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Tanais, Russia : Excavations in Season 2014

Światowit : rocznik poświęcony archeologii przeddziejowej i badaniom
pierwotnej kultury polskiej i słowiańskiej 12 (53)/A, 231-237

2014

Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach
dozwolonego użytku.

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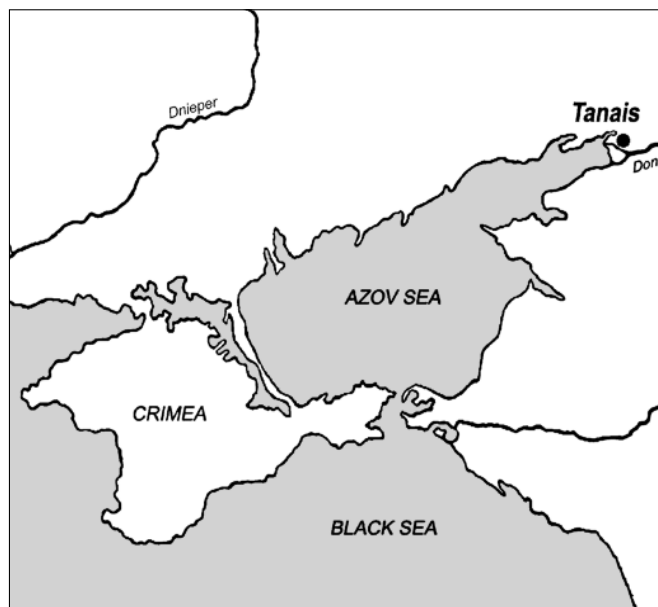
TANAIS, RUSSIA. EXCAVATIONS IN SEASON 2014¹

Keywords: Early Roman Period, Late Hellenistic Period, residential building, Tanais

The project, carried out within the framework of the Tanais Museum-Reserve archaeological expedition directed by S. Ilyashenko,² embraced the participation of volunteers from Poland, students of the University of Gdańsk and Russian archaeologists. Ground works were carried out on the so-called Turkish embankment (northern part, Squares 115–117, southern part, Squares 113–114), situated in the eastern part of Trench XXV (Fig. 1). The objective set for Season 2014 (1–25 July) was to uncover Hellenistic architecture in the explored part of the trench.

Squares 115–117 (Figs. 1–4)

The residence of a governor of Western Tanais was presumed in this part of the trench, based on the results of earlier excavations,³ namely, Room D which appears to have been the kitchen of a residential building dated to the 1st c. BC. Explorations uncovered the surviving parts of all four walls of the room: north – Wall 18, south – Wall 14, east – Wall 21, and west – Wall 11. All the walls were raised at the same time and feature the same kind of bonding with interbonding being evident for Walls 11, 14 and 21. The width of the double-faced walls is 0.6 m (Wall 14 being exceptionally 0.8 m thick), and the stones are bonded with pure clay. Room D was 4 m wide north-south and 6.8 m long east-west, giving an area of 27.2 m². The floor was of



clay. Inside the room, excavations revealed no less than two storage pits, presumably bins for holding grain. Pit 4 was explored in 2014 and proved to be similar in shape and size to Pit 6, which had been investigated in the preceding season. A ton of grain could have been stored in each of the pits. A hearth measuring 1.2 m by 1.3 m was discovered in excellent condition. No less than four separate clay floor levels were recorded inside the unit, the total combined depth of the accumulations being 0.4 m. Considerable damage of the south-western corner by a late robbery pit precludes a full understanding of the room function and the installations in it.

¹ Research project financed from the National Science Centre grant, UMO-2011/03/B/HS3/00637.

² Research project financed by the Russian Foundation for Humanities (Rossijskij gosudarstvennyj naučnyj fond), 2012 g.

No 12-01-18078-e.

³ Cf. T. SCHOLL, *Tanais, Russia. Excavations in Seasons 2012–2013*, "Światowit" XI (LII)/A (2013), 2014, 227–232.

