

SOME “A-HORIZON” COMPONENTS OF THE EARLY CORDED WARE CULTURE IN WESTERN BELARUS

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INTRODUCTION

Problem of so-called “A-horizon“ or “pan-European horizon” is very actual for European archaeology. By means of identification of “A-horizon” complex numerous researchers attempt to define the early stage of the Corded Ware Culture (CWC) and decide certain questions concerning its genesis (Buchvaldek, 1986). Herman Behrens has argued, that outside Jutland single elements of A-horizon character were only ingredients of the oldest stages of regional groups of CWC (Behrens, 1997, 19–22). According to some scholars, development in different European regions during CWC time was rather different, and any common horizon in material assemblages can be distinguished (Ebbesen, 1997). It is quite possible that CWC was independently established in different parts of Europe.

In this connection cultural phenomenon concerned CWC in territory of Belarus represents an interest. Some authors attempted to argue that East-European Cultures with Corded Pottery, including cultures from Belarus, didn't have a direct connection with the A-horizon complex in contrast to CWC of Middle Europe (Berezanskaja S.S., Artemenko I.I., Machnik J. etc.). On the other hand, according to Miroslav Buchvaldek (1980) the pan-European Corded Ware horizon originated in the Upper Vistula, Upper Neman and Upper Prypyet basins.

In our opinion the problem can be hardly solved soon. But the first steps made in this direction allow us to state the fact, that there are some components with A-horizon and the Early Corded Ware Culture features in Belarus.

COMPONENTS WITH THE A-HORIZON – EARLY CORDED WARE CULTURE FEATURES

The most typical finds, which usually associated with “pan-European” complex, were found by Alena G. Kalechyts in the *Motal 1 settlement* (the Jaselda basin).

For the first time numerous stray finds were discovered by Uladzimir F. Isaenka in 1962 in the western part of this site that had been destroyed. Alena G. Kalechyts has excavated the western part as well as the destroyed central territory of the *Motal 1 settlement* in 1987–1989, 1992 (Fig. 1). The settlement was situated on the high elevation (named “Gara”) near 500m long. “Gara” like a large island and like many

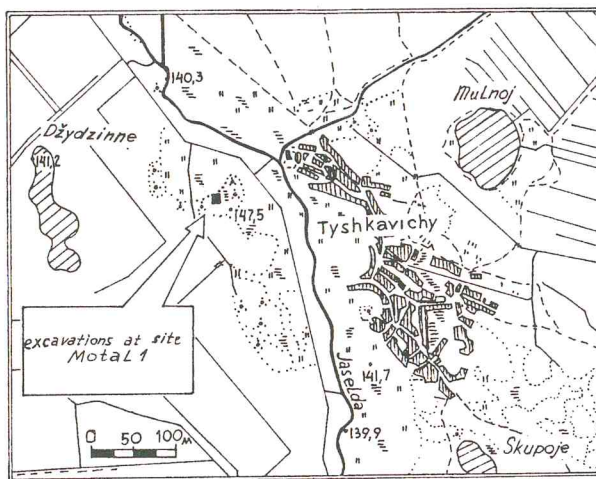


Fig. 1. Map of the northern part of Motal-Tyshkavichy microregion showing excavated area at Motal site 1.

