

# Chronology of the Funnel Beaker Culture Settlement in Western Ukraine in the Context of Radiocarbon Dating

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The article concerns the absolute dating of the Funnel Beaker culture over the upper Bug and the upper Dniester (Polish-Ukrainian borderland and western Ukraine). Also discussed are the relations of the community of this culture from the eastern zone of the south-eastern group with the Tripolye culture.

KEY-WORDS: Funnel Beaker culture, Tripolye culture, Western Ukraine.

## INTRODUCTION

It has been 50 years since the publication of the work of Jan Kowalczyk (1969) under the title *Początki neolitu na ziemiach polskich* [*The Origins of the Neolithic Age on Polish Territories*]. The researcher referred in his work to the concepts of the genesis of the Funnel Beaker culture (FBC) generally accepted at that time, noting that *the influences in the formation of the European Neolithic from the southeast, between the Carpathians and the Black Sea, have been underestimated. The common opinion about the very late chronology of the Funnel Beaker culture in its southeastern area is a further confirmation of this fact* [...] (Kowalczyk 1969: 59). Taking into account the very early radiocarbon determination that had been obtained for a sample from Gródek on the Bug, Hrubieszów district, which he associated with the FBC (Kowalczyk 1968; 1969: 36), he stressed the importance of the upper Bug basin as a place that should be taken into account when considering the initiation of this cultural phenomenon. In his opinion, [...] *the emergence of the Tripolye culture in a large area between the Carpathians and the Dnieper* [...] *indicates that the Middle Eastern impacts were spreading from a powerful front facing north* (Kowalczyk 1969: 59). In addition, he believed that there had also

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been close contacts between the FBC and the Tripolye culture (TC), and the early dates obtained for the already well-developed “beaker”-materials from Gródek allowed them, and also the beginning of the FBC, to be assigned to an earlier period (Kowalczyk 1969: 60).

The matter of the mutual relationships between the western world, represented by the FBC communities, and the TC has been repeatedly raised in Polish, Russian and Ukrainian literature during the last 50 years (Zaharuk [Захарук] 1959; Zbenovich [Збенович] 1976; Balcer 1981; Koško 1981; Movsha [Мовша] 1985; Videiko 2000; Rybicka 2017). On the other hand, studies on the chronology of the FBC in Western Ukraine have not yet been undertaken. The long term research conducted there by Mykola Peleshchysyn of settlements of this culture, such as the Lysivka site, Vinnyky, Lviv Raion, the Tshub site at Lezhnitsa, Ivaniche Raion, and at Tadani, Kamianka-Buzka Raion (Peleshchysyn [Пелещишин] 1990; 2004) have not yet become widely known in the scientific literature. This was probably the result of publishing only short reports in which only some of the results of fieldwork were presented. Until recently, no radiocarbon analyses have been carried out on samples from the known sites of the FBC, except for the settlement in Zimne (Bronicki *et al.* 2003).

As part of a project carried out at the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Rzeszów entitled *Studies on the eastern borderland of the Central European cultural province in prehistory and early Middle Ages*, headed by Andrzej Pelisiak, and the field director Jan Machnik, limited archaeological excavations have been carried out on the FBC settlement at the site Grodzisko (Horodyshche) III in Kotoryny on the upper Dniester (Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013). Their results showed the problems of this culture in Western Ukraine in a new light, both in terms of its chronology and spatial extent (Rybicka 2017).

The results obtained then, as well as the results of research carried out in the following years in the borderlands of the territories of the FBC and the TC in western Volhynia (Rybicka 2017), resulted in the next project (NCN Opus 8 UMO 2014/15/B/HS3/02486): *Between the East and the West. Dynamics of Social Changes from the Eastern Carpathians to the Dniepr in the 4th – beginning of the 3rd Millennium BC*. One of its main goals was to determine the character and chronology of contacts between these cultures.

The tasks undertaken in this project, still in progress at the time of writing, have highlighted the importance of the FBC and its contacts with the TC (Rybicka 2017), and also indicated the importance of the absolute dating of the cultural phenomena taking place there (Rybicka *et al.* 2019). It is particularly important to determine the time of appearance and disappearance of the “Beaker People” communities in western Ukraine.

According to Sławomir Kadrow (2005: 13), the functioning of the first settlement phase of the FBC in Zimne can be dated between 3650–3400 BC, i.e. a similar period

as the first stage of settling by these communities on the Bug river, such as in Gródek, Hrubieszów district (Włodarczak 2006: 51). This researcher assigns the second phase in Zimne to the period 3050–2600 BC. Piotr Włodarczak (2006: 51), however, dates it to 3100–2800 BC. This dating diverges to a considerable extent from the adopted time frames for the functioning of the second stage of the settlement of Gródek, which is assigned to the period 3400–3100 BC (Włodarczak 2006: 51). These discrepancies show the difficulties in determination of the dating the later stages of the FBC in the Bug river region.

