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Ewdoksii Papuc-Władyki

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Recent Research in Northern Black Sea Coast Greek Colonies
Новейшие исследования греческих колоний Северного Причерноморья

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Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka

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March 2006 was an exceptionally good month in Kraków for Polish-Ukrainian cultural and scientific cooperation. On March 17, a photographic exhibition entitled *In Search of Treasures: Polish-Ukrainian Research at Koshary near Odessa* was opened at the National Museum in Kraków. This was followed by an international conference held on the next day at the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University: ПОНТИКА — РОНТИСА — ПОНТИКА.1

Both events were the effect of cooperation between the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University and the Archaeological Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine in Odessa, a cooperation which started several years ago, in 1998. The joint archaeological Koshary Project was launched then and, more importantly, closer ties were established between the two institutions.

Some time ago, Jarosław Bodzek (a member of the Koshary Project, staff member not only of the Institute of Archaeology at the Jagiellonian University but also of the National Museum in Kraków, where he heads the Numismatic Room) and Krystyna Moczulska (then in charge of the Ancient Art Gallery at the Czartoryski Museum in Kraków) came up with the idea to organize an exhibition of antiquities from Odessa in our city. Our joint suggestion to have a photographic presentation of the excavations and an academic conference to go with it was a natural follow-up. The Odessa exhibition,2 was organized as part

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of the Kraków Museum’s ODESSA-KRAKÓW project. It was listed as one of the numerous cultural events designed to promote the Ukraine in Poland as part of the year-long program called “Year of the Ukraine in Poland” in 2005, which ran over from the preceding year into 2006. The official opening ceremony of the Odessa exhibition and the photo presentation took place on March 17 in the Main Building of the Kraków National Museum.³

Complementing the two exhibitions in the scientific sphere was a conference concerning the newest research in the Black Sea littoral. It took place on March 18 at the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University in Grodzień Street and it proved to be an excellent forum for exchanging ideas and presenting the results of work by several expeditions excavating in the region from Tyras in the Ukraine in the west to Tanais in Russia and the Georgian Pichvnari in the east. The conference was attended by the late Vladimir P. Vanchugov, Director of the Archaeological Museum in Odessa. It was hosted jointly by Jan Chochołowski, Director of the Jagiellonian University’s Institute of Archaeology, and Ewdoxia Papuci-Władyka, head of the Classical Archaeology Department at the Institute and co-director, with Evgenia F. Redina, of the Koshary Project. Special guest Vassos Karageorghis, Director of the Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation (Nicosia, Cyprus), presented the achievements of the Foundation in the promotion, conservation and organization of exhibitions of monuments of Cypriot and Greek culture throughout the world, the Odessa Museum included.

The PONTIKA conference brought important conclusions which are presented in these proceedings. The conference also demonstrated the role that Kraków can play as a meeting place between the East and West of Europe. Many promising contacts were made at the conference between representatives of various academic institutions and museums. By the same token, the one-day meeting organized by the Department of Classical Archaeology at the Jagiellonian proved to be an important event for researchers focusing on ancient cultures on the Black Sea.

The exhibition and conference would hardly have been the success it was without the contribution of the staff, doctoral candidates and students of the Faculty of History and the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University: Wojciech Machowski, Marta Kania, Grzegorz Łączek, Aleksandra Kowal, Maciej Czech, Katarzyna Mirczak, Sylwia Stelmach and Anna Drzymuchowska, as well

³ Open until June 4, 2006; cf. Also E. Dziwisz, Złoto, groby i uczeń, „KRAKÓW”, czerwiec 2006, 74-75.
as Sławomir Chwalek, a graduate of our Institute. Jarosław Bodzek and Mateusz Woźniak of the Archaeological Institute and the National Museum operated as a natural connection between our two institutions.

