M Louteria

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Although louteria make up only a small fraction of the ceramic finds from Sector NGS, they are consistently represented in all the cultural layers of the site. For their descriptions I adhere to the classifications and typologies developed in earlier studies of louteria from Olbia. However, because of the small number of sherds included in this sample, I refrain from following the current sub-division into two groups (group 1: louteria with “continuous” rims, not off-set from the body, and group 2: louteria with horizontal rims). Furthermore, some sherds belong to transitional types, which could not be allocated to either of the two groups. However, on the whole, the sherds conform to a classification with several consistent types, for instance the heavy, shallow louteria with plain, thickened rims. Type 5 is another class of louteria with “continuous” rims, which, according to other attributes, to some degree can be considered transitional to the louteria of group 1.

In earlier works on louteria from Olbia, five types of louteria with different rims have been described. In the material from Sector NGS, numerous fragments of three of the types, 2, 3 and 4, were found (for type 5, see above). Examples of type 1, the large, flat-based louteria with architectural decoration, dated to the 6th-5th century BC in Olbia, are absent from the material of Sector NGS.

Type 2 represents louteria with thickened rims which are triangular (subtype 2a) or rectangular (subtype 2b) in section. The vessel shape is wide and low. On the exterior, the rim is off-set by a groove. The ring base is shallow and off-set from the body (unlike type 4). Such Louteria are usually supplied with accurately executed rectangular spouts, and the rim sometimes has a grooved ledge acting as a handle. The vessels are usually low, 6-10 cm, and the diameter is 36-38 cm. Louteria of this type are known from Bosporos, Olbia and its periphery, and are usually dated to the 6th-5th century BC.

Type 2 louteria are made in a variety of clays, and they were produced in various centres in the Mediterranean region and imported to the northern Black Sea coast during the 5th century BC. Occasionally, joining fragments are found in later layers, but this does not influence the general dating of the vessels. Among the material from Sector NGS, some vessels of this type have distinguishing details, for instance, M-1 of subtype 2a. This subtype is made from a greyish clay with few white inclusions and mica. The well-smoothed surface of the vessel has a slightly greenish shade. The exterior rim is off-set by a groove and the ring base is low and wide. It is possibly of Ionian origin. A very similar vessel, M-2, is most likely also of an island origin (red clay with inclusions of mica and fine, dark particles). The surface is covered with a pale slip. The lug handle is decorated with ribbing similar to M-3.

Subtype 2b is a variant of subtype 2a, exemplified by M-9. The ring base is wider than subtype 2a bases. These louteria have low bases, and the bottom part of the ring base is decorated with two concentric grooves. On the rim, the louterion has been trimmed by an additional relief, rectangular in section, of which only a small part has been preserved. A similar

1007 The discussion as to whether the open, thick-walled vessels should be termed mortars or louteria will not be entered into here (Lejpun's'ka 1980, 35; Kašaev 2002, 158). In the present chapter, they are called louteria.
1009 For the descriptions of louteria in the text, I do not adhere to their chronological order, but follow instead the typological features of the vessels. Chronological conclusions are presented in the final section.
1010 Lejpun's'ka 1980, 35-36.
1011 Lejpun's'ka 1980, 35; Lejpunskaja 1987b, 83-84.
1012 Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 151; Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 222, fig. 16, no. 1912, etc.; Lejpunskaja 1987b, 85.
form is known from the material of the Athenian Agora, where it is dated to the 5th century, but produced in Corinth.\footnote{Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 222, fig. 16, no. 1912.}

This cannot be the case with the fragments from Olbia, which bear no resemblance to Corinthian clay.

Subtype 2b also includes the thick-walled M-8 with rim and base clearly off-set by deep grooves. The vessel is made of coarse, brown clay with many inclusions, white particles, large sand and mica. Another subtype 2b vessel, M-10, differs in the execution of the exterior of the vessel. The rim appears to be folded over, and there is a horizontal rib slightly above the ring base.

All subtype 2a and 2b louteria were found in mixed Hellenistic layers, except M-1, which was found below the floor of Basement 368, but also with Hellenistic material.