The re-analysis of the radiocarbon dates received for the eastern and south-eastern group of the FBC is an important element of discourse in recent years in the literature. The works of Marek Nowak (2009), Piotr Włodarczak (2006), Janusz Kruk and Sarunas Milisauskas (2018) are part of this trend. In this connection, we should revisit the results of radiocarbon dating received for the FBC from western Ukraine.

#### CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AVAILABLE RADIOCARBON DATES FOR THE FUNNEL BEAKER CULTURE SETTLEMENTS FROM WESTERN UKRAINE

Lack of good starting materials for radiocarbon dating from previously researched sites, such as Mali Hrybovychi, Zhovkva Raion (Havinskyi [Гавінський] 2009), Rudniki, Mykolaiv Raion or the Lysivka site at Vynnyky, (Havinskyi, Pasterkevich [Гавінський, Пастеркевич] 2016), hinders situating in time the functioning the FBC communities in western Ukraine. That is why such a large significance is now attributed to the series of dates obtained in the 1990s from the site in Zimne (Bronicki *et al.* 2003), and in recent years from the settlements of the Grodzisko (Horodyshe) III site at Kotoryny. In addition, we have single  $^{14}\text{C}$  determinations for the settlement in the Lysivka site at Vynnyky, and for the FBC from the site Podobanka at Novomalin, Ostroh Raion (Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013; Rybicka 2017). The quoted sites represent several different regions of the oecumene of this culture: the area on the upper Dniester, on the upper Bug, the eastern Roztocze and western Volhynia.

#### *Zimne, Volodymyr-Volynskyi Raion*

In the case of the site in Zimne, Volodymyr-Volynskyi Raion, 12 radiocarbon determinations made with the scintillation method from animal bones were associated with material of the FBC (Bronicki *et al.* 2003: 33). Several dates obtained from the samples taken from the floors of the pits No. 30/97 and 8/97 correspond to the classical stage of this culture. They are respectively: 4920±50 BP (Ki-6873), 4770±60 BP (Ki-6874) and 4740±45 BP (Ki-6878), 4660±55 BP (Ki-6877). For each of subsequent features (No. 2/97, 5/97, 3/97) also two differing from each other dates were obtained, made from various samples. The following results were obtained: feature No. 2/97: 4390±55 BP

(Ki-6875) and  $4230 \pm 50$  BP (Ki-6876); feature No. 5/97:  $4350 \pm 55$  BP (Ki-6879) and  $4260 \pm 50$  BP (Ki-6880); feature No. 3/97:  $4295 \pm 60$  BP (K-6872 and  $4160 \pm 50$  BP (Ki-6871). In the case of features No. 2/97 and 5/97, the samples analysed came from their upper parts (Bronicki *et al.* 2003; Rybicka *et al.* 2019). Some dates were obtained from samples coming from the upper fills of shallow pits, including feature No. 3/97 and subsequent ones, with numbers: 31/97 and 32/97, for the latter they are:  $4120 \pm 50$  BP (Ki-6870) and  $4080 \pm 55$  BP (Ki-6869).

In the back-filled depressions of archaeological features, are often deposited materials originating from another phase of the site not corresponding to the date of the feature itself (Kadrow 1991), which reduces the value of dates obtained from samples taken from these places. The dating results of organic material from pits 31/97 and 32/97 therefore seem to be debatable, the more so because they do not correspond to the result of the archaeological analysis of pottery – they are too late in relation to this. Of particular concern are the very late results obtained for features 31/97 and 32/97, whose context is not certain. It can be assumed that they do not refer to the FBC.

Sławomir Kadrow, justifying the discrepancy between the dating of the second settlement phases of the FBC in Gródek and Zimne, links it with the regional diversity of this culture, following the classical period (Kadrow 2005: 13).

It is possible to assign the identified imports found in deposits of the second settlement phase in Gródek with those characteristics of the Gordinești group (Dergachev [Дергачев] 1980; Sirbu [Сырбу] 2016), which in western Volhynia is represented by such settlements as Holyshiv, Lutsk Raion and Lystvin, Dubno Raion (Rybicka 2017: 53–59); however, there is no radiocarbon dating for them. For assemblages representing the late stages of the TC, such as Vynnyky-Zhupan, the Lviv Raion (Fig. 1), Gordinești and Hancauti, Edineț district, we now have a number of dates made of samples of good quality: cereals and animal bones coming from discrete features. They point to a period of about 3300–3000/2900 BC (Table 1; Rybicka 2017: 133; Rybicka *et al.* 2019).

