In 1995 the exhibition *Unterwegs zum Goldenen Vlies* on Georgian antiquities was held in Saarbrücken (catalogue: Miron and Orthmann 1995). In 1998–1999, the exhibition *Ancient Gold – The Wealth of the Thracians: Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria* toured the United States (catalogue: Marazov 1998). In 2000 Scythian gold was displayed in 2 competing exhibitions: *The Golden Deer of Eurasia: Scythian and Sarmatian Treasures from the Russian Steppes*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, October 2000 to February 2001 (catalogue: Alekseev and Farkas 2000) and *Gold of the Nomads, Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine* which travelled the United States from November 1999 to August 2001 and ended in Paris (catalogue: Reeder 2000). Also in 2001 the exhibition *Georgien – Schätze aus dem Land des Goldenen Vlies* was held in Bochum (catalogue: Gambashidze *et al*. 2001).

From February to July 2004 the exhibition *Greek Gold – From the Treasure Chambers of the Hermitage* celebrated the opening of the Hermitage Amsterdam, a dependency of the Hermitage Museum of St Petersburg on the River Amstel in Amsterdam. The exhibition *Die Thraker – Das goldene Reich des Orpheus* could be seen in the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland at Bonn from July 2004 to January 2005 (Catalogue: Fol *et al*. 2004). From October 2004 to February 2005 the large exhibition *Gold Treasures – Romania in 7,000 years* was shown in Medelhavsmuseet, Stockholm (catalogue: Slej, Sörling and Popovici 2004). In connection with the Danish Queen Margrethe's visit to Bulgaria and the return visit of the Bulgarian president to Denmark, the rich finds made in Bulgarian tombs in 2004 and 2005, e.g., of the magnificent portrait probably of King Seuthes III (**Fig. 6**), were exhibited for a short period in April 2006 at the Danish National Museum.

While the Odessa Archaeological Museum was closed for refurbishment, a significant part of its holdings was exhibited in Cracow: *Treasures from the Black Sea. Gold, Sculpture and Ceramics from the Museum of Archaeology in Odessa*, National Museum in Krakow, March to June 2006 (catalogue: Bodzek 2006b). It was also the closure for renovation of the Black Sea exhibition in the State Hermitage Museum that made possible the encompassing exhibition *Greeks on the Black Sea: Ancient Art from the Hermitage* in the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa, Malibu, June to September 2007 (catalogue: Trofimova and Kalashnik 2007).

Thus 2007 was a great year for Black Sea exhibitions. Apart from the previously mentioned exhibition in Malibu, 2 exhibitions could be enjoyed in Berlin: *Im Zeichen des Goldenen Greifen – Königsgräber der Skythen* (catalogue: Parzinger *et al*. 2007) and *Griechen – Skythen – Amazonen*, a joint exhibition by Freie Universität Berlin and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in the Pergamon Museum, June to October (catalogue: Kästner, Langner and Rabe 2007). In the Antikenmuseum Basel and Sammlung Ludwig the exhibition *Die alten Zivilisationen Bulgariens – Das Gold der Thraker* was open to the public from March to July in the same year (catalogue: Nikolov *et al*. 2007).

Crossing the Atlantic, the exhibition *Wine, Worship and Sacrifice: The Golden Graves of Ancient Vani – Treasures from the Republic of Georgia* was shown at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC from December 2007 to February 2008 (catalogue: Kacharava and Kvirkvelia 2008). From March to June 2008 it has been exhibited at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University, and from June to September 2008 it was on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The exhibition has foremost featured the finds from 4 newly found rich graves unearthed in Vani in 2004. This is the first time that archaeological finds from Georgia have been brought to the United States. Some of the finds have previously been shown in Tblisi and are illustrated in the catalogue edited by D. Kacharava *et al*., *Colchis – Land of Golden Fleece* (Tbilisi 2005). This smaller exhibition was earlier presented at 3 venues in Europe, in Berlin, Paris and Nice.

