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**THE NEW FIND OF A BRONZE COIN OF KERKINITIS IN THE MIDDLE  
DNEIPER UKRAINE (HORODYSCHIE DISTRICT, CHERKASY REGION,  
UKRAINE)**

*- Abstract -*

One of the most interesting and mysterious pages in Ukrainian history is the ancient period, especially the period of interaction between the Hellenistic states of the northern Black Sea area and the population of the Middle Dnieper Ukraine (the middle of the fourth century BC - the middle of the third century BC). During those years, the first stage of the Hellenic period of the Greek colonies in the northern Black Sea area took place. It was characterized by a revival of the economic life, especially by the development of the trade with the local population and with the cities (Greek cities and colonies).

In recent years, publications by domestic and foreign scholars pointed to numerous finds of coins in the settlements from the Scythian period, in the forest-steppe zone, even findings of coin hoards. Our article is dedicated to the find of a bronze coin minted in the Kerkinitis, in the end of the fourth at the beginning of the third century BC, in the Scythian settlement near the village of Vyazivok, Horodyshe district, Cherkasy region, in the upper part of the river Vilshanka, during the fall of 2019. The find of the coin of Kerkinitis in a settlement of the Scythian period, that was located at more than 600 kms away from the then Kerkinitis and at 350 kms from the ancient Greek colony of Olbia, may testify about the spread of the northern Black Sea colonies' coins to the Middle Dnieper, in the first half of the fourth century BC. Besides, it can point to the connection between the inhabitants of the forest-steppe zone with the Greeks from the northern Black Sea region.

*Keywords:* Black Sea region; Pontic Greek polis; Kerkinitis; coin.

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### Introduction

One of the most interesting and mysterious pages in Ukrainian history is the ancient period, especially the period of interaction between the Hellenistic states of the northern Black Sea area and the population of the Middle Dnieper Ukraine (the middle of the fourth century BC - the middle of the third century BC).

During those years, the first stage of the Hellenic period of the Greek colonies in the northern Black Sea area took place. It was characterized by a revival of the economic life, especially by the development of the trade with the local population and with the cities (Greek cities and colonies).

### The Problem Statement

In recent decades, with the proliferation of metal detectors in Ukraine, the number of coins found from different historical periods, including those of ancient Greece and its colonies, has significantly increased. Unfortunately, not always scientists receive information about similar finds, that not only that are kept in private collections, instead of being in museum collections, but sometimes even disappear forever for the historical research. However, sometimes, researchers get the necessary information about such findings, which makes it possible to bring them into scientific circulation and considerably expand the source base of the historical researches<sup>1</sup>.

### Research Analyses

It is known that “the steppe Scythians and the population of the of East European Forest-Steppe region, in the Scythian epoch, during the VII - III centuries BC, had close economic relations with the Hellenic world of the Northern Black Sea region”<sup>2</sup>. Nevertheless, historiography does not have a clearly formulated concept of

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<sup>1</sup> Kotsur, V. (2017). Istoriohrafiiya ukrayins'koho skarboznavstva. [Historiography of the Ukrainian numismatics]. *The Ukrainian Numismatic Annual*. (1). P. 15-32. [https://doi: 10.5281/zenodo.1291720](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1291720)

<sup>2</sup> Skoryy, S. & Zimovets, R. (2014). K probleme tovarno-denezhnykh otnosheniy u naseleniya Vostochnoyevropeyskoy Lesostepi v skifskuyu epokhu. *Naukovi zapysky Kirovohrads'koho derzhavnogo pedahohichnoho universytetu imeni Volodymyra Vynnychenka. Seriya: Istorychni nauky*. 21. P. 141-156. P.141.

trade relations between the inhabitants of the Middle Dnieper Ukraine and the Greek colonies of the northern Black Sea region. Mostly, it is indicated the existence of commodity exchange operations. The researchers point out that, “unlike the trade with the Greek centers of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, like the domestic trade, it remained mainly a natural exchange”<sup>3</sup>. Scientists tried to decide whether there was any common equivalent in such trade, especially since the fourth century BC, when there was a significant increase in the Greek-barbarian trade<sup>4</sup>. It has been suggested that the role of monetary equivalent could be played by bronze arrowheads or even by “barbarian farming products, such as cattle or hides”<sup>5</sup>.

