

**Heraclea Sintica:
From Hellenistic *polis* to Roman *civitas*
(4th c. BC-6th c. AD)**



September 19-21, 2013
Petrich, Bulgaria



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, September 19

14:00-19:00	Arrival in Petrich and check in at Hotel Bats (http://www.hotelbats.com)
20:00-22:00	Welcome reception and dinner

Friday, September 20

9:00-9:10	INTRODUCTION
9:10-9:30	Emil Nankov (American Research Center in Sofia) In search of a founder and the early years of Heraclea Sintica
9:30-9:40	DISCUSSION
9:40-10:00	Maria-Gabriella Parissaki (Research Centre for Greek and Roman Antiquity) Reconstructing the tribal history of the Middle Strymon valley: The impact of Muletarovo's inscription
10:00-10:10	DISCUSSION
10:10-10:30	Kamen Dimitrov (Inst. Balkan Studies with Center of Thracology, BAS) The cities in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace under the Diadochoi and the Antigonids
10:30-10:40	DISCUSSION
10:40-11:00	Georgi Mitrev (Plovdiv University) On the borders and urban territory of Heraclea Sintica
11:00-11:10	DISCUSSION
11:10-11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30-11:50	Metodi Manov (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) The problems concerning the settlement names in the Middle Strymon Valley. A new possible rearrangement on the basis of Heraclea Sintica
11:50-12:00	DISCUSSION
12:00-12:20	Dragomir Garbov (New Bulgarian University) Roman and Early Byzantine rural landscapes along the Middle Strymon
12:20-12:30	DISCUSSION
12:30-12:50	Lyudmil Vagalinski (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) Recent archaeological data from Heraclea Sintica
12:50-13:00	DISCUSSION
13:00-13:20	Ivo Cholakov (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) Handcraft production in Heraclea Sintica (on archaeological data)
13:20-13:30	DISCUSSION
13:30-14:30	LUNCH

14:30-14:50	Sevdalina Neykova (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) Ethic and scientific approaches in the conservation of terracotta masks and figures from the archaeological site of Heraclea Sintica in Bulgaria
14:50-15:00	DISCUSSION
15:00-15:20	Sirma Alexandrova (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) The black-slipped pottery from Heraclea Sintica (2 nd – 4 th c. AD)
15:20-15:30	DISCUSSION
15:30-15:50	Sotir Ivanov (Historical Museum-Petrich), Svetoslava Filipova (Regional Museum of History-Kyustendil) Numismatic material from the archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica located in the hills of Kozhuh, Petrich Municipality
15:50-16:00	DISCUSSION
16:00-16:20	Lazar Ninov (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) Animals from the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica and their place in people's lifestyle
16:20-16:30	DISCUSSION
16:30-16:50	Julia Bozhinova (Regional Museum of History-Blagoevgrad) A necropolis near the village of Rupite, Petrich Municipality
16:50-17:00	DISCUSSION
17:00-17:20	Emil Nankov (American Research Center in Sofia), Daniela Stoyanova (Sofia University) A stone door of a tomb from the necropolis of Heraclea Sintica
17:20-17:30	DISCUSSION
17:30-17:50	Marina Koleva (Institute of Art Studies, BAS) Towards the Roman provincial art: A small piece from Heraclea Sintica
17:50-18:00	DISCUSSION
18:00-18:20	BREAK
18:20-18:40	Rumyana Milcheva (National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, BAS) Roman gravestones with portraits from the Middle Struma valley
18:40-18:50	DISCUSSION
19:00-19:20	Margarita Andonova (Regional Museum of History-Blagoevgrad) Coins from a necropolis from the Antiquity period near Rupite (former Muletarovo) village, Petrich Municipality
19:20-19:30	DISCUSSION
19:30-19:50	Ilya Prokopov (South Western University-Blagoevgrad) Coin circulation in the region of Heraclea Sintica during 6 th -4 th century BC
19:50-20:00	DISCUSSION

20:00-20:20	Evgeni Paunov (Cardiff University) Roman Republican and Early Imperial coins from Rupite near Petrich: A contribution to the numismatic history of Heraclea Sintica, mid-2 nd c. BC – 1 st c. AD
20:20-20:30	DISCUSSION
20:30-20:50	Hristina Tsoneva (Regional Museum of History-Blagoevgrad) Early Christian rock chapel in the Rupite area
20:50-21:00	DISCUSSION
21:00-22:30	RECEPTION/DINNER AT HOTEL BATS

