

Hellenistic Pottery from the Necropolis of Olbia Pontike¹

Georgij Lomtadze & Denis Žuravlev

The necropolis of Olbia Pontike is one of the most important and best-excavated in the Northern Pontic area. Unfortunately, for the moment, the material from this necropolis has been only partially published, often in disparate venues. There have been only a few general publications, which were published in the 1970s and did not include all the material.²

One of the first scholars to excavate the necropolis was Boris Farmakovskij who worked there in 1896-1915. According to the usual practice of the Russian Imperial Archaeological Commission in the late 19th – early 20th centuries, all the finds were divided between the Hermitage Museum in St.-Petersburg and the Russian Historical Museum (now the State Historical Museum) in Moscow. Even finds from the same grave were often divided between the different collections. This paper, however, presents Hellenistic pottery and other materials from five graves (25, 34, 35, 39 and 41), all excavated in 1896, whose grave goods are all stored in the State Historical Museum in Moscow.³

In 1896, excavations took place in the area northwest of the telegraph station between two roads.⁴ All the investigated trenches (except for trench no. 5) belonged to the necropolis. These excavations discovered 47 burials, which Farmakovskij divided into three groups according to the depth of the different layers. The most interesting examples of Hellenistic pottery come from graves 25, 34, 35, 39, and 41. These burials were identified by Farmakovskij as the group of graves of the third layer situated deeper than 4.26 m.⁵ All the graves from this layer shared a similar construction – a rectangular burial chamber with *dromos*. Unfortunately, all of the burials were robbed. However, the few artifacts that did remain testify to the graves' original wealth. Robbers mainly paid attention to gold objects (which must have been plentiful). Farmakovskij only found clay vessels and fragments left behind, perhaps not noticed, by the robbers. Even remarkably decorated vessels, which had been deposited in these graves, must have been of no interest for them. Material from some of these graves was noted mostly without any illustrations or comments by Farmakovskij in 1896.⁶ M. Parovič-Pešikan presented only a small part of the material in 1974,⁷ but she did not have a special aim to publish pottery and focused her book on the necropolis of Olbia in general.

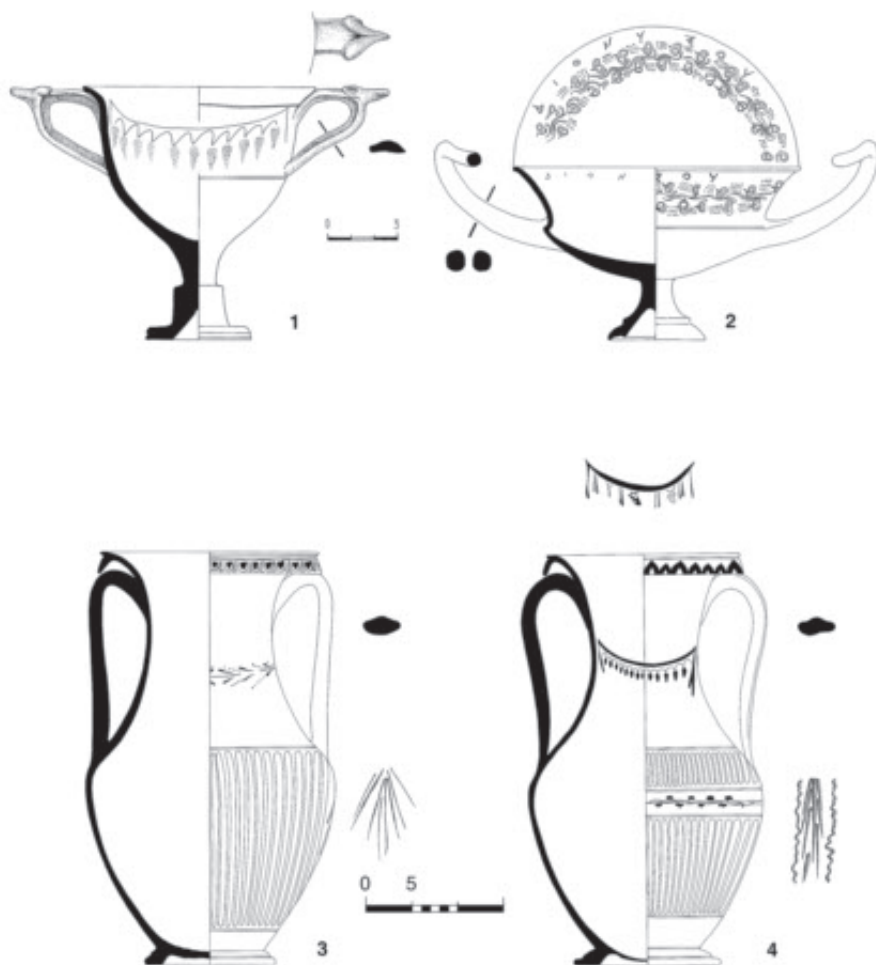


Fig. 1: Grave 34. 1 - bowl-kantharos (34-4), 2 - cup-kantharos (34-3), 3 - pelike (34-2), 4 - pelike (34-1).

Grave 34

The grave was constructed as an almost square burial chamber (2.74×2.76 m) with a niche in the wall opposite the entrance. The ceiling is built as a low vault. Two mud-brick benches were preserved at either side of the entrance. The depth from modern ground level to the floor of the chamber was 6.39 m. Bones of two skeletons lay scattered all over the chamber indicating that the burial was robbed. Wooden remains of a sarcophagus or a *kline* and two pairs of lead clamps were found on the mud-brick benches. Two pelikai were situated on each side of the entrance; and a black-glazed cup, an unguentarium, a cup and badly preserved coins were situated to the right of the entrance.⁸

34-1. *Pelike* (Figs. 1.4; 2.4)⁹

The body is ovoid with a thin, high neck and moulded foot ring. The rim is moulded and out-turned. The body is ribbed. The handles are moulded. The glaze is black with a metallic sheen. Zig-zag ornament runs over the edge of the out-turned rim. Both sides of the neck are decorated with overpainted garlands. Impressed, vertical herringbone patterns at the lower attachment of each handle. A garland of laurel leaves made with white paint and incision is situated on the shoulders. A horizontal band of plain floral ornament encircles the body. H 45.3 cm, D body 25.8 cm, D rim 22.1 cm, D base 16.3 cm.

34-2. *Pelike* (Figs. 1.3; 2.3)¹⁰

Low body with moulded ring foot and a broad neck. The rim is out-turned and moulded. The body is ribbed. The handles are moulded. The glaze is black with a metallic sheen. A glazed ornament of ovules decorates the edge of the out-turned rim. Both sides of the neck are decorated with overpainted garlands of laurel leaves. Impressed, vertical herring-bone patterns at the lower attachment of each handle. H 45.6 cm, D body 27.5 cm, D rim 24.6 cm, D base 14.6 cm.

