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Life on the Eastern frontiers of Old Europe

The concept of Old Europe defines its boundaries with the proliferation of ancient farming cultures. Its eastern boundary is designated by the districts of Trypillia Culture, the Eastern part of Cucuteni-Trypillia Cultural Unity, which reached Dnipro valley at the second half of the Vth Millenium BC. At this time we see several local types of Trypillia Culture, each with some differences at material culture (mainly at pottery stylistics), some different features in the economy. Subsequently, this added to the difference in the public organization. These groups were completely autonomous, while there is a tendency for their active interaction, perhaps the subordination of the less powerful groups by stronger.

Marked by complicated pottery assemblages ‘multiculturality’ at Dnipro region developed around 600-800 years and led to more cultural differentiation inside the area to North from Ros river. At the same time groups with painted pottery, located to South from this area still remained homogeneous.

For nearly a millennium (from 4300 to 3400-3200 BC), we can observe the few different strategies of life at the Trypillia Culture Eastern frontiers. From one side here we have some large groups, resistant to external influences, and small groups of population, aimed at the formation of multicultural communities. At the same time, trade was always an important connecting factor at all times.

Key words: *Old Europe, Dnipro region, Eastern frontier, Trypillia Culture, multiculturality*

The concept of Old Europe defines its boundaries with the proliferation of ancient cultures. Its eastern boundary is designated by the districts of Trypillia Culture, the Eastern part of Cucuteni-Trypillia Cultural unity, which reached Dnipro valley in the second half of the 5th Millenium BC. At this time there were several local types of Trypillia Culture, each with some differences in material culture (mainly at pottery stylistics), some different features in the economy. Subsequently, this added to the difference in the public organization. These groups were completely autonomous, while there is a tendency for their active interaction – perhaps the subordination of the less powerful groups by stronger ones.

The first Trypillia imports at Dnipro region, which were found at Neolithic sites, relate to BI stage or near 4500-4400 BC. But there are no traces of Trypillia sites closer than 150-200 km. So we can speak about some trade or cultural relations in this period, which preceded the direct migration of Trypillia farmers to the east.

There were two groups of Trypillia BI-II stage farmers who came near to Dnipro after 4300-4200 BC; the first one – to Krasna river valley, the second – to lower Ros river basin (fig. 3). At this moment both groups practiced farming and held livestock, used large settlements as centers of social formations. For Krasna river a Trypillia site was

the central place (near 100 ha square), for lower Ros river – Myropillia (near 200 ha). Most of archaeologists recognized both sites as the tribal centers (Zweck, 2006; Videiko, 2015).

At this time pottery assemblage consists of four components: one with traditional incised decoration, one with painted decoration, one without decoration and “kitchen ware”(or Cucuteni C pottery) (fig. 1-2).

Painted pottery from BI-II sites corresponds to western models of so called Zaleschyky group (Vinogradova, 1982, Zaetz, Saiko, 1986). (fig. 1: 7-10). On the other hand at the same time during excavations of BI-II stage of Kolomyitsiv Yar site we have a lot of fragments originated not from small vessels, but from large non-transportable for long distance forms (fig. 1: 7-10).

At the same time new settlers adopted some pottery traditions from Stog Culture. We are talking about forms and decoration of “kitchen” pottery, processing by smoothing the interior surface of the pots (with “true” Trypillia carved decor on the other side!) (fig. 2:6). Probably it means that local communities included some part of Stog population.

Substantial part of pottery finds from Trypillia BI-II sites relates to no decorated items (fig. 1:4-6). This group of pottery have some analogies at West, out from Trypillia cultural unity (Videiko, 2000).

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It is well seen, that three from four components, which formed local pottery assemblage, originated from Trypillia Culture. Later, after 4000 BC, such a multicultural community will become a hallmark of the "Trypillian world" on the Eastern frontier.

Some finds showing us evidences of the long distance trade through the Carpathian region inclusive (Videiko, 2000). This groups have had trade relationship with the West, with other Trypillia groups, from where copper and, probably, painted pottery were imported (fig. 1: 7-10). On the other hand there are some evidence about the local production of copper tools. We talking about two parts of clay casting forms for flat axes on a multilayered site of Trypillian Culture at Kirilivska Street, made by V. Khvoika (Khvoika, 1901: 762). These forms are made for the manufacture of flat axes (fig. 3 7-8). Similar axes were found during excavations at several settlements of BI-II stage in the Trypillya area (fig. 3: 1-7). The fact that these forms can be related to this time is evidenced by the presence of fragments of «kitchen» supplies typical for BI-II stage among ceramic finds from the Kirilivska Street.

