

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.

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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

are possible to establish today, more than 80 years after the discovery. The first attempts to locate the findspot were made only in the 1950s. The character of the find is also not entirely clear. It is not known whether they came from one or more graves, or whether – which seems to be indicated by oral traditions of local inhabitants, they were a hoard of precious items found in a large silver vessel. The authors also attempt to clarify some of the inconsistencies in the present state of the assemblage and archival materials such as museum inventories. After evacuation to Ufa beyond the Volga during the Second World War, five items did not return to Kiev. The introductory chapters also include information on the previous state of investigation of the material, as well as published views and previous publication of parts of the material. The arrangement of the catalogue is also justified.

In his forward to the volume F. Daim expresses the view that the main value of this publication lies not so much in determining the precise chronological date of deposition of the material, nor in determining the ethnocultural identity of its users, but in presenting a solidly-presented catalogue. This is presented in the next part of the volume (pp. 50–92) and 54 plates (pp. 94–147) which make up 60% of the volume. This contained descriptions of the 116 items or their fragments arranged in four series, according to the chronology of their appearance in the three museum collections, and next according to their inventory numbers. Series I (cat. 1–29), II (nos 30–36), and IV (60–116) are in Kiev and described by L.V. Pekarskaja, series III (nos 37–59) are in the British Museum and described by D. Kidd. The first two plates show all of the items at a reduced scale together according to these series. The rest of the plates are then grouped according to function and typology of the objects. The first objects presented are items of female adornment (fibulae, bracelets, different neck and breast ornaments), after these male ornaments are presented, then weaponry and harness fittings, especially many types of fittings, among them the famous anthropomorphic and zoomorphic plaquettes, buttons and pieces of at least one sword and scabbard. Finally there are Byzantine vessels and spoon and items which cannot be ascribed a function. The catalogue contains a description of the form and decoration of each item, its technique of manufacture and raw material. The dimensions, weight and museum inventory number are given, this is followed by references to the tables and figures. As in most cases of such collaborative works, the different schools of archaeology, as well as the different observative capacities of the authors have to some degree had an effect in the lack of consequence in layout of the descriptions which do not always pay equal attention to the same phenomena. This is especially visible in the case of objects of which there are identical examples in the Kiev and London collections (Cat. 49 and 64, 50 and 80, 52 and 83). Besides this, D. Kidd adds after his description remarks concerning the interpretation of the items, concerning their chronology, function or cultural background, and also citing the places where those items had previously been published. The editor of the volume mentions (page 50 fn 1) that he attempted only to unify these descriptions from a stylistic point of view, but did not interfere with meritorial matters.

Despite these slight imperfections, it is impossible to over-exaggerate the importance of this catalogue of the items from the hoard from Martynovka. Above all this is – so far – the only early medieval archaeological material which has been presented in such detail from the entire area of the former Soviet Union, where publication of source materials was rarely practiced. Above all, this publication could serve as a good example for future catalogues of this type. Overcoming these tendencies and obtaining the agreement of the Kiev institutions for the photographic documentation and publication of these photographs in a publication in a foreign language published outside Ukraine is a major achievement, especially as it concerns the publication of cultural property of particular importance, representative of a certain interregional and interethnic phenomena of the 6th and 7th centuries AD. These phenomena are even named by some investigators cultures of the Martynovka type. Only by the presentation here of the whole group of surviving finds, and not just selected items, will it be possible to utilise the full spectrum of types appearing here for further stages of a synthetic analytical study.

In the reviewed book, apart from the sections mentioned above, there are also included certain other articles and illustrations which are intended to supply additional material to aid understanding of particular items of the hoard or their context. Primarily this concerns a series of metallographic analyses; the series of analyses conducted in London are presented separately (pp. 43–47), this concerns material used for soldering (J. Lang) and for the decoration of sword fittings and strapends (N. Meeks), as well as summary results of XRF quantitative analyses of all the objects in London, and 18 AAS analyses (M. Cowell). The surface analyses by XRF show a slight enrichment of the silver on some items compared to the other method. Three main groups of silver were isolated, two of these with low silver content (<75%) and a large quantity of copper were used for manufacture of cast objects (they were differentiated by a quantity of zinc (<10%) in one group). The third type of material was high quality silver (>95% silver) which was used for sheetwork. The results of the analyses conducted in Kiev are discussed by L. Pekarskaja (pp. 47–49), though her report consists mainly of presenting the names of the authors and institutions where analyses were carried-out, and the methods used (touchstone and XRF). The differences in the percentage of silver revealed by these two methods presented in the tables is only briefly discussed.

