THRACIAN AND CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN BULGARIA IN THE YEARS OF TRANSITION (AN ATTEMPT FOR SYNOPSIS)

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The present paper has no ambitions to be exhaustive. We will try to present some of the main trends, respectively problems in the development, in the last fifteen years, of the archaeology of the Thracian lands from the end of the Prehistoric period up to the Late Antiquity. Due to objective reasons, the text has some essayistic elements, at the expense of listing facts and statistics. The latter could be found in the bibliographic references of our professional editions. Many of the trends and phenomena considered below are largely the same as those regarding the archaeological investigations of prehistoric and medieval sites, as in many cases the investigations of complex multilayered sites and the respective publications are interconnected and inseparable in terms of general history and modern institutions.

While the Prehistory would consider 15 years only a twinkling, in Classical times such a period is longer than it took Alexander the Great to defeat and conquer Persia, to create an empire that comprised half of the Old World, and to lay the foundations of a new political and cultural era, the Hellenistic Period. Standing at the limits of this period – the last 15 years – we lack the distance that is necessary for to make an adequate evaluation. However, as we know the importance of what we, being professionals (at least we hope we are), are going to do in the coming decisive and crucial years, we decided it was worth it to answer several fundamental (groups of) questions:

I. What did the transition predefine and change in Bulgarian archaeologists' mentality and research conduct?

II. What was left behind, what was preserved, and what new appeared in the conditions of work?

III. Which approaches and methods should we preserve and what should we change, regarding the modern development and the realization of the professional community, as well as the sites that should be investigated and socialized?

The answers of these groups of questions are intertwined with prognoses about future perspectives. In various ways and at various levels they pertain to several problems: *the attitude to the subject of study; the educational level and the intellectual conditions that exist for the work and development of the professional community; the organization (institutional) and self-organization of the Bulgarian archaeologists; the ways the process of research is financed – from investigations on the terrain to final publications; the financing and the*

normative base for studying and preserving Bulgaria's archaeological heritage; and the material base.

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1. Unlike texts dealing with history of modern times, already in the 1970s and 1980s the publications of the Bulgarian archaeologists were not ideologically burdened. The objectivity, the depth, and the scope of each study depended most of all on the personal qualities, the education, and the erudition of the individual archaeologists. In this respect, the agitated years immediately after 1989 did not have any impact on the production of the Bulgarian archaeological community. With the exception of few isolated examples of revenge-seeking phraseology and suggestions, the community's publications pursued objectivity and precision within the limits of the subject of study.

2. Before 1989, many archaeologists in Bulgaria were deprived of possibilities to have adequate contacts with colleagues from the so-called "Western world" (i.e. with followers of the Western archaeological schools), as well as of possibilities to use foreign specialized literature. Gradually, this isolation regarding contacts and possibilities for collaboration was overcome, and today, except for the problems of the low standard of living in Bulgaria, we are part of the international scholarly community that studies the pre-Classical and Classical cultures in Southeastern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean. As examples, we could point at the scope of the latest Congresses of Thracology, especially the Seventh that was held in Sofia in 2000,[1] of the International Congress of Thracian Studies in Komotini,[2] of the already traditional Congresses of Funerary Archaeology, the beginning of which was laid in Kazanlak in 1993,[3] and especially of the project for Pontic Congresses (initiated and backed by western scholars, such as Prof. John Boardman), the first of which was held in Varna in

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[1] Cf. Fol, A (ed.*)* Thrace and Aegean. Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Thracology, Sofia 2000. S., 2002, Vols. 1-2.

[2] Thrace Ancienne. Époque Archaïque, Classique, Hellenistique, Romaine. □ Actes du 2-e Symposium Internationale des Études Thraciennes. Komotini, 20 - 27 septembre 1992, Komotini, 1997. Vols. 1-2. Cf. also Tuna, N., Z. Aktüre, M. Lynch (eds.) Thracians and Phrygians: Problems of Paralelism. Proceedings of an International Symposium on the Archaeology, History and Ancient Languages of Thrace and Phrygia. Ankara 1995. Ankara, 1998.

[3] Първи международен симпозиум "Севтополис". "Надгробните могили в Югоизточна Европа", Казанлък 1993. Т. 1, Велико Търново. 1994, Т. 2 1996. On the Second Symposium, see: *G. Simion, V. Lungu* (eds.) Tombes tumulaire de l'Âge du Fer dans le Sud-Est de l'Europe. Actes du II[e] Colloque International d' Archéologie Funéraire. Tulcea-Brăila-Călăraşi-Slobozia. Septembre 1995, Tulcea, 2000. The latest, Fifth Symposium was held in the fall of 2005 in Sibiu, Romania.

