

The Chersonesean Chora in Light of the New Investigations in the Herakleian Peninsula (1991-2003)

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Alexander Nikolaevič Ščeglov has always taken the problem of the preservation of archaeological sites very seriously. As early as the 1960s, when work was carried out in the Chersonesos Museum with the aim of documenting the area's many different sites, Ščeglov, at the head of a small surveying detachment travelled around the entire neighbourhood of Chersonesos with binoculars, a camera and a surveyor's rod, identifying new archaeological sites. Alexander Nikolaevič has always considered rescue excavations a high priority. In the autumn of 1968, during a bout of cold November rain, he and his two assistants excavated a burial vault from the early Medieval period on the western shore of the Omega Bay (Sevastopol), where new development of one of the city's beaches was in progress. This event has predetermined all my subsequent work in Chersonesos. I have had to visit the *chora* of Chersonesos on the Herakleian Peninsula fairly often, helping Alexander Nikolaevič with the recording of the ancient land-division, which at that time was excellently discernible on the surface. After he left for Leningrad, it seemed to me quite natural to continue these studies in the *chora*, particularly because since that time intensive construction work has started there.

So far the Herakleian Expedition has investigated a considerable expanse of the territory of the *chora*, but this paper is devoted to that part of it where, owing to Alexander Nikolaevič, my archaeological training began, namely the western shore of the Omega Bay, which now belongs to the Archaeological Park (Fig. 1, areas 3-4 and 5).

The territory of the Archaeological Park comprises several areas abounding in remains of ancient land division, which are better preserved than anywhere else (Fig. 2). The system of transport and division roads; the demarcation of plots for vine-growing; peculiar agrotechnical structures used for growing vines on rocky soils; farmhouses, fortified with powerful towers, which defended large winemaking complexes – all of this was accomplished by the civic community of Tauric Chersonesos as early as the 4th century BC. Today, by means of aerial photographs, surface surveys and excavations, it has all been brought to light and documented.

Area 2) Farmhouse on the landplot 86 near the Victory Park

Area 3) On the point between Kruglaya Bay and Kamyshovaya Bay

Area 4) Farmhouse on the landplot 6 near P. Korchagin Street

Area 5) Farmhouse on the landplot 9 near P. Korchagin Street

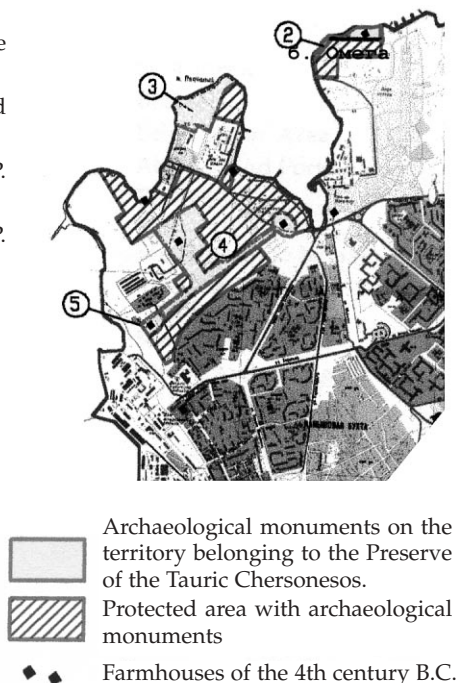


Fig. 1. General map with the location of archaeological sites on the western shore of the Omega Bay with indication of the areas belonging to the Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos.

The land constituting this part of the Park is bounded on the north-east by the western shore of Omega Bay, on the north-west by the steep rocky seashore, on the west by the right shore of Kamyševaja Bay, and on the south by the transverse road II. Within this territory, the following land plots of the ancient *chora* are situated: 1; 2; 2a; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 7a; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12, covering a total area of about 400 hectares (Fig. 3).

The north-western coastal region of the *chora* was one of its important elements. Here the outer harbours of Chersonesos were situated and, alongside their shores, various settlements and fortified farmhouses were located.

The geographical and climatic conditions of this region – thick topsoil formed of red earth and the presence of sources of fresh water on the slopes of the *balkas* (gullies) – were favourable for successful farming and fishing. These circumstances encouraged the Greeks to occupy the region and its territory was thickly covered with vineyards.