The results of the analyses carried out in London and Kiev are, unfortunately, not comparable. This is because the results of the analyses from Kiev are restricted to percentages of silver and do not include the quantities of other elements, not only trace elements such as tin, zinc and lead, but also basic elements in the alloys such as copper and zinc. Apart from this the percentage of silver revealed by surface analysis by XRF is sometimes different for analogous items now kept in Kiev and London. As an example we may cite the hipopotamus plaquette (Cat. 49) which according to the London XRF contained 55–65% silver (AAS 63%), the identical item in Kiev (cat. 64) according to the Kiev XRF analysis contained 83% of silver. A pair of similar strap-fittings (cat. 50 and 80) contained according to the London analyses 70–80% silver (AAS 68%), and in Kiev 83%, while in the case of two buttons (Cat. 52 and 83) the difference is between 55–65% and 92%. The results of the analyses of the hoard from Martynovka suggest that for the results of such specialist analyses to be of use in archaeological analyses, one must be sure that identical (and thus comparable) methods are applied in all cases.

The chapter (pp. 36–42) by M. Mundell Mango discusses the four items of Byzantine silverwork (a bowl, cup, platter fragment and spoon), and analyses the form, decoration, manufacturing techniques and control stamps. She concludes that they are typical Byzantine forms of the 6th and 7th centuries, and suggests that the decoration on two items allows them to be dated more closely, the decoration on the platter is typical of a late sixth century date, and the stamps give a terminus post quem of 565–578.

These parts, closed by the plates form the presentation of the source materials from the Martynovka hoard. The two other items at the end of the volume have a different character. One gets the impression (from the inclusion of plates illustrating material from Castel Trosino and Nocere Umbra and a few items from Germany, Croatia and Romania) that there had originally been intended a third part, considering the western European and Balkan parallels which was not included in the volume. I. Erdélyi discusses in a short essay (pp. 153–161) the Hungarian parallels to the Martynovka objects, this concerns mainly strap-fittings, especially strapends and their engraved ornamentation, and so-called pseudobuckles found at a number of sites in Hungary and Romania. He draws attention to the small number of such items from the Carpathian basin and opposes the use of the term “Martynovka Culture”, because in the case of the Migration and Early Medieval Periods *eine derartige Charakterisierung nicht angebracht ist*. The article however induces a feeling of a superficial presentation of the source material (which is the main aim of the rest of the volume), the article only mentions similar objects, without giving their systematic description. The items figured in the three accompanying plates (numbered 1–3 for this article) are generally poorly-reproduced photographs taken from other published works, while other items mentioned by the author are not illustrated, merely citing their publications (while two examples do not even have that information). If we include the appearance in

the plates of two items (Szelevény and Miava) which do not appear in the text, it would be difficult to treat Erdelyi's essay as being a complete coverage of the topic promised in its title, although it will undoubtedly be a good starting-point for further studies of the topic.

The final article is even more removed from the nature of the rest of the volume. O.M. Prichodnjuk deals with the ethno-cultural interpretation of the Martynovka "hoard". The author begins by attempting to define the function of some of the objects. He reconstructs the spiral loops and spectacle-shaped spirals as fittings for headbands worn by women, and the zoomorphic and anthropomorphic plaquettes as decorations for a male costume (kaftan), while Kidd and Pekarskaja saw them as saddle-mounts or perhaps shield-fittings. He further analyses the distribution, genesis and chronology of different types. Bearing in mind the limitations of the length of the article (pp. 163–173) and time available to write it, this discussion can only be limited to repeating the better-known interpretations and literature, without a possibility of conducting a wider analysis coming to a closer definition of chronological and geographical limits of occurrence of individual elements of the hoard. He concludes that the hoard was deposited at the end of the seventh century. The real value of Prichodnjuk's article is that it is a summary of the other hoards of the forest-steppe zone of the Dniepr region, including that found recently in the forest zone at Trubačevska, which included a zoomorphic plaquette of Martynovka type. One is surprised by the absence from the text and map of the equally rich find of gold and silver items from Malaja Pereščepina, Novye Senžary or Glodosy, interpreted as the remains of the high-ranking graves, but the character of the finds mentioned by the author is not always clear (including Martynovka). Perhaps the reason why these finds were omitted is that they are usually linked with the remains of steppe peoples, or that they also include weapons, which according to Prichodnjuk do not occur in the ten hoards from the forest-steppe zone which he presents (which is not entirely true, as the Koloskovo hoard contains a spearhead, and Martynovka parts of a sword). In any case scientific objectivity would require gathering all the contemporary material from a given area, in order to determine which elements are similar and which differentiate the finds by analysis of the collected material.