Attic pelikai of more or less similar type are well-known.¹¹ One found on the Taman' peninsula has the same type of ornament on the neck.¹² Similar vessels are known from the collection of the Hermitage Museum, and some of these came from the Northern Pontic area.¹³ Our vessels should be dated to the late 4th – early 3rd century BC according to their shape (elongation of the body) and decoration.

34-3. *Black-glazed cup-kantharos* (Fig. 1.2)¹⁴

An ivy garland with the inscription ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ is found on the rim. H 7.6 cm, D rim 12.6 cm, D base 4.3 cm.

Similar Attic black-glazed drinking vessels with garlands and different inscriptions dating to the early 3rd century BC are well known.¹⁵ Our vessel belongs to Edwards Group dated to 275-265 BC.¹⁶ Most vessels belonging to this group came from South Russia.¹⁷ Their shape can be considered as a typological development from the so-called cup-kantharoi that appeared as early as the Classical period.¹⁸ The cup published here might be a variant of the so-called 'cup-kantharos with squat rim' known from Athenian contexts of the second half of the 4th century BC.¹⁹



Fig. 2: 1 - Black-glazed amphora (35-1); 2 - cup interior (41-4); 3 - Pelike (34-2); 4 - Pelike (34-1); 5 - Pelike (41-3).

34-4. *Black-glazed bowl-kantharos on high foot* (Fig. 1.1)²⁰

The clay is grey, the glaze is of very poor quality and almost completely worn off. Two horizontal groove encircle the body. A heart-shaped decoration is found on the handles. Decoration of garlands on the body. H 9.1 cm, D rim 11.7 cm, D base 3.7 cm.

This kantharos is an imitation of Attic bowl-kantharoi of the Hellenistic period.²¹ It is difficult to determine its place of manufacture, although it could be from Asia Minor or the North Aegean area according to the characteristics of the clay. This vessel must be dated to the first quarter of the 3rd century BC.

34-5. *Clay alabastron*²²

The shape of the *alabastron* is classical, narrowing in its upper part. The base is rounded, and the upper part of the neck is broad. There are three grooved lines on the body and two small projections under the rim. H 17.6 cm, D body 4.25 cm, D rim 4 cm.

Most vessels of this type from the Olbian necropolis come from graves of the 4th – the first half of the 3rd century BC.

Conclusion Grave 34: We can date this complex to the early 3rd century BC.

Grave 41

This grave, too, was constructed as a chamber tomb with a mud-brick bench. The trapezoidal chamber has a semicircular vault and *dromos*. The depth is 6.1 m from surface level, and tomb is oriented along an east-west axis. An urn

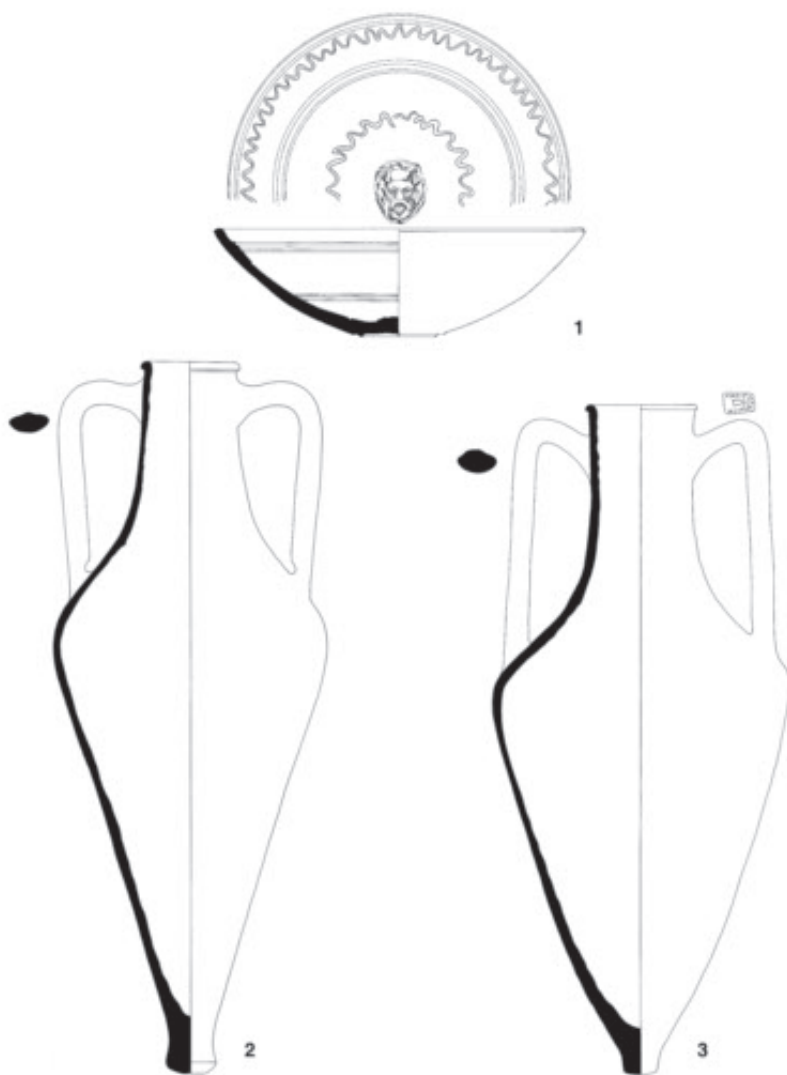


Fig. 3: 1 - Cup (41-4); 2 - Thasian amphora (41-2); 3 - Thasian amphora (41-1).

with ashes and wooden remains of a sarcophagus were situated on the bench. Under the urn there was an incense burner and a ceramic bowl. A transport amphora was found surrounded by a row of bricks in the northeastern corner. Another transport amphora was placed in the southwestern corner. Near the western wall was a pelike, and in the middle of the chamber there was another incense burner and two grey clay cups.²³

41-1 *Thasian transport amphora* (Fig. 3.3)²⁴

The body of the vessel is conical, but more rounded than bodies of 4th-century Thasian amphorae. The rim is rolled, and the toe is short and conical. The handles are oval in section and have an indistinct ridge along the outer surface.

Θασίω(ν)

Cap of the Dioscouri and star

Ἀστυκρέ(ων)

The clay is dark-brown, compact, with small white inclusions and mica. H 74 cm, D body 32.6 cm, interior depth from rim 68.9 cm, D rim 12.3 cm, D toe 4 cm, Capacity est. 19.06 l.

This amphora has already been published several times.²⁵ Amphorae of this type are seldom found in the North Pontic area but are rather well-known in Mediterranean contexts.²⁶ They date from the middle to the third quarter of the 3rd century BC.²⁷ According to Garlan a similar stamp from Chioni with the same name but another emblem (grape)²⁸ dates ca. 217 (group XVI).²⁹ But he also noted that this reconstruction could be discussed, and this is a third stamp, after two others, known before.³⁰ If Astykreon on our stamp and As-tykryon from Chioni is the same person, we can date the vessel about end of the 3rd century BC.