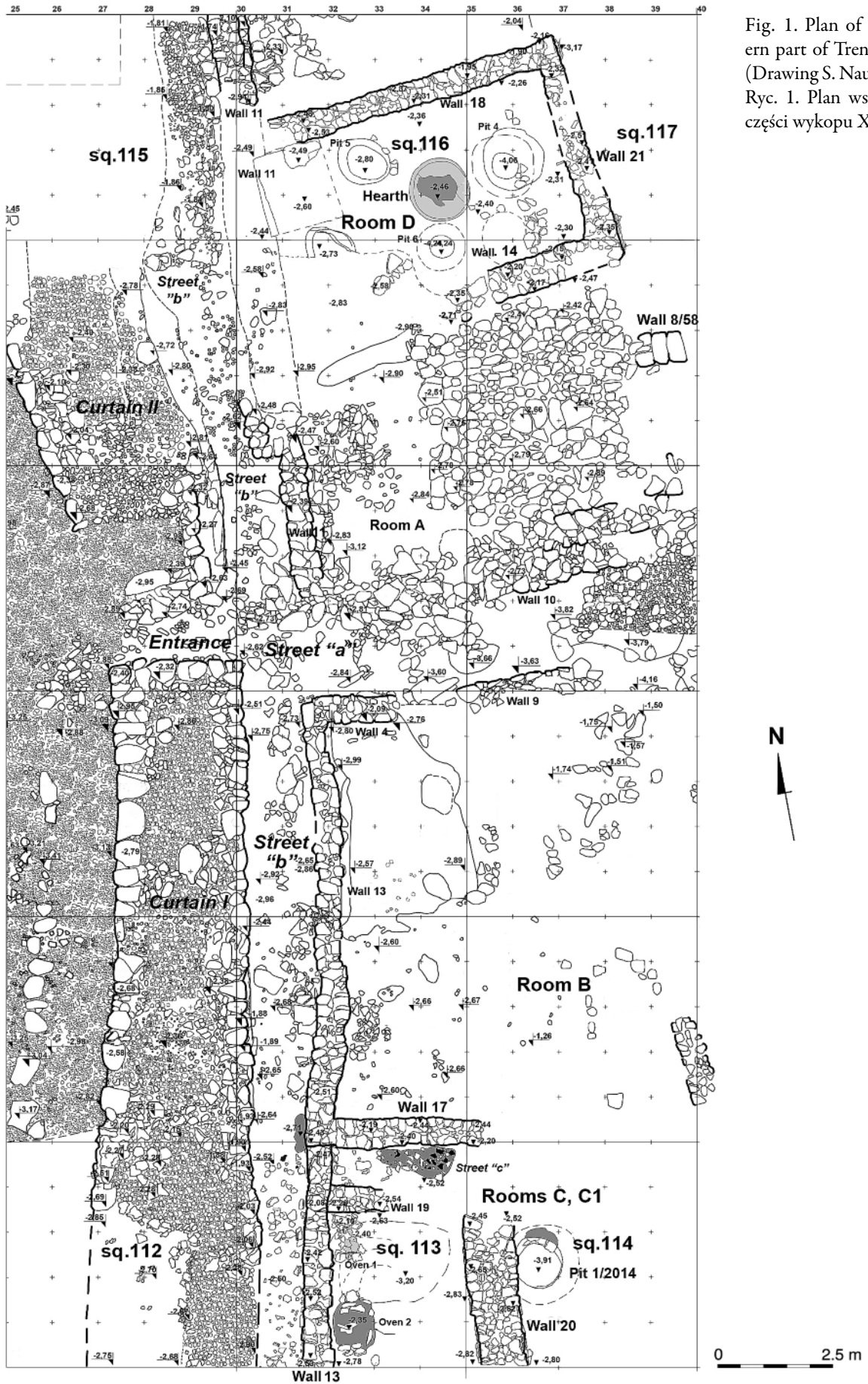


Fig. 1. Plan of the eastern part of Trench XXV (Drawing S. Naumenko).
Ryc. 1. Plan wschodniej części wykopu XXV.



Fig. 2. First day of the work in 2014 season, view from NE (Photo T. Scholl).
Ryc. 2. Pierwszy dzień pracy w sezonie 2014, widok z północnego wschodu.

