### PONTIKA 2008

## Recent Research on the Northern and Eastern Black Sea in Ancient Times

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# CHAPTER 45 THE COMPLETE WORKS OF PAUL DUBRUX

Irina V. Tunkina
Archive of the Russian Academy of Science
St Petersburg Branch
St Petersburg, Russia
tunkina@yandex.ru

Abstract: The manuscript heritage of 'the father of Bosporan archaeology' French émigré Paul Dubrux (1770-1835) has been of great interest for several generations of Russian archaeologists. Since 1811 and until his death he had been studying the remains of ancient towns and settlements of the Cimmerian Bosporus, and made detailed descriptions and plans of buildings that still survived in the first half of the 19th century. While studying documents relating to the history of Russian classical archaeology in the 18th-20th centuries, I came across some of Dubrux's manuscripts and letters, his report on excavations of the Kul'-Oba kurgan and other archaeological notes, some of which are still unpublished. Several Dubrux manuscripts are held in Paris. All Dubrux's papers are illustrated with colour plans, maps, and drawings, formerly considered lost. A team of scholars from Russia, Ukraine and France have been preparing a publication of Dubrux's Opera omnia on the basis of his manuscripts of the 1810s to the 1830s. The publication will include parallel texts in French and Russian, drawings and plans. Scholarly commentaries will include detailed textual, historical, archaeological and topographical commentaries. This material is of great significance for the history of classical archaeology and the study of antiquity in Russia.

Keywords: New archival data, Paul Dubrux, Kerch excavations, history of classical archaeology

It is well known that much important material on the history of Russian classical studies during the 19th and 20th centuries has never been published are still lying in archives inaccessible even for specialists. The same fate befell the scientific heritage of the pioneer of Bosporan archaeology, the French émigré-royalist Paul Dubrux (1770-1835). His manuscript heritage has been of great interest for several generations of Russian archaeologists.

Dubrux was born in Luxemburg, and together with his father and brother he joined an Alpine regiment in 1784. From 1797 he was in the counter-revolutionary army of Prince L. J. de Condé and with his army he entered Russia where in 1800 he retired from the army with the rank of captain.

Dubrux and his family settled in western Volhynia. Due to financial constraints he was forced to works as a home tutor despite the fact that he had no formal education and even his French writing was illiterate. Then he moved to St Petersburg and in 1810 he finally settled in Kerch. Thanks to his Masonic friends and the patronage of royalist compatriots he managed to join the Russian Civil Service (1810), and in 1814 he obtained the position of customs inspector at the Kerch customs. In 1815, he became the surveyor of the Kerch salt lakes and of the shop of the Kerch salt expedition. In 1817, Dubrux was awarded the order of St Louis 'for previous service to the King of France'. It was probably in 1823 or 1824 the antiquarian resigned from the Civil Service and devoted himself completely to his passion, archaeological research. 'The father of Bosporan

archaeology' died in Kerch on the 1st/12th August 1835 aged 65 in utter poverty (Sztetyłło 1969; Gavignet, Ramos and Schiltz 2000, 323-341; Tunkina 2002, 144-157). The fate of the Dubrux family was typical of the impoverished French royalist exiles who lived in Russia at the end of the 18th and in the first half of the 19th century.

'Reading Herodotus and Strabo ..., and mostly boredom' forced Dubrux to begin archaeological research of the eastern Crimea and the Taman peninsula. In 1811 he began excavating, initially doing little more than treasure hunting, with the principal aim of filling the family exchequer by selling the finds. Dubrux was purchase agent for antiquities of the Polish Count Seweryn Potocki who had a large collection of ancient coins. Later, however, he resigned from these duties because from 1820 onwards Dubrux became the *de facto* curator of the Kerch Museum of Antiquities even before it opened officially in 1826. The museum holdings were based on Dubrux's personal collection, and until 1833 the museum was located in Dubrux's house.

Between 1811 and his death Dubrux studied the ruins of ancient towns and settlements of the Cimmerian Bosporus, and made detailed descriptions and plans of remains of buildings that still survived in the first half of the 19th century. Beginning with the excavation of ancient necropoleis as early as 1816, Dubrux began to write his field work diaries (Figure 1), made scale plans (Figure 2), drawings (Figure 3) and detailed descriptions of monuments. Intuition, care, and 25 years of fieldwork experience led to his ability 'to see land' eventually became