41-2. *Thasian transport amphora* (Fig. 3.2)³¹

The body of the amphora is biconical. The rim is rolled. The toe widens downward and has a small depression underneath. The handles are oval in section with an indistinct ridge along the length of the handle. The clay is similar to 41-1. H 78.8 cm, D body 30.3 cm, interior depth from rim is 72.5 cm, D rim 11 cm, D toe 5.6 cm, Capacity est. 17.0 l.

We do not know any exact parallels for this amphora. The fact that it was found in the same context as the stamped vessel mentioned above is of the great interest. Both the characteristics of the clay and the biconical shape with a flaring toe testify to its Thasian origin. The profile of the rim is typical for Thasian amphorae of the 3rd century BC.³² The capacity is a bit smaller than that of the previous vessel but is close to the standard size of the so-called "late conical" Thasian amphorae.³³

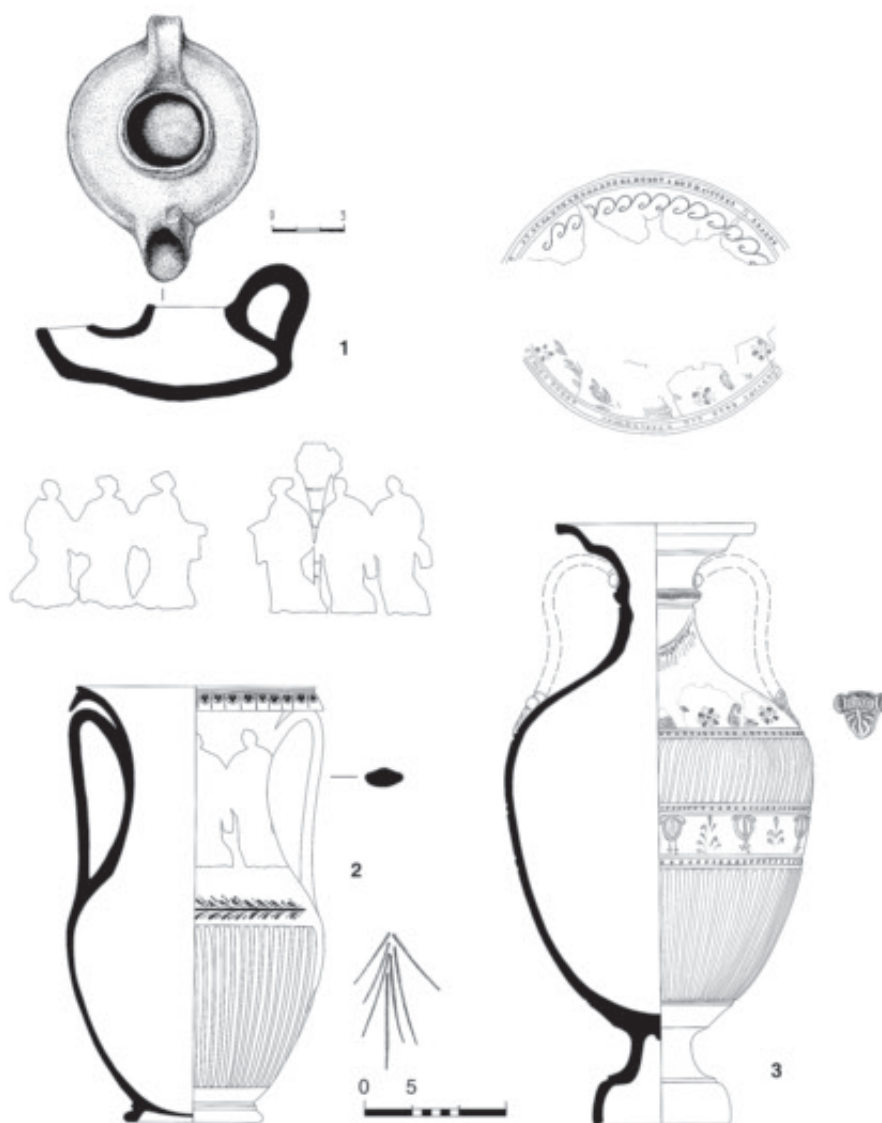


Fig. 4.: 1 - Wheelmade lamp (39-2); 2 - Pelike (41-3); 3 - Black-Glazed Amphora (39-1).

All these facts allow us to suppose that the production of biconical vessels of smaller capacity was continued for some time in the third quarter of the 3rd century BC simultaneously with the spindle-shaped standard Thasian amphorae.

41-3. *Pelike* (Figs. 2.5; 4.2)³⁴

The wide neck and low body sit on a moulded ring foot. The rim is out-turned and moulded. The body is ribbed, and the handles are flat. The glaze is black with a metallic sheen. The edge of the out-turned rim is decorated with ovules. Poorly preserved, carelessly rendered, red-figure decoration consists of three female figures in chitons facing right on side A, and three female figures in chitons facing left on side B. Impressed, vertical herringbone patterns at the lower attachment of each handle. Garlands of laurel leaves in West Slope technique appear on the shoulders. H 46.8 cm, max D body 27.5 cm, D rim 27.2 cm, D base 14.8 cm.

The proportions of the vessel and its decorative ornaments are similar to 34-2. These two vessels should be roughly contemporaneous.

41-4. *Cup* (Figs. 3.2; 3.1)³⁵

Hemispherical cup with the rim ornamented with grooved, wavy lines. In the centre of the interior is an applied image of a bearded male head. H 4.8 cm, max D 16.4 cm. The clay is grey with inclusions of mica.

Undoubtedly, this vessel imitates black-glazed cups with relief ornament well-known from the excavations of the Athenian Agora and belongs to the first type of Rotroff's classification.³⁶ These cups appeared in the 280s BC and existed till the end of the 2nd century BC. The closest analogue to the bearded male head (probably Herakles) dates to the second half of the 3rd century BC.³⁷ According to the clay, we can consider it to be from one of the workshops of Asia Minor.

Conclusion Grave 41: By the Thasian stamped amphora, this grave must date to the very end of the 3rd century BC.