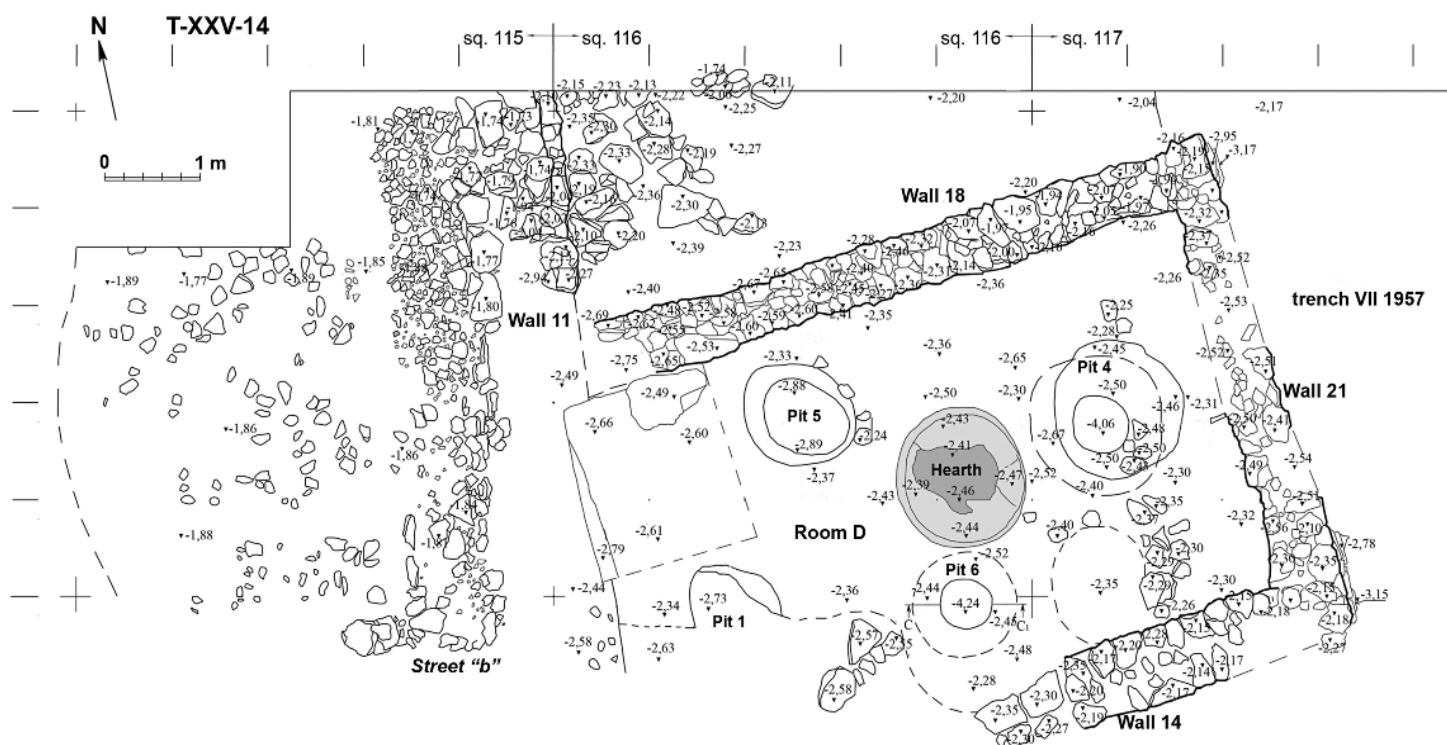


Fig. 3. Plan of Room D (Drawing S. Naumenko).
Ryc. 3. Plan pomieszczenia D.