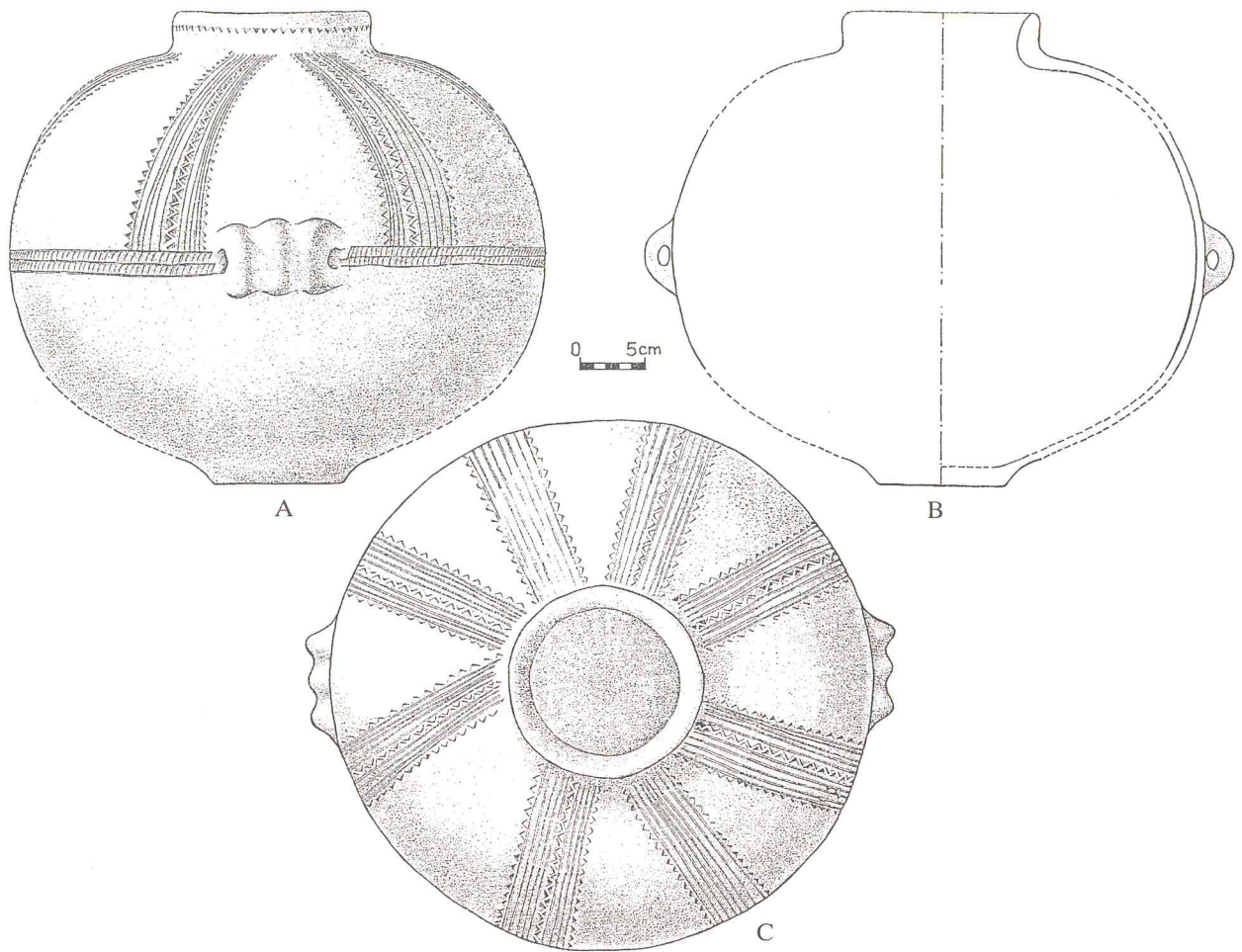


Fig. 2. Motal, site 1. A-amphora (A – side view, B – section, C – upper view) (reconstruction by M.M. Kryvaltsevich).

other dune elevations of micro-region raise in the territory of the Jaselda marshy meadow. Several lakes (Motal, Dzydzinne, Mulnoje etc.) are still in the lowering. Maybe “Gara” was the highest hill on the mentioned territory (up to 6m above the meadow). Cultural remains as well as the A-horizon materials were found mainly in the light and dark gray sandy soil at depth of 0.3–0.4m. About 200 fragments of the A-amphora (Fig. 2) located in this layer. They were concentrated in the area of 1x1.5 m. The Neman Culture materials dominated on this very spot as well as the whole part of the *Motal 1 settlement site*. A shard with cord imprints and some fragments of other amphora (A-type?) were found on the spot of localization of the A-amphora mentioned above. Some other parts of the investigated territory contained no numerous fragments of other Corded pottery (later stages?).

A-amphora (Fig. 2). It was a big-sized amphora with 410–420 mm in maximum diameter and flat bottom (with 100mm in diameter). The height of the

amphora could be up 360–370 mm. The neck was narrow, about 150–155 mm in diameter, and it has a straight reinforced rim. Two long horizontal handles (near 100mm long) with three lugs were on the most broad part of the amphora.