1998.[4] Numerous foreign scholars took part in the conference that was dedicated to the problems of the Roman and Late Roman cities, organized by the Institute of Archaeology with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Nottingham on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the joint Bulgarian-British investigations in Nicopolis ad Istrum and its territory.[5]

A pleasant trend in recent years is the appearance of new summarizing and even fundamental works of distinguished European scholars, dealing specifically with the cultural development of Thrace in ancient times.[6] Written as a result of close contacts with Bulgarian colleagues, they form a good base for popularizing the achievements of the last decades. On the other hand, these studies echo the distanced perspectives and the concepts of followers of various archaeological schools that may seem to us inadequate at times. In addition, these publications emphasize the absence of such works, written by Bulgarian archaeologists.[7]

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[4] The Second Pontic Congress was held in Ankara in 2002, and the Third – in Prague in 2005.

[5] The Roman and Late Roman City. International Conference, Veliko Turnovo 2000. *Л. Слокоска, Р. Иванов, В. Динчев* (ред.). Римският и късноантичният град. Международна конференция. Велико Търново 26□30 юли 2000. С., 2002.

[6] *Archibald, Z.* The Odrysian Kingdom of Thrace. Orpheus Unmasked. Oxford Monographs on Classical Archaeology. Oxford, 1998; *Kull, B.* Tod und Apotheose. Zur Ikonographie in Grab und Kunst der jüngeren Eisenzeit an der unteren Donau und ihr Bedeutung für die Interpretation von "Prunkgräbern". □ BRGK, 78, 1997 (1998), 197□466; *Nawotka, K.* The Western Pontic Cities. History and Political Organization. Amsterdam, 1997; Bule and demos in Miletus and its Pontic colonies from Classical Age until third century BC. Wroclaw □ Warszawa – Krakyw, 1999; *Oppermann, M.* Die westpontischen Poleis und ihr indigenes Umfeld in vorrömischer Zeit. Beier & Beran, Langenweißach, 2004; *Schönert-Geiss, E.* Die Münzprägung von Augusta Traiana und Traianopolis. (Griechisches Münzwerk. Schriften zur Geschichte und Kultur der Antike 31). Berlin, Akademie Verlag, 1991; *Peter, U.* Die Münzen des Thrakischn Dynasten (5.–3. Jahrhundert v. Chr.). Hintrgründe ihrer Prägung. Berlin. 1997; *Kommick, H*. Die Münzprägung von Nicopolis ad Nestum. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 2003.

[7] The constantly increasing number of high quality pieces of toreutics and jewellery, discovered in Bulgaria, is particularly alluring as a subject of study for our western colleagues. Cf. *Pfrommer M.* Ein Grab □ Drei Kulturen. Betrachtungen zu einem thrakischen Grabfund aus Kirklareli. – Ist. Mitt., 43, 1993, 339□449; *Kull, B.* Orient und Okzident. Aspekte der Datierung und Deutung des Hortes von Rogozen. □ In: Becker, C., M.-L. Dunkelmann, C. Metzner-Nebelschick, H. Peter-Röcher, B. Terzan. *Chronos*. Beiträge zur Archäologie zwischen Nord- und Südosteuropa. Festschrift B. Hänsel, Intern. Arch. Studia honoraria 1. Espelkamp, 1997, 689□710; *Ebbinghaus, S.* Between Greece and Persia: Rhyta in Thrace from the Late 5th to the Early 3rd Centuries B.C. □ In: G. Tsetskhladze (ed.). Ancient Greeks. West & East. Brill, Leiden□Boston□Köln, 1999, 385□425; *Zurnatzi, A.* Inscribed Silver Vessels of the Odrysian Kings: Gifts, Tribute, and the Diffusion of the Forms of "Achaemenid" Metalware in Thrace. □ AJA, 104, 2000, 683□706 и др.

3. The changes in the social order that progress painfully and with controversial surges offered us shortages in the planned financing, to compensate with uncertain and generally small-scale possibilities for planned and regular excavations. Slowly and painfully, we learned to find sponsors and to take part in well-organized projects in the frames of national and international programmes. Due to objective reasons, there are still steps to be taken in that direction, including in personal perspective. In this respect, the archaeologists of the new generations will be the natural carriers of new and modern behaviour.[8]

Another positive phenomenon that is a result primarily of the personal efforts of the researchers in the last 15 years is the clear trend to implement interdisciplinary methods in the research work in the field. We could add also the larger specter of archaeometrical studies of archaeological artifacts, part of which were carried out in collaboration with leading experts from Germany, Great Britain, Italy, etc.[9]

4. In Sofia University "St. Kliment Okhridski" (in 1993) and in Veliko Tarnovo University "Sts. Cyril and Methodius" (in 1994) programs for teaching archaeology started. During 1970s and 1980s, leanings in that direction were accumulated because of the objective need to create professional archaeologists, trained to study the particularly rich archaeological heritage of Bulgaria. At present, both universities offer education in programmes for obtaining Bachelor and Master degrees, following the European standards. As a direct result of the changes and the introduction of western educational models, we could point at the creation of departments of Archaeology and Society

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[8] As an example, we could adduce the project for resuming the investigations in the National Archaeological Reserve Deultum-Debelt, with the participation of foreign experts. At the same time, the team is working on and preparing the publication of the materials from previous excavations and of the rich and varied epigraphic monuments. Cf. *Балабанов, П., К. Костова*. Национален археологически резерват „Деултум□Дебелт"– проучвания и перспективи. – Паметници, реставрация, музеи 1, 2003, 45–53.