Type 3 is a variant of type 2, with a flat, off-set base, for instance M-11. The plain rim, triangular in section, is off-set by a narrow groove on the exterior. The vessel is made from a grey, porous clay which differs from the Ionian fabrics; however, it is not currently possible to establish its provenance. It was found in a Hellenistic layer. All type 3 louteria are imported.

Type 4 louteria, with rounded, thickened rims, concave bodies and high ring bases, are represented by several fragments. In the literature, such vessels are sometimes called “louteria with relief ornament”.\footnote{Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 151-152.} Among the Olbian material, practically no fragments have such ornaments except for the lug handles decorated with parallel ribbing. Type 4 vessels are usually dated to the 6th-5th century BC.\footnote{Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 222, fig. 16, no. 1891.} They too are made from a different clay of Mediterranean origin, which is similar to that of type 2. Their surfaces are covered with a pale slip.

Four fragments from Sector NGS belong to type 4 (M-12-M-15). They are made from different fabric: M-12 of a dark-red clay with voids and white and large dark inclusions; M-13 of a reddish clay with white and dark inclusions; M-14 of a red clay with mica. Vessels somewhat similar to M-13 from the Athenian Agora are dated to the 5th-4th century BC.\footnote{Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 222, fig. 16, no. 1912.} These three fragments were found in Hellenistic layers, M-13 together with other louteria fragments (93-455, 456, 457). M-15 was found under a floor, but also with Hellenistic materials.

Louteria of types 2, 3 and 4 are related by some similarity of form, treatment of the surface (usually a pale slip) and character of the clay. Practically all of the examples are made from Mediterranean red clay of different shades with fine inclusions, among them always particles of golden mica. The vessels are all imported, although the difference in details suggests they were made in different workshops.

As mentioned above, louteria of types 2, 3 and 4 are usually not found in layers dated later than the 4th century BC, and they are most typically dated to the 6th-5th century BC.\footnote{Zeest & Marčenko 1962, 151-152.} The context of M-6 is dated to the Classical period and that of M-7 is more broadly dated between the Classical and the early Hellenistic period, whereas M-1 was found under the floor of Basement 368 in House III-3 with mostly Hellenistic material. Other fragments were found in mixed cultural layers, some accompanied by earlier material (M-9 and M-12).

Type 5 variants are classified not by their rims, but by thick walls and deeper bodies. The majority of these louteria was imported from Sinope and they are dated to the 4th-3rd century BC.

M-16 belongs to subtype 5a and differs by the thickened exterior off-set rim. Its walls are straight, the base flat and not off-set. The walls are very thick, nearly 2 cm. On the upper part, there are traces of secondary burning. The fragment was found in the filling of Pit 490 with material dated no later than the 5th century BC, and it is thus of an earlier date.

Subtype 5b includes louteria with a variety of rims on low ring bases with wide low bodies, 8-9 cm (M-17-M-18). M-17 is made from a pale, porous clay with sparkling and dark inclusions and a coarse surface. M-18 is made from a very similar clay. The exterior lip has traces of secondary burning. The former vessel was found in a Hellenistic layer, the latter in a cleaning layer.

M-19 can be considered a variant of subtype 5b because of its oval rim and flat off-set base. It is made from a pale clay with large, dark inclusions and rare pyroxene. The top part has traces of secondary burning. Most likely the vessel came from the south coast of the Black Sea. It was found in a Hellenistic layer. The rim section of M-20 is very similar to that of M-19.

We may add as type 6 to the existing typology yet another type of louteria, not previously observed in Olbia, which was found among the material from Sector NGS. Based on the general character of its morphology, a thick-walled, low
The vessels of subtype 8b come from a range of production centres. Similar louteria were made in the Bosporos, in Chersonesos and probably in Olbia as well.1024

The types of louteria described below all belong to group 2 according to the former classification system.1023 They are usually relatively deep vessels with convex walls, horizontal rims and either flat bottoms or ring bases. This shape is typical for the late Classical and Hellenistic periods, when it was produced at a variety of centres. Among the Olbian material, vessels from the south coast of the Black Sea prevail, especially Sinopean; however, it is also possible to identify products from other centres. Similar louteria were made in the Bosporos, in Chersonesos and probably in Olbia as well.1024

