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Dorian architecture - the case of Apollo's temple in Odessos (Varna, Bulgaria)



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Abstract

Dorian architecture - the case of Apollo's temple in Odessos (Varna, Bulgaria) Hristo Preshlenov National Archaeological Institute with Museum. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences The remaining of the temple was found by the team of Milko Mirchev (Archaeological Museum – Varna) in 1963 during rescue excavations in the southeastern urban zone. One of the sacred spaces of Odessos is set apart to the west. The temple is prostylos in antis with a frontal composition, one-sided orientation of the naos and pronaos emphasized by a portico with two columns. The lower radius of the columns (0.47m) contains the projection module of the temple. The total reconstructed height of the temple ($\pm 9.215\text{m}$) is related to its wide (9.00m in substructions and $\pm 8.69\text{m}$ in superstructions) as a ratio 100:102/106. The temple has been composed not earlier than the beginning of 3rd century BC and has been destroyed not later than the beginning of 5th century AD.

Keywords

Apollo · sacred area · temple · architectural order



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Apollo, sacred area, temple, architectural order

During rescue investigations in Varna in 1963, the team, supervised by Milko Mirchev, has unearthed on a 8-12m so-called Young Karangatian sea terrace north of the port substructures of a rectangular building with north-northeast orientation (**Fig. 1/1**),¹ parts of Doric columns and capitals from the beginning (the first half) of the 3rd century BC (**Figs. 2, 3, 4**),² and parts of columns with a smooth surface, profiled bases, cornices, marble plate with embossed rosettes, part of early Christian chancel-barrier, and impost capital with a monogram of the first half of 6th century AD (**Fig. 5**).³

The first (lower) drum of the Doric column, found *in situ* (**Figs. 2, 6**),⁴ a Doric capital, redeployed inside the building and found near it (**Fig. 4**),⁵ a decree in the honour of Menogenes, son of Asklepiades from Heraion Teichos, a *strategos* of Sadalas II, archived at the temple of Apollo in 45/4-42 BC (**Fig. 7**),⁶ were among the investigators' reasons to assume that the building has been built in a Doric order and has been associated with the Apollo's cult.⁷ The foundations of the temple have been made of hewn stones.⁸ A row of stone blocks has been laid on them to form the stylobate of the short facades and the plinth of the side walls.⁹ The locations of the two middle columns on the stylobate of the northern short facade have been fixed (**Fig. 6**). The lower drum of one of them (diameter 0.94m) has been found at a distance of 2.25m from the northwestern corner of the building (**Fig. 2**).¹⁰

The northern foundation of the temple has a length of 9.00m and a thickness of 1.25m. At its western edge it forms a right angle with the base of the western facade, which has the same thickness and its length is over 13.75m. From the base of the eastern wall a section of 5.50m is preserved. The base of the 1.25m thick northern wall of the naos has been unearthed at 2.50m south of the northern facade. The entrance in it has probably been ± 2.60 m wide, as is the calculated aperture (± 2.585 m) of the central *intercolumnium* (**Fig. 8**).¹¹

The correlations between the width of the bases of the northern short facade, the length of the pronaos (3.75m) and the preserved over 10m length of the naos are inherent with a frontal composition, aiming at a direct visual impact of the exterior.¹² At the north-eastern entrance, the building can be reconstructed as a *prostyle in antis*, with a frontal composition of the exterior, a one-sided orientation of the naos and a pronaos, highlighted by a two-column portico between the *antae* - widespread composition of the temple space in western and northern Pontic cities.¹³

The radius (0.47m) of the lower drum of the column, found *in situ* (**Figs. 2, 6**) corresponds to a Greek cubitus (46.24cm), which may be the design module (1 Mo) of the temple. In an angular position at the end triglyphs¹⁴ and a "three-metope"¹⁵

347, 348, рис. 44, 45, 56), in *Histria - Θεός Μέγας* (Alexandrescu et al. 2005, 123-125; Avram et al. 2013,

¹ Попов/Мишев 1974, 63; Мирчев 1967, 22.

