

Alexander MINCHEV

FROM PROCNNESSOS TO ODESSOS: UNFINISHED ROMAN MARBLES FROM ODESSOS AND MARCIANOPOLIS (2nd-3rd c. AD)

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Alexander Minchev, MA
Ancient Art Department
Varna Museum of Archaeology
Boul. Maria Luisa No 41
9000 Varna, Bulgaria
e-mail: al_mincev@abv.bg

In the article several unfinished and semi-finished Roman period artifacts made of Proconnesian marble have been described and discussed. They were discovered in the ancient cities of Odessos and Marcianopolis (in Moesia Inferior) and have been dated to the 2nd-3rd c. AD. Among them are gabled sarcophagi, a fluted capital and two statues: of Heracles and the Thracian Horseman. These finds evidenced the mutual import by sea of pre-fabricated marbles as well as raw material – marble blocks from Proconnesian quarries to Odessos, where from some of the goods have been transferred by land deep inside the Province of Moesia Inferior.

KEYWORDS: Roman, marble, Proconnessos, Odessos, Marcianopolis, sarcophagi, capital, statues

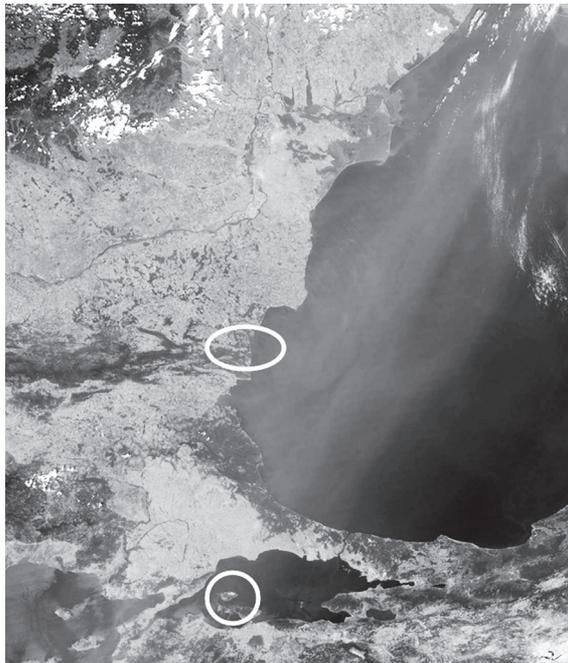
When in AD 15 Rome established a new Roman province on the Balkan Peninsula – that of Moesia, all ancient Greek cities (*appoikiiai*) on the Western Black Sea Coast situated north of the Balkan Range (Haemus), and their hinterlands were incorporated in too. Later in the 1st century AD (in AD 86), following the first Dacian invasion south of Danube, Domitian divided the province in two parts, and the Eastern one where all ports belonged became Moesia Inferior (IVANOV 1997, 477; MATEI-POPESCU 2010, 25-26 and bibl.).

One of the most advanced ancient cities in this new Roman administrative unit was Odessos (modern Var-

na, Bulgaria). The Greek *appoikia* emerged as one of the two main trade ports and supplying centers of the province. Some very experienced in stone-carving and art industry craftsmen, who were following a centuries-old local tradition also lived and worked in the city. (2003, 248-254; MINCHEV 2007, 331-351)

Soon after his successful second Dacian War in AD 106, Trajan ordered the establishing of a new Roman town in Moesia Inferior, located relatively close to Odessos (ca 27 km westwards from the littoral), and named it Marcianopolis (now Devnya) - after his sister Marcia or Marciana (GEROV 1975, 49-50 and bibl.).

Fig. 1 Satellite photograph of the region of Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara showing the location of Odessos (up) and Proconnesos (down) (after Google earth)



This was part of the Emperor's ambitious program for urbanization of the newly incorporated Balkan territories. The new town was built over the ruins of a small ancient Thracian settlement (MINCHEV 2004, 221-223) as a strategic center in the hinterland of the Danubian limes and was populated by local people of Thracian origin, immigrants from the Eastern provinces of the Empire and army veterans. The town was then given by the Emperor a "Greek type" of civil organization which was typical for the ancient semi-independent coastal cities. In the following decades, Marcianopolis developed in an important road and trade center of the region where also various crafts flourished, including the stone-carving (АНГЕЛОВ 1999, 27-36). The local craftsmen used in their work a lot of imported marble - just like those in Odessos, along with limestone coming from local quarries. Archaeological excavation in both ancient cities brought to light a number of fine stone works made by marble and some of them will be discussed in this article.

