
HISTORY OF STUDIES OF ROMAN TIME TYRAS MATERIAL CULTURE

OLEG SAVELIEV

REZUMAT: ISTORICUL STUDIERII CULTURII MATERIALE DIN TYRAS ÎN PERIOADA ROMANĂ

Prima perioadă (al doilea sfert al secolului al XIX-lea - sfârșitul secolului al XIX-lea) se caracterizează prin acumularea materialelor antice obținute în cele mai multe cazuri ca urmare a unor descoperiri întâmplătoare. În mare parte au fost studiate inscripțiile și monedele grecești și latine. În a doua perioadă (1900-1940), au demarat cercetările arheologice din Tyras care au permis identificarea straturilor culturale, s-a realizat publicarea rezultatelor săpăturilor, au fost făcute observații istorice de natură generală. A treia perioadă (anii 40 - începutul anilor 60 ai sec. XX) este asociată cu începutul unui studiu sistematic al sitului. Au fost descoperite complexe importante de construcție și de producție. A început sistematizarea materialului arheologic. Au fost formulate problemele specifice orașului legate de economie, comerț, relațiile etnoculturale cu lumea exterioară. În perioada următoare (sfârșitul anilor 60 ai secolului XX și până în prezent), au fost efectuate observații pertinente privind stratigrafia monumentului și limitelor sale, a fost acumulată o colecție reprezentativă de materiale, care sunt introduse activ în circulația științifică.

ABSTRACT:

The first period (the second quarter of the 19th - the end of the 19th centuries) has been characterized by a long but unsystematic accumulation of materials represented by chance finds. Mostly Greek and Latin inscriptions and coins have been studied. In the second period (1900–1940), the archaeological study of Tyras has begun. They have managed to establish the cultural layers thickness; materials of excavations have been actively published, historical observations of a general nature made. The third period (40s - early 60s of the 20th Century) is associated with the beginning of a systematic study of the site. Important construction and production complexes have been discovered. Systematization of mass material has begun. The questions of economy, trade, ethnocultural relations of the city with the outside world have been raised. In the next period (from the late 60s of the 20th Century until now), high-quality observations of the monument's stratigraphy and its boundaries have been performed, a representative collection of materials has been amassed; the materials collected are being actively introduced into scientific circulation.

CUVINTE CHEIE: Imperiul Roman, Tyras, epoca romană, cultura materială, istoricul cercetării.

KEYWORDS: Roman Empire, Tyras, Roman time, material culture, history of studies.

Study of Tyras material culture development is inextricably bound up with archaeological excavation of the site. Several stages could be singled out in the history of the studies reflecting the concept of location of the city, its boundaries, planning, urban development characteristics, economy and contacts with the outer world.

1. Studies of Archaeological Monuments of Tyras Before Excavation Started (from second quarter to the end of the 19th Century)

Though archaeological excavations in Tyras started only at the beginning of the 20th Century, interest to the material culture of the city arose in the first part of the 19th Century due to establishing of Odesa Society of History and Antiquities, as well as activities aimed a protection of archaeological monuments, collection and storage of museum pieces. At that time, the first epigraphic documents, architectural details, coins and some other archaeological materials “of artistic virtue” were found. The matters of location of the city and its name have been

debated on for a long time. The first attempts to localise the site and interpret the artefacts found have been made¹. It was I.A. Stempkovskij who studied the chance finds from Akkerman, first of all coins with demotikon, and suggested that city Tyras was located just there².

At the same time, studies of lapidary sources of ancient Tyras began and the first attempts to correlate them with narrative sources were made. From time to time «Proceedings of Odesa Society of History and Antiquities» were publishing materials that have been casually found at the territory of medieval fortress and nearby³. Based on studies of the materials P.V. Bekker made the conclusion that Tyras was a provincial city subordinated to Roman Emperors, however its citizens were granted some liberties. He also expressed a number of considerations about different sides of the city economy and way of life⁴.

