

THE BLACK SEA IN THE LIGHT OF NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA AND THEORETICAL APPROACHES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL
WORKSHOP ON THE BLACK SEA IN ANTIQUITY
HELD IN THESSALONIKI, 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2015

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Introduction

Manolis Manoledakis

In 2012, an international workshop on the Black Sea in Antiquity was organised by the International Hellenic University in Thessaloniki. The workshop was organised in the context of the postgraduate programme of the University's School of Humanities 'Master of Arts in Black Sea Cultural Studies', launched in 2010 as the first postgraduate programme worldwide with an interdisciplinary approach, dedicated exclusively to the Black Sea region.

A major aim of that first workshop was to bring together mainly young scholars from all over the world who are engaged in research in the specific field. Thus, sixteen young scholars (Doctors or PhD students) from eleven countries participated in the workshop, the proceedings of which were published in 2013 by Archaeopress in the British Archaeological Reports series (S2498), under the title '*Exploring the Hospitable Sea. Proceedings of the International Workshop on the Black Sea in Antiquity held in Thessaloniki, 21-23 September 2012*'. Indeed, for several of the participants, it was their first international publication.

The success of the workshop as well as its impact on many Black Sea scholars led to our promising that we would organise another such conference in future. Indeed, between 18-20 September 2015, the 'Second International Workshop on the Black Sea in Antiquity' was organised at the International Hellenic University, under the title 'The Black Sea in the Light of New Archaeological Data and Theoretical Approaches' by our MA programme which remains the only university programme related to this subject and has until now attracted students from 13 countries. The proceedings of this workshop are presented here.

The main focus remains on young scholars, but this time we decided to also open up the workshop to senior scholars, most of whom had encouraged our efforts from the very beginning, while two of our postgraduate programme's graduates also participated with their first international paper.

Similar to the first workshop's proceedings volume, here also, the book is divided into units dedicated to most aspects of Black Sea research, while at the end there is also a small unit related to connections between the Black Sea and northern Greece. The majority of papers present archaeological material that has come to light during the last few years, in excavations that have been taking place

in several parts of Pontus as well as in Macedonia. On the other hand, there are papers that present theoretical approaches to historical issues concerning the Black Sea, its local peoples, cultural aspects or specific sites. Another difference from the previous volume is that, while this time there are more contributors (19 papers by 28 authors), incidentally the Eastern Black Sea is not represented, a fact that does not imply an intention or a minor concern about this area. We regret that three of our participants were not able to submit their papers; however, the audience of the workshop gained a lot by listening to them.

The volume begins with papers concentrating on the northern Black Sea area. To start with, Dmitry Chistov leads us to the much-discussed archaic Ionian colony situated within the area of the modern Berezan Island, examining some features of the archaic residential buildings. One of the conclusions he reaches is that the houses of the Berezan settlement are distinguished by their rather large dimensions in comparison to the known residential structures of other urban centres in the North Pontic region during the archaic period. More to the east, in Tyritake, a joint project started in 2007, with the participation of the National Museum in Warsaw, the Kerchen Republican Historical-Cultural Museum in Ukraine, and the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, which in 2013 stopped operating, due to political events. Alfred Twardecki presents some of the results of this project, laying stress mainly on archaeological and epigraphic sources. Some observations on *defixiones* from Olbia and the Bosporan Kingdom follow by Alexey Belousov, a specialist on documents of this kind. The observations deal with materials, forms and language formulae of the *defixiones*. Gocha Tsetsckhladze focuses on the Taman Peninsula aiming at a brief survey of Greek settlements in and around the north-east of the area in light of the work of the on-going Russo-German expedition and the activities of underwater archaeology there.

Finally, two essays provide us with some new theoretical approaches: Ioannis Xydopoulos examines how the Taurians were presented by the Greeks in the latter's literary tradition from the 5th to the 1st century BC. As the author points out, there was an effort by the Greek writers to 're-categorise' the Taurians, neither quite as Greeks nor entirely as exotic barbarians, an effort which he tries to explain. David Braund stresses the fact that, although the mythical hero Deukalion is always a

Greek in classical accounts, in Lucian's *On the Syrian Goddess* he is said to be a Scythian. The reason for this is elucidated with the help of a tradition attested by Herodorus, whereby Deukalion was the son of a certain Prometheus who was a Scythian king.