² Мирчев 1967, 23, Обр. 2-4; Stoyanov/Stoyanova 1997, 30.

³ Stoyanova 2003, 573; Archaeological Museum – Varna, reg. Nr. III-594; Овчаров/Ваклинова 1978, 39, Nr. 74; Archaeological Museum – Varna, reg. Nr. III-601 (reconstructed by V. Tenekedzhiev (Regional Museum – Varna)).

⁴ Мирчев 1967, 23, Обр. 2, 3.

⁵ Мирчев 1967, 23, Обр. 4.

⁶ IGB I² 43.

⁷ Мирчев 1967, 21-24.

⁸ Мирчев 1967, 22.

⁹ Сопр. Попов / Иванова 1976, 9, 22, 30, черт. 20:G, черт. 27; Alexandrescu et al. 2005, Dépliant 5, Planche 8.1, 15.1-2.

¹⁰ Мирчев 1967, 23, Обр. 2-3; graphic by D. Stoyanova (Sof. Univ. "St. Kl. Ohridski").

¹¹ See below.

¹² Сопр. Иванова 1978, 83, 85, 87.

¹³ Panayotova et al. 2014, 595-596; Krizhitzkiy 2010, Figs. 20, 22; Леви 1985, 78-81, Рис. 67; Пичикян 1984, Рис. 66, 71, 99; Mărgineanu-Kârstoiu 1989, Abb. 14; Bordenache/Pippidi 1959, 460, Fig. 9; Alexandrescu et al. 2005, 185, Dépliant 1/1-J; Avram et al. 2013, 85, Tafel XIV; Прешленов 2021, Обр. 11, Обр. 13.

¹⁴ About "the end triglyph", see Витрувий 1936, 82-83; Попов/Иванова 1976, 28, 66, черт. 18:Н.

¹⁵ See similar temples in Pergamon - Athena Nikephoros (Попов / Иванова 1976, 52; Быков 1973, 336,



85, Tafel XIV, a-a¹); see also Vitruvius' „roman type” prostyle (Витрувий 1936, 84, Рис. 38, 38а;

[Попов/Иванова 1976, черт. 18/Н5].] composition of the central wheelbase (Ax = ±3.525m wide/7.5 Mo)¹⁶ on the three architrave beams there is space for a frieze with a total of 8 triglyphs (x 1 Mo) and 7 metopes (x 1 ½ Mo) and a length of ±8.69m, calculated by the module. Perhaps this is the dimension of the outer width of the temple above the bases. The correlation between the wall thickness (usually corresponding to the lower column diameter) and that of the foundations covers the constructive requirement that the thickness of the foundations exceeds up to 50% the thickness of the walls above them.¹⁷ A two-sided widening of the base by ±0.15m provides a uniform distribution of the vertical load in the foundations at an angle of 45°.¹⁸

Based on the established spacing (±2.25m) of the two facade columns from the outer panel of the longitudinal walls and the modular proportioning of the northern short facade, the central *intercolumnium* (Ik) should be ±2.585m wide and the lateral ones (Ik1) ±1.175m wide. The two columns between the *antae* have a height (KH) of ±6.11m (13 Mo), estimated by the module. The slenderness (D: KH) of 1:6.5 and their conicity (d:D) of about 81% are consistent with the early Hellenistic temples in Doric order (**Fig. 9**).¹⁹

The total reconstructed height of the temple to the ridge of the pediment is OH = ±9.215m.²⁰ It is in proportion to the width in substructure (OBo = 9.00m) and superstructure (OB= ±8.69m) as 100:102/106. The proportions are similar to those of the Doric *in antis* and prostyle temples around the square short facade of which a circle can be drawn.²¹ The inclination of the two-slope roof of the Odessos temple (calculated²² as $J = \text{tg } \alpha \times \pm 4.66\text{m} (\frac{1}{2} \text{ FL})^{23} = \pm 1.27\text{m} (\text{FH})^{24}$) is 15°, a value close to the average roof inclination of the Mediterranean (12°-14°) and northern Pontic (16°-17°) temples.²⁵