BULGARIA (Fig. 2)

Since 1991, changes in the official governmental funding of archaeological research have lead to a decrease in the systematic excavations in Bulgaria, but due to increased building activities the number of rescue excavations has risen considerably (Cholakov and Chukalev 2008, 144). Thus, in 2006 rescue excavations amounted to half of the archaeological fieldwork carried out on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (Cholakov and Chukalev 2008, 146).

Institutions

The National Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, with its museum (NIAM), coordinates the archaeological research over the entire territory of Bulgaria, and the Interagency Council of Field Research of NIAM appointed by the Minister of Culture issues permits for archaeological fieldwork in Bulgaria. The annual documentation of the archaeological investigations is kept in the Research Archives of NIAM. Presently this amounts to 812 collections covering sites investigated during the last 50 years. A National Automated Informational System 'Archaeological Map of Bulgaria' is also hosted at NIAM. The Centre for Underwater Archaeology in Sozopol organizes underwater investigations and the symposia *Thracia Pontica* and *Pontica Mediaevi*.

Conferences and principal publications

Conference activity and publications have continued since 1993 with a growing international outlook reflected both in the number of international participants and the focus on Thracian interrelations with other cultures. The main conferences were: *La Thrace et les societes maritimes anciennes*, 1994 (*Thracia Pontica* 1997); *Thracians and Phrygians*: *Problems of Parallelism*, 1995 (Tuna, Aktüre and Lynch 1998); *The Thracian World at the Crossroads of Civilization*, 1996 (Roman 1997); *Thrace and the Aegean*, 2000 (Fol 2002) and *The Culture of Thracians and their Neighbours* (Bouzek and Domaradzka 2005). Various Bulgarian periodicals can be consulted for new archaeological finds in Bulgaria, the most important ones being published by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Thus NIAM is responsible for *Helis* (vols 3–5), *Arheologia* and the annual reports of ongoing fieldwork in the country *Archeologičeski Otkritija i Razkopki*, as well as *Razkopki i proucvanija* and *Izvestija na Archeologičeskija Institut* (see more on their website http://aim.sofianet.net/main.php?lang=ENG) in addition to *Archaeologia Bulgarica* mentioned in the introduction, whereas since 1993 the Institute of Thracology (http://www.thracologia.org/publice.html) in Sofia has published vols 10–17 of *Thracia*, vols 6–8 of *Studia Thracica*, vol. 10 of *Thracia Antiqua* (in Bulgarian) and vols 5–15 of *Orpheus*. For inscriptions, see the addendum to G. Mihailov's *IGBulg* (Banev *et al*. 1999; 2001). A survey of new developments in Bulgarian archaeology and an extensive list of references and publications can be found in Stoyanov and Lozanov (n.d.), and in Cholakov and Chukalev 2008 (concerning the year 2006). Detailed information on various Gr and Rom sites in Bulgaria and Romania (as well as other countries), including maps, discoveries made since 2000 and information about research teams, can be found at http://www.fastionline.org/.

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2. Map of S Romania and Bulgaria with sites mentioned in the text

Agathopolis (Ahtopol')
Sporadic rescue excavations in Ahtopol' have revealed the stratigraphy of the anc. town from the 5th Ct BC until the Med period. Part of the town's LRom and Med wall has been investigated (*AOR* [1990], 81–82; [1992], 62). The 1999–2000 excavations were directed by D. Gergova.

A tumulus with a rich burial of the Hel period and later burials from the 1st–2nd Ct AD near Sinemorec S of the town most probably belongs to the still unexcavated anc. town (*AOR* [1996], 40–41; [2007], 77–78; [2008], 233–34).

Cape Urdovisa
Thracian and Gr pottery from the 5th–4th Ct BC, as well as from the 5th Ct AD and the Med period, has been found on Cape Urdovisa near Kiten (*AOR* [2008], 454–62). Archaeological surveys have been organized in the territory of the Ropotamo National park, where several Thracian sanctuaries have been localized (*AOR* [2003], 109).

Apollonia Pontike (Sozopol')
During rescue excavations in Sozopol' new data about the town planning, the architecture and the stratigraphy of the town have been revealed (*AOR* [2007], 353–58).