Type 8 is defined by horizontal rims, convex bodies and ring bases. Complete profiles of three vessels have been found in Sector NGS, M-27-M-29, as well as fragments of upper parts, M-30 and M-31. The vessels differ a little in detail. M-26 appears to be an early variant of type 8. It is a rim fragment decorated with a roughly-made, ribbed lug handle. The vessel is made from brown clay with much mica. The clay reveals that M-26 was definitely imported, possibly from the region of Thasos. It was found together with material from the late 6th to the late 4th century BC. The rims of M-28 and M-29 are rectangular in section, and both vessels have loop handles attached under the rim and running close to the wall. The exterior of the ring base is vertical; the interior oblique. M-27 has a "pie-crust" handle extending from the rim, and a ring base which is rectangular in section. M-27-M-29 are all of Sinopean provenance. Type 8 also includes M-30 to M-31 and M-35, all found in Hellenistic layers. M-31 and M-35 were found together with two more fragments of louteria (M-6 and 96-442).

Subtype 8a differs from type 8 in the oval section of the rim and the wider ring base, for instance M-37, which is also of Sinopean provenance. Based on the shape of the rim and ring base, it should be dated a little later. It was found in a Hellenistic layer.

Another subtype, 8b, is defined by flat, off-set bases (M-38-M-44). Some of the vessels have everted rather than horizontal rims, such as M-39-M-40, and some have straight rather than convex walls, for instance M-40 and M-43-M-44. The rim of M-38 is decorated with a "pie-crust", and M-40 has a false handle under the rim. M-42 has a spout with a rounded lip.

The vessels of subtype 8b come from a range of production centres. M-38-M-39 and M-41-M-42 are definitely Sinopean products. M-43-M-44 were most likely produced in Olbia, as suggested by the dark clay containing both white and tiny sparkling particles (limestone and quartz).1025 M-45 is made from fine clay with white particles and the shape
is more convex. Based on the find context, it can be dated earlier than the others, to the second half of the 4th century BC. This louterion was found in the yellow clay layer in the northern part of Trench 35 with material dated no later than the last third/quarter of the 4th century BC. **M-38** was found in Basement 253 below the floor of the first building phase together with a Chian narrow-necked amphora dated to the early 5th century BC. The date of the context is very consistently late Archaic.

**M-46** and **M-47** have spouts; on **M-46** only the horizontal rectangular rim is preserved with an accurately executed spout attached. The interior horizontal part of the rim is decorated with a groove. The fragment is made from a matt, red clay with tiny white and dark inclusions, possibly a local fabric.

Type 9 is defined by the interior and exterior off-set, thickened, rounded rim known in the literature as “hammer-shaped”. This type includes **M-48** and **M-49**, and another vessel for which the inventory number has been lost. The rim of **M-48**, which is a Sinopean product, is decorated with a relief ornament. **M-49** is made from brown clay with white inclusions and quartz.

Vessels with similar rims have been found in Panskoe I, where they are called mortars and considered to be of Chersonesean production. No complete profiles were identified in Sector NGS, but at Panskoe they are deep basins with loop handles under the rims.

Type 10 are deep, thin-walled louteria/bowls with horizontal rims often decorated with grooves on the upturned part, for instance **M-50-M-53**. These vessels are made from red clay with inclusions of mica, and were most likely imported from Greece. The general shape is close to that of a lekanis.

Most of the vessels described above could be classified based on a complete profile, but a number of the vessels differ in details. Rim fragment **M-33** was made from red clay. It has an outwards-tapering spout decorated with small buttons on the flat edges of the rim on either side, a decoration characteristic of Hellenistic ceramics. An identical spout was published by Knipovič. Another spout, **M-34**, is very different, carelessly executed as though it was corrected by hand. It is made from brown clay with pyroxene, and traces of secondary burning are seen on the surface.