On the basis of this incomplete material concerning the hoards and the sporadic finds of strap-fittings of Martynovka type on settlements and cemetery sites of the Penkovka Culture, and also the discovery of one of these hoards (Vil'chovčik) in the occupation layer of a Penkovka Culture settlement, Prichodnjuk comes to the conclusion that the Martynovka hoard and those of similar character, are connected with the Penkovka Culture. The users of this material were, he concludes – drawing on Spicyn's concept of these hoards as *drevnisti Antov* ("Antiquities of the Antes") – the group of Slavs known to the Byzantine written sources as the Antes. Here he forgets the interethnic makeup of the population either inhabiting or moving through the middle Dniepr region and contradicts his own statement (p. 168) *Für heute kann man als gesichert ansehen, daß sich die frühen Gürtelgarnituren nicht als Widersiegelung eines bestimmten Ethnos erweisen*, but they are an expression of a Europe-wide fashion as an indicator of social position and rank of the wearer. One gains the impression that the author in his final conclusion succumbed to the temptation so characteristic for the Russian-language archaeological school of assigning specific artefacts to particular ethnic groups, and in particular – if only there is such a possibility, most willingly assign them to the Slavs. Discussion with such a method of working is pointless.

It remains to note a number of editorial problems, probably resulting from the translation from Russian into German in which the adjectival form of the name of several sites is used instead of the nominative [a typical problem! *translator's note*], and so a site is noted at Zimnovsk (p. 167) or Zimnovskoe (p. 171) instead of Zimne (Russian: Zimno), the settlement at Volosy on the Surskaja Zaboraja (p. 171), instead of Volos'ka (Russian Vološskoe) on the Surskaja Zabora, the cemetery at Lebjaženskoe (p. 171) instead of Lebjaž'je, Romanian Sučava-Șipog (p. 170) instead of Suceava-Șipot. The list of places on the map is given in the order of the Russian alphabet and could have been renumbered in accordance with the latin alphabet in which the work was published.

These critical remarks concern mainly the final two parts of the volume, deliberately separated by the editor from its basic contents, they cannot detract in any way from the significance of this publication of the Martynovka "hoard" or reduce the value of the reviewed work as a whole. Apart from Ljudmyla Pekar'ska and Dafydd Kidd, the authors of this excellent work, the readers' gratitude must also be directed to Falko Daim who undertook the time-consuming and ungrateful work of translating large parts of the text and editorial work. To the Universitätsverlung Wagner of Innsbruck we also should be grateful for an especially carefully produced and attractive book.

*Translated by Paul Barford*

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Egon Wamers, *Die frühmittelalterlichen Lesefunde aus der Lohrstrasse (Baustelle Hilton) in Mainz*. Mainz 1994, 267 pp., 115 figs. in text, appendices. *Mainzer Archäologische Schriften* vol. 1.

**Reviewed by Helena Zoll-Adamikowa**

This volume begins a new series of archaeological monographs, published by the Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Rheinland-Pfalz. It contains a catalogue and analysis of artefacts found by collectors on the spoilheaps of an archaeological site destroyed by redevelopment. In 1981–1982 in the course of the construction of the Hilton hotel near the banks of the Rhine, bulldozers tore through a depth of archaeological stratigraphy from the early and late Middle Ages, and the soil was taken to a landfill site outside the town. Only the discovery in the lower layers of nine well-preserved Late Roman ships caused the end of the unrecorded destruction of this site and systematic excavations were begun, the remains of the ships were removed and conserved and now form a show-piece in the newly-opened ship-museum in Mainz.

Unfortunately, due to the earlier building work and the incomprehensible passivity of those responsible for the preservation of ancient remains, the possibility of recovering information from the layers above the ships was completely lost. Many of the finds were also lost, the spoil heaps were examined only by collectors armed with metal-detectors who only collected the most interesting finds. Due to a careful search lasting almost ten years, Egon Wamers was able to trace 25 private collections of artefacts from this site, catalogue them, and photograph more than 600 artefacts. Most of these are the basis for the reviewed book. This is supplemented by other material (mainly coins) from this site and two others in the town, recovered from antiquity dealers or which by other means reached the museums in Mainz, Trier and Frankfurt.

After a short introduction (p. 1–4) in which the writer describes the construction of the Hilton and the circumstances surrounding the unrecorded destruction of the archaeological stratigraphy, and also the attempts to catalogue the material from the spoilheaps. Here as in the concluding chapter Wamers attempts to characterise the post-Roman history of this part of the town. This area was outside the Roman town, but about 900 AD the fortifications were shifted 25–30 m in the direction of the Rhine. It is thought that there was a road between the waterfront and the town wall, and that the area between the road and wall was divided into narrow parcels containing warehouses, shops and workshops. The building of the Late Carolingian fortifications divided this craftsmens' quarter from the port, transport of goods between the two now had to pass through the town gates and be subject to custom dues.

The catalogue and analysis of the finds (pp. 5–193) is arranged chronologically and by function and typology of the items arranged in a single numbered series within the sites discussed. There are 322 items from the Hilton II site discussed, 42 Carolingian and Ottonian finds from earlier finds from