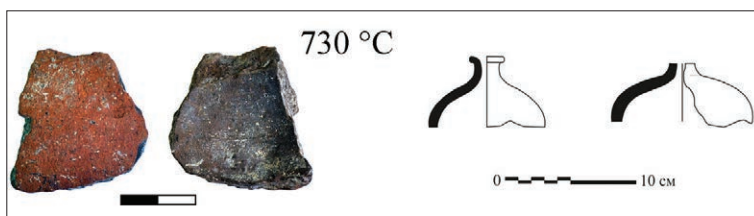


Fig. 17. Sample VP45 and exemplary vessels of Group IV.2
Обр. 17. Проба VP45 и примерни съдове от Група IV.2

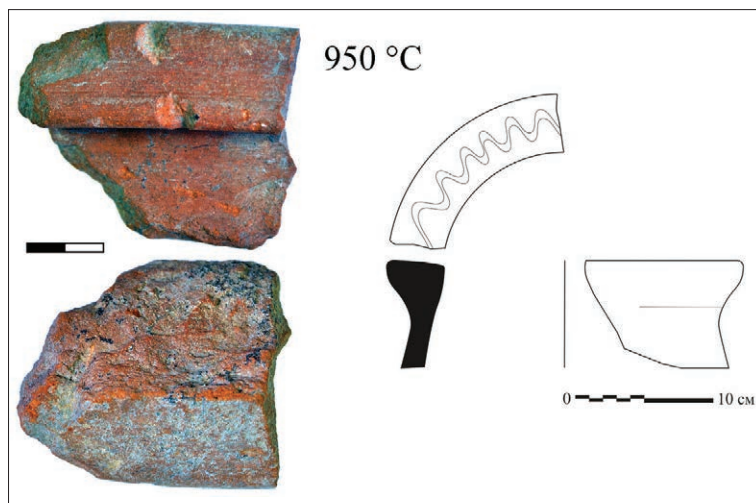


Fig. 18. Sample VP46 and exemplary vessel of Group IV.3
Обр. 18. Проба VP46 и примерен съд от Група IV.3

V. CERAMICS FOR ARCHITECTURAL DECORATION

Group V.1. Like the Preslav painted table whiteware, the white clay tiles for architectural decoration make up an insignificant part of the ceramic assemblage of the Ruler's Church and the representative buildings excavated around it. Individual sherds are documented in layers formed during the inhabitation of the Palace Center from the end of the 10th to the middle of the 13th c., with no connection to their original archaeological

context and function. Most of them are small in size and the geometric or floral decorative patterns, applied with dark brown, green, yellow, red, and blue paint, are difficult to reconstruct (fig. 19). The scarce amount of finds, all of which were inventoried, made it impossible to subject them to laboratory analysis. For this reason, materials from excavations and sites outside the Ruler's Residence – from the production complexes in the “Selishte” and “Pod manastira” localities (VP47, VP48, VP49, fig. 19) were used for the analysis. Among the samples is a semi-finished product, with no decoration applied (VP49), which makes it possible to distinguish the temperature ranges in the two technological stages of firing – to biscuit and final firing with painted and glazed decoration. The identical values of the analysis of the three samples show that the first firing took place at a temperature of ca. 1100 °C. Under these conditions, it was possible to achieve the appropriate dense fabric and light color for decoration. The absence of temperature deviations at the samples from finished products (samples VP47 and VP48) suggests that the final firing was most likely carried out at a lower temperature.

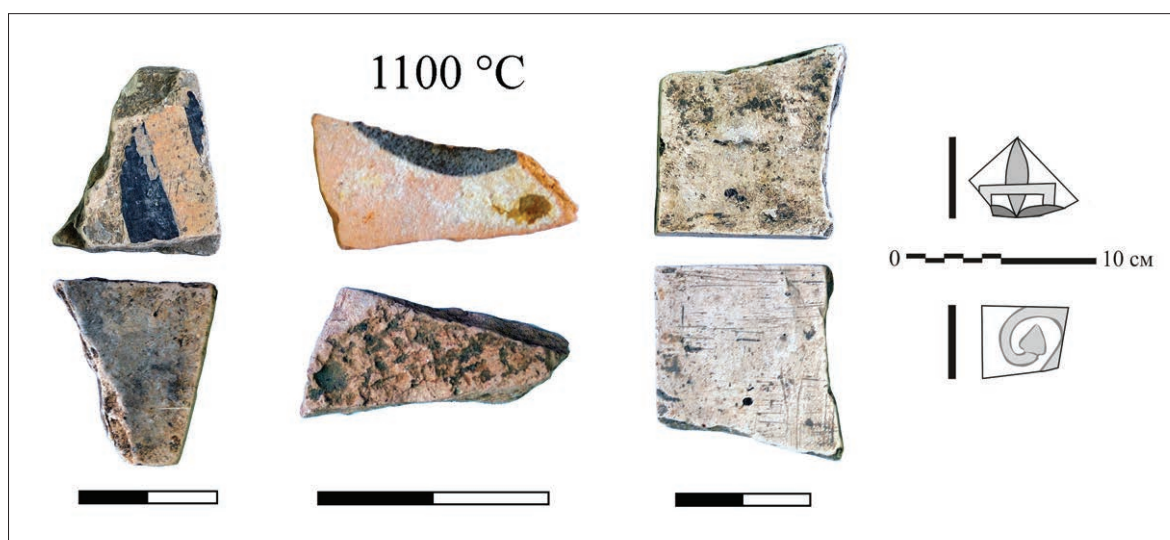


Fig. 19. Samples VP47, VP48, VP49 and exemplary tiles of Group V.1
Обр. 19. Проби VP47, VP48, VP49 и примерни плочки от Група V.1

VI. PRODUCTION CERAMICS, HANDMADE

Group VI.1. Pots (crucibles) for casting metal are found in the stratigraphic layers of the Early and Late Post-Metropolitan periods, within the artisan's neighbourhood that emerged around the Ruler's Church after the end of the 10th c. The finds are small bowls with a rounded bottom and a shaped gutter for pouring. They are handmade from clay mixed with significant amount of fine sand and organics. After firing, the

walls of the vessels have a porous structure and an uneven gray-brown color, further worn out by their use in the manufacture of metal products (VP50, fig. 20). The laboratory test showed firing at 730 °C.

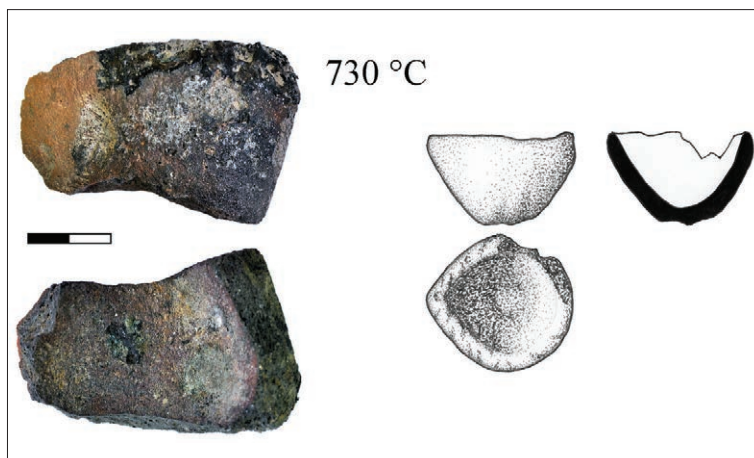


Fig. 20. Sample VP50 and exemplary vessel of Group VI.1

Обр. 20. Проба VP50 и примерен съд от Група VI.1

Conclusion

Summarizing the thermomagnetic study for the two series of fragments from 2016 and 2019 (fig. 21) the following trends can be noted and some conclusions can be drawn:

Tableware representatives that are among the earliest dated samples from Veliki Preslav mark three temperature benchmarks of firing (fig. 22): 910 – 950 °C for the slip and glazed vessels; ~ 1010 °C for the imported Byzantine whiteware and over 1100 °C for the Preslav painted tablewares and decorative white clay ceramics.

The next chronological period – 10th – 11th c., is represented by almost all functional groups of ceramics (fig. 23). Among them, the widest temperature range (730 – 930 °C) is registered for the kitchenware, which are characterized by the greatest variety of shapes and decorations. The tableware fits in the range of 890 – 930 °C. The analyzed samples of amphorae are characterized by relatively narrow temperature ranges – from 790 to 850 °C.

The samples typical only for the 11th c. feature three functional groups for which the following firing temperatures have been established: 730 °C for the kitchenware; between 890 °C and 950 °C for the tableware, and 830 °C for the amphorae (fig. 24).

The 12th c. is a period archaeologically hard for identification in the history of Veliki Preslav, and therefore it is represented by only two samples of table and storageware, fired at 870 °C and 930 °C, respectively (fig. 25).

In terms of quantity and quality, the 13th c. is best represented by pottery finds (fig. 26). The following temperature indices were established for the different functional categories: between 750 °C and 890 °C for the kitchenware; between 790 °C and 990 °C for the slip and glazed tableware; from 830 °C to 990 °C for the sgraffito ware; 950 °C for Byzantine whiteware imports; and between 830 °C and 950 °C for the transport and storage jars.

The comparison of the data of functionally identical vessels from the different chronological series outlines the following tendencies in the development of the pottery production during the 10th – 13th c.

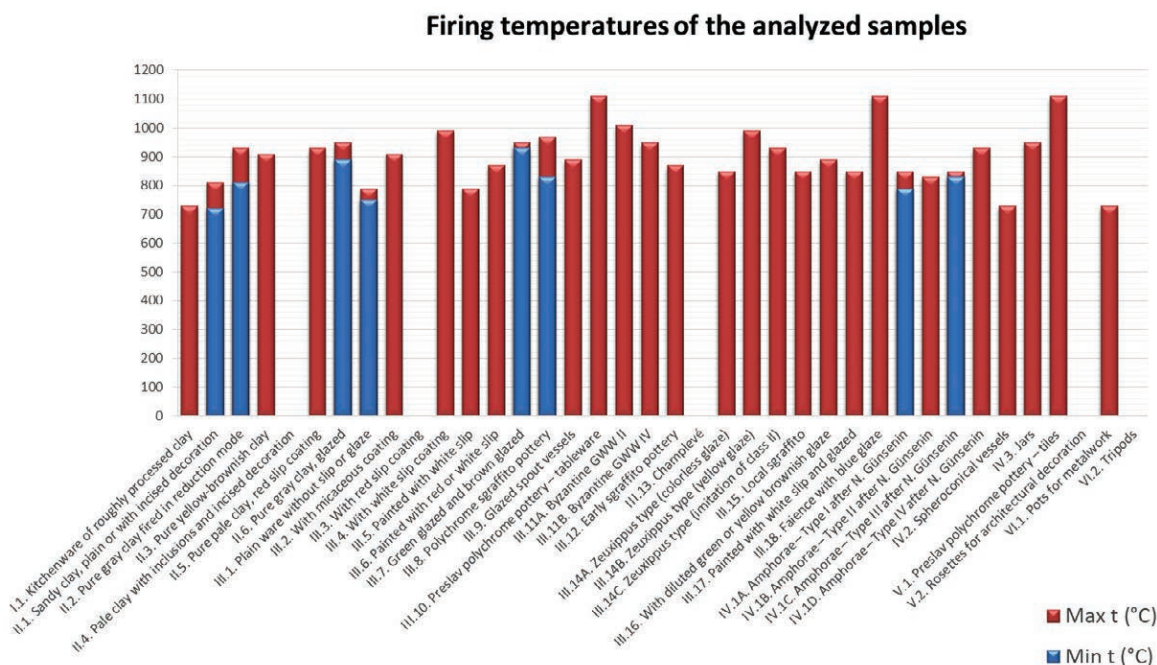


Fig. 21. Comparative chart of all analyzed samples from Veliki Preslav

Обр. 21. Сравнителна диаграма на всички изследвани от Велики Преслав образци

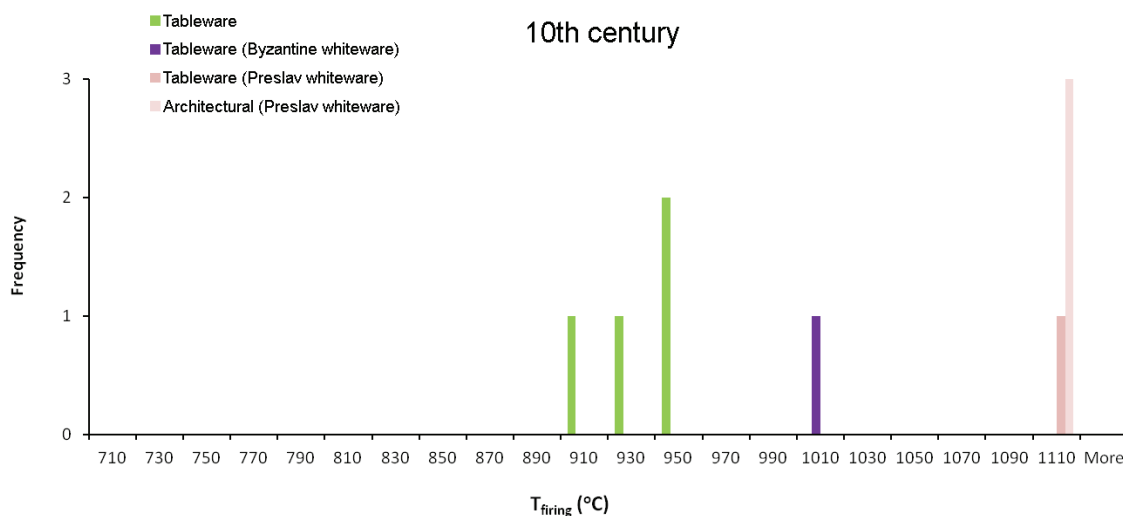


Fig. 22. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the 10th c. pottery

Обр. 22. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температурите на изпичане получени за керамиката от X в.

In the 10th and the 11th c., kitchenware was fired at temperatures between 730 °C and 930 °C. In the 13th c., these frames narrowed and fit in the range of 750 °C to 890 °C (fig. 27).

Throughout the period covered by the study of Veliki Preslav (10th – 13th c.), tablewares are fired at significantly higher temperatures than kitchen and storagewares. The temperature indices marked for the 10th c. tableware are from 910 °C to 950 °C (fig. 28), except for the representative

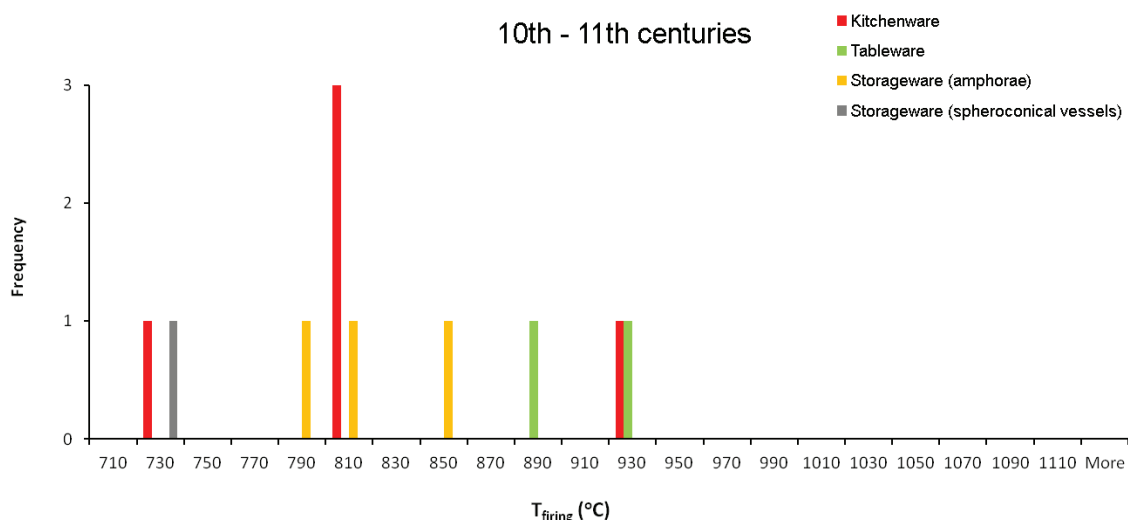


Fig. 23. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the household pottery from the 10th – 11th c. according to the functional group (kitchenware, tableware, storageware)

Обр. 23. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за битовата керамика от X – XI в. в зависимост от функционалния ѝ вид (кухненска, трапезна, амбалажна)

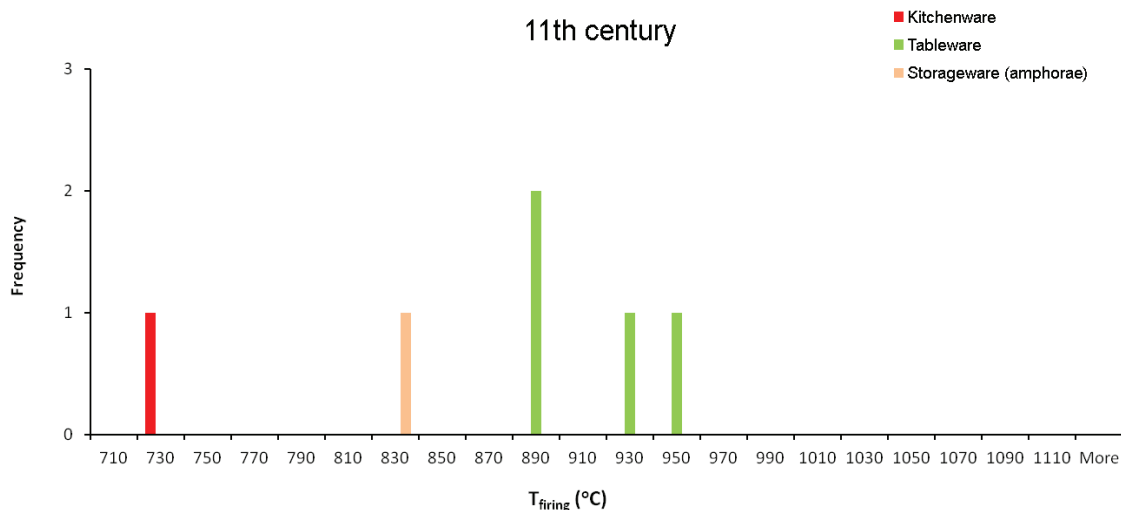


Fig. 24. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the household pottery from the 11th c. according to the functional group (kitchenware, tableware, storageware)

Обр. 24. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за битовата керамика от XI в. в зависимост от функционалния ѝ вид (кухненска, трапезна, амбалажна)

finds of painted whiteware, which are fired at 1100 °C. High temperatures (1010 °C) were also recorded for the imported whiteware. In the Early Post-Metropolitan period no significant changes were observed in the temperature levels, which are between 890 °C and 950 °C. The extremely large amount of pottery from the Late Post-Metropolitan period, with various slip and glaze decorations and diverse origins is the reason for the wider intervals in which the documented temperature levels fit. For example, slip and glazed ware with no additional decoration are fired at temperatures from 790 °C to 950 °C. The different types of sgraffito ware fit in the range of

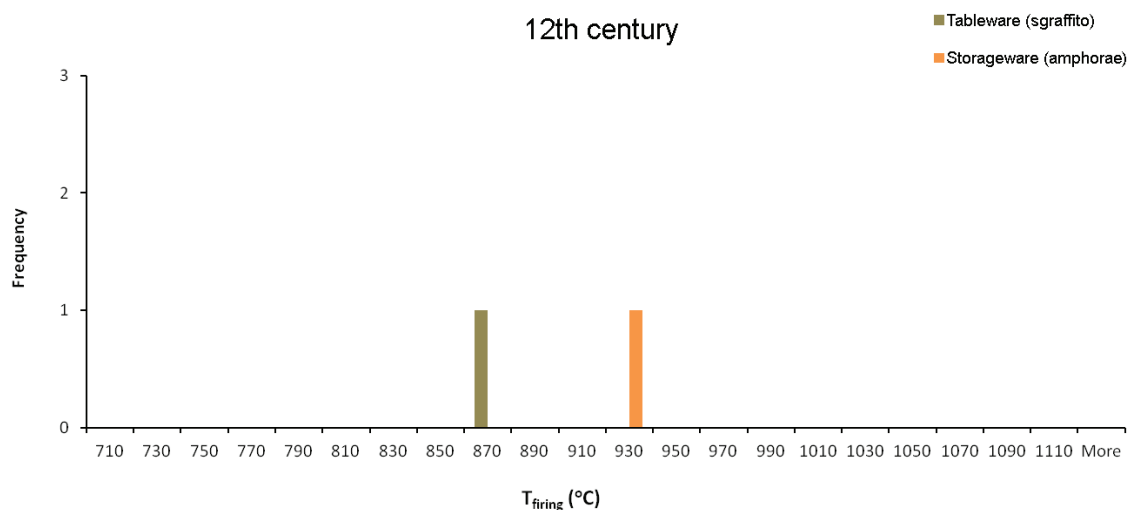


Fig. 25. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the household pottery from the 12th c.

Обр. 25. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за битовата керамика от XII в.

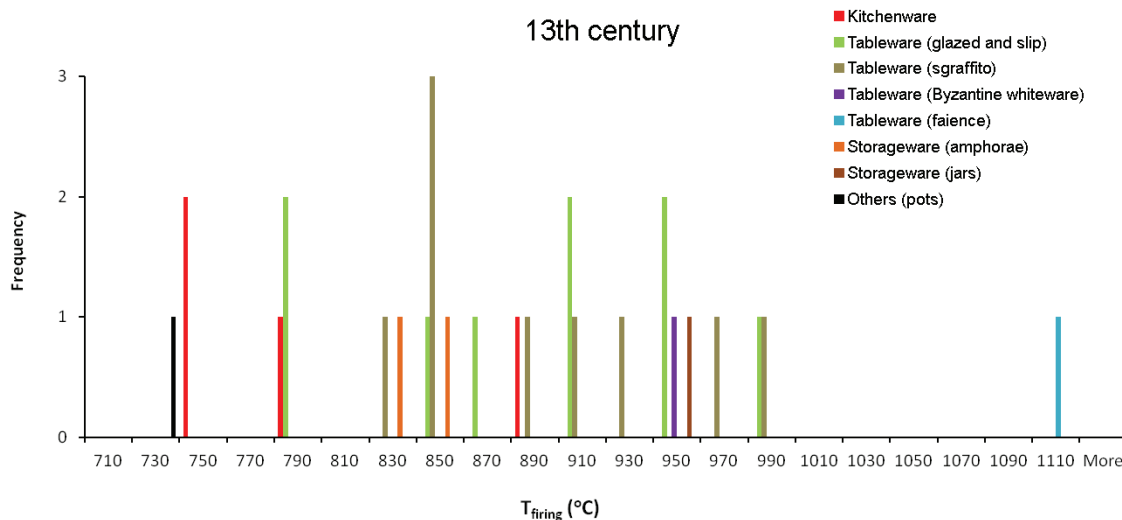


Fig. 26. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the household pottery from the 13th c. according to the functional group (kitchenware, tableware, glazed tableware, storageware)

Обр. 26. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за битовата керамика от XIII в. в зависимост от функционалния ѝ вид (кухненска, трапезна, трапезна глазирана, амбалажна)

830 °C to 990 °C. As expected, the highest reported firing temperature was registered for the imported faience vessels (~ 1100 °C).

The last functional group – the transport and storage jars shows the following development (fig. 29): the 10th and 11th c. amphorae were fired at temperatures from 790 °C to 850 °C. More significant differences are observed for the samples of amphorae and jars from the 12th – 13th c., fired at temperatures of 830 °C to 950 °C.

Finally, it should be noted that the similar thermomagnetic study performed for the household ceramics from Pliska (Григоров, Костадинова-Аврамова 2019, 29 – 56) allowed the comparison

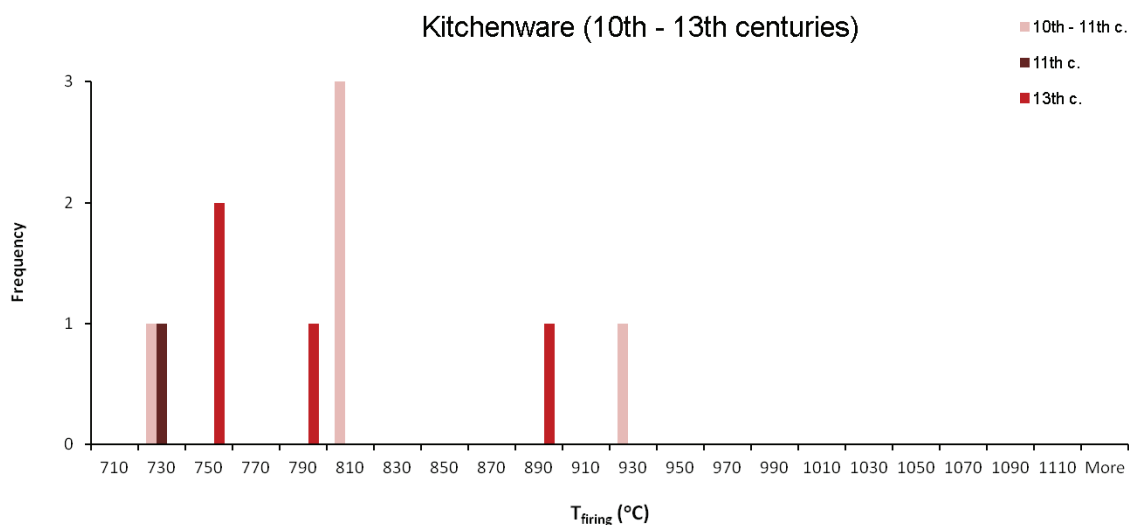


Fig. 27. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the kitchenware from the 10th – 13th c.

Обр. 27. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за кухненската керамика от X – XIII в.

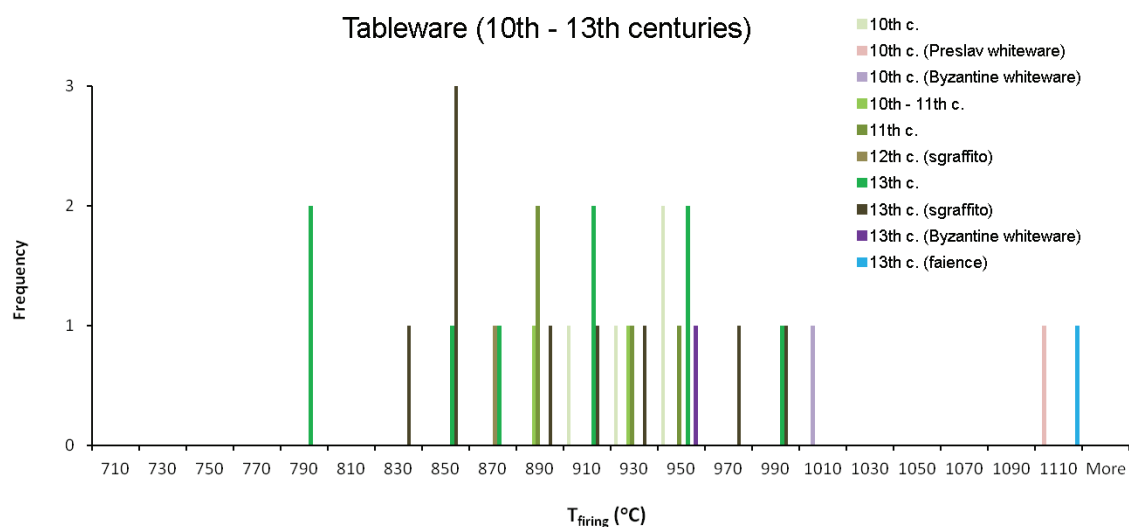


Fig. 28. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the tableware from the 10th – 13th c.

Обр. 28. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температури на изпичане получени за трапезната керамика от X – XIII в.

of synchronous groups of vessels from the two Bulgarian Early Medieval capitals. In this case, the only ones are from the period 10th – 11th c.

At the end of the 10th and the first half of the 11th c., the kitchenwares from Pliska were fired at temperatures from 750 °C to 950 °C and practically did not differ from the ones found in Veliki Preslav – 730 °C to 930 °C (fig. 30).

The tableware from Pliska is characterized by lower firing temperatures, distributed in a wider range of 710 – 850 °C, while the one from Veliki Preslav is grouped within the 910 – 930 °C (fig. 31). Differences are also noticeable for the glazed pottery. The glazed pottery found in

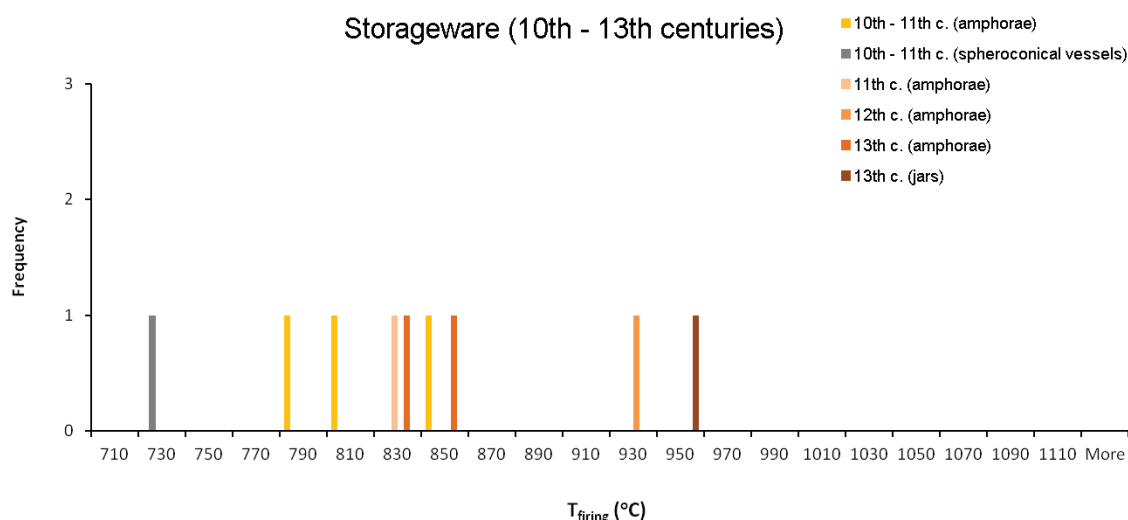


Fig. 29. Veliki Preslav: frequency distribution of firing temperatures determined for the storageware from the 10th – 13th c.

