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**Excavations in Balaklava (Sevastopol,  
Ukraine) : season 2011 : discovery of  
Fortifications of a Roman Fort**

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach  
dozwolonego użytku.

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## EXCAVATIONS IN BALAKLAVA (SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINE) – SEASON 2011. DISCOVERY OF FORTIFICATIONS OF A ROMAN FORT

Archaeological examinations of the joint Polish-Ukrainian expedition in Sevastopol have already lasted for 15 years. In their course, several important discoveries have been made. Our knowledge on the presence of Roman troops in Crimea is richer with regard to several facts concerning religious and family life of soldiers (SARNOWSKI, SVELÂ 2000). It was possible to discover basic points which made up the security system created by the Romans along the borders of Chersonesos Taurica (SARNOWSKI, SVELÂ, KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI 2003; 2007).

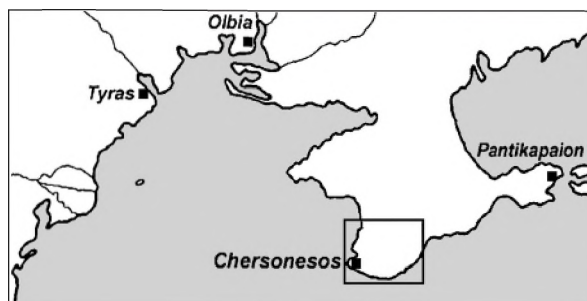
Since 2009, excavations at the Roman fort in Balaklava-Kadykovka have been carried out. The fort has not been hitherto examined in a systematic manner (KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI, SVELÂ 2011). Balaklava is part of the Sevastopol urban agglomeration. Kadykovka, once a small village, is now the northern quarter of present-day Balaklava. The research is financed by a grant from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Radosław Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski is the grant director and the Polish head of the expedition. Oleg Â. Savelâ, Deputy Director of the “Tauric Chersonesos” National Preserve, represents the Ukrainian party.

Works carried out in the last two seasons have confirmed that in the trench near the municipal market place we have to do with fragments of buildings that are very similar to the temple of Jupiter Dolichenus, discovered in the neighbourhood (SARNOWSKI, SVELÂ 2000). The dating of these two buildings and a division of survived remains into two building phases are convergent. It was possible to find out that the exposed architectural remains were fragments of interior buildings of the fort. With a great degree of probability it can be said that these were barracks.

The main task in the season 2011 (1.08–25.08) was to find out what was situated in the nearest vicinity of the discovered building.

Already in the preceding year a trial trench on the south reached the border of the present-day market place. Thanks to this, it was possible to determine that a portico went along the Roman barracks on that side (Fig. 1:3). However, it was not possible to determine whether another building was situated farther off, or fortifications went behind a putative street.

In 2011 the trial trench was extended to the north and west, thus almost reaching a rivulet which flows in the neighbourhood. At that time, in spite of a considerable destruction of layers by Modern period buildings, it was possible to identify the edge of the fort.



### Architectural relics

A majority of architectural remains which were exposed in the course of three seasons of examinations were rooms considered as part of the barrack (Fig. 1). The extension of the trench to the north revealed other rows of rooms which were a continuation of the same building. On the west, an exterior wall was exposed, analogously to an earlier case when such a wall was found on the south. Farther to the west, no traces of the portico were found. However, in some places traces of hardening of utility surface with a pavement of small pebbles and individual stone slabs (Fig. 1:3).

For the first time in the course of examinations, evident traces of earlier stone constructions were found under the aforementioned remains of rooms. These constructions were made of small pebbles with the use of lime mortar (white and pink). The relics are cut with foundations of the later barrack building and not all of them make a logical whole. At the present stage of research it can be stated that these are traces of stone architecture that were oriented at a different angle in relation to the cardinal

