

BOOK REVIEWS

Aleksander Koško (ed.), *Baltic-Pontic Studies*. Poznań.

Vol. 1 (1993) *Weapons of the tribes of the north Pontic zone in the 16th to 10th centuries B.C.*, 89 pp, 41 plates, 4 maps.

Vol. 2 (1994) *Nomadism and pastoralism of Baltic-Pontic early agrarian cultures: 5000 to 1650 B.C.* 244 pages, many figs and maps.

Vol. 3 (1995) *Cemeteries of the Sofievka type: 2950 to 2750 B.C.* 276 pages, many figs and maps.

Vol. 4 (1996) *Eastern exodus of the Globular Amphora people: 2950 to 2350 B.C.* 169 pages, many figs and maps.

Reviewed by P.M. Barford

As every Polish schoolchild knows, the geographical centre of Europe lies in Poland, Polish archaeology is therefore ideally placed – geographically at least – to mediate between eastern and western European traditions of archaeology. Indeed throughout prehistory from the early Bronze Age we observe a shifting but persistent dividing line running from the Carpathians to the Baltic distinguishing a western area of the North European Plain having cultural affinities with western Europe, from the area which has closer affinities with eastern Europe. This handsome series of publications ideally illustrates this special quality of Polish archaeology, and is a welcome addition to the existing literature on the Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures of central and eastern Europe. These four collective works published in English, with their distinctive black covers and pleasant layout, incorporate a lot of new and valuable material in a specific framework and presents it in a manner which makes it especially valuable for European archaeology as a whole. A particularly valuable approach is the attention paid in the series to “cultural and chronological hygiene” attempting a closer analysis of cultural phenomena using new data, methods and concepts.

The whole project stems from Polish-Ukrainian co-operation between two institutes, the Eastern Institute of the Institute of Prehistory of Poznań University and the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, and is financed largely by a grant from the Polish Committee of Scientific Investigations. The project also has roots in earlier co-operation between the editor, Professor Aleksander Koško with the University of Los Angeles and the *Journal of Indo-European Studies*. The main subject of interest of the publication series are the interactions between the area of modern Poland and the steppe and forest steppe areas of the Ukraine in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages, though the avowed aim is a little wider and includes somewhat larger areas. The preface to the first volume characterises the period of interest as the “pre-ethnic period” which is not however clearly defined (the editor informs me however that the intention was that the publications would concentrate on the pre-Cimmerian period).

The series is particularly remarkable in the Polish literature for the unqualified use it makes of calibrated ¹⁴C dates, a rare feature in most previous Polish studies of the Bronze Age at least. Here for the first time we have reliable chronological data presented in a manner which helps us to understand cultural processes, and not as was usual in the "traditional archaeology", the interpretation of cultural processes being used as elements in the dating.

The first volume in the series is a monographic treatment by Viktor Kłochko of Kiev of the weapons of the groups inhabiting the area of modern Ukraine in the Bronze Age (16th to 10th centuries BC). Some of these items have been presented in the English language literature, such as the survey of Gimbutas, but now we see them in context. The items are discussed primarily as archaeological types in context of archaeological cultures, though not entirely in their social context, as items of display and prestige; exchange is seen as subservient to the model of population movements. Chronology is based on the traditional scheme of typological analogies and back-reference to the chronological stages defined in central Europe. Cross-cultural links are also discussed, particularly interesting are some metalwork imports which show contacts between the Bronze Age steppe and forest steppe folk and their neighbours, several north Pontic hoards containing metalwork of Mediterranean origin. The transition from BD-HaA2 is marked by the appearance in this area of a number of central European metalwork types, for example the Belsk stronghold in the Dniepr valley near Kharkov produced a bronze sword of central European Reutlingen type, some eastern European metal mould fragments show that some of these items were locally produced. Conversely some items of metalwork from the north shores of the Black Sea found in the eastern Mediterranean are shown in their context. Kłochko links them with the twelfth century invasions of the "Sea Peoples". The end of the Bronze Age in the Pontic area was marked not only by the disappearance of bronze as the main material for weapons and "instruments of labour" and its replacement with iron (according to Kłochko the beginning of the Iron Age in the steppe zone dates to the 10th century BC and the ninth century BC in the forest steppe), but also changes in fighting techniques as fighting from horseback using new weapons such as short compound bows, short thrusting swords and large iron spearheads, armaments typical of the later Scythian times.

