RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA ABOUT HERACLEA SINICTICA

by Lyudmil VAGALINSKI, National Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Introduction

Since 2007, I have been conducting the archaeological survey of *Heraclea Sintica*, an ancient city in “Rupite” locality, near the village of Rupite, Petrich Municipality (Fig. 1). The excavations, implemented together with my team’, were carried out in 2007 and from 2011 to 2013 for a total of eight and a half months of fieldwork (Вагалински, Чолаков 2008; Вагалински и др. 2012; Вагалински 2013; Вагалински 2014). Bulgarian, Russian and German specialists conducted geophysical investigations of the site in 2008 and 2011 (Fig. 2; Вагалински, Чолаков 2009; Вагалински, Иванов 2012). All these field surveys were made possible by the joint efforts of the Ministry of Culture, the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NIAM-BAS), the Museum of History at Petrich and the Petrich Municipality. Field training of American students was conducted together with the American Research Center in Sofia in 2012, 2013 and 20142 (Fig. 3).

1 The team includes Dr. Ivo D. Cholakov, Chief Assistant, Dr. Sirma Alexandrova, Chief Assistant (both affiliated with NIAM-BAS) and Sotir Ivanov (Museum of History – Petrich), to whom Dr. Petya Andreeva (NIAM-BAS) and Lyuba Traykova, PhD student (NIAM-BAS) joined since 2012.

2 Program coordinator is Dr. Emil Nankov affiliated with the American Research Center in Sofia.

Our efforts so far have been focused on excavating and preserving the antique architecture as to be modified for tourism for the benefit of Petrich Municipality. At the same time, we laid particular stress on defining the chronology of the unearthed remains of the antique buildings, which will be presented herein.

We still know very little about the topography of the ancient city, namely the following:

- The low and flat terrain east of Mount Kozhuh (“Traykovitsa” locality) was not settled, probably because it was periodically flooded by the Struma River (Fig. 2/plot I);
- The area of the ancient city covered the southernmost Dzhonkov hill of Mount Kozhuh and developed primarily to its south toward the Strumeshnitsa River; the eastern periphery of the same hill, where an ancient theater may have existed3, was also inhabited (Figs. 4, 5);
- The burials at the ancient city necropolis researched by our colleague Julia Bozhinova (Regional Museum of History – Blagoevgrad)4 and hundreds of graves destroyed by local treasure hunters in “Aydaritsa”, “Metlata” and “Chervenite skali” localities and on the southwestern slope of Dzhonkov hill throw some light on the southern and western boundaries of the built-up area of *Heraclea Sintica*.

Description and chronology of the excavated antique buildings

So far the excavations have been conducted at three areas consecutively numbered as sites 1-3. They are located on the southeastern periphery of Dzhonkov hill.

Site 1 or Roman curtain wall (Fig. 6)

Field study at the site was made in 2007. The cultural layer is about 3.50 m thick. Initially, a dwelling of Roman date was built with crushed stone and clay binder, its walls following the contour of the hewn bedrock (Figs. 7, 8). There are traces of slight burning in it. The exact date of the dwelling is not clear. The rock was additionally cut during the curtain wall construction to provide movement along its inner western face (intervalium). The wall itself lies on the solid bedrock, and in some places is embedded in the earlier cultural layer (Figs. 8, 9). It is built up with crushed stone and white mortar mixed with a lot of sand as a binder. The faced stones of the wall are larger than those in the core and have roughly shaped sides. Levelled rows consisting of pieces of building ceramics and flat stones are also present. The substructure is 0.50 m deep at the most and the superstructure is preserved to a height of 1.80 m. The exposed...
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Site 2 or Roman craftsmen’s residential quarter (Fig. 6)
The site was explored in 2007, 2012 and 2013 field seasons. It is located at the southern end of the Mount Kozhuh, 250 m southwest of site 1. The cultural layer is about 3.50 m thick except for the southern periphery where it reaches a depth of 4.50 m (Figs. 13-15). The sea level of sites 1 and 2 in Baltic height system is about 90 m. In 1958 Prof. A. Milchev (Милчев 1960) conducted excavations at the site for a month. He