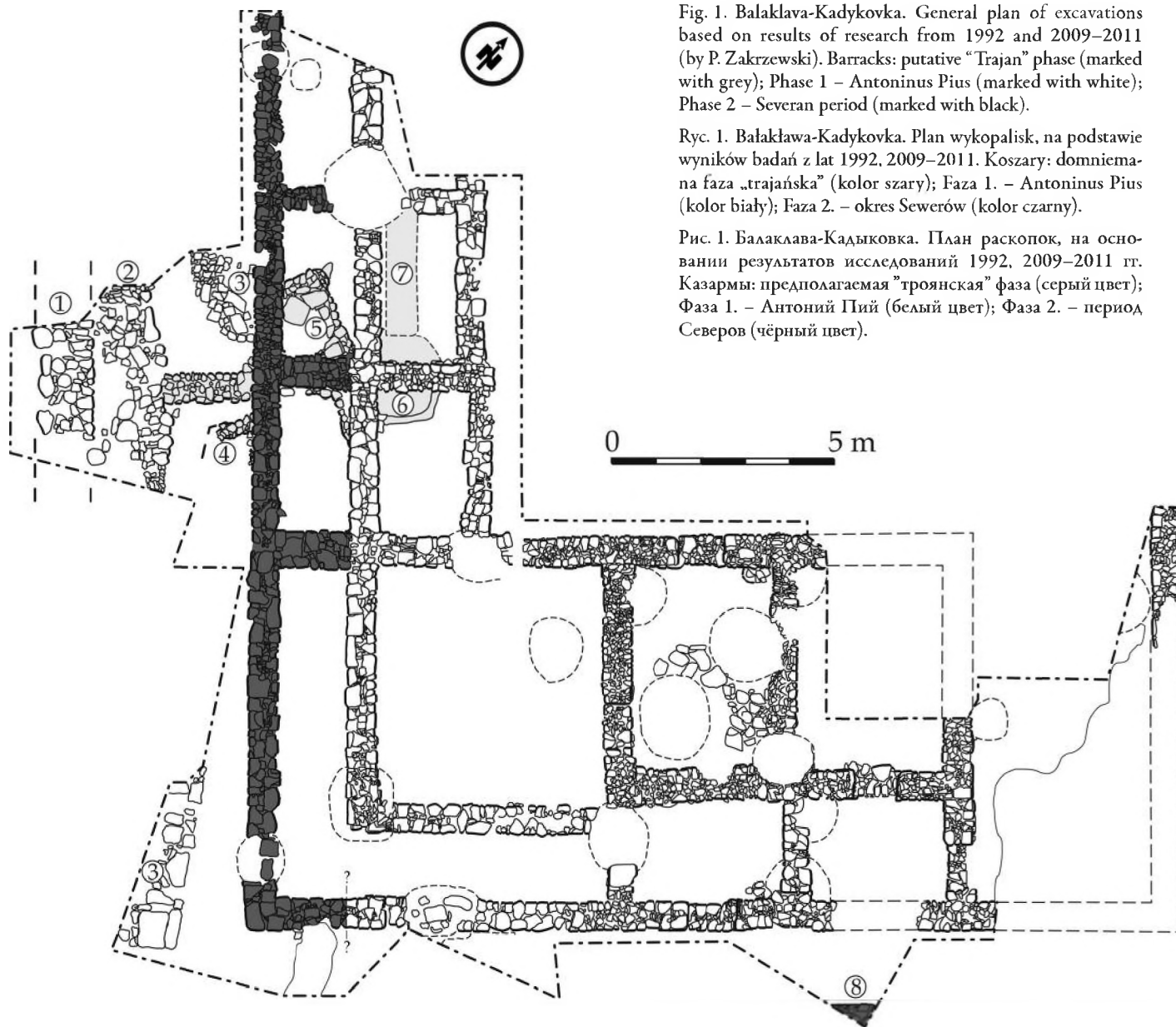


Fig. 1. Balaklava-Kadykovka. General plan of excavations based on results of research from 1992 and 2009–2011 (by P. Zakrzewski). Barracks: putative “Trajan” phase (marked with grey); Phase 1 – Antoninus Pius (marked with white); Phase 2 – Severan period (marked with black).