It was ornamented with a row of triangle-shaped notches along the rim, eight groups of vertical lines on the shoulder part. These groups of vertical lines were bordered and parted by vertical rows of triangle-shaped notches. Two rows of triangle-shaped notches in the middle part of the groups of vertical lines created a zigzag-like ornamented pattern. The upper ornamental system was supplemented by three horizontal lines embracing the amphora between handles in the most broad part. A lot of short vertical strokes were located between these rows.

The outside of the amphora was comparatively smooth, but only some pieces of admixture ran out in some places of it. The amphora was made of clay mass with small white crushed stone admixture. The surface was gray.

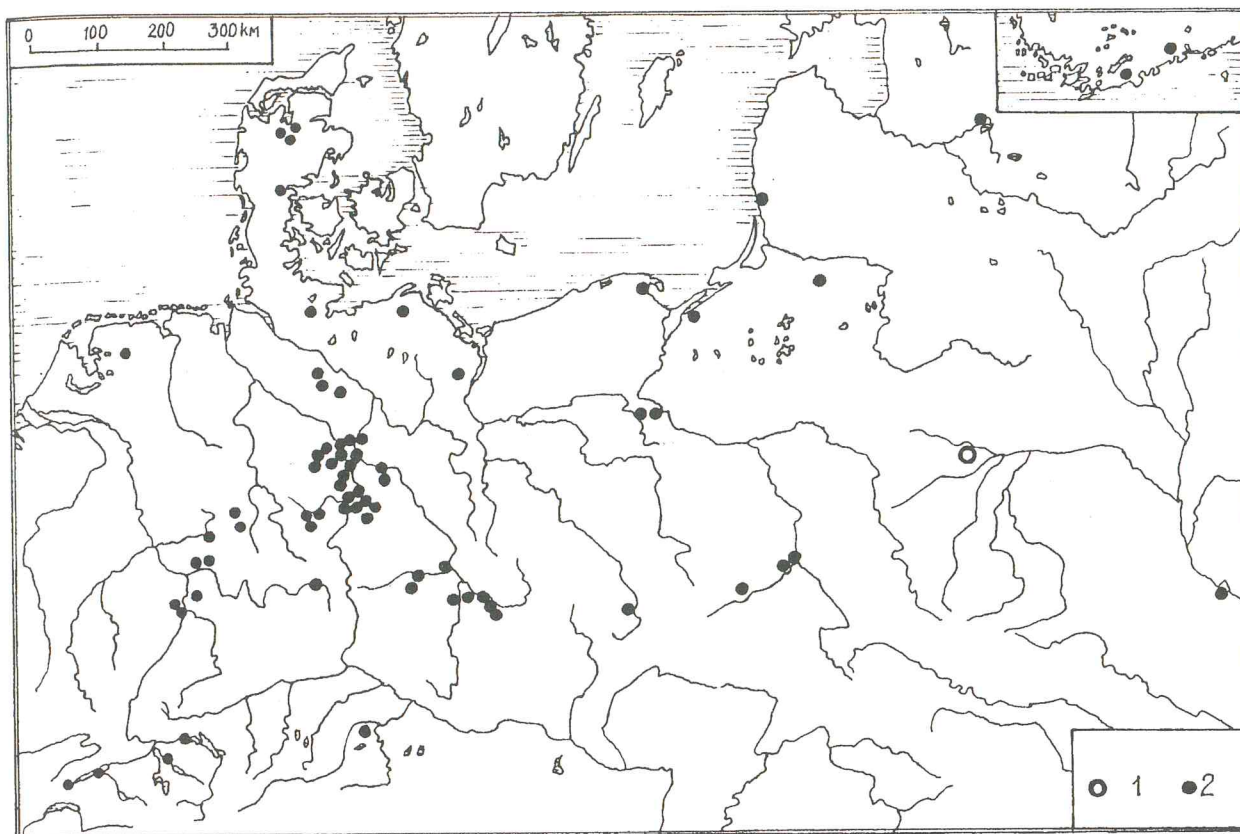


Fig. 3. Distribution of A-amphorae (2) (according to M. Buchvaldek, 1986). A-amphora from Motal site 1 (1).

