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TRYPILLIA CULTURE POTTERY IMPORTS WITH ATTRIBUTES OF THE LATEST PHASE OF THE TRYPILLIA CII STAGE IN THE FUNNEL BEAKER CULTURE SETTLEMENT ZYMNE, WESTERN UKRAINE

ABSTRACT

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When considering Trypillia Culture imports in the pottery assemblage of the Funnel Beaker Culture settlement in Zymne, many scholars have emphasized the significance of this evidence when conceptualizing connections between communities of both Cultures, and also highlight the chronological aspects of the matter.

The available data make it possible to associate pottery assemblage from Zymne with Gordinești group of the Trypillia CII stage which dates back to the time range from 3300 until 3000/2950 BC and corresponds to occupation phase II of the Funnel Beaker Culture in Gródek.

Keywords: stage CII Trypillia Culture, Funnel Beaker Culture, western Ukraine, Gordinești group

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INTRODUCTION

In various reports, the finds assemblages from the Funnel Beaker Culture settlements Gródek, Hrubieszów County, and Zymne–Horodysche, Volodymyr-Volynskiy district, have repeatedly been reported to contain pottery finds representing various phases within the Trypillia CII stage (Jażdżewski 1936; 1958; Kowalczyk 1956; 1958; Poklewski 1958; Zakharuk 1955; 1959; Zbenovich 1976; Movsha 1985; Gumiński 1989; Peleschyshyn 2004; Kadrow 2005). Being interpreted as imports, the pottery in question has formed evidence on the basis of which interrelations between communities of the cultures under scrutiny have been interpreted. As far as the assemblage from Gródek, with the artefacts which make it up, turned to be in line with sequential subunits of the Trypillia Culture – Brînzeni and Gordinești (Gumiński 1989; Zawisłak 2013; Rybicka 2017, 92, 106, 107) – and, at the same time, with a pair of sequential phases of the Funnel Beaker Culture in Gródek itself, then it seems difficult at the moment to explain what precisely the chronological significance of the imports discovered in Zymne can be (Peleschyshyn 2004; Pozikhovskiy 2019).

While considering the issues concerning Zymne, Yuriy Zakharuk (Zakharuk 1959) has argued that the large quantity of painted pottery in the assemblage is so remarkable due to its associations with both the Koshylivtsi Group and the Sandraky settlement and, thus, displays strong relationships between the Trypillia Culture and the Funnel Beaker Culture. A different explanation of the origin of the painted pottery in the Funnel Beaker Culture milieu of the Western Buh region has been offered by Vladimir Zbenovich (Zbenovich 1976), who proposed to attribute it to the Troyaniv–Sandraky–Vykhvatyntsy subunit. Intercultural relationships became a focus of Tamara Movsha's (Movsha 1985) research as well. By taking into account the degree of occurrence of material of the Funnel Beaker Culture in the pottery sample obtained from Zhvanets' attributed to the Brînzeni Group of the Trypillia Culture, she has placed this settlement in the same chronological subunit with Zymne, Lezhnytsya, and Gródek. On the basis of this, Tamara Movsha came to the conclusion that relations between Funnel Beaker and Trypillia groupings would have begun at an early phase of the Trypillia CII stage represented by the Brînzeni Group. According to Mykola Peleschyshyn's ideas, contacts of the Funnel Beaker community of Zymne with those of the Trypillia Culture would have taken place during the Horodsk–Kasperivtsi subunit (Peleschyshyn 2004, 146). Particularly interesting are the interpretations given by Sławomir Kadrow (2005, 13), who considered pottery finds attributed to the latest portion of the Trypillia CII stage with reference to Taras Tkachuk's opinion, who has argued that the black-painted pottery and the globular amphorettes are attributable to the Horodiștea Group, while the vase-like vessels belong to the Horodsk Group. The presence of such pottery and their radiocarbon dating (Bronicki *et al.* 2003; 2004) gave S. Kadrow the basis for shifting the dating of phase II of the functioning of the settlement of the Funnel Beaker Culture at Zymne to around 3050-2600 BC (Kadrow 2005, 13). This researcher

