



Revisiting the history of the Ostrusha Tomb: new data from pottery deposits

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ABSTRACT

The Ostrusha tomb is remarkable for its monolithic chamber with hybrid Achaemenid-Greek architecture and a painted ceiling. It was planned and built as a free-standing tomb but was later incorporated into a larger structure. The history of its construction and use remains unsettled, as valuable information was lost in hasty excavation. This paper presents the first comprehensive study of the pottery collected during the excavation and attempts to reconstruct its archaeological context based on surviving descriptions and photographs. Contrary to previous suggestions, the ceramic material does not come from the interior of the tomb or from a ritual pyre. It was originally deposited at different locations in the area of the mound. The relationship of these deposits to the tomb, if any, cannot be reconstructed. The fragmented vessels do not provide firm chronological limits for the different building phases of the monument. However, the majority of the pottery belongs to the third quarter of the 4th c. BC, and it is very likely that these vessels were deposited in connection to a burial. This suggests that the initial structure of the tomb, the monolithic chamber, was completed by ca 325 BC. The activity in the area of the tomb continued until soon after ca 300 BC. The extension of the tomb, with its additional chambers, appears to have been abandoned and buried under the mound before it was completed.

KEYWORDS

Thrace, Hellenistic, Tomb, Seuthopolis, Ceramics, Amphora, Architecture, Chronology

Introduction

The Ostrusha burial mound, located to the southeast of Shipka in the Kazanlak valley, is famous for its extraordinary monumental tomb. The central chamber of this tomb is carved out of a giant stone block, raised upon a stepped crepidoma, and covered by another block in the form of a gabled roof with an Ionic entablature (fig. 1). In addition to the hybrid Achaemenid-Greek architecture, the tomb is remarkable for its paintings on the coffered ceiling, including mythological scenes and portraits. Both the architecture and the paintings have been extensively discussed (Valeva 2005; Vassileva 2010, 37–38; Miller 2014, 200–202; Manetta et al. 2016; Stoyanova, Manetta 2019). The monolithic chamber also preserves one of the earliest known construction drawings – a kind of an ancient architectural “blueprint” for the chamber’s pediments, painted on its back wall (Manetta et al. 2016, 37–38, fig. 10; Capelle 2017, 804–806). This fascinating monument was planned and built as a freestanding tomb, but it was later incorporated into a larger ashlar structure with a rectangular plan and five additional chambers. Only the lower wall courses from this second building phase have survived. It is uncertain whether the additional chambers were ever completed and, if so, when they

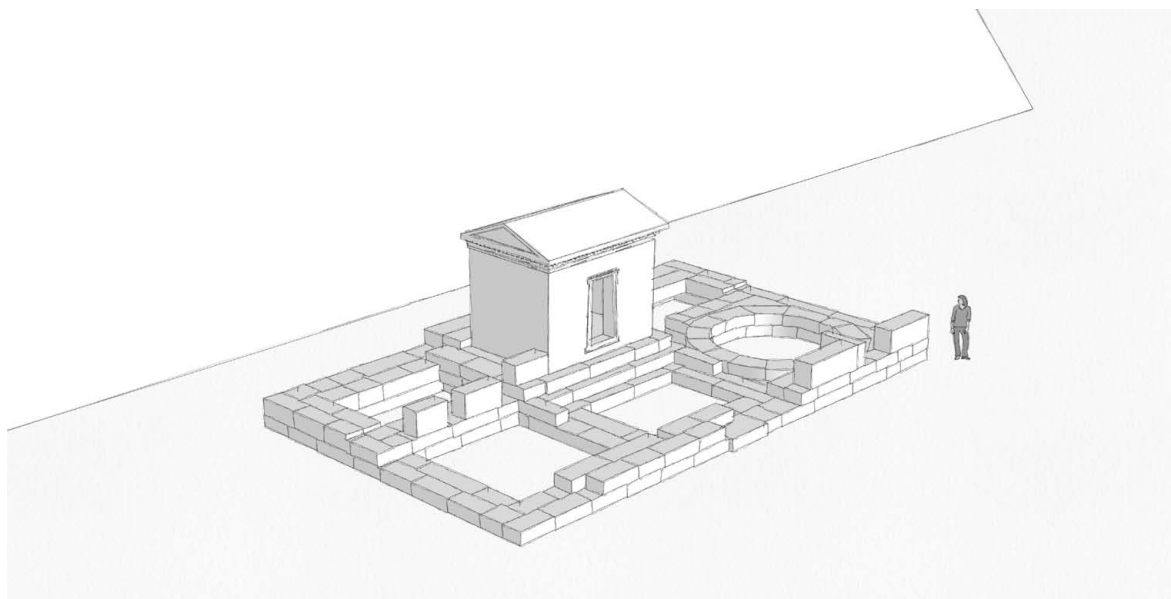


Fig. 1. Sketch of the Ostrusha tomb based on published plans and photos (C. Tzochet)

were dismantled. At some point the whole monument was covered with a mound of earth, and later – looted and damaged.

The chronology of these events remains unresolved. The excavator Georgi Kitov proposed that the central burial chamber was built around 350 BC, and that the other chambers were added in the latter half of the century. In his opinion, the tomb was accessible and used for burials until around 300 BC. Then, it was buried under a mound and plundered in the 4th c. AD (Kitov 1993, 23–24; 1994, 13). Kitov's observations provided a general framework for the history of the monument, although they were not supported by evidence, and left many questions unanswered¹. Julia Valeva (2005, 163–166) argued that the monolithic chamber dates to ca 330–310 BC, based on the style of the paintings. The monolithic chamber itself was found empty. The only objects recovered from the tomb were found in the remains of the southwest chamber, along with a horse skeleton. They include a harness with a set of silver trappings, knives and spearheads, an iron pectoral, a silver jug, and a phiale (Parvin 2019; 2022). While none of these objects can be dated narrowly, they testify to the use of the chamber in the second building phase, which took place in the last quarter of the 4th or the beginning of the 3rd c. BC.

Of particular interest for the reconstruction of the history of Ostrusha is a deposit of fragmented pottery and stone acroteria found to the south of the tomb's façade. Kitov briefly mentioned this deposit, suggesting that the ceramic vessels were initially located inside the tomb. Together with the dismantled acroteria they were removed and re-deposited immediately before the building of the burial mound at the end of the 4th c. BC (Kitov 1994, 13, 19). Bogdana Lilova – a participant in the 1993 excavation – briefly described the archaeological context and the pottery, and offered a different interpretation. She stated that the deposit was a ritual pyre, noting the presence of animal bones, and that some of the vessels had been burned (Lilova 2011, 127–128)². Stoyanova and Manetta examined the six acroteria, and concluded that they belonged to the central chamber, and were dismantled when the four additional chambers were constructed. Since the acroteria were found at the top of the

¹ Kitov states that his dates are based on the analysis of the wall paintings and the archaeological material, including coins of Apollonia Pontica and Philip II of Macedon (Kitov 1994, 13). No images of the coins or information about their archaeological context have been published. At the time of writing, the coins could not be located in the Iskra Historical Museum where the material from Ostrusha is kept.

² One of the stone acroteria has also burned, see Stoyanova, Manetta 2019, 140.



Fig. 2. West deposit, 1993 (archive of Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak)



Fig. 3. West deposit, 1993 (archive of Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak)

ceramic deposit – they argued – this deposit must have been dumped or accumulated in the period between the first and the second construction phases (Stoyanova, Manetta 2019, 124–125).

The ceramic material from the Ostrusha deposit has never been published in detail. Most of the recent studies discussing the dating of the tomb refer to my preliminary reports on the stamped amphora handles³. However, these reports consider only a small part of the extant evidence, and do

³ Tzochev 2016, table 2; Tzochev, Kiriati 2018, 550–551; as well as information I have communicated personally: see Lilova 2011, 130–131; Manetta et al. 2016, 36–37.



Fig. 4. East deposit, 1993 (archive of Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak)

not deal with the circumstances of discovery. With the aim of clarifying the history of the monument, I present here a comprehensive overview of the pottery found during the excavations and attempt to reconstruct its archaeological context, the reasons for its deposition, and its relationship to the burial mound and the tomb.

