

PECHENEG POTTERY FROM BULGARIA

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Abstract: *The article examines ceramics that were discovered during the archaeological investigations of medieval settlements and fortresses in Bulgaria and can be related to the Pechenegs. Two categories of ceramic dishes are registered – kitchenware and tableware. The most numerous is the first category of pottery, which was used to prepare food. Table ceramics are represented by a small amount of vessels that have no analogues among medieval ceramics from the Balkans. The earliest vessels are from Northeastern Bulgaria, where the earliest Pecheneg invasions took place, namely in the 30s–40s of the 11th century, and those from Southeastern Bulgaria can be dated to the middle or 2nd half of the 11th century.*

Keywords: *the Bulgarian lands during the Middle Byzantine period, pechenegs, pecheneg pottery.*

The 11th century was fateful for the Bulgarian lands. In the 11th century, the Pechenegs were finally pushed out of Uzi, pressed by the Cumans, towards Hungary and the Balkans. At the beginning of the century, they permanently settled north of the Danube river, occupying the entire Wallachian valley up to Pannonia and thus threatening the borders of Byzantium. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Constantine VIII (1025–1028), massive Pecheneg invasions south of the Danube began. In 1032, the Pechenegs again invaded today's Northern Bulgaria and devastated everything on their way between the Danube and Stara Planina. The Pecheneg invasions continued and in 1034, 1035, 1036, 1048 devastated Dobruja. In 1050 they defeated the Byzantine troops, often crossing Stara Planina and ravaging Thrace. In the middle of the 11th century, the Pechenegs reached Derkos (Durusu), near Constantinople. In 1053, the Pechenegs defeated a Byzantine army at Preslav and forced the Byzantine Empire to conclude a 30-year peace treaty, according to which they were granted lands for settlement in Paristrion,

and they undertook not to cross Stara Planina and not to attack Byzantine possessions. In 1087, Pechenegs, Hungarians and Cumans crossed the Danube and reached Eastern Thrace, ravaging everything in their path. Near Edirne they were defeated by the Byzantine army, the leader of the Pechenegs, Celgu and the former Hungarian king Solomon (1063–1074) were killed. The following year, the troops of the Byzantine emperor Alexius I Comnenus (1081–1118) were destroyed by the Pechenegs near Drastar (Silistra). It is in these territories from which the Pechenegs passed that archaeological materials are found, which are characteristic of the culture of the Pechenegs.

During the archaeological research of the Medieval fortresses and settlements on the territory of Bulgaria, a peculiar pottery category was discovered, which can be associated with the late Nomads, and the Pechenegs in particular. The study of this kind of pottery is limited to only two papers – the one analyzing Medieval cauldrons with inner ears by L. Doncheva-Petkova, who for the first time refers the 2nd type of caul-

drons to the Pechenegs, and the one on Nomadic pottery by D. Dimitrov (Дончева-Петкова 1971: 32 – 38; Димитров 1975: 48).

The work here presented proposes a typology only of whole ceramic shapes or those that have been restored. According to their purpose, we can differentiate two groups – kitchenware and tableware. The most numerous is the first category of pottery serving to prepare food. There are three categories of vessels according to their formal-typological features – cauldrons with inside lugs/ ears, saucepans and pots.