Ewdokisa Papuci-Władyka

Jagiellonian University, Kraków
ABBREVIATIONS • СПИСОК СОКРАЩЕНИЙ

„ACIMB” — „Аннуарул Комисиунii monumentelor istorice: секция din Basarabia”
„CNA” — “Cronica numismatică și archeologică”
IOSPE — B. Latyshev, Inscriptiones antiquae orae septentrionalis Ponti Euxini,
Ed. 2, Petropolis 1885-1916
„KSIA AN SSSR” — „Краткие сообщения Института Археологии AN SSSR”
(см. „КСИА АН УССР”)
„MSROA” — „Материалы i Справоcдания Рzeszowskiego Оsределка Arхеологического”
„MIA” — „Материалы i исследований po археологии SSSR” (см. „МИА”)
„NE” — „Numismatika i Epigrafika” (см. „НЭ”)
„RGF” — „Rómisch — Germanische Forschungen”
„VDI” — „Вестник Древней Истории” (см. „ВДИ”)

„АО” — „Археологические Открытия”
„АП УРСР” — „Археологičни памяtkи УРСР”
„ВДИ” — „Вестник Древней Истории” (см. „ВДИ”)
„ЗООИ” — „Записки Одесского общества истории и древностей”
„КСИА AN УССР” — „Краткие сообщения Института археологии AN УССР”
(см. „КСИА AN SSSR”)
„МИА” — „Материалы и исследования по археологии СССР” (см. „МИА”)
„МАСП” — „Материалы по археологии Северного Причерноморья”
„НЭ” — „Нумизматика и эпиграфика” (см. „NE”)
ПГКСВП — Проблемы греческой колонизации Северного и Восточного
Причерноморья, Тбилиси
„СА” — „Советская археология”
СЗП-КЗАК — Северо-Западное Причерноморье — контактная зона древних культур, Киев
Michael Vickers  
Oxford, Great Britain

Amiran Kakhidze  
Batumi, Georgia

Pichvnari 1967-2005; recent work in a Colchian and Greek settlement  
[Pls. 31-32]

Pichvnari lies on the Black Sea coast of Georgia, at the confluence of the Choloki and Ochkhramuri rivers, some 10 km to the north of the town of Kobuleti in the Ajarian Autonomous Republic. Major settlements began at Pichvnari in the Middle Bronze Age. At the end of the 2nd millennium B.C. iron working seems to have started at the Choloki-Ochkhramuri confluence (Khakhutiashvili 1987), and in the pre-Classical period (8th-7th cent. B.C.) dune settlements appeared along the shore line to the west of the Pichvnari settlement, with occupation levels up to 6 or 7 metres deep.

Pichvnari (which means ‘the place of the pine trees in Georgian’: the ancient name is unknown) became progressively more important from the Early Classical period, and in the Classical and Hellenistic periods it was one of the major urban centres of the eastern Black Sea littoral, with close trading, economic and cultural relations with other centres of the Classical world. The urban settlement, which lay a little way inland, occupied an area of up to 100 hectares (Fig. 1: I, II, VII). Three major cemeteries, directly related to the urban settlement, have been brought to light. Lying to the west of the settlement site, beyond the Choloki (which will have been navigable by ships in antiquity), these cemeteries occupy an area of perhaps 20 hectares. One is what has been called a ‘Colchian’ necropolis of the 5th century B.C. (Fig. 1:III), the other a 5th-4th century B.C. ‘Greek’ cemetery (Fig. 1:IV), and the third belongs to the Hellenistic period (Fig. 1:V). The cemeteries belong to the period mid-fifth century to mid-third century B.C., after which the site remained unused until part of it was employed as a cemetery again in the 4th century A.D. Much of the necropolis area is covered with tea bushes, the remains of what was in former times
a flourishing tea plantation. This is slowly reverting to nature, and a good deal of clearance has to be undertaken before excavation can take place.

The work of the Pichvnari Expedition, organised from the Batumi Archaeological Museum and the Batumi Research Institute, ceased at the time of the break-up of the Soviet Union (results summarised in Tsetskhladze 1999), but it was possible to start again in 1998 with the collaboration of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and work has continued each year since then. The co-directors have been Amiran Kakhidze, Director of the Batumi Archaeological Museum and until recently Rector of Batumi State University, and Michael Vickers, Professor of Archaeology in the University of Oxford, and Curator of Greek and Roman antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum. This, the first ever joint British-Georgian excavation, has been generously supported over the years by the British Academy, the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, the Oxford Craven Committee, a Jesus College, Oxford Research Grant, the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean, and with private donations. Preliminary reports have been published in successive issues of *Anatolian Archaeology* since 1998 (Vickers, Kakhidze 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001a, 2002, 2003, 2004b), an article on the 1998 season appeared in *Anatolian Studies* for 2001 (Vickers, Kakhidze 2001b), and a monograph covering the work of the 1998-2002 seasons, *Pichvnari 1*, was published in 2004 (Vickers, Kakhidze 2004a). *Pichvnari 2*, dealing with work in the Greek cemetery between 1967 and 1989, is in the press, and *Pichvnari 3*, on work done since 2004 is in active preparation. The Pichvnari webpage was created in 2005 by Agnieszka Frankowska of the University of Toruń: http://home.jesus.ox.ac.uk/~mvickers/Home%20page.htm, and has since been updated.