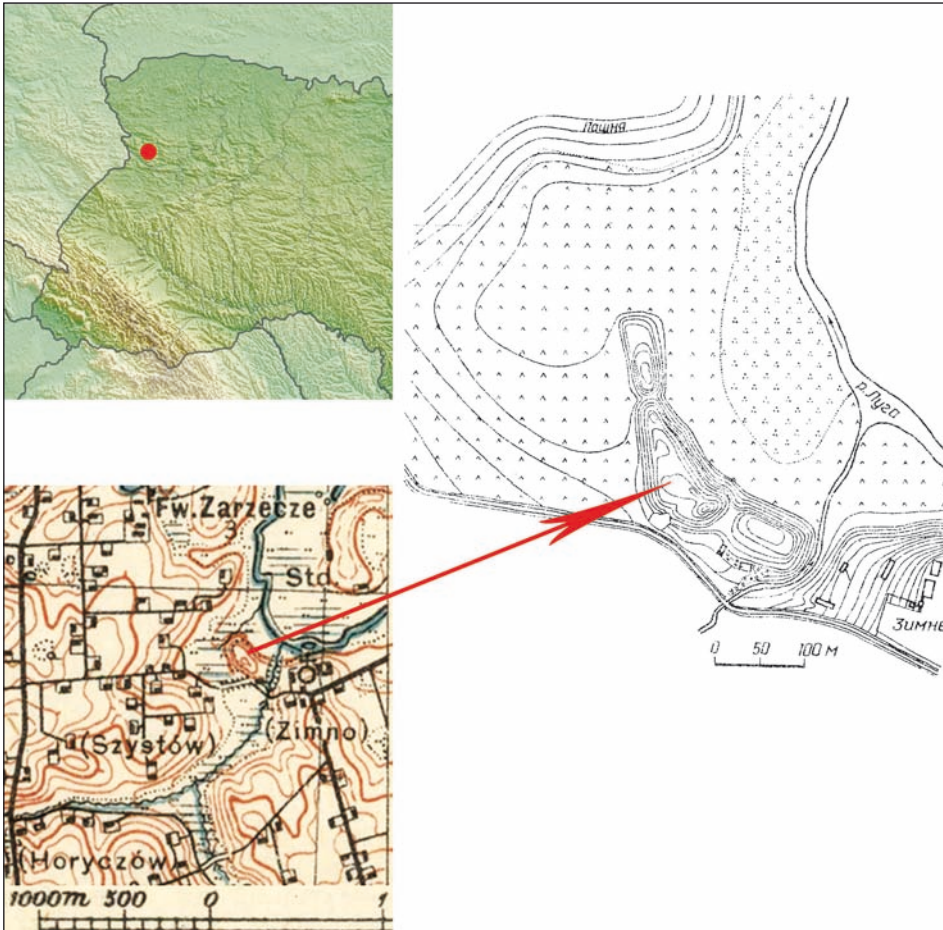


Fig. 1. Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskyi district (A, B, C).
Geographical location of the archaeological site called Horodysche

also took into account the then-published dating of the Sandraki and Tsviklivtsi sites, which may be referred to the late IV/early III mill. BC and even the first half of the III mill. BC (Rassamakin 2012).

Recently, these conclusions have been called into question (Harper *et al.* 2021; Król and Rybicka 2022; 2023). While introducing the Funnel Beaker record from Lezhnysya-Chub, we have already launched a discussion around the chronological frames of the phase II in Zymne proposed by Sławomir Kadrow (2005) by dating the Horods'k and Gordinești Groups within the time range of c. 3300-2900 BC (Rybicka *et al.* 2019, 43). It was also underlined that „the published sample of imports from the site of Zymne provides too little of the distinguishing features for the latest stage of the Trypillia Culture in western Volyn”.

In 2017-2019, Gryhoriy Okhrimenko's efforts made it possible to study the artefacts revealed in Zymne in the course of excavations carried out by Yuriy Zakharuk (Zakharuk 1955; 1959), which is now stored in the Volhynian Museum of Local Studies in Lutsk. The Trypillia Culture pottery assemblage which is now available for study consisted not only of pottery of the early Trypillia CII stage previously published by Mykola Peleschyshyn (Peleschyshyn 2004) and later thoroughly described by Oleksandr Pozikhovskij (Pozikhovskiy 2019) but also pottery sherds representing the latest part of the Trypillia CII stage. We have made a decision to revisit the younger part of the sample with the aim to verify the chronological clues proposed elsewhere for the phase II of the Funnel Beaker settlement in Zymne and, consequently, to update our vision of the connections between the Funnel Beaker and Late Trypillia communities (Kadrow 2005; Włodarczak 2006; Rybicka 2017; Rybicka *et al.* 2019, 43-49; Hawinskyj and Rybicka 2021).

LOCATION OF ZYMNE-HORODYSCHÉ

The prehistoric habitation site Horodysche ('Hillfort') in Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskiy district, is situated upon the top of an isolated loess bedrock hill encircled on three sides by the Luha River valley. The terrain is notably exposed, with the difference in levels reaching c. 20 m (Fig. 1).

