



Archaic Greek pottery in the Black Sea region

Summary :

The Aegean and the Black Sea were connected in terms of trade and objects circulating since the 3rd millennium BC. Concerning the Archaic Greek pottery in the region, recent excavations have brought to light much more Archaic ceramic finds than the investigations of the previous decades. The western and northern coasts are represented by East Greek pottery of different styles, fewer Attic fine ware and more rarely Corinthian sherds of later decades. On the other hand, evidence from the southern shores is much less but includes almost the same pottery categories.

Date

Archaic period

Geographical Location

Black Sea

1. The beginnings of Greek contacts with the Black Sea area

At first, it should be understood that links between the Black Sea and the Aegean were very ancient. There was already in the third and early 2nd millenniums BC a general *koine* of bronze objects of the so-called 'Circumpontic production centre', as it was called by Chernych,¹ and even closer links are known from the early 2nd millennium: the shapes of bronze objects, the vehicles with spoked wheels, with which the Hyksos people and the Mycenaeans celebrated their military successes, were well known as far as at Arkaim in western Siberia at the same time.² New finds of bronze *ingots* in Bulgaria, in the shape of an ox, confirm trade links between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, as do the general calculations of Bronze Age weight units in large parts of Europe.³ All these areas used the Mycenaean weight units for weighing *metals*, and only at the end of the Bronze Age took over the Near Eastern shekel system.⁴ The first venturers probably did not carry with them much of their pottery, though there might be some Mycenaean sherds among the materials from the western Black Sea coast, as in the Varna museum. J. Fossey identified a sherd from Tsarevo on the Bulgarian coast as Mycenaean;⁵ some Mycenaean pottery is known from other parts of Bulgaria, like Koprivlen⁶ and Drama in the south and south-west. Anyway, we do not usually take our china with us when travelling abroad, and the ancients did not yet know the prejudices of future archaeologists; the excavated pottery points already to developed relations with a settled community of Greek traders.

The necessity to acquire enough metals and the adventurous spirit of the Greeks enabled early ventures in the Black Sea reflected in mythical form in the Argonauts story. The introduction of glass beads production and Cypriot pottery to the Black Sea may even have had something to do with the activities of the Phoenicians during the 8th-7th century BC; the Phoenicians were predecessors of Greeks as maritime explorers.⁷

The alleged finds of the 8th century BC pottery in the Black Sea area are still doubtful,⁸ but finds dated from the late second to the third quarter of the 7th century BC, and in some places slightly preceding the official historical foundations of the colonies, are more common now. In general there has been excavated more early Archaic Greek pottery in the Black Sea than during the eighties.

2. The foundation of Greek Colonies – Pottery survey by site (from c. 770 to the end of the 6th century B.C.)

2.1. Western coast of the Black Sea

Current surveys have been concerned particularly with the Bulgarian coast.⁹ In the last years excavations in *Apollonia Pontica* brought to light much early Ionian pottery from rescue excavations on the peninsula,¹⁰ which along with the two other earlier discovered *Wild Goat Style* vases of the late 7th century B.C., suggest that the town must already have existed at the end of the 7th century BC. On the other hand, Sveti Kirik island (though probably with finds of the same early date) is still less well known.¹¹ The series of Attic pottery from this area is represented by fragments in the manner of Sophilos and the Polos Painter; Finds from the necropolis, now excavated by a French – Bulgarian team, start with late 6th century BC sherds;¹² even some Corinthian 6th century BC pottery is known from the city. The site of Debelt on a lake near the Burgas Bay yielded East Greek and Attic 6th century BC pottery, while the *emporion* at Sladki Kladenci near Burgas yielded finds only of the 5th-4th century B.C.¹³



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[Mesembria](#): Some late 6th century BC pottery has been found, which coincides with the reports of [Strabo](#) (7,6,1) and [Herodotus](#) on the date of the settlement's foundation (6,33 and 4,93).¹⁴