However, in recent years, there are publications by domestic and foreign scholars<sup>6</sup>, pointing to the numerous finds of coins in the settlements of the Scythian era, in the forest-steppe zone, even to the findings of coin hoards<sup>7</sup>. We completely support the thesis issued by the Ukrainian archaeologists S. Skoryy and R. Zymovets, that coin finds “in settlements of the Scythian time, including in the cultural stratum and in a fairly representative number, are unambiguously indicating that they were used as money by the local population during payment operations, for goods or any

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<sup>3</sup> Antichnyye gosudarstva Severnogo Prichernomor'ya. Pod red. G.A. Koshelenko, I.T. Kruglikovoy, B.C. Dolgorukova. M. 1984. P.183.

URL <http://www.sno.pro1.ru/lib/agsp/10.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Hrakov B.N. Skify. Kyiv: AN URSSR. 1947. 96 s. P.41-53.

<sup>5</sup> Antichnyye gosudarstva Severnogo Prichernomor'ya //Pod red. G.A. Koshelenko, I.T. Kruglikovoy, B.C. Dolgorukova. M., 1984. P.183.

URL <http://www.sno.pro1.ru/lib/agsp/10.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Skoryy, S., & Zimovets, R. (2014). K probleme tovarno-denezhnykh otnosheniy u naseleniya Vostochnoyevropeyskoy Lesostepi v skifskuyu epokhu. *Naukovi zapysky Kirovohrads'koho derzhavnogo pedahohichnoho universytetu imeni Volodymyra Vynnychenka*. Seriya: Istorychni nauky. 21. P.141-156; Stolba, V. (2019). Images with Meaning: Early Hellenistic Coin Typology of Olbia Pontike. in: V. Cojocar et al. (eds.). *Advances in Ancient Black Sea Studies: Historiography, Archaeology and Religion*. Cluj-Napoca. P. 523-541.

<sup>7</sup> Shestopal, A.V. (2007). *Skarby Cherkashchyny*. Cherkasy: Vyd. Androshchuk P.S., 120 p.; Mielczarek, M., & Orlyk, V. (2019). New find of Olbian coins. Tarashcha district, Kyiv region, Ukraine. *Skhidnoevropeyskyi Istorychnyi Visnyk [East European Historical Bulletin]*. 13. P. 33-39. DOI: 10.24919/2519-058x.13.190763; Orlyk, V., Kotsur, V., & Tsyganenko, L. (2019). Klad ol'viyskikh monet “borisfenov”, naydennyi v Gorodishchenskom rayone Cherkasskoy oblasti vesnoy 2018 goda. *Acta Archaeologica Lodziensia*. 65. P. 37-48.

other services, with the Greeks”<sup>8</sup>. Yes, indeed, coin finds are “relics of internal and external trade of those times”<sup>9</sup>. Using materials from the Ukrainian Internet resource – Violity <sup>10</sup> and information from one of the “treasure hunters”, the authors managed to get information about the unique discovery of an antique Kerkinitis coin on the territory of Cherkassy region. This find is important for studying aspects of the ancient population history in the Middle Dnieper Ukraine and also for the understanding of the coins production in the ancient city of Kerkinitis.

