

# Tomasz Scholl

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## Tanais, Russia : excavations in seasons 2012-2013

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Światowit : rocznik poświęcony archeologii przeddziejowej i badaniom pierwotnej kultury polskiej i słowiańskiej 11 (52)/A, 227-232

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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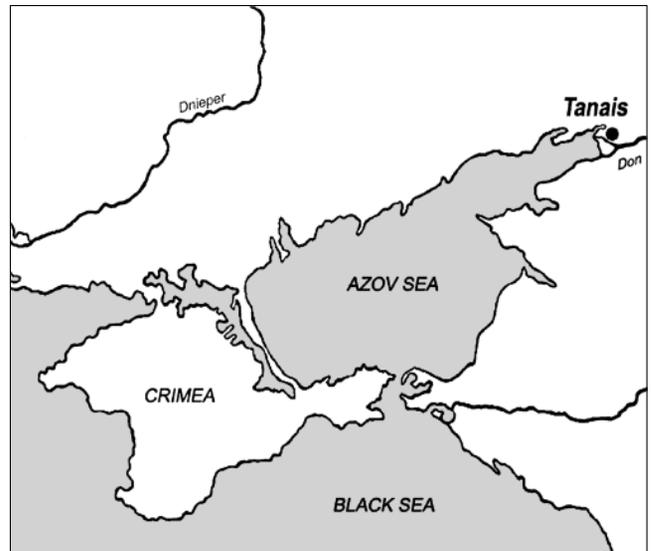
## TANAIS, RUSSIA. EXCAVATIONS IN SEASONS 2012–2013

Two seasons of excavations<sup>1</sup> were carried out by a combined group of almost 70 persons: researchers from Poland and Russia, students (University of Warsaw, University of Gdańsk, Jagiellonian University in Kraków) and volunteers from Poland. Investigations were focused on the so-called Turkish embankment (northern part: Squares 115–117, southern part: Squares 112–114), in the eastern part of Trench XXV (Fig. 1). In 2012, modern layers were removed; in 2013, Hellenistic architectural remains were uncovered and photographic documentation of the entire set of small finds from Polish excavations since 1995 was made.

## Squares 115–117 (Figs. 2–5)

Once the surface of the strategic Street “b”-N in Square 115 was cleared, excavations were concentrated in Square 116 and in the western part of Square 117. The eastern part of the square is taken up by modern backfill from Trench VII dug in 1957. A residence of the governor of Western Tanais was assumed to exist in this location (Fig. 2), which is situated in the northwestern part of the town between the strategic Street “b”-N on the west and a courtyard and Room “A” on the south, adjacent to Street “a” joining the town with the entrance to Eastern Tanais. On the north the residence bordered on the northern defense wall or another strategic street. The eastern border of the residence is probably irretrievably lost, having been destroyed in part by Trench VII excavated in 1957. The western part of the courtyard and room “A” were destroyed completely by later activity.

Room “D,” believed to be a *horreum*, is associated with 1<sup>st</sup> c. architecture. Fragments of three walls were excavated: the north wall of Room 18, south wall of Room 14 and west wall of Room 11 (Figs. 3, 4). The preserved sections were of varying length, but they were all raised at one time and revealed a similar bond. They were 0.6 m



wide (including a double facing) with the exception of Wall 14 which was 0.8 m wide. The faces were bonded with pure clay. Stones of medium and small size were used, again with the exception of Wall 14, which was constructed of stones of middle and large size. Minor stones were used to fill in the gaps in the faces, whereas the core was composed of debris bonded in clay. The interior width of Room “D” (from north to south) was 4 m, the length remains unknown. The floor in this room was made of clay, cut by a few storage bins, probably intended for grain. One of them, Pit 6 was explored in its entirety. It was bell-shaped in section, 1.8 m deep and approximately 1.2 m in diameter (Fig. 5), enough to hold about a ton and a half of grain. Two or three other pits of similar size could have existed in this room. Fragments of walls of hearths and furnaces were located in the severely damaged western part of the room. The room may have served as a granary and kitchen.