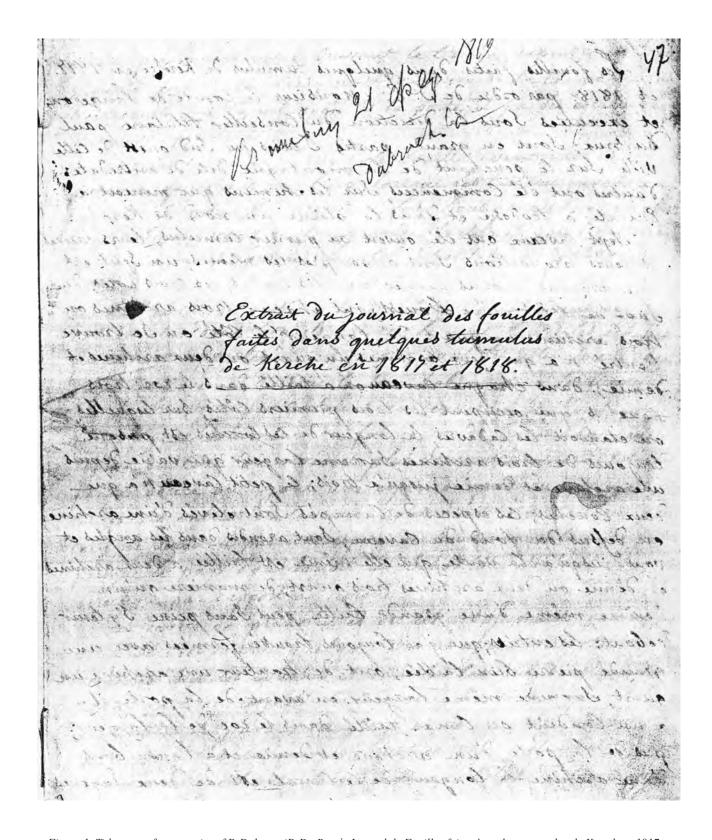


Figure 1. Title page of manuscript of P. Dubrux: 'P. Du Brux<sup>1</sup>, Journal de Fouilles faites à quelques tumulus de Kertch en 1817 et 1818 par ordre de Son Excellence Monsieur le Comte de Langeron, sous la direction du Conseiller Titulaire Dubrucs'. Manuscripts Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the History of Material Culture. Fond (manuscript group) 7, delo (unit) 11, list (sheet) 47

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}\,$  This was the original family name used by Paul Dubrux in his manuscripts

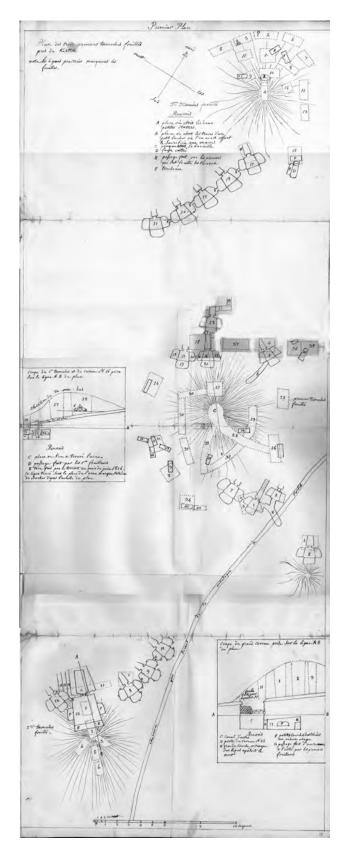


Figure 2. P. Du Brux. First plan of excavations of some barrows near Kerch 1817-8. St Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Fond 30, opis' (inventory) 1, delo 474, list 36

sharper. To obtain funds for excavations Dubrux would sell ancient stone blocks for building purposes since Kerch was growing very rapidly at the time. From 1816 onwards, all of Dubrux's activities were financed by donations from Count A. Langeron, his compatriot who was military governor of Kherson region (Novorossiiskii krai), from Tsar Alexander I, and later by State Chancellor Count N. P. Rumiantsev. Dubrux's official list contains the note: 'From November 1816 we are dealing with the excavation of Kerch necropoleis and finding antiquities in them'. Langeron gave strict instructions to the town police make sure that unauthorized persons did not excavate. Dubrux 'had found a lot of tombs with rather precious antiquities'. He was involved in saving from thieves the 'royal' kurgan, that was excavated in 1820-21 by naval Captain-Lieutenant N. Patignoty. This kurgan was in style and finds analogous to the Kul'-Oba kurgan found by Dubrux in 1830 (Figures 4-6).

During a visit to St Petersburg in 1820 Dubrux was received by the Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich who donated a small sum of 500 roubles to the excavations. In particular Mikhail Pavlovich wanted to get more information about ancient remains on the European coast of the Kerch Strait from Cape Fonary to Mt Opuk. This request stimulated Dubrux to write his principal published work which is known as Description of remains and traces of ancient towns and settlements, which once existed on the European coast of the Cimmerian Bosporus, from the entrance of the strait near Enikale lighthouse to Mt Opuk. Plans and descriptions of the ruins were made by Dubrux in 1820-35 with the assistance of the town governor of Kerch-Enikale, of Jean Stempkovski (1788-1832) Corresponding Member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, and of Jean Moret de Blaramberg (1772-1831) Director of Kerch Museum of Antiquities and Corresponding Member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences. At the beginning of the 19th century Dubrux and Stempkovski formulated plans for archaeological and topographical research on ancient cities and settlements on the Kerch and Taman peninsulas which were only realised for Russian scholarship at the beginning of the 20th century.