Amidst the vineyards there were farmhouses protected by defensive towers. One of the rural houses was discovered on a shoal in the middle of the bay, probably the farmhouse of the ancient Land Plot no. 13. Now it is indiscernible on the surface, but until the end of the 19th century, before which the sea level was lower than it is today, the shoal looked like an island.



Fig. 2. Aerial photograph of the region.

The Academician P.S. Pallas wrote that “the gulf, which is justly called the *Kruglaja* (i.e. round, now called *Omega*) Bay, is less than one *verst* (= 3500 ft) wide and long, and not deeper than six *sazhens* (one *sazhen* = 2.13 m). In its centre there is a small islet surrounded by shallow water, and on the shores of the bay there are two salt lakes – one directly opposite the obtuse end of the bay, separated from the bay by a narrow dam, the other – on the western side of the bay and separated from it by a broader bridge of land. The distance to *Kruglaja* Bay from *Streleckaja* Bay is less than one *verst*, while from the next, *Kazackaja* Bay it is much greater; the capes separating *Kruglaja* Bay from the two neighbouring bays are not high”.¹

A.N. Ščeglov, who carried out investigations on the shores of this bay, came to the following conclusion: “Near the coasts of the entire Herakleian Peninsula at the time when the land plots were being demarcated, the sea level was 3-4 m lower than it is today. Throughout the entire Graeco-Roman period and perhaps part of the Medieval period as well, *Kruglaja* Bay did not exist within its present-day boundaries, but was a small open gulf of similar dimensions to the bays of *Martynova*, *Pesočnaja* and the unnamed one situated between *Kruglaja* and *Kamyševaja* Bays ... The modern ingression of the sea probably started not earlier than the 10th-12th centuries AD ... Finds of various pottery on the bottom must evidently be linked to the existence of a rural house, which was occupied for a long time: possibly from

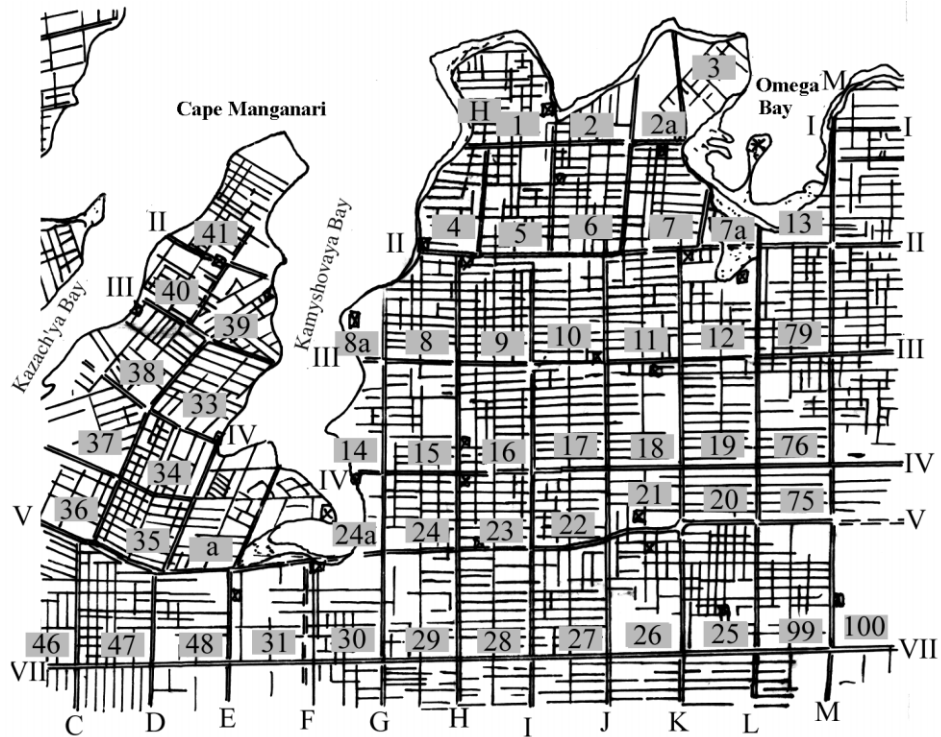


Fig. 3. Schematic representation of the ancient land-division.

the middle or the end of the 4th century BC until the 10th to 12th century AD. The contours of the bottom of the bay, although probably slightly transformed through the ages, indicate that the place where the farmhouse might have been located is in the southern part of the bay with the lowest water".²

Presented below is a description of the ancient land plots investigated by the Heracleian Expedition from 1976-2001.

