Two conical glass beakers from the Late Roman Period in the Crimea

The many-year-long excavations of the cemetery of Neyzats (Crimea, Ukraine) discovered more than one hundred various glass vessels. There are two beakers from the Late Roman period worth of attention because their type is unique for the Crimea. They have conical body with flaring walls and circular bottom on solid-cast truncated conical base. Edges of both vessels are unevenly cut and fused. The body is decorated with thick soldered thread of the same glass as the vessel, shaped like large, oblong, vertical ovals and horizontal border below the tip of the rim. Both vessels are made of thick, semitransparent, light green glass.

Glass vessels of the type are not known in synchronous barbarian sites and in the assemblages from the Roman period in Greco-Roman cities of the Crimea. Nevertheless, complete and fragmented beakers of similar form and ornamentation, of green and brown glass, have been excavated in the area of the Chernyakhov culture (cemeteries of Krasnny Mayak, Kholmskoye, and Kosino in the Ukraine) and in Olbia. In Romania, such vessels were discovered in cemeteries of Independenta and Izvaore. Three complete vessels have been unearthed in burial assemblage Salthammer in Norway, in glass-making workshop in Cologne, and in commune Thiétrieville in northern France. All these beakers date from the fourth and fifth centuries and, according to the researchers, belong to Roman imports. If the beakers with applied ovals under analysis were produced in Greco-Roman centres, most likely, these centres were located in imperial frontier, near the Danube or the Rhine, and had their main customers from the outside of the empire. This idea is supported by almost total absence of such vessels among the finds from the territory of the Roman empire. As Aleksander Bursche has pointed out, glass vessels from phase B2–C1b discovered in Scandinavia, in the Wielbark culture area, and in the Western Balts culture area were imported from glass-making workshops in Cologne or Trier. When glass beakers of Kowalk and Kugi types appeared in the first half of the fourth century, they, according to Bursche, supplied evidence for the contacts between the populations of Northern and Central Europe with the Black Sea area. The conclusion that these vessels were manufactured in the Black Sea area still does not find convincing arguments. We also do not have in possession good reasons to infer that local barbarians knew the art of glass-making.

KEY WORDS: Neyzats (Crimea, Ukraine), archaeological excavations, two glass beakers, Roman Period

The cemetery of Neyzats is located in the middle of Crimean foothill area, on the right bank of the Zuya river, 1 km south of Balanovo village in Belogorsk district of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea (fig. 1: 1). Regular excavations of the site in 1996–1997 and 1999–2012 uncovered 518 burial constructions, including burial vaults, pit and undercut graves. The cemetery had two cultural-chronological horizons. The first horizon dates from the second to the mid-third century AD and consists mainly of undercut and pit graves. The second one is from the fourth century AD, when most burials were made into burial vaults (the earliest vaults in the cemetery appeared as early as the first half of the third century AD) (И. Храпунов 2011, с. 18).

More than one hundred various glass vessels were discovered throughout many-year-long excavations in the cemetery (C. Б. Шабанов 2011, с. 421). There are two beakers worth of attention because their type is unique for the Crimea. They have conical body with flaring walls and circular bottom on solid-cast truncated conical base. Edges of both vessels are unevenly cut and fused. The body is decorated with thick soldered thread of the same glass as the vessel, shaped like large, oblong, vertical ovals and horizontal border below the tip of the rim. Both vessels are made of thick, semitransparent, light green glass.

The first beaker (height 11,2 cm, rim diameter 8,5 cm, foot diameter near its base 2,4 cm) (fig. 2: 1; 3: 1) was discovered in 2010 in pit with vessels no. 11 (C. Б. Шабанов 2011, с. 423). This pit probably was a chambered construction in antiquity. The vertical slabs that limit the pit from the west can lead one to such a conclusion. Besides, all the vessels remained intact, in contrast to usual pits that have many vessels crushed. Obviously, there was a niche made in the wall of the pit in ancient times to place vessels. In total, there were ten hand-made, three red slip and one glass vessel standing on the bottom of the niche. All the vessel pits in the cemetery of Neyzats date from the fourth century AD (И. Храпунов 2011, с. 22).

