at the lowest imaginable level. Nevertheless, they had access to a little Gr bf and bg pottery as well, brought in from the Kolchian coast.

Mzkheta

In 2001, the remarkable grave of an elderly woman in her 50s was discovered under the foundations of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in Mzkheta, the anc. capital of E Georgia. By her signet ring bearing a portrait, title and name she has been identified as a queen. Bestowed in the grave with her were golden jewellery, cosmetic vessels made of jade and a unique, large silver-gilt pencil case. On its front it shows the 9 Muses in high relief and on its back Homer, Menander and Demosthenes decorate a balcony-like pocket in which the golden ink pot was inserted. The flat body of the case, with silver quill pens inside, can be closed by a golden lid with an inscription worked *à jour*. The inscription informs us that the object belonged to the kings Ustamos and Eugenios who are otherwise unattested. The burial can be dated roughly to the 3rd–4th Ct AD, even if some objects are certainly older. Unfortunately the grave has not entered international publication yet. Preliminary information is available at www.magticom.ge/magazine/2002-4/2002-4-7.html.

Gumbati

In 1996, a team from the University of Halle excavated a unique 40m x 40m mud-brick building at Gumbati near Gurjaani in E Georgia. Its characteristic plan and fragments of at least 5 bell-shaped column bases suggest a genuine Achaemenid residence probably built for a minor local governor (**Fig. 30**). According to the architectural style and the dating of the pottery finds, the small palace was probably constructed at the end of the 5th or the beginning of the 4th Ct BC. Similar and even much larger structures have been discovered at Sari Tepe and Qaradjamirli in Azerbaijan, as well as at Benjamin in Armenia (Knauss 2006, 104). Together with the Achaemenid palaces at Eribouni (Erevan) and Argishtichinili (Artvin), they form the administrative network of the 13th Persian district mentioned by Herodotos (3.93).

TURKEY

N Turkey still remains one of the least explored parts of the Black Sea area. However, while very few investigations were carried out throughout much of the 20th Ct, things have begun to change over the past 15 years when a number of excavation and survey projects have been initiated. In addition to the coastal cities, a number of inland sites have been included in this report since the area in the Hel and Rom periods clearly formed part of the same political entity.

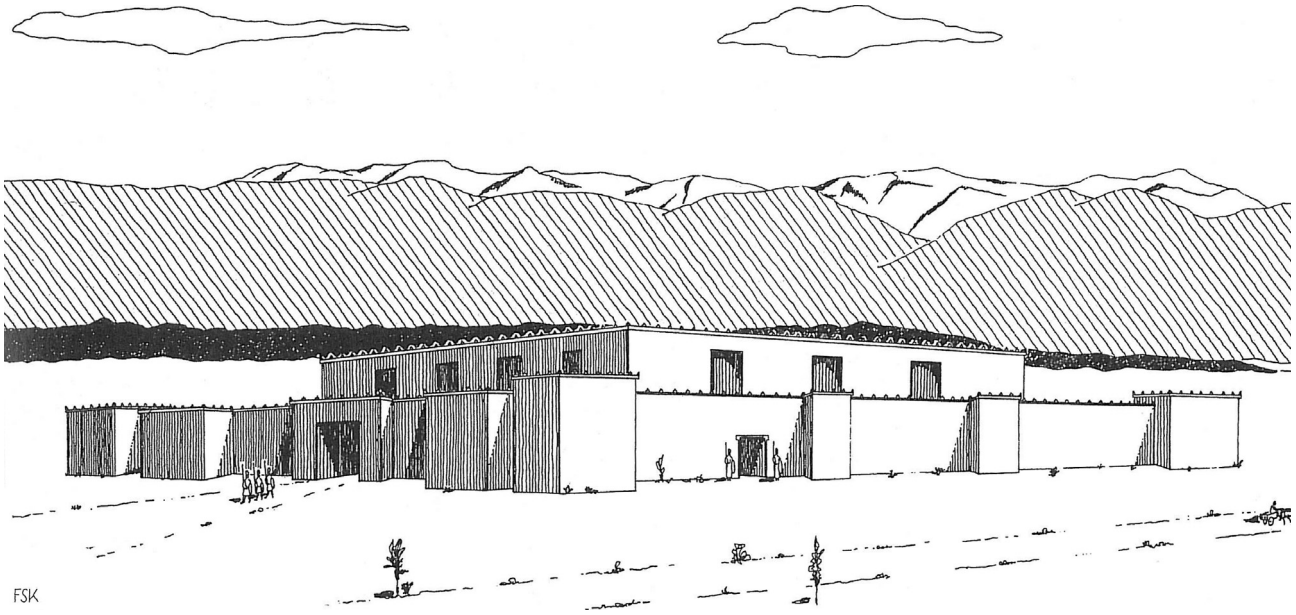
Three important monographs on the Pontic Kingdom and Mithridates VI in particular have appeared (Ballesteros-Pastor 1996; Saprykin 1996d; Erciyas 2006). The first 2 mainly treat the literary sources, while the latter incorporates archaeological material and recent survey results.

