

DURANKULAK, BAND III

DIE HELLENISTISCHEN BEFUNDE

Henrieta Todorova



DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT

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DEUTSCHES ARCHÄOLOGISCHES INSTITUT

DURANKULAK

BAND III

HERAUSGEGEBEN IM AUFTRAG DES INSTITUTS

VON

HENRIETA TODOROVA (†)

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HENRIETA TODOROVA



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Die hellenistischen Befunde
Herausgegeben von Henrieta Todorova (†)
im Auftrag des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Berlin

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Das hellenistische Höhlenheiligtum der Gottheit Kybele (Photo: © T. Dimov)

Seite 3: Keramik aus Grab 407 (Photo: © R. Kolev [†])

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Vorwort der Herausgeberin

*„Unveröffentlichte Kenntnisse sind keine Kenntnisse.“
St. Stratiev*

Der vorliegende Band III der DURANKULAK-Reihe des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts in Berlin hat ein außerordentliches und trauriges Schicksal. Ursprünglich war es geplant, dass Dr. Johannes Burow († 2001) die Herausgeberschaft für diesen Band übernehmen sollte. Es ist aber leider nicht dazu gekommen, da wir ihn bedauerlicherweise vorzeitig verloren haben. Dadurch ist diese schwierige Aufgabe mir zugefallen.

Während seiner Mitwirkung in Durankulak hat Johannes tapfer mit uns die Strapazen der wirtschaftlichen Krise geteilt, die in Bulgarien die Jahre 1991–1996 gekennzeichnet haben. Es gab Tage, als nicht einmal Brot zu erhalten war, so dass wir uns Maismehl aus Rumänien holen mussten. Johannes war immer optimistisch, hilfsbereit und ist ein geschätzter Freund der gesamten Grabungsmannschaft geworden. Er hat sich ausführlich mit unserem hellenistischen Fundgut befasst, welches wir, ehrlich gesagt, ziemlich vernachlässigt haben. Seine detaillierten Beobachtungen zu den Opfergruben haben neues Licht auf diese interessante Problematik geworfen. Sehr beeindruckend war seine Feststellung anpassender Bruchstücke aus den verschiedenen Opfergruben und Opferplätzen, was ohne seine präzisen ad autopsiam Kenntnisse des gesamten Fundgutes gar nicht denkbar gewesen wäre.

Während der sehr komplizierten Freilegung des Höhlenheiligtums auf der Großen Insel stand er der viel geplagten Mannschaft seiner Ausgräber mit Rat zur Seite. Seine gelegentlich zum Ausdruck gebrachten Zweifel trugen zu der richtigen Interpretation dieses einzigartigen hellenistischen Befundes bei. Er beteiligte sich aktiv auch an der Freilegung des Brunnens auf der Insel.

Vor allem hat er aber viel Zeit und Energie in die Bearbeitung des Fundgutes aus den Opfergruben investiert und für gute Abbildungen und präzise Umzeichnungen der vorhandenen Dokumentation gesorgt. Ihm gehören auch mehrere der qualitätvollen Dias der Farbabbildungen dieses Bandes.

Die Arbeiten über seine Texte führte er auch nach seiner schweren Erkrankung weiter, so gut es eben möglich war. Von seinem Nachlass habe ich alles Vorhandene übernommen – manches war fast fertig, manches kaum, manches war leider nicht auffindbar. Wo Unvollendetes vorlag, war ich bemüht, das Fehlende nachzuholen, die Angaben in den Museen zu überprüfen, die fehlenden Literaturangaben beizufügen, das nicht vorhandene Literaturverzeichnis zusammenzustellen und jene Kapitel zum Abschluss zu bringen, die halbwegs fertig vorlagen. Ich muss gestehen, dass dies für mich eine sehr schwierige Aufgabe war, die drei ganze Jahre in Anspruch genommen hat und nur Dank der Unterstützung seitens des DAI und der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, die mir den notwendigen Aufenthalt in Deutschlands Bibliotheken ermöglichte, zu bewältigen war.

Dr. Johannes Burow hat leider manche Kapitel überhaupt nicht in Angriff nehmen können. Die vorhandenen Texte geben aber eine gute Vorstellung von den detaillierten Studien des Fundgutes, die er unternommen hat.

Mit den Amphorenstempeln, die ein wichtiger, datierender Bestandteil unseres Fundgutes sind, haben sich nebst ihm noch weitere meiner Mitarbeiter beschäftigt und einiges veröffentlicht. Das machte es erforderlich, ihre Ergebnisse in den Band zu integrieren.

Um der Problematik einen weiteren Rahmen zu geben, war vereinbart, weitere Autoren zu bestimmten Teilthemen heranzuziehen, die alle ihr Wort gehalten haben und ihre Texte ablieferten. Allen Autoren dieses Bandes gebührt mein herzlicher Dank für ihre Beiträge.

Ich danke Dr. Florian Seiler, DAI Berlin, für die Betreuung des Bandes, Dr. Andreas Oettel, DAI Berlin, sei für seine Bemühungen mit dem Archiv von Johannes Burow und für seine Hilfsbereitschaft herzlichst gedankt, Dr. I. Killian danke ich für die Endredaktion meiner Texte und die stete moralische Unterstützung während meiner Beschäftigungen mit dem Band, Prof. Dr. M. Stefanovich danke ich für die Überprüfung der englischen Texte von T. Dimov, Prof. Dr. N. Benecke für die Überprüfung des archäozoologischen Angaben sowie Dr. I. Dedov für die Bestimmung der Mollusken.

Ivan Vajsov gebührt mein Dank für seine Bemühungen um die Bebilderung des Bandes sowie für die graphische Gestaltung und den Entwurf des Umschlags.

Allen Kollegen, die mir bei meinen schwierigen Beschäftigungen mit einer Problematik, die mir weitgehend fremd war, mit Rat und Literatur zur Seite standen, sei ebenfalls gedankt.

Am Schluss, aber doch an erster Stelle, sei den Präsidenten des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Prof. Dr. Helmut Kyrieleis, Prof. Dr. Hermann Parzinger und Prof. Dr. Friederike Fless, für die Unterstützung der Ausgrabungen in Durankulak und die Veröffentlichung dieses Bandes herzlichst gedankt.

Sofia, den 13. Juli 2013

Prof. Dr. Dr. habil. H. Todorova

*Bedauerlicherweise hat Prof. Dr. Henrieta Todorova die Veröffentlichung des dritten Bandes der wissenschaftlichen Reihe "Durankulak" nicht erlebt. Am 12. April 2015 hat sie uns für immer verlassen. Uns hat sie die nicht einfache Aufgabe hinterlassen, das von ihr Begonnene zu Ende zu bringen.
Möge sie in Frieden ruhen!*

Durankulak, 21. Mai 2015

Das Team der Archäologischen Stätte Durankulak



Abb. 1. Luftaufnahme der Großen Insel (Golemija Ostrov) im Durankulak-See. Photo: © K. Dimitrov, 2004.

Предговор от главния редактор

„Непубликуваните знания не са знания.”

Станислав Стратиев

Настоящият трети том от поредицата ДУРАНКУЛАК, издание на Немския археологически институт в гр. Берлин, има изключителна и скръбна съдба. Първоначално бе предвидено негов главен редактор да бъде д-р Йоханес Буров от Немския археологически институт. За съжаление, през 2001 г. той ни напусна преждевременно. Така с тази тежка задача се заех аз.

По време на участието му в археологическите разкопки в Дуранкулак д-р Йоханес Буров споделяше самоотвержено с нас трудностите на дълбоката стопанска криза в България през годините 1991–1995 (по това време се случваше дори да няма и хляб и се налагаше да носим царевично брашно от Румъния). Йоханес обаче беше винаги оптимист, готов да се притече на помощ и стана близък приятел на целия колектив на разкопките. Той се занимаваше задълбочено с нашите елинистически находки, на които, честно казано, ние праисториците, не бяхме отделяли нужното внимание. Неговите прецизни изследвания на жертвените ями хвърлиха нова светлина върху свързаната с тях твърде интересна проблематика. Особено впечатляващ е фактът, че той констатира наличието на напасващи се фрагменти керамика, произхождащи както от различни жертвени ями, така и от жертвените площадки. Установяването на този факт бе немислимо без едно детайлно познаване *ad autopsiam* на целия изследван керамичен материал.

При твърде сложното проучване на елинистическия пещерен храм комплекс на „Големия остров“ Йоханес подкрепяше многострадалния колектив на неговите разкопвачи със съвети, а съмненията, които понякога изказваше, допринасяха за вярната интерпретация на този уникален елинистически паметник. Той участва активно и в проучването на античния кладенец на „Големия остров“.

Преди всичко, обаче, д-р Йоханес Буров инвестира много време и енергия в обработката на находките от жертвените ями и положи грижи за качествени снимки и добро изчертаване на наличната документация. Негови са и някои от диапозитивите, послужили за цветните илюстрации на настоящия том.

И след тежкото си заболяване д-р Йоханес Буров продължи да работи върху тома – доколкото това му бе възможно. Остави ни някои почти завършени части, други бяха частично разработени, а трети дори не бяха започнати. В настоящия том са включени всички негови текстове. Където това бе възможно, съм се постарала да завърша започнатото, като сверя и допълня теренните данни, добавя отсъстващите цитати, съставя липсващия списък на цитираната от него литература и подбера илюстрациите, така че започнатите от него глави да добият завършен вид. Трябва да призная, че за мен това бе една особено тежка задача, която ми отне повечето от четирите години. Тя не би могла да приключи успешно без подкрепата от страна на Немския археологически институт в Берлин и на Германското общество за научни изследвания, които ми предоставиха възможността да работя в библиотеките на Германия.