The collection also includes small fragments of different type and origin. Some rim fragments belong to the Mediterranean types (type 2 or 4). A lead clamp is inserted into fragment **M-4** in order to repair the vessel. The rim itself is similar to **M-5** and **M-6**. Probably, **M-7**, the fragment with a lug handle, comes from the same type of vessel. All of them are made from a red clay with inclusions of golden mica, their surfaces covered with a pale slip, and their Mediterranean origin seems secure. Some of the horizontal rims came from Sinope, for example **M-35-M-36**.

Summing up, the excavation of Sector NGS has produced louteria of several types and different chronological groups and origins. The earliest louteria, of the end of the 6th-5th century BC, were imported from the Mediterranean, mainly from Ionia and island centres. Later, these were replaced by products from the south coast of the Black Sea, mainly Sinope, and these occur simultaneously with locally-produced louteria.

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1028 Sparkes & Talcott 1970, pls. 82-87.
1029 Knipovič 1940a, 151, tab. XXXVII.7.
Type 2. Louteria with thickened rims

Subtype 2a. Louteria with thickened, triangular rims

Mediterranean. 6th-5th century BC.

M-1 93-1120, III-3 B 368/109. Pl. 307

M-2 89-270. Pl. 307

M-3 00-1109, VII. Pl. 307
Rim fr. with lug handle. Ø 30. Fabric: dense, with white inclusions, sand and fine sparkling inclusions (mica?), 2.5YR 7/6-10R 7/6.

M-4 95-220. V. Pl. 307
Rim fr. 8.5 x 6.5. Fabric: with rare mica, 2.5YR 6/4. Pale slip. Trace of secondary burning on int. lip. Remains of lead clamp. 5th century BC.

M-5 97-106, VI-3 B 489. Pl. 307
Rim fr. 16.5 x 5.5. Fabric: with white inclusions and mica, 2.5YR 6/4. Pale slip. Mediterranean. 5th century BC.

M-6 96-440, VI-3 B 474/290. Pl. 307

M-7 95-434, II-5 B 390/35. Pl. 307
Ribbed lug handle. 8 x 2.2. Fabric: fine, with mica, 5YR 6/5. Mediterranean. 5th century BC.

Subtype 2b. Louteria with thickened, rectangular rims

Mediterranean. 6th-5th century BC.

M-8 99-324, VI-3. Pl. 307
Complete profile. H 9.5; Ø 35. Fabric: coarse, with many white inclusions and large sparkling sand inclusions. Pale slip on the lip.

M-9 97-326, VI-1

M-10 97-166, VII. Pl. 308

Type 3. Louteria with thickened rims and flat, offset bases

Centre of production? 5th century BC(?)

M-11 99-199, VI-2. Pl. 308
Complete profile. H 7; Ø 34. Fabric: porous, 5Y 8/1.

Type 4. Louteria with rounded, thickened rims and high ring bases

Mediterranean. 6th-5th century BC.

M-12 90-541. Pl. 308
Complete profile. H 9; Ø 40. Fabric: with white and large dark inclusions and voids, 10R 5/5.

M-13 93-458, IV-4. Pl. 308

M-14 00-403, VI-3. Pl. 308

M-15 89-550, II-6 B 186/51. Pl. 308

Type 5. Louteria with assorted rims

Subtype 5a. Louteria with assorted rims

Southern Black Sea coast. First half of the 5th century BC.

M-16 97-36, Pt. 490/237. Pl. 309
Complete profile. H 9.5; Ø 34. Fabric: 5YR 7.5. Traces of secondary burning.
Subtype 5b. Louteria with assorted rims

Southern Black Sea coast. 5th-4th century BC.

M-17 99-273, Pl. 309
Complete profile. H 8.5; Ø 52. Fabric: coarse, porous, pale clay with sparkling dark inclusions, 5YR 8/2.

M-18 99-383, VI-2. Pl. 309
Complete profile. H 7.5; Ø 52. Fabric: porous, pale clay with sparkling dark inclusions, 5YR 8/1. Traces of secondary burning on ext. lip.