Grave 25

This grave was constructed as an almost square chamber with a low vaulted ceiling. The depth of the grave was 5.94 m from the surface and it was oriented on a southwest to northeast axis. Opposite the entrance there was a niche, and a mud-brick bench was placed near one of the sidewalls. The grave was robbed and remains of two skeletons were left scattered all over the burial chamber. There were also remains of a wooden sarcophagus, with gold clamps, and adorned with fragments of gilding and bone decoration. Small vessels were found under the niche and amphorae were placed near the same wall behind the mud-brick bench.³⁸

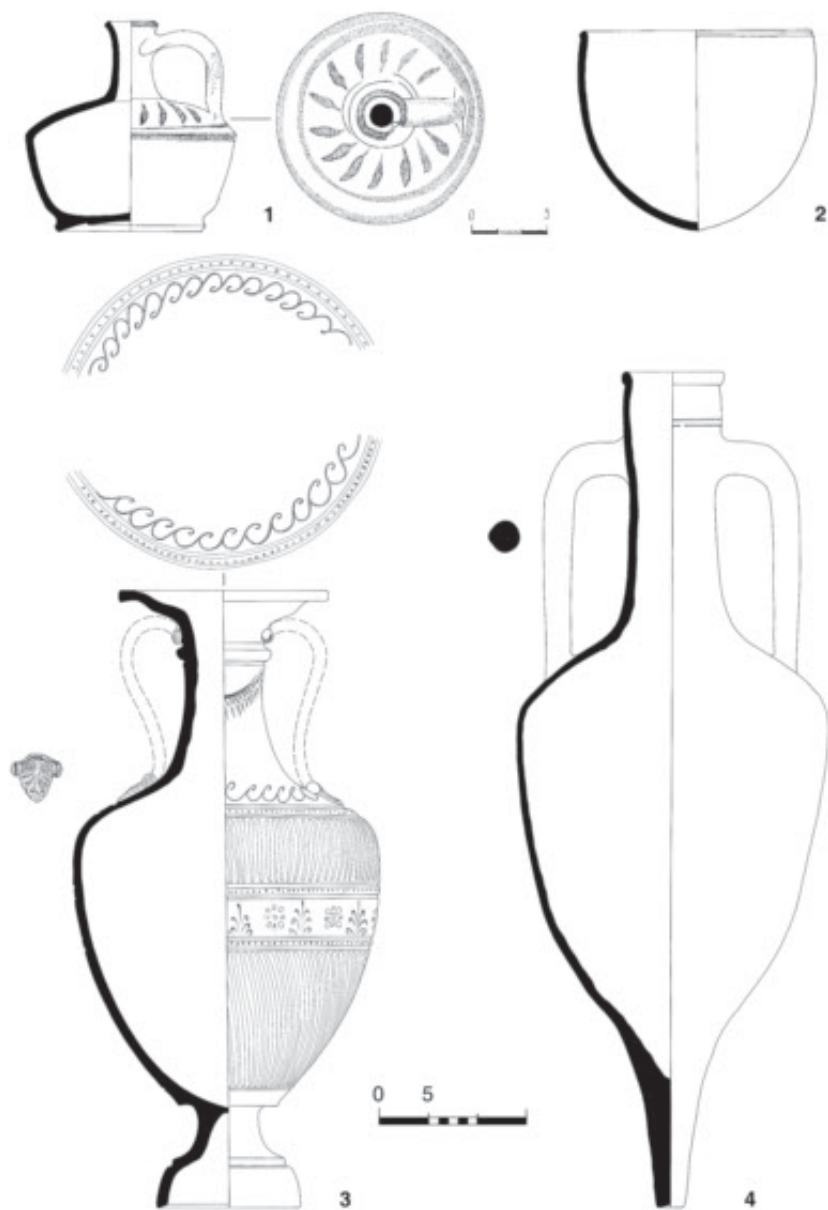


Fig. 5. Grave 25: 1 - White-ground lagynos (25-3); 2 - Parabolic cup (25-7); 3 - Black-glazed amphora (25-2); 4 - Chian amphora (25-1).

25-1. Chian transport amphora (Fig. 5.4).³⁹

Ovoid body; tall, cylindrical neck a bit broadened in its upper part. Remains of a round stamp, unfortunately impossible to read, in the middle part of the neck. The toe is conical with a small cavity in the tip. The handles are round in section and narrowing

in the lower part. The clay is light brown, dense and the surface is covered with a light slip.⁴⁰ H 86.2 cm, D body 32 cm, H body 72.9 cm, D rim 10.4 cm, D toe 3 cm, Capacity est. 19.9 l.

This amphora has already been published,⁴¹ but the author mistakenly identified it as Rhodian. However, a Chian provenance of such vessels is commonly accepted today, although their chronology is yet to be thoroughly investigated due to the scarcity of known complete vessels. S.Ju. Monachov generally dates them to the third quarter of the 3rd – 2nd century BC, although he also notes an amphora from a shipwreck of the 1st century BC.⁴² The publications made it possible to work out the general line of development of Chian amphorae in the 3rd – 1st century BC. The neck widens noticeably over the upper handle attachment. The toe profile becomes simpler and the cavity has disappeared by the 1st century BC. Another important chronological feature is a sharp carination of the shoulder characteristic for the latest amphorae. According to all these features we can date our vessel within the second half of the 2nd – early 1st century BC.

It is very important to pay attention to the remains of the round stamp on the amphora neck. Unfortunately, it is not of high quality and is unreadable.⁴³

25-2. *Black-glazed amphora* (Figs. 5.3; 6.1; 7.1)⁴⁴

The amphora has an elongated ovoid body, a high neck and funnel-shaped, offset rim. The base is high and moulded. The body is ribbed. The handles are not preserved. At the places of the handles attachments there are round rotellae. Both sides of the neck are decorated with a spearhead necklace in white and orange clay. An ornamental wave-shaped band is engraved on either side of the shoulders. Under this, between two horizontal reserved bands, there is a row of white dots. The middle part of the amphora is decorated with a broad frieze situated between two bands of dots over and under which there are also narrow bands made in scraped-off glaze. The frieze consists of palmettes and dot-rosettes. Clay is light-brown, with rose. On the surface some mica inclusions. H 63.6 cm, D 30.5 cm, D neck 21.5 cm, D base 14.8 cm.

The shoulder decoration is paralleled on amphorae from Pergamon of the late 2nd – early 1st century BC.⁴⁵ Rotelles situated at the handle attachment are characteristic for vessels produced in Asia Minor. Some details and ornaments are made rather carelessly – a feature typical for the production of the second half of the 2nd – the beginning of the 1st century BC.

As for the shape, two amphorae of this type are known from Olbia:⁴⁶ one now in the Antikensammlung (Berlin):⁴⁷ the other, a pseudo-Panathenaic, painted in black-figure style and dated to the 2nd century BC, found during



Fig. 6. 1 - Black-glazed amphora (25-2); 2 - Black-glazed amphora (39-1).

excavations in the Olbian necropolis in 1901,⁴⁸ is kept in the State Hermitage Museum.⁴⁹

In general, it should be noted that the shape of these vessels undoubtedly developed from the Panathenaic amphorae, which were being produced in the 4th century BC.⁵⁰ However, in Attic West Slope⁵¹ production large amphorae and kraters are almost absent. There are some lids from similar amphorae found the Athenian agora.⁵² One of them dates to 150-100 BC.⁵³ There is also a group of Panathenaic amphorae of the Hellenistic period with different decoration but of very similar shape.⁵⁴ Similar neck decorations on vessels from Pergamon could also be dated to the late 2nd century BC.⁵⁵

A glass amphora from Olbia kept in the Antikensammlung in Berlin has the same shape (even in the details) and is dated to the second half of the 2nd – the beginning of the 1st century BC.⁵⁶ G. Platz-Horster proposed that



Fig. 7: Details of shoulder decorations (amphorae Fig. 6).

