

## WHAT ARE *EIONES* IN ANCIENT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NORTHERN BLACK SEA COASTS?

Alexander V. PODOSSINOV\*

**Keywords:** *Achilles' Dromos, ancient etymologies, North Black Sea, Eiones, Greek literature.*

**Abstract:** *This paper presents an analysis of the use of the word ἡϊών in Greek literature from Homer to Byzantine time. The author reviews the many meanings of the word in various contexts and sets out the most important meaning of this in relation to low-lying seacoasts, sandbanks and peninsulas of the northern Black Sea.*

In ancient descriptions of the coasts of the Northern Black Sea region, the word ἡϊών (attic. form ἥών, doric. ἰών or ἰών) occurs several times and is usually translated simply as "sea coast". Along with it, such synonymous words as θίς and ψάμμος (ψάμαθος) are used – usually a sandy seashore, ἀκτή, αἰγιαλός, παράλιος (coastal) – usually neutral. In this work, we are interested in the meaning of the word ἡϊών, which in the Northern Black Sea region has interesting topographical connotations.

Before we try to determine what information the word ἡϊών carries here, let us turn to clarifying its meaning in Greek literature. Liddell-Scott's dictionary gives the following meanings: 1) a sea-bank, the shore, beach with reference to Homer, Herodotus, Pindar, Euripides, Xenophon and Cassius Dio; 2) after Homer in the plural of other banks, as of a lake with reference to Pindar, of a river with reference to Aeschylus, Apollonius of Rhodes and Dionysius of Halicarnassus.

The etymology of this word is recognized as unknown in the dictionaries of H. Frisk<sup>1</sup> and P. Chantraine<sup>2</sup>. V. Pisani suggested that ἰών comes from αἶα - 'earth'<sup>3</sup>.

---

\* Alexander V. PODOSSINOV: Institute of World History of Russian Academy of Sciences. Novojasenevoskij pr. 12-3-119, 117574, Moscow, Russia; e-mail: podossinov@mail.ru.

<sup>1</sup> FRISK 1960, p. 62: "Unbekannter Herkunft".

<sup>2</sup> CHANTRAINE 1968, p. 408: "Pas d'étymologie".

<sup>3</sup> PISANI 1943, p. 550.

An analysis of the use of the word ἡϊών in Greek literature from Homer to Byzantine authors shows that its meanings can vary significantly in different contexts. So, it could mean:

– just a seashore<sup>4</sup> (Eurip. *Or.* 994; Theocr. XVI, 60; Lycophr. *Alex.* 244; Polyb. XXXIV, 11, 5; Cass. Dio LIX, 25, 1-2; Strabo II, 1, 22; 34; II, 5, 19; II, 5, 33; IV, 1, 10; V, 2, 5; V, 2, 6; V, 4, 3, etc.; Paus. IX, 20, 5; Ios. Flav. *Ant.* XII, 103; Athen. *Deipn.* XV, 12, 32; Lucian. *Ver. Hist.* I, 9; II, 36 etc.);

– high, rocky seashore, cape (Hom. *Od.* VI, 138<sup>5</sup>; Herod. VIII, 96);

– sandy sea beach (Hom. *Il.* XXIII, 61; Strabo XI, 4, 2; Ios. Flav. *Ant.* XV, 9, 6);

– the seashore in the delta or at the mouth of the river (Hom. *Il.* XII, 31; Hom. *Od.* V, 418; 441 sqq.<sup>6</sup>; Herod. II, 113; Strabo XI, 4, 2; XI, 7, 5);

– the bank of the river itself (Aeschyl. *Agamemn.* 1157-1159; Dionys. Halic. IV, 27, 7; Strabo V, 2, 5; V, 3, 2; Ios. Flav. *Ant.* II, 224; XIV, 134; Aelian. *Nat. anim.* XIV, 25; Apollon. Rhod. *Argon.* II, 658-659; Iulian. VII, 65; Nonn. *Panop. Dionys.* X, 172; 327; 420; XXIII, 3; 34; 292; XXXIV, 3; XC, 88);