Location of the deposits

The tomb of Ostrusha was built at ground level and covered with a circular burial mound of about 79 m in diameter⁴. The tomb is located in the southern periphery of the mound. In 1993, Kitov exposed it from all sides by removing a section of the embankment with heavy machinery. Photographs taken during the excavation show that to the south of the tomb the bulldozers had left an area densely packed with ceramic fragments and several stone acroteria (figs 2–3). These and several other photographs are about all we have as a record of the situation at the time of discovery. To my knowledge, no plans, drawings, or field notebooks have survived. Nevertheless, we can locate the deposit in relation to the tomb based on a description published by one of the excavators: it was about 6 m long in east-west direction, and 1.5 m wide in south-north direction; it ran parallel to the western half of the tomb façade, about 2 m south of it, roughly at the level of its preserved wall courses (Lilova 2011, 127–128).

All previous publications on the subject refer to a single pottery deposit to the south of the tomb. However, a careful examination of the photographs shows that there are at least two distinct clusters of ceramic fragments. Apart from the already described area in front of the west half of the façade wall, the photo in figure 4 shows a different place with fragments of transport amphorae, some *in situ*, and some removed from the ground. A section of wall in the background helps to identify the

⁴ About 70 m according to Kitov (1994, 13, 19). Satellite images and aerial photographs indicate that the original diameter was closer to 79–80 m.

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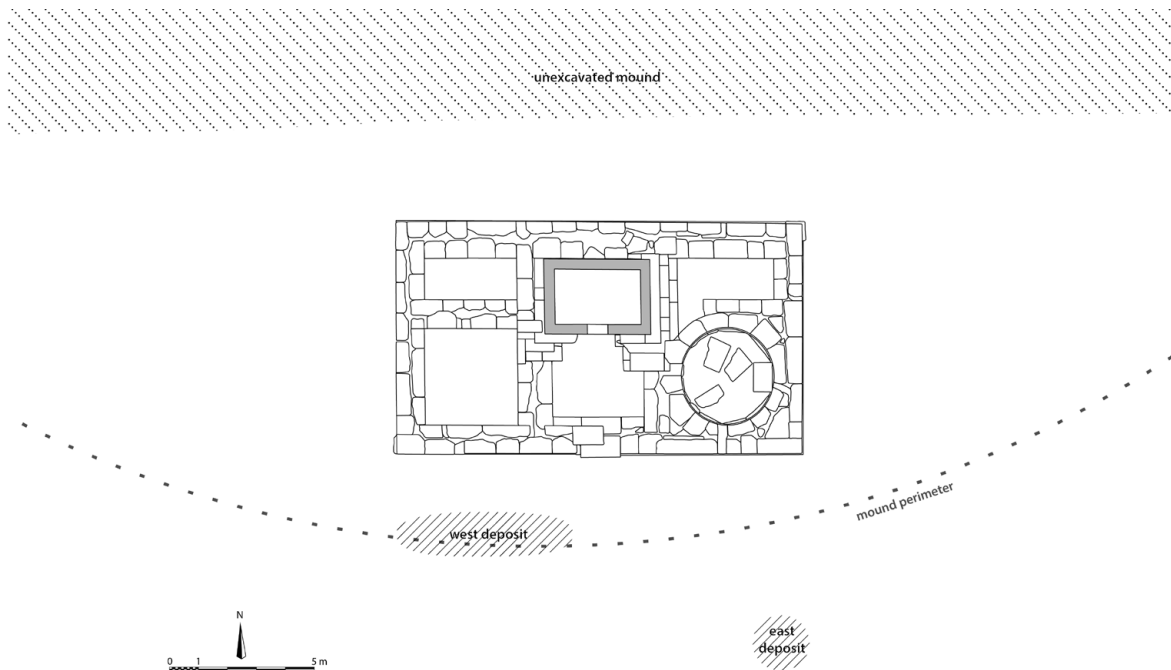


Fig. 5. Plan of the tomb (after Kitov 1994, 16) with location of the deposits (C. Tzochetv)



Fig. 6. The tomb viewed from the west, 1993 (archive of Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak)

location. The photo was taken south of the southeast corner of the tomb façade, looking north. Further information comes from the labels accompanying the ceramic fragments collected from the site. Most of the pottery bags have generic tags such as “deposit south of the tomb”, but the tag on a bag of transport amphora fragments provides a more specific location: 6.30 m south of the east corner of

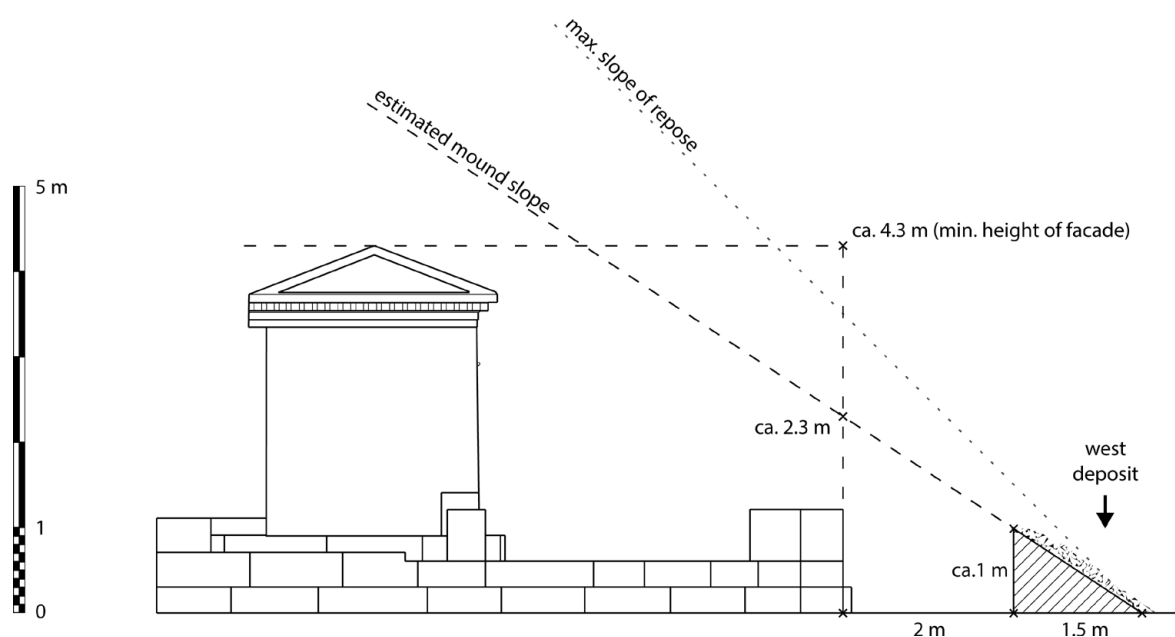


Fig. 7. West elevation of the tomb and reconstruction of the mound slope (C. Tzochev)

the façade wall, at the level of the lower wall course⁵. The description corresponds well with the place visible in the photograph. In 2020, fragments of transport amphoras were found at the same place during the excavation for a new protective structure for the tomb⁶. The fragments belonged to three of the four amphoras in the abovementioned bag, thus proving the exact findspot of the deposit. We can plot this location on the ground plan (fig. 5), and confirm that this is a separate deposit, located about 7 m to the southeast of the first. To distinguish between the two archaeological contexts, they will be referred to as the ‘West’ and ‘East’ deposits. We can also locate these deposits in relation to the burial mound. The mound is largely intact, which allows us to reconstruct its perimeter in the excavated southern section. Plotting all this information on the plan shows that the East deposit was outside the burial mound, while the West deposit was at the very edge of the mound.

