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3

SANDANSKI AND ITS TERRITORY DURING PREHISTORY, ANTIQUITY AND MIDDLE AGES

CURRENT TRENDS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Proceedings of an International Conference at Sandanski September 17–20, 2015

Edited by Emil Nankov

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Veliko Tarnovo
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction ...........................................................................................................................................(7)

Maps ...................................................................................................................................................(11)

**PREHISTORY**

*Małgorzata Grębska-Kulow, Ilia Kulov, John Gorczyck*

Cultural Traditions from the Prehistoric Settlement at Damianitsa, Osmanitsa, Municipality of Sandanski ................................................................. (17)

*Appendix 1*

*John Gorczyk*

A Faunal Analysis of the Osteological Data from Damianitsa-Osmanica, Municipality of Sandanski ................................................................. (32)

*Ilia Kulov*

Bronze and Early Iron Age Settlements from the Sandanski Municipality, Southwest Bulgaria ................................................................. (40)

*Stefan Alexandrov*

The Bishop’s Basilica Before the Basilica ................................................................. (66)

*Stoiko Shatov, Velichka Kostova*

Preliminary Analysis of the Pottery from the Rescue Excavations in the Atrium of the Episcopal Basilica at Sandanski ................................................................. (75)

**ROMAN PARTHICOPOLIS AND ITS TERRITORY**

*Angelos Zannis*

Society, Religion and Culture in the Middle Strymon Valley ................................................................. (87)

*Georgi Mitrev*

The Data for Paroecopolis/Parthicopolis and the Problem on the Name of the Ancient Town at Sandanski ................................................................. (106)

*Hristina Tsoneva, Vladimir Petkov*

The Emergence and Development of the Antique City at Present-Day Sandanski (1st – 3rd c. AD) ................................................................. (113)

*Dan Dana*

Inscriptions de la vallée Du Moyen Strymon récemment publiées: quelques corrections ................................................................. (120)
Ilian Boyanov
Veterans and Society in the Middle Strymon Valley ..............................................................135

Philip Kolev
The Road Communications in the Middle Strymon Valley
During the Roman and Late Antique Periods .................................................................144

Svetla Petrova
Quarries and Workshops in the Territory of Parthicopolis (1st – 6th c. AD) ..................152

Emil Nankov
Sekoma: A Volume Standard for Liquids from Parthicopolis ...........................................170

Marina Koleva, Vladimir Petkov
Towards the Roman Provincial Art: A Female Statue from Sandanski .........................185

Rumjana Milcheva
Representations of Roman Soldiers on Funerary Stelae
from the Middle Strymon Valley ........................................................................................191

EARLY CHRISTIAN PARTHICOPOLIS
AND MEDIEVAL SVETI VRACH

Vladimir Petkov
History of the Archaeological Research
at the Episcopal Basilica in Sandanski (1989 – 2015) ..................................................219

Andreas Pülz
Some Considerations on the Relief Panels from the Bishop’s Basilica
(Basilica Nr. 4) in Sandanski, Bulgaria ...........................................................................231

Zdravko Dimitrov, Vladimir Petkov
Analysis of the Architectural Details and Decoration
in the “Peristyle Courtyard” Complex Near the Bishop’s Basilica
in the Town of Sandanski ..............................................................................................242

Ivo Topalilov, Vladimir Petkov
New Data on the Bishop’s Complex at Parthicopolis ..................................................255

Vania Popova
Late Antique Glass Workshop in Parthicopolis ..............................................................267

Alexander Sultanov, Kitan Kitanov
Petrographic and Mineralogical Analyses of the Frescoes
of an Early Christian Tomb in Sandanski .......................................................................285
Metodi Zlatkov
The Town of Sandanski During the Middle Ages According to
Written and Archaeological Data.................................................................301

Tsvetana Komitova
A Marble Relief of a Saint from the Archaeological Museum in Sandanski........330

COINS AND COIN CIRCULATION
IN PARTHICOPOLIS AND ITS TERRITORY

Nina Hadzhieva, Marina Doychinova
Silver Coins from Sandanski Region and Its Territory (6th–4th c. BC)..................337

