

# ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS AND MONUMENTAL BUILDINGS AT BORYSTHENES

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**Key words:** Borysthenes, northern Black Sea coast, *temenos*, public centre, regular city planning, architectural details.

**Abstract:** Borysthenes encompasses a small number of sites belonging to the period of Greek colonization of the Black Sea region, where monumental buildings with architectural decoration appeared during the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Specific order details are cut from stone; architectural terracotta, imported from Miletus, was also found. They are connected through their common stylistic identity with the Asia Minor architectural school of the Ionic order. These details are attested mainly as constructive parts of monumental altars, and less so as possible parts of temples and other public buildings. The excavations from the last decades permitted to conclude on the existence of the *temenos* and the public centre included in the regular city plan from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC at Borysthenes. Correlation of architectural details and monumental buildings is still under discussion.

**Rezumat:** Borysthenes cuprinde un număr de situri ce aparține de perioada colonizării grecești a zonei Mării Negre, unde clădiri monumentale cu decorație arhitecturală au apărut în secolul 6 a.Chr. Detalii specifice ordinului au fost tăiate în piatră; de asemenea s-au găsit piese ceramice arhitecturale, importate din Milet. Acestea se leagă, prin identitatea lor stilistică, de școala ordinului Ionic din Asia Mică. Aceste detalii sunt atestate în general ca părți constructive ale altarelor monumentale, și mai puțin ca posibile părți ale templelor și ale altor clădiri publice. Săpăturile din ultimele decenii au permis tragerea unor concluzii asupra existenței temenosului și a centrului public inclus în planul urban regulat din a doua jumătate a secolului 6 a.Chr. din Borysthenes. Corelarea detaliilor arhitecturale și a clădirilor monumentale este încă în discuție.

The accommodation of the re-settlers in the newly created *apoikia* is one of the main questions about the Greek colonization of the Pontic region. It is well known that the success of survival in a new place depended on the level of self-organization of the overseas society. One of the main characteristics of such an adaptation is the city building organization that was reflected in the regular city planning of the future territory. The model of regular organization of the inner-*polis* and inner-city territory appeared and became stable at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BC in the colonies of Magna Graecia.<sup>1</sup> One necessary condition for the durable existence of such a city was the demarcation of a public centre within the grid plan and the condition of standing out from the inhabited zones. These city building initiatives were necessary for the normal functioning of the newly created civilian community.

The Black Sea region, perhaps because of the later incorporation into the overseas colonization movement, was for a long time thought to have been deprived of this city building tradition.<sup>2</sup> It only came to light recently that the presence of the regular city building organization in the Black Sea region in Borysthenes not only proves, but also enriches and develops the information obtained from the colonies in the western Mediterranean. This is the single site from the period of Greek colonization on the northern Black Sea coastline that was founded at the beginning of the third quarter of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC at the mouth of the river with the same name.<sup>3</sup> The specific feature of this site, the modern Berezan Island, features the best preserved cultural levels and buildings of the Archaic Period.

The archaeological researchers, who arrived annually at Berezan from the very beginning of the 60's from the Institute of Archaeology, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the State Hermitage in Sankt Petersburg, accomplished a series of important discoveries. Their synthesis offers the possibility of researching the main building periods at Borysthenes, reconstructing the organization of life in the early period of its existence and as a result – recreating the history of the city building development. In the last decades it became possible to excavate, to propose a rough attribution and based on this data – to start the argument-based reconstruction of the regular city network with its differently shaped blocks, which replaced

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<sup>1</sup> Castagnoli 1971, p. 10 ff.; Kolb 1984, p. 100 ff.; Hoephner, Schwandner 1986, p. 4 ff.; Mertens 2010, p. 55 ff.

<sup>2</sup> B. Pharmakovskii's old idea about the presence of an early regular grid plan in Olbia was inspired seriously only by F. Castagnoli (Castagnoli 1971, p. 10). It was proved by modern researchers in the southern part of Olbia (Bujksikh 2017, p. 13).

<sup>3</sup> Euseb. Chron. can. / Helm B., 1984. P. 95b.