

GREY WARE IN BELOZERSKOE SETTLEMENT (LOWER DNIEPER REGION)

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Abstract: *Belozerskoe settlement marked the eastern frontier of the distant Olbian chora of the 4th century and the first third of the 3rd century B.C. A significant part of wheel made pottery from Belozerskoe settlement is traced for grey ware – it represents more than 50% (amphorae excluded). The description of grey ware from more than 10 field seasons in this settlement is proposed in the paper. Both closed and open grey ware forms are represented in the settlement and their proportion is approximately equal. A small part of the collection was represented more or less fragmentary, but a large part of this material is unpublished. Jugs, bowls and fish-plates are the most popular shapes; a distinctive feature is the rather large quantity of lekythoi. Several rare pots are also found.*

The earliest long-term settlements in the Dniepr estuary are those founded in the Late Classical period as a result of Olbia Pontica expansion. Belozerskoe settlement marked the eastern frontier of the large (= distant) Olbian chora from the 4th century and the first third of the 3rd century B.C. (**Fig. 1**). Material remains and main pottery types especially, may serve as a base for consideration of this settlement as inhabited by Greek culture people. Particularly, analysis of grey ware from this settlement reveals its predominance in assemblage of dining pottery, which is specific for Olbians¹. Even in Nikonion, which is situated not far from Olbia to West, the quantity of grey ware and red ware is approximately equal and jugs are met significantly rarer than bowls². A significant part of wheel made pottery from Belozerskoe settlement is traced for grey ware – it always represents more than 50% (amphorae excluded). Grey ware constitutes 5-7% in overall ceramic finds, but more than a half consists of small bodies shards. Nevertheless, most part of intact pots also belong to this group, as a rule they were found in the pits and in dwelling structures. Distribution of grey ware

¹ KOŠELENKO *et alii* 1984, p. 232; KRYŽITSKIJ *et alii* 1989, p. 59-60, 128-130, 185; BUJSKIKH 2006, p. 28; SCHULTZE, MAGOMEDOV, BUJSKIKH 2006; KRAPIVINA 2007 etc.

² SEKERSKAJA 1989, p. 40.

demonstrates that it was a principal feature of material culture throughout all settlement existence time and this pottery always formed a large percentage of the assemblage, not being concentrated in special places. None of the corresponding production traces have been discovered in Belozerskoe settlement itself. Presence of grey ware here is connected with its prominence in Olbian pottery production and active consumption in all settlements around.

The proposed article presents a repertoire of grey ware from excavations in Belozerskoe settlement, made by expeditions of Kherson Regional Museum (1991-1993) and Kherson State University (1998-2007). A small part of the collection was represented more or less fragmentary³; this material is mainly unpublished. Both closed and open grey ware forms are represented in the settlement and their proportion is approximately equal.

Among *closed pots* jugs occur much more frequently than other forms, they represent about 20% from all grey ware. An overwhelming type is the *jug with rounded body, a ring bottom and a long and wide cylindrical neck* (Fig. 2/1-4, 6). They differ in their size, thickness of wall and details. Height – 11-32 cm, body diameter – 9.4-22 cm. The proportion of these dimensions is constant – 0.7 (0.64-0.73). The same is true for the proportion of the neck. Neck diameter – 5.3-9.2 cm, neck height – 4.5-10.8 cm, proportion – 0.85 (0.79-0.9). Rims of these jugs are usually beveled outwards and approximate triangular shape in profile. There are also jugs with rounded rim edge and totally decorated neck with grooves (horizontal ribbing). The body is spherical as a rule, but there are specimens with emerged shoulders. The ring foot is usually wider than the neck and is low, about 1 cm in height. Judging by the appearance, most part of grey vessels with slip is made of the same clay type, containing small grains of calcite and rare mica. The colors of this clay are: light gray (5Y 7/2, 10YR 7/2), very pale brown 7/3, light brownish gray - pale brown 6/2-6/3; light brown 7.5YR 6/3-6/4, pinkish gray 7/2-6/2. The slip appears gray, dark gray and very dark gray. Such jugs are frequently found in every Olbian chora settlement⁴. Sometimes, high jugs were in use without broken upper part. In this case the rest of the neck is broken off approximately on the same level and accurately smoothed out.

It is similar to type 1 according to Krapivina's classification that is the most popular in Olbia from archaic period⁵. But the variant of handle holding is distinct from it – a flat handle always attached to the rim edge. J. Kozub suggests the jugs with long neck and heavy body and a handle attached to the rim edge as specific for the 5th century B.C., in her opinion, this type exists also in the 4th century B.C. with a peculiar precise shape: the longer neck, the heavier body⁶. It coincides with our survey, moreover, the proportions mentioned above, probably may be seen as chronological sign. The main types (I and II) of jugs in the Hellenistic Olbian necropolis are distinguished by a prolonged neck, a "swollen" body and a bent flat handle⁷.

³ In English: BYLKOVA 1996; BYLKOVA 2003.

⁴ KRYŽITSKIJ *et alii* 1989, p. 129-130, fig. 51: 16-17.

⁵ KRAPIVINA 2007, p. 100.

⁶ KOZUB 1974, p. 63-65, fig. 23: 2-3.

⁷ PAROVICH-PESHIKAN 1974, p. 96-97, fig. 87.

No. 427/2004 jug (**Fig. 2/2**) from pit 105, dated to the last decades of the 4th century B.C., is prominent by morphological and technological characteristics. It is made of coarse heavy light brownish gray clay (2.5 Y 6/2), painted very dark grey and slip less. It differs also by the prolonged body, wide and deep ribbing of the neck, the large false double handle. It was restored in antiquity with alabaster and its bottom was initially strengthened inside with a kind of clay patch. “Les cruches à cannelures horizontales” are known in Histria from the 6th cent. B.C. and in the 5th-4th centuries they are popular in the Eastern Mediterranean, but similar pots from the Histrian necropolis are made of a usual clay type⁸.

Specific forms of jugs are found occasionally. Only twice in grey ware we met specific decoration at the conjunction place of the rim edge and the upper part of the handle (**Fig. 3**). The flat handle is decorated with grooves and on the rim it is supplemented with three bobbin-shaped attachments. Such a jug from pit 11 is the largest among all the closed pots. The height might be almost 50 cm, body diameter – 36-37 cm, the height of the neck is 20 cm. Its ring bottom is usually 13 cm in diameter.