M-19 97-384, VI-3 R 477. Pl. 309

M-20 92-1033, IV-3 B 343/215. Pl. 309
Rim fr. Ø 31. Fabric: 2.5YR 7/4-6. Smoothed surface. 4th century BC.

Type 6. Shallow louteria

with triangular rims

Mediterranean(?). 4th century BC.

M-21 93-396, Pl. 310

M-22 97-345, VI-3. Pl. 310

M-23 99-5. Pl. 310

Type 7. Louteria with “collared rims”

Import. 5th century BC.

M-24 90-267, II-6. Pl. 310

M-25 99-594, VI-2. Pl. 310

Type 8. Louteria with horizontal rims

and ring bases

Mediterranean. 5th and early 4th century BC.

M-26 95-454, VI-2 B 410/258. Pl. 310

M-27 88-472, Pl. 310

Complete profile. H 11; Ø 33. Fabric: with pyroxene, 5YR 7/3-4-2.5YR 7/4.

M-29 97-406, VI-3. Pl. 311

M-30 92-381, III-3 R 359/113. Pl. 311
Rim fr. with lug handle. Ø 35. Fabric: with white inclusions and pyroxene, 5YR 6/5.

M-31 96-441, VI-3 B 474/290. Pl. 311
Three rim and body frs. with part of lug handle. H 8; Ø 36. Fabric: with black inclusions, 5YR 7/3.

M-32 93-136, II-7 P 1/65. Pl. 311

M-33 95-443, VI-2 B 410/254. Pl. 312

M-34 93-982, II-5 B 390/27. Pl. 312

M-35 96-439, VI-3 B 474/290. Pl. 312
Rim fr. Ø 34. Fabric: with pyroxene, 2.5YR 6/4.

M-36 92-462, IV-4. Pl. 312

Subtype 8a. Louteria with oval rims

Sinopre. 4th to early 3rd century BC.

M-37 00-1001 + 00-914 + 00-1000, VII. Pl. 312
Complete profile. Ø 19.5. Fabric: porous clay with pyroxene, 2.5Y 8/2-5Y 8/2.
Subtype 8b. Louteria with horizontal rims with flat, off-set bases

Southern Black Sea coast. 4th-3rd century BC.

M-38 90-531, IV-1 B 253/154. Pl. 312

Complete profile. H 8.5; Ø base 14. Fabric: with pyroxene, 2.5YR 7/4-10R 7/4-6/4.

M-40 96-212, V R 469/231. Pl. 313

M-41 00-1320, VII. Pl. 314
Complete profile. Ø base 16. Fabric: with pyroxene, 2.5YR 7/4-6.

Subtype 8c. Louteria with horizontal rims with flat, off-set bases

Olbia. 4th-3rd century BC.

M-43 97-233, VI-2. Pl. 314

M-44 99-325, VI-3. Pl. 314

M-45 88-468, Pl. 314

M-46 94-450, VI-2 B 395a/261. Pl. 314
Rim fr. Ø 30. Fabric: with rare white and tiny black inclusions, 2.5YR 6/5.

M-47 98-111, V. Pl. 314
Rim fr. with spout. 11 x 3. Fabric: 2.5YR 7/6.

Type 9. Louteria with “hammer-shaped” rims

Southern Black Sea Coast(?). 4th-3rd century BC.

M-48 00-1222, VII. Pl. 314
Cf. Kaisiev 2002, nos. C189, C190, etc.

Subtype 9a. Louteria with “hammer-shaped” rims

Olbia(?). 4th-3rd century BC.

M-49 97-55, VI-3 B 489/293. Pl. 315

Type 10. Louteria/bowls (lekanides)

Mediterranean. 4th century BC.

M-50 95-645, VI-3. Pl. 315

M-51 96-135, V R 465/229. Pl. 315

Subtype 10a. Louteria/bowls (lekanides)

Olbia(?). 4th-3rd century BC.

M-52 96-198, VI-3 R 459/273. Pl. 315
Rim fr. H 5; Ø 34. Fabric: fine, 2.5YR7/6-8. Slip: 7.5YR 8/1-7/1.

M-53 99-252, VI-3. Pl. 315