The necropoleis of Apollonia Pontike are among the best studied on the entire W coast. To date 916 graves have been unearthed (Cholakov and Chukalev 2008, 167–68). We thank A. Baralis, A. Hermary, K. Panayotova and A. Riapov for the following information on the necropolis of Kalfata situated S of the city walls and dating from the M5th–M3rd Ct BC (**Figs 3, 4**). Two hundred and eighty graves and a large number of deposits with funeral artefacts have been found during the last 10 years. Most typical among the grave goods were fragrance vessels: Attic and local hydriai (**Fig. 5**), lekythoi, askoi, alabastra and unguentaria. Amphorae (mainly from Herakleia Pontike and Thasos), jugs, oinochoai, dishes and lamps were also common. The grave goods were almost always ritually mutilated. Terracotta figurines were found together with strigils, mirrors, astragals and jewellery. In a few instances, reburial or cremation performed outside the graves could be documented (K. Panayotova, D. Nedev, A. Hermary, 2004 excavations, *Fasti-online*). Most common were the pit graves with inhumation burials. Traces of repeated post-burial rituals at the grave testify to the tradition of performing memorial rites for the deceased. More detailed information on the finds can be found in Panayotova 1998; Panayotova, Riapov and Baralis 2006; Hermary 2007; *AOR* (2007), 364–68.

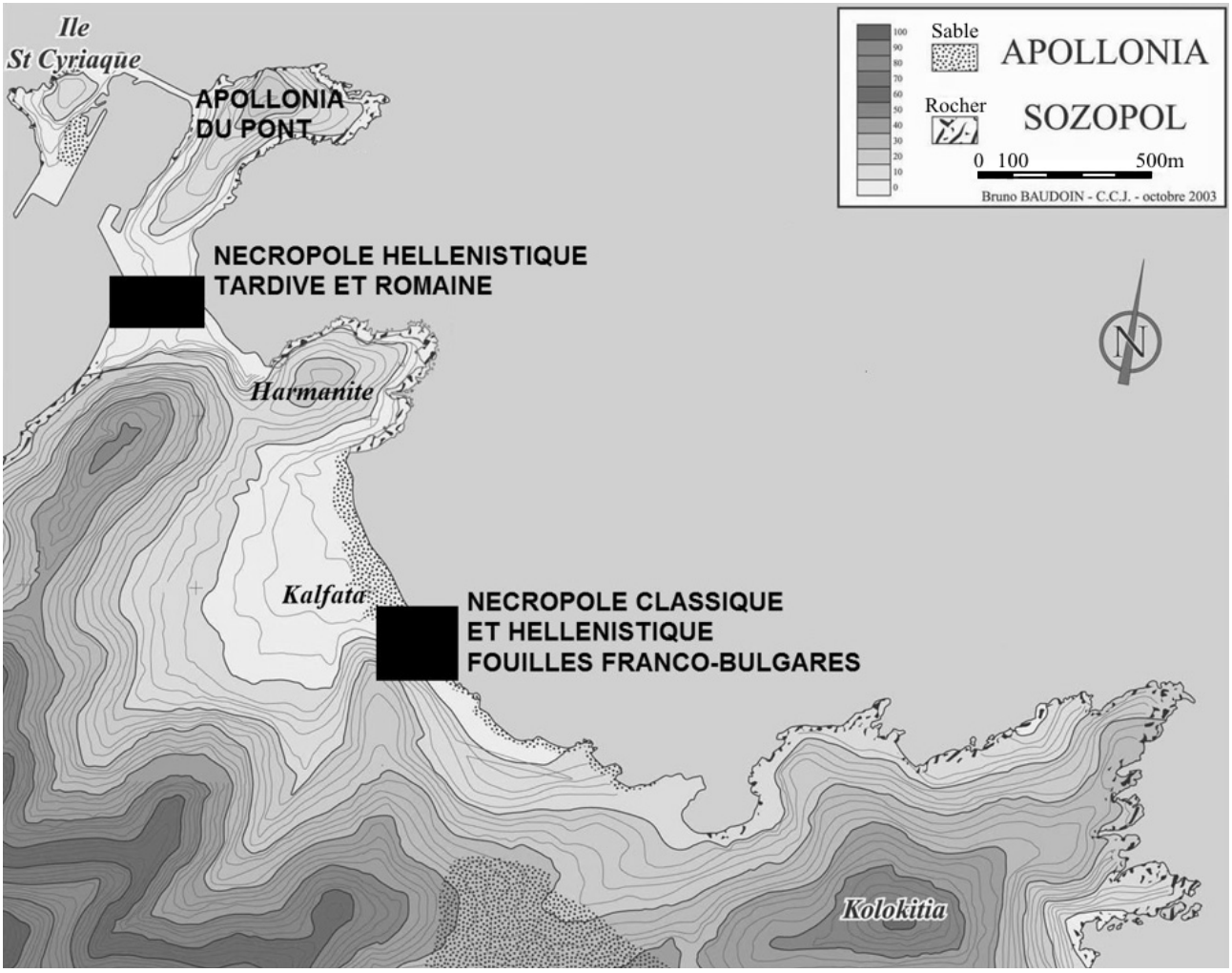
Several tumuli from the Hel period on Cape Kolokita S of Apollonia reveal Thracian burial rites (*AOR* [2007], 234, 244, 307; [2008], 309–31).

