

Distribution of Greek amphorae at the fortifications from Saharna micro-zone

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În articol este analizat materialul amforologic grecesc, provenit din cercetările efectuate la patru situri importante din microzona Saharna, raionul Rezina, Republica Moldova. Lotul de piese databile include fragmente de amfore din mai multe centre producătoare de ambalaj amforistic ale Greciei continentale și insulare: Thasos, Heracleea Pontică, Chios, Samos, Peparethos, Mende, Sinope, Chersones, Cos, tip Soloha și din alte câteva centre încă neidentificate.

Cadrul cronologic al importurilor grecești în zona Saharna cuprinde perioada plasată între sfârșitul sec. VI și sfârșitul sec. III a. Chr., ceea ce, în linii generale, corespunde perioadei de pătrundere a mărfurilor grecești în mediul barbar getic al spațiului nord-vest pontic. Tabloul ponderii anumitor centre grecești în comerțul greco-indigen (getic) din regiunea Saharna, este analogic celui general al mediului barbar din spațiul menționat. Locurile de frunte în importul greco-barbar în sec. IV - prima jumătate a sec. III a. Chr. îl mențin Thasosul și Heracleea Pontică, ambele cunoscute centre de vinificație. Același interval cronologic, este considerat ca perioada de maximă dezvoltare a relațiilor comerciale dintre civilizația greacă și cea a tracilor septentrionali, în epoca antică. Printre piesele databile depistate la siturile din microzona Saharna au fost descoperite și nouă ștampile de amfore, a căror descriere este făcută în catalogul de la finalul articolului.

Amphorae represent the largest category of Greek imports in the indigenous environment of the northwest Pontic region, being a telling indication of the level of development of trade relations between the northern Thracian tribes and Greek merchants in the 6th - 2nd centuries BC.

Findings of Greek amphorae in the fortifications of the Saharna micro-zone (Rezina District, Republic of Moldova) indicate the import of basic Greek products – wine and olive oil – in remote areas of the Getic habitat

between the Dniester and the Prut rivers, i.e. in the regions located at a considerable distance from the seashore¹.

This paper analyzes pieces of Greek amphorae found in four fortifications of the Saharna micro-zone: Saharna Mare (campaigns of 1946, 1947, 2001-2013), Saharna “La Revechin” (campaign of 1998-2002), Saharna Mică

¹ About 200 km in a straight line, and about 430 km along the Dniester River.

(campaign of 2003-2007), and Saharna “La Şanţ” (campaigns of 2003, 2006-2008).

The amount of amphora material is uneven, what can be explained by the intensity of excavations at the various sites. There were particularly analyzed datable fragments of amphorae (the profiled ones – lips, feet, as well as amphora stamps).

Saharna Mare

The fortress of Saharna Mare, which is located west of the Saharna village, in an interfluvium on the right bank of the Dniester, has provided the largest group of Greek amphora artifacts. The analysis of these allowed us to highlight 12 identified or partially identified Greek centers of production, as well as goods from still unidentified centers. The earliest artifact of the Greek imports in Saharna Mare is a foot of a **Chios** amphora „with swollen neck” (Niculiţă, Zanoci, Arnaut, 2008, fig. 143/2) of the type III-C, after Monakhov (fig. 1/1), dated 420s - 430s BC (Монохов 2003, таб. 7/5). The capacity of such amphorae varies between 22.4 and 19.6 liters. Chios amphorae are present in the range of Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare during the 4th century BC as well: three lip fragments of amphorae (Niculiţă, Zanoci, Arnăut 2008, fig. 143/1, 4; Niculiţă et al. 2013, fig. 69/1) of the type V-B (after Monakhov), so-called amphorae of “new type”, with a sleeve-shaped foot, which dates from the first and third quarter of the 4th century BC (Монохов 2003, таб. 12/5) (fig. 1/2-4). The amphorae of this type totally repeat the capacity of the vessels of the type III-C.

Early amphorae of the 5th century BC at Saharna Mare are also represented by the production from Mende. A Rim fragment of an amphora of **Mende** belongs to a cone type container (Niculiţă, Zanoci, Arnăut, 2008, fig. 143/5), dating between the second half of the 5th century and the beginning of the 4th century BC. Standard vessels of this type have a capacity of 16.4 liters (fig. 1/5).

The Amphora production of **Thasos** is present in multiple fragments of feet, lips, and some stamped handles. The first foot is part of a complex: pit no. 47 (Niculiţă, Zanoci, Arnăut 2008, fig. 111/10) and belongs to a Thasos amphora of truncated type, variant II-C-3, dating between the last quarter of the 4th century - the first half of the 3rd century BC (fig. 1/6). Another foot also belongs to the same type of Thasos amphora (fig. 1/7) (Niculiţă et al. 2013, fig. 69/8). These amphorae of Thasos had a full standard capacity between 16.4 and 19.7 liters.

The same typological affiliation and dating have other profiled pieces of Thasos, from both the cultural layer and the filling of the defensive “wall” of the eastern part of the Saharna Mare fortress (Niculiţă et al. 2013, fig. 19/14, fig. 31/14), which are represented by lips of amphorae of the late truncated type, variant II-C-3, dating between the fourth quarter and the first half of the 3rd century BC (fig. 1/8, 10). The capacity of these containers is between 16.4 and 19.7 liters. A fragment of another lip belongs to a truncated amphora of the type II-C-2 dated from the first half of the 4th century BC, with a capacity between 9.4 and 13.13 liters (fig. 1/9).