[9] *L. Christoskov, D. Gergova, I. Iliev, V. Rizzo***.** Traces of seismic effects on archaeological sites in Bulgaria. □ Anali di Geofisica, vol. XXXVIII, No 5□6, 1995, 907□918; *Kuleff, I., R. Djingova, P. Balabanov.* Archaeometric investigation of pottery from the Thracian town Deultum (VI. □IV. C. BC). □ Berliner Beiträge zur Archäometrie, Bd. 15, 1998, 199□216; *Kuleff, I., R. Djingova, G. Kabakchieva*. On the Origin of the Roman Pottery from Moesia Inferior (North Bulgaria). □ Archaeologia Bulgarica, III, 1999, 29□38; *Kuleff, I., R. Djingova*. Glass Production during the Roman and Medieval Times in Bulgaria. – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 6, 2002, № 3, 63–99; *Kuleff, I., M. Junk, L.Vagalinski.* Archaeometric Investigation of Eaglehead-buckles from Bulgaria. □ Historical Metallurgy, 36, 2002, 2, 77□83; *Guzowska, M., I. Kuleff, E. Pernicka, M. Satir.* On the Origin of Coarse Wares of Troia VII. – In: G. Wagner, E. Pernicka, H. P. Uerpmann (eds.). Troia and the Troad. Berlin□NewYork (Springer), 2003, 233□249; etc.

and of Culture of the Mediterranean in the New Bulgarian University (1992), as well as of similar programmes (though less provided for with lecturers and means) in Varna Free University, Burgas Free University, Plovdiv University, American and Southwestern universities in Blagoevgrad, and Shumen University. These universities have offered the market not only experts with BA and MA degrees, but also with PhD degrees. Many of them work as archaeologists and curators in museums and other institutions, and as staff and part-time lecturers in the above-listed universities. They have become members of teams that investigate sites from all main archaeological periods and their production is testimony to the potential of the new generation. For the first time in Bulgaria, there is such a group of gradually following one after the other generations of young scholars. Here we could assess the effect of the opportunities that were offered in the 1990s to the younger and youngest generations for short- and long-term scholarships and specializations abroad. They were reflected in their production, as well as in the official and unofficial contacts they have with their foreign colleagues.[10] A modern normative base that would create favourable conditions for development of university education in archaeology and its applying in practice would ensure Bulgaria a superior quality of studies – to start with excavations and to end with the exhaustive publications and socialization of our archaeological heritage.

5. In fact, the archaeologists still work within the frames of institutions that existed before 1989 – The Institute of Archaeology with Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, district (now regional) and municipal museums, universities, and the National Institute for the Monuments of Culture. The attempt at restoring the Bulgarian Archaeological Society in 1990 remained a formal act without any real consequences. The Society existed on paper until 2003, when its registration was abolished. Archaeologists in Bulgaria remain subordinate to various institutions, without having their own organization, such as a union, to defend their interests in these years of hard challenges and important decisions to be taken.

6. We could say that possibilities for publishing were one of the spheres in which the collapse in the early 1990s was most badly felt. Many journals, periodicals, monographs and other volumes either ceased to be published, or appeared with huge delay. Meanwhile, hardships and new opportunities brought the products of enterprise.

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[10] As an example I would point out at the opportunity the PhD thesis of our colleague N. Theodossiev, "North-Western Thrace from the Fifth to First Centuries BC" (Sofia 1998), to be published in time in the prestigious series *British Archaeological Reports* □ *Theodossiev, N.* North-Western Thrace from the Fifth to First Centuries BC. – BAR, International Series No 859, Oxford, 2000.

