

A Find of Greek Pottery from Plovdiv Region Dated to the Classic Period

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The article presents a find consisting of pottery sherds logged in the inventory book of the Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv in 1939. There is scarce information about the place it was found at; it is recorded only that it comes from a burial mound in the region of Miromir, a former village, which was annexed to the town of Hisarya, Plovdiv region. The find consists of 7 necks sherds of two column kraters, decorated with the standard pattern of lotus buds. Except for two of them, which seem like matching pieces and can be glued together, the rest of the sherds are parts of (at least) five different vessels. There are two more body sherds of column kraters decorated with a dot pattern (the frame of the decorated field), two sherds from the lower part of a red-figure composition (the lower part of attires) as well as two bottom sherds of two different kraters of different sizes. The smaller bottom sticks together to a sherd from the lowermost part of the body decorated with radial rays. The find contains two more sherds of St. Valentine type of kantharoses, two rim sherds of cups (kylikes) of the type *stemless with inset lip*, with a thickened inner part of the lip as well as a

foot of a transport amphora. The identification of the sherds and the parallels pointed out make us to date the find generally to the middle or the third quarter of the fifth century BC. A short review is made of the vessels of the same type, which have been found in Bulgaria. Special attention is paid to the problem of the origin of the objects. My opinion is that the fragmentary condition of the pottery does not affiliate it to grave goods of a grave assemblage. Based on similar vessels, fragmented in a similar way, I assume that the find generally reminds the contents of the ritual pit features from Upper Thrace. A short report from 1937 related to a burial mound excavated by D. Tsonchev, provides a reason to look for a connection between sherds, found in a gray ashy layer at the base of this particular mound and the sherds from the Archaeological Museum in Plovdiv. The descriptions of the sherds in the report are short and not very precise (e.g. Greek pottery with geometric decoration) but nevertheless I find certain reasons to identify them. The fact that these sherds were buried in the earthen fill, outside the burial feature, is a result of certain ritual practice.