

Muslim Ceramics of the XVII-XVIII Centuries From the Archeological Excavations in the South of Russia

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Abstract:

In the XVII - XVIII centuries the territory of the North-East Priazovye (south of Russia) was a borderland between two major powerful countries - the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire that perceived it as a convenient bridgehead for further colonial conquests, therefore these lands were a continuous disputed and problematic area. In spite of it, Ottomans and Don Cossacks residing in the area lived in an incessant contact, interaction and trade and cultural exchange.

Key-words:

the Russian Empire, the North-East Priazovye, the Ottoman Empire, archeological monuments of the XVII-XVIII centuries, fortresses, Don Cossack settlements, trading and cultural exchange, ceramic complexes.

Introduction:

Exploration of the cultural layers of the XVII-XVIII centuries in the archeological monuments of the North-East Priazovye (south of Russia) give interesting results. They bear witness not only to its rich military historical past connected with Turkey and Russia fighting over these lands (finds of weapons, military equipment and ordnance, pieces of ammunition, burials of warriors, remnants of dugouts, siege trenches, etc.), but also to fairly developed trade and economic relations and social and cultural connections taking place during and after the reign of Peter the Great and during the period of the Ottoman presence in the Lower Don region (Gudimenko and Kouzmin, 1994: 39-44; Boyko and Chernitsyn, 1998: 14-20; Boyko and Dedyulkin, 2004: 52-54; Rogudeyev, 2007: 65-81; Dedulkin, 2009: 83-85; Larenok V. and Larenok P., 2011: 315-332). Vivid evidences of these relations are richest ceramic complexes coming from the objects studied by archeologists that are situated on the territories of the former Turkish and Russian fortresses and their surroundings. The analysis of these complexes testifies to the existence of a flow of handicraft and pottery items to the North-East Priazovye from the Russian Empire and Malorossiya (present-day territory of Ukraine) as well as from the Ottoman Empire (Anatolia, the Balkans, the Crimea, the Black Sea region). Moreover, this flow of goods is registered both in the "Turkish" periods of history (up to 1696 and from 1712 to 1736) and in the "Russian" periods (from 1696 to 1711 and from 1736). The finds of Chinese painted porcelain crockery of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) can be considered as "exotic" wares of that period in Priazovye.

1. Ceramic complexes of the Ottoman fortresses in the North-East Priazovye

After the Ottoman fortresses Azak and Sed-Islam in the North-East Priazovye had been seized by the Peter the Great's army in 1696, he gave an order to restore and rebuild these Don military fortifications. In the first place it concerned the Azak fortress that was given a new name of the Azov fortress. Fundamental fortification works that were

undertaken on the territory of this fortress at the end of the XVII – the beginning of the XVIII centuries inflicted considerable damage on its cultural layer and in places completely destroyed it. It has been discovered in the course of archeological researches periodically undertaken in the monument in the past fifty years. The Ottomans returned to the fortress in 1712 and while living there for a quarter of a century, they made further amendments to the local landscapes. Later, when Anna Johannovna's Russian troops captured Azak in 1736, they made their contribution to the destruction of the cultural layer. As a result of these historic events, to date archeologists have a difficult situation with the monument, the cultural layers of which are badly mixed, "closed" complexes are barely present, and the finds are in fact "a mix" of artefacts of the "Turkish" and "Russian" periods (XVI-XVIII centuries). For many years this fact hampered the process of research of the ceramic materials from the excavations in the Azak fortress. A similar situation with the finds developed during the excavations in the Sed-Islam fortress (Liutik for Russians), that were undertaken in 1970s and 1990s. Stratigraphic observations in the monument proved to be problematic due to the low thickness of the cultural layer (12,0-15,0 cm), and the archeological materials of the "Turkish" and "Russian" periods were mixed. As a result, the collection of artefacts has not been classified for a long period of time (Chesnok, 1988: 66-73; Kouzmin, 1994: 1-4; Kouzmin, 1996: 1-7; Volkov, 2005: 483-484; Gusach, 2011: 116-143; Kolesnik and Gusach, 2018: 98-116).