За съжаление някои от предвидените от Йоханес Буров глави останаха ненаписани и той не е успял да изложи изводите си.

С амфорните печати, които са ключов, датиращ елемент от находките, наред с д-р Йоханес Буров са се занимавали и публикували свои виждания и други мои сътрудници. Това наложи интегрирането и на техните резултати в тома. За да получи разглежданата проблематика една по-широка рамка, беше предвидено в тома да бъдат включени и приноси на някои външни автори. Те всички удържаха на думата си и предадоха обещаните текстове, за което съм им особено признателна.

На д-р Флориан Зайлер от Немския археологически институт в Берлин дължа благодарност за грижите му за тома, а на А. Йотел от същия институт за усилията му, положени във връзка със събиране на архивното наследство на д-р Йоханес Буров.

Сърдечно благодаря на д-р И. Килиан – както за окончателната редакция на моите текстове, така и за приятелската подкрепа по време на заниманията ми с тома, на проф. д-р М. Стефанович – за обработката на

английския текст на Т. Димов, на д-р О. Хьокман – за коректурите на старогръцките данни; на д-р У. Хьокман – за коректурите на английските текстове; на проф. д-р Н. Бенеке – за проверката на археозоологическите данни; на д-р И. Дедов – за определянето на моллюските.

Особена признателност дължа и на Иван Вайсов за усилията му по комплектуването на илюстративния материал на тома, за полиграфското му оформяне, за проекта на корицата и всеотдайната подкрепа през всичките тези години.

Признателна съм и на всички колеги, които ми помогнаха със съвети и литература при моите занимания с една донякъде чужда за мен проблематика.

На края, но всъщност на първо място, дължа най-дълбока благодарност на президентите на Немския археологически институт в Берлин проф. д-р Хелмут Кирилайс, проф. д-р Херман Парцингер и проф. д-р Фридерике Флесс за подкрепата, оказана при провеждане на археологическите проучвания в Дуранкулак и за публикацията на настоящия том.

София 25. Юли 2013

Чл. кор. проф. дин. Хенриета Тодорова

За съжаление проф. Хенриета Тодорова не доживя публикуването на том трети от поредицата Дуранкулак. На 12 април 2015 год тя ни напусна и ни завеща нелеката задача да довършим започнатото от нея. Поклон пред паметта и.

Дуранкулак, 21 май 2015 год.

Екипът на археологически комплекс Дуранкулак.



Abb. 2. Archivmaterial. Anheben des Marmorarchitravs. Photo: © T. Dimov, 1993.



Karte 1. Bereich der archäologischen Ausgrabungen in Durankulak.

□ - Lage von Durankulak



Abb. 3. Das hellenistische Höhlenheiligtum der Gottheit Kybele.



Abb. 4. Das hellenistische Höhlenheiligtum der Gottheit Kybele (Altar).



- - - - Grenze zwischen Bulgarien und Rumänien
- - Bereich der archäologischen Ausgrabungen in Durankulak - Dulankulak See
- - Der Grabhügel 1 bei Durankulak (gegenüber der Großen Insel, an der Straße E 87)

Abb. 6. Satellitenaufnahme NASA 2000: Süddobrudscha, Gebiet um Durankulak, Bulgarien. Schwarzmeer-Region (GPS: N 43° 40.027', E 28° 31.703').



Abb. 5. Firiskantharos aus Grabhügel 1 bei Durankulak (gegenüber der Großen Insel an der Straße E 87). Photo: © K. Georgiev.



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Geoarchaeological Surveys in the Durankulak* Region

Ivan Vajsov, Petar Zidarov, Kiril Velkovski,
Hristina Angeliva and Veselin Draganov

Геоархеологическите проучвания при с. Дуранкулак имаха за цел документиране формата на дъното в Дуранкулашкото езеро, установяване местоположението на коритото на древната река преминавала покрай „Големия остров“ и връзката ѝ с сегашната акватория на Черно море.

Изследванията се проведоха на два етапа, първият през 1993 г. и втория през 2012 г. За целите на изследването бе използван 16 канален ехолот-навигатор Lowrance HDS 8 с честота на сондиране 50/200 и/или 83/200 kHz.

Условно теренът бе разделен на две зони – А и В, като зона А е около „Големия остров“, а зона В – в шелфа на Черно море. Те бяха изследвани надлъжно в посока С-Ю и напречно в посока И-З.

В зона А са направени 14 основни и 7 спомагателни профила. Всички измерени профили са с маркирани трасета, фиксирани с GPS координати. Покритата в зона А с измерването площ е около 300 000 м². В резултат получихме топографска карта на дъното на тази част от Дуранкулашкото езеро на дълбочина 2,90–3,00 м под днешното ниво на водното огледало. При обработката на данните обаче се наблюдаваше неравномерно отчитане на терена, което вероятно се дължи на различната плътност на седиментите покриващи дъното на езерото.

Анализът на данните показва, че старото корито на реката (вероятно пълноводна) е преминавало между двата острова, а не както се предполагаше, източно от Малкия остров. В тази река се е вливала една по-малка рекичка, преминаваща покрай южната граница на обект Дуранкулак-нивата (зоната на неолитното селище и некрополите). Направеният 3D модел на дъното на Дуранкулашкото езеро зава ясна представа за това, че в древността праисторическото селище на „Големия остров“, където е разположен и пейцерният елинистически храма на богинята Кибела е било изградено върху издаден геологически нос. Северно от „Големия остров“ има и две големи хлътвания, което предполага наличието в древността в близост до острова на малки заблатени места. Многобройните карстови извори в района захранват Дуранкулашкото езеро със сладка вода, днес изтичанета и в Черно море е възпрепятствано от образувалата се с времето пясъчна коса (Fig. 153). Тази пясъчна преграда е причината за постепенното затлачване на езерото, като покачането на нивото му превръща „Големия остров“ от полуостров в остров.

В зона В, намираща се в шелфа в морето, североизточно от Дуранкулашкото езеро, по протежение на днешния Дуранкулашки плаж бяха направени 20 профила. За проверка на данните бяха направени и няколко контролни измервания. Покритата от измерването територия е около 1 200 000 м². Проучената площ обхваща зоната южно от къмпинг „Чайка“ до отводняващия шлюз, свързващ Дуранкулашкото езеро с морето, като на места достига до 350 м навътре в морето. Резултатите от изследването очертаха няколко интересни за допълнително изследване области.

Първата е на около 230 м. източно от брега, където на 13 м дълбочина ясно личи голяма могила, върху която може да се очаква наличието на праисторическо селище разположено върху естествена височина (Fig. 153).

Втората е разположена успоредно на днешната брегова ивица (Дуранкулашкия плаж), където 60–70 м източно от брега се очертава хлътване, следа от старото корито на реката, същата установена на дъното на Дуранкулашкото езеро, текала на това място от север на юг. Очевидно древната река е представлявала меандър и се е вливала в морето, бровете на което тогава са се намидали далеч на изток от днешната морска брова ивица.

В древността Добруджа е била набраздена от множество реки, повечето от които днес са суходолия. Това е времето когато Дуранкулашкото езеро не е съществувало на негово място е имало река.

При сондиранята предприети през 2011 г. в Дуранкулашкото езеро и в Тузлата при гр. Шабла се установи, че на дълбочина 1.20 м под днешното дъво има пласт от ситен морски пясък с дебелина 10–15 см, което говори за това, че водите на Черно море периодично са навлизали много по-навътре от днешната брегова ивица. Става дума именно за периода на IV хил. пр.Хр. когато, по данни и от поленовите диаграми, в рамките на климатичния постгласиален максимум настъпва значително затопляне, което довежда до катастрофална екологична криза, променила коренно живота в района.

* The investigations are conducted within the framework of the DID project 02/26/17.12.2009 „Ecological Crises in Bulgaria During the Holocene – 8th–3rd millennium BC“, funded by „Scientific Investigations Fund“. The chief researcher and supervisor of the archaeological track is BAS correspondent, Prof. Dr. Henrieta Todorova.

Анализите на дънните наслаги показват, че през IV хил. пр. Хр. покачането на морското ниво е достигнало своя максимум и моретата са се намидали във фазата на ингресия. Разглеждайки 3D моделът на земната повърхност от сателитните изображения на NASA за територията на Долния Дунав виждаме промяна в местоположението и на река Дунав която е оформила широка долина. Днес р. Дунав тече в южната ѝ част, но тогава коритото ѝ е било на север.

През IV хил. пр. Хр. Дуранкулашкото езеро и другите езера в района са се превърнали в своеобразни морски заливи от които са останали пясъчните наноси. Днес Дуранкулашкото езеро е отделено от морето с дълга тясна пясъчна ивица т. нар. пясъчна коса. Съвременният релефът е оформен от морски тераси, лиманни наслаги, лагуни и дълги плажни ивици. Последните са се образували постепенно, като първичният бряг на древната река е бил естествената основа на постепенно оформящите се мощните пясъчни наслаги. При Дуранкулак и Шабла те са преградили старите лагуни превръщайки ги в днешните езера.