Dubrux had a precise scientific agenda for his research on the antiquities of the eastern Crimea: to collect detailed data about ancient monuments on the European coast of the Cimmerian Bosporus. He noted ruins of cities and settlements, large kurgans, ancient roads and other archaeological monuments in their environmental context. He researched the surrounding territory in the 18th century tradition, leaving exact descriptions and measurements of most archaeological monuments that were partly damaged on account of stone-robbing. He described, measured and placed the monuments he studied on plans and maps.

Measuring angles with a plane-table and distances by means of ropes, Dubrux made every plan as accurate and detailed as possible, and he sometimes made repeat visits to sites that were 60km from Kerch. The first drawings would

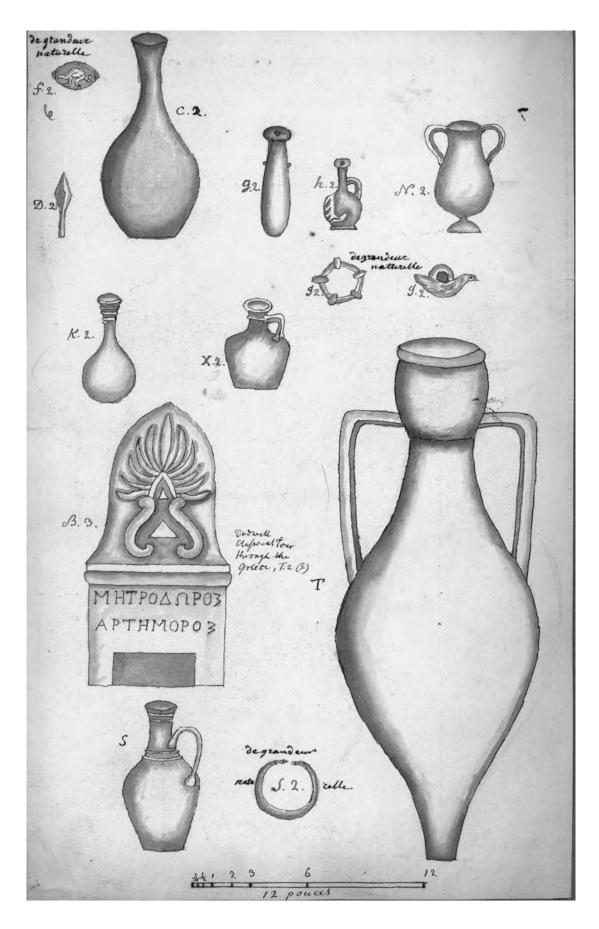


Figure 3. P. Du Brux. Some artifacts from barrows near Kerch 1817-8. St Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Fond 30, opis' 1, delo 474, list 34 back

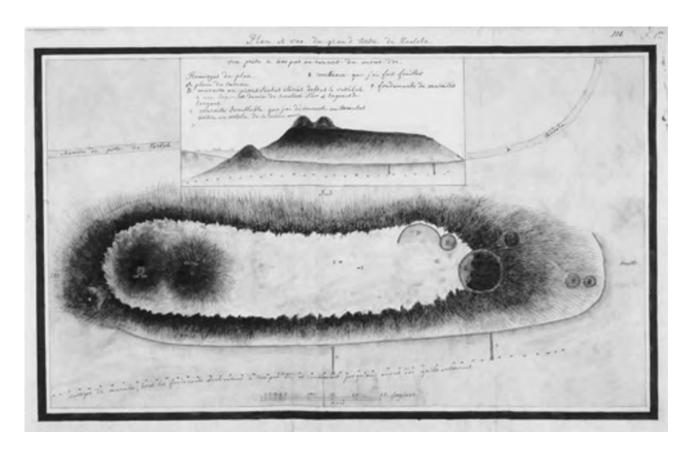


Figure 4. P. Du Brux. Plan and view of Kul'-Oba barrow. Archive of the State Hermitage. Fond 1, opis' 1-1831, delo 19, list 101

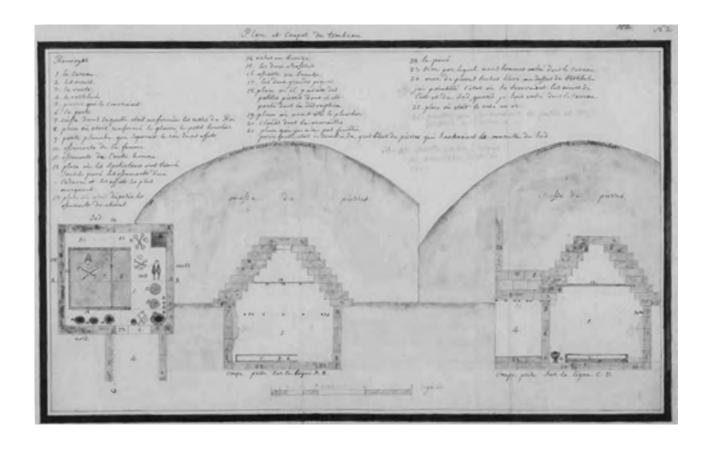


Figure 5. P. Du Brux. Plan and sections of the Kul'-Oba Tomb. Archive of the State Hermitage. Fond 1, opis' 1-1831, delo 19, list 102

