

## NB – UNEDITED CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

### **Ceramic complex of the second – first centuries BC at Bosphorus**

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The theme of this paper is investigation of the ceramic complex of the second – first centuries BC from the territory of the Bosphoran kingdom. Changes of trade, economical and political situations influenced import composition and amount of imported and local objects during all the periods of ancient history.

Great amount of handmade pottery and absolute prevalence of ceramics from Asia Minor was characteristic for the early period of the North Pontic settlements (6<sup>th</sup> century BC). It obviously depended as on economic base of colonies which was still weak at that time so on closest connections with their metropoleis typical for early periods.

The characteristic feature of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC is widening of assortment of ceramic import and the leading role of Athenian production and of centres connected with Athens. Studying this phenomenon one can easily notice connection of the situation with active economic growing of North Pontic poleis and with changes of political and economical situation in the Mediterranean.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC – the epoch of consolidation and flourishing of the Bosphoran State – handmade ware was almost absent among other types of pottery while imported one came from many Mediterranean and Pontic centres. It was mainly connected with the fact that Bosphorus had become one of the most important exporters of bread for Mediterranean countries. What is more, in Late Classical – early Hellenistic period such big poleis as Pantikapaion, Phanagoria, Theodosia and others were also rather big emporia connecting Greek World and local peoples living in Don and Kuban' regions.

The situation changed in the late 4<sup>th</sup> – the first third of the 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. After the campaigns of Alexander the Great Hellenistic world became much bigger as many vast eastern territories were added to it and as the result Bosphorus got to the periphery of the ancient world. At the same time active development of local commodity production<sup>1</sup> working first of all for local market began in the Pontic region. The epoch which is being investigated now became the final part of this period.

Let's study the ceramic complex itself and divide it into several parts.

#### **Trade amphorae**

Prevalence of vessels from Rhodes (Монахов, 2003, с. 120) and Sinopa (Монахов, 2003, с. 155; Толстиков, Журавлев, Ломтадзе 2003, с. 295-298; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev 2004, pp. 207, fig. 4) is characteristic for layers and contexts of the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – the early 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. We distinguish red clay amphorae from Heraclea Pontica of this time as well (Толстиков, Журавлев, Ломтадзе 2003, с. 295-298; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev 2004, pp. 207-209, fig. 5). Since the end of the first third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC the composition of the amphora complex had changed. You can hardly find amphorae from Phodes, however South Pontic “pseudo-coan” amphorae with double-barreled handles began to penetrate into Bosphoran markets in great amounts (Внуков 2003, с. 28-96). By the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC production of this centre had occupied the leading position. Import in the so called brown-clay Colchian amphorae was also wide spread during the whole 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (Внуков 2003, с. 160-194).

#### **Table and kitchen ware**

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<sup>1</sup> However we should note that Heraclea Pontica and Sinope were ones the most important exporters of wine and olive oil for the North Pontic area since the second quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC

Presence of both imported (Mediterranean) and local (Pontic) slipped table ware is characteristic for investigated epoch.

Brown slip pelikae with ribbed body (Алексеева 1986, с. 46, рис. 8; Мордвинцева 1993, рис. 2,1; Демиденко, Журавлев, Трейстер 1997, рис. 4, 1; с. 193-194; Толстикова, Журавлев, Ломтадзе 2003, С. 291-292, табл.7, 5; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev 2004, pp. 205, fig. 3, 6; Zhuravlev, Demidenko, Treister Abb. 7, 1; S. 418-420), red and brown slip kantharoi and cups of different types (Ланцов, Труфанов 1999, с. 163-164; Толстикова, Журавлев, Ломтадзе 2003, С. 293, табл. 9, 2; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev 2004, pp. 205, fig. 3, 6; Сокольский 1976, рис. 48-49), red slip dishes on ring foot (Арсеньева, Науменко 2001, с. 63-64, рис. 12-13; Толстикова, Журавлев, Ломтадзе, 2003. С. 292, табл. 8, 13; Масленников 1998, рис. 72, 10, рис. 74, 2,3; Zhuravlev 2002, Fig. 6; Zhuravlev, Zhuravleva 2002, P. 236; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev, 2004. p. 205, Fig. 3,5; Сокольский, 1976, рис. 50, 1-4), relief “Megarian bowls”<sup>2</sup> and painted laginoi (Кобылина, 1956. Рис. 14 а; Цветаева, 1957. С. 195, табл. 6, 5-7; Журавлев, Ильина, Ломтадзе, Сударев 2006 с. 18-21, рис. 7, 9) are often found in layers and contexts of the second – first centuries BC at Bosphoran sites.