Private journals, series and editions appeared, established themselves and proved the existence of new opportunities. As a good example, we could adduce the journal *Archaeologia Bulgarica*, which, because of the determined efforts of the editors, has already established itself in the international scholarly exchange. Gradually, some periodicals such as the Annuals and the Proceedings of Bulgarian museums resumed publishing after many years of discontinuation. In the field of Roman and Late Roman archaeology, the rich empirical material that was accumulated in the preceding years caused the appearance of profound summarizing studies, dealing with the specifics of settlement life and provincial government, various aspects of secular and religious architecture, luxury items and everyday life objects (cf. the series "Roman and Early Byzantine Cities in Bulgaria"). Part of the publications appeared in English, German and French (some are bilingual), thus facilitating foreign scholars' access to the present discussions in Bulgarian archaeology.[11]

7. Regular archaeological excavations and conservation and restoration works were financed according to the inherited system through the Ministry of Culture and the museums. Certainly, the means were, and still are insufficient. Therefore, the volume of such investigations was reduced to a minimum, except for sites that were investigated and financed through international projects. Investigations at Pistiros,[12] Nicopolis ad Istrum, Jatrus, Novae and Oescus were of particular importance for Thracian and Classical archaeology. Not only the settlements themselves were excavated, but also the surrounding infrastructure was investigated with traditional and modern interdisciplinary methods. The results were presented in preliminary publications and monographs that entered the international scholarly exchange.[13] The intensive construction works in

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[11] See below, notes 12-14.

[12] A project that is carried out by teams from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Britain, and France. See: *Домарадски, М.* Емпорион Пистирос. I. Трако-гръцки търговски отношения, Пазарджик, 1995; *Домарадски, М., В. Танева.* Емпорион Пистирос. II. Тракийската култура в прехода към елинистическата епоха. Септември, 1998; *J. Bouzek, M. Domaradzki, Z. Archibald* (eds.). Pistiros I. Excavations and Studies. Prague, 1996; *L. Domaradzka, J. Bouzek, J. Rostropowicz* (eds.). Pistiros and Thasos. Structures commerciales dans la péninsule Balkanique aux VII-II siècles av. J.-C. Actes du Symposium, Septemvri 1998, Opole 2000; *J, Bouzek, Z. Archibald, L. Domaradzka* (eds.). Pistiros. II. Excavations and Studies. Praha, 2002.

[13] See the texts about respective sites in: *Р., Иванов, (ред.).* Римски и ранновизантийски градове в България. Т. 1. С. Иврай, 2002; *Р., Иванов, (ред.).* Римски и ранновизантийски селища в България. Т. 2. С. Иврай, 2003. Вж. още *Poulter, A.* Nicopolis ad Istrum. Roman, Late Roman and Early Byzantine City. London, (Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. JRS Monograph No 8), 1995; Nicopolis ad Istrum. T. 2. Ceramics and Minor Objects. London, 1997; *A. Poulter, L. Slokoska* (eds.). The City and Village in the Roman and late Roman Empire; Nicopolis

Sofia, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, and other cities that developed on top of important Roman centers created opportunities for rescue excavations that shed new light on problems of the latter's layout and structure, monumental architecture, economical and cultural development, etc.[14]

In last years, mostly as a result of rescue excavations, prompted by intensive construction works on the Black Sea coast, there was an increase in the depth and the scope of the study of the Western Pontic Greek poleis and their territories, and of their role for the cultural development of ancient Thrace.[15] At various intervals the fifth, the

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ad Istrum and Villages in its Territory. S., 1997; *T. Sarnowski* (ed.). *Novae*. Studies and Materials. T. 1. Poznan, 1995; *Kolendo, J./ V. Božilova*. Inscriptions grecques et latines de Novae (Mésie Inferieure). Ausonius-Publications, Mémoires 1, Bordeaux, 1997; *Кабакчиева, Г. Oescus. Castra Oescensia*. Ранноримски военен лагер при устието на Искър. София, 2000; Iatrus – Krivina. Bd. 4, 1991, Bd. 5, 1995, Bd. 6 (im Druck); *Ангелов, А.* Марцианопол: история и археология. Варна□Русе, Дунав прес, 1999; *Иванов, Р.* Долнодунавската отбранителна система между Дортикум и Дуросторум от Август до Маврикий. С., *Alea*, 1999; G. von Bülow, A. Miltscheva (Hrsgg.). Der Limes an der unteren Donau von Diokletian bis Heraklios. Vorträge der Internationalen Konferenz, Svishtov, Bulgarien (1.□5. September 1998). S., 1999; *Popović, I., P. Donevski*. Gold and Silver Jewellery from Durostorum Burials. Svishtov, 1999; *Генчева, Е.* Първият военен лагер в Нове, провинция Мизия (Сверна България). София□Варшава, 2002; *Иванов, Р.* Строителна керамика от Долния Дунав (Ескус□Нове□Дуросторум). С., 2002; *Димитров, З*. Архитектурна декорация в Долна Мизия (I□III в.). Автореферат на дисертация. С., 2004; *Кузманов, Г*. Римски и късноантични лампи от Рациария. – Год. АИМ, II, 2002, 242–261. *Кузманов, Г., Т. Ковачева*. Колекция от антични лампи в Историческия музей – Плевен. – ГСУ, ИФ, *Studia Archaeologica,* 2, 2003, 135–157; etc.