Mind the slope

The photographs give us another important detail that has not been mentioned in previous publications. Figures 2 and 3 clearly show that the pottery fragments and acroteria in the West deposit do not lie on flat ground, nor do they form a compact heap. Instead, they are scattered across the sloping surface of an earthen embankment. The slope rises from ground level in the south and reaches a height of about 1 m at its north end, where it has been scarped vertically by the excavators. One of the photographs shows the height of the vertical profile from the north: it reaches up to the waists of the workers standing beside it (fig. 6). Considering its location at the estimated edge of the burial mound, and its sloping surface rising to the north, it is clear that this protruding piece of earth was indeed the edge of the mound. The pottery and acroteria were deposited on the slope of an existing tumulus, meaning that this happened at a time when the tomb had already been buried. This does not

5 The exact text of the paper tag is “23.04.93. Дълбочина основата на каменните стени. С-Ю – 6,30 м (от източния ъгъл на южната стена)”. Note that the tomb has no foundations. The tag refers to the lower visible course of the façade, which lays directly upon the ancient surface.

6 I owe this information to Meglena Parvin, who supervised the excavations.



Fig. 8. Pile of granite blocks to the south of the tomb, 1993 (archive of Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak)

necessarily mean that the mound predates the pottery. There are a number of possible explanations of how the West deposit was formed, but before we consider these, let us first examine the relationship between the tomb and the mound.

Valeva (2005, 19) has already noted that the tomb is so close to the edge of the mound, that the tomb façade may have been too high to be covered unless it was partially dismantled. We can test this proposition using the section of the mound under the West deposit. Knowing that the length of the deposit measured 1.5 m in south-north direction, and that its slope reaches height of about 1 m, we get an inclination of about 33° for the surface of the mound. From this, we can draw the approximate projection of the mound slope in relation to the tomb (fig. 7). This projection intersects the plane of the tomb façade at a height of about 2.30 m from the bottom of the façade wall, or about 1.70 m from the top of the preserved door threshold – roughly at the level where the door lintel would have been. However approximate, this calculation makes it clear that the mound embankment could not have covered the façade of the tomb, which must have been over 4 m high to match the height of the central chamber. Even if we allow that the builders of the mound had originally set the slope to 45° – the maximum possible angle of repose for an earthen fill – the mound would still have been too low to fully cover the façade. This confirms that the tomb was not at its full height when the mound was built.

Valeva proposed that the façade may have been deliberately lowered in order to be fully covered. But if the above calculations are correct, this would not have been a minor adjustment. It would have required the demolition of a considerable part of the chambers behind it. It is difficult to explain such a decision simply by the desire to facilitate the interring of the tomb. Since the tomb was built first and the mound later, one would expect that the size and location of the mound were adjusted to accommodate the existing tomb and not the other way around. It seems more likely that the tomb was dismantled on another occasion, sometime before the mound was built. Or, it was never completed to its full height. To the east of the West deposit was a pile of eight blocks of the same stone used for the chamber of the second phase of the tomb (fig. 8). These are probably blocks dismantled from or

prepared for the construction of the tomb⁷. Indeed, there is nothing in the available information to suggest that the chambers of the second construction phase were built higher than the currently preserved courses. The horse buried in the southwest chamber could have been laid within the unfished walls immediately before the interment of the tomb.

The ceramics

Until 2013, the pottery from Ostrusha was kept in the Kazanlak museum, stored in plastic bags, unwashed, as it had been collected from the ground⁸. Findspots were indicated on paper tags, which, as explained above, refer to at least two different deposits. The East deposit comprises fragments of four transport amphoras. Two from the North Sporades (nos 13 and 14) and one from Mende (no. 9) date to ca 350–325 BC⁹. The fourth one is Samothracian (no. 12) and may date from the same period or earlier in the 4th c., judging by its resemblance to better dated Thasian amphoras¹⁰. It is possible that the four amphoras are a single deposit, preserved *in situ* on the ancient surface level.

The interpretation of the West deposit is more complicated, as it includes various types of vessels from a wider range of dates. Fragments of at least ten different transport amphoras have been identified, eight of which are from Thasos (nos 1–8). They are all fractional containers with slender biconical bodies and tall stem toes, typical of the second half of the 4th c. BC. All the surviving Thasian toes are clearly carinated at the base, some with a bevelled edge: features that tend to disappear after ca 325 BC. Four Thasian amphoras have stamps on their handles naming the officials Πυθίων I (nos 2, 8), Ἰππίδης (no. 1), and Ἡροφῶν I (no. 6). The first of these officials held term in the early 330s BC and the latter two – in the mid-320s BC (Tzochet 2016, table 2)¹¹. The toe of a Mendean amphora (no. 11) dates from about 350–325 BC. A local amphora (no. 15) can only be roughly dated to the late 4th – early 3rd c. BC¹².

The almost exclusively north Aegean composition of the amphora material from Ostrusha is consistent with a general trend in the interior of southern Thrace during the 330s and the 320s BC. Black Sea imports, especially those from Herakleia, disappeared from the region following the Macedonian conquests of 342–339 BC (Tzochet 2010, 100). Pontic amphoras only reappear in small quantities after 300 BC. Southeast Aegean imports are also rare in the area before the 3rd c. BC. In this respect, the amphora assemblage from Ostrusha stands out as earlier than that from the nearby city of Seuthopolis. There, southeast Aegean imports are well represented, those from the Black

7 Kitov interpreted the pile as a “symbolic grave” (Kitov 1994, 13, 19). It is not clear what prompted this interpretation. No traces of a burial were found.

8 In 2013–2014 the fragments were cleaned, sorted, and mended, where possible. The conservation work on the transport amphoras was carried out by Sevdalina Neikova, and on the tableware and pithoi – by Daniela Cherneva.

9 For possibly Ikian amphoras of comparable shape, see Monahov et al. 2020, 158 with references to further parallels. Mendean amphoras of this type were produced until ca 325 BC, and the tall narrow neck with small rounded rim is typical for the latest among them. Fragments of another Mendean amphora (no. 10) with a similar rim profile were found nearby but the exact findspot cannot be reconstructed as the tag simply says “outside the east chamber”.

10 The amphora is identified as Samothracian based on the stamp. Handles with such stamps have been found on Samothrace (Lehmann 1960, 127, no. 313), including at an amphora kiln-site near Paliopoli (information kindly provided by Chryssa Karadima). For a fully preserved stamp of the same die, see Efstratiou, Kallintzi 1997, 900, fig. 12. For Samothracian workshops producing transport amphoras with shapes similar to Thasian, see Karadima-Matsa 1994.

11 On the date of Πυθίων I, see also Tzochet 2018, 127–129. The dates of Ἰππίδης (no. 1) and Ἡροφῶν I are less accurate, as there is little evidence for their relative position in the sequence of officials. For parallels of the stamps, see Garland 1999, no. 913, 879–882; Debidour 1999, no. 131.

12 As the lower part is missing, it is not certain whether this was a transport container with a pointed bottom or an amphora with a flat base: both types of vessels were produced by the same workshop and had similar characteristics (Tzochet, Kiriati 2018, 550–551).

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Sea are found in small numbers, and north Aegean imports have a different composition, notably excluding amphoras from Mende. There is no historical evidence for the foundation of Seuthopolis, but amphora stamps found in the city and its cemetery suggest it was established around 310 BC (Balkanska, Tzochet 2008; Tzochet 2016, 53, note 33).

In addition to transport amphoras, the West deposit comprises a number of fragmented, black-glazed vessels, including at least seven plates, about the same number of bowls and, probably, an askos. Most of these fragments can only be roughly dated. A fish-plate (no. 20) and, probably, a bowl (no. 18) have their reserved undersides decorated with concentric bands of glaze. In Attic pottery, this kind of decoration on plates and bowls was abandoned in the second quarter of the 4th c. BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, 148, 293). However, the vessels from Ostrusha are not necessarily that early. Workshops in the Black Sea area and in Macedonia, continued to use such decoration during the second half of the century¹³. The preserved part of the fish plate profile is insufficient for more accurate dating, as are the few fragments of the bowl floor. One of these fragments preserves the edge of a graffito that could be the same eta-epsilon monogram incised on some of the Thasian amphoras (see below). If so, then bowl no. 18 was probably deposited together with these amphoras and was contemporary with them. Plates nos 16 and 21 date to the third quarter of the century and may also be contemporary with the transport amphoras¹⁴. The bowls nos 24, 25, and 29 may be later, but before ca 300 BC.¹⁵ The only vessel dateable after ca 300 is plate no. 17. Susan Rotroff notes that in Athens, plates with such an angular profile with a groove at the top of the wall, plain resting surface and almost an angle between the underside and the foot, date in the beginning of the 3rd c. BC¹⁶.

