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A SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AT THE SITE JANÓWEK, DZIERŻONIÓW DISTRICT, INVESTIGATED IN THE YEARS 1961 - 1965

Excavation research in the area of the site Janówek, Dzierżoniów district,\(^1\) hiding a settlement where different cultures had left their traces, was started by the Chair of Poland’s Archaeology of the Wrocław University, in the framework of a research programme, devoted to the problems of the period of primitive community, and more exactly to the research on the Neolithic Age in Lower Silesia.

The Janówek site, known in the pre-war period mostly from surface research and slight sounding works, has not up till now been regularly investigated by systematic excavation, which could have provided a wider view of the size of settlements that had existed here in turn, on the character of their building and on the chronology of settlement traces disclosed by research. German maps, that have persisted in the Wrocław Archaeological Museum at a scale of 1 : 25,000, evidence the mentioned site, and indicate in a quite general way, that traces of settlement of the following periods have been disclosed here: the Neolithic Age, the Bronze Age, Roman influence and the Early Middle Ages.

The mentioned site is situated about 1 km. to the west of the village Janówek, on the north-western edge of a vast loess plain, limited from the west and north by steep slopes, dropping gently towards the river Oleszna. The original very steep slope persisted only on the western side, whereas the northern one became somewhat flattened, owing to soil cultivation and the acting of atmospheric conditions. Nevertheless, the distinct threshold starting the north slope and still existing, marks the northern confines of the settlement’s area, directly confirmed by excavation research (fig. 1).

Excavation was started immediately by the edge of the northern slope, which allowed to determine the settlement’s northern border, and was further continued south by means of a 10 m. wide dug-out, towards a slightly outlined highest point in the elevation’s north-western part,
where the central lot of accumulated settlement layers was expected to be found. The dug-out was made wider to the west at the climax point, in order to have an idea of the planning of buildings over a larger space, and stating whether the territory's highest point was indeed the settlement's centre within the examined site. Steps so far carried out investigated a field of 15 ares, acquiring thus a basis to the following conclusions.

The examined territory displayed traces telling the existence of at least three phases of settlement, which would mean dwellers connected with the southern population group of Funnel Beaker Culture, Unetice Culture and Lusatian Culture which may have dwelt in the mentioned spot in the Vth Bronze Age period and the Hallstatt period. Owing to complete destruction of culture layers caused by agriculture works and the shifting of materials in the level mostly to the northern slope, successive traces of settlement have persisted only in various types of immovable objects, i.e. dwellings (subterrenean and semiterrenean huts) and husbandry accommodation, chiefly, pits, fireplaces, storage and refuse pits. The planning of immovable objects in the investigated territory seems to confirm the presumption concerning the situation of part-
icular elements, and it is the Neolithic settlement that has left most distinct traces of planning. Starting with the northern slope, totally deprived of pits, the number of objects grows in the direction of the culmination, the pits are mostly small and with no determined function. They contained as a rule clear relic material belonging to one of the three above mentioned cultures. Immovable objects with determined functions appeared to be most dense in the top part of the elevation, also the first traces of dwellings, i.e. six subterrenean and semiterrenean Neolithic huts, two semiterrenean huts of Unětice Culture and one semi-terrenean object connected with Lusatian Culture have been disclosed in this part of the dug-out. While the scanty amount of dwelling objects connected with settlement of the Unětice and Lusatian Culture population cannot provide a basis to the reconstruction of a building plan for those settlement phases, the planning of dwellings connected with Funnel Beaker Culture settlement allows to draw the first workman’s conclusions in this matter. Five out of the six discovered subterrenean and semiterrenean. Neolithic huts are distinctly disposed in the design of a wide arc, seeming to mark out the eastern and northern sector of a vast circle. This impression is strengthened by the fact, that all the remaining Neolithic husbandry objects (fireplaces, rubbish pits) occur either outside the arc marking the line of dwellings, or between the particular objects and never quite inside the arc. Thus, the free space within it may be considered to have been a courtyard void of dwellings and husbandry buildings. The so far investigated area of 6 ares inside the arc, contained only objects connected with Unětice Culture settlement, and one Lusatian Culture dwelling. It is therefore not excluded that the oldest settlement phase will be here a group of buildings planned in the form of a circle (or perhaps an oval)?

Another curious observation is a striking lack of disruption in Neolithic objects caused by later settlement in the same spot. The persisting of Neolithic pits not being destroyed by Lusatian objects can be explained by the latter’s small number. The density, however, of objects belonging to Unětice Culture, occurring in groups fitted right between concentrations of Neolithic pits, suggests, that at the time of laying a settlement by the population of Unětice Culture, there must have existed here traces of an earlier settlement, clearly avoided by the newcomers. We have till now discovered only one case of a Neolithic dwelling being stamped out by a storage pit of Unětice Culture. This fact might indicate that only a short time had elapsed between the event of Funnel Beaker Culture population abandoning this settlement and the coming of a Unětice Culture population.