Land Plot 2a

This plot is situated on the cape isthmus between the western shore of Omega Bay and the shore of a small gulf in the north-west. It is shaped like an elongated triangle. This area was marked off by myself from the area of Plot 2. On an aerial photograph taken in the 1960s, a transverse road separating these two plots is discernible. The preserved length of the road is 200 m. The length of the fence on the side of Plot 3 is about 600 m. The width of the land plot under consideration is 320-330 m to the south-east, and about 200 m to the north-west. During the Hellenistic period it was divided into a number of separate land plots, which were further divided into fields of the standard size of 52.5 x 52.5 m, i.e. 2.25 *plethra* (= 0.275 hectares).

In the eastern corner of the plot, on the shore of Omega Bay there was a farmhouse. According to S.F. Strzeleckij, the house occupied a patch of ground c. 40 x 40 m. The surface finds are represented by fragments of tiles and various pottery of the Graeco-Roman period, predominant among which are fragments of amphorae and tableware of the first centuries AD. In addition, a number of fragments of stamped tiles, *kalypteroi*, amphorae, jugs and other ware of the 9th to 11th century AD have been found.³

Plot 3

This land-plot is situated on the western cape of Omega Bay. The surface of the cape is fairly even, except for its south-eastern part, which slopes gently down to the shore of the bay. It is covered with red soils rich in marl and is exposed to northerly and north-westerly winds. The rocky northern part of the plot has been eroded by the sea.

In antiquity, the plot was probably of a size close to the standard (630 x 420 m). At the south-west end, the stone fence flanking the road and separating this plot from Land Plot 2a, is discernible. The preserved length of this road is about 600 m. The plot was divided into fields measuring 52.5 x 52.5 m, i.e. 2.25 *plethra*. The height of the fences around the fields is now between 1.0 and 1.5 m; evidently, these fences were considerably higher in antiquity and sheltered the plants effectively from the cold northerly and north-westerly winds blowing from the sea. In the fields the low stone walls of the vineyard are still visible. The walls are oriented according to the predominant wind direction. This was done to prevent the cold wind from staying too long and forming eddies in the vineyard, which would have chilled the vines. By contrast, the warm wind blowing along the rows of vines would disperse the pollen.

Visual examination of the plot revealed that its northern part had been restructured probably during the Roman period. Restructuring of the plots is a fairly common phenomenon, but here it is of a unique character since in this instance we can see evidence of Greek surveying based on the Greek foot of 0.350 m, through the superimposed Roman planning of the 1st or 2nd century AD which was based on the standard Roman foot 0.297 m and on a different spatial orientation. This fact indicates both that the system of measurement was subjected to regulation, i.e. its reduction to a common unit – the Roman foot of 0.297 m – throughout the entire territory of the Roman Empire, and that the climate in this particular region had changed, especially as regards the direction of the prevailing winds and the humidity.

As established by S.F. Strzeleckij, the farmhouse was situated on the low coast of Omega Bay, at a distance of 90 m from the southern corner of the plot. The farmhouse occupied a patch of ground 35 x 35 m. In its southern part there was a tower whose base measured 7 x 7 m built of large limestone blocks.

The surface finds of the Hellenistic period were represented by fragments of tiles and amphorae of Thasian, Rhodian, and Chersonesean manufacture, as well as fragments of various other pottery. A few fragments of tiles and tableware are dated to the first centuries AD. The surface finds also include the rim of a jug from the 9th to 11th century AD.⁴

Plot 5

This plot is situated at the high point between the right shore of Kamyševaja Bay and a small *balka* situated southwards from the western gulf of Omega Bay. The surface of the plot is even, covered in places by a fairly thick topsoil, and exposed to north-easterly winds.

The plot is shaped like a parallelogram measuring 630 x 420 m. In the middle of the 4th century BC land-surveyors divided it into six areas, each of 36 *plethra* (4.4 hectares) as individual land-lots for Chersonesean citizens. The lots were divided into fields measuring 52.5 x 52.5 m, i.e. 2.25 *plethra* and 52.5 x 105 m (4.5 *plethra* = 0.55 hectares). These fields were planted with vines. It is an astonishing fact that, since the time of the first land-division, the fields have not been subject to any alteration, and consequently they are a unique museum of the agrotechnical knowledge of the 4th century BC. The fences of the fields are fairly well preserved, some of them reaching a height of 1.0-1.2 m. Some of the fields are filled with stone walls of the vineyard.