### Statement of the basic material

We were informed about one such accidental finding, extremely important for understanding the processes in the Middle Dnieper region during the first half of the third century BC, by a resident of Cherkasy region. According to his testimony, he personally discovered an antique copper coin, in September 2019, near the village of Viazivok, Horodyshche district, Cherkasy region, in the upper part of the river Vilshanka. (Fig.1). Horodyshche district of Cherkasy region is located in the central forest-steppe part of Ukraine, in the basin of the right tributary of the Dnieper River, Vilshanka. According to the Cherkasy Regional Archaeological Inspection, “1,150 archeological monuments, including: 4 hillforts, 179 settlements, 3 soil burial grounds, 105 separate mounds and 65 mound groups have been taken into account and protected by the state”<sup>11</sup>. Among these groups of archaeological landmarks, a considerable part belong to the Scythian time, in particular, hillforts, settlements and mounds. According to the Cherkasy Regional Archaeological Inspectorate, there are 2 multilayered settlements near the indicated village<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Skoryy, S., & Zimovets, R. (2014). K probleme tovarno-denezhnykh otnosheniy u naseleniya Vostochnoyevropeyskoy Lesostepi v skifskuyu epokhu. *Naukovi zapysky Kirovohrads'koho derzhavnogo pedahohichnoho universytetu imeni Volodymyra Vynnychenka. Seriya: Istorychni nauky*. 21. P. 145.

<sup>9</sup> Kotlyar, M. F. (1971). *Hroshovyy obih na terytoriyi Ukrayiny doby feodalizmu*. K.: Nauk. dumka. P. 65.

<sup>10</sup> URL <https://auction.violity.com/>.

<sup>11</sup> Neradenko, T.M. (2016). *Slovnnyk-dovidnyk z arkheolohiyi Cherkashchyny: naukovodovidkove krayeznavche vydannya*. Cherkasy: FOP Chabanenko YU.A. P. 102.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



Fig.1

According to the information given to us, the coin was found on a multilayered settlement that existed in Scythian times. In this settlement, the respondent had previously found some arrowheads from the VI-IV centuries BC (Fig. 2) and other metal objects, using a metal detector.



Fig.2. Without scale (Photo from the online auction Violity)

However, unfortunately, the photos of most of these items were not provided to us for a detailed analysis. The coin, which was found in a settlement of Scythian times, near the village of Vyazivok, is a copper dichalkon (Fig. 3), minted in the Greek colony of Kerkinitis (on the place of the present-day Yevpatoria).

Coins of this type belong to the latest and the most numerous series of coins minted in Kerkinitis. Today, historiography has no consensus on determining the chronology of the coinage in Kerkinitis<sup>13</sup>. This also applies to the type of coin found near the village of Vyazivok. According to A. Zograf, this type of coin was minted in the first half of the third century BC; P. Karishkovsky suggested that the last series of Kerkinitis coins “refers to the second half of the third century BC”<sup>14</sup>. V. Stolba thinks it's an emission “dated in the late fourth century BC”<sup>15</sup>. V. Anokhin<sup>16</sup> and V. Kutaysov<sup>17</sup> attribute the coin to the first decade of the 3rd century BC”<sup>18</sup>. But, in fact, this is where the similarity of the two scientists' views on the question of emission ends. The findings pertaining to the last series of the Kerkinitis coin mostly belong to a small geography, limited by their area of circulation. In particular, they are most spread within the Chersonesus polis, as well as in the area of Kerkinitis, the Chaika settlement, at Saky and Chersonesus<sup>19</sup>. Finds of such coins are also known in Olbia and in the territory of the Olbian khôra<sup>20</sup>. The coin described in our article is the first one discovered far beyond the circulation region of these coins.

The author had the opportunity to study the coin in details, personally.

<sup>13</sup> Stolba, V.F. (1989). Yeshche raz o kerkinitidskikh monetakh II-III vv. do n. e. Drevneye Prichernomor'ye. Chteniya pamyati prof. P.O. Karyshkovskogo: Tez. dokl. konf. Odessa. P. 49-50.

<sup>14</sup> Karyshkovskiy, P.S. (1953). Yeshche raz o knige A. N. Zografa “Antichnyye monety”. *Vestnik drevney istorii*. 1 (43). P.108.