The bibliography by O. Tekin (1993) includes previous numismatic studies in N Turkey. F. de Callataÿ's (1997) study of the coinage of Mithridates VI has revealed a clear correlation between the frequency of issues and military activities during the Mithridatic Wars. Callataÿ (2005) has also made important contributions to the study of the bronze municipal coins of the Pontic cities, adding new types to Imhoof-Blumer's classification and proposing a new dating scheme. Coins of the Gr cities are included in the publications of the British Museum (Price 1993) and the Stancomb Collection (Stancomb 2000), while the Rom coin types appear in the ongoing *Roman Provincial Coinage* project (online database: http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/).

A fine, well-illustrated introduction to Rom rule in the provinces of Pontus and Bithynia is offered by C. Marek (2003), who has also made an in-depth study of the cities and their territories (1993). The Bithynian Kingdom is treated by Gabelko (2005).

Trapezous (Trabzon)

Salvage excavation in the city has revealed architectural elements dated to the 2nd–4th Ct AD: bases, architraves, friezes and a Corinthian capital (Kaya 1999). The most interesting find is an over life-size Hel bronze statue of a young male, identified by the excavator as Hermes.



30. Gumbati: reconstruction of the Persian palace

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The area E of Trabzon has been surveyed to record the surviving structural evidence for the Rom and EByz military presence in the area (Crow and Bryer 1997). It was established that the most likely site of Hyssos Limen, visited by Arrianos, was at Araklı Kalesi.

Komana Pontike

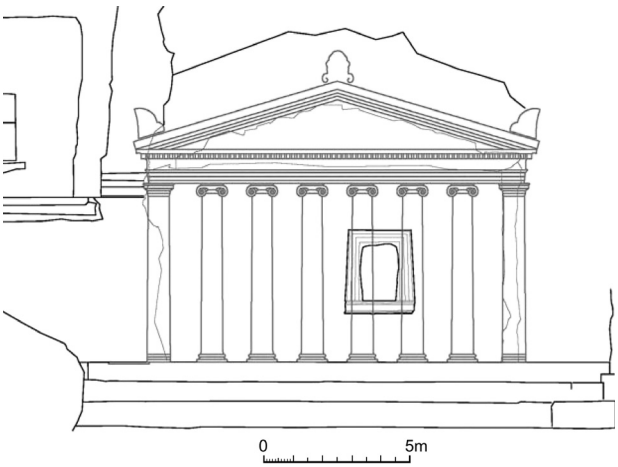
In 2004, investigations under the direction of D. Burcu Erciyas were begun around the supposed site of Komana Pontike, located at Hamamtepe 9km NE of Tokat. The visible remains on the hill have been mapped, and a geophysical survey has been conducted to determine the extent of buildings not visible on the surface. Surface finds are Byz or later, but investigations of a looter's trench also yielded Rom material. In the vicinity of the hill, Rom necropoleis were identified and a hexagonal pool also dating to the Rom period. The area is also rich in Byz remains; among these 2 basilicas (Erciyas, Sökmen and Kalaycı 2007; www.komana.org). A corpus of the Rom coins of Komana has been prepared by M. Amandry and B. Rémy (1999).