Relief attachments at the joining place of handle and rim are considered as characteristic of Chersonessian pottery (assemblages of the 4th century B.C. included).⁹ Similar decoration is mentioned among light-colored ware in Anapa.¹⁰

A thin-walled jug from pit 21, no. 211/1997 (**Fig. 4/3**), is distinguished by a special foot, “echinus-shaped”, if we use the terminology of V. M. Skudnova¹¹. The base diameter is 9.6 cm, the body diameter is 14.4 cm. The quality of the light brownish gray clay (2.5 Y 6/2) and the thick, black slip with gloss is exclusively high. The fine clay is light and perfectly burned. It looks like an imitation attempt of the black glaze ware, probably an oinochoe.

The jugs with short curved neck, round body and low ring (flat?) bottom look like continuing the earlier Olbian type 4.¹² Jug no. 425/2004 from pit 105 (**Fig. 2/5**), dated to the last decades of the 4th century B.C., is made of greenish grey clay (6/1) and is painted thick dull dark gray. The height is 18.8 cm, the body diameter 16.5 cm; the wide low ring foot diameter is 10.6 cm. Only the base of the flat handle was preserved. This pot may be compared in size with a vessel with a flat bottom. Probably they belong to the same type. The flat bottom is made of light gray clay (5Y 7/1) with traces of gray (5Y 5/1) paint and slip. The clay contains small dark and rather large white inclusions.

Jugs with narrow neck, flaring rim and handle rising above the rim (**Fig. 4/1, 2**) are rather rare finds in the settlement. Both are found with material of the last quarter of the 4th century B.C. The well preserved specimen no. 387/2003 from semi structure 80 is made of light brown clay (7.5 YR 6/4), with dark grey slip. The height without handle is about 22 cm, with handle – about 25 cm, diameter – 17 cm. Another pot is probably the same size, but differs in rim contour and neck. It is light gray (10 YR 7/2) and slipped very dark gray. Just the same type of vessels

⁸ ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 100-102, fig. 22: 659, 661.

⁹ SAMOILOVA 1988, p. 64; KUTAIISOV 2004, p.98-99, p. 313 – fig. 110: 8.

¹⁰ ALEKSEEVA 1990, p. 24, fig. 3: 41.

¹¹ SKUDNOVA 1988.

¹² KRAPIVINA 2007, p. 100.

is represented in Koshary settlement, synchronous to Belozerskoe¹³.

The *oinochoe* is only twice represented in grey ware. A pot with rounded body, easily turning into a wide neck with rising handle is unique (**Fig. 4/4**). The clay is grey and pinky grey (5Y 6/1-5/1 - grey), with light grey slip. These contours resemble type 3 according to Krapivina classification more than others¹⁴, but it is really different. The archaic *oinochoe* from the Olbian necropolis, grave 7/1909, which is defined as local production¹⁵, isn't a complete analogy, but the common shape demonstrates a kind of similarity. In Belozerskoe this *oinochoe* type was found with materials dated to the second half of the 4th century B.C. In red ware a similar "pear-shaped" *oinochoe* of Phanagorian production is also dated to the 4th century B.C.¹⁶

Another one is a small neck fragment of with rim, made of a usual type of clay.

Lekythoi occur rather, regularly in fragments; they represent more than 4% in grey pottery. More or less intact specimens help to restore a general type (**Fig. 5**). One type of ariballic *lekythoi* dominates – with rounded high body and narrow neck, making out 1/3 or 1/4 of the vessel height, with low ring bottom. The rim is a flat finial of slightly widening neck. A loop handle is attached to the narrowest part of the neck and to the shoulder. There are *lekythoi* of two main dimensions and they correlate with two types of clay. All are slip less but one. A large, intact *lekythos* with broken handle from pit 105 (**Fig. 5/4**) is of such dimensions: height 18 cm, diameter 12 cm. A small one (**Fig. 5/1**) is 11.4 cm high and 8.2 cm in diameter. In both cases the diameter represents 2/3 of the height. The clay of the *lekythoi* isn't really fine, up to rough. Better clay is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4-6/3), light brownish gray (2.5 Y 6/2), light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4), and greenish gray (6/1). It is painted gray, greenish gray (5/1), dark greenish gray and black. Faint slip is traced only in one case. This clay contains grains of calcites and mica, rarely quartz. Three small pots (**Fig. 5/1-3**) are made of another type of coarse clay, with large grains of calcites, from greenish gray (5/1) to dark greenish gray (3/1-4/1). It contains large grains of quartz. They are slip less and unpainted.

A *flask* (**Fig. 6**) was found in pit 77 with material of the last quarter of 4th century B.C. It is nearly regular round, 24 cm in diameter, the height with neck is 28.5 cm. The clay color is grey, dark grey (10YR 4/1), grayish brown (10YR 5/2), light brown (7.5YR 6/3) and the slip is black. It was thought that such pots are canteen = pilgrim flasks (*kothon* for soldier); the round shape was especially popular in the 4th century B.C.¹⁷. Flasks were not often found in Black Sea littoral sites. Such finds in Olbia West Temenos became a base for the proposal of their use as wine containers during ritual actions.¹⁸ There are evidences for the use of analogous pots in red ware as Chersonessian production. At the site Čaika such a flask was found in a building from the second period with materials from the end

¹³ KOWAL 2008, p. 86-87, fig.3, 2.

¹⁴ KRAPIVINA 2007, p. 101.

¹⁵ SKUDNOVA 1988, p. 43-44.

¹⁶ SOROKINA 1957, p. 33-34, table 10, 2.

¹⁷ ROTROFF 1997, p. 184.

¹⁸ Temenos 2006, p. 184, fig. 202, 6-7.

of the 4th – first quarter of the 3rd century B.C.¹⁹ and the painted exemplar was found together with an amphora from the first half of the 3rd century B.C.²⁰ At Kalos Limen a similar pot, but larger in size was found with material mainly from the same date in the ruins of the tower, confirming its function as kothon.²¹ A smaller, round flask, made of grayish pink clay, is mentioned among rare forms from building U6 (320-10 – c. 270 B.C.) in Panskoe.²²

Open vessels also represent a large group. Bowls (Fig. 7/1-9) are encountered throughout; they represent an absolute predominance among open vessels and 18% among grey pottery as a whole. All of them are slipped, with only several exclusions. As a rule they are made of fine clay: grey 10YR 6/1, light brownish grey 6/2, 2.5 Y 6/2; greenish grey 5/1, 6/1, light grey 5Y 7/1. Some of them are painted dark grey or very dark grey, not correlated with morphological characteristics.

