

STEFAN ALBRECHT / FALKO DAIM / MICHAEL HERDICK (eds), *Die Höhensiedlungen im Bergland der Krim. Umwelt, Kulturaustausch und Transformation am Nordrand des Byzantinischen Reiches*. Monographien des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, volume 113. Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz 2013. € 85.00. ISBN 978-3-88467-220-4, ISSN 0174-1474. 511 pages, 234 images, mainly colour.

The Crimean Peninsula on the northern shore of the Black Sea played an important role as a contact zone between Mediterranean civilisations and steppe nomadic populations, between the societies south and north of the Black Sea, at least since the foundation of ancient Greek cities (which is even reflected in the political events of the recent past). Crimea was a remote periphery and a frontier of the Byzantine Empire through the Middle Ages and of significance for Byzantine foreign relations including diplomacy, trade and military affairs. The southeast coast of the peninsula is flanked by the Crimean Mountains, which were populated by the 'Gothoi' of Byzantine sources with their centre known as Dory / Doros, later mentioned as Theodoro, being an episcopate from the 8th century on.

The cultural and political significance and the frontier character of the region as well as the Gothic identity of its population raised scholarly interest of the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz (RGZM), which established a project on the history, archaeology and population history of late antique and medieval Crimea between 2006 and 2008. The project was a cooperation of various German scholars (mainly from RGZM) and local archaeologists such as Aleksandr I. Ajbabin and Aleksandr G. Gercen, while Austrian, Polish and Ukrainian specialists contributed significantly to the research. The project focused on two major sites (Mangup Kale and Eski Kermen) and their environments in southwestern Crimea, following four basic topics: 1. population and social structures; 2. group identity – cultural contacts – cultural openness; 3. the 'Gothoi' and Byzantium; and 4. settlement structure and landscape. The project resulted in several monographic publications and numerous papers (54 publications), public lectures, exhibitions and a geoinformation system of the studied region. The volume reviewed here presents the main results of the project in 17 articles written by 30 authors covering the history of Crimea, the archaeological, anthropological, genetical and environmental research of the hilltop sites of Mangup Kale and Eski Kermen and their cemeteries, based on earlier studies and a theoretical model of Crimea's settlement history as a contact-zone of the Byzantine Empire.

The project design is presented by Michael Herdick (pp. 1–23), emphasising the local cultural, political and academic circumstances. Besides describing the history of the project, main research questions, risk calculation of the project, conciliation of various approaches, coordination and funding of the work, special emphasis was put on the communication of the achieved results to a wider public. This article offers precious insights into the project, its participants and the common work that achieved results also for the benefit of local (Crimean) experts.

Michael Herdick and Stefan Albrecht present the historical framework of the volume as well as the project, i. e. the 6th–15th-century history of the Crimean Peninsula (pp. 25–56). Due to the scarce sources the political and cultural history of the region was presented in excerpts, using Procopius' 'The Buildings' as a source on Gothic identity and the rising Byzantine influence. According to the account the Goths lived in the region called Dory, they fought in alliance with the Byzantines and their land was fertile. Between the 6th and 8th centuries Crimea served as a place of exile for the Constantinopolitan political or religious opposition, as during the reign of Justinian II, whose biography informs us about the presence of the Khazars in the peninsula. The Khazar Qaganate even had a governor (*tudun*) in Crimea, which was interpreted recently as a Byzantine-Khazar 'condominium' during the 8th–9th centuries based on the analogy with Cyprus. The

bishopric of Gothia was founded during the same period, and at the end of the 10th century Crimea played an important role in the conversion of the Rus and similarly in the Byzantine-Rus-Pecheneg relations. After the Latin conquest of Constantinople in 1204, Crimea belonged to the Empire of Trebizond as its overseas territory (*perateia*), while the significance of various Italian city states (Venice, Pisa and Geneva) in the Pontic trade was constantly rising. After a short Seljuk interlude, the Crimea was occupied by the Golden Horde and by the end of 15th century the peninsula got under Ottoman rule as part of the Crimean Khanate. From this time the accounts on Crimean Goths became scarce and the independence of their episcopate ended.

Current historical research tends to call medieval Crimea the outpost or the first defence line of the Byzantine Empire against steppe nomadic groups; however, the Byzantine sources show a completely different picture. Stefan Albrecht (pp. 101–123) contrasts the topoi of modern research with the image of late antique and medieval accounts, according to which Crimea was rather a remote, partly barbarian location, exile for the political and religious opposition; at the same time quite surprisingly it was even a place of Christian cult and pilgrimage, while the idea of being a beachhead against the northern nomads and for military actions left much less traces in the Byzantine common sense.