<sup>1</sup> The research was financed from National Science Centre grant 2011/03/B/HS3/00637, a subsidy from the Antiquity of Southeastern Europe Research Centre of the University of

Warsaw, and contributions from the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw and the University of Warsaw Foundation.

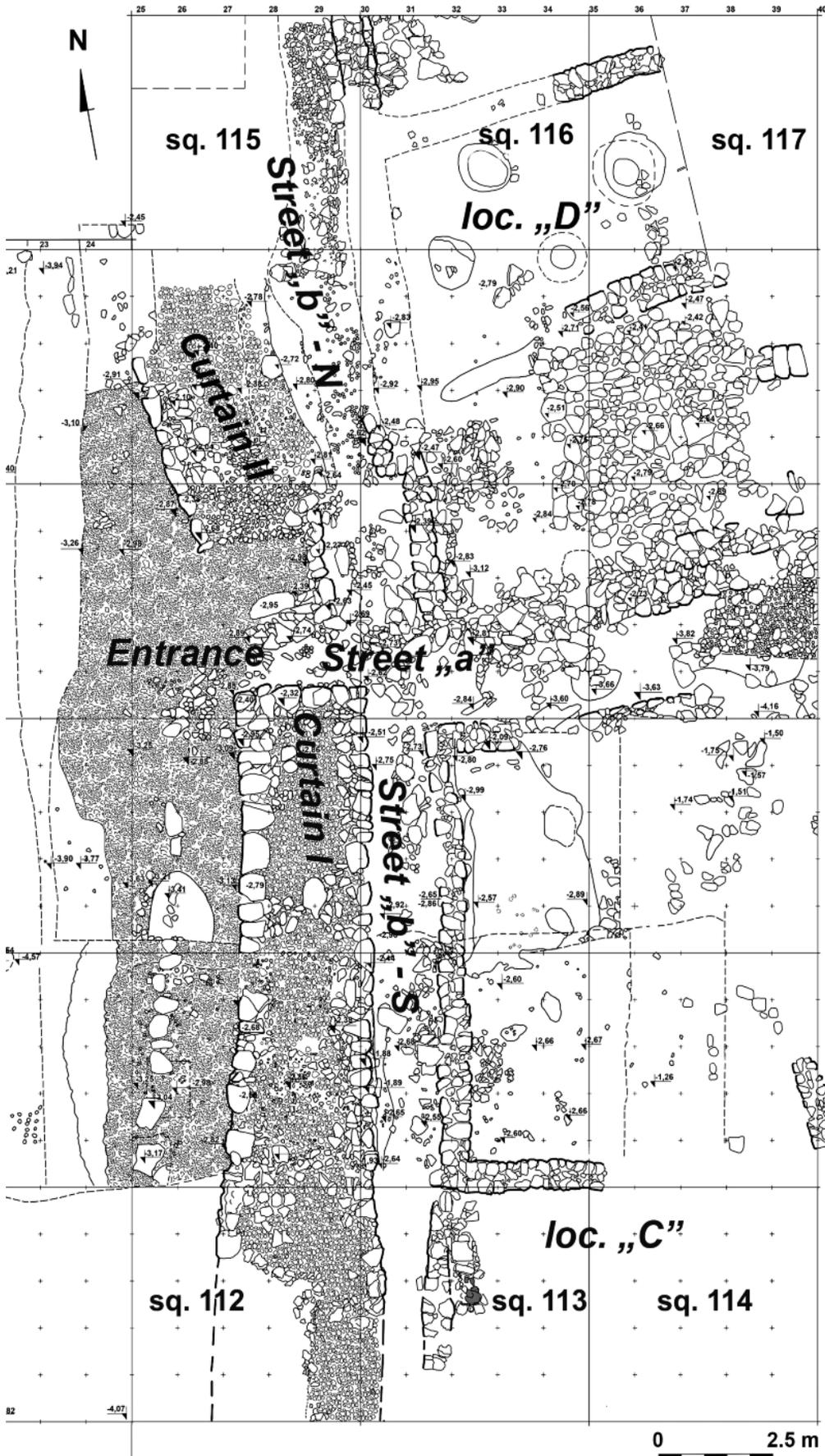


Fig. 1. Plan of the eastern part of Trench XXV (Drawing S. Naumenko).  
 Ryc. 1. Plan części wschodniej wykopu XXV.

