

რომაული ხანის სამარხები მდ. ჭოროხის ქვემო დინებიდან (კაპანდიბი)

მამულაძე შოთა, ებრალიძე ტარიელ, თურმანიძე მირანდა
გონიო-აფსაროსის მუზეუმ-ნაკრძალი

ბოლო პერიოდში მდინარეების ჭოროხ - აჭარისწყლის ხერთვისიდან ქვემოთ მდინარე ჭოროხის როგორც მარცხენა (მახო), ისე მარჯვენა (კაპანდიბი, ზანაქიძეები) სანაპიროზე მდებარე სოფლებში შემთხვევითი აღმოჩენებისა თუ მცირე მასშტაბის გათხრების შედეგად მოპოვებულ იქნა რომაული (I-III სს) ხანის საკმაოდ საინტერესო სამარხეული მასალები.

ამჯერად ყურადღებას გავამახვილებთ ხელვაჩაურის მუნიციპალიტეტის სოფ. კაპანდიბში შესწავლილ სამარხებზე. სოფელი მდებარეობს მდ. ჭოროხის მარჯვენა სანაპიროზე.

2008 წელს ამ სოფლის მკვიდრმა ენვერ ცინცაძემ თავისი საცხოვრებელი სახლის წინ, გზის ჭრილში შემთხვევით აღმოაჩინა კერამიკული მასალა.

2009 წელს აქვე გონიო-აფსაროსის მუდმივმოქმედმა არქეოლოგიურმა ექსპედიციამ განახორციელა მცირე მასშტაბის სამუშაოები. გასათხრელი ფართობი მოქცეული იყო ორ გზას შორის არსებულ ტერიტორიაზე, რომელიც მკვეთრად რელიეფის შესაბამისად სამხრეთიდან ჩრდილოეთისკენ იყო დაქანებული. გათხრების შედეგად შესაძლებელი გახდა ორი სამარხის შესწავლა. ორივე ორმოს ტიპისაა. დამხრობილი აღმოსავლეთისაკენ. სამარხებში ჩაყოლებული იყო ქოთნები, დოქები, კოჭობები, ჯამები, ვერცხლის სამაჯური, ბეჭედი, სხვადასხვა ტიპისა და ზომის მძივები, მონეტა და სხვა. ერთ-ერთი სამარხი ინვენტარის მიხედვით ქალის კუთვნილება უნდა იყოს. მოპოვებული არქეოლოგიური მასალების უმრავლესობა ადგილობრივი ნაწარმია. გვხდება იმპორტული, კერძოდ, წითელლაკიანი ჯამის ფრაგმენტებიც.

როგორც ჩანს, გვიანანტიკურ ხანაში ადგილობრივ მცხოვრებთ ახლო სავაჭრო- ეკონომიკური ურთიერთობა ჰქონდათ ზღვისპირა ზოლში, კერძოდ, გონიო-აფსაროსში დაბანაკებულ რომაელებთან, რომელთა შუამავლობით იმპორტული ნაწარმი ვრცელდება ადგილობრივ მოსახლეობაში. ანალოგიური სურათი ჩანს მახო მონაპოვრების მიხედვითაც.

სამარხები ახ.წ. II-III სს. თარიღდება.

ჭოროხის ქვემო დინების ამ ზოლში შესწავლილ სამაროვნებზე აღმოჩენილ მასალებზე დაყრდნობით შეგვიძლია ვიფიქროთ, რომ რომაელთა გავლენა ვრცელდებოდა არა მარტო აფსაროსსა და მის შემოგარენში, არამედ ზღვიდან მდინარე ჭოროხის გასწვრივ მთელ სიგრძეზე 20-25 კმ სიღრმეში.

ვეიქრობთ, ეს ბუნებრივიცაა, რადგან აფსაროსში მდგომი ლეგიონერების ერთ-ერთი ძირითადი ფუნქციაც მდ. ჭოროხსა თუ აჭარისწყალზე, ტაო-კლარჯეთისაკენ, იბერიისაკენ, არმენიისაკენ, თუ მეორეს მხვრივ, სამცხე-ჯავახეთისაკენ გამავალი გზების გაკონტროლებაც უნდა ყოფილიყო. რაც შეეხება საკითხს, ახდენდა თუ არა რომაული სამყარო ამ რეგიონის კულტურულ „ანექსიას“, მენარჩუნებული იყო თუ არა რეგიონში საზოგადოებრივი ცხოვრების მმართველობისა და ინფრასტრუქტურის დარგები და ელემენტები, ამის შესწავლა აქ არსებული ძეგლების ფართო მასშტაბიანი გათხრების შემდეგ იქნება შესაძლებელი.