[Odessos](#) was founded, according to Pseudo-Scymnos, by the Milesians in the second quarter of the 6th century BC. The early pottery finds of the middle 6th century BC (the [Chiot](#) ones that include a [phiale](#) and several Ionian plates) along with sherds of Attic pottery of the second half of the 6th century BC confirm this dating; there are, however, doubts concerning ceramic finds considered as Corinthian.¹⁵

New evidence from [Tomis](#) include East Greek pottery of the early 6th century BC, coming apparently from an early hut in simple wattle-and-daub technique and confirm that the city was a Milesian colony founded around 600 B.C.¹⁶

[Histria's](#) Archaic pottery is well published in monographs and thanks to P. Dupont it was also a pioneer site where the clay analyses started and are best known.¹⁷ Some fragments of the Middle White Goat I pottery style signaled the Middle Wild Goat II style that is well represented in the site. Even if this iconographical technique is Milesian, as is also the relatively richly represented [Fikellura](#) style pottery, Late Wild Goat imports came mainly from two other production centres called provisionally North Ionian II and South Ionian III; the remaining are [Clazomenian](#) and Aeolian. Chiot pottery is represented by [chalices](#), phialae, [pyxidae](#) and [dinoi](#), [Samos](#) by Ionian cups. Interesting is also a rather large local production of [fine pottery](#), including Late Wild Goat, Fikellura, even Chiot and notably Aeolian [Grey Ware](#), of which only small part came from the Aeolian coast of Asia Minor and from [Lesvos](#). Also the Ionian plain pottery, including the Banded Ware, was produced there, as it was at [Berezanji](#). The Corinthian vases started to be imported around 600 B.C. However, Attic imports are dated before 600 B.C., but are very rare until the middle of the 6th century BC.

[Orgame](#) yielded a few fragments of pottery preceding 650 B.C.: a Middle White Goat I fragment and an early Chiot trade [amphora](#) came from a heroon, perhaps of the "[oikistes](#)".¹⁸

The Achilles sanctuary on the island of [Leuke](#) was first investigated at the end of the 19th century and at the end of the 20th century. Fine Attic pottery was found along with earlier East Greek imports.¹⁹

2.2. Northern coast

Concerning the northern coast of the Black Sea there have been conducted and published important recent surveys.²⁰ Early pottery from [Tyras](#) has been reported from pre-war Romanian excavations, but new excavations revealed only a few finds from the second half of the 6th century BC.²¹ Berezanji is the most important site of the Archaic period. It was apparently settled long before Olbia; the earliest finds of pottery seem also to have preceded the third quarter of the 7th century BC. The earlier surveys by Kopeikina and Skudnova, from which also the statistics in Bouzek 1990 were compiled have been proved very useful.²² All pottery categories known from Histria are well represented, and the proportions of individual wares there seem to be very similar to the former. The city lost its importance in the second half of the 6th century BC, being overshadowed by Olbia.²³

The earliest pottery finds from Olbia are dated at the end of the 7th century BC, but the city seems to have been fully established only towards the end of the first quarter of the 6th century B.C. Archaic Greek pottery (mainly transport amphorae) has also been found in the [chora](#) of Olbia, which was considerably expanded in the second half of the 6th century BC further north to the [Scythian](#) sites; from the latter more Middle Wild Goat I pottery is known than from all Greek cities in the Northwestern Pontic.²⁴ A number of sites in the chora of Olbia yielded later 6th century B.C. pottery as well. [Cerkinitis](#) yielded the earliest pottery from the end of the 6th century B.C., while [Kalos Limen](#) was apparently a 4th century B.C. foundation.²⁵

[Chersonesus](#) was investigated by the late M. I. Zolotarev.²⁶ The earliest pottery is dated at the last quarter of the 6th century BC, but the larger settlement is dated only at the later 5th century BC, the time of the reputed Heracleian foundation of the city.

The earliest finds from [Theodosia](#) consist of Attic black figured vases from ca. 570 B.C.

The capital of the Bosporean kingdom, [Panticapaeum](#), yielded some late 7th century BC pottery; At Temir Gora north of it, it was



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discovered a pitcher of the Middle White Goat I style.²⁷ All Archaic ceramic styles are well represented (even some Early to Middle Corinthian), and much Attic Black Figure, starting with its early phase.

