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Excavations in Balaklava (Sevastopol,
Ukraine) : Season 2009-2010**

Światowit 8 (49)/Fasc.A, 173-175

2009-2010

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez **Muzeum Historii Polski** w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

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RADOSŁAW KARASIEWICZ-SZCZYPIORSKI, OLEG Â. SAVELÂ

IN THE HEART OF A ROMAN FORT IN CRIMEA.
EXCAVATIONS IN BALAKLAVA (SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINE). SEASON 2009–2010
(PLS. 188–189)

Balaklava is now part of the Sevastopol urban agglomeration. Kadykovka, once a small village, is now the northern quarter of present-day Balaklava. The life of local inhabitants concentrates at a local bazaar. Next to the market place, research of the joint expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw and the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos has been carried out since 2009, based on the international agreement between the University of Warsaw and the local museum.¹ Financial support is provided 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 Savelâ, Deputy Director of the Museum, represents the Ukrainian party.

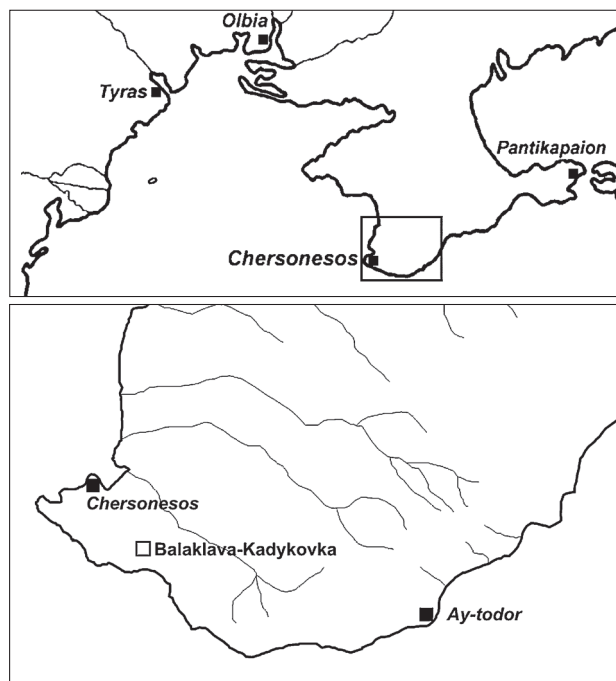
The aim of the expedition is to explore the remains of a fort which was built in the 2nd c. AD by Roman soldiers (Fig. 1). They were deployed in Balaklava in order to secure the nearby Greek town of *Chersonesos Taurica*.

Earlier discoveries in the neighbourhood clearly implied that archaeologists could expect to find remains of a Roman garrison. Finds that made such conclusions possible were, i. a., a tombstone of a Roman cavalryman (SAWELJA, SARNOWSKI 2000), a temple of Jupiter Dolichenus, founded by Roman soldiers (SARNOWSKI, SAWELJA 2000) and a hoard of denars. Coins in a clay vessel were found in ruins which were provided with a working name of “Building A,” right next to the Kadykovka bazaar (FILIPPENKO, ALEKSEENKO 2000).

Test excavations were carried out in 2009 at the site of the latter find. They were first aimed at re-discovering the relics which were hitherto examined and indentifying borders of the area examined by excavations so far. These aims were achieved. Furthermore, it was possible to make several significant stratigraphic observations. These were confirmed by research in the following season.

Architectural relics (Figs. 2, 3)

In result of the excavations in 2009 and 2010 it was found out that the explored remains were foundations and lower parts of walls of a building. It was built of rubble



stone (local limestone), joint with clay mortar. A layer of broken roofing tiles points out that the roof was tiled with ceramic plates.

Building A did not survive in whole; its eastern part was completely destroyed, as it was already found out during the first excavations in the early 1990s. It is still open to a debate how far the building extended in that direction. Those excavations also enabled the researcher to define the extent of the building to the south and to state that there were two rows of interconnected rooms inside of it. Research from the last two seasons extended considerably our knowledge. It was possible to find remains of a portico to the south of Building A. A corner of a building and a wall going northwards were found to the west from Building A. Remains of a paved surface (a street?) were discovered further to the west. Another row of rooms was found to the north; these, however, have not been fully explored yet. Nevertheless, it can clearly be seen that the built-up area continues in this direction.