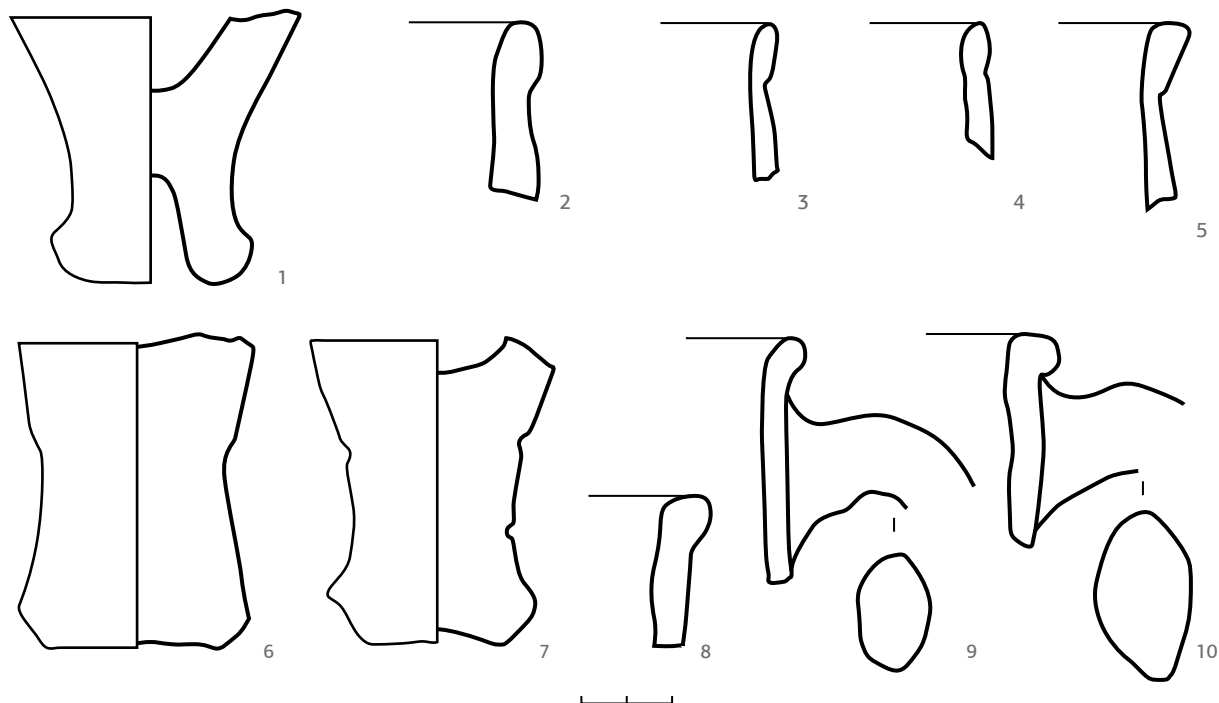


Fig. 1. Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare; 1-4 - Chios; 5 - Mende; 6-10 - Thasos.

Fig. 1. Fragmente de amfore de la Saharna Mare: 1-4 - Chios; 5 - Mende; 6-10 - Thasos.

Four fragments of stamps of Thasos amphorae were found at Saharna Mare, the first one during the Smirnov's excavations in 1947 (cat. no. 1). It is part of the category of recent stamps belonging to the Πρηνίπολις magistrate, with a ladle logo, which is the emblem of the workshop (i.e. manufacturer). The activity of this magistrate dates from 273-267 BC (Mateevici 2007, cat. nr. 55; Mateevici, Zanoci 2009, fig. 17/24). Another Thasos stamp is on a fragment of the handle,

so we can read only the last two letters in each line, which allow us to assume (although uncertain) that the name of magistrate could be Θάσων (?) and the other line represents the demonym Θασίων (cat. no. 2). If we assume that we have read the name correctly, the stamp dates from the last decade of the 4th century BC. The emblem has not been preserved (Mateevici 2007, cat. nr. 60; Mateevici, Zanoci 2009, fig. 17/22).

The third stamp belongs to the magistrate of Αἰοxpίωv 1, with the emblem „horn of plenty” (cat. no. 3), and also is part of recent stamps (campaign 2013). Activity of the Αἰοxpίωv 1 magistrate corresponds to the period falling between 294-287 BC. As in the previous cases, the emblem is an attribute of the workshop. The last stamp, found also during the campaign 2013, is rather a stamp corner, in the lower part of which there is a vertical line in relief, which could be the letter N at the end of the demonym. We suppose that the stamp could be dated from the 4th - the beginning of 3rd centuries BC.