Also in materials from the late-beaker settlement in Zimne, some late Tripolyean traits, such as small globular amphorae or deep bowls painted with black paint, were identified, which Sławomir Kadrow, taking into account Taras Tkachuk's opinions, assigns to the Horodiștea and Gorodsk groups. He also wrote *that the impact of this phase of the Tripolye culture appears in the form of “beaker” vessels with notches for the lid, bowls with a bevelled rim, and ornamented by an imprinted cord* (Kadrow 2005: 13). Vessels with notches for the lid were also noted in Pawłosiów, site 52, located on the Rzeszów-Przemysł loess areas, where they can be dated to 3500–3350 BC (Rybicka *et al.* 2014: 193, table XXX: 2). Their presence was also noted in Piaski Wielkie in the Lublin region (Dobrzyński 2011: Fig. 9: 3, 6, 10: 10). Dates varying between 3600–3330 BC were obtained for two features from this site, and for one – a date of 3350–3100 BC (Dobrzyński 2011: 78). In the style of the pottery assemblage from Pawłosiów, site 52, Baden influences were also distinguished, in the form of the occurrence of single

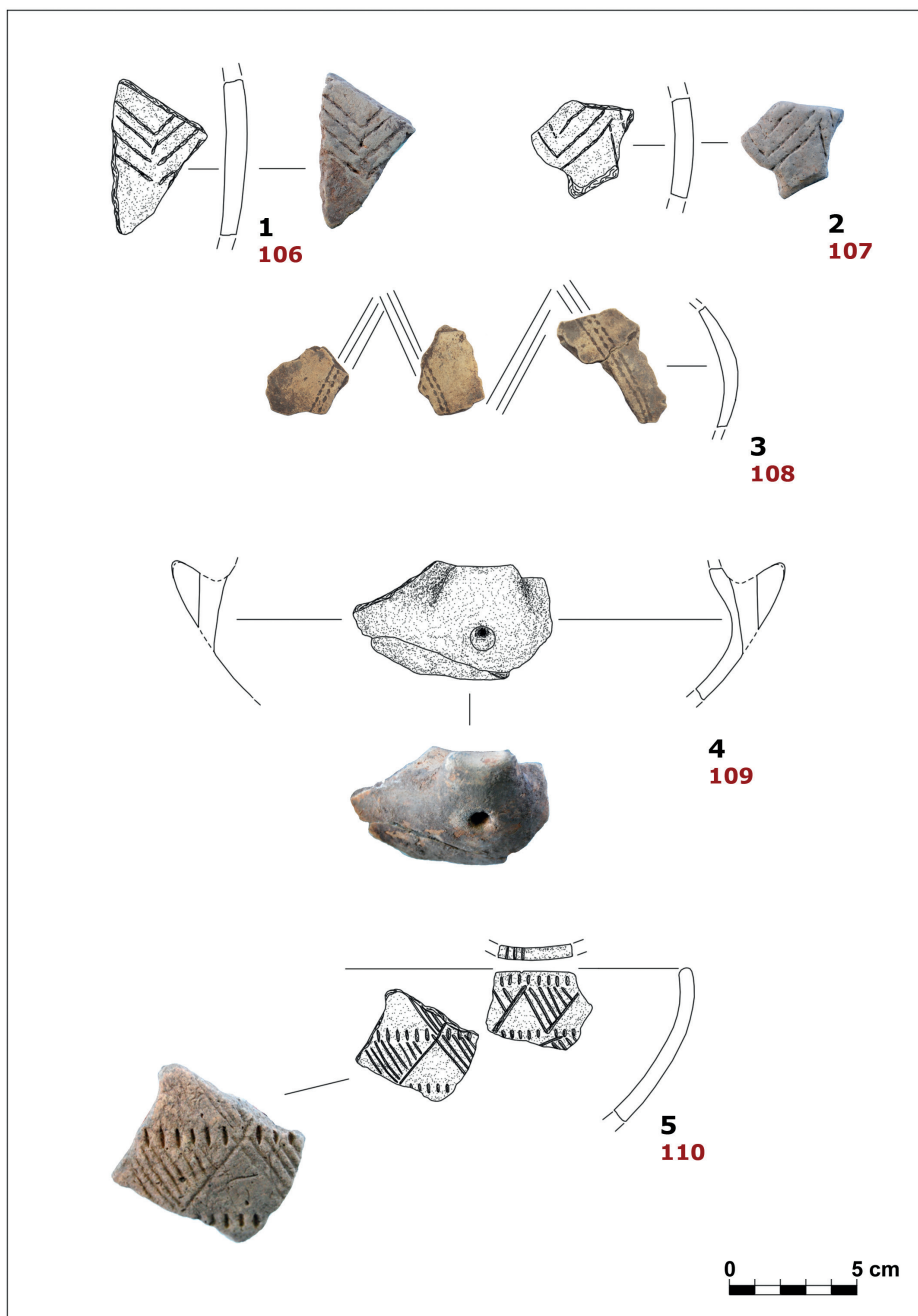


Fig. 1. Zhupan site, Vynnyky near Lviv, pottery of the Tripolye culture.

