

Oleksandr Shelekhan*, Oksana Lifantii**, Yuriy Boltryk***, Marcin Ignaczak****

RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL PART OF SEVERYNIVKA HILLFORT (QUADRATS F80, F90, G71, G81)

ABSTRACT

The article deals with excavations in the central part of Severynivka hillfort. In the mentioned area there was found and studied a part of the large multi-layered complex, which is considered as the remains of probable public worship structure. In the complex filling there were revealed numerous finds of wares, including a number of complete tableware and miniature forms, tools, jewelry and weapons. Also there were traced the tracks of rites administering that is recorded by the physical layout of objects in the complex and a female jaw find.

Key words: eastern European forest-steppe, Scythian period, hillfort, sanctuary, objects of worship, ritual practice, Early Iron Age

Research in the central part of the hillfort had lasted for three years. Initially, in 2013 the excavations in the quadrat F80b were laid (Fig. 1). The aim was only to examine the stratigraphic situation in this area. As the handling archaeological objects and the experience of such monuments studies indicated that usually the center of the fortifications remain sterile from cultural layers.

* Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Heroyiv Stalingrada, 254655 Kyiv, Ukraine, e-mail: dr.schultz.1399@gmail.com

** Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Heroyiv Stalingrada, 254655 Kyiv, Ukraine, e-mail: oksanalifantiy@gmail.com

*** Institute of Archaeology, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Heroyiv Stalingrada, 254655 Kyiv, Ukraine, e-mail: boltryk@ukr.net

**** Institute of Archaeology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89D, 61-614 Poznań, Poland, e-mail: ignaczak@amu.edu.pl

However, under the plowing layer there was recorded a chernozem clay large spot, extending on the south-west – north-east line. After the cut to the south to quadrat F80d had been made, it was seen that the object occupies the whole quadrat. Therefore we were certain that the outline of a big structure was recorded. In support of this idea evidenced spot from the fireplace was recorded on quadrat F80b at a depth of 2.0 m from the buried surface. At this stage the excavations were backfilled.

In 2014, aiming to reveal fully the outline of the object there were laid the cuts to the south in quadrat F90b, and to the east in the quadrats G71a, G81a and G71c. Also it was planned to make cuts to the north and west from the excavation of 2013. However, realizing during the works that we are not dealing with an ordinary dwelling, but with a much bigger and more complicated complex, it was decided to limit the disclosure only to mentioned quadrats. Thus, the total area of excavations in the central part of the hillfort amounted to 150 m².

Unfortunately, due to limited resources and an unexpectedly large amount of works, even that task hadn't been accomplished during the season of 2014. Therefore the completion with the general raboutage of the quadrats and complete sketching of vertical and horizontal stratigraphy was conducted only in 2015. As a result there were obtained a horizontal plan of excavated quadrats (Fig. 2) and removed six vertical sections of the complex (Fig. 3-8) that is fully let us to make suggestions about the nature of the discovered complex.

1. STRATIGRAPHIC SITUATION

Initially in the central part of the hillfort there were dugged four downward synchronous (?) ditches (Fig. 2). Ditches axis runs from the north-east to the south-west, parallel to the defense rampart line from the floor-level side. Traces of fortifications rampart above are recorded neither in stratigraphy, nor on the buried surface. The soil removed from the ditches may have been put to the side, but it is also possible that it was used for building fortifications.

Ditch 4 is the deepest (4.25 m from the buried surface) and it has asymmetrically-trapezoidal shape. The width¹ of the flat bottom is 0.8-0.4 m. The width of the ceiling is about 4.5 m. From the north-west side it has gradually declining wall that goes into the rampart-crosspiece between ditches 4 and 3 (Fig. 3). From the south-eastern floor-level side it has more complicated construction. In the quadrat F90b it abruptly

¹ It should be noted that the dimensions are given by the balks, oriented on four corners of the world, while the ditches pass aslant through the north-east – south-west line, which significantly “increase” their parameters.

comes down right from the level of the buried loam. One thing that stands out is the presence of longitudinal groove on the top of the slope (Fig. 3, 8). While in the quadrat G71c the southern slope of the ditch 4 goes in a small platform with the width of two meters (Fig. 4), which is limited from the south by a natural loess roll (Fig. 7).

Ditch 3 in section had an outline, similar to the fourth, but was much smaller. Depth – 3.6-3.8 m from the buried surface, the mouth width was about 3.0 m, slightly rounded bottom (Fig. 3, 6).

Ditch 2 had a semi-circular shape; its size was considerably inferior to the previous two: the depth from the buried surface was 2.40-2.55 m, the ceiling width – 1.7 m (Fig. 3, 6).

Ditch 1 had a semi-circular shape, and was dug out at a depth of 2.4 m from the buried surface too, although it was wider – 1.2-1.8 m (Fig. 5, 6).

The natural soil stratigraphy should be considered separately. From the buried surface to the level of about 0.3 m occurs humus and chernozem layer, which coincides with the plowing layer. During the second half of the 20th century the hillfort area had been actively used for plowing. Here lies natural loamy soil of bright red colour, which smoothly passed in pale yellow loess clay at the level of one meter from the old ground surface. At the level of 3.0 m from the buried surface the loess clay changed into the gray soil layer with dark gray and light gray seams. Actually, the bottom of the ditch 4, the deepest in the central complex, laid precisely in this layer. The control pit with measures 1.0 × 2.0 m, laid in the south-eastern corner of the quadrat F80d, showed that at the level of 5.5 m starts white loess clay layer.

It should be noted that this gray layer is natural and sterile from cultural inclusion. Not being experts in this field, we could note for sure only that the residents of the hillfort, while digging ditches in the central part of the monument, had dug the ice age loess soil and lowered to the formerly fertile interglacial layer [Diedov, Diedov 2014: 516].

Ditches 3 and 4 were filled with layers of redeposited loess clay interspersed with slid down seams from the bottom and walls. Layers homogeneity and almost complete absence of archaeological materials can evidence of purposeful process of ditches backfilling.

Above the backfilled seams there was singled out the so-called **first fireplace horizon** (Fig. 3). At this level (2.9-3.0 m from the buried surface) there were revealed fireplaces 3, 5, 6 and 7, arranged in a row along the natural crosspiece between moats 3 and 4 (Fig. 2). Unfortunately, none of these fireplaces got into vertical ditches. However, they are marked in stratigraphy by a thin **coaly layer 1** (Fig. 3-5, 7). It is distinguished by black colour with abundant charcoal inclusions and daub. Also from this seam derives a significant number of finds.

Fireplace 3 was discovered in quadrat F90b at the level of 2.9 m from the buried surface. Its diameter is 0.5 m; it features by orange fired clay. Above it was a grey lens and a thin layer of gray chernozem with small pieces of charcoal.

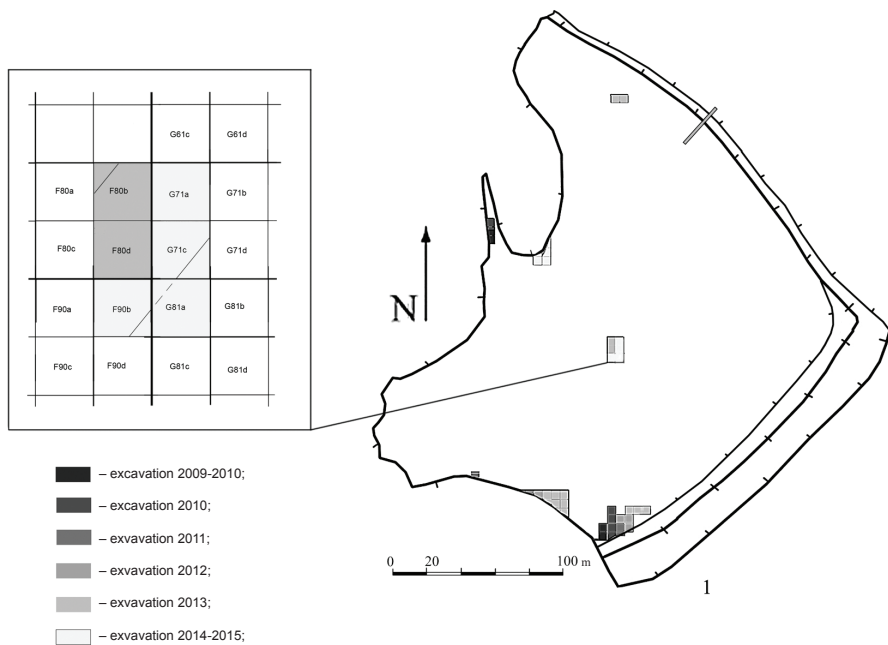


Fig. 1. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Central part of the hillfort research. 1 – works plan; 2 – general view of the quadrats G71ac

Around it were found some fragments of ceramics and burnt bones and stones, probably from this fireplace. A thin layer of chernozem with charcoal above the fireplace 3 may indicate that the probable structure erected over it was burned and fallen down. The collapse of the structure is also indicated by burnt stones scattered around the fireplace 3.

In the quadrat G71a at the level of 3.0 m were recorded two more spots from fireplaces. **Fireplace 5** is represented by a layer of baked clay and a thin ashy layer over it. It was laid in the filling over the ditch 4 in the north-eastern corner of the quadrat G71a. **Fireplace 6** was recorded at the western balk of the quadrat G71a. It was represented only by a small lens of fired coal. **Fireplace 7** was located in the north-western corner of the quadrat G71c, almost exactly under the fireplace 1, which refers to the other coaly layer. It also had a small diameter and height.

Above the first fireplace horizon in the vertical stratigraphy there can be observed a simultaneous (?) backing of ditches with clay to the level of 2.0 m from the buried surface. At this level there was allocated the **second fireplace horizon**, because on the backing were fixated the lenses of fireplaces 1, 2 and 4.

Fireplace 1 is located at the intersection of quadrats F80b, F80d, G71a and G71c. It is represented by a fired clay lens with diameter up to 1.8 m and thickness of up to 0.25 m. It lays directly on the clay ditches 1-4 backing (Fig. 3, 6).

Fireplace 2 is located in the south-western corner of the quadrat F80d. It is represented by a fired clay lens with a diameter of 1.2 m and thickness of 15-20 cm. The lens occurrence is at the 1.9 m level from the buried surface. Directly under the fireplace 2 there are recorded declining seams of old ditches 3 and 4 backfilling (Fig. 2).

Fireplace 4 is recorded at the eastern balk of the quadrat G71c. The spot only hit the corner of the quadrat. It is represented by several seams of fired clay. Its occurrence is at 2.0 m level from the buried surface. However, it should be noted that the fireplace is located not above the ditches backing, but over the natural platform that is adjacent from the south-east to the ditch 4 slope. This fireplace underlays the ashy chernozem layers. There was very high concentration of animal bones on the platform that was not made up in clusters and had no anatomical order.

The relatively strong layer of fired clay in fireplaces 1, 2, 4 indicates that the fire had been burned for a long time. The absence of ash and coaly layers on the lenses of fired clay indicates that the fire deliberately maintained and the fireplaces were periodically cleaned. Additionally, it should be mentioned that the fireplace 4 was overlaid above by the lens of white clay (Fig. 4).

Next to the fireplaces 1 and 2 there were recorded two (?) pits inlet from the horizon of these fireplaces into the backing. They partially re-cut natural crosspieces between ditches. The filling of pits is composed of clay seams and ashy coaly soil, which probably was the fireplaces waste. In addition, there were found interesting and meaningful finds.

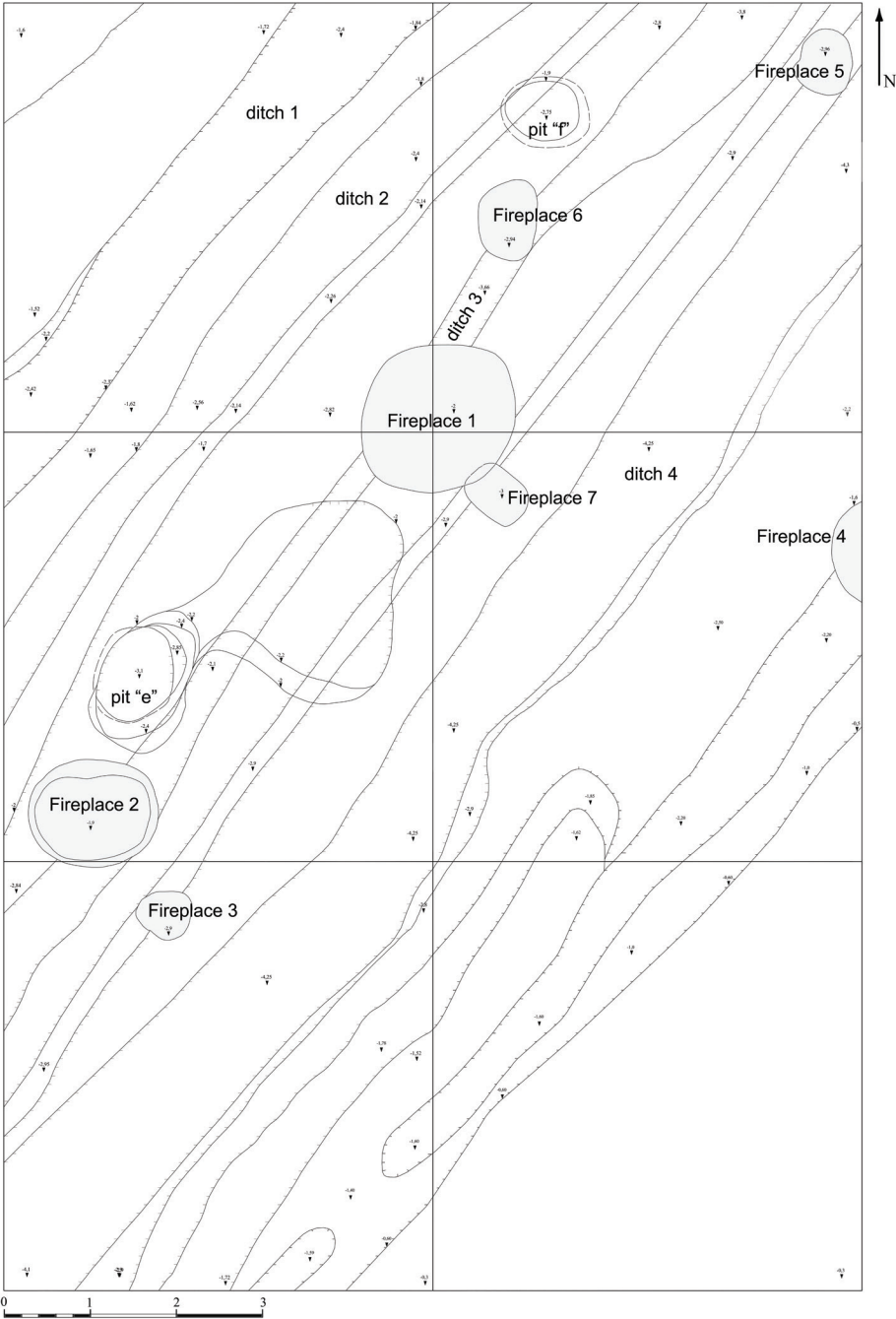


Fig. 2. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Excavation plan of quadrats F80, F90, G71 and G81

Pit “e”² is located in the quadrat F80d. It has irregular shape; initially it was assumed that these are two different pits. The outline of the inlet has a figure-of-eight shape and was recorded at 2.0 m level from the buried surface. However, the steps were carved in the backing at 2.40 and 2.85 m levels from the buried surface slid down only in the south-western sector of the pit. The bottom was recorded at a depth of 3.1 m from the buried surface. From the west at the bottom-level part there was traced a small undercut with width up to 0.1 m.

Pit “f” is located in quadrat G71a. It is bell-shaped; the mouth with a diameter of 0.85 m was recorded at 1.9 m level from the buried surface. The bottom diameter of about a meter was located at 2.75 m level from the buried surface. The walls of the pit were dug in the clay moat 3 backing. The pit was distinguished by dark gray chernozem and ashy filling with clay seams (Fig. 2).

Coaly layer 2 was directly overlying the fireplaces. Its thickness in the central part of the complex was 20-30 cm, but on the natural platform in the area of fireplace 4 it reached 1.4 m. The seam was distinguished by a black colour of soil with abundant inclusions of charcoal and ash, and cultural remains. It is correlated to a second fireplace horizon. It is identical to the coaly layers in the pits. Probably it was formed by the combustion of a large wooden structure, built over the platform with fireplaces 1, 2, 4 and backfilled ditches. It can be also indicated by numerous recorded broken fragments of complete wares, daub with marks of paling, many big bones and other finds in this layer.

Stratigraphy of coaly layer 2 occurrence is rather ambiguous. The most informative is the longest meridional section across the eastern balk of the quadrats F80b-F80d-F90b. It was observed that this layer is limited in the south by the groove in natural slope of ditch 4. From the north it rests against the hollow, which can be interpreted as a posthole that was inlet in the backing layer (Fig. 3).

The second meridional section, recorded on the eastern balk of quadrats G71f-G71c, gave a somewhat different picture. If over ditches a coaly layer 2 lies on the backing layers, in the southern part it lies directly on the natural platform adjacent to the ditch 4 from the south-east, where the fireplace 4 was constructed (Fig. 4).

Thus, given observations suggest that coaly layer 2 was formed due to the burning of a large wooden construction (?), which was built over backfilled ditches. This is also shown by numerous daub fragments with traces of paling and whole forms of wares. There were also recorded numerous finds of animal bones, including fragmented animal skulls or their jaws or horns (dogs, boars, horses, cattle). The construction must have leaned directly on the natural slopes of ditches. It is fixated by longitudinal raffle that was dug on the top of the south-eastern slope of the ditch 4 (Fig. 2, 3). A possible entrance to the building can

² Letter symbols for the names of objects within the complex were provided during preparation of the field description in order to avoid the confusion with other pits on the site. The letters a-d named the ditches 1-4 respectively.

