



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE DANISH NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S CENTRE FOR BLACK SEA STUDIES
2008

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Among the highlights of 2008 to be mentioned in particular are the following collective efforts and their results:

Two major international conferences held with great success: one on the Persians in the Black Sea region and one on the production and distribution of late Hellenistic pottery. The conference on the Persians was the first conference at all to address the subject, and being pioneering in its character it pointed to the subject's potential rather than exhaust it. The conference on the late Hellenistic period gathered the front researchers in the Black Sea as well as the Mediterranean, who both had much to gain from the encounter. The centre's work with Olbia Sector NGS was presented as a new fixed point in the chronology of the period and this was accepted by the scholarly community.

The second campaign of the centre's fieldwork in western Crimea was carried out with spectacular results, because we can now prove that the landscape around the Džarylgač Lake was intensively occupied at least since the Bronze Age until the Hellenistic period in contrast to prevailing scholarly opinion. A massive investment in geomagnetic surveying of large areas was made possible through the collaboration with *Topoi*, a research programme under the DFG directed by scholars of the Freie Universität in Berlin. This resulted in a detailed mapping of a large amount of Greek and 'barbarian' settlements in the zone.

The centre's large network stood its test, when the manuscript for the publication of the Archaeological Report (1993-2008) (#263) was made. The undertaking was enormous, because we were asked to cover such a large time-span since the last report was made.

Much work was done on the two collaborative projects concerning Olbia: the publication of the excavation of Sector NGS (1985-2002) is getting closer to its completion and the Olbia Map Project was launched. Concerning the work on Sector NGS the entire list of deposits and thus the excavation's chronological framework was completely reconstructed and not least the late Hellenistic phase was reconsidered. The work aiming at producing the first overall plan of one of the Black Sea region's most important and certainly best preserved cities has taken a decisive step forward, since c. 500 individual plans from archives in St. Petersburg and Kiev have been scanned and added to the general map, which is based on high resolution satellite images.

The centre made an excursion to Rumania and Bulgaria, where we had the opportunity to discuss Black Sea history and archaeology with Rumanian and Bulgarian colleagues, study 22 ancient sites and 17 museums as well as contributing to an international conference on Grey Ware pottery in Bucharest and Constanta.

Blandt årets højdepunkter skal især nævnes følgende kollektive projekter:

To store, internationale konferencer blev afholdt med betydelig succes: en om Perserne i sortehavsregionen og en om produktion og distribution af senhellenistisk keramik. Konferencen om perserne var den første af sin art. Da den således var et pionerprojekt, afdækkede den først og fremmest emnets potentiale snarere end den udtømte det. Konferencen om senhellenistisk keramik samlede frontforskere inden for sortehavs- såvel som mediterrane studier og begge grupper havde stort udbytte af mødet. Centrets arbejde med analysen af Olbia Sector NGS blev præsenteret som et nyt fixpunkt inden for antik kronologi, hvilket blev accepteret af det internationale forskersamfund tilstede ved konferencen.

Den anden kampagne af centrets feltarbejde på det vestlige Krim blev gennemført med spektakulære resultater, idet vi nu kan påvise at landskabet omkring Džarylgač-søen var intensivt beboet og dyrket allerede fra Bronzealderen og mindst frem til Hellenistisk tid, et resultat der står i modsætning til den almindelige antagelse blandt lokale forskere. En massiv investering i geomagnetisk survey, der var muliggjort gennem samarbejde med *Topoi*, et forskningsprogram under DFG ledet af forskere ved Freie Universität i Berlin, resulterede i en detaljeret kortlægning af et stort antal græske og 'barbariske' bosættelser i området.

Centrets store netværk klarede den udfordring, som affattelsen af Archaeological Report (1993-2008) (#263) udgjorde. Projektet var meget omfattende, fordi der var gået så lang tid, siden den sidste rapport udkom.

Der blev i 2008 arbejdet intensivt med vores to Olbia-projekter: publikationen af udgravningerne af Sector NGS (1985-2002) nærmer sig nu sin afslutning og Olbia Map Project blev påbegyndt. Vedrørende arbejdet med Sector NGS blev den omfattende depotliste og dermed hele udgravningens kronologiske skelet fuldstændigt revideret og i lyset heraf blev ikke mindst den senhellenistiske periode revurderet. Arbejdet med at producere den første plan over hele Olbia, der er en af sortehavsregionens vigtigste (om ikke dén vigtigste) byer, har fået en god start, idet ca. 500 individuelle planer fra arkiver i St. Petersborg og Kiev er blevet scannet og tilføjet generalplanen, der er baseret på satellitbilleder i høj opløsning.

