

Sławomir Kadrow*

(review) M. Szmyt (ed.) 2016. *Biały Potok. Materials from Józef Kostrzewski's Podolia Excavations* (= *Bibliotheca Fontes Archaeologici Posnaniensis* 19). Poznań: Archaeological Museum in Poznań; 526 pages

The materials of the Trypillia, the Globular Amphora and Komarów cultures, which were collected in Biały Potok in Podolia in Ukraine by Józef Kostrzewski in the 1920s., have been finally published. Marzena Szmyt has gathered a large, international team of researchers around herself. They are specialists in various fields of archaeological sources. As a result of their research efforts, a comprehensive and competent work was created, which can be distinguished by a high scientific and editorial level. It has issued in Polish and English language version in the respectable publishing series of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań entitled *Bibliotheca Fontes Archaeologici Posnaniensis*, as its 19 volume. Its publication was supported by the funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in a significant way.

In the *Preface*, Marzena Szmyt briefly described the reasons for undertaking scientific research and the issue of materials excavated in Podolia by Józef Kostrzewski.

Subsequent parts of the work are divided into four parts: I. Introduction (chapters 1–3), II. Settlement of the 4th mill. BC (chapters 4–17), III. Graves of the 3rd and 2nd mill. BC (chapters 18–21) and IV. Recapitulation (chapters 22–24).

In Chapter 1 (*The History and Results of Józef Kostrzewski's Investigations in Biały Potok*), Justyna Cieszewska-Braniecki and Marzena Szmyt have presented the details of excavation research carried out by Józef Kostrzewski in 1925 in Biały Potok. They were supplemented with information on remarks and reports from these studies and on conference presentations where the results of the research team on the discussed materials were presented.

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Chapter 2 (*Józef Kostrzewski's Notes of the Investigations in Biały Potok*), written by Agata Drejer-Kowalska and Patrycja Silska, is devoted to detailed observations on documentation based on research in Biały Potok in the form of preserved notes and drawings.

Iwona Hildebrandt-Radke in Chapter 3 (*Hydrology and Terrain in the Area of Biały Potok*) describes selected geographical elements of the site and its surroundings in a wider regional background.

Chapter 4 (*Buildings in the Settlement of the Trypillia Culture in the Light of Daub Analysis*), whose authors are Aleksandr Diachenko and Karolina Harat-Strotsen, which begins part II of the work, is devoted to an in-depth analysis of traces of building structures based on daub fragments. Owing to the aforementioned analysis, it was possible to identify the remains of several dwellings, including three houses with two floors which are so characteristic in the Trypillia culture.

Taras Tkachuk, an outstanding expert in the pottery of the Trypillia culture, is the author of Chapter 5 (*Pottery of the Trypillia Culture*). In the analysed collection of pottery vessels, he has distinguished materials from the Shypintsy, Koshylivtsy, Gorodsk, Kasperivtsi, Gordinesti groups and imports from the Badragii group. The author's competent considerations are complemented by numerous drawings (mainly made by himself) in a convention comparable to the best studies of the pottery of the Trypillia culture.

The author of Chapter 6 (*Mineralogical and Petrographic Description of TRypillia Culture Pottery and Daub*), Anna Rauba-Bukowska has analysed 16 pottery sherds and 4 daub lumps in terms of mineralogy and petrography. Detailed technological descriptions of ceramics are accompanied by excellent microscopic images of samples.

The same specialist is the author of Chapter 7 (*Colorants Used in Trypillia Culture Pottery in Biały Potok*). She has presented there the results of dyes analysis used to make a colourful ornamentation on three pottery sherds of the Tripolye culture. It has been found that different types of natural ochre were used for the dyes in these cases.

Items of figural (anthropomorphic and zoomorphic) ceramics and miniature ceramic vessels are presented in Chapter 8 (*Figurine Art Forms and Special Vessels*) by Justyna Cieszewska-Braniecki and Marzena Szmyt.

Andrzej Pelisiak, the author of Chapter 9 (*Flint Materials of the Trypillia Culture*), characterizes a series of artefacts made of chalk flint with almost 5,000 pieces. He describes the raw material issues and

presents the general typological characteristics of artefacts. Then he presents a description of flint remains with their division into huts, in the context where they were discovered. Finally, he describes the technological and production procedures. The characteristics made by the author lets him outline the image of flintworking of the Trypillia culture in Biały Potok and review it in a wider background.