The remaining at least 11 pieces of tableware in the West deposit are plain food-serving vessels, probably made locally, in the Kazanlak Valley. Most are bowls, but there are also at least two one-handlers with straight rims (nos 31–32), which may have served as bowls or drinking cups. The West deposit also included five pithoi (nos 42–46), which are multi-purpose storage bins, but could also have served as wine-mixing vessels. The volume of the fully restored no. 46 is around 60 l. All these plain vessels cannot be dated accurately as the typology and chronology of local pottery is understudied. As with the transport amphoras, differences with the shapes of local tableware from the nearby city of Seuthopolis and its cemetery suggest that the Ostrusha assemblage pre-dates the founding of the city around 310 BC¹⁷.

Five vessels preserve post-firing graffiti, at least four of which bear the same eta-epsilon monogram. The monogram appears on the necks of Thasian amphoras (nos 3–5) but also on the underside of what is probably a local bowl (no. 40), meaning that it is not a commercial mark, such as price, volume or the name of an agent in the supply chain. The monogram was scratched by the owner of the vessels, probably in connection to their deposition. Although the combination HY – if this interpretation is correct – does not make sense as an abbreviated Greek or Thracian personal name, it could still refer in some way either to the person who deposited the vessels or to the person commemorated at the site.

The bulk of the ceramic material shows no signs of secondary burning, which contradicts Lilo-

13 For the Black Sea, see a recent review of the find in Damyanov 2023, 42, 69–71. Published examples from Macedonia are scanty: see Themelis, Touratsoglou 1997, 104, 116 Δ24. Local vessels from Vergina-Aigai exhibit this feature until the beginning of the 3rd c. BC (Chrysanthi Kallini, personal communication).

14 No. 16: cf. Rotroff 1997, 144, fig. 46, nos 634–639. No. 21: cf. Rotroff 1997, 147–148, fig. 50, no. 709.

15 On the echinus bowls, note the reserved and grooved resting surface, the nipples underside, and the circle in the centre of the floor, all typical for bowls before ca 300 BC (Retroff 1997, 162); Likewise, the reserved resting surface and the stamped palmette on the small bowl with broad base (Retroff 1997, 165).

16 Personal communication. See Retroff 1997, 144, fig. 46–47, nos 650–656.

17 For local table ware from Seuthopolis, see Chichikova 1984.

va's interpretation of the deposit as a ritual pyre. Only some of the food-serving vessels were burned. Burning is particularly evident in the case of no. 33, whose exterior has been deformed by exposure to high temperatures. The smooth transition of stains across broken edges indicates that this cup was burned before it broke. The exact findspot of this and every other vessel with traces of burning in the West deposit is unknown and cannot be identified on the photos. However, as the fire did not affect most of the pottery in the deposit, it must have been located on the periphery of the deposit area, or the vessels in question were deposited after being exposed to fire elsewhere.

If the West deposit was not a ritual pyre, then what was it? Considering the dates of the vessels in it, it seems that they were deposited on different occasions over a period of at least 20–30 years. At some point during or after the building of the mound they were piled at their final place of deposition. The location of this deposit – on the slope at the foot of the mound, near the entrance to the tomb – suggests a scenario already put forward by Kitov, namely that the vessels were originally inside the tomb. They may have been taken out and discarded by looters who entered the tomb through a tunnel dug nearby. It is easy to imagine looters emptying the chambers in search of precious objects and disposing of the unwanted pottery on the spot.

The interpretation of the West deposit as grave goods discarded by looters, while initially appealing, faces a major obstacle: the types of vessels are not those one would expect to find in a tomb. During the 4th and 3rd c. BC, monumental tombs and conspicuous grave deposits in the interior of Thrace usually included parts of luxury drinking sets, never storage and food-serving vessels in large numbers. One to four transport amphoras were often placed inside a tomb chamber or a grave-pit. Ten amphoras would be somewhat unusual, but what really does not fit into this scenario are the five pithoi. To my knowledge, pithoi have never been found inside a burial chamber. However, there are cases where one or more pithoi have been set in the ground next to a tomb or grave, probably to store supplies for feasts or other burial or post-burial practices. One such case was recorded in a burial mound located just 1.5 km east of Ostrusha (Kitov 2005, 421, fig. 4). Likewise, in the interior of Thrace, bowls and especially plates, are rare as grave goods, but more common in burial and post-burial deposits in the area of a mound. The nearly 20 food-serving vessels found at Ostrusha, some of which were burnt, clearly do not look like the contents of a burial chamber. Therefore, rather than objects taken out of the tomb, the ceramic fragments in the West deposit are the remains of ritual activity in the area surrounding the tomb. It appears that clusters of pottery accumulated during the second half of the 4th c. BC were collected and dumped at the foot of the mound together with other debris from the surrounding area.

A better documented burial mound in the same area helps us imagine these rituals in more detail. This mound is located around 13 km to the southeast, near Buzovgrad, and covers a small tholos tomb built around 310–300 BC, slightly later than the Ostrusha tomb (Nehrizov 2013). South of the entrance to the tomb, on the ancient surface, the excavators recorded a clay altar with evidence of continuous use and modification. Nearby they found the remains of a pyre and fragments of about ten bowls and a fish-plate. Next to the pyre was a separate deposit of four fragmented amphoras. Similarities with Ostrusha include the deposition of multiple vessels for storing liquids and serving food, along with animal bones; traces of burning and the fact that only food-serving pots were burnt; and the curious practice of marking multiple vessels with the same letter, in this case a *chi*.

As in the case of the Buzovgrad mound, at Ostrusha there was probably some form of altar in the area south of the tomb, where rituals were performed on multiple occasions, including offerings of food and liquids. Ceramic vessels used in the rituals were left broken in pyres or on the ground. It is not possible to say whether these activities ceased when the tomb was buried under the mound or whether they continued for some time after. The amphora fragments in the East deposit are the only remains of these rituals preserved *in situ*. For some reason – perhaps clearing of the terrain for

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agricultural or other purpose – most of the material was amassed and discarded on the slope of the mound. This could have happened at any point after ca 300 BC – the earliest possible date for the latest of the dateable ceramic vessels.

Conclusions

The ceramic material found in the Ostrusha mound originally came from deposits, whose relationship with the tomb, if any, is beyond reconstruction. Therefore, the fragmented vessels do not provide firm chronological limits for the different building phases of the monument. The majority of the pottery, including all dateable transport amphoras, belong to the third quarter of the 4th c. BC. It is very likely that these vessels were deposited in connection to a burial, suggesting that the initial structure of the tomb, the monolithic chamber, was completed by ca 325 BC. Rituals continued for some time after ca 300 BC but not long after. Finally, there is a good reason to doubt that the extension to the tomb, including the five additional chambers and their façade, was ever completed. Any attempt to reconstruct this extension at full height should consider the possibility that it existed only in the imagination of the ancient builders.

Acknowledgments

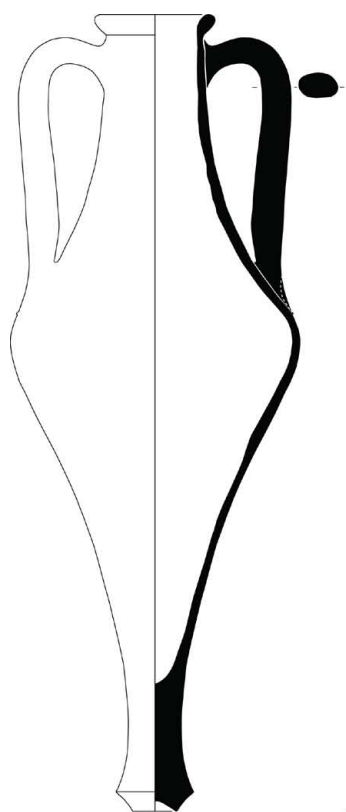
I would like to thank Meglena Parvin for inviting me to study the ceramic material from the Ostrusha mound; Sevdalina Neikova for her meticulous work on the restoration of the transport amphoras; and an anonymous reviewer for their helpful feedback.

