DESCRIPTIONS OF FORTIFICATIONS OF THE CLASSICAL CITIES IN THE REGION TO THE NORTH OF THE BLACK SEA

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The Hellenic (Ionian) apoikiai founded in the last quarter of the 7th and the first half of the 6th century B.C. at the far limits of the oikumene—along the northern coast of the Black Sea—maintained close economic, cultural, religious and political ties with their founder cities and, to a greater or lesser extent, with the whole of the Hellenic world in the Mediterranean basin. The regular contacts between these centres north of the Black Sea with the Hellenic world, although their thrust may have changed from one period to another, was one of the most important factors that determined the historical development of those centres. Also at times of decisive significance for the destiny of the Hellenic states in the region in question were the mutual influences stemming from contacts with the extensive, variable and often hostile world of the tribes from the steppes and wooded steppe-land zone, in which, at first, tribal groupings and then state formations of the Scythians and, later, after the middle of the 3rd century B.C. Sarmatian tribal alliances played the dominant role.

The specific demographic and natural conditions of the region exerted a major and sometimes even decisive influence on the course of development, historical destiny and also of the way of life of the population, fortifications and outward appearance of the Hellenic urban centres and certain other centres of population.

The descriptions presented in this article do not in any way claim to be exhaustive studies of the whole complex range of issues linked with the investigation of the art of fortification in the Classical states north of the Black Sea. Indeed despite the significant progress that has been made—in the study of Order architecture, the building of dwellings, and also the defensive installations at

Tyras\textsuperscript{3} the Olbian \textit{polis},\textsuperscript{4} Chersonesus and its \textit{chora}\textsuperscript{5} and also that of the Bosporan state\textsuperscript{6}—mainly thanks to the widespread, well-planned archaeological excavations in these areas, it has to be said that it is not yet possible to write a detailed, chronologically comprehensive history of the art of fortification in the Classical world north of the Black Sea. This stems first and foremost from the state of the sources on the subject in question.

The Classical writers provide only scattered and in the main extremely brief scraps of information and many of the major periods and events and undertakings linked with the former in respect of fortifications are not referred to at all written sources. Available epigraphic evidence does not fill these unfortunate gaps.

In the light of all this the fortifications themselves, that have already been the object of archaeological excavation and made accessible to scholars in all the detail compatible with contemporary levels of research, acquire particular value and scientific significance.

The descriptions in this article are designed to provide the interested reader with a general picture of fortifications found in the Hellenic states north of the Black Sea between the time when they were founded and the period when they were drawn into the sphere of influence of the Roman state (6th-late 1st century B.C.)—both to illustrate specific features of military architecture and also to offer interpretation of them as one of the most significant and richest sources of information regarding the military and political history of this far-flung region of the Hellenic \textit{oikumene}.

There now follow descriptions of the fortification systems found in the Hellenic centres along the northern coast of the Black Sea in keeping with the practice of the Classical \textit{periploi}, that is moving from West to East (fig. 1).

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item[\textsuperscript{3}] Karyshkovsky P.O., Kleiman I.B., \textit{The Ancient City of Tyras} (Kiev: 1985); Kleiman I.B., "The Defensive Walls of Tyras and the Sequence in the Changes of the Eastern and South-eastern Limits of Urban Building," \textit{DP}, 113-130.
\item[\textsuperscript{5}] Shcheglov A.N., \textit{The North-western Crimea in the Classical Era} (Leningrad: 1978); ibid., \textit{The Polis and the Chora} (Simferopol: 1976).
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