Judging by the results of the archeological researches, the ceramic complexes of the Ottoman fortresses Azak and Sed-Islam of the XVII-XVIII centuries are almost identical. The bulk material is the Crimean "red-clay" ceramics (about 80 % of the finds), most of which consists of glazed ceramics (about 70% of the finds). In XVII-XVIII centuries it was brought to the North-East Priazovye mainly from the ceramic workshops of the South-West Crimea. Finds of the "red-clay" ceramics from the South-West Crimea are very few, and, as a rule, they are of glazed ceramics. The glazed ceramics of the South-West Crimea (hereinafter referred to as the SWC) is primarily represented by the tableware made of dense soft clay with slight inclusions of lime and with considerable impurity of chamotte. The glaze is of yellow, green, light-green, brown and moss-green colours, and of very poor quality (Volkov, 2005: 483-484).

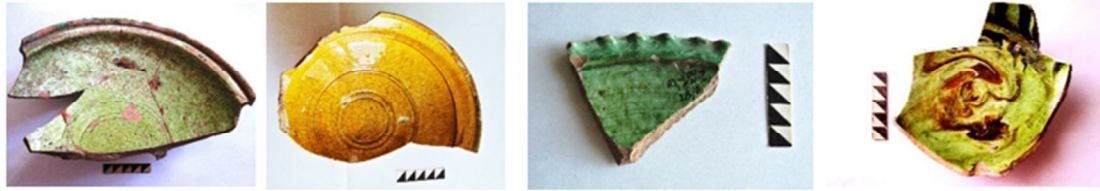
Among the open types of the tableware which comprise 40 % of the total number of the SWC vessels, we can see little cups, bowls, deep plates and flat plates (**Pic.1**).



Pic.1. Glazed tableware pottery (open types). The South-East Crimea.
The Crimean Khanate. XVII-XVIII cc.

It should be mentioned that the "Turkish" period showed a number of morphological features distinguishing the Crimean ceramics of this period from the medieval ceramics of the XIII – XIV centuries. In particular, there is the issue of a new shape of a rim, first of all typical of open vessels – a so called "rail-shaped" or T-shaped rim. Plates with a corrugated rim can also be found. A ring-shaped tray becomes low and broad, often "flattened" with an internal projection-flange. Many Crimean vessels of open type are decorated with a cutting-in ornament in the shape of concentric circles and wavelike lines painted directly on a crock under white engobe and semi-transparent

coloured glaze. There can be encountered bowls with a striped ornament and a “marbled” painting (“ebru”), which sometimes can also be seen on vessels of the close type. Occasionally there is graffiti on the bottoms of bowls (**Pic.2**).



Pic.2. Fragments of glazed tableware pottery (open types): a,b – with a cutting-in ornament; c – with a corrugated rim; d – with a “marbled” painting. The South-East Crimea. The Crimean Khanate. XVII-XVIII cc.

Close types of the Crimean glazed vessels are represented by at least 3 kinds: water-carriers, jugs and vessels of the jar-type strongly resembling medieval tuvaks but with two loop-shaped handles (or without them). It is difficult to judge the presence of other vessel types, the material being badly fragmented. Vessels of the close type are decorated with horizontal corrugation, cutting-in lines, protuberances, and a stamped geometric ornament. There can be found lids of vessels. Also, there are illumination objects among glazed ceramics (candlesticks and lamps) (Gusach, 2015: 512-527) (**Pic.3**).



Pic.3. Glazed tableware pottery (close types) and illumination devices: a – a jug; b – a candlestick; c – a lamp; d – a lid. The South-East Crimea. The Crimean Khanate. XVII-XVIII cc.