The earliest pottery from [Nymphaeum](#) dates from the early 6th century BC (cf. esp. the Samian [rhyta](#)). The necropolis was published by N. Grač. A general survey is given by Sokolova, as well as an account of the local production of painted pottery.²⁸

Other smaller towns such as [Myrmekeion](#) and Tyritake yielded the earliest finds of Archaic pottery from the second quarter of the 6th century BC.²⁹ Kyta yielded practically no Archaic finds as yet.³⁰ The earliest pottery from Tyritake dates from the second quarter of the 6th century BC. [Hermonassa](#)'s finds consisting of Wild Goat style, Ionian cups, Clazomenian, Attic BF and Banded Ware are dated from the first quarter of the same century,³¹ while from Tyramba and Patraios from the middle 6th century BC.

On the Taman peninsula, [Kepoi](#) existed in later 6th century BC, and some Ionian pottery of this period has been found there.³² The earliest pottery from [Phanagoria](#), a city founded by the Teans c. 542 B.C., dates from the middle 6th century BC.

For the new finds from Taganrog there are recent publications.³³ The new site is situated in the Don estuary, now under water. It yielded a large number of Bird and [Rosette](#) bowls, Ionian cups, and Wild Goat fragments, besides early Chiot transport amphorae. The outermost place of the Azov Sea was apparently an important trade emporion, active since mid 7th century B.C., or even slightly earlier.

The earliest finds of Greek pottery from [Gorgippia](#) date from the second quarter of the 6th century BC, though the early stage is only documented by Banded Ware and by Chiot amphorae. An emporion situated nearby may have been founded roughly at the same time.

Several small Greek settlements that yielded late 6th century BC Ionian pottery are known now in the area between the Bosporean kingdom, Gorgippia and the Caucasus (especially Baty and Torik). Ionian Banded Ware is known from Torik and also some cups related to rosette bowls have been published from this site. One 6th century B.C. Ionian cup was found at Mamajka near Soči.³⁴

2.3. Eastern coast

In Abchazia, Dioskuridas was situated at present Suchumi, perhaps partly under the sea now. Fragments of Greek pottery reputedly dating from the end of the 7th century B.C. found in the thirties have been lost. The earliest preserved finds include late 6th century BC Chiot trade amphorae and a fragment of a rosette bowl.³⁵ Eščerskoje gorodišče yielded mid 6th century B.C. rosette bowls and other late 6th century BC items, East Greek and Attic, besides a number of 5th century BC Attic Red-Figured pottery. Krasnyj Majak yielded also late 6th and 5th century B.C. fragments.³⁶

[Phasis](#) has not yet been localized.³⁷ The pottery from Simagre published by T. Mikeladze³⁸ includes an amphora of the Lewitski class, which is also known from Histria, Olbia, Berezanj and from the Cimmerian Bosphorus, and fragments of an early 6th century BC Corinthian [alabastron](#), while many other early fragments remained unpublished. Fragment of a Chiot cup dating from the first half of the 6th century BC has been found at [Vani](#) and the East Greek banded wares are known from most of the sited mentioned, but the bulk of other pottery imports in the [Colchis](#) is later.

[Pičvnari](#)'s monuments belong mainly to the Classical period. However, there have been found several pottery fragments of the late archaic period.

2.4. Southern shores

Archaic pottery fragments are rare in that area and even new surveys have not brought publications presenting new evidence. Excavations at Amisos and in particular from Makridy, brought to light a Late Wild Goat sherd. Doonan³⁹ mentions that in [Sinope](#) no Greek pottery was found in the first city, which was reported to have been a stronghold of the [Cimmerians](#) (Herod. IV,12,2). The Greek city was founded by the Milesians. Finds from Kum kapi cemetery, excavated in the early 1950's, are unpublished. Apparently a Fikellura amphoriskos, examples of Wild Goat Ware and other East Greek wares have been found there.