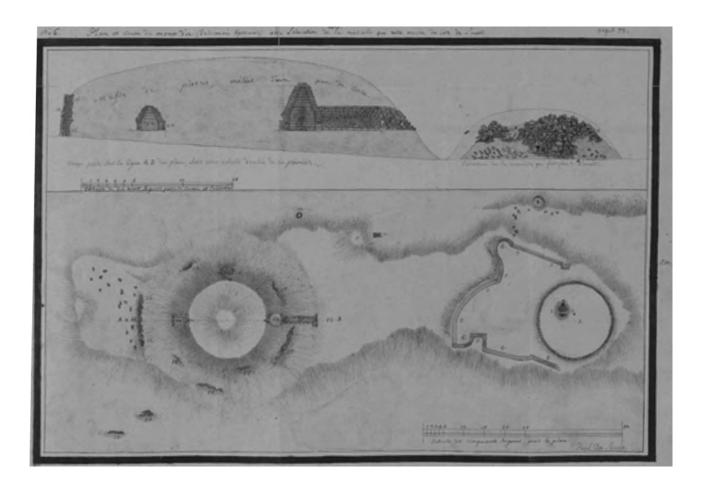


Figure 6. P. Du Brux. Plan and section of the Golden barrow near Kertch. State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fond 666, opis' 1, delo 534, list 127

be done with black-and-white drafts, that would then be converted to coloured drawings and scaled plans. With the help of his material it is possible to reconstruct common outline of fortifications and inner structure of such Bosporan towns as Pantikapaion, Nymphaion, Myrmekion, Iluraton (Figures 7-11), Kytaion etc. (Figures 12-14). It also helped to reconstruct the composition of archaeological complexes of the Scythian 'royal' kurgans, such as Patignoty (1820-1), Kul'-Oba (1830) and Golden barrow (1832), as well as objects from Bosporan necropoleis and other items. The last 14 years of Dubrux's life were devoted to these arduous but accurate researches, and in so doing he built an eternal monument to himself in the world history of archaeology.

The large number of gold objects found in the Kul'-Oba kurgan drew the attention of the Russian imperial authorities to the ancient monuments of the Kerch peninsula. This event opened a new stage in the history of Russian archaeology and classical studies, for there began a period of regular excavations financed by the government. Dubrux, however was deeply wounded by the fact that from 1831 all archaeological research placed in the hands of D. V. Kareisha (1808-78), an official of Kerch-Enikale municipality, and to A. B. Ashik (1801-54), the new Director (from 1833) of the Kerch Museum of Antiquities. Thus from the beginning of the 1830s Dubrux lost his right to conduct excavations on behalf of the state

government. In 1832 and 1834 therefore he forwarded petitions to the emperor Nicolas I, enclosing descriptions of some monuments since he hoped to receive some reward from the government for his participation in revealing the Kul'-Oba kurgan and for his longstanding contribution to research on the ancient settlements and necropoleis of European Bosporus. In forwarding his descriptions of Bosporan monuments to members of the imperial family, well-known scholars and patrons of the arts, Dubrux hoped both to get donations for excavations and for the publication of his research. None of his works was ever published, however, since the author lacked funds and could not afford the expense. To the best of my knowledge, only three small articles ever appeared in the French edition of the *Journal d'Odessa*, 1833 and 1834 (Dubrux 1833; 1834a; 1834b).

Several of Dubrux's manuscripts are conserved in Paris. In 1834 and 1835 as had advised the late Stempkovski Dubrux sent some of his works to the Paris Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres but they also were not published. As a result all his unpublished articles and materials were used by most of scholars to whom simpleminded Dubrux gave them. First of all those were Désiré Raoul Rochette (1789-1854), the member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, and J. de Blaramberg and A. B. Ashik, the directors of the Kerch museum of antiquities, which did not even mention the author's name.