Unglazed vessels of the SWC are mainly represented by the close types – jugs and water-carriers often covered with red-brown engobe. Perhaps, there were other types of vessels. Apart from the tableware, “red-clay” tile and bricks were brought from the Crimea to the Ottoman fortresses of the North-East Priazovye as construction materials. Finds of water-pipes are also mentioned (**Pic.4**). Ceramics of the South-West Crimea is represented by a small number of fragments of unglazed vessels of the close type, some of which have white engobe paintings. Analogies of glazed and unglazed Crimean ceramics of the Later Middle Ages and the Modern Period can be encountered practically in all Ottoman archeological monuments of the Black Sea region (Gusach, 2006b: 129-130, 134-137; Gusach, 2014: 596; Kulikov and Beylin, 2009-2011: 30-31; Belyaeva, 2012: 225, 274, 276).



Pic.4. Clay construction ceramics and water-pipes: a – tile; b, c – bricks; d – a water-pipe. The South-East Crimea. The Crimean Khanate. XVII-XVIII cc.

From other, yet unknown to us, ceramic centers of the Ottoman Empire there were brought to the North-East Priazovye large brown-clay container vessels with a rim shaped as a twisted cord, a body highly narrowed downward, and two massive horizontal handles on shoulders. These vessels are given a conditional name of “urns” by the Russian researchers (Volkov, 2005: 482-492). The Turkish name of the vessels is “küp”. Sometimes they are covered with a coat of vinous engobe. The moulding compound is vinous-brown, with large impurity of sand and big grains of black quartz. Judging by the clay’s colour and composition, the same ceramic workshops made other kinds of unglazed vessels, in particular, jugs frequently decorated with a cutting-in “comb-shaped” linear-wavy ornament. We can trace a whole series of pottery pieces of this “range” that are conditionally named “a group of urns with horizontal handles” by researchers of the Later Middle Ages ceramics (**Pic.5**). Analogies of these vessels can be found in all Ottoman archeological monuments of the Black Sea region (Volkov, 2005: 484-485; Gusach, 2002: 371; Gusach, 2006b: 134-135; Gusach, 2014: 596-597; Belyaeva, 2012: 225, 277-278, 368).



Pic.5. Clay container vessels: a – a big jug; b-d – “urns”. The Ottoman Empire. An unknown center. XVII-XVIII cc.

A center manufacturing ceramics of a so called “group of little basins on three legs” which was apparently situated on the territory of Anatolia, has not yet been discovered (it might have been Istanbul). Evidently, this center manufactured unglazed basins on three legs, as well as glazed basins with no legs, jugs and other vessels of the close type that were used by the Ottomans in the fortresses of the North-East Priazovye and the Black Sea region. A distinctive feature of this group of ceramics is the clay of pink-beige colour with large impurity of sand and fine inclusions of a red-brown mineral (**Pic.6**) (Hayes, 1992: 390; Volkov, 2005: 485-486; Gusach, 2002: 371; Gusach, 2006b: 134-135; Gusach, 2014: 597; Kulikov and Beylin, 2009-2011: 35-36; Belyaeva, 2012: 230, 299).



Pic.6. Clay basins on three legs: a – side view; b – top view, c – bottom view; d – décor
The Ottoman Empire. An unknown center. XVII-XVIII cc.

One more yet unknown Ottoman ceramics center made unglazed brown-clay pots and jugs with a “rail-shaped” rim that were singled out by the Crimean researchers into a separate group named “groups of pots with a rail-shaped rim” (Alyadinova, 2012: 247-257; Alyadinova and Teslenko, 2015: 157-199). Independently of their Crimean colleagues, the Azov researchers discovered in their monuments similar pottery pieces and classified them under “the group of jugs with a rail-shaped rim” according to the most frequent in the Lower Don Ottoman fortresses type of vessels belonging to this group and made of clay with inclusions of black quartz (Gusach, 2014: 597).