[14] Cf. above, note 13. *Станчева, М.* Към изучаването на античната сграда под площада "Св. Неделя". – Във: Сердика – Средец – София. Т. 3. С., 1997, 7–50; *Матеев, М.* Филипопол-древният Пловдив. Архитектура и градоустройство. Пловдив, 1993; *Кесякова, Е*. Филипопол през римската епоха. С., *Агатó*, 1999; *Калчев, К*. Археологическият резерват „Августа Траяна–Берое". Постижения и проблеми. – В: Сб. Материали, посветени на 85-год. на Историческия музей в Стара Загора. С. Загора, 1992, 49–69; *Маджаров, К.*. Диоклецианопол. Т. 1. С., Диос, 1993; *Щерева, И., К. Вачева, Д. Владимирова-Аладжова*. Туида–Сливен I. (Разкопки и проучвания, XXVII). С., Гал-Ико, 2001; *Кацарова-Попова, В*. Пауталия и нейната територия през I–VI в. Автореферат на дисертация. С., 2004; *Мешеков, Ю., Л. Стайкова.* Антична бронзова пластика II□III в. от фонда на Историческия музей в Кюстендил. С., 1997; *Петрова, Св.* Римско-йонийски капители от Мизия и Тракия (I□IV в.). София, 1996; *Динчев, В.* Римските вили в днешната българска територия. С., *Агатó*, 1997; *Генчева, Е.* Римските фибули от България (от края на I в. пр. н. е. до края на VI в. на н. е.). Велико Търново, *Faber*, 2004; *Boyadjiev, S*. Essai de classification typologique de l`architecture funéraire en Mésie et en Thrace au 2.–6. siècles. – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 7, 2003, No 3, 43–76.

[15] *Панайотова, К.* Надгробни могили в районите на гръцките колонии по българското Черноморие. – В: Надгробните могили в Югоизточна Европа. Първи международен симпозиум "Севтополис". Т. 1, 1994, 81–88; *Панайотова, К.* Некрополът на Аполония Понтика в местността Калфата. – Археология, 1998, № 3–4, 11–24; *Панайотова, К.* Обредни огнища в некрополите на Аполония

sixth, and the seventh international symposia Thracia Pontica took place.[16] After a difficult period for the Center for Underwater Archaeology in Sozopol, this important international forum took place again in 2003.

With great efforts, Bulgarian teams managed to continue regular excavations of other important sites. Among them, of particular significance for Sofia University's research and tutorial work were the

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Понтика. – В: Сборник в памет на д-р П. Горбанов (ГСУ. ИФ, Studia Archaeologica, Suppl. I). С., 133–141; *Bozkova, A.* A Pontic Pottery Group of the Hellenistic Age (a survey based on examples from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast). – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 1997, No 1, 8–17; *Lazarov, M.* Notizen zur griechischen Kolonisation am westlichen Schwarzen Meer. Schriftquellen und archäeologische Denkmäler. – In: G. Tsetskhladze (ed.). The Greek Colonisation of the Black Sea Area. Historical Interpretation of Archaeology (Historia Einzelschriften 121). Stuttgart, Franz Steiner Verlag 1998, 85–96; *Дамянов, М.* Към въпроса за населението в района на Черноморските колонии V–III в. пр. н. е. – Във: К. Бошнаков, Д. Ботева (състав.). Jubilaeus V – Сборник в чест на проф. Маргарита Тачева. С., 2002, 119–125; *Damyanov, M.* On the Local Population around the Greek Colonies in the Black Sea Area (5th–3rd centuries BC). – Ancient West and East, 2003, No 2, 253–264; *Damyanov, M.* Notes on the Territory of Odessos in Pre-Roman Times. – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 2004, No 2, 47–56; *Preshlenov, H..* Urban Spaces in Odessus (6th c BC–7th c AD). – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 2002, 3, 13–43; *Прешленов, Хр.* Одесос (Odessos, Odessus). Функционално-градоустройствена схема и архитектурни пространства (VI в. пр. Хр. – VII в. сл. Хр.). – В: Р. Иванов (състав. и ред.). Римски и ранновизантийски градове в България. Изследвания в памет на Теофил Иванов. С., 2002, 59–80; *Preshlenov, H*. Mesambria. – In: D. V. Grammenos, E. K. Petropoulos (eds.). Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea, T. 1. Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece 4. Thessaloniki, 2003, 157–208; *Nedev, D., K. Panayotova.* Apollonia Pontica (end of 7th –1st centuries B.C.) – In: D. V. Grammenos, E.K. Petropoulos (eds.). Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea, Volume I. Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece 4. Thessaloniki, 2003, 95–155; *Giuzelev, M.* Settlement structure of the Apollonian Territory and the Thracian Hinterland. – In: D. V. Grammenos, E. K. Petropoulos (eds.). Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea, T. 1. Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece 4. Thessaloniki, 2003, 107–119; *Гюзелев, М.* Селищната система по Западнопонтийското крайбрежие през първото хилядолетие пр. Хр.: земите между н. Емине и Босфора. Автореферат на дисертация за присъждане на научната и образователна степен "доктор". С., 2004; *Minchev, A.* Odessos. In: D. V. Grammenos, E. K. Petropoulos (eds.). Ancient Greek Colonies in the Black Sea, T. 1. Publications of the Archaeological Institute of Northern Greece 4. Thessaloniki, 2003, 209–278. Вж още *М. Лазаров (съст.)* Боговете на Понта. Варна, 1998.