Mostly, *bowls belong to a popular type 1 with incurved rim and ring bottom*²³. They are widespread on the North Black Sea littoral, without chronological and territorial limits. We may distinguish variants B (with the rim about the same thickness as the wall) and Γ (with flattened horizontal rim, with grooves).²⁴ Usually they are medium-sized. The rim diameter is 16-19 cm, total height – 6-8 cm, height of foot – 1-1.2 cm. Some of them were one-handlers; other ones had two looped handles or no handle at all. The rim edge may be cut, rounded, sharpened; in one case the rim is decorated outside with two grooves. Morphological difference can be seen mainly in ring bases design. One bowl (Fig. 7/5) is different in proportions – it is rather high – in body and rim contours and is slip less

Bowl no.172/2004 (Fig. 7/4), found in pit 86, can be considered as a type of different tradition – with a more incurved rim than others, with tint on the rib and with a high, heavy base. It is made from different clay, is slip less and unpainted. The clay with mica has a specific tint of gray – 10YR 5/1 and grayish brown 5/2.

Two fragments are principally different (Fig. 7/8, 9) – with thick and rolled rim, and they are made of the finest greenish grey clay and the dark grey slip looks similar to gloss.

Several large deep open vessels supplement the ceramic repertoire of this settlement. Their diameter is 34-35 cm, the height – nearly 12 cm. No.736/1991 (Fig. 8/4) from building VI (main period, materials from the second half of the 4th century B.C., with the specific oinochoe mentioned above) is a pot with wide horizontal rim and two false-double handles above. The clay is fine, the color – 10 YR 7/2 light grey – with thin grey slip. Such shapes indicated as *lekanides* (*lekanides à anses verticales, en forme de calotte hemispherique*)²⁵ or fruit bowls²⁶.

¹⁹ POPOVA, KOVALENKO 2005, p. 23, fig. 51, 5.

²⁰ POPOVA 2007, p. 8, p. 58 – fig. 20, 1.

²¹ KUTAYSOV, UŽENZEV 1994, p. 58-62, fig. 13, 5.

²² HANNESTAD, STOLBA and ŠČEGLOV 2002, p. 178, pl. 106, C 266.

²³ KRAPIVINA 2007, p. 103.

²⁴ *Temnos* 2006, p. 182-183.

²⁵ ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 107-109.

This shape is widespread, especially in the West Black Sea region, where it is dated from the 4th century to the third quarter of the 4th century B.C.²⁷

No.276/2003 (**Fig. 8/5**) from pit 76A of the main building period (it contains materials of the third quarter of the 4th century B.C.) is made of the finest clay with mica and slipped. The color is "bright" gray (5Y 6/1), painted very dark gray. Several fragments of wide rims with inner slip (clay 7.5 YR 6/4 light brown, slip 5Y 7/2 light gray) also belong to large bowls, but their shape can't be restored.

All types of bowls are similar to finds from Histria and Simeonovgrad²⁸.

Grey-ware *fish-plates* occur regularly, they represent more than 15% among grey pottery. Distribution of finds demonstrates that it was a popular shape for eating pots. As mentioned above, intact pots have been found in pits and other structures. The presence of fragments from 12 fish-plates among 73 fragments of grey ware in dwelling 2 from excavation I demonstrates the inhabitants' needs for special pottery; these vessels differ in size and small details (**Fig. 8/1, 2**). All fish-plates are made from similar clay – grey (5Y 5/1), light grey (2.5 Y 7/2), light brownish grey (10 YR 6/2) irrespective of their form and they have dark grey, very dark grey or black paint (the thickness of paint cover is different) and slip. The rim diameter is medium or large, from 19 to 26 cm, with depression diameter from 4.5 to 7 cm approximately. The ring base is rather small – 7-9 cm. Height is always low – 3.5-4 cm. Both types, with a ridge around the central depression or without it, are representative (**Fig. 8/1-3**). The rolled rim corresponds to the first and the down turned rim to the last. The decoration might consist of two incised grooves near the rim edge. The ring base contour is more variable and that is also true for their thickness. The fish-plate is a specific shape of Greek pottery and is known everywhere from the 5th century B.C.

Typical Olbian *cup-kantharoi* (**Fig. 7/10, 11**) are usually found in fragments. An intact (without one handle) vessel was found in pit 105. Its height is 7.8 cm and the rim diameter is larger – 9 cm. The upper part is too high – nearly 6 cm and the lower part looks disproportional low. Sharply bent flat handles even widen this pot visually. It is made of usual clay as the main part of jugs, light grey 2.5YR 7/2; it is little slipped, the inner surface is totally covered by dark grey paint and the outer surface – partly, at the upper part. Another one from pit 12 (without bottom) has a more regular shape, with usual looped handles, and is made more accurately. It is covered inside and outside by thick dark grey paint. Both pits contained finds of the last quarter of the 4th century B.C. They could be included into group 3 of K. Zaitseva's classification and are similar to two pots of "pretentious" shape, which is considered as the latest, dated close to the middle of the 4th century B.C.²⁹. Since our cup-kantharoi reveal even more "pretentious" proportions with lower base and curvier body, their handles larger and sharper bent, it may be seen as a chronological development of a type. We can not exclude that this variant is the latest for group 3 and may be dated to the third

²⁶ KRAPIVINA 2007, p. 103-104.

²⁷ ALEXANDRESCU 1978, p. 107-109.

²⁸ BOŽKOVA, VASILEVA 2008: Paper at International Conference Bucharest - Constanza, 2008.

²⁹ ZAITSEVA 1984, p. 111-112, 120.

quarter of the 4th century B.C.

One rare foot (Fig. 7/12) looks like the base of a usual kantharos, with 5.2 cm diameter and height 2 cm. This pot is made of brownish-grey clay. Similar finds, which could be imitations of black-glazed kantharoi, are known among finds from Chersonessos³⁰. It was mentioned that from the second quarter of the 4th century imitations of Attic pottery became common in Pistiros³¹.