¹ The excavations took place as follows: 1–28.08.2009, 2–29.08.2010.

Stratigraphy

In result of hitherto research it was possible to analyse the stratigraphic sequence. It seems to be very similar to the sequence which is known from the examinations of the nearby temple of Jupiter Dolichenus. It must be stressed that the interpretation was supported by observations concerning typology and chronology of building stamps on tegular materials from military manufactures. A list of types of building stamps on roofing tiles was made based on the results of research in Dolichenum in Balaklava. Finds of roofing tiles from other sites where Roman troops were deployed in Crimea were used as comparative data (SARNOWSKI 2006).

Eventually, it was possible to ascertain that the first settlement phase took place at the turn of the eras. The layer from that period is merely a few centimetres thick. To a great degree it constitutes of lumps of secondarily burnt cob and charcoal.

A mound of Building A is another trace of human activity at the site. Foundations of this building cut through the afore-mentioned layers with traces of burning. Remains of an older usage layer, which is an interlayer with admixture of lumps of lime, may be correlated to the first phase of the stone building. It is only in one room that the older usage surface are remains of a pavement of small pebbles. It seems that traces of a post-hole under the foundations (stylobate) of the assumed portico may be related to the same phase.

In the examined rooms the afore-mentioned usage layer is covered by a levelling layer, which is 30–50 cm thick. It consists of pure brown soil.

Above it, there are remains of the younger usage layer. In this case traces point out that floors were daubed with a layer of white lime mortar. Remains of lime plasters were also notable on the walls, above the lime floors. A reconstruction (a new building phase) was also related to a change in the room layout. Hitherto examinations proved that at least one wall was pulled down, as the lime mortar floor covered its remains. At least one wall was built already as part of the reconstruction. It is situated on shallow foundations, which do not cut through the afore-mentioned levelling layer. Rooms of the younger phase are covered by fill, which contains remains of burnt beams and broken roofing tiles. These are traces of fire, after which the building was not rebuilt.

The next settlement phase comes from the Modern period. Its traces are the afore-mentioned ditches – remains of settlement dated to the 16th c. Similar cuts were previously found during the first examinations of Building A, as well as in Dolichenum.

Movable relics and dating

Hitherto examinations yielded very few movable relics. It could be supposed that the fire which destroyed the buildings of the Roman period took place during the

reconstruction. If so, all the movable furnishings were removed from the interior prior to it.

Among the finds, attention is drawn to a terracotta head of a woman, which was found in one of the Modern period ditches. It is probably to be related to the settlement at the turn of the eras. This first phase is dated by two poorly preserved iron fibulae, possibly of Aucissa type (TREISTER 1994: 92, 98).

Building A is above all dated by finds of roofing tiles with stamps. All the specimens which have been found so far bear a VEMI inscription. This enables to date them to the 2nd half of the 2nd c. AD and relate them to the construction of Building A. We should not be surprised by the fact that part of these roofing tiles come from the fill which closed the second phase. Based on previous research, we know that undamaged roofing tiles were used during later repairs. The end of use of Building A can tentatively be dated based on a find of the hoard of denars. It was found in one of the walls during the excavations in the 1990s. The assemblage of coins closes with issues by the last representatives of the Severan dynasty (FILIPPENKO, ALEKSEENKO 2000).

Interpretation

Hitherto discoveries enable to assume that the first settlement phase refers to intensified activities of barbarians in the neighbouring area of the chora of Chersonesos at the turn of the eras. This would confirm the last results of excavations at Greek farms, which were a few kilometres away (KOVALEVSKAJA, SARNOWSKI 2003: 229–235; 2007: 157–169).

Building A is to be related to the presence of the Roman garrison in Balaklava, based on building techniques and the finds of roofing tiles. The layout and the size of the building suggest that it was constructed as barracks. Discovered rooms were in all probability *contubernia* of common soldiers. In the second phase the interiors were perhaps adapted to the needs of a commander, e.g., a centurion. Stratigraphic observations point out that rebuilt interiors changed their original function. Recorded traces testify to an enlargement of the rooms (at least one wall was pulled down) and more thorough finish to the interiors (the walls and the floor were daubed with a layer of white lime mortar).