В връзка с темата на настоящия том е от значение и въпросът дали през елинистическия период Дуранкулашкото езеро е било плавателно. Указания в тази насока ни даде един геологически сондаж (1987 г.) в северния край на Дуранкулашкия плаж където предполагаме, че установената от нас река се е вливала в морето. На дълбочина 6 м сондажът достигна скалата. Вероятно на това място, през елинистическата епоха, се е намирала връзката между езерото и морето позволяваща влизането на плавателни съдове в езерото. Тъй като между Шабла и Мангалия липсва друг удобен залив предлагащ убежище при бури, това място е единственото подходящо и очевидно е било познато и използвано от мореплавателите. В знак на благодарност те са правили жертвоприношения на богинята позната още под името Понтус Мадер. Това ѝ име е засвидетелствано в архива на нейния храм в Балчик (ЛАЗАРЕНКО и др. в тома). Именно на тава се дължи и голямото количество амфори и амфорни печати намерени в жертвените ями в Дуранкулак.

The target of the geo-archaeological surveys in the Durankulak region is to document the landform of the bottom of the Durankulak Lake, to map the course of the ancient bed of the river skirting the Golemiya Ostrov Tell (the Big Island), and to establish its relationship with the modern day Black Sea aquatory.

The surveys were conducted in two stages: the first stage was realized in 1993, and the second one in 2012.

Methodology

For the purpose of the investigations we used 16-channel navigation sonar Lowrance HDS 8, with 50/200 and/or 83/200 kHz scan frequency and maximum image depth of 1524 m.

The survey area was provisionally divided into two zones – A and B (Fig. 150), with Area A encompassing the vicinity of the Golemiya Ostrov archaeological site, and Area B – the Black Sea. The areas are traversed longitudinally (approximately N-S) and transversely (approximately E-W). The collected data was processed digitally. The 3D modules are produced with Surfer and Voxler software. The resultant models are overlaid upon the orthophotograph of the terrain and upon the digitalized 1:5000 map sheets. All data is georeferred.

Results

Area A (Fig. 151–152) is the survey area in the Durankulak Lake, the vicinity of the Golemiya Ostrov archaeological site. Area A was mapped through 14 primary and 7 auxiliary swaths, swath 19 with 70 fix points, swath 20 – 71 fix points; swath 21 – 64 points; swath 22 – 72 fix points; swath 23 – 66 fix points, swath 24 – 72 fix points, swath 25 – 77 fix points, swath 26 c 75 fix points, swath 27 with 67 fix points, swath 28 with 6 fix points, swath 29 with 64 fix points, swath 30 with 85 fix points, swath 31 with 19, and swath 32 with 67 fix points. Each swath is recorded by its track and GPS coordinates for the fixed points GPS. The survey area is approximately 300 000 sq. m. It produced a 0.10 m raster topographic map of the floor of the Durankulak Lake, tracing the forms of the terrain 2.90 – 3.00 m below the water surface. Analysis of the data, however, recognized irregular readings,

perhaps due to the variable density of the sediment at the lake floor. At places near the southern lake shore (the area below the Elinesa locality) it is denser, resulting in a clearer image. In contrast, the density of the silt in the area between the Golemiya and Malkiya (the Big and the Small) Islands is irregular, producing a less clear sonar image. The survey established that the ancient river (likely with considerable discharge) run between the two modern islands and not as it was previously assumed east of the Malkiya Island. The river had a lesser tributary running along the southern edge of the Durankulak-Nivata archaeological site (the area of the Neolithic settlement and the necropolises). Today its place is taken by a canal linking the pump station by the E87 road and the pump by the Duck Farm (shown as a pig-farm on the 1 : 5000 map sheets). The constructed 3D model of the floor of the Durankulak Lake in the vicinity of the Golemiya Ostrov indicates that the Golemiya Ostrov prehistoric site, where the Hellenistic Cybele temple also existed, in fact was located upon a natural geological form extending eastwards, rather than upon an island. Two large depressions north of the Golemiya Ostrov suggest the prehistoric site had two small marshes in its vicinity. Today the Durankulak Lake is fed by a host of local fresh water karst springs. A sand strip (presently – the Durankulak beach) (Fig. 153. 155) prevents the lake from emptying into the sea. The sand barrier is also the cause of the gradual siltation of the lake and the conversion of the Golemiya Ostrov isthmus into an island.

Area B (Fig. 153). This area is located in the Black Sea aquatory, east of the Durankulak Lake, along the present day Durankulak Beach. It is surveyed through 20 principal swaths, of which swath 10 has 91 fix points, 11 – 84 fix points, 12 – 34 fix points, 13 – 188 fix points, 14 – 55 fix points, 15 – 63 fix points, 16 – 17 fix points, 17 – 169 fix points, 18 – 7 fix points, 19 – 64 fix points, 20 – 9 fix points, 21 – 119 fix points, 22 – 60 fix points, 23 – 29 fix points, 24 – 68 fix points, 25 – 83 fix points, 26 – 24 fix points, 27 – 81 fix points, 28 – 49 fix points, 29 – 56 points, and 30 – 44 fix points. The collected data is tested against several control measurements alongside swath



Fig. 150. Topographic map of the Durankulak Lake region with the surveyed areas. ● – Area of the pollen core, called „Durankulak-1“, „Durankulak-2“ and „Durankulak-3“. ◆ – Geological drilling.

Nos. 15 and 19. The record for each swath includes the track and the fixed GPS coordinates. The surveyed area is about 1 200 000 sq. m. It extends from the Chaika campground south to the floodgate between the Durankulak Lake and the Black Sea. Occasionally the area extends up to 350 m into the sea. The produced bathymetric maps distinguish several areas of interest.

The first one is about 230 m east of the shore. This is a large mound at a depth of 13 m, where, similarly to the Golemiya Ostrov site, a Prehistoric Tell accumulated upon a natural elevation could be expected (Fig. 153).

The second anomaly develops parallel to the modern shore line (the Durankulak beach), 60–70 m east of the shore. It out-

lines a north – south depression, perhaps the vestiges of the ancient riverbed of the same river detected in the Durankulak Lake. The prehistoric river bent in a meander before emptying into the sea, which at this time was located more than a thousand meters east from the present day coast line.

Based on the collected data a digital model of the terrain (DT model) was created for the micro-region of the settlement mound (Area A), and for the Black sea zone (Area B). GIS manipulation of the DT model allowed tracing landscape modifications over time. Thus it has become possible to correlate the survey results with the results of the soil and pollen columns (BOŽILOVA – TONKOV 1998; MARINOVA – ATANASOVA 2006) and to arrive at a more detailed reconstruction of the

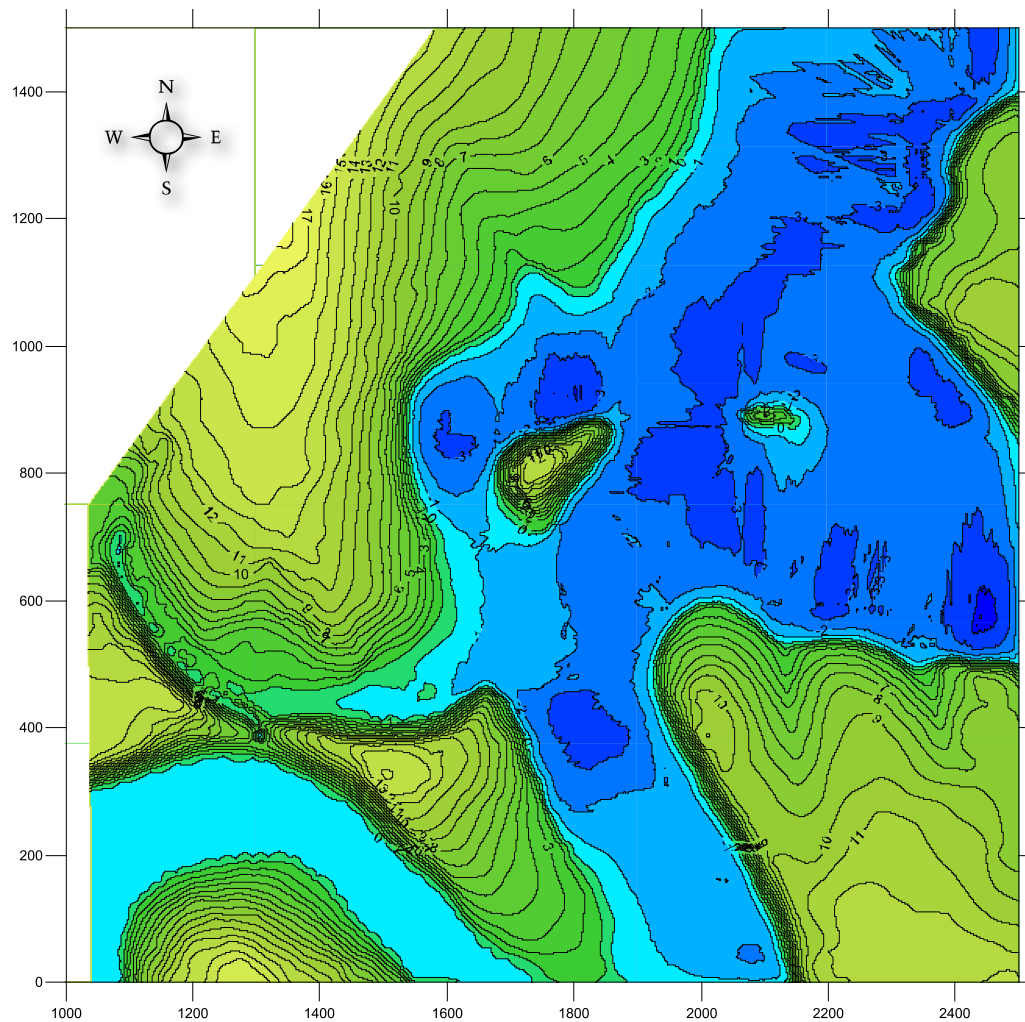


Fig. 151. 3D model of the terrain in Area A.

role of the climate and anthropogenic factors in the formation of the modern landscape (TODOROVA 2002, 16–23).