The amphora from the *Motal 1 settlement* is very similar the A-horizon 1Aa amphora (according to typology of M. Buchvaldek) (Fig. 3).

The investigators advocating the unity of A-horizon argued the idea of local typological division of Corded pottery. They have marked out some regional oldest complexes: several oldest groups for the Polish Lowlands (Czebreszuk, 1996, 96–100), settlement type Lustrup for Single Grave Culture (Liversage, 1987, 102–103), group 1 for Single Grave Culture of Meklemburg-Vorpommern (Jacobs, 1991) etc. Ingredients of the oldest complexes and stages of regional groups may be completely or partially corresponded to A-horizon. There are some kinds of storage pots with the short-wave mouldings among them.

For example, according to Ilze Loze beakers with short-wave mouldings were the third element of early corded ware in the territory of Latvia (Loze, 1997, 137–138). A lot of pottery with short-wave mouldings were discovered in Šventoji 1A (Rimantienė, 1980, 57–61; 1984, 211). Rimutė Rimantienė represented Šventoji 1A settlement complex as well as the oldest stage of the Baltic Coastal Culture and regarded ‘the entire

complex of articles peculiar to A-horizon’ (Rimantienė, Česnys, 1996, 49). According to Janusz Czebreszuk one of the oldest CWC group 2 (Circumbaltic Cultural Circle) on the Polish Lowlands had some similar such as short-wave mouldings with finger imprints (Czebreszuk, 1996, 96–100). The identical pottery with short-wave mouldings regarded as well as one of the element of the settlement oldest stage (Lustrup type) of the Single Grave Culture (Liversage, 1987, 102–123). The same pottery was obtained on the territory of Meklemburg – Vorpommern. It was identified as a feature of group 1. Jörn Jacobs regarded group 1 complex as well as simultaneous with the oldest faze of Untergrabzeit and the ‘pan-European’ horizon (Jacobs, 1991).

As follows from the material mentioned above the same pots may be regarded as one of the important component of the Early Corded Ware complex. Shards with short-wave mouldings were discovered in the Late Neolithic habitation sites in the territory of Western Belarus. This pottery was represented in such settlements as *Motal site 18* in the Jaselda basin (excavation of A.G. Kalechyts) (Fig. 4: 6), *Kamen site 2* on the Bobryk river (excavated by Y.F. Isaenka) (Fig. 4: 4),