<sup>15</sup> Stolba, Vladimir F. (2007). The Numismatics of Chersonesos and Kerkinitis as Evidence of Greek and Barbarian Interrelations in Western Tauris. *Une koinè pontique. Cités grecques, sociétés indigènes et empires mondiaux sur le littoral nord de la mer Noire (VIIe s. a. C. – IIIe s. p. C.)*. Ed. by A. Bresson [et al.]. Bordeaux. P.91.

<sup>16</sup> Anokhin, V.A. (2011). *Antichnyye monety Severnogo Prichernomor'ya*. Kyiv: Stilos. P. 100.

<sup>17</sup> Kutaysov V. A. Antichnyy polis Kerkinitida. *Materialy k arkhologicheskoy karte Kryma*. Vyp. XII. Simferopol'. 2013. 400 s. (P.139).

<sup>18</sup> Kutaysov, V. A. *Antichnyy gorod Kerkinitida, VI-II vv. do n. e.* AN USSR, In-t arkhologii. Kyiv: Nauk. dumka. 1990. P.155.

<sup>19</sup> Kutaysov V. A. Antichnyy polis Kerkinitida. *Materialy k arkhologicheskoy karte Kryma*. Vyp. XII. Simferopol'. 2013. P.139.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.



Fig.3. Without scale.

Obv.: A Scythian is sitting on a rock with an axe; he is turned to the left. On the left - < KEPKI >

Rev.: A horse is turned to the left; below, - ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙ<...>

Wt.: 6.42 g., diam. 20 mm., die axis 1. Technique Struck

There is no consensus in historiography about the iconography of this coin, in particular about the identification of the seated male figure with a beard. For example, G. Friedlander, who introduced into the scientific circulation the Kerkinitis coin (including the type of coin we studied), believed that the coin depicted a deity or a hero. The scientist pointed to the similarity of this figure with the images of Neptune “Nettuno” and Jupiter Labraday “Giove Labrandaeus”<sup>21</sup>. G. Spassky rejected such ideas, believing that the coin depicts a seated male figure “of an unknown to us pagan deity or hero, and not Neptune or Hercules, and even less Jupiter”<sup>22</sup>. Without being clearer about the identification of the seated male figure, the researcher nevertheless drew attention to the clothing of this figure, noting that “this figure is dressed in Scythian style”<sup>23</sup>. P. Burachkov emphasized that “we

<sup>21</sup> Friedlaender G. Kerlcine citta del Chersoneso Táurico introdotta nella serie mumismatica. *Annali dell' Istituto di corrispondenza archeologica*. 1845. N 16. P. 234.

URL

[https://arachne.uni-koeln.de/arachne/index.php?view%5Blayout%5D=buch\\_item&search%5Bconstraints%5D%5Bbuch%5D%5Balias%5D=AnnaliIstitutoCorrispondenzaArcheologica1844vol16&search%5Bmatch%5D=exact](https://arachne.uni-koeln.de/arachne/index.php?view%5Blayout%5D=buch_item&search%5Bconstraints%5D%5Bbuch%5D%5Balias%5D=AnnaliIstitutoCorrispondenzaArcheologica1844vol16&search%5Bmatch%5D=exact)

<sup>22</sup> Spasskiy G.I. O mestopolozhenii drevnego goroda Karkinita i ob yego monetakh. *ZOOID*. 2. 1848. P.20-35. P.32.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