Saturday, September 21

8:00-8:30	Hotel check-out
8:30-9:30	Visit to the Museum of History-Petrich
9:30-11:30	Field trip to Heraclea Sintica
13:00-15:00	Visit to the Regional Museum of History-Blagoevgrad
15:00-19:00	Departure



ABSTRACTS OF CONFERENCE PAPERS

In Search of a Founder and the Early Years of Heraclea Sintica

Emil Nankov (ARCS)

The discovery of a Latin inscription in 2002, issued by the chancery of Galerius in 308 AD and addressed to the *civitas Heracleotarum*, seems to have conclusively solved the vexed problem of identifying the substantial settlement located near the village of Rupite (former Shirbanovo and Muletárovo), municipality of Petrich, with Heraclea Sintica – an ancient toponym known hitherto from coins, Roman *itineraria* and literary sources.

Two important questions have now re-surfaced with pressing necessity: when and who set the beginning of what would gradually emerge as a major political, economic and cultural powerhouse for the history of ancient Macedonia; and, what was the status and *ethnic* make-up of this newly-founded outpost planted on the Thracian frontier, situated near the juncture of Strymon and Pontos rivers, at the northeast fringes of the Argead kingdom.

Scholars working predominantly with literary sources have favored Philip II of Macedon and, less frequently, Amyntas, the nephew of Perdiccas II, as possible founders of Heraclea Sintica. Others, laying emphasis on results (largely unpublished) from the excavations of the Hellenistic necropolis in the locality “Metlata”, situated ca. 1 km southwest of the site, have argued that the founder was in fact Cassander, who was active in the region in 310 BC, according to Diodorus, Justinus and Orosius.

Among the questions addressed in this paper are those related to the mechanisms of interaction between Macedonians and Thracians (Sintians), as soon as Heraclea came into being. For example, were the Sintians incorporated within the civic life, or were they assigned lands within the town’s *chora*, possibly as *paroikoi*? Was there an already functioning Sintian ‘tribal’ center by the time the Macedonians set foot in the region? And if so, did they in fact replace it and rename it by utilizing the model of a *polis* of Greek type and/or that of a Macedonian *colony*, along the lines of *symmiktous katoikisas*, as the young Alexander had already done during his campaign in Maedica in 339 BC?



Reconstructing the Tribal History of the Middle Strymon Valley: the Impact of Muletárovo’s Inscription

Maria-Gabriella Parissaki (Research Centre for Greek and Roman Antiquity)

In the 60s and 70s two of the most important scholars of the Thracio-Macedonian studies, Fanoula Papazoglou and Boris Gerov, crossed their swords in a vivid discussion over the tribal affiliation of the middle Strymon valley and, more specifically, of the area included between the Rupel and Kresna defiles. The attribution of this area to the Sintoi, according to Fanoula Papazoglou, or to the Maidoi, according to Gerov —an attribution closely connected to the much debated question of the location of Heraclea Sintica— affected the way of interpreting a series of ancient data and some important aspects of the history of the region, as e.g. the timing of its final inclusion within the confines of the Macedonian kingdom. Both scholars underlined that only an epigraphic find locating Heraclea Sintica would help settling the matter. And although the discovery of Muletárovo’s inscription half a century later seemed to confirm Fanoula Papazoglou’s approach, many questions relating to the history of the region and to that of the mighty tribe of the Maidoi —confined now in a relatively restricted area that seems disproportionate to the trouble they were able to cause throughout the Hellenistic and Roman periods— seems to create the need of a new analysis. It is the aim of this paper to gather and analyse relevant evidence in order to prove that the reign of Philip II and his son Alexander the Great may have been as crucial for this area as it has been for many other regions east of the Strymon; and that Plutarch’s information regarding Alexander’s campaign in 340 BC in the land of the Maidoi and the expulsion of the inhabitants may after all refer to the middle Strymon valley and not to the place of their final homeland as known in the Late Hellenistic and Roman times.