However, at that time, no trace of contacts with the population of the Neolithic Culture was found, to which ceramic products of Trypillian culture were spreaded during the previous stage.

Near 4000 BC new wave of Trypillia Culture (BII stage) communities with black-painted pottery reached Dnipro at lower Ros river regions. They probably integrated former population and create a strong system with numerous large sites (from 20-50 to 100 ha) (Ovchinnikov, 2014).

At the same time tribal centers at Krasna river disappeared and never been renewed in this area. Here Trypillia Culture communities begining from BII stage returned to archaic model of settling, with relatively small sites (20-100 houses) and the surrounding system of temporary settlements. It was some new kind of settled places. Temporary sites located close to Dnipro valley, were rich for hunting and fishing resources. No remains here from traditional burnt houses were found. These sites provided better access to pastures. The study of the fauna of several such settlements – Chapayivka, Ignatenkova Gora – showed that during the seasonal life in temporary settlements their inhabitants consumed mostly hunting and fish prey (Krutz, 1977, Zhuravliov, 2008).

The existence of such a settling may indicate, that population of Trypillia near the Dnipro River felt relatively safe. On the other hand, detection of traces of fortifications in the form of a ditch on a permanent settlement at Lvivska Square in Kyiv is the direct evidence of the needs for defense facilities. It was enough for coexistence with the local Neolithic population, but not enough to confront the more powerful Trypillian communities in the south (Kaniv and Tomashivka groups).

At this time the previous tradition of multi-component pottery assemblage spreaded to Kolomyjschyna local group. As before it included traditional vessels with incised decoration, painted and undecorated pottery and a group of "kitchen ware" (fig. 4: 1-6; fig. 7).

From previous population only one tradition is traced – the manufacture of dishes with incized decor and certain restrictions – "kitchen". The rest of the components of this ceramic complex again have the features of neighboring cultural groups.

It is possible to identify the origin of painted pottery. At the stage of BII, the arrival of pottery from the Nebelivka group to the Chapayevka settlement was recorded (fig. 6: 1-4). Painted pottery at CI stage came from Kaniv and Tomashivka groups, located in South direction. Some settlements, for example, Kolomyjschyna I, imported painted pottery from both groups (fig. 6: 5-7). The similar situation is known for the Ignatenkova Gora settlement. Note that in this case almost synchronous settlement of the Kaniv group in the Khatice tract at a distance of about a kilometer was located.

At the same time, there are well-known items, which are presented by exclusively painted ceramics of the Kaniv group. In some settlements like Ripnitsa-I it is more than half (50,4%) of the entire ceramic complex (Ryzhov, 2001: 25, fig. 8-10). In general is to conclude: the further south is, the more painted pottery being found. Perhaps this should be considered as the inclusion in the composition of local communities of large groups from the Kaniv group area. Taking into account the peculiarities of the production of this kind of pottery, it can be argued that the latter settlers brought with them not only the corresponding traditions, but also skills of the manufacture of ceramics and intentionally complicated technologies. From the other side, locals tried to produce painted pottery, but never reproduced it on normal technological level (fig. 6: 8-10).

The distribution of undecorated pottery in the complexes of Trypillian settlements at the stage BII and CI (fig. 5) probably related with the influx of population from Volyn, from the Lublin-Wolynian Culture (LWC) (Videiko 2008). With spreading of LWC-style pottery we have a "mirror" situation with spreading of painted items: the further South is – the less unpainted pottery made. At the same time several samples of LWC-style pottery are known from Kaniv group sites on both sides of Dnipro (Ovchinnikov 2014). So, we can talk about exchange not only in pottery styles, but, probably, also in population between different local groups of Tripillia Culture.

In the ornament of kitchen pottery at this period we can see changes, for example cord decoration appeared (fig. 7: 1-8). Previously this element was associated with effects of "steppe cultures"

influences. However, the dating of pottery samples and laboratory research of the technology of manufacturing the cords themselves showed that this element appears almost simultaneously, and the technology is different in both Trypillia and «Steppe» Cultures (Kotova et al., 2010: 122-131). At the same time in Dnipro area appeared a kitchen ware decorated with elements, executed in the technique inherent in the local Neolithic population related to Dnepr-Donetz Culture (Krutz, 1977: 54). These elements have become widespread at stages VII and III (Fig.7: 9-12). So at this time there was an interaction between Trypillian population and some Neolithic “aborigines” on the site, settled by Trypillia Culture.