Discussion⁴³

The earliest registered human presence of Neolithic date in the Durankulak region is from the BC 5300/5200–4750 period. The Durankulak Lake did not exist at the time. A river was running in its place registered by the survey. The pollen columns (Durankulak 1, 2, and 3) do not provide any record of the climate during this period, as they have been collected

from the sediments of the modern lake, and start from around 4000 cal. BC (BOŽILOVA – TONKOV 2002, TONKOV et al. 2013).

The 2011 drills of the Durankulak Lake and Tuzlata near Shabla detected a 10–15 cm layer of fine sea sand 1.20 m below the modern day marsh bottom, suggesting the prehistoric coast was considerably further into the land compared to the modern day coast. The events took place precisely during the 4th millennium BC, a period which according to pollen diagrams was characterized by a noticeable warming, leading to ecological crisis, radically altering life in the region.

⁴³ Historical data:

During the 5300/5200 cal. BC Dobrudzha is gradually filled by the carriers of the first phase of the Late Neolithic Hamangia culture. The preferred settlement habitats are rich in water resources. Several settlement sites of this date are known from Dobrudzha: ‚Durankulak-Nivata‘, on the western shore of the Durankulak Lake; the ‚Coslogeni‘, and ‚Cocose‘ by Medgidia. During this phase the occupants of the region inhabit dugout dwellings, something also characteristic of their neighbors – the people of the Usoe culture, for example.

To 4750–4600 cal. BC, the period also known as phase III of the Hamangia culture – ‚Ceamurlia de Jos‘, dates the culture’s highpoint. According to Bulgarian chronology, this is the time of the early Eneolithic. The findings at Durankulak from this same period are of special interest. The settlement associated with the opening phase of this period (subphase IIIa ‚Ceamurlia de Jos‘) remains on the western shore of the Durankulak Lake (the Durankulak-Nivata site) opposite the ‚Golemiya ostrov‘ site.

During the IIIb ‚Shabla‘ sub-phase of Hamangia culture the settlement is relocated to the ‚Golemiya ostrov‘ site which, given the landscape configuration at the time, offered a naturally protected territory in proximity to water sources. Level VIII is thus set-up – the first construction phase of the future settlement mound ‚Golemiya ostrov‘.

During the following periods – 4600–4200 cal. BC, the Durankulak landscape remains unchanged. The centuries coincide with the phase ‚Durankulak VII‘ of the Hamangia culture – the transitional phase to the Late Eneolithic. The seeds of the earliest proto-civilization of humanity – the Varna culture – can be discerned precisely within this final Hamangia phase.

Sometime around 4200 cal. BC Durankulak is abandoned for a considerably extended period. The genetically linked to Dobrudzha Varna culture vanishes. The late Eneolithic people vacate Dobrudzha. Parallel to this the level of the Black Sea rapidly raises. As a result of the transgression substantial portions of what is today the mainland is inundated, proof of which are the results of the geological drilling of the marshes.

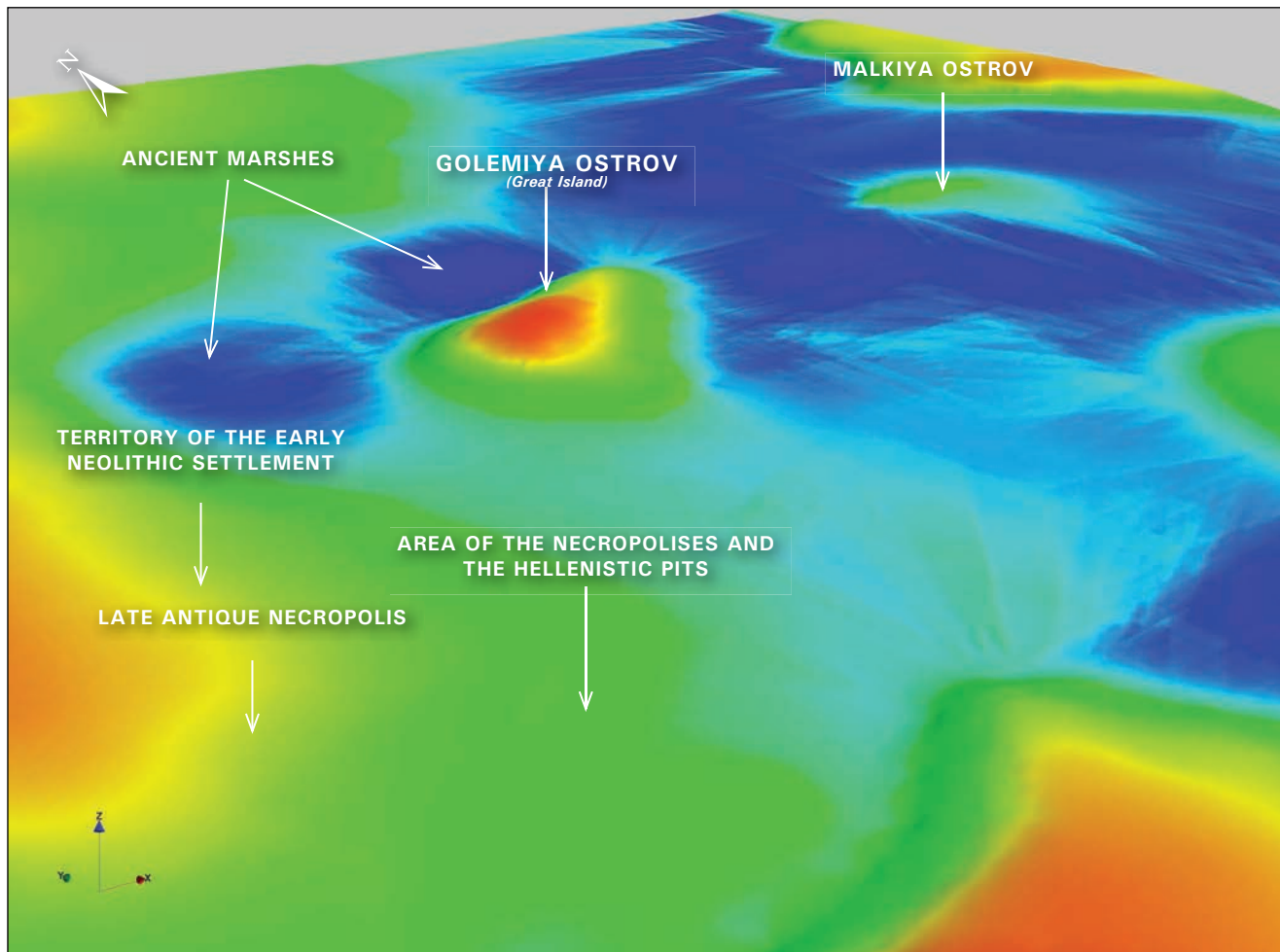


Fig. 152. 3D model of Area A.

The multifaceted analyses of the deposits of the Black Sea and Marmara floor demonstrate that sometime during the fourth millennium BC the Black Sea transgression reached its maximum. The water volume grew exponentially and gradually reached the level of the current Bosphorus barrier. Today this barrier is about -45 m below sea level. Six thousand years ago, however, it stood higher, owing to the negative tendency of the present day vertical differential fluctuations of the regional plates and the specific micro-tectonics of the faulty geological structure of the Bosphorus fault.

An examination of the NASA satellite 3D model of the surface of the Lower Danube (Fig. 154) territory offers some support to this hypothesis. It clearly demonstrates the process by which the change of the Danube riverbed resulted in the formation of a wide valley. Today the Danube skirts the southern edge of this valley, but in the past (likely prior to the 4th millennium BC) its bed was in the north. Yet, for the purpose of this survey it is sufficient to stress the fact that during the 4th millennium BC the Durankulak landscape underwent radical changes, resulting in a prolonged depopulation of the region.

During the 4th millennium BC the bowl of the modern day Durankulak Lake and the rest of the lakes in the regions became sea inlets (Fig. 156), remnants of which are the sand deposits mentioned above.

Today the Durankulak Lake is cut off from the Black Sea by a long narrow sand barrier – the so-called sandbar. In the

present the relief is shaped by sea terraces, firth deposits, lagoons and long sandy beaches. The latter developed gradually, with the original bank of the prehistoric river providing a natural bulwark for the emergent massive sand deposits (Fig. 153, 156). Near Durankulak and Shabla they have blocked the old lagoons transforming them in the modern day lakes.

Of relevance to the topic discussed in the present volume, the question emerges whether the Durankulak Lake was navigable during the Hellenistic period. Certain pointers provide the geological drills (from 1987, Fig. 157) near the north tip of the Durankulak Beach – the suspected site of the estuary of the prehistoric river detected by the surveys (Fig. 150). At 6.00 m depth the drill reached the bedrock. This might be where during the Hellenistic Age the Lake emptied into the Sea, making possible the passage of sea vessels. Since the Shabla-Mangalia coast offers no other safe haven sites in case of storms, the ancient sailors must have obviously known and used this single hospitable harbor. As a sign of their gratitude they offered sacrifices to the Goddess, also known as the ‘Pontic Mother’ of Gods. This aspect is attested in the temple archive at Balchik (cf. LAZARENKO et al. 137–142 in this vol.). This might be an explanation for the large number of amphorae and amphorae stamps found in the offering pits at Durankulak.