Like in other Getic sites of the northwest Black Sea region, the amphora production of **Heraclea Pontica** is presented in full. In Saharna Mare, Heracleian amphorae are represented by fragments of lips and feet. The earliest are fragments of lips from pithoid amphorae, variant I-4, dated from the first quarter of the 4th century BC (fig. 2/1, 2). Such vessels had the capacity of 9.85 liters (Монахов 2003, 143). Another lip comes from an amphora of the type II-A-2 dated from the end of the 4th - the beginning of 3rd century BC, with a capacity of 4.3 liters (fig. 2/3). In the filling of a defensive wall in the eastern part of the fortress was found a fragment of another Heracleian amphora – the lip belonging to an amphora of the type II-A-3, which is dated from the early 3rd century BC (fig. 2/5), of truncated conical shape (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 144/3). During this period the standard size of amphorae from this polis reduces, so the containers of standard volume are between 4.2 and 5.6 liters (Монахов 2003, 143). Another amphora lip that may belong to a vessel of the type II-A, variant II-A-2, dated from the end of the 4th century - beginning of the 3rd century BC (fig. 2/6) also

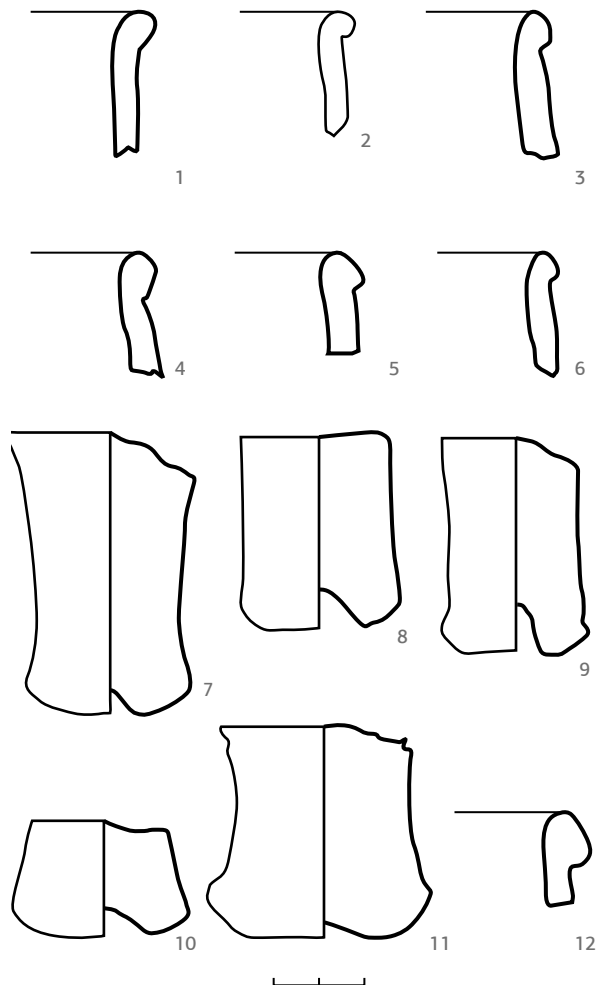


Fig. 2. Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare; 1-10 - Heraclea Pontica; 11-12 - Peparethos.

Fig. 2. Fragmente de amfore de la Saharna Mare: 1-10 - Heraclea Pontica; 11-12 - Peparethos.

came from the filling of the defensive “wall”, sections 21-22. A fragment of another lip of a Heracleian amphora (fig. 2/4) belongs to a vessel of truncated conical type, variant II-1, which was prevalent in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the 4th century BC. The capacity of these vessels amounts 8.2 to 8.4 liters (Монахов 2003, 144).

Another datable artifact is a foot of a Heracleian amphora (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț, 2008, fig. 144/7) of the type I-A-2, with a capacity of 8.2 to 8.4 liters (fig. 2/7), which chronologically belongs to 370s - 330s BC (Монахов 2003, 143). A fragment of the lower part of a Heracleian amphora foot comes from the filling of the moat (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, 307, fig. 89/9). This fragment belonged to an amphora of the pithoid type, variant I-4, with 9.85 liter capacity (fig. 2/10). Such vessels date back from the first quarter of the 4th century BC (Монахов 2003, 143). The foot of another container from Heraclea (fig. 2/8) was discovered in filling of the rampart of the southwest bastion. It belongs to a truncated amphora of the variant II-A-2, dated to the end of the 4th - beginning of the 3rd centuries BC, of small capacity between 4.2 and 4.3 liters. A foot of a Heracleian amphorae (fig. 2/9) belongs to a container of conical type, variant II-3 (Niculiță et al. 2013, fig. 69/10), which dates from the 360s - 330s BC. Such vessels had only a small capacity, about 5.5 liters (Монахов 2003, 144).

Among other fragments of Heracleian amphorae there is a stamp on a piece of the neck, which is printed in relief, representing a circular cartouche, in the middle of which there are placed two letters: I and Φ (cat. no. 5). This

stamp dates the early 3rd century BC, and the amphorae with such stamps belong to the so-called Geaferca type, variant IV (first discovered in Islam Geaferca, Dobrogea, Romania). Such vessels are small, their capacity ranging between 2.8 and 4.2 liters.

Import of amphorae from **Peparethos** is not large, being represented by only two fragments of datable pieces, including the foot of an amphora of the variant I-A (“Solokha”), which was found in the cultural layer (Niculiță et al. 2013, fig. 69/11) and is dated the first half of the 4th century BC (fig. 2/11). Such vessels had a volume of 14.7 up to 19.7 liter. A fragment of a lip (fig. 2/12) dated the middle - the 3rd quarter of the 4th century BC belongs to another type of Peparethos amphorae (variant I-B), with a capacity of 13 to 16.4 liters (Монахов 2003, 100).

Also less numerous and representative are **Chersonesus** amphora fragments. A fragment of a lip with handle (fig. 3/2) was found in the cultural layer and belongs to a vessel dated to the middle - the 3rd quarter of the 4th century BC. From the pit no. 56 comes another fragment of a **Chersonesus** amphora lip (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 116/10), which belongs to a vessel produced at the end of the 4th - beginning of the 3rd centuries BC (fig. 3/1). A fragment of an amphora foot of Chersonesus, although incompletely preserved (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 144/10), allowed us to date it to the middle - the 3rd quarter of the 4th century BC (fig. 3/4).