[16] Cf. *M. Lazarov, Cr. Angelova (eds.).* Les Ports dans la vie de la Thrace Ancienne. Actes du symposium International "Thracia Pontica" V, Sozopol 1991. Varna, 1994; La Thtace et les sociétés maritimes anciennes. Proceedings of the International Symposium "Thracia Pontica" VI. 1, Sozopol 1994, Sozopol 1994 (Series 1); *Chr. Angelova (ed.)* Thracia Pontica VI. 2. – In honorem Mihaili Lazarov, S., 2003.

National Archaeological Reserve Kabyle[17] and the Thracian city in the Historical and Archaeological Reserve Sboryanovo.[18] Good examples of carrying out important regional projects without government sponsorship are Dr M. Tonkova's investigations in Chirpan region,[19] those of our colleague G. Nekhrizov in the Eastern Rhodope Mountains,[20] etc. In recent years, there was an increase in the number of the projects that were carried out with the support of various sponsors, which is a testimony to the large potential of this practice.[21]

Obviously, the model of financing should change. It is necessary to create a clear conception and strategy that could support a well-grounded plan for investigations of important sites and complexes of Thracian and Classical archaeology. Through state and joint governmental and nongovernmental funds, following competitive beginnings, it would be possible to support long-term and modern – speaking of teams and financing – research work. What has been restated for years, and continues to be postulated today – that the state does not have the means for such activities – is neither true nor correct. It favours people that consistently work for privatizing the

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17 See *Гетов, Л.* Могилен некропол от елинистическата епоха при Кабиле. – В: Кабиле. Т. 2. 1991, 168–197; *Гетов, Л.* Амфори и амфорни печати от Кабиле (IV–II в. пр. н. е.). С., 1995; Ранен тасоски внос по долното и средното течение на Тунджа и Марица. – ГСУ. ИФ, *Studia Archaeologica*, 1, 1994, 1999, 79–88. In the last 15 years, the investigations in the National Archaeological Reserve Kabyle changed radically its scale and speed. Nonetheless, despite the limited possibilities for research, interesting results were obtained regarding Kabyle's development as a military camp and city in Roman and Late Roman times.

18 *Стоянов, Т.* Гетската столица при Сборяново – проучвания, резултати, исторически проекции. (ч. 1) – История, 1996, № 5-6, 84–92; ч. 2 – История, 1997, № 1-2, 72–84. Cf. also *Д. Гергова, Т. Стоянов* (съст.). По стъпалата на времето. 15 години проучвания на гетското средище в Сборяново. Каталог на изложба. С., 1998; *Балканска, А.* Тракийското светилище при "Демир Баба теке". – Сборяново, Т. 2, София, 1998 (bilingual, in Bulgarian and English); *Stoyanov, T.* The Getic Capital at Sboryanovo (NE Bulgaria). – In: G. R. Tsetskhladze, J. G. de Boer (eds.). Black Sea Region in the Greek, Roman and Byzantine Periods. TALANTA Proceedings of the Dutch Archaeological and Historical Society, vol. XXXII-XXXII, 2000–2001 (2002), 207–221. An exhaustive publication of the results of the archaeological investigations in the city is about to appear in Vol. 3 of "Sboryanovo" series. On the monumental tombs in the Eastern Necropolis, see also *Гергова, Д.* Обрядът на обезсмъртяването в древна Тракия. С., 1996.

19 *Тонкова, М.* Новооткрит тракийски център от ранноелинистическата епоха при извора Халка бунар в землището на с. Горно Белево. – ГАИМ, II, 2002, 148–196.

20 Investigations of settlements, necropolises and sanctuaries from the 1st mill. BC in the regions of Madzharovo, Stambolovo, Krumovgrad, etc.

21 The example of the publishing of Vol. 1 of *Archaeologia Iuventa* (Sofia 2003) – the periodical of Ivan Venedikov Society of Young Archaeologists – deserves admiration and support.

archaeological heritage of Bulgaria. The shine of Thracian gold and silver treasures is a strong stimulant for such people.