Over thirty years ago, John B. Ward-Perkins was first to point out to the international scholarly world the fact that in Roman time (mainly in 2nd-3rd c. AD), capitals of various types made of fine Proconnesian marble, have been imported to the ancient cities located on the Western Black Sea Coast. In his still valuable article "Nicomedia and the Marble Trade" (WARD-PERKINS 1980, 23-69), he listed and gave illustrations of several architectural units from that region and its immediate hinterland. Among them, there were several pieces from Odessos and Marcianopolis:

Corinthian and fluted capitals (called also "Palm-" or "Roman-Doric type") and a decorative pilaster-capital (WARD-PERKINS 1980, 53; 55-56, Nos.5; 14; 16-17). Ward-Perkins suggested that they were all imports, having been produced in Asia Minor workshops but the material, marble, came from quarries located on the Propontis Island of Proconnesos (now the Island of Marmara, Turkey). They were transported to the Black Sea by cargo ships to various ports, one of them being Odessos (fig.1).

His pioneer work has been followed by several later and recent studies on Roman capitals discovered in Bulgaria. They were written by Bulgarian archaeologists who published a number of new finds - various types of Roman capitals made of Proconnesian marble and extended a lot the short list made by Ward-Perkins (ПЕТРОВА, 1985 - Археология София, XXVII, 3, 15-25; ПЕТРОВА, 1990, 8-15; ПЕТРОВА, 1996, 45-51; ДИМИТРОВ, 2007, 90-182, etc.). On the other hand, during past ca forty years, the imports of sarcophagi made also of Proconnesian marble and discovered at various Roman sites all over Bulgaria have been described and/or discussed by several Bulgarian authors too, thus widening the topic of marble imports over the entire provinces of Moesia Inferior, Thracia and partially of Moesia Superior (ГЕРАСИМОВ, 1969, 60-65; ГЕТОВ, 1978, 13-19; ИВАНОВ, 2002, 262-273; ИВАНОВ, 2007, 9-17, etc.).

During the decades, the investigations and studies of several Bulgarian authors in the field revealed that a large part of the marble imports to the Western Black-Sea region and its immediate hinterland were quarried in Proconnesos. Unofficially, it was estimated to be over 90% in total of all marble imports to the region. Apart from various architectural units, there were also many sarcophagi, sculptures, works in relief, etc. made of Proconnesian marble. There is no doubt that besides ready-to-use products of various shape raw material, marble blocks of diverse dimensions were also imported to the region in order to fulfill the needs of the local craftsmen. Stone-cutters, carvers and sculptors who worked after orders made by their fellow-citizens and the city authorities used mostly imported material.

Among the abundance of Roman marble finds of various types discovered in both Odessos and Marcianopolis, there are a few unfinished ones made of Proconnesian marble, which gave proofs about import of prefabricated (unfinished) ones made of same fine stone. Their well distinguished structure of light grey or



Fig. 2. Unfinished garland sarcophagus from Odessos made of Proconnesian marble (photo R. Kostadinova)

grayish colour marbles with darker blue veins, leave no doubts of its origin.

The marble sarcophagi, architectural units and pieces of art discussed in this article belong to the collections of two museums: Varna Museum of Archaeology and The Mosaic Museum at Devnya. They were discovered either by excavation or by chance in Roman Odessos and Marcianopolis or reused in edifices of Late Roman – Early Byzantine periods in these cities.

Unfinished garland sarcophagus from Odessos

Made of proconnesian marble

This was discovered in late 19th c. in the North-Eastern necropolis of the ancient city along with two other simple sarcophagi of similar shape but having no decoration. The later ones have been made of local limestone and all three were covered by a tumulus (Герасимов 1969, 61). Some grave-finds deposited in the sarcophagi dated the entire group to the second half of 2nd c. AD (ГЕТОВ 1978, 14, обр. 1; МЛАДЕНОВА 1961, 46-50, обр. 1 B; 4).

The marble sarcophagus was left roughly finished of all four sides, leaving no doubts that this is a prefabricated one (Fig. 2). Nevertheless the traces of all details marked in relief are sure enough to make an imaginary reconstruction of its entire would to be decoration. This was in fact a gabled-plain garland type of sarcophagus,

well-known by numerous finds in the Mediterranean world (WARD-PERKINS 1980, 98-104), in the Balkan provinces and along the entire coast line of the Black Sea. On its front side, among the garlands there is a little *tabula ansata*, left also unfinished. The suggestion is that this sarcophagus was imported to the city from a Proconnesian or Asia Minor marble-carving workshop in quarry-state, and originally it was meant to be finished there by a local carver (ГЕТОВ 1978, 14-15, обр. 1-2).