![Fig. 1. Pichvnari, plan.](image)
The settlement

Early work in the area of the settlement was not easy, in that it took place in a copse, where the trees were deep-rooted. The upper level produced the tip of a Late Roman wine jar. The underlying Hellenistic layer included pithos fragments and tiles from Sinope and Heraclea Pontica (Vickers, Kakhidze 2004b, Figs. 300ff). Fragments of imported (mostly Sinopean) and locally made amphoras characterised the next levels (Fig. 2), and in a level datable by fifth and fourth century B.C. pottery were found hard-packed misshapen lumps of fired clay that were probably the remains of wooden structure destroyed by fire. Much the same profile was obtained in a trench dug in more open ground, where we were able to go deeper, as far as the eighth or seventh century B.C. wooden foundations of houses, a level at which a wooden plough and a Colchian bronze axe were found. It had been hoped to date these foundations dendrochronologically, but they are of beech, and the dendrochronological profile of beech is as yet unknown (thanks are due at this point to Professor Peter Kuniholm of the Cornell Dendrochronology Laboratory for his help in this matter). Spindle-whorls (Fig. 3), loom-weights (Fig. 4), grindstones, net weights, and whetstones, in addition to a large number of ceramic finds, attested to the way of life of the Colchian inhabitants. There is no indication as yet as to where the Greek population of ancient Pichvnari may have lived.

The Colchian Cemetery

The ‘Colchian’ cemetery is situated to the west of the Pichvnari settlement, on a natural elevation, called ‘Napurvala’ by the local residents, on the left bank of the Choloki. To the west of the 5th century B.C. ‘Colchian’ cemetery lies a ‘Greek’ necropolis of the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. The precise dimensions
are as yet uncertain. There is some disagreement as to whether the evident differences between the more or less contemporary cemeteries are the result of ethnic distinctions (Kakhidze 1981) or the result of socio-economic differentiation (Braund 1994, 114).

The 5th century B.C. ‘Colchian’ cemetery occupies a large area. The hill slopes from the south-east to the north-west. Burials are found almost everywhere. Intermittent field work has been carried on here since 1966, and 232 burials had been studied before 1989, and 115 since. The inventory of burial complexes constitutes the principal source for the study of Colchian history and culture of the Classical period; in particular evidence for trading links with Greek centres.

Some 50 cm below the regular ground level, and beneath layer of loose earth is a layer of hardened sandy soil into which the outlines of most of the burials cut into the natural earth could clearly be seen. Most burials are simple pit burials in which the deceased were laid in a crouched position (Pl. 31:1). A feature of the acid soil is that nothing organic survives, whether bones, wood or textiles. Both imported and local pottery occur among the grave goods, and they are frequently placed near the head. For example, Burial 234 found in 2005 included an Attic black-gloss bolsal (one handle of which was broken off) and a locally made Colchian jug. A peculiar feature of burials at Pichvnari, in both ‘Colchian’ and ‘Greek’ cemeteries is the presence of the custom of ‘Charon’s obol, whereby a coin or coins might be placed in the mouth of the dead. Such coins are most frequently the locally produced kolkhidki, triobols, with a human head on the obverse, and a bull’s head on the reverse, made on the Persian weight standard (Doundoua 1982; Braund 1994, 118-121; Vickers, Kakhidze 2004b). Very occasionally the metal might react with the enamel of the teeth, allowing the latter to survive intact (Pl. 31.2). Jewellery also occurs. A notable example is the pair of gold penannular earrings made along the lines of Achaemenid bracelets, with highly stylised lions’ heads at the finials.