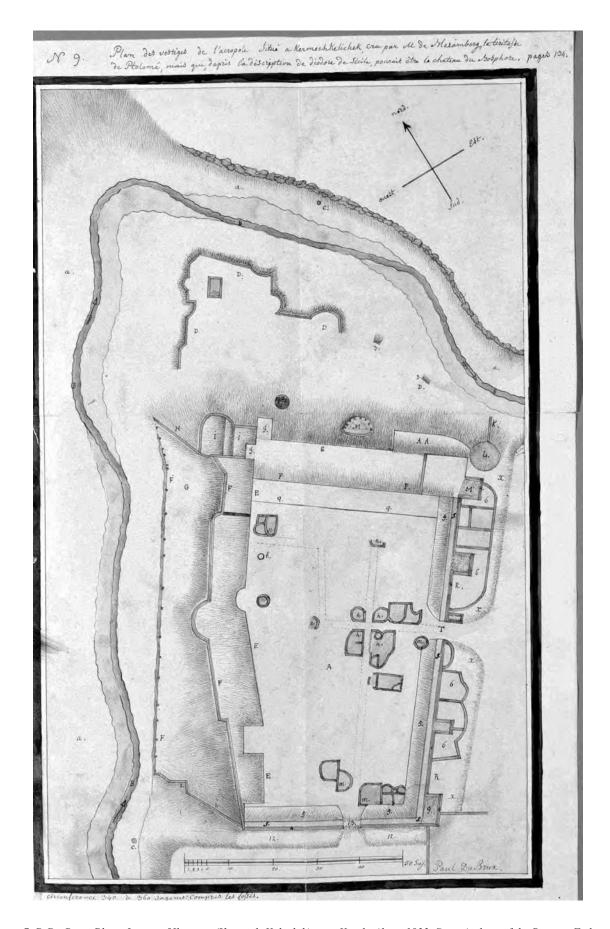


Figure 7. P. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of Iluraton (Kermesh-Kelechik) near Kerch. About 1833. State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fond 666, opis' 1, delo 534, list 130

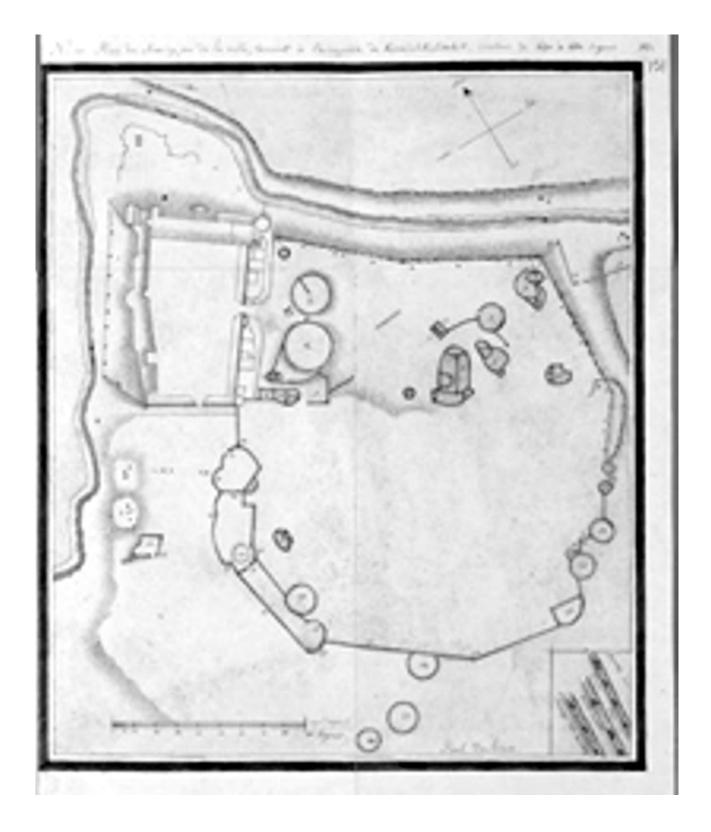


Figure 8. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of the 'Acropolis' of Iluraton (Kermesh-Kelechik) near Kerch. About 1833. State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fond 666, opis' 1, delo 534, list 131

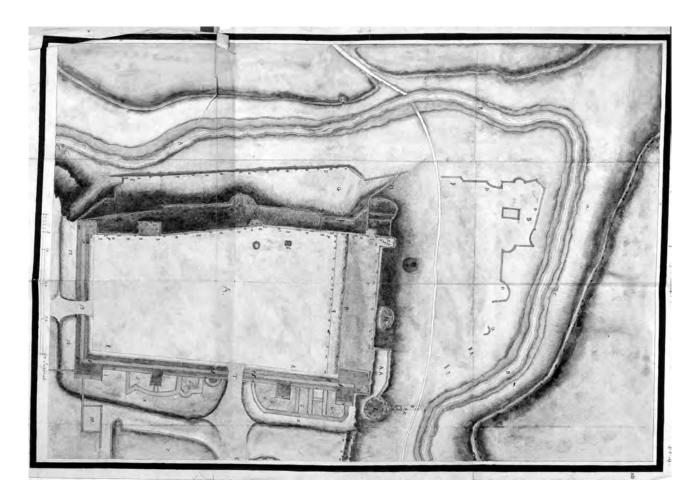


Figure 9. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of the 'Acropolis' of Iluraton (Kermesh-Kelechik) near Kerch. About 1834. Archive of the State Hermitage. Fond 1, opis' 1-1831, delo 19, list 104

Scholarly papers of Dubrux were evaluated only after his death. Thoroughness of his descriptions and precision of graphic records were confirmed by excavations of the Russian and Ukrainian archaeologists since the middle of the 20th century.