Cauldrons with inner lugs/ ears. Cauldrons with inner ears and hemispherical bottoms appear over a large territory, between the Rivers Don and Middle Danube in the course of the 11th – 13th centuries (Diaconu 1956: 421 – 439; Ștefan et al. 1967: 255; Altal 1984: 320 – 329; Spinei 1995: 57; Cursaru-Herle 2016: 107). The ethnic attribution of these vessels has been the subject of long-standing debate among researchers. According to V. Spinei, they originate from the area where the Saltovo – Mayaki culture spread (Spinei 1990: 330 – 331; Craiovan 2017: 566). Another scholar – I. Fodor, points out the similarities between the cauldrons with hemispherical bottoms and those with flat ones, associating the latter with the Saltovo – Mayaki culture. Some assume that the cauldrons with hemispherical bottoms were brought to Central European regions by the Hungarians in the 10th – 11th centuries (Fodor 1977: 339 – 340; Craiovan 2017: 566), and by the Bulgars to Southeastern Europe in the early 11th century (Fodor 1977: 340; Craiovan 2017: 566). For the first time in 1956, P. Diaconu attributed this type of vessels to the Pechenegs and hypothesized that they belonged to settled communities (Diaconu 1956: 428 – 429; Diaconu 1994, 155 – 156; Craiovan 2017: 566). According to him, they first appeared on the territory of today's Romania in the late 10th century, and in Dobrudzha they were present until the late 11th century (Diaconu 1994: 157; Craiovan 2017: 566). In Moldova they are known from the ear-

ly 11th century (Teodor 1963: 202; Teodor 1968: 262, 266) and were found until the 12th century. In Transylvania, the earliest ones date from the 2nd half of the 11th century, and appeared until the 13th century (Diaconu 1956: 428; Lukács 1984: 321, 324, 325; Craiovan 2017: 566). Some researchers suggest that the earliest cauldrons with inside ears were made by local potters for the needs of the Pechenegs. According to them, one of the evidences for this is the ornamentation on the cauldrons, which is also known from the local pottery (Diaconu 1956: 435; Teodor 1968: 197; Barischi 1974: 461 – 472). The vessels found in Capidava rarely bear traces of fire, which leads the researchers to think they served for water and dairy products (Florescu et al. 1958: 212). Five whole and 15 fragments of cauldrons were found there (Cursaru-Herle 2016: 107). S. Cursaru-Herle suggests the two types found in Capidava are from one and the same period – the 2nd half of the 10th century to the 2nd half of the 11th century (Cursaru-Herle 2016: 108).

All the fragments of cauldrons with inner ears published from the Bulgarian lands are only mouths – Krivina (Dimova 1966: 271 – 272; Wendel 1986: 44 – 145, taf. 44a-c.); Starmen, Ruse region, Preslav, Kaliakra, Pleven, and Gigen, Pleven region (Дончева-Петкова 1971: 32 – 38); Tsar Asen, Pazardzhik region (Димитров 1994, 105, n.b. 46 – 57); Garvan, Silistra region (Въжарова 1986: 39-40, fig. 366); the fortress near Odartsi, Dobrich region (Дончева-Петкова 1999: 68); Harlets, Vratsa region (Лука 2013: 633, fig. 8); Kladentsi, Dobrich region (Йотов, Атанасов 1998: 69 – 70); Kaliakra (Джингов 1981: 35 – 36, Plate VIII); Sliven (Radeva 1988: 48 – 49); Iskra, Plovdiv region (Иванов 2014: 49, fig. 2); and Okorsh, Silistra region (Atanasov et al. 2011: 226). The largest number of cauldron mouths was found in Pliska: north of the Palace church (Дончева-Петкова 1971: 23), the Palace Center/church (Шкорпил 1905: 302; Станчев 1960: 61; Джингов 1992: 109), the Small Palace (Станчев 1960: 61), Building D in the south-

eastern corner of the Small Palace (Атанасова 1967: 32, fig. 7), the chain buildings located north of the Brick Citadel (Дончева-Петкова 2003: 247), the citadel building next to the brick fence (Станчев 1955: 197, fig. 151), south of the grave of Karel Škorpil (Милчев 1983: 219, fig. 14; Григоров 2013: 66, fig. 4), south of the Northern gates (Балабанов 1992: Plate V), Eastern fortress wall (Василев 1970: 104 – 106, fig. 11), southwestern corner of the Inner Town (Дончева-Петкова 2015: fig. 23b, c, f, e, d), and the small wooden fortification in dwellings 2B, 7 and 8 (Георгиев и др. 2016: 639; Христова 2018: fig. 121, 2, 3).