The Cities in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace under the Diadochoi and the Antigonids

Kamen Dimitrov (IBCT-BAS)

The campaigns and the policy of Philip II in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace resulted in conquering of many local settlements, in their colonization and re-foundation and/or toleration as *poleis*. Some of these cities such as Amphipolis, Pilipoi, Heraclea Sintica etc., situated west of Nestos, were politically incorporated in Macedonia, others such as Philippopolis, Kabyle, Beroia, Pistiros etc., remained in Thrace to be joined later by the royal city of Seuthopolis. In spite of the split of the Kingdom of Alexander the Great, both territories and groups of cities maintained extensive relations in economy, politics, religion and culture. They are attested in many coin hoards, artifacts, cults and burial practices to be classified and examined in the present paper.

On the Borders and Urban Territory of Heraclea Sintica

Georgi Mitrev (Plovdiv University)

The urban territory of Heraclea Sintica during the Hellenistic and Roman epochs, throughout the years when it possessed the status of “polis” or “civitas”, scarcely exceeded to a significant extent that of nowadays Petrich Valley to the west of the Struma river. The information available indicates that it was not a polis with large city territory like those typical of Pautalia, Serdika, Philippopolis and others during the 2nd – 3rd century AD. Moreover, it is not even clear whether it possessed the status of a polis at that time.

Concerning the borders of Heraclea, the one to the south seems most certain. It should be assumed that the southern border reached the ridge of Belasitsa Mountain. Eastwards, the Struma river seems like a natural border, also taking into account historiography notes insisting emphatically that Heraclea is situated to the west of the Struma. Could it be, however, possible that it also possessed a strip of land along the river eastwards, bearing in mind the situation of the settlement on the very banks of the river? To the west it encompassed, as it seems, the lands as far as the slopes of the Ograzhden Mountain and reached the Podgorie geographic region (the northern foot of Belasitsa Mountain). The investigations of the Bulgarian – Polish expedition named “Struma” indicate in detail the map of settlement life in this area. What is impressive is the absence of sites from Hellenistic and Roman periods in a vast territory downstream of the Strumeshnitsa river, between the village of Muletarovo (today’s village under the name of Rupite) and the villages of Parvomay, Kolarovo, and Samuilovo. The latter were apparently outside the city territory of Heraclea but we cannot be absolutely certain. In this lowest area of the Petrich Valley, there were obviously no conditions suitable for living during the Thracian-Roman periods because of the wetlands. At the same time the large number of sites around the villages of Starchevo, Karnalovo, Mihnevo and Kavrakirovo should inevitably have been parts of the land territory of Heraclea. Northwards the urban territory of Heraclea could not have passed beyond the Ribnik river or could have passed no further than the Lebnitsa river because of the proximity to the ancient city at modern town of Sandanski.

The Problems Concerning the Settlement Names in the Middle Strymon Valley.

A New Possible Rearrangemet on the Basis of Heracleia Sintica

Metodi Manov (NIAM-BAS)

After the discovery of the big and perhaps the most important inscription in the area of the ancient settlement near the village of Rupite, Petrich region, our knowledge about the Middle Strymon Valley seemed to have improved significantly. The author of this paper was one of the adepts of the older ideas, that this settlement nevertheless could be the ancient Petra, and not Heraclea Sintica. But after the discovery of another new inscription – where the ethnic of the person was mentioned both as Skotoussaioi and Heracleotes, my firstly convinced ideas and criticism began to change in another direction. After few years of my personal reappraisal of the new situation and having revised few other very long ago published inscriptions from the same area of the Middle Strymon Valley, I came to a very interesting conclusions, which could allow us to make a better possible rearrangment of the settlements in this extremely interesting area from historical point of view.

Roman and Early Byzantine Rural Landscapes along the Middle Strymon

Dragomir Garbov (New Bulgarian University)

The here proposed paper is discussing the agrarian hinterland of the Roman cities Heraclea Sintica and Parthicopolis. It is an attempt to provide a basic study on the cultural aspects of the interactions “humans-environment” in the Middle Strymon valley between the 2nd century BC and the 7th century AD.

Twenty years ago, Susan Alcock’s famous monograph “*Graecia Capta: The Landscapes of Roman Greece*” revolutionized Classical Archaeology. Working with data from archaeological surveys, the author successfully revisited the history of settlement of Greece, proving that the accounts of ancient writers strongly contrasted the actual demographic and economic situation. By introducing the concept of archaeological landscape to Classical Archaeology, Alcock opened the gates to a whole new field of study.