A number of Kyzikene silver coins have been found in different hoards in the region between Apollonia and Nessebar, all from the 4th Ct BC. In 1998 a hoard containing silver coins of Kyzikean origin was found in the chora of Mesembria, and in 2000 another hoard was found in Apollonia (Karayotov 2007).

Deultum (Debelt)
Investigations of Deultum, founded by Vespasian, comprise excavations of the Rom and Byz fortress as well as excavations of the Thracian tumular necropolis. This necropolis was very long-lived with burials from the LBA and EIA, and the Rom period between the 1st and 5th Ct AD (*AOR* [2007], 241–42).

Burgas
A Thracian fortress by Lake Mandra near Burgas has been studied, and materials from the EIA as well as from the 3rd quarter of the 4th–E3rd Ct BC have been found (*AOR* [2008], 308, 427–28).

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3. Apollonia Pontike: map of the location of the necropoleis

Tumuli from the Rom period, 1st–4th Ct AD, have been studied near the village of Fakia (*AOR* [1995], 101; [1996], 45). Excavations of a Thracian cult complex by Manastir Tepe near the Burgas mineral baths have unearthed stone buildings, fireplaces, and Thracian and Gr pottery dated to the 3rd–2nd Ct BC (*AOR* [1995], 70–71).

Anchialos (Pomorie)

Archaeological excavations preceeded by geophysical prospection have been initiated in Pomorie. Part of the Rom city's street grid and several buildings, as well as Med structures have been found. Rescue excavations near the village of Medovo of a tumulus belonging to Anchialos' necropolis contained a cremation from the 2nd Ct AD (*AOR* [2005]).

Mesembria (Nessebar)

Buildings from the Cl, Hel and Med periods have been found, as well as new Gr inscriptions (*AOR* [2007], 273–75). The latest volume of the Nessebar series, *Nessebre* III, was published in 2005 after a long delay (Velkov and Karayotov 2005). This volume includes mostly finds from before 1993, but is recommended for giving a good overview of the excavated town which included temples of Zeus and Apollo, the city archive, a theatre and private houses.