Table 1. Radiocarbon dating of the CII stage of the Tripolye culture.

| No. | Site, feature, sample type   | Radiocarbon determination | Probability 68.2%   | Probability 95.4%   | Literature  |
|-----|--|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1.  | Novomalin-Podobanka, Rivne Oblast; vegetal remains in pottery of the Funnel Beaker culture | Poz-55979<br>4670±40 BP   | 3516 BC (16.6%) 3488 BC<br>3472 BC (44.3%) 3398 BC<br>3389 BC (7.3%) 3372 BC                          | 3627 BC (6.7%) 3597 BC<br>3526 BC (88.7%) 3365 BC   | Rybicka 2017, further literature there                      |
| 2.  | Brizneni III, Edinet District; ploshchadka 7; animal bones                                 | *Poz-4560±35 BP           | 3368 BC (68.2%) 3124 BC   | 3489 BC (95.4%) 3104 BC   | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486 |
| 3.  | Zhvaniets, Khmelnytskyi Raion; ploshchadka 1; animal bones                                 | Ki-6745<br>4530±30 BP     | 3360 BC (16.1%) 3310 BC<br>3300 BC (3.1%) 3260 BC<br>3240 BC (49.0%) 3110 BC                          | 3370 BC (93.4%) 3080 BC<br>3060 BC (2.0%) 3030 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 4.  | Zhvaniets, Khmelnytskyi Raion; hut 2, animal bones   | Ki-6743<br>4480±40BP      | 3340 BC (46.2%) 3210 BC<br>3190 BC (11.5%) 3150 BC<br>3130 BC (11.9%) 3090 BC                         | 3350 BC (87.1%) 3080 BC<br>3070 BC (8.3%) 3020 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 5.  | Kurgany-Dubova, Rivne Oblast; vegetal remains in pottery of the Tripolye culture           | Poz-77974<br>4500±35 BP   | 3336 BC (26%) 3265 BC<br>3241 BC (12.6%) 3210 BC<br>3193 BC (16.6%) 3151 BC<br>3138BC (13.0%) 3105 BC | 3336 BC (26%) 3265 BC<br>3241 BC (12.6%) 321 BC<br>3193 BC (16.6%) 3151 BC<br>3138 BC (13.0%) 3105 BC | Rybicka 2017, further literature there                      |
| 6.  | Gorodsk, Zhytomyr Raion  | GrN-5099<br>4651±35 BP    | 3510BC (58.4%) 3420BC<br>3380BC (9.8%) 3360BC   | 3520 BC (95.4%) 3350 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 7.  | Gorodsk, Zhytomyr Raion  | Ki-6752<br>4495±45 BP     | 3340 BC (26.6%) 3260 BC<br>3250 BC (28.1%) 3150 BC<br>3140 BC (13.4%) 3100 BC                         | 3360 BC (89.9%) 3100 BC<br>3070 BC (5.5%) 3020 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 8.  | Troyaniv, Zhytomyr Raion; animal bones   | Ki-6748<br>4360±55 BP     | 3390 BC (5.0%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (63.2%) 2900 BC   | 3320 BC (4.9%) 3230 BC<br>3120 BC (90.5%) 2880 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 9.  | Troyaniv, Zhytomyr Raion; ploshchadka 1; animal bones                                      | Ki-6749<br>4410±50 BP     | 3270 BC (0.7%) 3250 BC<br>3100 BC (67.5%) 2920 BC   | 3330 BC (18.9%) 3210 BC<br>3190 BC (3.3%) 3150 BC<br>3130 BC (73.3%) 2900 BC                          | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |
| 10. | Troyaniv, Zhytomyr Raion; house25  | Ki-6750<br>4430±45 BP     | 3320 BC (16.2%) 3230 BC<br>3110 BC (38.9%) 3000 BC<br>2990 BC (13.2%) 2930 BC                         | 3340 BC (27.3%) 3210 BC<br>3190 BC (5.3%) 3150 BC<br>3130 BC (62.9%) 2920 BC                          | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                   |