Centret foretog i 2008 en faglig ekskursion til Rumænien og Bulgarien, hvor vi havde lejlighed til at drøfte sortehavshistorie og -arkæologi med lokale kolleger, besøge 22 oldtidslokaliteter og 17 museer såvel som bidrage til en international konference om gråvarekeramik i Bucharest og Constanta.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

RA 1: THEM AND US - CULTURAL STRATEGIES AND INTERACTION

1A Material culture and the dynamics of cultural contact

(BSS 1, 2003; BSS 4, 2006; BSS 8, 2008)

The mile-stone of 2008, the publication of BSS 8, has been reached. The volume edited by Pia Guldager Bilde and Jane Hjarl Petersen is currently in print. 19 contributions by scholars from Denmark, France, Georgia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Russia, and Ukraine give a profound discussion of various topics such as the physical arena of the colonial encounters; the layout of land and protection of cities; the dynamics of the cultural exchange; the perception of how it was to be Greek in the Pontic realm, and finally the reciprocal strategies exerted by the Greeks and Scythians in Olbia as described in Herodotos' Skythian Tale. Through the many-sided contributions it is revealed, how self and other is two sides of the same coin (#261).

1A.1 Burial customs as indicators of cultural identity

PhD project: Jane Hjarl Petersen: terminated June 2007 (#80, #170, #179, #190, #242).

1A.2 Eschatology in the northwestern Black Sea region and beyond

Pia Guldager Bilde (in progress)

This research activity has developed in a direction, which makes it fruitful to combine it with the work done with the so-called Mouldmade bowls in RA 3.B. In 2008 much data collection has been accomplished foremost in St. Petersburg and also in connection with the Centre's conference held in November 2008 (#76, #103, #104, #156, #157, #217, #267, #278, #302; cf. also #295 to #319).

Mile-stone 2009: data collection is to be completed.

1A.3 Grey Ware of the Black Sea Area

PhD project: Søren Handberg, initiated 1 April 2007.

In 2008 the amount of data for the project was considerably enlarged, especially with an exhaustive survey of the material from Crimea, Rumania and Bulgaria. Ceramic samples have also been obtained from the Crimea. A preliminary analysis of the occurrence of Grey wares in this area was presented at an international conference in Constanza (Rumania; in collaboration with V.F. Stolba and S.V. Ušakov). The typological repertoire of the Grey wares in the Pontic region, to be included in the dissertation, has been broadened. The project has gained from a research trip to the Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée in Lyon, the work of which forms the basis for a chapter in the dissertation concerned with the archaeometric aspect of the Grey Wares.

Mile-stone 2009: Completion of the analysis of the typological development and regional characterisation of the Grey Ware.

1B Perceptions of the Black Sea region

George Hinge (post Doc., terminated) (#17, #34, #54, #66, #78, #90, #188, #220, #221).

RA 2: PATTERNS OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE TERMINATED

2A Trade, tolls and taxation

John Lund, Vincent Gabrielsen (BSS 6, 2008)

2B Fish processing and garum trade

Tønnes Bekker-Nielsen (BSS 2, 2005)

2C Trade and distribution of pottery

John Lund, Vincent Gabrielsen (BSS 6, 2008)

2D Chronologies in the Black Sea area

Vladimir Stolba, Lise Hannestad (BSS 3, 2005)

RA 3: POLIS AND CHORA

3A Panskoe I

Vladimir Stolba and others, collaborative project with RAS, St Petersburg (necropolis).

Work on the publication of the *Panskoe I necropolis* is in its final stage, some chapters and catalogue parts are still undergoing editing or linguistic revision. The Mile-stone of 2008 to hand in the manuscript was not achieved (#235).

Mile-stone 2009: handing in to print the manuscript.

3B The Lower City of Olbia in the 5th century BC - 4th century AD (the sector NGS)

Danish participants: most of centre staff, collaborative project with NASU, Kiev.