In Bulgaria, the archaeology of Roman landscapes is still in its infant phase due to a complex set of reasons. Nevertheless, the archeological maps of Moesia, Thrace in Macedonia are steadily expanding, which provides us with an increasingly propitious fundament for deeper research. In this case, the Middle Strymon valley possesses outstanding prerequisites for epistemological experiments. It is a compact and geographically well pronounced entity that is favored by an almost complete data-coverage through archaeological surveys; hence it can easily be approached holistically and studied in the context of local and global trends.

This paper aims to produce an archaeological overview on the history of rural occupation of the Middle Strymon valley and provide a closer look on three specific types of Roman cultural landscapes – the rural landscape, the landscape of power and authority, and the sacred landscape. The main topics to be approached are four:

1. Aspects of continuity and change in rural landscapes from the Late Hellenistic through the Early Byzantine period;
2. The impact of long term political and economic change on regional settlement patterns;
3. Social developments in the rural population during the Roman period;
4. Aspects of the transition from Paganism to Christianity in rural areas along the Middle Strymon;

The research is constructed on the basis of historical and archaeological sources. It relies mainly on the data, acquired during the Struma 2009-2012 field survey campaigns, together with the legacy data from earlier surveys in the area. Regular and trial excavations in the Middle Strymon valley are also taken into account, as well as the information from epigraphic monuments from the greater Strymon-Nestos area.

Recent Archaeological Data from Heraclea Sintica

Lyudmil Vagalinski (NIAM-BAS)

Preliminary results from archaeological excavations and geophysical surveys conducted by the author during 2007-2012 are presented. Most of the information refers to the Roman period of the city.

Handcraft Production in Heraclea Sintica (on archaeological data)

Ivo D. Cholakov (NIAM-BAS)

The article is an attempt to reconstruct some of the production activities on the territory of Heraclea Sintica. All available data is derived from archaeological excavations. Studied artifacts suggest well-developed stonework, processing of cloth, leather and bone. Workshop production of terracottas has been studied and documented, supplying the town and its vicinity.

Ethic and Scientific Approaches in the Conservation of Terracotta Masks and Figures from the Archaeological Site of Heraclea Sintica in Bulgaria

Sevdalina Neykova (NIAM-BAS)

One of the main dilemmas of modern specialists engaged in heritage conservation is the one of the decision “to conserve or to restore”. Decisions of such type are dependent on the available information about the way a certain object originally looked like as well as on the principle for restricting conservator’s intervention in respect for its original authorship. The conservation and restoration of terracotta masks and a terracotta bust of Dionysus from the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica also presented that dilemma given the fact that the objects are part of an ensemble with a potential for future exhibit. The required conservation and restoration approaches had to rely on ethical principles, to be able to satisfy the aesthetic needs of such collection and to take in consideration all conservation issues related to the objects - such as structural deficiency and salt efflorescence.

The scientific analysis conducted on the terracotta bust of Dionysus, on the other hand, revealed an interesting fact – the use of Egyptian blue pigment, identified by means of energy-dispersive X-fluorescence analysis and X-ray diffraction analysis. Egyptian blue is considered to be the first synthetic pigment, used by Egyptians for thousands of years and known by the Romans by the name *caeruleum*. The principal component of Egyptian blue is calcium-copper tetrasilicate crystals, or cuprorivaite ($\text{CaCuSi}_4\text{O}_{10}$). The pigment was to be used on different types of objects in the Mediterranean world and in the Middle East. However, after the end of the Roman era, Egyptian blue fell into disuse and the secrets of its creation were forgotten.

The extensity of pigment’s use in Heraclea Sintica can be determined over the course of future excavations. Since, by far, it has been identified on only one ceramic object, it is arguable whether the bust of Dionysus has been produced in Heraclea Sintica or imported.

If we are able to determine whether Egyptian blue was commonly used in the ceramic production of the ancient city, this will throw light over certain used manufacturing techniques (for instance firing temperature of ceramics) and over certain aspects of the life of the people engaged in ceramic manufacturing. Given the moderate toxicity of the pigment, it can be assumed that its use had negative effect on the life duration of the craftsmen who produced it if, however, it has been used on a regular basis for decoration of ceramics.