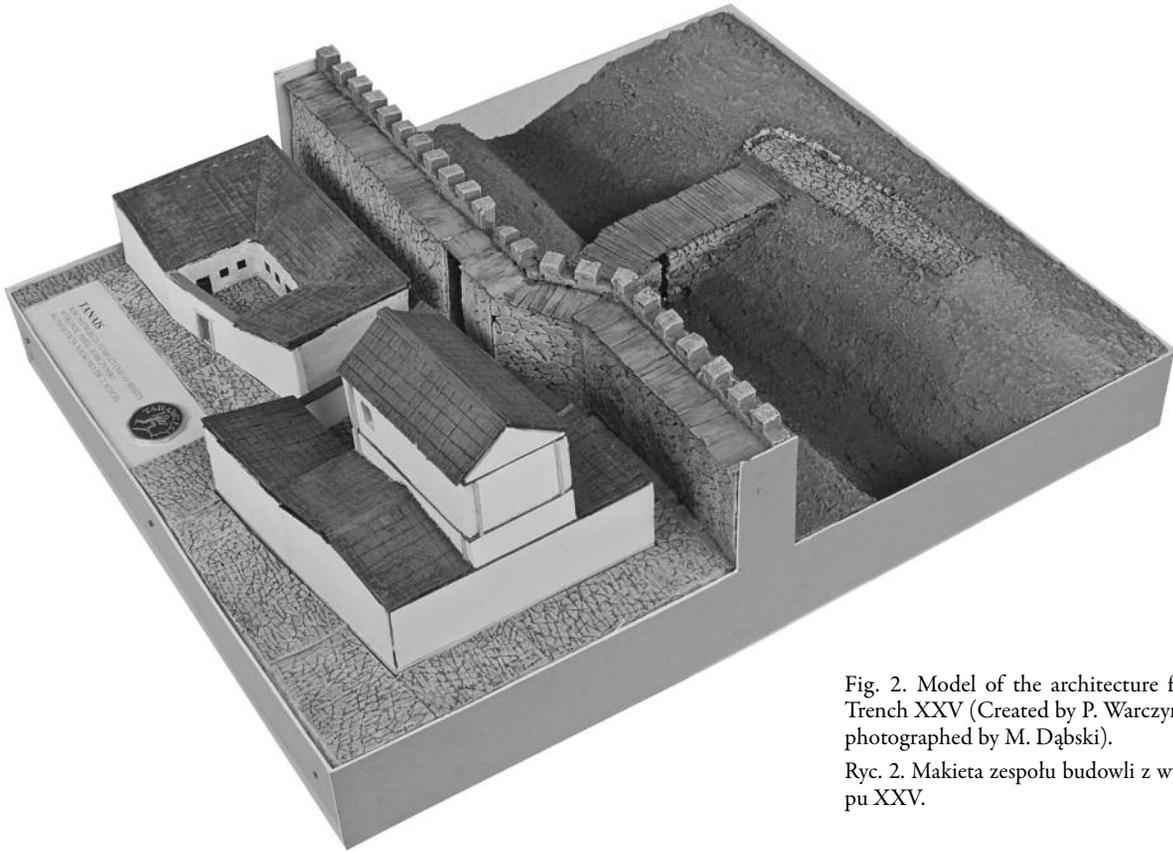


Fig. 2. Model of the architecture from Trench XXV (Created by P. Warczyński, photographed by M. Dąbski).  
Ryc. 2. Makieta zespołu budowli z wykopu XXV.