POTTERY

Among the other finds, the excavation units dug by Yuriy Zakharuk and Mykola Peleschyshyn yielded a total of 20 pottery fragments that can be tentatively connected with the latest phase of the Trypillia Culture (Fig. 2). Some of these were collected from burnt daub debris (Fig. 3: 2, 4, 6; 4: 1, 2), some were found in the pit dwelling (Fig. 3: 3) or in the occupation layer (Fig. 3: 5; 4: 4; 5). Without forming a single cluster, they were scattered throughout the site (Fig. 2).

No sherds were identified in the sample to display a classic tableware technology using desilted clay without additives, to produce uniform, monochromatic fractures of light or dark orange colour (Verteletskiy 2020). Similarly, no sherds of cooking ware were observed made of clay containing mollusc shells and grindstone grit.

The group of pottery attributed to the classic tableware technology consists of some fragments of vessels made of clay with a fine-grained additive. When fractured, they appear to be monochromatic dark orange or pale orange, while their outer complexion is normally pale beige (Fig. 3: 2, 3, 5, 6; 5). Such technology is discernable by the fragments of at least three bowls with their rims slightly bent inwards, their surfaces evenly smoothed, and their bodies decorated with corded wavy motifs (Fig. 3: 2, 6) and furrowed stitches (Furchenstich) (Fig. 3: 5).

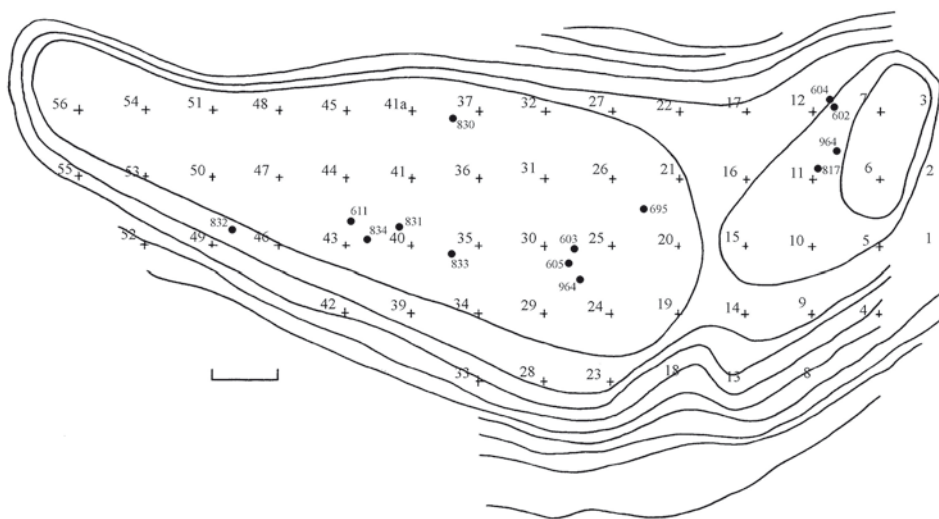


Fig. 2. Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskiy district.
Spatial distribution of pottery finds attributed to the late Trypillia CII stage

Worthy of note are the fragments of vessels displaying dark colouring when broken, with their surfaces dichromatic or pale brown. The fabric of this pottery consists of clay and fine-grained material. The surfaces of the vessels are slightly smoothed. According to Dmytro Verteletskiy's (2020, 180) classification, the pottery sherds of this kind could be interpreted as detached from bowls with their rims deeply (Fig. 5: 2, 4) or slightly (Fig. 3: 2, 5-6) bent towards the centres of the receptacles. Some pottery sherds may well belong to vases (Fig. 4: 1?, 4). The pottery technology used appears to be similar to that of the Funnel Beaker Culture. The discussed group of pottery also includes fragments (a) of a pot, its fractured surface (Fig. 3: 2, 6) unevenly coloured orange and grey and its outer texture, unsmooth and powdery (Fig. 4: 3); (b) of a short-necked amphora with handles attached to the upper part of its body (Fig. 4: 2).

Some vessels among those mentioned above were ornamented with cord imprints, furrowed stitches (Furchenstich), and flattened knobs. Bowls were decorated with a triple cord motif forming wavy patterns (Fig. 3: 2, 6) or with a pattern built of a horizontal cord imprint combined with a wavy line (Fig. 4: 1). Particularly interesting is the grid/net motif made with cord imprints (Fig. 3: 1). A double segmental furrowed stitches motif is seen just below the rim of a vase, the neck and body of which are separated from each other by encircling paired lines made in the same technique, while the body is adorned with an angular pattern (Fig. 4: 3). Free-standing knobs, in their turn, were applied to the upper part of the body of a pot, wherein they are combined with encircling cord imprint (Fig. 4: 4).