Graves Dated Back to Roman Ages along Lower Stream of River Chorokhi (Kapandibi)

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For the last period of time quite significant and interesting burial materials have been found accidentally or through low-scale excavations in the villages situated along the left (Makho) as well as right (Kapandibi, Zanakidzeebi) banks of the river Chorokhi downwards from Khertvisi of the rivers Chorokhi and Adjaristskali.

This time we are focusing on the burials studied in the village of Kapandibi, Khelvachauri municipality. The village is situated on the right bank of the Chorokhi River whereas the burial itself is located on the inclined slope of the left bank of the deeply cut gorge in Khelvachauri. Here passes the central road of the village as well. To the right of the central road the roads connecting two families are cut from one and the same place. The burials were located just on the territory between these two roads that was considerably inclined correspondingly to the relief from south towards north. In 2008 the villager Enver Tsetskhladze accidentally discovered ceramic ware in front of his house, on two places on the lower part of the road.

Here as well, in 2009, the standing archaeological expedition of Gonio-Apsarus carried out small-scale works. The excavations gave possibility to study two burials. Both of the burials are of pit shape (Pl. 1).

Burial 1 - is located within the second square of NW sector and partially passes into the second square of NO sector. The burial seems damaged during laying the lower road. Therefore it is impossible to define exact measures. According to the arrangement if the stock put into the burial it becomes obvious that the deceased should have been directed towards north-east. A pot, a jug and a bowl were put into the burial with him (Pl. 2)

Burial 2 – is located within 1 and 11, 2 and 12 squared of NW sector. It is placed in the NE part of the first burial. It is also partially damaged during laying the lower road. The measures of the preserved burial pit are as follows: length 2, 5 cm, width 40 cm, depth 1, 7-1, 8 m. The dead appears to be buried towards NE. There is no trace of skeleton. A silver bracelet and ring, beads of various types and sizes and coins were placed into the grave. To the same burial belong the bowl, jug and fragments of a silver ear-ring accidentally found a year before in the road section (Pls 3-4).

In spring 2010 the whole clay jog was found thereby, 2, 5 m away from the Burial 2. This item should have been the part of one of the burials damaged during the road constructions (Pl. 5).

The group of the burial inventory is comprised by the ceramic ware. The majority of the archaeological finds is of local production. These are: pots, jugs, and bowls. It should be noted that the local production pottery of late Antique period is represented in a very small quantity on the territory of Southwestern Georgia.

A pot (Khelvachauri 08;12. Collection 26-08;2; pl. 2.1) – brownish, with mixtures; mouth and neck broken; roundish body; used to have oval handle modeled to the body and shoulder; the flat bottom, diam. 6,7 cm, height 12,6 cm, fold width 0,5 cm; fire traces are noticeable.

Two jugs are also met in the burial inventory. The first one (Khelv. 08.12. Col: 26-08; 2 pl. 2.3) is damaged in the mouth area. The pot has a flat bottom, spherical roundish body, concave neck and flared mouth. The round-cut handle is modeled in the shoulder and neck area. The clay is brownish, with mixtures. The bottom diam. 5,6 cm, the preserved height – 10,5 cm, fold thickness – 0,3 cm. The vessel has the traces of fire. The second jug (Khelv. 2010.21. Col: 26-08-21 pl. 5) is well-preserved. It has a flat bottom, equally rounded body, concave neck and flared mouth. The vessel has a wide-section handle modeled to the shoulder area. The clay is brownish. The bottom diam. is 10 cm, mouth diam. 11,5 cm, height 15 cm.

Jug (Khelv. 08; 11; Col: 26-08; 1; pl. 3.1). The clay is brown, with mixtures; fold – breakable; has a widened flared mouth; low neck; body – widened towards the bottom; roundish; has an oval-section handle with a groove; flat bottom; bottom diam. 7,5 cm, height 18,7 cm, handle diam. – 2,2 cm.