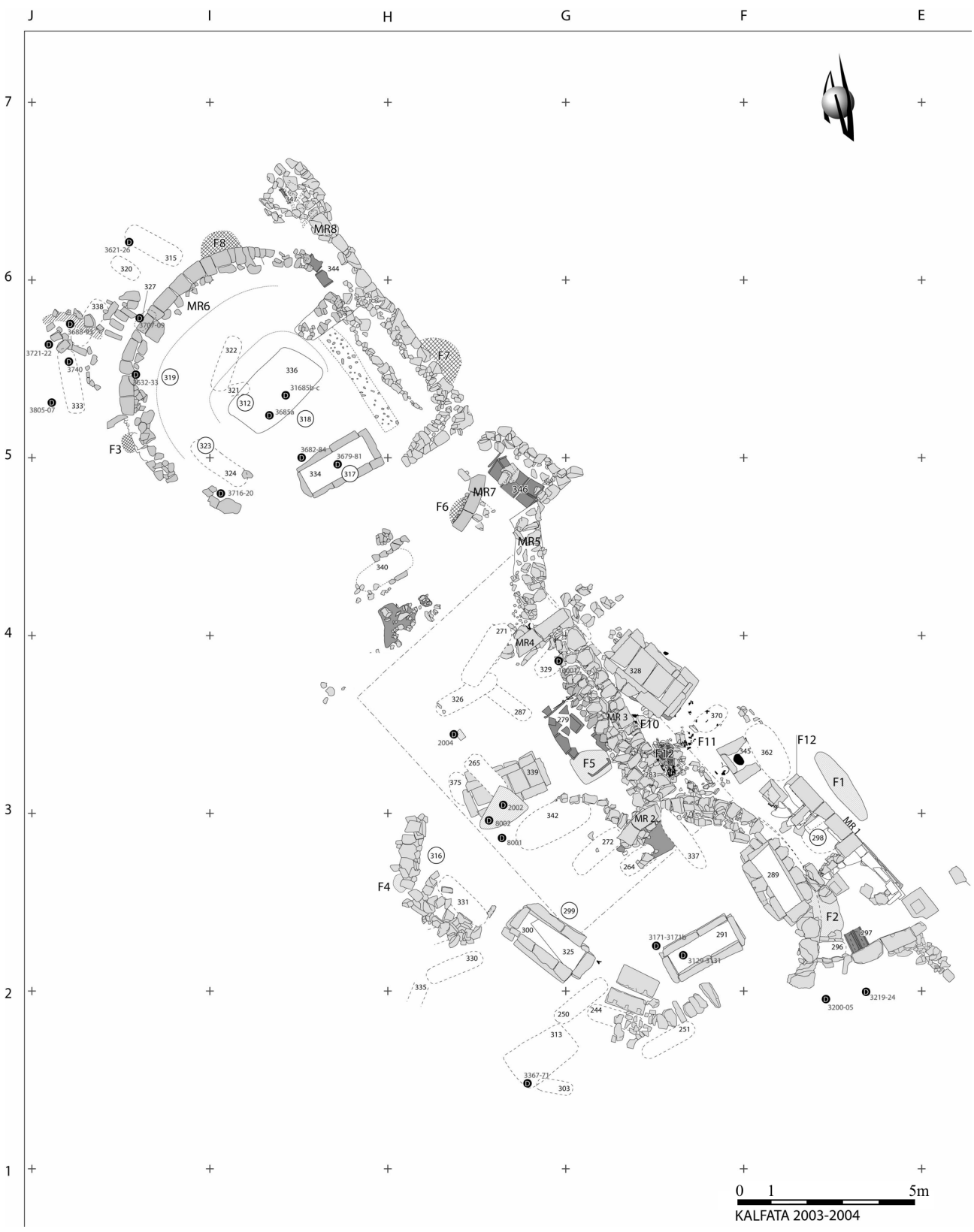
Excavations in the necropolis continue. In 2007, a grave with a terracotta figurine, probably Kybele, was discovered. Other finds from this site are published in *AOR* 2007 and 2008.

K. Krusteff kindly reports that an archaeological expedition in the municipality of Nessebar was organized by Prof. I. Karayotov and himself in 2006–2007. The expedition explored the valley of the River Hadžijka, situated in the territory of the Mesembrian chora and inhabited by Greeks and Thracians settled in numerous small katoikiai. Pottery, mainly pithoi and roof tiles, was found. A fortified site inhabited from the IA through to Hel times was found in the territory of the village of Orizare.