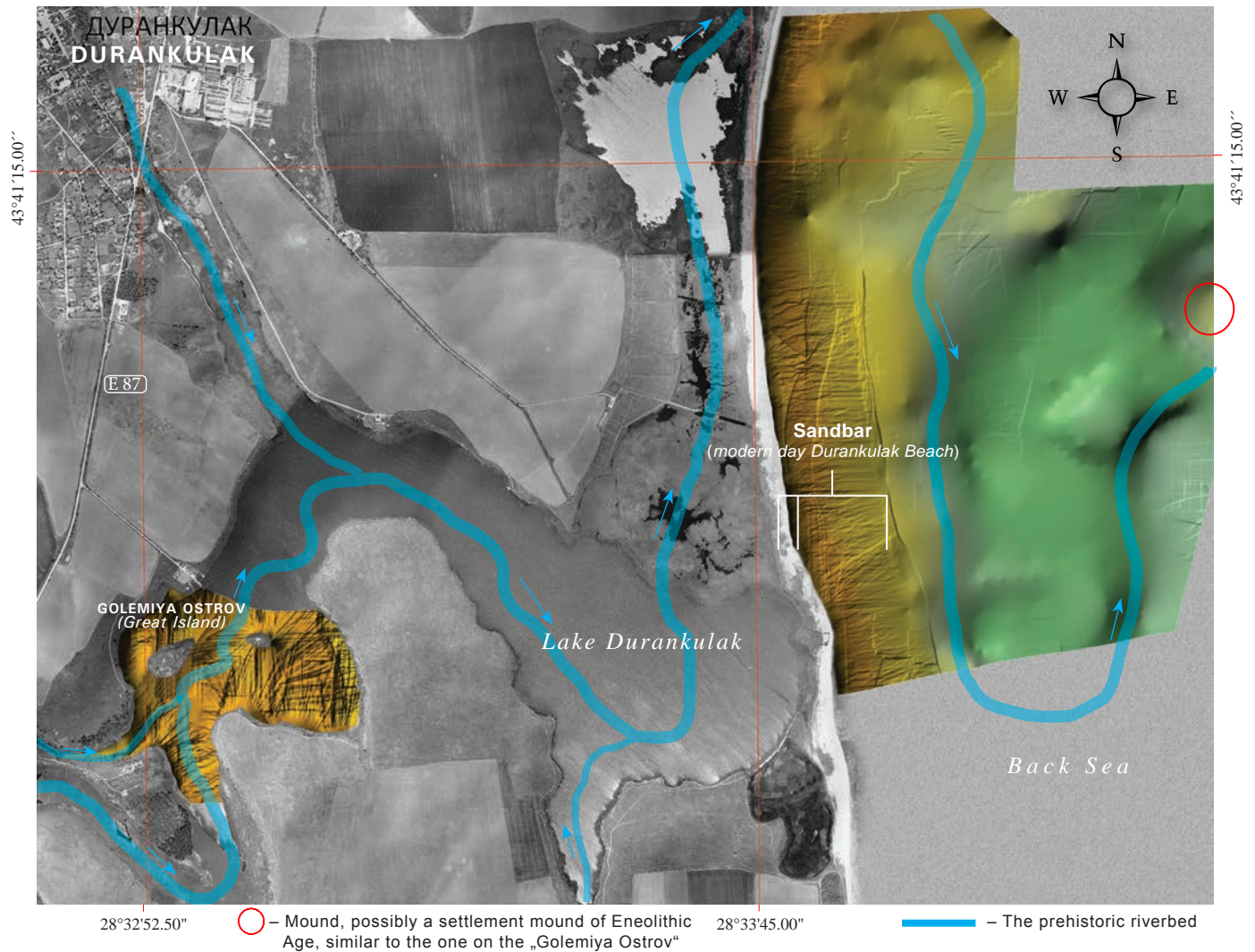


Fig. 153. 3D topographic model of the region of the settlement mound 'Golemiya Ostrov' near Durankulak and a 2006 orthophoto with overlaid results of the surveys of Area A and Area B.

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Fig. 154. 3D model of the Lower Danube (based on NASA satellite data).

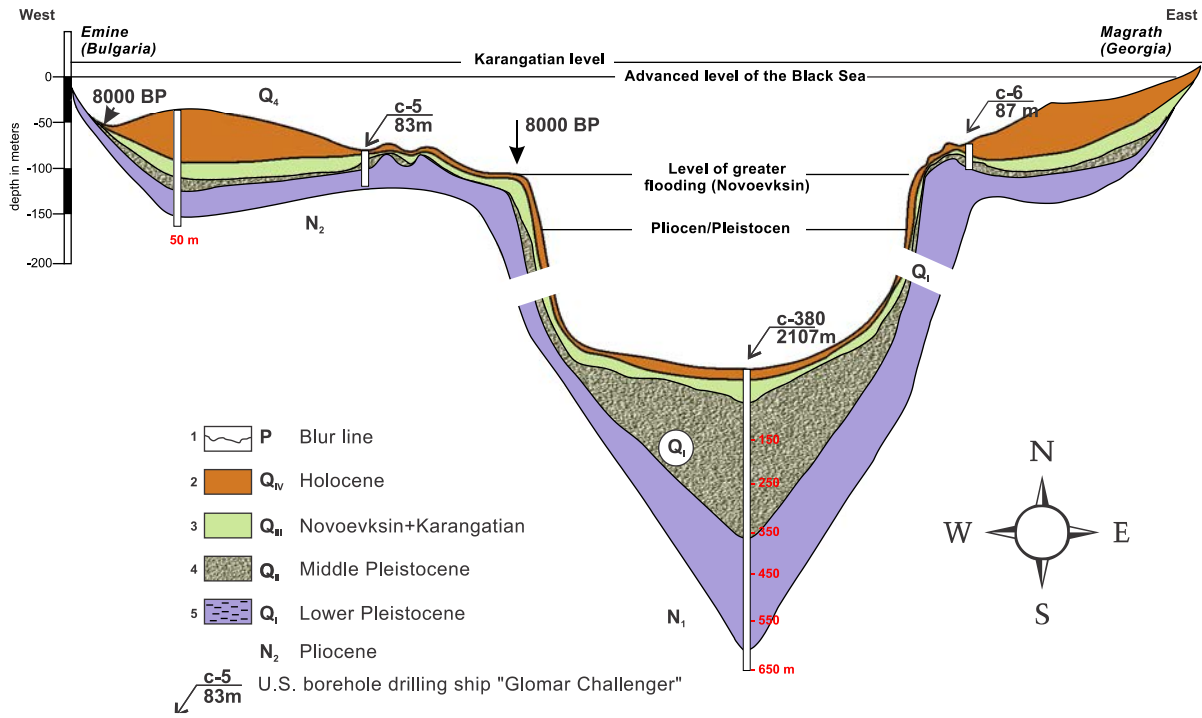


Fig. 155. Schematic cross section of the ancient continental shelf of the Black Sea. (in ДИМИТРОВ – МИХОВА – ПЕЙЧЕВ 1998, Fig. 2)



Fig. 156. Air photo of the Durankulak Beach, the modern day barrier between the Black Sea and the Durankulak Lake. Photo 2004: © K. Dimitrov.

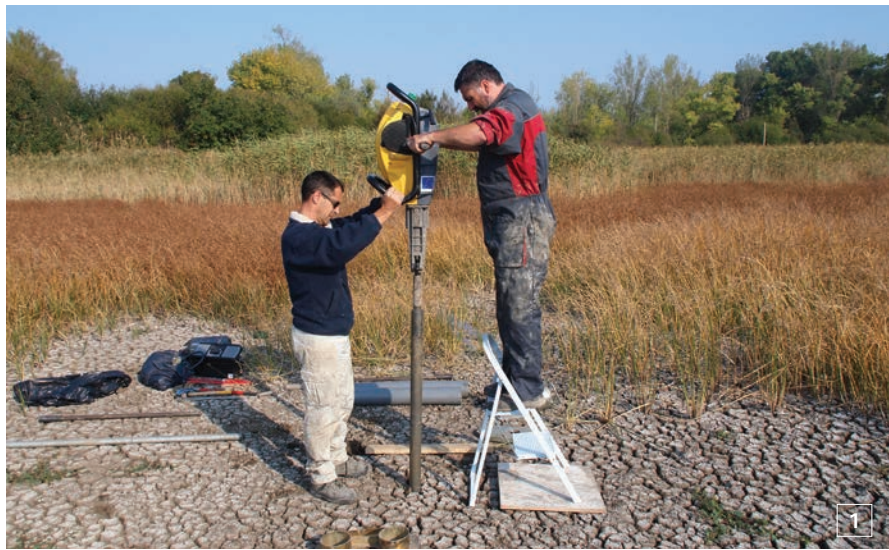


Fig. 157. Geological drilling of Tuzlata in Shabla (Bulgaria, 2011): 1–2. Team: Laurent Carozza, Jean-Michel Carozza, Albane Burens-Carozza (Project ISCH Action TD0902 „Submerged Prehistoric Archaeology and Landscapes of the Continental Shelf“) and Ivan Vajsov with Veselin Draganov (Project DID 02/26/17.12.2009 „Ecological Crises in Bulgaria During the Holocene – 8th–3rd mill. BC“).
3. Part of the probe about 15 cm layer of fine sea sand. Photo: © I. Vajsov.

Summary

Durankulak. Research Results 1974–2005

Durankulak is a many faceted archaeological district in which the most important periods of Bulgarian pre-history are represented, in addition to Hellenistic and Medieval layers. The excavations in the area have been in progress for 31 years under the direction of H. Todorova. Archaeological layers are to be found on the Big Island and on the west shore of the lake opposite the Big Island.