The second vessel (height ~ 13,5 cm; rim diameter 11 cm; foot diameter near its base 2,5 cm) (fig. 2: 2; 3: 2) was discovered in 2011 in vault no. 485. Together with several red slip and hand-made vessels, it was placed near the eastern wall of the chamber, where fallen pieces of collapsed vaulting crushed it later. The vault contained four burials of adult persons accompanied with many red slip and hand-made vessels.

Fragments of conical vessel of thin colourless glass, ornamented with blue drops, were found in the same vault. Clasina Isings dates such vessels from the second half of the fourth to the fifth century AD (C. Isings 1957, p. 130–131). According

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to Lászlo Barkoczi, conical glass with blue drops discovered in Intercisa (Hungary) can be dated as early as the second half of the fourth century AD (L. Barkoczi 1988, s. 101, taf. XIV, 158). Nina Sorokina has allocated conical beakers with blue drops originated from the northern Black Sea area to type III of her classification (Н. П. Сорокина 1971, с. 90). Trying to refine this classification, Irina Zasetskaya distinguished two subtypes and six variants within type III. She based this clarification on the fact that Sorokina ignored specific features of conical glasses (И. П. Засецкая 2000, с. 210–211). According to the extended classification by Sorokina and Zasetskaya, samples taken from the cemetery of Neyzats relate to type III, sub-type I, variant A and date back from the second half of the fourth to the first half of the fifth centuries AD (И. П. Засецкая 2008, рис. 7). In the eastern Black Sea area, such vessels are among the finds made in Tsibilium (Abkhazia) in assemblages dated form of the second half of the fourth to the sixth centuries (Ю. Н. Воронов 1973, с. 75; У. Voronov 2007, пл. 25, 3, 42, 3), as well as in Tsemdolina cemetery (А. К. Амброз 2008, с. 151–152, рис. 109: 59). In the western Black Sea region, one conical glass with blue drops was excavated in Apollonia Pontica (Bulgaria); it dates back to the fourth and fifth centuries AD (А. Минчев 1988, с. 49, табл. VII, 41). In the Crimean foothills, such finds are known only in the cemeteries of Suvorovo and Neyzats, in assemblages of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth century (Ю. П. Зайцев, В. И. Мордвинцева 2003, с. 58, 61, рис. 10: 17; 2: 10; И. Н. Храпунов 2005, с. 178, рис. 10: 6). Sorokina pointed out that, as an exclusion, conical glasses with blue drops date back to the sixth and seventh centuries; she mentioned just one single glass found together with coins of Khosrau I (531–579) and Khosrau II (590–628) in 1965 in the Shamakhi district (Azerbaijan) (Н. П. Сорокина 1971, с. 92–93). Nevertheless, the major part of these vessels relates to the fourth century and beginning of the fifth century AD. The
Fig. 2. Glass beakers from cemetery of Neyzats. 1 – vessel pit no. 11, 2 – burial vault no. 485
Ryc. 2. Szklane puchary z cmentarzyska Neyzats. 1 – naczynie, jama 11; 2 – grób 485
Fig. 3. Glass beakers. 1, 2 – Neyzats; 3 – Izvoare; 4 – Kosino; 5 – Krasny Mayak; 6 – Salthammer; 7 – Independența; 8 – Kholmskoye

Ryc. 3. Szklane puchary. 1, 2 – Neyzats; 3 – Izvoare; 4 – Kosino; 5 – Krasny Mayak; 6 – Salthammer; 7 – Independența; 8 – Kholmskoye
vessel from vault no. 485 in the cemetery of Neyzats belongs to the same chronological span.