| No. | Site, feature, sample type   | Radiocarbon determination | Probability 68.2%   | Probability 95.4%  | Literature  |
|-----|--|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| 11. | Hancauti, Edinet District; oven No. 1  | *Poz-4445±35 BP           |   | 3335 BC (36.6%) 3211 BC<br>3192 BC (7.3%) 3152 BC<br>3138 BC (45.4%) 3007 BC<br>2988 BC (6.2%) 2931 BC | Sirbu (Сирбу) 2016: 121   |
| 12. | Zhvaniets, Kholmynskyi Raion; charcoal   | Ki-6754<br>4380±60 BP     | 3090 BC (68.2%) 2910 BC   | 3330 BC (12.7%) 3210 BC<br>3180 BC (1.7%) 3150 BC<br>3130 BC (81.0%) 2890 BC                           | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                                 |
| 13. | Zhvaniets, Kholmynskyi Raion; animal bones   | Ki-6744<br>4355±60 BP     | 3090 BC (5.1%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (63.1%) 2900 BC                             | 3330 BC (6.2%) 3230 BC<br>3120 BC (89.2%) 2870 BC  | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                                 |
| 14. | Zhvaniets, Kholmynskyi Raion; charcoal   | Ki-6753<br>4290±55 BP     | 3020 BC (68.2%) 2870 BC   | 3090 BC (84.1%) 2850 BC<br>2820 BC (9.0%) 2740 BC<br>2730 BC (2.3%) 2690 BC                            | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                                 |
| 15. | Gordinești II-3, Edinet District; house 1 (2016); wheat                            | Poz-83658<br>4480 ±35 BP  | 3331 BC (46.0%) 3215 BC<br>3185 BC (10.5%) 3157 BC<br>3126 BC (11.6%) 3096 BC | 3342 BC (89.4%) 3086 BC<br>3061 BC (6.0%) 3029 BC  | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486               |
| 16. | Gordinești II-4, Edinet District; house 1 (2016); wheat                            | Poz-83659<br>4480 ±35 BP  | 3331 BC (46.0%) 3215 BC<br>3185 BC (10.5%) 3157 BC<br>3126 BC (11.6%) 3096 BC | 3342 BC (89.4%) 3086 BC<br>3061 BC (6.0%) 3029 BC  | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486               |
| 17. | Gordinești II-5, Edinet District; house 1 (2016); wheat                            | Poz-83660<br>4475 ±35 BP  | 3331 BC (45.7%) 3215 BC<br>3185 BC (10.0%) 3157 BC<br>3126 BC (12.5%) 3093 BC | 3341 BC (87.1%) 3083 BC<br>3067 BC (8.3%) 3027 BC  | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486               |
| 18. | Gordinești II-2, Edinet District; house 1 (2016); animal bones                     | Poz-83728<br>4430 ±35 BP  | 3331 BC (46.0%) 3215 BC<br>3185 BC (10.5%) 3157 BC<br>3126 BC (11.6%) 3096 BC | 3342 BC (89.4%) 3086 BC<br>3061 BC (6.0%) 3029 BC  | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486               |
| 19. | Vynnyky-Zhupan, Lviv Raion; animal bones from the feature 10f the Tripolye culture | Poz-84779<br>4430±35 BP   | 3308 BC – 2941 BC   | 3328 BC – 2925 BC  | Unpublished analysis financed by NCN UMO 2014/15/BHS3/02486; Rybicka 2017 |
| 20. | Horodnitra-Horodistre  | GrN-5088<br>4615±35 BP    | 3500 BC (43.5%) 3450 BC<br>3380 BC (24.7%) 3350 BC                            | 3520 BC (94.2%) 3330 BC<br>3210 BC (1.25%) 3190 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further literature there                                 |

| No. | Site, feature, sample type  | Radiocarbon determination | Probability 68.2%  | Probability 95.4%   | Literature                                   |
|-----|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| 21. | Horodistrea I;<br>animal bones  | Hd-14785<br>4495±18 BP    | 3340 BC (26.9%) 3260 BC<br>3240 BC (14.5%) 3210 BC<br>3190 BC (15.5%) 3150 BC                          | 3340 BC (95.4%) 3090 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 22. | Horodistrea II;<br>animal bones   | Hd-15024<br>4377±21 BP    | 3015 BC (68.2%) 2925 BC  | 3090 BC (6.9%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (88.5%) 2910 BC                             | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 23. | Horodistrea II;<br>animal bones   | Hd-14898<br>4235±30 BP    | 2910 BC (52.0%) 2870 BC<br>2810 BC (16.2%) 2770 BC   | 2910 BC (60.1%) 2850 BC<br>2810 BC (30.1%) 2750 BC<br>2730 BC (5.2%) 2700 BC  | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 24. | Sofievka, Kiev Oblast; human<br>bones from a cremation grave              | Ki-5012<br>4320±70 BP     | 3090 BC (3.5%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (64.7%) 2880 BC  | 3350 BC (95.4%) 2650 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 25. | Sofievka, Kiev Oblast; charcoal<br>from the feature 50                    | Ki-5029<br>4300±45 BP     | 3010 BC (13.7%) 2980 BC<br>2940 BC (54.5%) 2870 BC   | 3090 BC (1.8%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (92.2%) 2870 BC<br>2810 BC (1.4%) 2770 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 26. | Sofievka, Kiev Oblast; burnt<br>human bones                               | Ki-5013<br>4270±90 BP     | 3030 BC (45.4%) 2850 BC<br>2820 BC (16.5%) 2740 BC<br>2730 BC (6.3%) 2680 BC                           | 3350 BC (1.6%) 3200 BC<br>3150 BC (93.8%) 2550 BC                             | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 27. | Verreba Cave, Bilche Zolote,<br>Borshchiv Raion                           | Ki-8270<br>4280±90 BP     | 3080 BC (1.5%) 3060 BC<br>3030 BC (45.7%) 2850 BC<br>2820 BC (15.6%) 2740 BC<br>2730 BC (5.4%) 2690 BC | 3350 BC (95.4%) 2550 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 28. | Sandraki, Vinnytsia Oblast;<br>animal bones                               | Ki-6746<br>4175±50 BP     | 2879 BC (13.0%) 2848 BC<br>2813 BC (55.2%) 2679 BC   | 2893 BC (95.4%) 2620 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 29. | Sandraki, Vinnytsia Oblast;<br>animal bones                               | Ki-6747<br>4210±45 BP     | 2900 BC (22.4%) 2850 BC<br>2810 BC (35.2%) 2750 BC   | 2910 BC (30.6%) 2750 BC<br>2820 BC (63.25%) 2660 BC<br>2650 BC (1.6%) 2630 BC | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |
| 30. | Tsviklovske, Khmelnytskyi Raion;<br>human bones from a cremation<br>grave | Ki-6751<br>3960±50 BP     | 2570 BC (25.3%) 2510 BC<br>2500 BC (28.0%) 2430 BC<br>2420 BC (5.3%) 2400 BC<br>2380 BC (9.5%) 2340 BC | 2580 BC (95.4%) 2290 BC   | Rassamakin 2012, further<br>literature there |