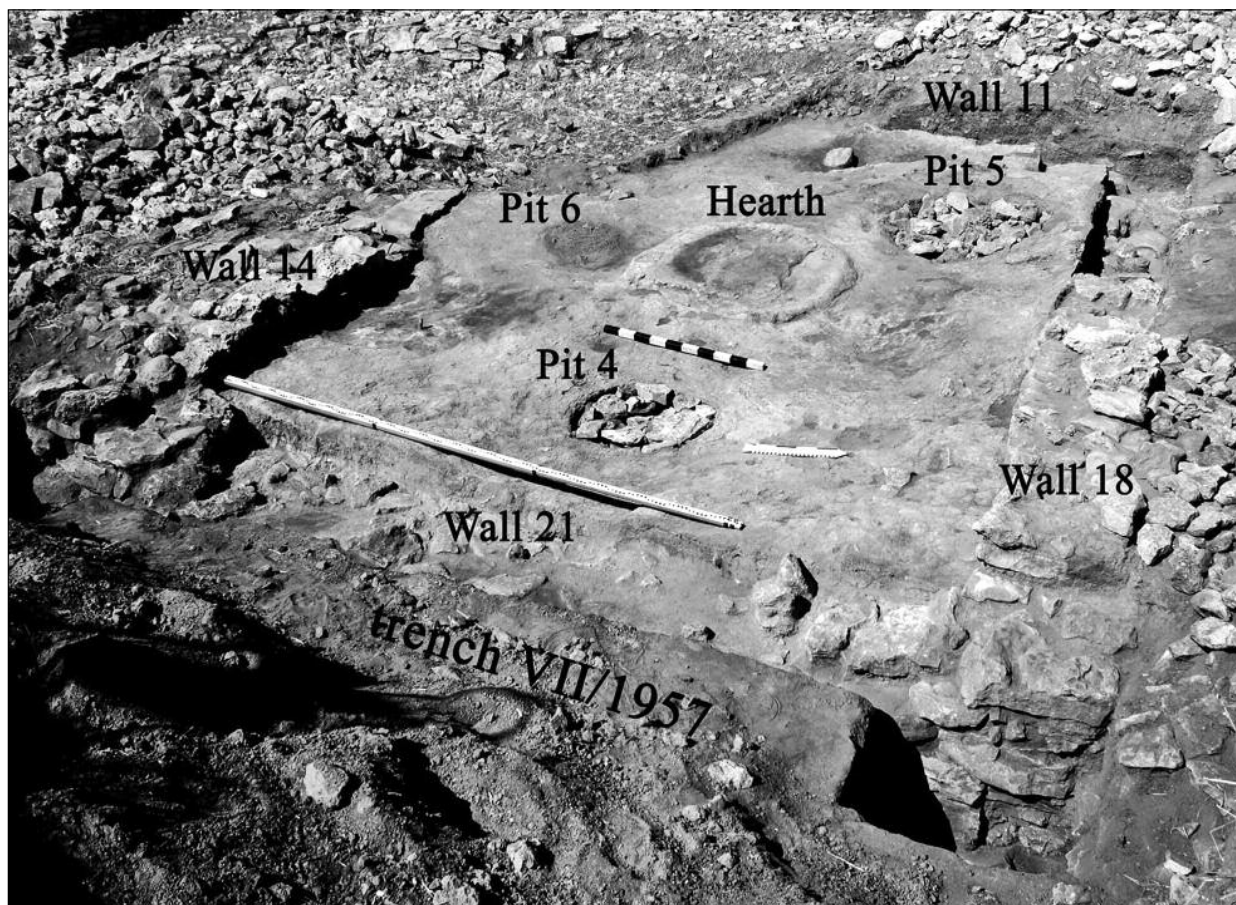


Fig. 4. Room D, view from NE (Photo T. Scholl).
Ryc. 4. Pomieszczenie D, widok od północnego wschodu.

Squares 112–114 (Figs. 5–8)

Investigations in this area were centred on uncovering Room C, which was part of the reconstruction of this quarter of the town at the turn of the 2nd c. BC. Originating from the Hellenistic Period were Walls 13 (eastern) and 17 (shared with Room B), as well as Oven 2 against Wall 13, a clay floor and Pit 1/2014. The west side of the room adjoined strategic Street “b.” After the destruction at the end of the 1st c. BC, this fragment of the town was rebuilt. Room C1 was raised on the levelled ruins (the clay floor formed a sunken hollow), using Wall 13 and adjacent Oven 1 situated on the spot of the earlier entrance on the western side. Wall 19 was raised on the northern side, inside the older interior. Street “c” ran between Walls 19 and 17, apparently giving entry to Room C1. Street “b” was probably no longer operational at this time. The pit was filled in and Wall 20, about 1 m wide, was raised on a part of it. The size of Rooms C and C1 could not be determined.

It was assumed earlier that this part of the town had been destroyed in the end of the 1st c. BC and subsequently abandoned. The present finds attest to the pres-

ence of remains of settlement from the 1st c. AD, which was only weakly evidenced in earlier research.