Amaseia (Amasya)

Throughout the 1990s, D. French has considered different epigraphical aspects related to Amaseia in his 'Amasian Notes'. Of particular interest is no. 5 (French 1996) concerning the temenos of Zeus Stratios at Yassiçal. The site was first described by Cumont in 1901, but French offers the first sketch drawing with the location of the 32 inscriptions, mentioning regions and villages, which, according to French, belonged to the territory of Amaseia exclusively. The site has a perimeter wall of 150m *di*. with an entrance to the NE. In the centre is what appears to be a large 40m x 40m podium that probably held a monumental altar similar to the one seen on the coins of Amaseia. No finds prior to the Rom period were found at the site.

At several places around the city, the museum has undertaken rescue excavations of the Rom necropoleis. The most common type is the vaulted chamber tomb, sometimes with frescos, but cist graves occur as well. The associated finds date to the 2nd–4th Ct AD (Eski Şamlar: Yüce 1995; Uygur: Yüce and Özdemir 2000; Kurşunlu: Doğanbaş 2002).

From 2002, R. Fleischer has led a small team investigating the royal tombs above the city. Elevations, plans and sections have been made, and, based on the cuttings in the rock, it has been possible to establish the original appearance of the tombs (**Fig. 31**). The 5 tombs numbered A–E from right to left had:



31. Amaseia: reconstruction of the earliest of the royal tombs

(A) a hexastyle portico with pediment; (B and D) tetrastyle porticos with pediments; (C) a portico without columns and rounded top; and (E) a portico without columns and archivolt at the top. The chronological sequence of the tombs seems to be A, C, B, D and E. Somewhat surprisingly, the architectural development seem to move from a purely Gr style in the 3rd Ct BC to a more local style in the 2nd Ct, when the Pontic Kingdom became increasingly Hellenized (Fleischer forthcoming).

Fleischer (2005) has furthermore managed to solve finally the puzzle of the inscriptions on the Mirror Tomb (Aynalı Mağara) outside Amasya. The 2 inscriptions, the original above the entrance and the one from later use of the tomb below, read: Τηϛ | ἀρχι-|ιερεύϛ and καὶ Ἡγάθεος | Με[ν]άνδρου.

S. Ireland (2000) has published the extensive collection of coins from the museum in Amasya, which was reopened in 2006 after renovation.

Euchaita (Beyözü)

In 2007, a survey project around anc. Euchaita was initiated under the direction of J. Haldon and H. Elton. During the first season a number of spolia, including inscriptions, were recorded in the city, and survey in the vicinity revealed scatters of pottery from the PH to the LRom period.

Amisos (Samsun)

A history of Amisos, in Turkish with a summary in English, covering also recent archaeological work, was published by S. Atasoy (1997). On the acropolis of Karasamsun, trenches were opened within the military base in the 1990s, revealing further mosaics and pottery from the LCl to LRom period.

Undoubtedly the most spectacular find in Amisos is that of a rich undisturbed tomb discovered during road construction in 1995 (Erciyas 2006, 67–115). The tomb chamber, measuring 5m x 5m, was cut into the limestone and had 5 rectangular graves cut into the bedrock along 3 walls. Access to the chamber was through a hole on the E side of the roof, where a retaining wall with a door marked the entrance (**Fig. 32**). Remains of only 3 skeletons were found, probably interred in wooden chests. The grave goods, datable to the E3rd Ct BC, comprised alabastra, a glass bowl and phiale, an inkwell type lamp and incense burners, but, most remarkable, is the extraordinarily fine gold jewellery, including a wreath, necklaces, earrings with figures of Eros and Nike, several bracelets and cloth appliqués (**Fig. 33**).