hesitate in recognizing the person sitting on the Kerkinitis coins for the Scythian warrior<sup>24</sup>. Almost ten years after this publication, the same author described this image as “Male figure with a beard, sitting on the back of a defeated enemy”<sup>25</sup>. P. Burachkov suggested that coins “with a picture of a seated figure with a Scythian axe in his hand and a horse on the back side, are uncharacteristic for Hellenic coins, therefore they were intended for the people that were alien to the worship of the Hellenic gods”<sup>26</sup>. O. Oreshnikov also spoke very carefully about this image. Initially, the well-known numismatist described the coin as it follows: “The bearded figure of a man sitting on a rock to the left, leaning his left hand on the rock and holding a rod in his right hand”<sup>27</sup>. One of the variants of interpretation of this figure, according to O. Oreshnikov, could be “the river deity of Kerkinitis, like other deities of the rivers, depicted on many coins of the ancient world”<sup>28</sup>. It is true that later, at the meeting of the Moscow Numismatic Society, on March 13, 1906, O. Oreshnikov, in his report “About the image of Scythian on the coins of Kerkinitis”, changed his mind. The reason was a gold belt set found in one of the mounds in Poltava Region, which was purchased by the Historical Museum (today – The State Historical Museum in Moscow). O. Oreshnikov examined all the nine plates of this set, which were made using the same die and which depict “the figure of a seated barbarian (probably Scythian or Sarmatian), which had some similar features with the image from the coins: figures on the coin and those on the plates are dressed in short caftans, have quivers with bows, sit on low seats and both hold an object in their right hand, that has, on the plates, a certain form of some kind of weapon resembling a pickaxe”<sup>29</sup>. All this allowed him to change his previous opinion: “the speaker came to the conclusion that the figure on the Kerkinitis coins is not a river deity, but probably a local resident in an aboriginal costume”<sup>30</sup>. However, even at

<sup>24</sup> Burachkov P.O. O mestopolozhenii drevnego goroda Karkinita i o monetakh, yemu prinadlezhashchikh. *ZOOID*. IX. 1875. P.131.

<sup>25</sup> Burachkov, P. Obshchiy katalog monet, prinadlezhashchikh ellinskim koloniyam, sushchestvovavshim v drevnosti na severnom beregu Chernogo morya, v predelakh nyneshney Yuzhnoy Rossii: Sost. po monetam, prinadlezhavshim sobstvennomu sobraniyu i otchasti po ris. iz dr. sobraniy P. Burachkov. CH. 1. Odessa: tip. A. Shul'tse. 1884. P.98.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. P.99.

<sup>27</sup> Oreshnikov A.V. *Materialy po drevney numizmatike chernomorskogo poberezh'ya*. Moskva. Tipografiya O.O. Gerbeka. 1892. P.8.

URL <http://elar.uniyar.ac.ru/jspui/handle/123456789/2336>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. P. 9.

<sup>29</sup> Deyatel'nost' Moskovskogo numizmaticheskogo obshchestva s 1905 po 1911 god po otchetam sekretarya obshchestva S.I. Chizhova. *Numizmaticheskij sbornik*. 1. 1911. Moscow. P. 630.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.



the end of the twentieth century, there remained researchers who did not dare to fully interpret the male figure depicted on these coins. So, in particular, in the description of this type of coins from the British Museum collection, the collectors, as in the first half of the nineteenth century, indicate “Bearded figure seated 1. on rocks holding axe (or dolphin-tipped sceptre); to 1., KEPKI”<sup>31</sup>.

For the first time in historiography, B. Koehne clearly articulated the identification of the seated male image on the Kerkinitis coin, which we are investigating. He provided this description of it: “A Scythian is sitting on a rock, on which he leans with his left hand. He has a beard, he is wearing a short tunic, and in his right hand is an axe”<sup>32</sup>. The hypothesis of B. Koehne was followed by G. Alekseev<sup>33</sup> and A. Bert'ye-Delagard. The latter supplemented it by pointing out that “the sitting figure, not unreasonably, can be considered the image of a Scythian; this is determined by clothing and weapons”<sup>34</sup>. Subsequent generations of numismats have convincingly proved the correctness of B. Koehne's hypothesis. Thus, in particular, A. Zograf said that, on the coin, it is depicted, “sitting on a rock, a Scythian in an open caftan, without a collar, similar to those in which the Scythians are dressed on the Vase from the Kul-Oba”<sup>35</sup>. L. Medvedeva fully supported this argument<sup>36</sup>. V. Stolba practically repeats O. Oreshnikov's argumentation made at the meeting of the Moscow Numismatic Society, on March 13, 1906, adding photos of the plates described by the Oreshnikov. Actually, we can see an almost identical image of the Scythian on this series of Kerkinitis coins and on the gold jewelry of the

<sup>31</sup> *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*. (1993). Vol. IX. The British Museum. Part 1: The Black Sea. First edition. London: British Museum Press. Pl. XXVIII. P. 695.