The Black-Slipped Pottery from Heraclea Sintica (2nd – 4th c. AD)

Sirma Alexandrova (NIAM-BAS)

The following research discusses black slip covered pottery, found during excavations at the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica; excavations were conducted from 2007 – 2013. The excavations were led by Associate Professor L. Vagalinski (NIAM-BAS). Because of the clearly defined stratigraphy of the site, it is easy to apply the usual archaeological methods to the data, such as formal-typological, comparative and stratigraphic applications. The statistical analysis complements and supports the conclusions gleaned from the data.

This very interesting ceramic type, is known as “Macedonian grey *terra sigilata*” or “Macedonian imitation of *terra nigra*”, and it is found not only in the province of Macedonia, but in Moesia, Thracia and Panonia. Its chronology ranges from about the 2nd to the 5th c. AD.

The typology of the vessels with black slip from Heraclea Sintica is based on formal typology. Both types and variants are grounded in morphology. The black-slip fragments are seen as part of the ceramic types.

The purpose of this study is to examine the development of the forms and the decoration. A complete view of the black-slipped pottery in the Roman period can be achieved by comparing the types from Heraclea with those found in the above mentioned provinces. Good chronological indicators will be established by elucidating parallel forms. The study will attempt to compare the common characteristics of “Macedonian *terra nigra*” and the very similar looking Gallic grey ceramics also covered with black slip. The connection between these two types has yet to be discovered.

Numismatic Material from the Archaeological Excavations in the Ancient City of Heraclea Sintica Located in the Hills of Kozhuh, Petrich Municipality

Sotir Ivanov (IM-Petrich), Svetoslava Philipova (RIM-Kyustendil)

The 367 coins found during the archaeological excavations in the hills of Kozhuh belong to the period between the middle of the 4th century BC and the middle of the 5th century AD. The large amount of numismatic data provides important information on the economic and political life in the area, the intensity of the commercial exchange, the means of communication and influence. In the course of these 800 years, Heraclea Sintica represents an important element of the numismatic circulation in the area of the Middle Struma. It is also a link for trade between the Vardar and Mesta Rivers, as well as between the Aegean coast and the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. Most of the coins which have been found are made of bronze and are respectively designated for everyday use at this relatively big and dynamic local market. The steep terrain leading to inverted stratigraphy does not allow the inclusion of coins from the Hellenistic period.

The majority of the numismatic material related to a specific archaeological context is from the period of the 3rd until the middle of the 5th century and the coins from the 4th century AD are dominant. The coins from the period of the 1st until the end of the 2nd century AD is limited.

Coins shown from this period provide a preliminary glimpse based on the archaeological research from the period 2007-2012, which include a limited area of the ancient city. Nevertheless, the large number of coins allows for certain conclusions to be drawn.

Animals from the Ancient City of Heraclea Sintica and Their Place in People's Lifestyle

Lazar Ninov (NIAM-BAS)

In the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica, for three seasons, there were archaeological excavations under the direction of L. Vagalinski. We have identified some fauna remains belonging to cattle, sheep, goat, pig, horse, donkey, dog, deer, fox, wild boar, hare, beaver, birds, turtles, fish, snails and mussels. The material has been studied in contexts, periods and depths, which allows us to reconstruct the inhabitants' lifestyle in more detail. Most of the bones are actually kitchen remains, providing information about the food and culinary preferences. Pigs' remains are predominant. There is the age structure of each type.

The beaver finding is the first for the site. There are some sea and land snails and oysters with a larger size and thickness of the shell, which is an indicator of origin - hot and salty seas of the Mediterranean basin. They differ sharply from the Black sea oyster in size and thickness.

We have many interesting analyses and observations on the bone surfaces. There is strong evidence of professional butchers and butcher's - cutting of slaughtered animals along the spine (vertebrae), roughly boning, leaving characteristic traces on the bones. Another interesting discovery is the shoulder-blade from a calf, treated in a special way with cutting of the acromion and lateral forming of rars articularis of the shoulder-blade. This way is made a kind of smoked ham, which is a culinary delicacy in that period. I have found such findings in Nicopolis ad Istrum, Serdica and some other sites in Bulgaria and abroad.