The Crimean project of the RGZM mainly focused on research of Mangup Kale and Eski Kermen and their environments. Historiography for a long time played a very important role in the investigation of these sites, and the early research of Mangup Kale is presented by A. G. Gercen (pp. 57–99) up to World War I and the revolution, which corresponds to the traditional historiography of Soviet archaeology (“dorevolucionnyj period”). The earliest accounts were written in the late 16th century; before the 18th century the cited sources are mainly travelogues, while from the late 18th century onward these are replaced by academic writings such as cartographical, archaeological, epigraphic and art historical studies. Gercen’s paper represents not only the history of research, but clearly illustrates the flaring information on this site and presents some formerly perished monuments as well.

On the slopes of Mangup Kale four late antique and early medieval cemeteries (Almalyk-Dere, Adym-Čokrak and Južnoe I and II) were unearthed, the preliminary investigation of which was realised by the Crimea project. The cemetery of Almalyk-Dere is outstanding in its early burials from the 4th–5th centuries and its cremation burials; this offers a special insight into their relations to the Černjachov culture often interpreted as the archaeological remains of Eastern European Goths (Maćczyńska et al., pp. 125–145). The other three cemeteries of Mangup (Adym-Čokrak, Južnoe I and II), which were published in a separate volume, are dated to a later period (6th–7th centuries). The authors of this chapter (Bemmann et al., pp. 147–164) date the graves mostly by the chronology of Byzantine buckles by Mechthild Schulze-Dörlamm and the Central European Merovingian chronology (of beads), neglecting the Crimean chronological system of A. I. Ajbabin, which is based on collective burial chambers with stratigraphical observations. Dating with analogies or cross-dating is based on the assumption that parallel chronological features are characteristic across Europe; however, this has not yet been proven convincingly.

The other main target of the project by the RGZM was the archaeological research of the fortified hilltop settlement of Eski Kermen and the nearby cemeteries. The settlement is described by A. I. Ajbabin (pp. 165–231) who distinguishes three major chronological phases of its settlement history: 1. late antique (6th–7th centuries), 2. Khazar period (8th–9th centuries), and 3. medieval, late Byzantine period (9th–13th centuries). He presents the fortifications, churches, features of economic significance (press-houses and *horrea*), dwellings and artificial caves and artefacts uncovered there. The fortified settlement was founded during late 6th century, and it was ruined only by the end of 13th century. This site was a regional centre along with Mangup Kale, both of which were

inhabited by allied soldiers of the Byzantine Empire with their family members; this population was continuous even during the 8th–9th centuries under rising Khazar and Byzantine influence.

The settlement of Eski Kermen is located on a limestone rock, as a result of which natural and artificial caves played a major role in its structure. The survey of these caves started during the Soviet period, and it was continued and completed by the project of the RGZM (Aufschnaiter / Tobias, pp. 233–250). The work was conducted with the participation of surveyors in three levels (hand GPS, survey by tachymeter and 3D laser scanning), which resulted in the doubling of the number of cave-rooms and the identification of various functions of these rooms (storage, dwelling, cultic, burial and economic).

One of the most interesting caves in Eski Kermen is the so-called ‘three riders’ chapel’ named after its wall paintings (Plontke-Lüning, pp. 251–269). This chapel was fully surveyed by 3D laser scanner and photogrammetry. The wall painting depicts three riders with lances using different iconographical features: according to the accepted interpretations it represents three various hypostasis of Saint George (salvage of the boy, killing the dragon and victory). On the salvage scene the head of the boy is covered by a special hat called ‘skiadion’, which led to the idea that he was a local saint who was a member of the elite loyal to the Palaiologos dynasty.

On the southeastern slope of the hill of Eski Kermen a huge early medieval cemetery was unearthed, the excavation of which continued under the project of the RGZM between 2006 and 2008. 17 burials excavated during these three seasons are published by El’zara A. Chajredinova in this volume (pp. 271–334). The unearthed chamber and niche graves were usually robbed; the detailed description of their structure and of the burial practice is followed by the analysis of various grave goods from the point-of-view of chronology and costume, the reconstructions of which are very significant. According to the author this part of the cemetery comprised the earliest burials from the turn of the 6th to 7th century.