Catalogue

All listed objects are kept in the Iskra Historical Museum, Kazanlak. Nos 9, 12–14 are from the East deposit. No. 10 was stored in a separate bag, labelled “outside the east chamber”. All remaining catalogued objects are presumed to be from the West deposit, although their exact findspots cannot be verified unless visible in the photos.

Transport amphoras

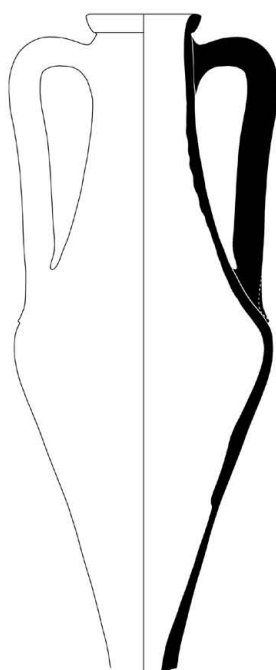
1. Not inventoried, fig. 9
Mended from many fragments. Missing parts from the rim, neck, handles, belly, and lower body. Moderately soft reddish-yellow surface with dark spots all over. A lot of mica and some translucent to white bits. Red paint under the rim. H. 70.2 cm; Ø max. 25.4 cm; Ø rim ca 9.3 cm (less than 10% preserved). One of the handles stamped:
[Ιτ]πι[δ]ης Πυ[λ]ά[δ]ης
horse leg → ↓
Θασι(..)
2. Not inventoried, fig. 9
Mended from many fragments. Missing parts from rim, neck, handle, belly, and lower body. Fabric similar to no. 1. Red paint under the rim. Preserved H. 57.5 cm; Ø max. 23.5 cm; Ø rim: ca 9.2 cm (ca 50% preserved). Non-joining stamped handle of identical fabric may belong here or to no. 8. The stamp reads:
[–]
[κε]ραμ[ἀ]ρχης
Herakles archer ↑ →
[Πυθίων]
3. Not inventoried, fig. 10
Mended from many pieces. Missing fragments from rim, neck, shoulders, one handle; no fragments from belly and lower body. A toe of identical fabric probably belongs to this amphora. Moderately hard, slightly gritty reddish-yellow surface. Very micaceous. Core and inner surface of more saturated colour. Some fine yellowish and dark red bits. Interior covered with brown-black substance (pitch?). Preserved H. 34 cm; Ø max. 22.8 cm; Ø rim ca 7.8 cm (ca 60% preserved). Monogram eta-epsilon scratched on the neck (a short diagonal bar on the left of the H may be a secondary scratch).



1



Scale 1:1



2



Scale 1:1

0 0.3m

Fig. 9. Transport amphoras from Ostrusha (C. Tzochev)



Fig. 10. Transport amphorae from Ostrusha (C. Tzochew)

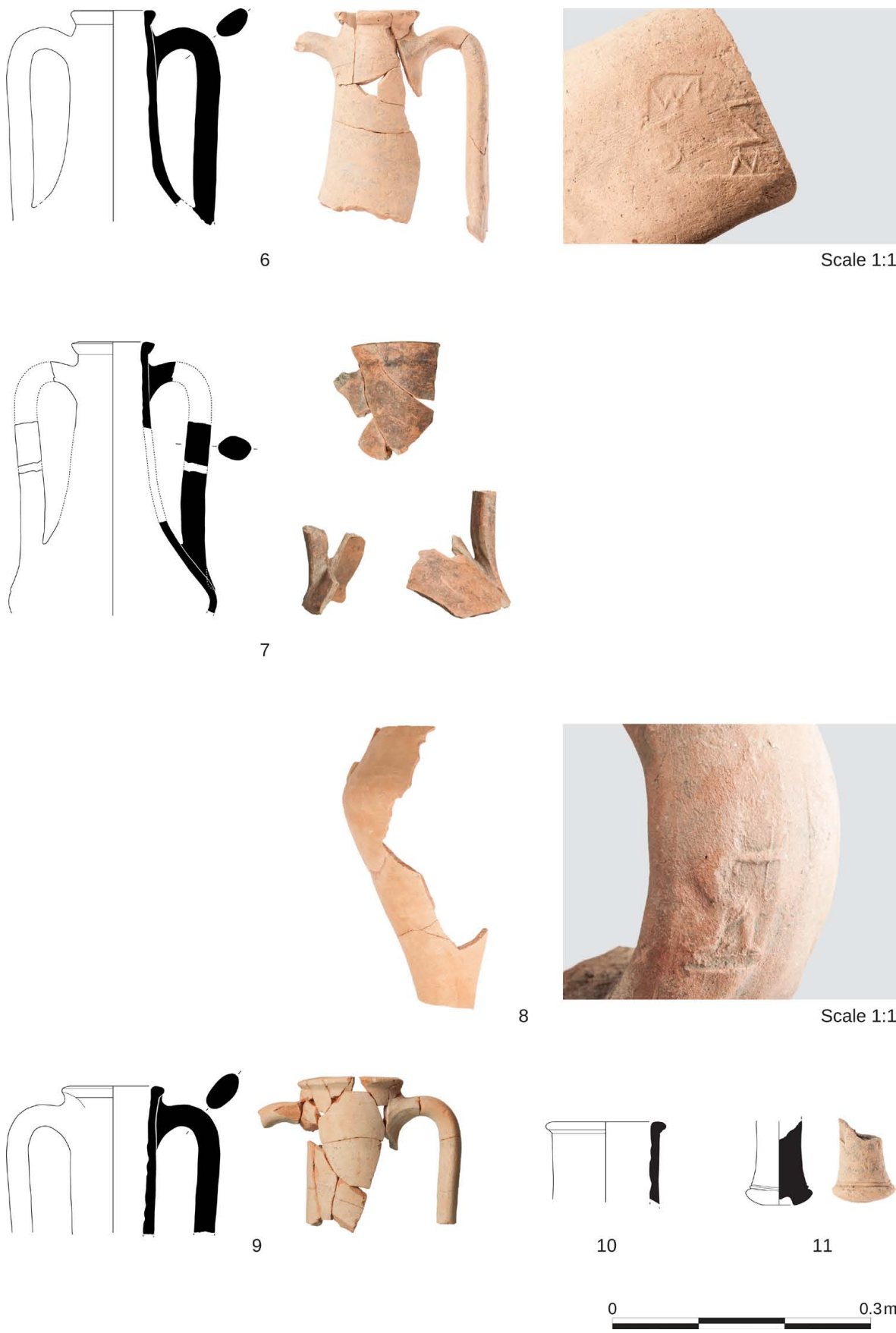


Fig. 11. Transport amphorae from Ostrusha (C. Tzochev)