This research activity has consumed much of the research time of the Centre also in 2008 (#157, #258, #268, #282, #306, #320). The deposit list, which forms the basis of the registration, had to be reconstructed during autumn 2008. This became clear during the stay of Mark Lawall, who was employed to finish the chapter on the transport amphorae found in sector NGS. The entire sequence of 450 individual archaeological contexts defined by the excavators during 27 years of excavations had to be verified in order to propose the final reconstruction of the site's history that took into account the discoveries occasioned by the collective work with the entire body of material from the site. The re-ordering of the contexts was very time-consuming and it required a thorough revision of all chapters prepared. The chapter on the lamps was finished (Jakob Munk Højte) as well as the recording of the coins by Vladimir Stolba kept in the Institute of Archaeology in Kiev. A multi-author report on the final phase of Hellenistic occupation at Olbia, sector NGS, was presented at the centres international conference *Pottery, Peoples and Places*, Sandbjerg 27-29th November 2008 (#308). We can now propose that Olbia become a fixed point in late Hellenistic chronology since it seems to have been destroyed in the 140s BC and only levelled and resettled in the end of the century. This is a major conclusion of our work in RA 3B. The Mile-stone of 2008 to finish and handing in the manuscript had to be postponed to 2009 because of the thorough revision undertaken.

3C The Sanctuary of Targa at Džangul'

Pia Guldager Bilde, Vladimir Stolba, collaborative project with RAS, St Petersburg.

This project has been put in hold because A.N. Ščeglov is currently working with the material.

3D The distant chora of Chersonesos: the Džarylgač Survey

In collaboration with Simferopol' (Sergej Lancov, Sergej Koltuchov), GIA Groningen and from 2008 Freie Universität, Berlin; fieldwork 2007, 2008.

The Džarylgač Survey Project (DSP) aims at investigating the rural landscape in the hinterland of the ancient settlement of Panskoe at both sides of the Džarylgač Lake. This study has resulted in a deep understanding of the use and function of the north-western Crimean landscape in a diachronic perspective from antiquity until early modern times. The methodologies applied are systematic field walking and collecting of surface finds, geomagnetic and other surface measurements as well as GPS recording and trial excavations at selected sites. In 2008 the sites were larger and with much denser scatters of material remains than found in 2007 and further sites had a Bronze Age component. Occasioned by the findings of the DSP project there is need for a large-scale revision of the settlement history of the north-western Crimea. In view of current plans to construct a large-scale wind power plant on the inland slopes in this area this added urgency to the project. With the financial help of our German collaborators a field campaign which included investigation of large areas with two sets of geomagnetic equipment was held in May/June 2008. However, due to disagreement with the Crimean Branch of the Institute of Archaeology the collaboration agreement was discontinued by our Ukrainian partners. Therefore the Džarylgač Survey Project will not be able to conduct the scheduled third season in 2009. K. Winther Jacobsen acted in 2008 as liaison with the Dutch collaborators, and co-directed the field work in Crimea as well as made a plan for the publication of the project results and compiled a site catalogue for the same. S. Handberg was in charge of finds registration. In January 2009 Danish, Dutch and German collaborators met in Sandbjerg in order to draft the outline of the publication.

Mile-stones 2009: the manuscripts of the publication are due in July 2009.

3E The necropolis of Olbia

Jane Hjarl Petersen (post Doc.), Michail Treister (Berlin), collaborative project with NASU, Kiev and Freie Universität (Berlin).

This project has not been started, because several German applications to the DFG intended to cover the expenses of German participation have failed. In addition the main Danish participant, Jane H. Petersen, has been on maternity leave in 2008.

3F Olbia Map project

Alexander Karjaka, Pia Guldager Bilde, Tatjana Smekalova in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences, Kiev (V. Krapivina) and St. Petersburg (J. Vinogradov/E. Nosov).

This project is the result of the Centre's engagement in the project RA *3B The Lower City of Olbia in the 5th century BC - 4th century AD (the sector NGS)*. In 2008 through the collaboration with Kiev and St. Petersburg the project has moved far. A map of Olbia based on high resolution satellite photos was first created. This has formed the basis for correcting existing topographical plans. In 2008 c. 500 field drawings of old Olbian excavations from the archives in St. Petersburg and Kiev have been scanned and added to the general plan. Thus plans of most of the ancient city excavated since c. 1900 until today have been created. The resulting digital plan will provide us with the first solid basis for a detailed analysis of planning and organisation of different areas of the ancient city.