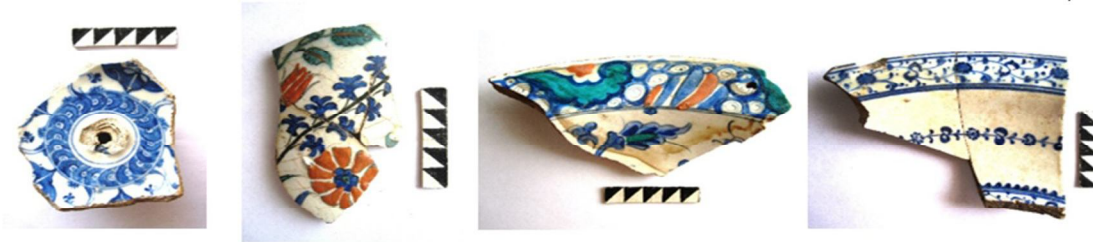
Other “red-clay” crockery manufactured in plentiful ceramic centers of Asia Minor was brought to the North-East Priazovye from the territory of the Sublime Porte. Among the most widespread kinds of this crockery are glazed bowls which are sometimes decorated with a cutting-in ornament and a painting made of yellow, brown and green colours. One of such types of thick-walled painted crockery, more frequently found in the archeological monuments of the Crimea than in the Lower Don region, was singled out by the Crimean researchers into a “group of thick-walled bowls with a bichromatic painting” (Alyadinova and Teslenko, 2015: 157-199). Clay of beige colour with high content of sand without other clearly defined impurities is a distinctive feature of this group of vessels. This type of crockery can also be found in other monuments of the Black Sea region of the Ottoman period. For example, a large number of this crockery was discovered during the excavations of the “Ottoman” layers of Gonio-Apsaros fortress (Adzharia, South-West Georgia) (Pic.7).



Pic.7. Glazed pottery with a bichromatic painting and sgraffito: a – a fragment of a lid;
b – a fragment of a bowl (from the excavations in the fortress Azak, Russia); c,d –
fragments of bowls (from the excavations in the fortress Gonio, Georgia). The
Ottoman Empire. An unknown center. XVII-XVIII cc.

Apart from the mass pottery tableware and cooking utensils, remains (no intact objects) of faience painted crockery of Asia Minor were discovered during the archeological researches in the Azov and Liutik fortresses. On account of its high cost,

it could only be used in private life *гмент чашни*; by the military high ranks of the Ottoman garrisons. This was the production of such famous ceramic centers as Iznik, Istanbul, Kütahya, Burgas, etc. that became widespread and well-known all over the world in the XVI-XVIII centuries. Among so called “Iznik range” wares there are jugs, vases, bowls, plates and dishes made of so called “quartz-frit” (soft silicate moulding compound) and decorated with various styles of polychromatic and monochromatic underglaze paintings. This crockery is known to researchers and antiquarians under the name of the “Iznik faience” with paintings in the “Damask”, “Rhodes”, “Golden Horn”, “Blue and White” (or “Abraham from Kütahya”) styles (**Pic.8**) (Lane, 1960: 43-54; Stancheva, 1960: 114-144; Miller, 1972: 23-156; Hayes, 1992: 244-258; Gusach, 2005a: 137-144; Belyaeva, 2012: 228-230, 292-298).



Pic.8. Fragments of faience crockery (of a jug, plates, a fruit bowl): a, b – with a painting in the “Rhodes” style; c – with a painting in the “Golden Horn” style; d – with a painting in the “Blue and White” style. The Ottoman Empire. Iznik (?). XVI-XVII cc.

At that, it should be mentioned that the ceramics of the “Iznik range” must have been an inaccessible luxury for the residents of the Sed-Islam fortress as only one fragment of an Iznik painted dish was found in the collection of this fortress’s excavations; the same cannot be said for Kütahyan faience painted coffee cups, a plentiful of which were discovered there, as well as in the Azak fortress (**Pic.9**) (Gusach, 2005b: 476-479; Gusach, 2007: 345-349; Gusach, 2012: 116-143; Gusach, 2017a: 583-598; Gusach, 2017b: 31-35).



Pic.9. Faience coffee cups and bowls: a, b – with a cobalt painting; c, d – with a polychromatic painting. The Ottoman Empire. Kütahya. XVII-XVIII cc.