Another fortification from the Rom period was discovered 500m E, in which pieces of ceramic Rom pipes were found, possibly the remains of an aqueduct. On the left bank of the Poroy Reservoir, a small necropolis with 5 mounds was located. A coin hoard of 31 bronze coins minted in Mesembria was found in Snjagovo, in the region of Burgas, dating from 125–100 BC, and published by I. Karayotov in 2007 (Karayotov 2007, 148; *AOR* [2007], 304–05). Karayotov also published the gold and silver coinage of Mesembria (1994).

Archaeological survey in the area of Mesembria was carried out in 2000 (*AOR* [2001], 115).

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4. Apollonia Pontike: plan of excavated tombs in the Kalfata necropolis

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5. Apollonia Pontike: rf Attic hydria from the Kalfata necropolis

Odessos (Varna)
Drilling sondages in the botanical garden of Varna in 2004 revealed a single course of a stone wall and 3 dolia arranged parallel to it. Three pits N of the dolia were excavated. The investigations seem to suggest that a Rom villa existed at this locality and most likely a small settlement appeared around the villa during L antiquity. Coins of Valentinian II (AD 375–392) and Theodosius II (AD 408–450) and small finds from the excavation indicate that the building was used from the 2nd half of the 4th–6th Ct AD (V. Slavchev, H. Kuzov *Fasti-online*). Near the Rom baths, excavations revealed the decumanus paved with slabs and a drain faced with slabs below it. A later street-covering consisting of rubble, sherds and fragmentary building terracottas was preserved in a few places over the slabs of the decumanus in which 4 bronze coins of the end of the 4th Ct AD were found. The decumanus had at least 3 construction phases during the Rom and the EByz periods. During the 2 earlier phases, the street was paved with slabs, while the drain belongs to the 2nd phase. Furthermore, remains of L antique buildings were discovered N and S of the street (H. Kuzov and K. Sokolova *Fasti-online*).

In August 2002, a shipwreck was identified off the coast of Odessos by a joint US-Bulgarian research expedition headed by D. Coleman and P. Dimitrov (http://news.nationalgeographic. com/news/2003/01/0110_030113_blacksea.html). A single amphora was recovered from the wreck, which contained bones of a large freshwater catfish species with cutting marks and several olive stones. When found, the amphora was dated to the '5th–3rd Ct BC'. However, the organic material has reputedly been dated by radiocarbon analysis to between ca. 487 and 277 BC (Lund and Gabrielsen [2005], 164), but the amphora itself still awaits publication in order to confirm this dating, which is crucial as evidence of Black Sea maritime trade. According to the opinion of the amphora specialists M. Lawall and A. Opaiț, the amphora should be dated to the 2nd Ct AD.

Dionysopolis (Balčik)
In the spring of 2006, a team of archaeologists uncovered the foundations of a Hel temple of Kybele on the fringes of the mod. city of Balčik. The preserved walls of the temple are at least 2.5m *h*., and the foundation of the building is large compared to other similar buildings of the same age. The excavations within the temple revealed several Kybele reliefs, a pediment with a bust of Helios, 2 statues of naked men, of a woman (possibly a priestess) and an near life-size statue of the goddess, as well as an altar. Several inscriptions were found dating from the time of the construction in the 4th Ct BC to the 4th Ct AD, including official documents and votive inscriptions, all currently being treated by N. Sharankov. The Kybele representations and epithets are in typical Hel style, except for the hitherto unattested appelation Kybele Pontia. The inscriptions reveal Gr, Thracian and Rom names. A limestone slab with a lion figure has also been found, as has a 0.5m *h*. Doric column with a well-preserved inscription addressed to the Rom emperor Licinius. The report on the finds is published in Lazarenko, Mirceva, Enceva and Sharankov in *AOR* (2008).

Rescue excavations of a tumulus at Taushan Yuk near Balčik have disclosed a stone tomb with a cremation. The tomb, dating to the L4th–E3rd Ct BC contained amphorae, lamps and weapons (*AOR* [2008], 300–01).