The second volume considers the origins and nature of nomadic pastoralism in the Neolithic, and the potential role of nomadic pastoralists "in the cultural-ethnic transformation of the European continent" (*i.e.*, with respect to the Indo-European problem). The resulting series of texts has thus more than local significance. In the introductory article by A. Koško and V. Kłochko, the simplistic picture of a unilinear development of the lifestyle of horse-borne nomads amongst the steppe groups is questioned and the need for new models is stated. The problems discussed in the second article include the relationship between changes within the Tripolye culture and the introduction of a productive economy in the steppe zone. In a following article Yuriy Y. Rassamakin summarises a vast amount of published and unpublished material to give a summary of recent thought on cultural divisions and development 4500 BC to 2450 BC (pre-Yamnaya and Yamnaya cultures). Several previously-used cultural terms are redefined, the 'Sredny Stog culture' is divided into four local cultures. The discussion considers socio-economic, ecological and demographic factors in social development. The rise of a nomadic cattle-breeding economy is seen as arising in the Yamnaya Culture. Earlier folk movement is seen as a result of first population pressure due to demographic expansion, but also with contacts with the Balkan and Carpathian metalwork complex to the west. Later with climatic deterioration, a mobile cattle breeding culture develops after about 4000 BC. Sławomir Kadrow in his contribution considers the converse change from a nomadic to settled agrarian culture (Corded Ware to Mierzanowice Culture). This article is extremely interesting for its systemic approach and use of the ¹⁴C dates. Sergey Pustovalov's article gives a very useful summary of the archaeology of the forest steppe pastoral populations 2750–2000 BC (Catacomb Culture) from the point of view of their economy and social organization. The article contains a series of useful illustrations of material culture, including a series

of metalworkers' graves. The environment and palaeodemography are reconstructed, and the discussion follows lines familiar from Marxist archaeology of the Soviet period (and – oddly for such a volume – the boundaries of ecological zones on the figure on page 116 break off – in a manner familiar from publications of the former political era – just beyond the border of the former Soviet Union which is thus seen as a self-contained unit devoid of exterior context). The final three articles are by Victor Kłochko. The first considers the metallurgy of the forest steppe zone in the period 4500–2350 BC, beginning with the earliest Ukrainian metalwork, in the Tripolye culture which was strongly influenced by the Carpathian basin, the introduction of arsenous and tin bronzes was followed by a period of dominance of tin bronze in the metalwork of the Catacomb Culture. The second article considers the weaponry of the pastoral societies in the steppe and forest steppe zones in the period 5000–2350 BC, and in the third (written with S. Pustovalov) he considers the warfare of societies in the same area in the period 2750–2000 BC (Catacomb Culture).

Volume three considers the Sofievka type of cemeteries, a series of Late Tripolye Culture (3rd millennium BC) flat cremation cemeteries in a relatively restricted area near Kiev. This volume differs from the previous one in being mainly a presentation of sources, since much of the material – some of it from excavations over half a century ago is still little known. The problem is summarised and defined in the two introductory articles by Mihailo Videiko, this is followed by a summary of the dating, including the ^{14}C evidence. Janusz Budziszewski's dynamic analysis of the flintwork from the cemeteries is an interesting application to material from other countries of methods developed in Poland. The petrography of the stone items is discussed, as is the technology of the pottery and an analysis of the metalwork and some (Anatolian?) glass beads from the eponymous site. The volume closes with a discussion of the earliest evidence for cremation burials in Europe, against which the origin of the Sofievka graves is anomalous.

The fourth volume considers the eastern extent of the Globular Amphora Culture. Again the influence of calibration of ^{14}C dating is especially obvious. The volume begins with a useful short summary (by Marzena Szmyt) of the main characteristics of the Globular Amphora Culture, with the aim of setting a programme for future research. The article summarises the dating of the GAC compared with other contemporary cultures. Here the eastern GAC is dated to about 2900 to 2380, while there are earlier ^{14}C dates from the western part of the GAC range, beginning perhaps about 3200 BC. This introductory article attempts a preliminary internal chronological-spatial division of GAC. The volume also includes the presentation of a series of sources, mostly graves of the Globular Amphora Culture from southeastern Poland and the Ukraine. There is also the first account of GAC materials from Belarus, and a ritual site with GAC affinities from near Smolensk. There is also an analysis (S. Kadrow and M. Szmyt) of ^{14}C dates of GAC contexts, and studies of the early GAC elements in the late eneolithic of the northern Black Sea regions (Y. Rassamakin) being a study of the central European influences on the Zhivotilovka-Volchansk type of graves of the period just after 3000 BC [?]. A second study considers the influence of GAC on the Bronze Age of the middle Dniepr area (I. Serdyukova) – mainly based on a study of the ceramics.