Another rare find is a fragment of a twisted rope handle from a large vessel (dining amphora or pelike). It is slip less and made of coarse clay. The clay contains mica, its color is grey and pinkish grey (7.5 YR 6/1-6/2). An amphora with such handles was found in Koshary settlement of the same time³², but there it is rather fine and covered with black slip. Our specimen may, according to clay be compared with the "pseudokitchen ware" group.

Several lamps are made of grey clay, but red and black glazed ware is dominant. Grey ware lamps (all of them are found in fragments) are open, with round body, small round nozzle, pressed to the body, arched handle and convex bottom. They are similar to a type from the second half of the 4th century to the beginning of the 3rd century B.C.³³ and that corresponds to our chronology.

Pseudo kitchen ware is represented only by fragments. These pots are made of coarse, rough and heavy clay with large grains of calcite, quartz and other dark inclusions. Wall thickness is 1 cm. Surface and shards are of the same color – from blue-grey to dark grey. These pots are always uncoated with slip and unpainted. This pottery is rather varied and not restricted to popular shapes only, but none full shape could be restored.

This review confirmed that even in settlements in the distant chora grey ware was a need for everyday life and used in a wide range of shapes and functions, first of all for serving and eating, sometimes for drinking and storage. It was common for all inhabitants of this settlement from the very beginning till the end. It is clear that Olbia city was a general centre of dissemination. But since grey ware was both locally and regionally produced, it is likely that this pottery was not restricted to Olbian production only and that at least chance materials could be received from other centers. Provenance of concrete pots, determination of their production is a serious problem under consideration, although till now distribution of plain ware remains a complicated question.³⁴

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³⁰ HANDBERG *et alii* 2008: Paper at International Conference Bucarest - Constanza, 2008.

³¹ BOUZEK, DOMARADZKA 2008

³² KOWAL 2008, p. 88, fig. 3: 4.

³³ JURINA 1996, p. 100-101, No. 13, fig. 7.4: 12.

³⁴ SAMOILOVA 1988, p. 63; DUPONT 2008.

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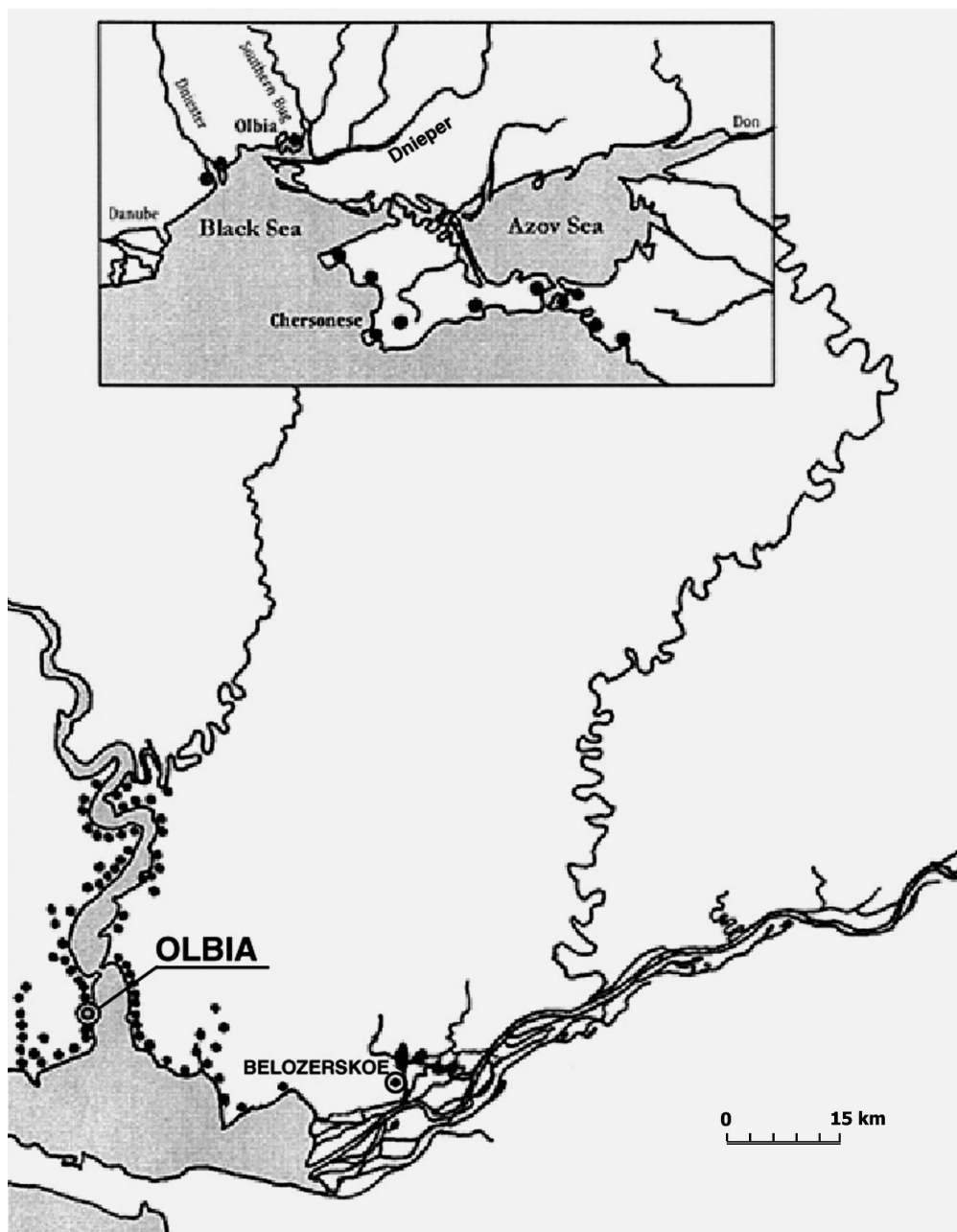


Fig. 1 - Map of region under review (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