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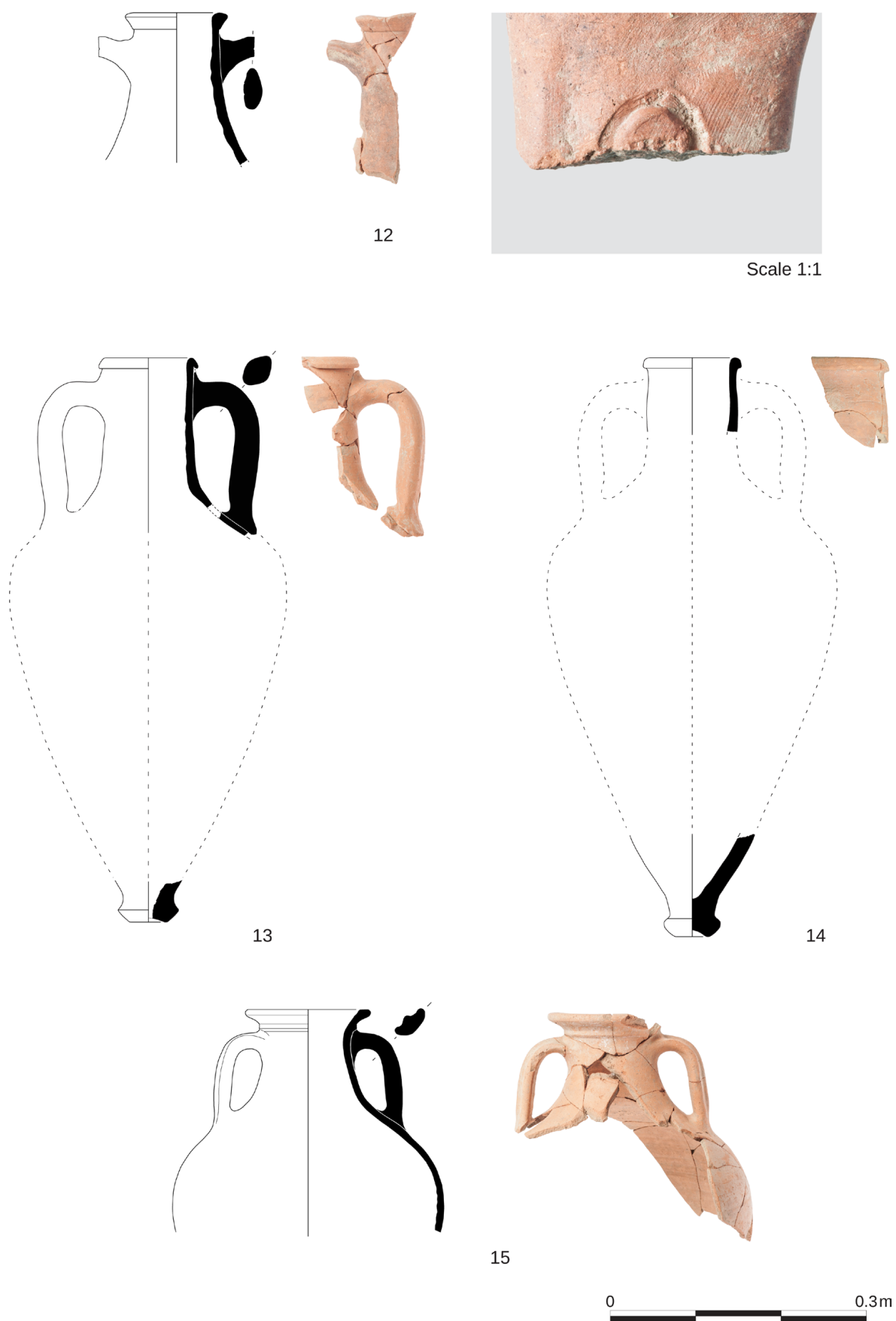


Fig. 12. Transport amphorae from Ostrusha (C. Tzochew)

4. Not inventoried, fig. 10
Mended from many pieces. Missing fragments from rim, upper handle attachment, shoulders and belly. Soft, smooth reddish-yellow surface. Very micaceous. Darker core. Some fine white to yellowish bits. H. 70.6 cm; Ø max. 24.3 cm; Ø rim: ca 8.1 cm (ca 60% preserved). Monogram eta-epsilon scratched into the neck.
5. Not inventoried, fig. 10.
Upper part mended from many pieces. Missing a handle and most part of the body below the maximum width. Moderately hard, slightly rough and gritty surface, light red, micaceous, with traces of pale coating. Darker interior surface and inner half of the core. Sparse yellowish limestone inclusions. Preserved H. 30.6 cm; Ø max. 25.2 cm; Ø rim ca 7.8 cm (ca 95% preserved). Monogram eta-epsilon scratched into the neck.
6. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Upper part mended from many pieces. Missing fragments of rim, neck, shoulders and belly, as well as the entire lower part. Moderately hard, slightly gritty, reddish-yellow surface. Darker interior and core. Sparse very fine mica, and many fine white inclusions. Traces of red paint under the rim. Preserved H. 24.4 cm; Ø rim: ca 7.8 cm (ca 70% preserved). One of the handles is stamped:

Θασ[ω[v'Hp|oφ]]ων
letter N, retrograde ↔
7. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Many fragments from upper part and belly, partially restored. Soft, smooth, evenly red surface, densely packed with silvery mica. Fine-grained core, paler in colour. Ø max. ca 25 cm; Ø rim: ca 7.8 cm (ca 55% preserved).
8. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Six fragments from shoulders, belly, and lower body; mended. Reddish-yellow micaceous fabric with white bits. Non-joining handle of identical fabric can belong here or to no. 2. The stamp reads:

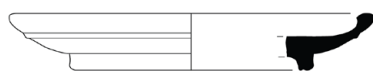
[Πυλ]άδη[ς]
[κερ]μ[ά]ρ[χη]ς
Herakles archer ↑ →
[Πυθ]ίων
9. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Heavily fragmented, partially restored rim, neck, and handles. Many fragments missing. Hard, rough and gritty reddish-yellow fabric. Exterior covered with light coating. High concentration of mica and white to yellowish limestone inclusions. Ø rim ca 9.9 cm (ca 80% preserved).
10. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Neck and rim. Five fragments, mended. Hard, rough, beige surface. Porous reddish-yellow core. Large gold mica on the surface; many fine white bits. Traces of red paint under the rim. Ø rim ca 12 cm (less than 10% preserved).
11. Not inventoried, fig. 11
Toe. Hard, rough, large-grained, porous and gritty fabric. Reddish yellow, with traces of pale coating on the surface. A lot of large mica flakes and white to yellowish limestone inclusions.
12. Not inventoried, fig. 12
Upper part. Heavily fragmented, partially restored; many fragments missing. Soft smooth red surface. A lot of fine yellowish bits; sparse very fine mica Ø rim ca 10 cm (ca 25% preserved). One handle stamped (only the upper part of the stamp preserved): Grape cluster with a human face in a circular field. Possibly an inscription above
13. Not inventoried, fig. 12
Upper part and a toe, heavily fragmented and partially restored. Many fragments missing (hard to distinguish from no. 14 due to similar fabrics). Hard, slightly gritty surface, uniformly red. Many white inclusions of different sizes. Ø rim: ca 10 cm (ca 25% preserved).
14. Not inventoried, fig. 12
Heavily fragmented, not restored. Rim and toe preserved, but many fragments missing (hard to distinguish from no. 13 due to similar fabrics). Hard, slightly gritty surface, uniformly red with a slight pinkish hue. Fine-grained core with many white to yellowish bits of different sizes, also visible on the surface. Ø rim: ca 10 cm (ca 30% preserved).
15. Not inventoried, fig. 12
Upper part and belly. Heavily fragmented, partially restored. Many fragments missing, including toe. Hard, slightly rough and lumpy surface. Reddish-brown with a grey stripe in core. Fine grained, porous structure. A lot of translucent to white inclusions; sparse mica Ø rim ca 14 cm (ca 25% preserved); Ø max. ca 32 cm.

Black-glazed table ware

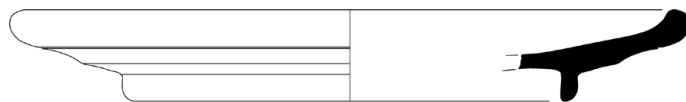
16. II 2122, fig. 13
Plate. Three fragments. Profile partially preserved with the central part of the floor missing. Rolled rim with moulding

