

Theme 5

Import/Export

MARITIME NETWORKS OF THE EARLY MEDIEVAL PONTIC TRADE – TRANSPORT CERAMICS OF SINOP

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Sinope (Sinop) as the northernmost point of Anatolia on the southern Black Sea shore owns a strategic position for trans-maritime trade of the Black Sea. 9th-11th century Byzantine trade amphorae including jars of Tmutarakan'-type in the Archaeological Museum of Sinop clearly suggest not only trans-Pontic, but trans- Mediterranean connectivity of northern Anatolia. Trading networks with the Crimean and Taman Peninsula during the Khazar and early Rus periods (9th-10th centuries) are especially significant regarding the black tar layers found on the inner surface of several transport vessels which strongly refers to crude oil as the original content of at least some jars of Tmutarakan'-type also verified by written sources of the period. The harbour of Sinope could have been therefore an important station of the interregional trade between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.