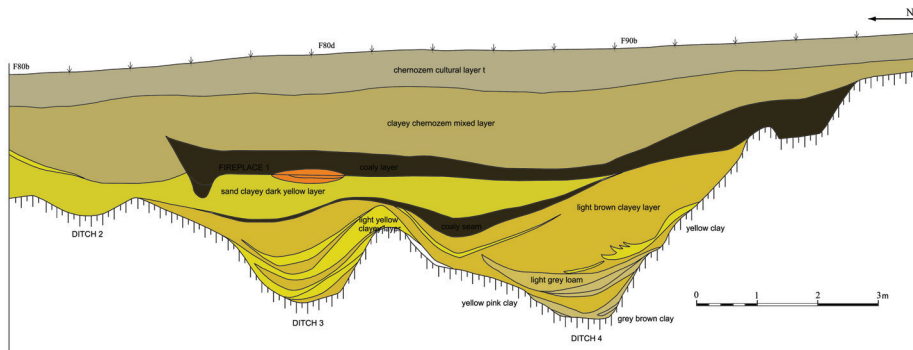


Fig. 3. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The eastern bank of the quadrats F80b-F80d-F90b

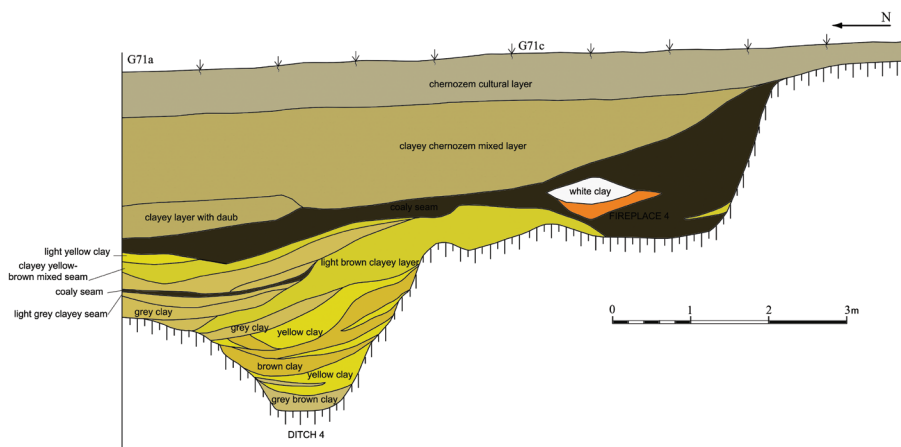


Fig. 4. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The eastern bank of the quadrats G71a-G71c

be considered a traced break in the riffle in the south-eastern corner of the quadrat F90b (Fig. 2).

Further research of this complex may shed the light on the features of its construction. However, today we can with a high probability state that the recorded ditches hadn't got a functional nature. Features of coaly layer 2 filling may indicate that the destroyed building, which "settled" in that layer, was the central public structure of the hillfort, perhaps of religious nature, constructed for public ceremonies. The construction of several simultaneous fireplaces also indicates not

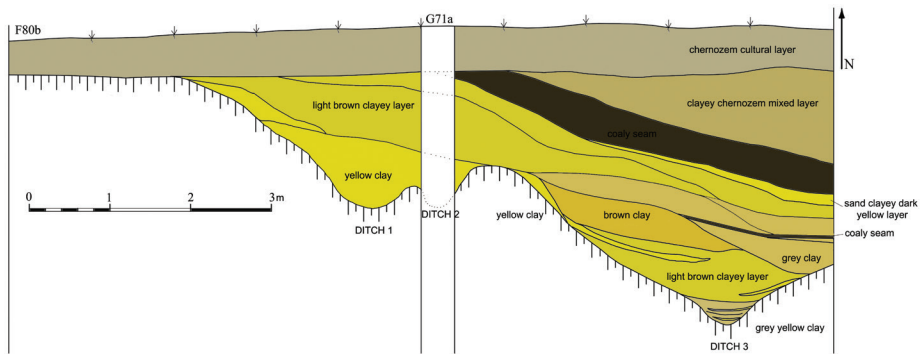


Fig. 5. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The northern bank of the quadrats F80b-G71a

the household role of the building. Additionally, there should be noted numerous finds in the coaly layer 2 of daub pieces with wood prints (sometimes quite large) and fragments of clay pavement (floor?) that indicate the nature of the large stationary building. Above the coaly layer 2 occurs mixed chernozem clay layer, which probably was formed after the destruction of the building (Fig. 3).

2. ARTEFACT ASSEMBLEDGE CHARACTERISTICS

Since the research of the central Complex 1 had given a complicated stratified picture, it is considered to examine archeological materials separately layer by layer.

Ditch 4

In the clay moat 4 backing there was recorded a significant number of disparate finds. Most of them were fragments of pottery. Cookingware was presented with primarily rim fragments. Their absolute majority was decorated with stuck raised border with pricks that were supplemented with stabs (Fig. 10: 1-28). The location of the stuck raised border on the rim and the absence of it on the base of the neck are typical for Scythian horizon [Meliukova 1958: 37]. For comparison, among the materials of Hryhorivka hillfort there were similarly ornamented wares with single raised borders [Smirnova 1983: 60].

In some cases, under the raised border there were applied several dimples made by rod (Fig. 10: 10). Occasionally this pattern occurs in late Chornolis archeological monuments, such as the Kaniv settlement [Bohusevych 1952; Shevchenko

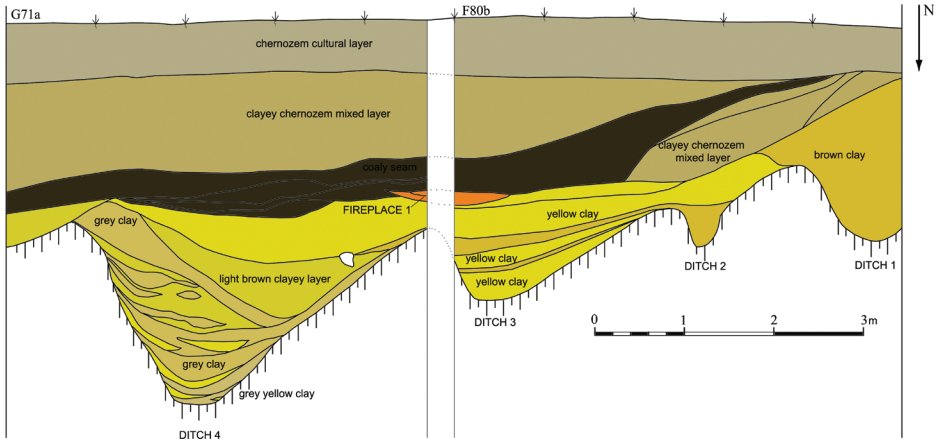


Fig. 6. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The southern bank of the quadrats F80b-G71a

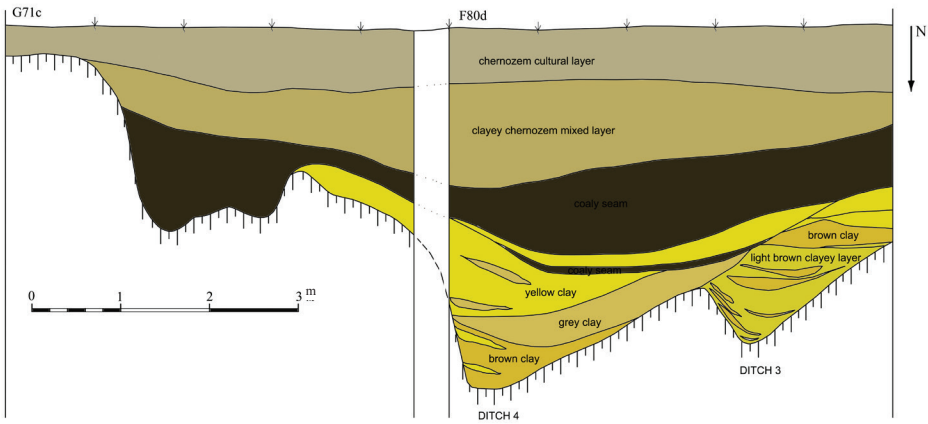


Fig. 7. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The southern bank of the quadrats F80d-G71c

1994: 174]. With rod dimples under rims was decorated a pot from the barrow 15 near Stebliv village, which the authors of the publication attributed to the end of VIII century BC [Klochko, Skoryi 1993: 80, Fig. 5:1]. However, to our opinion, a quiver set and a complex of wares are consistent with Kelermes horizon of sites. Such items are rarely found in Scythian settlements, including the settlement near

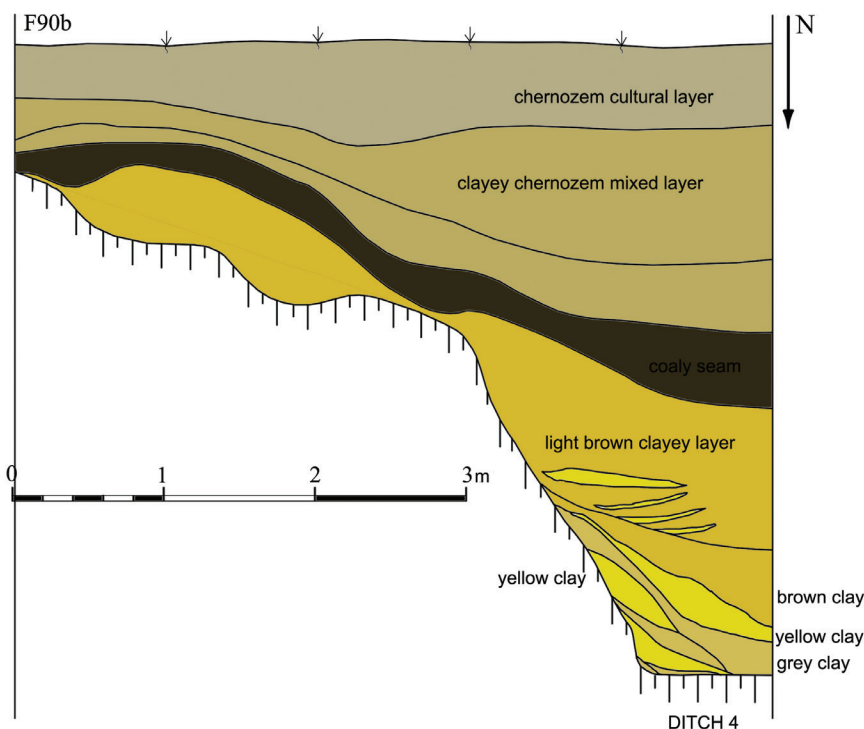


Fig. 8. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The southern bank of the quadrat F90b

Zalissia village [Hanina 1984: Fig. 1: 1], which refers to the second half of VII – first half of VI century BC [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 36]. A significant proportion of materials are pots with prick marks from Motronin settlement [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: Fig. 27-29]. Among the latest examples such items are presented in Khotiv hillfort complexes, which by the ancient imported finds are dated by the middle of VI century BC [Daragan 2005: 260].

There are rare finds of rims without stuck raised borders. They can be ornamented with rod dimples, pricks or stabs on the edge (Fig. 10:33, 34, 38). In some cases, the rims were decorated with taps on the edge with the combination of stabs or pricks on the edge (Fig. 10: 35-37). Such rims are typical for Chornolis Nemyriv hillfort horizon [Smirnova 1998: 104, Fig. 22: 1-4]. But they are also found on Scythian monuments [Meliukova 1958: 37]. They also were recorded in the floor pavement of the worship place that is dated by the middle of VI century BC from the ash lense 13 on the Western Bilsk hillfort [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 24,

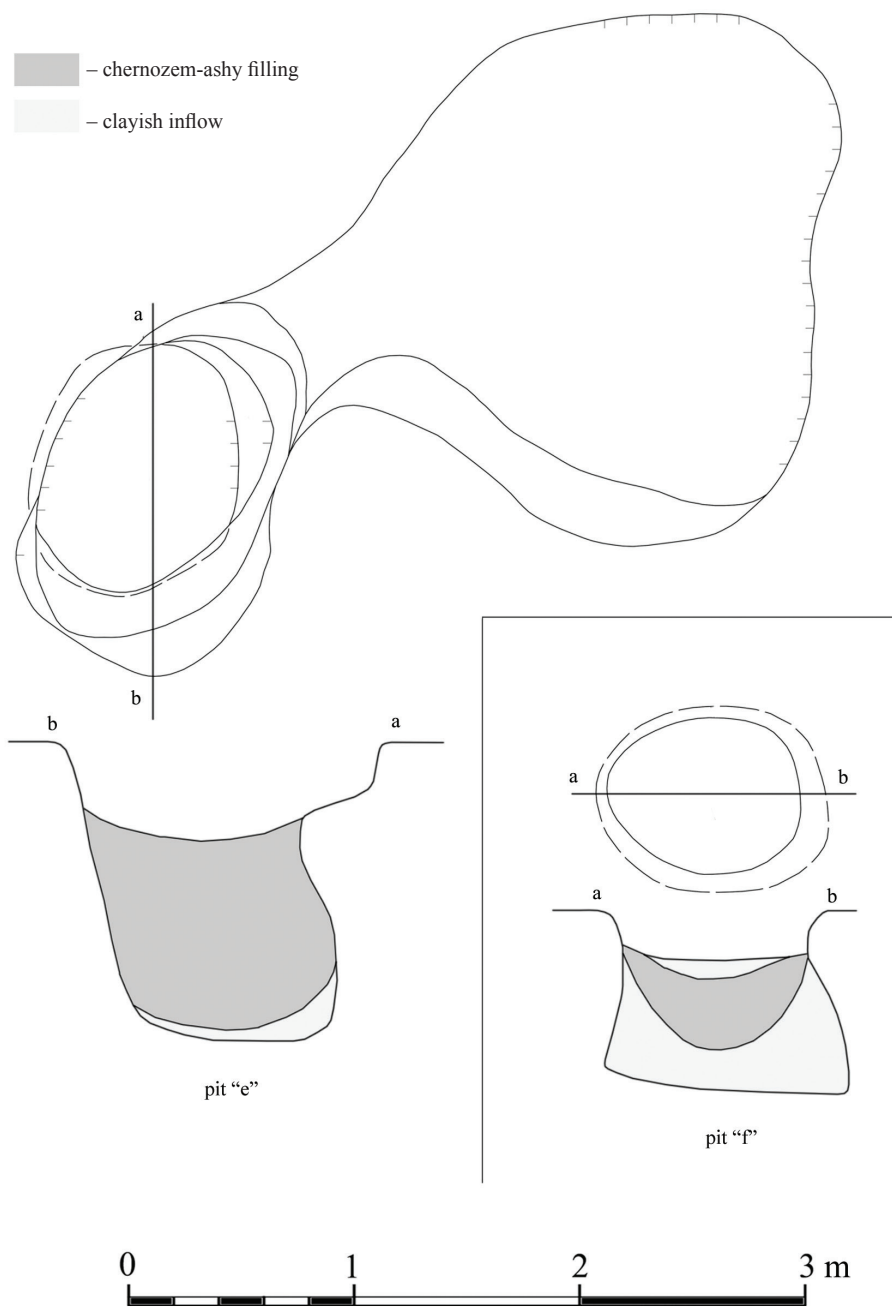


Fig. 9. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Plan with section of complex pits. 1 – pit "e"; 2 – pit "f"

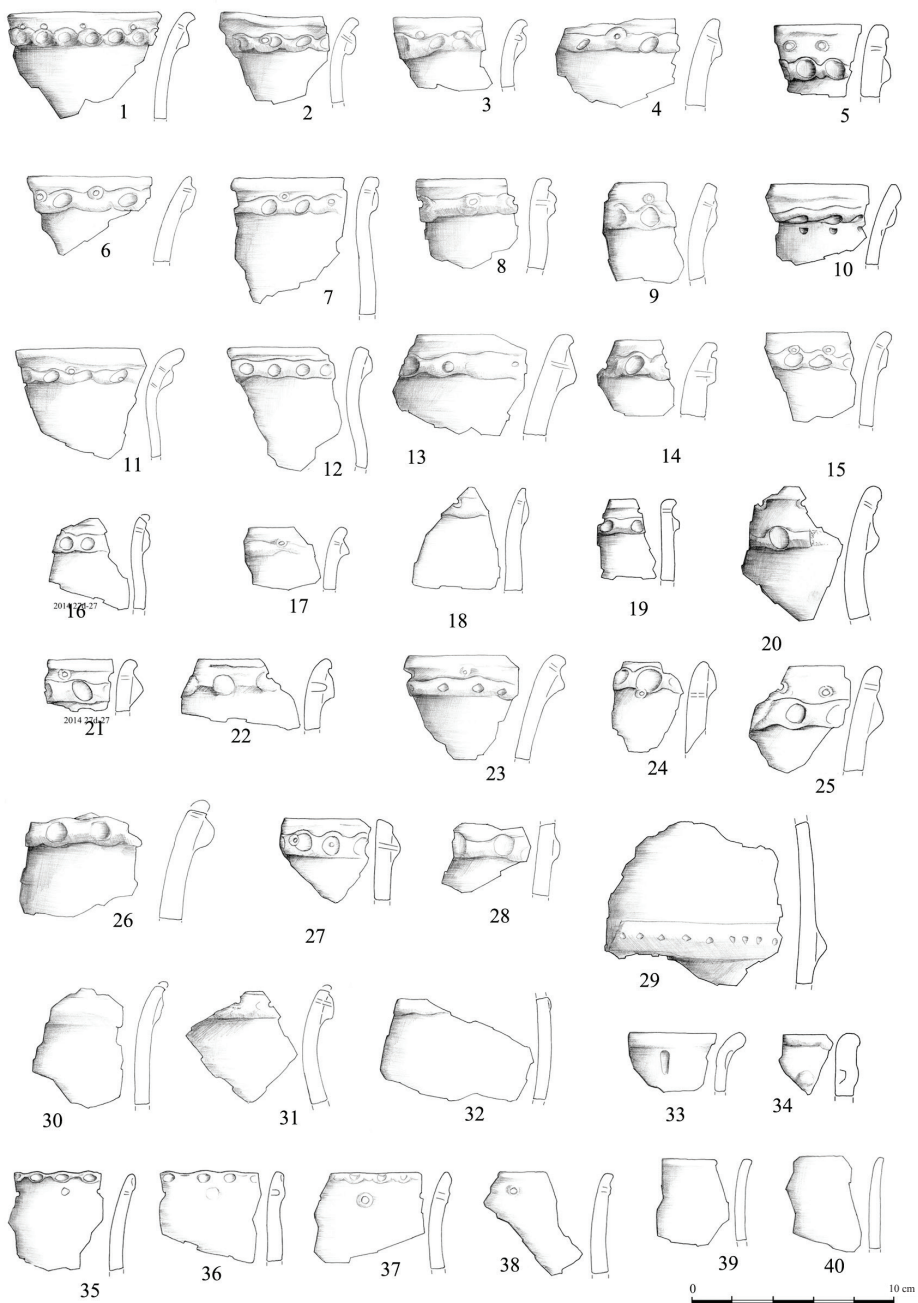


Fig. 10. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Rims and ornamented wall fragments of the ditch 4

