

Theme 1

Ceramics in Wrecks and Underwater Discoveries

CERAMIC MATERIAL FROM SHIPWRECKS NEAR SEBASTOPOL AND KOKTEBEL (CRIMEA)

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During underwater archaeological investigations undertaken by the Institute of Oriental Studies of Russian Academy of Sciences together with the National Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos in coastal area of administrative territory of Sebastopol was found a number of underwater archaeological objects, which were directly related to the history of ancient Chersonesos Taurica (in the Middle Ages - Cherson) and its chora. As a result in three areas - Round bay, at the traverse of Chersonesos, near village Uchkuevka – there were found some ceramic fragments which allowed interpreting these sites like shipwrecks. To clarify the dates and for further study some fragments of ceramics were lifted up. The main group of the pottery (tare vessel and dining ceramics) is dated by the IX-Xth century AD and produced in the Black sea region. The most numerous of its composition is a shipwreck near the village Uchkuevka. All ceramics from this site belong to the production of local centers (probably of medieval Cherson) dated by the end of the VIII-Xth century AD, widespread in the Black sea region, including Don region – Azov sea in the IX- the first part of the Xth century AD. The close types of found ceramics (from different production centers) have been known in the Black sea region – the Mediterranean and in the Kievan Rus. During underwater archaeological investigations near Koktebel there were found numerous ceramic fragments and two anchors of the Xth century.