

NB – UNEDITED CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Relief pottery from Pantikapaion

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One of the main groups of Hellenistic table ware in the Bosphorus was the group of moulded bowls. One can hardly say that scholars from the former USSR, Russia and Ukraine did not pay enough attention to relief pottery from Bosphorus. However most of these publications (V.D.Blavatskiy, N.M.Loseva, I.G.Shurgaya, V.S.Zabelina) were written in the 50s – 70s of the 20th century. The only summarizing investigation devoted to relief pottery of the North Black Sea area and to Bosphorus as well, was prepared by S.Kovalenko in 1989, but this dissertation has not been published and exists only as a manuscript.

Our paper is based on materials of the last excavations of the Bosporan archaeological expedition under the supervision of Dr. V.Tolstikov in Pantikapaion. This pottery has not been published till now, to the only exclusion of separate contexts from cisterns.

Imported relief bowls. Production of Ionian workshops dating in general to the second – third quarters of the 2nd century BC dominates among imported relief pottery coming to Bosphorus. We can distinguish a large group of Ephesos relief vessels with a great variety of shapes. These vessels are from different workshops: the workshop of monogram, the one of Menemachos, of Belles Meduses and others. It is interesting to note that some relief vessels can be found in contexts even of the first quarter of the 1st century BC, i.e. much later then they were produced.

There is a rather great amount of relief bowls produced in the workshop of KIRBEIOS, which may be located in Smyrna.

The amount of Attic relief vessels at Bosphorus was considerably small at that time. By the way, we can assert the same about Attic lamps – you can hardly find them in layers of the 2nd century BC.

Some fragments of relief vessels can be considered as Pergamene ones. At the same time from the mid 2nd century BC Pergamene vessels with appliqué relief decoration were very popular at Bosphorus. Production of local imitations appeared because of their popularity, but lower quality of latter ones prevented them from being widespread even at the territory of the Bosporan kingdom.

Bosporan relief bowls. In the late 3rd – late 2nd centuries BC only imported relief bowls were spread at the territory of the Bosporan kingdom. The situation changed in the late 2nd – early 1st century BC and local production of relief pottery appeared. Bosporan relief bowls were made of dark grey clay with lime inclusions. Bowls made of red clay are known as well.

Typology of Bosporan relief bowls was worked out by I.Shurgaya in 1962, and then revised by Sergey Kovalenko (1989; 1996). Two main types of bowls are distinguished, both close in shape to the Ionian ones: deep bowls with slightly concave or vertical rim and relatively flat bowls with visibly concave rim. The average diameter is about 10-13 cm.

Some fragments of moulds for relief vessels were found there. Moreover, production of this pottery existed not only in Pantikapaion, but also in Mirmekion and Phanagoria. Production of the workshop of Demetrios (with the stamp ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ) predominated at the market. According to calculation of Sergey Kovalenko, it covered about 85% among others. Main ornament of these vessels is floral decoration, which consisted of long petals, leaves of acanthus and palms. Sometimes only long petals, alternating with rows of relief drops, were used on Bosporan bowls (Schurgaya Type 1). These long petals might be grouped in twos, threes or fours or alternating with the palm and acanthus leaves, accompanied by floral springs, rosettes and birds (Shurgaya Types 2 and 3). S.Kovalenko also distinguished another combination of decorative motifs (long petals and

relief drops with triangular leaves, relief sticks, cones, stylized springs and so-called “Macedonian shield ornament”. Bowls decorated with small, overlapping, triangular leaves (Shurgaya Type 5) were produced in small quantities. Rims of all these types of bowls are usually decorated with ovolo. Very high percentage of stamped vessels (about 2/3) among others is a characteristic feature of this workshop. Probably bowls with the same decoration but without stamps may also belong to Demetrios workshop.

The other workshop with not so mass production belonged to Damocles (stamped by ΔΑΜΟΚΛΕΙΟC). Only 4 % of Bosporan relief cups were made there. There are also a few different stamps that could have belonged to some other workshops, for example, ΑΔ or ΔΑ.

The main part of decoration of the bowls from these workshops is similar, only some details are different. It is no doubt that these workshops worked synchronously. It's very probable that the activity of Damocles workshop was longer than of Demetrios one. The process of replacing of imported East Greek relief ware by the local one can be traced at the whole territory of the Bosporan kingdom.

The production of Bosporan craftsmen did not bring anything new in the development of pottery tradition of the Hellenistic world. Only well known Mediterranean motifs monotonously repeated on Bosporan bowls. The influence of the Ionian specimens is evident, manifested first of all in the shape of the bowls and in the system of ornamentation. The quality of Bosporan vessels was worse than of imported ones, and their covering was below the average.

Lamps. Another group of imported relief ceramic objects coming to Bosphorus were lamps.

Knidian lamps were both wheel-made (Howland type 40A-B) and moulded (Howland type 50A-B). They were closely connected morphologically and elements of their decoration were rather similar as well. The main part of Knidian lamps comes from the South-West territory of Asia Minor and from the nearby regions of Aegean basin. There are a few finds of Knidian lamps in the Bosporan kingdom, mainly in Pantikapaion, and most of them are wheel-made.

A series of imitations of Knidian type of lamps is known at Bosphorus. It is interesting to note that local imitations of wheel-made Knidian lamps were found also in Athens, Labraunda and at other places.

Mass finds of *Ephesos type lamps* are known both in Ephesos itself and far from the city as well. In the late 2nd – early 1st centuries BC it was one of the most popular types of imported lighting devices in the North Pontic area. Finds of these lamps come from Bosphorus, Chersonesos, Olbia and other sites. Ephesian lamps are usually made from grey clay with small lime inclusions. Sometimes clay is red or orange-reddish. Slip is usually gray or black. The most typical shape of Ephesian lamps is round one with double-convex. Earlier lamps have triangular endings of their nozzles which is similar to metal prototypes. Later they were changed with lamps having rounded endings. They became the most popular in the second half of the 2nd – the first half of the 1st century BC. Lamps of Ephesos type existed at Bosphorus till the last quarter of the first century BC. They were so widespread that caused the whole series of local imitations.