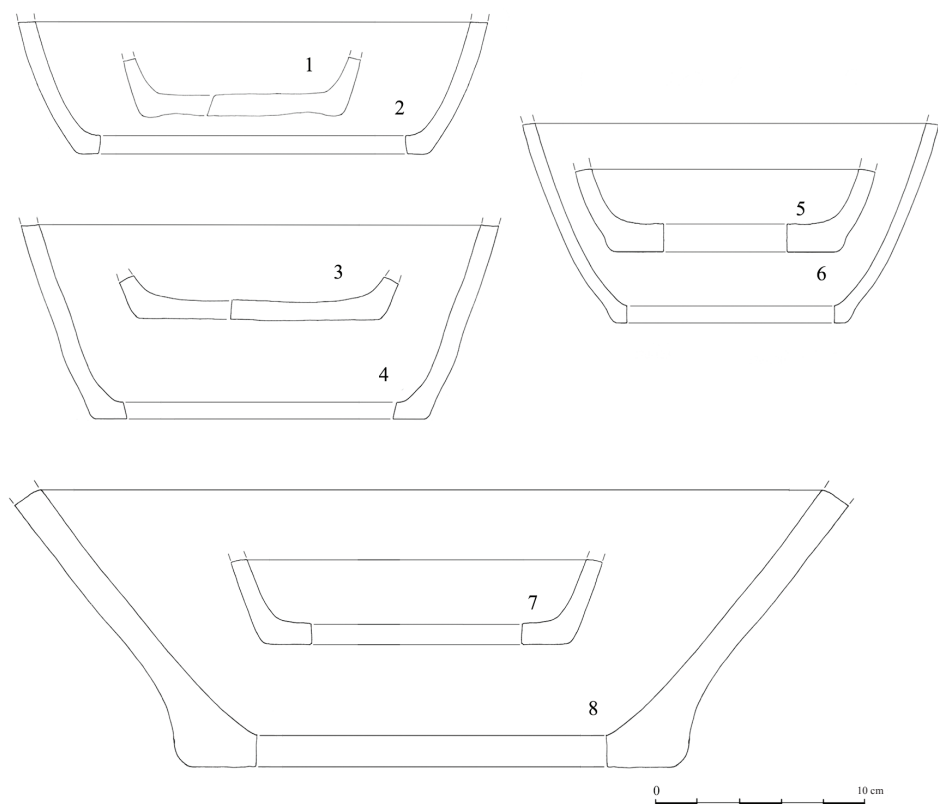


Fig. 11. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bases of pots and tare vessels of the ditch 4

Fig. 12: 5-7]. Pots rims with pricks are recorded in the barrow VI of the late Hallstatt necropolis Trinca-Drumul Feteștilor [Levitski, Kashuba 2009: Fig. 3: 12, 13].

The fragments of pottery walls with stuck raised border are rare. It is notable a fragment of a large vessel, the raised border of which is decorated by a number of small rod dimples (Fig. 10: 29).

The bases of pots provide additional information about the shape of wares (Fig. 11: 1-7). An especially large fragment probably comes from the large pot or cauldron-shaped vessel (Fig. 11: 8).

There are a lot of fragments of lids in the layer. In rare cases, they are decorated with pricks or punctures (Fig. 12: 3, 7). Some items are of thin proportions with a smooth surface and may be associated with tableware examples

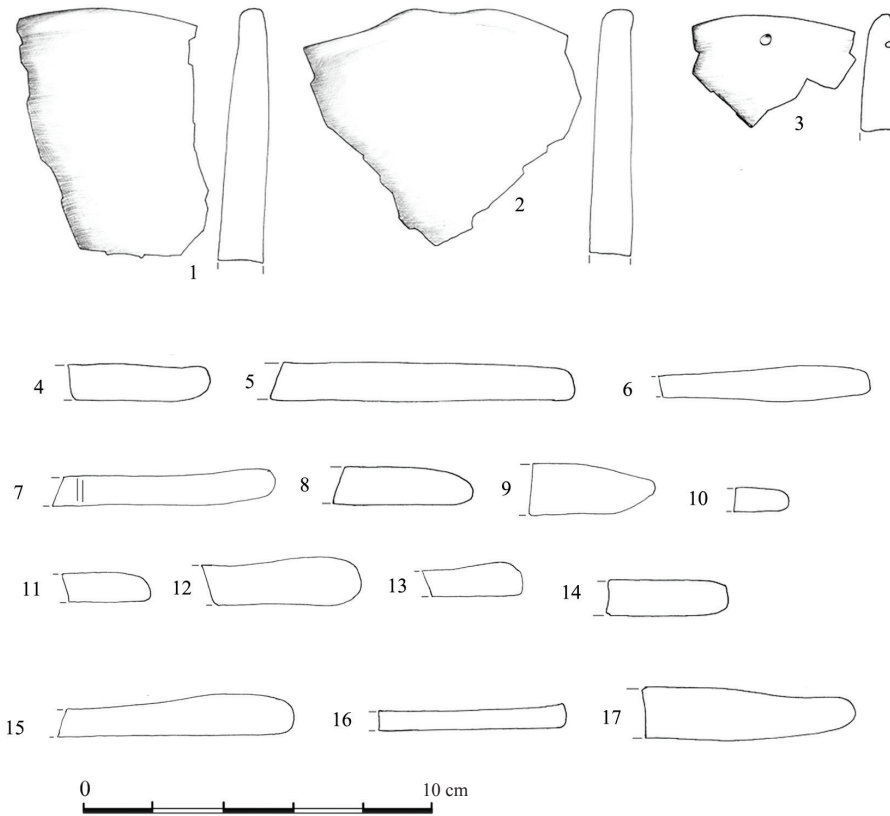


Fig. 12. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of lids of the ditch 4

(Fig. 12:16), the rest are thick, roughly made with large diameter, probably apply to the cookingware utensils. V.L. Lapushnian according to the Şoldăneşti group of monuments noted the inherency of this group of wares only to the cookingware utensils and their absence among sepulchral equipment [Lapushnian 1979: 81].

The bowls are presented by typical forms. These are mostly items of trapezoidal profile with rounded or pronounced inflection the rim bevel, ornamented with pricks and pearls on the outside (Fig. 13: 1-4).

On one rim fragment there was traced plastic ornament in the shape of oblique projections (Fig. 13: 6). Such decoration is typical for antiquities of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 110]. A number of representative samples were recorded on the site in the north-western part of the hillfort. Whereas, we should

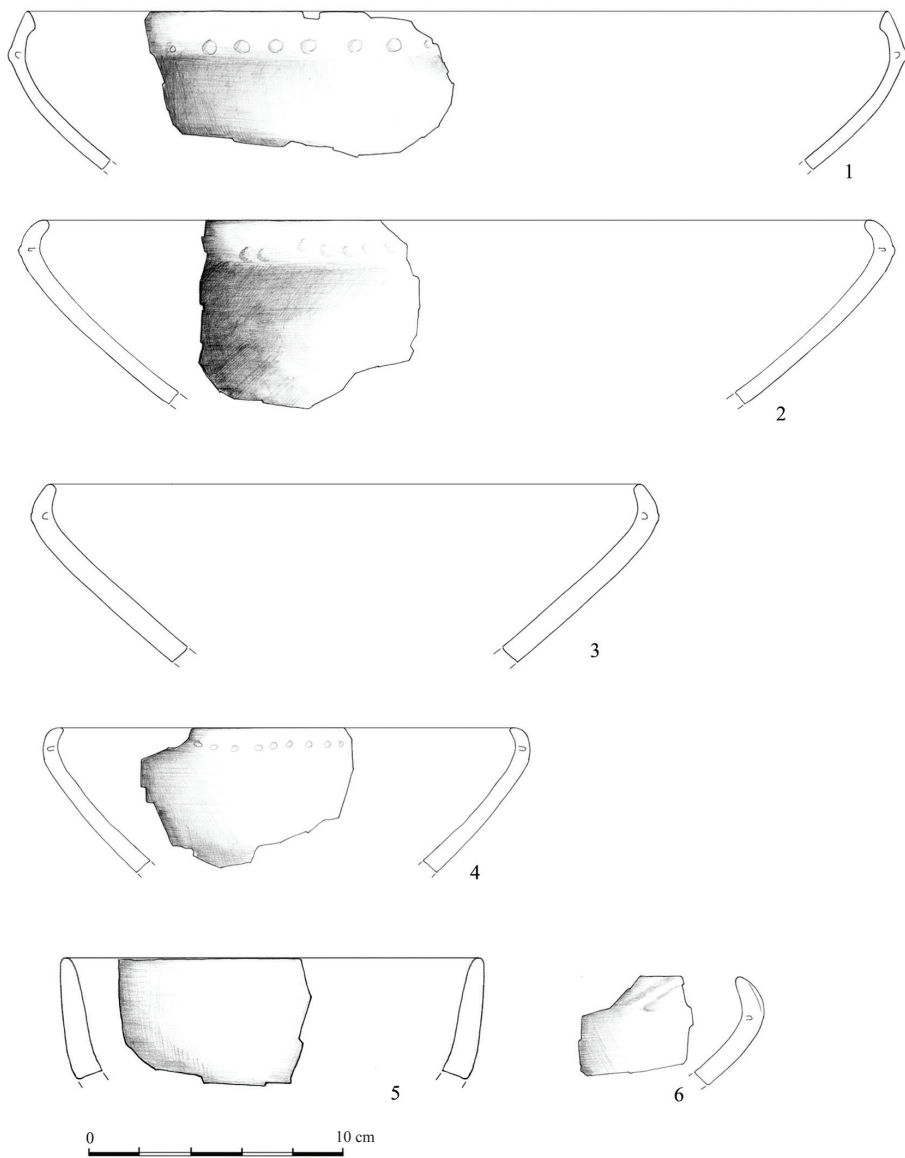


Fig. 13. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the ditch 4

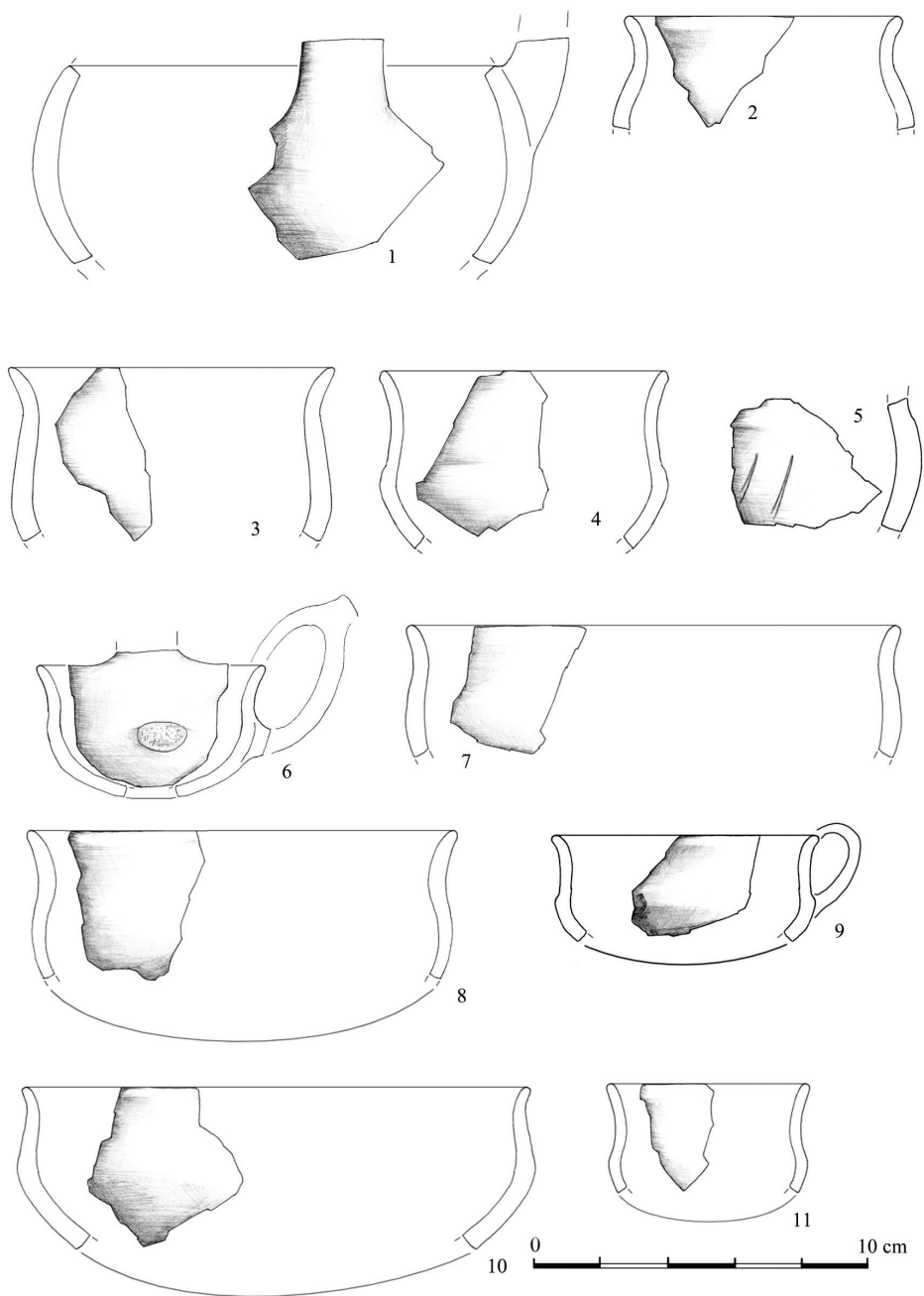


Fig. 14. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Ladles and chalices of the ditch 4

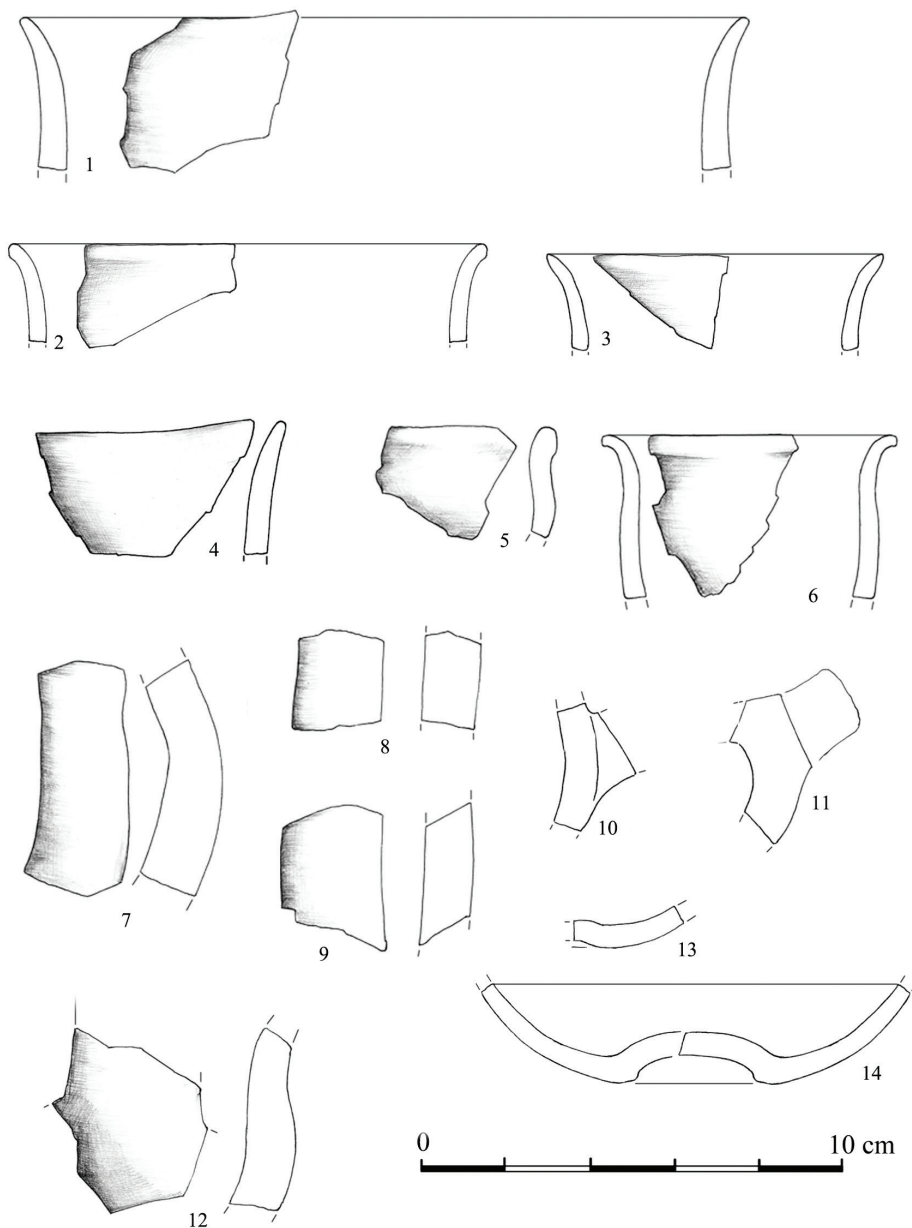


Fig. 15. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Ladles and chalices of the ditch 4

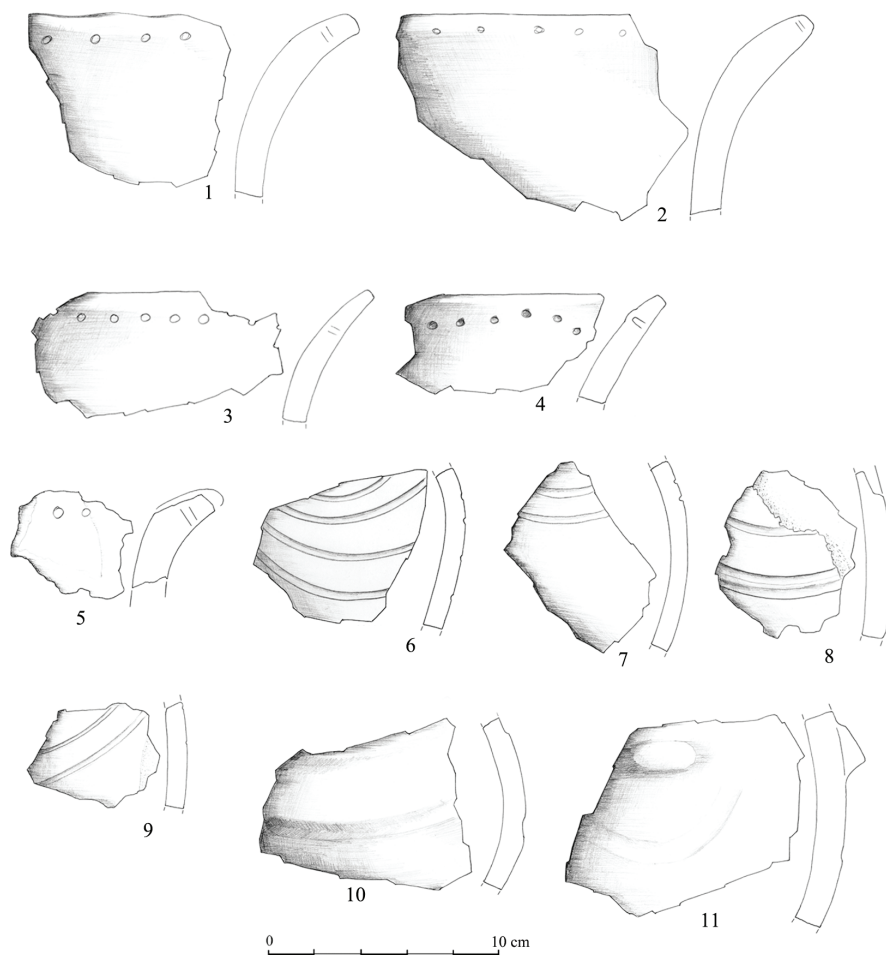


Fig. 16. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Rims and ornamented large pots wall fragments of ditch 4

note that this is not the only find of the bowl rim from the complex 1, similarly ornamented.