The sarcophagus from Odessos was used for a burial before it was finished by local carvers and the reason why is of course disputable. It may be well a hurry the relatives to proceed with the burial quickly (especially if it was in the hot summer); a relative poverty of the family; simply parsimony, i.e. not to pay extra for finishing the sarcophagus, or some other unknown reason.

However, this is not an exclusive fact in the Roman Empire. The incompleteness of relief work of garland sarcophagi was a rather usual procedure for the Proconnesian marble workshops, which has been discussed and established many years ago by N. Asgari (ASGARI 1977, 329-380). Through the years, similar unfinished sarcophagi have been discovered in many Roman provinces and regions of the Empire: in Syria, Egypt, Cilicia, Italy, in Crimea, etc. (ГЕТОВ 1978, 16 with extended bibliography).

A similar quarry-state unfinished sarcophagus of 2nd-3rd c. AD discovered in Caesarea, Israel, which was secondary used in 4th c. AD by a Christian believer bears very close resemblance to the one from Odessos (GERSCHT 1996, 19, fig. 6). In the cemetery of Tyre

Fig. 3. Semi-finished garland sarcophagus made of Proconnesian marble (after STRONG 1976, 205, fig. 366)



(Lebanon), has been discovered a set of three similar unfinished garland sarcophagi of 2nd-3rd c. AD, next to each other (EBELING 2011, 15, fig.1). An idea how approximately a fully finished garland sarcophagus, carved at all four sides looked, offers an elaborate one of 3rd c. AD, found at Tel-Mevorakh, Israel (GERSCHT 1996, 15, figs. 2-3).

A late 2nd c. AD semi-finished sarcophagus made of Proconnesian marble has been mentioned and illustrated by D. E. Strong in one of his studies on marble carving (STRONG 1976, 205, fig. 336). It is very good evidence how the Roman carvers proceeded in their work. In this case, the craftsmen did finish entirely only the front and rear side of the sarcophagus, leaving left both its short sides unfinished (fig. 3). The comparison of the semi-finished garland sarcophagus discovered in Odessos, with other similar ones discovered throughout of the Roman Empire, indicate common production sources but also raise the question of most likely common sources of transportation and relevant importation in 2nd-3rd c. AD.

It should be noted that a totally finished garland sarcophagus of 2nd century AD made of local limestone, has been discovered in the Roman necropolis of Ratiaria (now Archar), located in the Bulgarian part of Moesia Superior province. It is lavishly decorated in

high relief – presumably after an imported Proconnesian prototype (Fig. 4). Apart from the traditional for the type garlands and Eros figures, heads of Satyros and Gorgoneion, the decoration includes also a typical native image added to the original design: a Thracian Horseman (Heros) located in the center of its front side (ГЕРАСИМОВА, СЛЮКОСКА 2001, 32, обр. 8). This sarcophagus evidenced that in 2nd c. AD, Proconnesian sarcophagi of that type did find their way as far as Moesia Superior. More over, they were copied by stone-carvers in local workshops using limestone originating from the region. The only way it could have happened was the transfer of original marble garland sarcophagi by sea from either Proconnesos itself or from Ionian workshops in Asia Minor to Moesia Superior. The obvious port via which that import was accomplished is Odessos because this city could provide the shortest route to Ratiaria. The later transfer of all similar quite heavy goods was by land using the well-known Roman road through the province of Moesia Inferior, leading from Odessos via Marcianopolis - Nicopolis ad Istrum (Nikyup) to Ratiaria.

Copying Proconnesian/Asia Minor originals is not an exception to the rule. The influence of Asia Minor workshops to other stone-carving schools is well known and largely discussed by various authors (see



Fig. 4. Finished garland sarcophagus made of local limestone discovered at Archar (ancient Ratiaria), Bulgaria (photo courtesy of National Museum of Archaeology – Sofia)



Fig. 5. Semi-finished gabled sarcophagus from Marcianopolis with roof-like decoration of the lid made of Proconnesian marble (photo of the author)

Fig. 6. Detail of the semi-finished roof-like decoration of same sarcophagus (photo of the author)

lately on the matter: GAGGALIS-ROBIN 2001, 262-277 and bibl.).

2. A prefabricated gabled sarcophagus from marcianopolis made of proconnesian marble

The sarcophagus was discovered in the Roman necropolis of Marcianopolis (АНГЕЛЮБ 1983, 87, т. IV/ 4). It was produced in Roman period (mid- 2nd - first half of 3rd c. AD) but has been reused in Early Byzantine time by a Christian family ca late 4th-first half of 5th c. AD (Fig. 5). This fact is evidenced by a little cross, secondary incised on the lid and the two

burials discovered inside without any grave goods (АНГЕЛЮБ 1983, 87).