Обр. 29. Велики Преслав: честотно разпределение на температурите на изпичане получени за амбалажната керамика от X – XIII в.

Kitchenware (10th - 11th centuries)

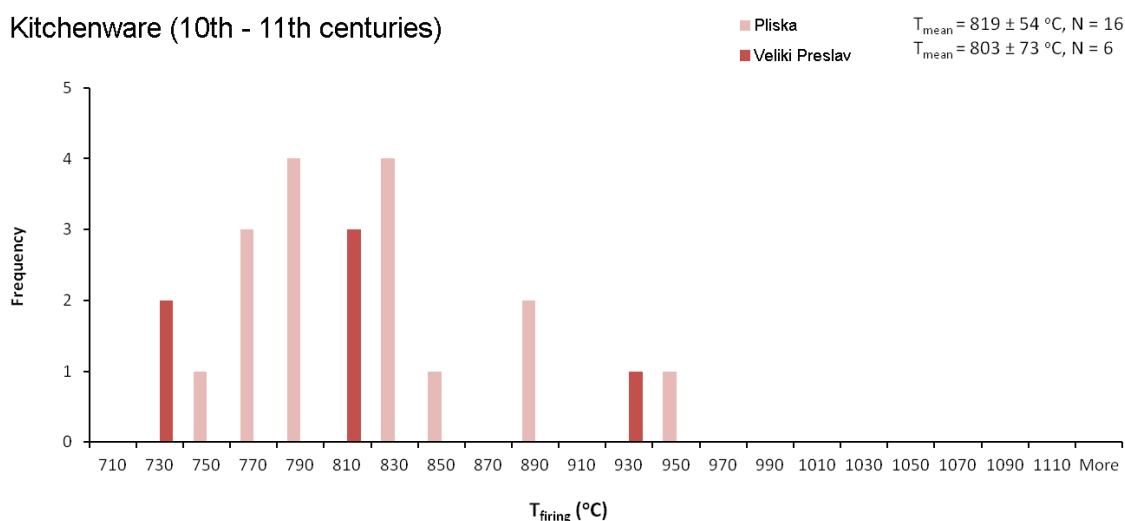


Fig. 30. Pliska and Veliki Preslav: comparison of the results obtained for the analyzed kitchenware from the 10th – 11th c.

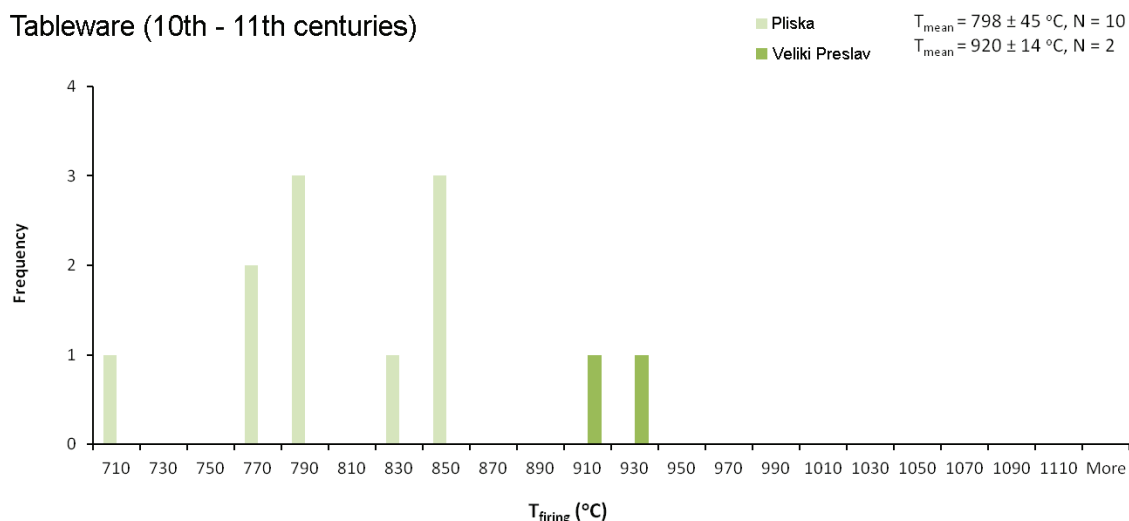
Обр. 30. Плиска и Велики Преслав: сравнение на резултатите получени за образците кухненска керамика от X – XI в.

Pliska falls in the temperature range 770 – 910 °C, and the temperature range of the pottery from Veliki Preslav is again in narrower and tends to higher firing temperatures – 890 – 950 °C. Only the luxury imported GWW II demonstrate a higher firing temperature of about 1000 °C (fig. 32).

Among the transport and storage jars from the 10th and the 11th c. found in Pliska, a variety of products are observed, fired even at significantly larger temperature ranges (730 – 870 °C) than in Veliki Preslav (790 – 850 °C). One of the possible explanations for such peculiarity is the penetration in Pliska of imports of more diverse origins (fig. 33).

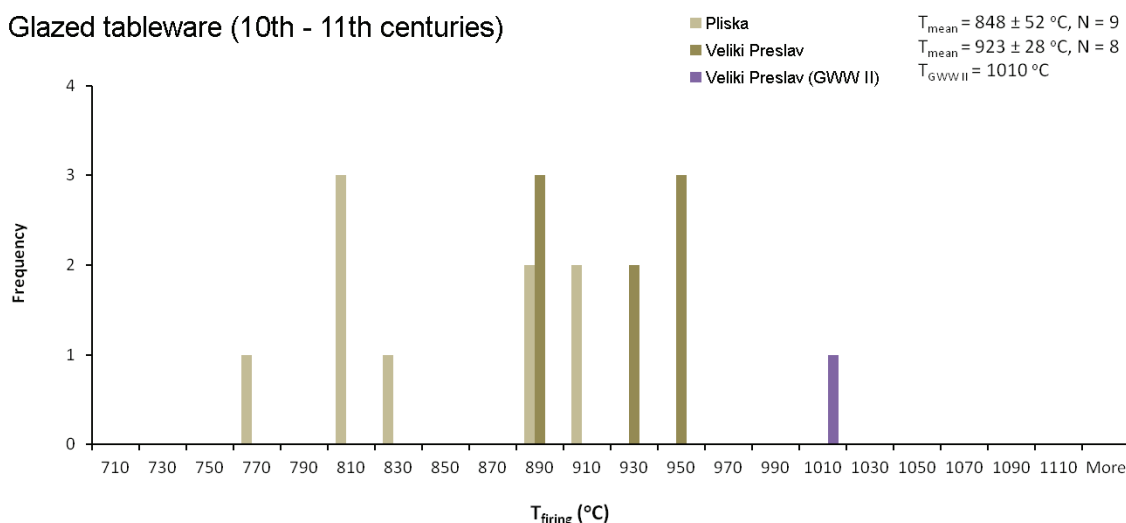
In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the results obtained in the present study for the

Tableware (10th - 11th centuries)

Fig. 31. Pliska and Veliki Preslav: comparison of the results obtained for the analyzed tableware from the 10th – 11th c.

Обр. 31. Плиска и Велики Преслав: сравнение на резултатите получени за образците трапезна керамика от X – XI в.

Glazed tableware (10th - 11th centuries)

Fig. 32. Pliska and Veliki Preslav: comparison of the results obtained for the analyzed glazed tableware from the 10th – 11th c.

Обр. 32. Плиска и Велики Преслав: сравнение на резултатите получени за образците трапезна глазирана керамика от X – XI в.

ceramic assemblages of the second Bulgarian capital Veliki Preslav represent an initial stage of the study and understanding of one of the main and most important technological steps in the production of ceramics – the firing. Clarifying this process is a task that can be solved only by performing a series of similar analyses of samples from different assemblages and sites not only from the Middle Ages but also from the Antiquity and Prehistory. The accumulation of a sufficiently large database for this aspect would help to compile a satisfactorily complete picture of all aspects of the pottery production in the past.

Storageware (10th - 11th centuries)

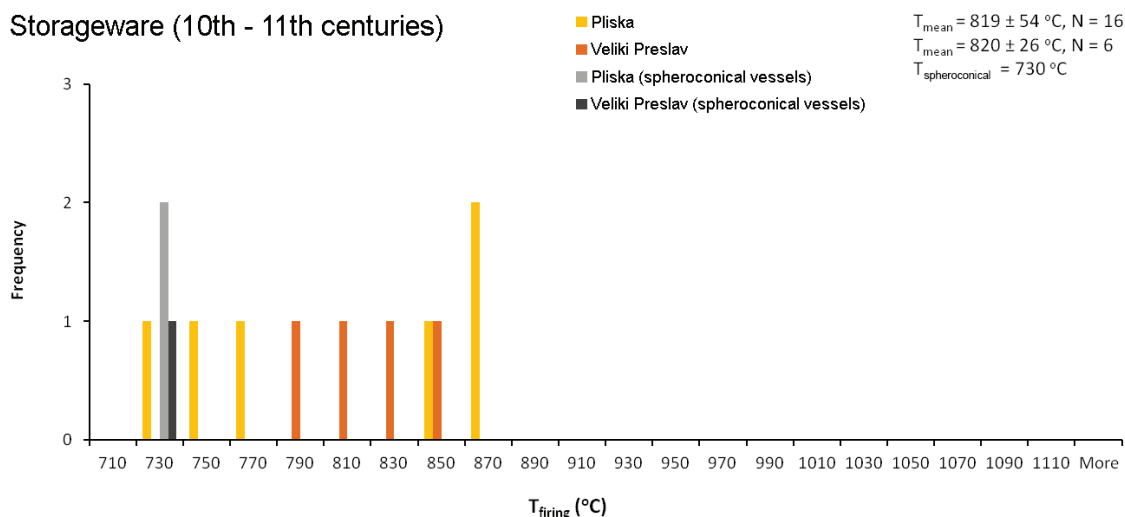


Fig. 33. Pliska and Veliki Preslav: comparison of the results obtained for the analyzed storageware from the 10th – 11th c.

Обр. 33. Плиска и Велики Преслав: сравнение на резултатите получени за образците амбалажна керамика от X – XI в.

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ТЕРМОМАГНИТНО ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА СРЕДНОВЕКОВНА КЕРАМИКА ОТ ВЕЛИКИ ПРЕСЛАВ. ЧАСТ II

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Настоящата статия се явява втора и заключителна публикация, завършваща началния етап в изучаването на един неизвестен технологичен параметър на средновековното грънчарство – температурите на опалване за различни функционално-технологични групи съдове. През 2016 г., в рамките на проект на Лабораторията по палеомагнетизъм към Секция „Земен магнетизъм“ при НИИГТГ – БАН, бяха определени характерните температурни диапазони на 15 от регистрираните при разкопките на обект „Владетелска църква“ във Велики Преслав групи битова керамика. През 2019 г. това бе направено и за още 18 керамични групи (Табл. 1), представени от 22 образца (с лабораторни номера VP30 – VP51).

Основната част от предоставените за археометрични изследвания образци са от проучванията на обект „Владетелска църква“ в Дворцовия център на Велики Преслав. Подбраните находки са открити в стратиграфски пластове, които покриват широк хронологически диапазон – от първата половина на X до средата на XIII в. и представят три от четирите основни исторически периода от живота на Втората българска столица: Столичен (893 – 971 г.); Ранен следстоличен (971 – 1040/50 г.); Късен следстоличен (края на XII – XIII в.). Към изследването са привлечени три фрагмента от белоглинени декоративни плочки от проучването в миналото производствени комплекси в местността „Селище“ и „Под манастира“ (VP47, VP48, VP49).

В обобщение на направените две термомагнитни изследвания – серии от 2016 г. и 2019 г. (обр. 21) могат да се отбележат следните тенденции и да се направят някои изводи:

Сред най-ранно датираните образци от Велики Преслав са представители на трапезната керамика, които маркират три температурни репера за изпичането ѝ (обр. 22): 910 – 950 °C (ангобирани и глазирани съдове); ~ 1010 °C (вносна византийска белоглинена керамика) и над 1100 °C (за преславската рисувана трапезна и декоративна белоглинена керамика).

Следващият хронологически период – X – XI в., е представен от почти всички функционални групи керамика (обр. 23). Сред тях най-широк температурен диапазон (730 – 930 °C) е регистриран при кухненската керамика, която се отличава и с най-голямо разнообразие на форми и украси. Трапезната керамика се вписва в рамките 890 – 930 °C. Изследваните проби от амфори се отличават със сравнително тесни температурни граници – от 790 до 850 °C.

Характерните само за XI в. образци илюстрират три функционални групи, за които са установени следните температури на изпичане: 730 °C за кухненската керамика; между 890 и 950 °C за трапезната и 830 °C за амфорите (обр. 24).

Дванадесетото столетие е трудно доловим период в историята на Велики Преслав, поради което и е представен само с два образца на трапезна и амбалажна керамика, изпечени съответно при 890 °C и 990 °C (обр. 25).

В количествено и качествено отношение най-добре засвидетелстван с керамични находки е XIII в. (обр. 26). При различните функционални категории бяха установени следните температурни показатели: между 750 и 890 °C за кухненската керамика; между 790 и 950 °C за трапезната ангобирана и глазирана керамика; от 830 до 990 °C за сграфито керамиката; 950 °C за византийската белоглинена керамика; и между 830 и 950 °C за амбалажната керамика.

Съпоставянето на данните на функционално еднотипни съдове от различните хронологически

серии, очертава следните тенденции в развитието на производството през периода X – XIII в.

През X и XI кухненските съдове са изпичани при температури между 730 и 930 °C. През XIII в. тези рамки значително се стесняват и се вписват в диапазона от 750 до 890 °C (обр. 27).

Обобщените данни от термомагнитните анализи налагат извода, че през целия изследван период на Велики Преслав (X – XIII в.) трапезната керамика се изпича при значително по-високи температури, отколкото кухненската и амбалажната. Отбелязаните за X в. температурни стойности за трапезните форми са от 910 до 950 °C (обр. 28). Изключение правят представителните находки на белоглинени рисувани съдове, които са опалвани при 1100 °C. Високи температури (950 °C) са отчетени и за вносните белоглинени образци. В Ранния следстоличен период не се забелязват съществени промени в постиганите температурни величини, които са между 890 и 950 °C. Изключително голямото количество керамика от Късния следстоличен период с разнообразни ангобни и глазурни украси и разнороден произход е причина и за по-широките интервали, в които се вписват установените температурни стойности. Така например ангобираната и глазираната керамика без допълнителна украса е изпичана при температури от 790 до 950 °C. Различните типове сграфито се вменват в рамките от 830 до 990 °C. Съвсем очаквано, най-високата отчетена температура на изпичане е регистрирана за вносните фаянсови съдове (1100 °C).

Последната функционална група – амбалажната керамика – показва следното развитие (обр. 29). Амфорите от X и XI в. са изпичани при температури от 790 до 850 °C. По-съществени разлики се забелязват за образците от амфори и делви от XII – XIII в., опалени при температури 830 до 950 °C.

Ключови думи: Велики Преслав, средновековна битова керамика, термомагнитно изследване

COMMENTS ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE SO-CALLED SUPPORTS FOR PHIALAE FROM THE TOWN OF BREZOVO, PLOVDIV REGION¹

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ABSTRACT

This report discusses and analyses two ceramic objects defined as supports for a pair of phialae discovered together with other artefacts in a tumulus located in Radnev geran area near the town of Brezovo, Plovdiv district. The presence of objects similar to the supports, dated at the Middle Ages, provide grounds for a debate on their interpretation and chronology.

The supports are stored at NAIM – BAS, recorded in the inventory books under a common number – No. 1714. They are triangular in shape and the end parts of each of the shoulders are rectangular/rectangular-oval in shape and with a trapezoid cross-section. Their thickness is 1.1 cm and 0.9 cm, respectively. On one side, the surface is flat and their even part is carelessly smoothed with visible oblique/diagonal linear traces. On the other side, pyramidal low feet are modeled at the ends of the stilts. On the tips of one of the objects, there are visible traces of fired glaze, while on the other, in individual places, there are traces of present-day chipping – also at the tips of the feet. On the inner surface of the shoulders, there are noticeable shallow grooves and edges which stop before the zone of the feet and show that they were moulded.

Objects from the Middle Ages are similar to the supports under review. In literature these objects are known as „трикраки подставки/столчета“ (tripod supports/stools), „триноги/триножки“ (tripods), „tripod-stilts“/“props” or “earthenware supports”. They are characteristic of the lands of continental Greece where they first appeared, and the territories of the Balkan Peninsula and Transcaucasia. These finds are widespread in Bulgarian lands. There are well-known examples from Vidin, Melnik, Veliko Tarnovo, Shumen fortress, Cherven, Veliki Preslav, Varna, Sultantsi, Markovcha, Sozopol, and Nesebar.

The presented data about the stilts from Brezovo and their Medieval analogues from the present-day lands on the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor and Transcaucasia, as well as the presence of glaze on the surface of the legs of one of the tripods allow their more certain dating at the beginning of the 13th c. at the earliest.

Key words: Brezovo, Middle Ages, phialae, supports, tripod stilts, Post-Byzantine pottery

This report discusses and analyses two ceramic objects defined as supports for a pair of phialae discovered in a tumulus near the town of Brezovo.² The presence of objects similar to the supports, dated at the Middle Ages, provide grounds for a debate on their interpretation and chronology.³

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³ I would like to thank Krastyo Chukalev, Yana Dimitrova, PhD, Slava Vassileva, PhD, and Georgi Sengalevich for their advice and cooperation in writing this paper.

Research history

The two phialae and the supports thereof belong to a group of objects found in a tumulus near the town of Brezovo, Plovdiv region (fig. 1). It is located in the Radnev Geran area and was disturbed by looters in November 1897 (Филов 1919, 3). Some of the discovered objects were hidden or thrown away, while others were taken in and kept for an year at the National Library in Plovdiv. Later, V. Dobruský was sent to research the find on site, as well as three other mounds near the first one. From the excavations carried out, there is no report documentation or description of the circumstances of the excavations of the other tumuli (Филов 1919, 3). Brief information about the newly discovered antiquities was reported by the district engineer L. Machas to the Škorpil brothers. According to it, there was a “*foursquare*” tomb in the center of the tumulus, whose dimensions did not exceed those of a sarcophagus (Филов 1919, 4). The other information amounts to details on the location of the individual objects, about which Filov has certain reserves. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that the two phialae (originally called “*basins*” by B. Filov) were discovered by the right arm of the skeleton of an individual (Филов 1919, 4).

From the information available, it becomes clear that there are no reliable data about the way the objects were discovered, their exact position in the grave space, or evidence whether the supports really belong to the set of silver objects. No additional details are known whether the tumulus was disturbed in later archaeological periods. There is no information about the presence of secondary graves and/or finds and materials with later dating (including from the Middle Ages).

Taking into account the information about the scattering of the find and the place where some of the preserved objects from the masonry tomb were stored, it can be speculated that they were mixed by looters with other finds from later periods (also stored at the National Library of Plovdiv). They were collectively presented and reviewed by V. Dobruský in this way, without taking into account their origin and original context.⁴

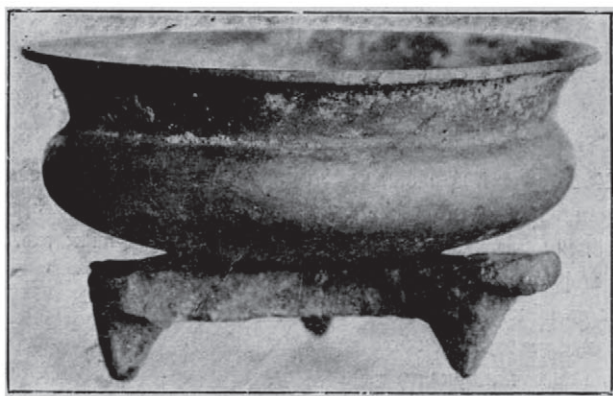


Fig. 1. Brezovo. Silver phiala on a ceramic support
(after Филов 1919, 12, обр. 10)

Обр. 1. Брезово. Сребърна фиала върху керамична поставка
(по Филов 1919, 12, обр. 10)

The ceramic supports⁵

The supports are stored at NAIM – BAS, recorded in the inventory books under a common number – No. 1714 (fig. 2, fig. 3). It is mentioned that: “...*These basins were placed maybe on the two clay tripods, about 2 cm high, which correspond in size and were found together with them in the grave...*” (Филов 1919, 11, 12, обр. 10). The dating proposed for them is the time between the 4th – 3rd c. BC and is based on the chronology of the bronze situla discovered in the same complex (Филов 1919, 14, № 11, обр. 11). In more modern times, based on the seals

⁴ Evidence of this is also the later “addition” of an iron object in the form of a knife with a chain attached to its handle. About it, Filov mentions: “According to a note in the museum inventory, this object was not found in the tumulus itself, but in its immediate vicinity. This is also confirmed by the information about the find provided by the Škorpil brothers...” (Филов 1919, 13, обр. 12 a).

⁵ The photo images of the tripods were made by Krassimir Georgiev, photographer at NAIM – BAS, for which I would like to express my gratitude.

of the eponym Megon I on two amphorae from the tomb complex, a more precise date for the tumulus from Brezovo was proposed – the first half of the 4th c. BC, more specifically – around 360 BC, and the phialae were referred a slightly earlier date (Стоянов 2017, 12, 40).

The ceramic supports are triangular in shape and the end parts of each of the shoulders are rectangular/rectangular-oval in



Fig. 2. Brezovo. Ceramic tripod stilt (Photo Krassimir Georgiev, NAIM – BAS)
Обр. 2. Брезово. Керамична тринога (фото Красимир Георгиев, НАИМ – БАН)



Fig. 3. Brezovo. Ceramic tripod stilt. Details with preserved traces of glaze (Photo Krassimir Georgiev, NAIM – BAS)
Обр. 3. Брезово. Керамична тринога. Детайли със запазени следи от глазура (фото Красимир Георгиев, НАИМ – БАН)

shape and with a trapezoid cross-section (fig. 4). Their thickness is 1.1 cm and 0.9 cm, respectively. The clay they were made from is light brown to beige in colour. The fabric of the second item is mixed with mica and fine particles (with sizes up to 0.1 cm). On one side, the surface is flat and their even part is carelessly smoothed with visible oblique/diagonal linear traces. On the other side, pyramidal low feet are modeled at the ends of the stilts. On the tips of one of the objects, there are visible traces of fired glaze (fig. 3: 1 – 3), while on the other, in individual places, there are traces of present-day chipping – also at the tips of the feet (fig. 2). On the inside surface of the shoulders, there are noticeable shallow grooves and edges which stop before the zone of the feet and show that they were moulded.

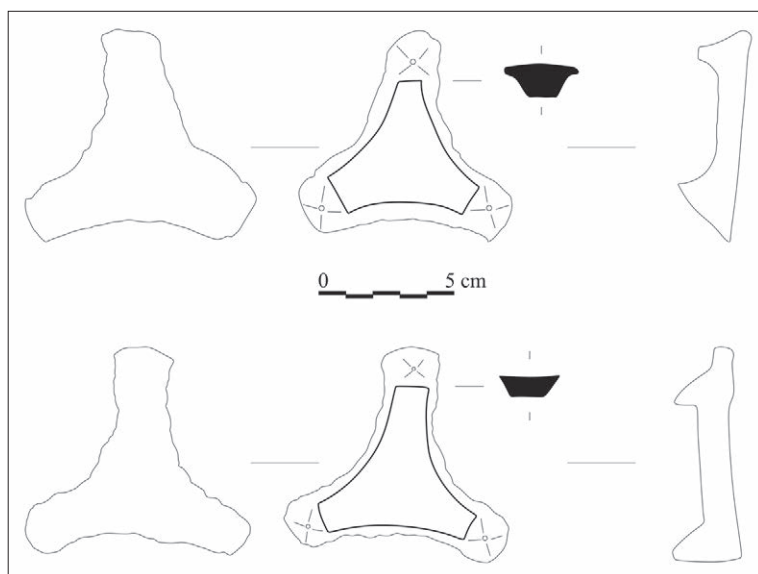


Fig. 4. Brezovo. Ceramic tripod stilts, graphic representation
Обр. 4. Брезово. Керамични триноги, графично изображение

To present day, there are no analogous objects from the Late Classical or Early Hellenistic Age in modern Bulgarian territory.

Parallels

Objects from the Middle Ages are similar to the supports under review. In literature these objects are known as „трикраки подставки/столчета“ (tripod supports/stools) (Георгиева 1985, 139; Цветков 1989, 131), „триноги/триножки“ (tripods) (Даскалов 2010, 727), „tripod-stilts“/“props” (Charalambous 2014, 281) or “earthenware supports” (Vroom 1998, 520). They

are characteristic of the lands of continental Greece where they first appeared, and the territories of the Balkan Peninsula and Transcaucasia (see below). These finds are widespread in Bulgarian lands. There are well-known examples from Vidin,⁶ Melnik (Цветков 1989, 131, обр. 196), Veliko Tarnovo (Георгиева 1974, 11; Долмова 1985, 10 – 20, обр. 1 – 2; Долмова-Лукановска 2007, 224, табл. VII, 254, 328, табл. XVII), Shumen fortress (Антонова 1995, 85, обр. 88 – 89/38, 39, 40, 41), Cherven (Георгиева 1985, 133 – 165), Veliki Preslav (Щерева и др. 1999, 45, 47, 143 – 145; Манолова-Войкова 2009, 217, обр. 4/1), Varna⁷ (Димитров 1960, 114 – 115, обр. 4; Кузев 1975, 155 – 159), Sultantsi and Markovcha (Кузев 1983, 130, табл. IV – 1, табл. IX – 5),⁸ Sozopol (Дражева 1992, 293 – 302), Nesebar (Даскалов 2010, 721 – 732), etc.⁹

They are thought to have appeared at the beginning of the 13th c., and their use in Bulgarian lands has been connected with the appearance of sgraffito decoration and glazed ceramics (Долмова 1985, 14; Щерева и др. 1999, 45; Даскалов 2010, 731). They spread on a wide territory, including the lands of the Balkan Peninsula, Byzantium and Transcaucasia (Долмова 1985, 14), and in Bulgarian lands they are found in the popular ceramic centers.

Information about these objects has been presented in a number of studies dedicated to tools used in firing glazed ceramics, some of which have been used in this study (Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 641 – 648; Papadopoulos 1992, 203 – 221; Charalambous 2014, 279 – 298). Some publications state that such tripods were used by ceramic masters at the beginning of the period of the “Three Kingdoms” in China and have been dated at 220 – 265, after which they travelled through Persia, the Middle East and Egypt and infiltrated Byzantium (Morgan 1942, 22 – 23, fig. 17h, i, n, o; Papadopoulos 1992, 208; Vroom 1998, 520; Zekos 2003, 455).

⁶ Unpublished materials from the exposition of RMH – Vidin.

⁷ For the data on Varna and Veliko Tarnovo – See Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 644.

⁸ The cited examples are from the 17th – 18th c., but they are technologically similar to the finds from the 13th – 14th c., which illustrates the long-term use of the ceramic tripods.

⁹ Other types of supports have been reviewed in Bulgarian literature, but they are not relevant to the ones under review here (Кузев 1975, 157 – 159, табл. III; Долмова 1985, 15 – 19, обр. 4; Дражева 1992, 300, обр. 9; Даскалов 2010, 723, обр. 2).

According to the crafting method, these objects can be divided into three groups, two of which are relevant to the aims of this study: 1. Handmade; 2. Made by casting in a mould.¹⁰ They are tools with a triangular/star-like shape and three small pointed legs (Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 642, Charalambous 2014, 281). Their dimensions vary: Width = 6/8 cm; thickness of legs = 0.8/2 cm – 1.8/3 cm (Papadopoulos 1992, 209).

They were used as separating supports in the firing of open glazed vessels, arranged on grates in the firing chamber of the kiln (Papadopoulos 1992, 209).¹¹ It is accepted that the practice of separating vessels during firing using this type of supports can be dated after 1200 at the earliest, and its quick adoption supported the development of glazed ceramics, its “mass production” and the generation and creation of new trends in glazed ceramics from the Late Byzantine period (Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 643; Charalambous 2014, 281). According to the author, this technological innovation had an impact on the development of ceramics from the Palaiologan period and Post-Byzantine ceramic production (Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 643).