Another small bowl is distinguished by an up-right profile with thick non-ornamented walls (Fig. 13: 5).

In the ditch there was recorded a representative collection of beaker and ladles. In all cases when it is possible to reconstruct the profile of the ware, they demonstrate a rounded S-shaped form with a smoothly curved high cup and curved outwards rim (Fig. 14). Prevalence of similar items was noticed by G.I. Smirnova

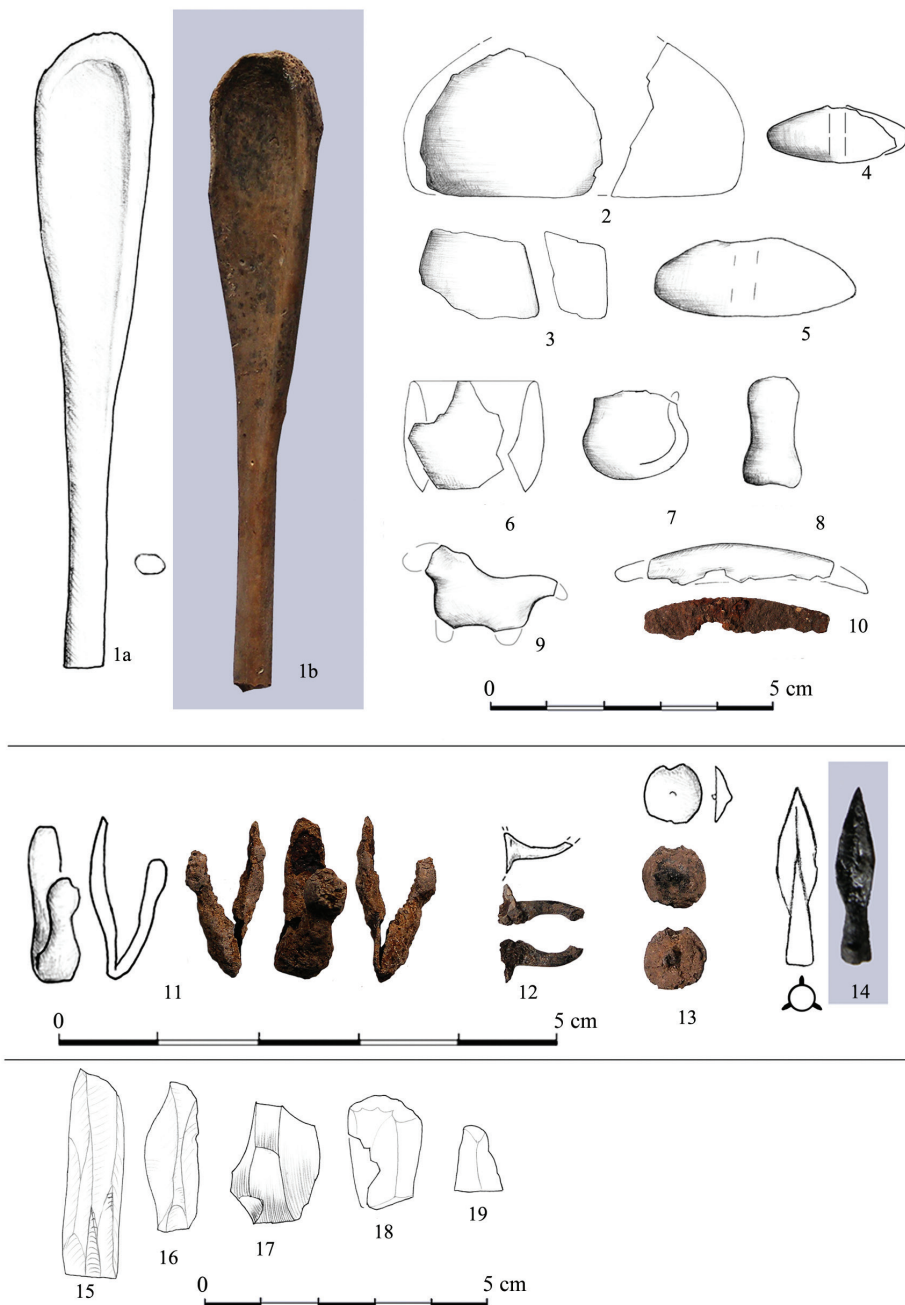


Fig. 17. Severnyivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Single finds of the ditch 4. 1 – bone spoon; 2, 3 – pieces of processed stone; 4, 5 – spindle whorls; 6, 7 – miniature vessels; 8 – spool; 9 – zoomorphic plastics; 10 – iron knife; 11 – iron plate fragment; 12 – metal item; 13 – earring; 14 – iron arrowhead; 15-19 – flint fragments

among the materials of Pivdenno-Podilska expedition. The ladles with a low cup (Fig. 14: 9) are single [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 10: 9]. Similar wares can be seen among the materials of excavation sector 1 of the early-Scythian settlement in the Skrypky bract near Selyshche village [Meliukova 1953: 69, Fig. 32:10].

In one case, on the rim bevel there were fixated an oblique pricks ornament (Fig. 14: 5). Fragments of handles are generally flat, oval in section (Fig. 15: 7-12). In cases where it is possible to trace, the handle was raised above the cup (Fig. 14: 1, 6), which is typical for the early-Scythian wares [Meliukova 1958: 33]. On the preserved ladle bases there are some dimples or the so-called “omphalos” (Fig. 15:13, 14).

It should be separately noted a find of a beaker with cylindrical, slightly curved body and very wide rims (Fig. 15: 6).

Also from the ditch 4 comes a series of black-polished large pot rims, decorated with stabs or pricks (Fig. 16: 1-5). Similarly decorated vessels can be seen in the barrow near Lenkivtsi village [Meliukova 1953: Fig. 30: 4], which can be attributed to the second quarter – mid 6th century BC [Smirnova 1993: 105]. Stabs on large pot rims are associated with the local modification of type Villanova large pots [Smirnova 2001a: 37].

Several wall fragments, decorated with spiral down cannelures, are also associated with fragments of large pots. Some items have clearly drawn cannelures (Fig. 16: 6-9).

Other fragments of large pots have gradual and wide cannelures (Fig. 16: 10, 11). The complete examples of such vessels had previously been recorded on the site and were attributed to its lower layer [Smirnova 1961: 94, 98-99, Fig. 6: 4, 10: 8]. On the Nemyriv hillfort a representative sample of such wares was recorded in the pithouse 2, the earliest one of the three studied [Smirnova 1998: 93, Fig. 12]. This complex by the ancient imported finds of the third quarter of 7th century BC due to its base part [Kashuba, Vakhtina 2014: 59], indicates the date of the complex within the second half of the century.

Individual finds are presented by expressive and versatile materials. The first notable find is a glossy worked bone, which can be interpreted as a small spoon (Fig. 17: 1). Similar item was found on the territory of Motronin hillfort that was subjected to the trasological analysis and had also been interpreted as a spoon [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 107, Fig. 72:13]. B.A. Shramko attributed the similar find from Bilsk hillfort to the toiletries [Shramko 1975: 71, Fig. 3:33, 35]. Another find of the pit 205 on the excavation 30 at the eastern Bilsk hillfort, which was recorded together with fragments of bowls made of human skulls, the researcher considered as a part of the “feeding of the gods” rite [Shramko 1999: 40, Fig. 3:14]. I.B. Shramko analyzing the deposits of ash lense 28 noted that such items were the most widely spread in the layer of the end of 7th – first quarter of 6th century BC [Shramko 2004: 105]. S.I. Lukiashko analyzing similar items from nomadic sites linked them with fiery rituals of sacrificial nature [Lukiashko 1996: 143].



Fig. 18. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the ditch 3. 1-5 – fragments of pots; 6 – large pot wall fragment; 7-10 – bowls rims; 11 – chalice rim; 12 – miniature vessel; 13, 14 – spindle whorls; 15 – processed stone

The tools are not numerous. They are represented by two fragments of glossed stones, probably grinding stones (Fig. 17: 2, 3), which were used in the working of ceramics or skin [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 111], and two spindle whorls (Fig. 17: 4, 5).

There were found miniature vessels (Fig. 17: 6, 7); hand-made plastics, namely spools (Fig. 17: 8) and a horse figure (Fig. 17: 9), which are associated with the religious rites [Meliukova 1958: 37]. In particular, the complex of such items was detected at the central sanctuary of the Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1985b: 30]. It is assumed that ceramic figurines could carry either a cult or a game function [Harding 2000: 322].

Metal wares are relatively numerous, as for the hillfort in general. There was found a tanged knife with a thin hunchback back (Fig. 17: 10). A complete analogy was found in the dugout 1948, the upper chronological date of which is set by the bimetallic find of a mirror that G.I. Smirnova attributed to the second half of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1961: 101]. However, due to the ancient import, the existence of such mirrors is rather attributed to the middle of the century. Namely, a similar mirror was recorded in the barrow of the middle of 6th century BC in Zozulyntsi [Smirnova 2006: 77].

Also a similar knife was recorded in the layer of the settlement near Dolyniany village. That item according to the finds of gray-clay pottery and ancient import is dated by the end of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1999: 50-54; 2001: Fig. 5: 8]. Two similar knives are derived from the archaeological materials of Khotiv hillfort, the upper chronological limit of which due to the ancient ceramic finds is on 6th century BC [Petrovska 1970: Fig. 13: 9, 10].

There are similar products in representative complexes. An analogical knife was recorded in the barrow 6 near Perebykivtsi village of the first quarter of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1979: 57, Fig. 17: 1; 1993: 116]. Similar knife is known from the barrow V of the Trinca necropolis of the second half of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC [Levitskiy 2004: Fig. 2: D]. In Central Europe they are known from archaic assemblages: barrow 2 of Teiuș necropolis and burial 9 of Cristești necropolis [Chorowski 1987: 169; 1998: 480; Bruyako 2005: 247-249, Fig. 63:51, 64:24].

A number of these products were recorded in the pit-house 3 on the ash hill 12 of the western Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 2016: Fig. 12: 21-23] that by finding a bead-rosette can be attributed to the end of 7th century BC [Riabkova 2010: 186].

Clear by halves is the iron item in the shape of a curved blade with one rounded end and another flat (Fig. 17: 11). With some probability we can assume that this is fragment of a fibula or a buckle (?).

Remains unclear the nature of an iron fragment in the shape of a thin handle with semicircular wall (Fig. 17: 12).

It is also notable a fragment of a bronze earring (Fig. 17: 13). Such products are inherent to a wide range of Eastern European cultures [Klochko 2008: 222]. V.G. Petrenko based on a cone-shaped buckler distinguished similar items

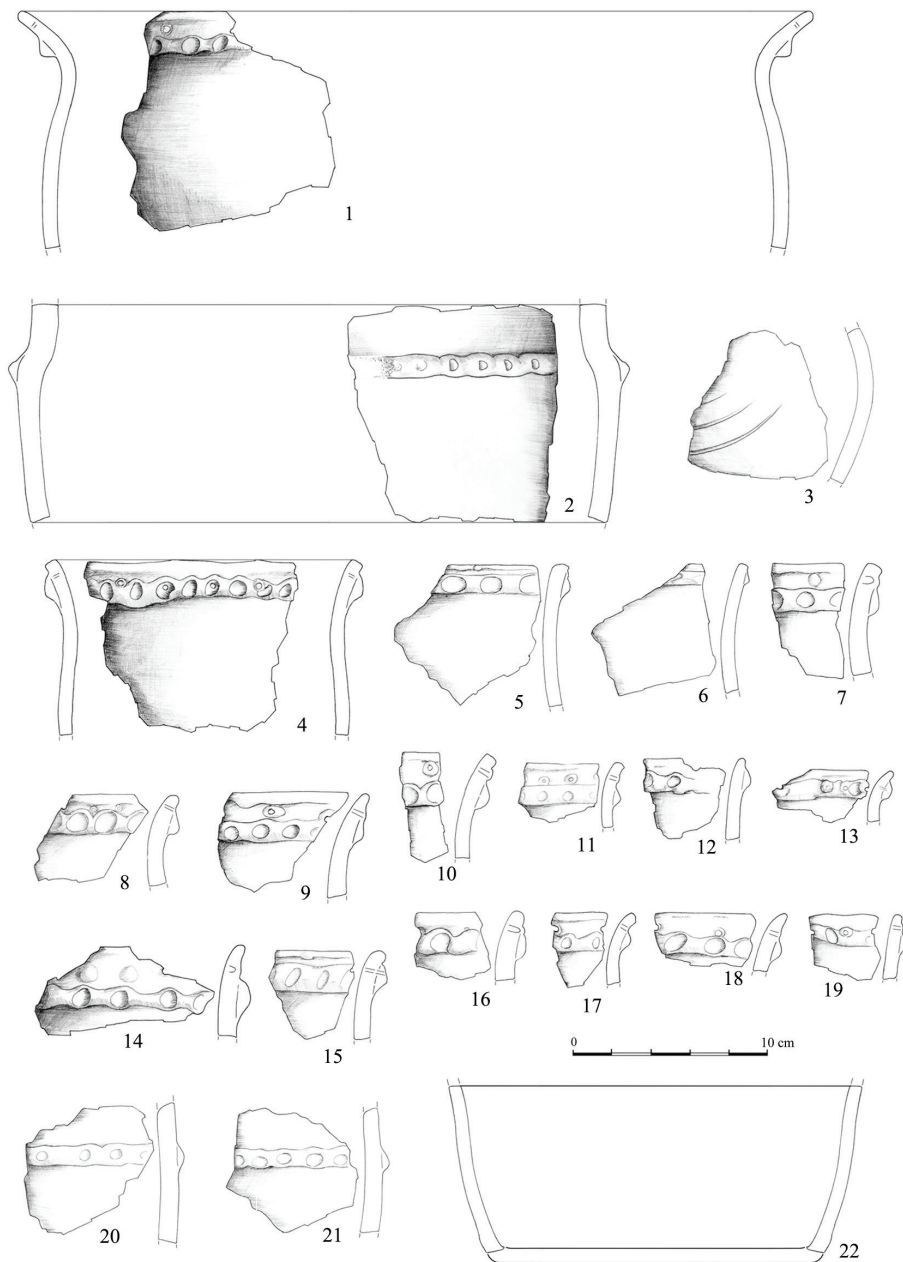


Fig. 19. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Rims, ornamented wall fragments and bases of pots from the first lower coaly seam

to a separate type 5. Based on the proximity to the shape of the item accidentally found near the Bukryn village [Petrenko 1978: Tab. 17: 3], Severynivka earring can be attributed to the first variant of the mentioned type.

There is a notable finding of an iron arrowhead, trilobate, with a cuspidal leaf-shape and a pronounced socket (Fig. 17: 14). A special article dedicated to such items was written by B.A. Shramko. The researcher notes that such finds occupied a significant place in quiver sets of Posullia assemblages – such as Starsha Mohyla and a barrow near Popivka hamlet, and relates them to the time not early than the middle of 7th century BC [Shramko 2009: 389]. These artifacts were spread till the mid of 6th century BC. That can be indicated by the finds from burials of Nartan necropolis, included in the transitional horizon between early- and middle-Scythian times [Mohilov, Didenko 2009: 46].

From the ditch 4 there also come a range of treated flint finds that must have been redeposited during the construction of the ditch (Fig. 17: 15-19).

Ditch 3

From this ditch comes considerably less material, which however has distinct features. Most of the pot rims are made in the usual manner – they are slightly curved outwards, decorated with raised border projection fitted with taps and stabs (Fig. 18: 1-4). However, there was found a complete pot, which was recorded on the bottom of the ditch 3 that can be considered as a “funeral gifts”. The vessel has a tulip shape with curved outwards rims, decorated with through stabs with pearls. On the neck there is a stuck raised border, dissected by rod dimples. On the rim bevel of the widest part there is a row of rod dimples of a square shape (Fig. 18: 5).

Pots with a row of dimples are known in the late Chornolis settlements Dnistrovka-Luka [Smirnova 1984: Fig. 4: 12] and Neporotiv [Krushelnyska 1998: Fig. 14]. In the Dnieper region they are found among materials of the late horizon of Moskovska Hora hillfort [Daragan 2011: Fig. V.8.11] and on the settlement near Khreshchatyk village [Kovpanenko 1971: Fig. 1: 3].