During 170 years a lot of Russian classical archaeologists were looking for original plans and drawings of Paul Dubrux. Studying the documents on history of the Russian classical archaeology of the 18-20th centuries I found some original Dubrux's manuscripts and letters and also documents about his life and archaeological researches (Tunkina 1999; Tunkina 2002; Tunkina 2005). In archival holdings of St Petersburg, Moscow (Russia), Kiev, Odessa, Simferopol (Ukraine) I discovered several versions of his main scholarly paper 'Description of remains and traces of ancient towns and settlements... on the European coast of the Cimmerian Bosporus' (1833), his report on excavations of the world-wide famous great Kul'-Oba barrow not far from Kertch (1830) and other archaeological notes, some of which are still unpublished. In the State Archive of the Russian Federation in the manuscript group of the Grand Duke Michail Pavlovich I managed to find the fullest manuscript of the main Dubrux's works. This work was devoted to the descriptions of ancient monuments of the Eastern Crimea and was illustrated with colored drawings and map. This original Dubrux's autograph has the

following heading 'Plans, et descriptions des vestiges et des traces, des anciennes Villes et Bourgs qui existaint autrefois sur le Bosphore Cimmérien, Rive d'Europe, depuis l'entré dans le détroit, jusque et compris la montagne d'Apouch, sur la mer Noire. Travail executez pendant le Cours de plusieurs années, par le conseiller honoraire Paul Dubrux chevalier de Saint Louis, résident à Kerch depuis l'année 1810. Kertch, le 16 decembre 1833'. There is another name on the reverse side of the page: 'Descriptions et plans des vestiges des villes et des bourgs, existant autrefois sur le Bosphore Cimmérien, Rives d'Européene'. All papers of Dubrux are illustrated by colour plans, maps, and drawings, which were considered lost before (see for example Tolstikov 1999).

The draft manuscript of 'Descriptions...' was found in Kiev as a part of the manuscript group of the Odessa Society of History and Antiquities. This manuscript became the basis for the adopted brief Russian translation made by the author's grandson A. G. Dubrux and was published in 1858 in the 'Proceedings' of the Odessa Society of History and Antiquities (Diubriuks 1858). Any archaeologist dealing with ancient period who read this translation understands incompleteness and inaccuracy of explaining in Russian the topographic descriptions of Paul Dubrux. Having no special archaeological education and poorly acquainted with the Eastern Crimea topography the translator mostly distorted

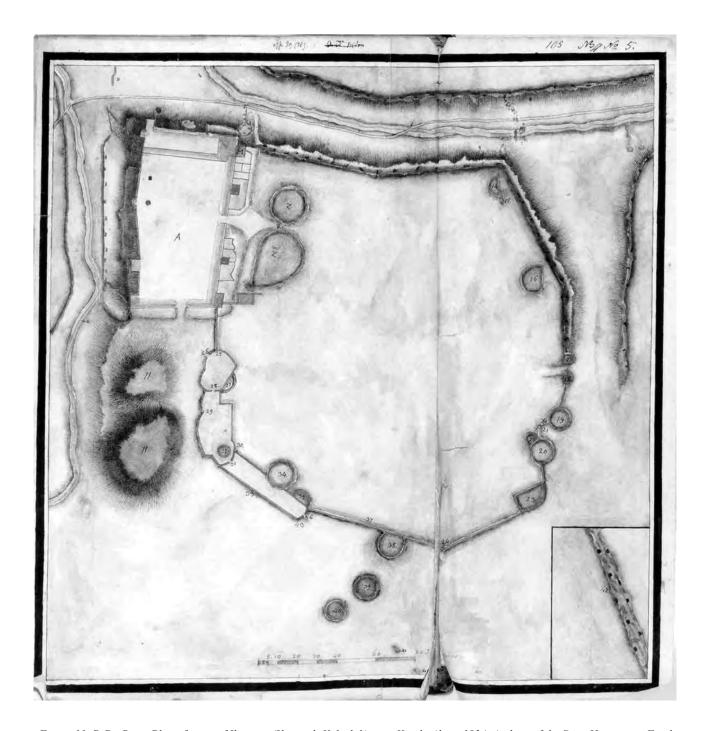


Figure 10. P. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of Iluraton (Kermesh-Kelechik) near Kerch. About 1834. Archive of the State Hermitage. Fond 1, opis' 1-1831, delo 19, list 105

the meaning of his grandfather's work. He shortened the original text by his own, left some unintelligible pieces of text, took away almost all numeric markings corresponding to plans.