In the same vault no. 485, one bronze fibula with tubular hinge that ends with bulbous knobs in either side (its third knob is lost), long catch-plate and steeply arched bow that is ornamented with cuts on the outer side, was unearthed. According to Anatoliy Ambroz, it can be classified as a T-shaped provincial Roman fibula, group 19, series 1, type 3 (A. K. Ambróz 1966, c. 74, табл. 13: 7). The type dates back to the fourth and fifth centuries (V. V. Kropotkin 1970, c. 34). Igor’ Gavrìtukhín’s dates are even more precise: the second quarter of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth century (I. O. Gavrítukhín 2002, c. 217).

One fibula was discovered in grave no. 19 (16) in the cemetery of Inkerman (Е. V. Веймари 1963, c. 26, рис. 10: 4; A. I. Айбабин 1999, c. 254, рис. XVI: 3). On the territory of the former USSR, such finds concentrate in Chersonesos, where at least 23 of them are known (Д. А. Костромичен 2011, c. 98). In Ambroz’s opinion, they were originally brought there from Pannonia or the Lower Danube provinces of the Roman empire.

In the mentioned vault no. 485, there was also one mirror of white metal with a loop in the centre of its back side. Such mirrors belong to Anatoliy Khazanov’s type X (A. M. Хазанов 1963, c. 68). They appeared in the Volga area from the second half of the third century AD onwards. In the Crimea, they are not known in assemblages earlier than the fourth century AD (И. Н. Храпунов 2002, c. 41). Although burials were probably made into vault no. 485 throughout the fourth century AD, grave goods allow one to suppose that some burials in this vault could date back to the late fourth or early fifth century AD.

Neither synchronous barbaric monuments nor assemblages of the Roman period in the ancient Crimea ever knew the finds of glass beakers with soldered ovals. One fragmentated beaker of similar form and ornamentation, made of green glass (fig. 3: 5), was discovered in a grave in the cemetery of Krasnyy Kiy (Southern Ukraine) that belonged to the Chernyakhov culture (В. И. Гощевич 1913, c. 135, рис. 36). Vladislav Kropotkin dated it back from the fourth to the first half of the second century AD (V. V. Kropotkin 1970, c. 30, рис. 71: 2). This cemetery combines inhumation and cremation burials. Among the finds there red slip vessels and one copper coin of emperor Theodosius I (379–395) (Э. А. Сымонович, Н. М. Кравченко 1983, c. 69–70).

In Olbia there are fragments of glass vessels with conical body and soldered threads of the same glass (fig. 4: 1). Sorokina dates them back to the third century AD (Н. П. Сорокина 1976, c. 201, рис. 1: 1, 2). Glass beaker with short flat base of brown glass and walls ornamented with ovals and vertical lines (fig. 3: 8) was discovered in burial no. 51 in the cemetery of Khomskoye (Southern Ukraine) of the Chernyakhov culture (А. В. Гудкова, М. М. Фокеев 1984, c. 70–71, рис. 21: 1). The researchers date it back to the fourth century, though later dating is also possible (А. В. Гудкова, М. М. Фокеев 1984, c. 83; А. А. Росохачький 1987, c. 147). Erast Symonovich dates all the finds of glass vessels with soldered threads from the sites of the Chernyakhov culture in the Southern Ukraine back to the third and fourth centuries (Э. А. Сымонович 1977, c. 179–180).

One glass beaker with stem ornamented by soldered ovals and glass drops on its walls (fig. 3: 4) was excavated from a rich female grave in the cemetery of Kosino (Western Ukraine) (V. V. Kropotkin 1970, c. 103). Along with the beaker, there was silver radiate-headed brooch with appliques. This brooch belongs to group 21, subgroup 2, variant B of Ambroz’s classification, which he dates back to the second half of the fifth century (A. К. Ambróz 1966, c. 87, рис. 6: 2). According to Igor’ Gavrítukhín, this brooch could belong to the last third of the fifth century (I. O. Гавритухин 1999, c. 59). In Mark Shchukin’s opinion, the Kosino assemblage can be dated to the mid-fifth century (M. Б. Шукшин 2005, c. 253). A glass beaker similar to that one in Kosino was found in burial no. 20 in the cemetery of Independența in Romania (fig. 3: 7). Having being in the process of setting the chronological frames for the final stage of the Chernyakhov culture, Gavrítukhín has attributed these beakers to Kosino type due to their morphological similarity (I. O. Гавритухин 1999, c. 57).