A row of oval “grain-shaped” dimples is on the shoulder of a round-bodied pot from the household pit 28 at Dolyniany settlement. In the same pit there was recorded a burial of a women with two children and a teenager. Along with the buried there were also found three bronze temporal rings made of a thin wire. Although the settlement generally refers to the early-Scythian time, G.I. Smirnova did not exclude the referring of this complex to the late Chornolis [Smirnova 1981: 44-46, 4:12]. Also, the researcher noted that some part of the pots fragments from the settlement were analogous to the described – with a row of dimples and raised border with notches. These forms were connected to the Chornolis culture heritage, but it was ascertained that they survived to the early-Scythian time [Smirnova 1981: 50-53].

Similar examples were classified to the Basarab layer and to the horizon of 7th-6th century BC of the Glinjeni II hillfort [Goltseva, Kashuba 1995: Table. LXXX: 3.4; Kashuba, *et al.* 2002: 131, Fig. IV: 3, 4]. Also, such unusual orna-

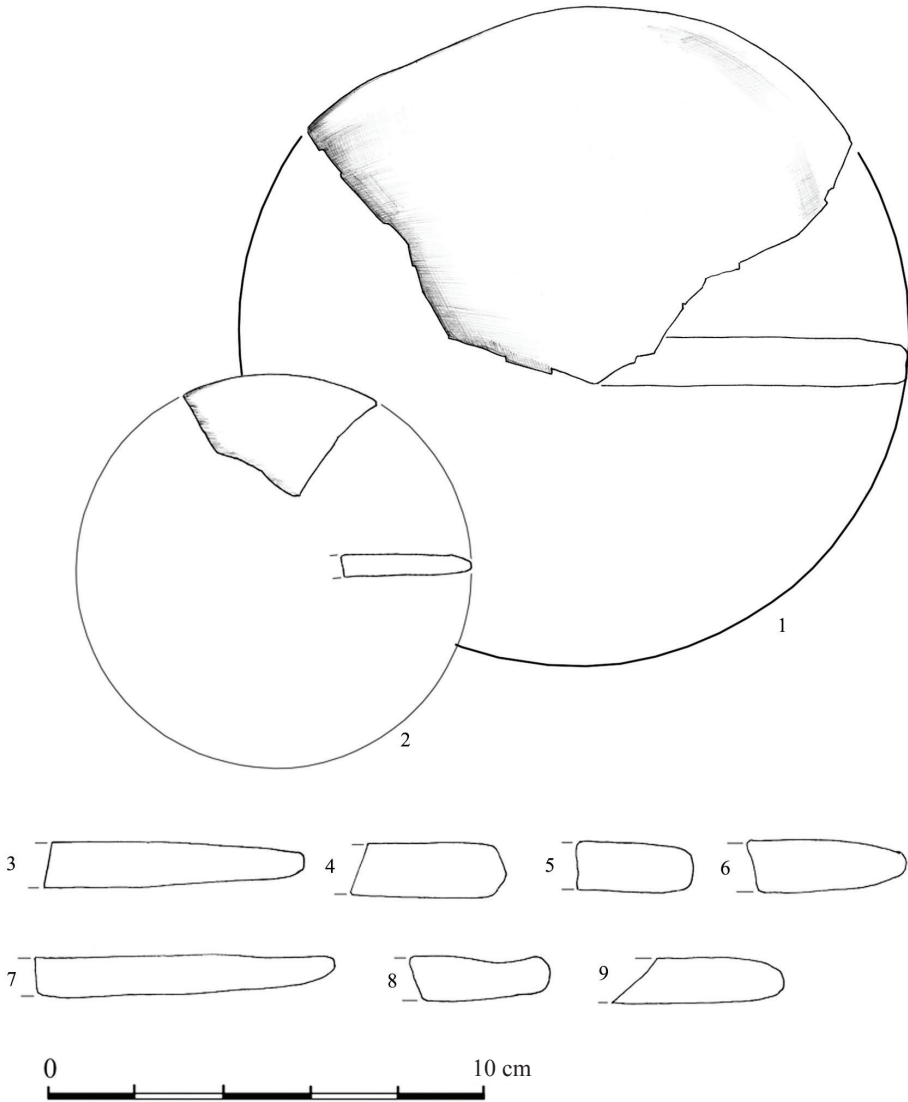


Fig. 20. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of lids from the first lower coaly seam

mentation, as separation of a stuck raised border with oblique notches, is typical for the late pre-Scythian time [Goltseva, Kashuba 1995: 34]. The pot of a similar profile, but with two handles, proceeds from the settlement Țuțora on the Middle Prut region that authors of the research, synchronizing with Trinca necropolis, are

dating by the second half of 7th – first three quarters of 6th century BC [Tentiuc, Levinschi 2009: 266, Fig. 3: 6].

A find of a one wall fragment is probably of a cylindrical rim part of a large pot (Fig. 18: 6).

Tableware is not numerous. There is only one fragment of a ladle rim or beaker curved outwards of a standard for Severynivka hillfort shape (Fig. 18:11). There aren't many bowl rims, usually these are small fragments decorated with pricks under the rim (Fig. 18: 9-10). There are notable some rims, where instead of typical pricks are wide oblique rod dimples (Fig. 18: 7, 8).

An interesting find is presented by a miniature vessel, ornamented with stuck raised border and taps that was probably the imitation of the cauldron-type vessel (Fig. 18: 12).

There weren't many household tools too. They are represented by two spindle whorls (Fig. 18: 13, 14) and a grinding stone fragment (Fig. 18: 15).

Coaly layer 1 (lower horizon of fireplaces)

From this seam derives a significant amount of archaeological materials. They include large fragments of pots, which probably served as tare vessels. One of them is presented by sharply curved outwards rim with a diameter of about 45 cm (Fig. 19: 1), the other – the rim bevel of the pot with a diameter of about 30 cm, with a bend decorated with stuck raised border (Fig. 19: 2). Perhaps these findings, which are analogues with the materials from Pivdenno-Podilska expedition, can be considered as tare vessels [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 6: 3]. There is also a wall fragment of some vessel, decorated with down scratched semicircles, which can be interpreted as a large pot rim bevel (Fig. 19: 3).

The total number of extant pots fragments was made uniformly. That is curved outwards and decorated with stuck raised border and taps rims (Fig. 19: 4-19). In addition, there were recorded single fragments of walls with stuck raised border (Fig. 19: 20, 21). Similar situation is typical for the materials of the pit-house 1 of Nemyriv hillfort. G.I. Smirnova noted the predominance of fragments with a raised border on the rim over walls with a raised border on the body [Smirnova 1998: 86].

In addition to pots there were also found a representative sample of lids fragments. The diameter of the vast majority of the finds is about 15-20 cm that corresponds to the pots diameter (Fig. 20: 1). While there were also several miniature items with a smooth surface and a diameter of about 10 cm (Fig. 20: 2). A large number of lids found at the Severynivka hillfort had been noted by G.I. Smirnova [Smirnova 1961: 94].

Coaly layer 1 is notable for a set of quality tableware. In general there were recorded standard round-bodied bowls with curved inwards rims, ornamented with pricks (Fig. 21: 1).

Also there were found fragments of black-glossed bowls with curved outwards rims (Fig. 21: 4-6). G.I. Smirnova noted that such wares are typical only for the

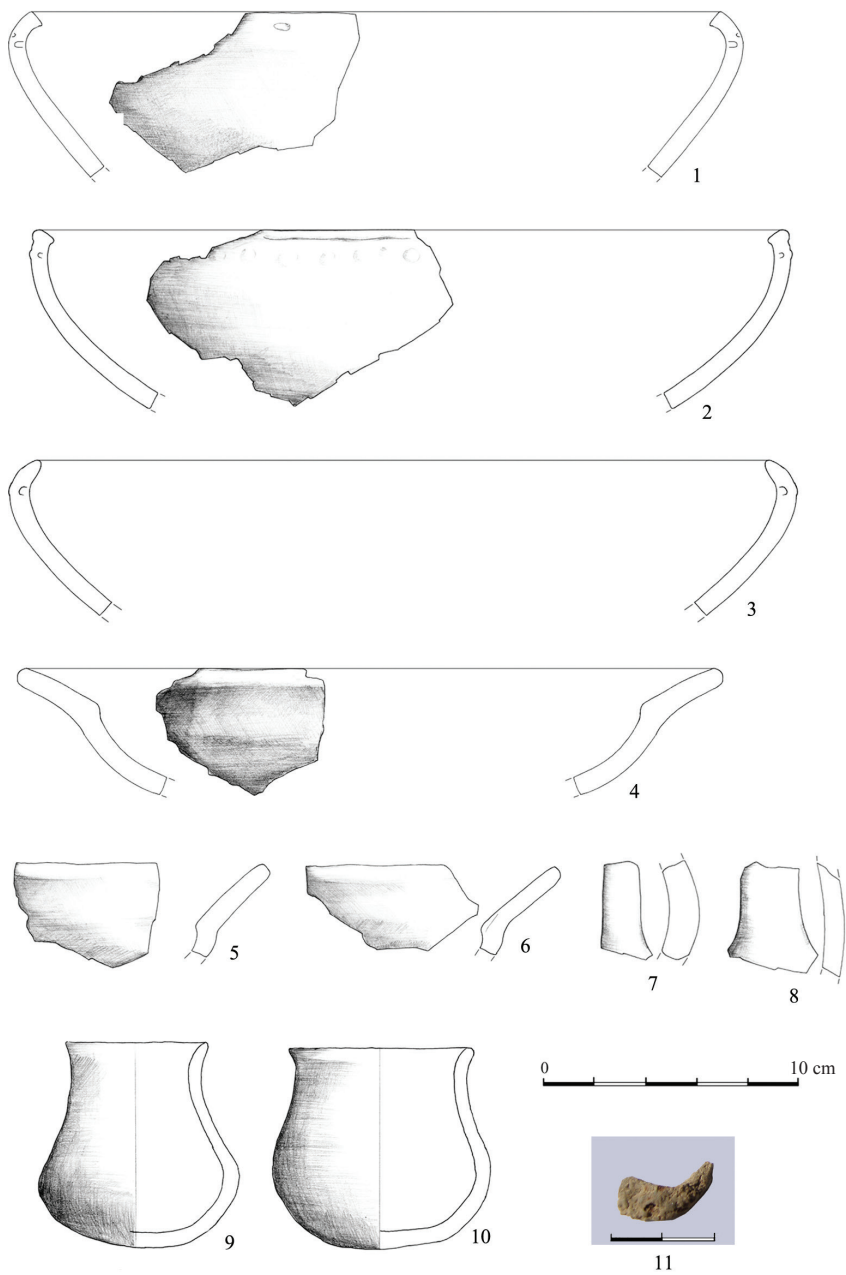


Fig. 21. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Tableware of the first lower coal seam. 1-6 – bowls; 7, 8 – ladles handles; 9, 10 – chalices; 11 – iron item fragment

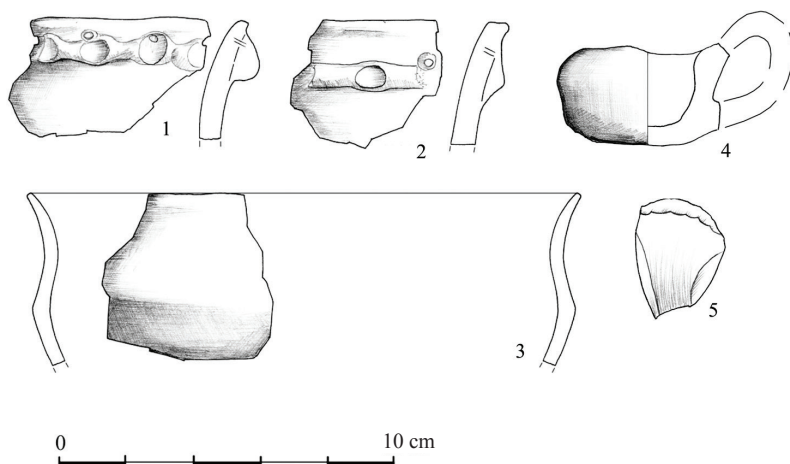


Fig. 22. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the ditch 1. 1, 2 – pots rims, 4 – miniature ladle; 3 – ladle; 5 – flint fragment

lower layer of the hillfort, distinguished by a researcher [Smirnova 1961: 94]. On the Nemyriv hillfort similar fragments are confidently applied only to the early-Scythian horizon [Smirnova 1999b: 242].

Ladles are presented only by fragments of handles (Fig. 21: 7-8). Instead there were found two complete black-glossed beakers of S-shaped profile (Fig. 21: 9-10). Analogous items had occurred on the hillfort before [Smirnova 1961: Fig. 9: 2, 10:10]. Such wares were found on the Dniester region and were dated by the pre-Scythian time [Shovkopljas 1952: 10 Tab. 1: 7]. Similar beakers were recorded in the pit-house 1 of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 4: 4, 5: 2].

It was also found an iron ware in the shape of a plate with a hook (Fig. 21: 11). To our opinion, this is a razor fragment that is similar to the one that was found above the second fireplaces horizon. However, since the latter find was a complete artifact, its interpretation is given below.

Ditch 2

In this ditch were not recorded many finds. Pots rims are similar to the forms from the other hillfort assemblages (Fig. 22: 1-2). By the ladle fragment there was reconstructed its form of S-shaped shallow cup with a sharp edge on the body and curved outwards rim (Fig. 22: 3). This form has numerous equivalents among Nemyriv hillfort antiquities, namely from the pit-house 2 [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 14].

It was also found a miniature model of the ladle carelessly made (Fig. 22: 4).

A single find was a flint fragment (Fig. 22: 5).

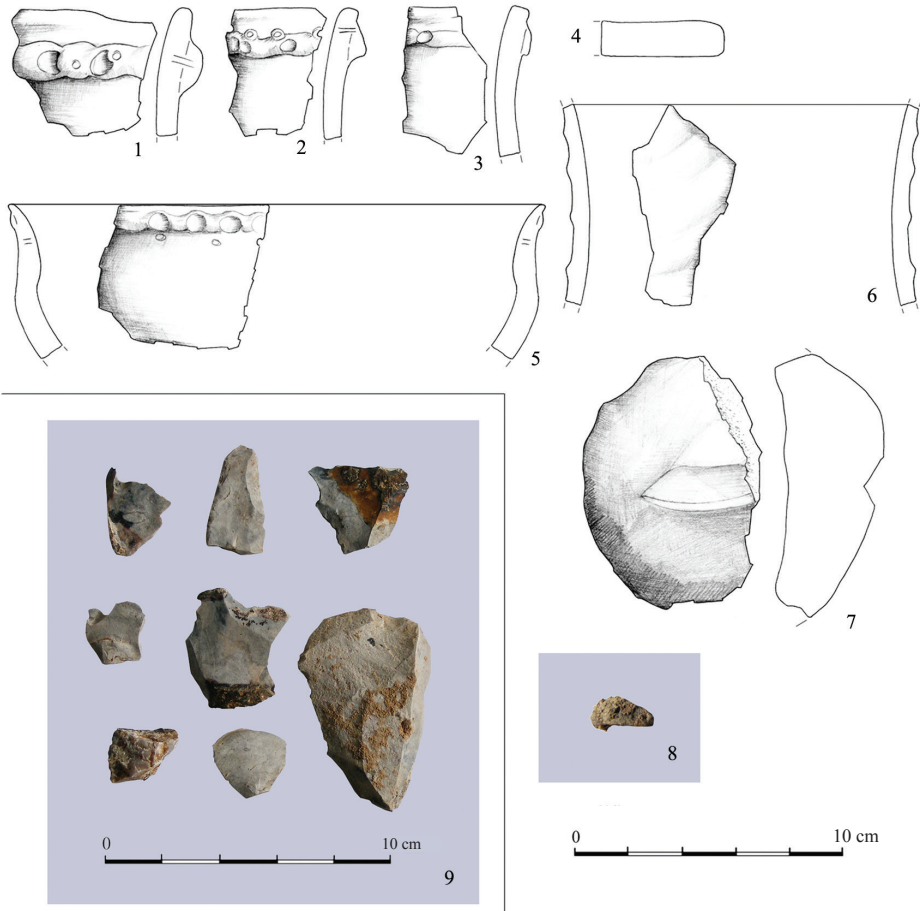


Fig. 23. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the ditch 1. 1-3 – pots rims; 4 – lid rim; 5 – bowl; 6 – chalice neck; 7 – clay raised border; 8 – iron item fragment; 9 – flint fragments

Ditch 1

Researches of this ditch hadn't brought many finds too. A set of cookingware isn't notable. It includes single pots rims, ornamented with stuck raised border with taps and stabs (Fig. 23: 1-3) and lids rims (Fig. 23: 4).

More significant is tableware. The most notable is a bowl rim, ornamented similarly to the pots, but produced more qualitatively. This is a round-bodied vessel with a slightly curved outwards rim, ornamented with stuck raised border with taps and pricks under it (Fig. 23: 5). An analogous vessel is recorded at the settlement near Zalissia village [Hanina 1984: Fig. 2: 3].