Bizone (Kavarna)
During underwater investigations in the area of Kavarna's harbour, amphorae from the Hel, Rom and Byz periods, as well as lead anchors, were discovered (*AOR* [1994], 93–94; [2002], 80). Remains of a sunken quarter of Rom Bizone were discovered during underwater archaeological explorations in the harbour of Kavarna in 2004 (A. Salkin and P. Georgiev *Fasti-online*). A series of stone blocks were found 6m under the sea level as well as a well-preserved anc. millstone and other building remains. It is assumed that a large administrative building, storehouses or a harbour installation existed on this location during the Rom period (A. Salkin and P. Georgiev *Fasti-online*). Excavations at Cape Čirakman near Kavarna have revealed part of a large building from the 6th–E7th Ct AD. Fragmentary Hel and Rom pottery, Hel amphora stamps, a head of a terracotta figurine and coins of Dionysopolis minted in the 3rd and 2nd Cts BC were found within the EByz occupation level. Trial trenches on the E slope of Cape Čirakman revealed a fortification wall defending the lower suburb (I. Sotirov and I. Gatev *Fasti-online*). Another monumental building was discovered on the S slope of the cape. The amphorae found in connection with this stratum were imported from Thasos, Herakleia Pontike, Sinope, Rhodos, Knidos and Kos. The earliest strata contained fragments of local Grey Ware vessels and Gr pottery dated to the 4th Ct BC. Two other groups date to the same period: local brick-coloured ceramic vessels and Celtic pottery. This last group, and the fragmentary glass bracelets of Celtic type found during the previous excavations, raises the question of the presence of Celtic ethnic groups in the hinterland of Bizone (M. Tonkova, C. Landes, A. Salkin and M. Doncheva *Fasti-online*).

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Excavations of the L antique fortress at Timum near Kavarna provide evidence for the existence of settlements from the Hel, EByz and Med periods (*AOR* [2008], 454–58).

A Thracian settlement with abundant finds of amphorae from the Hel period has been registered on a high plateau near the village of Topola (*AOR* [1995], 121).

Traces of a Thracian settlement from the EIA were found beneath a Thraco-Rom sanctuary and a church from the 4th Ct AD near Topola (*AOR* [2008], 498–501).

Durankulak

Durankulak, situated on the coast in the NE corner of Bulgaria, has been excavated for decades under the direction of H. Todorova. An overview of the research results from 1974–2005 can be found in Todorova 2007, which includes the finds from the Hel period, monuments, pottery, stamps, burials, etc.

THRACIAN INLAND SITES

A good overview of the Odrysian Kingdom is provided in the recent monograph by Z. Archibald, *The Odrysian Kingdom of Thrace: Orpheus Unmasked* (Oxford 1998).

Helis? (Sborianovo)

The investigations of the religious and political centre of the Getai, founded at the end of the 2nd millennium BC, began in 1982 under the direction of M. Cicikova and have been continued since 1996 by a team directed by D. Gergova. The site is of a dispersed type and consists of several sanctuaries from the IA, a Hel town, an EIA tumular necropolis, a Hel necropolis of more than 100 tumuli and several sacred places (Stoyanov 2002; 2003; Gergova 2004; Stoyanov *et al*. 2006; Cholakov and Chukalev 2008, 160–62; *Helis* 3–5; annual report in *AOR*). The city is situated on a plateau surrounded on 3 sides by the River Krapinec and enclosed by a massive fortification system (Cholakov and Chukalev 2008, fig. 20). The main fortification wall was about 1,400m *l*., built of large, roughly-worked blocks of local limestone. Two main gates have been found to the S and N. Three diateichismata with separate entrances have also been identified. In 1996 the inner fortification wall was investigated. The fortified area of the plateau was densely built over. Recently a residential quarter situated W and NW, as well as on terraces in front of the S wall outside the fortified area, was unearthed. There are 2 main phases of the city. It emerged in the last quarter of the 4th Ct BC and was destroyed by an earthquake around 250 BC. Seemingly life was resumed in the city, but on a more modest scale by the end of the 3rd or the beginning of the 2nd Ct BC until the 1st Ct BC.