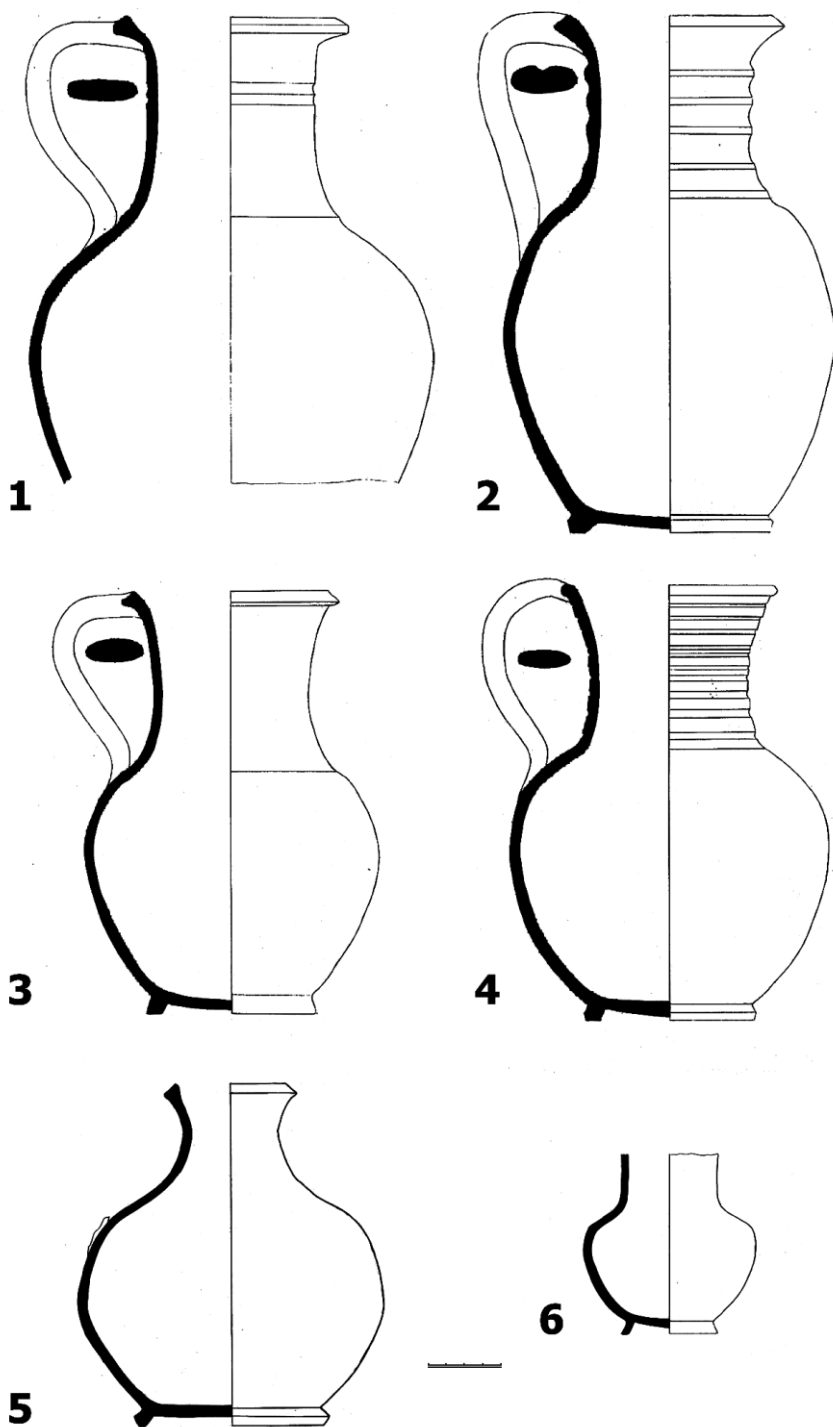


Fig. 2 - Grey ware jugs (2-5 – from pit 105) (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

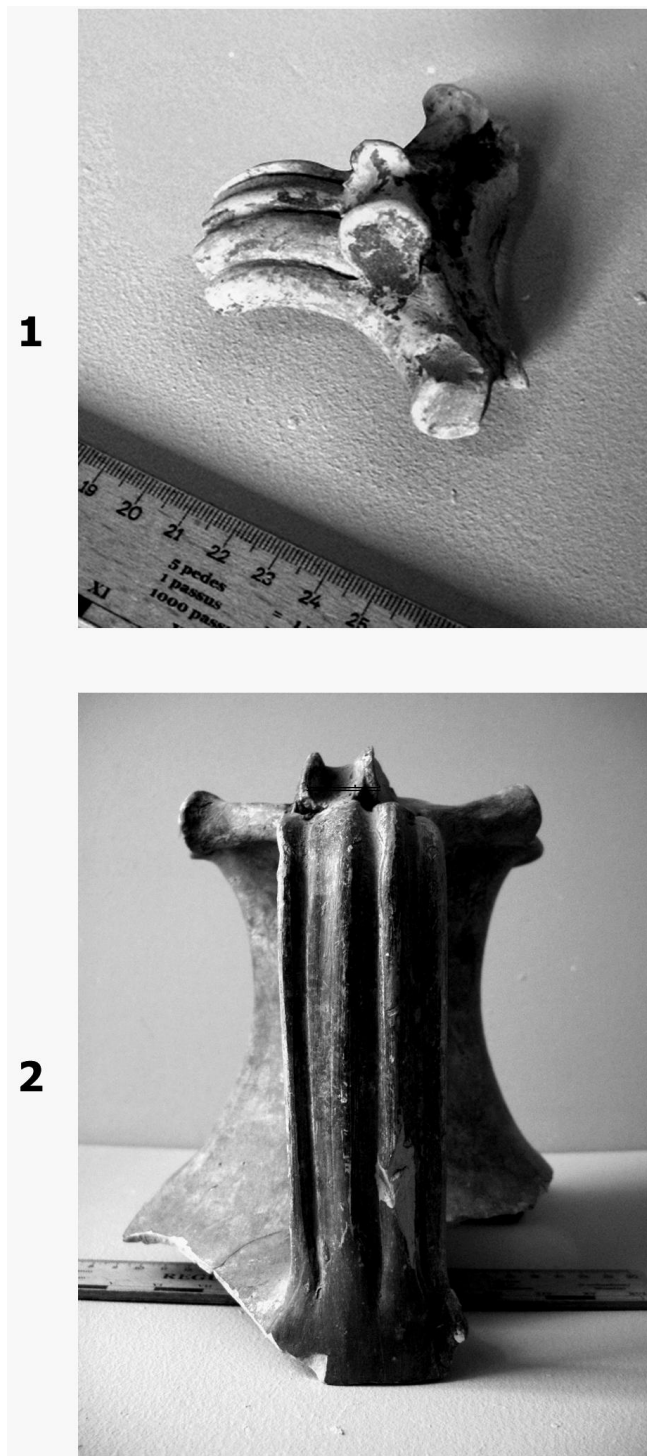


Fig. 3 - Specific decoration of grey ware jugs.