Analyses of the researched bones, related to the age structure of cattle, show that among cattle the ratio between young and grown animals is in favor of the latter. Therefore, the strategy of keeping and breeding is aimed at so-called secondary benefit of using animals for milk, work, etc. and then for meat. On some of the cattle metapodes and second phalanges there are deformations showing that these animals were used for work. Among small cattle, the ratio is in favor of grown individuals. This indicates that before being slaughtered, they were used for milk, wool, and offspring. Among pigs, the most species belong to young animals of age groups infans and juvenilis. This business strategy aims to get more offspring, reproduction of herds and meat with more fat and lard - age groups juvenilis and subadultus.

Among the bones we can find some bone artifacts and preparations. The preparations were made of deer horn - two horns and a ram's horn, which has been cut at the base and at the final quarter. We have found a piece of deer horn. There are some findings with traces of handling and preparations. For example, a large fragment of cattle tibia has been cut longitudinally with a saw. A talus of deer has been rubbed on its four sites until a thin plate was formed. On a talus of a deer, we have established a start of such handling. Game has diversified the menu of residents. As expected, hare is first on the list.

A Necropolis near the Village of Rupite, Petrich Municipality (*Julia Bojinova, RIM-Blagoevgrad*)

Approximately two kilometers northeast of the village of Rupite (former Muletarovo), in the locality "Metlata", between 1985 and 1988, archaeological excavations were conducted on a necropolis belonging to the ancient town situated in the locality "Kozuh". One hundred and sixty-seven /167/ graves were uncovered on an area of approximately 750 m². The necropolis was in use from the end of the 4th century BC until the end of the 4th century AD, featuring a wide range of sepulchral constructions, grave goods and coins. The continual use of the necropolis provides opportunities to study the changing burial traditions during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Among the rich variety of objects retrieved during the excavations are black glaze *kantharoi*, *kylikes*, *lacrimaria*, jugs, pitchers, moldmade bowls (known as 'Megarian'), terracottas, lamps, glass vessels, gold and silver jewelry, coins, etc.

A Stone Door of a Tomb from the Necropolis of Heraclea Sintica (*Emil Nankov (ARCS), Daniela Stoyanova (Sofia University)*)

In the lapidarium of the Historical Museum at Sandanski a stone door of a tomb is kept. The monument was brought to the museum after it was confiscated from looters. It is said to have come from the *necropoleis* located near the village of Rupite, municipality of Petrich, associated with the Hellenistic and Roman town of Heraclea Sintica. Since further data about its original context is unavailable, it is at this point impossible to ascertain from which particular necropolis (e.g. "Metlata", "Chervenite skali", "Barchinite") the monument was taken.

The stone door is carved out of a monolith slab with dimensions: height 1.09 m, width 0.72-0.73 m and thickness 0.06-0.10 m. On the frontal side four cassettes are formed - two smaller marking the top of the door and two larger ones at its lower end. The cassettes are limited by three horizontal and three vertical relief bands. On them decorative nail heads are rendered imitating the heads of actual nails known from wooden prototypes. The transition from the relief bands to the area of the cassettes is articulated by an Ionic *cyma*. Thus the frontal side of the slab is meant to represent a double-leaf stone door. The apertures visible in the middle of the slab indicate the presence of the locking mechanism.

The decorative scheme applied to the stone door, with four cassettes, is commonly encountered in examples from Asia Minor and Thrace dated to the 5th-3rd century BC. At the same time, the scheme is distinctly different from that attested in tombs from Macedonia dated to the 4th - 2nd century BC. The latter lack vertical relief bands on the sides without forming fields for the cassettes on the door leaves.

The door from the necropolis of Heraclea Sintica has a number of specific features. The small size of the door would suggest that it was designed to close off a small entrance. This fact, however, is not indicative of the tomb size. Known examples from Thrace, such as the one near the village of Alexandrovo, Haskovo district, show that in spite of its large size they are equipped with very small entrances. Another distinguishing feature is the use of Ionian *cyma*, which is more frequently found on monuments from the Roman period. Such a decorative scheme is not typical for the stone doors from Macedonia, Thrace and Asia Minor. The only exception is the marble door from the Golyama Kosmatka tumulus located near the town of Shipka, Kazanlak municipality, which has painted Lesbian *cyma* on the transition between the bands to the cassettes. Small size and general proportions of

the door are also unusual for the examples dated to the 4th-3rd century BC. These features make it possible to assign the monument to the Late Hellenistic or Roman period.