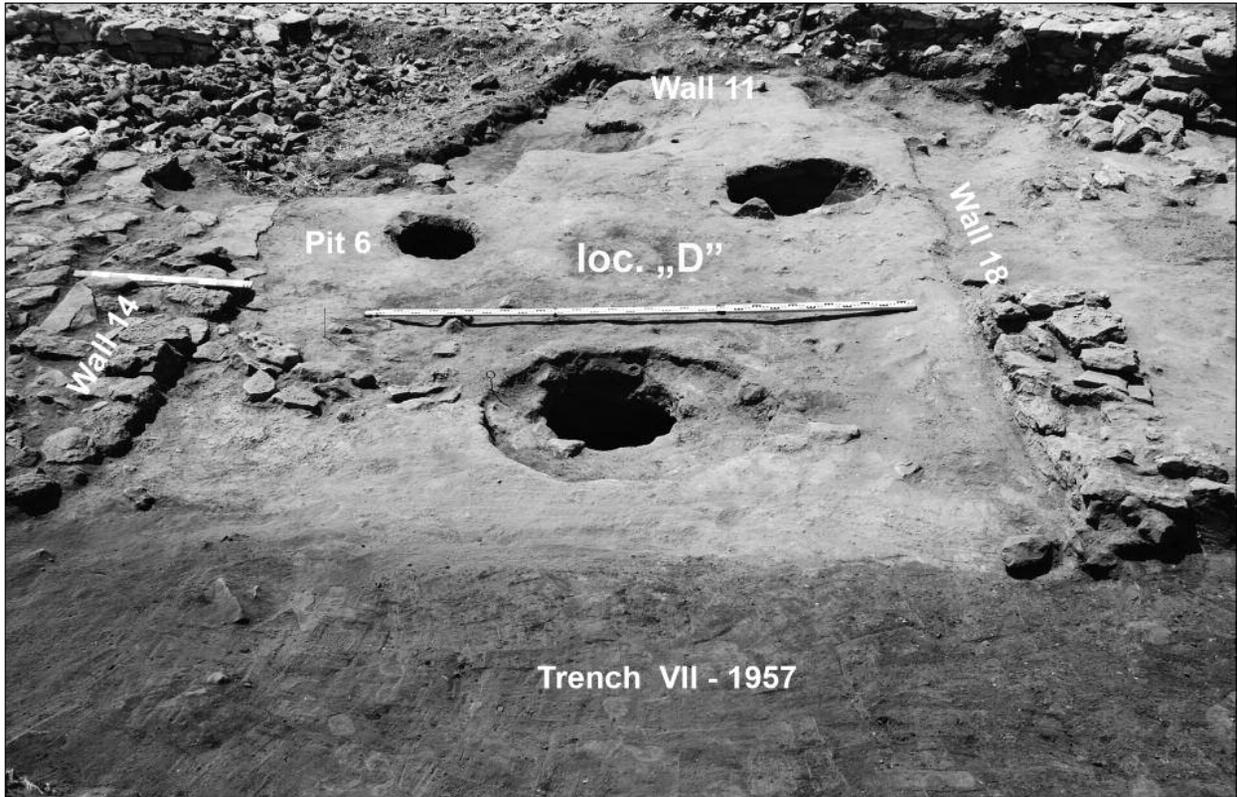


Fig. 3. Squares 115–117, view from the east (Photo T. Scholl).  
Ryc. 3. Kwadraty nr 115–117, widok od wschodu.