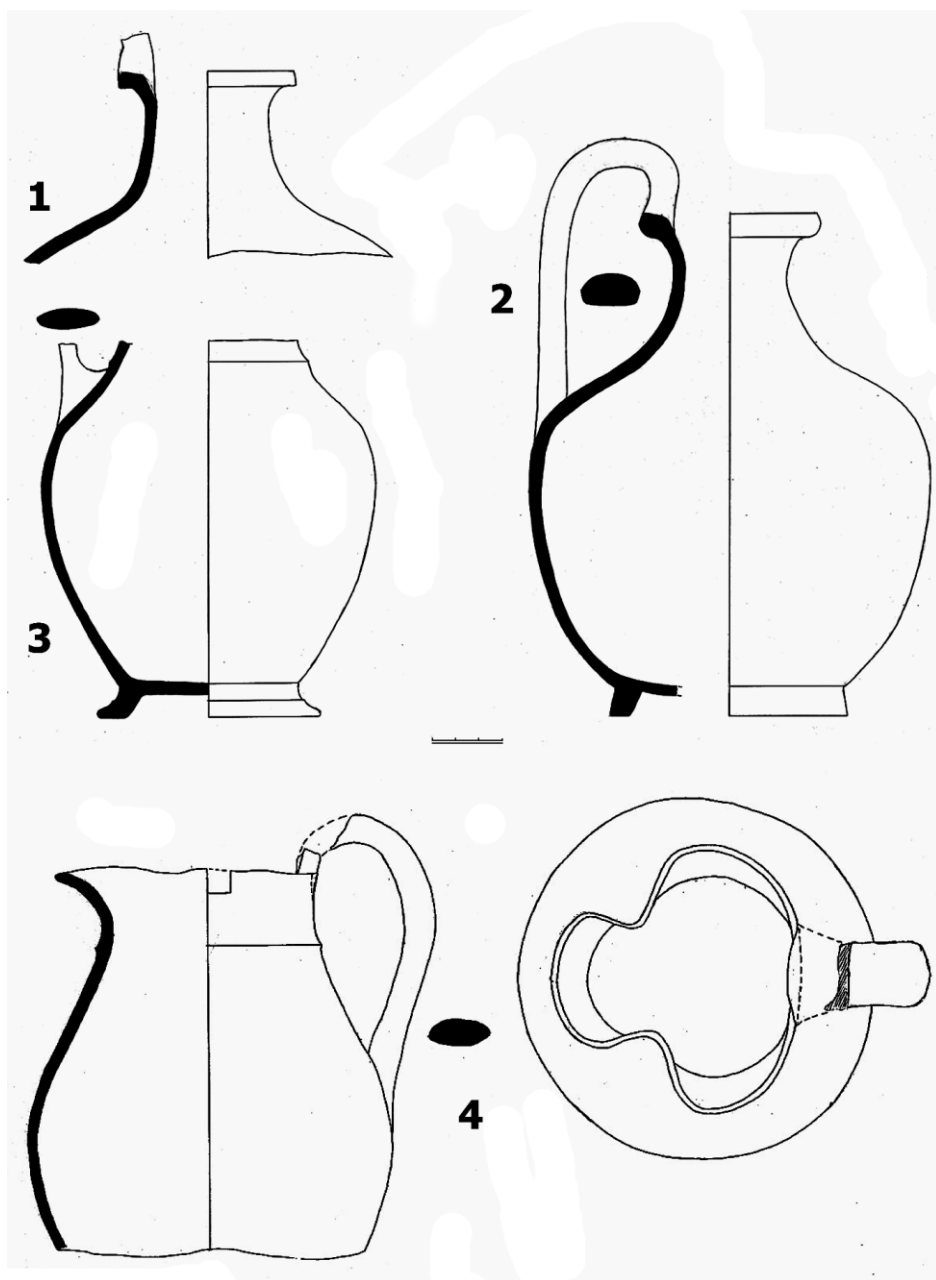


Fig. 4 - Rare shapes in grey ware closed pottery (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