Among the 37 immovable objects connected with the Funnel Beaker
Culture population, six dwelling objects deserve special attention. Among pits, which are remainders of dwellings, two basic types can be distinguished: smaller ones, the ground plan of which reminds us the figure 8, and much larger ones, in the form of an elongated rectangle. The largest dwelling remainder, which is an exception, has a quite irregular shape. The dimensions of the smaller objects, similar to figure 8 were (in meters): $2.80 \times 1.90 \times 0.90$ (pit No. 40), $3.20 \times 2.00 \times 0.95$ (pit No. 61), $2.90 \times 2.00 \times 0.65$ (pit No. 58). The figure 8 — shape of that type of dwelling objects resulted from a need of dividing the pit into two distinct parts, which were: the main living space and the separate pit used as fireplace, much smaller and sometimes dug in deeper. The dimensions of bigger, rectangular or irregular shaped (pit No 83) objects were: $5.50 \times 2.33 \times 0.74$ (pit No. 68), $5.50 \times 3.00 \times 0.58$ (pit No. 69a) $7.90 \times 4.50 \times 0.50 - 0.80$ (pit No. 83). All these objects also had fireplaces either dug into pits bottoms, or placed on a small threshold. We do not, on the other hand, possess till now any traces showing the character of roof constructions.

Relic material acquired from dwellings as well as from husbandry objects (fireplaces and rubbish pits) is first of all pottery, represented by low, wide-necked funnel beakers, typical for the Moravian-High Silesian population group (fig. 2 : 1; fig. 3 : 1, 2), amphora-shaped vessels, much differentiated in size (fig. 2 : 4), egg-shaped vessels with thickened top rim (fig. 2 : 2; fig. 3 : 5 - 8), and much resembling the latter but far larger storage vessels (fig 3 : 4). Plastic motives in the form of various knobs and slats dominate in ornamentation (they are either vertical, disposed in groups and always notched across, or they take on the form of the letter V upside down, or U in a single or double system, etc.). Concave motives are most often finger impressions, vertical stamps and stalks, the impression of a three-fold rope and vertical zig-zags running along the higher portion of belly. On the other hand there is a striking scarcity of flint tools, of which only a few have been found, they are wood-scrapers and so-called spicates with strongly polished scraping edges. There are many more tools in horn and bone such as chisels, awls and one specimen of flat hoe provided with orifice. Husbandry activity of the population under discussion is determined by many finds of corn grain and animals bones, among which dominates bones of cattle, outnumbering those of swine, sheep and horse. Findings of fish vertebrae and very many freshwater mussels' shells (fireplace in pit No. 40) prove the exploitation of inland waters.

The materials acquired, first of all ceramics, allow to draw first conclusions concerning the chronology of the Neolithic settlement. On the background of the immense material, which should no doubt be
Fig. 2. Janówek, Dzierżoniów district. Pottery from Neolithic objects. (Phot. A. Szczodrak)

1-3: pit 82; 4: pit 48a; 5: pit 83; 6: pit 58b; 7: pit 61b; 8: pit 63; 9-10: pit 58a
Fig. 3. Janówek, Dzierżoniów district. Pottery from Neolithic objects. (Drawn by A. Poznańska)

1: pit 61a; 2: pit 81; 3: pit 58a; 4: pit 82; 5: pit 77; 6: pit 48a; 7: pit 63; 8: pit 83; 9: over pit 11; 10: pit 58b
connected with the southern group of Funnel Beaker Culture population, certain elements which cannot be ranged into the above, stand out distinctly and may constitute in our case an important chronological indice. They are ornamental motives, peculiar to the most recent of southern cultures, namely Radial Pottery Culture in its oldest development phase — Boleraz phase (fig. 2: 9; fig. 3: 9) and some ornamental motives typical for the Luboń phase of the eastern group of Funnel Beaker Culture i.e. the impression of a three-fold rope (fig. 2: 6 - 8; fig. 3: 10). Research so far carried out (over an area of about 15 ares) stated no traces telling the existence of a many-phase Neolithic settlement in the examined site. Neolithic pits are not seen to push into one another, we do not either find any immovable objects, the cultural content of which might indicate connection with a separate settlement phase, represented by one of the cultures confirmed by elements occurring in the examined site. On the other hand very close connections between the latest stage of Funnel Beaker Culture and the earliest phase of Radial Pottery Culture, has been many times stressed. Taking also into account the fact of ornamental motives that had been borrowed from the eastern group of Funnel Beaker Culture in its Luboń phase, appearing far to the south, and certain connections that can be noticed between the late Luboń phase and Radial Pottery Culture in Cuyavia, it would seem that the staying of a Neolithic population in this territory, should be considered to fall to the period of the Boleraz phase of Radial Pottery Culture spreading in the southern regions (Slovakia, Moravia) and the Luboń phase of the eastern group of Funnel Beaker Culture prevailing then in Great Poland and Cuyavia.