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Erratum for the previous report on Tanais (“Światowit” XI (LII)/A (2013), 2014, 227–232), p. 227, lower left, instead of:

Fragments of three walls were excavated: the north wall of Room 18, south wall of Room 14 and west wall of Room 11 (Figs. 3, 4).

read:

Fragments of three walls of this room were excavated: the northern one (18), the southern one (14), and the western one (11) (Figs. 3, 4).

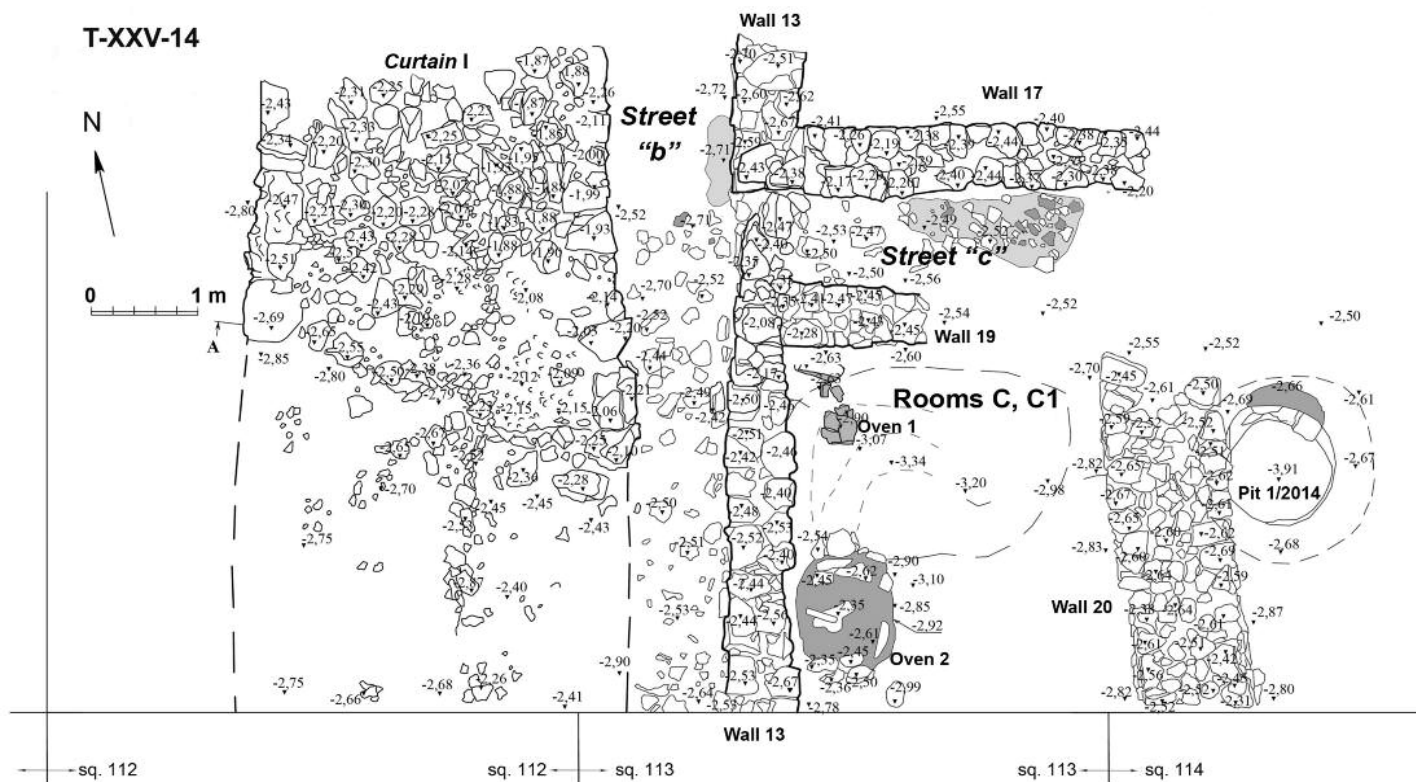


Fig. 5. Plan of Rooms C, C1 (Drawing S. Naumenko).
 Ryc. 5. Plan pomieszczeń C i C1.