6 As for results of season 2014 I confine to information that a well preserved Late Roman civilian basilica with an apse (see Fig. 16), as well as Hellenistic layers and structures have been revealed.

wall section is 13.50 m in length and 330° azimuth. Based on our field observations, we suggest that the curtain wall encircled the hill from the south. A square opening for drainage, built of brick and white mortar and narrowing outward, passes through the wall section (Fig. 10). It is covered with stone slabs, including spolia. Square holes that held wooden beams for scaffolding are preserved along the inner western wall face (Fig. 11). According to stratified artefacts, the defensive wall was constructed after the 1st century AD and before AD 257 (Fig. 12). The site shows evidence of an enemy attack that occurred after AD 253 (Fig. 12/4). We could not determine how long the curtain wall was in use.
Figure 3. American students and Bulgarian archaeologists participating in the field survey at Heraclea Sintica, June 2013

Figure 4. Aerial photo of the “Rupite” locality and the vicinity: Mount Kozhuh is situated in the middle; the Struma River runs from north to south and the Strumeshnitsa River flows west into it; Rupite village (formerly Muletarovo or Shirbanovo), Petrich Municipality, Blagoevgrad District, lies southwest of the Mount Kozhuh and north of the Strumeshnitsa River, southwestern corner of Bulgaria.
concluded that a weaving workshop and a dye-works were unearthed, and he generally dated them within the 4th century BC – 6th century AD period. We expanded the excavated area in the four main directions from the area of his excavations and at the same time accomplished the field study of his trench to sterile layer (Fig. 16). The chronology of this residential and production complex is as follows:

First settlement period
Plinth courses are cut out of the rock and built up with crushed stone and clay binder (Figs. 13-15, 17). The soft bedrock is roughly levelled. Unshaped pits of various sizes and depths are cut into it (Fig. 18). Their purpose remains unclear. There is no reliable data on the type of production. The site is burned after AD 14 (Figs. 13/4, 14/4).

Second settlement period
Production of fabrics is present, as evidenced by hundreds of clay and stone loom weights7. Pottery, clay lamps and painted and glazed terracottas are also manufactured. A rectangular rock-cut tray connected to a clay pipe8 was used for purifying clay treatment.

7 The analysis of the small finds are made by Ivo D. Cholakov and the pottery is studied by Sirma Alexandrova. Both of them present the results in the present volume.

8 Only two preserved clay pipes entering the pool were found. Clay pipe coming from Belasitsa Mountain to Rupite has been encountered by local people during agricultural works. There is a spring caught at the northern end of the Mount Kozhuh at 150 meters above sea level, i.e. about 60 m higher than site 2, which enables water to be conducted by gravitation.
Figure 8. Plan of the excavated sector of the Roman fortress wall at site 1

Figure 9. Inner face of the Roman curtain wall at site 1

Figure 10. Opening in the Roman curtain wall for drainage / leakage of water running down the steep eastern slope of the Mount Kozhuk, site 1
Figure 11. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 1 Roman curtain wall, view from the west: 1 drainage channel of brick and white mortar; covering of stone slabs; a the first stone slab from the west is spolia with the following dimensions – 0.61 m in length, 0.40 m in width and 0.14 m in height; 3 holes of an wooden scaffolding used for the wall construction; 4 plinth course

Figure 12. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 1 Roman curtain wall, southern profile: 1 bedrock – soft, friable, greyish-yellow-red in color, limestone-made cuts (mainly vertical); 2 brownish layer, embankment – scattered coals and dispersed sherds of Roman pottery and building ceramics; 3 layer №3 of the weathered rock formed during cutting out prior the curtain wall construction; 4 brown to dark brown layer №2 containing a lot more coals, sherds of pottery and building ceramics, the weathered rock is missing; 5 greyish-brown layer, embankment – small to medium-sized stones, quite fragmented tiles, animal bones, a few scattered coals, a few pottery sherds, the layer is probably formed from abandoned antique dwellings up the slope; 6 humus layer, dark brown; 7 grey layer – ashes, scattered coals, animal bones, traces of white mortar on the plinth course and next to it related to the curtain wall construction, the existing slump terrain is filled with dispersed (along the slope?) ruins during the curtain wall construction; 8 curtain wall