Another Pontic center represented by its goods at Saharna Mare is **Sinope**. A small number of Sinope

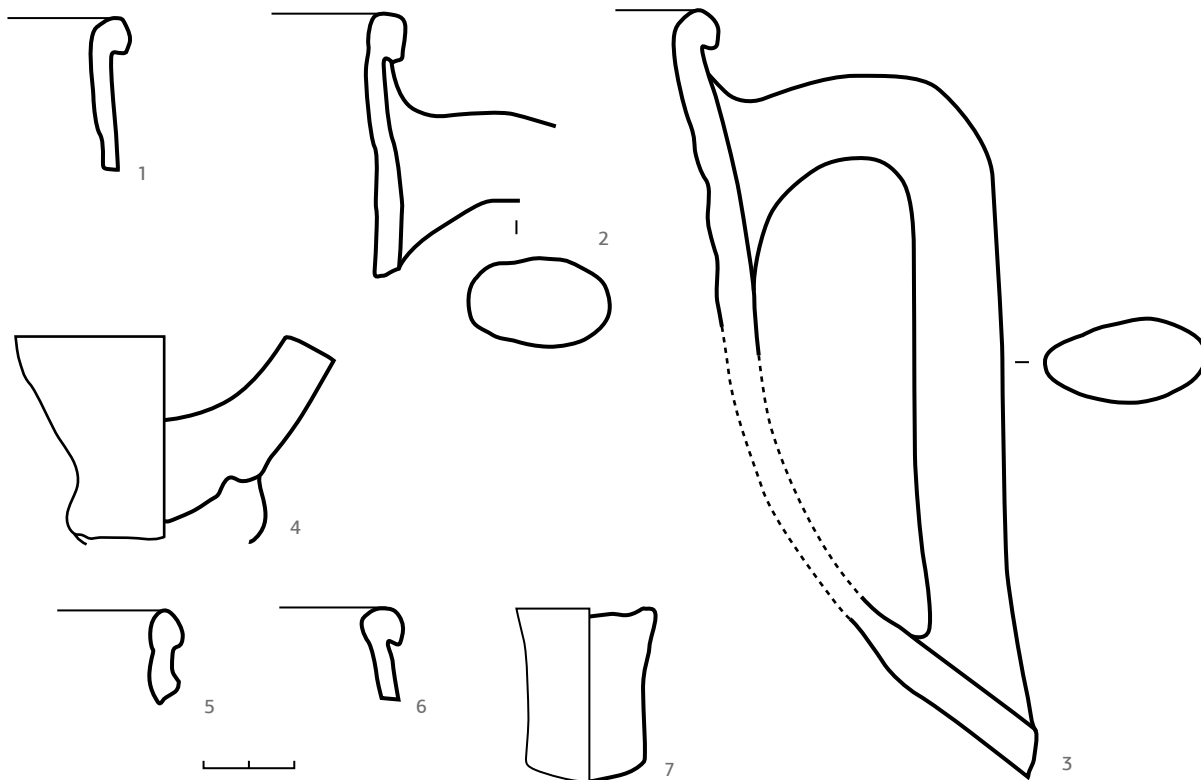


Fig. 3. Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare; 1, 2, 4 - Chersonesus; 3, 5-6, 7 - Sinope.

Fig. 3. Fragmente de amfore de la Saharna Mare: 1, 2, 4 - Chersones; 3, 5-6, 7 - Sinope.

amphora fragments include one neck of Sinope amphora with handle (reconstituted graphically) (Niculiță, Zanolci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 89/8), which belongs to a container of the pithoid type II-E (fig. 3/3) dated to the second quarter of the 4th century BC. Amphorae of this type have the capacity between 26.2 to 21.9 liters (Монахов

2003, 159). One of the two lips of Sinope amphorae belongs to a vessel of the type I-E (fig. 3/5), which dates from the second half of the 4th century to the first third of the 3rd century BC (Niculiță, Zanolci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 143/10) and has a capacity of 8.75 liters (Монахов 2003, 159). The other fragment of a lip (fig. 3-6)

belonged to a vessel of pithoid type, variant II-D, dated from the end of the 4th century - beginning of the 3rd century BC (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 143/11) and its volume hover around 17,5 liters (Монахов 2003, 159). A single fragment of a foot belongs to an amphora of pithoid type II-B (fig. 3/7) dated to the second half of the 4th century - the first half of the 3rd century BC; vessels of this type have the capacity of 19,7 liters (Монахов 2003, 158).

Among other fragments of Sinope amphorae there are two stamps on a handle. The first one belongs to the magistrate Φήμιος 1, whose activity is dated between 295-280 BC (cat. no. 7). The second belongs to the magistrate Μικρίας 3 Πυθοκρίτου (cat. no. +8) dated to the 220-208 BC. Usually this magistrate stamps have grapes as an emblem, but the stamp from Saharna Mare does not contain this element due to damage. It should be mentioned that this is the third stamp of this magistrate, which was obtained from the Getic environment. Two more were found in the famous Getic settlement of Hansca (Mateevici 2007, cat. nr. 254) and in the Ciobruciu settlement (Mateevici 2007, cat. nr. 238).