This kind of crockery was brought along trade routes to the North-East Priazovye in the XVII century owing to the Ottoman tradition of coffee-drinking. As a rule, Azak’s residents would enjoy coffee in their leisure time sitting in small coffee houses that were situated on the territory of the fortress according to the evidence of the Turkish traveller Evliya Çelebi (Çelebi, 1979: 201). They would drink coffee out of little coffee cups called “findjan” in Turkish, among which, besides widespread Turkish faience cups of Kütahyan manufacture, there sometimes could be found porcelain painted cups with saucers manufactured in China during the reign of the Kangxi Emperor (the end of XVII – the beginning of XVIII centuries). It is known that especially for the Ottomans, the

Chinese manufactured porcelain coffee cups that were in high demand at the markets but apparently could not be called cheap wares (**Pic.10**) (Arapova, 1977: 1-136; Hayes, 1992: 261-264; Kouzmenko, 2009: 1-195; Gusach, 2011: 391-454; Belyaeva, 2012: 304-305, 376).



Pic.10. Fragments of porcelain coffee cups and saucers: a,b,c – with blue and brown paintings; d – with a blue painting (with a stamp on the bottom of a cup). Chinese provinces. XVII-XVIII cc.

Along with coffee, Turkish smoking pipes of the “Oriental” type were brought to the Don lands (they consisted of three-parts: a clay smoking cup, a wooden chibouk and a mouthpiece made of stone or bone), together with the tradition of tobacco-smoking. A clay cup-pipe was the most consumed (frequently broken) part of the smoking kit. It was the most wanted product which was regularly brought to the Black Sea region and the North-East Priazovye from the territory of the Ottoman Empire since the XVII century. Centers of smoking pipes’ manufacture were numerous, but they have been little explored. It is well-known that pipes were made in Istanbul, Sofia, Varna, Gangeym, Germençek, in Crimean workshops, etc. (Peyssonnel, 1974: 179-202; Volkov, 1999: 226-252; Volkov, 2006: 486-495; Gusach, 2002: 368-389; Gusach, 2013: 379-383; Gusach, 2016: 18-359). Pipe “fashions” are numerous in quality and variety; some of them have inscriptions and stamps. Venetian (?) two-chambered pipes with silver coating and white-clay Dutch pipes with stamps on the heel of a stem can be referred to the rare finds in the Don fortresses (**Pic.11**). Clay smoking pipes are a mass material found in all monuments of the Black Sea coast of the Ottoman period (Duco, 1981: 368-468; Gusach, 2016: 23, 27-28).



Pic.11. Clay smoking pipes: a – Ottoman; b – Dutch; c – Venetian; d – a stamp on the Ottoman pipe. The Ottoman Empire and Europe. XVII-XVIII cc.

In the “Russian” periods of the Azak (Azov) and Sed-Islam (Liutik) fortresses in the North-East Priazovye (1696-1711 and after 1736) there can be traced a mass inflow (along with new military inhabitants) of cooking utensils and tableware with a “Russian image”: unglazed “red-clay” and grey-clay pots, big bowls, jugs, lids made in Russia as well as grey-clay, “smoked”, polished and beige-clay or white-clay thin-walled ceramics (pots, bowls, jugs, lids) manufactured in Malorossiia (territory of present-day Ukraine). As a rule, so called “white-clay” thin-walled ceramics with some impurity of sand and small pieces of brown chamotte has a painting of red engobe on the crock or is covered

with semi-transparent enamel of yellow and green colours (sometimes in combination with a painting of red engobe). There can be encountered toy whistles in the shape of animal figurines (birds, horses) which are made of light clay and glazed or decorated with a red engobe painting, and “red-clay” stove tiles with a sculptured ornament and with a coloured enamel painting dated by the XVII- XVIII centuries. Since the XVIII century the Azov ceramic complex was replenished with faience vessels (plates, dishes, little cups, salt-cellars, etc.). Wares of early Gzhel (plates, little cups, dishes) with a blue painting can be found among faience tableware. Bricks and tile refer to the building ceramics.