Further on, such publication became more regular. In 1860, the artefacts found during stone quay construction were delivered to Odesa. N. N. Murzakevich reported that the workers have found «a chipped marble statue, a marble torso and an embossed marble tombstone with inscriptions»⁵. In 1866, a circular letter was distributed all over Bessarabia ordering all the local authorities to deliver to the Society of Antiquities the pieces found in land⁶. As before, the focus was on epigraphic documents, numismatics and architectural details⁷.

A tombstone of Roman times found between Akkerman and village Shabo was published⁸. N.P. Kondakov, who visited Akkerman, made a list of artefacts found during construction in the coastal area⁹. A. A. Kochubinskij wrote about finding of tiles with stamps, coins, fragments of marble inscriptions etc. He gave information about burials, one of which contained golden items and two narrow-necked amphorae¹⁰. The pieces found on the territory of Tyras were delivered to the museum of Odesa Society of History and Antiquities, but much more of them settled in private collections. The collection of I.K. Suruchan contained fragments of inscribed marble slabs, integral painted vessels and amphorae, metalware and coins from Tyras¹¹. Visiting Akkerman in 1891, F.I. Knauer bought a ceramic «urn», paste statuette of Isis, coins and a fragment of slab with dedicatory inscription in honour of Egyptian gods¹². P. M. Batyushkov published a marble fragment with Latin inscription dated the year 201 found near Akkerman¹³. At the same time, the first information about the Tyras necropolis came up. In 1895, A.A. Kochubinskij and E.R. Shtern examined a tomb covered by kurgan – the so-called «Scythian Grave»¹⁴.

Thus, accumulation and primary processing of casual finds from Tyras and its surroundings was taking place during the first stage, as well as study of ancient authors' evidences about the region. Location of Tyras was reliably established before the end of the 19th Century. Based on the accumulated sources, first of all epigraphic, the first attempts were made to solve some questions connected with history of Tyras, its state system etc.

2. Beginning of Archaeological Study of Tyras (1900–1940)

The first archaeological studies in Tyras were performed by E.R. Shtern in 1900, 1903 and 1912. There were 14 test pits and trenches. As the result, stone structures were found, which were interpreted as tombs, fragments of scaffolding, as well as various material of ancient times. It was found that the cultural stratum thickness reached 7 m; movement of the cultural strata and disturbance of the sequence of their occurrence were noted¹⁵.

These excavations became the basis for further archaeological study of Tyras. E.R. Shtern believed that only the discovery of large areas of the settlement, study of building remains and mass material would help to study the history of that city¹⁶.

After incorporation of Bessarabia into Romania in 1918, archaeological excavations on the site of the settlement were conducted by Romanian researchers. These works lasted from 1919 to 1937. P. Nicorescu laid three test pits

¹ Stempkovskij, 1826; Murzakevich 1844, 315-319; Bekker 1850, 416-469; Brun 1853, 47-66.

² Stempkovskij 1826, 19-23.

³ See for example: Bekker 1853, 417-421; Kochubinskij 1901, 82-87, 95-96, 98-99, 101-102.

⁴ Bekker 1849, 20.

⁵ Otchet 1861, 17.

⁶ Parmakli and Russev 1999, 361.

⁷ Struve 1867, 605-611; Yurgevich 1883, 7-16; Yurgevich 1889, 1-12.

⁸ Yurgevich 1893, 11.

⁹ Kondakov 1876, 20-24.

¹⁰ Kochubinskij 1901, p. 96-98.

¹¹ Yurgevich 1888, 29-41.

¹² Knauer 1892, 12-13.

¹³ Batyushkov 1892, 10, 17.

¹⁴ Kochubinskij and Shtern 1896, 13-16.

¹⁵ Shtern 1901, 33-61; Shtern 1913, 92-101.

¹⁶ Shtern 1901, 61; Klejman 1997, 259.

inside the fortress and six pits northeast of the main gate. As the result of this digging, a fragment of the defensive wall, buildings of ancient times, as well as a number of archaeological materials were discovered. P. Nicorescu published the results of the studies in his papers accompanied by plans and illustrative photos¹⁷. In addition to the publication of the new sources, he touched upon the general issues related to the history of the region. For example, based on the study of legionary tile marks, inscriptions in honour of Emperor Trajan and other information the author not only provided a picture of Roman garrisons location in the North-Western Black Sea, but also clarified the composition of Tyras garrison and changing of its detachments during the 2nd - mid 3rd Centuries AD¹⁸.

On behalf of the Military Museum of Bucharest, G. Avakian carried out excavations under the walls of the medieval fortress. Several articles present separate materials - marks on amphorae, tiles with marks of legions, coins, graffiti, etc.¹⁹ In addition to the medieval strata, he singled out the classical Greek strata and the strata of "prehistoric civilization".

In 1940, after Bessarabia became a part of the USSR, the director of the Akkerman Museum A.V. Shakhnazarov laid an excavation northeast of the fortress central gate. The results of his studies are preserved only in a brief report with two plans²⁰. The report contains information about remains of buildings and about finds of Roman times.

In general, digging of that period has been neither large-scale nor systematic or consistent. However, those works formed the basis for further archaeological study of Tyras and improvement of methodology of such studies, in particular, selection of stratigraphic layers.

3. Archaeological Studies of Tyras and its Material Culture in the 40th – Early 60th of the 20th Century

In 1945–1946, archaeological studies were carried out by expedition of the Institute of Archaeology (Academy of Sciences of Ukrainian SSR) headed by L.D. Dmytrov. These works marked the beginning of systematic study of the monument using the technique of excavation over large area. In the first two years of the study, the surveys performed earlier were taken into account and all the previous finds were marked on the plan; a new large excavation was laid. The works focused on the area to the east of the medieval fortress main gate. First of all the strata and buildings of the medieval period were studied, however materials of different epochs were also partially introduced into circulation. Brief information about the finds of Roman times was provided²¹.

The studies continued in 1949–1950. The publication presents a detailed description of the objects found, individual findings are of undoubted interest²².

Publishing a collection of ceramic stamps from Tyras kept in the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy Museum, E.M. Shtaerman briefly touched on some issues of external economic relations of the city in Roman times²³.

In 1954 and 1958, the settlement was studied by the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy detachment of the Prut-Dniester Expedition of the Institute of Archaeology (USSR Academy of Sciences) headed by M.G. Rabinovich. The publication of the excavation results only briefly mentioned finding of Roman lamps, coins, etc.²⁴

Significant progress in studies of Tyras material culture of the first centuries AD was connected with the name of A.I. Furmanska, who continued archaeological study of the monument in 1953–1963. She was publishing both the results of excavations and certain categories of finds regularly, at that special attention was paid to Roman time artefacts²⁵. Having studied the ceramic complex, A.I. Furmanska divided it into red lacquer, red clay, kitchen, grey clay with polishing, stucco pottery, amphorae, pithoi. Those groups consisted of crockery of different types. Systematization of materials allowed the researcher to raise the issue of the city's cultural and economic ties, touch upon the matter of ethnic changes in population of the Roman period. According to her, the economic recovery lasted from the end of the 1st - beginning of the 2nd to mid-3rd Century AD. Like in previous period, the city maintained close economic ties with the centres of Asia Minor, the appearance in Tiras of things that looked barbaric associated with direct cultural contacts²⁶.

¹⁷ Nicorescu 1924, 378-415; Nicorescu 1933, 557-661.

¹⁸ Nicorescu 1937, 217-239; Nicorescu 1944, 501-510.

¹⁹ Avakian, 1931, 47-104; Avakian 1924, 3-22; Avakian 1927a, 4-17; Avakian 1927b, 35-46.

²⁰ Klejman 1984, 66-74.

²¹ Dmytrov 1952, 59-64.

²² Dmytrov 1949, 39-52; Dmytrov 1955, 111-123.

²³ Shtaerman 1951, 45, 48-49.

²⁴ Rabinovich 1968, 106.

²⁵ Furmanskaya and Maksimov 1955, 64-66; Furmanskaya 1964, 56-63; Furmanskaya 1960, 78-83; Furmanska 1965, 158-164; Furmanska 1962, 122-137.

²⁶ Furmanska 1957, 80-93.

In 1955, E. V. Maksimov published in his article the results of the study of two furnaces performed in 1953 by Izmail expedition headed by A. I. Furmanska. The bottom of one of the furnaces was lined with flat tiles, two of which contained the marks of the 5th Macedonian Legion; fragments of Roman amphorae were also found there. The bottom of the other furnace also consisted of tiles and bricks, one fragment of a brick bore an image of a ship²⁷.

The Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine keeps the hand-written paper by A. I. Furmanska “Tira pervykh vekov nashei ery” (1962). This is the first generalizing work in which several categories of mass material have been systematized and comprehensively analysed. The main attention was paid to study of a complex of ceramic ware, which the researcher divided into red lacquer, stucco, glossed grey clay, amphorae²⁸.

To characterize the late antique stage of Tyras history the information published by A.I. Furmanska²⁹ based on the studies of materials from the pits Nos. 6 and 7 was used. She also contributed a chapter to the collection “Ancient City” on the history and culture of Tyras and a part of the collection of archaeological sources relating to building ceramic materials³⁰.

In general, this period was characterized by systematic archaeological study of Tyras, writing of scientific reports, publishing of digging results, as well as by analytical papers on various categories of material culture of the city. It was during that period that the first conclusions were made about the historical development of the city, including its latest time of existence.

4. Archaeological Studies of Tyras from Late 60th of the 20th Century till Present

The excavations were continued in 1969 by the team of the Institute of Archaeology (Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR) headed by S.D. Kryzhitskij. The group of researchers from Odesa Archaeological Museum headed by I.B. Klejman took part in the team from 1963 and worked independently in 1965–1968 and 1972–1988. Total area of excavations made 4000 m².

During these studies, a number of important objects were discovered: first of all, the fortifications should be mentioned: curtains, a round tower and a Roman Vexillatio house, the discovery of a stratum and buildings of late antiquity (“post-Gothic” house), residential and farm buildings of classical, Hellenistic and Roman times, streets etc. Important observations were made regarding the stratigraphy and boundaries of the city; an idea about the Roman citadel was suggested³¹. A significant collection of various categories of materials was amassed, including Roman times: glass, metal, bone and stone, terracotta, red lacquer ware, coins, fragments of pottery with dipinti and graffiti, epigraphic documents with Greek and Latin inscriptions etc. Information related to the necropolis of Tyras was published³².

Material and spiritual culture of Tyras was the object of I.B. Klejman’s research interest. One of his main interests was coroplastics, however he did not overlook other categories³³.

Of great importance in the monographic study of P.O. Karyshkovskij and I.B. Klejman is devoted to the history and culture of Tyras in ancient period³⁴. This work, which was the conclusion from the previous studies, included a historiographical section, an analysis of available sources and a consistent reproduction of history of the polis development.

The discovery and publication of the so-called. “Post-Gothic” house³⁵ was also important for the study of Tyras history of the second half of 3rd – 4th centuries. Determination of chronology of the finds from the complex, primarily amphorae³⁶, helped the researchers reconsider the previous viewpoint on the time of life final cessation in the city and to extend it to the 4th Century AD. Thus, this information made it possible to continue the study of the late antique period of Tyras³⁷.

²⁷ Maksimov 1955, 80-83.

²⁸ There are no pictures of amphorae and red lacquer ceramics in the paper.

²⁹ Furmanskaya 1979, 15, 17.

³⁰ Furmanskaya 1963, 40-50; Furmanskaya 1966, 35-36.

³¹ Kryzhitskij and Klejman 1971, 258-259; Klejman 1971, 229-238; Klejman 1975, 92-93; Klejman 1976, 109-119; Kryzhitskij and Klejman 1978, 83-96; Klejman 1993, 101-104; Klejman 1999, 104-107.

³² Klejman 1978, 99-107.

³³ Klejman 1970, 25-27; Klejman 1980, 96-103; Klejman, Son 1983, 54-55; Klejman 1985, 59-62; Klejman, Kotsievskij 1991, 95-99; Klejman 1989, 19-25.

³⁴ Karyshkovskij and Klejman 1985.

³⁵ Kravchenko and Korpusova 1975, 20-42.

³⁶ Klejman 1973, 16-18.

³⁷ Gudkova, Klejman and Son 1979, 284-290.

T. L. Samojlova was the author of the generalized work on the study of amphorae dated the Roman times³⁸. She divided all the amphorae into two groups, which corresponded to the periodization of the history of Roman Tyras: from the 1st – to the middle of the 3rd and from the middle of the 3rd to the 4th Centuries AD.

The collection of articles devoted to the studies of Tyras and medieval Bilgorod reflected the most important results of research in 1962–1976³⁹. In 1983, an article by I. B. Klejman and N. O. Son was published, which considered the issues of Western Pontic and provincial-Roman cultural and economic ties of Tyras⁴⁰; the article is still important for the study of trade in the first centuries AD. Some fragments of horse harness were mentioned by M. Yu. Trejster, V. M. Zubar and N. O. Son⁴¹. E. A. Levina and A. S. Ostroverkhov briefly mentioned window glass finding in Tyras⁴².

O. V. Gudkova and V. V. Krapivina published a paper dedicated to the grey clay crockery of Tyras, Olbia and monuments of Chernyakhiv Culture⁴³.

In some works, the problems of cultural and economic ties of Tyras with the world of settled barbarians are briefly considered⁴⁴. Based on a set of sources, Yu. V. Pavlenko and N. O. Son offered their vision of what Tyras was in the late antique period and what was the nature of Tyras inhabitants' relationship with the Goths⁴⁵.

N. O. Son made a significant contribution to the development of Tyras material culture study. In addition to excavations in Tyras in 1978-1979, 1987-1989, 1990 and 1993, she published a number of works devoted to the study of various categories of artefacts. Based on various archaeological sources, she described the Greek cults of Tyras in the first centuries, examined in detail the remains of buildings and other archaeological materials relating to the late stage of Tyras history⁴⁶. In connection with the new data, T. L. Samojlova also dwelled on the same issue a little later, offering her own vision of the city development in that period, which was different from the viewpoint expressed by the previous author⁴⁷.

In her joint work with S. B. Sorochan, N. O. Son introduced into scientific circulation lamps of different types⁴⁸. The only to-date generalizing article is devoted to the characteristics of the whole set of glassware⁴⁹.

Ye. L. Horokhovskiy and N. O. Son studied one of the most important and informative categories of archaeological material - fibulae⁵⁰. Groups of provincial-Roman and ancient Black Sea forms, as well as Eastern European "barbarian" clasp were identified. It was emphasized that part of the fibulae of those types could have been made locally, as evidenced by the discovery of semi-finished pieces in Tyras.

In 1993, the monograph "Tyras of Roman Times" by N. O. Son was published. It summarized the results of study of the monument. Based on the analysis of epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological sources, the paper examined the issues of the city historical development at that time, its economic life, ethnic composition and spiritual culture of the population. A chapter was devoted to general characteristic of material culture, where the main categories of a ceramic complex, glass, metal and bone products were very succinctly considered⁵¹.

Interesting results were produced by the discovery of several pottery burners of the first centuries AD - kilns and furnaces⁵². A new idea of the peculiarities of Tyras foreign trade in the first centuries of the new era was also presented⁵³.

Some works considered items made of bone⁵⁴. Their nomenclature was presented for the first time. Based on analysis of the objects some conclusions were made about existence of bone-cutting craft in Tyras.

³⁸ Samojlova 1978, 254-266.

³⁹ Antichnaya Tira i srednevekovyj Belgorod, 1979.

⁴⁰ Klejman and Son 1983, 47-59.

⁴¹ Trejster 2000, 156-157; Zubar and Son 1999, 122.

⁴² Levina and Ostroverkhov 1989, 67-69.

⁴³ Gudkova and Krapivina 1990.

⁴⁴ Kravchenko 1973, 19-21; Gudkova 1989, 21-23; Gudkova 1991, 24-26.

⁴⁵ Pavlenko and Son 1991, 6-16.

⁴⁶ Son 1980, 125-140; Son 1986, 151.

⁴⁷ Samojlova 2008b, 140-143.

⁴⁸ Son and Sorochan 1988, 115-133.

⁴⁹ Son 1988, 47-56.

⁵⁰ Horokhovskiy and Son 1989, 69-77.

⁵¹ Son 1993, 60-79.

⁵² Son 1995, 61.

⁵³ Son 1997, 30-33.

⁵⁴ Son 2010, 419-422; Son 2011, 298-311.

In addition, bone bouterolles from the scabbards of long Roman swords were published and analysed⁵⁵. The article by N.O. Son and M.S. Shaptsev was dedicated to findings of figured vessels⁵⁶.

The article published in 2012 contained the first and so far the only set of red lacquer ware of the first centuries of the new era from Tyras⁵⁷. The authors divided this group of ceramics depending on their shape. The analysis of the vessels allowed distinguishing the eastern sigillata B, C and the late Roman C, the Pontic, Moesian and western sigillata.

Two works consider stucco and metal lamps from Tyras - three bronze ones and one made of lead⁵⁸.

Another vault was discovered to the south-east of Tyras in 1989, the materials were published by⁵⁹.

Useful information on the composition of ancient collection from Tyras excavations hold by the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine were published in the respective catalogue⁶⁰. Clay lamps with nozzles repeating the mouth of an oenochoe-type vessel were addressed by I.V. Bruyako and O.A. Rosokhatskij, who came to the conclusion that the lamps were made locally in the second half of the 2nd - first half of the 3rd Century AD⁶¹. S.P. Smolyaninova published foundry moulds for metal ware production, some of which dated back to Roman times⁶².

The Bilgorod-Tyras Expedition of the Institute of Archaeology (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) was performing excavations in Tyras for twenty years⁶³. New objects dating back to Roman times and late antiquity were discovered in the Central Dig and studied⁶⁴. Work in the garrison courtyard of the medieval Akkerman Fortress confirmed the earlier conclusion that the ancient city extended to that area.

Another collective work was publication of the collection of articles "Tyras Cetatea Albă / Belhorod-Dnistroskyj" in 2002 presenting the results of the five years study of the monument by the joint Ukrainian-Romanian team⁶⁵.

The issues of Tyras people's spiritual life in the ancient period were considered separately⁶⁶. The matters related to the mystical cults in Tyras, in particular in Roman times, were studied by G.V. Batizat⁶⁷. Considering home sanctuaries from the ancient monuments of the Northern Black Sea coast, V.V. Krapivina used the materials from the so-called western house (IV) in Tyras⁶⁸.

Attention was also paid to the study of grey clay vessels⁶⁹. T.L. Samojlova published two articles setting out the main results of recent studies in Tyras⁷⁰. Some pieces of Roman time were published in the overview paper dedicated to the recent excavations in Tyras⁷¹.

The next summarizing collection of articles, entirely devoted to the study of Tyras and medieval Bilgorod, was published in 2010. It presented, *inter alia*, articles on various categories of material culture⁷². Another summarizing work on the results of Tyras study was the chapter in the collective monograph "Ancient Cultures of the North-Western Black Sea"⁷³.