In archives of the State Hermitage and the Institute of France in Paris there were found the author's corrections and supplements to 'Descriptions...' with plans (Tunkina 1999; Tunkina 2002, 144-157, 167-179). The honourable revelation of Dubrux's documents in the Institute of France was done by Veronique Schiltz, French researcher of Scythians and corresponding member of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. In co-authorship with her

disciples she published Dubrux's report on excavations of the Kul'-Oba barrow in 1830 (Gavignet *et al.*, 2000, 341-374) and also some documents about him, his family taken from military archives of France and Belgium.

During almost two centuries the handwriting manuscripts of Dubrux scattered in numerous archives of the world were inaccessible for the researches of ancient period of Black Sea coast. Rare, abstracted and misread publications of his separate manuscripts (Tizengauzen 1888; Latyshev 1889; Bich 1959) could not fill this lacuna. Since 1998 till now team of 12 co-operate scholars of St Petersburg, Moscow, Nizhnii Novgorod, Kerch and Paris had been preparing

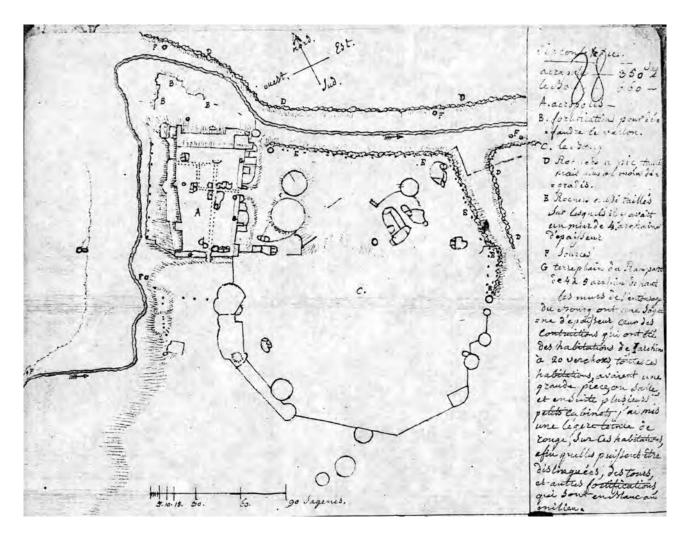


Figure 11. P. Du Brux. Draft plan of ruins of Iluraton (Kermesh-Kelechik) near Kerch. National Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Institute of manuscript V. I. Vernadsky National Library of the Ukraine. V, 1034, list 88

a publication of Dubrux's 'Opera omnia' in accordance to his manuscripts which should fill this lacuna. This commented treatise should include reconstruction of all Dubrux's unpublished manuscripts and letters (1816-35) held in archives of St Petersburg, Moscow (Russia), Kiev, Odessa, Simferopol (Ukraine), Paris (France). Different author's texts and their copies are compared with previous publications of the archaeologist which were done in 19-20th centuries. The documents should be published in original language (French) and in Russian translation. Research articles include estimation of Dubrux's data with taking account the modern ideas on history and archaeology of the Kingdom of Bosporus and research of concrete monuments of the Eastern Crimea. Scholarly commentaries should include a detailed textual, historical, archaeological and topographical explanations. It's necessary to publish all drawings and plans in colour.

The first full publication of Dubrux's descriptions and plans will help the modern researches to understand and reconstruct disappeared ancient objects, to trace the construction and planning of the European Bosporos towns and barrows, to reconstruct the composition of burial complexes which were excavated in the first third

of the 19th century. The bringing back to scientific life all the research heritage of Dubrux is equivalent to new field archaeological revelations, it proves the extremely high scientific potential of documents to be published. This material is of great significance for the history of classical archaeology and ancient studies in Russia. No doubt the complete works of Paul Dubrux will become a favorite book for all classical scholars and archaeologists dealing with monuments of the Bosporan Kingdom. The grants of the Russian Humanitarian Scientific Foundation will help to issue this two-volume book.

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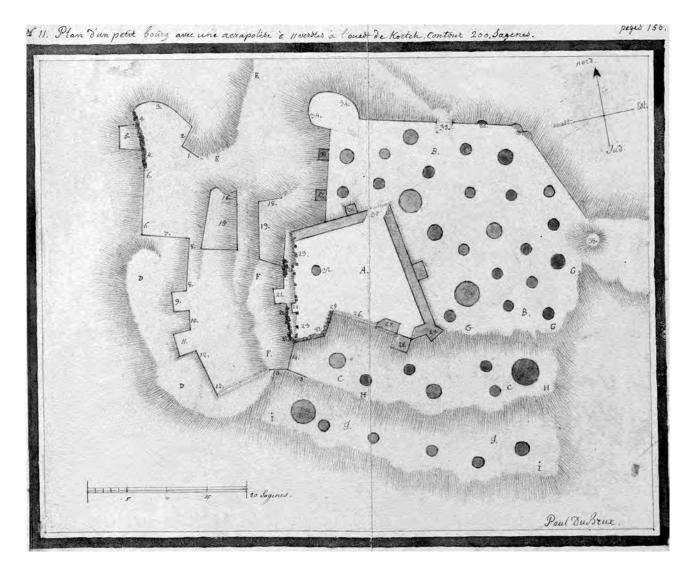


Figure 12. P. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of the settlement-site of Kuurdak (Andreevka Severnaia). About 1833. State Archive of the Russian Federation. Fond 666, opis' 1, delo 534, list 132

diary of the excavations of P. Dubrux in 1816-1817]. In Материалы и исследования по археологии СССР [Materialy i issledovaniia po arkheologii SSSR – Archaeological Materials and Research in the USSR] 69, 296-321. Moscow, Leningrad.