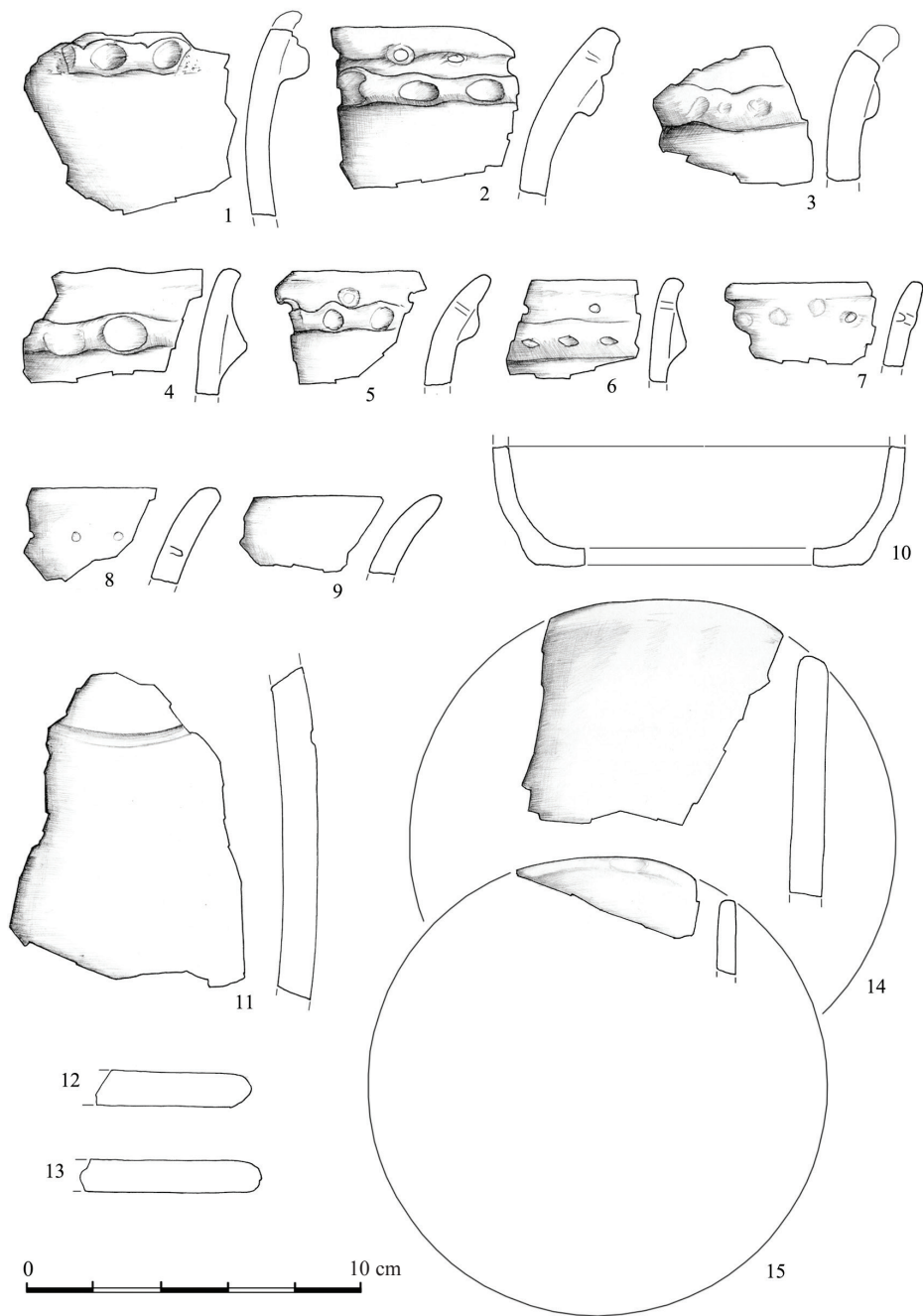


Fig. 24. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the pit "e". 1-10 – fragments of pots; 11 – large pot wall fragment; 12-15 – fragments of lids

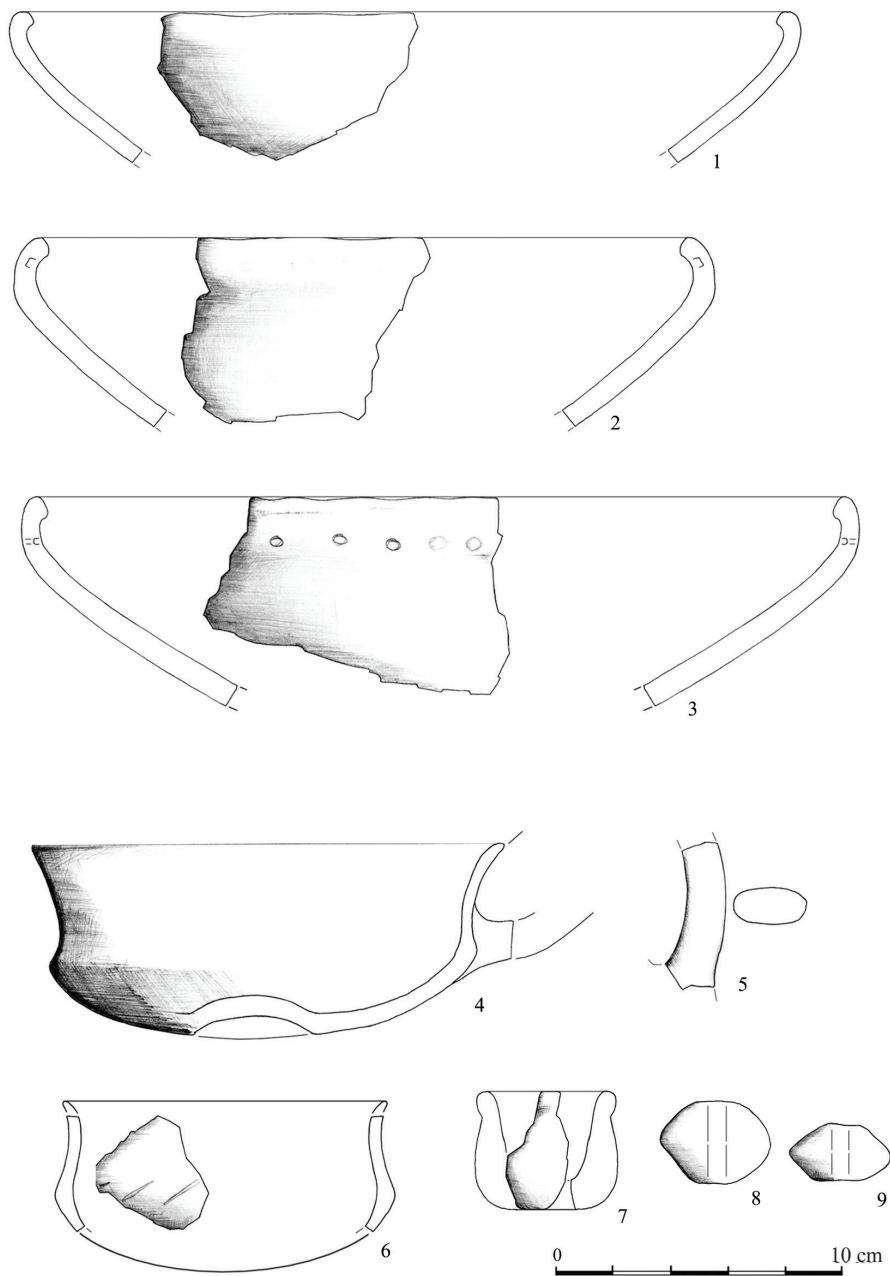


Fig. 25. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the pit "e". 1-3 – bowls; 4-6 – fragments of ladles; 7 – miniature vessel; 8, 9 – spindle whorls



Fig. 26. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Tools for leather currying and trimming of finished items of the pit "e"

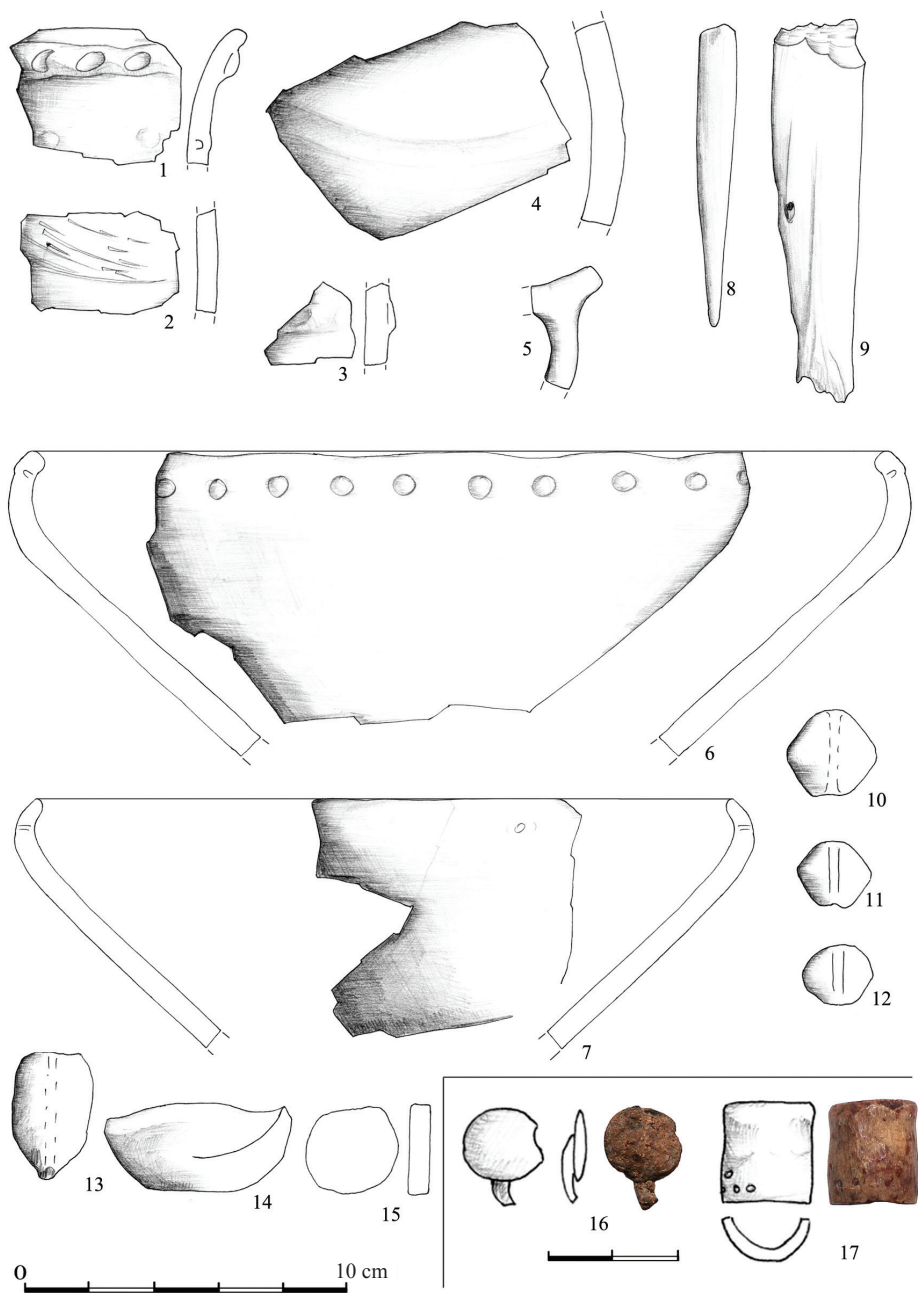


Fig. 27. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Materials of the pit "f". 1-3 – fragments of pots; 4 – large pot wall fragment; 5 – ladle handle; 6, 7 – bowls; 8, 9 – items made of bone; 10-12 – spindle whorls; 13 – ceramic plastics; 14 – miniature vessel; 15 – ceramic "counter"; 16 – earring; 17 – horn vorvorka

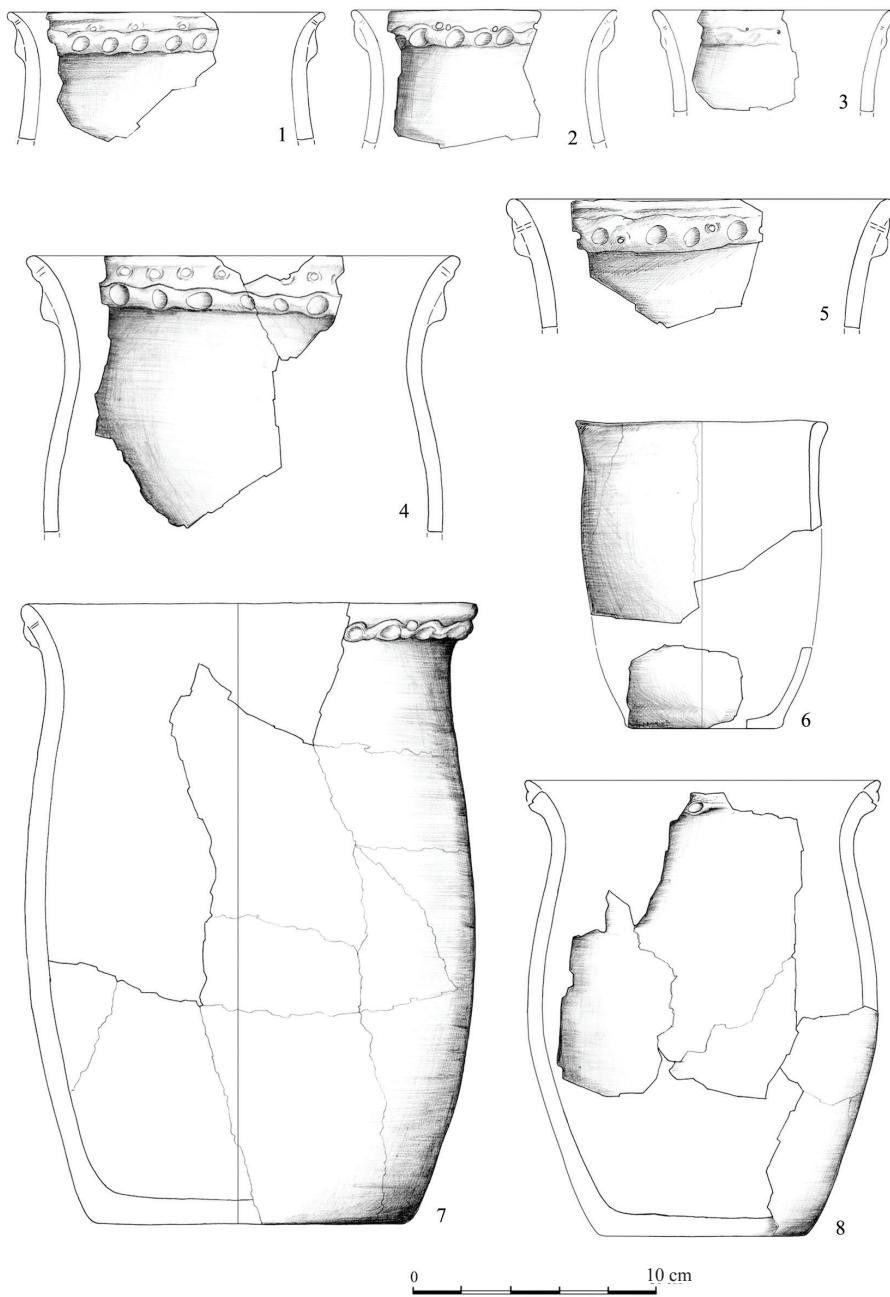


Fig. 28. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of pots of the second upper coaly seam

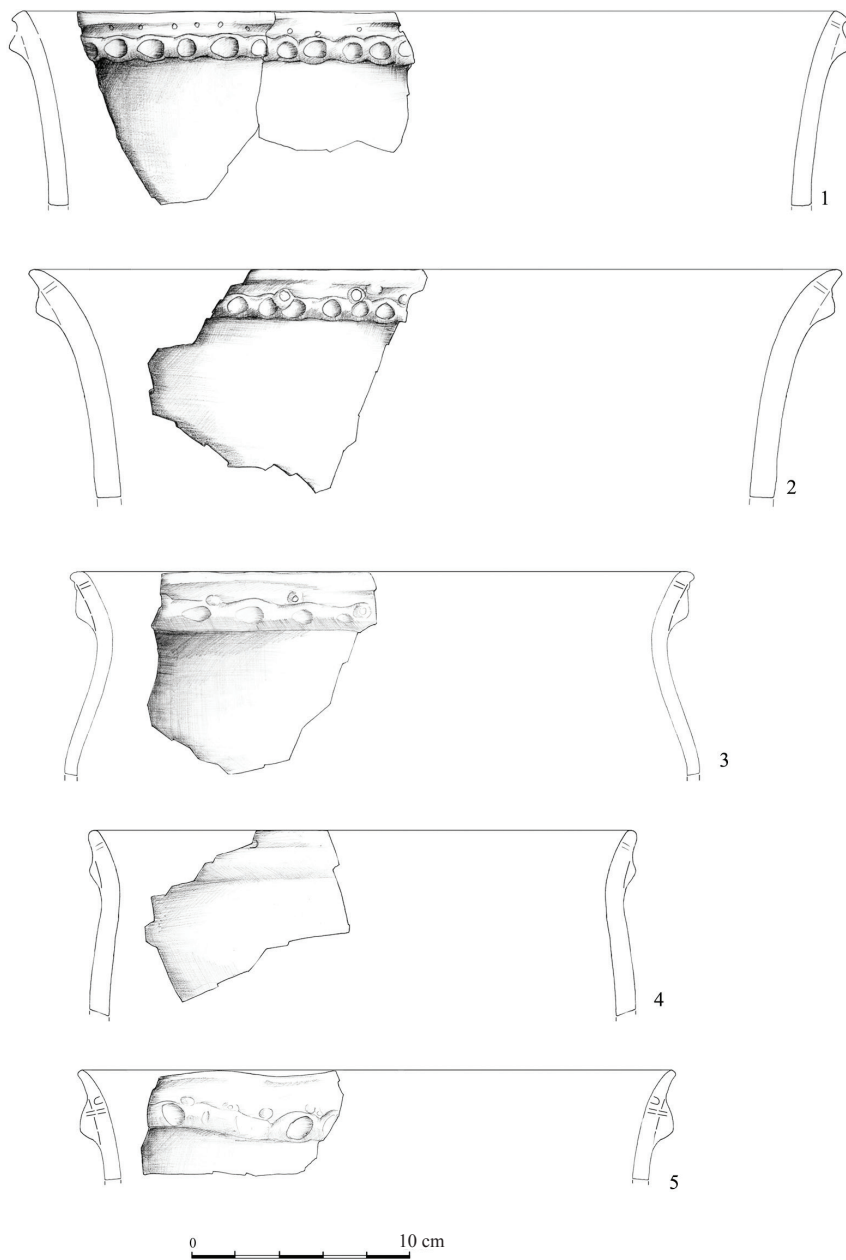


Fig. 29. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims pots of the second upper coally seam