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The supposed first Ionian foundation of [Heraclea Pontica](#) (Strabo 12.3.4) is doubtful, the second by Megara and the Boeotians is dated by Pseudo-Scymnus (968-975) to the conquest of Media by Cyrus, i.e. ca. 560 B.C., but we do not have yet any Archaic pottery from this site.

3. Individual classes

3.1. Bird bowls

The bird bowls of the second and third stage (675-640, 650-615 B.C.) are the earliest known Greek vases in the Black Sea area; they are known from a number of sites.⁴⁰ Much evidence came to light during the last years. The most important was the series from Taganrog site in the Don estuary.⁴¹ There is one fragment published from Gorgippia, while another eight ones have been found at Orgame. Early trade amphorae originate in Chios and other sites. One fragment dated just after the middle of the 7th century BC comes also from Koprivlen in southern Bulgaria. The earliest of them may well have preceded the third quarter of the 7th century BC, but those dating from the end of the 7th century BC are also represented in the Black Sea sites.⁴²

3.2. Rosette bowls

The shape is similar to the Bird bowls, usually with a ring foot, but with larger dimensions. Most of the rosette bowls date from the first half and third quarter of the 6th century BC. They are known from nearly every important site in the Black Sea area, including its eastern part. A large part of rosette bowls found in the Black Sea area came apparently from North Ionian workshops.

3.3. The Wild Goat Style

Middle Wild Goat I style sherds (apparently produced in Miletus) are now known also from Histria and Orgame. Several North Ionian centers of the Middle White Goat II and Late Wild Goat styles have been also distinguished by now.⁴³

Many places in Northern Pontus have recently yielded much more Middle II to Late Wild Goat Samian and other North Ionian pottery contrary to what was earlier available. Late Wild Goat stemmed dishes, Chiot and Clazomenian vases are also well represented in the main sites, but South Ionian products are rare. The analyses published by Dupont have essentially been confirmed by other investigations, with only slightly different results.⁴⁴

3.4. Chiot pottery

Chiot Wild Goat Chalice style is known from Olbia and Berezanj. The Black-Figure Grand style has been found in considerable quantities in Berezanj, and is less represented in Olbia, Histria, Panticapaeum and in other places, including Vani and Simagre in the east. The earliest Chiot fragments are well known outside the Greek colonies, as it is the case for the Middle Wild Goat I Style. The largest number of items comes from Berezanj. Of the Animal Style chalices, examples are known – besides Berezanj – from Apollonia, Panticapaeum and Histria. The smaller chalices and the phialae of the Sphinx and Lion classes are known from Olbia, Berezanj and Panticapaeum, on the Bulgarian coast from Odessos and Apollonia.⁴⁵

3.5. Fikellura

The transitional style between the Wild Goat and Fikellura style is only exceptionally represented outside [Miletus](#) and most of the Fikellura imports in the Black Sea is undoubtedly Milesian.⁴⁶ The whole series of the Fikellura fragments found at Histria proved to be also of Milesian origin, with a modest group of local imitations. Fragments from other sites, like Berezanj, Olbia, the Cimmerian Bosphorus, Apollonia and Odessus are with all probability overwhelmingly Milesian products, perhaps with a few exceptions.⁴⁷

3.6. Ionian Black Figure cups

This class is relatively rare in the Pontic area, though some are known from Apollonia, Berezanj and Histria; however, their Attic counterparts are much more common here.⁴⁸



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3.7. Clazomenian Black Figure

While a large part of Middle Wild Goat Style vases found at Histria and Berezanj come apparently from [Clazomenae](#), Black Figure Clazomenian class is also represented. A larger number of them was found in Panticapaeum, where several vases also resemble the Northampton amphora. Many items of the Knipovich class come from Berezanj, Olbia and the Bosporean area.⁴⁹ The Northampton and Campana groups were produced probably in Etruria and no certain attributions to them among the North Pontic finds are known.