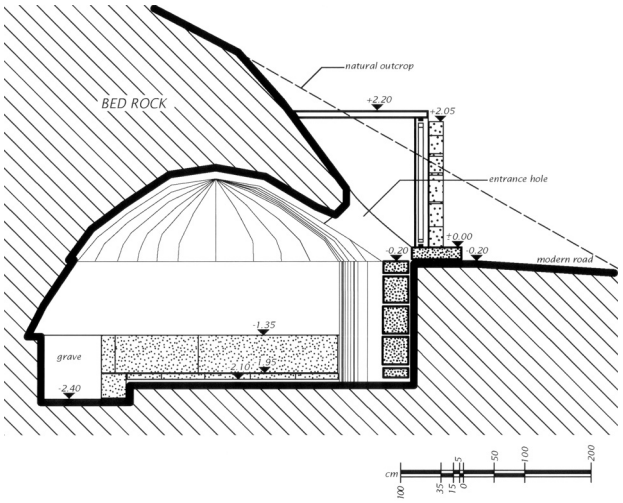
Although few have turned up in controlled excavations, Amisos evidently had a large production of terracottas in the Hel period, as shown by the study of L. Summerer (1999). Dionysiac themes and theatrical masks are clearly among the most favoured motifs. This may reflect the use of Dionysos in the propaganda of Mithridates VI, who took the epithet 'Neos Dionysos'.

Several extensive surveys and site visits have been carried out in the central Black Sea region around Samsun (briefly presented in Belli 2001 with bibliographies), but the projects focus primarily on the PH period and only offer sporadic comments on the Gr and Rom material.

İkiztepe

At İkiztepe near Bafra, a tumulus with a dromos and 2 chambers, dated to the 1st half of the 3rd Ct BC, has been excavated. The tomb had been robbed, but a Lysimachean posthumous Alexander gold stater and Hel pottery were recovered. The excavation also revealed LIA pottery similar to that found at Akalan (Bilgi 1999, 27–54).

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32. Amisos: tomb found in 1995

Sinope (Sinop)

In the vicinity of Sinop, several amphora workshops have been excavated. On Boztepe between 1993 and 1997, Y. Garlan and the director of the museum, İ. Tatlıcan, excavated 2 kiln sites at Zeytinlik, recovering hundreds of stamps all belonging to the E3rd Ct BC. In 1996, another kiln, with material of the L3rd and E2nd Ct BC, was revealed at Nisiköy, 3km from the city (Garlan and Tatlıcan 1998). Following a geophysical survey, excavations at Demirci 14km S of Sinop were conducted from 1994–1997 (Kassab-Tezgör 1996; Kassab-Tezgör and Tatlıcan 1998) and again in 2000 (Kassab-Tezgör and Dereli 2001), revealing several kilns. Apart from a small workshop active in the later 4th Ct BC, the workshops functioned from the 3rd Ct AD and possibly into the 6th. Rescue excavation in the city has uncovered LRom polychrome mosaics, one of which had a diamond-shaped panel with a female bust labelled ΤΡΥΦΗ (http://www.cca.unimelb.edu.au/community/Events/PAPHLAGONIA-PONTUS-abstracts.pdf).

In 1996 the Sinop Regional Archaeological Project was initiated under the leadership of O. Doonan (2004). Extensive survey and investigations at Sinop itself were made, and from 1997–1999 intensive survey was carried out in the Demirci Valley, the Karasu Valley and on Boztepe. More than 170 sites dating from the Neo to the Ot period were recorded. The settlement pattern shows a contraction of sites in the coastal area in the IA and Cl period, while the Hel period and particularly the Rom period are characterized by extensive use of the agricultural lands in the valleys for the cultivation, presumably, of olives.

The inscriptions from Sinope have been published by D. French (2004). The most important new addition is a stele with a nearly complete 33-line inscription of a treaty between Sinope and the tyrant family of Herakleia, dated 353/352–346/345 BC. Stamped amphorae from Sinope have received considerable interest from scholars, most notably Y. Garlan (2004), N. Conovici (1998) and N. Fedoseev (1999), who propose a novel dating scheme.

After several years of renovation, the local museum reopened in 2006.

At Çiftlik, 10km S of Sinop, an EByz (4th–5th Ct AD), 3-aisled basilica with geometric mosaics, in danger of being washed away by the sea, was surveyed, excavated, protected and studied from 1993–2000 (Hill 1998).