Two sanctuaries on the high plateau of Kamen Rid in the courtyard of the Demir Baba monastery were founded towards the end of the 2nd millennium BC and reconstructed in the Hel period. Here ritual pits, clay hearths, stone circles and a small absidal building have been discovered, as well as abundant Thracian and imported pottery, cult objects, etc. (Balanska 1998; Gergova 2004).

The excavations of the Hel necropolis, initiated in 1982 with the discovery of the Sveshtari tomb, have continued till now. The 20 tumuli excavated since 1982 reveal a variety of stone tombs with sliding doors, cist graves, urns and a complex system of burial rites corresponding to a specific social hierarchy. The architecture of the tombs indicates the long distant contacts of the Getai with W Asia Minor, S Italy and Palestine. A Celtic sword, fibulae and bracelets testify to a Celtic presence.

Pistiros (Vetren)

Since 1988, excavations of Pistiros have been undertaken by a team of Bulgarian, British (from 1992), Czech (1993) and French (from 1997) archaeologists under the direction of M. Domaradzki. Architectural remains of a fortified settlement dated to the 5th–2nd Ct BC have been unearthed. The name of the site became known as Pistiros, the emporion, thanks to a M4th Ct BC inscription in Gr found in 1990 (Velkov and Domaradzka 1994; *SEG* 43, 486). The inscription made shortly after the death of the Thracian king Kotys I in 359 BC records the rights which the Thracian authorities granted to the Gr resident traders living in the town. Seemingly the town was founded by merchants from the island of Thasos under the first kings of the Odrysian state, Teres or Sitalkes. Large amounts of Gr amphorae, as well as hundreds of bronze and silver coins, discovered during the excavations shed light on its internal and external trade contacts with the Odrysian rulers and the Gr centres on the Pontic coast and in the Mediterranean. In 1999, 552 silver and gold coins issued by Alexander the Great, Demetrios Poliorketes, Lysimachos, Lysimacheia and Seleukos I were discovered. The final destruction of the city is well dated by a large hoard of 561 coins, mainly minted by Lysimachos including his last issues, and by swords and spearheads of Celtic types and a late Duchcov fibula found in the destruction layers. They reveal that the city was completely destroyed by the Celtic campaign led by Kommontorios in 279/8 BC (Bouzek *et al*. 2002). No cultural layer post-dating the destruction has been discovered. Graffiti on Thracian and Gr pottery suggest that the inhabitants were of mixed ethnic origins.

The results of the excavations are published in the series *Emporion Pistiros* in Bulgarian (3 volumes to date) as well as in the *Pistiros* series published in English and French (vol. I, 1996; vol. II, 2002).

Kazanlak

The most spectacular find occurred in the so-called Valley of the Odrysian Kings near Kazanlak where in 2004 a large tomb was found, which has been identified as the mausoleum of Seuthes III (330–301 BC), the king who built the Thracian capital Seuthopolis. In front of the entrance of the tomb, a marvellous over life-size bronze portrait interpreted as Seuthes III was found (**Fig. 6**). Inside the tomb, where no human remains were found, a gold wreath, a helmet with the inscription ΣΕΥΘΟΥ, weapons, gold and silver vessels, etc. were found. An earlier tumulus, called Svetitsata, located not far from the one just mentioned, contained bronze armour, silver and bronze vessels, Gr pottery and a male funerary mask of solid gold weighing almost 700gr.

Ostruša

Several new painted tombs have been unearthed. In particular, the L4th Ct BC tomb at Ostruša near Šipka will be mentioned, which was excavated in 1993 (Kitov and Krasteva 1994–1995; Valeva 2005). The complex consists of a rectangular monolithic burial chamber resting on a 3-stepped podium. Inside, against the N wall of the chamber, a stone-built kline with carved legs was still standing. The coffered ceiling of the chamber was carved and painted in imitation of wood and separated by painted coffer panels with scenes pertaining to the thiasoi of Achilles and Dionysos. The burial chamber was subsequently incorporated, perhaps soon after, into a rectangular, multi-room complex consisting of 3 rectangular chambers and a circular room, possibly a heroon. In one of the chambers a horse burial, iron weapons, silver harness fittings and silver and bronze vessels were found.

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