As an example of the sufficient state resources, we could adduce the rescue investigations, accompanying large infrastructure projects that started after 1993 with the construction works on Maritsa and Thracia motorways and the international road Gotse Delchev – Drama. It turned out that when the prescripts of the Law for the Monuments of Culture are followed strictly, then funds could be provided for more than sufficient financing of teams, for conservation and restoration of artifacts, and for interdisciplinary laboratory and field research. For 2003 and 2004 only, about 1 million leva were spent on investigations of sites in two of the sectors of Thracia Motorway. The monographic volumes *Maritsa Project I*[22] and "Копривлен I"[23] are also examples for high quality publishing of the results of such projects in due time.

8. The freedom, or rather the anarchy, the obsolete laws, and the natural desire for getting richer in the context of the initial accumulation of wealth (most of all within the sphere of the unregulated economy) led to disastrous upsurge in looting and treasure hunting. Most damage was inflicted on Thracian tumular necropolises from Pre-Roman and Roman times, on settlements and sanctuaries. Rich graves and monumental tombs were and continue to be damaged or destroyed. An entire Roman city, Ratiaria near the village of Archar, is systematically devastated by gangs of looters in plain sight of the whole country (through the reports of the National Television and other media). The ongoing negligence regarding the preservation of one of the most significant sites in Bulgaria prompted the archaeological society to vote, at the National Conference in Sandanski in 2004, a special memorandum addressed to the state institutions (President, Parliament, and Government). There is no significant result of this act. Similar examples could fill an entire "Black book of Bulgaria's archaeological heritage".

As a response, archaeologists followed as close as they could with rescue excavations of the sites that were damaged by looters. Sadly, some of our colleagues persist in their conviction that archaeologists should excavate all large tumuli before the looters. There can be no doubt that magnificent monuments of Thracian monumental funerary architecture were discovered and somewhat published – in Kazanlak Valley,[24] near Starosel, etc.[25] Some tombs are decorated with

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[22] *K. Leshtakov (ed.).* Maritsa Project. Rescue Archaeological Excavations along Maritsa Motorway in South Bulgaria. T. 1. S., 1997.

[23] *А. Божкова, П. Делев* (ред.). Копривлен. Спасителни археологически проучвания по пътя Гоце Делчев – Драма 1998–1999 г. Т. 1. С., 2002.

[24] *Китов, Г.* Тракийските могили. – Thracia, No10, 1993, 39–80; "Долината на царете" в Казанлъшката котловина – Анали, 1994, № 2–3, 46–76; Тракийски

beautiful examples of Early Hellenistic mural paintings, such as the tomb at Alexandrovo,[26] others demonstrate interesting constructive decisions.[27] In some tumuli, rich graves and complexes with splendid pieces of Thracian and Classical toreutics and jewellery were discovered and their publication in due time would enrich our knowledge about Thracian culture in its heyday times. Unfortunately, the accumulated information is still far from being an adequate in volume and depth discussion, within the framework of Bulgarian archaeology, about methods of research and documentation, and about terminology and interpretation of Thracian monumental tombs and graves, regarding their construction, decoration, grave goods and function.[28]

гробнично-култов комплекс в могилата Оструша край Шипка. – ПрИ, 1994, № 4; Славчова могила край Розово. – Археология, 1996, № 1, 1–9; Сашова могила (Монументална неограбена тракийска гробница между Шипка и Ясеново). – Археология, 1996, 2□3, 9□22; *Китов, Г.* Могилата Голяма Арсеналка. – Археология, 1996, № 4, 31□42; *Kitov, G.* Royal insignia and Tempels in the Valey of the Thracian Rullers. – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 1999, No 1, 1–20; *Китов, Г.* Долината на тракийските владетели (I). – Археология, 2003, № 1, 13–28; II. – Пак там, № 2, 28–42.

[25] *Кисьов, К.* Тракийски могилен некропол край с. Старосел, община Хисаря. --ГНАМПд, X, 2001, 20–51; *Китов, Г.* Тракийски култов комплекс в Старосел. Варна, Славена, 2002.

[26] *Китов, Г.* Александрово–гробница-мавзолей със стенописи. – ПрИ, 2002, № 1, 15–17; Александровската гробница. – Анали, 2002, № 1, 50–81; Гробницата в Александрово. – Изв. ИМ Хасково, № 2, 2003, С., 2004, 149–175; *Kitov, G.* A Newly Found Thracian Tomb with Frescoes. – Archaeologia Bulgarica, 2001, № 2, 15–29.