Bowls with rims slightly bent inwards are precisely identified in the samples from western Volyn to mark various phases of the Trypillia CII stage in the area, starting from

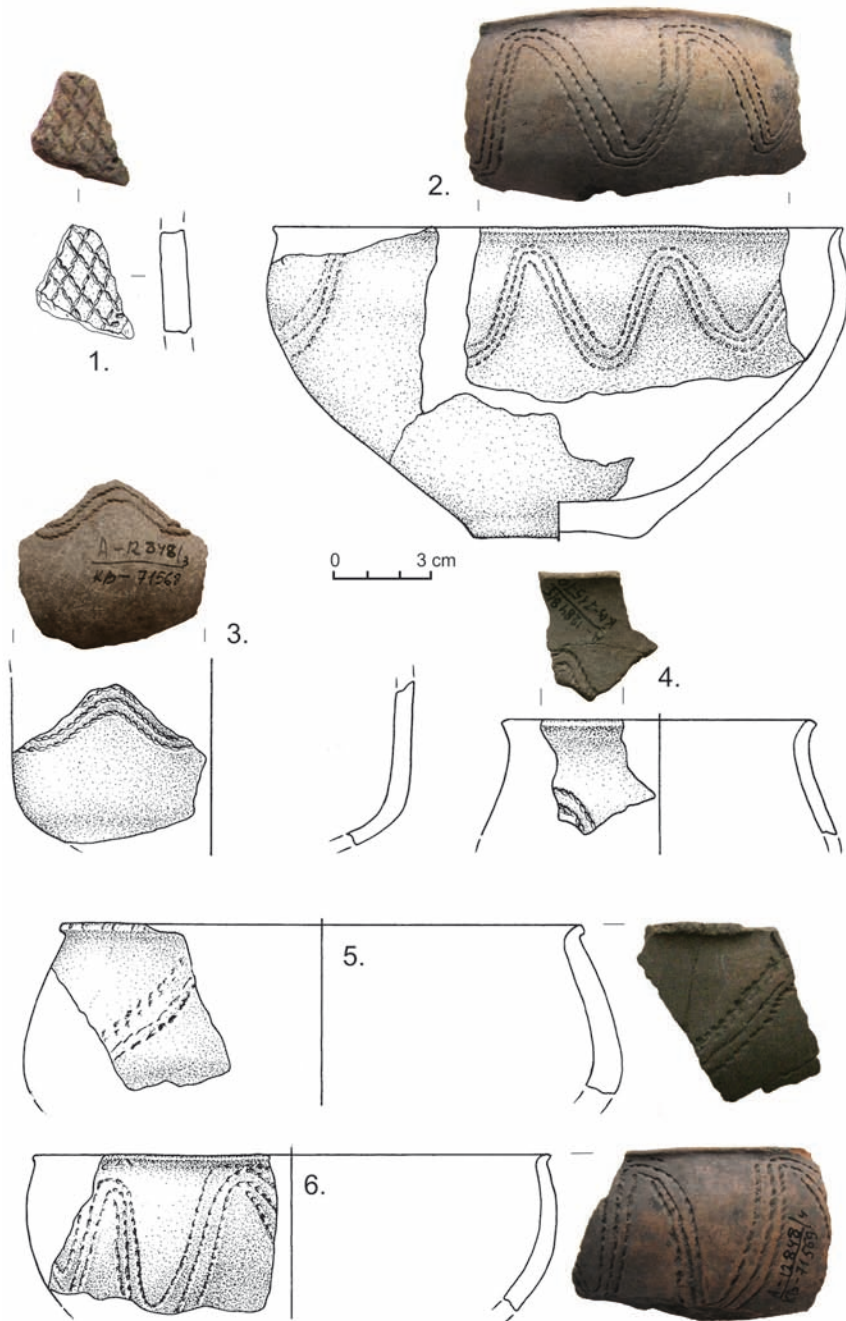


Fig. 3. Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskiy district. Trypillia Culture pottery finds recovered in the burnt daub debris (2, 4, 6), in a pit dwelling (3), and in the occupation layer (1, 5)