Discussion. Chronology. Conclusion

The stilts belonging to the Byzantine ceramic production can unequivocally be referred to the time after the beginning of the 13th c. This has been tracked in studied workshops in a wide territorial zone covering the southern parts of Macedonia, South Epirus, Thessaly, Peloponnese, Attica (with finds from Mikro Pisto, Serres, Thessaloniki, Berea, Trikala, Thebes, Corinth, Sparta, the Athenian agora, etc.) (Vroom 1998, 520; Papanikola-Bakirtzi 1999, 158). Analogous objects have been registered in Medieval centers in present-day North Bulgaria, almost all of which played the role of an administrative or metropolitan center for different periods of time (ДОЛМОВА 1985, 12 – 14, обр. 1 – 3). The usual context in which they are found is the kilns or workshops where the ceramic production was prepared for firing.

From the data on the crafting methods for stilts, it can be presumed that the finds from Bulgarian lands were handmade or using a mould. It can be assumed that the objects from Brezovo were made in a mould, evidenced by the casting ridges on the inside surface of the three shoulders of the stilts.

The interpretation of the stilts from Brezovo is made difficult by the lack of clarity regarding the exact archaeological context they belonged to. Since the tumulus was destroyed, it is not clear whether there were secondary disturbances and other archaeological materials from the Middle Ages above the primary grave. At the same time, the scattering of a large part of the objects immediately after they were discovered does not guarantee that the collected materials were in their entirety or with the same original location.

From the known number of phialae with a certain context from present-day Bulgarian territory, no similar “sets” including a phiale with a support are known to correlate to the items from Brezovo. Such are also not known from neighbouring territories.

If the hypothesis is accepted that the discussed objects are from the Late Classical Age, it still leaves unanswered the question of the wide chronological distance between the group of artifacts from the 13th – 14th c. and their “prototypes” from around the middle of the 4th c. BC, what caused this vacuum of more than a millennium, without a second reproduction of this type of supports for metal vessels, until the time of the Second Bulgarian kingdom, when their presence is registered over a broad territorial scope.

¹⁰ Some of the objects have printed or incised symbols on their surface, which points to the workshop where they were made and hint at the size of the vessels to be placed on them (Παπανικόλα-Μπακιρτζή 1987, 645, Σχ. 2).

¹¹ Items from closed complexes from the Athenian agora have been dated at the Byzantine or Post-Byzantine period at the earliest (Papadopoulos 1992, 209, 210, fig. 3).

The presented data about the stilts from Brezovo and their analogues from the present-day lands on the Balkan Peninsula, Asia Minor and Transcaucasia, as well as the presence of glaze on the surface of the legs of one of the tripods (fig. 3) allow their more certain dating at the beginning of the 13th c. at the earliest, leaving unsolved the problem of the reasons for their presence in the grave inventory, comprising iron objects, a bronze situla, ceramic jug, two amphorae and two groups of silver objects – ornaments and elements from horse harness and “...a small number of banquet vessels...” (Стоянов 2017, 12).

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БЕЛЕЖКИ КЪМ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИЯТА НА Т.НАР. ПОСТАВКИ ЗА ФИАЛИ ОТ ГРАД БРЕЗОВО, ПЛОВДИВСКО

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Статията изследва и анализира два керамични предмета, определени като поставки за двойка фиали, открити в надгробна могила до гр. Брезово, Пловдивска област. Наличието на сходни на поставките предмети, датирани през Средновековието, провокират дискусия за тяхната интерпретация и хронология.

Поставките се намират във фонда на НАИМ – БАН като в инвентарните книги са записани под общ номер – 1714. Керамичните поставки са с триъгълна форма, с три правоъгълни рамена с трапецовидно напречно сечение. От едната страна повърхността е плоска, а от другата при краищата на поставките са моделирани пирамидални ниски крачета. По вътрешната повърхност на раменете се забелязват плитки жлебове, които прекъсват преди зоната, в която се свързват, образувайки ръбове. Поставките са широки 6 см и високи 2,2 см. По повърхността им има коси/диагонални линейни следи от оглаждане (?). Глината, от която са направени, е светлокафява до бежова, без примеси, като на отделни места има следи от съвременни отчупвания при връхчетата на крачетата.

В литературата тези предмети са известни като „триножки“. Според начина на производство могат да бъдат разделени на три групи, като за целите на изследването могат да се споменат две от тях: 1. направени на ръка; 2. изработени чрез отливане в калъп. Екземпляри от затворени комплекси от Атинската агора се датират в късноримският период. Те са пособия с триъгълна/звездовидна форма и три малки заострени крачета и са употребявани като разграничителни поставки между съдовете, за да попречат на слепването при изпичането им. Понякога след изпичането, при отделяне на съдовете

остават белези от външната повърхност на съда, което е видно от наличието на следи от глазура върху поставките (Charalambous 2014, 281). Поради тяхната роля на разделители при изпичането се смята, че са били изработвани от местни глинни и техният химичен и минералогичен състав е достоверен източник за съдържанието на глината, използвана от работилниците в даден район.

Горепосочените данни за находките от територията на днешна Гърция дават възможност да се приеме с по-голяма сигурност, че поставките от Брезово могат да бъдат датирани най-рано към началото на XIII – XIV в., като остава нерешен проблемът за причините за тяхното присъствие в гробния инвентар, съставен от две групи от сребърни предмети – апликации и елементи от конска амуниция, и „...неголям набор от банкетни съдове...“ (Стоянов 2017, 12).

Ключови думи: Брезово, Средновековие, фиали, поставки, триноги, керамика от поствизантийския период

THE BULGARIAN GROUP OF SGRAFFITO CERAMICS WITH UNDERGLAZE MONOGRAMS: CHARACTERISTICS AND PROBLEMS

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to present the characteristics and to discuss the main issues of a specific group of sgraffito ceramics with underglaze monograms. These ceramics were produced locally in the Medieval capital of Bulgaria, Tarnovo, as well as in some other urban centres such as Cherven and Silistra. The samples' distribution matches an area controlled by the Tsardom of Tarnovo during the second half of the 14th c. The appearance of the group could be dated in the 1340s based on the decipherment of the monograms of Patriarch Symeon and its production and use most probably does not exceed the time of the Ottoman conquest. Huge plates and bowls covered with transparent, colourless, light green or yellow glazes seem to be of earlier date, as opposed to later samples of smaller size, more often glazed in darker shades. Monochromacy is a distinctive feature in most cases, as well as incised decoration of concentric circles, possibly inspired by the Zeuxippus Family ceramics. The inscriptions, placed closer to the rim of the vessels, are of great historical significance since some of them comprise the names and titles of Bulgarian tsars, patriarchs and other dignitaries like Ivan Alexander (1331 – 1371), Ivan Shishman (1371 – 1395) and Patriarch Theodosius II. The samples with royal monograms are concentrated at the Palace and those with patriarchal inscriptions – at the Patriarchate in Tarnovo. An interesting case are the sets inscribed with single letters originating from several monasteries, among which the plates and bowls marked with 'M' (meaning 40) from the Tarnovo monastery of the Holy 40 Martyrs stand out as the most numerous assemblage. The archaeological contexts clearly show a connection between vessels with certain monograms and particular complexes. Therefore the possibility for the group's free circulation as trade goods and its use by the ordinary population should be excluded.

Key words: Glazed pottery, sgraffito, monograms, Tarnovo, Zeuxippus Family

The sgraffito ceramics with underglaze monograms are still an insufficiently studied phenomenon for the Eastern Mediterranean region, the Aegean and the Black Sea in the 13th – 14th c. The earliest manifestations of the monogrammatic fashion on glazed tableware during this period are found on specimens of the groups Zeuxippus Family and Port St. Symeon Ware, mainly from the Holy Land and the Crusader's Levant (Avissar, Stern 2005, 51 – 54). Towards the beginning of the 14th c., the monograms became a characteristic decorative pattern for the Byzantine Elaborate Incised Ware (EIW), widespread on the shores and in the hinterland of the Black Sea (fig. 1). This group is characterized by highly standardized vessel shapes of small sizes (mainly bowls, plates, and cups), monochrome glazes and sgraffito decoration, executed in the champlévé technique – by taking away areas from the slip background (fig. 2). Its distribution is associated with the activity of Italian merchants in the region (François 2003, 166). So far, a ceramic workshop in Constantinople

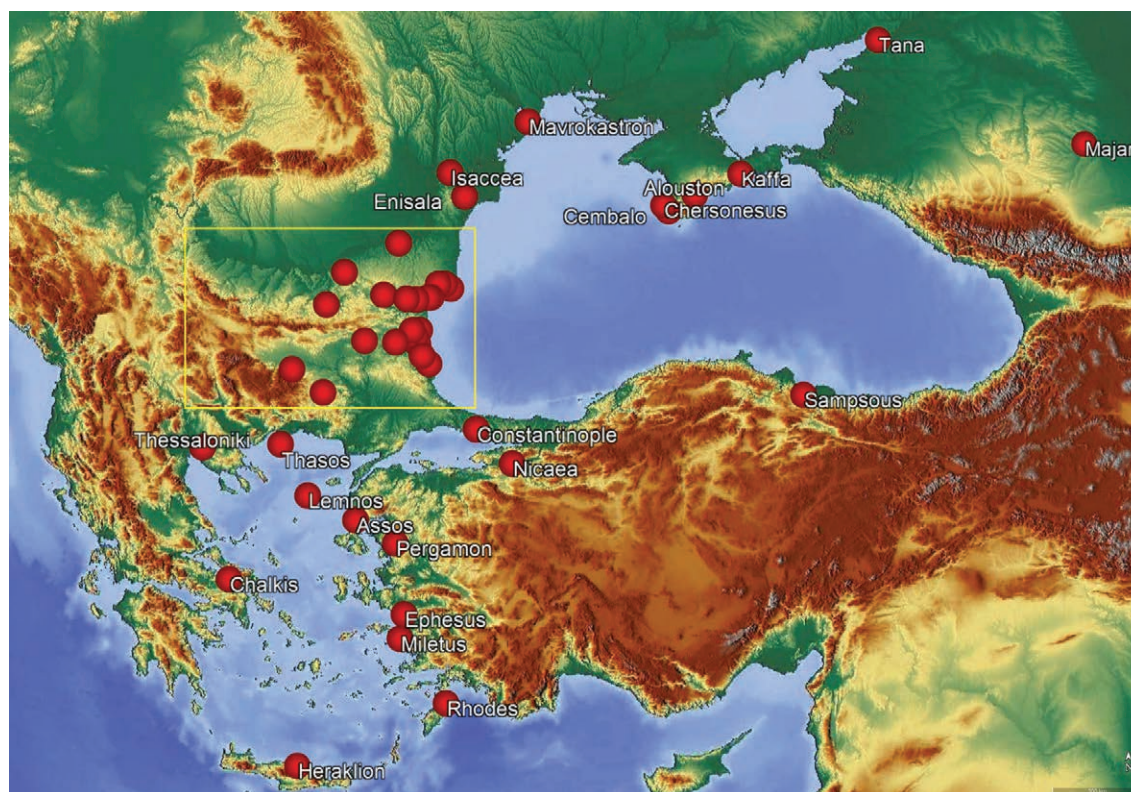


Fig. 1. Distribution of the Byzantine pottery with monograms from the Elaborate Incised Ware group
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Обр. 1. Разпространение на византийската керамика с монограми от групата Elaborate Incised Ware
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producing EIW has been studied (Waksman 2012, 148), but it is assumed that there are several more production centers (Kuleff, Djingova 2001, 73 – 76). The monograms themselves, engraved at the center of the inner surface of the vessels, are reduced to only four more common types and cannot be associated with specific individuals, workshops, etc. The main part of the samples of the Byzantine sgraffito ceramics with monograms, belonging to EIW, originate from centers that actively participated in the Black Sea trade and maintained strong ties with Constantinople – such as Nessebar, Sozopol, Varna, Kastritsi, and Kaliakra (fig. 3). Significant for the research of this pottery is the contribution of Al. Kuzev, who published a large part of the Varna collection (Кузев 1974, 155 – 170, табл. I – IX).

Quite different is the case of another group of sgraffito ceramics with underglaze monograms, which is found mostly in the capital of the Second Bulgarian Tsardom – Tarnovo, and can be denoted as **Bulgarian**. The very first scholars studying this pottery noted the differences with the Byzantine EIW (Ангелов 1980, 161). The uncovered Cyrillic inscriptions were quickly deciphered as names and titles of Medieval Bulgarian tsars and tsaritsas from the 13th – 14th c., of Tarnovo patriarchs and other representatives of the elite, and the vessels were accordingly interpreted as local products and not as Byzantine imports (Миятев 1967, 7 – 8). In the 1960s – 1980s a large amount of sgraffito ceramics with monograms was published successively by S. Georgieva (Георгиева 1966, 12, обр. 5; Георгиева 1974, 67 – 69, обр. 49 – 50, I), N. Angelov (Ангелов 1972, 60 – 61, обр. 11 – 13; Ангелов 1980, 154 – 158, обр. 151 – 156: VI – VII), Iv. Dzhambov (Джамбов 1978, 64 – 67; Djambov 1985, 261 – 266, Tabl. 1 – 2, 4), P. Slavchev (Славчев 1980, 217 – 220, обр.

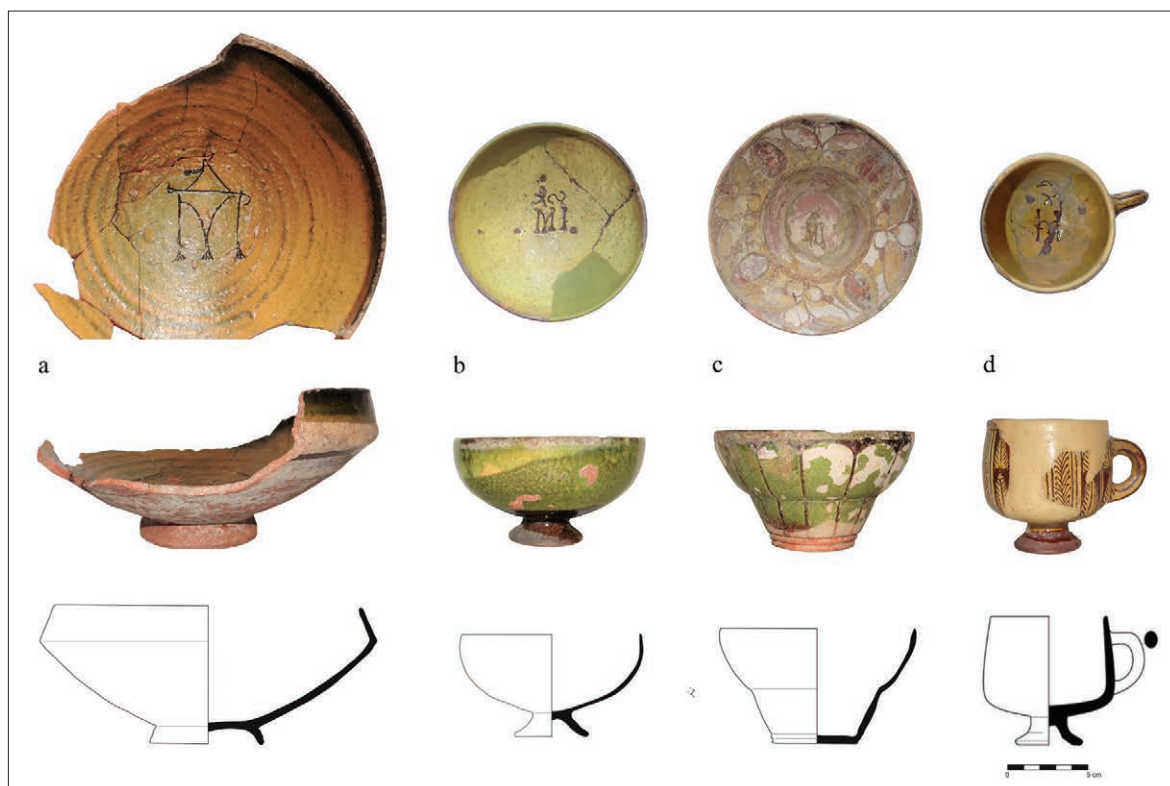


Fig. 2. Basic shapes of the Byzantine Elaborate Incised Ware: a. Plate with a monogram Prodromos (Kastritsi); b. Bowl with Michael (Varna); c. Bell-shaped cup with Michael (Varna); d. Cylindrical cup with Michael (Varna)
(graphic image by M. Manolova-Voykova)

Обр. 2. Основни форми на византийската Elaborate Incised Ware: а. Паница с монограм „Продромос“ (Кастрици); б. Купа с „Михаил“ (Варна); с. Камбановидна чаша с „Михаил“ (Варна); д. Цилиндрична чаша с „Михаил“ (Варна)
(граф. засн.: М. Манолова-Войкова)

4 – 5), At. Popov (Попов 1980, 183 – 185, обр. 10 – 15, 189 – 190; Попов 1984, 73 – 105, обр. 12 – 107, 148 – 151). Similar materials were later on published by At. Pisarev (Писарев 1992, 167, обр. 8), V. Nesheva (Нешева 2000, 49, обр. 29а, 83, обр. 70), Т. Ovcharov (Овчаров 2005, 204, обр. 51 – 53, 237 – 238, обр. 170 – 171), М. Dolmova-Lukanovska (Долмова-Лукановска 2003, 260, табл. III; Долмова-Лукановска 2007, 43, табл. XXIV: 3 – 4, 187 – 188, табл. V: 15 – 20, 280, табл. XIII: 1 – 3; Долмова-Лукановска 2008, обр. 43), М. Robov (Николова, Робов 2005, 109, табл. I; Робов 2010, 615 – 621; Робов 2015, 285, обр. 12), К. Totev (Тотев 2014, 239, обр. 1; Тотев 2017а, 152, обр. 1 – 2; Тотев 2017б, 168, обр. 5) and the team excavating the Northern sector of Trapezitsa (Дерменджиев 2011, 49, 110, обр. 12 – 13; Караилиев 2011, 138 – 140, 185 – 186, обр. 17 – 29; Тотев, Косева 2011, 235, 268, обр. 48). It is precisely the great historical value of the monograms on the vessels of this group that shifts the focus of its research in the direction of epigraphic observations, prosopographic and onomastic studies, political and social interpretations, etc. (Попов 1978, 76 – 81; Джамбов 1978, 64 – 69; Алексиев 1980а, 205 – 208; Алексиев 1980б, 443 – 450; Попов 1980, 176 – 187; Попов 1982, 345; Попов 1983а, 56 – 64; Попов 1983б, 64 – 74; Попов 1984, 26 – 41; Попов 1985, 358 – 359; Робов 1985, 395 – 403; Djambov 1985, 11 – 24; Овчаров 1992, 261 – 264; Алексиев 1994, 148 – 158, табл. 1 – 3; Анчева 1996, 109 – 114, табл. 1 – 4; Робов 1999, 517 – 522; Тотев 2014, 235 – 240; Робов 2015, 279 – 285; Тотев 2017а, 151 – 155; Тотев 2017б, 162 – 168). Almost no attention is paid to the vessels as such, with their functional-formal, technological and more general decorative characteristics. The

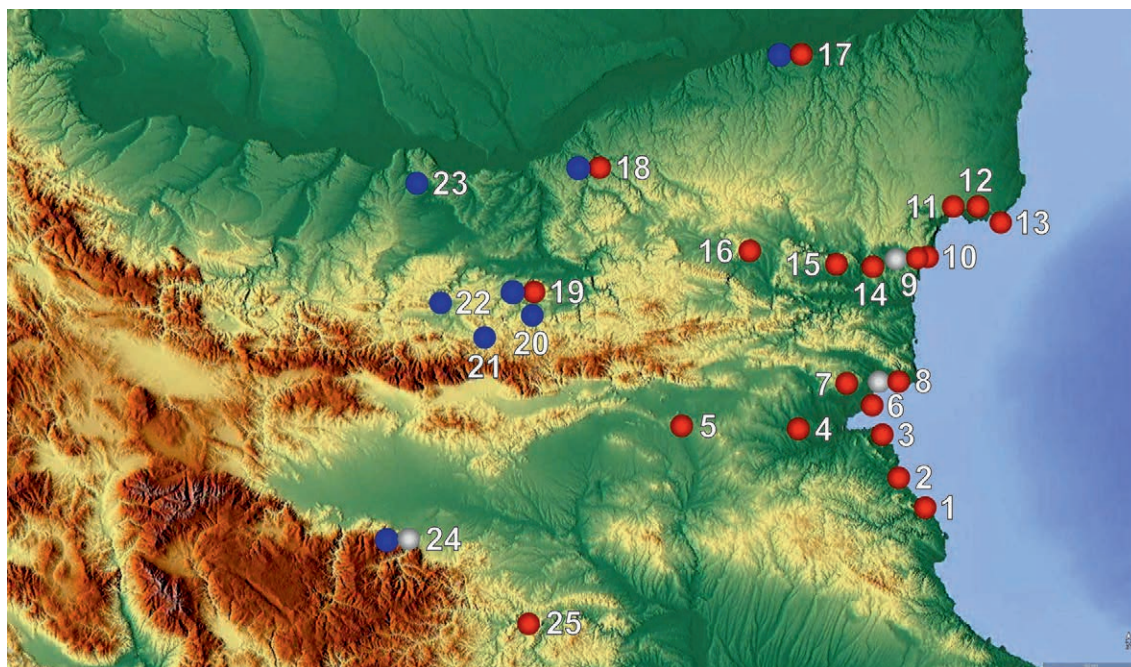


Fig. 3. Distribution of the Byzantine pottery with monograms from the Zeuxippus Family (white) and Elaborate Incised Ware (red), and the Bulgarian group (blue) from the territory of Bulgaria: 1. Ahtopol; 2. Kiten; 3. Sozopol; 4. Rousokastro; 5. Yambol; 6. Pomorie; 7. Kableshkovo; 8. Nessebar; 9. Varna; 10. Kastritsi; 11. Balchik; 12. Kavarna; 13. Kaliakra; 14. Petrich kale; 15. Provadia; 16. Shumen; 17. Silistra; 18. Cherven; 19. Tarnovo; 20. Kilifarevo monastery; 21. Gabrovo; 22. Gradnitsa; 23. Nikopol; 24. Asenovgrad; 25. Kardzhali (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 3. Разпространение на византийската керамика с монограми от групите Zeuxippus Family (бяло) и Elaborate Incised Ware (червено), и на българската група (синьо) от територията на България: 1. Ахтопол; 2. Китен; 3. Созопол; 4. Русокастро; 5. Ямбол; 6. Поморие; 7. Каблешково; 8. Несебър; 9. Варна; 10. Кастритци; 11. Балчик; 12. Каварна; 13. Калиакра; 14. Петрич кале; 15. Провадия; 16. Шумен; 17. Силистра; 18. Червен; 19. Търново; 20. Килифаревски манастир; 21. Габрово; 22. Градница; 23. Никопол; 24. Асеновград; 25. Кърджали (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

publications lack quality images, graphic representations, and often catalogue descriptions. The vessels are rarely and briefly considered in the more general context of the ceramic repertoire from Tarnovo, with its development over time, and with the various external influences on it (Георгиева 1966, 12; Ангелов 1972, 60; Георгиева 1974, 66 – 68; Ангелов 1980, 149 – 162; Славчев 1985, 159 – 160; Овчаров 1994, 169 – 170; Долмова-Лукановска 2003, 256; Долмова-Лукановска 2007, 24, 149, 157 – 159, 255, 260; Долмова-Лукановска 2008, 82 – 84). Sgraffito pottery with monograms from centers such as Cherven and Drastar (Silistra) is overshadowed by the one from the metropolitan city. Pieces outside of Tarnovo are generally either unpublished or mentioned in publications on a broader topic (Ангелов 1985, 256 – 247, обр. 30; Атанасов 2007, 353, табл. LXXIX: 435; Атанасов 2009, 329, 363; Колева 2010, табл. IV: 39, 711 – 712). R. Koleva's article on sgraffito ceramics from Drastar (Колева 2010, 695 – 712) should still be mentioned as a model for systematic and methodological research.

Characteristic features

A significant difficulty in the samples' analysis is posed by their fragmentation, as in the course of the excavations the sherds with underglaze monograms were mainly collected, while the other parts of the vessels have not been preserved. That is why mainly rims and walls on which the inscriptions are incised could be commented upon, as the bottoms are almost not available. A few

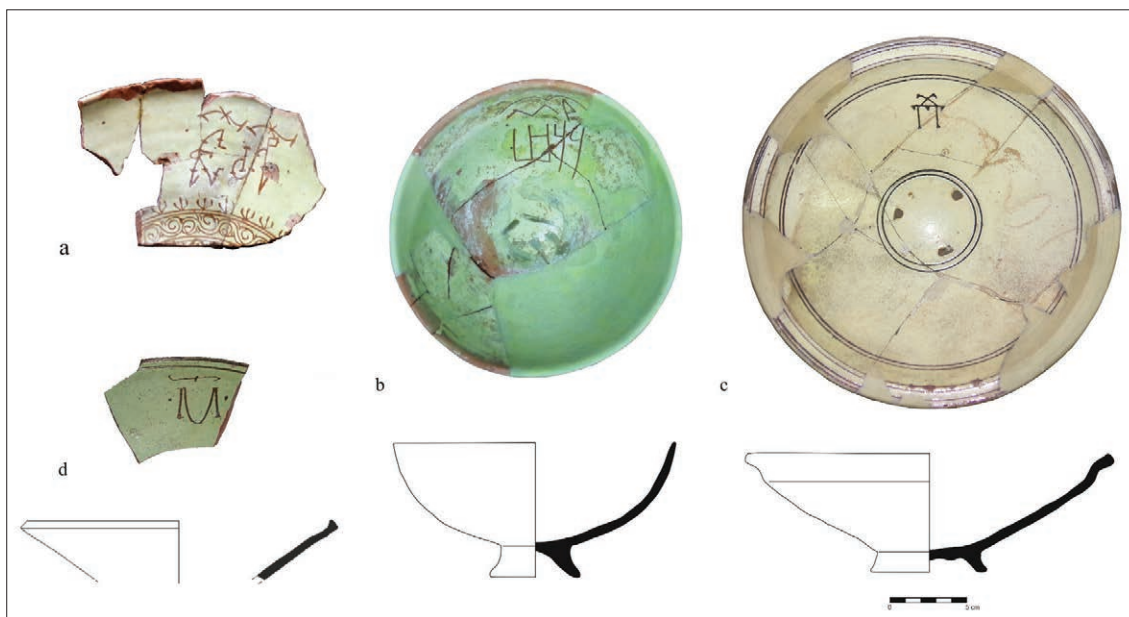


Fig. 4. Types of monograms from Tarnovo common for the Bulgarian group: a. Plate with monograms Alexander Tsar (Tsarevets: Royal palace); b. Bowl with monograms Shishman Tsar (monastery at the church of St. Demetrius); c. Plate with the monogram Patriarch (possibly Theodosius II) (Tsarevets: Patriarchate); d. Plate with the letter M with titlo (Great Lavra) (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 4. Популярни за българската група типове монограми от Търново: а. Паница с монограми „Александър цар“ (Царевец: Царски дворец); б. Купа с монограми „Шишман цар“ (манастир при църквата „Св. Димитър“); в. Паница с монограм „патриарх“ (вероятно Теодосий II) (Царевец: Патриаршия); г. Паница с буква М с титла (Великата лавра) (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

well-preserved and restored entire vessels bring more clarity. The observations presented here are based on 157 processed specimens of the Bulgarian group of sgraffito ceramics with underglaze monograms from the depots of Regional Museum of History (RMH) – Veliko Tarnovo (117 vessels), RMH – Silistra (18), NAIM – Sofia (10), RMH – Ruse (8), RMH – Gabrovo (2), RMH – Pleven (1), and MH – Asenovgrad (1),¹ as well as on 203 already published pieces that remained unavailable to me. Essential information is provided by the most common types of pottery with monograms of the tsars Ivan Alexander (1331 – 1371) and Ivan Shishman (1371 – 1395), of the Patriarch of Tarnovo Theodosius II, as well as the large series of vessels with incised underglaze letter M (fig. 4). Regarding the shapes, in all cases large-size deep plates (with rim diameters of 20 – 35 cm) predominate, mainly with a conical and less often with a spherical body (fig. 4c – d, fig. 5, fig. 7, fig. 9a, fig. 11a – c). Vessels with a biconical or more complex “angular” profile are exceptions. In several cases, the walls are embossed with grooves recessed by the potter’s fingers (fig. 5c). The layout of the rims varies from curved inward plain rims to rims drawn outwards, profiled from the inside like wide rounded grooves. Rims curved outwards and shaped like a curb are rare. The foot ring bases, if preserved, are low, wide and conical in shape. Among the bowls, vessels with a more closed shape, with a spherical and less often with a biconical body, and rim diameters of 15 – 20 cm are most common (fig. 4b, fig. 6, fig. 9d). The rims are either straight and plain, gradually tapering towards a rounded lip, or with a slightly S-shaped curve. The bottoms stand on low conical foot

¹ I express my gratitude to E. Dermendzhiev, N. Borisova, R. Koleva, Kr. Mihaylov, M. Robov, B. Tomova, S. Yordanov, S. Velikova, R. Yosifov, V. Naydenov, V. Ivanov, R. Moreva, Z. Krasteva for their assistance in finding and processing the materials, as well as to the National Program “Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows” for the provided research opportunities and support.