\* The laboratory did not give numbers to the analysed samples.



handles with knobs. Identical traits were also recorded in the materials of the Troyaniv and Gorodsk group (Videiko 2000), dated to the end of the fourth millennium BC (Table 1). Sławomir Kadrow (2005: 14, Fig. 18, cf. Włodarczak 2006: 47–49) sees this type of decoration, having regard to the dating of the Sofievka group of the TC, as relating to influences from the Kostolac-Coșofeni-Cernavoda II and Sitagroi Va – Radomir I–II – Junacite XIII–IX cultures. He does not consider that these include decorative inspiration from the northern Moldavian Gordinești group of the TC, which is also characterised by pottery with similar stylistic features (Dergachev [Дергачев] 1980; Sirbu [Сырбу] 2016). It seems that the time of functioning of this group is now well defined and can be placed in the period 3300–3000/2900 BC (cf. Rybicka 2017).

The pottery of the FBC originating from the pits No. 2/97 and 5/97 in Zimne (Bronicki *et al.* 2003) corresponds in terms of stylistics, for example, to ceramics from the Tshub site at Lezhnitsa, (Rybicka *et al.* 2019), but the dates obtained for these features raise doubts. In material from both mentioned settlements, in the methods of shaping rims and their edges (e.g. Bronicki *et al.* 2003; Figs 11: 11; 14: 15) have been noticed – distant analogies to the pottery morphology of the TC of Kurgany type from the Dubova site, Ostroh Raion (Verteletskyi [Вертелецкий] 2016), which is dated to the end-phase of the fourth millennium BC (Table 1).

To sum up, the stylistics of the ceramics originating from some features from Zimne may be compared to the material from the site of Lysivka at Vynnyky, and from the Tshub site at Lezhnitsa (Rybicka *et al.* 2019), and chronologically probably corresponds to the second phase of the functioning of the settlement at Gródek.

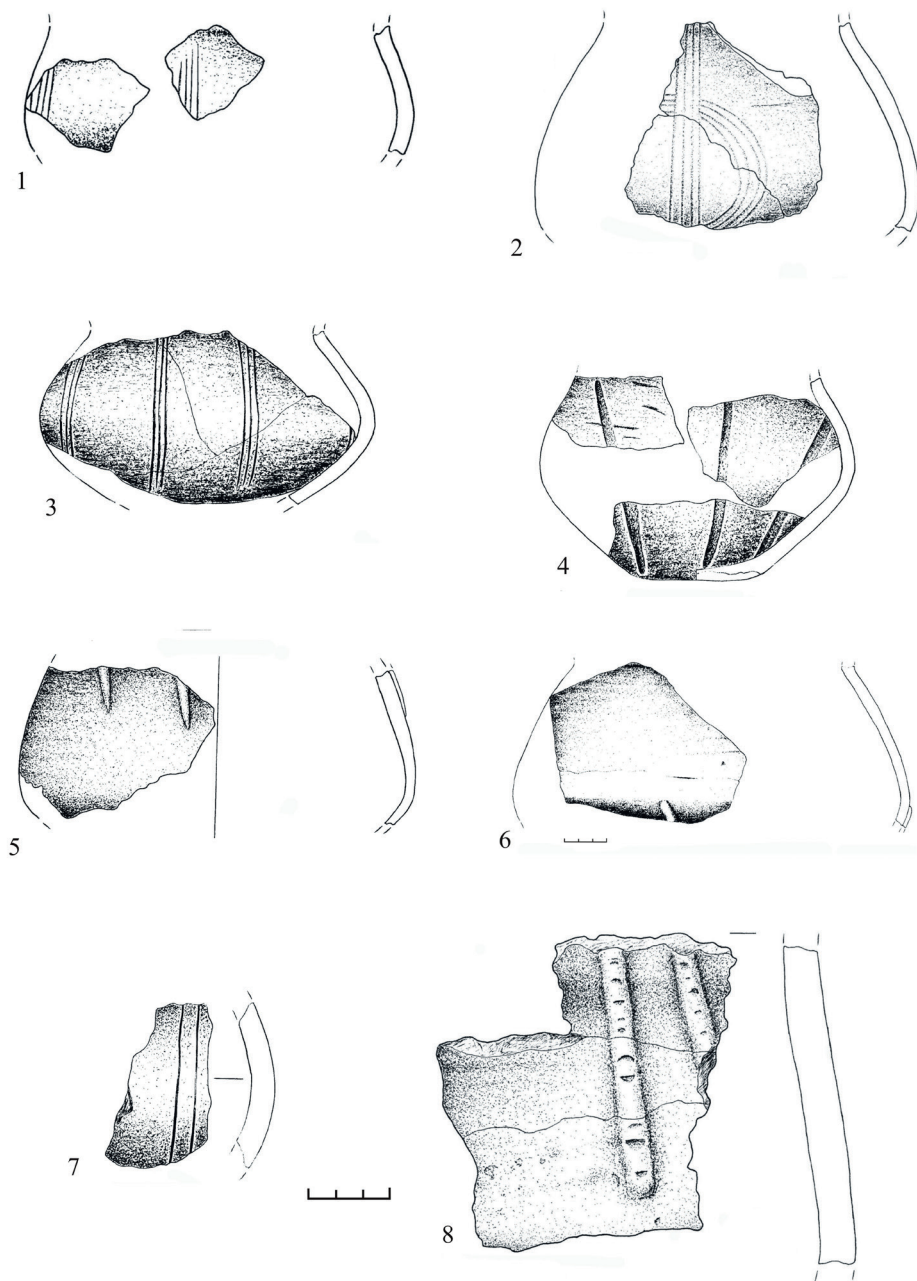
#### *Grodzisko (Horodyshche) III site, Kotoryny, Zhydachiv Raion*