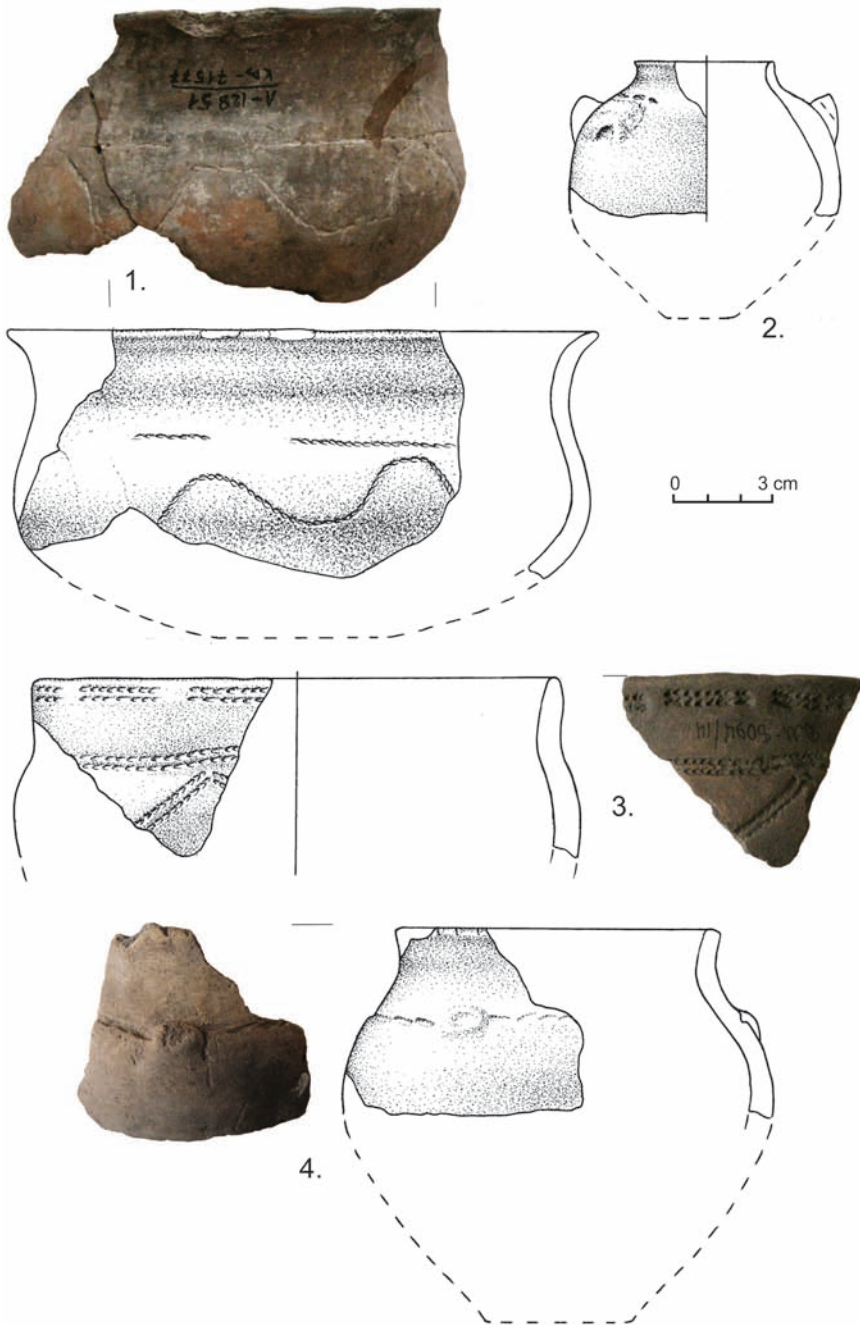


Fig. 4. Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskyi district. Trypillia Culture pottery finds recovered in the agglomerations of burnt daub (1, 2), in the moat (3), and in the occupation layer (4)