3.8. Ionian cups

Most of those are classified by Valet and Villard and were reputedly produced in one East Greek centre; Dupont was in favour of the production of Villard's A2 on Samos and of Villard's B1, 2 and 3 at Miletus. The 'South Ionian 3' producing centre manufactured Valet's B 1 and the fruit-stands; its localization is still uncertain, and it may have been situated in North Ionia.⁵⁰ These cups were popular in late 7th and early 6th century BC. A Valet-Villard's Samian A 2 cup is known from Orgame, from the earliest grave found there.

3.9. Banded Ware

East Greek Banded Ware is widespread not only in all Greek colonies existing in the 6th century BC, but also in smaller sites, in emporia and in settlements inhabited by local population with some Greek influence or settlers. A large part of this class was probably made in the Pontic area, but some banded vases have been imported from North and South Ionia as well.⁵¹ This class continued to be produced even during the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. (see below).

3.10. Grey pottery

Grey pottery has been excavated in Histria, Berezanj and also in Bulgaria;⁵² it may have inspired also the origins of the Thracian Grey Ware.⁵³ It is worth mentioning that although Grey Ware was originally Aeolian, only small part of the corpus among the finds in the Black Sea are imports from the Aeolian coast of Asia Minor and from Lesbos.

3.11. Corinthian pottery

Corinthian pottery is represented in small quantities. Early Corinthian is known only in Berezanj. A Protocorinthian alabastron and several Early Corinthian ones are among the finds from Olbia. From Histria only Middle Corinthian vessels dating from ca. 600 B.C. and later have been published. Middle Corinthian pottery is well known from Berezanj and from several other cities, one item has been found even at Simagre, and Late Corinthian vases are known from all Greek North Pontic colonies. Popular shapes are [aryballoi](#), alabastra and pyxidae, containers of cosmetic substances, while only a small number of items of Corinthian drinking service arrived in the Pontic area, notably in its NW part, perhaps through Megara, a city that used Corinthian pottery frequently and also exported it.⁵⁴

3.12. Attic Black-Figured Pottery

Attic imports in the Black Sea makes its appearance with the Early Black Figure at the end of the 7th century BC, but it remains very rare until the middle of the 6th century B.C. Some workshops exported rather large part of their production to the Black Sea market such as vases by Lydos and his school, but other painters are unknown or little known there. More imports of the early period reached, as far as we know, only Berezanj, Apollonia and Histria, while Black Figured cups from the second half of the 6th century are well known from most Pontic cities, and even from their chora.⁵⁵

3.13. Plain pottery

Plain Ionian pottery was mainly produced in the Pontic cities, but some part of it was also imported, particularly from Miletus.

3.14. Lamps



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Open Ionian lamps are characteristic for the Archaic period in the Black Sea. Some of them are imports, but many are apparently local products.⁵⁶

3.15. Cypriot – Phoenician

Phoenician participation in the trade with the Black Sea has long been doubted, but, concerning Cypriot ceramics, White Painted IV pottery was found at Histria, and perhaps also at Berezanĵ; the former site yielded also a group of Cypriot terracottas. The glass beads imports in the Black Sea are mainly of Phoenician manufacture, which influenced the technological tradition of the local production as well.⁵⁷

3.16. Greek influence on local pottery of the neighbours of the Greeks

Hand-made pottery was also in use in Greek cities; partly as finer burnished wares, and partly as coarse kitchen pots. Thracian and Transcaucasian pottery is finer, more sophisticated. In the North Pontic cities, this pottery has been studied as a special phenomenon, since the neighbours of the Greek cities there mostly led an unsettled way of life. Some of these wares were also used by the Greeks, but the bulk of them was apparently pots of the non-Greek local population, which formed part of the inhabitants of these cities. A specific class of Thracian wheel-made pottery, first produced in the NW Pontic, was used in the Carpathian basin in 6th century B.C.⁵⁸

3.17. Trade amphorae

Thanks to P. Dupont, the distribution of East Greek transport amphorae is now better known also in the Black Sea area.⁵⁹ Chiot amphorae are rather common; one of the early variety with white slip and painted strips and X shapes comes from the earliest rich grave at Orgame, probably a heroon of the "ktistes" of the city. Other items are also known from Ukraine.