V.V. Krapivina considered more than once the matters of contacts and peculiarities of Tyras people's relations with representatives of barbarian culture in the late antique period, as well as analysed the materials connected with the Scythian wars period⁷⁴. Some finds of amphorae of the first centuries AD were considered⁷⁵.

⁵⁵ Chernenko, Zubar' and Son 1989, 250-252; Son and Nazarov 1993, 120-121.

⁵⁶ Son and Shaptsev 2011, 361-363.

⁵⁷ Son and Shaptsev 2012, 83-103.

⁵⁸ Son and Shejko 2018, 140-146; Son and Shejko 2016, 79-87.

⁵⁹ Rosokhatskij and Shterbul 1991, 78-80.

⁶⁰ Information about the materials is presented together with bibliographic reference: Karashevych, Karnaukh, Korpusova and Son 2007, 150-153.

⁶¹ Bruyako, Rosokhatskij 2000, 342-345.

⁶² Smolyaninova 2005, 82-91.

⁶³ The works were headed by O. A. Rosokhatskij in 1996-1998 and T. L. Samojlova in 1999-2015.

⁶⁴ Samojlova et al. 2003, 249-253.

⁶⁵ Samojlova, Cojocaru and Boguslavskii 2002, 159-189.

⁶⁶ Batizat, Rosokhatskij 2005, 4-22.

⁶⁷ Batizat 2001-2002, 202-209; Batizat 2003-2004, 340-351.

⁶⁸ Krapivina 2012, 195-196.

⁶⁹ Samojlova and Ostapenko 2009, 53-65.

⁷⁰ Samojlova 2007, 120-130; Samojlova 2008a, 161-175.

⁷¹ Samojlova, Ostapenko and Saveliev 2010, 218-219, Fig. 7, 1-2.

⁷² Tira-Belgorod-Akkerman (materialy issledovaniy), 2010.

⁷³ Samojlova 2013, 450-492.

⁷⁴ Krapivina 2008, 191-198; Krapivina 2009, 196-205.

⁷⁵ Masyuta 2018, 99-106; Masyuta 2019a, 138-148; Masyuta 2019b, 100-110.

Thus, in the period from the mid-1990s to the mid-2010s, a number of papers by various authors were published raising certain issues of material culture, based on which the matters of urban development, trade connections, barbaric influence etc. were generalized.

In recent years several articles, published by the author, have appeared. They were dedicated to various categories of Tyras material culture, as well as the city's relationship with the outer world⁷⁶.

Thus, the first period in the history of archaeological studies of Tyras and its material culture was characterized by long but unsystematic accumulation of materials, which were represented by chance finds. Mostly Greek and Latin inscriptions and coins were studied. The first works of generalizing nature appeared, which were devoted to the history of the polis, the life of its citizens, and the peculiarities of economy. At the end of the 19th century the location of Tyras was established, systematization of epigraphic and numismatic materials began.

The discovered archaeological and epigraphic data aroused considerable interest in the further study of the monument; there was a need for archaeological excavations, which launched the next period of studies. It became possible to establish the thickness of cultural strata and their movement. Archaeological excavations were published, and some general historical observations made.

The next stage was associated with the beginning of a systematic study of the monument. Important construction and production complexes with interesting material have been discovered. Papers on Tyras history and culture during ancient times appeared. The systematization of mass material started and the issues of economy, trade and ethno-cultural relations of the city with the surrounding world were raised.

The next period is similar to the previous one in respect of field studies methodology. The method of excavations in large areas is still used today. Qualitative observations were made on stratigraphy of the monument and its boundaries during the excavations; a representative collection of materials was amassed. The issues in the field of studying the history of the polis, its economy, production, religion, internal structure, external relations etc. were developed.

Only in recent decades, archaeological material is being dynamically systematized and introduced into scientific circulation. With the active development of research on certain categories of the Roman Era material complex in world science in general, determination of chronology, search for analogues, areas and centres of various artefacts manufacturing became productive.

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OLEG SAVELIEV,
Institute of Archeology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
sav_reun@ukr.net