According to the results of the archeological researches, after the Ottomans had left the North-East Priazovye, Russian inhabitants of the Azov fortress continued using Turkish objects in their everyday life. For example, during the excavations of dwellings of the earth-house type of the XVIII century on the territory of the Azov soldier’s outer settlements situated beyond the bounds of the former Azak fortress, in some of them there were discovered fragmented glazed candlesticks and tableware of the Crimean manufacture, Kütahyan faience painted coffee cups, Ottoman container vessels-“urns” and basins on three legs, as well as Turkish clay smoking pipes, some of them with stamps. (Gudimenko, 1994: 29-31; Maslovsky, 2010: 148-150; Kravchenko, 2011: 154-155; Shyrochenko and Maslovsky, 2011: 167,170-171,183; Shyrochenko, 2013: 13-14). Similar objects have been also found by archeologists in the cultural layer of the soldier’s outer settlements and the surroundings of the Azov fortress. Turkish smoking pipes have been particularly frequent. It indicates that an addictive habit of tobacco smoking was very common among the population of the North-East Priazovye in the XVII-XVIII centuries (**Pic.12**).



Pic.12. Clay smoking pipes from the excavations of a Russian dwelling in Azov. The Ottoman Empire. XVIII c.

It seems highly problematic to draw unambiguous conclusions concerning the application of the items of Turkish culture in the everyday life of Russian inhabitants of the Liutik/Sed-Islam fortress due to the absence of a distinct stratigraphy on the object of study. Ruined towers of Shakhi and Sultaniye have not been archeologically researched yet. Among the finds of the collection from the location of one of them, there are mainly fragments of the Crimean glazed and unglazed ceramic tableware and tile as well as fragments of the Ottoman basins on three legs and “urns” with horizontal handles which first of all refer to the Ottoman presence in these military fortifications (Gusach, 2006a: 504-515).

2. Ceramic complexes of the Russian fortresses in the North-East Priazovye

Intensive Russian colonization of the North-East Priazovye lands at the end of the XVII- the beginning of the XVIII centuries led to the construction of a number of new fortification structures on this territory. The first of them were erected right after the Azov campaigns of Peter the Great, the others – not earlier than after his reign (XVIII century). Scientific interest in such monuments started increasing at the end of the XX century. A lot of them have been explored. In 1992 in the Semionovskaya fortress

situated on the Beglitskaya sand bar of the Azov sea there were undertaken archeological researches in the course of which they managed to discover fortress's interior arrangement and to reconstruct characteristic features of everyday life and economic activities of the military garrison. Finds discovered there were typical for all settler monuments of the Peter the Great epoch in the North-East Priazovye. However, the ceramic material of the fortress can be regarded as "a benchmark", this monument being of narrow dating: the end of the XVII – the beginning of the XVIII centuries (the fortress was constructed in 1698, the military garrison was withdrawn from it and the internal structures of the fortress were destroyed in 1711) (Larenok, 1993: 35-62; Larenok, 1994: 75-77; Rogudeyev (in the operation): 65-67; Avakov, Gusach and Dedyulkin, 2016: 395-397).

The most numerous of finds in the explored dwelling is the group of the abovementioned "white-clay" pottery vessels with red engobe paintings (pots and big bowls with collars) which were brought to the Lower Don from Malorossiia since the XVII century. Less numerous are groups of grey-clay, "smoked", polished and glazed pottery cooking ceramics (pots) brought from the same place, and a group of thick-walled grey-clay pots of Russian manufacture. Discovered in the dwelling Turkish clay smoking pipes which were used by the inhabitants of the Semionovskaya fortress should be singled out into a separate group. Among the articles made of bone, there was found a billet of a pipe's mouthpiece (Larenok, 1993: 42-45). Further researches in the Semionovskaya fortress will bring new information concerning the fortress garrison's life where, as we can see, the Ottoman objects were daily used.