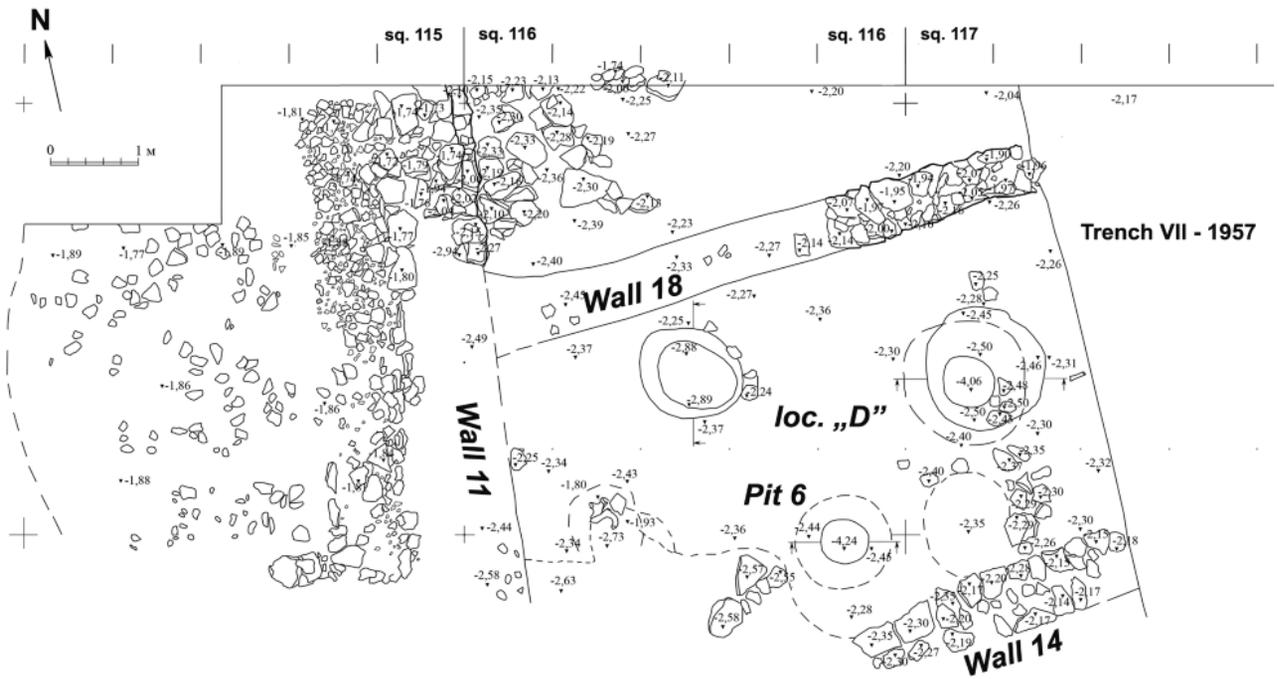


Fig. 4. Plan of Squares 115–117 (Drawing S. Naumenko).  