In this hypothetical architectural order, the Odessos temple has been composed not earlier than the beginning of 3rd century BC, when the capitals and columns for its short facade have been made.²⁶ The temenos has been located in the south-eastern urban area above the harbour (**Fig. 1**). To the west, it has probably covered a part of the 8-12-meter sea terrace on the south-western slope,²⁷ where a sacred area has been formed in the second half of 6th - the first half of 5th century BC.²⁸ The temple inventory, "buried" in four pits - *bothroi*, gives an idea of the specificity and chronology of the cult practices in it.²⁹

Next to these *bothroi*, a small sanctuary 4.30m by 4.20m in size, built with limestone blocks, has functioned during the Hellenistic period (**Fig. 1/2**).³⁰ South (west) of the ritual pits (ab. 35-45m) and the sanctuary (ab. 10m), Hellenistic

¹⁶The lateral wheelbase (Ax1) has probably been ±2.585m wide/5.5 Mo.

¹⁷Витрувий 1936, 71, 86.

¹⁸Comp. foundations of the temples in Histria (Alexandrescu et al. 2005, Dépliant 4, 5); Dionysopolis (Lazarenko et al. 2010, Plan 2).

¹⁹See Попов/Иванова 1976, 24, табл. 9; Mărgineanu-Kârstoiu 1989, 109; Stoyanova 2003, 573.

²⁰Incl. the column 6,11m (13 Mo), capital 0.425 (measured) / 0.47m (1Mo), architrave 0.47m (1Mo), frieze 0.705m (1 ½ Mo), cornice 0.235m (½ Mo), fronton 1.271 (after Витрувий 1936, 75, 84, 242, рис. 30, 31), without the sima (0.264m).

²¹See/comp. Попов/Иванова 1976, 32; Пичикян 1984, 174-175, 261, Рис. 99; Mărgineanu-Kârstoiu 2006, 424, 427, Fig. 117, 118.

²²See Пичикян 1984, 168, 193.

²³Fronton length, incl. overhanging parts (accord. Витрувий 1936, 75, 84, 242, рис. 30, 31; Попов/Иванова 1976, 28, 29, черт. 19, 20, 74).

²⁴Fronton height, without the sima.

²⁵Попов/Иванова 1976, 29; Mărgineanu-Kârstoiu 1989, 97.

²⁶Stoyanov/Stoyanova 1997, 30; Stoyanova 2003, 573.

²⁷Шкорпил 1909, 55, 56; Шкорпил 1909а, 34-35, 42-43; Попов/Мишев 1974, 63, Фиг. 55; Кузев 1962, Обр. 7, Обр. 10; Стоянов 1992, 7, 56, 57, 59, 65, 66; Peev 2014, 179-180.

²⁸Тончева 1967, 157-180; Toncheva 1969, 353-364; Тончева 1972, 263-272; Тончева 1974, 287-302; Preshlenov 2002, 22-24, Fig. 1, Fig. 7.

²⁹About *Bothros* "№ 3" see Тончева 1967, 158-159, 162-168, 174, 177, 179; Лазаров 1990, 22-24; Рехо-Бумбалова 1986, Nrs.392-394, 399; Vozkova 2008, 78; about *Bothros* "№ 1" see Тончева 1967, 158, 160, 166, 169; Тончева 1972, 263-267; Лазаров 1990, 22; Рехо-Бумбалова 1986, Nr. 395, 398; Лазаров 1982, 11; Лазаров 1973, 35-36, 38-39; Лазаров 1980, 9-10, 12, 16; Рехо-Бумбалова 1986, Nrs. 430-433; IGB I² 101 ter; IGB V 5042=101 ter; Стоянова 2008, 216.