Pompeiopolis (Taşköprü)

In 2006, investigations at Pompeiopolis were initiated under the direction of L. Summerer. A topographical map of the plateau of Zımbıllı Tepe, NW of the mod. city, was produced, showing that the city extended much further than the LRom fortress. Geomagnetic survey has identified the forum, measuring 80m x 100m with porticos surrounding it. Next to the forum is a building with 2 building phases, possibly a gymnasium and an odeion. To the W, excavations revealed part of a bath with hypocaust and, to the E, part of a villa with mosaics dating to the L4th–E5th Ct AD. Although plenty of stray finds testify to activity in the 1st and 2nd Cts AD, the stratified structures excavated all belong to the L antique period. Three new honorary inscriptions have been found, one for Gn. Claudius Severus, the son-in-law of Marcus Aurelius, and another honouring a member of the Severan dynasty. The last, on a pillar monument inscribed on at least 3 sides, honours a Paphlagoniarch, an office previously unattested. The inscriptions on the sides seem to be an account of expenditures in connection with a festival (http://www.klass-archaeologie.lmu.de/Pompeiopolis/pom_index_de.html).

Hadrianopolis (Eskipazar)

Between 1997 and 2001, R. Matthews led extensive and intensive surveys in the Çankırı and Karabuk provinces, with the aim of establishing the long-term settlement patterns. Project Paphlagonia identified about 300 sites, many of them with Gr and Rom material. Particularly, the Rom period had a widespread settlement pattern across the entire landscape, and a clear hierarchy of sites, ranging from small hamlets to large towns such as Hadrianopolis and Antoninopolis, which has been located at Kızıllar (Matthews, Pollard and Ramage 1998).

At Hadrianopolis an EByz basilica (B), with 6th Ct AD mosaics showing personifications of 4 biblical rivers, was excavated by the museum in 2003. Since 2005, excavations led by E. Laflı have revealed a large LRom bath building and a basilica (A) with well-preserved 6th Ct AD geometric mosaics with depictions of animals in square frames. Two inscriptions give the name of the dedicator.

At Kimistene, now identified through inscriptions, 10km to the NE of Hadrianopolis, monuments were recorded. Trenches from illegal excavations around the podium of the Rom temple have revealed Phrygian Grey Ware pottery (http://web.deu.edu.tr/paphlagonia/index.html).



33. Amisos: gold bracelet found in the tomb

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Tieion
In 2006 and 2007, S. Atasoy conducted excavations in the city centre, the necropolis, the theatre and on the acropolis, and surface and geomagnetic surveys have also been carried out. Sherds of black and red figured ceramics were recovered on the acropolis, and in the city centre 2 Rom baths and 3 paved streets were uncovered.

Amastris (Amasra)
Investigations in Amasra, initiated in the late 1980s, were continued. The Hel foundations of the city wall, consisting of courses of squared blocks of limestone, were identified in several places. Rescue excavation was carried out in a large Rom bath and 2 pools with associated hypocausts were found. In the W harbour 2 sets of quays at different levels were identified, indicating a sea level rise of ca. 1m between the Cl and the LByz period. As the Byz quays are at the mod. level, there seem to have been little change since then. Also, an outlet for a water channel was exposed, possibly the one described by Pliny the Younger (Hill 1994). In 1993, 4 marble statues, one of them a cuirassed imperial statue, possibly Hadrian (**Fig. 34**), the others of local dignitaries, were found during construction work.

Herakleia (Ereğli)
No excavations have been carried out at Herakleia, but 2 monographs on the city have appeared: S. Saprykin (1997), an English translation and adaptation of his book in Russian from 1986; and A. Bittner (1998), which also features a German translation of Memnon and an appendix of the pre-Rom coin types. Furthermore, the anc. remains, predominantly architectural fragments and stelae, have been catalogued by T. Akkaya (1994). The inscriptions of Herakleia have been published by L. Jonnes (1994), with a prosopography by W. Ameling. Surprisingly, no inscriptions seem to have survived prior to the Rom period. The stamped amphorae from Herakleia have been studied by Kac (2003; 2007), who offers a revised chronology.



34. Amastris: marble statue, possibly Hadrian

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