

## **PhD thesis Summary**

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### **" Tripolye culture of the C-II stage in the Dniester, Bug and Horyn Basin"**

**PhD thesis written at the Institute of Archeology of the University of Rzeszów under the supervision of Professor Małgorzata Rybicka and the assistant supervisor PhD Dariusz Król**

The aim of the PhD thesis entitled "Tripolye culture of the C-II stage in the Dniester, Bug and Horyn Basin" was to study and interpret cultural phenomena that occurred in Volhynia and Podolia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half and at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium BC.

In terms of chronology, the presented study covers a long period of over 500 years. Based on current research on relative and absolute chronology, this period is referred to as stage C-II of the Tripolye culture (hereinafter: TC), which is placed by scholars in the frame of 3600/3500-3000/2600 BC. Here, this stage C-II has been divided into two phases - early (3600-3300 BC) and late (3300 -3000-2600 BC). The first phase concerns the disappearance of the classical components of the TC, as well as the appearance of conspicuous changes in the material culture and economy, which are manifested in migration, organization of settlements, construction of houses, flint industry, etc. (Brinzeni group, Koszyłowiecka group, Horiv-Novomalin group, and Kolodiażyn group). The second phase of stage C-II is characterized by the appearance of the so-called post-classical culture (Gordinești-Kasperovskaya group, Trojaniv group, and Sofiivka group). It was as a result of changes probably related to migration, cultural exchange, ecological factors and other processes at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium BC.

The research area concerns the western part of modern Ukraine. The spatial range of the study covers over 40000 km<sup>2</sup>. In terms of the administrative division of Ukraine, this space include: the southern territory of the Rivne and partly Volyn oblasts, the area of the Chmielnicki and Tarnopolskie oblasts; the northern part of the Chernivtsi, Frankivskyi oblasts, and the western part of the Lviv region.

This above-mentioned territory is located within two geomorphological units. The first is the a quite highland part – the Volhynia-Podolia Upland, whereas the second is a lowland area named the Little Polesie. In terms of hydrology, this area includes: the central and part of the upper

Dniester region and its main left tributaries - Gynła Lipa, Seret, Strypa, Złota Lipa, Zbrucz – in the southern part, as well as the upper and central Horyn Basin and its main tributaries – the Vilna and Ustia – in the northern part. Moreover, the upper and central Styr basin and its main tributaries - the Ikva (right-bank) and the Czarnoguzka (left-bank) – in the north-western part, and the upper springs of the Bug – in the southern part. The central Bug region is only treated briefly in this PhD thesis.

The basic assumption of this work is an attempt to systematize ceramic sources with a further possibility of distinguishing cultural features for various mesoregional zones. Such a large research region of my study is strongly associated with exploration main markers of settlement, contacts and economic or communication routes, and answers to questions about TC acculturation at its late stage.

As previously noted, the main emphasis was placed on ceramic sources that are currently stored in various museum depositories or in other institutions (Kiev, Lviv, Rivne, Ostrog). On the other hand, a separate category or sources are also materials published in scientific journals and monographs. Furthermore, the data obtained during my own excavation and field surveys in Ukraine also play a very important role.

All issues related to the topic of my PhD thesis were discussed within eight chapters.

In the first chapter - "Outline of the research problem", the main issues of the PhD thesis that concern the chronology and the definition of the C-II stage of the TC, spatial framework, assumptions and research methods are defined. It was also underlined that this work was written as part of three projects: the first was carried out under the direction of my Supervisor Professor M. Rybicka, and the other two with the funds of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (so called "Young Staff" projects).

The first project was mainly devoted to elaboration of numerous ceramics from the following sites of the TC: Zweniaczyn-Karjer, Winniki-Żupan, Kurgany-Dubowa, Horiv-Pidłużzia, Nowomalin-Podobanka. Moreover, the field campaigns were also carried out in the Volyn Upland as a part of this project. In turn thanks my own projects, excavations and field survey were examined at the sites of the TC in the region of Grzeda Mizocka (Myrohoszcza 15). Furthermore, a very important and fundamental point of these projects was the elaboration of materials from the Żwaniec-Szczob site (Kamieniec-Podolski region), as well as a chronological and archaeometric (making cuts in pottery) analysis.

In the second chapter - "History and the state of research", an overview of various views and issues of KT based on old research was presented.

In the second chapter - "History and the state of research", the development of various ideas and historical aspects of TC – from old excavations and field surveys to the present day – were presented. In the course of investigating a number of publications and archival data, the significant potential of old research conducted by Tamara Movsha on the sites of the TC in the middle Dniester region was observed. On the other hand, the data from the old studies of Mykola Peleschyschyn are a substantial scientific base for the areas of the Volyn Upland. Obviously, the works of other archaeologists are also important. The results of their studies are also described in detail in this chapter.