– coast of the strait (Xenoph. *Hist. Gr.* I, 1, 5; Strabo II, 5, 19; VI, 2, 3; VIII, 6, 22; X, 4, 3; Quint. *Smyrn.* II, 253; XII, 131);

– lake shore (Pind. *Isthm.* I, 33; Dio Chrys. *Or.* XII, 4);

– shore of the bay (Strabo V, 4, 6; XII, 4, 2).

It is interesting that the word ἡϊών can also act as a toponym. So, in Herodotus, the Thracian city, located at the mouth of the Strymon River, has the name Eion on Strymon (Ἡϊών ἐπὶ Στρυμόνι) (see Herod. VII, 25; 107, 113; VIII, 118, 120; see also Thucyd. IV, 102). There were also cities of Eion in Thracian Chalkidike (Ἡϊών ἐπὶ Θράκης) (see Thucyd. IV, 7; Steph. Byz. s. v. ἡϊών; Eustath. *Ad Hom.* II, II, 92), Eion in Pieria (πρὸς τῇ Πιερῷ) (Steph. Byz. *Ibid.*; Eustath. *Ibid.*), as well as the area of Eions (Ἡϊόνες) among the Dryopes in Argolis (Hom. *Il.* II, 561; Strabo VIII, 6, 13; Diod. IV, 37, 2). According to Strabo, Eions once had an anchorage, which also – with the unclear localization of this area – implies a convenient area for mooring, perhaps at the mouth of some river.

<sup>4</sup> See the Suda's reference to the synonymy of the words ἡϊών and αἰγιαλός (Suda s.v. <Ἡϊών> ὁ αἰγιαλός) and Hesychius to the words ἡϊών and ἄκτῆ (Hesych. s.v. <ἡϊών> ἄκτῆ).

<sup>5</sup> In *Od.* VI, 138, the slaves and friends accompanying Nausicaa, seeing Odysseus covered with dirty mud, fled "along the high bank" (ἐπ' ἡϊόνος προουχούσας). But when Odysseus washed himself and dressed in clothes donated by Nausicaa, "he went along the seashore and sat down on the sand" (v. 236: ἐπὶ θίνα θαλάσσης), apparently, on the lower, sandy part of the coast, on the beach. The same expression occurs in *Od.* X, 569 in relation to the shore of the island of Kirke, where the ship of Odysseus moored.

<sup>6</sup> In *Od.* V, 418 and 440 Odysseus, sailing across the sea from the island of Calypso to the island of Phaeakes, tries to make out ahead "a sloping coast or a shallow place" (ἡϊόνας τε παραπλήγας λιμένας τε θαλάσσης). And this place turns out to be near the mouth of the river (v. 441 sqq.). Before this, Odysseus approached the other shore, on which "there was no pier there, no bay, no shallow place" (v. 404) and which was called ἄκτῆ (v. 405 and 425). A little later, talking about the washing of clothes at the mouth of the river, which Nausicaa started with her slaves and friends, Homer reports that they applied washed clothes along the sand seashore (VI, 94-95: ἐξείης πέτασαν παρὰ θιν' ἄλεός, ἦχι μάλιστα / λάιγγας ποτὶ χέρσον ἀποπλύνεσκε θάλασσα).

As for the Northern Black Sea region, I know several cases of the use of the word ἡϊών.