The sarcophagus was left semi-finished and used twice in same condition. This gabled sarcophagus with roof-like decorated lid shows some important details of the stone-carver's work. This is an interesting case, because both the stone coffin and its lid seems to have been imported prefabricated and later partially finished or rather semi-finished by a local craftsman in the city of Marcianopolis. For instance, the stone-carver has smoothed only the front side of the large rectangular coffin, leaving its rear and short sides only roughly made. The tiles of the intended roof decoration have been only marked and some of them just started to be

Fig. 7. Semi-finished gabled sarcophagus with *tabula ansata* from Marcianopolis made of Proconnesian marble (photo R. Kostadinova)



processed, when the work stopped and the sarcophagus was quickly used for a burial. Traces of three different stages of finishing are available now, showing how it was actually worked: there are details of the roof tiles just roughly shaped; others are chiseled and the third ones have smoothed edges (Fig. 6). The short sides of the lid were finished and smoothed apart from the central protrusions, meant for decoration of either Gorgon heads or quatrefoils in relief. In this case, the stone carver started to work on the semi-finished sarcophagus roof, but under unknown circumstances he failed to do it and the unfinished product was used for a burial. The already mentioned Proconnesian garland sarcophagus from Tel-Mevorakh is a good example how a roof-tiled lid looks like after being finished (GERSCHT 1996, 14, figs. 2-3). Another gabled roof-like decorated sarcophagus lid of 2nd c. AD made of limestone - again from Ratiaria, has a strong resemblance with the roof of Marcianopolis' one (АТАНАСОВА-ГЕОРГИЕВА, МИТОВА-ДЖОНОВА 1985, 25-26, № 7).

The find from Marcianopolis is a good example that proves that during 2nd-3rd c. AD, unfinished imported Proconnesian sarcophagi have been additionally processed in the city by local craftsmen and it is rather close to mind that the same process was available in Odessos and other larger cities of Moesia Inferior.

3. A semi-finished sarcophagus with *tabula ansata* from Marcianopolis made of proconnesian marble

This piece presents a more simple type of sarcophagi produced of Proconnesian marble (Fig. 7). It is a gabled-plain one and there is a *tabula ansata* with no

inscription on it located on the front side.

The large coffin has been entirely finished (i.e. smoothed outside) including the fine designed *tabula*. The work was almost completed, leaving only the gable and one of the short sides of the lid partially unfinished. They have been left only chiseled while all four *acrotéria* have been smoothed too. This could have happened either in the workshop where the sarcophagus was produced, or in one at Marcianopolis or Odessos. It was transferred from the cargo ship to a local workshop in one of these cities and was almost finished - i.e. its surface being very fine smoothed. Only one short side of the lid has been left un-worked, still bearing the traces of original heavy chiseling on the surface. The sarcophagus was given a general dating of second half of 2nd- first half of 3rd c. AD because it has been discovered by excavation plundered still in ancient times and therefore no finds could help for a more precise one (АНГЕЛЮБ, 1983, 86-86, табл. IV/ 1). A rush with the burial may have caused the leaving of the lid unfinished. This is in fact the only one unfinished sarcophagus with *tabula ansata*, discovered in Bulgaria (IVANOV 2001, 45-51).

The production of gabled plain sarcophagi of no decoration and made of limestone quarried in local quarry has been proved by several finds in Marcianopolis, discovered in the southern city-necropolis (unpublished).

There should be no doubts, that they were produced by local masters following the shape of imported sarcophagi from Proconnesos or Asia Minor. It is obvious that they were made for customers who could not afford a sarcophagus made of marble.

4. A semifinished gabled lid of sarcophagus made of proconnesian marble from Odessos

This is an isolated find discovered by chance in the area of the Western necropolis of Odessos used in Roman period. The lid has been only roughly chiseled (Fig. 8 a). According to its shape a general dating of 2nd-3rd c. AD was suggested for it by the publisher (ИВАНОВ 2007, 9-10, обр. 1). There is no doubt that the lid was imported to the city in the same condition (and maybe the coffin it belonged to).

5. A semi-finished gabled lid of sarcophagus made of proconnesian marble from Odessos

This is another isolated find discovered by chance in the area of the Southern necropolis of Odessos, which was also used by its citizens in Roman period. The gable and all four *acroteria* of the lid have been well smoothed and even partially polished while its short sides have been left only roughly chiseled (Fig. 8 b). According to its shape, a general dating of 2nd-3rd c. AD was given too by the same author (ИВАНОВ 2007, 10-11, обр. 2). A possible finishing and polishing in a local stone-working workshop in Odessos may be presumed for the piece.