34 objects connected with the Unětice Culture population have been so far discovered. They are mostly husbandry pits (the function of which is often difficult to determine), but two of them are probably remainders of dwellings. Their ground plan has an approximately rectangular shape with following dimensions: 2.50 × 2.00 × 0.60 (pit No. 24), 3.00 × × 2.40 × 0.35 - 0.75 (pit No. 64). Within one of the objects (pit. No. 64), a fireplace dug in more deeply had been found in its north-western corner. The second conjectured dwelling object had no fireplace, but the latter appeared to have been close by. Relics material acquired in the remainders of the Unětice Culture is, similarly as in the Neolithic pits, mostly pottery, in which all this culture's leading forms can be distinguished. These are: sharply profiled tumblers, with low placed bend (fig. 4: 5 - 6), single-handed jugs (fig. 4: 4), egg-shaped vessels provided with knobs placed at the outset of neck (fig. 4: 3), pot-shaped vessels with flat lug instead of handle, flat plates, big storage vessels with roughed belly and smoothed neck, also vase-like vessels with puffed belly
Fig. 4. Janówek, Dzierżoniów district. Pottery and tools of Unětice Culture.
(Drawn by A. Poznańska, W. Wojciechowski)
1, 2, 8: pit 88; 3: pit 10; 4: pit 10 (vault); 5: over pit 4; 6: pit 87; 7: pit 51; 9: arable layer; 10: over pit 4; 11: on virgin soil's level next to pit 24; 12: pit 28; 13: pit 24
and strongly everted rim (fig. 4: 1), finally sieving vessels (fig. 4: 8). Tris pottery is characteristic for its perfectly smoothed surface, if however, rough portions were needed they were achieved by finger impression or by means of a hard brush (fig. 4: 1). Ornamentation is here very scarce. Besides pottery we find numerous tools in bone and horn, such as chisels and awls, one large pin ornamented by transversal notches (fig. 4: 12) and a fragment of horn poll. Metal products in bronze are two fragments of small, flat axes (fig. 4: 9-10), fragments of pins (fig. 4: 11), spiral earring, made of wire with round cross section and a billet made probably in raw bronze. Most prominent materials, determining the economic bases of the population living in the settlement are animals' bones, mostly cattle and swine, also sheep, goat, horse and dog, also a large number of freshwater mussels' shells, which are a proof of foraging. We have on the other hand, no direct confirmation of corn growing, which could be proved by finds of grain, although its treatment can be attested by the discovery of much worn, trough-like, hand grinding stones.

Considering the formal features of the ceramics material acquired, the existence of a settlement of Unětice Culture population within the examineted site, should be placed in the middle development phase of this culture, in the so called Unětice Culture proper.
Lusatian Culture settlement is proved by the presence of six immovable objects, only one of which is a remainder of dwelling (pit. No. 86), as can be concluded on the basis of its size and fireplace fitted within. Its outline on virgin soil’s level was approximate to a square with dimensions: 4.40 × 4.35, and 0.78 deep. Its section had the shape of a deep kneading trough. The functions of the remaining pits have not been possible to determine. The pottery material acquired (fig. 5) indicates that the Lusatian Culture population’s settlement should belong chronologically to the (IVth/Vth period of the Bronze Age).

NOTES


2 Cf. Wojciechowski, Badania wykopalskowe kultury pucharów lejowatych i osady kultury unietyckiej... [Excavation Research in Settlements of Funnel Beaker and Unetice Culture...]. The plan of dug-out of 1964.

3 The description of osteologic remainders has been achieved by Professor K. Myczkowski from the High Agriculture School in Wrocław.


5 K. Jaźdżewski, Kultura pucharów lejowatych w Polsce zachodniej i środkowej [Funnel Beaker Culture in West and Central Poland], Poznań 1936, p. 249.

6 L. Gabalówna, Sprawozdanie z prac wykopalskich w osadach kultury pucharów lejowatych w Radziejowie Kujawskim i Opatowicach, pow. Radziejów Kujawski w 1958 r. [Report on Excavation Works Carried out in Settlements of Funnel Beaker Culture at Radziejów Kujawski and Opatowice, Radziejów Kuj-
ide m, Archaeological Investigations at Radziejów Kujawski, "Archaeologia Polo-

7 The description of osteologic remainders acquired in the pits of Unětice
Culture has been achieved by Professor K. Myczkowski from the High Agricultural
School in Wrocław.

8 Jan Filip, Pradzieje Czechosłowacji [Czechoslovakia's Prehistory], Poznań
1951, pp. 212 - 218.