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- underneath; grooved resting surface. Brown to black dull glaze. Very fine light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/3). Ø rim ca 14 cm (ca 15% preserved).
17. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Plate. About 15 fragments, refitted and restored with plaster. Profile partially preserved with the central part of the floor missing. Rolled rim with a groove underneath; plain resting surface. Shiny black glaze all over, heavily worn. Very fine light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/3–5YR 6/4) core. Ø rim ca 26 cm.
18. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Bowl (?). Four fragments of floor, foot, and side-wall; two refitted. Centre of floor red from stacking; black on inner and outer walls. Floor decorated with stamped palmettes and rouletting. Underside is reserved with two glazed concentric circles. Scraped line at the junction of the foot and the wall. Very fine light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) core. Partially preserved letter scratched on the underside after firing.
19. II 2124, fig. 13
Plate. Ten fragments of a plate floor, eight refitted. No rim or foot preserved. Thick black glaze all over. Very fine light reddish brown (2.5YR 7/3) core. Floor decorated with five linked palmettes and rouletting.
20. II 2123, fig. 13
Fish-plate. Eight fragments, partially refitted. Incomplete profile: missing the central part of the floor, the upper wall and the rim. Walls and floor covered with shiny black glaze, except the reserved groove around the central depression. Resting surface is flat and reserved. Underside is reserved, decorated with glazed concentric circles. Very fine light brown to light reddish-brown (7.5YR 6/4–2.5YR 6/4) core. Ø foot ca 12 cm.
21. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Fish-plate. 16 fragments, partially refitted. Incomplete profile: missing central part of the floor and part of the lower wall. Flat resting surface; grooves around the central depression, along the upper edge of the rim, and at the top of exterior wall. Shiny black glaze all over, except the grooves and the foot resting surface. Very fine pale brown to light yellowish brown (10YR 6/3–2.5YR 6/3) core. Ø rim ca 26 cm.
22. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Fish-plate. Many small fragments, not refitted. Foot missing. Uneven brown to black glaze with traces of secondary burning. Very fine yellowish-red to dark yellowish-brown (5YR 4/6–10YR 4/6) core.
23. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Fish-plate. Many small fragments, not refitted. No fragments of foot and depression. Rim profile and diameter, and fabric, similar to no. 21.
24. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Echinus bowl. Four fragments, refitted and restored with plaster. Complete profile with parts of the rim missing. Shiny black glaze all over, except a reserved band at the junction of the wall and foot, and in the groove of the resting surface. Glaze worn from use along the bulging part of the exterior wall. Floor decorated with five or six stamped palmettes and rouletting. Very fine light reddish-brown to light brown (5YR 6/4–7.5YR 6/4) core. Ø rim 13.1 cm.
25. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Echinus bowl. Multiple fragments, refitted and restored with plaster. Complete profile with parts of the wall and rim missing. Profile and fabric very similar to no. 24. Shiny black glaze all over, except for a reserved band at the junction of the wall and foot, and in the groove of the resting surface; worn at the foot. Floor decorated with six stamped palmettes, rouletting, and a circle in the centre. Very fine light reddish brown to light brown (5YR 6/4 – 7.5YR 6/4) core. Ø rim ca 13.5 cm.
26. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl. Two fragments of foot and floor with rouletting. The preserved part is very similar to nos 24 and 25.
27. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl. Many small fragments of a bowl with profile and fabric similar to nos 24 and 25. Not mended. Foot missing.
28. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Echinus bowl or saltcellar. Two fragments of ring foot and lower wall. Shiny black glaze all over, except in the groove on the resting surface. Very fine light brownish-grey to light brown (2.5Y 6/2) core. Ø foot ca 5 cm.
29. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Small bowl. Three fragments, refitted. Incomplete profile: broad base with part of floor and wall preserved. Shiny black glaze, except for the reserved resting surface. Stamped palmette in the centre of the floor. Very fine light brown to pale brown (7.5YR 6/4–2.5Y 7/3) core. Ø foot ca 6.4 cm. Traces of burning (?)
30. Not inventoried, fig. 13
Askos (?) Single fragment of a flat disk foot, slightly projecting from the wall. Shiny black glaze, only on the exterior wall; underside and interior unglazed. Very fine light yellowish-brown (10YR 6/4) core. Ø foot ca 8.9 cm.



16



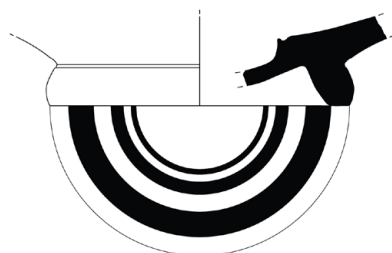
17



18



19



20



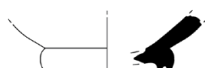
21



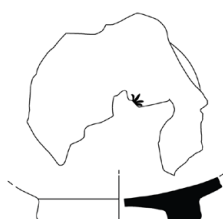
24



25



28



29



30



Fig. 13. Black-glazed tableware from Ostrusha (C. Tzochev)

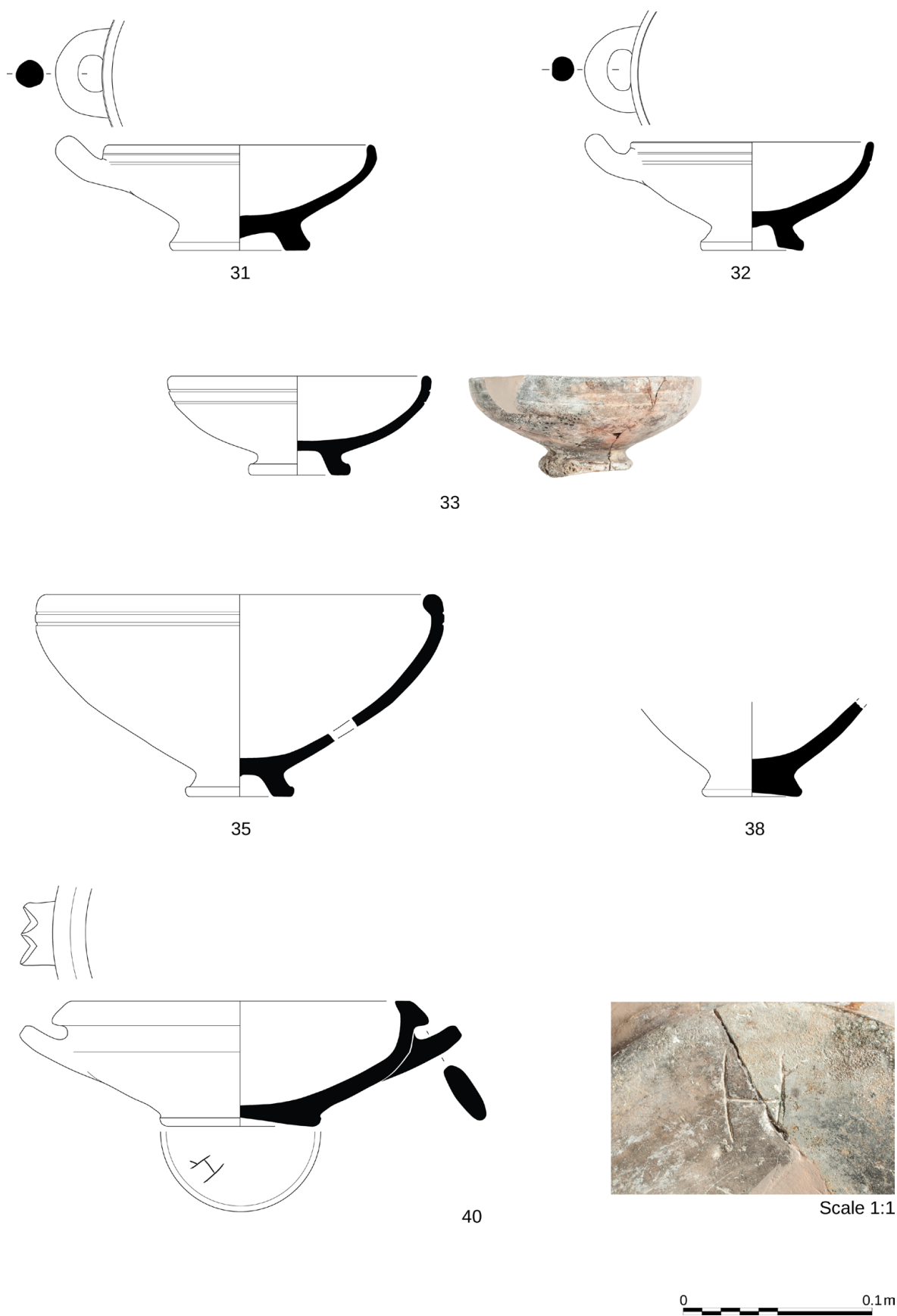


Fig. 14. Plain tableware from Ostrusha (C. Tzochetev)