The listed above unfinished sarcophagi and lids are important evidence about a regular import to Odessos of prefabricated pieces made of Proconnesian marble. Most of them have been acquired by local citizens while others, despite their heavy weight, have been transferred to Marcianopolis and other large Roman cities in Moesia Inferior and most probably also to Moesia Superior. There they have been copied by local craftsmen but executed in limestone, which of course was a much cheaper offer for the customers.

Gabled plain sarcophagi have been produced of: limestone or local green stone also in the Rhodopi Mountain (South Bulgaria), where the locations of at least two stone-quarries have been traced. In one of them, a semi-finished gabled lid of sarcophagus was discovered too (GEORGIEV 1981, 128-137).

There are some finds discovered in Odessos, which reveal that there were also some other pre-fabricated marble objects imported to the city either from Proconnesos or from workshops in a closer region of Asia Minor: Ionia (?) and Bythinia (?). These were mostly architectural units, which were supposed to be finished *in situ* by local stone-carvers in the city stone workshops.

6. Semi-finished fluted capital of Roman-Doric Order

This capital has been discovered by chance in early 20th century - maybe in a stone-carver's workshop about which there is an unclear record in the museum archives (МИНЧЕВ, 2006, 106). The capital is

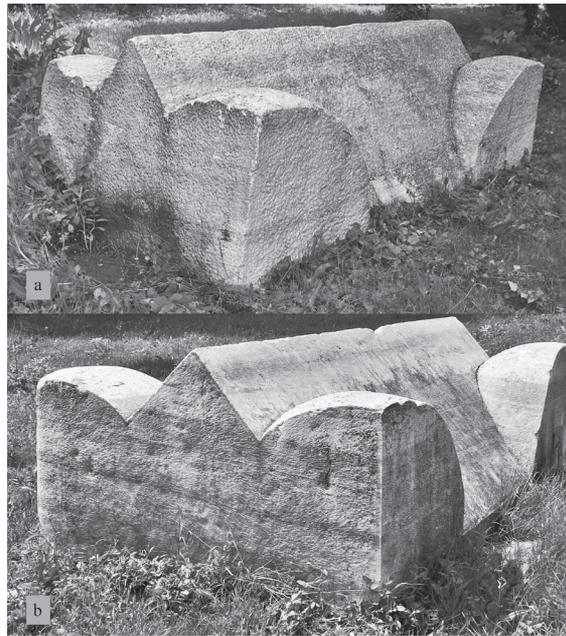


Fig. 8 a-b (semi-finished sarcophagi-lids from Odessos made of Proconnesian marble (photo R. Kostadinova))

made of very fine Proconnesian marble, but its missing parts of the trunk and base. Only its square base (in its survived part) decorated with five-leaf rosettes in the corner has been finished, while the carving space of the fluted trunk was only marked (Fig. 9). It has been dated recently to the early 3rd c. AD - i.e. late Severan period. The possibility launched by one of the publishers that it has resemblance to some Late-Antique capitals of 4th c. AD has been rejected by the same author (ДИМИТРОВ 2007, 99 and bibl.).

I suppose that this capital was imported semi-finished, with only chiseled general shape and all details of its decoration were just marked. It was supposed to be finished at the final destination of the export - in this case it was Odessos. There, in one of the city's workshop a stone-carver started to work on it. After having done almost the entire base of the capital, for some reasons the fluting was not finalized.

The same in shape and decoration fluted capitals of Roman-Doric or Palm-order of 2nd - early 3rd c. AD, made of Proconnesian marble but entirely finished have been discovered in the amphitheater of Marcianopolis. There is also a similar fragmented one in the Roman baths of Odessos, of the same date (ДИМИТРОВ 2007, 99; 392, № 82-83, обр. 82-83). They are relatively frequent finds in Moesia Inferior and despite the differences the basic sculptural scheme of the capitals remains very similar. Some specific details in the design of the capitals from Odessos lead recently Z. Dimitrov to the conclusion of that they all were finished by local

Fig. 9. Semi-finished fluted capital from Odessos made of Proconnesian marble (photo R. Kostadinova)



carvers in the city workshops and maybe the same applies for those found in Marcianopolis (ДИМИТРОВ 2007, 98-100).

During the second half of 2nd c. - early 3rd c. AD, the imported fluted marble capitals have been copied by stone-carvers in both Odessos and Marcianopolis, which is evidenced by several pieces made of local limestone. However, there are some distinguished small details which differ from the originals (ДИМИТРОВ 2007, 98-99; 392-393, № 91-92).