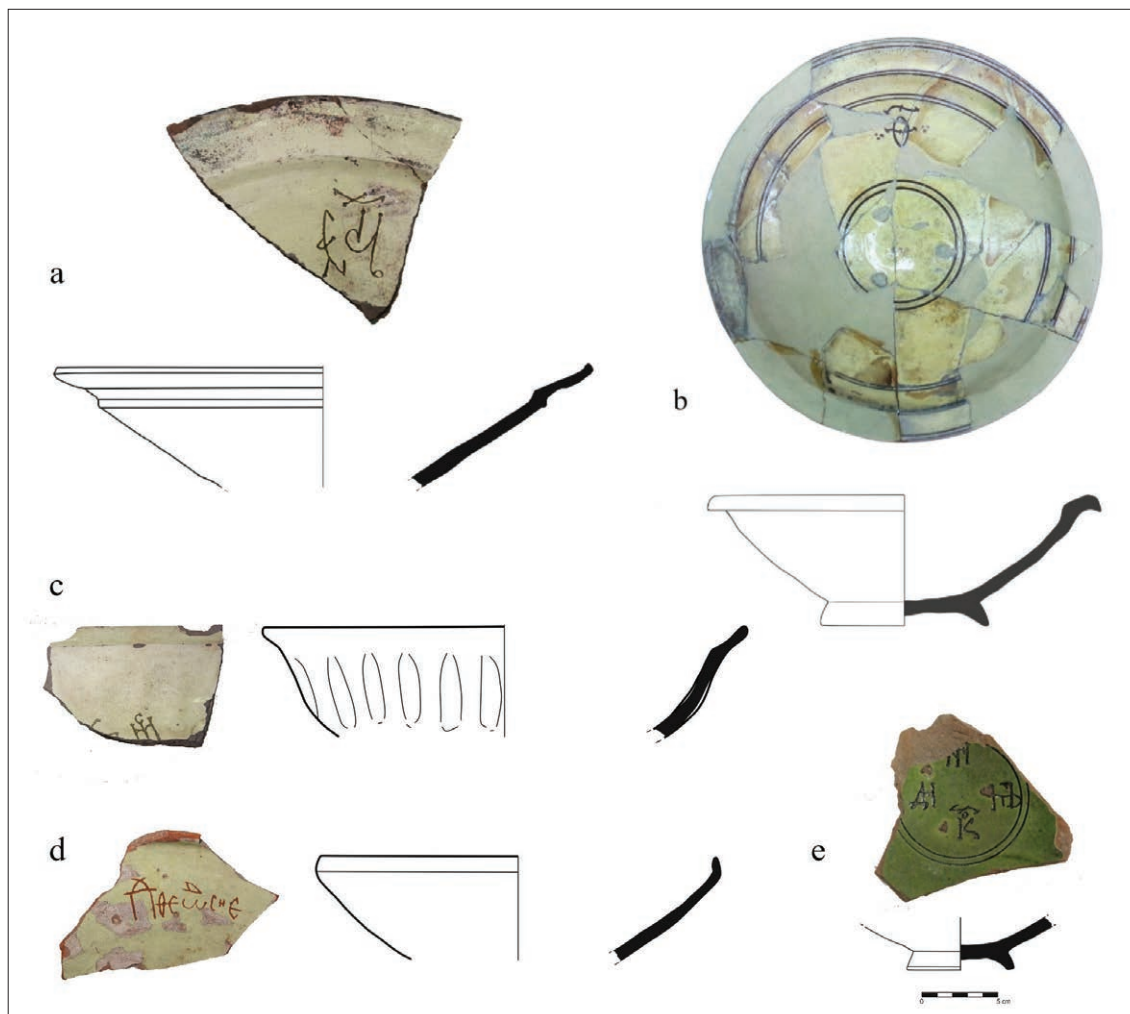


Fig. 5. Characteristic shapes of plates from Tarnovo: a. Conical plate with monograms of Tsar Ivan Alexander (Tsarevets: Royal Palace); b. Spherical plate with the initial of Tsaritsa Theodora II (Tsarevets: Royal palace); c. Spherical plate with relief grooves and monograms of Patriarch Symeon (Tsarevets: Northwestern slope of the Patriarchate); d. Conical plate with inscription of Patriarch Theodosius II (Tsarevets: site No. 16); e. Conical plate with cruciform monogram Nicodemus (Tsarevets: Northwestern slope of the Patriarchate) (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 5. Характерни форми паници от Търново: а. Конична паница с монограми на Иван Александър (Царевец: Царски дворец); б. Сферична паница с инициал на царица Теодора II (Царевец: Царски дворец); в. Сферична паница с релефни канелюри и монограми на патриарх Симеон (Царевец: северозападен склон на Патриаршията); д. Конична паница с надпис на патриарх Теодосий II (Царевец: обект № 16); е. Конична паница с кръстовиден монограм „Никодим“ (Царевец: северозападен склон на Патриаршията) (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

rings. For the time being, the group in question includes single vessels with a closed shape, such as three jugs from Tarnovo, glazed on the outside (Попов 1984, 88, обр. 60, 94, обр. 75; Караилиев 2011, 186, обр. 26), and an unpublished cup – chalice from Cherven. From Cherven originates the only example of decorative ceramics that is not household and tableware: a bowl insert for ceramoplastic façade decoration with an incised underglaze monogram (Сенгалеви́ч 2019, 114, обр. 3). One of the sherds with an inscription of Patriarch Theodosius of Tarnovo seems to be part of the stem of a glazed ceramic candlestick, which separates it as the only representative of the ceramics with special functions (Попов 1984, 74, обр. 14).

The vessels from Tarnovo and Cherven are distinguished by their monochromacy, which from

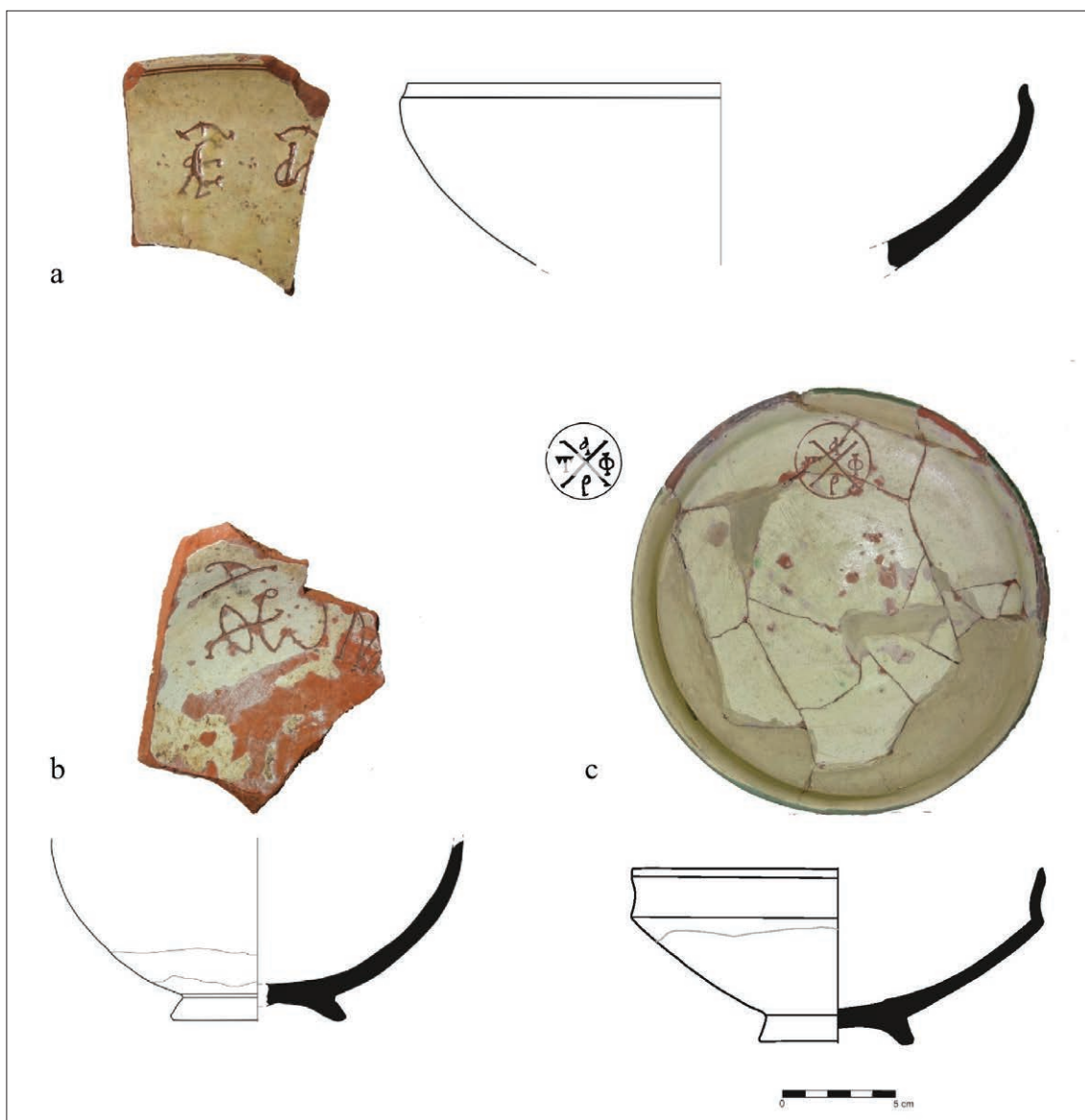


Fig. 6. Characteristic shapes of bowls from Tarnovo: a. Spheroconical bowl with monograms of Ivan Alexander (Tsarevets: Royal palace); b. Spherical bowl with monogram Theodora (Tsarevets: site No. 10); c. Biconical bowl with monogram Chartophylax (Great Lavra) (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 6. Характерни форми купи от Търново: а. Сферично-конична купа с монограми на Иван Александър (Царевец: Царски дворец); б. Сферична купа с монограм „Теодора“ (Царевец: обект № 10); в. Биконична купа с монограм „хартофилакс“ (Великата лавра) (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

an aesthetic point of view is not very typical for the local ceramic fashion of the second half of the 14th c. They are covered with white or creamy slip and glaze, which varies from transparent and colorless, through such of pale green color, which is the most common shade, to light yellow, dark yellow, reseda, dark green, and brown. In some vessels the slip and glaze are applied entirely on both sides (usually of the same color on the inside and on the outer surface), while in others on the outside there is only a slip coating, or a band of white slip under the rim, sometimes covered with glaze. Occasionally a strip without a slip coating is left on the lip, apparently in order for the fabric under the glaze to stand out contrastingly (fig. 4b, fig. 6c). There are few specimens from Tarnovo that are

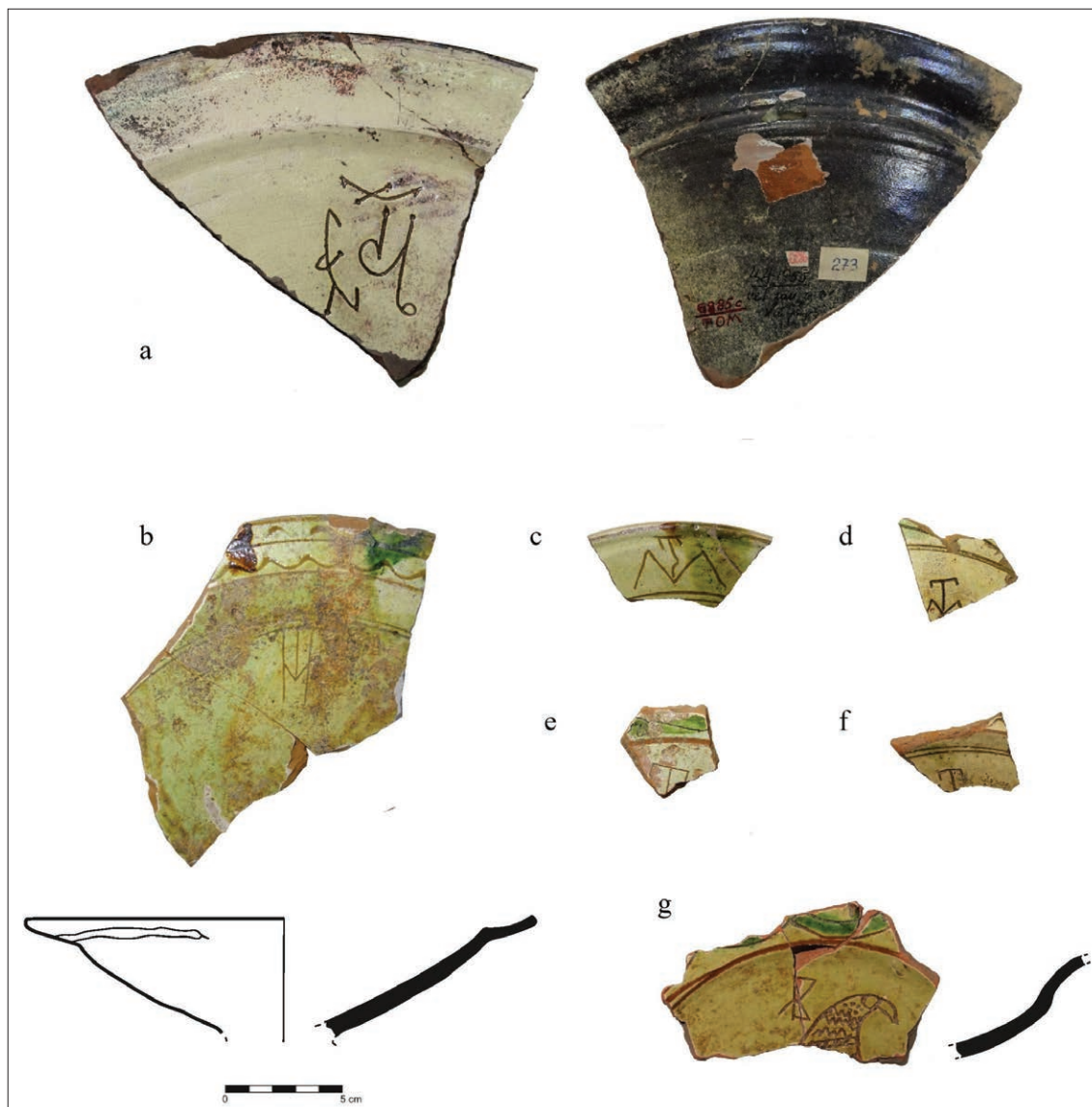


Fig. 7. Characteristics of the color scheme and the sgraffito decoration: a. Plate with monograms of Ivan Alexander with a partial covering and splashes of dark purple glaze (Tarnovo); b. – f. Polychrome vessels with monograms Metropolitan and incised concentric geometric and floral patterns (Silistra); g. Polychrome plate with monogram Vladimir(?), with geometric and zoomorphic decoration (Gabrovo – Vitata stena) (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 7. Особенности на колорита и сграфито украсата: а. Паница с монограми на Иван Александър с частично покритие и пръски тъмновиолетова глазура (Търново); б. – ф. Полихромни съдове с монограми „митрополит“ и концентрично врязана геометрична и флорална украса (Силистра); г. Полихромна паница с монограм „Владимир“ (?), с геометрична и зооморфна украса (Габрово – Витата стена) (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

not monochrome: in one case with a monogram of Tsar Ivan Alexander the lip is additionally decorated with green lines, in several vessels with different monograms there is a decoration of colored spots on the outer surface (Георгиева 1974, 67 – 68, обр. 49: 1, обр. 50: 2; Попов 1980, 185, обр. 14), and in other samples the letters of the inscriptions are emphasized with yellow or brown glaze. Three bowls with monograms of Ivan Alexander stand out for their spotted, 'marble' decoration, obtained by sprinkling the surface during the glazing with presumptive manganese compounds gave a specific dark purple color, most dense on the outer surface and on the rim of the vessels (fig. 7a). In some contrast to this monochrome look are samples from Silistra and Gabrovo, which are

distinguished by green and brown spots or stripes added to the glaze which usually emphasizes the patterns incised close to the rim (fig. 7b – g).

In almost one third of the specimens, apart of the underglaze inscriptions, additional incised decoration is observed. This is typical for vessels with certain types of monograms (e.g. with initials Θ and letters M), while in others, such as the sherds with inscriptions of Patriarch Theodosius or Tsar Ivan Shishman, it is almost non-existent. The sgraffito decoration is organized concentrically and is based mainly on geometric patterns. It consists mostly of two or three concentric circles on the bottom, and one to three bands of two or three circles on the walls and on the inner side of the rim (fig. 4c – d, fig. 5b, e, fig. 6a, fig. 11a – d). The spiral pattern at the center of the bottom is less common (fig. 11c). On individual specimens from Tarnovo, a band comprising a swirling floral pattern is incised above the monogram on the upper part of the walls (Попов 1984, 82, обр. 36) or instead, a band with a geometrized angular interlace (Нешева 2000, 83, обр. 70) – a very common pattern for the Tarnovo repertoire of the second half of the 14th c. (Рабовянов 2015, 282). Characteristic of the samples from Silistra with Metropolitan's monograms are the bands of straight and wavy lines on the rim, sometimes combined with a band of floral or spiral swirling patterns (fig. 7b – f). Most exquisitely decorated is a plate from Tarnovo on the inner surface, under the monograms of Ivan Alexander, there is an incised band with a spiral swirl, bordered by two pairs of concentric circles with geometrized palmettes on the outside, which encloses a medallion at the bottom (fig. 4a). In the decorative schema of a plate from the Vitata Stena locality, Gabrovo region, the geometric decoration along the rim is combined with a zoomorphic one: an eagle standing in profile and facing to the right (fig. 7g). Highlights of the decoration are almost always the underglaze monograms, incised on the inner side of the vessels, in the free space between the bottom and the rim. Only in the case of three vessels with monograms of Ivan Alexander and Ivan Shishman the inscription is applied on the outside or on both sides. The monograms on the four closed-shaped vessels are also found on the outer surface. It is presumed that Cyrillic inscriptions are typical for the Bulgarian group, although there are several Greek ones (Сенгалевиц 2019, 120).

Production and distribution

Relatively often there are noticeable traces on the sherds from the manufacturing process of glazed ceramics: mainly imprints from tripod stilts, usually three in number on the inner side of the bottom, and less often on the outside at the spots where the vessels have clung when stacked on top of one another in the kiln. In the case of a plate from Tarnovo with an inscription of Patriarch Theodosius (fig. 5d, fig. 8a) and also a sample from Silistra (Колева 2010, 711, обр. 39) some glaze has flowed through a crack in the walls, which probably indicates that the vessels cracked during the second firing, i.e. they should be considered as wasters. The chemical analyses performed on fragments with monograms from Tarnovo and Cherven clearly show their local origin, and the samples from Tarnovo group together with examined semi-finished products from the kilns on the eastern slope of Tsarevets (Кулев и др. 1993, 134 – 135; Кулев и др. 1991, 290; Kuleff, Djingova 2001, 72, 74). The production of sgraffito pottery with concentric circles from this location is supported by the presence of semi-finished products (Алексиев 1987, 56, обр. 3). Mica, sand and pores from burnt-out organics are characteristic for the fabric of the vessels from these two centers, as well as from Silistra. After firing (sometimes unevenly) it has turned to pink or orange-brown color (fig. 8b – d). Despite the impressive scale of the Tarnovo production, in which several different workshops probably took part, the geographical distribution of the ceramics is very limited. In Tarnovo itself, the pieces originate mainly from the Tsarevets hill, concentrate at the Palace and the Patriarchate, as well as from the Great Lavra Holy 40 Martyrs, and to a lesser extent from

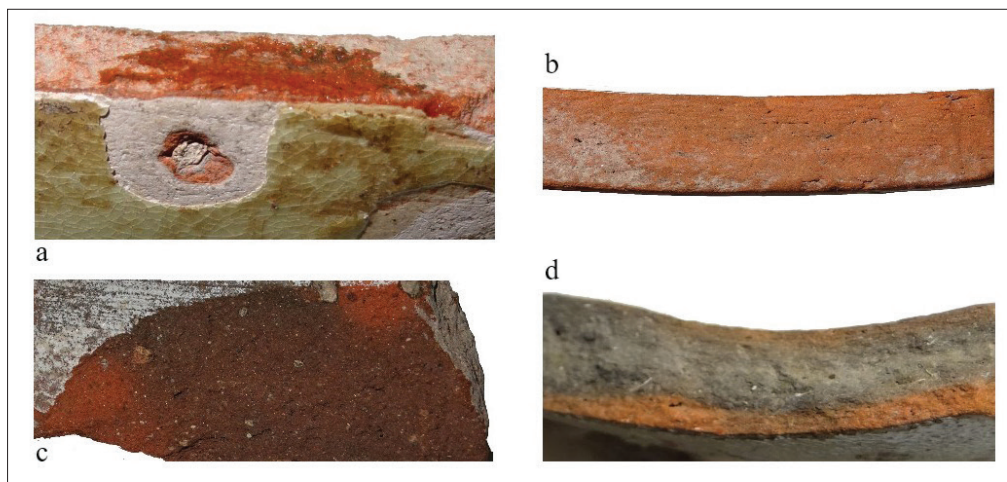


Fig. 8. Technological observations: a. Spot of melted glaze in the cracks of the wall of a vessel with an inscription of Patriarch Theodosius II (Tarnovo – Tsarevets: site No. 16); b. Characteristic evenly fired core of a plate with monograms of Ivan Alexander. The fabric is purified, pink-orange, with minor inclusions of mica, sand and small pores (Tarnovo – Tsarevets: Royal palace); c. Characteristic unevenly fired coarser core of a plate with monograms of Ivan Shishman, with larger sand inclusions (Tarnovo – Tsarevets: Royal palace); d. Characteristic 'tripartite' core of a bowl with monograms of Ivan Shishman (Silistra, church No. 2) (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 8. Технологични наблюдения: а. Петно разлята глазура в лома на съд с надпис на патриарх Теодосий II (Търново – Царевец; обект № 16); б. Характерен равномерно изпечен лом от паница с монограми на Иван Александър, изработена от пречистена розово-оранжева глина с дребни примеси слюда, пясък и шуплички (Търново – Царевец; Царски дворец); в. Характерен неравномерно изпечен лом от паница с монограми на Иван Шишман, с по-едри примеси пясък (Търново – Царевец; Царски дворец); д. Характерен „триделен“ лом от купа с монограми на Иван Шишман (Силистра, църква № 2) (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

other complexes, such as the monastery at the church of St. Demetrius and the ensembles around churches Nos. 2, 3 and 8 on the Trapezitsa hill. Outside the territory of the metropolitan city, the representatives of types typical of Tarnovo are rare: two sherds originate from the Kilifarevo monastery and one each from Gradnitsa, Nikopol, and Asenovgrad (fig. 3). In this regard, the set of five vessels with monograms of Tsar Ivan Shishman, discovered in Silistra, completely identical to the ones in Tarnovo, deserves to be commented upon more seriously (fig. 9). The great variety in the manner of writing Shishman's monograms seems to reflect the handwriting of several potters using different models for the inscriptions. It is significant that according to the chemical analyses, the sgraffito pottery with monograms of Ivan Shishman from Tarnovo is set into three different groups. It seems that vessels with the letter M were also produced in more than one metropolitan workshop (Кулев и др. 1993, 133 – 135). At the same time, the presence of local production of sgraffito pottery with monograms in Cherven and Silistra can be assumed both on the basis of archaeological excavations (Йорданов 2009, 139 – 146; Колева 2010, 695 – 712) as on the basis of the peculiarities in the shapes and decoration, and above all because of the types of monograms that are found only in these centers.

Chronology

The connection of the specimens to specific historical figures known from the sources to the underglaze inscriptions, and their analysis in the context of the data from archaeological excavations, provides an exceptional opportunity to refine their chronology. This in turn facilitates the chronological follow-up of the development of the Bulgarian sgraffito ceramic group with monograms throughout half a century. The uncertain decipherment of monograms of Tsar Georgi Ter-

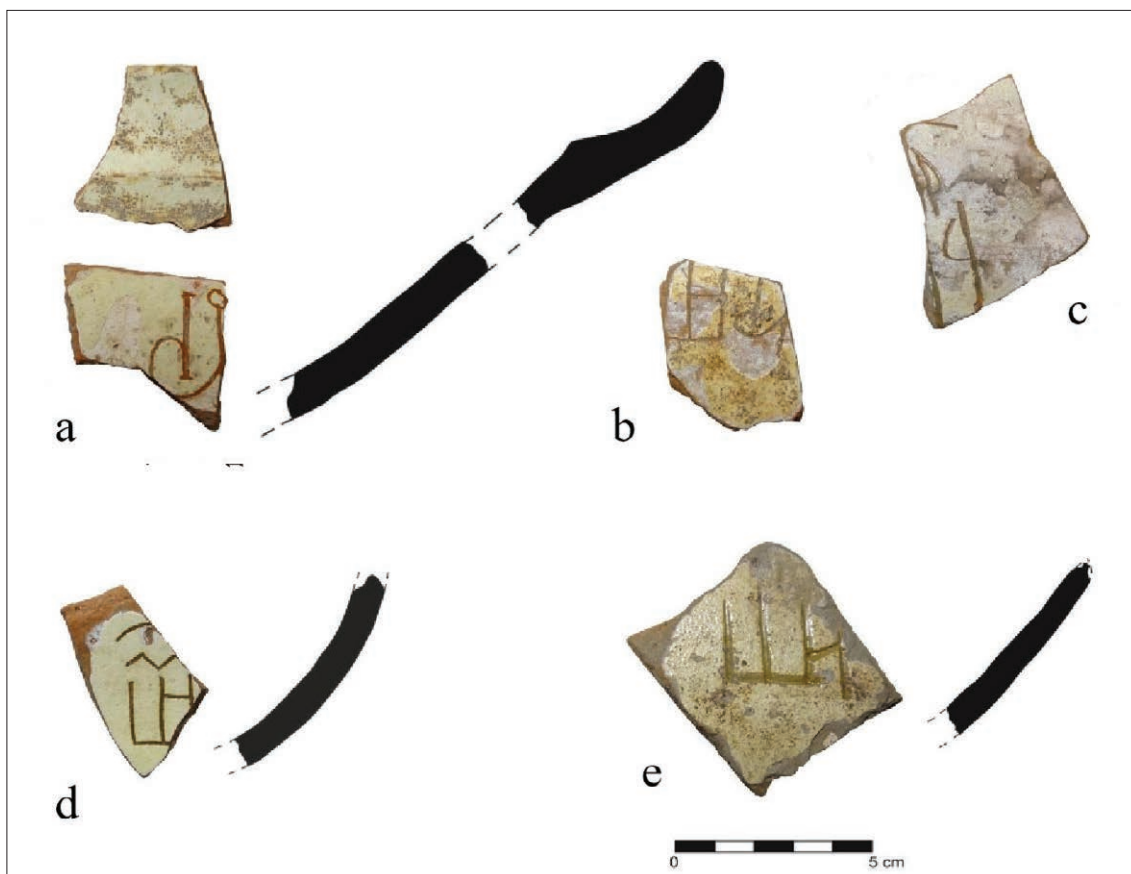


Fig. 9. Sgraffito ceramics with monograms of Tsar Ivan Shishman from Silistra (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 9. Сграфито керамика с монограми на цар Иван Шишман от Силистра (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

ter I (1279 – 1292) on the basis of posterior analogies (Авдев 2007, 245), as well as the misinterpretation of the letter M as the initial of Tsar Mihail Shishman (1323 – 1331) (Попов 1980, 179; Попов 1983b, 68 – 69; Попов 1984, 30 – 31), that was later refuted (Робов 1985, 401 – 402; Овчаров 1992, 261; Анчева 1996, 114), initially sets the appearance of the pottery with monograms in the last quarter of the 13th c. T. Ovcharov goes even further, as in the standard monograms of Ivan Alexander on a vessel from the area of the Small Gate of Tsarevets he sees the name of Tsar Ivan Asen II (1218 – 1241) (Овчаров 2005, 127). Actually, the first ruler whose underglaze monograms are found on vessels is Tsar Ivan Alexander. But when exactly during his 40-year rule should the beginning of the Tarnovo production of pottery with monograms be set? The relative uniformity of the ceramic forms, of their color scheme and decoration, as well as the uniformity of the underglaze inscriptions 'Alexander Tsar', the relatively small number of vessels (29) and their limited distribution are all indications that this is a series ordered and produced in a rather short period of time. The results of chemical analyses of sgraffito pottery, showing with only one exception, that the samples with monograms of Ivan Alexander form a common cluster, provide an additional argument in that direction (Кулев и др. 1993, 134). The closest parallels to the underglaze inscriptions can be taken as a chronological indicator: the signature of the tsar on the back side of the Mraka Charter from 1348 (Попов 1978, 72) and the monograms on a type of bronze coins minted in 1355/1365 – 1371 (Пенчев 1984, 19 – 20; Дочев 2009, 194 – 196). The discovery of a vessel with the initial Θ, deciphered as the monogram of his wife Tsaritsa Theodora II, in the Kili-