A low beaker with uneven tip and three large ovals made of soldered thread (fig. 3: 3) was found in burial VIII in the cemetery of Izvoare (Romania). This beaker was accompanied there with a bone comb (type Thomas III) dating to the third century (S. Thomas 1960, c. 106–114) and two plain radiate-headed brooches of Ambroz’s group 21, subgroup 1, variant AA dating back to the fourth century AD (A. К. Ambróz 1966, c. 82).

A high conical beaker made of light green glass, with truncated conical base, ornamented by ovals made of soldered threads (fig. 3: 6) was discovered in the burial assemblage of Salthammer (Norway). Hans Jürgen Eggers has dated it to phase C2 (200–300) and has linked it to Roman imports (H. J. Eggers 1951, s. 178, таб. 14: 195). Gunnar Ekholm has also connected the beaker from Norway to ancient imports and has pointed at its analogue in Hungary (G. Ekholm 1956, s. 54; G. Ekholm 1963, s. 34). According to Eldrid Straume, the burial assemblage of Salthammer belongs to phase C2–C3 (E. Straume 1984, s. 77; E. Straume 1987, s. 97). Ulla Lund Hansen attributes this beaker to phase C3 (310/520–400) (U. Lund Hansen 1991, s. 442).

The excavations in the site of glass-making shop in Cologne discovered a beaker with cylindrical body and high truncated conical base, soldered ovals and one horizontal strip beneath the edge (fig. 4: 2). Otto Doppelfeld links it to the third and fourth centuries (O. Doppelfeld 1966, fig. 132). One more vessel of the Roman period, with high stem and similar shape (fig. 4: 3), was excavated in 1842 in the municipality of Thiéreville (Northern France). Now it is stored in the museum of Rouen (La verrerie... 1922, p. 198, fig. 256).

One more find is worth mentioning. In 1904 in the tract of Kara-Agach, in Akmola district (Kazakhstan), a mound with one rich female nomadic burial was researched. There a glass vessel (fig. 4: 4) made of pale green glass with traces of vitreous enamel was unearthed. The body of this vessel was ornamented with soldered zig-zag and straight strips of glass, as well as large vertical ovals. Not being an expert, the excavator engineer Alexander Kozyrev dated this burial back to the ninth century AD and connected it with the Turks (А. Козырев 1905, c. 36). After examining the ornaments found in the mound, Kira Skalon dated this burial assemblage to the late fifth century AD (К. М. Скалон 1962, c. 43). Ambroz in his chronological research on the early medieval assemblages in the
Fig. 4. Glass beakers. 1 – Olbia; 2 – Cologne; 3 – Thiétreville; 4 – Kara-Agach; 5 – Colchester; 6 – Szombathely; 7 – Weklice; 8 – Poienești
Ryc. 4. Szklane puchary. 1 – Olbia; 2 – Cologne; 3 – Thiétreville; 4 – Kara-Agach; 5 – Colchester; 6 – Szombathely; 7 – Weklice; 8 – Poienești
Fig. 5. Glass beakers. 1 – Piwonice; 2 – Malaeshti; 3 – Vorning; 4 – Stilling; 5 – Tu

Ryc. 5. Szklane puchary. 1 – Piwonice; 2 – Malaeshti; 3 – Vorning; 4 – Stilling; 5 – Tu
Central Asian steppes dated this female burial in Kara-Agach from the sixth to the seventh century (A. K. Asbəz 1981, c. 17–18, rïs. 7: 11). Yet it was Vladislav Kropotkin first who drew attention to the glass vessel and dated it to the first half of the fifth century AD (В. В. Кропоткин 1970, c. 30, rïs. 76: 7). Having compared conical beakers and glass with welded threads both from Kara-Agach and from destroyed Hunnic burial near Novaya Mayachka (Southern Ukraine), on the one side, and beakers excavated in South Korea, on the other, Irina Zasetskaya dated all these finds back to the fifth century AD (И. П. Засецкая 1994, c. 103).