<sup>32</sup> Koehne, B. (1857). *Opisanie muzeuma pokojnago knjazja Vasilija Viktoroviča Kočubeja sost. po ego rukopisnomu katalogu i izslėdovanija ob istorii i numizmatike grečeskih poselenij v Rossii, ravno kak Carstv: Pontijskago i Bosfora Kimmerijskago*. Tipogr. zagotavl. gos. bumag, 452 p. P.110.

URL: <https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5Qadu2bW11fWR88Cxjys-16xqDS->

[vg8vLmbD3Md1SgF7DWjVwOIE0kUduqwxdOJiaGSWoFvQIEiK1h36sMXKek5AxdUshNQUU36l1gJPGWj\\_AmPvnwCDpg2SKdMvr1bpbtkjBa1NDqUxuws\\_TZMQbMUrR8seGSweTBCCm5At6K35J6CK66jU8Jfkv\\_0e0Ee12ELZqVaVHEOz6o-JbcDKWZ0edXa\\_rOfORRAM7l-9SfT955m\\_Kzg2M1g5Oc-R1htr\\_oc3Mk2i1GM-IXyJ2YAHairDpJz-dWBppUozIKzMO8GXXslA5zYI](https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5Qadu2bW11fWR88Cxjys-16xqDS-vg8vLmbD3Md1SgF7DWjVwOIE0kUduqwxdOJiaGSWoFvQIEiK1h36sMXKek5AxdUshNQUU36l1gJPGWj_AmPvnwCDpg2SKdMvr1bpbtkjBa1NDqUxuws_TZMQbMUrR8seGSweTBCCm5At6K35J6CK66jU8Jfkv_0e0Ee12ELZqVaVHEOz6o-JbcDKWZ0edXa_rOfORRAM7l-9SfT955m_Kzg2M1g5Oc-R1htr_oc3Mk2i1GM-IXyJ2YAHairDpJz-dWBppUozIKzMO8GXXslA5zYI)

<sup>33</sup> Alexeieff G. *Notice sur une médaille antique inedité ainsi que sur deux autres tres rares de Pharzoios et de Kerkinitis*. Dresden. 1870. 15 p. 1 pi.

<sup>34</sup> Bert'ye-Delagard A.L. *Monetnyye novosti gorodov Tavridy. Zapiski Odesskogo obshchestva istorii i drevnostey (ZOOID)*. T.30. 1912. P.39-54. P.40.

<sup>35</sup> Zograf A. N. *Antichnyye monety. Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR*. M.: Izdvo AN SSSR. 1951. T. 16. P.161.

<sup>36</sup> Medvedeva L.I. *Monety Kerkinitidy. Numizmatika i epigrafika*. T. XIV. 1984. P. 43.

Scythian epoch: “However, the closest parallel to the coin type under discussion, both with regard to composition and chronology, is offered by nine gold belt plates which S. A. Mazaraki found in 1905, during the excavations in the burial mound near the village of Aksjutincy, in the province of Poltava” , and which is stored in the State Historical Museum in Moscow. The scientist points out that: “The plates show the barbarian sitting on a stool and turned to the left, similar to the one on our coin type; his long hair falls down to his shoulders, and his beard and moustache are pronounced. The Scythian is dressed in tight trousers and a caftan girded at the waist with a composed belt, from which a quiver and a bow case are suspended. Holding a rhyton in his left hand, the Scythian is resting on a sceptre-axe with a strongly turned up butt that is easily recognizable in his right hand, bent at the elbow”<sup>37</sup>. V. Kutaisov, having carried out a detailed analysis of the iconography of the sitting figure of the Scythian, including of the axes in his right hand, suggests that on the coin of Kerkitida is depicted “Kolaksai, the first mythical king of the Scythians, and, as it were, the founder of a layer of the Scythian military aristocracy ... With this interpretation, it becomes understandable the image of the horse on the obverse of the same coin. It is the solar hypostasis of Kolaksai, that is not only the ancestor of the Scythian kings, but also the embodiment of the Sun”<sup>38</sup>. Thus, in modern numismatics, the bearded male figure on the obverse of the coin should have been clearly and convincingly interpreted as a Scythian image.

