The article is devoted to the variants of Attic black-glazed pottery with stamps during the Classical period of Olbia.

Key words: Classical period, Olbia, Attic black-glazed pottery, stamped ornament.

Finds of Attic tableware and ceremonial ware in the North Black Sea region are mass, and that is why they are so important since they provide information for detailed chronology of ancient material. The black-glazed ware with stamps can be particularly distinguished in this vast number of finds, because stamps together with the morphology of forms allow determining the most correct dating of the ware and identifying the type of this ware.

Incised and stamped patterns are the most popular decoration techniques of black-glazed pottery. This technique of decoration is considered to evolve in the Attic workshops in the middle of the 5th century BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, p. 22–23). It was commonly used for ornamentation of «open vases» (type of drinking cups), especially inside on the bottom of the vase. Stamps are also known to be found on the outside of «close vases» (oil flasks). Because stamped ornaments changed over time, they serve as the best dating markers not only for this type of pottery, but also for another material that was found along with the black-glazed ware.

Any publication dedicated to the research of Ancient Greek acropolis and necropolis in the North Black Sea region contains detailed information about black-glazed pottery and its dating based on to the stamps. (e.g. Стоянов 2005, 2007; Рогов, Ънкнка 1985; Рогов 2011; Егорова 2009, 2014 а, б).

However, stamps on the Attic black-glazed pottery from Olbia have been scarcely analyzed at the modern stage of study. For today, we know only three research works which provide analysis of the material from different parts of polis: the Eastern temenos (Русєва, Назарчук 2006), the Northern part of the Lower city (Handberg, Petersen 2010) and the Central quarter (Назарчук 2014). Furthermore, there is still no complete information about Attic black-glazed pottery with stamps from Olbia during the Classical period, and about the variety of decorative elements on the pottery from archaeological assemblages that would help us to make general conclusions about overall import dynamics of this pottery. That is why this research work dedicated to stamps on the open shape black-glazed pottery is the first approach to the study of this important archaeological source.

All the stamps can be divided into those containing floral or geometric elements: ovules, palmettes, lotus flowers, ivy leaves, an olive branch, a meander, leaves, boxed triangles, diamonds (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, p. 25–26).

The ovules had appeared on the pottery since the late 5th century BC. They did not exist separately and were usually combined with other elements. The most popular motif used together with ovules was palmettes, the amount of which in the centre of a stamp could vary from three to twelve palmettes. A palmette consisted from a volute base and a spreading array of petals. The shape of a palmette varied from a long, open one to a tight palmette. They could be with ovule or sharp volutes, with separated volutes or almost merged with petals (Talcott 1935, p. 487). Palmettes could be combined with radial incised lines (Егорова 2009, c. 20).

In the 5th and the first half of the 4th centuries BC, complex ornamentations with palmettes prevailed, they included ovules, arcs, and circles of different size. At the end of the 5th century, palmettes and circles without ovules appeared. Since the middle of the 4th century, ovules had disappeared;
they were replaced by different amount of incisions, which from the last quarter of the 4th century outlined the palmettes. Ornament of palmettes and incisions was the most popular ornament for the pottery at the end of the 4th and in the first part of the 3rd centuries BC, which makes it the main dating marker of this time. Since the second quarter of the 3rd century BC, stamps had slowly disappeared from the common use (Егорова 2014б, с. 176).

Lotus flowers are rare decorative elements that do not seem to have survived until the 4th century BC. During the Hellenistic period, this technique was practically absent, and lotus flowers ornamented mainly bowls and plates of the late 4th and the first part of the 3rd centuries BC as continuation of the classic form development. Ivy leaves were an even more unique shape, which was more often incised than stamped, and it was usually used to decorate one type of bowls: the bolsal. This ornament consisted of a concentric circle and an olive branch around it. A meander was usually found on the outside of amphoriskoi and lekythoi, more rarely it was used on the inner part of cups. Four-quarter meander prevailed. Other rare elements are leaves in stylized version placed predominately in the centre of the composition. Boxed triangles ornamented sessile kantharoi with low handles. The unique elements are so-called diamonds, that usually represented some kind of jewellery (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, p. 26).