Quite impressive is the number of artifacts coming from **Cnidos**, which are presented at Saharna Mare by multiple fragments of amphora lips. Some of them were found in the cultural layer. Among them there are two very flared lips (fig. 4/1, 5) in the shape of a “mushroom”, which belonged to vessels with high cylindrical neck, of the pithoid type II-B, dated to the third quarter of the 4th - the beginning of the 3rd century BC (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 93/14; fig. 144/11). The capacity of

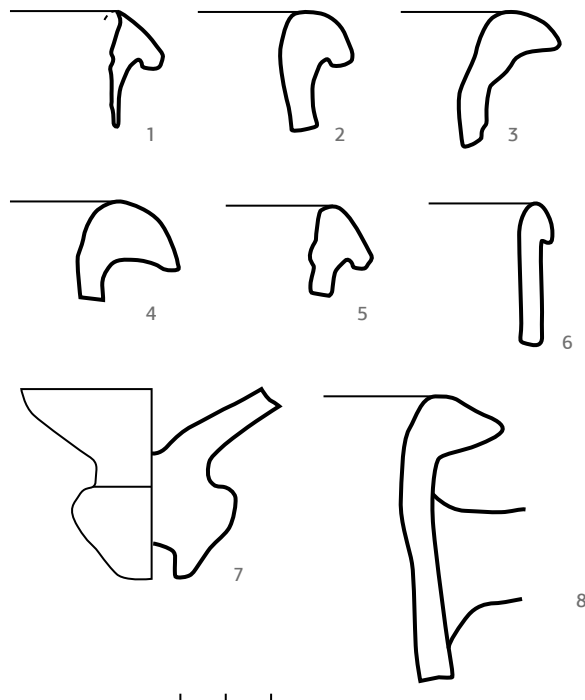


Fig. 4. Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare; 1-7 - Cnidos; 8 - Solokha I type.

Fig. 4. Fragmente de amfore de la Saharna Mare: 1-7 - Cnidos; 8 - tip Solokha I.

amphorae of this type was around 29.5 liters (Монахов 2003, 110). We suppose that the other fragment of a Knidos amphora lip (fig. 4/2) discovered in the cultural layer (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț, 2008, fig. 143/14) may belong to the same period.

Another lip of a Knidos amphora belongs to a container of the type I-B “Gelendzhik” (fig. 4/3), dated from the middle to the third quarter of the 4th century BC (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 144/12), with the capacity of 45.92 liters (Монахов 2003, 110). Pithoid amphorae of the variant II-B are represented by a lip fragment (fig. 4/6) and a foot (fig. 4/7), which dates back to the third quarter of the 4th century until the beginning of the 3rd century BC (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 144/14). Usually vessels of this amphora type could hold around 36.1 liters (Монахов 2003, 110). In recent excavations at the fortification of Saharna Mare (Niculiță et al. 2013, fig. 69/3) there was also found a fragment of lip belonging to a Knidos amphora of the type I-D, with cylindrical neck and mushroom-shaped lip (fig. 4/4), which dates back to the second and the third quarter of the 4th century BC.

The capacity of amphorae of this type was around 29.5 liters (Монахов 2003, 110).

Amphorae of the type **Solokha I** are represented by several fragments and a mushroom-shaped lip (fig. 4/8) dating back to the 4th - beginning of the 3rd century BC (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 144/15). Several bifurcated amphora handles indicate their belonging to the Cos amphorae, which in the indigenous environment of the north-west Pontic area are dated no earlier than the beginning of the 3rd century BC.

Among fragments of amphorae, which belonged to certain manufacturing centers, there were also fragments belonging to some unknown centers. Thus, a foot of an amphora with wide solid base with a slight indentation in it (fig. 5/2) belongs to an unidentified

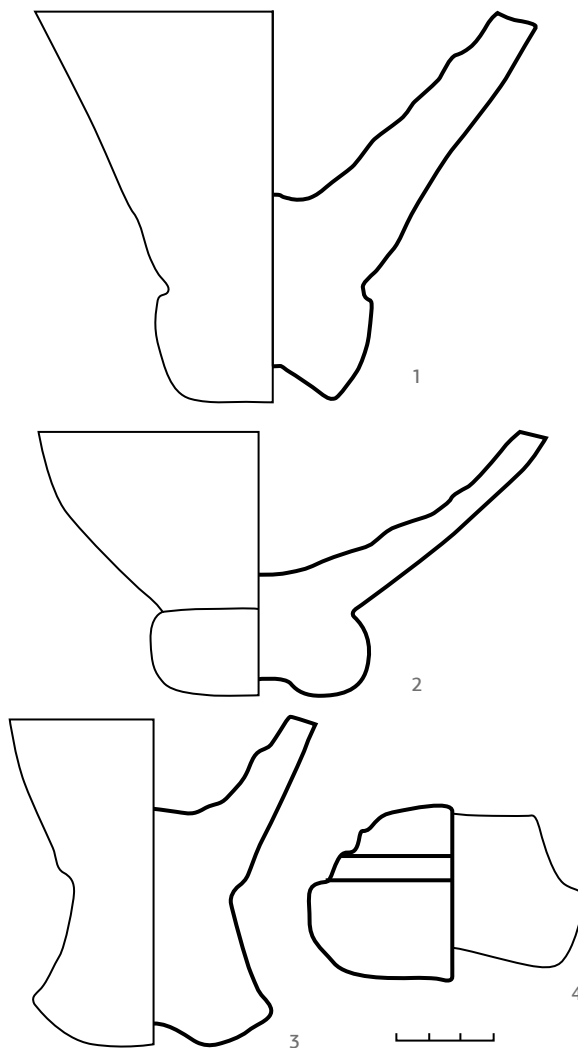


Fig. 5. Greek amphorae from Saharna Mare; 1-4 - unknown centers.