Third settlement period
Production of terracottas, pottery and lamps, as well as fabrics continues throughout this period. An east-west collection and drainage system, plastered inside with hydrophobic pink mortar, was built south of and parallel to the street (Fig. 26). Taking into consideration the information given by local people, it took runoff and rain-water to the south toward the Strumeshnitsa River. The slope was surrounded along its periphery by a supporting wall carefully built in opus mixtum with white mortar (Figs. 27, 28/2a). Stone projectiles, used during the hostile attack (Figs. 23-24), destroyed adobe dwellings (Fig. 25). I assume that at that time Dzhonkov hill was surrounded on its east, south, and west sides by a curtain wall, part of which is uncovered at site 1.

9 The staircase was partially excavated by Prof. A. Milchev in 1958 (Marviten 1960).
10 It is the recently excavated civilian basilica with an apse (Fig. 16).

rather than colouring fabrics (Fig. 19). Walls of crushed stone, spolia and adobe were erected during the period under discussion. The roofs were covered with tiles. Stone staircases, oriented from north to south, were constructed along the steep southern slope (Fig. 20). A street with its main axis oriented east-west is built along the horizontal line of the slope. Its supporting southern curb is made up of spolia and crushed stone with clay binder (Fig. 21). The street pavement is of levelled rock, covered with tamped clay. A north-south oriented drain is cut into the rock. Pithoi are set into the main rock (Fig. 22). The period ends with the burning of the site after AD 276 (Figs. 13/7 14/7, 15/2). Stone projectiles, used during the hostile attack (Figs. 23-24), destroyed adobe dwellings (Fig. 25). I assume that at that time Dzhonkov hill was surrounded on its east, south, and west sides by a curtain wall, part of which is uncovered at site 1.

3 His idea to my notice.
Figure 13. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 2, trench 2: 1 bedrock; 2 pit dug into the bedrock; 3 platform of the first settlement period; 4 first fire from the bottom up; 5 floor level of yellowish-brown clay of the second settlement period; 6 steps leading to the platform; 7 second fire from the bottom up; 8 floor level of the third settlement period; 9 third fire from the bottom up; 10 floor level of the fourth settlement period; 11 fourth fire from the bottom up; 12 humus layer; 13 pit of the third period used for taking stones from the ruins of the second period; 14 wall built of roughly shaped stones bound with white mortar; 14a upper line of the bedrock cut out in the first period; 14b fourth settlement period.

Figure 14. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 2, trench 3: 1 bedrock; 2 pit dug into the bedrock; 3 wall of big roughly shaped stones bound with clay, tiles are also used = first settlement period; 4 first fire from the bottom up; 5 floor level of the second settlement period; 6 this number is skipped because of unification of the numbering of contexts of site 2; 7 second fire from the bottom up; 8 floor level of the third settlement period; 9 third fire from the bottom up; 10 floor level of the fourth settlement period; 11 fourth fire from the bottom up; 12 humus layer; 13 building stone of the second period; 14 wall of crushed and cut stones bound with white mortar, falling into a rib between trenches 2 and 3; 14a the wall of the second period built with strong white mortar, levelled with tiles at places; 14b the wall of the third period built with weak white mortar; 15 pit of the third period; 16 pit dated to post-habitation period; 17 millstone.
Figure 15. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 2, trench 4: 1 bedrock; 1a digging into the bedrock; 2 fire – coals, tiles, burnt adobe; 3 green clay floor level; 3a rubble within №3; 4 fire – burnt adobe, bricks, clay plaster coated with crushed ceramics used for affixing (only north of the wall), tiles (imbrices and tegulae), white mortar; 5 wall of crushed stone bound with mud; 6 Floor level of green clay with ruins encountered at places in the lower end; 7 burnt rains – grey color, coals, ashes, tiles, crushed stones, pottery; the building extended to the northwest; 8 humus layer with ruins dispersed along the slope = embankment + humus