The imports from Proconnessos included not only prefabricated, semi-finished and completely finished marbles but also marble blocks, probably the majority of a larger size. Once delivered to the port of Odessos, they were transported to the local stone-carving workshops and some of them to those in Marcianopolis. There they were cut in all appropriate sizes and used by the craftsmen for producing various marble artifacts, for example, a good part of the Proconnesian marble was used for producing architectural units: columns, bases, capitals, architraves, etc. According to a note left by K. Shkorpil in his archive, remains of a possible workshop for similar pieces has been traced in the early 20th c. at Shipka Street in Varna. Regrettably, no other data about this important discovery, e.g. photographs of the site or description of the found pieces was supplied by the author.

The Proconnesian marbles were also used for producing statues, relief works, tombstones and inscriptions. Several unfinished or semi-finished statues and relief works of Roman period have been discovered in Odessos. They proved the permanent use of imported Proconnesian marble by craftsmen in the city, for sculpturing pieces of art too.

7. Unfinished statues made of proconnesian marble discovered in Odessos

An unfinished, medium sized statue of Heracles also made of Proconnesian marble was discovered used as building material in the medieval fortress of Varna (13th - 14th c.). The figure has been outlined and some portions of the body were almost finished, while others (including the head) have been just roughly marked (Fig. 10 a). Although its real find-spot remains unclear, it is a proof of a wider use of imported raw material from Propontis quarries by the craftsmen of Odessos in 2nd-3rd c. AD (ТОПЧЕВА 1958, 539-540, обр. 6).

Another unfinished little statue, of the most popular Thracian deity, the so-called Thracian Horseman was discovered at Khan Krum Street in Varna (Fig. 10 b). It is made of Proconnesian marble and has a relatively well sculptured body of the horse and its rider, but for some reasons the area beneath them has not been finished: it was just roughly chiseled. The head of the deity is now missing. The sculpture could be dated in general to the 2nd-3rd c. AD (ТОПЧЕВА 1958, 538-539, обр. 5). Very close to the find-spot, a small fragment of a little unfinished relief of the same deity has been discovered much later during excavation of an Early Christian basilica, where it was re-used as a building material (unpublished). These finds help to assume that somewhere in that area there was a stone-carving workshop of Roman period.

Another workshop was localized not far from that site: Khan Asparoukh Street. Several unfinished sculptures and a relief, all made of Proconnesian marble have been discovered there. The list of these extremely interesting for the Roman art history of Moesia Inferior finds consists of: a statuette of Asclepius; a statuette of an eagle; a statuette of an unidentified human figure and a small part of a little votive relief of the Thracian Horseman. The first two figurines have been well modeled but many details of the bodies were left unfinished: the face and partially the dress of the deity; the feathers of the eagle, etc, while the third statuette has been given just a rough shape of the body by chiseling. On the smoothed and polished marble plaque of the relief, only the general outline of the horseman has been incised. All pieces have been given a dating of 2nd-3rd c. AD (ТОПЧЕВА 1958, 535-538, обр. 1-4).

As stated above, the transportation of marble as raw

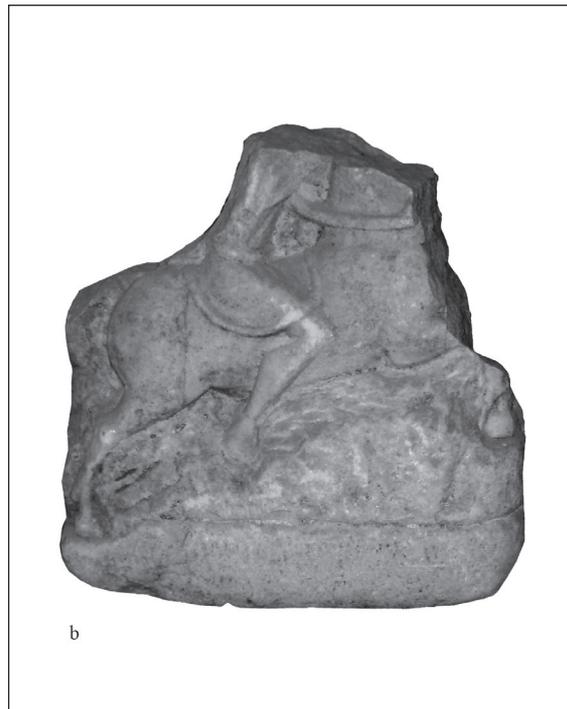
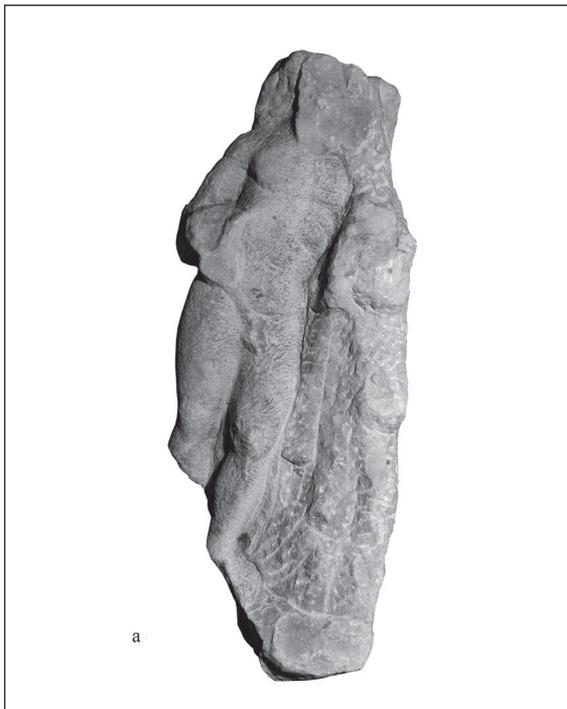