Wooden coffins are unusual in the ‘Colchian’ cemetery (and when they were used, the only indication of their presence is in the shape of iron nails, very occasionally bronze, Fig. 5). The iron was analysed at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and
the History of Art in Oxford, and found to be ‘exceedingly pure with other elements only existing as traces’ (Broadgate [in:] Vickers, Kakhidze 2004). There is in fact a lot of evidence for iron smelting in the area of Pichvnari (Kakhutiaishvili 1987) and it is likely that iron was a major export commodity from the emporion at Pichvnari in antiquity. Iron corrosion products allowed for the identification of the wood (Pinus sylvestris), and for an estimation of the thickness of the wood of the coffins (between 2.6 and 5 cm). Infant burials in re-used amphoras are more frequent in the ‘Greek’ cemetery. One was found in the Colchian cemetery for the first time in 2005.

Our knowledge of Colchian pottery has greatly increased thanks to the recent excavations at Pichvnari. Most Colchian vessels are jugs with biconical or rounded bodies, a flat bottom and a conical or straight neck. The decoration might consist of a series of small impressed circles or ovals, or incised almond or fern-shaped motifs. Occasionally there are vestigial rivets (Fig. 6), which bespeak a metal origin for at least the forms concerned (Vickers, Gill 1996, 108, 111, Fig. 5.4). Jugs with spouted handles are also prominent in the Colchian ceramic repertoire (Fig. 7). Most known 5th-century B.C. specimens come from Pichvnari, and are distinguished by their careful craftsmanship (Kakhidze 1979, 101-102). They would appear to have affinities with Achaemenid silverware.

The ‘Greek’ necropolis

In what is a unique site anywhere on the Black Sea coast, the graves of indigenous peoples and Greek colonists occur close to each other: evidence of a close and peaceful relationship throughout the Classical period (or, if one prefers, allows for

Fig. 5. Iron and bronze (r.) nails.
the observation of social differentiations within a society that was already multi-racial (Braund 1994, 114). If the ‘Greek’ cemetery really is Greek, it is important not just for Colchis, but for the eastern Black Sea and the Classical world in general, for no other necropolis of potentially Greek ethnicity is known in Transcaucasia. The individual burials are very well preserved, allowing the accurate study of the burial customs employed. The Greek colonists seem to have chosen a sandy coastal zone for their cemetery, and the earliest burials (of the mid-5th century B.C.) are to be found here. In the later 5th century B.C. the ‘Greek’ necropolis extended to the east, towards the ‘Colchian’ necropolis, and to the south. 150 graves were found in the earlier classical cemetery before 1989, and 273 since; and 35 in the later classical cemetery before 1989, and 90 since. The area was used intensively, but no cases of reuse of graves have been found. A great deal of archaeological material has been discovered in the burial complexes and on ritual platforms (or ‘areas for burial feasts’ [Pl. 31:3; cf. the dark patches on Fig. 8]), constituting a valuable historical source for the study of the trading, economic and cultural contacts of ancient Colchis within the Classical world.
In the 5th-century B.C. 'Greek' necropolis a loose sandy layer is followed by hardened sandy soil; nails and amphorae in the coffins are often the first things to appear. After recording, individual burials are studied to gain information about the burial customs employed. The first burials to be excavated in 1967 (Fig. 8) were among the richest to have been found. The largest grave (Burial 1) contained, in addition to several amphoras and pieces of bronze symptic furniture, a fine Attic red-figure calx-crate decorated with the Rape of Helen and the Departure of Triptolemus (Fig. 9). The latter has been attributed to the hand of the so-called 'Niobid Painter' (Kakhidze 1973; Sikharulidze 1987, 60-66). This and other graves contained silver phialai (Fig. 10). There were relatively fewer ritual platforms in the areas explored in later years than there had been among the richer burials found earlier to the west. The area appears to have been used for the burial of the relatively poor, thus lending some weight to Braund's hypothesis concerning social differentiation.