1 period: the slope is roughly levelled only in the southern half of the trench where shallow pits are dug into the rock; II period: rectangular rock-cut tray extending also in trench 6; pithos is dug into the rock in the middle of the trench; III period: the wall built with mud binder and oriented east-west is erected, it is the southern wall of a premises, in which digging of regular shape in the rock is observed according to the northern profile (in the northeastern corner of the trench); the rock is levelled with rubble; IV period: the hewn rock is built up with crushed, semi-processed stones (of different sizes), individual tiles are used for leveling, bound with white mortar = the wall in the eastern profile which probably continues in trench 6, but is now destroyed there to the hewn rock; layer №7 also belongs to this period.
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Figure 16. Plan of site 2 (after season 2014)
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Figure 17. Rock-cut wall plinth courses of the first period

Figure 18. Pits dug into the rock of the first period
Fourth settlement period
The terracotta production ceased during this period. Staircases and streets were removed. A newly constructed channel of bricks and *spolia* flowed from the north into the main channel, breaking the brick arch because of its higher level of laying (Fig. 34). Previous walls were reused, being built up with crushed stone, levelled with individual bricks / tiles and bound by mortar. The phase ends with a burnt layer after AD 383 (Figs. 13/11, 14/11, 15/7). The reason was a very strong earthquake which destroyed the city.

Fifth settlement period
The traces of habitation that date to the first half of the 5th century AD are located in the first eastern vaulted premises (toward the massive stone staircase) (Fig. 34a). This part of the city was abandoned soon after AD 450.

The artefacts found indicate that the everyday life of the residents of the quarter was modest: hundreds of clay, stone and a few lead loom weights used in vertical looms, millstones, dozens of bone hairpins and needles, a few glass bracelets, numerous lead and ceramic fishing net weights, various ceramic vessels and clay lamps. Gemstones and bronze figurines are rather exceptional. Fragments of glass are also relatively few in number. The citizens of ancient *Heraclea* coped well with processing of stone and bone. The coins found at the site are mostly bronze and, more rarely, silver. It is worth noting that the early Hellenistic coins of Alexander the
Figure 22. Bottom of a pithos dug into the rock, second period

Figure 23. Stone projectile in situ, second period (see Fig. 24)

Figure 24. Stone projectile, 7.5 kg in weight, second period (see Fig. 23)

Figure 25. Burnt adobe dwellings, second period
Figure 26. Collecting drainage, third period

Figure 27. Supporting wall, third period

Figure 28. Rupite village, Mount Kozhuh, site 2, trench 5: 1 levelled bedrock; 2 plinth course; 2a supporting wall – roughly shaped crushed stones with average dimensions of 0.12 x 0.20 m, white mortar binder, brick layers, 0.33 m thick, composed of four rows of bricks with dimensions of 0.055 x 0.3 m; 3 floor level – sand and small crushed stones, green clay at the top, small brick fragments from the construction of a wall №2a encountered in the northern half of the level; 4 fire – burnt timber, pottery fragments; 5 leveling layer – brown color, scattered coals, a few pottery fragments, individual crushed stones; 6 burnt ruins of a building which northern wall is the supporting wall 2a, grey color, coals, many stones at the bottom, animal bones, pottery fragments; 7 natural embankment landslide on the slope – brown color, scattered coals, a few dispersed pottery fragments, snails; 8 ruins of the supporting wall 2a, crushed stones and bricks, no traces of fire; 9 humusized layer

Figure 29. Supporting wall, third period
Figure 29. Vaulted commercial premises of the third period, partitioned in the fourth period

