Recent years have seen great and continually increasing interest among foreign and Polish students in research on the Greek colonies of the Black Sea coast. This is partly the result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the attendant ease of access to these territories. Moreover, these sites provide the best opportunity for Polish students to begin working on excavations at sites associated with ancient Greek culture, since they are located relatively close to Poland, and the expenses entailed by participation in the research are comparatively much lower that in the case of Greece itself, or Italy.

Many expeditions are organized involving scholars from Poland (e.g. from the University of Warsaw, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the University of Toruń), Germany, the United States, and Rumania, in cooperation with Ukrainian and Russian researchers.

Cracow has now become an important center for this research, thanks to two agreements signed by the Institute of Archaeology at the Jagiellonian University: one with the Archaeological Museum at the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences in Odessa (1997), and one with the Department of Historical Preservation at the District Administration of Odessa (1998).
Fig. 1 Koshary. The localization of the site on the northern shores of the Black Sea.

Fig. 2 Koshary - the modern village and ancient sites.
The ancient site chosen for the joint Cracow-Odessa expedition is situated near the modern village of Koshary. This is a complex composed of an ancient settlement and its accompanying necropolis (with only a few earlier graves), about 700 meters from the shore of the Black Sea, on the right bank of the Tiligul coastal salt lake (Liman Tiligulski), about half-way from modern Odessa to ancient Olbia (Figs. 1 and 2). What makes this site especially interesting is the hypothesis advanced several years ago that it may be identified with the ancient Odessos, located by ancient authors in this region (that is, the second Odessos, other than the famous site identified with modern Varna in Bulgaria).

The Koshary site had been explored to a limited extent during several seasons in the past. The investigations of the settlement uncovered its northwestern part, which consisted of dwellings, streets, and a series of household cavities. Two periods of construction have been traced here: a) the first half - third quarter of the 4th century BC; b) the last quarter of the 4th century BC and the beginning of the 3rd. The necropolis consists of a burial complex and a cult complex. There are indications of the presence of overgrave constructions – barrows, gravestones, altars – and the barrows suggest that the necropolis was also used by local aboriginal tribes. The material and spiritual culture, the burial rites, and the plan and structure of settlement are similar to those of Olbia and its *chora*. This provided the basis for the hypothesis that the Koshary site belonged to the Olbian state.

The aims of the new Polish-Ukrainian excavations are as follows:
- to determine the character and rank of the Koshary complex and its position within the Olbian *chora* and the structure of the polis of Olbia;
- to define the character of the relations between the environment of the Greeks on the Black Sea and the aboriginal tribes, such as the Scythians, the Getes, and others.

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Fig. 3. Koshary 1998. NE part of the settlement: 1 - 6 walls; 1 - 3 storage pits; 4 hearth
The first season of excavation lasted from July 23 to August 23, 1998. Excavations were conducted in both the settlement and the necropolis. The investigations in the settlement were concentrated in the northeastern part, near the edge of the promontory on which the site is located. The Ukrainian members of the expedition guided the work in the immediate vicinity of the region partly excavated in the past by a Soviet expedition and a subsequent Ukrainian expedition. The present work consisting in cleaning out and expanding the old trenches. A fragment of town street with stone pavement was exposed. A large cellar was also investigated, belonging to a large-dimension building, probably a dwelling, situated near the street. This was urgent, since the cellar was being plundered and devastated by modern robbers. Some very interesting architectural elements were discovered in the cellar, made of stones and mud bricks mixed with organic components (grass? straw?). In the fill of the cellar (disturbed by the robbers’ activities), in addition to many pottery shards (mainly from transport amphorae) dateable to the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, there were also many fragments of large terracotta roof tiles.

Within the settlement, the Polish team opened two trenches, each measuring 5x5 meters (squares 1 and 2, Fig. 3, 4), also situated in the northeastern part of the site, just to the south of the Ukrainian sector, and close to the edge of the promontory. First the

