With a geographical approach also to be mentioned is M. Hermann Hansen and T. Heine Nielsen (eds), *An Inventory of Archaic and Classical Poleis* (Oxford 2004). Though the inventory is limited to the Ar and Cl periods, it provides a thorough up-to-date overview of all known poleis and similar units in the Black Sea region. Finally, at www.pontos.dk a gazetteer of anc. sites has been made available by the Danish Centre for Black Sea Studies featuring photographs of sites and finds as well as literary sources.

In 1995 volume 4 of the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* including the Black Sea region was published by P.M. Fraser and E. Matthews (2005). Curated by V.N. Zin'ko, the Demeter Foundation in Kerch has initiated a complete publication of the holdings of the Kerch Archaeological Museum. So far volumes on the sculpture (Zin'ko 2004), the coin hoards (Abramzon *et al*. 2006) and the Ar to EHel lamps (Žuravlev, Bykovskaja and Želtikova 2007) have appeared. To be mentioned also are the *SNG* volumes of the British Museum, W.M. Stancomb Collection and the National Museum in Krakow which are devoted exclusively to the Black Sea coins (Price 1993; Stancomb 2000; Bodzek 2006a). Three major contributions on amphorae have been published; 2 monographs on Gr and Black Sea amphorae found in the region (Monachov 1999; 2003), and one on late Hel and Rom amphorae of Black Sea production (Vnukov 2003). I.V. Tunkina has published a magisterial study on the research history of the old S Russia (Tunkina 2002). A sizeable resumé with major additions is published in English in *BSS* 1 (Tunkina 2003).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Since 1992 a number of open, international conferences have taken place, which merit to be mentioned. Two of these were in the outset aimed at discussing the Bosporan Kingdom, namely the Bosporan Phenomenon (*Bosporskij Fenomen*) held ca. every one and a half years in St Petersburg and the Bosporan Readings (*Bosporskie Štenija*), which is annual. Thematically both conferences have developed beyond the Bosporan Kingdom so today they cover the entire region along the N littoral of the Black Sea and the most important new discoveries of the current year are made public here. Substantial abstracts have been pre-published for both conferences and many of the contributions to the Kerch conferences have later been published in full in the series *Bosporskie Issledovanija* edited by V.N. Zin'ko (first volume in 2001; to date 20 volumes have been published as well as 3 supplementary volumes). Unfortunately, the volumes with conference abstracts are not available on the book market, but back issues can often be bought through the conference organizers.

The first St Petersburg conference on the Bosporan Phenomenon was held in 1998. It was a small, local enterprise organized on the initiative of V. Chršanovskij in the State Museum of the History of Religion and dedicated to the Bosporan Kingdom as a historical and cultural phenomenon. Since this first conference, 6 further conferences have been held: Gr culture in the periphery of the anc. world (1999); colonization of the region, establishment of poleis and the appearance of states (2001); funerary monuments and sanctuaries (2002); problems concerning chronology and dating of monuments (2004); problems of written and archaeological sources (2005); and sacred meaning of regions, sites and objects (2007).

The Kerch conferences are organized by V.N. Zin'ko and held in the month of May in the former capital of the Bosporan Kingdom, the first one in 2000. Only in recent years has a thematic focus been chosen: in 2004 the theme was ethnic processes; in 2005 periods of destabilizations and catastrophes; in 2006 oikos; in 2007 sanctuaries and sacred objects; and the latest in 2008 focused on militaria.

Other international conferences have not at the outset been confined thematically to a historical phenomenon such as the Bosporan Kingdom. To these belong the recurring conferences at Vani that also pre-publish abstracts. After the conferences the proceedings have been published as monographs. Since 1992 5 volumes have appeared (*Sur les traces des Argonautes* [1990], 1996; *La mer Noire, zone de contacts* [1994], 1999; *Religions du Pont-Euxin* [1997], 1999; *Pont-Euxin et commerce: la genèse de la 'route de la soie'* [1999], 2002; *Pont-Euxin et Polis: Polis hellenis et polis barbaron* [2002], 2005). The publication of the 2005 conference is currently being edited.

In September 2001, *The Second International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities* was held in Ankara, Turkey, which still awaits publication. In November 2002, the conference *Les cités grecques, les sociétés indigènes et les empires mondiaux dans la région nord-pontique culturelle: origines et développement d'une koinè politique, économique et culturelle (VIIe s. av. J.-C.–III s. ap. J.-C.)*, was held in Bordeaux, France. The conference proceedings were published in 2007 (Bresson, Ivančik and Ferrary 2007). In October 2004 the conference *The Black Sea Region: Past, Present and Future* was held in Istanbul, Turkey. It was published in 2007 (Erkut and Mitchell 2007). In September 2005 *The Third International Congress on Black Sea Antiquities, The Black Sea Area and its Relationship with Ancient Central and Eastern Europe (1st Millennium BC–5th Century AD)* was held in Prague. Abstracts are available on-line at http://www.fhs.cuni.cz/conference/blacksea2005/default.asp?id=8. Contemporary with this conference, *The 11th International Symposium on the Ancient History and Archaeology of the Black Sea Area* was held in Vani, Georgia. In Batumi and Trabzon, in April 2006, the conference *Production and Trade of Amphorae in the Black Sea*, covering the expanding field of amphora studies, was held. On 18 March 2006, the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University hosted the conference *Pontica* which was preceeded by a photographic exhibition *In Search of Treasures. Polish-Ukrainian Research at Koshary near Odessa* at the National Museum in Cracow. Proceedings of the conference appeared under the title *Pontika 2006. Recent Research in Northern Black Sea Coast Greek Colonies* (Krakow 2008). In April 2008, the 2nd *Pontika* conference, *Recent Research on the Northern and Eastern Black Sea in Ancient Times*, took place in Cracow. Proceedings will be published in the BAR series.

Two major international conferences scheduled for 2008 have regrettably been cancelled: the 12th Vani conference and the conference on Paphlagonia and Pontus in antiquity and the EByz period to be held in Izmir. The abstracts of the latter conference, which was cancelled with a few days notice, are available on-line (http://www.cca.unimelb.edu.au/community/Events/PAPHLAGONIA-PONTUS-abstracts.pdf).

EXHIBITIONS

In 2007, the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg closed down its Black Sea exhibition for a major renovation.

A number of large-scale exhibitions have made Black Sea antiquities known in the West since 1992. However, the picture promoted of the Black Sea cultures is rather biased, as the exhibitions mostly focus on gold objects found in the region.

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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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