Ryc. 4. Plan kwadratów nr 115–117.

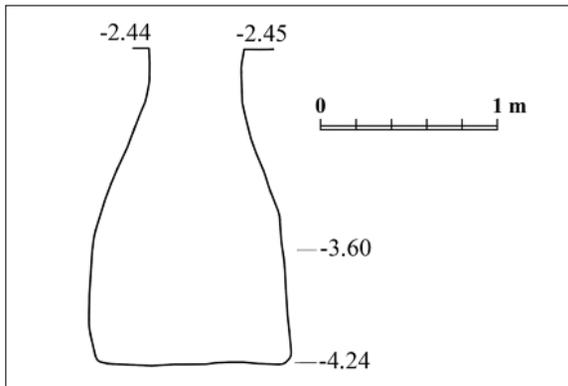
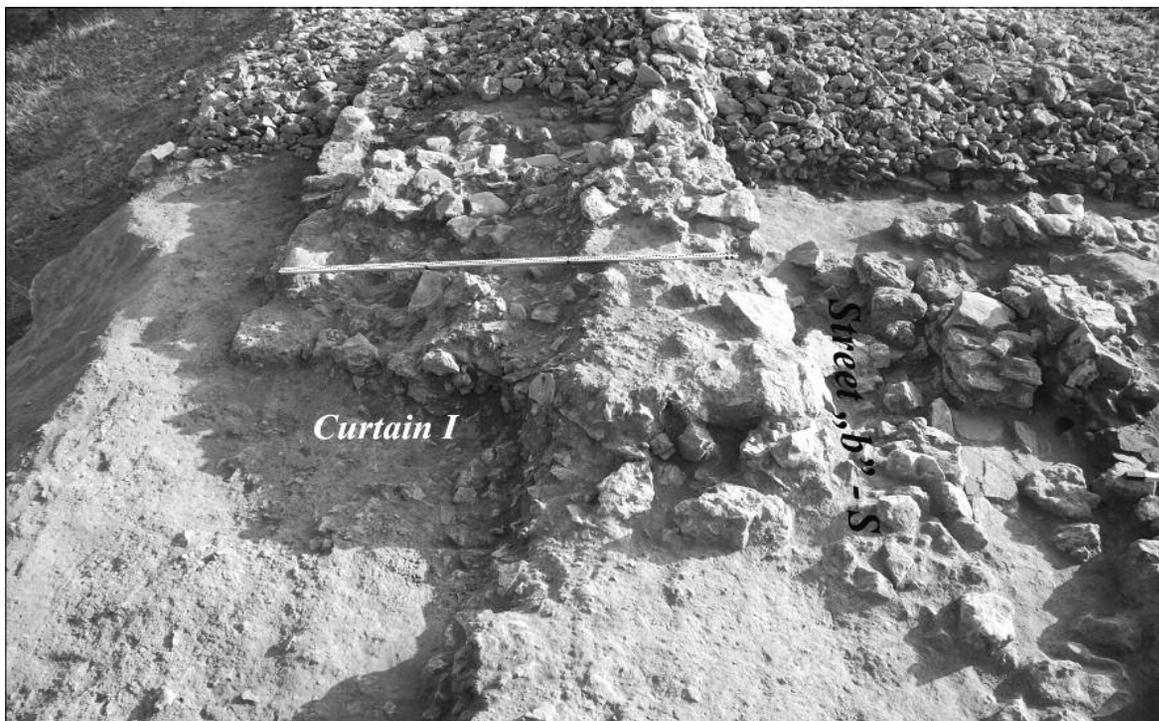