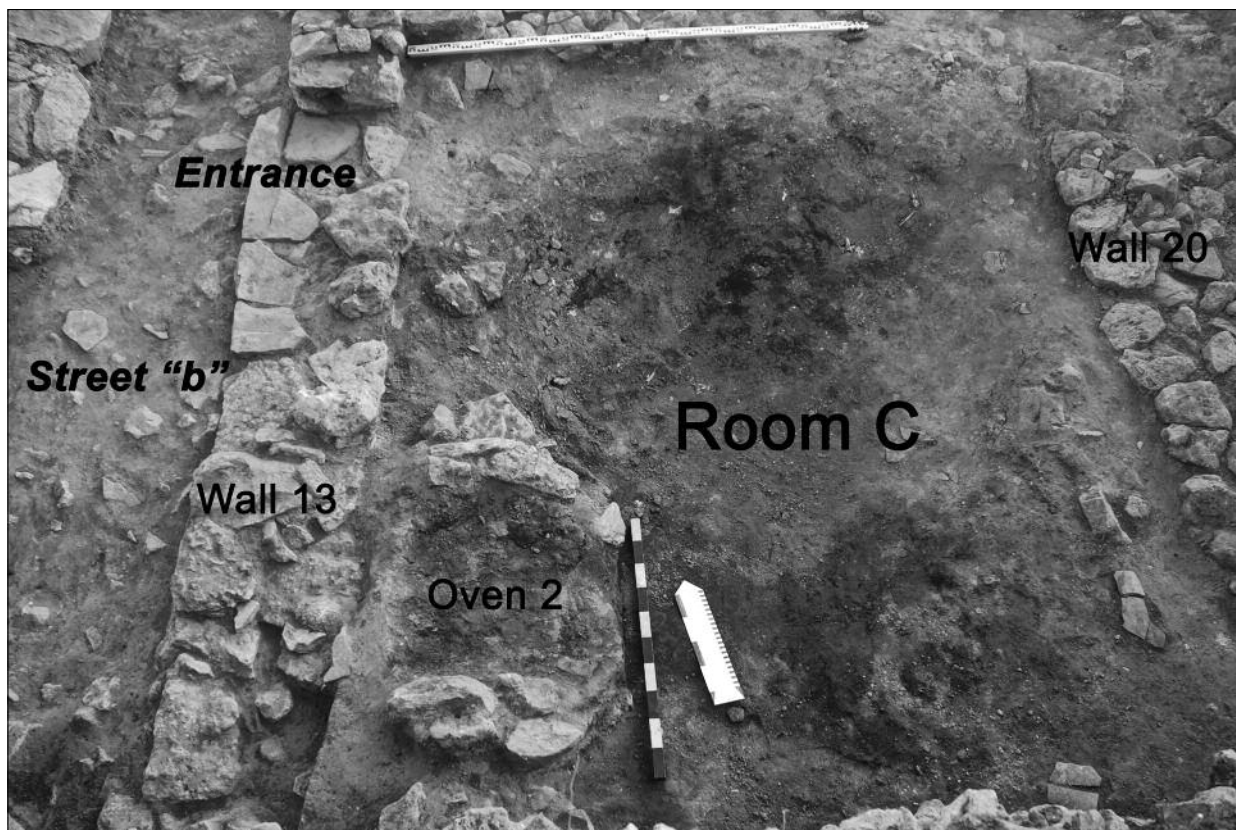


Fig. 6. Room C, view from S (Photo T. Scholl).
 Ryc. 6. Pomieszczenie C, widok od południa.