In the third chapter - "Natural environment", main geographical units and its natural conditions are described. Here, the diversity of the Podolian Upland from Volyn Upland is quite clearly outlined. There is a clear border between these units, which is the Little Polesia Lowland. The Volyn-Podolia Upland is separated by the left tributaries of the Dniester: the Gnila Lipa, Zolota Lipa, and Stripa rivers, Seret, Zbrucz, Tarnava, Studnica as well as the right tributaries of the Pripyat: Turja, Stohid, Styr, Horyn.

In the fourth chapter – “ A Spatial distribution of the settlement of the Tripolye culture from the C-II stage in the Horyn and Bug basin, as well as Middle and Upper Dniester” an attempt has been made to reconstruction of settlement zones in micro-regions and also in settlement zones.

Firstly, the analysis of the settlement of the TC concerns all sites from the C-II stage, however without their precise relative chronology. These methods may indicate how different spaces were used. The geographic and settlement analysis includes well-identified sites (excavation research) or relatively well-recognized (field surveys). There is a clear difference in the use of space in the territory of the Dniester and in the area between Horyn and Ikva. This was due to the size of the settlements. The settlements in the Volyn Upland are small (usually they occupy the territory of 0.5 ha) and distributed in clusters within a radius of 5 and 10 km. In the territory of the Dniester, the situation is different - one settlement covers an area of 1 to 2 ha, and at the same time the territory of 5 to 10 km from its centre.

The fifth chapter is devoted to the "General characteristics of settlement". In this chapter, various objects from the excavation research were analyzed. Three types of objects were distinguished here: dwellings (ploschadka's and half-dugouts); economic (pits) and industrial objects (pottery kilns). It has been observed that the disappearance of the use of ploschadka's could take place in the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of stage C-II. On the other hand, in the late stage C-II, the use of half-dugouts was noted (for instance Kurgany-Dubova in the Volyn).

In the sixth chapter, the analysis of source materials was undertaken. It should be noted that a detailed typological and metric analysis was carried out for sites from the early stage of stage

C-II. In the case of the Dniester territory, ceramics were elaborated for the Żwaniec-Shchob site, while in the Volyn Upland for the sites of Novomalin-Podobanka and Horiv-Pidłuzż. Furthermore, in the case of the late stage of C-II in the Dniester area, materials from the Zweniaczyn-Karjer site were elaborated, while in the Volyn Upland, materials from the sites of Kurgana-Dubowa, Kostianiec-Gorby, Myrohoszcza 15. Such comparisons allow us to notice clearly different two ceramic styles - the Dniester and Volyn.

In the seventh chapter, an analysis of selected features of pottery from the C-II stage in the Dniester, Horyn and Bug inter-rivers was undertaken. As can be seen, the migration of part of the population from the Dniester or its left tributaries could have a huge impact on the area of the Volyn Upland. This can be seen on the example of the sites of the Horiv-Nowomalin group with ceramics characteristic of the Koszyłowiec and Brinzeni groups. Some influences from other cultural environments also played a significant role - the Funnelbeaker culture and the Baden culture. Later, the cultural process in the Volyn Upland was associated with the progressive "extinction" characteristic Tripolye features. This applies to the reduction of the use of the so-called fine pottery, as well as with the appearance of red and white paint, and many other features. Appearance of extended motifs may be related to a specific imitation of the Transnistrian style (Brynzeny-Żwaniec group), as well as the style of the Funnel Beaker culture and the Baden culture. At the same time as the Troyaniv group was existing in the Volyn Upland, the so-called the corded style characteristic of the Horodiştea-Folteşti group, appeared in the Dniester area. This style finally replaced Bryńżeńsko-Żwaniec style. In the territory of the Dniester, the Gordineşti-Kasperovtsy group begins to form, which can be dated (according to relative and absolute chronology) in the period 3300-2900 BC. An interesting situation also applies to the territory of the upper tributaries of the Bug. This area was occupied by the tribes of the Funnel Beaker Culture for quite a long time. In the last quarter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium BC, sites containing typical ceramics of the Gordineşti-Kaspepowcy group appeared on the borders of the Roztoche and the Little Polesia. According to the analysis of ceramics, the appearance of similar episodes may be related to the so-called the process of "tripolisation" of the Funnel Beaker culture in the territory of the upper Bug. The situation is quite interesting in the Volyn Upland, where there are also sites with typical ceramics of the Gordineşti-Kasperowcy group (Holyshiv, Listwin, Gorodsk). The appearance of similar settlements may be related to the migration of parts of the population from the middle Dniester or its tributaries.

In the last eighth chapter - "Cultural changes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 4<sup>th</sup> Millennium - at the turn of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium BC", many aspects related to material culture, settlement, natural environment and others have been analyzed. It is also important to present an absolute chronology and compare it with a relative chronology.