Рис. 1. Балаклава-Кадыковка. План выкопалек, на основании результатов исследований 1992, 2009–2011 гг. Козары: предполагаемая “траяновская” фаза (серый цвет); Фаза 1. – Антонин Пий (белый цвет); Фаза 2. – период Северов (черный цвет).

Рис. 1. Балаклава-Кадыковка. План раскопок, на основании результатов исследований 1992, 2009–2011 гг. Казармы: предполагаемая “траянская” фаза (серый цвет); Фаза 1. – Антоний Пий (белый цвет); Фаза 2. – период Северов (чёрный цвет).

directions than the later premise which was referred to as the barracks (Fig. 1:5), or that these are situated lower than the floors in the barracks. Among the examined remains one can mention: a water-leading canal which was tightened with lime mortar with additive of ceramic aggregate (Figs. 1:7, 3); remains of an oval tank reservoir which was tightened with similar mortar and to which the aforementioned canal almost certainly led (Figs. 1:6, 4); a sewage canal made of small pebbles, which was tightened inside with white-yellow lime mortar (Figs. 1:4, 5). The canal is situated slightly farther to the west and slightly lower, taking into consideration the surface of the original inclination of the terrain. The preserved part of the canal is situated under the paved surface outside the barrack building (to the west).

Farther off to the west, it was possible to expose stone bases of two constructions (of walls?) in the trial trench. Both structures adjoin each other and they go in parallel to the nearby wall of the barracks. The constructions were made of almost unworked large lumps of local stone (Fig. 1:1,2). Building material was laid with no foundations, only on a substruction of small pebbles with lime mortar.

Even farther off to the west, traces of a ditch (a moat?) with a regular cross-section were identified near the rivulet. It was not possible to trace the course of layers within the entire length of the section due to deep Modern period cuts. Nevertheless, it was possible to find out that the fill of the putative moat and a destruction layer which was situated above it can be dated to the same period as the remains of the Roman fort.



Fig. 2. Western wall of the barracks (view from the east). Foundations go on the layer of pavement of small pebbles. Layer of burning (dated to the turn of the eras) can be seen below in the section (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Ryc. 2. Zachodni mur koszar (widok od wschodu). Fundament przebiega po warstwie bruku z drobnego kamienia. Poniżej w profilu widoczna warstwa spalenizny datowana na przełom er.

Рис. 2. Западная стена казарм (вид с востока). Фундамент проходит по слою забутовки из мелкого камня. Ниже в профиле виден слой горения, датирующийся рубежом эр.

### Stratigraphy and relations between architectural phases

The hitherto examinations confirm that the earliest settlement phase in this part of Balaklava corresponds to the layer of burnt daub with admixture of charcoal (Fig. 2). This layer is accompanied with portable relics, which may be related to the Hellenistic Period. However, the latest finds (e.g., fibulae of Aucissa type) are to be related to the turn of the eras. In this phase there are no remains of permanent buildings, including stone architecture, within the examined area (KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI, SÁVELA 2011).

The next phase can be related to the remains of stone constructions, joint with lime mortar, including mortar with additive of ceramic aggregate. In places where it was possible to identify the relations between both described phases, the remains of stone architecture are situated above the layer of burning.

Both mentioned phases are destroyed by foundation cuts of the building which was referred to as the barracks. Rooms which were examined in the preceding years (slightly farther off to the east) contained traces of two

levels of destruction (layers with broken roofing tiles) in their fills. These levels were separated with traces of repair and rebuilding. The westernmost row of rooms revealed one level of destruction only. This can be correlated with the later (higher) level from the remaining rooms. It must be underlined here that the foundations of the western row of rooms are founded on a pavement layer of small pebbles (Fig. 2) or they cut through this pavement. Analogous hardening survived in some places farther to the west (outside the building) and in one of the western rooms (Fig. 6 – the area which was examined in the preceding season). It is certain that no analogous layer existed in the rooms which are situated farther to the east. In this case, it seems to be the most important that the walls of the western rooms merely adjoin the rest of buildings, while other walls are bonded to each other.

These observations allow to carry out an attempt at identifying two building phases of the barracks in a way that is somehow different than it has been done so far (this is discussed below).