[27] *Нехризов, Г.* Тракийска гробница в Долно Луково. – Родопи, 1993, № 5, 10–12; *Атанасов, Г., Н. Неделчев.* Гонимаседзе – жената на Севт и нейната гробница. – В :Πιτυη. Изследвания в чест на проф. И. Маразов. С., 2002, 550–557; *Гинев, Г.* Тракийска гробница при с. Врани кон, община Омуртаг. – Археология, 1999, № 3-4, 43–48; Тракийски могили при село Кралево, Търговищко. Варна, 2000; *Станчев, Д.* "Македонски" тип гробница от Борово, Русенско. – Във: *A. Fol* (ed.*).* Thrace and Aegean. Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Thracology, Sofia 2000. S., 2002, T. 2. 615–626; *Кисьов, К.* Тракийската култура в региона на Пловдив и течението на р. Стряма през втората половина на I хил. пр. Хр. С., 2004; Тракия и Гърция в древността. Могилни гробници от класическата епоха в община Калояново. Пловдив, 2005 (bilingual, in Bulgarian and English).

[28] Cf. G. Kitov's and D. Gergova's publications, listed respectively in notes 26 and 18; *Китов, Г.* Форма, съдържание и предназначение на тракийските могили. – Старини, 1999, № 1, 47–56; *Вълева Ю.* Тракийски и македонски монументални гробници. – ПрИ, 1994, № 3, 55–63; *Димитрова, Д.* Религиозната доктрина в архитектурните паметници от Балканите и Мала Азия. – Старини, 2000, № 1, 44–60; *Рабаджиев, К.* Гробницата на тракийския владетел (опит за нова интерпретация). – ГСУ. ИФ – Археология, 2 (1995), 2003, 115–135; Елински мистерии в Тракия. (Опит за археологически прочит). С., 2002; *Русева, М.* Тракийска култова архитектура в България. Ямбол, 2000; *Стоянова, Д.*

This competition with the looters – who is going to excavate more sites with heavy machinery – is damaging for the complexes. While excavating tumuli with earthmoving machinery brings faster results, notwithstanding they are controversial from methodological and scholarly point of view, are we supposed to be competing with looters when investigating settlements and sanctuaries, and therefore to excavate them hastily with bulldozers and backhoes? We are facing an absurd and vicious circle. Obviously, our priority should be not to follow in the steps of looters, but to prevent the damage. Both state institutions and the media are in debt. Paradoxically, many central newspapers provided the looters with media comfort. A notorious looters' boss was murdered and the whole of Bulgaria was supposed to mourn him. The very same media's pursuit of sensations encouraged some of our colleagues to continue with the clamour about gold and "unique phenomena" that in turn provoked another wave of looters' excesses. Even a new term was coined – "media archaeology". Soon, the average archaeologist would consider unattractive the patient and meticulous study, without claming real or imaginary "unique discoveries". The vicious circle could be broken only by determined policy on all levels for clear rules and lawfulness in all spheres related to archaeological and cultural heritage.

9. The situation in archaeology, speaking of socialization of archaeological sites as a base for cultural tourism, is the very same as it is with the model that is discussed at present for structuring the budgets of education, scientific research, and health care. It is a question of clearly formulated long-term national priorities. The easiest way would be to give it up and commit all these activities to the "honest entrepreneurs". We should add one more thing. If we should look for foreign examples in finding solutions of the problem with the looting, in investigating, preserving and socializing national archaeological riches, it would be better to chose countries that are similar to Bulgaria in this respect, and not ones that are far away and have different historic and cultural development, scope, standard of living, etc. The examples of Greece and Turkey should be considered first. Despite the fact that these countries have developed only in conditions of private property and enterprise, no one there has ever

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Монументална архитектура в Тракия V–III в. пр. Хр. Строителни материали, техники, конструкции, ордери. – Автореферат за присъждане на образователна и научна степен доктор, С., 2002; "Гръцката врата" в Тракия. - В: Πιτυη. Изследвания в чест на проф. Иван Маразов, С., 2002, 494–505; *Steingräber, S.* Grabarchitectur und Grabmalerei in Thrakien und im vorrömischen Italien–eine vergleichende Studie. – ПрИ, 1999, № 4, 53–68; *Theodossiev, N.* Monumental Tombs and Hero Cults in Thrace during the 5th–3rd centuries BC. – Héros et héroπnes dans les mythes et les cultes grecs. – Kernos, Suppl. 10, 2000, 435–447.

thought about giving up the role of the state in the sphere of the cultural heritage. On the contrary, in both countries ministries of culture and other state institutions exercise control on all elements of the chain. The media constantly show arrested and convicted looters and smugglers of cultural treasures. Everybody knows what the role of the cultural tourism is in the national economy of both countries. Obviously, the specifics of the Law for the Cultural Heritage and the accompanying regulations, as well as the creation of a clear national strategy in the coming years would be of decisive significance for reaching (or not) a positive solution of the problems that were considered here. All archaeologists and historians should bear responsibility if they could not formulate clearly and defend systematically the national interests before Bulgaria's state institutions, media and society.