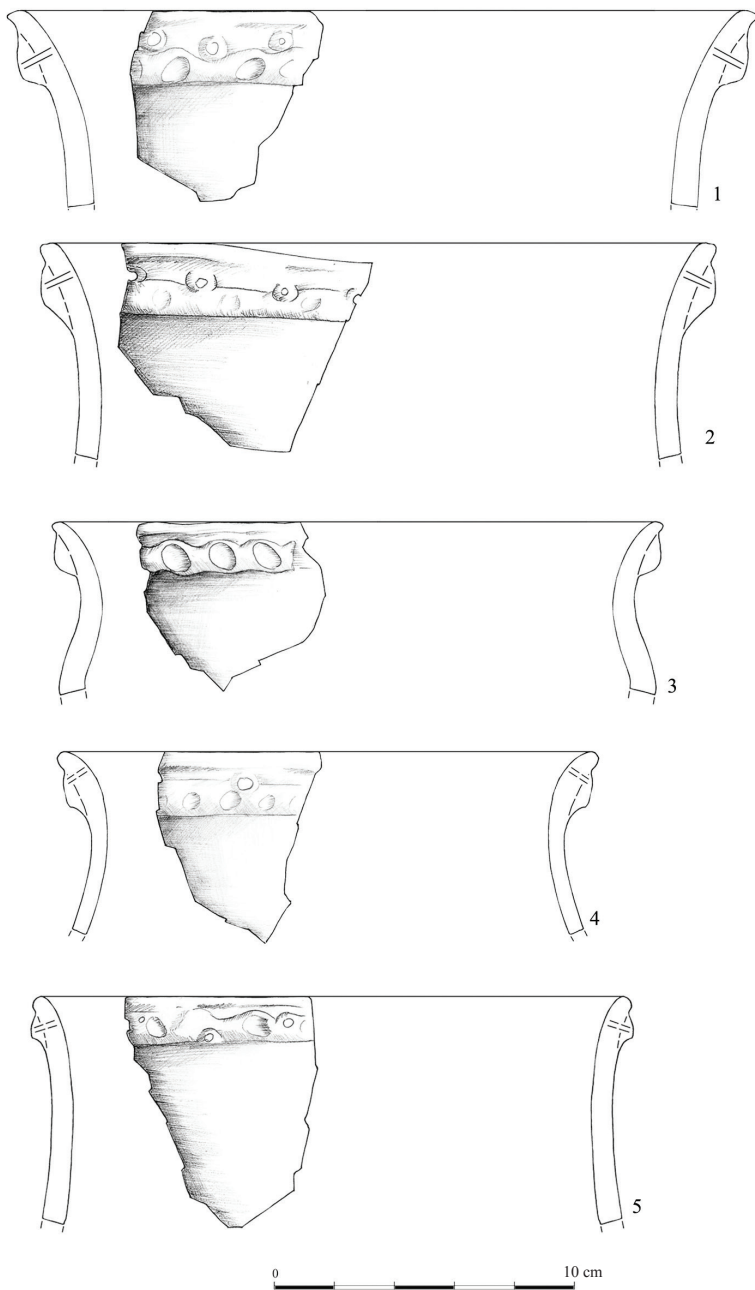


Fig. 30. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the second upper coaly seam

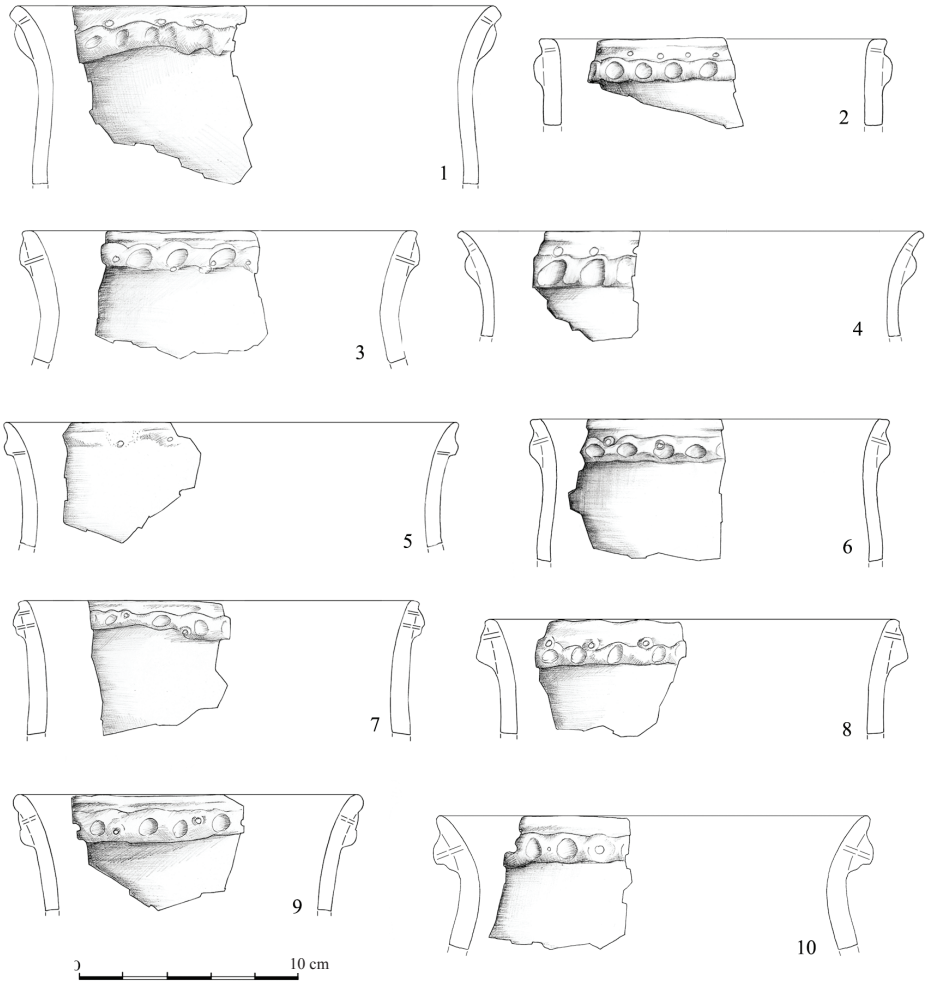


Fig. 31. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the second upper coal seam

Noteworthy is the neck of a thin-walled black-glossed beaker, the outer side of which is decorated with gradual cannelures in the shape of lowered semicircles (Fig. 23: 6). Ladles with high cylindrical necks, decorated with cannelures are inherent to the Chornolis horizon of Nemyriv hillfort that G.I. Smirnova followed by A.I. Meliukova associated with Basarab influence [Meliukova 1979: 80-81; Smirnova 1998: 106, Fig. 7: 4, 21: 2]. The appearance of beakers with cannelured neck among archaeological materials of Hryhorivka hillfort was explained by

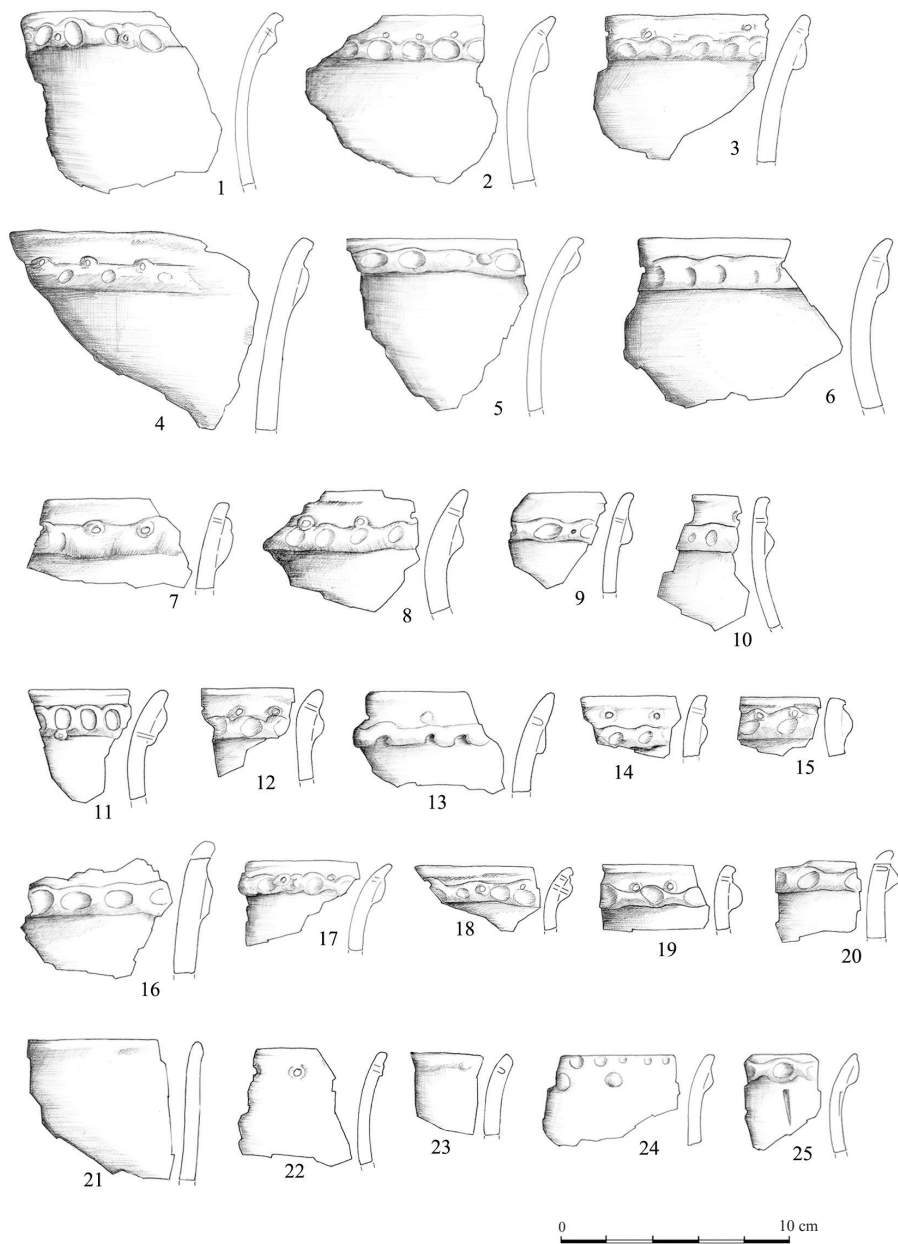


Fig. 32. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the second upper coaly seam



Fig. 33. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the second upper coaly seam

Șoldănești influence [Smirnova 1985: Fig. 3: 6]. However, the proposed analogies differ by much clear and expressive ornamentation. Therefore, the best equivalent may be a beaker from the Scythian layer of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 2001a: 38. Fig. 2: 7].

In addition, there was recorded a clay slightly fired “raised border” with a semi-circular dimpling (Fig. 23: 7). As a knife can be attributed a fragment of a triangular strongly deformed iron plate (Fig. 23: 8). A separate series is presented by flint fragments with traces of working, covered with white patina (Fig. 23: 9).

Pit “e”

Finds of cookingware from this pit are consistent with a set of wares from the household pits of the hillfort. Pots rims are usually ornamented with stuck raised border with taps and stabs (Fig. 24: 1-6). Less common are rims, ornamented only with pricks and stabs (Fig. 24: 7).

Some smooth rims probably come from large pots (Fig. 24: 8, 9). To this category of vessels applies a massive wall fragment, ornamented with a clear canelure in the form of a lowered semicircle (Fig. 24: 11).

Among lids rims there some notable samples, on one of which can be traced radial finger-trowelled surface (Fig. 24: 14), and on another – barely noticeable (probably accidental) finger-dimpling on the edge (Fig. 24: 15).

From the pit comes a distinct selection of tableware. Extant fragments of bowls are round-bodied, with a slightly undulated rim, differing only by ornamentation: one of them has a smooth rim (Fig. 25: 1), the second – ornamented with rod dimples on the inner surface of the rim with pearls outside (Fig. 25: 2), and the third – ornamentation of pricks with pearls is combined with through pricks holes (Fig. 25: 3).

Quite indicative is the form of ladles. One of them is thin-walled and burnished, has a shallow S-shaped cup with a sharp bend, wide rim and an omphale on the base. The ladle has a yellowish colour, which is typical for relatively late ceramics of the Dniester region [Meliukova 1958: 36-37]. The extant fragments of a handle indicate that it was held high above the cup (Fig. 25: 4). This item is analogous to the ladle from the ditch 2 (Fig. 22: 3), so it can also be attributed to the second half of 7th century BC. [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 5: 3, 14]. The replenishment of the ladles collection of “Nemyriv type” corrects our understanding of the tableware assemblage of Severynivka hillfort. Indeed, in general, for the rest of the complexes such vessels were not typical that was noted as the difference between Severynivka and Nemyriv cultures. Meanwhile, there was indicated the affinity of this type ladles only to the complexes of Scythian time [Smirnova 1961: 94, 110; 1999: 242].

The greatest number of such ladles is distinguished in the dugout 2 of Nemyriv hillfort. This complex by the finds of ancient imported fragments is dated from the second quarter of 7th century BC [Kashuba, Vakhtina 2014: 59; Vakhti-

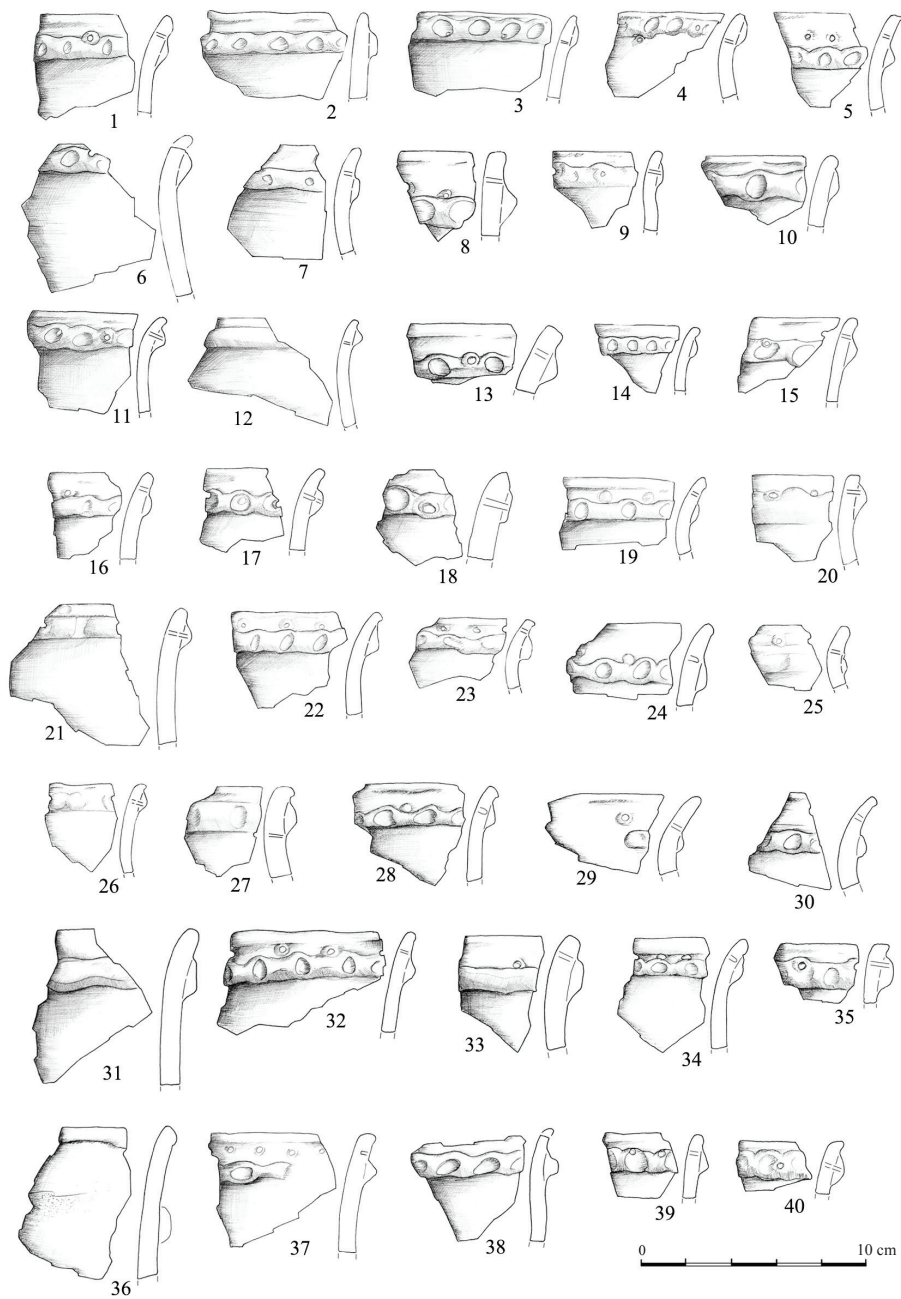


Fig. 34. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the second upper coaly seam

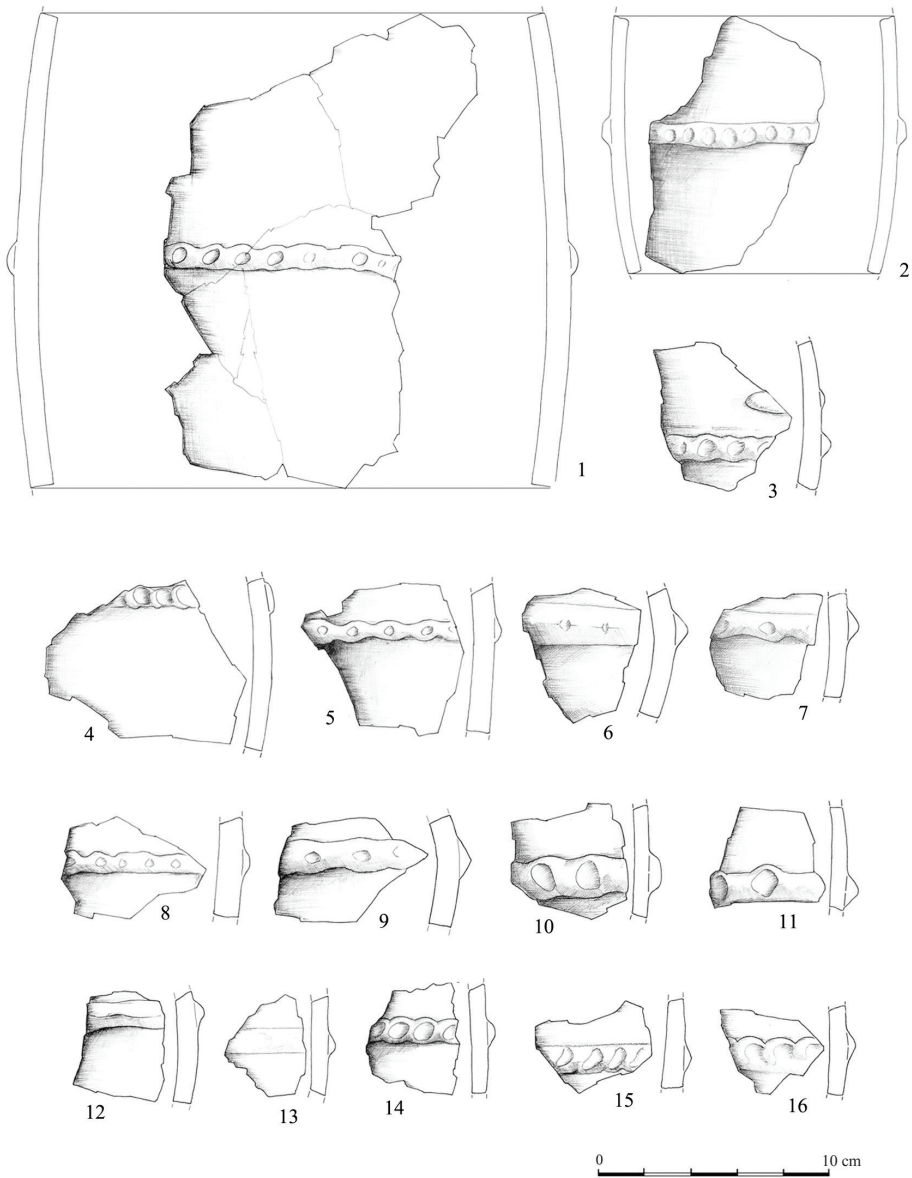


Fig. 35. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Ornamented pots wall fragments of the second upper coaly seam