In 1991 the Herakleian Expedition of the National Preserve of Chersonesos excavated the eastern corner of the plot and several sections of the roads adjacent to it, the land-dividing road leading to the farmhouse of the neighbouring lot and a transport road running from the western shore of Streletskaja Bay to the eastern shore of Kamyševaja Bay. The remains of the rubble masonry of the walls of a small building were excavated. Found in the lower layers of the fill, inside the uncovered building remains, were fragments of Sinopean tiles, one with a stamp from the late 360s BC (attribution by V.I. Kac), and a few fragments of black-glazed vessels including a plate with stamped decoration.

This open structure had not been occupied for long: all the finds date to the 4th century BC. This fact enables us to suppose that simultaneously with the beginning of the land-surveying in the middle of the 4th century BC, after the road was built, a small building was constructed not far from it as accommodation for those who surveyed the lots and built the plantation walls in the vineyards.

The transport road led to the commercial port in Kamyševaja Bay. When danger threatened from the land side, they were able to use this road to reach the ships and bring with them their most valuable possessions. In 1944 a jug with 740 Chersonesean coins from 330-230 BC was found by chance in a trench dating from World War II located near this road.

Plot 6

A plot situated in the bed, and on the western slope of a small, rather gentle *balka* ranging from the south-west towards Omega Bay. It is exposed to north-easterly winds. The topsoil on the slope is fairly thin, but in the bed of the *balka* it can reach a depth of 1 m.

The plot resembles a parallelogram measuring 630 x 420 m. It is divided into six individual land-lots with an area of 36 *plethra* (4.4 hectares) each. Most of the lots are divided into fields measuring 52.5 x 52.5 m, i.e. 2.25 *plethra*, and less commonly 52.5 x 105 m (4.5 *plethra*) and 105 x 105 m (9 *plethra*). The major part of each field is covered with the planting walls of the vineyard.

In the southern corner of land-lot no. 1, near the south-western transverse road, there was a farmhouse. It was Γ-shaped and measured 55 x 35 m according to S.F. Strželeckij. In the course of the clearing of the area carried out by the Herakleian Expedition in 1992-1992 (detachment headed by V. Eremenko) it was possible to identify a number of small rooms constructed of rubble adjacent to the wall of the farmhouse. These served simultaneously as the fence of the field covered with planting walls to the south-east of the house.

In the centre of the farmhouse there was a courtyard, on the south-western side of which two adjacent rooms were uncovered. In the floors of the rooms there were pits with 21 Sinopean *pithoi* of the 350s-340s BC. The ceramic finds from the farmhouse are mostly fragments of tiles, amphorae, *pithoi* and tableware from different centres of the second half of the 4th and the 3rd century BC. Individual fragments of black-glazed ware are dated to the last quarter of the 3rd and the beginning of the 2nd century BC. The finds also included several handles of stamped Chersonesean amphorae dated 315-272 BC. Most of the stamps belong to the period 315-300 BC.

In the course of the excavation of the field adjoining the south-eastern wall of the farmhouse, it was revealed that the planting walls here were built of large pieces of detrital limestone laid upon the bedrock. The thickness of the walls came to 1.2-1.5 m, and the height to 50-70 cm. The areas between the walls were covered with red soil. The planting walls adjoined the south-eastern fence of the land-lot which was constructed from rubble of moderate size. The thickness of the fence was 3.0-3.2 m and was preserved to a height of 70-80 cm.

Here were found fragments of rims and toes of Chersonesean and Sinopean amphorae of the last quarter of the 4th to the beginning of the 3rd century BC and fragments of black-glazed vessels of the 3rd century BC. All the finds from the farmhouse and its immediate surroundings indicate the practice of intensive vine-growing and commercial wine-making in the second half of the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

In the 1st century BC production of wine intended for trade decreased sharply. The world market was dominated by the demand for the cereals,

salt and fish which fed the enormous Roman army occupying the Greek East.

Chersonesos was not overlooked by the Romans. In the city itself, a Roman garrison was established, and the bays of Streleckaja, Kamyševaja and Kazač'ja, became a Roman naval base. The Roman legions brought no devastation with them, but the life of the Chersoneseans changed irrevocably. The vineyards no longer covered the Herakleian Peninsula with a continuous green carpet as before. In many places on the slopes and in the beds of the *balkas*, the planting walls were demolished and the vineyards were transformed into fields for growing cereals.