Vladimir Petkov, Sotir Ivanov, Ilya Prokopov
Bronze Greek, Macedonian, Roman Republican, Imperial and
Provincial Coins of the 4th c. BC until the Middle of the 1st c. AD.........................344

Svetoslava Filipova, Vladimir Petkov
Coin Circulation in Sandanski in the Period 2nd – 5th c. AD................................356

Margarita Andonova
Early Byzantine Collective Coin Find from
the Village of Velyushets, Strumyani Municipality ...........................................375

PARTHICOPOLIS AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Dragomir Garbov
Territorium Parthicopolitanum et Tristolense:
Reconstructing the Administrative Landscape of Northern Sintica....................389

Emil Nankov, Alexandrina Tsoneva
Some Observations on the Pergamene Appliqué Ware from Heraclea Sintica........411

Emil Nankov, Alexandrina Tsoneva
Addenda and Corrigenda to the “Black-Slipped” Pottery from Heraclea Sintica.......419

Vane P. Sekulov
Crveno Pole and Its Relations with Cities in
the Middle Strymon Valley in the Roman and Early Byzantine Periods...........435

LIST OF AUTHORS..........................................................................................461
INTRODUCTION

It is a great privilege to present the third volume of the Papers of the American Research Center in Sofia which was inaugurated in 2014. The PARCS has already established itself as an essential venue for the publication of current research on the archaeology and history of the Balkans and Bulgaria, in particular.

The vast majority of papers (26) in the current volume stem from the international conference Sandanski and Its Territory during Prehistory, Antiquity and Middle Ages: Current Trends in Archaeological Research, organized by the American Research Center in Sofia, in collaboration with the Archaeological Museum in Sandanski, and held on September 17–20, 2015 in the town of Sandanski. Financial support was provided by the Municipality of Sandanski, the Archaeological Museum in Sandanski and the American Research Center in Sofia.

The conference provided a forum for 30 scholars from Bulgaria, Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Austria and USA to discuss their latest research on the archaeology and history of the Sandanski region. It was a great honor to the forum, as well as an official recognition of our scholarly endeavor to have received a congratulatory address from the Deputy Minister of Culture Assoc. Prof. Boni Petrunova (see next page). This is a clear sign that international collaboration in the field of Bulgarian archaeology continues to be held in high esteem.

The main theme uniting most papers presented during the conference had to do with the attempt to synthesize the available sources for the study of the Roman predecessor of present-day Sandanski – Ulpia Parthicopolis. Using this relatively little known Roman town, nestled in the corner of Southwest Bulgaria, as a case study, the aim was also to provide a holistic view of the complex history of the Sandanski region, from prehistory until the middle ages. In that the current volume builds on, and diverges from, the previously held symposia in Blagoevgrad (September 20–24, 1977) and Sandanski (October 1–4, 2002), which were defined by overarching themes while celebrating particular anniversaries; 2050 and 2075 years since the Slave Revolt led by Spartacus and 2000 years since the establishment of Christianity. Released from the ideological charge of the 20th century scholarship, the current volume faces the daunting task to weave organically the often disparate papers informed by theoretical paradigms of different scholarly traditions.

The volume is divided into five sections to provide more visibility of particular topics, but also to articulate better the research results of a wide range of specialists – archaeologists, historians, epigraphers, art historians, numismatists and conservators. Four additional papers (D. Dana [in French], I. Boyanov, D. Garbov, E. Nankov & A. Tsonova) were solicited after the conference in order to attain a better cohesion of the volume’s structure.

Since navigating through the sometimes inconsistent designations of excavated plots within the present-day Sandanski can be a challenge, the volume includes two maps showing the locations of major sites discussed in some of the papers. The reader is invited to refer to them whenever they are in need of topographic information regarding a particular site. I am indebted to Metodi Zlatkov (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) for his openness to collaboration and for adapting the maps to the needs of the current volume. The quality of the volume’s illustrations and graphic drawings were substantially improved by Alexandrina Tsonova (Shumen University “Episkop Konstantin Preslavski”) to whom I am grateful.
Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to the warm hospitality of our hosts at Sandanski, and particularly to the Director of the Archaeological Museum, Vladimir Petkov, the Staff, as well as to all colleagues for the willingness to share their ground-breaking and, in some cases, lifelong research on the archaeology of *Parthicopolis* and the Sandanski region.