Bowl (Khelv. 08.14. Col: 26-08; 4; pl. 2.2), the clay – pinkish, reddish color; thick mixtures; has roundish, slightly concave mouth; body inclined towards the bottom; bottom with a concave groove heel. Heel diam. is 9, 0 cm, mouth diam. 16, 5 cm, height 10, 5 cm.

Bowl (Khelv. 08.15. Col: 26-08; 5; pl. 3.2), with pinkish clay; has a roundish, slightly concave mouth; used to have a low, miniature, slightly flared heel; it is preserved in fragments. The clay thickness is 0,4 cm; red-glaze. It finds the direct analogues with the widely spread Roman material, namely, with the materials found on the territory of Gonio-Apsarus which is dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD according to the accompanying inventory and parallel materials (Ebralidze, 2005).

A ring, a bracelet, beads and bow-pins were also found in the Kapandibi burial inventory.

The silver ring (Pl. 3.4) has rather elaborated circle of medium size. The ring is flat in the intaglio places. The shoulders are stretched aside, and bent downwards. Outside the circle is of round shape whereas it is flat inside. A gem-pit is placed on the ring. The gem is damaged. As it is seen from the preserved small fragment, it should have been made of glass. The gem-pit diam. 1 cm, the finger ring – 2, 2 cm. F. Henkel dates the similar rings by 1st-2nd centuries AD (Henkel, 1913, pp. 261-265). The similar ring but made of iron was discovered in Urbnisi as well and here it is dated by K. Javakhishvili to the 2nd century AD according to intaglio (Javakhishvili, 11972, p.54, Cat. 71-72, Tab. XII-71). The seal-ring of the analogous shape is famous from Samtavro cemetery which is dated by K. Ramishvili to 4th century AD according to the ring shape (Ramishvili, 1979, p. 127-128, Cat. 84). Margo Lortkipanidze dates the samples of similar shapes to the 3rd century AD (Lortkipanidze, 1961, p. 32). A silver ring of the similar shape was discovered during the archaeological excavations of the ancient site in Gonuo-Apsarus together with the hoard of coins of the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. Its gamma has a dolphin figure on it (Mshvildadze, 2009, p. 188).

A silver bracelet is of significant importance as well (Pl. 3.3). It is made of a round-shape stem. The narrowed ends of the bracelet overlap each other and four-times plaited like a vine so as it can easily be narrowed and widened according to the need. Similar bracelets seem widespread in the Classical world. They are found in Georgia (Ureki, Chkhorotsku, Gori, Armaziskhevi) as well as in Armenia, North Caucasus, Crimea, etc. (Apakidze, Gobejishvili, Kalandadze, Lomtadidze, 1955, p. 98-99, tab. XXXVIII, 3,3^a. Khoshtaria, 1955, p.25-78; Esayan, Kalantaryan, 1976, p.35-36, pl.III,1; Ugrekhelidze, 1967, p.57; tab. I/49; Ivan, Marchenko und Natal ja Ju limberis, 2008, Cat.54). The similar bracelet was recently found on the left bank of the river Chorokhi in the burial materials studied on the territory of the village of Makho. Kapandibi and Makho are contemporaneous cemeteries of the local population 10 km away from each other.

Glass beads and pendants found in the burials are distinguished with great diversity (Pl. 4.1-12). We will begin the descriptions with the pendants made of monochrome glass.

Dolphin-like pendant (Pl. 4.2) – light green color, transparent, tail raised upwards. Asymmetric (0,6 X 0,2 X 1,8 cm) linear channel is placed in the area of the head. Similar pendants are characteristic of the Hellenistic cemeteries. They are met in the burials of the same period in western Georgia as well as northern Black Sea littoral (Vashakidze, 1973; 1985, p. 23-116; Gigolashvili, 1983, p. 104; Anfimov, 1971, p. 177).

In the second burial 3 pieces of pendants were found (Pl. 4.4) of the amphora-shape, made of transparent glass. All the three samples are with flat bottom. One of them is of Hellenistic period and finds the exact analogues with the samples of the materials found in the Hellenistic burials of Pichvnari as well as with the pendants found on the sites of Dablagomi, Vani, Dapnari, northern Black Sea littoral (Turmanidze, 2007, p. 131-140). The other two are of relatively later shape and are distinguished with sharp contours. The analogous samples are found in northern Black Sea littoral and are dated to 4th century AD (Alekseeva, 1978, p.74).