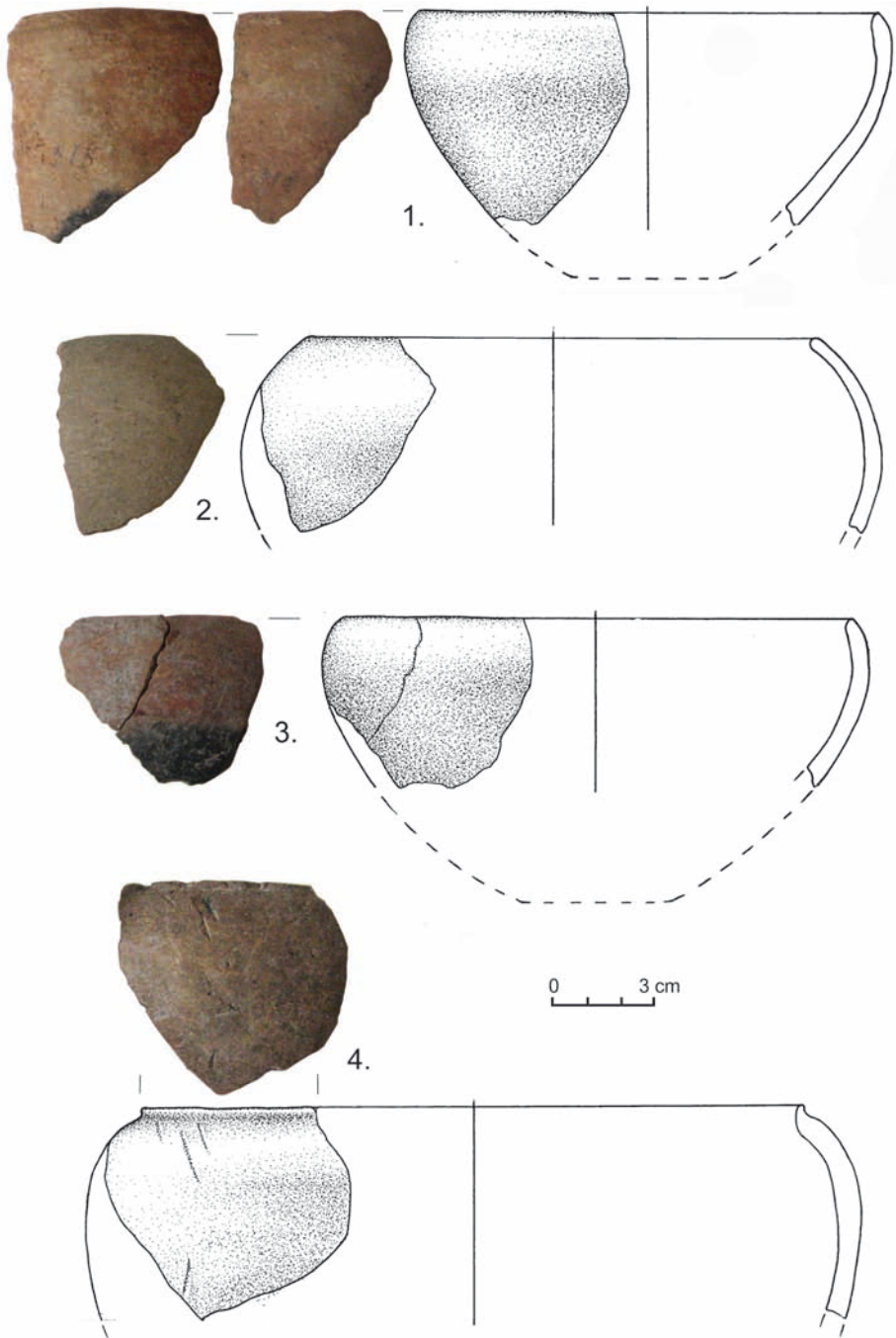


Fig. 5. Zymne, Volodymyr-Volynskiy district. Trypillia Culture pottery finds

habitation contexts like Novomalyn–Podobanka (Verteletskyi 2016a; 2020, fig. 24: 1; 28: 2; 37: 2), Khoriv-Pidluzhzhia (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 7: 6; 8: 1, 2), Khoriv-Za ozerom (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 14: 2-5), Kurgany-Dubova (Verteletskyi 2016b; 2020; fig. 56: 1; 57: 10; 58: 1-3, 7, 10-11; 60: 8), and Kurgany-Poliany (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 70). Basically, these are not the best chronological indicators. However, it is worth noting that they are present in some quantity in the latest assemblages of the Trypillia CII stage in western Volyn, such as Kurgany-Dubova (Verteletskyi 2016b; Król and Rybicka 2016).

Bowls with deep rims, in their turn, are evidenced by the settlement assemblages from Kurgany-Poliany (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 69: 5), Khoriv-Za ozerom (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 14: 1), Kostyanets-Horby (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 82: 4), and Holyshiv (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 114: 2), all of the younger phases of the Trypillia CII stage. They are also reported from Zvenyachyn (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 185: 6, 7; 186: 2), on the Middle Dnister, and Vynnyky-Zhupan (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 207: 2), in eastern Roztocze as well as from the sites of the Gordinești Group.

The vases of Zymne are similar to those from various phases of the Trypillia CII stage in western Volyn, starting from sites like Novomalyn-Podobanka (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 27: 2; 30: 1, 2; 32: 2), Khoriv-Pidluzhzhia (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 1: 1, 8; 3: 9; 8: 3), Khoriv-Poliany (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 68: 1-3), Khoriv-Za ozerom (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 16: 1, 4), and Kostyanets-Lystvenschyna (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 83: 1, 2); some are known to be found in Zvenyachyn (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 143: 2; 144: 4), and Vynnyky-Zhupan (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 202: 4, 5), in eastern Roztocze.