The analysis of the osteological remains of the studied cemeteries (Eski Kermen, Almalyk and Lučistoe) is presented by a German anthropologist team (Jacobi et al., pp. 335–359). Unfortunately, the studied skeletons were relatively few (42 samples for osteological and 53 for demographical analysis), therefore their results are applicable even to the studied sites with extrapolation only. The results of the study of individuals buried in chamber graves are highly important: although the idea of family crypts was generally accepted for these graves, most of the burial chambers contained deceased of similar age and same sex. Besides the demographical and metrical studies, interesting palaeopathological observations were made (e. g. the sexual differences in dental caries). A special focus of research was laid on the custom of artificial cranial deformation, which in contrast with most of the contemporary populations was not limited to female individuals; even some pathological features caused by cranial deformations were observed on some skulls. In addition to the traditional osteological studies, the various isotopes (carbon, nitrogen and strontium) were analysed showing diet and mobility of the population. Unfortunately, the results of the isotopic investigations are not yet published in the present volume, therefore the chapter in question is limited to the description of methods.

The results of anthropological studies are complemented by archaeogenetical investigations (Brandt et al., pp. 361–377), which due to the good preservation of skeletons were not limited to mitochondrial DNA (ten cases), but also Y-chromosome DNA was analysed in six cases. The methods (including sampling) are presented in detail. From the ten mitochondrial DNA samples five different haplogroups can be discerned, while the six Y-chromosome samples are divided into four haplogroups. The team tried to identify the origin of the studied individuals, emphasising the Scandinavian contacts by the geographical frequency of both mitochondrial and Y-chromosomal

haplogroups. Due to the small sample and the variability of the haplogroups, the question of origins remains unsolved, but the intra- and inter-site search for relatives can offer significant data.

The surveys performed in the Crimean Mountains, including hand GPS and tachymeter, terrestrial 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry, and the geographical information system established for the region are presented by Anja Cramer and Guido Heinz (pp. 379–401). The surveys in the caves of Eski Kermen, on the fortifications of Mangup Kale and the cemetery of Almalyk-Dere result in 3D models of cave systems and defence walls and a coherent cemetery plan. The establishment of a regional georeferential system is of great significance for future work in Crimea.

Environmental archaeology is a completely new approach in the early medieval research of Crimea: such studies were carried out by Rainer Schreg (pp. 403–445) around Mangup and Eski Kermen, including physical and settlement geographic description of the region, mapping data from archival sources, new surveys and sondage excavations. The sites in the environment of two main centres are located mainly in river valleys, while during the High Middle Ages the highland became populated. Field walkings revealed traces of a medieval road-network, land use and clay mining. As a result of these studies the environment of the Crimean Mountains shows to have differed from the description of Procopius inspired by the Peloponnesus: it was not a fertile landscape, but karst formation and erosion caused several problems for the inhabitants. The detailed environmental and landscape archaeological results of the project will be published in a separate volume.

The local centre of the Byzantine Empire in Crimea was the city of Chersonesus often described as an outpost in modern historiography, which can be traced back to the journalism of the Crimean War. Stefan Albrecht (pp. 447–470) compares the role of the city to various regions of Byzantium such as Italy (Amalfi, Venice and Naples), Sardinia, Dalmatia including Dyrrachion, and Cyprus. In his view the closest analogy is the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic Sea both by its geographical settings and historical development. The former static picture of the supposed 'limes Tauricus' is replaced by the more flexible idea of a frontier zone emphasising the intermediary nature of puffer zones.

The conclusions of the project and the volume in question are summarised in the last chapter written by Stefan Albrecht, Michael Herdick and Rainer Schreg, creating a new theoretical model of Crimean settlement history (pp. 471–497). The medieval history of Crimea is usually interpreted in terms of centre and periphery (Byzantium and the Barbarians or, within Crimea, Chersonesus and Gotthia), while the intermediary role of the border zones received much less attention. The fortified hilltop settlements in southeastern Crimea suggest a stratified social structure of the early medieval population, while the nearby cemeteries prove its continuity and the spread of Christianity. The group identity of this population is attested by special burial customs and female costume revealing a strong regional identity with an increasing Byzantine influence. Physical geographical features and small regions played a decisive role in settlement structure, which was completely different from the picture imparted by written sources.