To date, no attempt has been made in the Bulgarian archaeological literature for a typology and chronology of cauldrons with inner ears. In the present work, an attempt will be made for the typology and chronology of this type of ceramic vessels.

Type I. To the first type we refer the vessels of a biconical shape, which expand towards the base to become hemispherical. The mouths are of two main varieties of a Г-shaped profile. The type is represented by a completely restored vessel found in a building attached to the southern fortress wall of the Hisarlaka Fortress in Sliven (Радева 1988: 47 – 48, табло II2; Борисов 2002: 84 – 85, фиг. 64; Борисов, Шейлева 2002: 247, фиг. 1a; Борисов: 2012, 5, фиг. 1) (**fig. 1**). The vessel is of a bi-conical shape. The body slightly expands towards the bottom. Its mouth is of a Г-shaped profile and presents a wide horizontal rim. On the inside, under the mouth edge, there are two opposite ears – arched extensions with two vertical round holes each, which served to suspend the vessel. The bottom is convex of a hemispherical shape. The vessel has been made on a fast potter's wheel. The clay is mixed with a large amount of sand (Радева 1988: 47 – 48, табло II2; Борисов 2002: 84 – 85, фиг. 64; Борисов, Шейлева 2002: 247, фиг. 1a; Борисов: 2012, 5, фиг. 1). Similar vessels appeared in dwelling B 147 in Capidava (Flo-

rescu, Cheluță-Georgescu 1975: 84, fig. 7), 110 fragments were found during archaeological investigations of a settlement near Cunța, Romania, dated to the period of the 11th – 13th centuries (Urduzia 2015: 55, 57), and in Bešeňová, Slovakia (Habovštiak 1961: 457, Abb. 6, 10). A fragment of a cauldron was left in Grave No. 2 in the necropolis near Mănești, Romania, dated to the 11th – 13th centuries (Frînculeasa et al. 2018: 80, pl. 87, 8). The vessel is close to type IID2c according to the typology of M. Takács, who refers it to the 11th century, to the rule of the Árpáds (Takács 2010: 141, Abb. 4).

Type II. This type includes cauldrons with a cylindrical shape, a hemispherical bottom and ears for suspension on the inside. Vessels of this type are known from the archaeological research of Pliska (Димитров 1975: Table IV; Дончева-Петкова 1993: фиг. 7; Дончева-Петкова: 2015, фиг. 23a) and Kaliakra (Джингов 1981: Table VIII; Дончева-Петкова 2013, фиг. 3).

Four restored vessels are known from Pliska (Дончева-Петкова 1971: фиг. 3; Димитров 1975: табло IV; Дончева-Петкова 1993, фиг. 7; Дончева-Петкова 2015: фиг. 23a). The first cauldron, released by L. Doncheva-Petkova, lacks detailed information and description. (Дончева-Петкова 1971: фиг. 3). It is of a cylindrical shape, a hemispherical bottom, and has been made on a fast potter's wheel (**fig. 2**). There are ears for hanging in its inner side. Below the mouth it bears an ornament of incised concentric lines. A decoration of lines is also incised on the bottom (Дончева-Петкова 1971: фиг. 3).

Still another restored cauldron coming from Pliska was published by D. Dimitrov (Димитров 1975: Table IV₅). It is of a low cylindrical shape with a hemispherical bottom (Димитров 1975: 41). There are two extensions on the inside to attach to a rope. The outer surface is decorated with patterns of incised lines and bundles (**fig. 3**).

A third cauldron was also found during the researches of Pliska, now restored (Дончева-Петкова 1993: фиг. 7). It has been made of

well purified yellowish clay and the surface shows traces of grass. The whole vessel, outside and inside, is plastered with clay slip. Crossing X-shaped lines and a figure resembling a bird are scratched on the bottom before baking (Дончева 1993: 83) (**fig. 4**).