1



2

this vessel was made for the taste and market of Olbia, where vessels of this shape were very popular.⁵⁷

Thus, 25-2 probably dates to the second half of the 2nd century BC or the beginning of the 1st century BC in one of the workshops of Asia Minor.

25-3 *White-ground lagynos* (Fig. 5.1)⁵⁸

Broad body, neck is not high; low ring foot. Decorated with red-paint tongues and horizontal lines on the shoulders, rim and handle also covered with the same paint. H 8.6 cm, D rim 2.2 cm, D body 8.7 cm, D base 6.2 cm.

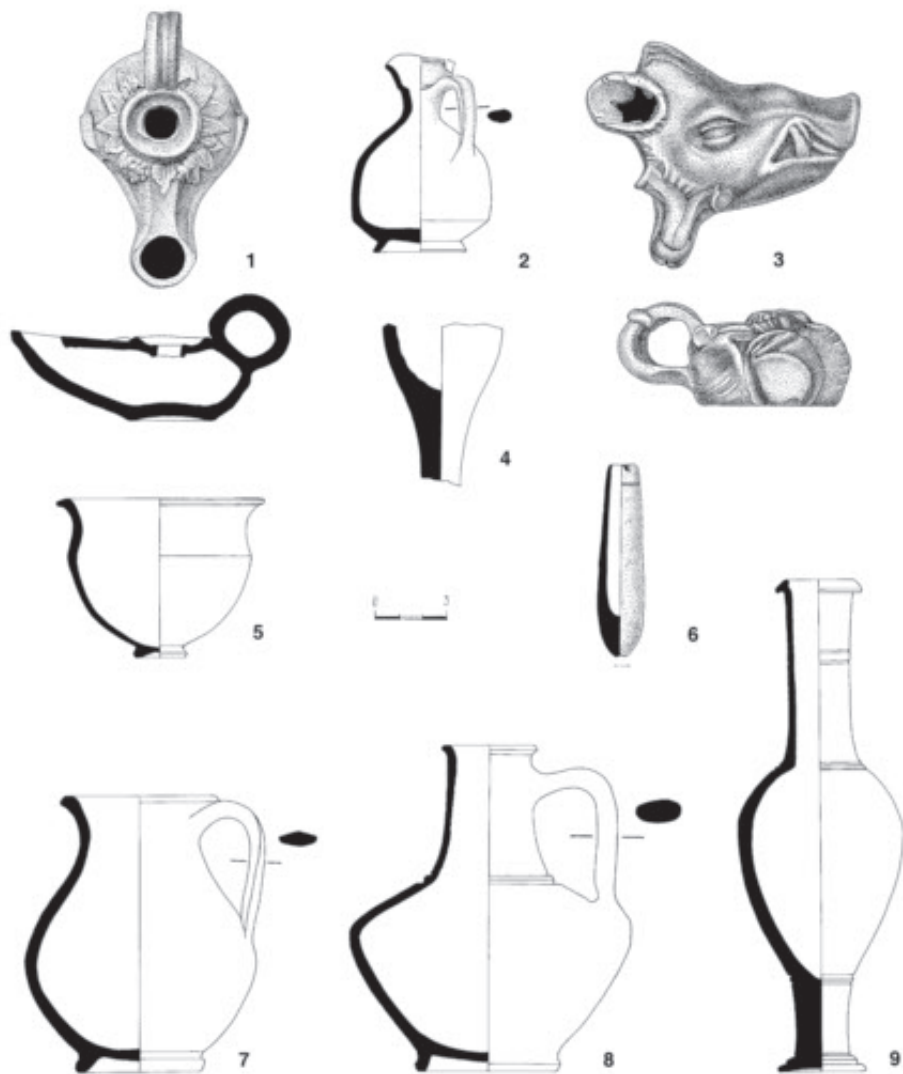


Fig. 8: Grave 25. 1 - Mouldmade lamp (25-4); 2 - Oinochoe (25-6); 3 - Figured vessel (25-5); 4 - Unguentarium (25-12); 5 - Polished cup (25-8); 6 - Alabastron (25-13); 7 - Jug (25-9); 8 - Jug (25-10); 9 - Unguentarium (25-11).

Such lagynoi are well known from many Greek sites.⁵⁹ Rotroff noted that this type of white-ground vessel decorated with red paint is characteristic for the period from the middle of the 2nd century BC to the beginning of the 1st century BC.⁶⁰

25-4. Mouldmade lamp (Fig. 8.1)⁶¹

The lamp has a double-convex body with rectangular lugs on each side. The filling-hole is surrounded by two concentric circles.

The shoulders are decorated with triangular leaves, and two bunches of grapes (?) are placed on the each side of the junction of the nozzle and shoulder. The nozzle is rounded and the applied band-handle is vertical. The lamp stands on a low ring foot. The clay is orange-red with mica and a few lime inclusions, no slip. L 10.2 cm, W 7.2 cm, H 3.6 cm (5.5 including the handle).

The lamp closely resembles Ephesian lamps of Howland Type 49A dated from the last quarter of the 2nd to the first quarter of the 1st century BC.⁶² Round-nozzled lamps do not seem to appear before the Sullan attack on Athens in 86 BC.⁶³ However, the lamp is also similar to other Ephesian lamps dated to the 1st century AD.⁶⁴ Yet, the fabric is different from Ephesian lamps, and it must probably be considered an imitation of an Ephesian lamp. The Olbian lamp is very similar to the lamp Q474 from the British Museum that belongs to a group of unattributed East Greek lamps.⁶⁵ This lamp could be dated to the end of the 2nd century – the middle of the 1st century BC.

25-5 *Figured vessel in the shape of the head of a wild boar* (Figs. 8.3; 9.2)⁶⁶
A head of a wild boar. The eye is open, a tusk juts out from jaws. The fur is marked with incisions. The clay is light brown, and the slip is brownish. H 3.5 cm, L 11.5 cm.

This vessel was published and studied in detail by N. Sorokina.⁶⁷ She considered it to come from Asia Minor and dated it to the 2nd – 1st century BC.

25-6 *Oinochoe* (Fig. 8.2)⁶⁸
The very poor quality of the black glaze makes it possible to identify this vessel as belonging to a local Pontic production. Only the lower part of the vessel is unglazed. The clay is grey. H 8.5 cm, maximum D body 6 cm, D rim 3 cm, D base 4.1 cm.

25-7 *Red-glazed parabolic cup (mastos)* (Fig. 5.2)⁶⁹
The rim is thickened and distinguished from the body by a groove; the bottom of the vessel is rounded. The red glaze is of good quality. The clay is reddish and porous with white inclusions, resembling a fabric from Asia Minor. H 8.2 cm, maxD 9.75 cm.