First, it is important to say that Olbian collection of the Attic black-glazed pottery has the same characteristics of forms and stamps as the material from Athenian Agora (Corbet 1955, p. 176–180, Sparkes, Talcott 1970, p. 17–34). Stamped ornament is often found on the open shape pottery: on cups, kantharoi, bowls, and rarely on skyphoi. That is why in the context of Olbian collection we can try to distinguish typical combinations of these ornaments according to the type of pottery. This is above all the most popular ornament of ovules and palmettes in their different variations.

Stamped ornament on the bowls with outturned rim (fig. 1) and on the bowls with incurving rim (fig. 2, 1–3) is represented by the pottery dated by the period from 430 to 350 BC. All stamps on the bottom are classic. The combination of two ovule circles, combined palmettes and a rosette with five palmettes is the earliest type of ornament (430–420 BC) (fig. 1, 1, 3) (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 780, 789). Later ornaments (from the late 5th century to the first part of the 4th century) are the combination of palmettes of similar shape, lines, and short strokes (fig. 1, 2, 4–6) (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 759, 815, 875). Bowls with incurving rim could be decorated only with palmettes, but we can observe their variety: oval (fig. 2, 3) or circle (fig. 2, 1) palmettes, palmettes with or without heart, sometimes palmettes are completely solid —

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1 Here and further, the terminology of Athenian Agora is used (Sparkes, Talcott 1970).

2 Owe Buiskyh A., Ivchenko A., Shevchenko T. (IA NASU), Shevchenko T. (NIAZ «Olbia») for the using of materials from excavations in Olbia IA NASU.
without separate petals and volutes (fig. 2, 2). Finds of such pottery occurred in Olbia more than once (Леви 1940, табл. XVII, XXIII; Славин, Леви 1964, рис. 4, 8, 23; Папанова 2000, рис. 13). Similar stamps on the bowls are known from the last quarter of the 5th century to the middle of the 4th century (Corbett 1955, cat. № 22; Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 536, 545, 555; Themelis, Touratsouhli 1997, A39, A40; Corpus..., 3, 2, cat. 1 (20.19); Alexandrescu 1978, pl. 67).

Such combinations of different stamp elements are found among the material of the Black Sea North Region: in Panticapaean (Егорова 2014б, рис. 2; 2015, рис. 4), Gorgippia (Алексеева 1997, табл. 206, 207), Chersonesos (Стоянов 2005, рис. 4; Золотарев 2005, fig. 7; Золотарев 2005, рис. 1), at Chaika settlement near Chersonesos (Егорова 2005, рис. 1, 2), Yelizavetivske settlement and burial ground (Брашинский 1980, табл. XVII, XXI, XXXVII).

The «bolsal» cups have the same ornament, that is merged palmettes and concentric circles of ovules (fig. 2, 4–6). This ware was dated by the 420s BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 536, 545, 555; Themelis, Touratsouhli 1997, Z24; Corpus..., 4, 1, fig. 18). In general, a rosette of palmettes in the centre always decorated the «bolsal» cups. Materials from the necropolis in Shyroka gully near Olbia (Папанова 2000, рис. 3) and from other Ancient Greek cities in this region prove this fact (Рогов, Кашаев, Форназир 2005, рис. 10; Егорова 2015, рис. 2; Брашинский 1980, табл. XX). The combination of the following elements, that go one by one beginning from the centre of the composition, is indicative for the period of 430–425 BC: a circle, a circle of ovules, a circle of five or six palmettes connected with each other by radial lines, a big circle of ovules, and a big circle of eighteen or twenty palmettes connected with each other by radial lines.

However, in most of cases stamped ornament was found in the centre of cup-skyphoi. All fragments that had been analyzed were dated by the period of 420–350 BC and serve as classic examples of this type of pottery because they can be correlated with unbroken wares (fig. 3; 4) (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 586, 589, 590, 593, 604, 608, 609, 619, 622, 659, 664, 756, 759; Alexandrescu 1966, pl. 90; Handberg, Petersen 2010, cat. Da 212; Corpus..., 4, 1, fig. 18, 20) and have analogs among the material from Olbian excavations in the previous years (Леви 1940, табл. XVI; Козуб 1979, рис. 14; 1974, рис. 9; Папанова 1993, рис. 10; 2000, рис. 4, 5, 6; Русева, Назарчук 2006, рис. 190; Назарчук 2014, рис. 20–24). In the centre, almost all fragments have a rosette with various numbers of palmettes (from four to seven), sometimes they are related to each other (fig. 3, 2, 6, 10, 12), and sometimes some ovules were added (fig. 4, 3, 11-12).
4). Rows of notching, circles of ovules and other palmettes could enclose the central rosette. One fragment did not have any analog (fig. 4, 6): four palmettes of indistinctive shape interchanging with four stylistic images of leaves. However, based on the inner circle size and distinctive palmette shape, this type of ornament can belong to the same category of ware.