Archeological researches of the well-preserved Pavlovskaya fortress, a unique monument of fortification art of the early XVIII century, situated at the south-east bank of the Mioussky estuary on the territory of Gayevka khutor, the Rostov region, have not been undertaken yet. The Troitskaya fortress (Troitsk-on-Taganiy Rog) is situated in the present-day center of Taganrog city, therefore it is problematic to conduct any archeological researches there. In 2008 Vereschagin V.V. performed archeological researches on the territory of the fortress which gave him knowledge of only a few peculiarities of the construction of the remaining part of the rampart that had been reconstructed in the second half of the XVIII century (Vereschagin, 2008; Avakov, Gusach and Dedyulkin, 2016: 397). One more monument of the military-defence architecture of the XVIII century which escaped destruction, is waiting for its researcher. This is the earthen fortress of Saint Anna (1730-1760) situated near the Cossack village Starocherkasskaya, the Rostov region. In 1998 the remnants of a moat of the Skopinskaya fortress of the XVIII century were discovered by archeologists on the left bank of the Koyrug river in the Azov district of the Rostov region. Among the archeological finds from this object, along with fragments of "Ukrainian" painted red-clay and white-clay glazed big bowls and a Russian faience painted cup (Gzhel?), there was found a fragment of a faience coffee cup with a polychromatic painting (Kütahya, the Ottoman Empire) (Maksimenko, 1999: 16-19).

Since 1998 the fortress of Saint Dimitry of Rostov (1761-1835) on the territory of Rostov-on-Don has been researched. The archeological researches of 2005-2006 conducted on the building site of the Congress-center are of particular importance to us as there was discovered a foundation pit of a soldier's barrack-earth-house dated by the end of the XVIII – the first half of the XIX centuries. In addition to the traditional "Russian" ceramics, a big collection of clay smoking pipes (70 pieces) was found in this pit of a soldier's barrack-earth-house. This collection consists of both Ottoman items (some of them with stamps) and Russian imitations of Turkish red-clay pipes. This discovery testifies that a pipe-smoking tradition introduced to the Don lands by the

Ottomans in the XVII century was deeply entrenched and gradually taken into the everyday life of the Cossacks and Russian military fortresses of the North-East Priazovye. The fact that soldiers of the Don fortresses would have Turkish pipes at their disposal indicates the existence of an open supply line of these ceramic wares from the territory of the Ottoman Empire. It confirms the trade and economic relations and cultural exchanges on the Russian-Turkish border in the XVII-XVIII centuries (**Pic.13**).



Pic.13. Ottoman ceramics from the excavations in the Russian fortresses of the North-East Priazovye: a – a Crimean clay candlestick; b – a fragment of a Kütahyan faience coffee cup (the Azov fortress); c, d – clay smoking pipes (the Troitskaya fortress and the fortress of Dimitry of Rostov). The Ottoman Empire. XVII-XVIII cc.

3. Ceramic complexes of the Lower Don Cossack settlements:

Archeological studies of the former Cossack settlements which in the XVII-XVIII centuries situated on the Lower Don in the immediate vicinity of the Ottoman military fortifications and the Turkish-Russian border were partially carried out in 1950-s. The excavations were performed under the leadership of Vitkov Z.A. in the Kagalnitsky, Lower Kundryucheskyy, Cherkassky and other Cossack settlements (Vitkov, 1952: 1-67; Vitkov, 1956: 27-50; Vitkov, 1959: 9-10). According to the researches' results, the main bulk of ceramic material consists of white-clay pottery with and without red engobe paintings made in Malorossiia (60% of the total number of crockery). The most common kind of vessels is a pot with two flat loop-shaped handles. Of tableware there have been found jugs and big bowls with collars. The group of "red-clay" pottery ceramics from Malorossiia is represented by pots, big bowls with collars, jugs and vessel lids. The pots have linear and hatched ornaments on their shoulders. There have been discovered thin-walled grey-clay pieces of ceramics with high content of sand in clay (conical bowls and jugs), light-clay toy-whistles in the shape of a bird or fish and red-clay stove tiles with a sculptured décor (Vitkov, 1956: 39-41).