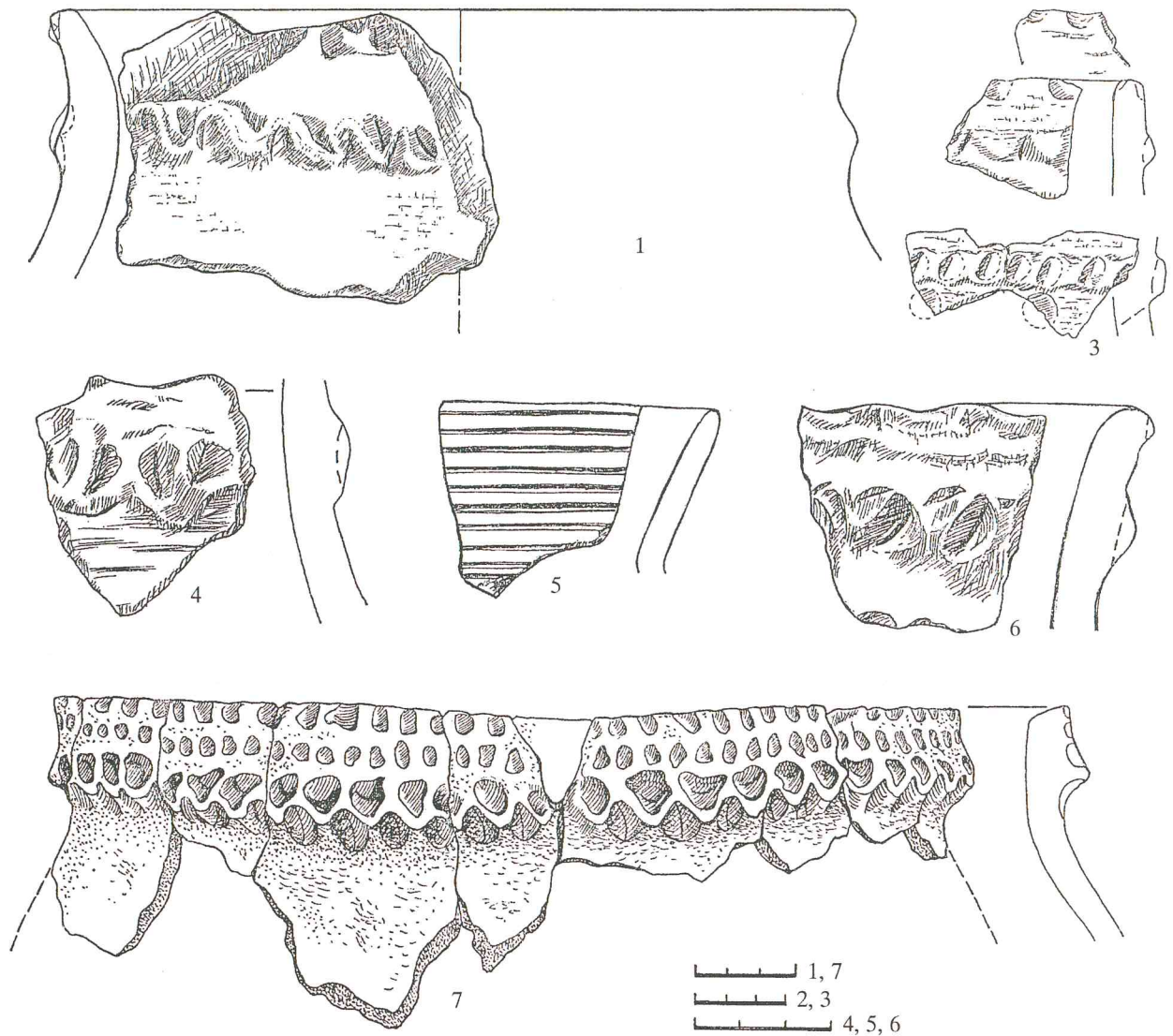


Fig. 4. Some kinds of sherds with short-wave mouldings from Western Belarus (1 – Skema; 2-3 – Lichytsy site 2; 4 – Kamen site 2; 6 – Motal site 18) and from the Upper Dnieper (7 – Strumen, according to A.G. Kalechyts, 1987). 5 – fragment of the beaker from Gneuchytsy.

Skema near lake Narach (excavated by M.M. Charniauski) (Fig. 4: 1), *Lichytsy site 2* (Чарняўскі, Кудрашоў, Ліпніцкая, 1996, 73–74) (Fig. 4: 2, 3), *Rusakovichy site 7* in the Upper Neman (excavation of M.M. Charniauski, information of Vadzim L. Laki-za) etc.

Most of the pots contained sand and chamotte admixture, although several were made of clay mass without any visible admixture. It was comparatively thick-wall, massive and big-sized pottery. Their outsides were comparatively smooth or have some traces of rubbing (*Kamen*) (Fig. 4: 4). The shards were decorated by short-wave mouldings have made by finger

imprints bellow the rims. Their upper edges usually had finger imprints.

This kind of pottery occurred there always as an admixture in predominant but obviously earlier (or partly simultaneous?) pottery of autochthonous Neolithic Neman Culture. Sometimes some corded pottery (with the features of later stage?) were met there. The habitation sites mentioned above were situated in conditions that were usual for the Late Neolithic ones: on sand elevations in the territory of meadows (*Motal*, *Skema*, *Rusakovichy*), along the edges of low terraces (*Kamen*, *Lichytsy*). Usually the settlement sites with such kind of pottery were situated in lowlands, where

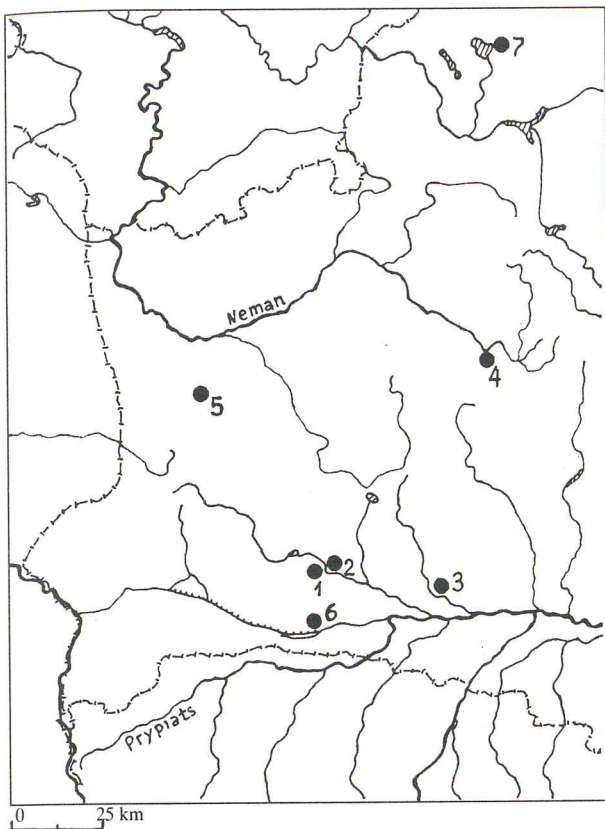


Fig. 5. Some sites with A-horizon – Early Corded Ware Culture components in Western Belarus: 1 – Motal site 1; 2 – Motal site 18; 3 – Kamen site 2; 4 – Rusakovichy site 7; 5 – Lichytsy site 2; 6 – Gneuchytsy; 7 – Skema.

ivers were closely connected with some lakes (*Motal, Kamen, Skema*).

The same kind of big pots was found in the Upper Dnieper basin besides Western Belarus. For example A.G. Kalechyts discovered the similar pot-type in the cultural layer of the Neolithic-Bronze Age *Strumen settlement site* (Калечыц, 1987, рис. 57) (Fig. 4: 7). The identical big pot with two rows with short-wave mouldings below the rim was founded near the Dnieper by M.M. Kryvaltsevich in the cultural layer of the

Neolithic settlement site (*Kamaryn site 2*). This part of the settlement was covered by the Middle Dnieper Culture barrow. The barrow contained two burials. A stone axe almost identical to Karlov-type with circular thickening around the shaft-hole was founded in one of the burials*. The stratigraphic situation in *Kamaryn site 2* lets us suggest older age of this type of pots in comparison with the Middle Dnieper Culture burials in this region.

Among the A-amphora and pots with mouldings, the beakers with simple horizontal rows of deep lines on the neck may be considered as a component of A-horizon – Early CWC (Buchvaldek, 1986). A fragment of the beaker was found by A.G. Kalechyts in *Gneuchytsy site* (the Pina basin) (Fig. 4: 5).

Some kinds of early A-type battle axes as well as stray finds are represented (see for example Чарняўскі, 1997, 307–308,365).

CONCLUSION

As follows from the material mentioned above there are some components of A-horizon – Early Corded Ware Culture features in the territory of the Western Belarus (fig.5). This phenomenon may not be investigated on the base of our material as a complete system yet. It is difficult to come to a conclusion about chronology of the mentioned above components. But we can only make a suggestion about their possible comparative-typological synchronization with the identical components/complexes of Middle – Eastern Europe. We pay attention to the pottery with short-wave mouldings, finger imprints, that may play a vital part as one of the main components of the Early CWC in Circumbaltic Cultural Circle (last definition according to some polish archaeologists – Alexander Kosko, Janusz Czebreszuk etc.). In this case we may suggest, that some areas of Western Belarus had certain importance during the process of genesis of CWC in Circumbaltic Cultural Circle.

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* Materials have been preparing for publication by M.M. Kryvaltsevich.

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KAI KURIE „A HORIZONTO“ KOMPONENTAI – ANKSTYVOSIOS VIRVELINĖS KERAMIKOS KULTŪROJE VAKARŲ BALTARUSIJOJE

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Santrauka

Išskirdami A horizonto arba bendraeuropinio horizonto kompleksą, kai kurie tyrinėtojai bando spręsti ankstyvojo Virvelinės keramikos kultūros etapo problemą. Kai kurie archeologai, kritikuodami bendrojo horizonto idėją, mano, kad, Virvelinės keramikos kultūros atskiruose Europos regionuose atsirado nepriklausomai. A horizonto problema aktuali ir Baltarusijai, kuriai vieni tyrinėtojai neigia bet kokių ryši su bendraeuropiniu horizontu, kiti atvirksčiai – Vyslos, Nemuno ir Pripetės aukštupiuose ieško jo ištakų.

Vakarų Baltarusijoje A horizontui būdingi komponentai – A 1a tipo amfora, kitos amforos fragmentai buvo rasti kasinėjant gyvenvietę Motal 1 Jaseldos upės baseine (pav. 1, 2, 3). Daugelis tyrinėtojų kaip vieną iš komponentų, būdingų pavienių kapų kultūrai priklausančiai Pabaltijo Virvelinės keramikos kultūroms, laiko savitus didelius indus su rumbais su gnaibymo pirštais pėdsakais ant jų. Tokių puodų šukių rasta kai kuriose neolitinėse Vakarų Baltarusijos gyvenvietėse (Motal 18, Kamen 2, Skema, Ličicy 2, Rusakoviči 7) (pav. 4:1–4, 6). Pažymė-

tina, kad tokių radinių aptikta Dnepro aukštupio paminkluose (Strumen, Komarin 2) (pav. 4:7). Komarino 2 gyvenvietėje tokio puodo šukių lizdas buvo rastas neolitinės stovyklavietės kultūriniame sluoksnyje, virš kurio buvo supiltas Padneprės kultūros pilkapis. Viename iš pilkapio kapų rastas „Karlovo“ tipo akmeninis kirvis (Komarino 2 tyrinėjimų medžiaga ruošiama spaudai M.M. Kryvalcevičiaus). Be paminėtų komponentų Baltarusijos vakaruose, Gnevčisuose rasta šukių priklausiusių taurei (A taurė ?) su kakleliu, puoštu lygiagrečiomis giliai įrėžtomis linijomis (pav. 4:5). Pasitaiko ir akmeninių kirvių su skyle kotui, primenančių A tipo laivinių kirvių.

Turimos medžiagos aiškiai nepakanka nuodugnesniems tyrimams. Nepaisant to reikia pripažinti, Vakarų Baltarusijoje yra komponentų, būdingų A horizontui – ankstyvajam Virvelinės keramikos kultūros etapui (pav. 5). Minėtų puodų su rumbais buvimas leidžia manyti, kad Vakarų Baltarusijos regionas turėjo tam tikrą reikšmę Virvelinės keramikos kultūros taip vadinamo cirkumbaltijos kultūrinio rato formavimosi procesui.

ИЛЮСТРАЦИЈУ САРАШАС

1 pav. Motal-Tyskavičių mikroregiono šiaurinės dalies žemėlapis, kuriame parodytas Motal 1 archeologinio paminklo kasinėjimų plotas.

2 pav. Motal, archeologinis paminklas 1. A-amfora (A – vaizdas iš šono, B – pjūvis, C – vaizdas iš viršaus) (rekonstravo M.M. Kryvalcevič).

3 pav. A-amforų pasiskirstymas (2) (pagal M. Bučvaldek, 1986). A-amfora iš archeologinio paminklo Motal 1 (1).

4 pav. Įvairios šukės su liejiniais iš Vakarų Baltarusijos (1 – Skema; 2–3 – archeologinis paminklas Ličicy 2

3 – archeologinis paminklas Kamen 2; 6 – archeologinis paminklas Motal 18) ir Dniepro aukštupyje (7 – Strumen, pagal A.G. Kalečic, 1987). 5 – Gneučiuose rasto smulkintuvo fragmentas.

5 pav. Kai kurie A-horizonto archeologiniai paminklai – ankstyvosios virvelinės keramikos kultūros elementai Vakarų Balrarusijoje: 1 – archeologinis paminklas Motal 1; 2 – archeologinis paminklas Motal 18; 3 – archeologinis paminklas Kamen 2; 4 – archeologinis paminklas Rusa-koviči 7; 5 – archeologinis paminklas Ličicy 2; 6 – Gneučicy; 7 – Skema.

НЕКОТОРЫЕ КОМПОНЕНТЫ С ПРИЗНАКАМИ А-ГОРИЗОНТА – РАННЕГО ЭТАПА КУЛЬТУРЫ ШНУРОВОЙ КЕРАМИКИ В ЗАПАДНОЙ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Резюме

Выделяя комплекс “А-горизонта” или “общеевропейского горизонта”, многие исследователи пытаются решить проблему раннего этапа культуры шнуровой керамики. Некоторые археологи, критикуя идею общего горизонта, предполагают, что появление культуры шнуровой керамики происходило в разных регионах Европы вне зависимости. Проблема А-горизонта – раннего этапа культуры шнуровой керамики является весьма актуальной для территории Беларуси, для которой одни исследователи отрицают какую-либо связь с общеевропейским горизонтом, другие же наоборот в верховьях Вислы, Немана, Припяти ищут его истоки.

На территории Западной Беларуси типичные для комплекса А-горизонта компоненты в виде А-амфоры типа А1а, фрагменты другой амфоры найдены при раскопках поселения Мотоль 1 в бассейне Ясельды (рис. 1, 2, 3). Многие исследователи в качестве одного из компонентов поселений ранних этапов культуры одиночных погребений, прибалтийских культур шнуровой керамики рассматривают своеобразный тип крупных сосудов с валиками и следами пальцевых зацепов на них. Обломки такой посуды встречены на некоторых неолитических поселениях Западной Беларуси (Моталь 18, Камень 2, Скема, Личицы 2,

Русаковичи 7) (рис. 4: 1–4, 6). Отмечается также, что несколько таких находок обнаружено на памятниках Верхнего Поднепровья (Струмень, Комарин 2) (рис. 4: 7). На Комарине 2 развал такого горшка найден в слое неолитической стоянки, перекрытой курганом среднеднепровской культуры, в одном из погребений которого найден каменный топор типа “Карлов” (материалы Комарина 2 готовятся Н.Н. Кривальцевичем к печати). Кроме названных компонентов на западе Беларуси найдены обломки кубка с глубоко прочерченными параллельными линиями по горловине (А-кубок?) (Гневчицы) (рис. 4: 5), иногда встречаются каменные сверленные топоры, напоминающие идентичные изделия А-типа.

Полученного материала явно недостаточно для системного исследования. Вместе с тем следует признать, что на территории Западной Беларуси присутствуют компоненты с признаками А-горизонта – раннего этапа культуры шнуровой керамики (рис. 5). А фиксация упомянутой посуды с валиками дает некоторое основание предполагать, что западнобелорусский регион имел определенное значение в процессе генезиса культуры шнуровой керамики так называемого Циркумбалтийского культурного круга.

СПИСОК ИЛЛЮСТРАЦИЙ

Рис. 1. Карта северной части Моталь-Тышкавичского микрорегиона, на которой показана площадь раскопок археологического памятника Моталь 1.

Рис. 2. Археологический памятник Моталь 1. А-амфора (А – боковой вид, В – сечение, С – вид сверху) (реконструировал М.М. Кривальцевич).

Рис. 3. Распределение А-амфор (2) (по М. Бучвалдек, 1986). А-амфора из археологического памятника Моталь 1 (1).

Рис. 4. Разнообразные черепки с отливками из Западной Беларуси (1 – Скема; 2–3 – археологический памятник Личицы 2; 3 – археологический

памятник Камень 2; 6 – археологический памятник Моталь 18) и Верхнего Поднепровья (7 – Струмень, по А.Г. Колечиц, 1987). 5 – фрагмент дробилки, найденной в Гнеучицах.

Рис. 5. Некоторые археологические памятники А-горизонта – элементы ранней шнуровой культуры в Западной Беларуси: 1 – археологический памятник Моталь 1; 2 – археологический памятник Моталь 18; 3 – археологический памятник Камень 2; 4 – археологический памятник Русаковичи 7; 5 – археологический памятник Личицы 2; 6 – Гнеучицы; 7 – Скема.

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