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WYKOPALISKA FORTU RZYMSKIEGO W BAŁAKŁAWIE-KADYKOWCE (SEVASTOPOL, UKRAINA). SEZON 2009–2010

W sezonie 2009 i 2010 podjęto badania tak zwanego Budynku A, odsłoniętego częściowo przez badaczy ukraińskich w 1992 roku.

Dotychczasowe odkrycia pozwalają przypuszczać, że pierwsza faza osadnicza na tym miejscu wiąże się ze wzmożoną aktywnością barbarzyńców na pobliskich terenach chory Chersonesu na przełomie er. Byłoby to potwierdzeniem wyników ostatnich wykopalisk na oddalonych o kilka kilometrów greckich farmach.

Budynek A, ze względu na zastosowane techniki budowlane i znaleziska dachówek, należy wiązać z obecnością

garnizonu rzymskiego w Bałakławie. Plan budowli i jej rozmiary pozwalają domyślać się, że została ona wzniesiona jako barak koszarowy. Odkryte pomieszczenia stanowiły najprawdopodobniej *contubernia* zwykłych żołnierzy. Być może w drugiej fazie wnętrza zaadaptowano na potrzeby dowódcy, np. centuriona. Obserwacje stratygraficzne wskazują, że przebudowane pomieszczenia zmieniły pierwotne przeznaczenie. Uchwycone ślady potwierdzają powiększenie pomieszczeń (wyburzenie co najmniej jednej ściany) i staranniejsze wykończenie wnętrza (pokrycie ścian i podłóg warstwą białej zaprawy wapiennej).

PLATE 188

Fig. 1. Balaklava-Kadykovka. Contour (topographic) plan with a putative extent of the Roman fort (P. Zakrzewski).

Ryc. 1. Bałakława-Kadykowka. Plan warstwicowy z domniemanym zasięgiem rzymskiego fortu.

