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).

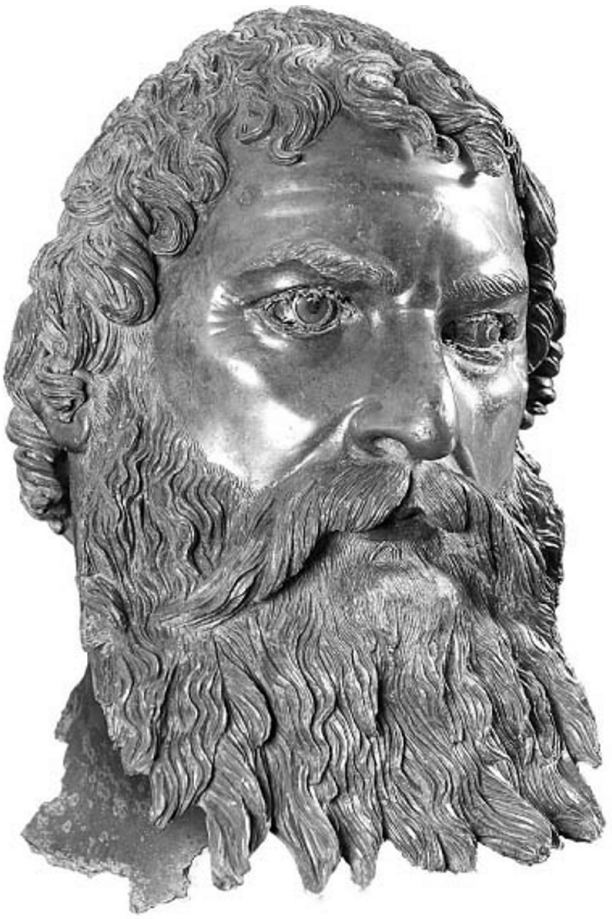
Kazanlak

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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6. Kazanlak: over life-sized bronze portrait, perhaps of the Thracian king Seuthes III (330–301 BC) found outside a monumental tomb near Kazanlak in 2004

Alexandrovo
One of the most important discoveries of Thracian tumuli was made at the village of Alexandrovo in the Chaskovo region in L1999 and it excavated between 2000 and 2003 (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Regional/SEE/IRPPSAAH/FS/FS_Bulgaria_ThracianTomb_Alexandrovo_APP.pdf). In the dromos a frieze with 2 similar scenes depicts a horseman fighting a warrior on foot above a panel of marble imitation. In the W lunette of the small antechamber another image of a horseman fighting a standing figure is depicted. In the central chamber, the decoration of the walls and the dome consists of several horizontal bands in red, black, white and yellow, and 2 friezes with various scenes. The lower frieze is badly damaged and only 4 human figures taking part in a funerary or heroic feast with table and utensils are still visible. The upper frieze contains 4 hunting scenes, including 4 horsemen, 4 hunters on foot attacking 2 deer and 2 boars pursued by 9 dogs. Across the entrance a 2-line graffito was incised on the wall-paintings in Gr ca. 1.7m above the floor of the chamber in the style of a Gr funerary inscription reading: *Kozimases chrestos* (Kitov 2004; Sharankov 2005). The tomb is comparable to the Kazanlak tomb and it provides us with a new centre of painted Thracian élite tombs.

Smiadovo
Very few Gr epitaphs have been found in the Thracian interior, but recently an epitaph written on an architrave of a monumental tomb in the surroundings of the village of Smiadovo, in the Šumen district, was discovered. The inscription dated to the L4th–E3rd Ct BC reads: 'Gonimaseze, wife of Seuthes' (Atanasov and Nedelcev 2002).

Perperikon
Research in the Rhodope mountains in S Bulgaria, initiated in 2000, has identified Thracian Perperikon, a large multi-period site in use from the Chal period until the Middle Ages. The site is a fortified hilltop settlement. An unroofed, oval hall with a round altar carved out of the rock, niches, artificially made caves, basins, channels and rock-cut steps support the theory that this site functioned also as a sanctuary (Ovtcharov 2005; www.perperikon.bg).

Kabyle
Kabyle, a Thracian settlement situated 70km from the coast, was established by Philip II as a Macedonian outpost; later it served as a Thracian royal residence until it was conquered by the Romans in the 1st Ct BC. Since it was never built over by a mod. city, it is an ideal site for excavations. Earlier research has revealed a Thracian mountain sanctuary and a Thracian city with town houses modelled after contemporary Gr standards (Archibald 1999, 441–44). In 2003, Bulgarian archaeologists excavated a building from the Hel period (sector V). The building lies below the foundations of a L antique horreum. It was built in the 3rd quarter of the 4th Ct BC. After destruction by fire at the end of the 4th Ct BC, the building was reconstructed only to be demolished finally around the M3rd Ct BC. Attic pottery and amphorae from Chios, Herakleia, Thasos, Kos and Rhodes were found, as well as coins of Alexander the Great, Seuthes III, Antiochos II Theos and Mesembria (L. Getov, K. Rabadzhiev, I. Lozanov and S. Bakardzhiev *Fasti-online*). In 2007, a joint Australian-American-Bulgarian research team directed by S. Ross and A. Sobotkova began investigations at the site with the aim of determining the level of Gr and Rom impact on the indigenous population (see www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs/ARCSNEWSLETTER2007.pdf) and a systematic survey was conducted in the area around the settlement (*AOR* [2007]; [2008], 420–27).

ROMANIA

During the period of reporting the number of excavations has increased considerably, partly because of rescue excavations. Romanian field archaeology has become the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture in consultation with the National Commission for Archaeology which consists mainly of museum employees. Since 2000 the reorganization of archaeological research in Romania has led to direct political involvement in its activity.

Publications
Although generally delayed, archaeological academic periodicals have continued to appear and even more new periodicals have entered the international academic circuit. From the IAB, the periodicals *Dacia. Nouvelle Serie*, *Studii şi cercetări de istorie veche şi arheologie* (*SCIVA*), *Thraco-Dacica*, *Studii şi cercetări numismatice* (*SCN*) and *Materiale şi cercetări arheologice* (*MCA*) contain numerous contributions on Dobrudjan antiquity. Brief reports on rescue or research excavations have been published in *Cronica cercetărilor*

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