³⁰Toncheva 1969, 353-354, 355-356, 364; Ivanov 1969, 375-376; Минчев 2007, 73-74.



heroa intra murus (?)³¹ or³² sacred *extra murus* "border" (?)³³ funerals – two with burial (one of which under a mound with crepida), and one cremation, in which a bronze urn with the remains of the deceased has been placed in a chamber, made of stone slabs (**Fig. 1/3**).³⁴ Two plates have been found in the destruction of its second period. They have been made in a local workshop³⁵ in 2nd-1st century BC and have been dedicated to Heros Karabazmos (**Fig. 10**)³⁶ and the goddess Phosphorus (**Fig. 11**),³⁷ semantically associated with Artemis and Hekate.³⁸ The latter is also associated with one of the early epicleses of Apollo Didymaeus - Hekatos.³⁹

During digging work east of the temple of Apollo, along the presumed route of the south-eastern fortress wall (**Fig. 1/5**),⁴⁰ apart from the above mentioned decree in honour of Menogenes, a plate, dedicated to Apollo Karabazmos has been discovered (**Fig. 12**).⁴¹ The relief, representing the divinity with the conventional iconography of Thracian Heros, has been made in the middle to the second half of 2nd century AD. The semantic cohesion of Apollo, the patron of the Ionian founders⁴² of the polis, with Karabazmos (the divinity, worshiped by the local population), and the Thracian Heros,⁴³ can also be expected in the connected with Odessos *extra urbem* sanctuary of Heros Karabazmos at Cape Galata.⁴⁴ There, in 2nd century AD, among the names of the devotees there are members of the brotherhood of priest Apollonius and members of the sacred brotherhoods, worshiping Heros Karabazmos in Odessos.⁴⁵ Among them the names of Apollonius, son of Apollonius, and Αἰαντίδης, son of Μενάνδρος from the first half of 2nd century AD, have also been inscribed.⁴⁶

During the (late)Roman period, the city sanctuary of Heros Karabazmos has been repaired (after 63 BC⁴⁷, probable "μετὰ τὴν κάθοδον" of Odessitaner in 44-43 BC⁴⁸) and probably used for medical purposes - medical instruments and remains of drugs have been found in the 2nd-4th century AD layer, near of the late Roman *balnea meritoria* (**Fig. 1/4**).⁴⁹ It is possible that after the cessation of the cult practices in the sanctuary and the semantic cohesion between Apollo and Heros Karabazmos, dedications such as that of Apollo Karabazmos⁵⁰ and those, made in 2nd century AD by the members

³¹Arguments see Jones 2010, 50-53; Pedley 2005, 34-35; Фол 1998, 88. See also Vegetti 1995, 258; Маразов 2004, 19-20, 25, 27.

³²The end of the SW fortified hellenistic urban area is still ambiguous (Шкорпил 1909, 55-56; Шкорпил 1909а, план; Мирчев 1967, Обр. 1; Лазаров 2003; Минчев 2007, 68; Плетньов 2011, 402-403; Прешленов 2002,62, Обр. 4.

³³Pedley 2005, 42-43, 168.

³⁴Тончева 1974, 287-302, Табл. I; Минчев 2007, 81-82. Arguments about the *post mortem* commemorative practices at the graves see Лазаров 1980, 7-8, 16; Лазаров 1978, 13, 30-56; Лазаров 1977, 5; Lazarov 1980, 180.

³⁵Минчев 2007, 63, 108.

³⁶IGB I² 78 bis; CCET I 28; Oppermann 2006, 89, Kat. Nr. 2; Фол 1995, 43-44.

³⁷IGB I² 88 bis; IGB V 5034=88 bis.

³⁸See Oppermann 2011, 163; Fontenrose 1988, 123, 133-134; Grimassi 2003, 120.

³⁹See Herda 2008, 14, 23, 27, 31, 33, 51, 61; Fontenrose 1988, 134; Маразов 2004, 25, 26; Grimassi 2003, 106, 420.

⁴⁰Шкорпил 1909а, 34-35, 42-43, план; Кузев 1962, Обр. 5-6; Стоянов 1992, 6, 9, 59; Preshlenov 2002, 16-18, Fig. 4.