Still another cauldron was discovered during the archaeological excavations at Kaliakra. It is of a cylindrical shape, gradually expanding towards the bottom. The rim of the mouth is Г-shaped. On the inside there are two opposite ears for hanging. The outer surface is decorated with intersecting incised lines (**fig. 5**).

Type III. One whole vessel from Pliska belongs to this type. Its body is conical in shape with a wide, horizontally cut rim at the mouth. The bottom is hemispherical (**fig. 6**). An ornament resembling a swallow's tail has been incised below the mouth (Въжарова 1981: 55, fig. 26).

Type IV. We refer to this type a restored cauldron from Pliska (Дончева-Петкова 2015: фиг. 23). It is of Г-like profile, rounded walls and a hemispherical bottom. The vessel has been made on a fast potter's wheel. A linear incised decoration has been applied to the rim and below the mouth. On the inside, there are two oppositely positioned ears for suspension. The cauldron is 19.5 cm high; mouth diameter of 30 cm; body diameter of 28 cm; bottom diameter of 11 cm (**fig. 7**).

Saucepans. During the archaeological research of Sliven, one category of vessels was discovered, which some authors interpret as saucepans and attribute them to the Pechenegs (Радева 1988: 49; Борисов 2012: Drawing 1). According to their formal-typological features, two types are distinguished.

Type I. From the Bulgarian lands, only one vessel found in the Hisarlaka Fortress near Sliven has been published so far. It is of a cylindrical body; its walls narrow slightly towards the mouth, and are rounded towards the bottom. The rim of the mouth is slightly profiled outwards and forms a ledge, the upper part of which is decorated with wavy lines. There are two embossed

bands decorated with small pits below the mouth. The bottom is flat. The vessel likely had two vertical handles beginning from the mouth rim and reaching to the middle of the body. According to М. Радева, it can be dated to the 11th – 12th centuries (Радева 1988: 49, 57, таблю II2; Борисов 2002: 85, фиг. 65; 16) (**fig. 8**).

Type II. One vessel also from Sliven can be attributed to this type. It has a low cylindrical body that flows into a wide flat bottom. The mouth rim is cut straight and slightly widened in its upper part. There were probably two symmetrical handles. The vessel has been made on a fast potter's wheel (Радева 1988: 49) (**fig. 8**).

Both types I and II vessels have no analogues among the pottery known on the Balkans. They can be attributed to Late Nomads (Борисов 2012: Drawing 1) and bearing in mind the historical sources, according to which the Pechenegs settled in the vicinity of Sliven, these vessels can be dated to the 1040-s.

Pots. In the course the archaeological investigations of the Medieval settlements and fortresses in Northeastern Bulgaria, a kind of ceramic vessels (pots) were found dating mainly to the 1st half of the 11th century. According to their formal-typological features we can distinguish a couple of different types of them.

Type I. One whole vessel and one fragment belong to the type. Both of them have been made by hand. The whole pot is bi-conical in shape with a high sloping neck. The mouth rim is rounded and the bottom is flat. There is a handle near the mouth that reaches the most prominent part of the body. The handle is decorated with a flute on the outer side. The pot has been made of brown-red clay with organic impurities (Дончева-Петкова 1993: 250 – 251, фиг. 16). It is 0.091 m high and the mouth diameter is 0.84 m (Дончева-Петкова 1993: 250).

The fragment referable to this type comes probably from a bi-conical pot with a high sloping neck and a rounded mouth rim (Дончева-Петкова 1993: 250). It has been made of

grey-yellow clay with admixtures of sand and limestone particles. Its surface bears traces of burnt grass and straw.

The pots were found in the southern sector of the western fortress wall of Pliska, in a burned-out dugout. Two anonymous Byzantine Class B coins (1030/35–1042; Дончева-Петкова 1993: 251) were also found on the floor. The pots can be dated from 1030-s – 1040-s.