Finally, short-necked amphorettes are represented by settlement assemblages obtained from Nowomłynsk, Kostyanets-Horby (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 82: 2), Kostyanets-Lystvenschyna (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 87: 1), Zvenyachyn (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 186: 3-5; 187: 1, 2), and Tsviklivtsi (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 189: 8).

Ornamentation is of particular significance when we try and affiliate the late Trypillia part of the pottery sample of Zymne with coeval evidence from elsewhere. Specifically, the grid/net motif was fortunately documented there by a sherd of a vessel (Fig. 3: 1), and it is due to this fact that we can link Zymne with the late Trypillia decorative style of the Kaspevrițsi–Gordinești subunit with the reference to Holyshv (Rybicka 2017; Verteletskyi 2020, 115:2; 117:1-2; 120:5), Kamyanets-Podilskyy (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 193: 12), Zvenyachyn (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 161: 1-4; 163), and Sandraky (Videiko 2000, fig. 26: 2), as well as Nova Chortoriya (Videiko 2000, fig. 29: 1, 5), Tsviklivtsi (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 189: 8), and Mali Virmeny (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 192: 7-8). It was Oleksandr Pozikhovskiy (Pozikhovskiy 2019) who has accentuated that the fragment from Zymne with a grid decoration could be associated with the Gordinești phase. It needs emphasizing that in Holyshv, the grid/net ornamental pattern is evidenced to be made by both strokes of paint and imprints of cord (Pozikhovskiy and Okhrimenko 2005; Rybicka 2017). The same motif, yet conveyed other techniques *e.g.* of etching, is specific to Beaker/Baden assemblages in the Polish Lowland (Śrem: Szmyt *et al.* 2021, fig. 4.103: 6; Mrowino: Szmyt and Żurkiewicz

2018, fig. 5.88: 2); such ornamental patterns are normally registered in the contexts of the Baden circle proper (Furholt 2009, Taf. 107; 93; Medunová-Benešová 1972, Taf. 54) as well as in those combining Baden and Funnel Beaker attributes (Cimburk; Furholt 2009, Abb. 111). In Zymne, however, no other direct associations with Baden stylistics were singled out in contrast to Gródek (Gumiński 1989), wherein motifs of incised vertical stripes were noted. The striped motif has its connections with the Baden circle (Furholt 2009) and was effectively observed in some Beaker/Baden assemblages (Kruk and Milisauskas 1981; Rybicka 1995; Szmyt and Żurkiewicz 2018; Szmyt *et al.* 2021). And finally, wavy patterned vessels came from Holyshiv (Pozikhovskiy and Okhrimenko 2005), where the set of Baden attributes compared to those in Zymne is highly variable (Rybicka 2017).

In Zymne, bowls decorated with isolated or multiple corded waves are of special interest. In the Horods'k Group of the Trypillia Culture, exact parallels of wavy decoration have not yet been noted. We can refer to the multiple wavy lines, albeit arranged in a different manner, in the findspots of the Gordinești Group of the Trypillia Culture like Mereșeuca (Șirbu *et al.* 2020, fig. 10; 11) and Gordinești II – *Stînca goală* (house No. 3) in northern Moldova (Șirbu *et al.* 2023; Król and Rybicka 2023), as well as in youngest phase sites at Polyvaniv Yar (Verteletskyi 2020, fig. 191:20) and Sandraky (Videiko 2000, fig. 25: 1; 27:1, 2). Here, the waves were elements of fairly developed patterns of decorative compositions. The ornamental variety like this has not yet been reported to have exact parallels in the Baden circle. Gh. Șirbu, D. Król and S. Heghea (2020) argued that the decorative pattern they revealed on the body of the bowl with its rim faceted inwards from Mereșeuca is similar to those of the Złota Culture which dates back to the early centuries of the 3rd millennium BC (Șirbu *et al.* 2020, 125). It is worth noting that the wavy motif they referred to was an element of highly refined décor applied to spouted vessels of a specific kind; there are no matches in wavy patterns of Złota (Krzak 1970; 1976). Wavy patterns formed by different varieties of cord imprints, furrowed stitches, and lines in relief are occasionally found in Beaker/Baden assemblages in the Polish Lowland (Mrowino: Sikorski 2018, fig. 11.3: 2; Szmyt and Żurkiewicz 2018, 5.76: 2; Śrem: Szmyt *et al.* 2021, fig. 4.19: 5; Radziejów Kujawski, site 4: Rybicka 1995, Plate 23: 13; 25: 5, 8). Meanwhile, they do not provide direct parallels to the ornaments identified in the pottery assemblage of Zymne.