1) In the “Argonautica” of Apollonius of Rhodes, the Phylleis River on the southern coast of the Black Sea is mentioned, past which the Argonauts sailed; at the same time, Apollonius speaks of “wide banks of the river” (II, 658–659: εὐρείας ποταμοῖο ἡόνας). In the *scholia* to this place, the evidence of the Greek writer Dionysius of Olbia (2<sup>nd</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC) is given that the “wide shores” are called Achilles’ Dromos: Διονύσιος ὁ Ὀλβιανὸς ἱστορεῖ τὰς εὐρείας ἡόνας λέγεσθαι Ἀχιλλέως δρόμους. If we take into account that Achilles’ Dromos in antiquity meant the peninsula, which has now become Tendrovskaya and Dzharylgachskaya spits near the southern coast of Crimea, then the word ἡόνες sounds like its name, reflecting its features as a sandy spit<sup>7</sup>. At the same time, the adjective εὐρεῖαι indicates an extended sloping coast, which Achilles’ Dromos possessed.

This is the only mention of the Olbian writer Dionysius of Olbia and the only fragment from his work, unknown to us<sup>8</sup>. His origin from Olbia Pontica allows us to highly appreciate the reliability of his information about this geographical object, located in the immediate vicinity of Olbia<sup>9</sup>. V.D. Blavatskij believed that “the words of Dionysius of Olbia suggest that this author identified the sea spits with the Achilles’ Dromos”, whose sanctuary was found on the Tendra Spit<sup>10</sup>.

2) The Greek author Arrian (first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD) in his “Periplus of Pontus Euxinus” writes about the coast between the Crimea and the mouth of the Dnieper (*PPE* 20): “From the Kalos Limen to Tamyraka there are three hundred [stadia]; inside Tamiraka there is a small lake. From here, another three hundred to the mouth of the lake; from the mouth of the lake to the Eions (ἐς Ἡίονας) – three hundred and eighty *stadia*, and from here to Borysthenes River – one hundred and fifty”<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> See Strabo VII, 3, 19: “Then comes the Race Course of Achilles (ὁ Ἀχιλλεῖος δρόμος), a peninsula that lies flat on the sea (ἀλιτενῆς χερσονήσος); it is a ribbon-like stretch of land (ἔστι γὰρ ταινία τις), as much as one thousand *stadia* in length, extending towards the east; its maximum breadth is only two *stadia*, and its minimum only four *plethra*, and it is only sixty *stadia* distant from the mainland that lies on either side of the neck. It is sandy, and water may be had by digging. The neck of the isthmus is near the center of the peninsula and is about forty *stadia* wide” (translated by H.L. Jones).

<sup>8</sup> See more on this evidence: BLAVATSKIJ 1978, p. 80–89. Blavatskij notes that among the 166 bearers of the name Dionysius mentioned in the Pauly-Wissova Encyclopedia, our Dionysius of Olbia is missing (p. 82).

<sup>9</sup> BLAVATSKIJ 1978, p. 87: “Dionysius of Olbia, like Demetrius of Callatis, was a local geographer of the Eratosthenes school, who left a detailed description of the western part of the northern coast of Pontus and, in any case, of Achilles’ Dromos”.

<sup>10</sup> BLAVATSKIJ 1978, p. 84. For the sanctuary of Achilles on the Tendrovskaya spit, see RUSYAEVA 2006, p. 98–123; HUPE 2006, p. 89–109; 209–215 et *passim*; see here literature of the question.

<sup>11</sup> Ἐκ δὲ Καλοῦ Λιμένος ἐς Ταμυράκην τριακόσιοι ἕξω δὲ τῆς Ταμυράκης λίμνη ἐστὶν οὐ μεγάλη. Καὶ ἔνθεν εἰς τὰς ἐκροὰς τῆς λίμνης ἄλλοι τριακόσιοι. Ἐκ δὲ τῶν ἐκροῶν τῆς λίμνης ἐς Ἡίονας στάδιοι ὀγδοήκοντα καὶ τριακόσιοι. Καὶ ἔνθεν ἐς ποταμὸν Βορυσθένην πενήτηκοντα καὶ ἑκατόν.