Most of the burials have the head to the east, in accordance with Greek custom. The dimensions of the graves tended to be between 2.10m and 2.20m long, and coffins in them between 1.50m and 1.70m. The dimensions of the coffins could be established, even though actual wood did not survive, thanks to the iron nails which were preserved in their hundreds. Nails were found overlying some burials, perhaps indicating a wooden roof of some kind.

The arrangement of goods in the burials followed a regular pattern. Some objects (e.g. ceramic jugs) were placed above the burial, or else buried outside the coffin (most commonly amphoras, usually Thasian or Peparethian), often at the eastern end. Within

Fig. 7. Colchian jug with spouted handle.
Fig. 8. The Greek cemetery excavations in 1967.
the grave objects might be placed at the feet, by the hands or at the head. Attic squat *lekysthoi* were frequently found, as were *bolsals* (Fig. 11) and other imported black-gloss wares (Fig. 12), the earliest dating to the mid-fifth century B.C. Grey-ware jugs (Fig. 13), perhaps from Olbia, occur regularly, as do locally made ceramic wares. Glass vessels are frequent. Jewellery might include gold. Silver (Fig. 14), bronze or iron bracelets, earrings and finger rings. Glass beads abound in some graves.

*Fig. 10. Silver phialai from the Greek cemetery.*
There were silver coins in the mouths of the deceased in the ‘Greek’ cemetery too; again mostly kolhpidi. Some coins were found pierced and had clearly been used as pendants. They include coins of Apollonia, Theodosia, Panticapaeum and Nymphaeum (Kakhidze 1974; Kakhidze, Iashvili, Vickers 2001).

Many polychrome core-formed glass vessels have been found over the years in the ‘Greek’, ‘Colchian’ and Hellenistic cemeteries. New finds include an alabastron, with a dark olive ground and spiralling blue decoration (Pl. 32:1); an amforiskos with an opaque brown ground and opaque yellow and turquoise blue decoration (Cf. Grose 1989, no. 104). The core-formed glass vessels found between 1998 and 2003 were the subject of an Oxford master’s thesis (Schroeder 2004). Strigils were unknown in the eastern Black Sea area until they began to be found at Pichvnari in the 1960s (see Fig. 9). Subsequently iron strigils were found in 4th-3rd century burials Takhridziri, Inner Kartli (Gagoshidze 1997,16-17), and in 1998 another, bronze, example was found in the earlier classical cemetery at Pichvnari (Burial 174).

A most remarkable grave (Burial 261 [Pl. 32:2]) was discovered in 2005 that contained no fewer than five core-formed glass vessels: two alabastra and three amforiskoi, all of them made of the customary dark blue glass with opaque yellow turquoise decoration.
that evokes—albeit at a distance—lapis lazuli, except for one of the amphoriskoi that was off-white with purple decoration, a colour scheme that probably evokes murhine ware, or fluorspar (Tressaud, Vickers forthcoming). In addition to the glass vessels, there were: an Attic lekythos, a squat lekythos, two silver earrings of a kind common in the Black Sea region (Cf. Vickers 2002, pl. 12), a small gold ingot and semi-precious stones mounted on gold wire as pendants, a silver finger ring, and a bronze mirror. It is not often the case that burials at Pichnari can be differentiated according to the sex of the occupant, but it is likely that in the case of Burial 261 we are dealing with a young girl (the dimensions are smaller than those of surrounding graves).

Some burials have a ritual platform of their own, occurring mostly to the north-east or east. The burnt and charred layers contain fragments of local pottery as well as Attic black-gloss cups, skyphoi, bolsals, bowls and ‘salt-cellars,’ some bearing graffiti. The funeral meal seems to have
been a regular practice, and it is often the case that there was more pottery on a platform outside a grave—either ritually or accidentally smashed—than there was in the nearby burial. Especially noteworthy is a bowl with stamped decoration dating to the first half of the 4th century, perhaps the second quarter. Its most notable feature is a graffito reading Dionysios Leodamantos: Dionysios son of Leodamas. Mrs Elaine Mathews of the Oxford-based Lexicon of Greek Personal Names kindly notes that 'The distribution of the name Leodamas is interesting. A sprinkling through the islands (LGPN I), but 10 at Thasos; 7 in Athens; none in IIIA and 1 in IIIB (Thessaly) i.e. basically none on the mainland or the west; 1 Thracian, but a group of 7 in Olbia; 5 in Miletos, 4 others scattered in Kyzikos, Kolophon (Vickers, Kakhidze 2001; 2004).