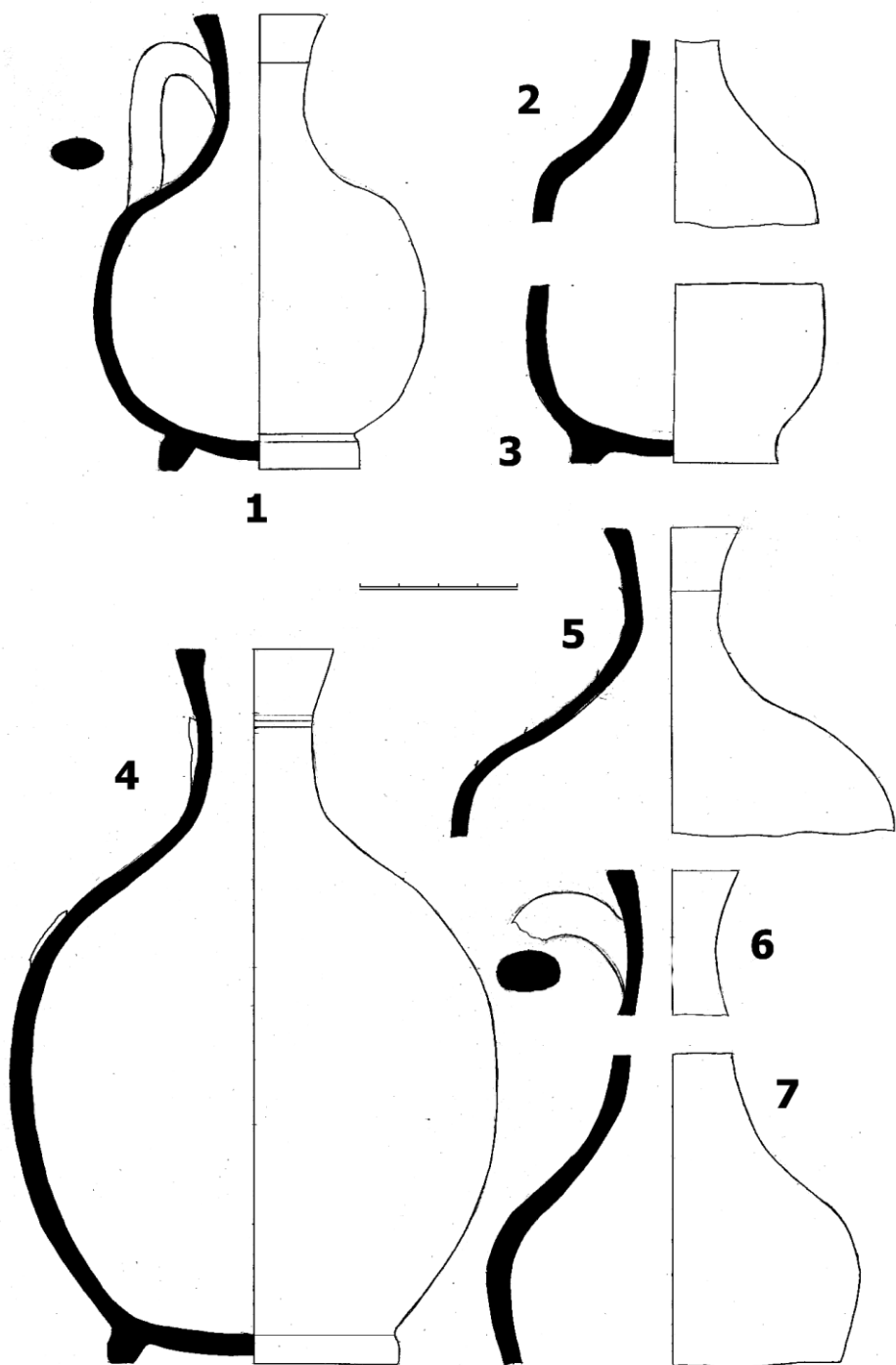


Fig. 5 - Grey ware lekythoi (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

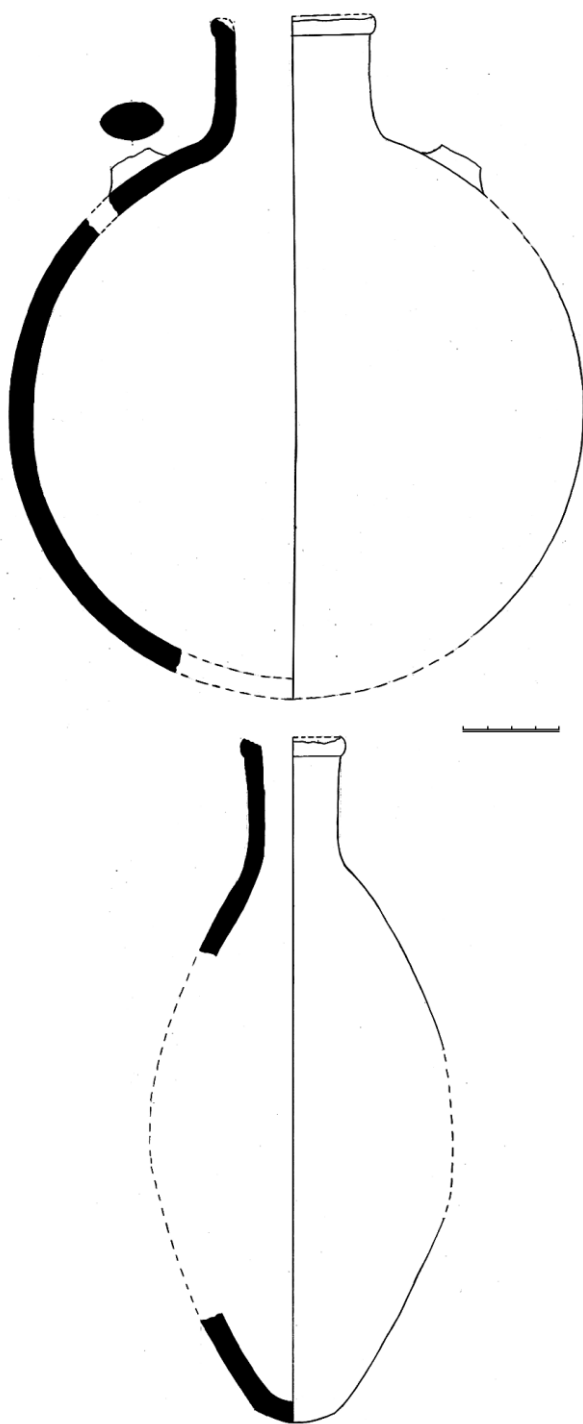


Fig. 6 - Rare shape: flask (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