Contextually, one more find is also worth mentioning. In burial no. 8 in the cemetery of the Chernyakhov culture near Furmanovka village (South Ukraine), one vessel with small base, made from light green glass, was unearthed. Its surface, both inside and outside, has vertical ribs. As the excavator Erast Smonovich points out, the vessel was discovered a rich princely-like burial. It can be dated from the end of the fourth to the first half of the fifth centuries AD (З. А. Сымонович, Н. М. Крачченко 1983, c. 53). Some other goods originating from the same burial, such as comb, bronze buckle, and fibula, can date the whole assemblage back to the fourth century (А. А. Росохацкий 1987, с. 147, rïs. 1: 4).

In Boris Magomedov’s view, the beakers with soldered oval medallions in the area of the Chernyakhov culture are anything but imitation of more expensive beakers with cut oval medallions and dedicatory inscriptions (В. В. Магомедов 2001, c. 66).

One of the type originates from the cemetery of Shilling (Denmark). It has the following inscription: «Π ΠΙΕΙΖ ΗΣΑ ΣΑ ΣΙΩΚΑ ΛΕΩ ΣΩ» (fig. 5: 4). Eldrid Straume links it to phase C. – D. (E.Straume 1987, s. 121). Two other conical beakers have the same inscription: one of them is small-sized and has a low base (fig. 5: 3), it originates from Vorning in Denmark (E. Straume 1987, s. 123); the other one originates from Tu (Norway), it is ornamented with blue glass (fig. 5: 5) (E. Straume 1987, s. 100–101). Both were found outside of assemblages.

One more conical beaker made of thick glass with yellowish tint was found in the cemetery of Malaezhti (Moldavia). In the top part of the beaker, between the horizontal cut-in lines, there is inscription in Greek: «ΠΠΙΕΙΖΗΣΑΛΣΑΙΩΣΩ» (fig. 5: 4). Below it, there are large oval plates limited by relief border, with a particular thickened bottom (fig. 5: 2) (Г. Б. Федоров 1960, с. 286, rïs. 11). Vladimir Kropotkin dates this find to the fourth century AD, suggesting it was of the Eastern Mediterranean production (В. В. Кропоткин 1970, c. 31, rïs. 75: 8). When Olga Gey and Igor’ Bazhan developed their single chronological system for the cultures of Eastern Europe and Caucasus in the period of “Gothic invasions”, they linked the Malaezhti beaker with the fifth period (375–410 AD) of the Chernyakhov culture (О. А. Гей, И. А. Бажан 1997, c. 45).

Igor’ Gavritukhin gives two more examples of beakers with large cut oval in the Chernyakhov culture area and dates them back to the first half of the fifth century (И. О. Гавритухин 1999, c. 60). He links the conical beaker (fig. 5: 1) form the cemetery of Piwonic (Poland) with the same period (И. О. Гавритухин 1999, c. 59).

Gunnar Ekholm thought that Scandinavian beakers with cut oval and inscriptions represented imitation of some vessels of Roman production that were still little known beyond Denmark and Norway (G. Ekholm 1963, p. 34). As Berta Stjernquist suggests, production of glass conical beakers with cut medallions and Greek inscriptions must be located in ancient centers of the South-Eastern Europe as far as the analogous finds in Moldova and Romania can lead one to such a conclusion (B. Stjernquist 2004, p. 123–124). There the type concentrated in between the basins of the Prut and Siret rivers; it did not stretch beyond the borders of the Chernyakhov culture area. It can be dated back by analogies to the second half of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth centuries (S. Pânczâl, A. Dobos 2007, p. 74). Symonovich stated that no analogous vessels were ever found in the western Roman workshops or Greco-Roman cities in the northern Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. Thus, he inevitably assumed that they were of local production. In his opinion, glass-making workshop in Komarov (Western Ukraine) (М. Ю. Смишко 1964) can serve as evidence of resettlement of particular artisans to the regions occupied by tribes of the Chernyakhov culture. Quite possibly, these craftsmen resettled there in the early Great Migration and soon organized local production of glassware (Э. А. Сымонович 1966, c. 109).