Fig. 10. Monograms of Patriarch Symeon on vessels from the Patriarchate in Tarnovo (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 10. Монограми на патриарх Симеон върху съдове от Патриаршията в Търново (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

successfully reconstructed in their entirety (fig. 10). To the right of the well-known monogram Patriarch incised is a bar monogram composed of the letters M, C and GO, which should be deciphered as Symeon. The connection with the Tarnovo Patriarch Symeon, known from several written sources, seems indisputable. According to Dušan's Code, he took part in the Council of Skopje in 1346 (Новаковић 1898, 4), and in the Boril Synodic he is mentioned as the successor of Ioannicius I and the predecessor of Patriarch Theodosius II (Попруженко 1928, 91). In 1347 – 1348 Symeon commissioned the translation of the Interpretive Gospel of St. John the Theologian (Гюзелев 1977, 208). According to Y. Andreev, he died around 1348, when Patriarch Theodosius was already mentioned in a note from a certain Vidin Gospel (Андреев 1993, 37 – 41). The identification of vessels with underglaze monograms of Patriarch Symeon is of great importance, because this seems to be the first patriarch of Tarnovo, who, following the Byzantine fashion trends, created his own monograms, and ordered them to be placed underglaze on tableware from the Patriarchate. This makes it possible to set the lower chronological limit for the Bulgarian group somewhere in the 1340s and rather towards the mid-14th c. From morphological, technological and decorative point of view these three vessels are most similar with several other specimens with monograms of Ivan Alexander and Patriarch Theodosius II, whose production date could also refer to the years around the mid-14th c. These earlier types are distinguished by massiveness of the vessels, with rim diameters of 25 – 35 cm for the plates. They are on both sides with dense white slip and a high-quality, transparent and colorless glaze. The archaeological picture from the excavations of the Patriarchate in turn provides important chronological evidence on the use of the pottery with monograms. A large number of the specimens found there, as well as the silver coins of Ivan Alexander and Mihail Asen from the complex, were badly damaged apparently as a result of a large fire that affected the Patriarchate (Ангелов 1980, 154 – 155). The fire is dated to 1355 at the latest, but given the new data on this coin type, the issue of which continued in the first years of the reign

farevo monastery (Робов 1985, 398), sets a certain *terminus post quem* in the mid-14th c., when the monastery was founded. Another chronological benchmark is set by the archaeological situation from the eastern residential wing of the Royal Palace (Георгиева и др. 1973, 100), where a fragmented plate with the same initial (fig. 5b) was found along a large collective find of 791 silver coins from the early issues of Ivan Alexander with Mihail Asen. They are characterized by higher coin weight, good workmanship, and inverted monogram Tsar. The coins, together with the plate, were severely damaged in a fire that occurred according to numismatic data no later than 1355 – 1356 (Дочев 1983, 3 – 5). Particularly important in order to refine the beginning of the monogrammatic fashion in Tarnovo are three huge, deep vessels from the area of the Patriarchate, the inscriptions on which are partially preserved, but when combined the monograms can be

of Ivan Shishman (Дочев 2009, 135 – 150; Авдѣв 2007, 108 – 109), the date of the fire can be drawn further in time, up to the 1360s or even the 1370s. Among the published coins (Ангелов 1980, 94 – 101) predominates the reversed image of the monogram Tsar, characteristic for the earlier phase of this coin type, but it seems that there are also coins dated at the latest in 1366 – 1367, and even such from Ivan Shishman's time (with three dots instead of inscriptions).² A similar observation can be made for the bronze coins of Ivan Alexander with Mihail Asen, with the fortress of Tarnovo on the reverse. They were minted until 1360 (Дочев 2009, 162 – 167). This situation clearly dates the use of vessels with inscriptions of Patriarch Theodosius II, many of which bear traces of fire and smoke, in the third quarter of the 14th c. At the same time in another series of eight vessels from the Patriarchate with an incised initial П there are no traces of fire, which suggests their use after the reconstruction of the complex (fig. 11a). They are very similar in appearance to the vessels with incised letters from the Great Lavra and from Trapezitsa. The plates among them are smaller, with rim diameters of about 20 cm, and are respectively thinner-walled. Quite often they are covered with reseda, dark green or brownish glazes, while the outer surface is not entirely glazed (fig. 11a – d). It is possible that the majority of vessels with М (over 80),³ together with those with П (11 vessels in total), Б (4 vessels), and ГД (10 vessels), mark a second phase of the monogrammatic fashion in Tarnovo sgraffito ceramics in the time of Tsar Ivan Shishman, i.e. in the 1370s – 1380s. This 'degradation' in the direction of reducing the size of the vessels, deterioration of the quality of workmanship and decoration, and simplification and roughening of the inscriptions, is observed to some extent also in the pottery with monograms of the last Tarnovo tsar (fig. 4b, fig. 8d, fig. 9). The greater number of vessels of this type (38), their wider distribution, the relative variety in shapes and quality of workmanship, as well as the different variants of Ivan Shishman's monograms, may mean that they were not produced at once, i.e. they are not a transitory and one-time phenomenon. So far, however, the samples can hardly be arranged in a certain chronological order. This also applies to the set with Shishman's monograms from Silistra, whose appearance there can still be connected with certain historical events. As early as 1369, Drastar was handed over by Ivan Alexander to the Dobrudzha despot Dobrotitsa, and the town soon became the main base of his son – Ivanko Terter. G. Atanasov suggests that for a short period from 1385 until the campaign of Ali Paşa in 1388, Tsar Ivan Shishman managed to regain Drastar and even to restore its status as a metropolitanate of the Tarnovo Patriarchate (Атанасов 2007, 335). It is logical the vessels with monograms of the Drastar's Metropolitan to be referred also to this period of time (fig. 7b – f). At this stage it is difficult to specify the upper chronological limit for the production and use of sgraffito pottery with monograms. It is assumed that this fashion discontinued towards the very end of the 14th c. with the fall of the Bulgarian lands to Ottoman rule, which put an end to the royal and patriarchal institutions (Робов 2010, 616; Робов 2015, 284). Not so clear seems the situation in Drastar, whose ruler between 1389 and 1416 – 1417 was the Wallachian voivode Mircea the Elder (1386 – 1418) (Атанасов 2009, 194 – 207) series of five unearthed there and unpublished vessels with yet un-deciphered monograms that are difficult to classify, deserves special attention.

² I express special gratitude to Vl. Penchev from the National Museum of History – Sofia for the consultation and shared thoughts on the chronology of the published numismatic material from the Patriarchate.

³ Among the ceramics with the letter М, however, there are several specimens with the features of the earlier types (Георгиева 1974, 67, обр. 49: 4), which may mean that it appeared before the other types with incised initial letters. According to the periodization of K. Totev, the monastery around the church of the Holy 40 Martyrs, where most of the pieces with М were found, appeared around the middle of the 14th c. and functioned until 1393 (Тотев 2001, 39 – 42).

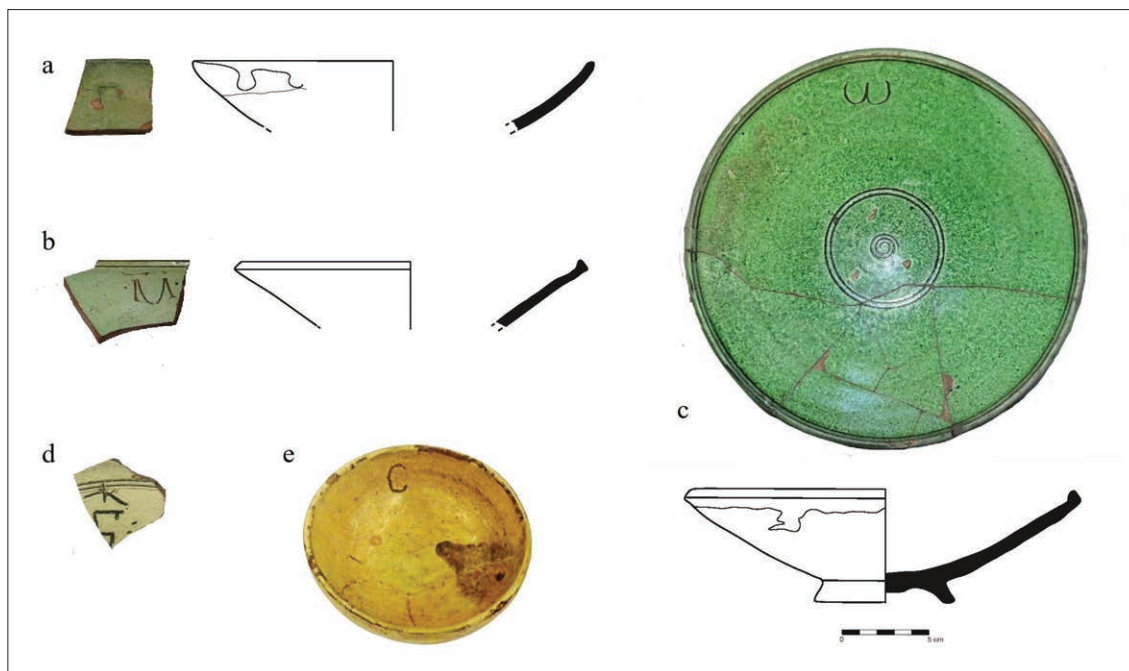


Fig. 11. Ceramics with underglaze incised letters, related to monastic compounds: a. Plate with initial П from Tarnovo (Tsarevets – Patriarchate: Northwestern slope); b. Plate with a numeral М – emblem of the Holy 40 Martyrs (Great Lavra: Northern courtyard); c. Plate with Г from Tarnovo (Trapezitza – Northern sector: Military building) (Author a – c: G. Sengalevich); d. Plate with Б from Tarnovo (Trapezitza – Southeastern sector: church No. 3; photo: M. Robov); e. Bowl with the letter С from Studenica, Serbia (Bikić 2015, 343 – 344)

Обр. 11. Керамика с подглазурно врязани букви, свързана с манастирски комплекси: а. Паница с инициал П от Търново (Царевец – Патриаршия: северозападен склон); б. Паница с числен знак М – емблема на Св. 40 мъченици (Великата лавра: северен двор); в. Паница с Г от Търново (Трапезица – Северен сектор: Военна сграда) (Автор а – в: Г. Сенгалевич); д. Паница с Б от Търново (Трапезица – Югоизточен сектор: църква № 3; снимка: М. Робов); е. Купа с буква С от Студеница в Сърбия (Bikić 2015, 343 – 344)

Functional characteristics

The analysis of the ceramic forms inevitably leads to the question of their functionality. Until now, the Bulgarian group with monograms has been interpreted mainly on the basis of the inscriptions and their reading. Kr. Miyatev was the first to identify them as signs of ownership (Миятев 1967, 8). Since at the beginning of the large-scale archaeological excavations of Tsarevets the discovered vessels with monograms originated exclusively from the compounds of the Palace and the Patriarchate, S. Georgieva and N. Angelov united around the hypothesis that they primarily represent the personal tableware of the tsars and patriarchs of the Second Bulgarian Tsardom, and were produced by specialized royal and patriarchal workshops (Георгиева 1974, 66; Ангелов 1980, 152, 159, 161 – 162). P. Slavchev additionally clarifies that some vessels could be an honorary possession of certain courtiers (Славчев 1980, 219). At. Popov admits that since the royal monograms were also signs of power, the vessels played a role in some ceremonies (Попов 1978, 80 – 81; Попов 1980, 181, 186; Попов 1982, 345; Попов 1983, 69). With the progress of the excavations in the Medieval Bulgarian capital, however, it became increasingly difficult to explain the discovery of sherds with monograms in multiple different places only with the looting and scattering of materials during the conquest of Tarnovo by the Turks in 1393 and the subsequent habitation of Tsarevets Hill. An impression began to arise that the use of sgraffito pottery with monograms was more widespread, since individual pieces were found in any context, incl. churches, monasteries,

military buildings, and common dwellings, inside and outside the fortified area of Tsarevets and Trapezitsa. In this regard, M. Robov suggests the participation of the vessels in the cult of the tsar and their use during festive meals on major holidays (Робов 1985, 398 – 403). V. Nesheva talks about ‘church utensils’ and the use of pottery in church rituals (Нешева 2000, 49, 112). N. Ovcharov, decoding the letters of some types as numerals, believes that they were used in commemorative practices (Овчаров 1992, 261 – 263; Караилиев 2011, 132 – 133). R. Ancheva seeks a connection with the ritual calendar (Анчева 1996, 114), and K. Totev – a pilgrimage function (Тотев 2017а, 153 – 154).

Some types of sgraffito ceramics with monograms, known by single or few pieces, can actually be interpreted as personal tableware, and the monograms on them – as signs of ownership, but also as personal emblems. In this sense, they are only somewhat similar to the content embedded in the graffiti, as well as in the longer underglaze inscriptions from a small group of vessels, which are most often associated with educated members of the clergy. These inscriptions, in addition to the name of the owner or author with explicitly stated possession (for example ‘Archimandrite’s vessel’) or authorship (‘I, priest Rad’), may also contain prayer formulas (‘Save, O Lord, the Reverend Nicholas’) (Ангелов 1980, 160, обр. 151, 155; Алексиев 1980а, 206 – 208; Алексиев 1980б, 447; Попов 1983а, обр. 7: 7, 8; Попов 1984, 73, обр. 11; Алексиев 1994, 150, 156 – 158, табл. 3; Алексиев 2003, 332, обр. 1; Тотев 2005, 212 – 215; Караилиев 2011, 140, 186, обр. 29; Тотев 2014, 239, обр. 1), while in other single cases the inscriptions represent underglaze Christian emblems, incantations, dates, etc. (Ангелов 1980, 161, обр. 151; Попов 1984, 102 – 103, обр. 97, 100; Djambov 1985, 265, Tabl. 3; Popov 1985, 866). The types containing more specimens however show a more intricate picture. The concentration of the vessels with monograms of Ivan Alexander in the premises of the Royal Palace, where they were used by its inhabitants (not necessarily by the ruler himself), is indisputable. A slightly later parallel in this respect are the bowls with monograms of the ruler of the Crimean principality Theodoro Alexander (1475), found in his residence in Funa (Тесленко 2016, 645, рис. 5и). Meanwhile, the discovery of pieces associated with Tsaritsa Theodora II in the Palace, but also in some of the large monasteries such as the one around the church of St. Demetrius (Николова, Робов 2005, 109, табл. I: 2) and the Kilifarevo monastery of St. Theodosius of Tarnovo allows their interpretation as gifts to the abbot or the brotherhood in connection with the patronage of the royal family, and especially of Tsaritsa Theodora. More significantly in the Boril Synodic it is explicitly said that she ‘renovated many churches and erected various monasteries’ (Попруженко 1928, 89), while from the Life of St. Theodosius of Tarnovo it is known that Tsar Ivan Alexander built a church and a tower for the hesychastic community in Kilifarevo (Златарски 1904, 19). The samples with underglaze monograms of the next Tsar Ivan Shishman obtain an even larger distribution area and some of them may have been presented as gifts to prominent and distinguished people, especially given the growing lack of money and hopelessness into which the last ruler of Tarnovo fell. In this regard, certain propaganda purposes may have been implied in the already mentioned five vessels with his monograms, found in Silistra during the excavation of Church No. 2 and the buildings around it (fig. 9). This is the only set with royal monograms found outside of the capital – furthermore in an important town which, unlike e.g. Cherven or Nikopol, was not a secure possession of Ivan Shishman. The vessels with monograms of the Tsar, found there, in all probability perform the same function as the Shishman’s inscription in Shumen: to demonstrate strength and to consolidate power over a town in the border lands of the Tarnovo Tsardom. In this background, the ceramics with monograms of Patriarch Theodosius II stands out with its concentration from the compound and the slopes of the Patriarchate on Tsarevets. Nevertheless, it is hard to imagine that it represented Theodosius’ personal tableware set, due to the extremely large number of specimens (105 vessels). It should not be forgotten that the Patriarchate, apart from being the residence and

seat of the head of the Bulgarian Church, was organized as a rather large monastery and probably functioned as exactly such a compound (Ангелов 1980, 19 – 30). Therefore it seems most likely that the vessels were used as monastery tableware. In this regard, the appearance of four vessels with underglaze inscriptions of Patriarch Theodosius, as well as all known specimens with inscriptions of Patriarch Euthymius, together with three vessels with the letter Π in the Great Lavra of the Holy 40 Martyrs (Попов 1984, 73 – 75, обр. 12 – 18, 104 – 105, обр. 103 – 105) is hardly accidental. So far the question of where the Bulgarian patriarch resided following the fire that burned the Patriarchate almost completely down to the ground has not been commented upon. In any case, it took at least a few years until its reconstruction and extension marked as a second construction stage of the complex (Ангелов 1980, 50 – 51). In the short time after the fire and before the renovation of the Patriarchate, there was hardly a more suitable place for the Patriarch than the monastery of the Holy 40 Martyrs. It is interesting to note that a bowl with a monogram, composed of the letters X, A, P, T, Φ, which can be read as the title chartophylax, originates from the same site (fig. 6c). It is known from sources of that time that the chartophylaxes played a significant role as the right hand of the Patriarchs of Constantinople and possessed very broad powers (Wehmeyer 1997, 109 – 111). The appearance in the 14th c. of a chartophylax, whose name is unfortunately unknown, is not a surprise, given that in Tarnovo the Byzantine system of noble titles and offices was strictly copied. Many hypotheses provoke the numerous series with the underglaze letter M, decoded quite reasonably as the numeral 40 (Робов 1985, 401 – 402). The samples of that type originate exclusively from the territory of the aforementioned monastery. Very similar are the vessels with the letter Б with a titlo interpreted as the initial of the Virgin Mary (Робов 2010, 617 – 618), from the monastic compounds at churches Nos. 3 and 8 on Trapezitsa, as well as the specimens with incised GO found in the Northern sector of Trapezitsa, inexplicably connected with Ivan Alexander on the basis of parallels with two underglaze inscriptions, originally read as ‘Father’ (Караимлиев 2011, 140, обр. 29; Тотев 2014, 235 – 240). The latest excavations of the ensemble near the northern fortress wall suggests that a monastery existed around church No. 2 in the last years of inhabitation of Trapezitsa (Тотев и др. 2015, 641). All this additionally suggests that the vessels with incised letters were used precisely as monastery tableware, in which food was served for the inhabitants of some of the metropolitan’s monastic compounds. In this regard, an interesting synchronous parallel bring several bowls from the Serbian Studenica monastery, marked underglaze with the letter C (Bikić 2015, 343 – 344), as an indication of the monastic property (fig. 11d).

So far, the characteristic location of the incised underglaze inscriptions – almost always on the walls of the vessels, near their periphery, has not been commented upon. This significant difference from the Byzantine groups Zeuxippus Family and Elaborate Incised Ware, where the monograms are incised at the bottoms, may be due to a different function. Byzantine inscriptions are most often interpreted as the names of saints (Papanikola-Bakirtzi 1999, 22), which should serve to bless the meals and to drive away harmful influences. It is logical that they are at the bottoms, in direct contact with the food or drink served. In the case of the Bulgarian group, the monograms seem to serve rather as signs of power and prestige, and placing them close to the rims to be visible, even when a vessel is used for its intended purpose, expresses a certain ostentation.

Conclusions

Regarding the origin of the monogrammatic fashion in the repertoire of the sgraffito ceramics produced in Medieval Bulgaria, scholars have so far been definite that it is a matter of Byzantine influence (Алексиев 1980, 449). However, it is hard to say that this influence reaches Tarnovo and other centers through the Elaborate Incised Ware that circulated in the same period mainly in the

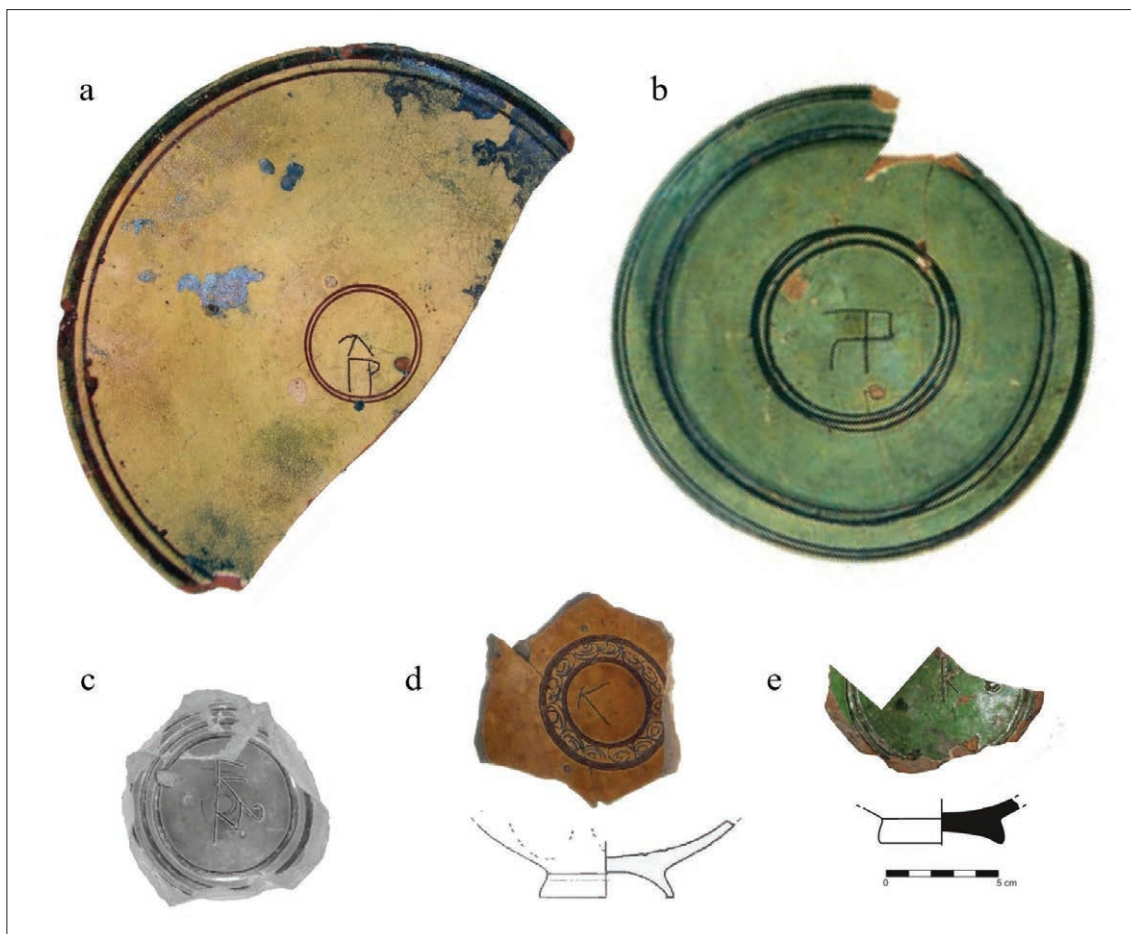


Fig. 12. Examples of Zeuxippus Family with underglaze monograms from the 13th – first quarter of the 14th c.: a. Plate from the Novy Svet shipwreck, Crimea, ca. 1277 (Photo: S. Zelenko); b. Plate from Acre, Israel (Stern 2012, Color Pl. 2: 11); c. Plate from Kadikalesi (Anaa), Turkey (Doğer 2004, 26, Res. 6); d. Plate with the letter K from Constantinople (Böhlendorf-Arslan 2013, 506 – 507, Taf. 154: Kat. 1227); e. Plate with the letter K from Varna (Author: G. Sengalevich)

Обр. 12. Образци на Зеухиппус Family с подглазурни монограми от XIII – първата четвърт на XIV в: а. Паница от корабкрушението при н. Новий свет, Крим, ок. 1277 г. (Снимка: С. Зеленко); б. Паница от Акра в Израел (Stern 2012, Color Pl. 2: 11); в. Паница от Кадъкалеси (Анаа) в Турция (Doğer 2004, 26, Res. 6); д. Паница с буква К от Константинопол (Böhlendorf-Arslan 2013, 506 – 507, Taf. 154: Kat. 1227); е. Паница с буква К от Варна (Автор: Г. Сенгалевич)

Black Sea region. S. Georgieva, who is looking for similarities between the monochrome ware from Tarnovo and Proto-Majolica, meanwhile was the first to note the possible connection between the vessels with concentric circles from the Palace and the Byzantine Zeuxippus Ware (Георгиева 1974, 64). Its various derivatives from the 13th and the 14th c., distributed in the Eastern Mediterranean, Northern Italy, the Black Sea and especially in the Aegean, are most often referred to by the collective name Zeuxippus Family (Vroom 2005, 110 – 111; Inanan 2013, 59 – 76) (fig. 12). The concentric circle is essentially the most common pattern for the sgraffito pottery from Tarnovo (Долмова 2001, 121), and the well-stratified excavations of D. Rabovyanov in the Southern sector of Trapezitsa clearly show the appearance of monochrome vessels with concentric circles in the 1230s (Рабовянов 2015, 275 – 278). It should be noted that among the Zeuxippus Family, although less common, underglaze monograms appear too. Unfortunately only three such examples from Bulgaria can be cited so far: from Nessebar, Varna and Asenovgrad (Кузев 1974, 169, обр. 47; Даскалов 2010, обр. 3:

13) (fig. 12e). In any case, a large part of the Bulgarian group with monograms could be considered as a later imitation of Byzantine prototypes, while other vessels with polychrome and richer sgraffito decoration fit well into the local ceramic repertoire of the second half of the 14th c. The analysis of the specimens clearly shows that the chronologically earlier vessels from around the mid- and the third quarter of the 14th c. are characterized by the higher quality of the workmanship, as they are more often glazed also on the outer side, with light and almost colorless glazes. The monogrammatic inscriptions are longer and often with a calligraphic layout. These vessels' smaller number and larger size suggest that they were used by more people – e.g. as plates placed in the middle of the table. At the same time, the specimens, which can be dated later, to the 1370s – 1380s, are characterized by more carelessly incised and shorter inscriptions (often only single letters), and smaller dimensions suggesting personal use. Both the chronological and the territorial scope of the Bulgarian group seem to be quite limited with the capital Tarnovo and several other centers of the Tarnovo Tsardom, that play an important role in terms of church organization. And if the lack of its representatives in the ceramics from Shumen can be partly explained by the absence of a bishopric there, then the same cannot be said for towns like Lovech, for example. Pieces of the Bulgarian group are not yet found within the Vidin Tsardom. Archaeological contexts clearly show the connection of vessels with certain monograms with specific compounds, which at this stage excludes the possibility of their free circulation as a commercial commodity and use by the common people. Thus, the pottery with royal monograms originates mainly from the Palace on Tsarevets, the vessels with patriarchal monograms – from the Patriarchate, and those with Metropolitan's monograms from Silistra – from the area of the episcopal residence of Drastar. The connection of the vessels with incised letters from Tarnovo with compounds, which can be interpreted as monastic, is also extremely interesting. Future chemical and petrographic analyzes of the samples can significantly contribute to clarifying the problems of the Bulgarian group with monograms. This research is a step towards a more in-depth, systematic study of sgraffito ceramics from the Bulgarian lands, as well as shedding light on a number of historical events, cultural ties, social phenomena and processes during the turbulent 14th century.

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БЪЛГАРСКАТА ГРУПА СГРАФИТО КЕРАМИКА С ПОДГЛАЗУРНИ МОНОГРАМИ – ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА И ПРОБЛЕМИ

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Настоящото изследване има за цел да представи характерните особености и да дискутира проблематиката на една група сграфито керамика с подглазурни кирилски монограми, която се открива най-масово в столицата на Второто българско царство – Търново. Изложените наблюдения се базират на общо 360 нейни образци. Основна информация дават най-масовите типове керамика с монограми на царете Иван Александър (1331 – 1371) и Иван Шишман (1371 – 1395), на Търновския патриарх Теодосий II, както и голямата серия съдове с врязана подглазурно буква М (обр. 4). Направените химични анализи на образци с монограми от Търново и Червен ясно показват техния местен произход, като материалите от Търново се групират заедно с изследвани полуфабрикати от пещите по източния склон на хълма Царевец. Съдовете най-често са формувани от изпечена (понякога

неравномерно) до розово или оранжево-кафяво глина с дребни примеси слюда, пясък и шуплички от изгоряла органика (обр. 8). Въпреки внушителните мащаби на търновското производство, в което вероятно са участвали няколко работилници, и предполагаемото местно производство на някои типове в Червен и Силистра, териториалният обхват на разпространение на групата изглежда доста ограничен със столицата и още няколко центъра на Търновското царство (обр. 3). Във формално отношение доминират дълбоките паници с големи размери, основно с конична и по-рядко със сферична форма (обр. 4с – d, обр. 5, обр. 7, обр. 9а, обр. 11а – с). След паниците най-често се срещат купи със сферично и по-рядко с биконично тяло (обр. 4b, обр. 6, обр. 9d). Съдовете от Търново и Червен са монохромни, което чисто естетически не е особено характерно за местната керамична мода от втората половина на XIV в. Тези от Силистра и Габрово се вписват по-добре в местния керамичен репертоар с допълнително нанесените към глазурното покритие зелени и кафяви петна или ивици (обр. 7b – g). При близо една трета от образците, освен подглазурните надписи, врязани по стените на съдовете близо до периферията им, се наблюдава и допълнителна сграфито украса. Тя е организирана концентрично и е базирана предимно на геометрични мотиви, най-често във вид на концентрични окръжности върху дъното, стените и устието (обр. 4а, с – d, обр. 5b, е, обр. 6а, обр. 11а – d).