This coin has a minting defect, as a result of which the coin has the lack of coinage at the obverse and reverse, and the crack at the brim of the flan. Such defects were typical for the technology of manual coinage, due to deformation of the lens-shaped planchet during the strike of the mintmaster on the upper die. Coins of this series were typical “extremely careless in most cases coinage, fuzzy prints, often shifted during the strike”<sup>39</sup>. All of these defects are present on the Kerkitida coin that was found near the village of Vyazivok. A detailed study of this coin allows the authors to confirm the conclusions of V. Kutaisov<sup>40</sup> and E. Turovsky<sup>41</sup>. The planchet for coins of this type were casted using a Sicilian technique. In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to some other characteristic features of the coin which

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Kutaisov V. A. Antichnyy polis Kerkitida. *Materialy k arkhologicheskoy karte Kryma*. Vyp. XII. Simferopol'. 2013. P.143-144.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. P.144.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. P.147.

<sup>41</sup> Turovskiy, Ye.YA. Nekotoryye aspekty istorii Khersonesskogo polisa (v svete dannykh numizmatiki). *Numizmaticheskiye chteniya Gosudarstvennogo Istoricheskogo muzeya 2016 goda*. Moskva. 22 i 23 noyabrya 2016 g. Materialy dokladov i soobshcheniy. M. 2016. P. 14.

was found near the village of Vyazivok. Thus, in particular, before the horse, at the end of the coin field, there is a kind of mounting, which could have arisen as a result of the overflow of the metal of the plancket at the edge of the die. This indicates the using of hot coining.

The minting defect does not allow us to classify the type of coin clearly, as there are two consecutive issues of this type of coins, that have such legends on the reverse: KAAΛIII and KAAΛIIIIO<sup>42</sup>.

### Discussion

The coin described by the author of this article is one of the few coin finds where information has been preserved for researchers of Numismatics and Ancient History, including researchers of the Hellenistic connections with the surrounding local Barbarian population. The author invites other scholars to collaborate on the problem of finds of ancient Greek coins in the Middle Dnieper region, as well as in more Western regions of Central Europe. (Author's e-mail: [v.m.orlik@gmail.com](mailto:v.m.orlik@gmail.com)).

### Conclusions

The find of the Kerkinitis coin near the village of Vyazivok of Horodyshche district, Cherkasy region, is the first discovery of a coin of this Greek colony far beyond the Greek area from the northern Black Sea. In addition, the discovery of this coin, as well as of the arrowheads that typologically correspond to the sixth-fourth centuries BC, indicate the existence of a Scythian settlement near the village of Vyazivok, for several centuries, particularly between the beginning of the sixth century and the early third century BC.

The settlement of the Scythian epoch near the village of Viazivok, where this coin was found, is located at more than 600 kms from the then Kerkinitis and at 350 kms from the ancient Greek colony of Olbia (near the nowadays village Parutyne, Mykolaiv region) (Fig.4).

The find of this coin, at a considerable distance from the minting place and from the area of distribution of ancient Greek coins, *in the first half of the third century BC*, may be the result of the trade relations of the population of this region with the Greek colonies in the northern Black Sea region. Perhaps those are the trade connections that Herodotus pointed out: "Above the Alazonians dwell the Scythians

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<sup>42</sup> Anokhin, V.A. (2011). *Antichnyye monety Severnogo Prichernomor'ya*. Kyiv: Stilos. P. 100, #617-618.

who till the ground, and these sow their corn not for food but to sell”<sup>43</sup> (Herodotus, 1890, Book 4: Melpomene: 17).