⁴¹IGB I² 79; CCET I 33.

⁴²Comp. Herda 2008, 56, 61-62.

⁴³See Jones 2010, 58-59.

⁴⁴Preliminary report of excavation see Мирчев 1953, План 1, 1-28; Гоцева 1978, 297-298; Гочева 1995, 291; Preshlenov 2017, 187-188. About "outside-city" sanctuaries see Pedley 2005, 46-47.

⁴⁵IGB I² 289; CCET I 89.

⁴⁶IGB I² 78 ter, 107 (?), 284, 285; CCET I 30 84, 86; Oppermann 2006, 90, 92, 93, Kat. Nrs. 5, 8, 344.

⁴⁷After regional seismic activity (Орачев 2012, 89; Пичикян 1984, 223) and gethian invasion (Прешленов 2000, 228; Avram et al. 2013, 65).

⁴⁸IGB I² 46 (comm.); Avram 1998, 115, 119; Гоцева 1998, 231-232.

⁴⁹Тончева 1969, 353, 364; Минчев 2007, 74.

⁵⁰IGB I² 79; CCET I 33; Oppermann 2006, 90, Kat. Nr. 17.

⁵¹IGB I² 78 ter, 79 bis; CCET I 30, 34; Oppermann 2006, 90, Kat. Nrs. 5, 19.

⁵²About the topography, type, and chronology of necropolis see Мирчев 1951, 91-97; Fiedler 1992, 66; Preshlenov 2002,20, Fig. 1; Preshlenov 2017, 197.



of the city sacred brotherhoods⁵¹ (subsequently used again in the Late Roman necropolis of the city)⁵² to have been placed in the *temenos* of Apollo.

Its temple has been destroyed to its foundations no later than (the beginning of) 5th century AD during the construction of a Christian basilica southeast of it (**Figs. 1, 5**). The foundations of the *extra urbem* sanctuary of Heros Karabazmos have been inserted in the naos of the Christian basilica, the floor of which is covered with “desecrated” Hellenistic and Roman dedicatory reliefs of the divinity⁵³ - acts, signalling the end of the Classical world in the region.



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⁵³Мирчев 1953, План 1, 7–8; Preshlenov 2022, 257.