Type II. A pot found during the survey of the Pliska western fortress wall, sector north, belongs to this type (**fig. 9**). Its body is of an irregular spherical shape, with rough walls. The neck is short and the mouth is slightly inclined. The entire vessel from the mouth to the bottom is decorated with concave pits arranged in successive circles. The pot has been made by hand. Measures: height 5 cm, diameter at the mouth 4.5 cm (Антонова, Витлянов 1985: 70, Table VIII1). The pot has analogies from the Sarkel-Belaya Vezha Nomadic necropolis (Плетнева 1963: 109, 252 – 254, **fig. 25**; Дончева-Петкова 2003: 249), and from Dinogetia-Garvăn (Дончева-Петкова 2003: 249).

Type III. A pot from Tsar Asen village, Silistra region, belongs to the type. Its body is of an ovoid shape with a low cylindrical neck, which slightly curves outwards in the upper part (**fig. 10**). The mouth rim is thickened and slightly protruding. The bottom is flat. The walls on the outside and partly on the inside are smoothed. There are vertical and oblique polished stripes on the pot's body and shoulders. A stripe is formed in the upper half of the vessel by means of two incised lines. A central place in the field is occupied by nine arched figures, brought close to each other. Each arch contains an elongated embossed growth with a small pit over it. The triangles of the arches are filled with pits that form an isosceles triangle. The composition thus arranged is bounded above by a narrow horizontal border of incised oblique lines. The pot has been made on a fast potter's wheel (Димитров 1975: 48, **fig. V1, 2**).

Type IV. The body of the pot is hemispherical, with a flat bottom and a straight, slightly outwardly inclined mouth. It has been made by hand, with a rough surface (**fig. 11**). The pot fragment was found in a dug-in dwelling at the Courtyard, North of the Citadel Site in Pliska and then completely restored (Станилов, Инкова 2012: 381, **fig. 2**).

Type V. The pot was discovered during the archaeological research of the Medieval fortress at Tsar Asen (Йотов, Атанасов 1998: **fig. 52**). It has a hemispherical body, a flat bottom, a low neck and a slightly protruding mouth. The vessel has been made on a slow potter's wheel. The outside surface is decorated with concentric incised lines.

Type VI. The pot was discovered also in the Medieval fortress at Tsar Asen (Йотов, Атанасов 1998: **fig. 54**). It is of an ovoid body, a low neck and a slightly protruding mouth; its bottom is flat. The vessel has been made on a slow potter's wheel (**fig. 12**).

Trays of Odartsi type. Three well-preserved trays were found during the archaeological investigations of the Medieval settlement near Odartsi, Dobrich region (Дончева-Петкова 1999: 10; Дончева-Петкова 2013: **fig. 5**). They are of a spheroid body, with slightly narrowed walls towards the wide bottom. The mouth is also wide, with a rounded, most often thickened rim. The outer surface of walls displays an ornament of parallel lines, sometimes combined with a wavy band or inclined bundles (**fig. 13**). Their workmanship is rough. After baking, they have become predominantly tile-red or gray-black in colour (Дончева-Петкова 1999: 10).

Tableware

The group of tableware includes two vessels found in the Medieval settlement near Dyadovo village, Sliven region. According to B. Borisov's typology, they belong to Type XII (**fig. 14**). They represent shallow bowls with high, slightly convex shoulders, wide bottoms and three conical legs. Each bowl is supplied with

a vertical handle elliptical in cross-section, beginning from the mouth and reaching the bottom (Борисов 2002: 91, фиг. 69 ж, з). They have been made on a slow potter's wheel. The clay contains a small admixture of sand. After baking, the bowls have acquired an ocher-red and brown-red colour (Борисов 2002: 254).

Lids

Three lids were discovered during the study of a room next to the western fortress wall of Pliska. They are all round in shape, hollow on the inside, and with a cylindrical handle in the middle. In the upper part, the handles of the two lids are flat, and on one – slightly concave. All have been made by hand of grey-yellow and brown-red clay with organic impurities, and are different in size (Дончева-Петкова 1993: 253 – 254).