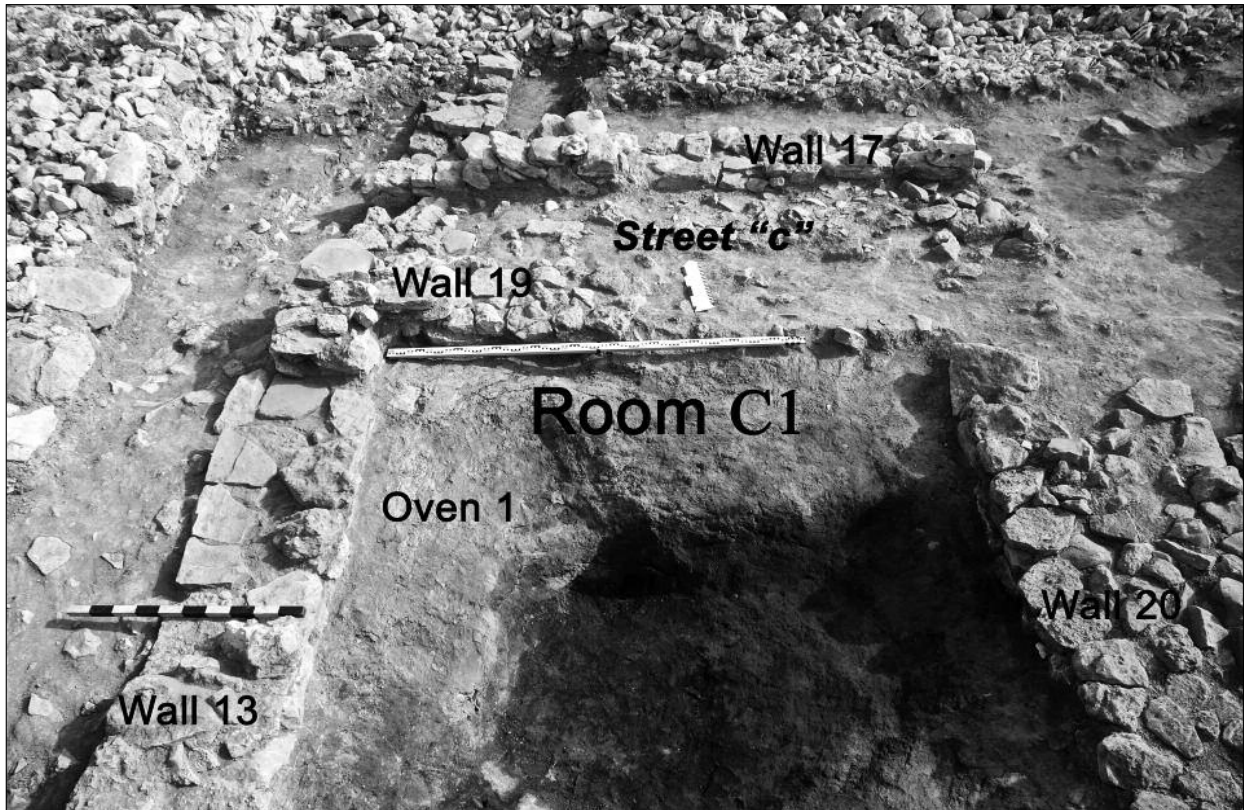


Fig. 7. Room C1, view from S (Photo T. Scholl).
Ryc. 7. Pomieszczenie C1, widok od południa.



Fig. 8. Trench XXV after conservation, view from N (Photo T. Scholl).
Ryc. 8. Wykop XXV po konserwacji, widok od północy.

TOMASZ SCHOLL

TANAIS, ROSJA. WYKOPALISKA W SEZONIE 2014

W pracach prowadzonych w Tanais w roku 2014 uczestniczyli pracownicy naukowcy z Polski i z Rosji, studenci z Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, a także wolontariusze z Polski. Badania terenowe miały za zadanie odsłonięcie pozostałości architektury wzniesionej w początku I w. p.n.e. W części północno-wschodniej wykopu XXV (pomieszczenie D o powierzchni 27,2 m²) odsłonięto kuchnię ze wspornikami zachowanym paleniskiem i z dwiema jamami zasobowymi do przechowywania ziarna (Ryc. 1–4). Potwierdza to naszą wcześniejszą hipotezę o istnieniu w tym miejscu rezydencji naczelnika Tanais Zachodniego. W części

południowo-wschodniej (Ryc. 5–8) odsłonięto fragment kolejnego pomieszczenia – C, z początku I w. p.n.e., jak i wzniesionego na jego gruzach w początku I w. n.e. pomieszczenia C1. Pod nienaruszoną glinianą podłogą pomieszczenia C mamy nadzieję odsłonić depozyt (zwłaszcza ceramiczny) pochodzący z końca II – początku I wieku p.n.e., czyli hipotetycznego okresu budowy tej części miasta. Odsłanianie pozostałości pomieszczenia C1 rzucają nowe światło na problem osadnictwa w tej części miasta w I w. n.e. – jak się obecnie wydaje, nie została ona opuszczona po zniszczeniach z I w. p.n.e.