Among not painted pottery we should note Chian stamped laginoi (Журавлев, Ильина, Ломтадзе, Сударев 2006 с. 37, рис. 16, 5), unguentaria (Максимова 1979, табл. III, Журавлев, Ильина, Ломтадзе, Сударев 2006 с. 21, рис. 7, 6-8, с. 37, рис. 16, 3-4; Сокольский 1976, рис. 54; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev, 2004. p. 205, Fig. 2,3-12), table amphorae and jugs of different centres of production (Ланцов, Труфанов 1999, с. 161-162, рис. 1-3; Толстикова, Журавлев, Ломтадзе 2003, С. 293-294, табл. 7, 1; 10, 3-8; Lomtadze, Zhuravlev 2004, pp. 205, fig. 3, 1-4; Сокольский 1976, рис. 52-53).

Also we would like to add that Bosphoran pottery appears at that time. This is, first of all, Bosphoran sigillata (Домжалски, Журавлев 2003; Арсенъева 1970, табл. 15, 11, 13; Арсенъева, Науменко 2001, рис. 11, 4-5; Ланцов, Труфанов 1999, с. 164, рис. 4, 10-13; Масленников 1998, рис. 85, 5-6; Сокольский 1976, рис. 53, 3-4; Zhuravlev 2002, Fig. 6, 4), relief cups (among them there are ones with the stamp of Demetrius) (Kovalenko 1996) and multi-nozzled lamps (Журавлев, 2001).

In general we can see that ceramic complex of the second – first centuries BC at Bosphorus contains a wide spectrum of objects coming from different production centres. It has some important peculiarities as well. If we compare the pottery chronologically we can notice that materials of Late Hellenistic and Early Roman times differ from the complex of the Hellenistic period. At this time mass local (Bosphoran) production appeared while Attic ware almost totally disappeared.

If we compare our materials with synchronic Mediterranean contexts we can see that the differences are not only absence or presence of production of local workshops. If we study standard contexts of this time, for example the shipwreck near Antikyphera, we will see obvious distinctions in the composition of amphora complex. Among trade amphorae of the shipwreck there are vessels from Mediterranean (Rhodos, Cos) as well as Italian ones (Grace 1965). The other situation was typical for Bosphorus - besides Rhodian vessels mainly amphorae from Pontic centres (Sinope, Heraclea Pontica, Colchis) were imported to this territory. Additionally you can find “pseudo-Coan” and “pseudo-Rhodian” amphorae produced also in South Pontic centres.

These tendencies of prevalence of Pontic goods and of development of local commodity production were connected with several causes. Let's note the most important of them:

1. The fact that in the end of the second century BC Bosphorus had become the part of the state of Mithridates IV Eupator caused development of inner Pontic trade.

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<sup>2</sup> For complete studying see PhD dissertation of S.A. Kovalenko “Ancient relief pottery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> cent. BC in the North Pontic area”. Moscow, 1989

2. Volume of import from Asia Minor to the North Pontic area diminished a lot during the wars between Mithridates and Rome. As the result it became possible for local ceramic production to develop.
3. Campaign of Pompeius in 64-63 BC and creation of the province Bythinia-Pontus totally changed the trade situation in Pontic region and at Bosporus as well. Since that time Roman types of ceramic, such as “pseudo-coan” amphorae or red slip pottery had prevailed at Pontic market.

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