Fig. 5. Section through Pit 6 (Drawing M. Matera, S. Naumenko).

Ryc. 5. Przekrój jamy nr 6.

Fig. 6. Squares 112–113, view from the south (Photo T. Scholl).

Ryc. 6. Kwadraty nr 112–113, widok z południa.



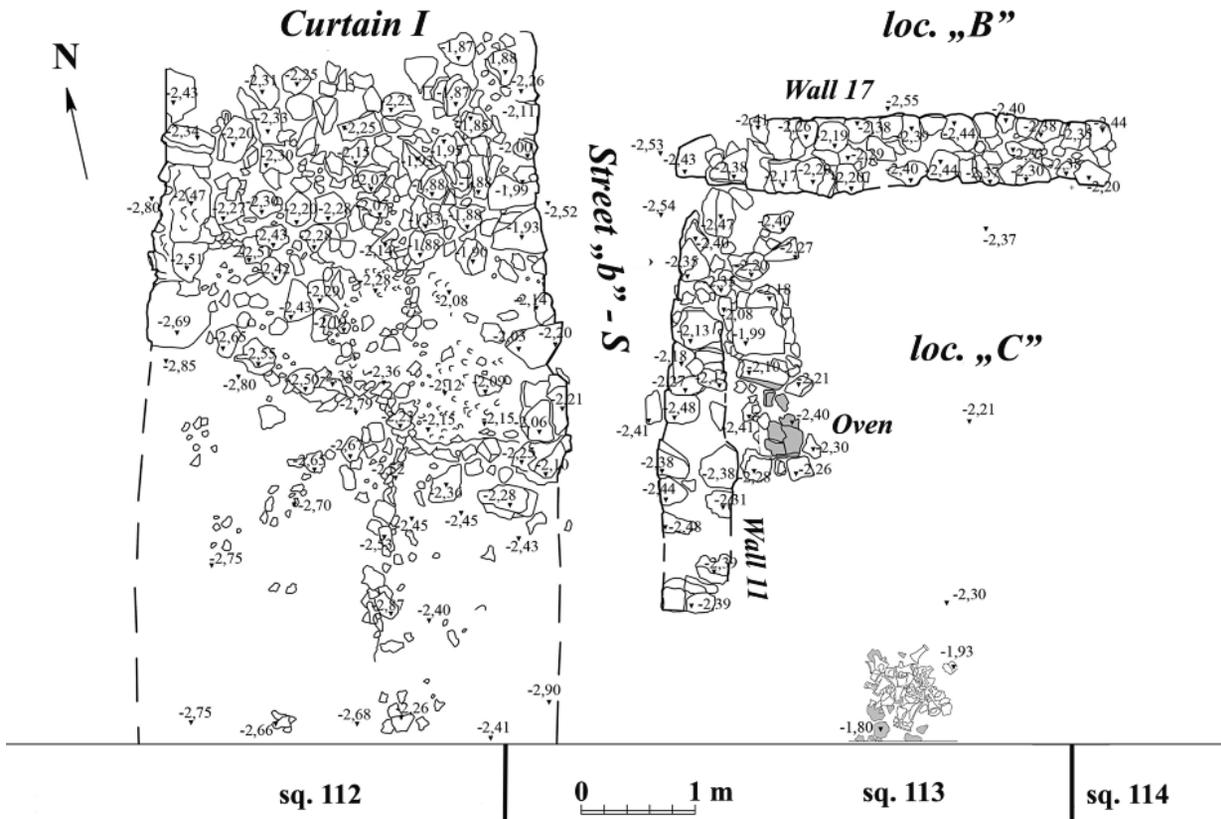


Fig. 7. Plan of squares 112–113 (Drawing S. Naumenko).

Ryc. 7. Plan kwadratów nr 112–113.

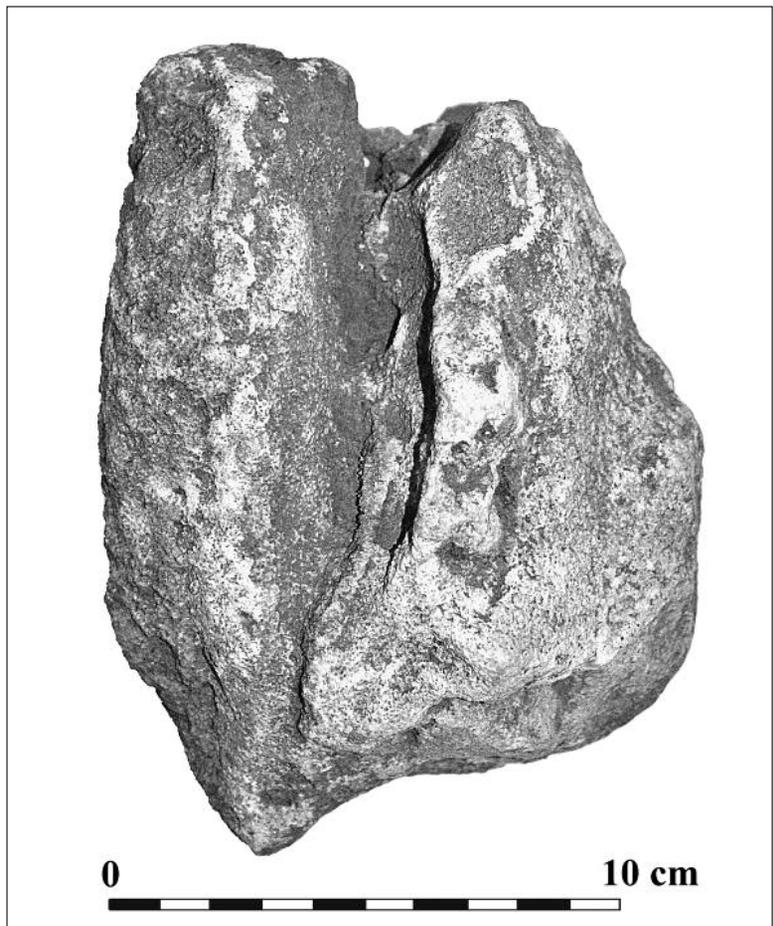


Fig. 8. Stone anchor, inv. No. T.XXV.13.62p (Photo G. Wyrzykowski).

Ryc. 8. Kamienna kotwica, nr inw. T.XXV.13.62p.