In the finds assemblage from a settlement of the Funnel Beaker Culture of Pawłosiów, site 52, Subcarpathian voivodeship, a bowl was also distinguished, the shape of which corresponds to the vessels discovered in Zymne. It is decorated with a similar motif to those described above, made with a furrow stitch (Rybicka *et al.* 2014; Rybicka 2017, fig. 72: 2). It is technologically distinct from the pottery of the Funnel Beaker Culture. It probably represents an eastern “import”. The settlement at Pawłosiów is dated to the period 3600–3400/3300 BC (Rybicka *et al.* 2014). Similar ornamental arrangements can also be found in the Globular Amphora Culture (Szmyt 2004, fig. 6).

CHRONOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Most of the distinctive pottery forms in the analyzed sample circulated throughout the Trypillia CII stage in western Volyn. The exception are bowls with their rims deeply bent inwards as well as short-necked amphorettes, which can be associated with the latest phase of the Trypillia CII stage. It is, however, the corded ornamentation, and especially the grid/net motif, which may serve as perfect chronological indicators, since they are regularly observed in the Kasperivtsi–Gordinești subunit which dates back to the latest centuries of the 4th millennium BC (Diachenko and Harper 2016). The grid/net motif is also immanent in the pottery sample of Holyshiv, some 30 km east of Zymne. The ¹⁴C dates recently derived from samples from Holyshiv can be fitted into the time subunit c. 3100–2950 BC (Harper *et al.* 2021; Król and Rybicka 2022, 25). Trypillia Culture pottery finds from Holyshiv are associated with the Gordinești Group. It is generally linked with its time range, c. 3300–3000/2950 BC (Król and Rybicka 2022; 2023). The grid motif is one of the attributes of the Beaker/Baden assemblage in Mrowino, with the dates around 3300–3100 BC (Furholt 2009, 202, 203; Goslar *et al.* 2018, fig. 16: 2; 2021, 503). According to M. Furholt's (2009) inferences, the settlements like Śrem, Radziejów, and Opatowice, where the grid ornamental pattern is usual, may be well fitted into the subunit 3350–3100 BC. There are corded wavy lines among attributes of the settlement pottery samples in the Kasperivtsi–Gordinești subunit as well, which, naturally, fit the actual time range of the Gordinești Group.

CONCLUSIONS

When considering Trypillia Culture imports in the pottery assemblage of the Funnel Beaker Culture settlement in Zymne, the majority of scholars have emphasized the significance of this as evidence for conceptualizing connections between communities of both Cultures, while also highlighting the chronological aspects of the matter (Zakharuk 1959; Zbenovich 1976; Kadrow 2005). Particularly significant in terms of the chronology of the Funnel Beaker phases in Zymne and Gródek is their correspondence to the latest phases of the Trypillia CII stage. The available data make it possible to associate the above-mentioned sample from Zymne with that particular subunit of the Trypillia CII stage which dates back to the time range from 3300 until 3000/2950 BC (Król and Rybicka 2022; 2023) and corresponds to the occupation phase II of the Funnel Beaker Culture in Gródek (Włodarczak 2006). In the sample from this site, attributes of the Gordinești Group are represented and display parallels to those registered in Holyshiv (Gumiński 1989; Rybicka 2017, fig. 76: 6–9; Verteletskyi 2020).

It must be emphasized, however, that the pottery sample in Zymne displays the lack of wide-mouthed bowls (a.k.a. faceted bowls), while in Holyshiv, which is known to contain

attributes of the Gordinești Group, this kind of bowl is regularly represented (Rybicka 2017; Verteletskyi 2020).

In the case of Gródek, the published vessels do not raise any doubts that they can be attributed to the Gordinești Group and may reflect contacts with nearby Trypillia Culture settlements of the Holyshiv Type. Until recently, it was difficult to seek such relations in the case of the settlement in Zymne. Admittedly, not all of the above-mentioned stylistic parallels can be directly associated with the assemblages of western Volyn' representing attributes of the Gordinești tradition. Nonetheless, the available dates of the Gordinești Group and the settlement in Holyshiv within the time range c. 3300-3000/2950 BC (Harper *et al.* 2021; Król and Rybicka 2022; 2023), as well as the presence of similar attributes in Holyshiv and Zymne, may suggest that both in Zymne and Gródek, these attributes may serve as evidence of contacts between their inhabitants and Late Trypillia groupings of the Holyshiv Type who lived in close proximity.

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