Conclusion

A large number of the discovered pottery comes from the archaeological investigations of the Medieval fortresses and settlements in Northeastern Bulgaria. Single vessels and fragments were found in Southeastern Bulgaria – the villages of Iskra and Dyadovo, and in Sliven. Pecheneg pottery known so far is mainly for food preparation – cauldrons with inside ears, pots and trays; a few refer to tableware. Probably the earliest vessels are from Northeastern Bulgaria, where the earliest Pecheneg invasions took place in 1030s and 1040s and those from Southeastern Bulgaria are dated to the middle or 2nd half of the 11th century. These conclusions can be made from the currently available data about the chronology of the Pecheneg invasions of today's Bulgarian territories.

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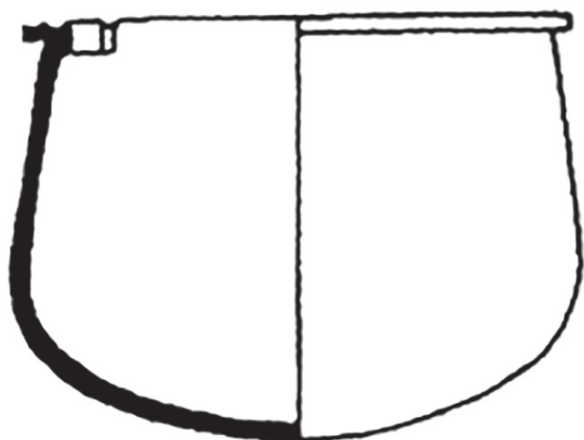


Fig. 1. *Cauldron with inside ears from Sliven*
(Борусов 2000, фиг. 1а)



Fig. 3. *Cauldron with inside ears from Pliska*
after (Димитров 1975: Table IV₅)



Fig. 2. *Cauldron with inside ears from Pliska* after (Дончева-Петкова 1971: фиг. 3)





Fig. 4. *Cauldron with inside ears from Pliska after (Дончева-Петкова 1993: фиг. 7)*



Fig. 5. *Cauldron with inside ears from Kaliakra after (Дончева-Петкова 2013: фиг. 3)*



Fig. 6. *Cauldron with inside ears from Pliska after (Въжарова 1981: 55, фиг. 26)*

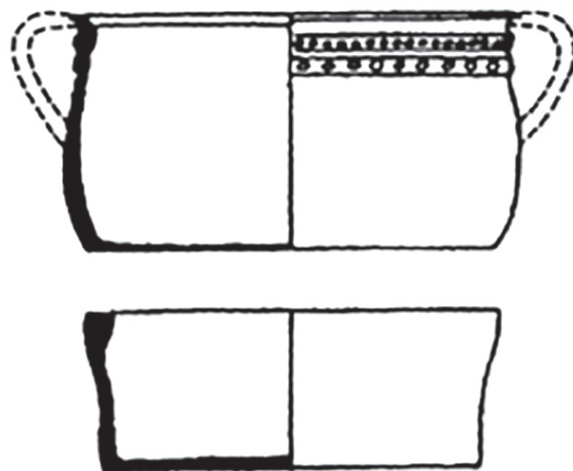
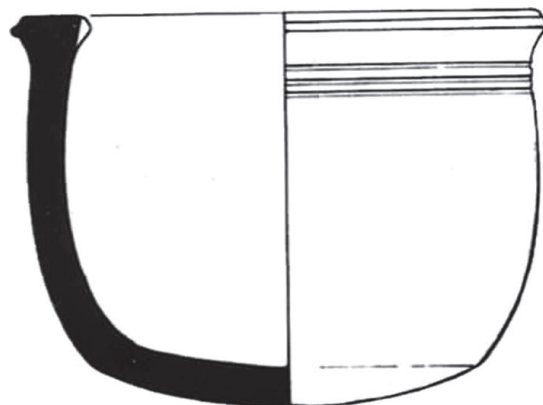