Fig. 5. Fragmente de amfore de la Saharna Mare: 1-4 - centre neidentificate.

center. This fragment, which certainly has been part of a large vessel, can be dated from mid 4th century BC to 320 BC Niculiță et al. 2013, fig. 43/1). S.Y. Monakhov suggests, that this type may belong to a new type of Chios amphorae (sic!) (Монахов 1999, 369, таб. 161/3). There are also a few pieces of still uncertain origin, among them a foot with pseudo-sleeve (fig. 5/1) and the other (fig. 5/3), belonging to an amphora from the northern Aegean islands, which may be dated to the end of the 4th century BC (Монахов 2003, 83, таб. 58/3). Another fragment of an amphora with undetermined origin could be dated to the 4th century BC (fig. 5/4).

Saharna “La Șanț”

The small stronghold of Saharna “La Șanț” is located on the edge of the “Valea Crac” lowland, south-east (opposite) from the Saharna Mare fortress. Archaeological research at the site started in 2003, and from 2006 to 2008 there were undertaken investigations in five sections. The Greek amphora material found at the site is very poor; it includes only a few inexpressive fragments of handles and walls of amphorae from Heraclea and Thasos having uncertain dating: the 4th - 3rd centuries BC.

The only datable fragment belongs to a lip of a pithoid Heracleian amphora, variant I-4 and is dated to the first quarter of the 4th century BC (fig. 6/1).

Saharna Mică

The fortification of Saharna Mică is located in the north (opposite) of the Saharna Mare fortress, on a high promontory of the gorge that separates them. Remains of a defensive structure (rampart) can be traced in the northwest of the promontory. First investigations at Saharna Mică were conducted in the late 1940s by G. Smirnov. The research was resumed in 2003 and continued intermittently until now.

Greek amphora fragments are negligible, among them there is a lip of an amphora from **Thasos** of developed truncated biconical type (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 39/8), variant II-B-2 (fig. 6/2). This type of amphora is dated between the 2nd and the 3rd quarters of the 4th century BC. Vessels of this type (full standard) have the capacity from 8.2 to 11.6 liters (Монахов 2003, 76). The second datable piece from Saharna Mică is a lip of an amphora from **Heraclea** (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț, 2008, fig. 14/14) that belonged to a vessel of the type II-A, variant II-A-3, dated from the beginning of the 3rd century BC (fig. 6/3). This second artifact was found in a complex (structure no. 5).

Saharna “La Revechin”

The small fortification of Saharna “La Revechin” is located northeast of the Saharna Mare fortress and was documented for the first time by G. Smirnov in 1946 (Смирнов 1949, 196). The fortification is semicircular in plan, placed on an inclined slope of the right bank of the Dniester River, at a height of 90 m from the riverbed