The medieval settlement history of the Crimean Mountains is described in a model of concurring neighbourhoods. The region is divided into three cultural zones: 1. the coastal zone of Mediterranean climate served as a 'port of trade' under Byzantine rule, 2. the mixed Barbarian-Christian 'gateway' communities were under immediate Byzantine influence, while 3. the steppe nomadic communities north of the mountains lived in a remote area with fewer Byzantine impacts. The roads of the mountains were defended by two major hilltop settlements concurring with each other according to the concept of regulated anarchy. The population of Dory and Gotthia underwent a radical change between Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: the Christian military com-

munities ('Crimean Goths') in Byzantine alliance became a community of strong regional identity under their own bishopric, which was an important 'Traditionskern' for the later Theodoro principality.

The present volume contributes to the understanding of almost every aspect of research on the medieval Crimea, applying novel approaches. Therefore, the book is an important contribution to the archaeological and historical research of the region, presenting it to western academic circles. The numerous colourful photographs, figures, 3D models and diagrams present the new results in a formerly unknown level in Crimean archaeology.

H-1097 Budapest
Tóth Kálmán utca 4
E-Mail: csiky.gergely@btk.mta.hu

Gergely Csiky
Institute of Archaeology
Research Centre for Humanities
Hungarian Academy of Sciences

RETO MARTI / WERNER MEYER / JAKOB OBRECHT, Der Altenberg bei Füllinsdorf. Eine Adelsburg des 11. Jahrhunderts. Mit Beiträgen von Erwin Baumgartner, Andreas Burkhardt, Guido Faccani, Hans-Ulrich Geiger, Elisabeth Marti-Grädel, Dobromila-Maria Janke, Willem B. Stern. Schriften der Archäologie Baselland Band 50. Schwabe AG, Basel 2013. € 48,-. ISBN 978-3-7965-3203-0. 435 Seiten, 485 Abbildungen.

Die Burgen der Schweiz zählen zu den am besten erforschten Burgen Europas. Dazu haben auch die an diesem Band beteiligten Autoren beigetragen, stammen aus ihrer Feder doch zahlreiche Publikationen zu diesem Thema. Nun wird mit diesem Band eine weitere Monographie zu Schweizer Burgen präsentiert. Eine zwischen 1982 und 1986 durchgeführte archäologische Untersuchung findet mit dieser Vorlage der wissenschaftlichen Ergebnisse ihren Abschluss. Dabei ist die auf dem Altenberg bei Füllinsdorf gelegene Burganlage für die Burgenforschung von erheblicher Bedeutung, zeigte sich doch, dass ihre Nutzungszeit ausschließlich im 11. Jahrhundert lag, einer Zeit also, als sich die mittelalterliche Adelsburg noch in einer frühen Phase der Entwicklung befand, und zugleich eine Zeit, aus der bisher nur wenige unverändert erhaltene Befunde vorliegen. Daher gehört die Erforschung der Adelsburg des 11. Jahrhunderts nach wie vor zu den wichtigsten Aufgaben der Burgenforschung. Dieser Aufgabe hat sich das Autorenteam gestellt. Schon in der Herangehensweise als Team zeigt sich ein fortschrittlicher, interdisziplinärer Ansatz, der alle relevanten Wissenschaftsbereiche der Burgenforschung einbindet. Diese Aufgabenteilung spiegelt sich auch in der Gliederung der Monographie wider.

So befasst sich Reto Marti im einleitenden Kapitel mit der Einbindung dieser weitgehend vergessenen Burg, von der nicht einmal der historische Name überliefert ist, in die damalige Kulturlandschaft. Die Burg lag auf einem schmalen Felsgrat am Nordrand des Jura, wo sich seine Ausläufer zum Altsiedelland öffnen, dessen Zentrum in römischer Zeit das wenig entfernt gelegene Augusta Raurica bildete. Die Lage auf einem schmalen Felsgrat ist in dieser frühen Zeit nicht untypisch. Allerdings hat der von seiner Festigkeit problematische geologische Untergrund auch dazu geführt, dass die Reste der Burganlage weitgehend erodiert waren, sodass nur noch markante Geländedeformationen sowie geringe Mörtel- und Mauerreste auf ihre ehemalige Existenz hinwiesen.

Die Erforschung im Zuge mehrerer Grabungskampagnen wird im zweiten Kapitel von Jakob Obrecht in der gebotenen Ausführlichkeit beschrieben, von ersten Sondiergrabungen 1982 bis hin zu den Hauptkampagnen 1985 und 1986.