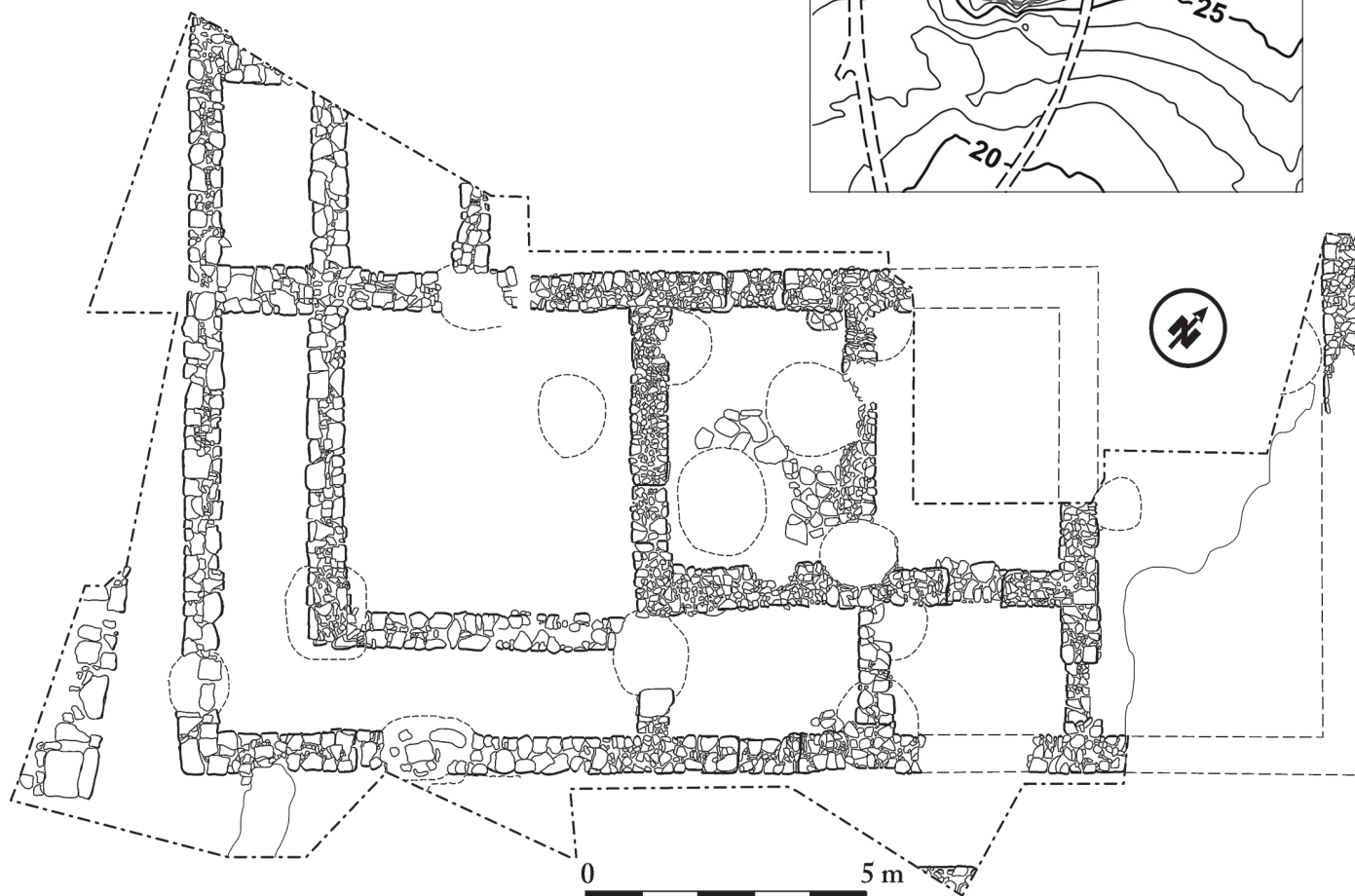
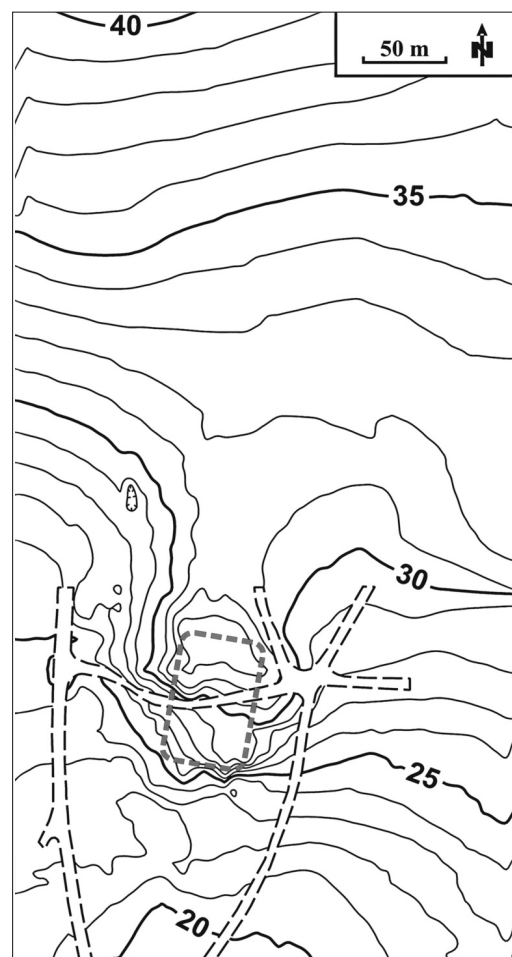


Fig. 2. Balaklava-Kadykovka. Building A: general plan. Based on results of research from 1992, 2009 and 2010. (P. Zakrzewski).

Ryc. 2. Bałakława-Kadykowka. Budynek A: plan ogólny, wg wyników badań w latach 1992, 2009 i 2010.



Fig. 3. Balaklava-Kadykovka. Season 2010. Excavations of Building A (Photo A. Trzop-Szczypiorska).

Ryc. 3. Bałakława-Kadykowka. Sezon 2010. Wykopaliska Budynku A.