Figure 30. Stone staircase, third period

Figure 31. Public building, third period
Great, Cassander and Antigonus II Gonatas were still used in the early 1st century AD and late Hellenistic coins dated to the 2nd – 1st century BC circulated along with late Roman issues of the 3rd – 4th century AD. Barbarian imitations of coins of Constantine the Great were part of the circulation during AD 319-350. Bronze plates with embossed dots also represent coin imitations, and lead coins are encountered as well. The discovery of numerous terracotta fragments, including glazed ones, as well as terracotta molds confirms their production on the spot. Fragments of ceramic lamp molds broaden the repertoire of the local Roman potters. The name of one potter is preserved in a Greek inscription stamped on the shoulders of a pithos from the third settlement period: "Διονυσίου ποίημα" ("work of Dionysius"). On the mouth of a red-slipped bowl found in a burned layer of the fourth settlement period is incised the name of the vessel’s owner – Endemia – a rare name, otherwise encountered only in ancient Macedonia. Some ten more graffiti on pottery and a fragmented mirror-image clay seal reveal that a significant proportion of the local citizens are literate people, who have good knowledge of the Greek written language. These finds are complemented by a bronze figurine of

12 The reading of the inscriptions is provided by Nikolay Sharankov – lecturer in Department of Classical Philology at Sofia University.
Hermes of poor quality dated to the 4th century AD, fragments of marble statues (from miniature to life-size), a piece of a marble votive tablet of Nemesis, and two anepigraphic votive tablets dedicated to Heracles and Artemis, respectively.

Site 3 or Roman residential quarter and late antique necropolis

The site is located between the two sites already discussed (Fig. 2/III, Fig. 6). The thin cultural layers combined with centuries of dense habitation made it difficult to clarify its chronology (Figs. 35, 36). The inverted stratigraphy, which is an expected phenomenon for a steep hill, is complicated by graves dug in the quarter.

The longitudinal axis of the ancient premises runs from east to west (Fig. 37). Stairways and tangential effluent channels are situated along the steep north-south axis. Streets were cut into the rock on the east-west axis and levelled with rubble. Thus, a kind of orthogonal planning consistent with the steep hill can be distinguished. It was repeated over the centuries, since it is highly suitable for the peculiarities of the relief. The same layout is ascertained for the adjacent site 2.

The field study at the site confirmed the chronology of the settlement periods determined for the site 2. It clarified that the burning of the first period dated after AD 293 was caused by violence, since spearheads, arrowheads and lead sling bullets were found in the ruins of site 3. The end of the third period is determined more precisely within two years – from "after AD 293" to "after AD 295".

A piece of glazed terracotta found at site 3 is inscribed in relief by the producer saying, in Greek: Πρωτᾶ Μεν(άνδρου)/ Μέν(ωνος) ("To Protas, son of Menander (or Menon)"). The inscription reveals Greek ethno-cultural background of some of the local craftsmen during the Roman imperial period.

Graves were dug into the ruins of the residential quarter. We excavated twelve graves (Fig. 37). The grave structures were built of roughly shaped crushed stones (probably taken from the nearby buildings of an earlier date), bricks and tiles with or without a clay binder. Sometimes the short sides are not closed. The graves contained between one and three individuals. At least one of them is used as a family tomb considering the human bones assembled in a heap at the feet of the last buried. The deceased were laid in a supine position, the hands placed alongside the torso or rested on the pelvis. The place of the head fell within the range of 220-230° azimuth. There were no grave goods. An arrowhead was found in the pelvis of one of the deceased, which could have been the cause of death. A stamped roof tile with an embossed cross was also encountered. Based on the burial ritual and the stratigraphic position of the burials, they are defined as early Christian graves of the fifth settlement period dated to the first half of the 5th century AD.

Remains of at least 18 individuals were identified in the necropolis. 12 of them (66.67%) are adolescents and 6 (33.33%) are defined as adults older than 18-20 years.

13 The skeletons were examined by Dr. Victoria Ruseva, Chief Assistant, affiliated with the Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology with Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.
1. Материковска скала.
2. Материковска скала, изсечена като западна граница на вход в стена, синхронна, успоредна и със същия градеж като 3.
3. Има, изсечена в западна греда. Вътрешна има пепел.
4. Пътстване на западната има следа от охлаждане.
5. Подобно има от първия строителен период, на места с хоросанова ивица. Линено.
6. Стената Е – в източна скала, който е на места запълнена от ломени камъни на кал, какъвто е бил градежът на първата има от втория строителен период. Изсилено е за направата на стените от първия строителен период.
7. Плочи със син-кафяв цвят, пепел, вижда се керемиди фрагменти.
8. Подобно има – линено, отхлъщено. Синхронно с него е едно хоросаново бъркало в средата на сондажа. То е от втория строителен период.
9. Зид – в стена, започва от произволно място.
10. Подобно има – четвърти строителен период. Светлокафяв глинен пласт. Изсилено е за направата на стените от първия строителен период.
11. Начертани: Иво Д. Чолаков,
12. Отговорен: Л. Вагалински
13. Масштаб: 1:75