Some of the vineyards were stubbed up and their row-spacing adjusted for burials. The Herakleian Expedition investigated a small area of the vineyard in the northern part of the plot under consideration. Here, between the stone walls which were spaced at intervals of 2 m, a number of graves were found cut into the bedrock and covered with slabs. The objects uncovered in the course of clearing the graves are dated to the 2nd century AD. In one of the graves, a copper Chersonesean coin issued in 161-180 AD was found (detachment headed by O. Šarov, excavation of 1991).

Plot 7

This plot is situated on the south-western shore of Omega Bay and occupies the bed and slopes of the small *balka* running into the bay to the west. The bed of the *balka* is boggy, especially at its mouth. The topsoil (red earth, rich in marl) is fairly thick in the *balka* itself, and between 30 and 40 cm deep on its slopes. The surface of the plot is exposed to north-easterly winds. It forms a parallelogram in plan measuring 630 x 415 m. The northern part of the plot bounding the shore of the bay has eroded. The plot was divided into six land-lots with an area of 36 *plethra* each. The lots were demarcated into fields measuring 52.5 x 52.5 m (2.25 *plethra*), 52.5 x 105 m (4.5 *plethra*), and 105 x 105 m (9 *plethra*). In the major part of the fields, stone planting walls of the vineyard are discernible.

What is probably the earliest part of the plantation has been revealed near the eastern corner of the plot. Here, the walls are built from rather small pieces of rubble and are spaced at an interval of 2.3 m (excavation by V. Eremenko, 1992).

In some areas of the plot, the planting walls are constructed from fairly large pieces of rubble and the intervals between them are smaller than usual – on the average 1.0 m as compared with the usual 2.0 m (excavation by O. Šarov, 1992).

On the plot, two farmhouses have been registered. Farmhouse 1 was located near the north-western transverse road, 100 m from the western corner of the plot. The gateway of the farmhouse gave access to the road. The building was of rectangular plan measuring 35 x 25 m. It had two pyramidal

towers. Large blocks from one of the towers measuring 10 x 8 m, are discernible on the surface.

The surface finds are datable to the Greek and Roman periods, mostly fragments of tiles and amphorae from the Hellenistic period, as well as fragments of amphorae and tableware from the first centuries AD. Of interest among the finds is a fragment of the hand of a terracotta figurine of Kybele from the 2nd century BC (dated by A. Ševčenko).

In the course of the rescue excavations of 2002, a drain covered over by limestone slabs was found near the northern wall of the tower. One of the slabs proved to be a relief from the 2nd-3rd centuries AD with a representation of a standing Dionysos (identified by A. Ševčenko; Fig. 4). Similar reliefs are often found during excavations in the northern and western Black Sea area. The majority of researchers are of the opinion that these are imitations of Thracian votive reliefs.

Farmhouse 2 was situated near the north-eastern transverse road, on the shore of the bay. It occupied a fairly large area measuring c. 80 x 50 m. On the northern side of the building was a tower adjacent to the road whose base measured 8 x 8 m. The surface finds and the cultural layer exposed in robber trenches indicate that the farmhouse was destroyed in a fire at the end of the Roman period.⁵

During his examination of the sites in the winter of 1967, A.N. Ščeglov unearthed the masonry of a submerged ring-shaped structure, about 5 m in diameter with walls 45-50 cm in thickness. In his opinion, this structure was erected in the western corner of the farmhouse.⁶

Plot 7a

This plot occupied the bottom of what is now Omega Bay. All that has survived is the south-western part of the plot and its southern corner. The plot resembles an elongated triangle: the longitudinal sides were 630 m long and of the transverse ones the south-eastern was 300 m long and the north-western 200 m. According to the reconstruction of the plot, its northern corner coincides with the islet in the centre of the bay where the remains of buildings from the Graeco-Roman and Medieval periods have been found. In 1967, within the territory of the plot, not far from Farmhouse 2 on Plot 7,



Fig. 4. Relief representing Dionysos from the farmhouse on Land Plot 7.