To the west of the discussed remains of the barracks, it was possible for the first time to identify relics of fortifications surrounding the fort. The aforementioned



Fig. 3. Examinations in the interior of the barracks (view from the east). Fragment of the canal (water conduit?) and the reservoir situated below the foundations of the barracks. Cf. Fig. 1:6,7 (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Рис. 3. Баданія ўнутры казарм (від з усходу). Фрагмент канала (водопровода?) і зборніка поўжоняе фундаментў казарм. Пор. Рис. 1:6,7.

Рис. 3. Исследования внутри казарм (вид с востока). Фрагмент канала (водопровода?) и сборника, расположенного ниже фундамента казарм. Ср. Рис. 1:6,7.



Fig. 4. Examinations in the interior of the barracks (view from the east). Fragment of the reservoir situated below the foundations of the barracks. Cf. Fig. 1:6 (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Рис. 4. Баданія ўнутры казарм (від з усходу). Фрагмент зборніка поўжоняе фундаментў казарм. Пор. Рис. 1:6.

Рис. 4. Исследования внутри казарм (вид с востока). Фрагмент сборника, расположенного ниже фундамента казарм. Ср. Рис. 1:6.



Fig. 5. Sewage canal in the street to the west of the barracks (view from the east). Canal comes out from under the western wall of the building and is cut with a Modern period pit. Cf. Fig. 1:4 (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Ryc. 5. Kanał ściekowy na ulicy na zachód od koszar (widok od wschodu). Kanał wyprowadzony jest spod zachodniej ściany budynku i przecięty nowożytną jamą. Por. Ryc. 1:4.

Рис. 5. Канал для стоков на улице, на запад от казарм (вид с востока). Канал выходит из западной стены строения и частично разрушен современной ямой. Ср. Рис. 1:4.

stone lumps on the substruction with lime mortar can be divided into two separate constructions. Slightly farther off from the barracks, there are regular bases made of stone lumps which are laid in such a manner that one can identify remains of the outer and inner face (Fig. 1:1). On the east, i.e., on the side of the barracks there is a sort of thickening of the previous building. This thickening has one facing only (Fig. 1:2), which indicates that it was joint to the already extant previous construction.

Both described structures go in parallel to the outer wall of the barracks. This observation is very significant, bearing in mind a fragmentary state of identification of the relics of fortifications. Their course, which goes in parallel to the building of the barracks points out that all these buildings coexisted within the same architectural arrangement.

The final destruction of the fortifications and the buildings of the fort can be most probably related to the fact of concealment of a hoard of denars in one of the walls of the barracks. The dating of the abandonment of the fort based on the latest issues from the aforementioned hoard points to the end of the Severan dynasty (FILIPPENKO, ALEKSEENKO 2000).

### Portable relics and the dating of the fort

For the “pre-Roman” phase in Balaklava the most significant time markers are fibulae of Aucissa type (TREISTER 1994). For the period of functioning of the barracks the dating is based on finds of roofing tiles with stamps, which were manufactured by the local garrison. Specimens with “VEMI” stamps are dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. (SARNOWSKI 2006a). The destruction of the fort is possibly to be related to the aforementioned hoard of denars, which does not contain specimens that would be later than the end of the Severan dynasty.

After the fort had been abandoned by the Romans, the settlement came back to that area only at the end of the Middle Ages. Traces of this settlement are first of all a series of pits, whose fills can be dated to the period from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> c. The earliest pits dominated within the area where the temple of Jupiter Dolichenus was discovered. The latest ones were examined in the last season, within the area near the bazaar and the rivulet. The discovered pits may have originated in result of search for building material for Modern period constructions. Such an



Fig. 6. One of the western rooms of the barracks in the course of excavations (view from the south). Remains of the pavement which adjoins the eastern wall can be seen in the room (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Рис. 6. Jedno z zachodnich pomieszczeń koszar podczas badań, widok od południa. W pomieszczeniu widoczne pozostałości bruku, który styka się ze ścianą wschodnią pomieszczenia.