Periplus of Arrian by Eions means, undoubtedly, Achilles' Dromos, completely in the spirit of Dionysius of Olbia<sup>12</sup>. M.V. Agbunov believes that "Here (in Arrian) there is practically no characteristic of the Achilles' Dromos, called in one word – Eions. Under the Eions in the appropriate places are meant the eastern and western extremities of the Achilles run"<sup>13</sup>. In our opinion, under the Eions here it is necessary to understand the entire peninsula as a low, extended, sandy hill<sup>14</sup>.

3) An anonymous author who wrote in the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD his version of the "Periplus of Pontus Euxinus", based mainly on the text of Arrian, describes Achilles' Dromos as follows (*PPE* 87 (58)): "From the promontory Tamyriake stretches the Achilleios Dromos, which is Eion, i. e. seashore (ὄπερ ἔστιν Ἡίων, τοῦτ' ἔστιν αἰγιαλός); it is a very long and narrow belt (σφόδρα μακρὰ καὶ στενὴ)<sup>15</sup>, which ranges along the gulf for 1200 stades, 160 miles. It is four *plethroi* wide and its end has the aspect of an island. It is 60 stades, 8 miles distant from the continent. In the middle of it there is a neck of land in form of isthmus, which is narrow and connects it with the continent, i.e. with the mainland, and has a length of 40 stades, 5 and 1/3 miles"<sup>16</sup>.

Following almost everywhere literally Arrian, here the anonymous author added to his text a description of the Achilles' Dromos, which Arrian lacks. The latter, as we have seen, names here only certain Eions, preserved by Anonymous, who immediately gave their synonymous interpretation: "i.e. seashore" (τοῦτ' ἔστιν αἰγιαλός). Let us pay attention to the length and narrowness of the Achilles' Dromos, noted by both Strabo and Anonymous.

Anonymous' account of the Achilles' Dromos is thought to have been borrowed from the peripluses, either of Ps.-Scymnos, whom Anonymous often quotes, or of Menippus, or of Artemidorus, or of Posidonius, who may have drawn their information from the geographical work of Dionysius of Olbia<sup>17</sup>.

Thus, in the designation of Achilles' Dromos as ἡόνες one can see a continuous tradition coming from Dionysius of Olbia.

4) The Roman writer Pliny the Elder (second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) in his "Natural History" gives the following description of the Taman Peninsula (*NH*

<sup>12</sup> About Eions as the name of Achilles' Dromos and its features, see: AGBUNOV 1992, p. 187–202; ZUBAREV 2005, p. 194; YAILENKO 2017, p. 42–43.

<sup>13</sup> AGBUNOV 1992, p. 200.

<sup>14</sup> See MÜLLER 1882, p. 396, who considers the Arrian's ἡόνες as a synonym for the Strabo's characteristics of Achilles' Dromos as ἀλιτενῆς χερσόνησος and ταινία τις and believes that Ἡόνες are the two peninsulas, which are diverging to the west and the east from the isthmus that connected the Achilles' Dromos with the mainland (so AGBUNOV 1992, p. 200). See also commentary on this Arrian's passage: SILBERMAN 1995, p. 217. V.P. Yailenko believes that Eion appears in Arrian as a toponym (YAILENKO 2017, p. 42).

<sup>15</sup> Pseudo-Scymnos v. 818-819 Diller = fr. 11 Marcotte.

<sup>16</sup> Ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ ἀκρωτηρίου Ταμυριάκου παρῆκει ὁ Ἀχιλλεῖος δρόμος, ὅπερ ἔστιν Ἡίων, τοῦτ' ἔστιν αἰγιαλός, σφόδρα μακρὰ καὶ στενὴ, διήκουσα τὸν πόρον ἐπὶ σταδίου, αὐτὸ μίλιον ἑξήκοντα, τὸ δὲ πλάτος ἔχουσα τετράπλεθρον· τὰ δὲ ἄκρα αὐτῆς νησιζόντα ἔχει ἀφέστηκεν δὲ τῆς ἡπείρου σταδίου ἑξήκοντα μίλιον ἑπτά· κατὰ μέσην δὲ αὐτῆς αὐχὴν ἰσθμοειδῆς, τοῦτ' ἔστιν στενωδῆς, τῇ ἡπείρῳ, ἥτοι τῇ γῆ συνάπτει ἐπὶ σταδίου μίλιον ἑπτά· διήκων τὸ μήκος.