Later varieties have been reported from Histria.⁶⁰ For the second to third quarter of the 6th century BC, the funnel-necked amphorae with stout belly and deeply hollowed foot are characteristic. At the turn of the century the neck becomes shorter, and the transition to the "swollen-neck" amphorae came around 500 B.C.; these have been found to most of the Black Sea sites.

Clazomenian amphorae are also common in the Black Sea (amphorae with broad bands by Zeest). The early containers are broad, later they become narrower, in the second third of the sixth century the belly becomes more ovoid and the hollow foot flares outside. After the middle of the century the proportions get slender and even more so around 500 B.C.

Lesbian amphorae are cruder in clay and execution, usually black, but sometimes red, mainly with simple bottom. They are also well known from many Black Sea sites; the first of them is dated to the late 7th century B.C. The "tumbler-bottomed amphorae" after Zeest were also produced at Lesbos.⁶¹

Samian amphorae have been also identified by I. Zeest.⁶² They were rare in the Black Sea area, only a few specimens are known from Histria, Olbia, Berezanĵ and Iagorlyk. The first are dated into the late 7th century BC and their shape is stout oval, with a massive echinus rim; in later decades they become more ovoid; the second variety is ovoid. Milesian amphorae are similar, but with a higher, thinner and convex lip profile, and with one or several ridged below the rim; the neck is offset from the shoulder by a step or ridge. Early specimens are represented at Histria, Berezanĵ and Iagorlyk. Later specimens with an offset fold at the base of the neck are also known from many Black Sea sites.⁶³

The Zeest' 'Samian and Protothasian' amphorae have been, according to Dupont, produced in some unknown North Aegean centre. They are again frequent on the Black Sea sites, on the Bulgarian and Romanian coast, around Olbia – Berezanĵ and in the Cimmerian Bosphorus. For the amphorae of the 'Thasian circle' of Zeest, Dupont suggests provenances such as Akanthus and Mende;⁶⁴ The analyses published by Dupont have essentially been confirmed by other investigators.⁶⁵

Corinthian amphorae are nearly unknown in the Black Sea area; also Attic SOS amphorae are very rare and attested in a few examples from Olbia and Berezanĵ only.



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4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the pre-colonial or initial colonial trade could reach distant areas on the periphery of the Greek Black Sea world more intensively than it was previously thought. The first generation of settlers brought much pottery from their native cities, which was apparently popular also among their followers, who had to get away from their native Ionia, whose fate under the Persian domination had become unbearable. However, mercantile orientation became more diverse in later times, though the Ionian pottery still prevailed nearly everywhere, even in the Megarian colonies, until the late 6th century B.C.