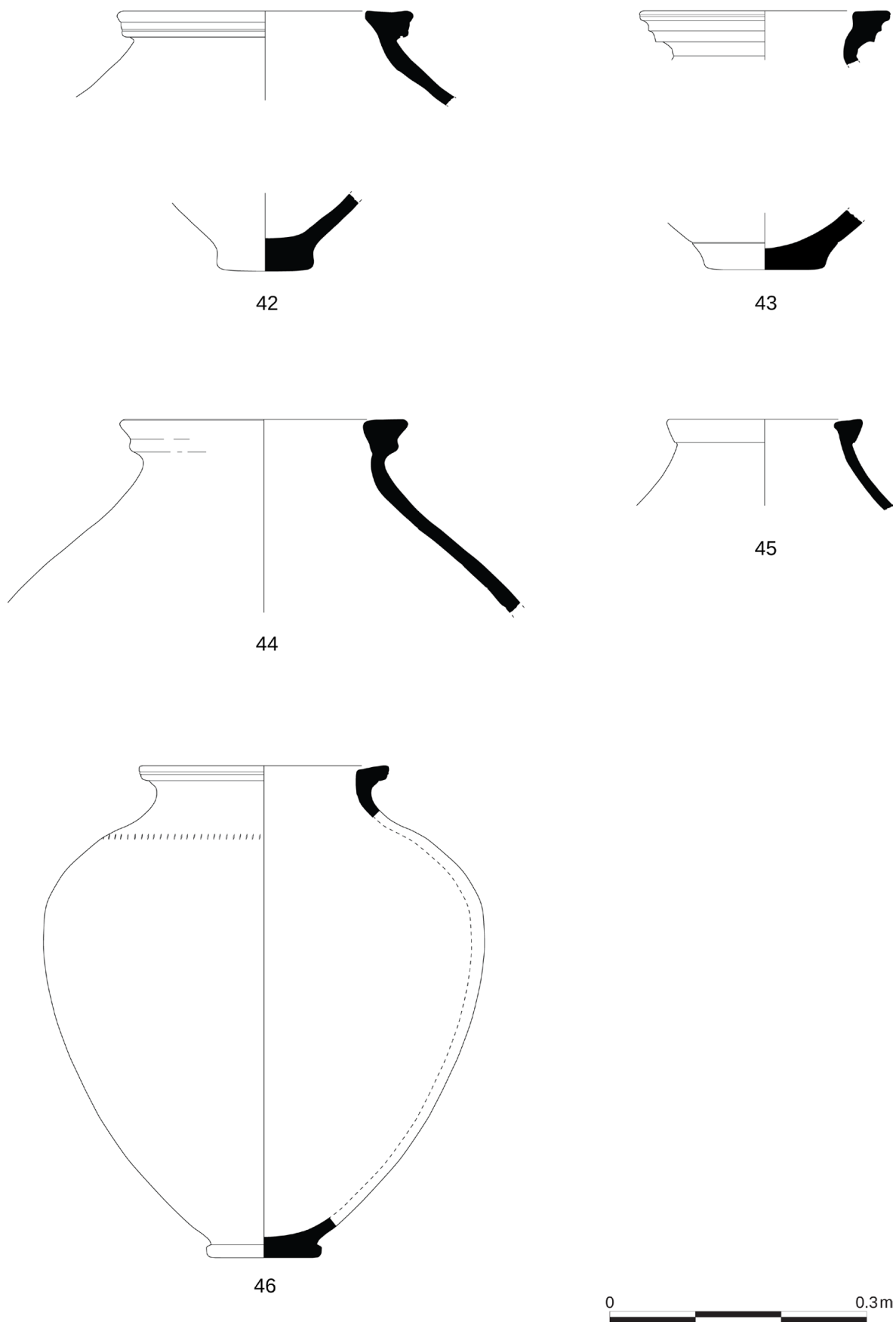


Fig. 15. Pithoi from Ostrusha (C. Tzochev).

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Plain table ware

31. Not inventoried, fig. 14
One-handler. 11 fragments, partially restored. Complete profile. Smooth pink (7.5YR 7/4) surface with very fine mica. Interior surface covered with white and black stains: organic residues? Ø rim ca 14 cm (ca 10% preserved).
32. Not inventoried, fig. 14
One-handler. 11 fragments, partially restored. Complete profile. Smooth soft light brown to very pale brown (7.5YR 6/4–10YR 7/4) surface with very fine mica. Traces of pale slip outside; polished interior surface. Ø rim ca 13 cm (ca 40% preserved).
33. II 2126, fig. 14
Bowl or one-handler. 13 fragments, refitted and restored with plaster. Complete profile. High ring foot, straight rim, two grooves below. Deformed and stained by secondary burning. Ø rim 13.4 cm.
34. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl or one-handler. 10 fragments, not refitted. Profile similar to no. 33. Surface covered with dark stains from secondary burning. Ø rim ca 15 cm.
35. Not inventoried, fig. 14
Bowl. 30 fragments, partially restored. Incomplete profile, missing parts of the wall and the rim. Smooth light brown (7.5YR 6/4) micaceous surface, covered with pale semi-translucent slip. Very fine reddish brown (2.5YR 5/4) core. White and black stains inside, especially on the floor: organic residue? Ø rim ca 21 cm (ca 50% preserved).
36. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl or one-handler. Single fragment of a ring foot with profile and fabric similar to no. 35. Two fragments of horizontal handles may belong here or to no. 37.
37. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl or one-handler. Single fragment of a ring foot with profile and fabric similar to no. 35. Two fragments of horizontal handles may belong here or to no. 36.
38. Not inventoried, fig. 14
Bowl. Two fragments of a concave ring foot and lower wall part. Another two fragments of incurved rim and wall possibly belong here. Unevenly beige-brown surface with traces of secondary burning. Interior part preserves a layer of white and black residues, probably organic matter. Ø foot ca 5.3 cm.
39. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl? Single fragment of a concave ring foot, similar to no. 38. Pinkish-grey to light brown (7.5YR 6/2-4) surface, paler core. Traces of burning.
40. II 2125, fig. 14
Bowl. Many fragments, refitted and restored with plaster. Complete profile, missing parts of rim, wall, and foot. Concave ring foot, thick incurved rim, two plain horizontal handles, indented along the edges. Smooth grey to beige surface, deformed and blackened from secondary burning, especially on the underside and the floor. Monogram epsilon scratched on the underside. Ø rim 17.7 cm (ca 80% preserved).
41. Not inventoried, not illustrated
Bowl. Four fragments of foot and rim. Profile identical to no. 40 and similar in size. Smooth light brown (7.5YR 6/4) surface with semi-translucent micaceous coating; fine-grained light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) core with some yellowish inclusions.

Pithoi

42. Not inventoried, fig. 15
About 40 fragments, including from the rim and foot. Not restored. Incomplete profile. Coarse gritty brown (7.5YR 5/4) surface with fine mica. Large dark brown to dark red and very large white bits in core. Ø rim ca 33 cm (ca 40% preserved).
43. Not inventoried, fig. 15
About 30 fragments, including from the rim and foot. Not restored. Incomplete profile. Coarse gritty reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) surface with sparse mica. Core with darker stripe in centre and many large white bits. Ø rim ca 28 cm (ca 60% preserved).
44. Not inventoried, fig. 15
About 30 fragments from the rim and upper wall; foot missing. Not restored. Coarse gritty reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) surface with sparse mica. Many large white bits in core. Ø rim ca 32 cm (ca 27% preserved).

45. Not inventoried, fig. 15
About 55 fragments from the rim and body; foot missing. Not restored. Gritty reddish-yellow (5YR 6/6) surface with sparse mica. Many large white bits in core. Ø rim ca 22 cm (ca 40% preserved).
46. II 2121, fig. 15
About 90 fragments refitted and restored with plaster. Complete profile. Light brown to light reddish brown (5YR 6/4–7.5YR 6/4) surface with very fine mica. Fine-grained core with some white limestone bits. Row of incised diagonal lines on the shoulders. Dark stains may be from burning. H. 55 cm; Ø rim ca 22 cm; Ø max ca 51.5 cm.

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