On the Big Island in Durankulak Lake a prehistoric settlement was found. Research there has produced a wealth of information pertaining to the question of the founding, development, social structure, and end of the Neolithic-Eneolithic Hamangia Culture and the late eneolithic Varna Culture.

A fortified late Bronze Age settlement of the Coslogeni Culture and pits of the Cernavoda III Culture have also been investigated here.

In the cliffs of the island there are an extensive Hellenistic cave temple to the goddess Cybele and a contemporary well carved into the rock, which have been completely excavated.

On the west shore of the lake the earliest neolithic presence in Dobrudzha is represented by the first period of the ‚Blatnica–Cocoșe‘ of the Hamangia Culture. Neolithic, Copper Age, Hellenistic and Medieval burial grounds are also to be found here, as well as burial mounds from the proto-Bronze Age and a number of Medieval constructions, a Hellenistic Votiv site, altars, votive pits and burials. They all have been investigated.

It is clear that the island was inhabited only when the water level was at its lowest, i.e. when it was a peninsula connected to the west shore by a small rock formation which today is 0.30 m under the water surface and covered by an artificial dam. At times of low water level to days fresh water lake was a harbour connected to the Black Sea.

Foreword

Since 1974 the Archaeological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the Dobritsh Historical Museum have been involved in the excavation of the rich archaeological areas on the Big Island at Durankulak and the shore which lies west of it. Durankulak is the Bulgarian Troy. The western shore was excavated from north to south between 1979–1996 (Durankulak II, Sofia 2002). There black/grey coloration marked numerous Hellenistic votive pits, under the Medieval fortification wall in the SW area of the island fragments of Greek amphorae were found, and one discovered an enclosure carved into the rock and a well. This indicated the presence of a Hellenistic complex.

Between 1991–1996 the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin aided in the excavation and evaluation of the Hellenistic finds and took responsibility for the publication of the excavation report in a DAI series. For this support I would like to thank the presidents of the DAI, s. o. Prof. Dr. H. Kyrieleis, Prof. Dr. H. Parzinger and Prof. Dr. Friederike Fless.

Dr. Johannes Burow (†) from the Archaeological Institute in Berlin was deeply involved in the evaluation of the finds here. His early demise unfortunately hindered the completion of this work. The excavation of the cave temple was carried out by PhDr. Ivan Vajsov, doc. Dr. Georgi Mavrov (Archaeol. Institute, BAS, Sofia) and Dr. Volodja Popov (Russe, Archaeol. Museum), the excavation of the Antique burial ground by Todor Dimov (Dobritsh, Historical Museum), the technical documentation by Ing. Yuri Boianin, Ing. Ivanka Oratsheva, Stefan Goshev (†) und Elena Krondeva (†).

Introduction

The southern Dobrudzha, i.e. extreme NE of Bulgaria (the SW of the Ancient ‚Scythia minor‘) has for long been one of the least researched regions on the Balkan Peninsula. The site of the Big Island in Durankulak Lake on the Black Sea is situated 25 km north of Karön Limēn and 10 km south of Kallatis. As Karön Limēn, Durankulak also belongs to the chora of Kallatis.

The population of Kallatis must have been mostly Greek, in the hinterland Thraco–Getian and Scythian.

The western Black Sea coast was colonized early. The earliest Greek colony on the western Pontos are Histria and Apollonia (founded by Miletus in the 6th–7th cent. BC). A little later, during the 6th cent. BC, Odessos and Messambria were founded, again by Miletus. Kallatis came into being around the early 5th cent. BC as a sub-settlement of the Greek Black Sea colony Herakleia Pontica in NW-Anatolia. In the Hellenistic period an interconnected system of Greek poleis existed in the west of the Pontos Euxinos, dominated by maritime trade. Contact with Sinope was particularly intensive in this period.

The Kallatis colonists who came from the Bithynia in Asia Minor brought with them and continued to practice the most important Asia Minor cult – that of the goddess Cybele, and on the Big Island at the harbour of Durankulak built a cave temple to her strong in Bithynian-Phrygian tradition. As Kallatis itself is situated in a loess-covered incline in the Dobrudzha-platform. Its hinterland consists of a flat steppe landscape without rock formations, for the building of the Cybele Temple in rock (mountain), to be true to tradition the only possibility was to situate it in the rocky Big Island in

Durankulak harbour which lay 10 km to the south and where obviously a small natural cave was available. The area lay in sight of Kallatis and was easily reached by boat or ship over the sea or by land along the high coast by horse or wagon.

The archaeological excavations at Durankulak contribute therefore to the question of the Hellenistic NW Pontos. Here the extensive cult site of the goddess Cybele has been investigated, which consists of a large cave temple, a votive enclosure, a number of votive sites, numerous votive pits, a well and a small burial ground. Durankulak was clearly a *Territorium sacrum* of this goddess. The complex functioned, unfortunately, for only a little over a century. It was founded at the end of the 4th cent. BC and functioned only till the beginning of the 2nd cent. BC – i.e. during Kallatis' greatest period.

The Hellenistic Cave Temple of the Goddess Cybele

The warm, south and south east extremes of the Big Island at Durankulak, protected from the north wind falls relatively steeply to the water and consists of two terraces which are between 2–7 m wide. The first (lower) today lies circa 1–2 m above the water level and obviously came into being as a cliff terrace during the 4th cent. BC when the world ocean had reached a level 3.5 m above today's level. The Black Sea therefore was in an ingress phase during which the harbor at Durankulak was flooded as some of the cliffs in the area testify to. The eastern and southern parts of the island were exposed to the waves through which the cliff terrace was formed. A series of crevices and caves on the island were created at this period by the washing away of the loose miocenean chalk sediment. I presume that at the location of the Hellenistic cave temple in trenches M and H 19–17 a larger natural cave existed. With regard to the second (upper) terrace, it was used in the Copper Age (4700–4200 BC) as a source of stone for the Copper Age stone architecture. Later, in the 14th–13th cent. BC and in the 9th–10th cent. AD, both terraces presented a suitable settlement site protected from the north wind and was also regarded as such in the early Medieval period. In the upper part of the miocenean deposits, on the slope above the north wall of the cave temple, there is a circa 80 cm thick sediment layer of loose, fine, white consistence which was used from the 5th mill. BC on for wall plaster in the dwellings and was also used later as plaster for the coarse stone wall of the Hellenistic temple. The Hellenistic plaster, however, is of an orange-/lightbrown colour because it was mixed with reddish brown earth which is also found on the island.

The deposits in the area of the cave temple were 3–15 m thick. For the major part they were made of stone resulting from the periodic collapse of the cave ceiling. These were separated from each other by fine weathered material and smaller stones. There are three habitation layers present: Hellenistic, Late Antique and Early Medieval.

The cave temple is 25 m in length and 6.40–8.15 m wide. It consists of a porch (A), corridor (entrance way, B), enclosure hall (south Hall, C), a western (D), and an eastern Hall (E).

The Porch (A), opening to the south, is preserved only as a stone platform as in the Medieval period it was built over by dwellings and the fortification wall. Its original form was

rectangular, 4.80 × 4.20 m in size. A smooth rock platform formed the floor. To the south a number of steps carved into the rock lead to the water. Traces of these steps were revealed by trenches dug in the area of the water. One should imagine the forecourt as having had a roof which was supported by a number of pillars. Remains of the pillars have not been found, with the exception of two pillar segments which were found in a field on the shore opposite the island, which undoubtedly were used recently. During the clearing of the destruction of the medieval fortification wall two large carved corner stones from the fronton came to light.

The Corridor (Entrance way, B). In the west is a 1.10–1.40 m wide platform, flanked by a 4.20 m long passageway which is cut approximately 1 m into the rock, leading to the entrance of the temple. The massive marble slab which was found on the west shore obviously comes from the frame of a double door, which led from the pathway into the interior of the Temple. The slab corresponds to the width of the pathway. On both sides of it the juncture of the side pillars with the door frame are to be seen. The slab came into secondary usage in the medieval graveyard on the west shore of the lake as is evident from the christian cross carved into it.

The Enclosure Hall (South Hall). Via a 30 cm step one comes from the pathway up into the porch of the temple, which runs east west and in the east ends in an irregular triangular apse. The hall is 2.56 m wide and 8.20 m in length, its floor level is 14.90 m deep and therefore the deepest part of the complex. Along the rock wall, circa 30 cm above the floor, there is a small 4–5 cm wide protrusion which was obviously intended to support the wooden floor. The floor of the porch is formed of smooth rock which ends in the east in a triangular apse. The so-called deviation of the interior from the axis of the complex seems to have been no coincidence. This deviation may have had the purpose of screening the interior (only accessible to the priests and adepts) from the front area, where the ordinary visitors were.

The East Hall (D) is 16 m in length and 2.40 m wide. A 30 cm high podium (2.40 m wide and 12 m in length) (at 14.60 m) stretched to the north from the gap in the separating wall which led to the throne place of the Cybele statue. This was obviously the most sacred area. Although the northwall is quite eroded the throne dais is partly preserved. There is still a compact armrest and part of a seat. Circa 2 m in front of the dais, a small trough in the rock of 12 cm diameter has been uncovered as well as a stone slab with the same trough. This is obviously the keystone of the door that limited access to the statue. Above the dais, slightly higher in the eastwall, a small sidecave is to be observed which was also utilized in the Medieval period.

The West Hall (E) is narrow and has a long trapezoidal form. It is 15 m in length, 2.90 m wide in the north and 1.30 m wide in the south. This is the votive area of the temple, accessible both from the front area and from the east hall through the gap in the separating wall. In the north is a high stone podium (altar for sacrifices) with a big votive trough that is rectangular, 20 cm deep with its front side grooved in order to allow the blood of the sacrificed animal to flow down. This complicated groove system is partly a remnant of the grooves which came from the breaking of the stone slabs but has further, deeper grooves which run south to the stone basin. Grooves in the floor occur only in this area of the temple.