Обвързването на образците с конкретни, известни от изворите исторически личности, чиито знаци съдовете носят, и анализирането им в контекста на данните от археологическите проучвания, предоставя изключителна възможност за хронологическо проследяване на развитието в българската група сграфито керамика с монограми в течение на половин век. Появата ѝ трябва да се търси някъде в 40-те години на XIV в. въз основа на откритите съдове с монограми на Търновския патриарх Симеон (обр. 10). За ранните типове от средата до третата четвърт на XIV в., сред които са и съдовете с монограми на цар Иван Александър, царица Теодора II и патриарх Теодосий II, като цяло са характерни масивността на образците, с диаметри от 25 – 35 см при устията на паниците, както и цялостното плътно двустранно покритие с бяла ангоба и качествена, прозрачна светла глазура. Документираният при проучванията на патриаршеския комплекс в Търново пожар индикира появата към 70-те години на XIV в. на съдове с врязан инициал П (обр. 11а). Те са много сходни по облик с керамиката с врязани букви М от Великата лавра „Св. 40 мъченици“, Б и СД от хълма Трапезица. Паниците сред тях се отличават с по-малки размери, с диаметри при устията от около 20 см, като съответно са и по-тънкостенни. Доста често са покрити с резедави, тъмнозелени или кафяви глазури, без цялостно глазиране отвън (обр. 11а – d). Възможно е тези типове да маркират втора фаза на монограмната мода в търновската сграфито керамика, във времето на цар Иван Шишман, т.е. 70-те – 80-те години на XIV в. Тази „деградация“ в посока редуциране на размерите на съдовете, влошаване на качеството на изработка и украса, и опростяване и огрубяване на надписите, се наблюдава донякъде и при керамиката с монограми на последния търновски цар (обр. 4b, обр. 8d, обр. 9). На този етап е трудно да се прецизира горната хронологическа граница за производството и употребата на сграфито керамика с монограми. Приема се, че тази мода прекъсва към самия край на XIV в. с падането на българските земи под османска власт.

Функциите, които българската керамика с монограми изпълнява, са до голяма степен свързани със смисъла, вложен в подглазурните надписи. Някои от типовете, познати с по един или няколко екземпляра, могат да бъдат интерпретирани като лична посуда, а монограмите върху тях – като знаци за собственост, но и като лични емблеми. Типовете с повече екземпляри обаче чертаят една по-сложна картина. Археологическите контексти ясно показват връзката на съдове с определени монограми с конкретни комплекси, от чиито обитатели те са били използвани. Това на този етап изключва възможността за тяхното свободно циркулиране като търговска стока и употреба от обикновеното население. Така например керамиката с царски монограми произхожда основно от Царския дворец в Търново, съдовете с патриаршески монограми – от Патриаршията, а тези с митрополитски монограми от Силистра – от района на митрополитския комплекс. Изключително интересна е и връзката на съдовете с врязани букви с няколко манастира в Търново, където те изглежда са ползвани като манастирска посуда. Всичко това отличава българската група от синхронната византийска керамика с монограми, спадаща към Elaborate Incised Ware (обр. 1, обр. 2). Доколкото може да се търси външно влияние във формирането ѝ, то по-скоро прониква чрез монохромната керамика Zeuxippos Family с украса от концентрични окръжности, при която също се срещат монограми (обр. 12).

Ключови думи: Глазирана керамика, сграфито, монограми, Търново, Zeuxippos Family

PARTS OF A MEDIEVAL DIADEM FROM THE FORTRESS NEAR THE VILLAGE OF ZDRAVKOVETS, GABROVO REGION

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ABSTRACT

Bulgarian Medieval diadems from the 13th – 14th c. are an interesting topic of study, but only few scholars paid them attention. The aim of the article is to present a part of a new silver gilded diadem. It was found in the necropolis of the Medieval fortress near the village of Zdravkovets, Gabrovo region. It belongs to the group of diadems composed of cassettes. Based on the comparative-typological analysis, it is proposed to connect a number of similar artefacts (from the village of Batovo, from the village of Prilep, Dobrich region, and from Montana) with the production of one, still unknown, workshop. The results of X-ray fluorescence analysis are also presented, which is applied for the first time for such artifacts from the Bulgarian lands and can serve as a basis for a comparative database. For the first time the technological scheme of jewelry making has been reconstructed in detail. The diadem is the second known from the region of Central Bulgaria, after the one from the necropolis of the Medieval settlement near the village of Kramolin, Gabrovo region, and testifies to the provincial aristocratic fashion from the time of the Second Bulgarian state. Later, during the Ottoman rule, the jewelry changed and became part of the folk women's costume in a way typical only for this region.

Keywords: diadem, adornments, jewelry, Middle Ages, technology analysis

A fragmented silver gilded diadem is housed at the depot of the Archaeology department in RMH – Gabrovo.¹ It was discovered during archaeological excavations in the “Vitata Stena” area near the village of Zdravkovets, Gabrovo region in 1964.² Two parts have been preserved: a central and a terminal segment (fig. 1).

The central segment (fig. 2a, b) has dimensions of 2.7 x 1.9 x 0.6 cm. The length of the side band (partially destroyed) is 7.4 cm. It is in the form of a cassette with a rectangular shape and thin walls. Its lower plaque is lined along the periphery with twisted round wires and at the protruding ends of the short sides, there are 2 additionally soldered tubes of spirally wound wire functioning as a hinge joint. The chipped-off axis is preserved in one of them. A piece of the same twisted wire is mounted over two of the tubes of the short sides, which lie opposite each other. The front plaque of the cassette is attached to the lower one by a narrow band, which is tightly soldered to the sheet metal panels. On one of the short sides in the middle of the cassette, the solder of the seam

¹ Inv. No. 755-A, FIN 179.

² The excavations of the site in the period of 1962 – 1965 were directed by Assoc. Prof. Atanas Milchev, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; unfortunately, no field documentation has been preserved.

binding the two ends of the band is visible (fig. 3). In the middle of the front plaque, a rectangular nest is formed with thin filigree wire, imitating a cabochon, and a parallelepiped semi-transparent beige-brown stone with round edges is inset in it. The stone is gripped on four sides by prongs with semi-circular section and flattened end. Around the “cabochon”, there are small circles of the same round wire in two sizes. The larger ones are in the corners and the smaller ones – on the sides; on the short sides there is one each, and on the long ones – two circles each. In the middle of each big circle, there is a metal hemisphere which occupies the whole space to the lining wire. In the middle of each small circle, there is a granule on a bedding of thin wire ring. The same granule is found behind the prongs along the long sides. All of them almost touch each other and the front sheet metal is cut along their outer outlines.

The inside of the cassette is filled with a whitish cotton swab (fig. 4). Two of the prongs are missing, as well as a significant part of the lower plaque with one of the hinge tubes and a small part of the cassette walls. The three hemispheres are missing and the fourth one has cracks along the core. The analysis³ of the alloy which the central segment is made of gave the following results: average content

of Ag – 82.15 %, Cu – 14.77 %, Au – 1.47 %, Re – 1.13 %, Pb – 0.30 %, Bi – 0.14 %, As – 0.06 %.

The terminal segment (fig. 5a, b) has dimensions of 3.7 x 1.9 x 0.6 cm and length of the side band 8 cm. It is in the form of a cassette with a tongue shape and thin walls. The upper plaque towards the apex is significantly shorter than the lower one and the walls of the cassette conform to its size. On one of the short sides in the middle of the cassette, the solder of the seam binding the ends of the band is visible (fig. 6), and in the front part, the solder for the

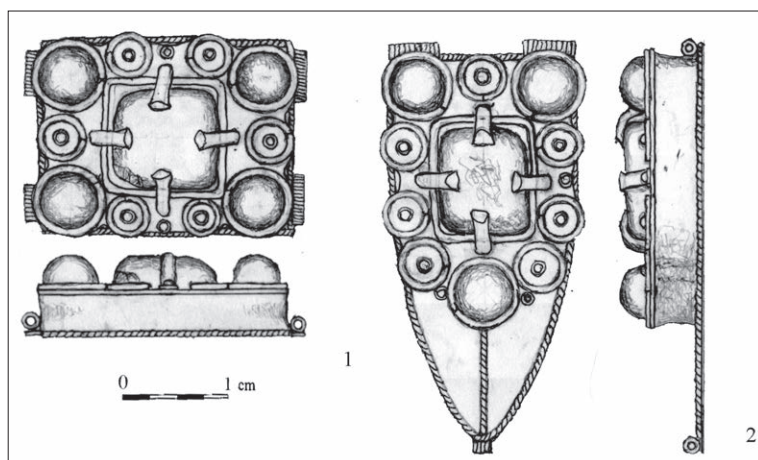


Fig. 1. Graphic reconstruction of the preserved parts of the diadem.

Graphics: St. Todorov

Обр. 1. Графична реконструкция на запазените части от диадемата.
Графика Ст. Тодоров



Fig. 2a. Front side of the central segment. Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 2a. Лицева страна на звеното. Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 2b. Rear side of the central segment. Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 2b. Обратна страна на звеното. Фото П. Тихов

³ X-ray fluorescence analysis performed at the Laboratory of Trakia foundation in 2016 by Prof. V. Inkova.



Fig. 3. The seam of the band of the central segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 3. Шевът на лентата на звеното.
Фото П. Тихов

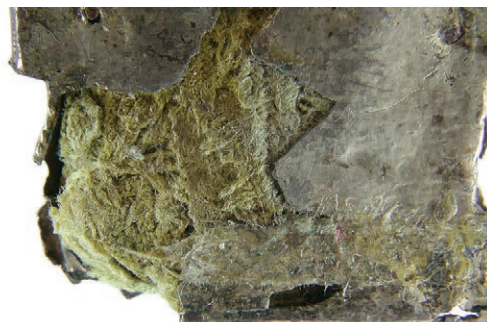


Fig. 4. Macro-photo of the filling. Photo: P. Tihov
Обр. 4. Макрофото на пълнежа. Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 5a. Front side of the terminal segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 5a. Лицева страна на накрайника.
Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 5b. Rear side of the terminal segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 5b. Обратна страна на накрайника.
Фото П. Тихов

lower plaque is visible (fig. 7). Its lower plaque is lined along the periphery with twisted round wires, and at the protruding ends of the short sides, there are 2 additionally soldered tubes of spirally wound wire as a hinge joint (fig. 8). The apex of the lower plaque ends with a similar short tube for attaching the whole adornment, and from there to the apex of the cassette twisted round wires are soldered (fig. 9). The front plaque of the cassette is attached to the lower one by a narrow band, which is tightly soldered to the sheet metal panels. In the middle of the front side, a rectangular nest is formed with thin filigree wire, imitating a cabochon, and a parallelepiped semi-transparent dull green stone with round edges is inset in it. The stone is gripped on four sides by prongs with semi-circular section and flattened end. Around the “cabochon”, there are small circles of the same round wire in two sizes. The bigger ones are in the corners and the shorter ones – on the sides; there is a total of three big circles, on the short side – one, and on the long ones – three small circles each. In the middle of each big circle, there is a metal hemisphere, which occupies the whole space to the lining wire. In the middle of the small circles, there is a granule on a bedding of a thin wire ring. Behind one prong along the long side and on both sides of the ornamental circle on the apex of the cassette, there is the same granule. All circles almost touch each other and the front sheet metal is cut along their outer outlines.

The lower plaque of the terminal segment is partially destroyed, which shows the inside filling of whitish cotton swab. One of the prongs is missing. The composition of elements of the segment alloy is the following: average content of Ag – 76.27 %, Cu – 22.32 %, Au – 0.74 %, Re – 0.27 %, Bi – 0.22 %, Pb – 0.17 %. The analysis of the inset stone showed the following results: average



Fig. 6. The seam of the band of the terminal segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 6. Шевът на лентата на крайника.
Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 7. Solder of the cassette with the lower plaque of the terminal segment. Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 7. Спойка на касетата с долната пластина на крайника. Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 8. The rear hinge joint of the terminal segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 8. Задният шарнир на крайника.
Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 9. The front hinge joint of the terminal segment.
Photo: P. Tihov

Обр. 9. Предният шарнир на крайника.
Фото П. Тихов

content of Pb – 53.45 %, Ag – 28.47 %, As – 8.99 %, Au – 3.43 %, Cu – 3.30 %, Ir – 1.15 %, Re – 0.33 %, Cd – 0.31 %, Ti – 0.30 %, Zr – 0.13 %, Fe – 0.13 %. The obtained results cannot be compared to databases of some similar artifacts since such analyses have not been performed so far.

The feasible analysis allows reconstruction of the technological process of crafting the diadem, observing a defined sequence of operations. The two parts were made following the same technology of soldered, pre-rolled out, cut and cast blanks. The possible technological operations for the terminal segment, which are also relevant for the central segment, are the following (fig. 10).

The lower plaque is cut out from thin sheet metal of silver alloy in the form of an oblong tongue and notches are made in the back end for attaching the hinge tubes, while a rectangular elongation for that tube is left in the front one.

The upper plaque is cut out from the same sheet metal in the form of a shortened tongue – approximately one third shorter and two millimetres wider than the lower one.

The side band for the cassette is cut out from the same sheet metal.

The lower plaque is lined with the soldered twisted wires, while the hinge notches are outside the lining. The tubes made of tightly wound metal thread are soldered on them. They remain partially on the wire fringe. The tube on the top remains outside the lining. A piece of the same twisted wire is soldered over two of the tubes at the central segment.

The rectangular nest formed from thin wire for the stone inset is soldered in the middle of the upper plaque, imitating a cabochon nest, and the prongs for attaching the stone are soldered on four sides (the sequence is not entirely certain, it is possible that the prongs were soldered before the nest), then the circles are soldered in two sizes which are not completely the same. The granules are

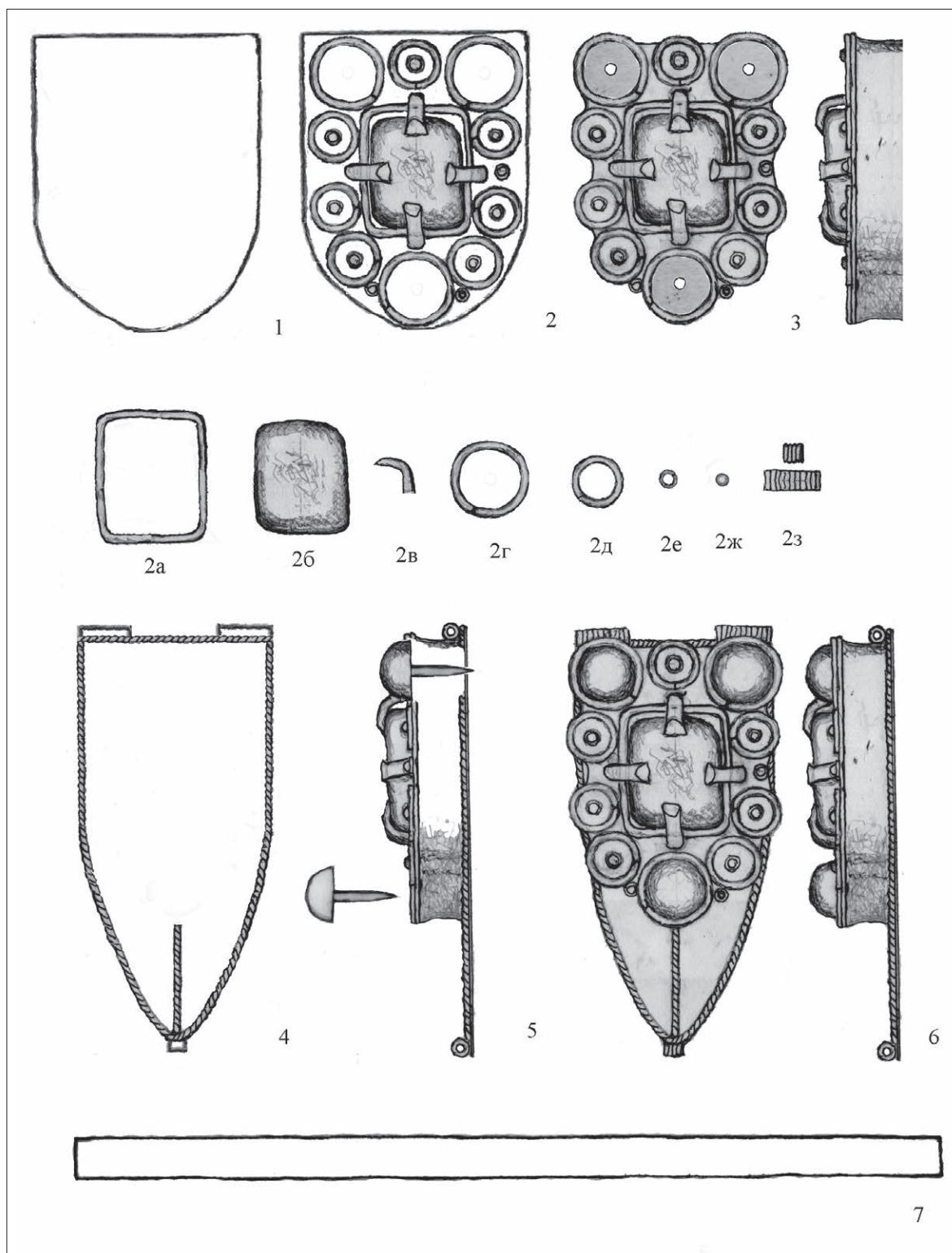


Fig. 10. Technological scheme of the diadem from Zdravkovets. Graphics: St. Todorov
Обр. 10. Технологична схема на диадемата от Здравковец. Графика Ст. Тодоров



Fig. 11. Nest with a displaced granule. Photo: P. Tihov
Обр. 11. Гнездо с разместена гранула. Фото П. Тихов



Fig. 12. The nest with preserved wire for hemisphere.
Photo: P. Tihov
Обр. 12. Гнездото със запазена тел за полусфера.
Фото П. Тихов

soldered on a nest of very thin wire in the middle of the small circles. (During this operation, one of the granules rolled out of its nest and remained soldered on the inside, next to the wire of one of the big circles along the long side of the upper plaque of the terminal segment (fig. 11). Openings are pierced into the center of the big circles. The last operation is the cutting of the periphery along the circles' outlines, which gives the plaque an openwork look.

Mounting is implemented by connecting the upper and lower plaque through the side band, which bends along the inside line of the upper plaque's openwork and closes on the short side, so the outside line of the openwork remains outside the outlines of the cassette. The band is soldered to the lower plaque, the inside is filled with cotton fabric which is folded several times so as to fill in the whole cavity, after which the upper plaque is soldered. In the end, the same twisted wire is mounted as lining from the top of the cassette to the top of the lower plaque.

The stone is set in the nest by bending the prongs inwards. The place of this operation is not certain; it is possible that it took place before the cassette was assembled.

The surface is thinly gilded with mercury amalgam.

The last operation involves placing the hemispheres in the large circles. To this end, long round wires were soldered to the bottom of the hemispheres, whose reverse end reaches the lower plaque through the opening in the center of the circle, a small hole is pierced there and the wire is wedged. The hemispheres were probably cast, but they could have been die forged. On the only preserved wire in one of the circles of the terminal segment (fig. 12), there are no clearly visible remains of solder, and the only preserved hemisphere in one of the circles of the central segment is cracked and a potential removal for the purposes of analysis is very risky.

The necessary blanks for the item are:

Thin wire for the coils from which the hinge tubes have been cut.

Thin wire for the granule nests.

Thin wire for the circles.

Twisted wires for the lining.

Thick wire for mounting the hemispheres.

Profiled thick wire for the prongs.

Thin sheet metal for the plaques and the binding band.

Granules for decorating the small circles and the periphery of the upper plaques.

Hemispheres for the big circles.

Despite the impossibility for a precise and professionally reflected positioning of the find in an archaeological environment, it is certain that it originates from the structures and layers discov-

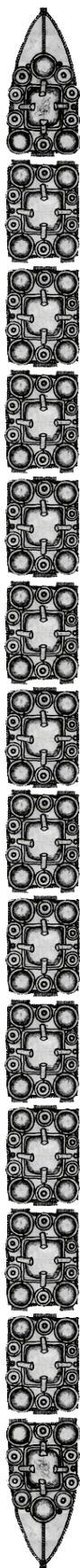


Fig. 13. Exemplary reconstruction of the diadem from Zdravkovets. Graphics: St. Todorov
Обр. 13. Примерна реконструкция на диадемата от Здравковец. Графика Ст. Тодоров



Fig. 14. Headdress in situ from grave No. 68, necropolis I near the village of Kramolin (after Милчев и др. 1994, 96)

Обр. 14. Забраждане in situ от гроб № 68, некропол I при с. Крамолин (по Милчев и др. 1994, 96)

ered in the central sector of the excavated multi-layer settlement in the “Vitata Stena” area near the village of Zdravkovets from the 13th – 14th c. period (Милчев, Койчева 1978, 54 – 58). A popular publication by the curator of the Archaeology department at RMH – Gabrovo and participant in the excavations (Койчева 1964) proves that it was found in a rich burial from the necropolis uncovered around the church, and it is actually the first of the three diadems discovered in necropolises so far. Its fragmentary nature hints at a destruction of the grave in unclear circumstances. The 42 documented burials are generally dated in the 13th – 14th c. (Милчев, Койчева 1978, 57). The adornment demonstrates the aristocratic fashion in the Second Bulgarian State in the settlement, where the presence of other luxurious finds and remains of the representative residential building of the local feudal lord are evidence of the role of the region in the government and administrative structure in the hinterland of the capital Tarnovgrad.

The diadem has a direct analogies with the central segments of the item from the village of Prilep, Dobrich region (Павлова 2007, 129, 144, обр. 3) and partially with those of the one from Montana (Александров 1984, 32 – 33; Павлова 2007, 144, обр. 2а, 2в). The structural scheme of the terminal segment is repeated in the adornment from Montana (Павлова 2007, 144, обр. 2г, 2д) and the one from the village of Batovo, Dobrich region (Павлова 2006, 344, фиг. 3). These parallels support the assumption that the diadems listed were produced in the same workshop. The artifact is fragmented, but the analogies mentioned allow its reconstruction (fig. 13).

The whole or fragmented specimens of Medieval diadems known to date, whose composition was recently supplemented (Райкова 2019), are generally grouped by researchers based on morphological features (Павлова 2007, 140; Рябцева 2011, 78). We believe that after the capacities of the comparative-typological analysis are exhausted, the application of a technological analysis, including archaeometric methods, would allow not only a more precise classification of the diadems, but also a significantly better clarification of the question of the production workshops, and from there – more generally of the cultural influences, trade and, supposedly, political relations during the Middle Ages.

The diadem was part of the secular female headdress, which was an important element of the aristocratic costume in 13th – 14th c. (Атанасова 2016, 54 – 91). Together with the metal thread bands used, a representative example of which is provided by the diadem from grave No. 68 from necropolis I of the Medieval settlement near the village of Kramolin, Gabrovo region (Милчев и др. 1994, 96) (fig. 14) and the different types of *prochelnik* [head ornaments] (Павлова 2007, 154), they are also evidence of the prototypes of the female headdress *sokai*, characteristic during the Ottoman period only of the settlements located along the northern slopes of Sredna Stara Planina.

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ЧАСТИ НА СРЕДНОВЕКОВНА ДИАДЕМА ОТ КРЕПОСТТА ПРИ СЕЛО ЗДРАВКОВЕЦ, ГАБРОВСКО

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Настоящото съобщение има за цел да представи фрагментирана сребърна позлатена диадема от фонда на Регионален исторически музей – Габрово. Произхожда от погребение от средновековната крепост при село Здравковец, Габровска област. Запазени са само два елемента от диадемата – касета (обр. 2а, б) и накрайник (обр. 5а, б). Направен е рентгенофлуоресцентен анализ и реконструиране на технологичния процес на изработване на диадемата (обр. 10), като са посочени необходимите заготовки за изделието. Двете ѝ части са изработени по една и съща технология от спосени, предварително източвани, рязани и лети заготовки – телове, гранули, ламарини, полусфери. Първо се изрязват двете пластини и страничната лента. Долната пластина се обточва със спосени усукани телове, върху които се спояват тръбичките за шарнира. Върху горната пластина се споява гнездото за камъка и щифтовете за неговото закрепване. Следва спояване на кръгчетата и гранулите в малките от тях. Накрая периферията се изрязва по очертанията на кръгчетата. Монтажът включва съединяване на горната и долната пластина посредством страничната лента, тампониране с памук, поставяне на усукана тел от върха на касетата до върха на долната пластина при накрайника, окончателно спояване. Последните операции са монтиране на камъка в гнездото, позлатяване на повърхността и поставяне на полусферите в големите кръгчета. Диадемата има преки аналогии с екземплярите от селата Прилеп (Павлова 2007, 129, 144, обр. 3) и Батово (Павлова 2006, 344, фиг. 3), Добричко, и от Монтана (Александров 1984, 32 – 33; Павлова 2007, 144, обр. 2а, 2в), и те вероятно са продукция на една работилница. Тя демонстрира аристократичната мода на Втората българска държава в селището, където наличието на други луксозни находки и обособена резиденциална част на местния владетел (Милчев, Койчева 1978, 54 – 58) свидетелстват за ролята на региона във властовата и административна структура в хинтерланда на столицата Търновград. Предлага се прилагането на технологичен анализ, включително методите на археометрията, по отношение на известните диадеми, което би позволило не само значително по-точната им класификация, но и по-добро ориентиране по отношение изясняване на въпроса за местата за производство, а оттам по-общо за културните влияния, търговските и предполагаемо политическите отношения през средновековната епоха.

Ключови думи: диадема, накити, бижута, средновековие, анализ на технологията

„УНГАРСКА ШПАГА“ ИЛИ „ТУРСКИ КОНЧАР“? ЗА ЕДНО МНИМО ОРЪЖИЕ ОТ ПОХОДА НА ВЛАДИСЛАВ III ЯГЕЛО ПРЕЗ 1444 Г.

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ABSTRACT

The article comments upon a weapon, discovered during illegal excavations in Shumen district. It was published by V. Parushev as ‘Hungarian rapier’ and was connected with the Crusade of Władysław III Jagiełło in the Bulgarian lands in 1444. In reality this weapon is a ‘konchar’ from the second half of the 16th c., characteristic for the armaments of the Eastern European cavalry – the so-called ‘Hussars’. This konchar reflects the Hungarian military fashion in the confines of the Ottoman Empire.

Key words: Ottoman period, thrusting weapon, konchar, Hussars

Предмет на това донякъде полемично изследване се явява един рядък за българските колекции паметник на късносредновековното въоръжение. Става въпрос за добре запазено прободно оръжие, публикувано през 2012 г. от Веселин Парушев и интерпретирано като „шпага“, принадлежала на унгарски участник в похода на Владислав III Ягело в днешните български земи през 1444 г. (Парушев 2008а). Настоящото изследване няма за цел да атакува преднамерено тезата на колега, към когото авторът на тези редове изпитва уважение предвид дългогодишната му дейност, свързана с публикуването на неизвестни паметници на средновековното и античното въоръжение. Необходимо е обаче да бъде представено и друго мнение за датировката и произхода на това безспорно интересно и добре съхранено оръжие.

Бих искал още в началото да обърна кратко внимание на два проблема, свързани с изследването на късносредновековното въоръжение от България. Първият от тях е навикът да се поставят по-ранни от действителните дати на множество оръжия от българските музейни, а и частни колекции. По този начин паметници, които са представители на военната култура от османския период (XV – XVII в.), често и погрешно са обвързвани с развитото българско средновековие. Не по-малко сериозен, а за съжаление и често срещан проблем, е и неаргументираното обвързване на многобройни паметници на въоръжението с едно единствено, макар и значимо, военно събитие – кръстоносния поход на полско-унгарския крал Владислав III Ягело срещу османските турци през 1444 г., завършил със злощастната за него битка при Варна. Нека обаче вниманието бъде насочено към конкретния въпрос.

За интересувашото ни оръжие се твърди, че е било открито с металотърсач в хълмистата местност „Фисека“ на около 12 км северозападно от гр. Шумен. Макар че това не е споменато в публикацията, очевидно става въпрос за незаконна иманярска дейност. Предметът е предоста-



Обр. 1. Кончар от района на Шуменско (по Mitev 2019, fig. 1)

Fig. 1. Konchar from the area of Shumen (after Mitev 2019, fig. 1)

чението му. Геометрията на острието и оформянето на върха му не оставят съмнение, че оръжието е било предназначено и е можело да се ползва единствено за пробождане.

Особено характерен е двусъставният предпазител (обр. 1). Основният негов елемент очевидно се явява кръстачката. Тя е права пръчка с кръгло сечение, чиито краища се извиват, оформяйки незатворени кръгове. Това ѝ придава вид на осмица със силно раздалечени кръгли тела. Пръстеновидните краища на раменете на предпазителя са в „хоризонтално“ положение спрямо клина и дръжката и завършват с топчета. Непосредствено зад кръстачката, върху езика за дръжката, е нанизана пластина-щит с асиметрична, овална, почти сърцевидна форма. Тя частично припокрива основите на пръстените на предпазителя. Размерите на щита, изработен от един лист желязо, са 8,5 x 9,5 см. Плоският език на дръжката е с правоъгълно сечение, а разстоянието между овалния щит и накрайника е 9 см. Самият накрайник е масивен, крушовиден, с размери 5,1 x 4,5 см. Разделен е чрез дълбоки триъгълни жлебове на осем сегмента, върху поне един от които има врязана украса – насечки, оформящи по дължина мотив „рибна кост“ или „палмова клонка“. Накрайникът се държи в позиция от застъпваща върха му малка кръгла пластина, а кухата му основа е можела да поеме и застопори сега липсващите дървени пластини на дръжката.

вен за публикуване от български частен колекционер.¹

Оръжието е в забележително добро състояние (обр. 1) въпреки очевидния му престой в земята. Запазена е дори желязната пластина-ръкав, обхващаща основата на острието. Върху предната половина на клина има забележими нащърбвания, които изглеждат по-скоро като резултат от бойната му употреба, отколкото от дейността на корозията.² Общата дължина на предмета е 121 см, от които клинът заема 106 см. В основата си той е широк 2,3 см и дебел 1,6 см. Описан е като притежаващ четири режещи ръба, като сечението му е на „ромб с конкавни стени“. Всъщност, макар и „заострящи се“, ръбовете на клина са притъпени и с тях не би могло да се „сече“, което е напълно обяснимо предвид сечението му.