This type of parabolic cup imitating silver and glass vessels is well-known in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC.⁷⁰

25-8 *Polished cup* (Fig. 8.5)⁷¹
Burnished surface, solid grey clay. H 6.9 cm, D rim 9 cm, D body 7.9 cm, D base 2.3 cm.

The shape of this vessel is close to red-slip incense burners found in the Olbian necropolis in great numbers; however the shape of 25-8 is somewhat lower, and the grey clay and burnishing are not paralleled at Olbia.⁷²

25-9 *Jug* (Fig. 8.7)⁷³

The body is globular, the rim is thickened and out-turned, and the ring foot is separated from the body by a groove. The clay is yellow. H 11.9 cm, D rim 6.9 cm, max D body 12 cm, D base 5.6 cm.

25-10 *Red slip jug* (Fig. 8.8)⁷⁴

Biconical body; rim is out-turned; neck is separated from the body by two horizontal grooves. H 14 cm, D rim 4.1 cm, max D body 12.2 cm, D base 6.3 cm.

25-11 *Unguentarium* (Fig. 8.9)⁷⁵

The neck is elongated; the rim is beak-shaped and out-turned. The body is spindle-shaped, and the base has a small cavity underneath. There are several horizontal grooves encircling the body, neck and stem of the base. The clay is red with no slip. H 21.3 cm, D rim 3.7 cm, D base 3.8 cm.

25-12 *Unguentarium* (Fig. 8.4.)⁷⁶

Body fragment only. The base and neck are not preserved. The clay is grey. Pre H 10.4 cm, D body 5.2 cm.

25-13 *Alabastron* (Fig. 8.6)⁷⁷

The vessel widens towards the lower part; rounded bottom. The neck is broken off. Two horizontal grooves encircle the upper part of the body. Pre H 8.3 cm, max D body 2 cm.

Conclusion Grave 25: We can be quite certain that the grave is dated within the late 2nd – the first quarter of the 1st century BC.

Grave 35

This grave was constructed as an earthen burial vault with mud-brick benches (near western and eastern walls). The *dromos* is made as a long gentle slope without stairs. The depth of the burial vault is 6.4 m, oriented on a north-south axis. One skeleton was placed on a be mud-brick bench, two others were on the floor. On the floor there were wooden remains from a coffin. The authors who previously published some material from this burial noted the fine preservation of this grave, even though this vault, too, was robbed like the others. All the finds were discovered in different parts of the burial.⁷⁸



Fig. 9: 1 - Lid of incense burner (35-2); 2 - Figured vessel (25-5).



35-1. *Black glazed amphora* (Figs. 2.1; 10.4)⁷⁹

An amphora with low body on moulded ring foot and short neck. The rim is out-turned and moulded. The handles are twisted. Reliefs at base of handles depicting masks of satyrs or silenēs. The glaze is shiny black. There are two horizontal clay bands on the upper and lower parts of the shoulders. Both sides of the neck are decorated with incision and overpainted white and orange garlands of ivy leaves, spirals and dots rosettes. Both sides of the shoulders are decorated with incised ornaments of white and

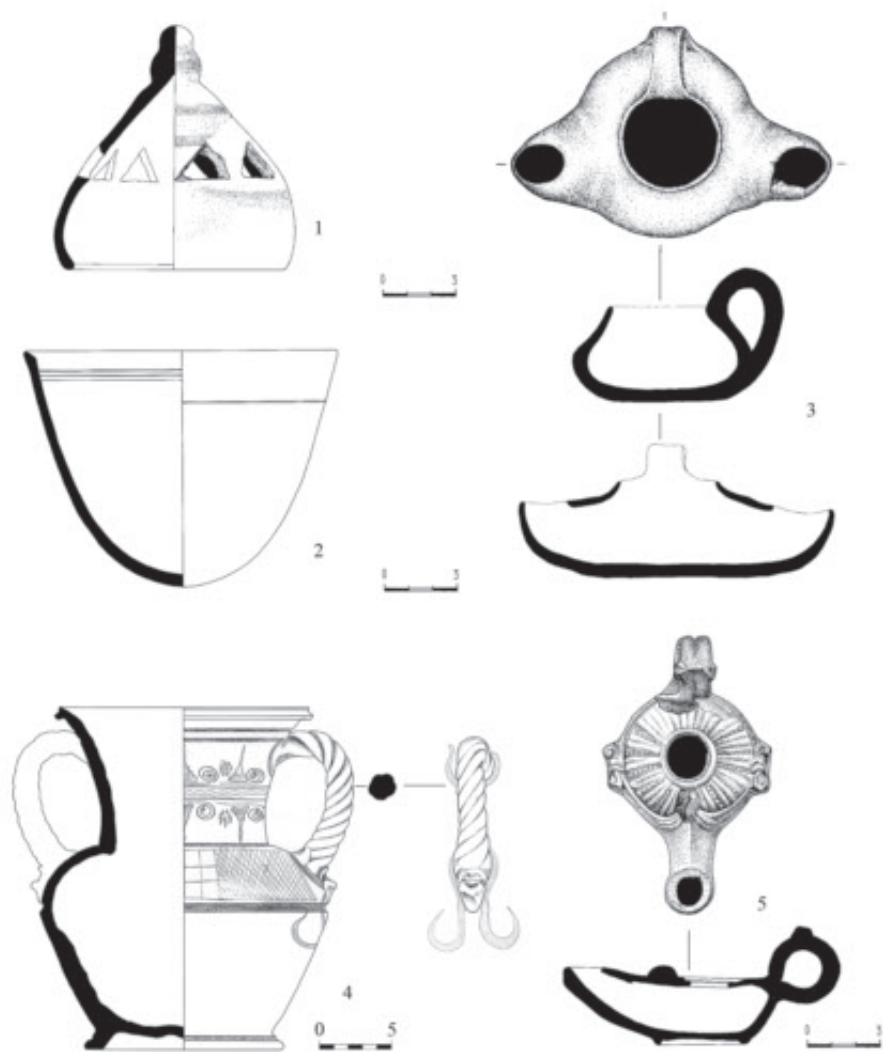


Fig. 10: Grave 35. 1 - Lid of incense burner (35-2); 2 - Parabolic lamp (35-3); 3 - Wheelmade lamp (35-5); 4 - Black-glazed amphora (35-1); 5 - Mouldmade lamp (35-4).

black checkerboard flanked by long panels of lattice. H 23.9 cm, max D body 20 cm, D rim 17.9 cm, D foot 13.9 cm.