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3. From Kirilovo, Bjalata prst i Černozem, Lambansko kladenče, two of them now exhibited in the Varna museum and a third in a private collection, all apparently of the Cypriot copper, cf. M. Lichardus-Itten, J. Lichardus, V. Nikolov (eds.), *Beiträge zu jungsteinzeitlichen Forschungen in Bulgarien*, (SBA 74) (Bonn, 2002) also for the fragment from Īgdebaglari on the western shores of the Marmara Sea.
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5. Fossey, J.M (ed.), *Proceedings of the First International Conference on Archaeology and History of the Black Sea*, McGill University Montreal 1994 (Amsterdam, 1997), pl. 2.
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7. Bouzek, J., "Les Phéniciens en Mer Noire?" in A. Avram, M. Babeş (eds.), *Civilisation grecque et cultures antiques périphériques, Hommage à Petre Alexandrescu à son 70e anniversaire*, (Bucuresti 2000), p. 134-137
8. Cf. Bouzek, J., *Studies of Greek Pottery in the Black Sea area*, (Prague, 1990), p. 17-18, for some of them most recently again Alexandrescu, P., *L'aigle et le dauphin*, (Bucureşti 2000), p. 1-7, summarized further in Bouzek, J., "Les Phéniciens en Mer Noire?" in Avram, M., Babeş, A. (eds.), *Civilisation grecque et cultures antiques périphériques, Hommage à Petre Alexandrescu à son 70e anniversaire*, (Bucuresti 2000), p. 135.
9. By Reho, M., *La ceramica attica a figure nere e rosse nella Tracia bulgara*, (Milano, 1990); Lazarov, M., *Antična risovna keramika v B'lgaria*, (Varna, 1990) and *Greek Painted Pottery in Bulgaria*, (Varna, 2003)
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11. Cf. now Lazarov, M., *Greek Painted Pottery in Bulgaria*, (Varna, 2003) and Reho, M., "Ceramica di tipo greco-orientale ad Apollonia", *Thracia Pontica* 3 1985 (1986), p. 216-217
12. Cf. Panayotova, K., "Apollonia, Recent discoveries in the necropolis", in Tsetschladze, G. (ed.), *The Greek Colonisation in the Black Sea Area: Historical interpretation of archaeology*, (Historia Einzelschriften 121) (Stuttgart, 1998), p. 97-113 and esp.- Nedev, D., Panayotova, K., "Apollonia Pontica: end of the 7th – 1st centuries BC", in: Grammenos, D. – Petropoulos, E.K. (eds.) *Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea*, vol. I, (Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece Nos. 3-4) (Thessaloniki, 2003), p. 95-156 with early finds on pl. 2.
13. Bouzek, J., *Studies of Greek Pottery in the Black Sea area*, (Prague, 1990), p. 28-29 with bibliography.
14. Last survey Preshlenov, V., "Messambria", in: Grammenos, D., Petropoulos, E.K. (eds.), *Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea*, vol. I, (Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece Nos. 3-4) (Thessaloniki, 2003), p.157-208.



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17. Monographs by Lambrino, M., *Les vases archaïques d'Histria*, (Bucarest, 1938) and Alexandrescu, P., *Histria IV, La céramique d'époque archaïque et classique*, (Bucarest - Paris, 1978). See also the survey Bouzek, J., *Studies of Greek Pottery in the Black Sea area*, (Prague, 1990), p. 21-23.
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Glossary :

	1. talent, the, 2. ingot, the 1. Numismatic weight measurement. A silver talent was equal to 60 mnai or 6000 drachmas. 2. A block of metal that is cast in a standard shape for convenient storage or shipment.
	alabastron, the A vessel for holding perfume oil.
	amphora, the



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from the greek words "ἀμφί"(on both sides) and "φέρω" (carry): vessel with long ovoid body and a considerably narrower neck made in various sizes from the smaller perfume oil container to the large storage receivers of liquids and solids. It stands on a small foot and it bears two invariable vertical handles on either side. Some of the distinguished types of the amphorae are these whose lower part is tapering to the point (narrow bottomed), the neck type, the Nicosthenian, the Nola, the Panathenaic, the Tyrrhenian, the SOS type.

 [aryballos, the](#)

A flask for holding perfume oil of a spherical or globular shape.

 [chalyx, the](#)

drinking vessel from Chios. Type of kylix with a tall rim.

 [chora, the](#)

The agricultural land (including villages and land-plots) belonging to a polis. It was bounded with the polis on an administrative and economic basis.

 [dinos, lebes, the](#)

Another name for lebes. Big, open, semispherical vessel without handles and very low neck. It bears no foot and it was used for mixing wine with water and as a prize. When it was standing on a high stand and had two tall vertical handles disposed on a tall neck and a mouth covered with a lid, it was called "lebes gamikos" and was used for marriage rituals.

 [emporion, the](#)

Places where trade was conducted, usually small settlements of urban character on the borders or along the coasts and the commercial routes. With the same term are characterized the trade districts, the markets outside the walls of a city and/or settlements being themselves trade centers.

 [phiale, the](#)

A (metal, rarely clay) shallow vessel with an open rim. Used primarily in libations.

 [pyxis, the](#)

Small vessel with a lid. Women kept inside cosmetics or jewels. It bears no handles except for the skyphoid pyxis of Sicily.

 [rhyton, the](#)

libation vessel with an outlet at the bottom of the vessel allowing the slow outflow of the liquid.

 [rosette, the](#)

An ornament with a generally circular combination of parts resembling a flower or plant.

Sources

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