<sup>17</sup> BLAVATSKIJ 1978, p. 87.

VI, 18): “The length of the peninsula which projects between the Euxine and Lake Maeotis, is not more than sixty-seven miles and a half, and the width across never less than two jugera: it has the name of Eone”<sup>18</sup> (translated by J. Bostock and H.T. Riley). Like those who wrote about the Achilles’ Dromos peninsula, Pliny also refers to the peninsula as Eone, although it is located in another northern Black Sea region, namely in the Kerch Strait. Researchers explained the appearance of this name by Pliny in different ways: some believed that it was not about the Taman Peninsula, but about the Arabatskaya Strelka (Arabat foreland) in the Sea of Azov<sup>19</sup>, others derived this name from \**ai(v)am* / \**oi(v)am* – “island”, comparing it with the area *Oium*, mentioned by Jordanes in the same area<sup>20</sup>, others considered this name by Pliny to be an erroneous transfer of it from Achilles’ Dromos<sup>21</sup>. V.P. Yailenko sees the similarity of the physiography of the sea coast of Achilles’ Dromos and the Taman Peninsula, and this explains the common name for them<sup>22</sup>.

I am also inclined to consider the name of the Taman Peninsula “Eone” by Pliny as referring precisely to this place. Two texts by ancient authors seem to support this thesis.

Aristotle in *Meteorologika* (I, 14, 353a 10) discusses how the Maeotian lake (modern Sea of Azov) is shallow due to river sediments and someday will entirely dry up. Immediately after this passage, we read the following text: “Again, this process of silting up causes a continuous current through the Bosphorus; and in this case we can directly observe the nature of the process. Whenever the current from the Asiatic shore (ἀπὸ τῆς Ἀσίας ἤονα) threw up a sandbank, there first formed a small lake behind it. Later it dried up and a second sandbank (ἄλλη ἢ ἀπὸ ταύτης ἤων) formed in front of the first and a second lake. This process went on uniformly and without interruption. Now when this has been repeated often enough, in the course of time the strait must become like a river, and in the end the river itself must dry up”<sup>23</sup> (translated by E.W. Webster).

V.V. Latyshev did not include this testimony about the Bosphorus in his collection of ancient literary evidence about the Northern Black Sea region “Scythica et Caucasica”, believing, obviously, that we are talking about the Thracian Bosphorus (modern Bosphorus Strait), but I think that here the Cimmerian Bosphorus is meant, i.e. Kerch Strait, because, firstly, even at the lexical level (ἔτι δὲ ὁ Βόσπορος) there is a transition from Maeotis to the Cimmerian Bosphorus as directly interconnected water basins, and secondly, we know nothing

<sup>18</sup> *Sed ipsius paeninsulae inter Pontum et Maeotium lacum excurrentis non amplior LXVII • D p. longitudo est, latitudo nusquam infra duo iugera; Eonem vocant.*

<sup>19</sup> NEUMANN 1885, p. 539; OBERHUMMER 1905, p. 2117.

<sup>20</sup> TRUBACHEV 1999, p. 71–72.

<sup>21</sup> TOCHTAS’EV 2002, p. 26.

<sup>22</sup> YAILENKO 2017, p. 43.