Mile-stones 2009: completion of map and manuscripts for publication.

RA 4: FROM HELLENISTIC KINGDOM TO ROMAN PROVINCE TERMINATED

(BSS 5, 2006; BSS 7, 2008; BSS 9, 2009)

4A The Pontic Kingdom

4A.1 The kingdom of Mithridates

Jakob Munk Højte (post Doc.), ongoing

During 2008 all the manuscripts from the international conference *Mithridates VI and the Pontic Kingdom* held in 2007 were gathered and edited. The volume is now in print at Aarhus University Press and will appear in 2009 as BSS 9 (#204, #210, #212, #213, #222, #225, #228, #229, #234, #257; see also #60, #82, #84, #85, #97, #101, #106, #107, #108, #109, #116, #118, #122, #131, #137).

Mile-stone 2009: Publication of *Black Sea Studies* 9.

4A.2 Religion and cult of the Pontic Kingdom

Sergej Saprykin, RAS, Moskva, terminated; will be published in Russia probably in 2009.

4A.3 The Mithridatic Wars: resistance or retaliation?

Jesper Majbom Madsen (post Doc.), ongoing (article and contribution to conference volume, BSS 9) (#85, #115, #116).

Mile-stone 2009: Publication of *Black Sea Studies* 9.

4B The coming of Rome

(BSS 7, 2008)

4B.1 Euergesia and the development of societal structures

PhD project: Trine Madsen, terminated October 2006.

4B.2 The Romanization of Pontus et Bithynia

PhD project: Jesper Majbom Madsen, terminated June 2006 (#133, #139, #163, #182, #207).

Will be published under the title *Eager to be Roman. Greek Response to Roman Rule in Pontus and Bithynia*.

Duckworth 2009.

4B.3 Greeks under the Roman Empire

Tønnes Bekker-Nielsen (post Doc.), terminated, (# 260, #262, #274).

RA 5: CLIMATE CHANGES AND LONG TERM HISTORY

Vladimir Stolba, in collaboration with Institute of Limnology, RAS St Petersburg

Funding for further fieldwork in order to obtain oriented cores for the upper 1.5 m. of the sequence, corresponding to the Greek settlement in the area, as well as for carrying out the depositional remnant magnetism [DRM] and stable isotope variation analyses, etc. has not been obtained, so activities were lowered to a minimum in 2008 (#194, #201, #238, #248, #249, #322, #323). A new application to the AUFF for additional funding was made in January 2009.

Mile-stone 2009: Contribution to the DSP publication. For the rest, the project will be suspended until the additional funding is available.

RA 6: THE COMMUNICATION OF POWER – THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

6A The Persians in the Black Sea region

Jens Nieling (post Doc.), ongoing

Jens Nieling's contract was extended until January 2010 so that he could cover the west coast too. An international

conference *Achaemenid Impact in the Black Sea - Communication of Powers in Circumpontic Cultures* was held at Sandbjerg 10-12 January with the participation of 32 specialists from Ireland, England, Germany, Bulgaria, Russia, Georgia and Danish Universities (#275, #285, #291, #292). Due to the success of the conference the follow-up seminary “*The satrapal Seat at Daskyleion and Persian-Local interaction in North Western Antolia in the Classical period*” was held 23-24 June in Aarhus with participation of English, German, Turkish and Danish scholars. A university course “*The admired enemy – Cultural contacts between the Greek orbit and the Persian empire*” was prepared, but had to be postponed until autumn 2009 in order to fit into the teaching schedule of the Department of Classical Archaeology, AU.

Mile-stone 2009: Editing and handing in the manuscripts from the Sandbjerg conference for publication as BSS 11.

6B *Communicating power - a study of kurgan burials*

Tatjana Smekalova, in progress

In 2008 analysis focused on territorial and chronological distribution of kurgans throughout the steppes of the northern Black Sea region. The main method applied is identification of kurgans in detailed maps, in particular a military map of the late 19th century in half-verst scale (1 verst is 1.07 km). Sheets of this map have been assembled using the Mapinfo software. The resulting map served as the topographic basis where kurgans were recorded in a special graphic layer.