Cup-kantharoi from the last quarter of the 5th century to the 4th century BC have similar ornaments (see: Corbett 1955, cat. № 12; Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 648, 752, 759, 805,1047, 1052; Handberg, Petersen 2010, cat. Da 399; see also Corpus..., 4, 1, fig. 19). They consist of palmettes connected with each other, include circles of ovules and incisions (fig. 5, 1–3). The same ornaments can be found on the one-handlers (fig. 5, 4) and on the rolled rim plates (fig. 5, 5–7). Analogous stamps can be observed on the findings from Olbian cho-
ra (Данильченко 2000, табл. 1, 2; Bylkova 2005, fig. 9), from Belizavetivske settlement (Данильченко 1999; Брашинский 1980, табл. XIV), Panticapae-
um (Егорова 2014а, рис. 7, 8; 2015, рис. 3), Gor-
grippia (Алексеева 1997, табл. 206), Chersonesos (Стоянов 2005, рис. 2, 3), and Nymphaiou (Чистов 2000, табл. 1; Данильченко 2002; Соловьев 2003, рис. 61), at the settlement of Panske 1 necropolis (Погоров 2011, рис. 18, 19), and Prykubanskyi burial ground (Лимберис, Марченко 2009, рис. 2). It is essential to point out that ornaments have changed over time, they became more stylized, and even schematic. This tendency can be observed at the findings from Olbia of the early 3rd century BC (e.g. messy palmettes and incisions) (Леви 1964, рис. 23).

Among stamped open shape vases, it is neces-
sary to distinguish cup of «delicate class». This form is rightfully considered to be the most elegant shape of the stamped black-glazed pottery. There are several types of stamps: a rosette in the centre, palmettes connected in a circle around the centre rosette, and an external row of incisions. Sometimes these were combined with ovules and inci-
sions, namely, dots in the shape of leaves. In another variant of this stamp, the central rosette was replaced with a star surrounded by some rays. In addition, ivy or olive branch elements were often added (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, p. 102–103). Several types are specific for the earlier period: two-level stamp with a circle in the centre, then a rosette with «petals» surrounded by a double concentrical circle and petals line with radial «heads», and sometimes there could be three levels of petals with concen-
trical circles. The second type consists of the same elements: alternate levels of petals and palmettes separated by concentrical circles. Palmettes could be connected with each other by flowing lines as well as adjoin the radial line. In 420 BC, new combi-
inations of elements appeared: circle of petals, concentrical circle, and circle of ovules connected with each other by arcs, the second circle of pet-
als, and sometimes there was also the third circle of ovules. At this stage, it was popular to use geometric elements, such as regular-shaped star with a circle inside it and a row of palmettes or concentrical circles or meander around it, then there was a row of crossed lines composing a «net» which ended either with a simple circle or with a circle of ovules.

All studied fragments of «delicate style» cups with many analogs from Athenian Agora were dated by 450–400 BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 488, 490, 496, 498, 499, 502, 504, 583; see more: Иванов 1963, табл. 101; Alexandrescu 1966, pl. 87; 1978, pl. 61–63; Corpus..., 4, 1, fig. 22). They are represented by the following fragments of pottery (fig. 6; 7, 1–2; 10) which present a full picture of spreading of this type of stamped decoration in Olbia. It is necessary to point out that this type of pottery has been researched earlier and was found among the materials in Olbia (Назарчук 2014, рис. 20; Папанова 2000, рис. 1; Фармаковский 1911, рис. 3, 4), as well as in Chersonesos (Стоянов 2005, рис. 2), Panticapaeum (Егорова 2015, рис. 1), at the Asian Bosporus, at the settlements of the Taman Peninsula (Поров, Кашаев, Форнашир 2005, рис. 9), and in Yelizavetivske settlement (Брашинский 1980, табл. XIV). These forms are known to be at the necropolis of Panske 1 settlement (Поров, Тункина 1985, с. 161). The craftsmen of this style always used black glaze of high quality with a peculiar metal shine (Talcott 1935, p. 481). To the author’s opinion, a very interesting fact is that ornamentation of nearly half of the materials from Olbia is somewhat different from the already known materials of the Athenian Agora. We can see new combinations of familiar elements; for example, different are decorative patterns with all corners smooth.
In half of cases, a circle of palmettes surrounded a well-known geometric ornament, or a circle of ovules was added several times. An archaeologically whole cup of 420 BC serves as a classic example of this type of pottery (fig. 7, 1).