<sup>23</sup> ἔτι δὲ ὁ Βόσπορος ἀεὶ μὲν ῥεῖ διὰ τὸ προσχοῦσθαι, καὶ ἔστιν ἔτι ταῦτα καὶ τοῖς ὄμμασιν ἰδεῖν ὅν τινα συμβαίνει τρόπον· ὅτε γὰρ ἀπὸ τῆς Ἀσίας ἤονα ποιήσειεν ὁ ῥοῦς, τὸ ὀπισθεν λίμνη ἐγίγνετο μικρὰ τὸ πρῶτον, εἰτ’ ἐξηράνθη ἂν, μετὰ δὲ τοῦτο ἄλλη ἢ ἀπὸ ταύτης ἤων, καὶ λίμνη ἀπὸ ταύτης· καὶ τοῦτο ἀεὶ οὕτως συνέβαινεν ὁμοίως· τοῦτου δὲ γιγνομένου πολλάκις ἀνάγκη χρόνου προϊόντος ὥσπερ ποταμῶν γενέσθαι, τέλος δὲ καὶ τοῦτον ξηρόν.

about “sandbanks and lakes”, which would appear on the Asian coast of the Turkish Bosphorus, while the ruggedness of the coast of the Taman Peninsula is striking<sup>24</sup>. Until now, the eastern coast of the Kerch Strait is replete with sandy spits and islets, which in antiquity could have been peninsulas, shallows, and islands (the most famous that still exist are Chushka Spit, Tuzla Island).



*Chushka spit*

Thirdly, the idea of the Thracian Bosphorus drying up due to silt deposits, as far as I know, never arose in antiquity, and the Kerch Strait, which flows out of the Sea of Azov, fits into this theory quite well, since the Sea of Azov (*palus Maeotis* – Maeotian swamp) seemed to many ancient authors (as we saw in the fragment under consideration, and to Aristotle) very shallow and drying up. Therefore, the words of Aristotle, that “in the course of time the strait must become like a river, and in the end the river itself must dry up”, is the best fit for the Kerch Strait<sup>25</sup>.

I believe that in this text of Aristotle we have one more valuable evidence about the Kerch Strait.

The following evidence of the “Asian coast” of the Cimmerian Bosphorus as ἤϊών can be seen in Strabo VII, 6, 2: Pelamydes (a kind of tuna-fish), when they

---

<sup>24</sup> See SEMIKOLENNYCH 2022, p. 7: “The shores of the Taman Peninsula are indented by numerous estuaries. Some of them have the appearance of bays, partially separated from the sea by spits, others are lakes, completely separated from the sea. More than 2000 years ago, almost the entire space of the Taman Peninsula was covered by the sea, only 5 islands towered”.

<sup>25</sup> Despite the complete lack of interest among commentators of Aristotle in the question of identifying the Bosphorus, I was still able to find, to my joy, a like-minded person: see WEBSTER 1923, p. 353, n. 1: “The Cimmerian and not the Thracian Bosphorus is meant”.

have gained a little strength in Lake Maeotis, swim from Maeotis through the mouth (διὰ τοῦ στόματος) of the lake and move “along the Asian coast” (παρὰ τὴν Ἀσιανὴν ἡύονα) till Trapezus and Pharnakia, then enter the Thracian Bosphorus and sail to Byzantium. Like Aristotle, Strabo also refers to the “Asian coast of the Bosphorus”, which is also mentioned immediately after Maeotis, but now we know for sure that the Cimmerian Bosphorus is meant, and not the Thracian.

Thus, Pliny, in his designation of the Asian Bosphorus as Eone, had someone to rely on. The original designation of the eastern shore of the Kerch Strait (= Taman Peninsula) as ἡύων turned under the pen of Pliny into the toponym Eone.