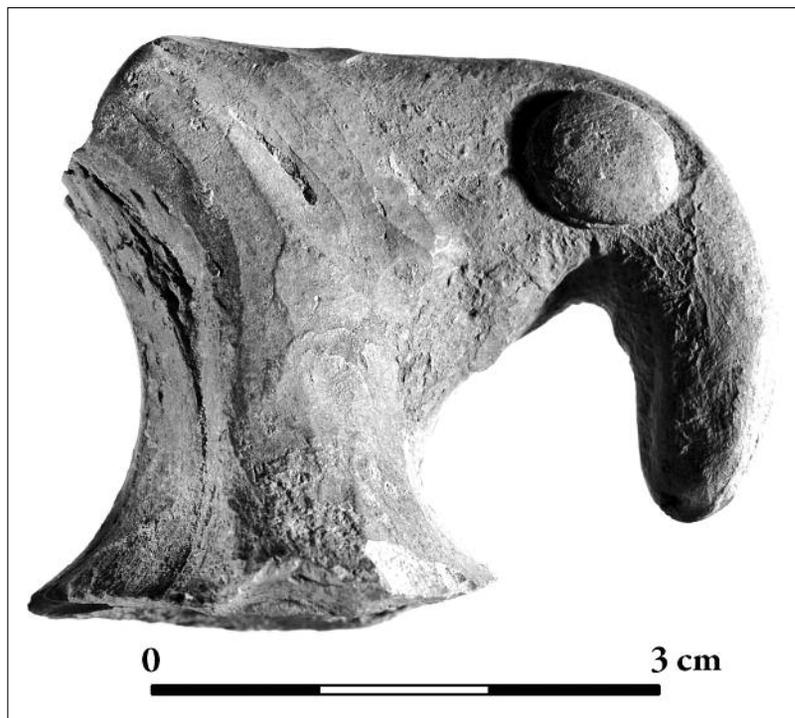


Fig. 9. Zoomorphic clay handle, inv. No. T.XXV.13.53p (Photo G. Wyrzykowski).

Ryc. 9. Gliniane imadło zoomorficzne, nr inv. T.XXV.13.53p.

#### Squares 112–114 (Figs. 6, 7)

The top of Curtain I and the slope of the defense ditch were cleared in Square 112. The wall was eroded, the blocks plundered, except for the stones from the eastern facade which had shifted considerably to the east, onto strategic Street “b”-S. The southwestern corner of Room “B” was uncovered, which was also the northwestern corner of the adjoining Room “C.” Wall 17 between the two rooms was constructed in a technique similar to Wall 11, separating rooms “B” and “C” from the strategic street. A fragment of an oven (hearth?) from the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD was cleared on the spot of the presumed western entrance to Room “C.” This fragment was secured and will be explored in the coming excavation season.

Previously it was thought that this part of the town had been destroyed in the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC and deserted. Presently, it seems that excavations uncovered settlement from the 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD. The evidence in Squares 116 and 117 consisted of the reuse of older storage bins, in Square 113 there was an oven (hearth?).

Among the finds one should note a stone anchor (Fig. 8) and a zoomorphic clay handle (Fig. 9).

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### TANAIS, ROSJA. WYKOPALISKA W SEZONACH 2012–2013

W pracach prowadzonych w obu kampaniach uczestniczyło prawie 70 osób: pracownicy naukowcy z Polski i z Rosji, studenci z Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, z Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego i z Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego w Krakowie, a także wolontariusze z Polski. Prace prowadzone w latach 2012–2013 miały za zadanie odsłonięcie w wykopie XXV pozostałości architektury wzniesionej w początku I wieku p.n.e. Wydaje się, że w części północno-wschodniej wykopu znajduje się *horreum* (pomieszczenie

„D”) z kilkoma jamami zasobowymi do przechowywania ziarna (Ryc. 1, 3, 4). W części południowo-wschodniej wykopu odsłonięto bardzo zniszczone pozostałości kurtyny nr I (Ryc. 6) i fragment kolejnego pomieszczenia „C” (Ryc. 7).

Wśród znalezisk ruchomych wymienić należy kamienną kotwicę (Ryc. 8) oraz zoomorficzne gliniane imadło (Ryc. 9).