In very rare cases, craftsmen used lotus flower ornament, but so far, we know only two such examples. One of them was dated by 425 BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 463). The stamp was placed on the bottom of an acrocup. The distinctive feature of it is its accuracy and precision since the craftsman did not make any unnecessary or wrong movement. In the centre, there are four lotuses and palmettes interchanging each other, with the palmettes being connected by radial lines, then there is a sharp circle with seven palmettes and six lotuses interchanging each other (fig. 7, 2). The author did not find any analogs of another fragment, but according to the manner of stamping, it belongs to the same period. The ware is covered with two layers of ornamentation, where palmettes in pairs are connected with lotuses (fig. 7, 3).

Interesting and equally rare is the ornament of an ivy leaf. So far, we have uncovered only seven fragments dated by the period of 420–400 BC (Sparkes, Talcott 1970, cat. Nr. 506) and only one dated by the period of 450 BC (Handberg, Petersen 2010, cat. Da–69; Назарчук 2014, кар. № 58). Ivy leaves are combined with other elements: with circles of ovules (that surround images of an ivy bush) as well as with some others, such as semiabstract images of fruit or berries (fig. 8; 9). One of the fragments impressed us by its realistic elements (fig. 9, 6): leaf nerves can be clearly seen on the ivy leaves, and cores can be distinguished on berries. Only one fragment did not have any analogs (fig. 9, 2). However, the general composition of probable leaf-like images allows the author to refer it to the same type. Ivy ornaments were also found at some other Ancient Greek cities of the Black Sea North Region, for example in Panticapaeum (Егорова 2015, рис. 1, 1), but they were also rare.

Despite their small quantity compared to the vast collection of finds during the period of more than one hundred years of excavations, the stamped ornaments on the black-glazed pottery from Olbia under the study still allow the author to make certain conclusions about spreading of this type of pottery in Olbia during the Classical period. It can be confidently stated that the Olbian material completely corresponds to almost all known types of stamped and incised ornament spread. The earliest variants of the delicate style with ornaments filling almost the whole space on the bottom of the ware appeared in the third quarter of the 5th century BC. In the last quarter of the same century, new motifs could be observed, and decorative elements became simpler fitting into one or two circles. Craftsmen used different combinations of certain elements: in the centre, they put flower with eight petals surrounded by an olive branch; circle of ovules, six palmettes and another circle of ovules; four palmettes in the centre surrounded...
by volutes with five palmettes on the sides; circle of meanders and palmettes on the outer side. Usage of the olive branch is especially distinctive for this type of pottery. Beginning from the turn of the 5th and 4th centuries BC, we can observe even further simplifying of elements: five or four palmettes connected or not connected with each other by radial lines. Craftsmen used rarer elements: a circle of ovules surrounded by ivy leaves connected with each other; lotuses connected with each other by lines. In the 4th century BC, the main element, the palmette, changed. It became more relief and bigger in size, and an ornament of two or three rows of incisions can more often be seen around.

The ornament of thin-walled cup-skyphos at first almost repeated the ornament of the “delicate class” cups, but in the beginning of the 4th century BC it changed and became simpler with less clarity and accuracy; palmettes became blurry and more convex. However, in the second quarter of this century, the quality of images became higher: palmettes had separate petals, and two volutes were well defined. For this period, it was common to use two or three rows of incisions. One-hand cups and bowls from Olbia have the same type of ornamentation; they were usually decorated with simple circles, circles of palmettes, circles of ovules, and in the later variants, rows of incisions were utilized.

Thus, we can conclude that Olbian collection generally represents the same tendencies for the import of the Attic black-glazed pottery of the 5th and 4th centuries BC as were in other cities of the Black Sea North Region. However, in the process of searching for analogs, we revealed some differences, particular-


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