Also in the case of Kotoryny (Grodzisko [Horodyshche] III site), the situation in time of the settlement remains of the FBC is not unambiguous in the context of the radiocarbon determinations obtained and the identification there of the distinguishing features of the early-Funnel Beaker phase (cf. Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013; Rybicka 2016). The presence in a floor of features of numerous ceramic finds with traits corresponding to the style of the early stages of the eastern group of this culture justifies the acceptance of early radiocarbon determinations obtained for the material from pits in trench No. 1, such as 4890±100 BP (MKL–888) and 4845±35 BP (Poz 44004, see Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013). The distinction in the ceramic material of references to the classical variety of the south-eastern group, such as handles of *lunata* type or curved rim profiles, also corresponds to the obtained <sup>14</sup>C determinations, and consequently makes possible dating of the first settlement phase of the FBC to the time range of 3650–3400 BC. The problem is, however, the cultural interpretation of several determinations representing the beginnings of the third millennium BC. A number of the distinguished features of the pottery decoration at Kotoryny, such as, for example, handles of *lunata*

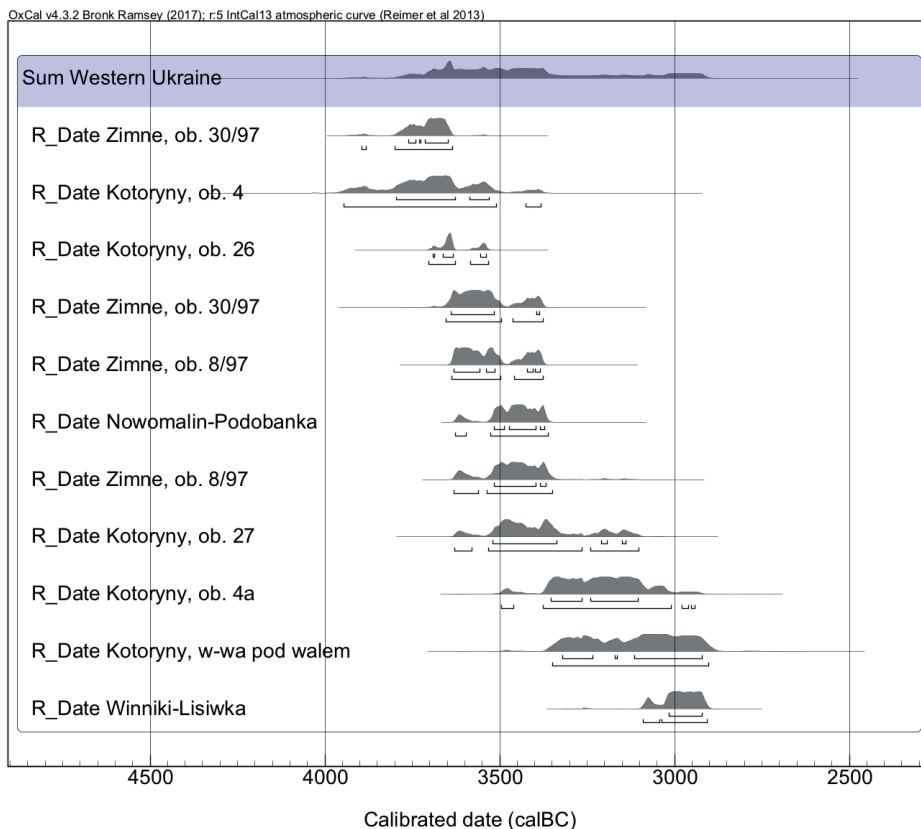
type, *Furchenstich*, arcaded ornament, etc., were in use over a wide range in time (Włodarczak 2006: 52). However, there are also stylistic traits that can be assigned to the later stages of this culture, e.g. a wide *Furchenstich* and references to the style of the Baden Culture (Fig. 2). The so-called caterpillar stitch may be dated to a period of about 3400–3100 BC (Dobrzyński 2011: 76–78; Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013: 266; Rybicka *et al.* 2019). The Baden elements present at Kotoryny can be assigned to the early stages of this cultural circle (cf. Fig. 2; Furholt 2009: 149–151). In this collection, however, there is neither late Tripolyean pottery nor its specific stylistic traits.