The samples made of polychrome glass belong to the Roman period beads (Pl. 4.5). They are of ring-shape, with flattened ends. The cylindrical channel is placed in length; the bead nucleus is of black color. A blue glass thread is surrounded at the end of the channel while the main surface is covered with an ornament made of two yellow glass intersected threads that creates a zigzag shape. The analogous sample are found in Pichvnari burial of the 4th-5th centuries AD (Turmanidze, 2009, p. 90-97) as well as in Samtavro which is dated to the first half of the 4th century AD according to the burial inventory (Apkhazava, 1979, p.100-101).

A glass bead is represented with one sample (Pl. 4.6). It is of ring-shape and clearly asymmetric. Six relief gems are arranged in parallel lines on the main part of the nucleus. The gems are created by the alteration of white and blue glass. According to the shape and a gem-making technique the bead looks like a Hellenistic period bead. Similar samples are found on the Classical period cemeteries in Georgia as well as in the northern Black Sea littoral (Gigolashvili, 1983, p. 99-104; Alekseeva, 1975, p.65-70).

Two pieces of Egyptian corrugated samples made of faience (Pl. 4.7-8) bear the ancient outlook too. It is of blue color (1,5-1 X 0,2-0,2 X 2-1 cm). Similar beads are characteristic to the burial complexes of the 5th-3rd centuries BC. However, there are cases when such beads are found in Roman period burials too in single numbers (Turmanidze, 2008, p. 106).

The bumped bead made of yellow, non-transparent glass also looks like an ancient one (Pl. 4. 9). Two relief bumps are placed on the surface of the ring-shaped bead. Similar samples are found in Colchian cemetery of the 5th century BC at Pichvnari (Turmanidze, 2008, p. 30), in cultural layers of the 4th-2nd centuries BC in Vani (Gigolashvili, 1983, p. 111), Tsitsamuri: 3rd-2nd centuries BC, whereas the samples found in Tiramba and Kepebi belong to the 1st-2nd centuries AD (Alekseeva, 1975, p.112; Sorokina, 1962, p.55).

Among the jewelry gems used in beads only cornelian and agate are met.

Cornelian bead (Pl. 4.10) is represented by 4 pieces in all. They are pinkish-brown, of circular shape. Their surface is poorly elaborated. A cylindrical channel is placed on every sample (0, 7-0, 5 X 0,2 X 0, 9-0, 7 cm). According to the shape and the elaboration technique their parallels can be found among the materials of western Georgia and northern Black Sea littoral. They are dated to the 5th century BC (Gogadze, Davlianidze, Pantskhava, 1951; Gogadze, Pantskhava, Darispanashvili, 1950, p. 60-70; Trapsh, 1969, p. 155-156; Lomitashvili, 2003, p.35; Alekseeva, 1982, p.15-16).

One piece of agate bead was found in Kapandibi (Pl. 4.11). It is of oblong shape the surface of which is angled in 14 parts. Similar pieces are found in Chersonesus and Panticapaeon and are dated to the 1st-3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva, 1978, p.17, cat. 61-62).

The rest of the samples of the discovered beads are made of **different colors of glass** (Pl. 4. 12). They are of ring-shape and asymmetric. Similar samples are characteristic to the whole Classical period.

The burial inventory comprises iron, silver and bronze bow-pendants. All of them are damaged. Only the silver bow-pendant can be of certain impression. It is with tied socket, one-fraction, and knee-spring. Similar samples are famous from the Tsikhisdziri