*Emil Nankov*

*Sofia, December 29, 2016*
РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ
МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА КУЛТУРАТА

ДО
ОРГАНИЗАТОРИТЕ И УЧАСТНИЦИТЕ
В МЕЖДУНАРОДНАТА АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКА
КОНФЕРЕНИЯ – САНДАНСКИ 2015 г.

УВАЖАЕМИ ГОСПОЖИ И ГОСПОДА,
СКЪПИ КОЛЕГИ,

За мен е голямо удоволствие, че имам възможността да Ви поздравя по повод откриването на международна конференция на тема „Сандански и неговата територия през първите века н.е. и средновековието”. Провеждането на повече международни форуми като днешния е от голямо значение, тъй като обмяната на опит, информация и добри практики има положителен ефект върху развитието на археологическата наука.

Благодарение на професионализма и всеотдайността на българските археолози, в България са проучени и съхранени уникалните образци на културното ни наследство, което е мерилосто за отношението ни към нашето минало и безспорно е повод за гордост. Тяхното сътрудничество между археоложеския музей в Сандански, община Сандански и Американския научен център в град София, благодарение на което настоящата конференция се реализира, е доказателство, че намишението на опазването и представянето на културните ценности е именно чрез обединяване на усилията на археологическата колегия и компетентните институции.

В заключение бих искала да отбележа, че Сандански е град с богата история и съхранени традиции, което в съчетание с благоприятните природни данъка и продължаването на една целесъобразна културна политика, предвещава сигурно, устойчиво и вълнуващо бъдеще.

Пожелавам полезотворна работа на конференцията!

ЗАМЕСТНИК – МИНИСТЪР:
ДОЦ. Д-Р БОНИ ПЕТРУНОВА
Conference participants and guests: (top row, from left to right) Marina Doychinova, Sotir Ivanov, Ilia Kulov, Vasilka Valerieva; (middle row, from left to right) Angelos Zannis, Marina Koleva, Christopher Mielke and Zlatina Boganova (ARCS Fellows), Andreas Pühl, Georgi Mitrev, Vladimir Petkov, Tsvetana Komitova, Antonia Kocheva, Velichka Kostova; (first row, from left to right) Margarita Andonova, Svetoslava Filipova, Nikolay Sharankov, Jasmina Filyanova, Vane P. Sekulov, Philip Kolev, Metodi Zlatkov, Alexandrina Tsonova, Malgorzata Grebska-Kulova, Emil Nankov, Nina Hadzhieva; Sandanski, September 19, 2015 (photo: Roska Notskova).
MAPS
Map 1. Location of archaeological sites registered on the territory of Sandanski on a topographic map; scale 1:5000 (author: M. Zlatkov)

1. “The Early Christian Complex”, Basilica No 1
2. “John’s Basilica”, Basilica No 2
3. “Partizanska street, Basilica № 3”, Basilica No 3
4. “The Episcopal Basilica”, Basilica No 4
5. “The Steps”
6. “Gotse Delchev 37”, Basilica No 8
7. “DZI”
8. “DSK I”, Late Antique Baths
9. “DSK II”, Late Antique Baths
10. “DSK III”
13. “Macedonia 39–41”, Roman theater
14. “Starata Militsia”
15. “GUM”
16. The sanctuary of Theos Salenos
17. Hunting lodge, Late Antique necropolis
18. “St. Kliment Ohridski” School, Late Antique fortification wall
19. “119 Pirin Street”, Late Antique mausoleum
20. House of Culture, Late Antique necropolis
21. “Yane Sandanski” High School, Late Antique tombs
22. “9 Gorno Brodi Street”, Late Antique tombs
23. “Ushite”, Roman and Late Antique necropoleis
24. “Turlin bair”, Roman necropolis
Map 2. Location of archaeological sites excavated in the central part of Sandanski on the cadastral map of the town, 1985 (author: M. Zlatkov)

1. “The Early Christian Complex”, Basilica No 1
2. “John’s Basilica”, Basilica No 2
3. “Partizanska street, Basilica № 3”, Basilica No 3
4. “The Episcopal Basilica”, Basilica No 4
5. “The Steps”
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