Notable discoveries in the Hellenistic cemetery to the south of the classical cemeteries included a grave containing a large number of lead weights for a fishing net, probably indicating the occupation of the deceased; and in another grave was found a large silver ring with a portrait of Berenice I on the bezel; in yet another was found a coin of Sinope with a counterstruck owl.

**Necropolis of the 4th century A.D.**

An unexpected discovery was that part of the 5th century Greek cemetery had been reused in the Roman period. Seven burials of the 4th century A.D. were found overlying 5th century Greek graves. Unlike them, they contained no iron nails; hence, presumably, they lacked coffins.
Most Pichvnari burials of the 4th century A.D. have the head to the west, with a slight north or south inclination. The burial pits are long and rectangular with rounded corners, and lie about a metre below the modern surface. A covered clay vessel seems to have been placed at the west end of the grave subsequent to internment. The arrangement of the grave goods within the burials followed a particular order: glass vessels were placed above the head and a flint whetstone near the right hand. Clay vessels lay above the head, or at the feet. Glass beads were worn at the neck. Coins were either in the mouth or in the right hand. Iron axes, iron knives, fibulae and decorated finger-rings might lie on either side. Iron spears were usually to the right of the body, and on one occasion to the left. The material found in the graves finds ready parallels in other sites in the eastern Black Sea, such as Tskhisdziri (Inaishvili 1993, 96-97) and especially at the contemporary Tsebelda complex (Inaishvili 1993, 96-97). The most important object, critical for the dating of the re-use of the Pichvnari necropolis, was a red-gloss plate from Burial 179. Many parallels exist at Tskhisdziri (Inaishvili 1993, Fig. 32.2), Bichventa and Sukhumi (Lordkipanidze 1962, 244-245, Fig. 12), and on the north shore of the Black Sea (Chersonesus, Phanagoria, Kepoi, Tyritake, Tanais, Kytaion, etc.) (Belyaev 1962: 32 Fig. 1.4; Arsenyeva 1981, 45, Fig. 1.5, with references). The type is thought to come from Pergamum, and to have begun at the end of the 3rd or early 4th century A.D. The majority of known examples are dated to the 4th century, although production seems to have continued into the 5th century.

Further evidence for the re-use of the necropolis in late Roman times came in 2005, when a grave of the fourth or fifth century A.D. was discovered in the area of the Colchian cemetery on Napurvala Hill. It produced a pair of gold pendant earrings inlaid with red glass, a strip of base gold set with three glass or garnet beads, and a gold ring decorated with wire-work and set with a glass or garnet stone. Every year produces new surprises.

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Новейшие исследования общей Британско-Грузинской
Археологической Экспедиции в Пичвнари

Резюме

Пичвнари расположен в юго-западной части Грузии, в пределах Автономной республики Аджария, в 10 км к северу от Кобулети, на расстоянии 400 м от берегового среза Черного моря, при слиянии рек Чолоки и Очхамури.

Пичвнари являлся большим центром уже в эпоху поздней бронзы, но особенно ярко он представлен временем греческой колонизации, когда развивались торговые и культурные связи между восточным побережьем Черного моря и греческим миром. Некрополи памятника второй половины V века до н. э. богаты как греческим материалом, так и местным, из Колхиды, а колхидское заселение относится, по меньшей мере, к VIII в. до н. э. Исследования грузинских археологов начались в 60-х годах XX в., но в 1989 году исследовательская активность была, по разным причинам, значительно ограничена. Благодаря связям с Великобританией, а особенно с Оксфордским университетом, систематические раскопки некрополей «греческого» и «колхидского» были начаты в 1998 году, и продолжаются до сих пор. В 2004 году Оксфордским университетом, Ashmolean Museum и Археологическим музеем в Батуми была напечатана монография Пичвнари 1, по результатам работы первых пяти лет. Следующая монография, посвященная открытиям из «греческого» некрополя, исследованного до 1989 года, уже в конечной стадии подготовки. В статье представлено резюме исследований, совершенных в Пичвнари, с особым учетом исследовательской активности последних лет.