V.V. Blavatskij, pointing out that in addition to Achilles' Dromos, the sanctuary of Achilles in the Northern Black Sea region was also preserved in κώμη Ἀχιλλειον<sup>26</sup>, located on the coast of the Taman Peninsula not far from the current Chushka Spit, suggested that “on both spits – Tenderovskaya and Chushka – there were sanctuaries of Achilles. This circumstance suggests that in the minds of the inhabitants of the northern coast of the Black Sea, there was some connection between sea spits and Achilles Pontarchos”<sup>27</sup>. This assumption of Blavatskij, made without taking into account the above information about the *eions* of Aristotle, Strabo and Pliny, perfectly confirms our conclusion that the Taman Peninsula, like the Peninsula of Achilles' Dromos, which turned into the Tendrovskaya spit, had the same natural features – these were sandy sea spits, which are quite rare on the coasts of the Mediterranean. No wonder Stephan of Byzantium names in one chapter under the name Ἀχιλλεῖος δρόμος both the island of Achilles near Taurica, referring to Achilles' Dromos, and the “Achilles village” at the mouth of Maeotis<sup>28</sup>.

5) Dion Chrysostom, who personally visited Olbia in the summer of 97 AD, in his Borysthenian speech (*Or.* XXXVI (Borysth.), 5, 2) talks about the banks of the Southern Bug-Dnieper estuary: “The fact is that most of that stretch consists of shoals (τέναγος), and in fair weather unruffled calm prevails as in a swamp (ὥσπερ ἐν λίμνῃ)... As for the rest, we have only muddy shore (ἡύων ἐστὶν ἐλώδης) overgrown with reeds and trees” (translated by H. Lamar Crosby). Here we are talking about the low-lying shore of the estuary, which is perceived as a kind of lake or swamp (λίμνη). Apparently, this estuary was perceived in the same way by Pliny, who, describing the mouth of the Borysthenes, says that there are “a lake, a tribe and a city having the same name” (*NH* IV, 82: *flumen Borysthenes lacusque et gens eodem nomine*). Here he mentions the river Borysthenes (modern Dnieper), the tribe of Borysthenites, the city of Borysthenes (= Olbia) and a certain lake Borysthenes. By this lake is meant, obviously, the Southern Bug-Dnieper estuary. E. Minns explains the origin of the concept of the estuary as a lake in this way: the entrance to the estuary at Ochakov is narrow due to the

<sup>26</sup> See Strabo VII, 4, 5; XI, 2, 6 and 8; Anon. *PPE* 67 and 69–70; Steph. Byz. s.v. Ἀχιλλεῖος δρόμος.

<sup>27</sup> BLAVATSKIJ 1978, p. 84.

<sup>28</sup> Steph. Byz. s.v. Ἀχιλλεῖος δρόμος: νῆσος μετὰ τὴν Ταυρικὴν... ἔστι καὶ κώμη ἐπὶ τῷ στόματι τῆς Μαιώτιδος...

sandy spit, therefore the ancients called the almost enclosed water space of the estuary a lake<sup>29</sup>.

Summing up, it should be said that, apparently, many nuances in the meaning of the word ἠών, which were mentioned at the beginning of the work, were reflected in the North Black Sea Eions: it is just a seashore, and a shallow, and a low sandy shore (as on Achilles' Dromos), and the shore of the strait with sandbanks (as on the Taman Peninsula), and the shore of the lake-estuary (as in the Southern Bug-Dnieper estuary), and even, perhaps, toponyms (as on Achilles' Dromos and Taman). Their main significance lies in the description of low-lying, as a rule, sandy coastal shoals, sandbanks and peninsulas.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

AGBUNOV 1992 – M.V. Agbunov, *Ancient Geography of the Northern Black Sea Region*. Moscow, 1992 (in Russian).

BLAVATSKIJ 1978 – V.D. Blavatskij, *Dionysius of Olbia*, SA 3 (1978), p. 80–89 (in Russian).

CHANTRAINE 1968 – P. Chantraine, *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue grecque. Histoire des mots*. Tome I: A – D, Paris, 1968.

DILLER 1952 – Au. Diller, *The Tradition of Minor Greek Geographers*, Lancaster, 1952.