04.10.2011 г.
Рупите, обект 3
сондаж 1 – профили
начертани:
Л. Вагалински
Иво Д. Чолаков
отговорен:
Л. Вагалински
масштаб 1:75

06.10.2011 г.
Рупите, обект 3
сондаж 2 – профили
начертани:
Л. Вагалински
Иво Д. Чолаков
отговорен:
Л. Вагалински
масштаб 1:75

1. Хумусизирана пръст с преровени (заради гробовете) и свлечени по хълма рушевини.
2. Има, най-вероятно за вадене на камъни; съдържа ломени камъни и битова керамика, какъвто е бил градежът на първата има от втория строителен период.
3. Плочи със син-кафяв цвят, пепел, вижда се керемиди фрагменти.
4. Подобно има – линено, отхлъщено. Синхронно с него е едно хоросаново бъркало в средата на сондажа. То е от втория строителен период.
5. Зид – в стена, започва от произволно място.
6. Плочи със син-кафяв цвят, пепел, вижда се керемиди фрагменти.
7. Начертани: Иво Д. Чолаков,
8. Отговорен: Л. Вагалински
9. Масштаб: 1:75

06.10.2011 г.
Рупите, обект 3
сондаж 1 – профили
начертали:
Иво Д. Чолаков
С. Александрова
отговорен:
Л. Вагалински
масштаб 1:75

04.10.2011 г.
Рупите, обект 3
сондаж 2 – профили
начертали:
Л. Вагалински
Иво Д. Чолаков
отговорен:
Л. Вагалински
масштаб 1:75
Individuals whose gender is certainly identifiable are men. Generally the health status of the individuals considering the extant skeletal material may be assessed as poor, judging by the age-at-death distribution for the deceased, and the clear signs of poor nutrition and development of internal parasites – conditions leading to anemia and dental caries.

The animal bones have so far been found mainly at site 2. The main species of domestic animals are represented – pig, goat, sheep, horse, donkey, cattle, hen and dog. Bones of wild animals are rare, but include fox, rabbit and wild boar. It is worth noting the large number of processed and semi-processed animal bones, among which antlers predominate. The city is situated on two rivers (the present-day Struma and Strumeshnitsa rivers) and near the Aegean Sea, which must explain the frequent appearance of sea and river clams. A specimen of *murex genus*, from which purple-red dye is derived, is found among several periwinkles. The large number of goats should be associated with landscape features and local vegetation. Traces of butchers’ tools on bones indicate the existence of butcher’s shops. Although included in moderately small quantities, the game would have varied the local citizens’ diet. As should be expected, the rabbit was preferred in the first place. Fish and poultry also enriched the diet.

According to paleobotanical samples, the vegetation of the 2nd – 4th century AD differed from the modern one only in the strong presence of the black pine, now missing in the lower parts of the region. The oak was widely used (because of its varied applicability and high-temperature combustion), as was the poplar, which grows along watercourses – two rivers flow in the vicinity.

**Conclusion**

The absolute chronology of the sites, already discussed above, should be clarified more precisely by determining details such as the initial dates of the settlement periods and the date of construction of the Roman fortress wall. More reliable data is needed to shed light on the topography of the city.

We often conduct excavations at ancient settlement for decades, fruitlessly trying to ascertain its name. In this case we have had a great advantage, thanks to our colleague Sotir Ivanov, who was successful in saving the Latin inscription of AD 308/309 (Muirp, Тараков 2002; Mitrev 2003). Thus, it has been 10 years since we have known that *Heraclea Sintica* – a site well-known from ancient written sources, the exact location of which has been a subject of debate among scholars for a century – is situated in the “Rupite” locality.