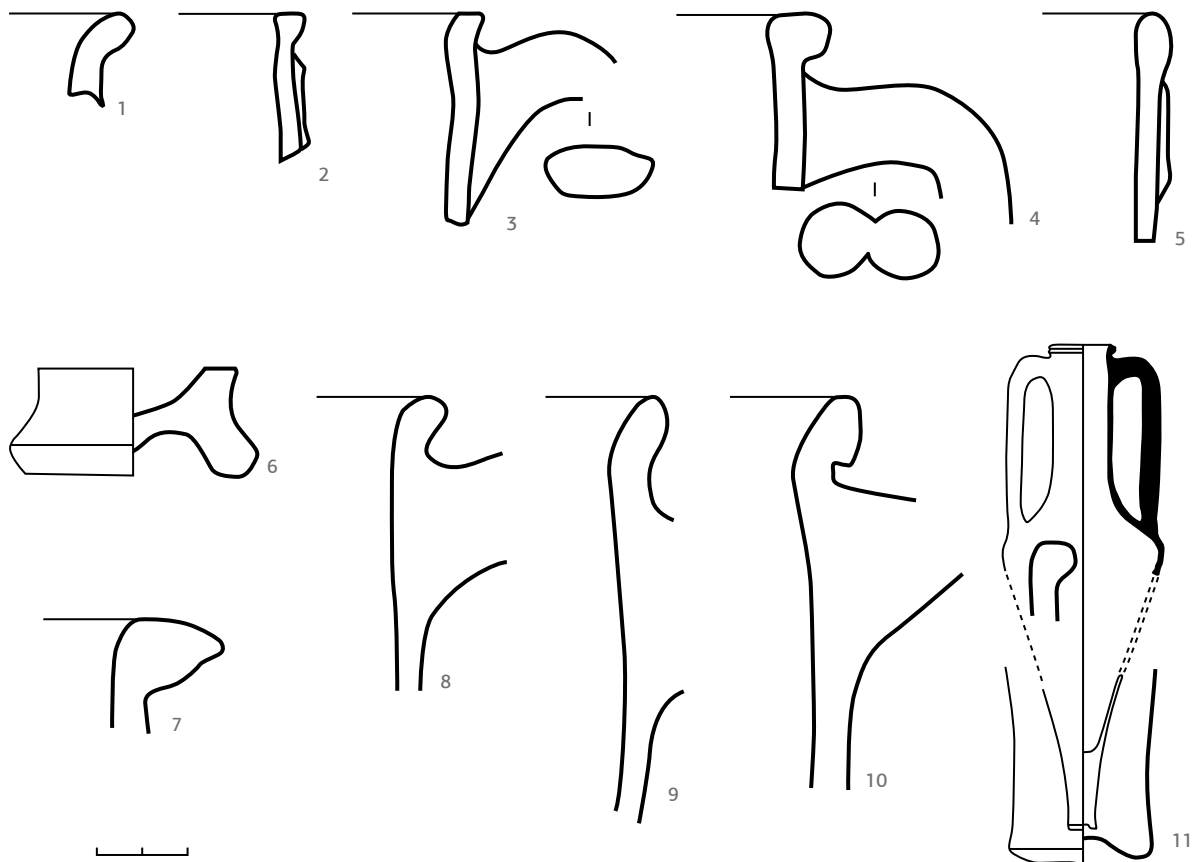


Fig. 6. Greek amphorae: Saharna La „Șanț” (1 - Heraclea Pontica); Saharna Mică (2 - Thasos; 3 - Heraclea Pontica); Saharna „La Revechin” (4 - Cos; 5 - Chios; 6 - Samos; 7 - Chidos; 8-11 - Heraclea Pontica).

Fig. 6. Fragmente de amfore: Saharna La „Șanț” (1 - Heraclea Pontica); Saharna Mică (2 - Thasos; 3 - Heraclea Pontica); Saharna „La Revechin” (4 - Cos; 5 - Chios; 6 - Samos; 7 - Chidos; 8-11 - Heraclea Pontica).

(Levinschi, Șcipachin, Dulea 1999, 52). Archaeological excavations were carried out in 1998-2002.

In the cultural layer of Saharna "La Revechin" was found a foot of an amphora from **Samos** (Levinschi, Șcipachin, Dulea 1999, fig. 14/3; Mateevici 2007, 228, fig. 10/12), which belonged to an amphora of the classic type II (fig. 6/6), that was spread in the Black Sea regions from the late 6th to the early 5th centuries BC. The average capacity of these vessels ranges from 23.4 to 27 liters².

Amphorae from Samos in the area of northwestern Black Sea barbarian world were found at Curteni, at Butuceni, at Ciobruciu and in a Scythian tumulus at Dubăsari (Кетрапу, Седова 1992, рис. 14/6, 7; Mateevici 2007, 64). This Greek center, known as the largest exporter of olive oil, traded amphorae to the northwestern Pontic region only during the 6th - 5th centuries BC. This chronological interval is the first period of the Greek-barbarian trade in this area, therefore, the Greek vessels, dating from these centuries, are rare in the Getic sites.

Another center of production, the amphorae of which are found at this site, is **Thasos**. Among some inexpressive fragments of amphorae of Thasos there was noted an almost illegible stamp of a magistrate (Mateevici 2007, 179, cat. no. 59), which has kept a few letters from the end of the line: "μης" or "δης" (cat. no. 4), but they can not provide exhaustive information on the dating of the object. Apart from this fact the stamp could belong to an amphora of the second half of the 4th century BC.

A fragment of an amphora from **Cnidos** (fig. 6/7) of the type I-A (previously considered by us as belonging to the Solokha I type, Mateevici 2007, 96) was also found at Saharna "La Revechin". Such amphorae are dated to the second quarter of the 4th century BC and have the capacity of 36.1 liters (Монахов 2003, 110).

Several fragments of bifurcated handles, including one with a massive lip (fig. 6/4), indicate on the import of Greek wines from **Cos**, which dates from the early 3rd century BC.

Multiple fragments of walls and handles of amphorae from **Chios** show the presence of Chios wine in the Greek-barbarian trade in this area. Among datable pieces of Chios amphorae there is a lip fragment (fig. 6/5) belonging to a new type container "with sleeve-shaped foot" (type V-B) which dates to the first quarter – the third quarter of the 4th century BC (Levinschi 2002, 49; Mateevici 2007, fig. 33/1). The capacity of amphorae belonging to this type is between 19.6 and 22.4 liters (Монахов 2003, 24).

The largest group of Greek amphora fragments at Saharna "La Revechin" refers to the import from **Heraclea Pontica**. Most parts which can be interpreted as a chronological indicator are lips of amphorae. The first two lips of amphorae (Mateevici 2007, 237, fig. 19/33, 34) belong to the pithoid type, variant I-4 (fig. 6/9, 10), which dates back to the first quarter of the 4th century BC; the capacity of these containers oscillates around 9.8 liters. Another lip (Levinschi, Șcipachin, Negură 2000, 97, fig. 8/14; Mateevici 2007, 237, fig. 19/35) belongs to a vessel of the truncated type, variant

² Thanks to Pierre Dupont for this information.

I-A-3, which dates back to 370s - 360 BC (fig. 6/8). The capacity of this amphora type is from 6.5 to 7 liters (Монахов 2003, 143). Almost the whole amphora of the truncated type, variant II-A, that dates from the end of the 4th century - beginning of the 3rd century BC was also discovered in this site. Usually the capacity of these Heracleian containers varies between 5.6 and 4.2 liters (fig. 6/4).