¹ Приветствам инициативата на колекционера и усилията на В. Парушев този паметник на въоръжението бързо да влезе в научно обращение.

² Авторът на тези редове имаше възможност лично да се запознае с оръжието, което бе изложено в АМ – Варна през 2009 г. на тематична изложба на въоръжение, свързана с международната научна конференция „Военни експедиции, въоръжение и снаряжение (Античност и Средновековие)“, проведена между 14 и 15 май 2009 г. във Варна.

Пред предпазителя е железният обков, обхващащ основата на клина (обр. 1). Той е изработен от огъната желязна пластина, съединена на тила чрез ковашка заварка. Обковът е асиметричен. Лицевата му половина е по-дълга – 10,8 см, като шест плоски вертикални полета ѝ придават многоъгълен профил, а в посока върха на оръжието е оформен овален издатък. По-късата тилна страна с дължина 7,2 см е леко изпъкнала и гладка. При други оръжия от този тип, които ще бъдат представени по-долу, този обков или „ръкав“ пред предпазителя е по-къс, и освен че частично е обхващал отвора на ножницата, по-скоро е бил използван като „рикасо“. Казано другояче, той е позволявал показалецът на боеца да се постави върху клина, за да улесни контрола му при насочването му с една ръка. При оръжието от „Фисека“ обаче металната пластина-щит зад кръстачката не е позволявала подобна употреба.

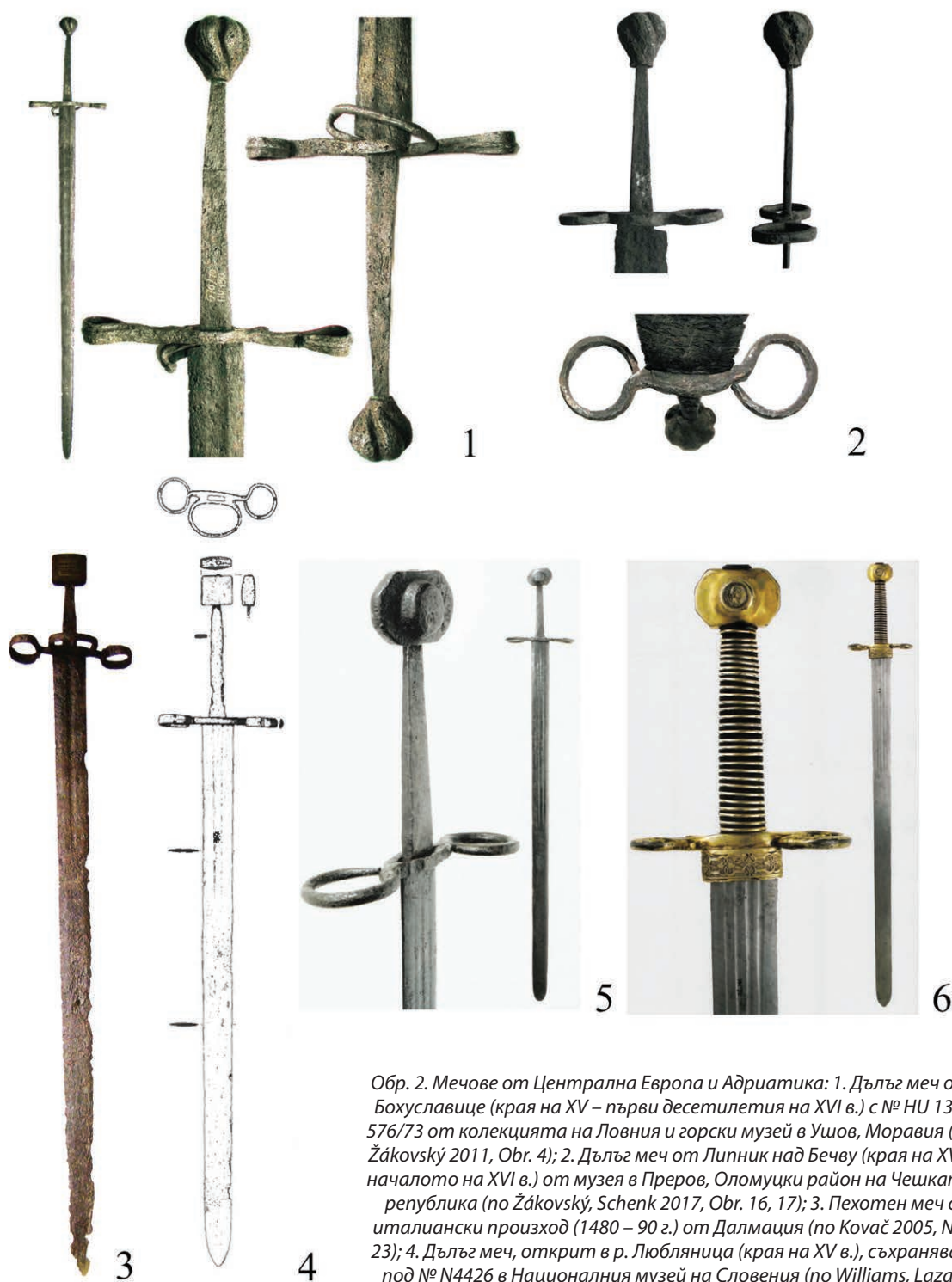
Като се изключи слабо видимата украса с насечки върху накрайника на дръжката, оръжието е изчистено и утилитарно. Специфичната му форма, рядко срещана сред паметниците на въоръжението от България, не е попречила на В. Парушев основателно да го свърже с т. нар. „мечове-пробивачи на брони“, носещи различни имена – *estoc*, *Bohrschwert*, *Pancerstecher*, *koncerz* (Парушев 2008а). Остава неясно обаче защо той приема, че те се датират в рамките на XIV – XV в. и че през последното столетие са заместени в Западна Европа от по-леката „шпага“, за каквато счита и оръжието от „Фисека“. Вероятно в случая става дума за смислово и терминологично неразбиране, доколкото „шпагата“ или, както гласи по-разпространеният термин, „рапирата“ се явява олекотена форма на кавалерийския меч със сложен предпазител. Терминът „шпага“ обикновено е използван за правите граждански и военни оръжия от XVIII – XIX в., които най-често имат клинове с плоско сечение. Някои рапири, най-вече от XVII в., притежават специализирани остриета, подходящи по-скоро за пробождање и съответно притежаващи приплеснато ромбовидно сечение, но никоя от тях не показва характерните черти на оръжието от „Фисека“.³

В по-нататъшната дискусия относно датировката и идентификацията на паметника В. Парушев парадоксално представя аргументи, които противоречат на предлаганата от него теза. Така например той посочва, че най-ранните образи на „шпаги“ са от средата на XVI в., и представя действително пряк паралел на оръжието върху унгарски герб от 1540 г. (обр. 5: 1). Той уместно се позовава на Янош Калмар, че пластината-предпазител и ръкавът в основата на клина са унгарска специфика, а посочените примери отново са от XVI в. До голяма степен безплодно е направеното сравнение с реални или припознати образци на „шпаги“ от Унгария, както и търсенето на аналогии между т. нар. „S-овиден предпазител“ и кръстачката на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ (Парушев 2008а, 258 – 263, обр. 3, 4).

Въпреки очевидната принадлежност на посочените от В. Парушев паралели към шестнадесетото столетие, въз основа на някои прилики и „липсата“ на други, той завършва статията си с твърдото убеждение, че оръжието от м. „Фисека“ би трябвало да е ранна и поради това много рядко срещана форма на шпагата с унгарски произход.⁴ Отново въпреки очевидните (и дори представени лично от него) паралели, той „със сигурност“ датира „шпагата от Шуменско“ във втората четвърт на XV в. За него „обстоятелствата около нейното откриване“, които обаче не са посочени, са достатъчни да я обвърже с похода на Владислав III Ягело през 1444 г., и то с отстъпващите след разгрома им при Варна кръстоносни части (Парушев 2008а, 258, 263).

³ Считаю за излишно да затормозявам читателя с обширната и добре позната литература по въпроса. Примерите са достатъчно много и достъпни, за да бъдат посочвани.

⁴ Това не отговаря на действителността, както ще стане ясно по-долу в текста. Обемът на статията не позволява да се направи преглед на развитието на защитните доспехи и на използваните през XV в. (и особено през първата му половина) мечове, а и не считам, че това би било необходимо. Всеки, който поне бегло се е запознал с тази материя, би разбрал несъстоятелността на обвързването на въпросното оръжие с този период.



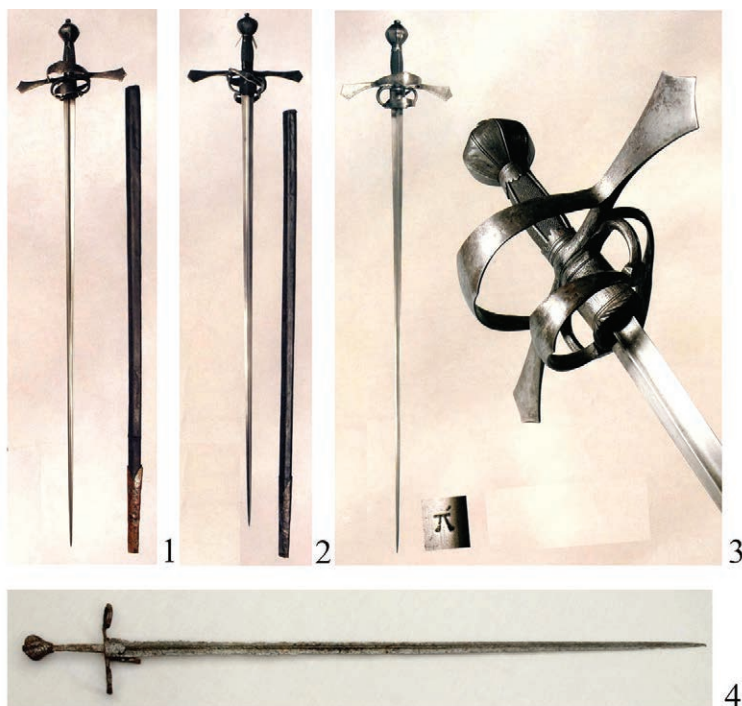
Обр. 2. Мечове от Централна Европа и Адриатика: 1. Дълъг меч от Бохуславице (края на XV – първи десетилетия на XVI в.) с № HU 130, 576/73 от колекцията на Ловния и горски музей в Ушов, Моравия (по Žákovský 2011, Obr. 4); 2. Дълъг меч от Липник над Бечву (края на XV – началото на XVI в.) от музея в Преров, Оломуцки район на Чешката република (по Žákovský, Schenk 2017, Obr. 16, 17); 3. Пехотен меч с италиански произход (1480 – 90 г.) от Далмация (по Kovač 2005, No. 23); 4. Дълъг меч, открит в р. Любляница (края на XV в.), съхраняван под № N4426 в Националния музей на Словения (по Williams, Lazar 2018, fig. 6); 5. Дълъг меч от Унгария (начало на XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, kep. 64); 6. Дълъг меч от Унгария (XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, kep. 65)

Fig. 2. Swords from Central Europe and the Adriatic: 1. Long sword from Bohuslavice (end of the 15th – first decade of the 16th c.) with No. 130, 576/73 from the collection of the Hunting and Forestry Museum of Usov, Moravia (after Žákovský 2011, Obr. 4); 2. Long sword from Lipnik nad Bečvou (end of the 15th – beginning of the 16th c.) from the museum of Přerov, Olomouc Region of the Czech Republic (after Žákovský, Schenk 2017, Obr. 16, 17); 3. Infantry sword of Italian origin (1480 – 90) from Dalmatia (after Kovač 2005, No. 23); 4. Long sword, discovered in the river Ljubljana (end of the 15th c.), kept under No. N4426 at the National Museum of Slovenia (after Williams, Lazar 2018, fig. 6); 5. Long sword from Hungary (beginning of the 16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 64); 6. Long sword from Hungary (16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 65)

Последното е стара и често повтаряна от него хипотеза, с която той обяснява множество находки на оръжия, които за съжаление са *без изключение* плод на иманярска дейност или на случайно откриване, т. е. лишени от контекст (вж. например Парушев 2004; Парушев 2008а; Парушев 2008б).

Тезата на В. Парушев е приета безкритично от утвърдения български изследовател на средновековното въоръжение Валери Йотов. В своя статия от 2015 г. (Yotov 2015, 91 – 93, Мар) той представя въоръжението, което по едно или друго време е било свързвано с кръстоносната армия на Владислав III Ягело, използвайки го като маркер за очертаване на пътищата на отстъпващите след поражението при Варна западни отряди.

В качеството си на нехарактерен и предизвикващ интерес паметник, оръжието от м. „Фисека“ е привлякло вниманието и на Невян Митев. Той не поставя под съмнение датировката на В. Парушев и връзката на находката с кръстоносния поход, но предлага на читателите си по-различно тълкуване, което също не е добре аргументирано. „Шпагата“ той обвързва с Италия, която е всепризната родина на този тип оръжие, а носителят ѝ е определен не като унгарски конник, а като участник в отряда на папския легат кардинал Чезарини. На пръв поглед по-логично е и свързването на находката не с отстъпващите кръстоносни отряди, а с неспоменатото в изворите сражение в м. „Фисека“ преди тежкото тридневно завоюване на Шуменската крепост, наречено с лек епичен отенък „битката за Шумен“ (Mitev 2019, 208 – 210).⁵



Обр. 3. Кончари от Източна Европа – паралели на оръжието от „Фисека“, Шуменско: 1. Кончар от Саксония (1580 г.), съхраняван във Военноисторическия музей на артилерииските, инженерните и свързочните войски, Санкт Петербург под № 0108/272 (по Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 212); 2. Кончар от Саксония (1580-те г.), съхраняван във Военноисторическия музей на артилерииските, инженерните и свързочните войски, Санкт Петербург под № 0108/273 (по Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 212); 3. Кончар от Саксония (края на XVI – начало на XVII в.), съхраняван във Военноисторическия музей на артилерииските, инженерните и свързочните войски, Санкт Петербург, под № 0108/274 (по Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 213); 4. „Меч тип есток“ (1450 – 1525 г. (?)), Музей на Република Сръбска в Баня Лука (по Врачар 2016, 75)

Fig. 3. Konchars from Eastern Europe – parallels to the weapon from “Fiseka”, Shumen district: 1. Konchar from Saxony (1580), kept at the Military-Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps, St. Petersburg under No. 0108/272, (after Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 212); 2. Konchar from Saxony (1580s), kept at the Military-Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps, St. Petersburg under No. 0108/273, (after Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 212); 3. Konchar from Saxony (end of the 16th – beginning of the 17th c.) kept at the Military-Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineer and Signal Corps, St. Petersburg under No. 0108/274, (after Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 212); 4. Sword type “estoc” (1450 – 1525 (?)), Museum of the Republic of Srpska in Banja Luka (after Врачар 2016, 75)

⁵ Трябва да се отбележи, че Митев все пак е използвал по-коректния термин „рапира“, макар че и той – досущ като В. Парушев – не е разбрал очевидната разлика между тези оръжия и типичните за Източна Европа кончари или естоци, към които всъщност се отнася разглежданият тук паметник.

Сравнително подробното представяне на вече публикуван паметник, направено в началото, не е случайно. Тясното, право, оребрено острие, както и далеч не толкова характерните предпазител, накрайник и ръкав в основата на клина (обр. 1), отнасят публикуваното оръжие към групата на специфични паметници на военното дело. Става въпрос за вече споменатите „пробивачи на брони“, ако преведем буквално немското им название *“Pancerstecher”*, познати на италиански като *“stucco”*, на испански като *“estoque”* и на английски като *“tuck”*, макар че с последния термин е означавана и рапирата. Те започват развитието си в началото на XV в. и стават особено популярни през XVI и XVII в. в Източна Европа – в Унгария, в Полско-Литовския кондоминиум, в Османската империя и в Русия, където носят названието „кончар“ – *koncerz*. Използвани за справяне със защитен с доспехи противник и за нанасяне на дистанционни прободни удари след счупването на пиката, те се превръщат в задължително „второ оръжие“ на носещата копие, сабя, ударно и стрелково въоръжение кавалерия от типа на хусарите. За разлика от сабята, която се носи окачена на кръста постоянно и дори в цивилна среда, кончарите са изключително бойно оръжие, което поради своите размери (най-вече дължина) и ограничена функционалност винаги е носено окачено на седлото на конника, обикновено отдясно под крака му (обр. 5, обр. 7). Ползваните в периода XVI – XVIII в. образци са, разбира се, далеч по-леки от произхождащите от мечовете западноевропейски естоци от XV в., макар че някои от тях, особено тези от XVII – XVIII в., се отличават с необичайно голяма дължина – до малко над 170 см. Използването на бърза, леко бронирана, ударна кавалерия във военното дело на Източна Европа води до запазването на кончарите в страни като Унгария и Полша до втората половина на XVIII в.⁶

Специфичните предпазител и накрайник на дръжката на разглежданата находка са важна част от аргументацията на В. Парушев. Въпреки особеностите си обаче, накрайникът на дръжката не би могъл да послужи като отправна точка за датировката на оръжието. Той е вариант на широко разпространения в Западна и Централна Европа тип Т по Оукшот, датиран между втората половина на XIV и XVI в. (Oakeshott 1994, 105 – 106). В конкретната си форма той по-скоро се среща при разнообразни като форма мечове в германски стил от края на XV – първата половина на XVI в. (Oakeshott 2001, figs. 122, 123).

Тази връзка се подсилва от съчетанието на накрайник от този тип с идентичен на разглеждания тук предпазител при група дълги мечове от Централна Европа, датиращи от края на XV или началото/първата половина на XVI в. Такива са два екземпляра с плоско острие, съчетаващи почти еднакъв предпазител с пръстени и крушовиден помел, разделен на ребра от спирално усукани жлебове (обр. 2: 1, 2). И двата произхождат от Моравия в дн. Южна Чехия, при все че евентуалната им връзка с Унгария не бива да се пренебрегва (Žákovský 2011, 115 – 118, 158 – 159, Obr. 1b, 4, 5, 6a; Žákovský, Schenk 2017, 22, Obr. 16, 17).

Особен интерес представлява мечът от Бохуславице в колекцията на Ловния и горски музей в Ушов, Моравия (обр. 2: 1), при който има допълнителен хоризонтален пръстен в средата на едната страна на предпазителя. Той е предпазвал изпъкналата част на обхвааналата дръжката ръка. Както при този, така и при горепосочения меч предпазители са по-масивни от този на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ и са с правоъгълно, а не с кръгло сечение. Това не е учудващо, като се има предвид, че става дума за по-масивни оръжия, предвидени да нанасят и парират тежки сечащи удари.

⁶ За употребата, разпространението и характера на тези оръжия виж: Аствацатурян 2002, 133; Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 211 – 214; Brzezinski, McBride 1987; Brzezinski, Vuksic 2006; Hucul 2018; Kalmár 1971, 87 – 94; Kovács 2010.

Идентични предпазители с допълнителен защитен пръстен виждаме и при група мечове от Западните Балкани, от Словения и Хърватско (обр. 2: 3, 4). Те демонстрират видимо италианско влияние и са определяни като „schiaivonesca“, не на последно място и заради специфичните плоски квадратни накрайници на дръжките. Отнесени са към последните две десетилетия на XV в. (Kovač 2005, No. 23; Williams, Lazar 2018, 124 – 127, fig. 6). Изрично е посочено, че и при двата, предпазителят от въпросния тип е нехарактерен и представлява по-скоро изключение.

При все че не изчерпват всички примери, представените екземпляри насочват към датировка на характерния предпазител в края на XV и първата половина на XVI в. и към произход в района на Централна Европа и Адриатика. Макар моделирането на ефеса при тях да е продукт на същата военна мода, както и при оръжието от м. „Фисека“, характерните им черти са демонстрирани при съвсем различен тип оръжие – дълги, прави, двустри мечове с широко плоско острие.

Не е учудващо, че разглежданият тук паметник на въоръжението намира най-близките си паралели именно сред оръжията от собствения си тип. Характерният като форма, размери и най-вече сечение клин може да бъде видян при три кончара от последните две десетилетия на XVI и самото начало на XVII в. от колекцията на Военноисторическия музей на артилерийските, инженерните и свързочните войски в Санкт Петербург (обр. 3: 1 – 3). Произведени в Саксония в Източна Германия, техните ефеси са съвсем различни от този на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ и отразяват типичния за рапири и кавалерийските мечове от региона стил (Ефимов, Рымша 2009, 211 – 214). И при тях се забелязва характерният ръкав, обхващащ основата на клина.

Ако тези три паметника на въоръжението онагледяват характерния клин, то един „меч тип есток“ с неизвестно местонамиране, съхраняван в Музея на Република Сръбска в Баня Лука, е буквално идентичен на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ (обр. 3: 4). Дълъг е 118 см и е датиран, без да се посочва аргументация, в периода 1450 – 1525 г. (Врачар 2016, 75). Единствените разлики с находката от Шуменско са липсата на предпазна пластина-щит зад кръстачката и по-късият ръкав в основата на клина.

Връзката с региона на Северните Балкани и централна Европа се удостоверява благодарение и на голяма група оръжия, както и от единични паметници на изкуството от днешна Унгария. На тях неслучайно е обърнал внимание и В. Парушев, акцентирайки върху специфичната пластина-щит зад предпазителя. При два дълги меча с плоско острие от първата половина на XVI в. отново се среща характерната кръстачка с пръстени. Те имат характерния за унгарските оръжия от този тип накрайник на дръжката (обр. 2: 5, 6). Почти идентичен на разглеждания от нас е ефесът на един кончар от ранния XVI в. Той е с еднакви предпазител и накрайник, но липсва пластината-щит, а клинът е с ромбовидно сечение без укрепващо ребро (обр. 4: 1). Идентично оформен е и ефесът на друг кончар от първата половина на XVI в., чийто клин вече е напълно еднакъв с този на оръжието от Шуменско (обр. 4: 2). Характерната предпазна пластина зад предпазителя се среща при група богато украсени унгарски рапири и кончари от последната третина на XVI в., при които влиянието на ориенталската торевтика е очевидно (обр. 4: 3). Безспорно обаче най-голяма близост демонстрира богато украсен кончар с идентични клин, предпазител и пластина-щит от края на XVI в. (обр. 4: 4) (за всички тях вж. Kovács 2010, 119 – 139). Въпреки че богатата украса в характерния за Османската империя, Трансилвания и Унгария полихромен стил, развил се през третата четвърт на XVI в., предлага ограничени възможности за наблюдение, отново се вижда крушовидният, разделен на сегменти накрайник. Налице е и ръкавът (макар и да е по-къс) в основата на клина с изявено централно ребро.



Обр. 4. Кончари от Унгария – паралели на оръжието от „Фисека“, Шуменско: 1. Кончар от Унгария (начало на XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 67); 2. Кончар от Унгария (първа половина на XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 68); 3. Кончар от Унгария (последна трета на XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 73); 4. Кончар от Унгария (края на XVI в.) (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 74); 5. Кончар турски тип (XVII в.) от Стокхолм (по Seitz 1968, Abb. 161); 6. Турски кончар от Оръжейната палата на ГИМ (XVII в.), Москва (по Аствацатурян 2002, 133); 7. Турски кончар с № R-243 от Furusiyya Art Foundation Collection (1574 – 1595 г.) (по Bashir 2008, No. 31)

Fig. 4. Konchars from Hungary – parallels to the weapon from “Fiseka”, Shumen district: 1. Konchar from Hungary (beginning of the 16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 67); 2. Konchar from Hungary (first half of the 16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 68); 3. Konchar from Hungary (last third of the 16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 73); 4. Konchar from Hungary (end of 16th c.) (after Kovács 2010, kep. 74); 5. Turkish konchar (17th c.) from Stockholm (after Seitz 1968, Abb. 161); 6. Turkish konchar from the Armory at the State Historical Museum, Moscow, (after Аствацатурян 2002, 133); 7. Turkish konchar No. R-243 from the Furusiyya Art Foundation Collection (1574 – 1595) (after Bashir 2008, No. 31)

Идентични острие, украса и форма на предпазителя притежават три кончара от края на XVI – XVII в., определяни като османски от три различни колекции. При тези от Стокхолм (обр. 4: 5) и от колекцията на Оръжейната палата на ГИМ в Москва (обр. 4: 6) единствената разлика е по-масивният сфероиден накрайник (Аствацатурян 2002, 133; Seitz 1968, 483, Abb. 161). Съхраняваният под номер R-243 във Fugusiya Art Foundation Collection е не само най-ранният сред тях – туграта на ножницата го датира в управлението на султан Мурад III (1574 – 1595), но и представя модела за подражание на другите паметници (обр. 4: 7). Той е малко по-къс – едва 101 см, и при него липсва кръстачка, а пластината-щит няма защитни функции (Bashir 2008, 67).

Начинът на употреба на кончара от страна на унгарските хусари е представен на изобразителен паметник, който вече бе посочен по-горе. Става въпрос за герба на Лукаш Гавай (Lukács Gáway) от 1540 г. (обр. 5: 1). На него воин с характерни за унгарските хусари облекло и въоръжение промушва с пиката си османец с чалма и крива сабя на кръста. На седлото, под десния крак на конника, личи окачен кончар, който е идентичен както на посочените по-горе унгарски образци, така и на оръжието от м. „Фисека“. Отсъства само специфичната пластина-щит зад осморковидния предпазител.

Връзката между Унгария и Османската империя, видима от тези оръжия, очевидно не се изчерпва само със стилистиката на украсата, а отразява взаимното влияние в областта на военното дело. За популярността на кончара сред конните воители на империята свидетелства по-късно сведение на граф Луиджи Марсили. Според него освен сабите и палашите, на въоръжение в османската армия било и прободно оръжие, наречено „*megg*“ (Marsigli 1732, II, 13).⁷ Той се използвал от кавалерията при преследване на неприятеля, „за да го пронизат от определено разстояние“. Оръжието се окачвало на седлото, успоредно на крака на ездача, и с него била въоръжена пограничната унгарска войска – унгарските турци.⁸ Сведението е съпътствано от изображение на типичен кончар с характерния за тези оръжия от XVII – XVIII в. ефес (обр. 10).

Това кратко, но ценно сведение на Марсили, при все че отразява късно състояние на нещата, възхождащо към края на XVII – началото на XVIII в., намира преки успоредици и в паметници на изкуството, на които са изобразени сцени от военното дело в европейските владения на Османската империя през XVI в. Идентични по форма на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ кончари виждаме при воители от унгарското пограничие на империята, представени на миниатюри от османския илюстриран ръкопис от средата на XVI в. Сюлейманнаме. Пример за това е двубоят между османеца Дели Синан и унгареца Евгений (обр. 5: 2). Като се изключат някои разлики като наличието на пълен пластинчат доспех и ползването на прав меч при унгареца, и на крива сабя и ориенталски дрехи при османския воин, останалите части на въоръжението и снаряжението са практически еднакви. Такива са асиметричните щитове, украсата от пера, колелчатите шпори, и не на последно място окачените на седлата кончари. Османският воин е представен по идентичен начин и на друга миниатюра от манускрипта, показваща султан Сюлейман по време на кампанията в Нахичеван, Южен Кавказ, през 1554 г. (обр. 5: 3).

Безспорно най-интересни, наситени с информация и визуално реалистични паралели предоставя т.нар. „Codex Vindobonensis“ от последното десетилетие на XVI в. (Arbasino

⁷ Думата е предадена по един и същ начин в италианския и във френския текст на изданието, което е двуезично. Вероятно тя е предала неточно фонетично турското „меч“.

⁸ Цялото произведение на Марсили показва забележителната архаичност на османската военна система в края на XVII – началото на XVIII в. в сравнение с другите велики сили на епохата. То описва въоръжение, видове войскове части и организация, които не са по-различни от тези от XVI и първата половина на XVII в.