ELNITSKII 1949 – L.A. Elnitskii, *Comment to Pliny*, VDI 2 (1949), p. 839–885 (in Russian).

FRISK 1960 – H. Frisk, *Griechisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*. Bd. I: A – K. Heidelberg, 1960.

HUPE 2006 – J. Hupe (ed.), *Der Achilleus-Kult im nördlichen Schwarzmeerraum vom Beginn der griechischen Kolonisation bis in die römische Kaiserzeit. Beiträge zur Akkulturationsforschung*. Rahden (Westf.), 2006 (Internationale Archäologie 94).

KORENJAK 2013 – M. Korenjak (ed.), *Scymnos* (2048), in: H.-J. Gehrke, *Die Fragmente der Griechischen Historiker*. Part V <http://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/fragmente-der-griechischen-historiker-v/skymnos-2048-a2048> (accessed June the 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

LATYSCHEW 1893–1900 – V.V. Latyschew, *Scythica et Caucasica e veteribus scriptoribus Graecis et Latinis collegit et cum versione rossica editit Basilius Latyschew*. Vol. I. *Scriptores graeci*. Fasc. I–III, Petropolis, 1893–1900.

MARCOTTE 2000 – D. Marcotte, *Géographes grecs. T. I. Introduction générale. Ps.-Scymnos: Circuit de la Terre*, Paris, 2000.

MINNS 1913 – E.H. Minns, *Scythians and Greeks. A Survey of Ancient History and Archaeology on the North Coast of the Euxine from the Danube to the Caucasus*, Cambridge, 1913.

MÜLLER 1882 – C. Müller, *Geographi Graeci minores*. Vol. I, Parisii, 1882.

NEUMANN 1855 – K. Neumann, *Die Hellenen im Scythenlande: Ein Beitrag zur alten Geographie, Ethnographie und Handelsgeschichte*, Berlin, 1855.

OBERHUMMER 1905 – E. Oberhammer, *Eion* (5), in: RE 5 (1905), p. 2117.

PISANI 1943 – V. Pisani, *Glottica Parerga*. Rendiconti. Istituto Lombardo di scienze e lettere 77 (1943), Milano, p. 553–558.

RUSYAEVA 2006 – A.S. Rusyaeva, *Sanctuary of Achilles on Tendra in the Context of the History and Religion of Olbia Pontica*, VDI 4 (2006), p. 98–123 (in Russian).

<sup>29</sup> MINNS 1913, p. 15; also ELNITSKII 1949, p. 847.

---

SEMIKOLENNYCH 2022 – D.V. Semikolennykh, *Kerch Strait in the late Pleistocene - Holocene* // [www.geogr.msu.ru Kerchenskii\\_prol\\_pozdn-pl\\_holocene.pdf](http://www.geogr.msu.ru/Kerchenskii_prol_pozdn-pl_holocene.pdf). (accessed June 24, 2022).

SILBERMAN 1995 – A. Silberman (ed.), *Arrien. Périple du Pont-Euxin*, Paris, 1995.

TOCHTAS'EV 2002 – S.R. Tokhtas'ev, *ΣΙΝΔΙΚΑ*, Tamanskaia starina 4, St. Petersburg, 2002, p. 10–32 (in Russian).

TRUBACHEV 1999 – O.N. Trubachev, *Indoarica in the Northern Black Sea Region*, Moscow, 1999 (in Russian).

YAILENKO 2017 – V.P. Yaylenko, *Toponymy of Ancient Crimea*, Bosporskie issledovaniya 35 (2017), Kerch, p. 3–88 (in Russian).

ZUBAREV 2005 – V.G. Zubarev, *Historical Geography of the Northern Black Sea Region According to the Ancient Literary Tradition*, Moscow, 2005 (in Russian).

WEBSTER 1923 – E.W. Webster, *Meteorologika*, in: W.D. Ross (ed.), *The Works of Aristotle*, Oxford, 1931.