Рис. 6. Одно из западных помещений казарм в ходе исследований, вид с юга. В помещении видны остатки вымостки улицы, которые прилегают к восточной стене помещения.

assumption comes into mind when we take a look at the plan. Numerous pits cut through the walls of the Roman Period, especially in places where the walls of the Roman building met, which could give prospects for extraction of larger amount of stone. We hardly encountered any pits outside the scope of ancient walls. These pits may have also been dug as storage pits. Such an original function is implied by their shapes – they are deep and broaden towards their bottom parts. This is a typical form of storage pits in numerous cultures and periods. On the other hand, it is a supposition only, as it has not been possible so far to encounter remains of stored products, e.g., grain. The structure of fills and a series of sherds of typical toilet vessels which were used in the Muslim culture (Fig. 8) indicates that the pits eventually fulfilled the role of latrines. Various pieces of waste were also thrown into them. Numerous finds of animal bones and sherds of kitchen and tableware are known from these pits. A find of some fragments of thin-walled porcelain is of exceptional nature (Fig. 9). Their high quality and applied ornamental motifs

allow to suppose that the vessels (tea bowls) were imported from China. The material is still being processed, so a final determination of this issue is still pending. Single artefacts from earlier layers were also found in the pits. The most interesting example in this group is a terracotta woman's head, discovered in 2010 (Fig. 7). In spite of the fact that these finds are deprived of their contexts, they essentially contribute to our knowledge about the site. They are even more significant as we know that the preserved layers from the Roman Period are quite poor in portable finds. In the course of research we mainly found sherds of pottery vessels (there are no entire vessels or fragments which can be put together) and single animal bones. Apart from the pits, the latest features within the area which was examined this year are foundations and cellars of houses which existed in this part of Kadykovka at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. Foundation cuts of these buildings considerably damaged the relics of the fortifications and the moat from the Roman Period.

## Interpretation

Examinations in the preceding seasons allowed for an identification of the building (previously referred to as “A”) as the barracks of the Roman garrison which stationed in Balaklava. The latest possible date of origin of the building is marked by the roofing tiles with the “VEMI” stamps. The parallel course of the remains of the barracks and the fortifications points out that also the revealed fortifications of the fort were constructed in the period of rule of Antoninus Pius at the latest. The fortifications consisted of the moat and the wall, which was built with no foundations. The thickness of the wall (1.3–1.4 m) and the applied method of construction are almost identical as in the case of relics of a Roman fortlet on the nearby Kazatskaya Hill. These remains come from the same period (SARNOWSKI, SAVELJA, KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI 2003; 2007). Based on this analogy, one can explain the function of the aforementioned thickening of the fortifications from inside. Most probably, these are remains of a ramp leading to the walls (*ascensus*). This may suggest that a turret or fortifications of one of the gates of the fort were located in the neighbourhood. The space between the remains of the defensive wall and the barracks, where traces of the pavement and the fragment of the sewage canal were found (Fig. 1:3) would be part of the street (*Via Sagularis*).



Fig. 7. Woman's head made of terracotta. One of the finds coming from the Modern period pits (Photo R. Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski).

Ryc. 7. Głównka kobieca wykonana z terakoty. Jedno ze znalezisk pochodzących z nowożytnych jam.

Рис. 7. Голова женщины, выполненная из глины. Одна из находок, обнаруженная в современных ямах ..

Fig. 8. Toilet vessel extracted from one of the pits (Photo R. Karasiewicz-Szczypiorski).

Ryc. 8. Naczynie toaletowe wydobyte z jednej z jam.

Рис. 8. Туалетный сосуд, найденный в одной из ям.





Fig. 9. Fragments of porcelain bowls and pipes extracted from one of the pits (Photo A. Filippenko).

Рис. 9. Фрагменты чашек порцелановых и fajek wydobyte z jednej z jam.

Рис. 9. Фрагменты столовых чашек и курительных трубок, обнаруженных в одной из ям.