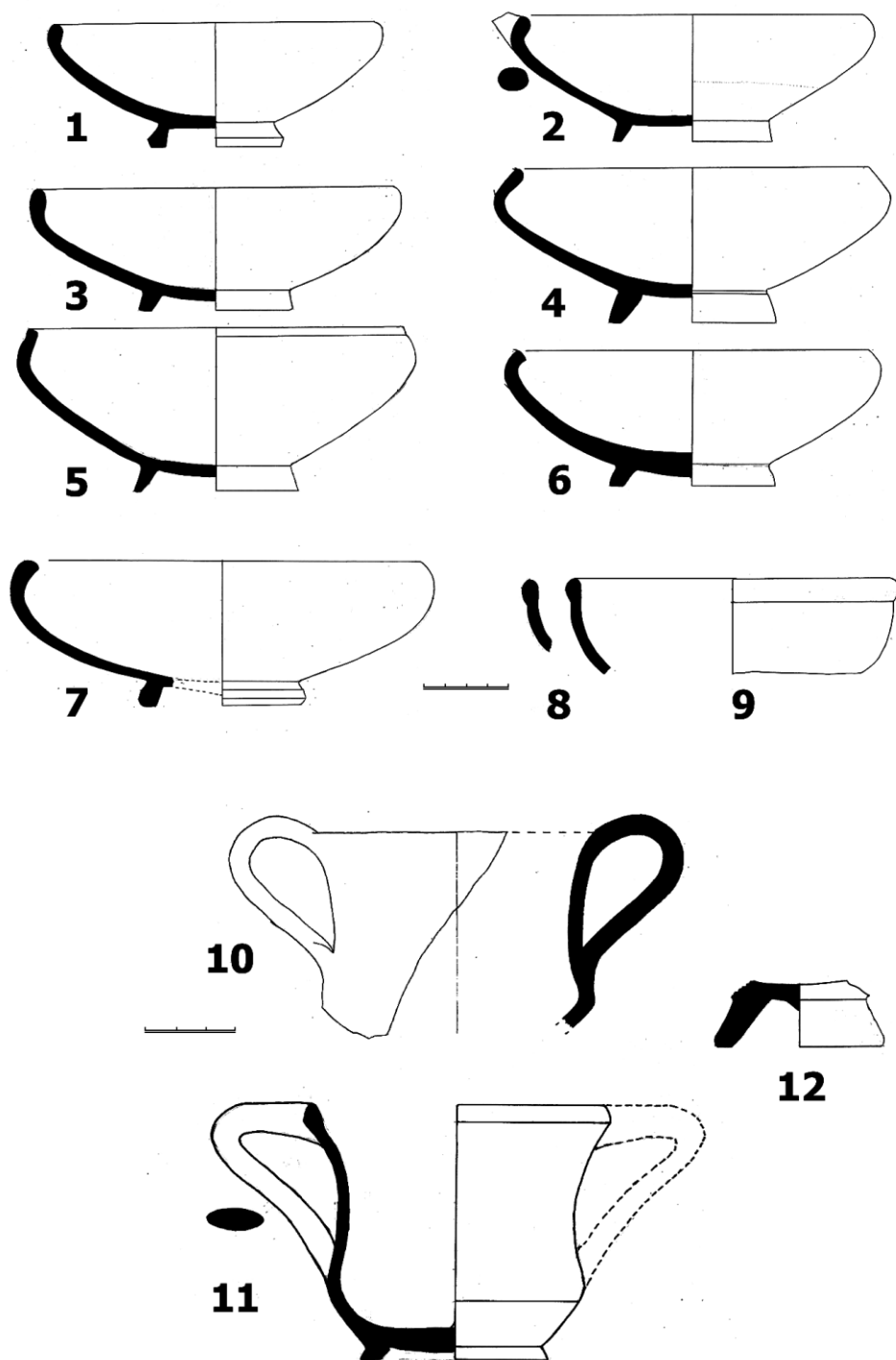


Fig. 7 - Grey ware open pottery (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).

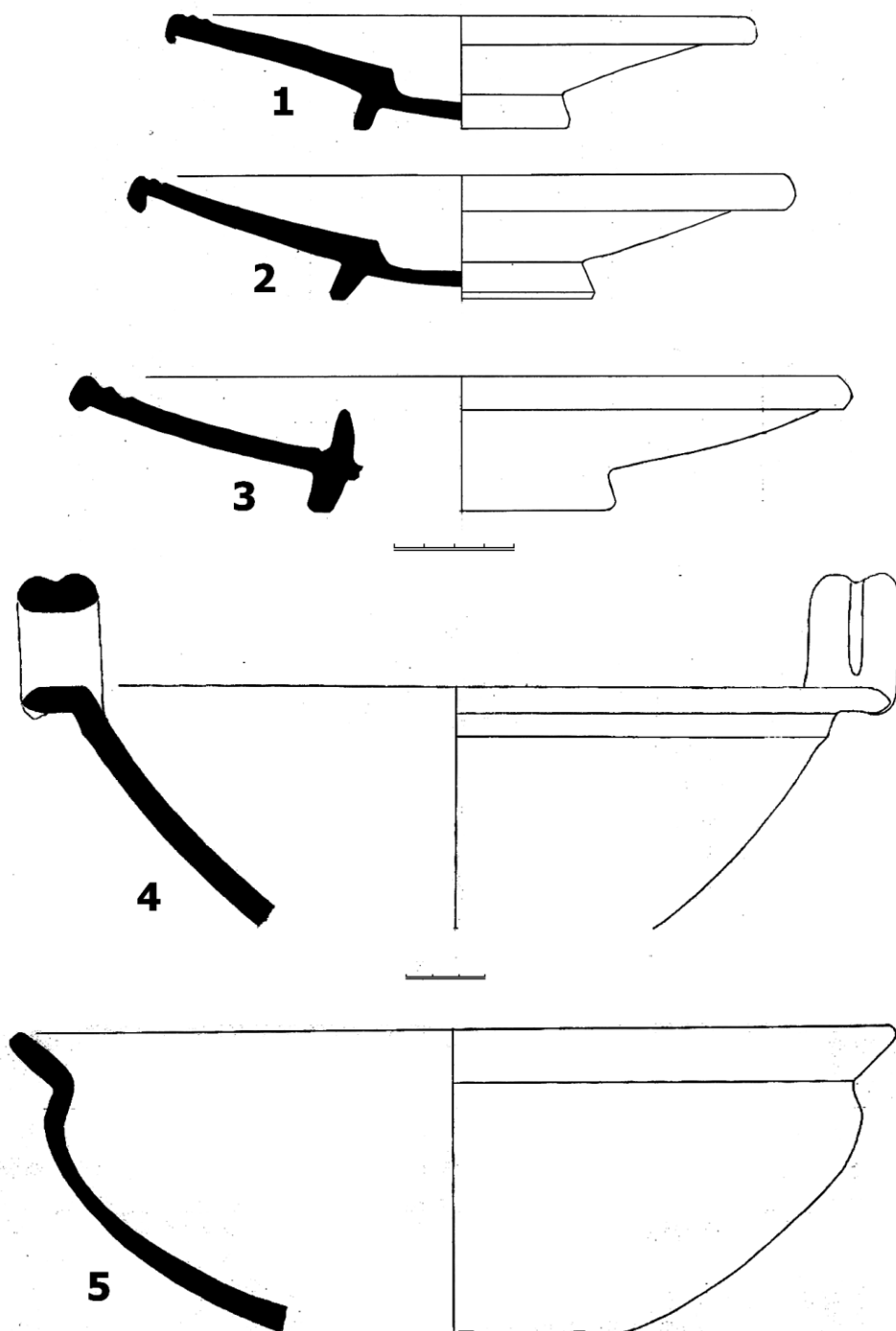


Fig. 8 - Grey ware fish-plates and rare open vessels (Drawn by S. Nemtsev).