Обр. 5. Изображения на кончари, носени от хусари в паметници на изкуството: 1. Герб на унгарския благородник Лукаш Гавай от 1540 г. (по Kovács 2010, предна корица); 2. двубоя между османеца Дели Синан и унгареца Евгений, миниатюра от турския илюстриран ръкопис Сюлейманнаме (срѣда на XVI в.), съхраняван в Музея Топкапъ, Истанбул (no http://warfare.tk/Ottoman/Suleymanname/1526-Deli_Sinan_fighting_the_Hungarian_Eugene.htm); 3. султан Сюлейман по време на кампанията в Нахичеван, Южен Кавказ през 1554 г., миниатюра от турския илюстриран ръкопис Сюлейманнаме (срѣда на XVI в.), съхраняван в Музея Топкапъ, Истанбул (no http://warfare.tk/Ottoman/Suleymanname/1554-Nachivan_in_the_South_Caucasus.htm)

Fig. 5. Artworks depicting konchars carried by Hussars: 1. Coat of arms of the Hungarian noble Lukács Gávay from 1540 (after Kovács 2010, front cover); 2. The battle between the Ottoman Deli Sinan and the Hungarian Eugene, miniature from the Turkish illuminated manuscript Süleymanname (mid-16th c.), kept at the Topkapı Museum, Istanbul (after http://warfare.tk/Ottoman/Suleymanname/1526-Deli_Sinan_fighting_the_Hungarian_Eugene.htm); 3. Sultan Suleiman during the campaign on Nakhchivan in the South Caucasus in 1554, miniature from the Turkish illuminated manuscript Süleymanname (mid-16th c.), kept at the Topkapı Museum, Istanbul (after http://warfare.tk/Ottoman/Suleymanname/1554-Nachivan_in_the_South_Caucasus.htm)

1971; срв. и Марков 2017). Неговите 165 рисунки с изображения на жители и забележителности от Османската империя са дело на полския художник Хендрик Хендровски. Той е бил участник в мисията на пратеника на Свещената Римска империя Бартоломей Пецен в Константинопол през 1587 – 1588 г. Поръчаният от дипломата сборник е подарен на император Рудолф и се съхранява и до днес в Австрийската национална библиотека под названието Codex Vindobonensis 8626.⁹

Редица изображения свидетелстват за масово ползване на дублиращо сабята оръжие, носено окачено на седлото. Съдейки по тях, то е използвано най-вече от европейските и дворцовите военни части на Османската империя. Това е лесно обяснимо, като се имат предвид сблъсъците с противници като Свещената Римска империя, Полско-Литовското кралство, Венеция и не винаги покорните васали от земите на север от р. Дунав, които оказват безспорно влияние върху военната култура на османците. Наред с дългите двустри мечове и правите едноостри палаши (обр. 6) се забелязва и немалка група оръжия, за които с голяма доза увереност може да се твърди, че са идентични на това от м. „Фисека“ от гледна точка на пропорции, форма на предпазителя и вид на накрайника на дръжката (обр. 7). При повечето от тях позицията – поставени в ножница и окачени на седлото, прикривани от крака на ездача, не позволява сравнението да бъде изцяло „завършено“. Дори непредубеден поглед обаче показва по какъв начин и от кого са употребявани оръжията от типа на разглежданото тук. Многобройните изображения на военни лица в кодекса показват, че тези специфични паметници на въоръжението се срещат само при нередовните войскови части от унгарската граница на Османската империя. Само в един случай кончарът е използван, и то очевидно не по предназначение, от представител на дервишки орден (обр. 8). Именно в този случай обаче оръжието се вижда извадено от ножницата. Реалистичният рисунък показва не само оребрения крушовиден накрайник на дръжката и раменете на кръстачката под пластината-щит, но и реброто по дължина на клина.

Войниците, носещи разглежданото оръжие, са в облеклото и въоръжението на унгарските хусари. Ясно личат характерните за тях дълги пики, криви саби, асиметрични щитове, украси от пера с формата на криле, наметала от леопардова кожа. Те играят значителна роля в армията на противопоставящите се една на друга в унгарските земи империи. Всъщност моделът на кавалериста, въоръжен с дълго копие и разнообразни ударни и стрелкови оръжия, появил се на Балканите през XV в., ще кристализира тъкмо по границата между Османската държава и Свещената Римска империя през първата половина на XVI в. Оттук насетне той задълго ще диктува модата при кавалерията в Източна Европа. Най-известният пример за това е Полско-Литовското кралство, където именно войводата на Трансилвания (Седмоградско) и османски васал унгареца Стефан Батори¹⁰ ще ориентализира военното дело и създаде в завършен вид емблематичната за страната хусарска кавалерия.¹¹

Вероятно на запознатите с късносредновековното военно дело и въоръжение от Европа отделянето на такова внимание на един очевиден паметник би изглеждало излишно. Фактът обаче, че той е публикуван в научен труд и предложението в него датировка и обвързаност с похода на Владислав III Ягело от 1444 г. впоследствие са приети и доразвити от други българ-

⁹ Кодексът е получил пълна публикация през 1971 г. – A. Arbasino. I Turchi: Codex Vindobonensis 8626. Parma, 1971. За неговата история виж: Марков 2017. Поздравявам колегата доц. Н. Марков от НИМ, който пръв обърна внимание на погрешната употреба и цитиране на този ценен паметник в България.

¹⁰ Полско-Литовски крал между 1576 и 1586 г.

¹¹ Относно това виж: Сикора 2012; Brzezinski, McBride 1987; Brzezinski, Vuksic 2006; Dziewulski 2007, 7 – 21; Hucul 2018.



1



2



3



4

Обр. 6. Ресунки от Codex Vindobonensis 8626, показващи османски висши длъжностни лица, офицери и воители носещи закачени на седлото мечове и палаши: 1. Пограничен воин (по Arbasino 1971, 19); 2. Ага на еничарите (по Arbasino 1971, 39); 3. Османски паша (по Arbasino 1971, 111); 4. Османски благородник (по Arbasino 1971, 137)

Fig. 6. Miniatures from Codex Vindobonensis 8626, depicting Ottoman nobles, officers, and warriors, carrying on their saddles swords and rapiers: 1. Border warrior (after Arbasino 1971, 19); 2. Agha of the Janissaries (after Arbasino 1971, 39); 3. Ottoman pasha (after Arbasino 1971, 111); 4. Ottoman noble (after Arbasino 1971, 137)



Обр. 7. Рисунки от Codex Vindobonensis 8626, показващи османски воители от унгарската граница, носещи закачени на седлото кончари, идентични на оръжието от „Фисека“ (по Arbasino 1971, 9, 15, 45)

Fig. 7. Miniatures from Codex Vindobonensis 8626, depicting Ottoman warriors from the Hungarian border, carrying konchars on their saddles that are identical to the weapon from "Fiseka" (after Arbasino 1971, 9, 15, 45)



Обр. 8. Рисунка от Codex Vindobonensis 8626, показваща османски дервиши (по Arbasino 1971, 17)

Fig. 8. Miniature from Codex Vindobonensis 8626, depicting Ottoman dervishes (after Abrasino 1971, 17)

и предпазителя на кончарите, които имитират тези на палашите и сабите, в края на XVI в. и масовото им разпространение от началото на XVII до втората половина на XVIII в.¹² (обр. 9: 1, 2, обр. 10) изключва оръжието от м. „Фисека“ да е по-късно от финала на шестнадесетото столетие.¹³

Не толкова категорично може да бъде решен въпросът за произхода на кончара от Шуменско. Липсата на клеймо върху клина не позволява да се посочи къде е произведен той, макар че както се вижда от посочените паралели не може да се изключи и връзка с германските оръжейни центрове. От периода XVI – XVII в. са познати немалко паметници на защитното и нападателното въоръжение произведени в Южна Германия, които намират широк прием в Унгария, Османската империя и Полско-Литовското кралство. Безспорно е обаче оформянето на ефеса на оръжието с неговите предпазители, накрайник и ръкав около клина по една типично унгарска мода. Дали обаче оръжието е принадлежало на унгарски хусар, сражаващ се за императора на Священата Римска империя или на негов противник, служещ на османския султан? Отговор, разбира се, не би могло да се даде, макар че откриването му в района на Шумен и наличието на второ, при това напълно идентично оръжие в османските владения на

ски изследователи, оправдава написването на този материал.

На база представените по-горе аналогии сред паметници на въоръжението и изкуството, както и историята на военното дело в Източна Европа през късносредновековния период (XV – XVII в.) се предлага следното заключение: публикуваното от В. Парушев оръжие, произхождащо от Шуменско, определено от него като „унгарска шпага“ останала от похода на Владислав III Ягело от 1444 г., очевидно се отнася към по-късен хронологически период. Според автора на тези редове развитата форма на кончара го поставя във времето среда – втора половина на XVI в. Не може да бъде напълно изключено долната граница на датировката да се разшири и до 30-те – 40-те години на XVI в. Появата на нови форми при дръжката

¹² За примери за тези кончари виж: Brzezinski, McBride 1987; Brzezinski, Vuksic 2006; Hucul 2018; Kalmár 1971, 91 – 94; Kovács 2010, 139 – 148; Żygulski 1984, 16, 46, 47.

¹³ Примери за тези късни кончари може да се видят и в експозицията на Националния военноисторически музей. Виж: Национален... 2006, 9 – 10, 11 – 12.

Балканите¹⁴ да прави последната атрибуция поне от формална гледна точка по-подкрепена. Различна, но не по-защитима, би била хипотезата кончарът да е попаднал в Шуменско като ползвано от дервишките ордени оръжие, пример за което ни дава и вече посочената по-горе рисунка от Codex Vindobonensis (обр. 8).

Погрешното обвързване на оръжието от м. „Фисека“ с похода на Владислав III Ягело от 1444 г. не представлява единичен случай в българската научна литература, макар че вероятно е най-очевидният и несъстоятелен сред тях.¹⁵ За съжаление и в случая се сблъскваме с една нерядко срещана практика, при която тези, които не са подкрепени с доказателствен материал, се превръщат в основни камъни за изграждане на цели теории. Разбира се, в рамките на едно научно съобщение не биха могли да се преразгледат натрупаните във времето казуси. Като негов автор обаче се надявам, че неговото публикува-



Обр. 9. Примери за кончари от XVII в.: 1. Унгарски кончар от 1630 г. (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 75); 2. Унгарски кончар от 1689 г. (по Kovács 2010, кеп. 77)

Fig. 9. Examples of konchars from the 17th c.: 1. Hungarian konchar from 1630 (after Kovács 2010, kep. 75); 2. Hungarian konchar from 1689 (after Kovács 2010, kep. 77)



Обр. 10. Османски прободно-сечащи оръжия, представени в „L'État militaire de l'empire ottoman“ на Луиджи Марсили (1732 г.), с F е отбелязан кончар (no Marsigli 1732, II, 13, Planche VI)

Fig. 10. Ottoman thrusting-slashing weapons, presented in „L'État militaire de l'empire ottoman“ by Luigi Marsigli (1732), a konchar is denoted with 'F' (after Marsigli 1732, II, 13, Planche VI)

¹⁴ На територията на дн. Република Сръбска в Босна и Херцеговина.

¹⁵ Немалко на брой очевидно по-късни от средата на XV в. оръжия са обвързвани със събитието, приключило с битката при Варна през 1444 г. Те са публикувани в цял ред статии: Кузев 1973; Митев 2016, 779 – 783, 786; Парушев 2004; Парушев 20086; Mitev 2019, 208 – 210; Yotov 2015, и др.

не ще допринесе за разкриването на картината на военното дело и въоръжението в днешните български земи в периода XVI – XVII в., едно незаслужено игнорирано, богато като прояви и все още слабо проучено поле за научна работа.

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‘A HUNGARIAN RAPIER’ OR A ‘TURKISH KONCHAR’: NOTES ON A WEAPON THAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE FROM THE CRUSADE OF WŁADYSŁAW III JAGIEŁŁO

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SUMMARY

The topic of this research is a very well preserved thrusting weapon, published in 2012 by Veselin Parushev as a ‘rapier’ belonging to a Hungarian participant in the Crusade of Władysław III Jagiełło in the Bulgarian lands in 1444. The weapon was discovered during illegal excavations and belongs to a private Bulgarian collector. The rapier has a length of 121 cm (fig. 1). The narrow blade which has pronounced grooves giving it a star-shaped profile, is 106 cm long. It has a characteristic two-part crossguard and a pear-shaped pommel (type T in the Oakeshott typology).

Parallels among identical arms (fig. 4) do not leave any doubt that the weapon belongs to a class of particular thrusting weapons, called ‘konchar’ or ‘estoc’. Carried hanging from the saddle, they became particularly popular in Eastern Europe and are an almost mandatory attribute of the Hussar cavalry in Hungary, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Ottoman Empire, and Russia during the 16th and 17th c. (fig. 5, fig. 7).

The analysis of the separate parts of the weapon (fig. 2, fig. 3) and comparing it with other arms (fig. 3: 4, fig. 4), combined with examples of its depiction in realistic works of art from the 16th c., produced both by Western (Codex Vindobonensis) and Ottoman (Süleymanname) painters, as well as the evidence from the written sources, allow the author to change the dating and identification from that suggested by V. Parushev. What we have is an Eastern European konchar following the Hungarian fashion, which can be dated relatively narrowly in the period of the middle or the second half of the 16th c. The lack of marks on

the blade does not allow for a definitive connection with the German production centers, even though such a connection can not be discounted (fig. 3: 1 – 3). The location where it was found and the existence of another identical artifact from the Balkan part of the Ottoman Empire (fig. 3: 4) implies that this konchar was possibly a part of the armament of an Ottoman warrior (fig. 7). Other possibilities however can not be ruled out (fig. 8), as well as a connection with the Hungarian Hussars in service to the Holy Roman Empire.

The change in the dating and the identity of this weapon is an example of an existing problem in the Bulgarian scientific literature, where not an insignificant number of arms from the Late Medieval period (15th – 17th c.) are being connected unreasonably with an important military event in Bulgarian history – the Crusade of the Polish-Hungarian king Władysław III Jagiełło against the Turks in 1444.

Key words: Ottoman period, thrusting weapon, konchar, Hussars

PORTION OF A HOARD CONTAINING SILVER COINS OF LOUIS XIV OF FRANCE FROM THE DEPOT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HISTORY – SOFIA

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ABSTRACT

Topic of the current article are eight silver coins of Louis XIV of France (1643 – 1715) from the depot of the National Museum of History – Sofia. They have a denomination of 5 sou or one twelfth of the silver thaler. The coins are portion of a larger hoard from the 17th c., originating from the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Keywords: silver coins, France, Louis XIV

In 1978, eight silver coins of Louis XIV of France (1643 – 1715) were received in the National Museum of History – Sofia. They are part of a larger coin hoard from the 17th c. Unfortunately we were not able to obtain information about the location of this coin treasure or its entire contents. It is only known that this hoard was found in the territory of Bulgaria, and that the coins from it were sold to collectors in Sofia. It is from one of these collectors that we acquired the eight coins which are the topic of this paper. They were listed in the main Numismatic Collection of the National Museum of History – Sofia under inventory Nos. 6136 – 6143. All eight coins have a denomination of 5 sou or one twelfth of the silver thaler (écu d'argent). Their description is provided in the following:

CATALOGUE

Silver coins of 5 sou (one twelfth of the thaler) of the king of France, Louis XIV – total of 8

I. Struck at the Limoges Mint – total of 3

Dated 1659 – 2

1. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as a boy, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. Above the image there is a six-pointed star, under it – a small square with a dot in the centre.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. I. BENEDICTVM. 1659. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards.

Silver. Partially scratched on obverse. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.29 g (fig. 1: 1).

2. The inscription and the image on the obverse and reverse are the same as in No. 1.

Silver. Heavily scratched obverse and reverse. Diameter 21 mm. Weight 2.33 g (fig. 1: 2).

Dated 1660 – 1

3. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as an adult, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. A small fortress tower depicted above his head.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. I. BENEDICTVM. 1660. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards.

Silver. Partially scratched on obverse and reverse. Diameter 21 mm. Weight 2.28 g (fig. 1: 3).

II. Struck at the Mint of Aix-en-Provence – total of 2

Dated 1659 – 1

4. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as a boy, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. A small rhombus under the image.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. & BENEDICTVM. 1659. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards.

Silver. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.30 g (fig. 1: 4).

Dated 1662 – 1

5. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as an adult, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. A small rhombus under the image.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. & BENEDICTVM. 1662. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards.

Silver. Partially scratched on reverse. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.27 g (fig. 1: 5).

III. Struck at the Mint of Lyon – total of 2

Dated 1660 – 1

6. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as an adult, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. A five-pointed star above the image, under it – a small rhombus.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. D. BENEDICTVM. 1660. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards. A small fortress tower depicted above the crown.

Silver. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.24 g (fig. 1: 6).

Dated 1663 – 1

7. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD. XIII. D. G. / FR. ET. NAV. REX. Bust of the king as an adult, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. A five-pointed star above the image, under it – a small rhombus.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. D. BENEDICTVM. 1663. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards. A small five-pointed star above the crown, reversed.

Silver. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.25 g (fig. 1: 7).

IV. The Mint's mark has been filed off – a total of 1.

Dated 1662 – 1

8. Obverse: Circumscription: LVD XIII D G / FR ET NAV REX. Bust of the king as an adult, wearing a laurel wreath, armour and mantle, facing to the right. Above the image is an animal (leopard?), facing to the right.

Reverse: Circumscription: SIT. NOMEN. DOMINI. -- BENEDICTVM. 1662. Crowned shield with three three-leaf lilies, facing forwards. A small fortress tower depicted above the crown.

Silver. The lower part of the reverse, where the Mint mark was inscribed, has been filed off. Diameter 20 mm. Weight 2.27 g (fig. 1: 8).

As can be seen from the descriptions of the preservation states in the catalogue, five of the eight coins' surfaces have been damaged on purpose. Four specimens (Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5) are scratched to a higher or lesser degree and one (No. 8) has been filed off on the reverse, on the spot where the mint mark was. We cannot provide an answer to the question of why these intentional damages were made to the coins.

In the 16th – 17th c., France was the West European country that maintained the most active trade relations with the Ottoman Empire. However, in this period French coins were a very rare occurrence in the Levant. This is because in trading with the Ottoman Empire, French merchants used mainly the Spanish silver thaler coins (called "reales" in the Levant) and their sub-units, half and quarter thalers ("reales"). These coins were minted in large quantities, in the American and European mints of the Spanish Kingdom, from the silver mined in the rich silver mines located in the Spanish realms in America. Due to the significant export of crafted goods from France to Spain, large amounts of money, comprising Spanish silver reales, were held by French merchants. A significant part of these coins was used by the French in their trade with the Levant.

However, towards the end of the reign of Louis XIII (1610 – 1643) and mainly in the first quarter of the century from the reign of Louis XIV (1643 – 1715), significant quantities of silver coins with small denomination were produced in France, a large part of which were used for trade with the Levant. These were the silver coins with denomination of one twelfth of the thaler (écu d'argent), i.e. 5 sou. These coins quickly became very popular in the Levant regions in the 1650s and 1660s under the names of "luigini" and "timuni" (Винавер 1970, 158). The eight coins which are the topic of this paper are examples of these.

The luigini became so popular among the population of the Ottoman Empire that their purchasing power within its borders was much higher than their actual value. Instead of twelve luigini eight luigini were considered as equal in value to one silver thaler (which is where their other name "timuni" comes from, i.e. "eighths") (Винавер 1970, 158). In other words, in the 1650s – 1660s in the Levant, the luigini had a market rate not of about 10 aspers, which would have corresponded to their actual value, but of about 13 – 15 aspers (Винавер 1970, 158).

One of the reasons why the luigini were valued so much within the Ottoman Empire was that the women (both Christian and Muslim) preferred to use these beautiful coins as adornment (on strings and the like) (Винавер 1970, 158). An interesting example in this respect can be found in the travel notes of the Englishman Edward Brown, who passed through our lands in 1669. He wrote the following: "We gave the women small European change. I received many thanks from a Bulgarian woman, for a shiny coin of five sols (i.e. 5 sou) which she [immediately pierced and]



Fig. 1. Eight silver coins of Louis XIV of France (1643 – 1715) from the depot of the National Museum of History – Sofia

Обр. 1. Осем сребърни монети на френския крал Людовик XIV (1643 – 1715)
от фонда на Националния исторически музей – София

added to her head ornament, above her forehead, to the other coins she had put there earlier” (Чужди пътеписи...1987, 184). Even the Janissaries preferred to receive their salaries in luigini (despite their inflated rate of one eighth of the thaler) and not in depreciated aspers (Винавер 1970, 158).

Evidence of the significant dissemination of the luigini of the kings Louis XIII and Louis XIV in circulation on Bulgarian territory is their discovery in significant quantities in several coin hoards from the 17th c. One such example is a coin hoard from that century found in 1961 in the territory of the former Birimirtsii village, Sofia region (currently, Benkovski district of Sofia city), housed at the numismatic depot of the Museum of History of Sofia. From a total of 597 coins, 540 are luigini (Григорова 1973, 16 – 19). From these, 28 are of Louis XIII and the other 512 are of Louis XIV. From these 540 luigini, 66 are pierced to be used as adornment (Григорова 1973, 17).

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ЧАСТ ОТ КОЛЕКТИВНА НАХОДКА СЪС СРЕБЪРНИ МОНЕТИ НА ФРЕНСКИЯ КРАЛ ЛЮДОВИК XIV ОТ ФОНДА НА НИМ – СОФИЯ

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Предмет на настоящата публикация са осем броя сребърни френски монети с номинална стойност от 5 су (една дванадесета от сребърния талер). Те са на крал Людовик XIV (1643 – 1715). Съхраняват се във фонда на Националния исторически музей – София. Тези монети са част от по-голяма колективна монетна находка от XVII в., произхождаща от територията на Република България.

През XVI – XVII в. от западноевропейските страни най-активни търговски взаимоотношения с Османската империя е поддържала Франция. Но през този период, френски монети в Леванта се срещат твърде рядко. Това е така, защото в търговията си с Османската империя френските търговци са използвали главно сребърните испански талерови монети (наричани в Леванта „реали“) и техните подразделения, половин и четвърт талерите (реалите). Тези монети са били сечени в огромни количества в американските и европейските монетарници на Испанското кралство от среброто, добивано в богатите сребърни рудници, намиращи се в испанските владения в Америка. Поради значителния износ на манифактурни стоки от Франция в Испания в ръцете на френските търговци се съсредоточавали големи парични суми, съставени от испански сребърни реали. Значителна част от тези монети французите използвали в търговията си с Леванта.

Но към края на управлението на крал Людовик XIII (1610 – 1643) и най-вече през първия четвърт век от царуването на Людовик XIV (1643 – 1715) във Франция били произведени значителни количества сребърни монети от малък номинал, голяма част от които били употребени за търговията с

Леванта. Става дума за сребърните монети с номинална стойност от една дванадесета част от талера (*écu d'argent*), т.е. от 5 су. През 50-те – 60-те години на XVII в. тези монети бързо станали много популярни в левантийските области под названията „луиджини“ и „тимуни“. Именно от тях са и осемте екземпляра, които са предмет на настоящата публикация.

Луиджините станали толкова предпочитани от населението на Османската империя, че в нейните предели покупателната им стойност била силно завишена в сравнение с реалната им стойност. Осем луиджини се пресмятали като равностойни на един сребърен талер, а не дванадесет луиджини (оттук и другото им название – „тимуни“, т.е. „осминки“). С други думи, през 50-те – 60-те години на XVII в., в Леванта, луиджините имали пазарен курс не по около 10 аспри, което би отговаряло на реалната им стойност, а по около 13 – 15 аспри.

Една от причините, поради която луиджините били толкова ценени в пределите на Османската империя била, че жените (както християнките, така и мюсюлманките) предпочитали да използват тези красиви монети за накити (нанизии и прочие). Любопитен пример в това отношение намираме в пътеписните бележки на англичанина Едуард Браун, който преминал през 1669 г. през нашите земи. Там пише следното: „На жените давахме дребни европейски монети. Получих големи благодарности от една българка за лъскава монета от пет сола [т.е. от 5 су], която тя [веднага продупчи и] прибави към своето украшение на главата, над челото при другите монети, които бе поставила там по-рано“. Дори еничарите предпочитали да получават заплатите си в луиджини (въпреки завишения им курс от по една осма от талера), а не в обезценени аспри.

За значителното разпространение на луиджините на кралете Людовик XIII и Людовик XIV в циркулационната среда в българските земи свидетелства откриването им в немалки количества в някои колективни монетни находки от XVII в. Пример в това отношение е едно монетно съкровище от въпросното столетие, намерено през 1961 г. в землището на бившето село Биримирци, Софийско (понастоящем квартал Бенковски на град София), съхранявано в нумизматичния фонд на Музея за история на София. От общо 597 монети, влизащи в неговия състав, 540 броя са луиджини. От тях 28 броя са на Людовик XIII, а останалите 512 броя са на Людовик XIV. От тези 540 луиджини, 66 броя са пробити за употреба като накити.

Ключови думи: сребърни монети, Франция, Людовик XIV

ПРОФ. Д.И.Н. ЛЮДМИЛА ДОНЧЕВА-ПЕТКОВА НА 80 ГОДИНИ

В края на 2019 г. проф. д.и.н. Людмила Дончева-Петкова чества 80-годишния си юбилей. Надали има човек, който да се е запознал с нея и да не я е обикнал от първия път заради добротата и ведрината, която излъчва, заради искрящия ѝ топъл поглед, все едно събрал утринната синева на небосвода, заради приветливата, никога неслизаща от лицето ѝ усмивка, заради отзивчивостта ѝ и готовността винаги да помогне на другите, заради голямото ѝ сърце!

Много може да се каже и напише за проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова. Затова, че е родена на 6 октомври 1939 г. в гр. Кюстендил, че завършва с отличие следването си по специалността история с профил археология във Философско-историческия факултет на Софийския университет „Св. Климент Охридски“, че става редовна аспирантка по славянска археология в Археологическия институт и музей към БАН през далечната 1964 г., че през 1970 г. защитава успешно докторската си дисертация на една трудоемка и неблагодарна тема – *„Българската битова керамика през ранното средновековие (VI – XI в.)“*. Това е тема, на която и днес малцина имат силите и волята да посветят живота и труда си и която, след като бива издадена като монография през 1977 г., остава еталон за ползване и бива цитирана от учени по целия свят. Още много може да се напише за възхода на кариерата ѝ – че веднага след защитата на дисертацията ѝ постъпва на работа като специалист в Археологическия институт, че преминава през всички стъпала на академичната стълбица – научен сътрудник, старши научен сътрудник II степен, докато през 1992 г. става старши научен сътрудник I степен (професор) след като защитава „голямата“ си докторска дисертация *„Средновековните кръстове енколпиони и тяхното значение като историко-археологически извор“*, с което ѝ е присъдена научната степен „доктор на историческите науки“.

Освен с ранносредновековната българска керамика и нагръдните кръстове, името ѝ ще остане завинаги свързано и с археологически обекти като Плиска, Одърци, Топола и Балчик, станали епонимни в българската археология, благодарение на дългогодишната ѝ работа на терен, която приключва едва преди няколко години не по нейно желание. В резултат на разкопките ѝ в Южния сектор на Западната крепостна стена в Плиска се обогатяват познанията ни за развитието на занаятите и организацията на жизненото пространство в следстолична Плиска. Там са разкрити множество производствени съоръжения за метал и





Обр. 2. Проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова на разкопки в Плиска

стъкло, както и некрополи от късния период на обитаване на българската столица. Компетентността си в областта на укрепителните системи и селищното устройство на по-малките центрове дължи на разкопките на ранновизантийската крепост и селище от периода на Първата българска държава край с. Одърци, Добричко. Тук тя разкрива и два големи некропола от XI в., в които намира находки, свързани с печенезите и по този начин дава сериозен тласък в изучаването на материалната и духовна култура на слабозасвидетелстваните до момента в нашите земи по археологически данни варварски народи от този период. В биографията ѝ на проучвател блестят и два биритуални езически некропола. Този

при с. Топола, Добричко е най-големият откриван до сега у нас, а този край гр. Балчик – най-ранният.

Това, което говори най-добре за проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова като учен, е дългият списък с научните ѝ публикации (вече над 150 на брой), защото тя е от малцината учени в областта на средновековната археология, които публикуват резултатите от теренните си проучвания и не искат да оставят вече проученото на произвола на времето и забвението. Методично, ден след ден, както неуморните пчели се трудят и събират прашец, за да го превърнат в безценен мед, така и проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова, макар и от дълго време вече пенсионер, продължава да се труди ежедневно и безспир и да превръща в безценен дар, достъпен за цялата световна общност, резултатите от проучванията си. Вече са почти готови за издаване третият том от едноименната поредица за с. Одърци, в който ще бъдат поместени проучванията на късноантичната крепост, както и некрополът край с. Топола (Добричко).

Уважението и признателността, които археологическата общност питае към проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова, са ясно засвидетелствани в сборника, публикуван през 2009 г. по повод на нейната 70-годишнина (*“EURIKA. In honorem Ludmilae Donchevae-Petkovae”*). Със статии в него участват не само български, но и чуждестранни колеги занимаващи се с различни периоди, които тясно са сътрудничили с проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова и пазят най-топли спомени от общуването си с нея. В сборника е поместена и пълна библиографска справка на трудовете ѝ от 1969 г. до 2009 г. – 40-годишна блестяща творческа кариера!

Казвайки всичко това, не мога да не спомена, че при една от срещите ми с изтъкнатия проф. Фредерик ван Дорнинк Младши от Тексаския университета А&М през 2016 г. в гр.



Обр. 3. Проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова по време на разкопките на двубредния некропол край с. Топола, Добричко (19 септември 2014 г.)

Остин, Тексас той сподели, че макар никога да не е срещал проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова лично, той се е „влюбил“ в нея, когато е прочел книгата ѝ *„Българската битова керамика през ранното средновековие (втората половина на VI – края на X)“*. Въпреки че тя е издадена през 1977 г., трудът е белязал цялата му кариера в областта на битовата керамика, а авторът ѝ, проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова, винаги ще стои за него на пиедестал, като недостижима богиня на керамиката.

В научно отношение такава ще остане проф. д.и.н. Л. Дончева-Петкова за всички нас – недостижима богиня на археологията и керамиката. В човешко отношение обаче тя е един земен, близък и топъл човек, винаги готов да подаде ръка на всеки. От все сърце и душа ѝ желая крепко здраве и още дълги години, изпълнени с поводи за чествания и нови значими научни приноси!

гл. ас. д-р Евелина Тодорова

Списък на трудовете на проф. д.и.н. Людмила Дончева-Петкова за периода 2009 – 2019 г.

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