It must be underlined here that in such a case we would have to do with an exceptionally narrow perimeter street. Traces of the pavement under the first row of rooms in the building of the barracks and the way of attaching the walls of these rooms to the rest of the building (merely adjoining) testify to the fact that these rooms were built on later (Fig. 6). The extension of the barracks was made at the cost of the street. Additional rooms were created by means of building on part of the street (cf. Fig. 1).

Finally, two remarks should be added as a comment to the discussed discoveries.

1. One should for the first time consider the existence of the fort in Balaklava already at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD. It is not contradictory to careful proposals concerning the chronology of presence of the Roman troops in Taurida (SARNOWSKI 2000; 2006b; 2006c; KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI 2001). In places where the Romans stationed in Crimea, one can see a tendency to leave (or of returns of) garrisons to the same locations. Considering the building phase from the Antoninian period as best examined, one should note that there is no doubt that we have to do with at least one more earlier phase of stone architecture. Important indicators are the masonry technique applied in these early remains (lime mortar) and the nature of the remains (parts of installations used for the transport and

storage of water). These data may imply a relation to an earlier (from the time of Trajan?) garrison and a fort in Balaklava.

2. Observations which were made in the course of examinations of the barracks are an argument in favour of a hypothesis of a considerable numerical increase of the garrison in the Severan period. The building was enlarged at the cost of the street. Some rooms were rebuilt, thus improving their standard (observations from the preceding season). A conclusion concerning a stronger (than previously) military presence in Crimea in the Severan period may also be drawn based on the analysis of architectural remains of other Roman garrisons in Taurida. I.a., the enlargement of garrison therms in Cape Ay-Todor may serve as an example (BLAVACKIĪ 1951).

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### WYKOPALISKA W BAŁAKŁAWIE (SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINA) – SEZON 2011.

#### ODKRYCIE UMOCNIEŃ RZYMSKIEGO FORTU

W wyniku wykopalisk prowadzonych w centrum Bałakławy w latach 2009–2010 udało się potwierdzić, że ruiny określane wcześniej jako „Budynek A” stanowią pozostałości koszar wzniesionych przez wojsko rzymskie. Budynek funkcjonował w 2. połowie II i 1. połowie III wieku. Początki jego istnienia wyznaczają znaleziska dachówki ze stemplami „VEMI”, kres użytkowania należy najprawdopodobniej datować w oparciu o skarb denarów znaleziony w latach 90. XX w. Najmłodsze monety to emisje ostatnich przedstawicieli dynastii Sewerów.

Pozostałości architektoniczne koszar pozwalają wyróżnić dwie fazy budowlane, które można powiązać z fazami budowlanymi pobliskiej świątyni Jowisza Dolicheńskiego.

Na południe od budynku natrafiono na pozostałości fundamentu, który został uznany za stylobat portyku (Ryc. 1:8). W roku 2011 wykop poszerzono w kierunku zachodnim i północnym. Dzięki temu udało się ustalić szereg nowych faktów:

– koszary od zachodu graniczą z ulicą utwardzoną drobnym tłuczniem kamiennym (Ryc. 1:3);

- budynek kontynuuje się w kierunku północnym;
- cały rząd pomieszczeń od zachodu został dobudowany w fazie II (okres Sewerów) kosztem zwężenia wspomnianej ulicy;
- po przeciwnej stronie ulicy natrafiono na pozostałości umocnień fortu. Mur wykonano z niemal nieobrobionych brył kamienia układanych bez fundamentu na substrukcji z zaprawy wapiennej i tłuczni (Ryc. 1:1);
- do umocnień od wewnątrz dobudowano jeden równoległy wątek (Ryc. 1:2), który można interpretować jako wejście na mury (*ascensus*);
- na zewnątrz od muru obronnego w sondażu udało się odkryć pozostałości fosy;
- poniżej zabudowań koszar znajdują się resztki wodociągu (Ryc. 1:6,7), kanału ściekowego (Ryc. 1:4) oraz pozostałości nierozpoznanych fundamentów (Ryc. 1:5). Fundamenty koszar przecinają te relikty lub przebiegają powyżej;

- poniżej wszystkich opisanych pozostałości architektonicznych, podobnie jak na odcinku z lat 2009–2010, zalega warstwa spalenizny bez śladów zabudowań kamiennych, którą na podstawie materiału zabytkowego można datować na przełom er lub I w. n.e.