Towards the Roman Provincial Art: A Small Piece from Heraclea Sintica

Marina Koleva (Institute of Art Studies – BAS)

The paper discusses a herm, found in Heraclea Sintica, now part of the collection of the Historical Museum in Blagoevgrad. The head of the small-sized herm represents a young god. The paper offers iconography and style analyses of the present piece of sculpture and also grounds for dating within the Roman imperial period. The function of the herm, presumably a table support, is also discussed. The herm provides one of the rare examples of the Roman ideal sculpture from the region

Roman Gravestones with Portraits from the Middle Struma Valley

Rumyana Milcheva (NIAM-BAS)

The paper presents four gravestones with portraits from the Middle Struma valley. On the basis of a stylistic analysis and the parallels adduced the monuments are dated to the Antonine period. Their formal and technological similarities point to a work of one and the same local workshop. Their findspot indicates that this workshop was located within the territory of Heraclea Sintica.

Coins from a Necropolis from the Antiquity Period near Rupite (Former Muletarovo) Village, Petrich Municipality

Margarita Andonova (RIM-Blagoevgrad)

The paper presents the coins retrieved during the regular archaeological excavations of a necropolis in the “Metlata” locality near Rupite village, Petrich Municipality. The necropolis belongs to the town founded by Cassander (310 BC), “by the so called Orbelos Mountain”.

The bronze coins from the Classical and Hellenistic periods include royal issues of Philip II of Macedon (359-336 BC); Cassander (310-297 BC); Demetrius Poliorcetes (294-288 BC); Lysimachus (301-281 BC); autonomous Macedonian coins; and coins minted during the Roman Protectorate of Macedonia (168-148 BC).

The earliest Roman coin is an anonymous Republican *as* (2nd c. BC), followed chronologically by 1st c. AD coins minted on behalf of Macedonia, and 2nd-4th c. AD coins. Of interest, too, is a pure gold **exonumia** with an image of Emperor Maximianus (AD 286-310).

Coin Circulation in the Region of Heraclea Sintica during 6th -4th c. BC

Ilya Prokopov (South Western University, Blagoevgrad)

The author provides an overview of the coin circulation in the region controlled by Heraclea Sintica in 6th -4th century BC, with a special reference to the so called 'contact zone' around the region. An analysis of the coin finds is presented and major coin types registered in the circulation are examined. The study covers the period up to 4th century BC with the Macedonian domination on the Balkans, including Thrace.

**Roman Republican and Early Imperial Coins from Rupite near Petrich:
A Contribution to the Numismatic History of *Heraclea Sintica*, mid-2nd c. BC – 1st c. AD**
Evgeni I. Paunov (Cardiff University)

This paper treats the coin finds from the site of Rupite near Petrich, in particular the stray finds (and one alleged hoard) of the Roman Republic and Early Principate. A number of such finds are registered in few museums but never published or further analyzed. The presence of such purely Roman

coins at Rupite appears to be related with specific political and military events from the mid-2nd century BC to the time of Emperor Claudius. They attest for a direct connection between *Heraclea Sintica* and the province of Macedonia and its center Thessalonica in the period under study.

Additional focus of this presentation will be given to the short-lived bronze coinage executed in the name of *Heraclea Sintica*. Based on its iconography, comparative numismatic analysis and finds it is concluded that this coinage should be dated to the middle of the 1st century AD.

The pattern of coin finds from Rupite and its area is discussed in the light of political and economic history of the southwestern region of Thrace bordering Macedonia.

Early Christian Rock Chapel in the Rupite Area
Hristina Tsoneva (RIM-Blagoevgrad)

Alongside with the strengthening of Christianity in the Middle Struma Valley in 4th - 6th century AD, cults to Christian martyrs and saints were also spreading. Of interest in this regard is the chapel of St. Pantaleimon, village of Prepechene (at 2-3 km from the ancient *Heraclea Sintica* and 10 km from present town of Sandanski), carved in the rocks from the crater of the Kozhuh Volcano. Of particular importance is a small relief image in the apse of the chapel, interpreted as an image of the Greek god-healer Asclepius. A new in-depth analysis of the chapel and on-site topography allows to define the image as hagiographic scene typical of St. Pantaleimon, and to fix the time of building of the temple in late Antiquity.



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