Functional issues of flint tools in the light of traseological analysis are discussed in Chapter 10 (*Functional Analysis of Selected Flint Tools*) by Małgorzata Winiarska-Kabacińska. In total, she has analysed 57 tools, including blades, retouched flakes and scrapers. Functional identification of the examined artefacts was supported by extensive and professional discussion of examples taken from almost the entire Eneolithic Europe.

Chapter 11 (*Exploitation of Rock Materials*), written by Mateusz Zieliński and Marzena Szmyt, is devoted to the characteristics of rock raw materials in the collection of artefacts from Biały Potok, in the light of a local geological structure.

Andrzej Sikorski, in Chapter 12 (*Production and Use of Textiles*), deals with the issues of spinning and weaving production and its use. Textile evidence in ceramic impressions, spindle whorls and loom weights have been analysed.

Paleobotanical remains are discussed in Chapter 13 (*Palaeobotanical Sources from the Trypillia Culture Settlement*) by Joanna Koszałka. Wheat and barley evidence has been found.

Analysis of animal bones are presented in Chapter 14 (*Exploitation of Mammals*) by renowned specialist Daniel Makowiecki.

Bone and antler products have been also subjected to microscopic analysis by Małgorzata Winiarska-Kabacińska in Chapter 15 (*Microscopic Analysis of Bone and Antler Artefacts*).

Shells of molluscs have become the subject of Aldona Kurzawska's analysis in Chapter 16 (*Mollusc Shells Analysis*).

Owing to Taras Tkachuk, the author of Chapter 17 (*The Biały Potok Settlement in the Context of Regional Trypillia Culture Groups*), it is possible to find the place of the Trypillia settlement in Biały Potok in the network of regional cultural conditions. The traces of multiphase settlement found in Biały Potok are related to the youngest phase of the Shypintsy group, the younger phase of the Koshylivtsy group and the Kasperivtsy group (from the end of the CI phase to the end of the CII phase of the Trypillia culture).

Marzena Szmyt, together with Chapter 18 (*Grave form the 3rd mill. BC*) begins the third part of the reviewed work. She presents the description and equipment of the grave of the Globular Amphora culture. She also reconstructs the background of this object in the context of regional groups of the aforementioned culture in Podolia.

Przemysław Makarowicz, the author of Chapter 19 (*Graves from the 2nd mill. BC. Komarów Culture Necropolis by the River Seret*), presents three graves of Komarów culture with the burials of four deceased. Uncovered grave inventory (ceramics, flints, a copper artefact?) has been described together with detailed cultural and chronological identification. Moreover, its place in the network of local cultural references is defined.

The authors of Chapter 20 (*Mitochondrial DNA Analysis of the Bronze Age Individual from Biały Potok*) are Maciej Chyleński and Anna Juras.

Małgorzata Winiarska-Kabacińska, in Chapter 21 (*Use-Wear Analysis of a Flint Axe from Grave III*), deals with the traseological analysis of an axe found in one of the graves of the Komarów culture.

Chapter 22 (*Absolute Chronology of Settlement and Graves from Biały Potok*), written by Tomasz Goslar and Marzena Szmyt, is devoted to the interpretation of a series of absolute age determinations from Biały Potok by the use of ^{14}C method.

Summarizing comments (emphasizing the importance of research in Biały Potok) can be found in Chapter 23 (*Prehistoric Settlement in Biały Potok in the Light of Józef Kostrzewski's Investigations*) by Marzena Szmyt.

Przemysław Makarowicz, Jan Romaniszyn, Rafał Skrzyniecki and Robert Staniuk share their impressions (partially sentimental) after their visit to Biały Potok in 2012. The text is enriched with photographs of genre scenes and monuments from this village. All details are in chapter 24 (*Biały Potok 90 Years After*), ending the whole work.

The reviewed book is a well-structured and clearly written work. It is distinguished by rich graphic design. It is part of a series of publications that are not so numerous, which professionally fill up wide gaps in presenting archaeological researchers a set of important sources uncovered a long time ago, which remained in the darkness of museum magazines for a long time due to various historical circumstances.