A.N. Ščeglov discovered and excavated a burial vault of the early Medieval period in which 37 skeletons were found, including those of five children. Of the 13 skulls preserved, five were artificially deformed.⁷

Plot 9

This plot is situated 200 m north-east of the right shore of Kamyševaja Bay. The surface of the plot is of consistent height except for its south-western part, which slopes gently towards the shore of the bay. The topsoil is red earth rich in crumbled marl reaching in some areas a considerable depth (0.60-0.70 m). The plot is exposed to southerly and westerly winds. The plot is rectangular measuring 630 x 420 m and divided into six land-lots of 36 *plethra* each, within which fields are demarcated, most of which measure 52.5 x 52.5 m, i.e. 2.25 *plethra*, the others 52.5 x 105 m (4.5 *plethra*). Almost the entire territory of the plot is built up with stone planting walls of the vineyard.

During the excavation of 1974, planting walls and pits for planting vines were revealed in the northern part of the plot. In the opinion of I.T. Kruglikova, these walls were built during the restructuring of the Roman period as demarcations.⁸

In 1991, the Herakleian Expedition excavated part of the Hellenistic vineyard adjacent to the north-western fence of the plot and the northern side of the farmhouse (detachment headed by Kalašnikov). The vineyard had not been visible on the surface before excavations. The excavations revealed stone planting walls 1 m thick and up to 50 cm high, spaced at the intervals of 2 m from each other. Between the walls and the fence which surrounded the plot a pathway 1.2 m wide was reserved. It is possible that the upper courses of the planting walls were demolished and covered with soil during the Roman period. In this way, the vineyard was transformed into a field for growing cereals.

In the western corner of the plot there are remains of a farmhouse built in the last quarter of the 4th century BC. Its dimensions are 35 x 30 m. The centre of the complex was a large courtyard around the periphery of which the rooms of the house were situated. In one of the rooms there was a winery. At the western corner, a tower, additionally protected by a pyramidal anti-ramming belt, was erected. The farmhouse was rebuilt in the 1st century AD. It was probably during this period or slightly later that a wall was raised around the tower blocking the access to the farmhouse from the road.

During the excavation, abundant ceramic material was found, among which fragments of Sinopean *pithoi* and amphorae predominated. A number of local Chersonesean amphorae have also been found. Judging by their stamps they were brought to the farmhouse during the period from 325 till 272 BC. The majority of the stamps are dated to 285-272 BC. At the same time, no stamps dated to 300-285 BC have been found. However, numerous

fragments of red-slipped vessels have been encountered, as well as several fragments of early-Medieval amphorae. Noteworthy among the other finds were a vine-dresser's knife, a small stone altar, and another limestone altar with a representation of a cross-like human figure resembling a crucifix.⁹

Plot 11

This plot is located in the upper reaches of Omega Bay, on the south-eastern slope of the hill situated between the *uročišče* (a tract of isolated wood, often situated within a *balka*) of Omega to the south-east and the nameless *balka* to the north-west. It is exposed to north-easterly, north-westerly and southern winds. Most of the plot is occupied by stone planting walls of the vineyard.

In 1978, the Herakleian Expedition carried out an excavation of the vineyard, in which planting walls and holes cut in the rock for planting vines were uncovered. The farmhouse was located near the transport road running between Streletskaja and Kamyševaja Bays. Here, fragments of ceramics from the Hellenistic and late Roman periods were collected on the surface, and excavations initiated this season confirm its location.

Plot 12

Plot 12 is situated in the upper reaches of Omega Bay and at the mouth of the *uročišče* of Omega. The western and south-western parts of the plot constitute a raised slope facing the bay by its gently sloping rocky terraces. The northern part of the plot is submerged under the waters of the bay. The south-eastern part is situated on a rather low right slope of the *uročišče* of Omega. In the elevated areas, the topsoil consists of red earth. The plot is exposed to north-easterly winds.

The plot is rectangular measuring 630 × 420 m. It is divided into six landlots 36 *plethra* each and demarcated into fields measuring 52.5 × 52.5 m (2.25 *plethra*) and 52.5 × 105 m (4.5 *plethra*). In the north-western and south-western parts of the plot, planting walls of the vineyard are visible on the surface.

In the plot, two farmhouses have been recorded. Farmhouse 1 is situated in the western corner of the plot. It is discernible on the surface as a blurred hill measuring approximately 35 × 35 m. The surface finds are datable to the Hellenistic period. To the south-east of the farmhouse there is a large mound of stone resembling a kurgan. Beneath it, a stone ring-shaped foundation of a small structure – a *yurt* (nomad's tent) with a rectangular fence was found. No dateable material has been revealed, but on the basis of analogies we may tentatively date it to the early Medieval period.