In 2008 the first map including more than 15,750 kurgans showing the distribution of kurgans throughout the Crimea was presented (#265, #270). Three regions with significant concentrations were distinguished: (1) the Kerch Peninsula, (2) the Tarkhankut Peninsula and (3) the foothills of the Crimean Mountains. The high concentrations of kurgans in the first two regions can be explained by the presence of Scythians settling under influence of the Greek centres. The reason for the high concentration of kurgans in the foothills is different and probably to be connected with the territory of the “Royal” Scythians. In addition, extensive chains of kurgans stretching predominantly east-west mark the nomads’ routes of seasonal migrations. Such chains are also recorded on both banks of the Dnieper. The region characterised by such kurgan-lined roads may enable us to establish the entire region under Scythian control.

A number of general problems have been considered such as the origins of the practice of constructing tumuli, techniques of their construction, natural resources employed, sizes of the mounds, and the amount of labour necessary for construction. Since kurgans are the only extant architectural monuments of the nomadic Scythians they play an important role for our understanding of Scythian society.

The results of studies conducted in 2008 have been published in two scientific papers and reported at the 9th Bosphoran Readings in Kerch (#265, #270; see also #243, #245).

Mile-stone 2009: complete data collection and analysis.

6C *Greek coinage in the Black Sea region prior to the Roman domination*

Vladimir Stolba, in progress

During multiple study campaigns from April to July Greek coins from the Black Sea mints stored in the museums in Sevastopol (National Preserve Tauric Chersonesos), Kiev (National Museum of the History of Ukraine), and the National Museum in Cracow (Poland) were processed. The recording included a detailed description and attribution, measuring, weighing and photographing the coins. The number of recorded specimens amounted to over 1,000. Alongside the *de visu* study of the museum material, catalogues of particular mints were updated with the published material (studies of individual mints, museum catalogues, numismatic auction catalogues). By now, the catalogues are ready for the cities of Sinope, Kromna, Herakleia Pontike, Kerkinitis as well as for the Bosphoran coins struck in the name of the Sindians. Recording of the coins found from 1985 to 2002 in the Lower City of Olbia, Sector NGS, and kept now in the Institute of Archaeology in Kiev was finished as well.

Mile-stone 2009: Compiling coin catalogues for the mints of Sesamos, Agathopolis, Tium, Trapezus, Nikonion, Nymphaion, Theodosia. Study of coin collections in Istanbul, Vienna, Berlin, and Paris.

6D Mother of the Gods: reception and transformation of an Anatolian deity

PhD project: Birgitte Bøgh (initiated April 2006, from 1 January 2008, 30 hours/week)

Many new insights were the outcome of two research trips to the west coast of the Black Sea in 2008. Bøgh completed the collection of literature and ancient sources in general. The study of a possible migration of Thracians to Phrygia was finished, as was the catalogue of objects attesting to the cult of Kybele from Rumania and Bulgaria (#187; #209).

Mile-stone 2009: finish and hand in manuscript for assessment.

RA 7: THE BOSPORAN KINGDOM

7A The Bosporan Kingdom: between polis and empire

Jakob Munk Højte, initiated February 2007

Jakob Munk Højte and Line Bjerg in collaboration with Udo Schlotzhauer from The German Archaeological Institute, Eurasia Department have organized an international conference on the Bosporan Kingdom, which will take place at Sandbjerg 23-27 March 2009. 35 invited scholars will foremost discuss on the one hand the early phase of the Greek settlements and the formation of the kingdom and on the other the Roman period and the final phase of the kingdom's existence (#223).

Mile-stone 2009: Execution of the conference as mentioned; editing of conference acts for publication (BSS 13).

7B Coin circulation in the Bosporan Kingdom in the Roman period

PhD project: Line Bjerg, initiated October 2006

Bjerg was on sick leave January to September 2008 (Bile Acid Malabsorption); accordingly the report concern only the months from September to December. The collection of numismatic material for the project was completed. This has resulted in a considerable body of numismatic material catalogued from the Bosporan kingdom, Crimea, Trans-Caucasia, Rumania, and Russia. The process of structuring the data is in progress as is mapping of the finds for a better overall understanding of the chronological framework of the project and the periods into which the coin finds date. In terms of methodology and discussion of research history concerning the numismatic material the project has advanced far.

Mile-stone 2009: Finishing the first and second part of the thesis.