Fig. 10 a-b. Semi finished stauos of Heracles and the Thracian Horseman from Odessos made of Proconnesian marble (photo R. Kostadinova)

material, semi-finished and finished production from Proconnessos' quarries and workshops on the island or from Ionian workshops to Odessos was held by sea. The sea-fare and sea-trade were maybe of the most frequent professions in the city. Two images of Roman ships on fragmented sarcophagi of 2nd-3rd c. AD discovered there represent the type of trade vessels used for that purpose. Looking to the numbers of marble finds discovered in the city, sailing from Proconnessos to Odessos, with ships full of marble cargo seems to have been a relatively frequent task for the tradesmen of the city. The city-port served as a wide open door for import and re-export of various marble goods, whether in the closer countryside or deeper in Moesia Inferior and maybe even in Moesia Superior. The unfinished architectural units, sarcophagi, etc, were meant to be finally designed by the skilled local stone-carvers.

An interesting discovery at the western necropolis of Marcianopolis enabled to reconstruct part of the tools used by the Roman masters in the city. On the front side of a locally made gabbled limestone sarcophagus from Marcianopolis, several tools for stone carving have been depicted, thus stating about the profession of the buried person. The set consists of one flat chisel, a double trimming hammer and a punch (Fig. 11). Separately, an iron-cramp, the usual fixing tool for processed stones, has been engraved on the left upper corner of

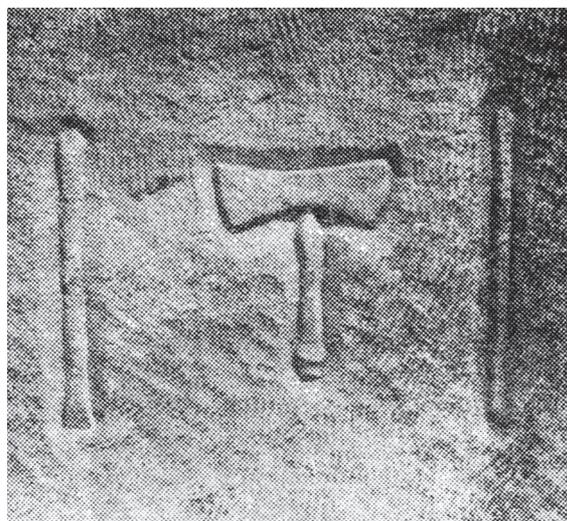


Fig. 11. Set of stone-carvers' tools depicted on a gabbled sarcophagus from Marcianopolis made of local limestone (photo courtesy of The Mosaic Museum – Devnya)

the sarcophagus. The burial gifts help for dating the sarcophagus to late 2nd-early 3rd c. AD (АИГЕЛЮВ 1982, 99, табл. I/ 2-3). All depicted tools are typical ones used by Roman craftsmen all around the empire during 1st-3rd c. AD (Ridgway, 1969, 102-103, fig. 6), as well as later.

There is no doubt that during 2nd-3rd c. AD similar tools were implemented in the workshops of Marcianopolis (and Odessos) for finishing imported semi-processed Proconnesian marbles of various shape and purpose, which to the final touch of their decoration was given by skilled stone-carvers in both cities.

ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Archäologischer Anzeiger
AMV	Acta Musei Varnaensis, Varna
BRKG	Bericht der römisch-germanischen Kommission, Mainz
BSR	[Papers of the] British School at Rome
ГАИМ	Годишник на Археологическия институт с музей, София (Annual of the Institute of Archaeology with Museum, Sofia)
ИНМВ	Известия на Народния музей – Варна (Bulletin of the National Museum in Varna)

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SAŽETAK

OD PROKONESOSA DO ODESOSA:

NEDOVRŠENI RIMSKI MRAMOR IZ ODESOSA I MARCIANOPOLISA (2. – 3. ST. PO. KR.)