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Appendix

Figure 1

fiğür



Figure 2

fiğür



Figure 3
figür



Figure 4
figür



Figure 5
fiğür

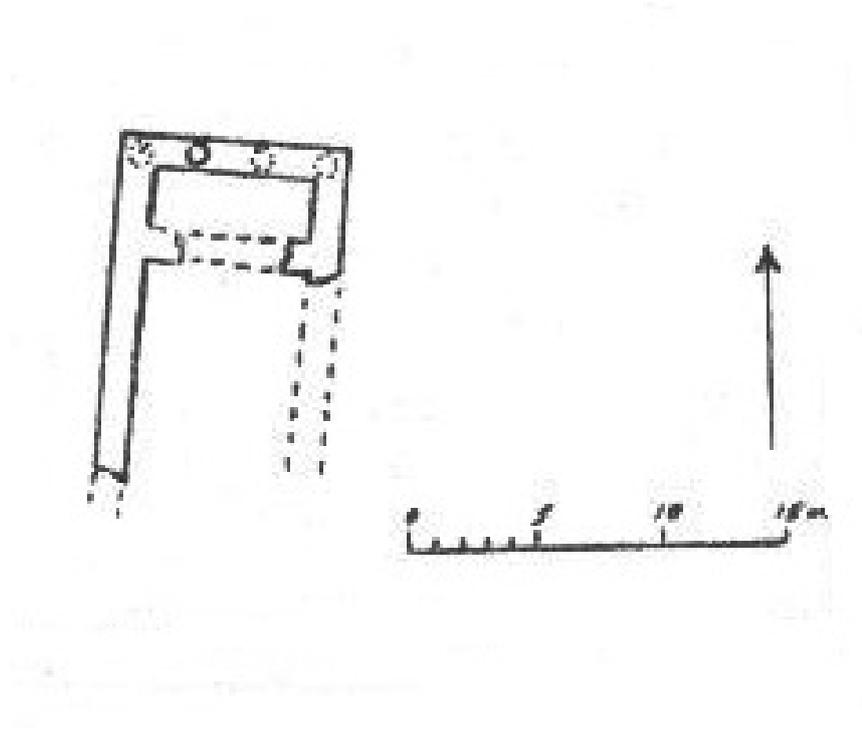


Figure 6
fiğür

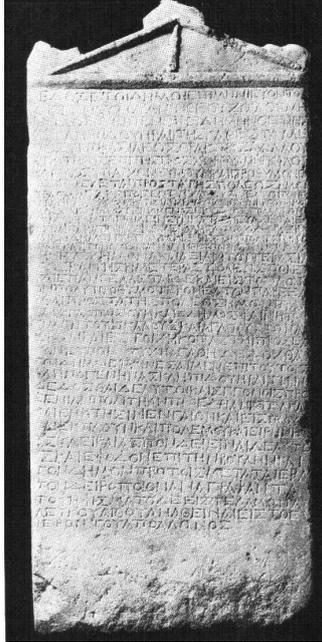


Figure 7
figür

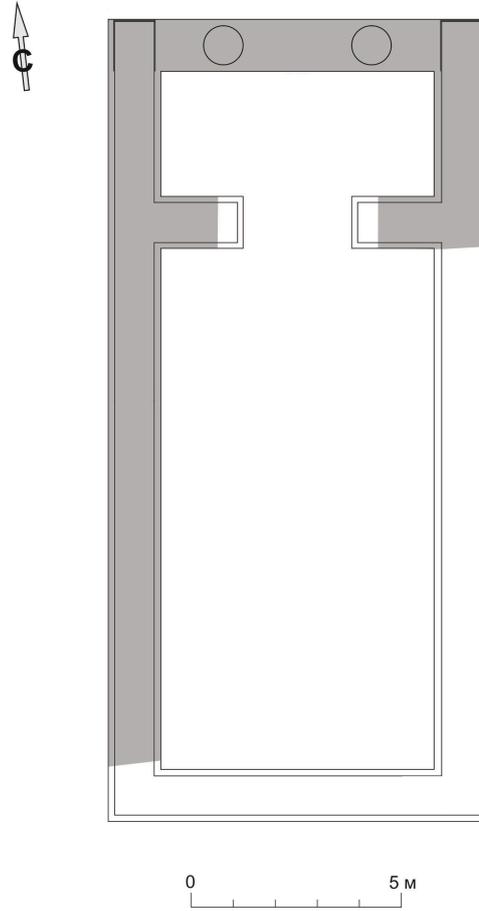


Figure 8
figür

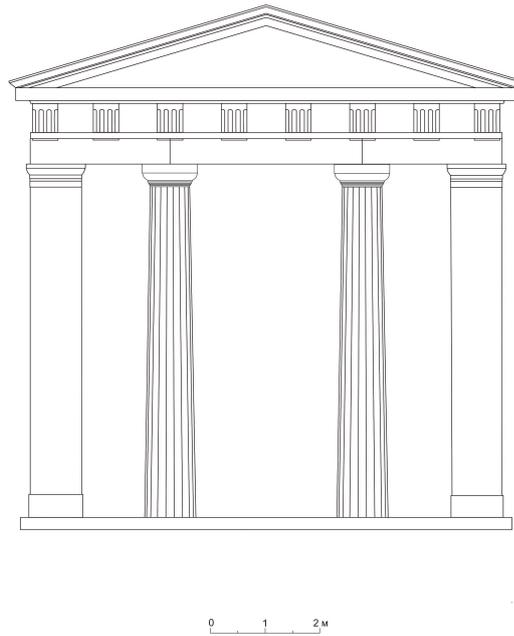


Figure 9
figür



Figure 10
figür



Figure 11
figür