In the group of thirteen  $^{14}\text{C}$  determinations from Kotoryny, the majority (12 dates) were made by scintillation from charcoal, and only one animal bone was dated by the AMS method. The oldest date:  $5860 \pm 80$  BP (MKL-795), obtained for the pit No. 27, cannot be related to the FBC. It is probably the effect of dating secondarily deposited charcoals. Two consecutive dates were obtained for the base and top of the fill of this feature:  $4630 \pm 90$  BP (MKL-802) and  $4620 \pm 70$  BP (MKL-796), well correlating with the stylistic traits of the ceramics derived from it (Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013: 254). The dating resulting from analysis of animal bone from pit No. 26:  $4845 \pm 35$  BP (Poz-4404), corresponds to the result obtained for charcoals from pit No. 4:  $4890 \pm 100$  BP (MKL-888). The results obtained are a positive verification of the dates derived from the stylistic characteristics of ceramics (Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013: 235, 237). On the other hand, more disputable results came from samples from the post holes in trench II with the numbers: 26, 32 and 28, respectively:  $5090 \pm 140$  BP (MKL-884),  $4690 \pm 110$  BP (MKL-883) and  $4240 \pm 90$  BP (MKL-794). The large discrepancy between these dates makes their relationship with the FBC uncertain. The first two of them with a greater or lesser degree of probability match the dating of the ceramic stylistic traits from this trench, which are well represented by the material from the pit No. 27. The third result, however, does not correspond to the stylistic characteristics of these ceramics. For the shallow depression, referred to as pit No. 15, two clearly different determinations were obtained:  $5290 \pm 90$  BP (MKL-885) and  $4090 \pm 90$  BP (MKL-892). In this case, one cannot determine what in fact they date. Such a large discrepancy means that they should be omitted in the assessment of the chronology of the remains of the FBC in Kotoryny. The same applies to the date of a charcoal sample from a shallow depression, the so-called pit No. 17:  $4230 \pm 130$  BP (MKL-889). However, the dating results obtained for a charcoal sample from the rampart and the pit No. 4a:  $4520 \pm 70$  BP (MKL-890) and  $4420 \pm 90$  BP (MKL-798) should be assigned to the settlement of Funnel Beaker times. It seems from the presented remarks that only a few determinations were made of samples from good contexts; these are the material from pits No. 4, 4a, 26, 27 as well as the layer under the rampart. The value of the others is questionable.

If we include only the radiocarbon dates from the sites in Kotoryny and Zimne, which correspond to the accepted stylistic dating of the ceramics derived from them and representing good contexts, the FBC in Western Ukraine can be dated to the period



**Fig. 2.** Kotoryny near Zhydachiv, Grodzisko (Horodyshe) III site. Pottery of the Funnel Beaker culture.



**Fig. 3.** Dating of the Funnel Beaker culture in Western Ukraine.

3700/3600 – 3000/2900 BC (Fig. 3). Generally, this corresponds to the chronology of the settlement in Gródek (Włodarczak 2006), and the Gordinești group could be also included in it (Table 1). The presence of traits representing this culture both in Gródek (Rybicka 2017) and in Zimne (Kadrow 2005) confirms the above presented suggestion.

## CONCLUSIONS

The dates obtained for Gródek and cited by Jan Kowalczyk (1969) as justifying the very early emergence of the FBC in the Bug River region, have been subjected to verification (Bronicki *et al.* 2003: 31; Włodarczak 2006: 33). The repeated analysis of one of these samples resulted in a much later result, which corresponds to the date

range of the classical stage of the south-eastern group of this culture, ascertained for assemblages from Bronocice (Kruk and Milisauskas 2018). Dates associated with the early-beaker stylistics at Kotoryny (Grodzisko [Horodyshche] III site) are not conformable with the concept of Jan Kowalczyk (1969) regarding the chronology of the initiation of this culture in western Ukraine. However, they justify, just like the stylistics of the ceramics, the emergence of the FBC in this area at a similar time as in the Rzeszów-Przemyśl loess areas (cf. Rybicka 2016). The problem is, however, to determine the date of its disappearance, both in the Bug region and on the upper Dniester. An unequivocal explanation of this issue requires conducting more radiocarbon analyses for samples of “short-lived” materials coming from homogeneous contexts (e.g. cereals, animal bones). At present, it seems that the disappearance of the FBC in those regions can be assigned to the turn from the fourth to the third millennium BC. This is indicated by the presence of imports from the Gordinești group at Gródek (Gumiński 1989; Włodarczak 2006) and Zimne (Kadrow 2005).

*Translated by Andrzej Leligdowicz*

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