Distribution area of glass conical beakers with soldered oval-shaped threads and vessels with cut medallions much overlap. One has to acknowledge that in case the beakers with dedicatory inscriptions in Greek were indeed produced in Greco-Roman centers – the latter had to be located, most likely, in the imperial frontier zones, on the Danube or the Rhine, being oriented to customers living outside the imperial borders. This idea is supported by almost total absence of such vessels among the finds from the territory of the Roman empire. As Aleksandr Bursche has pointed out, glass vessels from phase B2–C1b discovered in Scandinavia, in the Wielbark culture area, and in the Western Balts area were imported from glass-making workshops in Cologne or Trier. When glass beakers of Kowalk and Ługi types appeared in the first half of the fourth century, they, according to Bursche, supplied evidence for the contacts between the populations of Northern and Central Europe with the Black Sea area (А. Bursche 1996, p. 35). Until now, there are no arguments in favor of the hypothesis stating that these vessels might have been manufactured in the northern Black Sea region (S. Shabanov 2011, p. 213). We also do not have in possession good reasons to infer that local barbarians knew the technology of glass-making.

It was glass-making workshops on the Italian Peninsula in the early Roman period that started first to ornament glass vessels with soldered large oval-shaped threads. As Isings indicates, major finds concentrated in the Northern Italy and Southern Switzerland, where that type was probably manufactured in the first half of the second century AD (C. Isings 1957, p. 48). Blown glasses with conical or cylindrical body and ring-base, ornamented with soldered oval medallions (fig. 2:6–9), were widespread in the Roman empire and beyond its borders in the second and third centuries. They are discovered in Britain (fig. 4: 5) (D. Allen 1998, p. 36, fig. 19: 13; H. E. M. Cool, J. Price 1995, p. 71, fig. 5: 5), Italy and Switzerland (C. Isings 1957, p. 47–78), Poland (fig. 4: 7) (M. Natuniewicz-Sekula, J. Okulicz-Kozaryn 2008, p. 259, fig. 16: 15, 16; J. Eggers 1951, с. 178), Hungary (fig. 4: 6) (L. Barkoczí 1988, taf. XII, 127), and Romania (fig. 4: 8) (I. Ionită 2000, fig. 1: 3–4). However, already in the fourth century, these finds are rather single cases (C. Isings 1957, p. 48).
High conical vessels of conical became popular and widespread by the early Roman period. They were used both as drinking cups, lanterns, and icon lamps. There were different techniques of ornamentation with gold or warm processing. One can assume that the technique of glass vessel decoration with soldered ovals, which was used during the Early Roman period, survived in the late period as well. Still, it is rather a hypothesis until we find some reliable evidence that ancient centers could manufacture these vessels in the Late Roman period.

More likely, two glass beakers mentioned earlier were brought to the Crimean foothill area at one and the same time, as one can conclude from their identity and rarity. However, one cannot answer clearly to the question of how these rather unique artefacts appeared in the Crimean foothills. Concerning it, we can only make a few assumptions.

Firstly, some artefacts found together with the beaker in vault no. 485 could provide us with a tentative answer. Quite likely, the beaker (along with T-shaped fibula and glass beaker with blue drops) found its way to the burial from Chersonesus or Bosporus, being transferred earlier from the Roman provinces on the Danube or from Gaul. Different kinds of glass vessels made by the western Roman craftsmen appeared in the Bosporan Kingdom in the first century AD. By the third and fourth centuries, their number increased dramatically (H. З. Храпунов 1984, с. 160).