Afterwards, we move to the western side of the Black Sea. Adela Sobotkova searches for nomads in Iron Age Thrace, studying new paleo-ecological, paleo-diet, and settlement data produced by the Tundzha Regional Archaeological Project, on which the author has been working for several years. These data, when complemented by historical and ethnographic sources, show that the necessary conditions for nomadic pastoralism were not present in Thrace during the 1st millennium BC. Next follows a focus on a specific site of central Thrace, the *emporion* of Pistiros, for which Jan Bouzek presents some data on urban planning and architecture. Moving to the coast of Thrace, Miroslav Ivanov Vasilev tries to localize the Pontic city of Boryza, which was mentioned only by Hecataeus and Stephanus of Byzantium. Moreover, the author tries to examine some aspects of the site's history.

We then focus on Apollonia Pontica. Margarit Damyanov deals with some finds from a sanctuary in this city. These are votive and other pottery as well as fragmentary terracotta figurines suggesting votive practices, from which he deduces that the sanctuary must have been dedicated to Demeter (and Kore). We remain at Apollonia and pass to its necropolis, where Mila Chacheva presents a broader overview of the personal ornaments found in children's graves of the classical and Hellenistic periods, trying to answer whether these were simply adornments, or they carried additional meaning. The next paper, written by Alexandre Baralis, Krastina Panayotova, Teodora Bogdanova, Martin Gyuzelev, Dimitar Nedev and Kostandin Gospodinov, discusses the results of a joint archaeological mission in Apollonia (and Orgame), that was launched in 2010 by the Aix-Marseille University, in cooperation with the National Archaeological Institute of Sofia and the Romanian Academy, and is now headed by the Louvre Museum and granted funding by the French national research agency and the French Foreign office. Based on a multidisciplinary approach, this programme seeks to highlight the several stages followed in the formation of Apollonia's territory, as well as the internal organization of the city's wider area.

A paper that is geographically expanded to include both the western and the northern Black Sea areas is that of Georgia Aristodemou, who writes about Nemesis, the famous Greek personification which soon evolved into a powerful deity of the Graeco-Roman pantheon, while her cult gained significant popularity during the Roman period and late antiquity. The author examines archaeological and epigraphic evidence on Nemesis'

appearance in spectacle monuments from Thrace to the Bosporan Kingdom.

Finally, we move to the southern Black Sea littoral, where the results of recent excavations at specific sites prevail. Sümer Atasoy, director for many years of the excavations at Tios, gives an overview of the most important results of the only proper excavations of a Greek colony on the southern coast of the Black Sea, so that the reader gains a general idea of the ancient site. Owen Doonan tries to synthesize the current state of archaeological and historical evidence for the early colony of Sinope and its pre-colonial antecedents up to the 5th century BC. Moving to the inland of the southern Black Sea, Şahin Yıldırım and Nimet Demirci Bal present the results of their rescue excavations on the Hacılarobası tumulus in the wider area of Karabük. The tumulus, dated from the 1st century BC, belonged to Paphlagonia, and had almost been destroyed by illegal excavations. D. Burcu Erciyas and Mustafa N. Tatbul, who have been working at the ancient city of Komana for several years, provide a study of both archaeological and epigraphic evidence from the site, in order to further clarify the Roman period at Komana.

The last part of this volume is dedicated revealing connections between Pontus and northern Greece. Anna Argyri, Ioannis Birtsas and Manolis Manoledakis publish in detail the 57 coins from the Propontis and the Black Sea that were found at the excavations of the Metro of Thessaloniki over the past few years. These coins were found both in sites of the ancient city proper and in the cemeteries. They come from Constantinople, Cyzicus, Nicomedia, Heraclea, Troas, Bithynia and Pantikapaion, and are dated from the third and fourth centuries. Their publication is followed by an interpretation of them in their historical context. In the last paper of the volume, Polyxeni Adam-Veleni attempts to answer several questions concerning the degree to which the Greek colonies of the Black Sea were influenced in terms of both society and politics by the Macedonian kings Philipp II and Alexander the Great.

Thus, the reader of this volume will be able to read about new archaeological results from excavations of some very important Black Sea sites, such as Apollonia, Tyritake, Tios, etc., focus on specific categories of excavation finds or constructions, such as votive pottery from Apollonia, Hellenistic tombs of Paphlagonia or archaic houses of Berezan, but also encounter new theories and ideas about historical, cultural, geographical or social aspects of life in the Black Sea in antiquity. All these indicate once again the impressive acceleration of the archaeological and historical research that is being observed in the last few decades in the Black Sea, which continues to attract the unfailing interest of scholars from around the world. I hope that this workshop will contribute its 'two cents' in increasing our knowledge and understanding of the

still quite unknown but always charming ancient history of the Black Sea region.

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MAP OF THE BLACK SEA WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THE VOLUME (CREATED BY THE EDITOR).