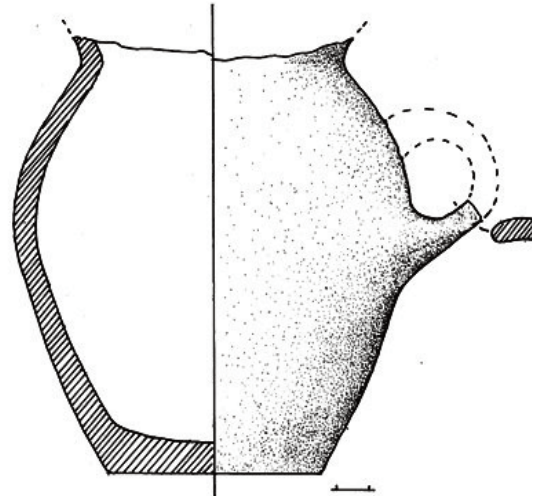
cemetery (Inaishvili, 1993, p.89) as well as from the excavations of the cemetery in the village of Makho. The scholars connect their distribution in the western part of Georgia to the 2nd-4th centuries AD (Apkhazava, 1979, p.9; Ambroz, 1960, p.54; Voronov, 1979, p.186-189). I. Marchenko and N. Limberis dated similar pendants found in Kubani area by the 1st-2nd centuries AD (Marchenko, Limberis 2008, p.398-401). In 2010 the similar sample was discovered in Makho together with the coins placed into the burial. It makes it possible to date such types of bow-pendants by the 3rd century AD.

According to the materials found in Kapandibi it is clearly seen that this cemetery is designated for the local population and was functioning in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. It is confirmed that in the late Antique period the local populations used to have close trade-economic relations along the Black Sea coastline, namely with the Romans stationed at Gonio-Apsarus through whom the imported ware was distributed among the local population. Similar situation is depicted in accordance with the material found in macho and Zanakidzebi, these adjacent sites to Kapandibi. As it is well seen, both banks of the river Chorokhi were closely populated by the locals during those times.

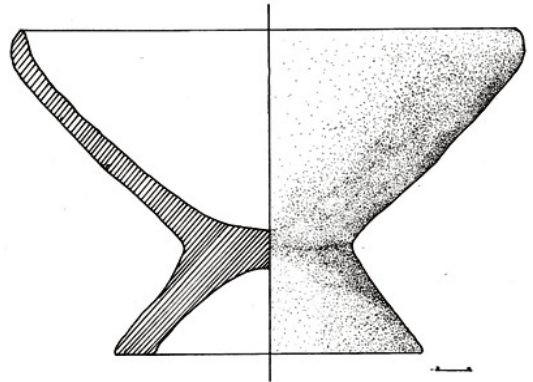
According to the studied burials it also becomes possible to form a certain impression about the religious beliefs of the local population, types of burials and funeral rituals, and according to the burial inventory – about the social issues. The Roman influence seems to spread not only through Apsarus and its vicinities but from the Black Sea towards and along the river of Chorokhi, on the whole territory in 25-30 km inland.

We think it is natural inasmuch as one of the main functions of the legions stationed at Apsarus was to control the roads on the rivers Chorokhi and Acharistskali towards Tao-Klarjeti, Iberia, Armenia, and on the other hand – towards Samtskhe-Javakheti. As for the issue whether the Roman world was committing the cultural “Annexation” of the region or not, whether the social side of governance and infrastructure fields and elements were preserved or not – the study of these issues will be possible only after a large-scale excavations of the sites of this period.