Checkerboard ornament on the shoulders of vessels was often used on amphorae from the end of the 3rd – the beginning of the 1st century BC.⁸⁰ Ornaments of long panels of lattice flanking the central composition are more typical for later pottery groups.⁸¹

This Olbian vessel has already been mentioned as a parallel for an am-

phora from the excavations on the Athenian Agora.⁸² The amphorae are of similar shape. However, we should note that the composition of decoration on the neck of the Olbian vessel is more complicated. A very similar composition consisting of spiral-shaped rosettes, ivy leaves and dot rosettes is met on another amphora from Olbia.⁸³ The shape of the vessel and the quality of decoration lead us to consider it among the latest group of West Slope ware, namely the Gaudy Amphora Group which was identified in the material from the Athenian Agora. Two vessels came from the context, dated to 100-86 BC.⁸⁴

An article about such amphorae from the Black Sea littoral was published by Vasilica Lungu.⁸⁵ She collected the main finds of these vessels and noted a particularly wide popularity of them in the region.

35-2. *Lid of incense burner* (Figs. 9.1; 10.1)⁸⁶

The lid has a hemispherical shape and is covered with a light slip. There is an acorn-shaped handle on the upper part. Lines made with red paint are preserved on the handle and the lid itself. Triangular steam holes are placed in the central part of the incense-burner as well as a horizontal band. H 10.2 cm; max D body 10.2 cm.

35-3. *Red-glazed parabolic cup (mastos)* (Fig. 10.2)⁸⁷

The characteristics of the shape, clay and glaze are close to the mastos cup from Grave 25 described above (25-7; Fig. 5.2). H 10 cm; max D 13.2 cm.

35-4. *Mouldmade lamp* (Fig. 10.5)

The lamp has a rounded shoulder which is steeply set off from the lower part of the body. There are two lugs on each side, decorated with a knotted scroll. The long-ridged nozzle widens at the end to a flat, circular wick-hole. The lamp stands on a ring foot with moulded concentric circles inside. The shoulders are decorated with closely spaced beaded rays and oval-shaped tongues, and mask, placed between the filing-hole and nozzle. The handle is double-ribbed and knotted at the top. The clay is dark grey with few inclusions of mica. L 11.7 cm; W 7.1 cm; H 3.5 cm (5 cm including the handle).

The best analogue for this lamp is kept in the British Museum,⁸⁸ and is said to be from a grave at Bourgounte, on the island of Karpathos. This lamp could be dated to the second half of the 2nd – first half of the 1st century BC. Donald Bailey specifically noted a similar lamp from the catalogue of the Vogell collection, said to be found in South Russia.⁸⁹ Our lamp could be identified as East Greek as well, but it is also very similar to Ephesian lamps.

35-5. *Wheelmad lamp* (Fig. 10.3)

The lamp has a rounded body, two short, rounded nozzles with long wick-holes and a flat base. High vertical band-handle. The clay is grey with a few mica and lime inclusions. L 13.2 cm; W 8.8 cm; H 4 cm (5.6 cm including the handle).

Conclusion Grave 35: Similarly to Grave 25, this grave is dated to the late 2nd – first quarter of the 1st century BC.

Grave 39

The grave was constructed as an earthen burial chamber without vault. A mud-brick bench was situated to the left of the entrance. There were two skeletons in the grave: one on the floor, the other placed on the bench (only the leg bones were preserved). Remains of a wooden coffin and lead handles were found. Two transport amphorae⁹⁰ were situated at either side of the entrance, and opposite the entrance a large fluted amphora, a black-glazed dish⁹¹ and other ceramics were placed.⁹²

39-1. *Black-glazed amphora* (Figs. 4.3; 6.2; 7.2)⁹³

An amphora with elongated, ovoid body, high neck and funnel-shaped, profiled rim. The foot is high and profiled. The body is ribbed. The handles were oval (they are not preserved). Round rotelles are preserved at the places of the handle attachments with the neck and shoulders. Relief palmettes are situated near the handle bases on the shoulders. The glaze is black. Spearhead necklaces are applied with clay and white paint on both sides of the neck. A wave-shaped ornament is incised on one side of the shoulders and a band of dot-rosettes and birds made with white paint is depicted on the other. Under them there is a row of white points between two horizontal bands. A broad frieze is situated in the middle part of the amphora between bands of dots, over and under which are bands made in added clay. Garlands, dot-rosettes and palmettes made with white paint are depicted on the frieze. There are two clay bands on the lower part of the body. H 64.4 cm; H body 53 cm; max D body 32.9 cm; D rim 21.2 cm; D foot 14.9 cm.

The amphora is more or less identical to the vessel from Grave 25 (Figs. 5.3; 6.1; 7.1). The decoration of both vessels is the same and the only difference is the shoulder decoration and the ornament on the middle part of the body. The composition on the shoulders is more complicated and the elements used for it are typical for decoration of small vessels.

39-2. *Wheelmade lamp* (Fig. 4.1)

Lamp with incurved sides pulled up into a rim around the filing-hole. The base is flat, and the nozzle is short and rounded with a large wick-hole. High vertical handle. The clay is reddish-brown with a few mica and lime inclusions. L 11.4 cm; W 8.1 cm; H 4.1 cm (5.9 cm including the handle).

D. Bailey dated a similar lamp, Q121, to the 3rd century BC according to some South Russian parallels.⁹⁴ However, it should be noted that this type is very popular in the Northern Pontic in the Hellenistic period.⁹⁵ Similar lamps were classified as Type 21 of the local Hellenistic ceramic production.⁹⁶

Conclusion Grave 39: This grave could be dated to the late 2nd – early 1st century BC.

Overall conclusions

The ceramic deposits described above date to the broad period from the early 3rd till the early 1st century BC. Different types of pottery are shown here; among them are some without direct parallels and are unusual for the region. Some of them have Attic provenance, however others were produced in Pergamon and unknown centres of Asia Minor. Grey clay vessels imitating Attic types are also of great interest. The place of their manufacture is very difficult to determine, but they are probably not local. We hope that our article will be the first in the series of republications of the materials from the earliest excavations in Olbia.

Notes

- 1 This article was prepared in the frame of the project “The Necropolis of Olbia Pontica”, under the financial support of the Russian Scientific Humanitarian Foundation. The Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung (Foundation) gave one of the authors the opportunity to finish this article in the libraries of the German archaeological Institute in Berlin. All the drawings were made by Anna Trifonova and photos were made by Denis Žuravlev. We also thank Natalia Žuravleva for her kind help with the translation. For a Russian version of this article see Žuravlev & Lomtadze 2007, 78-91.
- 2 See the publication of Hellenistic material by Parovič-Pešikan 1974.
- 3 Sorokina & Zhuravlev 1997, 165; Žuravlev & Lomtadze 2001.
- 4 Farmakovskij 1896, 200, fig. 580.
- 5 Farmakovskij 1896, 205-211.
- 6 Farmakovskij 1896, 205-211.
- 7 Parovič-Pešikan 1974.
- 8 Farmakovskij 1896, 205-206; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 169.

