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(review) A. Bronicki. *Pierwsi pasterze III tysiąclecia p.Ch. Groby podgrupy wschodniolubelskiej kultury amfor kulistych. Obrządek pogrzebowy. Chronologia*. [The first shepherds of the 3rd millennium B.C.]. Chełm 2021: Muzeum Ziemi Chełmskiej im. Wiktora Ambroziewicza w Chełmie, 284 pages.

Andrzej Bronicki is easily one of the most notable researchers specializing in the Globular Amphora culture (abb.: GAC) in Poland. The scholar has conducted extensive field research (e.g. Bronicki 2000; 2007; 2010) and authored several papers discussing more general issues (Bronicki 2016; 2019). His body of work mainly concerns the sites of the Eastern Lublin subgroup of the central group of the GAC, occupying the eastern part of the Lublin region and adjacent areas east the Bug River. The latest book by Bronicki, entitled *Pierwsi pasterze III tysiąclecia p.Ch* [The first shepherds of the 3rd millennium B.C.] was designed to act as a culmination of his long and successful period of interest in the issues of the GAC (p. 263). The publication came into being thanks to a research grant of the same name, financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland. Although it is not mentioned in the book, it is worth noting that the monograph was accompanied by an exhibition devoted to the Eastern Lublin subgroup of the GAC, which has been displayed in various regional museums from that area, such as Chełm, Krasnystaw, and Tomaszów Lubelski.

The publication consists of five chapters and is supplemented by a detailed English summary. It opens with a short *Introduction* (p. 7–13), containing a brief review of the history of research as well as the spatial and chronological scope of the volume. The main subject of the book is to describe and analyse graves of the titular subgroup of the GAC, being its most common type of archaeological site. The agglomeration of funerary sites in the eastern part of Lublin region is the easternmost subgroup associated with the central group of the GAC and is separated from other regional clusters by areas with no or very few graves (p.

10). The author decided to assign three graves from Ukraine to the discussed subgroup, as they had been uncovered in close proximity to the “Polish” finds (p. 10). These graves, bearing many characteristic traits of the Eastern Lublin subgroup of the GAC, are typically excluded from studies devoted to the funerary rites of the region (cf. Bronicki 2016). Thus, the decision to analyse them alongside many similar finds should be regarded as a step in the right direction.

The main part of the book is the comprehensive catalogue of archaeological sites (p. 14–205). Its layout, wording, and excellent illustrations recall one of the previous papers by Bronicki, describing the funerary rites of the GAC in the whole Lublin Upland (2016). The writing of this part of the book was preceded by an additional examination of archaeological sources in museum collections as well as fieldwalking surveys aimed at identifying the exact places of the discovery of a few GAC graves. As a result, the catalogue was expanded to include two sites (site 8 in Partyzantów-Kolonia, and site 7 in Zbulitów Mały), newly interpreted as probable remains of destroyed GAC graves (p. 77, 205). There is also the publication of materials from GAC grave no. 1 in Rudno, excavated by amateur explorers back in 1982 (Ścibior 1986, 110–119). The archaeological finds, still in the possession of the people who had uncovered the structure, were collected by Bronicki during recent field research (p. 99). The museum surveys resulted in confirming the present location of many finds from older excavations. An extremely valuable addition are the never-before-published original photos, drawings and plans of GAC graves. I would underline the fact that the illustrations of grave constructions unearthed in the first half of the 20th century BC, such as site 15

in Dobryniów-Kolonia, site 2 in Kryłów, and site 2 in Wola Gródecka, are the only (and first) known visual evidence of the construction details of these graves.

The third chapter of the book contains a short summary of funerary rites of the GAC communities of the Eastern Lublin subgroup. The analysis covers a diverse set of aspects, starting from the location of funerary sites, the spatial organization of the cemeteries, grave constructions, human and animal burials, traces of fire and cannibalism, to grave inventories. The attached multiple tables help to systematize the obtained data. I would like to express just one caveat. The author seems to use the term “Podolian type cist graves” as being synonymous with “cist graves” (cf. p. 211). The classical publication by Marzena Szmyt (1999, 26) defines the former category as *rectangular or trapezoid* [cist graves – ed. ES] [...], *constructed from evenly-hewn slabs*. Not all of the cist graves of the discussed GAC subgroup meet this specific criteria. For example, the structure from site 33 in Stefankowice-Kolonia was an oval cist constructed from rough granite blocks (p. 149). On a related note, describing all the cist graves as being of the “Podolian type” automatically establishes the interpretation of such structures as examples of “eastern influences” in the discussed subgroup of the GAC (p. 246). This wording excludes the possible trends from other directions and, perhaps most importantly, their potential local development. Thus, in my opinion, the classification of the forms of cist graves would benefit from being expanded.

The fourth chapter of the book is devoted to the issues of absolute and relative chronology. The monograph brings a new radiocarbon date for the region, obtained for a cist grave from Tarnoszyn (p. 186). The analysis is concluded by an ambitious proposal for a periodization scheme of funerary finds of the Eastern Lublin subgroup of the GAC. Bronicki divided the period of the functioning of the analysed cultural phenomenon into three phases of development – early, middle, and late, each characterized by specific grave types, elements of ceramic style as well as other artefacts found in grave inventories. The presented periodization is one of very few such schemes prepared for materials of the central group of the GAC. While it was based on graves with radiocarbon dates, the author added an inspiring attempt to assign the remaining graves to the identified phases. The book concludes with some brief closing remarks (p. 264–265), containing the main points of the tome and suggested directions for further research.

All things considered, the book *Pierwsi pasterze III tysiąclecia p.Ch* [*The first shepherds of the 3rd*

millennium B.C.] definitely makes a valuable read. I would consider it as a model example of a monograph of a small GAC subgroup. The amount of work by Bronicki – not just the field research, but also in trying to locate and compile the existing data of the GAC graves, is truly outstanding. We can only hope for similar publications devoted to the other regional groups of the GAC.

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