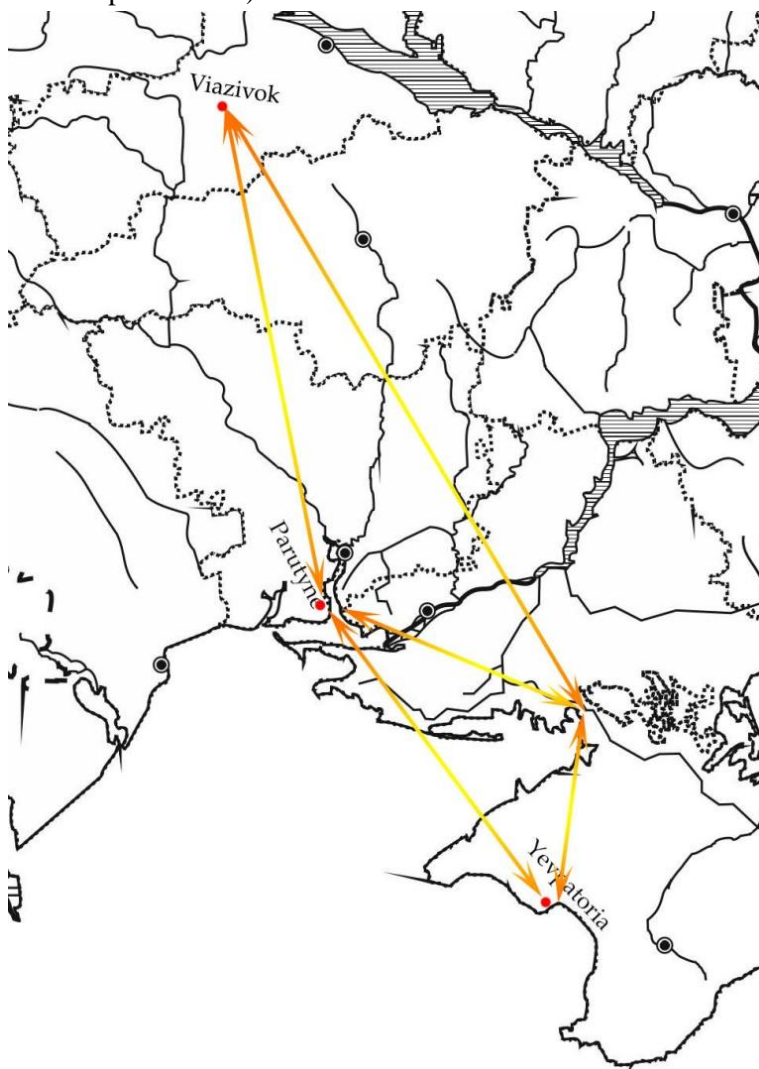


Fig.4

In addition, each new find of coins minted by the Pontic Greek cities in Central Europe is a significant “element” in the discussion on the “trade route from Black Sea to the Baltic sea”<sup>44</sup>.

<sup>43</sup> Herodotus Book 4: Melpomene. in: *The History of Herodotus*, parallel English/Greek. Tr. G. C. Macaulay. (1890). 17. URL <https://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hh/hh4010.htm>

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<sup>44</sup> Mielczarek, M., & Orlyk, V. (2019). New find of Olbian coins. Tarashcha district, Kyiv region, Ukraine. *Skhidnoevropeyskiy Istorychniy Visnyk [East European Historical Bulletin]*. 13. P. 35.

[ts%5D%5Bbuch%5D%5Balias%5D=AnnaliIstitutoCorrispondenzaArcheologica1844vol16&search%5Bmatch%5D=exact](https://www.sacred-texts.com/cla/hh/hh4010.htm)

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