During the excavations of the planting and supporting walls within this plot, two burials with grave goods from the 2nd to 3rd century AD were uncovered (detachment of V. Eremenko, excavations of 1991-92).

Farmhouse 2 was located in the northern part of the plot on the right

shore (in the upper reaches of the modern bay). The northern half of the farmhouse is submerged. According to S.F. Strželeckij's description, the dimensions of the farmhouse were at least 40 x 40 m. The house had a tower with a pyramidal anti-ramming belt constructed of huge stone blocks showing no traces of dressing. In the southern corner of the tower there was a pit, which revealed three horizontal courses of blocks.¹⁰ Found on the surface were fragments of tiles, *pithoi*, amphorae, and various other ware dated to the last quarter of the 4th century BC to the 4th or 5th century AD.

Plot 13

This plot is situated on the eastern shore of Omega Bay. The greater part of it is submerged. The area preserved is about 12 hectares. It was divided into land-lots of 36 *plethra* and demarcated into fields measuring 52.5 x 52.5 m (2.25 *plethra*). It is presently covered with grass and in some places by juniper or Christ's thorn. It is exposed to north-westerly winds.

According to the reconstructed plan, the western corner of the plot coincides with the islet in the centre of the bay, where building remains and surface finds of the Graeco-Roman and early Medieval periods have been discovered. Most probably, in antiquity the island was connected to the mainland at the point where the roads crossed which separated the plots. On one of the plots there was a farmhouse.

Near the north-eastern fence of the plot, 120 m from the seashore, there was once a farmhouse. Now it is a low hill measuring 15 x 7-8 m and up to 1.5-1.7 m high. On the surface, only one room of rectangular plan measuring 5 x 3.5 m is discernible.

The surface finds are mostly wall fragments of Chersonesean and Sinopean amphorae of the Hellenistic period which offer little in terms of dating.

The ancient land plots adjoin the causeway that once connected the two navigable bays, Streleckaja and Kamyševaja, across Omega Bay, which in antiquity was passable although boggy.

On the basis of the results of underwater investigations it was established that there were harbour constructions situated on the western shore of Streleckaja Bay in antiquity (today ships dock here to take on fuel). Similar structures also existed on the eastern shore of Kamyševaja Bay, where today ships are moored in exactly the same place as the ancient anchorage.

By this road, agricultural produce and wine, provisionally stored in coastal farmhouses, were transported to the ships. To date, this road is excellently preserved in the section which lies between the Kamyševaja and Omega Bays. The width of the entire road reached 5-5.5 m, and the width of the part paved with slabs of detrial limestone measured 3 m. Along the carriage-way, footpaths slightly raised above the road-bed were constructed. This remarkable feature of the 4th century BC remained in use until the early Medieval period.

Conclusion

The ancient land plots of the region under examination presented a single entity: here the ideal notions of the Greeks, expressed by Platon and Aristoteles, about the spatial organisation of the territory of the *chora* owned by a democratic community were given a practical form.

The land plots demarcated by Chersonesean land-surveyors in the 4th century BC were in use throughout the entire Graeco-Roman period. On the three plots (nos. 7, 12, and 13) situated contiguous to the shore of the bay, two farmhouses have been registered. These were built in the Hellenistic period and were occupied until the 4th or 5th century AD.

In all the farmhouses of the Greek period, numerous restructurings of Roman times have been identified, which are probably connected with transformation of their functions and perhaps also with changes in the size of the individual properties. On the same sites traces of restructuring of the fields and the appearance of cemeteries within the territory of the Hellenistic vineyards in the first centuries AD, as well as obliteration of the most of the demarcation during the Medieval period, have also been revealed.

Notes

1. Pallas 1881, 94.
2. Ščeglov 1967 (Archives of the National Preserve of the Tauric Chersonesos, file 865, sheet 12).
3. Strželeckij 1961, 163.
4. Strželeckij 1961, 163.
5. Strželeckij 1961, 164.
6. Ščeglov 1967 (Archives of the National Preserve of the Tauric Chersonesos, file 865, sheet 9 ff.).
7. Ščeglov 1969, 290-291.
8. Kruglikova 1975, 302-303.
9. Kruglikova 1983, 43-44. For a detailed description of the farmhouse, see Saprykin 1994, 13-28.
10. Strželeckij 1961, 165.

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Abbreviations

- ZOVID *Zapiski Odesskogo obščestva istorii i drevnostej.*
- ChSbor *Chersonesskij sbornik.*