The information about its 700-year history, recovered in the only way possible, by means of archaeological excavations, is still far from satisfactory. Hopefully our joint efforts will succeed in catching up with the history of the Middle Struma region and in realizing the huge tourism potential of the site.

**Bibliography**


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14 The conclusions based on the analysis of archaeological data were made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lazar Ninov (NIAM-BAS).

15 The results of the paleobotanical study were made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tsvetana Popova (NIAM-BAS).

16 For the cities in ancient Macedonia known by the name of *Herakleia* see Hatzopoulos and Juhel 2009, 113.
оприлежащият некропол в местността "Рупите", върху рьовата надморна височина, в западно южен напречен профил през 2007 година. От този времепериод са намерени тясно свързани археологически данни за този хълм вдясно от реката Струмешница.

Обект 2 или Римски занаятчийско-жилищен квартал (фигура 6). Разположен е на 350 м северно от обект 1. Културният пласт е дебел около 3.50 м и по изключение е 4.50 м в южна периферия (фигура 12-15). Надморската височина на обекти 1 и 2 се движи около 50 м по Балтийска височинна система. Хронологията на този жилищно-производствен комплекс е следната:

Първи жилищен период
Първоначално се изсичат цокли на стени, които се надзиждат с ломен камък на глинена спойка (фигури 13-15, 17). Грубо се нивелира меката материкова скала. В нея се изсичат неоформени ями с различни размери и дълбочина (фиг. 18). Предназначението им е неясно. Липсват сигурни данни за вида производство. Налице е опожаряване, станало след 14 г. сл. Хр. (фигура 13/4, 14/4).

Втори жилищен период
Произвеждат се и тъкани. Изработват се глинени съдове, глинени лампи както и рисувани, и глазирани теракоти. Изсечено в скалата правоъгълно корито служело за плавене/пречистване на глината (фигура 19). Издигат се стени от ломени камъни, сполии и кирпич. Покривите са от керемиди. Изграждат се каменни стълбища, ориентирани север-юг по стръмния южен склон (фигура 20). Общата площадна площ на обекта e 2125 m² (фигура 20).

Първият жилищен период е заедно със втория, но генералният археологически контекст е различен. Въпреки това, двете периода са свързани чрез един общ археологически обект.
Пети жилищен период

В първото източно (спрямо масивното каменно стълбище) засводено помещение установихме след 383 година (фигури 13/9, 14/9, 15/4). Тук, съчетани с интензивно вековно обитаване, разрушили кирпични жилища (фиг. 25). Надлъжната ос на разкритите антични помещения е разположена по оста на този участък от града, свързващ занаятчийския квартал с гражданска базилика с апсида (фиг. 31). Същата планировка установихме в съседния обект 2. Масивно каменно стълбище (фиг. 27, 28/2a) огражда правоъгълна площадка, разположена на по-ниски нива в западната част на разкритите помещения. Той е извеждал мръсни и дъждовни води на юг в посока река Струмешница. Транзитната връзка с нея от юг се развива по тясно отворено пространство на дължина около 130 метра. Южно и успоредно на улицата е изказан събитиято от връзка с нея от юг по тясно отворено пространство на дължина около 130 метра. Южно и успоредно на улицата е изказан събитиято от връзка с нея от юг по тясно отворено пространство на дължина около 130 метра.

Плана на жилищния квартал е определена като раннохристиянски от пети жилищен период, тоест от първата половина на пети век.

През първата половина на шести век жилището се развива въз основа на петия жилищен период, като се разширява нагоре по хълма и се влага в него нови строителни мероприятия. Това е свързано с вече построени в петия жилищен период жилищни площадки в същата северна част на ската. Стоманобетонните конструкции на новоизработвания жилищен квартал са съберени в ранее издълбани в скалата тераси и разположени разпръснато в дълбоките трески и пътеки на ската. За тези обекти се прилагат хронологически методи, които позволяват да се определат конкретните периоди на обитаване и жилищни площадки.