Na podstawie dotychczasowych odkryć można wnioskować m.in., że fort w Bałakławie był otoczony kamiennym murem obronnym, na zewnątrz którego biegła fosa. Zachowane ślady umocnień pochodzą najpóźniej z okresu budowy koszar (2. połowa II w.). Pierwszy raz (na terenie uznanym za wnętrze fortu) udało się uchwycić starsze relikty architektury murowanej. Zastosowana technika murarska (użycie białej i różowej zaprawy wapiennej) może wskazywać na wojsko rzymskie. Pozycja stratygraficzna tych relikwów pozwala przypuszczać, że są to pozostałości zabudowań z początku II wieku. Być może jest to ślad obecności garnizonu w okresie rządów Trajana.

РАДОСЛАВ КАРАСЕВИЧ-ШЦЫПЁРСКИ, ОЛЕГ Я. САВЕЛЯ

### РАСКОПКИ В БАЛАКЛАВЕ (СЕВАСТОПОЛЬ, УКРАИНА) В 2011 Г. ОТКРЫТИЕ УКРЕПЛЕНИЙ РИМСКОГО ФОРТА

В результате раскопок, проводимых в центре Балаклавы в 2009–2010 гг., удалось подтвердить, что руины определённые ранее как „Здание А”, представляют собой остатки казарм, построенных римским войском. Строение функционировало во второй половине II и первой половине III вв. На время его строительства указывают находки черепицы с клеймом „VEMPI”. Клад динариев, найденных в части строения, выявленной в 90-х гг. XX в., может свидетельствовать о прекращении его существования. Самые поздние монеты являются эмиссией времени последних представителей династии Северов.

Архитектурные остатки казарм позволяют выделить две строительные фазы, которые можно соотнести со строительными фазами находящегося поблизости святилища Юпитера Долихена.

На юг от строения наткнулись на остатки фундамента, который был признан как стилобат портика (Рис. 3:8). В 2011 году раскоп был расширен в западном и северном направлениях. Благодаря этому удалось установить ряд новых фактов:

- казармы с запада граничат с улицей, утрамбованной мелким каменным щебнем (Рис. 1:3);
- строение продолжается в северном направлении;
- весь ряд помещений с запада был достроен в фазе II (период Северов), в связи с чем была сужена упомянутая улица;
- на противоположной стороне улицы наткнулись на остатки оборонительных сооружений форта; стена построена из плохо обработанных камней, без фундамента, на субструкции из известнякового раствора и щебня (Рис. 1:1);

- к оборонительным сооружениям изнутри пристроено „углощение” (Рис. 1:2), которое можно интерпретировать как выход на стены (*ascensus*);
- снаружи от оборонительной стены, в зондаже удалось наткнуться на остатки рва;
- ниже строения казарм находятся остатки водопровода (Рис. 1:6,7), канализационного канала (Рис. 1:4), а также остатки неопределённых нами фундаментов (Рис. 1:5). Фундаменты казарм пересекают эти остатки или проходят выше;
- ниже всех описанных архитектурных остатков, подобно как на отрезке 2009–2010 гг., залегают слои горения без следов каменных строений, археологический материал которых позволяет их датировать рубежом или I в. н.э.

На основании современных исследований можно сделать вывод, что форт в Балаклаве был окружён каменной оборонительной стеной, впереди которой проходил ров. Сохранившиеся следы оборонительных сооружений можно датировать временем строительства казарм (вторая половина II в.). Таким образом, впервые (на территории форта) удалось выявить более ранние остатки строительной архитектуры. Строительная техника (использование белого и розового известково-вого раствора) может указывать на присутствие римского войска. Относительная датировка (на основании стратиграфии) позволяет предположить, что остатки строений датируются началом II века. Возможно, эти следы являются свидетельством присутствия гарнизона в период правления императора Траяна.

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