Fig. 4. Koshary 1998. Excavations in progress on the settlement area

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The team, under the direction of the present authors, consisted of Jaroslaw Bodzek and Wojciech Machowski, archaeologists from the Jagiellonian University’s Institute of Archaeology; Grzegorz First, Marta Kania, Aleksandra Kowal, Michal Satota, and Mateusz Woźniak, archaeology students from the Institute; and four research workers from the Odessa Museum: L.V. Nosova, T.N. Kokorzchickaya, L.J. Polishchuk, V.G. Petrenko, accompanied by young volunteers from various schools.
humus layer was removed, along with several layers of stones and blocks mixed with earth and pottery. A narrow street was exposed, slightly less than 2 meters wide, oriented NW-SE, with the remains of some kind of pavement, especially well preserved in the southernmost segment. Two buildings adjacent to the street (Fig. 5) from the north and the south, probably dwellings, were partly uncovered. The walls were made of irregular stones of varying dimension, laid without mortar on a kind of earth foundation. The slits between the stones were filled with earth and small stones. Some parts of the walls were made of larger, worked stone blocks. The width of these walls varies from 0.35/0.40 m to ca. 1 m. The walls abutting the street were better mad, especially the faces overlooking the street. In a rectangular room in the house on the north side of the street a patinated bronze coin was found in the habitation layer, more or less at the level of the street. A preliminary examination prior to cleaning suggests that this is an Olbian coin with Borysthenes on the obverse, and an axe-scepter and bow-case on the reverse; the legend is illegible, so the coin can be dated only generally to the period 330-250 BC. Several similar coins were discovered during previous excavations. There were also three pits found in the same room below this level, probably of household character (Fig. 3:1-3). One of these, no. 2, was apparently covered by the east wall of the room, which implies that it was of earlier date than the wall in question. We encountered one very interesting structure in the eastern part of the building on the south side of the street (Fig. 3:4). This was a hearth made of three layers of small flat pebbles. To the west, in the northeast corner of the room, there was a sort of corresponding enclosure, i.e. a space separated off by
regularly arranged stones. There were traces observed on the north wall of the room indicating that this enclosure was also in contact with fire.

Many animal bones were found in the fill of the trenches, as well as many pottery fragments, mainly from transport amphorae. In this material there is one partly preserved amphora handle with a rectangular stamp bearing a damaged inscription in two lines, probably originating from Sinope. In addition, there are a few fragments of imported black glazed pottery, more shards of local hand-made vessels, and wheel-turned gray pottery, presumably of Olbian manufacture, along with pieces of iron (pins? nails?), bone objects, and shell pendants.

An analysis of the arrangement of the settlement in the investigated area will be possible after the work has been completed in both squares in the 1999 season, and the trench has been expanded to the east and the west in order to expose the rest of the two buildings and clarify the street’s route.

The necropolis situated north of the settlement was excavated by E.I. Diamant and E.F. Redina in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. During the 1998 season, an area of 600 square meters was investigated, containing over 30 grave complexes. The most distinctive of these is a barrow; though not visible on the surface due to the complete destruction of the mound, it could be traced by the well-preserved foss which originally surrounded the mound (Fig. 6). Two niche graves were discovered in the central part of the barrow. To judge from the dimensions, one of these was an adult burial, and the other belonged to a child. Unfortunately both have been completely plundered, and the skeletons are preserved only in fragments. It was also determined

Fig. 6. Koshary 1998. General view of the necropolis with a circular outline of the barrow in foreground
that the barrow is surrounded to the east by flat graves (without mounds), containing skeletons lying in an west-east orientation, i.e. typical for a Scythian environment. The grave inventories also contain, in addition to elements typical for the ancient world generally, elements of Scythian weaponry (small bronze arrowheads).

Fig. 7. Koshary 1998. Grave No. 57 with an amphora and black glazed kantharos in the equipment

The ancient Greek graves discovered in the Koshary necropolis have a characteristic architectonic form (Fig. 7). On the surface they are marked by a gravestone (pillar, slab). They consist of an entrance hollow, usually oval in shape, with a grave niche carved in the longer side of the bottom, from the north or northeast. The entrance to the niche is usually blocked by stone slabs or mud bricks of the same type as described in the settlement. The east-west orientation dominates in the arrangement of the skeletons.

The presence of a clearly distinct concentration of children's graves was discovered in the investigated portion of the necropolis. This is a very rare phenomenon in the ancient world. The architecture of these graves was not distinguishable from that of the adult graves. Most of the tombs had already been robbed and devastated in antiquity. For obvious reasons this makes it difficult to characterize the grave inventories. The grave offerings in the intact grave complexes consist mainly of pottery (amphorae from Black Sea centers, such as Heracleia Pontica, along with imported black glazed kantharoi and squat lekythoi, and one handled cup of wheel-thrown gray ware pottery of local production), beads, and bronze ornaments (ear-rings). The oldest graves excavated in the Koshary necropolis
in 1998 can probably be dated to the 5th century BC, but the majority come from the 4th century BC.

In the present state of investigation it is very difficult to analyze the arrangement of this cemetery. It will be necessary to compare our results with those from previous studies, and to systematically expand the part of the necropolis presently being excavated. The exploration of the immediate vicinity of the Late Scythian barrow on the west side may prove to be especially interesting. The goal will be to ascertain whether or not the barrow is accompanied on the east side, as it is on the west, by a concentration of graves with Late Scythian elements in the grave offerings.

During the 1998 season some prospective drilling was also done in the presumed earth embankment dividing the settlement from the rest of the promontory heights, and samples were taken for chemical analysis. The aim of this research is to determine if the presumed stronghold was elevated, or simply carved out of the natural soil.