Secondly, one cannot ignore the fact that in geographical terms the nearby finds of the type are located within the area of the Chernyakhov culture. Germanic tribes migrated to the Crimea in the mid-third century (И. Н. Храпунов 2004, с. 146) in wake of so-called “Gothic invasions” (А. И. Айбабин 1999, с. 26–30) recorded by written sources (Э. А. Хайрединова 1995, c. 517–528). Yet archaeological evidence points at their earlier penetration to the Crimea already in the first half of the third century AD (В. П. Власов 1999, c. 64, 66; И. Н. Храпунов 2004, c. 159). In recent historiography, some hypothetic statements made about the beginning of Germanic resettlement to the Bosporus in the second century AD (О. В. Щаров 2010, c. 282). In the mid-third and fourth centuries AD, there were several cemeteries in the south-western Crimea and in the southern coast that contained cremations, usually interpreted as a Germanic feature, and particularly sites of Chyornaya River, Sovkhoz 10, Ay-Todor, and Chatyr-Dag. Still, none of them, in terms of attributes, has clear-cut connections to any particular archaeological culture.

In this situation, one can link these two glass beakers with migration of a certain Germanic group to the Crimean foothills in the fourth century. Alternatively, one can assign this link to the contacts between the Sarmatian population and the Chernyakhov population as recent research on glass vessels (S. Shabanov 2011), hand-made pottery (В. П. Власов 2000), ornaments (А. А. Стоянова 2004), and weaponry (И. Н. Храпунов 2003; 2010) suggest.

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Dwa stożkowe puchary szklane z późnego okresu rzymskiego na Krymie

Streszczenie

Wielosezonowe badania wykopaliskowe na cmentarzysku Neyzats (Krym, Ukraina) przyniosły odkrycie ponad setki różnorodnych naczyń szklanych. Niezwykle interesujące są tutaj dwa puchary z późnego okresu rzymskiego, wykonane z grubego, półprzezroczystego szkła w kolorze zielonym. Naczynia mają stożkowaty kształt, a zdobione są zgrubieniami, wykonanymi z tego samego szkła – pionowymi owalami na brzuszu i poziomym okręgiem pod brzegiem.

Szklane naczynia tego typu z okresu rzymskiego są nieznane w kręgu stanowisk „barbarzyńskich” na Krymie. Niemniej jednak, kompletne i fragmentarycznie zachowane puchary o podobnej formie i analogicznej ornamentyce, z zielonego i brązowego szkła, odkryte zostały na terytorium kultury czerńiakowskiej (cmentarzyska Krasnyy Mayak, Kholmskoye i Kosino na Ukrainie) i w Olbii. W Rumunii takie naczynia znaleziono na cmentarzyskach Independența i Izvoare. Trzy kompletne naczynia znany również z Norwegii (Salthammer), z warsztatu produkcji szklana w Cologne i z północnej Francji (Thiétreville). Wszystkie te naczynia są datowane na IV i V wiek, i łączyć je należy z rzymskimi importami.

Jest bardzo prawdopodobne, że centra produkcji takich naczyń były usytuowane w granicach Imperium, niedaleko Dunaju lub Renu, a głównych odbiorców miały poza imperium. Za taką interpretacją przemawia niemal całkowity brak tychże naczyń wśród znalezisk z terytorium Imperium Rzymskiego.

Jak wskazał Aleksander Bursche szklane naczynia z faz B2–C1b odkrywane na terytorium Skandynawii, w zasięgu kultury wielbarskiej i kultury Zachodnich Bałtów były importowane z warsztatów hutniczych w Cologne lub Trier. Szklane puchary typów Kowalk i Ługi, jakie pojawiły się w pierwszej połowie IV wieku, zgodnie z teorią Bursche, są dowodem na kontakty ludności północnej i centralnej Europy z obszarami nad Morzem Czarnym. Przypuszczenia, że te naczynia były produkowane na obszarach nad Morzem Czarnym, nadal nie znajduje więc dostatecznych dowodów. Nie posiadamy więc wystarczających powodów, by wyciągać wnioski odnośnie znajomości sztuki wytwarzania szkła przez lokalnych Barbarzyńców.