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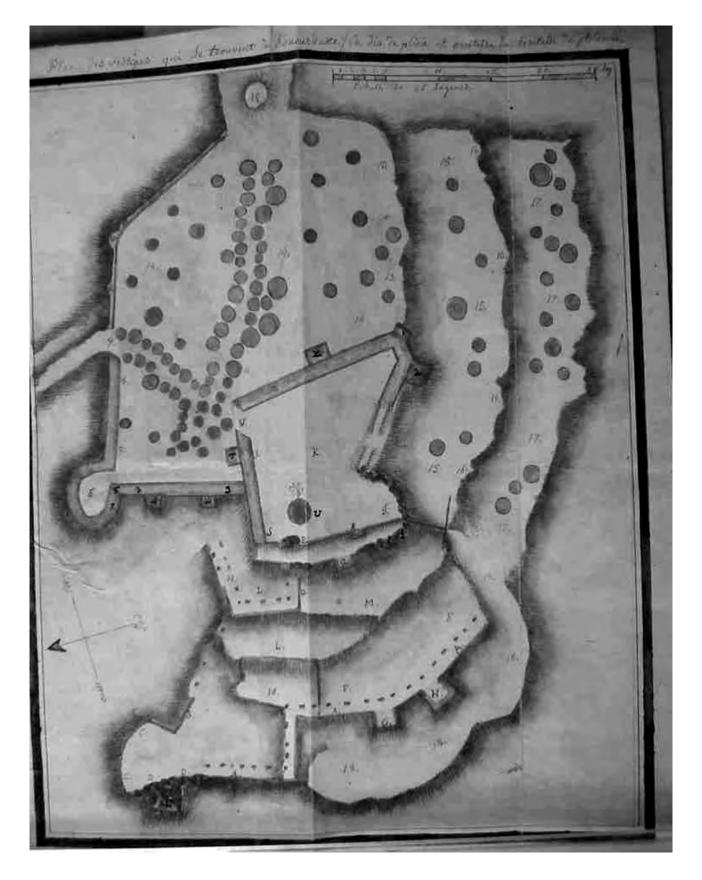


Figure 13. P. Du Brux. Plan of ruins of the settlement-site of Kuurdak (Andreevka Severnaia). About 1834. Archive of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, 3 H 155

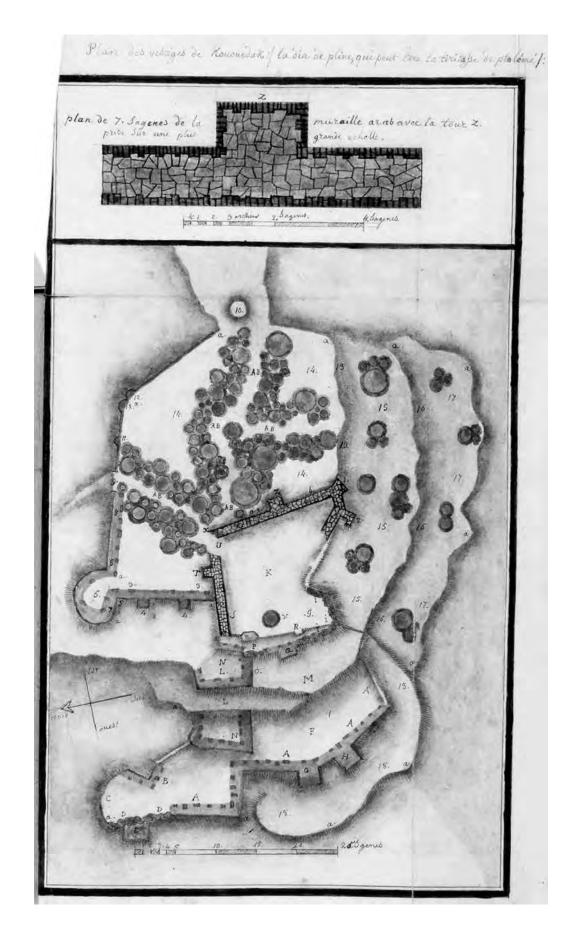


Figure 14. P. Du Brux. The final plan of ruins of the settlement-site of Kuurdak (Andreevka Severnaia). Not later than 1834. Archive of the State Hermitage. Fond 1, opis' 1-1831, delo 19, list 339

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