

**ARCHAIC GREY POTTERY FROM APOLLONIA
(LATE 7th-6th CENTURY B.C.).
OCCURRENCE, ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION IN THRACE**
Abstract

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The intensive archaeological investigations at Apollonia Pontica during the last fifteen years significantly changed our ideas about the origin and the time of the first appearance of the grey monochrome pottery which was already the hallmark of Late Iron Age Thrace. Judging by the associated East Greek painted vessels, its first appearance along the Thracian coast can now be dated to the time of foundation of the colony (last quarter of the 7th century B.C.). The so far discovered vessels show that, soon after, they became the main type of everyday pottery and were intensively used during the entire 6th century B.C.

Several technological groups have been distinguished that display certain pottery skills proceeding from established main recipes, also current in the 6th century B.C.

Vessel shapes display morphological elements that betray influence or direct contacts with Aeolis and the adjacent islands, with Ionia and, possibly, with inland Anatolia (Phrygia). Several specimens of „Etruscan *Bucchero*“ were also identified among the pottery finds.

The multiple connections revealed show that the development of the Apollonia grey pottery assemblage was a complex amalgamation of various factors, different in nature and intensity, the influence of which probably continued during the entire 6th century B.C. Apollonian pottery offers the opportunity of tracing back the early (archaic) features of the grey monochrome ware, as well as their fading away at the transition from the 6th to the 5th century B.C. Thus, the initial repertoire of vessel shapes can be defined and its development during the Classical period can be traced.

On the other hand, the early occurrence of this pottery along the eastern Thracian coast points out to the major role of Apollonia in its further distribution

inland. Its influence can be plotted within an approximately 100 km-wide area south of the Balkan Range. The occurrence of grey monochrome vessels together with Archaic Greek painted pottery in different types of archaeological sites hints at a possible transfer of the colonial model inland.