Other two lips belong to late amphorae, whose main feature is the decrease in full standard. The first belongs to an amphora of the type II-A-3 (Mateevici 2007, fig. 19/29) dating from the early 3rd century BC. The other belongs to the type II-A-2 (Mateevici 2007, fig. 19/20) dating from the end of the 4th century - the beginning of the 3rd century BC, with the small capacity: 4.3 liters. Among the fragments of necks of Heracleian amphorae from Saharna "La Revechin" there was found a well preserved manufacturer's stamp showing the name of Ηρακλείδας 2 (cat. no. 6), manufacturer of the last period of stamping at Heraclea, which dates from the end of the 4th - beginning of the 3rd century BC.

Conclusion

Although field investigations at the sites of the Saharna micro-zone continue and are far from complete, the primary analysis of the fragments of Greek amphorae, which had been found there, gives some results on the development of trade relations between the Getic and the Greek worlds, represented by the pottery from multiple famous manufacturing centers: Thasos,

Heraclea Pontica, Sinope, Tauric Chersonesus, Cnidos, Peparethos, Mende, Samos, Cos, as well as some still uncertain vessels of Solokha type 1, "Samothrace", etc. These Greek centers are representative mostly for the entire period of development of Greek-barbarian relations. The dating of the earliest pieces – a foot from Chios and, possibly, the lip from Mende found at Saharna Mare or the foot of a Samos amphora from Saharna "La Revechin" – further demonstrates, that the first period of organized penetration of goods in the Greek amphorae to the indigenous world of the northwestern Black Sea region covers the 6th - 5th centuries BC (Mateevici 2007, 115). The largest group of fragments of amphorae and amphora stamps belongs to the second period of Greek trade with the indigenous population: the 4th - first half of the 3rd century BC. Like in the overall picture of Greek-barbarian relations, imports of Thasos and Heraclea are not the largest and not the most representative (Mateevici 2007, 117). Most objects belonging to other Greek centers of production are dated between the first quarter of the 4th century and the beginning of the 3rd century BC. Most of amphora stamps also belong to this period. This information, like other data (Mateevici 2007, 117), allows us to say that namely the second period of the relationship between the northern Thracians and the Greek civilization is the culmination of these relations.

Catalogue of stamps:

1. Θασίων
ladle ←
Πρηξίπολις

Saharna Mare. Thasos. Stamp of the magistrate. Activity of the magistrate Πρηξίπολις is dated back to 273-267 BC. Similar in Bon 1957, 355, br. 1426; Exact same in Abram 1996, no. 438.



2.ων
Symbol?
[Θασίων]

Saharna Mare. Thasos Stamp of the magistrate.



3. Θασί[ων]
Horn of plenty ←
Αίσχρίων

Saharna Mare. Thasos. Stamp belonging to the magistrate Αίσχρίων 1, the activity of which falls between 294-287 BC. Similar in Bon 1957, no. 113.



4. [...]δης
Symbol
[Θασίων]

Saharna "La Revechin". Thasos. The proper name in the first line may belong to both magistrate and manufacturer. But certainly, the text in the bottom line is a demonym. The artifact can be dated from the 4th century BC.



5. ΙΦ

Saharna Mare. Heraclea Pontica. Stamp of manufacturer. Made in relief in a circular cartouche, representing two combined letters, which is the short name of the manufacturer, may be Φιλίσκος or Φιλότιμος – names of manufacturers who worked in the final period of stamping of Heracleian amphorae: end of the 4th century - beginning of the 3rd century BC (Καυ 2007, 430). All known stamps of this manufacturer are the same, moreover, are executed with the same matrix, that suggests a short period of his activity. Exact same in Καυ 2007, 244, рис. 57/5 (Gorgipia); Mateevici 2007, 154, cat. nr. 181 (Tuluçesti). One more stamp was noted at Tyras (working material of N. Mateevici, T. Samoylova).



6. Ἡρακλείδα

Saharna “La Revechin”. Heraclea Pontica.

Manufacturer's stamp from the final group of Heracleian stamping – end of the 4th century - beginning of the 3rd century BC. The stamp is engraved retrograde. Similar in Mateevici 2007, 154, cat. nr. 175 (Pivdennoe); Монахов 1999, таб. 190/2 (Beglitsk).

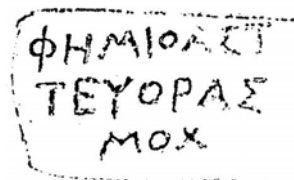


7. Φήμιο (υ) ἄστ [υνόμου].

Τεύθρας [grape]

[Θυ] μοχ [άριος]

Saharna Mare. Sinope. Stamp of a magistrate belonging to the astynome Φήμιος 1, the activity of which pertains to the group III (early 3rd century - 295-280 BC), that worked with the manufacturer Τεύθρας II, the son of Θυμοχάριος, who is known as working in the period of groups II-IV.



8. ἀστυνόμ [ου]

Μικρίου τ [οῦ] [grape]

Πυθοκρίτ [ου].

Π [άπης]

Saharna Mare. Sinope. Stamp of a magistrate belonging to the astynome Μικρίας 2 Πυθοκρίτου (after Garland 2004, 286). Dates to the chronological group VI (between 220-208 BC). Similar in Mateevici 2007, 161, cat. nr. 238 (Ciobruciu); Mateevici 2007, 164, cat. nr. 254 (Hansca).



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