Such ‘multiculturality’ developed in around 600-800 years and led to more cultural differentiation inside of area to the North from Ros river. At the same time group with painted pottery (“Kaniv

Group”) still remained homogeneous (Ovchinnikov, 2014).

Trade flourished and included metal, flint, painted pottery and spondilus, some trade routes (flint) reached Volhynia. The last marked, for example, by Khalepya haoard, which included near 150 large flint blades, found inside Trypillia CI pot (Khvoika, 1901: 773-774; tabl. XIX, 1). At this time we can observe not only contacts with local Neolithic (marked by sherds from painted pottery), but also integration of some Trypillia representatives to local Neolithic communities (Pustynka V type).

Thus, for nearly a millennium, we see different strategies of life at the Trypillia Culture Eastern frontiers. From one side here we have some large groups, resistant to external influences, and small groups of population, aimed on the formation of multicultural communities. At the same time, trade was always an important connecting factor at all times.

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Життя на східних рубежах Старої Європи

Концепція Старої Європи визначає її межі поширенням стародавніх хліборобських культур. Східну її межу позначають райони Трипільської культури, східної частини Кукутень-Трипільської культурної єдності, які досягли долини Дніпра у другій половині V тисячоліття до нашої ери. У цей час ми бачимо кілька місцевих типів трипільської культури, кожна з яких має деякі відмінності в матеріальній культурі (головним чином у стилістиці кераміки), деякі різні особливості в економіці. Згодом це додало різниці в громадській організації. Ці групи були повністю автономними, в той час як існує тенденція до їх активної взаємодії, можливо, підпорядкування менш чисельних і слабших груп сильнішими.

Характеризована різноманітними керамічними комплексами «мультикультурність» у Дніпровському регіоні розвивалася приблизно упродовж майже тисячі років і призвела до значної культурної диференціації в районі на північ від річки Рось. У той же час групи з розписною керамікою, розташовані на південь від цієї області, як і раніше залишалися однорідними.

Протягом майже тисячоліття (від 4300 до 3400-3200 рр. до н.е.) ми можемо спостерігати декілька різних стратегій життя на східних кордонах Трипільської культури. З одного боку, ми маємо деякі великі групи, стійкі до зовнішніх впливів, і невеликі групи населення, спрямовані на формування мультикультурних спільнот. У той же час торгівля завжди була важливим фактором, що сполучала різні культурні спільноти.

Ключові слова: *Стара Європа, Дніпровський регіон, східна межа, трипільська культура, мультикультурність*



Fig. 1. Trypillia BI-II stage pottery from Dnipro region: 1-3 – carved decoration; 4-6 – without decoration; 7-10 – painted (1-10 - Kolomyitziv Yar).



Fig. 2. Trypillia BI-II stage pottery from Dnipro region: 1-5, 7-9 – “Kitchenware”; 6 – fragment with curved decoration, the reverse side (1-8- Kolomyitziv Yar, M. Videiko; 9 – “Culture A”, V. Khvoika).