Fig. 8. *Ceramic saucepans Type I and Type II after (Борисов 2000: фиг. 16)*



Fig. 7. *Cauldrons with inside ears from Pliska after (Дончева-Петкова 2015: фиг. 23)*



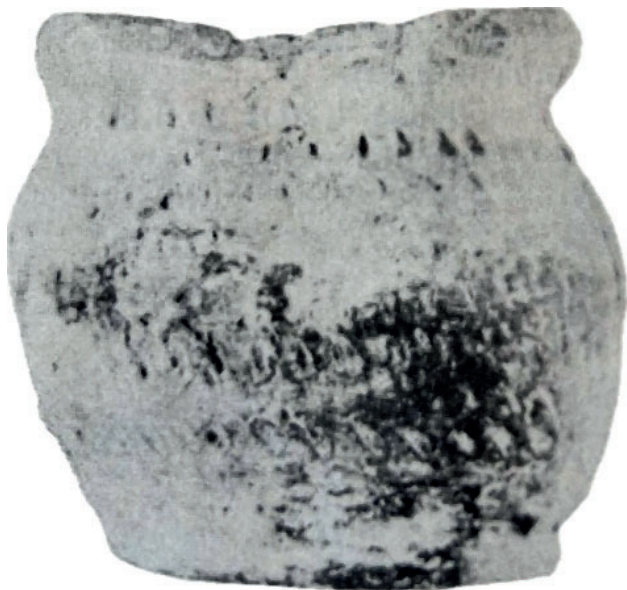


Fig. 9. Pot II Type from Pliska after
(Антонова, Витлянов 1985: фиг. VIII₁)



Fig. 10. Pot of Type III from Tsar Asen village
after (Димитров 1975: фиг. V₁)



Fig. 11. Pot of Type IV from Pliska
(Станислов, Инкова 2012: 381, фиг. 2)



Fig. 12. Pot of Type VI from Tsar Asen after
(Йотов, Атанасов 1998: фиг. 54)



Fig. 13. *Trays of Odartsi Type after (Дончева-Петкова 2013: фиг. 5)*



Fig. 14. *Table Ware (Борисов, Б. 2002, обр. 69 ж-з)*

ПЕЧЕНЕЖКА КЕРАМИКА ОТ БЪЛГАРИЯ

Росен Иванов, Румен Иванов

Резюме: При археологически проучвания на средновековни крепости и селища е открита специфична керамика, която може да се свърже с късните номади – печенезите. Известна е предимно от Североизточна България, но малко количество материали са регистрирани и от Централна и Югоизточна България. Предназначена е предимно за приготвяне на храна – котли с вътрешни уши, гърнета, тавички – и в много малка степен се свързва с трапезната керамика. Според формално-типологическите ѝ характеристики са обособени различни типове. Идентифицирани са четири типа котли с вътрешни уши, които са изработени от добре пречистена глина с примеси от органични и неорганични опоснители. Имат цилиндрична, биконична, конусовидна форма и полусферично дъно. Орнаментите са нанесени на външната повърхност и са само геометрични. Към кухненската керамика се отнасят и два типа тенджерки, които са открити в Сливен. Изработени са от добре пречистена глина с помощта на крачно грънчарско колело. Повечето типове от кухненската керамика са свързани с гърнетата, открити в Североизточна България. При проучванията в с. Одърци, Добричко, стават известни и тавички, изработени от глина. Към втората категория керамика (трапезната) са отнесени два съда, открити в средновековното селище при с. Дядово, Сливенско, които нямат паралели в известната до момента керамика.

Най-ранните съдове произхождат от Североизточна България, където са били и най-ранните печенежки нашествия – през 30-те – 40-те години на XI в., а тези от Югоизточна България могат да се датират към средата или втората половина на XI в.

Ключови думи: българските земи през средновизантийския период, печенеги, печенежка керамика.

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