In the south of the westhall there was a stone votive basin sunk into the ground, 0.80 m deep, and 1.00 × 1.20 m wide. On the south edge of the basin a stone orthostat protruded, another lay broken beside it. These were obviously the feet of the table which was erected over the basin. The aforementioned grooves in the floor support this. The whole construction can be interpreted as a votive table and baptismal font for dealing with blood. It is well known that bloodbaptism and purification by blood played a central part in the Cybele cult.

There are specialized areas in the interior of the temple where the most important tasks were carried out. In the west room there are two altars: the large grooved votive trough was probably used for the sacrifice of large animals (cattle, horse, deer, and boar) and for oracle interpretations of the flow of the blood. The smaller votive table above the stone basin in the south of the west room must have been used for smaller animals. The basin collected the blood necessary for the ritual. One can imagine the person responsible for the blood procedure crouching under the votive table.

The cleaning of the temple after the numerous sacrifices and blood procedures must have been difficult and required a large amount of water.

The construction of the cave temple gives us many valuable insights. As mentioned, there likely existed a natural cave when the work of forming the temple began. This is clear from the fact that all the chisel marks on the wall of the temple are below the level of the platform in the front room, the wall above that being quite pitted.

The artifacts found in the area of the complex are not numerous but nonetheless enable a precise dating of its chronological position as they come from an absolutely closed complex. Black-slipped ware, a kantharos fragment with satyr applique of lead and the earliest amphora stamp from 310–300 BC uncovered on the floor in the corner, as well as the Cybele votive found outside the complex indicate a date at the end of the 4th cent. BC. The complex was used most intensively during the periods between 285–280 and 270–265 BC. The latest find comes from shortly after 200 BC. Here, as in the area of the votive pits and with the late Hellenistic burials, artifacts from the late Hellenistic period are not present and it follows that the Cybele temple was only used for little more than a century. The reason for its abandonment may have been the rising level of the sea at the end of the 3rd century as the floor of the complex became flooded.

At to day's water level the floor of the front hall is under water until late summer and its excavation was only possible in autumn.

Only in the Late Antiquity (6th cent. AD) did ordinary life begin again in the ruins of the temple under the still intact part of the cave arch.

Between the 6th and 9th cent. AD the rock arch of the cave gradually crumbled and partly collapsed, a process in which an earthquake apparently played a decisive role. On the site of the collapsed cave arch was a trough, protected from the elements, where in the 9th – 10th cent. AD the construction of the chieftain's complex of the early medieval Durankulak settlement took place. The medieval settlement was abandoned at the beginning of the 11th cent. AD which is no local phenomenon as at the same time the early medieval settlement system in the whole of the Dobrudzha region disintegrated obviously because of the regular invasions from the north-east.

From this time on there was no more settlement on the Big Island, the water level anew sharply rose, which turned the island into a peninsula and therefore not easily accessible. It also meant that the area was blighted by malaria.

The 0.47 m high, 0.37 m wide und 0.10 m thick limestone slab votive stele was found on the dome of the Big Island in the stone socket of a medieval grave beside the Christian Rotunda from the 10th cent. AD. It is a stele with the relief of the seated goddess Cybele. Similar Hellenistic monuments are common not only in the Pontos region but in the entire Mediterranean area, e.g. a votive from Paros as well as one of unknown origin in the Barcelona museum which are most similar to our relief, as in these cases the figure runs asymmetrically and the right hand lies on a rectangular backrest. The fact that the representation of the seated goddess was common in the Greek Pontos poleis, supports the assumption that the missing statue of the goddess from the interior of the cave temple would have been similar.

In the area of the votive pits on the west shore of the harbour a Cybele terracotta figurine has been found that indicates that the votive rituals carried out there were directed to this goddess. A clay votiv arm has also been found – obviously a thanks gift to the goddess for the healing of an illness, i.e. a wounded limb, as was common in Antiquity. An upper torso was also found in the pits.

The votive pits on the west shore of the harbour, which were dug up to 2 m into the loess are without doubt connected with the cult of Cybele. This goddess was in Antiquity worshipped as Mother Earth, as goddess of the mountains, as goddess of nature, as well as goddess of healing etc. One can therefore say that the votive gifts which were deposited in the earth were dedicated to her (in her role as ‚Mother Earth‘). Naturally archaeology can find only a fraction of the votive gifts that once existed. Many other gifts will have been dedicated: beverages and oil in amphorae and jugs, food and baked goods in jars and baskets, honey, flowers, plants, wool, grain, the innards of sacrificed animals, choice cuts of domestic animals (cattle, horse, donkey, pig, sheep/goat, dog, chicken, goose), of wild animals (stag, deer, wild-boar, rabbit, fox, wildgoose, swan etc.), fish, tools, weapons, jewellery, fabrics, leather, cosmetics etc. Cattle had pride of place among the votive animals as can be deduced from the bones found in the pits. It is known that the Taurobolia was a central element of the Cybele cult. Cattle i.e. bulls also provided most of the meat for the ritual feasts.

In Antiquity period it was common to present new garments to the image of the goddess. Roman sources mention the sacrifice of bulls (Taurobolium) in March to celebrate the ‚Iudi Megalenses‘ dedicated to this goddess, at which the statue was also washed (‚lavatio‘). The simultaneous and sequential filling of the pits may be an indication of festivities allyear round during which a large number of sacrifices took place at the temple. The animals sacrificed here were the same as were commonly sacrificed at such events in Antiquity.

During the Hellenistic period, the Big Island of Durankulak was actually a peninsula connected to the inland by a narrow rocky ridge extending from its western end. In that time, there was a covered passage leading for 15 m from this natural bridge along the rocky south-western edge of the island towards the cave temple.

These are mostly fragments of imported amphorae. Some of the handles carry stamps ranging in date between 280–260 BC. Amphorae make up to 90 % of all the pottery fragments discovered there.

At the foot of the island at its southwestern part the foundation of a small rectangular building (measuring 2.50 × 2.20 m) was discovered. It was also surrounded by a stone wall, 0.30–0.40 m wide. Its northwestern and southeastern corners were destroyed by construction activities in the early Middle Ages. However, there is an intact hearth preserved against the northern wall. It is enclosed on its sides with orthostats, being 30 cm high and set at 35 cm distance from each other. Inside the hearth, on the top of a 10 cm thick ash layer, fragments of a offering plate (50 × 40 cm across) were discovered in situ. Most likely it functioned as a covered space intended for smaller sacrifices performed by very limited numbers of participants.

From the western bank of the island there was documented a 20 m long passage way leading along the foot of the hill towards the entrance of the temple. Its floor is covered by flat stone plates of the Miocene deposits which form the very core of the island. Numerous postholes registered along its course indicate that the passage way was actually covered. Some of the postholes were sunk deeply into the rock; others were supported by orthostats. At this favorable windproofed corner of the island, although outside the fortification wall, a number of single room buildings were constructed during the Middle Age.

The Cybele cult is one of the oldest Asia Minor cults attested to in written sources. The goddess is worshipped there as Earth Mother, Mother of Nature, Mother of the Gods and above all as Mountain Goddess. As the highest deity of nature she was the creator of agriculture, livestock breeding and music as well as the founder and protector of the towns and fortresses. This explains her wearing a polos. The fact that town and fortress are strategically linked explains the beams over the polos of our terracotta which can be interpreted as a mountain peak.

For the inhabitants of the flat Dobrudzha region i.e. for the Kallatians, they represented mountains and illustrate that Cybele was worshipped also in the NW Pontos as the goddess of non existent mountains.

Although no similar archaeological research has been carried out in Cybele cave sanctuaries on the Balkan Peninsula, this may be deficit of research. Numerous examples exist from Asia Minor, the birthplace of the Cybele cult. From the south Pontos region – Phrygia, Bithynia and Lydia – many cult sites dedicated to Cybele are known and may be mentioned as parallels to our temple. Worth mentioning in this context is the imposing cliff complex at Tekeköy near Sinope in the south Pontos region where a number of cave sanctuaries were found, accessible by way of wide paths and steps cut into the rock. Here the walls of a number of natural caves with intact roofing have been worked in the same manner as in Durankulak. A number of rooms lead deep into the rock face. Votive altars and baptismal fonts are also present.

The mariners who came from Sinope to the north would have found a familiar cultic cave complex, something evident from the dominance of votive goods from Sinope.

The large scale of the cave complex at Durankulak, as well as the number of votive pits on the shore suggest that it was a temple of wider significance, frequented not only by the

Kallatians but also by the population from the hinterland and by mariners. The large number of amphorae found in the area of the cave temple and in the votive pits, which make up the majority of the Hellenistic finds, fragments of which were found in large quantities in same places such as under the medieval fortification wall, illustrate the strong relationship between the temple and the sea.

Its situation in the navigable harbour, protected from the wind, gave it an ideal position to offer ancient ships protection in bad weather. Along the harbourless stretch of shore between Kallatis and Bisone which was exposed to the north and east, the harbour at Durankulak would have been the only place of refuge during a strong storm at sea. This fact was well known to mariners and caused their landing here and offering rich votive gifts. In addition the mariners from Herakleia and Sinope would have found a direct link to their Cybele sanctuary at Tekeköy.

On the west shore of the stormy Pontos Euxinus we have uncovered not just an important and well known Cybele cult site but also a marine staging post which supports the use of the term ‚euxinus‘.