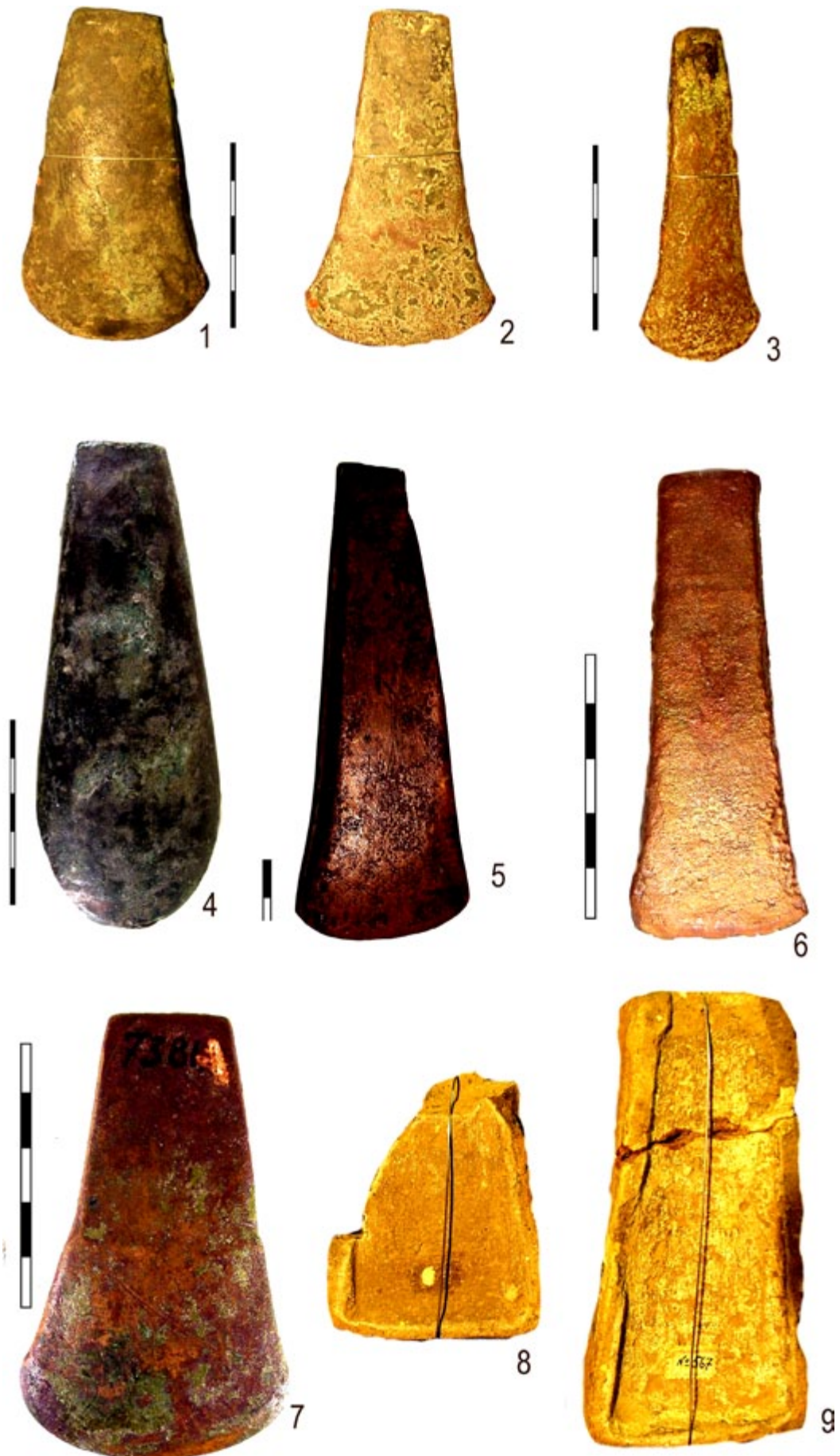


Fig. 3. Trypillia BI-II stage copper objects from Dnipro region: 1-7 – flat axes (copper); 8-9 – casting molds (clay). (1-9 – V. Khvoika, "Culture A", National Museum of History of Ukraine).



Fig. 4. Trypillia CI stage pottery from Dnipro region: 1-6 – “kitchenware”; 7-10 – with curved decoration. (1-7 – Yan-cha-II, M. Videiko; 7-8 – Rypnytsia-VI, M. Videiko; 9-10 – “Culture B”, V. Khvoika, National Museum of History of Ukraine).



Fig. 5. Trypillia CI stage pottery and figurines from Dnipro region: 1-7, 9 – without decoration; 8, 10 – fragmented figurines. (1,8 – Rypnytsia-VI, M. Videiko; 1 – Khomyne, M. Videiko; 9,10 – “Culture B”, V. Khoika, National Museum of History of Ukraine).



Fig. 6. Trypillia B-II and CI stages painted pottery from Dnipro region: 1-4 – Chapaivka (V. Krutz); 5-7 – Pidgirtzi-I (V. Krutz); 8-10 – Pyrogovo, local imitation of painted pottery (V. Krutz).



Fig. 7. "Kitchenware" from Dnipro region: 1-8 – with cord decoration; 9-12 – decorated in local Neolithic style, mixed with Trypillia features (1-7, 9 – BII stage; 8, 10-12 – CI stage). (1-2 – Grebeni, Bibikov at alii, 1960-64; 3-7 – Chapaivka, V. Krutz; 8 – Khomyne, M. Videiko; 9-12 – Kazarovichi, V. Krutz.