ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY 1993–2007

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INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

The last report, including the year 1992, (Hind 1992–1993) was published only 3 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the year following the collapse of the Soviet Union. This has been a decisive factor in the strongly renewed interest of Western scholars in the Black Sea region. In general since the last report, the Black Sea world has moved closer to the West. In 2004 2 of the Black Sea countries, Romania and Bulgaria, became members of NATO and on 1 January 2007 they joined the European Union. Turkey, since 1952 a member of NATO, is currently negotiating with the EU concerning the conditions of membership, and Georgia and Ukraine currently aspire to membership of NATO.

The fall of the Iron Curtain also proved to be the turning point after which many collaborative projects between Eastern and Western scholars were initiated. At the institutional level this led to the formation of Black Sea research groups at several Western universities and other research institutions. The renewed interest is also reflected in several new periodicals dedicated to the Black Sea region, or at least part of it, as well as a series of publications that treat the Black Sea region from a holistic perspective and a number of international conferences and comprehensive exhibitions. Thus, knowledge of the Black Sea region in the West is decisively much better today than when the last report was made, and, as this report will show, many researchers have seized the new opportunities for East-West collaboration. However, a counter current can be observed in the new millennium. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Western scholars were optimistic about the new possibilities for collaboration; however, due to strengthened nationalism in many Black Sea countries many East-West projects were given up after a few seasons. So in 2008, in fact, there are fewer running collaborative projects than was the case in the 1990s. This is an alarming development for the scientific investigation of the region.

The anc. world plays an increasing role in the formation of new national identities, which came out of the break up of the Soviet Union. However, the new emphasis on the region and its material remains also has its draw backs. First of all, the number of illicit excavations, especially in S Russia and Ukraine, has exploded as the result of, on the one hand, increased wealth among the region's many new wealthy people, who are interested in collecting Cl antiquities, and, on the other hand, the new Western focus on the region has provided growth for the international art market.

In the period covered by the present report several leading scholars in the field of archaeology of the Black Sea region passed away: Ja.V. Domanskij, A. Fol, O. Lordkipanidze, D.M. Pippidi, D.B. Šelov, V. Velkov, Ju.G. Vinogradov to mention only some of the most well known and highly esteemed in the West.

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INSTITUTIONS

In 1995 the Eurasien-Abteilung of the DAI was established in Berlin. This research institution is engaged in the study of interrelations between the nomadic and sedentary cultures of Eurasia, and its work thus intersects with half of the Black Sea region. Currently, DAI carries out 3 archaeological field projects in the Russian part of the Black Sea region: investigation of Taganrog (from 2004; O. Dally, W. Rabbel, H. Stümpel, Ch. Müller, G. Wendt, M. Ullrich, A.O. Kozin, P.A. Larenok and V.P. Kopylov), of the Kislovodsk basin in the LBA and EIA (from 2006; S. Reinhold, D.S. Korobov and A.B. Belinskij) and prospection in the Taman' Peninsula (from 2007; H. Brückner, U. Schlotzhauer, H. Stümpel and D. Žuravlev). The Eurasien-Abteilung publishes the periodical *Eurasia Antiqua. Zeitschrift für Archäologie Eurasiens*; to date 13 volumes have appeared.

The British Institute at Ankara (BIAA) supports research focused on Turkey and the Black Sea littoral in all academic disciplines within the arts, humanities and social sciences. For 3 years they financed the British Academy Black Sea Initiative (BABSI) (2002–2005). Among other projects they co-finance is the joint British-Georgian Pichvnari Expedition established in 1998, partly published by the directors M. Vickers and A. Kakhidze (2004; Kakhidze 2007).

In 2000, Zentrum für Archäologie und Kulturgeschichte des Schwarzmeerraumes (ZAKS), an interdisciplinary research platform, was created by the archaeological institutes of the Martin-Luther-Universität in Halle-Wittenberg (directors: F. Bertemes and A. Furtwängler). ZAKS publishes the series *Schriften des Zentrums für Archäologie und Kulturgeschichte des Schwarzmeerraumes*. To date 11 volumes have been published.

The organization most recently established, which is dedicated to the Black Sea region, is the Centre for Black Sea Studies, University of Aarhus (Denmark), created in 2002 by the Danish National Research Foundation (director: P. Guldager Bilde). The centre works on a grant lasting until 2010. It publishes the series *Black Sea Studies* of which to date 7 volumes have been published. Six of these volumes are the proceedings of international conferences hosted by the Centre (http://www.pontos.dk/publications/books).

In 2003 F. Fless became Professor at Freie Universität in Berlin; since then a number of Black Sea activities have been hosted by that institution, such as the investigations of Alma Kermen (2003–2007; F. Fless and J. Zaycev) and Ak Kaja (2007; K. Moede and J. Zajcev) in the Crimea.

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1. Map of the Black Sea region including major sites

In 2004 an American Research Centre was established in Sofia (ARCS), its first director being K. Clinton. The centre aims at facilitating academic research in Bulgaria for N American scholars and furthering collaboration between scholars from N America and the countries in SE Europe (http://www.einaudi.cornell.edu/arcs/index.asp).

PRINCIPAL NEW PERIODICALS AND BOOKS

In the 1990s, a number of new periodicals, partly or fully dedicated to the Black Sea region in antiquity, came into being. The first was the French-Italian-Romanian periodical founded in 1994, *Il Mar Nero. Annali di archeologia e storia* (eds P. Alexandrescu and S. Papacostea), 5 volumes of which have appeared to date. Already mentioned is *Eurasia Antiqua* from 1995. Also in 1995 appeared the first volume of *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia. An International Journal of Comparative Studies in History and Archaeology* (eds G. Bongard-Levin, G. Gnoli and A. Ivantchik). This journal covers the territory of the former Soviet Union and, in fact, much the same area as *Eurasia Antiqua*. To date 14 volumes have been published. One year later, the first volume of *Colloquia Pontica*, a series of publications on the archaeology and anc. history of the Black Sea area edited by G. Tsetskhladze appeared. So far 13 volumes have been published. In 1997 followed *Archaeologia Bulgarica*, a periodical edited by L.F. Vagalinski and published in English by the Archaeological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia. It comes out 3 times a year. It has no restrictions as to time and territory, but the emphasis is on the archaeology of SE Europe. *Ancient West & East* edited by G.R. Tsetskhladze is a journal devoted to the study of the peripheries of the anc. world and the relations between the Gree#ks and Romans and various local, 'barbarian' peoples. The first volume came out in 2002, and to date 5 volumes have been published. A very useful resource concerning the archaeology of Bulgaria and Romania is the multi-lingual and multi-period *Fasti-online* (http://www.fastionline.org/about.php). The site is a web-based GIS database that contains a basic record sheet for each site excavated.

The beginning of the new millennium witnessed the publication of several important studies providing a topographical overview of the Black Sea region. First to be mentioned is *The Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*, edited by R.J.A. Talbert (Princeton 2000). This is a comprehensive atlas spanning the entire period and space of Gr and Rom civilization from ca. 1000 BC to AD 650. The atlas includes a detailed listing of periods of cultural activity, mod. names and locations, and bibliographic citations for each feature. The Black Sea region is covered by maps 22–23, 52–53, 84, 86–88, and ca. 1,300 anc. sites are briefly catalogued.

Three years later, D.V. Grammenos and E.K. Petropoulos edited *Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea* (Thessaloniki 2003) in 2 volumes. This was supplemented in 2007 by the same editors in the British Archaeological Reports International Series (Grammenos and Petropoulos 2007). Both publications are topographically organized but contain thematic chapters as well.

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