

## SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

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### **Tableware from Tanais. Analysis of import, spatial distribution, function, repair and re-use from the 3rd century BC until the 3rd century AD**

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The subject of the research is table pottery from the Hellenistic and Roman period from Tanais, a Greek city located on the bank of modern Don River. The aim of the study is to conduct an analysis of the import, distribution, function, repair and re-use of pottery during the ancient city's existence – from the 3rd century BC until the 3rd century AD. The research was undertaken on finds of table pottery discovered in the ancient Tanais, including those excavated in trench XXV, the place where the archaeological mission of the University of Warsaw is conducting its work. The table pottery from the trench XXV come from various seasons of field work, which lasted continuously from 1999 to 2019. 216 vessel fragments were subjected to detailed analysis and cataloguing. The group of table pottery from the Polish excavations in Tanais has not been fully published before.

The dissertation has been divided into two volumes. Volume I (300 pages), consists of six chapters, covering four main parts of the work: introduction (chapters 1.1 to 1.10), material presentation (chapters 2.1 to 2.5), summaries, analysis results, conclusions (chapter 3, 4, 5, and 6) and the inventory of used sources (chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10). Volume II (235 pages) includes a catalogue of 216 finds from the excavation XXV and extensive illustrative material – 49 figures and 48 tables.

After an introduction including a description of the subject of the dissertation, research questions and the state of research on the issue, a presentation of table ceramics from Tanais is presented. The following items are discussed: black-glazed pottery (2.1), pottery with painted decorations (2.2), Hellenistic mouldmade bowls (2.3), terra sigillata pottery (2.4) and semi-fine ware (2.5). Each category is discussed according to a scheme that includes an outline of the history of the research, the characteristics of individual groups, presentation of examples of vessels from a given category that were found during research conducted in Tanais and an overview of the collection of vessels belonging to a category from the trench XXV. Table ceramics is presented in a broad context, including the description of finds and analogies from similar sites in the region of the northern Black Sea coast.

The following chapters are devoted to discuss the analyses, presenting the conclusions and answering the research questions posed in the first part of the work. Chapter 3 discusses the spatial analysis of tableware deposition in the trench XXV. It was prepared with the use of GIS tools. Chapter 4 deals in detail with the issue of tableware imports to Tanais in the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Models of trade exchange that could be used in the supply chain of table ceramics to the city are discussed. Its economy and the possibility of its reconstruction with the use of table pottery are presented. Probable forms of organization of

the table pottery trade in Tanais are also described. Chapter 5 deals with three important issues related to the study of tableware finds from Tanais - its repair, re-use and the so-called long use. This chapter discusses the issues that could change the function of tableware. This part of the work focuses on aspects such as the use of ceramics and its potential social and symbolic role. Finally, chapter 6 presents a summary of the issues discussed and further possibilities for studies on this category of monuments.

The conducted works have shown that the studied set of vessels is highly diversified, both in forms, categories and the provenance. As a result of the prepared analyses, the import, function of ceramics, its distribution and processes related to reuse, repair and the so-called extended use of table pottery were presented in detail. The whole dissertation was set in the realities related to the process of colonization of the region as well as the political and commercial relations of the northern Black Sea coast in the discussed period.