Alexander MINCHEV

U ovom članku autor objavljuje nekoliko rimskih mramornih predmeta različitih oblika, a svi su nedovršeni. Pronađeni su u drevnim gradovima Odesosu (Varna) i Marcianopolisu (Devnja). Ti gradovi nekoć su se nalazili u rimskoj provinciji Donjoj Meziji, smještenoj u današnjoj sjevernoj Bugarskoj. Temeljem sličnih nalaza iz drugih područja Rimskog Carstva, autor je utvrdio da su proizvedeni od prokoneškog mramora u 2. i 3. st. po. Kr. te uvezeni ili iz prokoneških ili iz maloazijskih kamenoklesarskih radionica preko luke Odesos (sl. 1).

Opisani i obrađeni mramorni predmeti su u različitim fazama obrade, ali ipak, za većinu njih je dokazano da su korišteni kao poluproizvodi još u rimsko doba.

Na popisu mramornih poluproizvoda koje navodi autor sažetka su:

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2. Sarkofag sa zabatima i poludovršenim krovolikim ukrasom na poklopcu, pronadjen u rimskoj nekropoli Marcianopolisa (sl. 5). Datiran je u 2. – 3. stoljeće po. Kr, a autor sugerira da je prvo morem prevežen iz Prokonesosa u Odesos, a kasnije kopnom do Marcianopolisa. Ondje je izvorno tek naznačeni krovoliki ukras poklopca djelomično dovršen u mjesnoj radionici prije nego je upotrijebljen za ukop.

3. Sarkofag sa zabatima i *tabulom ansatom* na prednjici, pronađen u rimskoj nekropoli Marcianopolisa (sl. 7). Izrađen je od prokoneškog mramora i datiran u 2. – 3. st. po. Kr. Samo je jedna strana njegovog jednostavnog poklopca sa zabatima nedovršena – vjerojatno u žurbi da se ukop obavi što prije.

4. Jednostavni poklopac sarkofaga slučajno pronađen na rimskom groblju u Odesosu i datiran u 2. – 3. st. po. Kr. (sl. 8a). Upotrijebljen je za ukop nedovršen – tek grubo isklesan – dovežen iz radionice u Prokonesosu.

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6. Poludovršeni kanelirani stup izrađen od prokoneškog mramora, pronađen u nepoznatim okolnostima u Odesosu (sl. 9). Njegova četvrtasta baza s reljefnim rozetama u kutovima u potpunosti je dovršena i uglacana, dok je buduće kanelure na stupu obrtnik tek naznačio. Datiran je u kraj 2. i početak 3. st. po. Kr. i pretpostavlja se da je uvezen u Odesos kao poluproizvod kako bi bio dovršen u mjesnoj radionici.

7. Dva poludovršena kipa: Herakla (sl. 10a) i tračkoga konjanika (sl. 10b) pronađena u Odesosu, datirana u 2 – 3. st. po. Kr. Kipovi su izrađeni od prokoneškog mramora, a većina pojedinosti na njima nije dovršena (samo grubo isklesana), vjerojatno zbog pogreške kamenoklesara tijekom obrade.

Ovi kipovi, kao i još nekoliko nedovršenih skulptura i reljefa, dokaz su uvoza neobrađenih blokova prokoneškoga mramora u Odesos. Ondje su ih izrezivali i obrađivali mjesni klesari, koji su proizvodili razne arhitekturne elemente i umjetnička djela. Isto se odnosi (u manjoj mjeri) na radionice u Marcianopolisu. Ondje su obrtnici koristili mramor u iste svrhe i povremeno obrađivali nedovršene sarkofage.

Neka od oruđa koja su koristili kamenoklesari u 2. – 3. st. po. Kr. prikazana su na reljefu na sanduku jednostavnog sarkofaga sa zabatima pronađenog u rimskoj nekropoli Marcianopolisu (sl. 11). Izrađen je od vapnenca izvađenog iz mjesnog kamenoloma i nema sumnje da je ukopani pokojnik za života bio kamenoklesar.

Nalazi nedovršenih ili poludovršenih mramornih predmeta iz Odesosa predstavljaju dobar dokaz za uvoz prokoneškog mramora morem. Iz luke je mramor prevožen kopnom i do Marcianopolisa. Uvoženi su i različiti poluobrađeni artefakti i čista sirovina – kameni blokovi.