A fifth volume is in production – devoted to the Trzciniec Culture in which it is presented as an intercultural process. Further volumes will develop the western aspects of the developments of the nomadic way of life (*e.g.*, Corded Ware), and a collection of all the radiocarbon dates from central and eastern Europe which are relevant to the problems considered in the series, and contrasting the new results with the traditional schemes.

The creation of this series is to be welcomed as it not only presents new material and ideas in a coherent framework, but also brings a range of materials to the attention of the western European (English-speaking) prehistorian who was previously not able to use the publications written in Polish and Russian. This publication series suffers one minor drawback from the latter point of view, in that the papers are primarily orientated towards the problems of the "Kurgan model" of the spread of the

Indo-European languages. This in itself is perhaps no bad thing (whether or not such an interpretation of the evidence is accepted). It does mean however that it is unlikely that other problems not directly related to this theory, such as the genesis and character of Tripolye will probably not be discussed in the scope of these volumes.

Ljudmila V. Pekarskaja and Daffydd Kidd, *Der Silberschatz von Martynovka (Ukraina) aus dem 6. und 7. Jahrhundert*. Edited by Falko Daim, with additional articles by Michael Cowell, Istvan Erdelyi, Janet Lang, Marlia Mundell Mango, Nigel Meeks, Oleg M. Prichodnjuk, Innsbruck 1994, 175 pp., 57 + 3 tables, 8 figs in text: in the series *Monografien zur Frühgeschichte und Mittelalterarchäologie*, vol. 1.

Reviewed by Helena Zoll-Adamikowa

Falko Daim a number of years ago initiated the successive publication of material related to the history and culture of the Avars, as well as the Euroasian steppe folk (such as the series *Awarenforschung*, or the monumental work Cs. Balint 1989), containing material of basic meaning for studying the relationship for the examination of early Medieval cultural relationships over wide areas of central and eastern Europe. The latest work which has appeared due to his efforts is a catalogue of one of the most important early medieval finds, the so-called treasure from Martynovka in the Ukraine. Since its discovery, probably in 1907, this is the first detailed presentation of this material, presently in two museums in Kiev (State Archaeological Museum and the Pečerska Lavra Treasury) and the British Museum in London. Investigators were more familiar with the items in Kiev, and it was on their basis that various interpretations were constructed (the fullest discussion of the Kievan material was published by Fettich 1937 and Rybakov 1953). The material from London has only in the past 25 years been recognized as part of the same hoard. All of the surviving items which came from this "hoard" were gathered together in the exhibition *Gold der Steppe. Archäologie der Ukraine* organised in 1991 in the Landesmuseum in Schleswig. This exhibition became the occasion for international co-operation on a large scale concerning the full documentation of the "hoard" including metalographic analysis. The result of this work is the book discussed here. The short duration of the exhibition precluded the preparation of drawings of the objects, but a series of superb photographs was prepared of all the items, published at a scale of 1:1, and with details of some ornament at a larger scale.

The main authors represent the State Archaeological Museum in Kiev (Ljudmila V. Pekars'ka [Pekarskaja]) and the British Museum (Daffydd Kidd). The Byzantine vessels and spoon were reported on by M. Mundell Mango from the USA. The Hungarian analogies by I. Erdélyi from the Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the ethnocultural interpretation by O.M. Prichodnjuk of the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The analyses of the metal of the London material were carried-out by J. Lang, N. Meeks and M. Cowell, the material from Kiev was analysed in the laboratories of the State Inspector of Metal Quality in Kiev and CTO laboratories of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. The photographs were the work of H.-H. Möller of Schleswig and I. Kerslake in London. The editorial work and translations of the English, Russian, and Hungarian texts into German were carried-out by Falko Daim of the Institute of Prehistory of the University of Vienna, and the printing was partly financed by the *Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Österreich*.

In the first four chapters (pp. 13–35) the authors, though mainly L.V. Pekarskaja, consider the circumstances of the finding of the "hoard", and then the acquisition by the Kiev museums of different parts of the find from at least four different people. Not all of the circumstances surrounding the find