Funds of the Novocherkassk Museum of Don Cossacks History (Novocherkassk, the Rostov region) has a collection of items from the excavations of the Lower Kundryucheskyy settlement of 1951, which, besides the "Russian" crockery, contains fragments of the Ottoman tableware and container ceramics: Kütahyan faience painted cups, "urns" with horizontal handles, Turkish clay smoking pipes and others. In recent years archeological researches have been intensified on the territory of the Cherkassky settlement, the former capital of Don Cossacks (the Starocherkasskaya stanitsa, Rostov region) which since 2010 has had a status of an object of archeological heritage and has been protected by the state (Vitkov, 1959: 9-10; Morev and Yanovich, 1974: 118-119; Bukhteyeva, 1974; Troubnikov, 2018:193-206; Tolochko and Dmitriyenko, 2018: 319-332). The excavations of 2014 under the leadership of Troubnikov V.V., which were conducted on the outskirts of the Cherkassky settlement, on the site of the former Tatarskaya stanitsa, were the most informative. This stanitsa was founded in 70-s of the

XVII century and was inhabited by Tatar-Cossacks practicing Islam. There was a mosque on its territory. By 1778 the Tatarskaya stanitsa consisted of 99 homesteads. There were also trading stores, taverns and coffee-houses (Riegelman, 1992: 172). This explains why there is Muslim ceramics among the archeological finds from this object: Kütahyan faience coffee cups, Ottoman brown-clay container vessels in the shape of “urns” with horizontal handles, and beige-clay basins on three legs as well as Crimean and Anatolian glazed and unglazed crockery (jugs, water-carriers, bowls, plates, etc.), Turkish pottery smoking pipes and illumination objects (lamps, candlesticks) (Troubnikov, 2017: 1-557). Fragments of the Ottoman crockery have been discovered during the archeological researches of the settlement’s territories which were not inhabited by the Tatar-Cossacks. It confirms that this crockery was used by the local Cossacks in their everyday life (Pic.14).



Pic.14. Tableware and container Ottoman ceramics from the excavations of the Cossack settlements:
 a, b – fragments of a faience Iznik jug and a Kütahyan coffee cup (the Cherkassky settlement);
 c – a fragment of a faience Kütahyan coffee cup; d – a fragment of a clay “urn”
 (the Lower Kundryuchensky settlement). The Ottoman Empire. XVII-XVIII cc.

Conclusion:

Thus, the archeological researches in the North-East Priazovye showed that, in spite of the fact that in the XVII-XVIII centuries this territory was the borderland between two powerful states – the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire that looked upon it as a convenient bridgehead for further colonial conquests and, therefore, were in constant conflict over it, the Ottomans and Russians living on this territory for 200 years were in the process of incessant contact, interaction and trade and cultural exchanges.

In spite of the religious differences, elements of the Oriental Muslim culture gradually penetrated deeper and deeper into everyday life of the Christian population. As a result, Turkish traditions (such as, for example, coffee-drinking and pipe-smoking traditions) with a course of time became integral parts of the Russian culture on Don at the end of the XVII – XVIII century. It is attested by the numerous finds in the North-East Priazovye of Turkish smoking pipes and faience coffee cups discovered not only in the former Ottoman fortresses but also on the territories of the Cossack settlements as well as in the soldier’s outer settlements of the Russian fortresses. These traditions took their further development in the style called *Turquerie* in Russia and Europe in the second half of the XVIII – the beginning of the XIX centuries. The results of the researches have not yet made it possible to speak of the influence which the Russian culture exerted on the Ottoman culture.

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List of abbreviations:

AIECM – Association Internationale pour l'Etude des Céramiques Médiévales et Modernes en Méditerranée

DAS – Don Archeological Society, Rostov-on-Don

HARALD – Historical and archeological researches in Azov and Lower Don, Azov

RRMLL – Rostov Regional Museum of Local Lore, Rostov-on-Don

RSFSR – Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic