

TOMASZ SCHOLL

## TANAIS, RUSSIA. EXCAVATIONS IN 2011

Fieldwork carried out in 2011 (27 June – 24 July) involved a team of 26 participants including students (from the University of Warsaw and the Jagiellonian University), volunteers from Poland and academics from Poland, Russia and Italy.<sup>1</sup> There were two main areas of excavations: the defensive ditch, where the fill of the ditch was removed, and the so-called Turkish rampart (Fig. 1). On the Turkish rampart the test trench from 2010 at the entrance to the town was completed and another trial pit was dug in the Street b–N. Wall 13 was cleared in Squares 103 and 110, testing a hypothesis about the existence of an entrance to Locus B.<sup>2</sup>

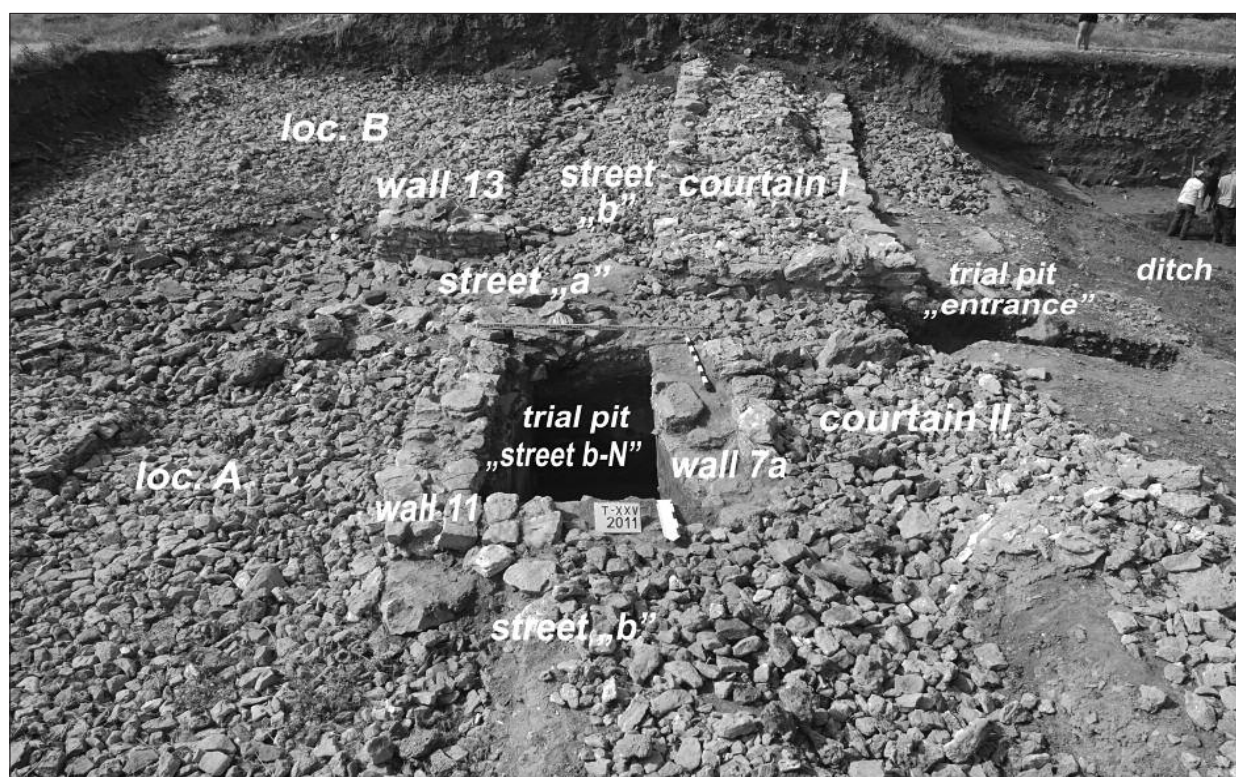
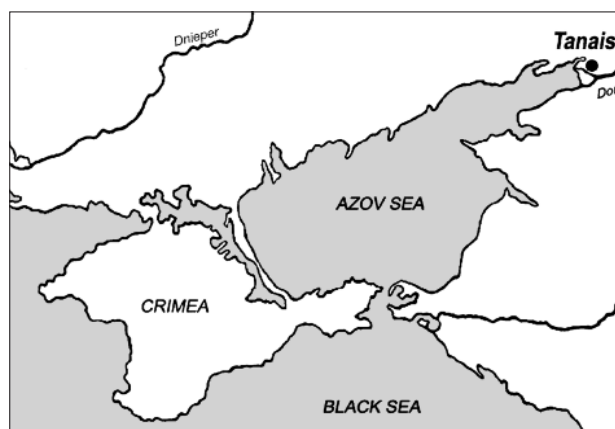


Fig. 1. North-eastern part of the trench, view from the north (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 1. Północno-wschodnia część wykopu, widok od strony północnej.

<sup>1</sup> List of participants of the archaeological expedition to Tanais 2011: T. Arsen'eva (Russia), B. Baliukeviciute (Lithuania), P. Biagi (Italy), S. Górski, G. Gregorczyk, W. Hypiak, E. Jacenko (Russia), M. Kacprzak, M. Kończal, E. Kumkowski, T. Kuter, I. Morozov (Russia), S. Naumenko (Russia), A. Nocuń, J. Nurczyk, K. Pakuła, L. Pastewska, T. Scholl, E. Sroczyńska, K. Stokłosa, Ł. Szarek,

N. Tarnowska, P. Warczyński, P. Wysocki, M. Zakrzewska, D. Ziental.

<sup>2</sup> For the location of trenches and squares see: T.A. ARSEN'EVA, T. SCHOLL, M. MATERA, S.A. NAUMENKO, A. ROWIŃSKA, *Issledovaniâ v zapadnom rajone Tanaisa v 2009 g. (raskop XXV)*, "Światowit" VIII (XLIX)/A (2009–2010), 2011, figs. 1–3.



Fig. 3. Rhodian amphora stamp, middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 3. Odcisk stempla na amforze z Rodos, połowa II w. p.n.e.

### Defensive ditch (in the western part of the Trench XXV)

The ditch was cleared to culturally sterile level on practically the entire width. The eastern slope and the

bottom of the ditch demonstrated considerable erosion. Layer structure inside the ditch was not homogeneous; sections of very dense, compact fill were interspersed with numerous lenses of waste comprising a mix of ashes, burned animal bones and pottery. Countless stones from the deposits were mostly of small size, originating probably from the curtain wall core. Large facing blocks were observed on the eastern slope of the ditch, lying in secondary deposits of culturally sterile clay (presumably clay used as binder when constructing the first curtain wall). These blocks must have come from the outer face of the first curtain wall; some of the stones may have also been part of the inner face of the defensive wall from the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC, left in the ditch during the rebuilding of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC as reinforcement of the slope.

Saturation with finds is not uniform. The most distinctive artefacts in this assemblage are Rhodian amphora stamps (Fig. 2) and grinders made out of Rhodian amphora sherds.

The ceramic mass assemblage was dominated by Hellenistic material, especially numerous fragments of Rhodian amphorae.



Fig. 3. Trial pit in entry road, foundation trench of the defensive wall, 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC, from N (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 3. Sondaż we wjeździe do miasta, wkop fundamentowy muru obronnego z II wieku p.n.e., widok od strony północnej.

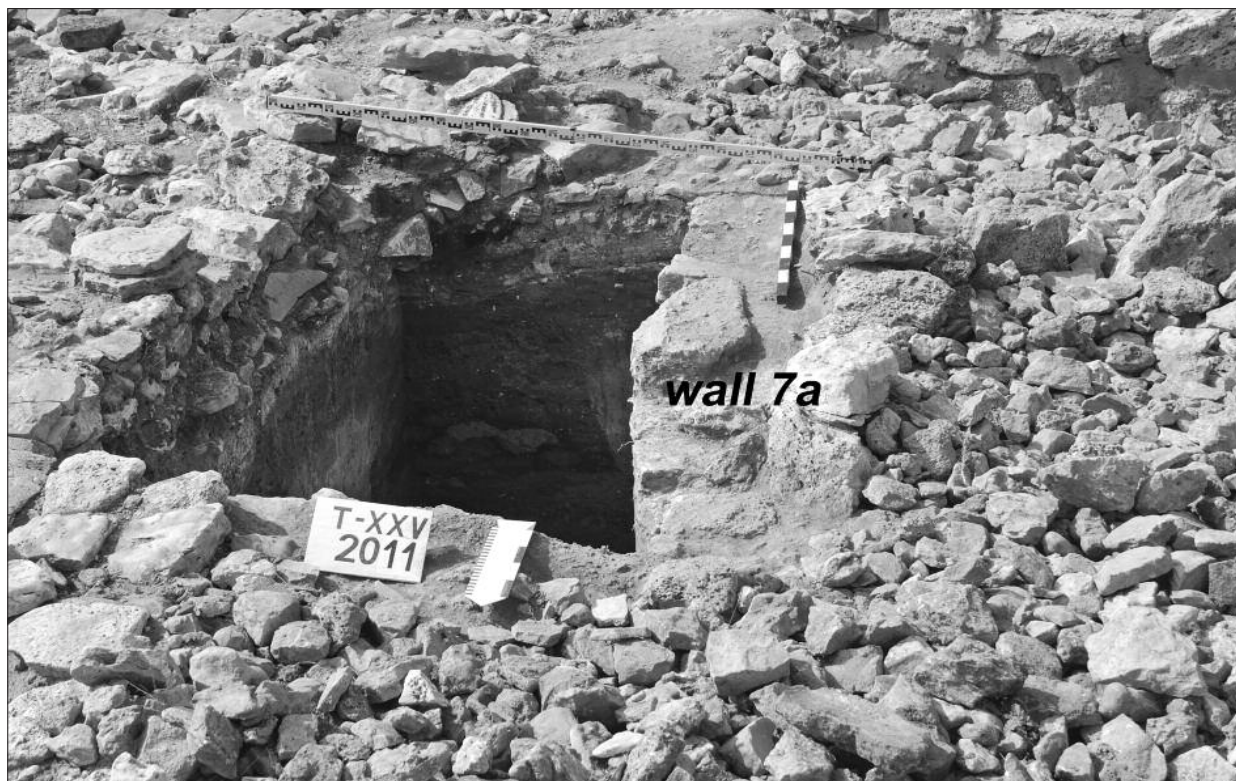


Fig. 4. Trial pit “Street b–N”, Wall 7a, view from the north (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 4. Sondaż „ulica b–N”, mur 7a, widok od strony północnej.

### “Rampart” squares (in the eastern part of the trench) (Fig. 1)

Exploration in the centre of this part of the trench, centred on clarifying the nature of the entry road and the relation between the defensive walls of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC. It turned out possible to trace the full section of the foundation trench under the inner face of the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BC foundation wall and to understand the way the eastern slope of the defensive ditch was heightened next to the entry road into the town (Fig. 3). These works are interpreted as evidence for the rebuilding of this part of the town in the early years of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC. Excavations produced only a small amount of non-diagnostic sherds of handmade pottery and animal bones.

The relation between the second inner curtain wall (7a) and the outer (west) wall (11) of Locus A was tested in a trial trench (“Street b–N”). Some pits were cleared fragmentarily inside the trial trench. The small amounts of anthropogenic material recovered from the pits included mainly remains from clearing hearths: considerable amounts of ashes, tiny fragments of burned animal bones and heavily fragmented potsherds. Three pits were documented. A bell-shaped pit by Wall 7a adjoined another pit sealed by Streets “a” and “b.” Wall 11 covered the third pit, which was situated to the east; it was the latest pit of the three and was actually dug into the other two. Numerous rodent burrows interconnected these pits. On

the east the levelling layer did not reach Wall 11. It appears that the wall was constructed in the second building phase in the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC, reinforcing in this way the extant Wall 11. An analogous situation was observed at the junction with the courtyard of the “residence” where the wall was doubled in similar fashion. The result of work in both trenches that year aimed at reconstructing the appearance of the gateway, especially the layout of the first and second curtain walls facing the entrance. The missing second southern curtain wall appeared to run parallel with the northern wall of the first curtain wall. About 1.4 m to the north of the entrance both faces of the second curtain wall (7 and 7a) turned to the northwest (Fig. 4).

Recorded finds included a stamped amphora handle from Sinope, two stone projectiles and two extremely characteristic fragments of handmade ceramics: a rim and full form of a burnished pot of sandy colour. Hellenistic mass ceramics were infrequent with a considerable percentage of amphora sherds from Rhodos.

The microgeological make-up of both trenches was examined with assistance from I. Morozov, geologist from the Southern Federal University in Rostov on the Don.

The top of Wall 13 was cleaned again in order to verify the hypothesis about the presence of the entrance to locus Locus B in Square 110. The gap, which was discovered in the wall, suggests that the doorway was either 0.7 m or 1.3 m wide.



Fig. 5. Handmade lamp of clay (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 5. Gliniana, ręcznie lepiąca lampka oliwna.

One of the finds of note from the cleaning of Trench XXV was a handmade lamp, preserved almost complete (Fig. 5).

Faunal remains from two seasons of work were examined by B. Baliukeviciute, thanks to a special grant from the Foundation of the University of Warsaw.

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University of Warsaw, the Institute of Archaeology UW, and the Foundation of the University of Warsaw.

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### TANAIS, ROSJA. WYKOPALISKA W 2011

W badaniach uczestniczyli archeolodzy z Polski, Rosji, Włoch, studenci Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego i Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego oraz wolontariusze z Polski. Prace terenowe prowadzono w dwóch miejscach: rów obronny i tzw. wał turecki.

Rów wyesplorowano do calca prawie na całej szerokości, odnotowując znaczną erozję zbocza wschodniego i dna. Na skłonie wschodnim widoczne są, leżące we wtórnym calcu, duże kamienie licowe, pozostałe po kurtynie z II lub z I wieku p.n.e. Wśród zabytków wydzielonych wyróżnić należy stemple na amforach z Rodos i rozcieracze wykonane z fragmentów tych naczyń.

Prace na tzw. wale tureckim prowadzono w trzech miejscach. W części centralnej dokończono sondaż rozpoczęty w zeszłym roku we wjeździe do miasta. Uzyskano pełny profil wkopu fundamentowego pod wewnętrzne lico muru kurtyny z II wieku p.n.e. i wyjaśniono sposób nadbudowy wschodniego skłonu rowu obronnego w początku I wieku p.n.e.

Dla wyjaśnienia relacji pomiędzy murem wewnętrznym kurtyny II (mur 7a) a murem 11, będącym zewnętrznym murem *locus* A, wytyczono sondaż „uliczka b-N”. Okazało się, że mur 11 został wzmocniony w drugiej fazie budowlanej przez podwojenie jego pierwotnej szerokości. Niezachowany południowy mur kurtyny II był prawdopodobnie równoległy do muru północnego kurtyny I, a w odległości 1,4 m na północ od wjazdu oba mury licowe kurtyny II skręcały na północny zachód.

Odczyszczono ponownie koronę muru 13 (zachodni mur *locus* B) w celu weryfikacji hipotezy o znajdującym się w nim otworze wejściowym. Hipoteza ta znalazła potwierdzenie: odkryto przerwę w murze, która sugeruje, że wejście miało szerokość 0,7 bądź 1,3 m.

Dzięki pomocy geologa, profesora I. Morozova z Południowego Federalnego Uniwersytetu w Rostowie nad Donem, wyjaśniono charakter mikrogeologiczny obu sondaży.

W tym sezonie, dzięki specjalnej dotacji Fundacji Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, gości z kampanii 2010 i 2011 r. opracowała B. Baliukeviciute.