- 9 SHM 36519, B- 14/17, (76); Farmakovskij 1896, 206-207, fig. 590; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 169.
- 10 SHM 36519, B- 14/17, 236(77); Farmakovskij 1896, 206-207, fig. 591; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 169.
- 11 Kopcke 1964, 73, fig. 28.
- 12 Kopcke 1964, fig. 28, 4; 142.
- 13 Kopcke 1964, fig. 28, 2,4; 29, 3.
- 14 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 242; Farmakovskij 1896, 207, fig. 592; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, figs. 71, 4; 72, 2.
- 15 Knipovič 1949, fig. 3, 1-2; Rotroff 1997, nos. 134-140; Kopcke 1964, fig. 46, 8-9.
- 16 Rotroff 1991, 70, pl. 19.
- 17 Rotroff 1991, 70-71, nos. 21, 24, 25.
- 18 Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 121, nos. 686-690.
- 19 Sparkes & Talcott 1970, 120, nos. 681-685.
- 20 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 101.
- 21 Rotroff 1997, 93, 256-257, nos. 141-146.
- 22 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 232.
- 23 Farmakovskij 1896, 210-211; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 194. Unfortunately, the incense-burners, alabaster and one of the grey-clay cups have been lost.
- 24 SHM 36519, B-14/17.
- 25 Zeest 1960, 87, pl. IX, 22; Monachov 2003, 74, pl. 51, 2.
- 26 Grace, 1949, 186, pl. 19, 6; Grace 1986, 563, fig. 3, no. 13.
- 27 Monachov 2003, 74.
- 28 Garlan 2004-2005, table III, fig. 41.
- 29 Garlan 2004-2005, 322, 327.
- 30 Debidour 1979, 281.
- 31 SHM 36519, B-14/17.
- 32 Monachov 2003, 72.
- 33 Monachov 2003, 76.
- 34 SHM 36519, B- 14/17, 237(177). Farmakovskij 1896, 210-211, fig. 602a-b; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 194-195.
- 35 SHM 36519, B-14/17.
- 36 Rotroff 1997, 112-113, nos. 332-356.
- 37 Rotroff 1997, 117, no. 387. We should note that the dating of this fragment has posed some difficulties (Retroff 1997, 117). The decoration of this cup finds its closest parallels among vessels of the 2nd century, but the emblem is similar to stamps on kraters of the second half of the 3rd century BC, hence Retroff dates this cup to ca. 200 BC. Earlier dating based on direct analogies and not only on stylistic similarities seems more probable for to us.
- 38 Farmakovskij 1896, 205-206; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 208-209.
- 39 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 247.
- 40 It must have been the characteristics of clay and light slip that made I.B. Zeest consider it to be of Rhodian provenance.
- 41 Zeest 1960, 104, pl. XXIV, 50b.
- 42 Monachov 2003, 23, pl. 13, 4-6.
- 43 It should be noted that round stamps on necks were characteristic for 5th-century Chian amphorae. The bibliography on these stamps is well-known and rather voluminous, see Grace 1949, figs. 48-49; and Grakov 1935, 79 among many others.
- 44 SHM 36519; B-14/17; see: Farmakovskij 1896, 206; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 194-195.

- 45 Behr 1988, 97-178. See also: Lungu 2000-2001, pl. III-IV.
- 46 Šurgaja 1971, figs. 1-5; Košelenko et al. 1984, 230-231, pl. CXLIV, 11; Aleksandropoulou 2002.
- 47 Berlin V.I. 5012. We are very thankful to the Keeper of this museum Ursula Kästner for the possibility to study this vessel.
- 48 Farmakovskij 1903a, 9-11, fig. 13, a-g; Farmakovskij 1903b, 28-31, fig. 15, a-g.
- 49 Zhuravlev ed. 2004, 91-93, cat. no. 166; (The State Hermitage Museum, O.1901. 58)
- 50 Kopcke 1964, 72, fig. 27.
- 51 For the Pontic finds see, for example, Knipovič 1949.
- 52 Rotroff 1997, 200-201, nos. 1329-1333.
- 53 Rotroff 1997, 372, no. 1329.
- 54 Edwards 1957, 41, pls. 84, 86, 88; dated to first half of the 2nd century.
- 55 Behr 1988, 170.
- 56 Platz-Horster 1995, 35-49. For the chronology of metal, glass and clay vessels see Rotroff 1982b, 329-337.
- 57 Platz-Horster 1995, 47-48.
- 58 SHM 36519. B-14/17, 230 (5); Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 98, fig. 88, 1.
- 59 Schäfer 1968, pl. 44.
- 60 Rotroff 1997, 226-228.
- 61 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 216.
- 62 Howland 1958, 166.
- 63 Howland 1958, 167.
- 64 Bailey 1975, 106, Q183.
- 65 Bailey 1975, 202-203, see also his list of parallels.
- 66 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 229; Farmakovskij 1896, 206, fig. 589; Sorokina 1997, 23-25, 72, cat. no. 2.
- 67 Sorokina 1997, 23-25, 72, no. 2.
- 68 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 23.
- 69 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 1.
- 70 Rotroff 1997, 109-110.
- 71 SHM 36519. B-14/17, 100.
- 72 Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 120, fig. 98, 1,7.
- 73 SHM 36519. B-14/17, 228.
- 74 SHM 36519. B-14/17, 227.
- 75 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 17. Cf. Anderson-Stojanović 1987, 105-122, Type B.
- 76 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 9.
- 77 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 8.
- 78 Farmakovskij 1896, 205-206; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 209.
- 79 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 235; Farmakovskij 1896, 207-208, fig. 594; Minns 1913, 350, fig. 255; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 124-126, 208-209, fig. 100, 4.
- 80 Rotroff 1997, nos. 417, 421, 427, 432, 440-442.
- 81 Rotroff 1997, nos. 440, 441.
- 82 Thompson 1934, 3,375; D26.
- 83 Knipovič 1949, fig. 5, 6.
- 84 Rotroff 1991, 101-102; Rotroff 1997, 122.
- 85 Lungu 2000-2001, 253-281.
- 86 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 226.
- 87 SHM 36519, B-14/17, 3.

- 88 Bailey 1975, 200-201, Q468, pl. 86.
- 89 Cramer 1908, 59, fig. 35b.
- 90 Unfortunately, these amphorae have not been found in the collections of the State Historical museum and the State Hermitage. There is an amphora without inventory number, which is kept in the State Historical museum from the excavations of Olbia in 1896, but it has Peparethian origin and dates to the 4th century BC and can hardly come from this context.
- 91 The dish has not been found in the collection of the SHM or the State Hermitage.
- 92 Farmakovskij 1896, 210; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 194.
- 93 SHM 36519, B-14/17; Farmakovskij 1896, 205-206; Parovič-Pešikan 1974, 194.
- 94 Bailey 1975, 5.
- 95 See Žuravlev et al. 2010, 52-76, nos. 457-519.
- 96 Knipovič 1940, 144-145, pl. XXXIII, 1-2.