The Votive Pits

The Big Island with its Hellenistic cave temple is located in the western part of the lake. Some 300 m to the southwest of it, on a gently inclined slope of the southeastern coast of the lake facing the sea, is located a field of votive pits. It overlaps the northwestern area of the prehistoric necropolis and is located in trench 2–4, 9–10, and 17. Its trench measures 50 × 50 m following the cardinal directions. Three more pits are located beyond the limits of the field to the south. In the southwestern part of the field several loci for votive activities were discovered. The topsoil in the adjacent areas was removed to check the possible existence of other features. The ceramic finds from the surface assemblages contained exclusively imported Hellenistic wares and absolutely none of the local ‚Thracian‘ coarse wares. No structures from the Hellenistic period were found however. This is particularly noteworthy for the area to the west of the offering places, which one would normally expect to be placed rather in the centre of the open air ceremonial area and not on its fringe.

Altogether, 91 pits were excavated, 71 of them certainly of Hellenistic date. Their number could possibly increase by adding another 12, which cannot be precisely dated. In the filling of pit No. 6A a single find from the Early Iron Age was found. Five pits contained mediaeval pottery and therefore they should be associated rather with the medieval necropolis from the 10th cent. AD, which partly overlaps the area of the pit field. The remaining pits cannot be dated.

It proved hard to recognize certain patterns in the spatial distribution of the pits – big and small, rich and poor in finds are all placed right next to each other. Only very rarely they intersect each other, suggesting that there must have been some kind of markers on the surface indicating their position. Some of the isolated structures in the southern area – Nos. 152, 153, and 154 – attract particular interest. Feature 152 is referred to as the big „amphora heap“ and 154 – as „the big, empty ash heap“. However, greater detail will be given with the description of the Offering places.

All of the pits are dug in the yellowish loess. Therefore irrelevant to the actual composition of their deposit – whether organic remains or stones – their filling has contrasting appearance against the light colored soil matrix. This made the recognition of their borders relatively easy, both at the opening as well as at the bottom. In most cases the rim was sealed with a stone slab that also proved a useful indicator during the excavation work.

The shape of most votive pits closely resembles that of a pear. Their widest part is located just above the pit floor, whereas upwards the diameter gradually decreases. There are also some pits cylindrical in shape. Often the floor is covered with a thin but even layer of ashes with the notable exception of the stone filled pits. The ash layer has an extremely fine consistence, without solid charcoal particles. Thus it seems that consists of burned grass, reed or hay. As a rule two or three stones are placed in the very centre or the entire floor would be paved with stone slabs. The stones are identical with the local limestone bedrock. Normally those slabs bear clear firing traces on the lower side, indicating that they must have been placed in the pit before the extinguishing of the fire. The basic criterion for distinguishing among the varieties of pits is the composition of their filling or their internal structure. Accordingly they could be classified as follows. At least 70 from the total of 91 votive pits contained enough characteristic finds allowing to limit the existence of the entire complex strictly to the Hellenistic period. The pottery forms the bulk of the finds documented in all types of votive pits. The amphorae are the best represented finds in the assemblage, making up to 50–60 % of the entire material. Some of the handle or neck fragments carry stamps indicating that they originated mostly from Thasos, Rhodes, Sinope, Chersonessos, Kos and Heracleia Pontica. They also provide a secure chronological frame for the period between 290–260 BC.

Sometimes on the neck and shoulder fragments graffiti and dipinti (?) are also found, most often containing a single letter or two in ligature. ‚Thracian‘ coarse ware should also be noted, both having equal 5% share of the total assemblage. The amphora fragments and the various common and fine wares appear in all filling layers. The ‚Thracian‘ coarse bowls, on the contrary are exclusively found on the pit floor and even more in its centre. Although the vessels in question were always broken, it must be noted that they were also almost completely preserved with all their parts. This could possibly mean that on the contrary to the remaining wares, they were intentionally offered and deposited on the floor of the pit presumably with their contents. It should as well be noted that the ‚Thracian‘ coarse ware is registered almost exclusively inside the votive pits, unlike the remaining wares often documented as well in the areas adjacent to the offering platforms. This obviously ritual practice contrasts with the practice case of breaking the vessels of the remaining categories at the offering place.

The fragments of offering plates are also quite numerous. They could be found in almost every pit. They are made of clay richly tempered with organic material. Such plates have varying thicknesses but most of them have half round pitting, ca. 1 cm in diameter, on their lower side, as well as patchy traces of intensive firing on the upper side.

The construction of votive pits is documented in a number of sites distributed from the northern parts of Rumania until

Turkey to the south. It seems that they are not strictly confined to the Black Sea region, since we find them also in western Bulgaria and Roumania. What is particularly different in this case is that in one of the pits there was discovered a skeleton of a young woman furnished with grave goods. The excavating archaeologist interprets it as a human sacrifice, pointing out the fact that the woman was killed by a big stone.

In our opinion, the offering ceremonies taking place at the temple on the Big Island, as well as at the offering place and votive pits on the coast could be reconstructed with certain probability as follows. The focal point of the cult are the spring mysteries of Cybele and Attis.

To date in Durankulak 84 amphorae stamps have been found (4 of which are now not traceable).

70 are datable: with five exceptions they date to the first half of the 3rd cent., one stamp appears to be slightly earlier and 4 date to the second half of the 3rd cent. The handle stamps come from Sinope (24 pieces), Thasos (28 pieces), Rhodos (5 pieces), Chersonessos (2 pieces), Heracleia Pontica (10 pieces) and Kos (1 piece). The origin of 10 amphora stamps cannot be localized with any degree of certainty.

Most of the pieces found in the votiv pits date to the first third of the 3rd cent. BC. As the votiv pits were not disturbed those undated stamps can be dated by the stamps which were found with them, especially by the stamps found on the neck of the amphorae.

The animal bones from the votive pits have been defined by A. von den Driesch (München) and N. Spasov und Z. Boev (Sofia): Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, piglet, frog, aurochs/bull, horse, dog, fowl, red deer, goose, wild duck, fox, swan, barbell, rooster, turtle, mussels.

The Hellenistic Graves

During the systematic excavations of the Durankulak-Nivata settlement on the west bank of Lake Durankulak in 1983 and 1989, 30 Hellenistic graves were discovered and partially investigated (Nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 43, 45, 52, 99, 278, 280, 282, 341, 407, 419, 441), which are linked to the Cybele cult complex and provide us with extra information on the present theme. It is important to mention that the pottery in the above-mentioned burials is also present in the votive pits which mostly date to the 3rd cent. BC or shortly afterwards.

Firstly we should mention a small Krater from burial No. 407. It is a small, well made yellow vessel with an interesting relief and belongs to the best of the local ceramic production. On the belly there is a sprig of ivy in brown color, on the neck a frieze of objects where a net, a bag, a Phrygian cap, a harp, amphora, and loom or comb are represented. These symbols are obviously connected to the Cybele cult. A similar piece is recorded from Tomis. It was dated to the end 3rd – beginning 2nd cent. BC.

Many more forms from the Hellenistic burials in Durankulak have parallels at Tomis. Our chytras from burial No. 99 have exact parallels with the chytras in burials Nos. 38, 41, 44 at Tomis. The jug with a beak-shaped spout from burial 1 occurs in Tomis in the burials Nos. 22 and 34, the small kantharos from burial 13 in burials Nos. 4 and 32 at Tomis, the Guttus from burial 1 in burial No. 43 at Tomis; the one-handle vessel

from burial 7 has a parallel from burial No. 345 at Tomis; the button-handle bowls from burials 18 and 31 have beside lekythoi many parallels at Tomis, e.g. from burials Nos. 175, 339, 349, 355, etc.; the eye beads from burials 18 and 22 find parallels in burials Nos. 16 and 339 in Tomis etc.

The burials from Tomis have on account of the amphorae stamps been dated between the middle of the 3rd cent. BC and the first half of the 2nd cent. BC.

For the Hellenistic burials at Durankulak the time-frame is different. It is clear that early burials from the beginning of the 3rd cent. BC, i.e. the peak period of the cave temple, are very rare. It may be that the number of servants of the temple grew over the years and that not only priests and pitia but also slaves and free families with children buried their dead on the shore of the lake but outside the area of the votive pits and votive loci.

As far as the quality and quantity of the grave offerings are concerned it is notable that not only children's burials but also most adult burials have very modest offerings. Only burials Nos. 1, 18 and 407 differ from this pattern in that they have rich burial offerings. This data is certainly not representative but illustrates that a family of high rank also lived at the temple.

The excavations at Durankulak have unearthed a unique early Hellenistic complex, which throws more light on the culture of the Greek colonies of the Pontos. It shows both that a close tie to the motherland in Bithynia in west Anatolia was preserved for a long time and left a lasting impression on the belief of the colonists, as is demonstrated by the construction of the cave temple for Cybele in the rockface at the Big Island at Durankulak. The numerous votive pits on the west shore of the lake illustrate the intensive cultic activity during the first half of the 3rd cent. BC. in the north Pontos region. This, however, came to a standstill at the end of the 3rd – beginning of the 2nd cent. BC and the temple was finally abandoned.

The development of the sacred area of the goddess Cybele runs parallel not only to the development of the Greek colony Kallatis but with the general historical process in the entire West Pontos area in the early Hellenistic period.



DURANKULAK
DIE GROÙE INSEL



ANTIKE AMPHOREN AUS DEM
MUSEUM IN DOBRICH



DAS HELLENISTISCHE HÖH-
LENHEILIGTUM DER GOTTHEIT
KYBELE