II. 1



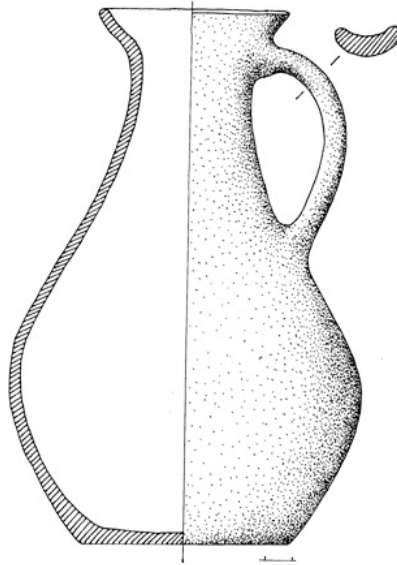
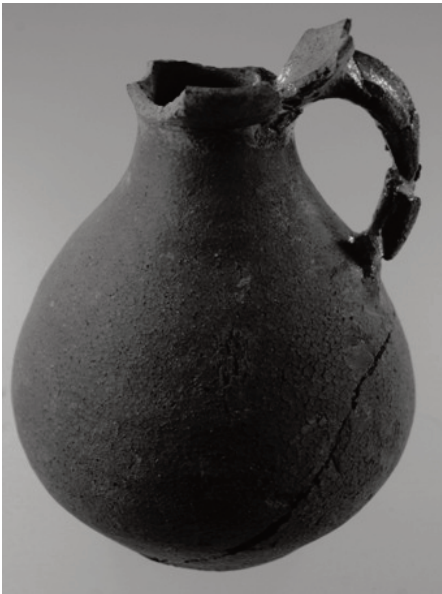
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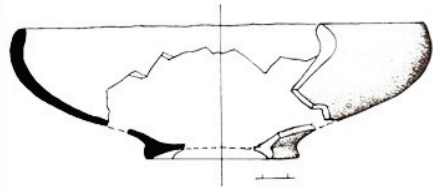
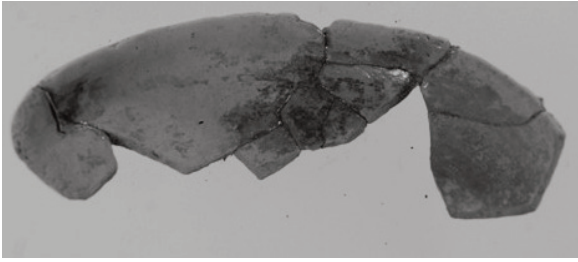
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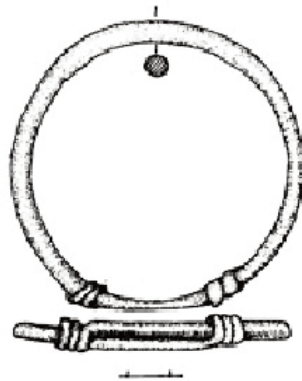
III. 1.



III. 2



III. 3



III. 4



III. 5



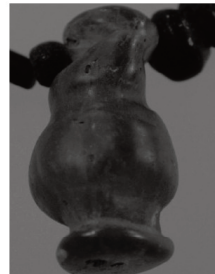
IV. 1



IV. 5



III. 2



IV. 3

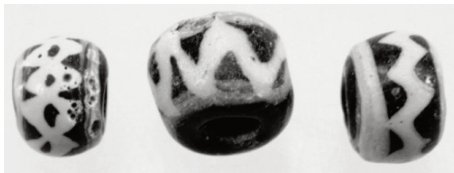


III. 4

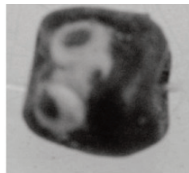
IV. 6

IV. 7

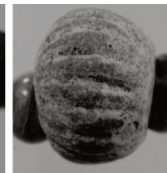
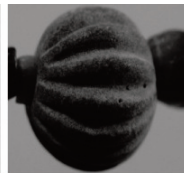
IV. 8



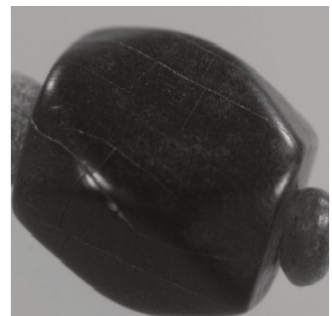
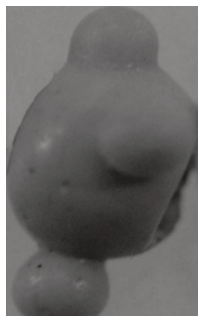
IV. 9



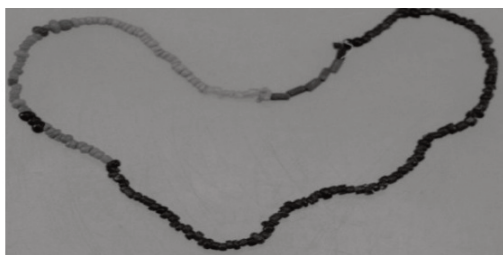
IV. 10



IV. 11



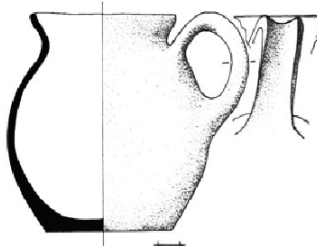
IV.12



V. 1



V. 2



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