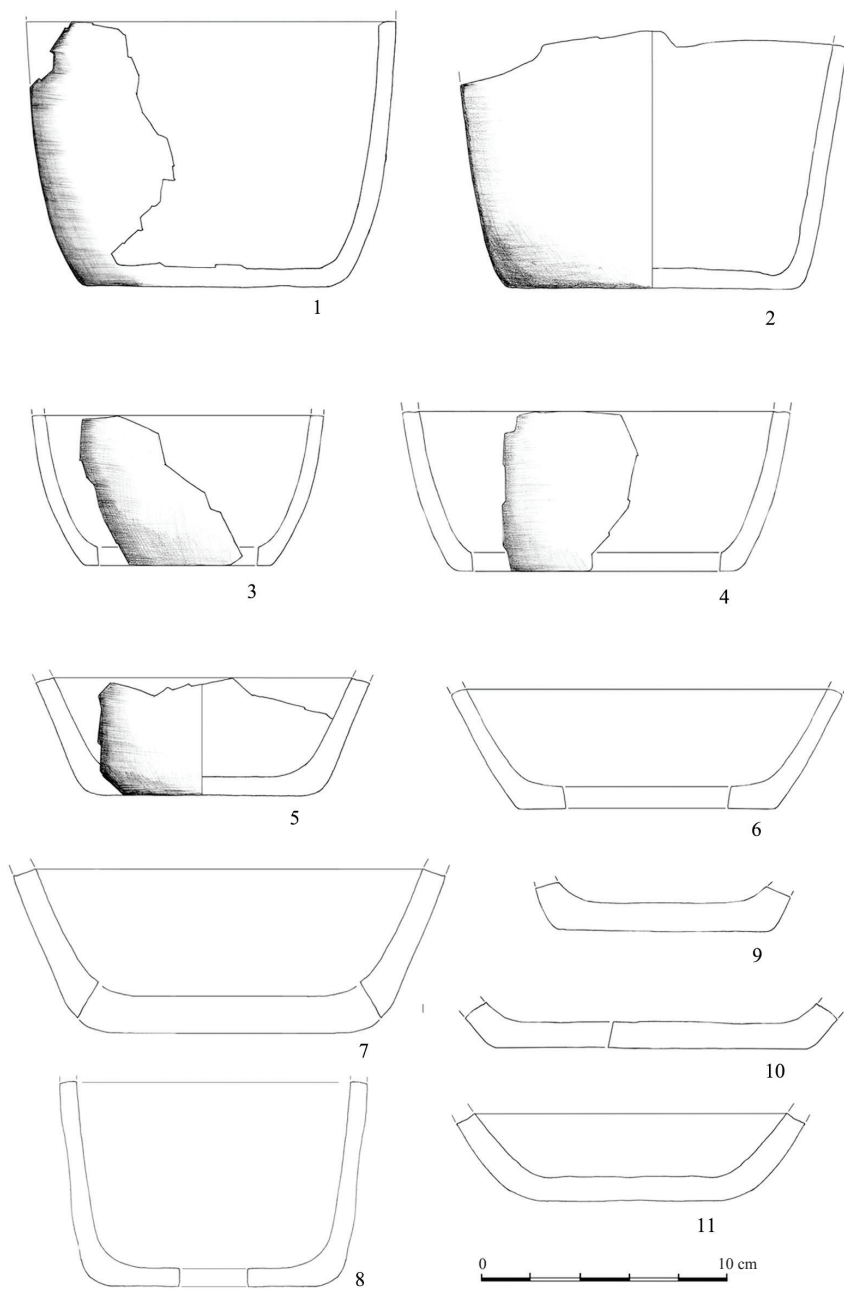


Fig. 36. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots bases of the second upper coaly seam

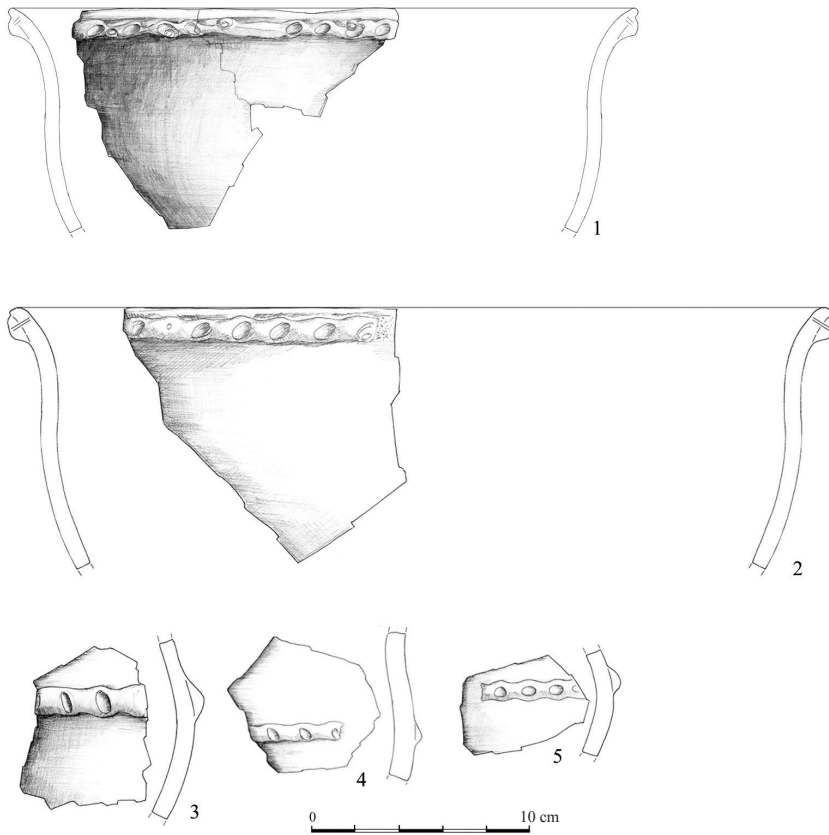


Fig. 37. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of cauldron-shape vessels of the second upper coaly seam

na, Kashuba 2014: 71], or even to its second half [Zadnikov, Shramko 2009a: 143; 2009b: 476]. Not contradicting the proposed date the chronological positions of the monuments with gray-clay pottery of the second half of 7th century BC, where were recorded analogous ladles. We mean namely the barrow 1 near Kruglyk village [Smirnova 1993: 110], and also the settlement near Dolynian village [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 38].

On the Dnieper region such forms are not known that indicates the different manufacturing technology and the different traditions of the population [Shramko 1999: 19; Peliashenko 2014: 51]. There are found only occasionally, particularly in the dwelling 3 of the excavation IV-1992 on Motronin hillfort, which the researchers attributed to the 7th-6th century BC. It should be noted the ornamentation with

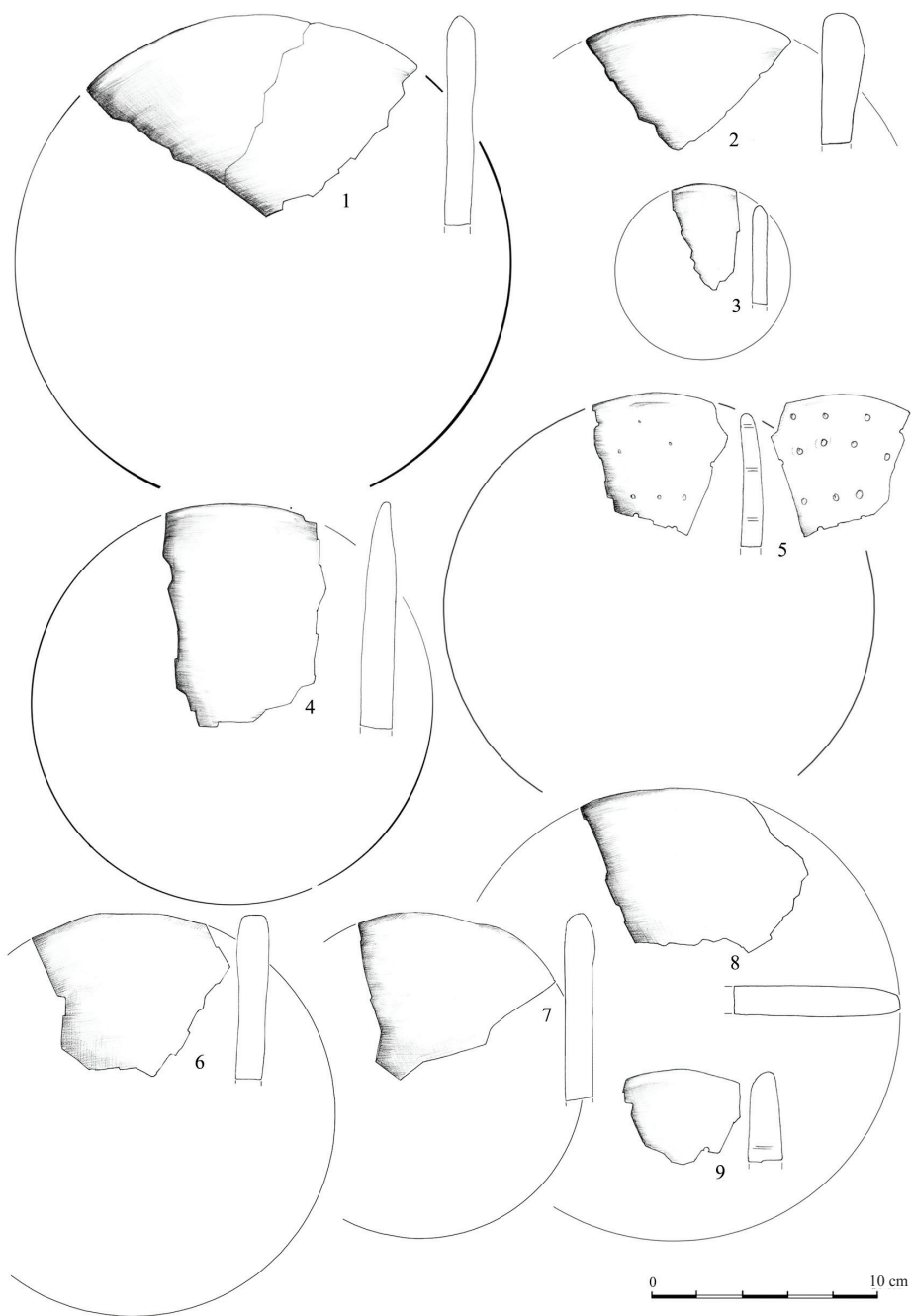


Fig. 38. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of lids of the second upper coal seam

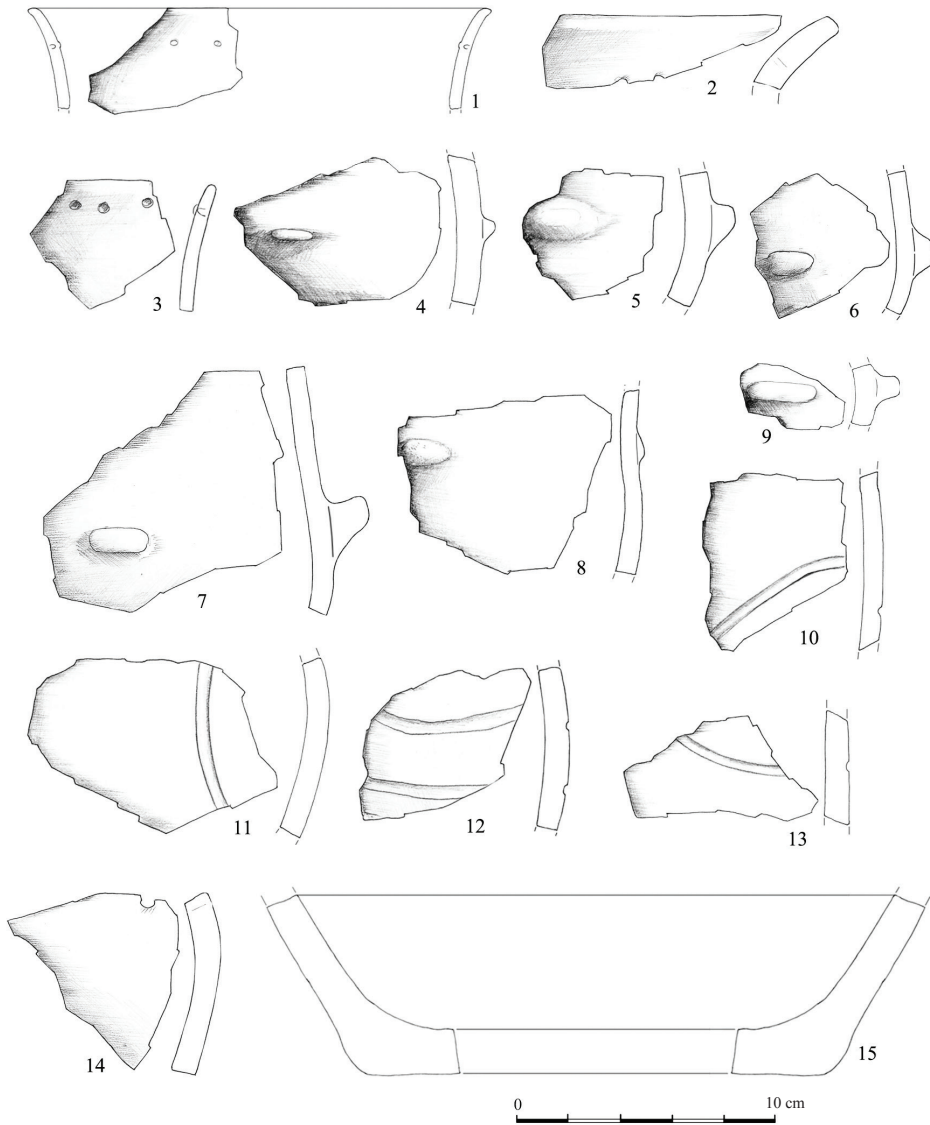


Fig. 39. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of large pots on top of the second upper coaly seam

notches on the abovementioned item that is typical for the next sample [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 71, Fig. 42: 3].

The second ladle (or beaker) item is reconstructed by a wall fragment. This is a standard for Severynivka hillfort form of S-shaped lower cup. On the edge it is decorated with a number of oblique notches (Fig. 25: 6). Several such finds were

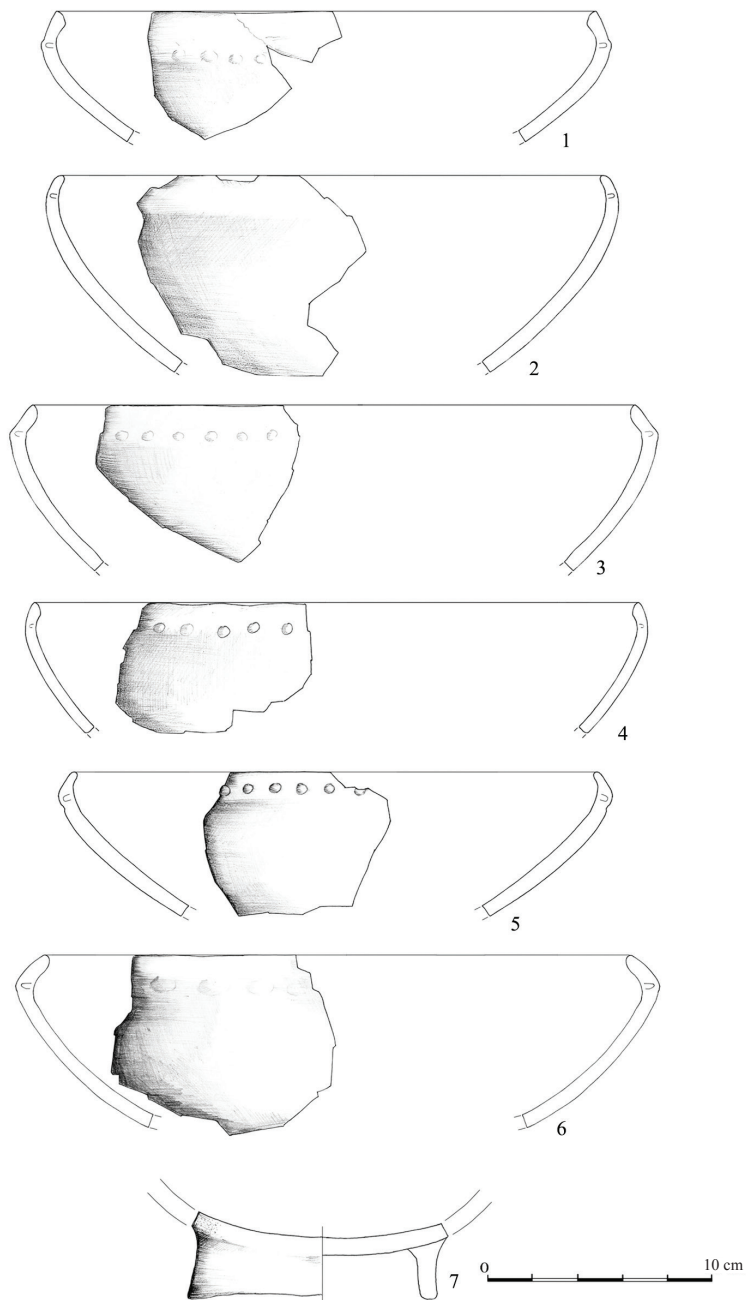


Fig. 40. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the second upper coal seam

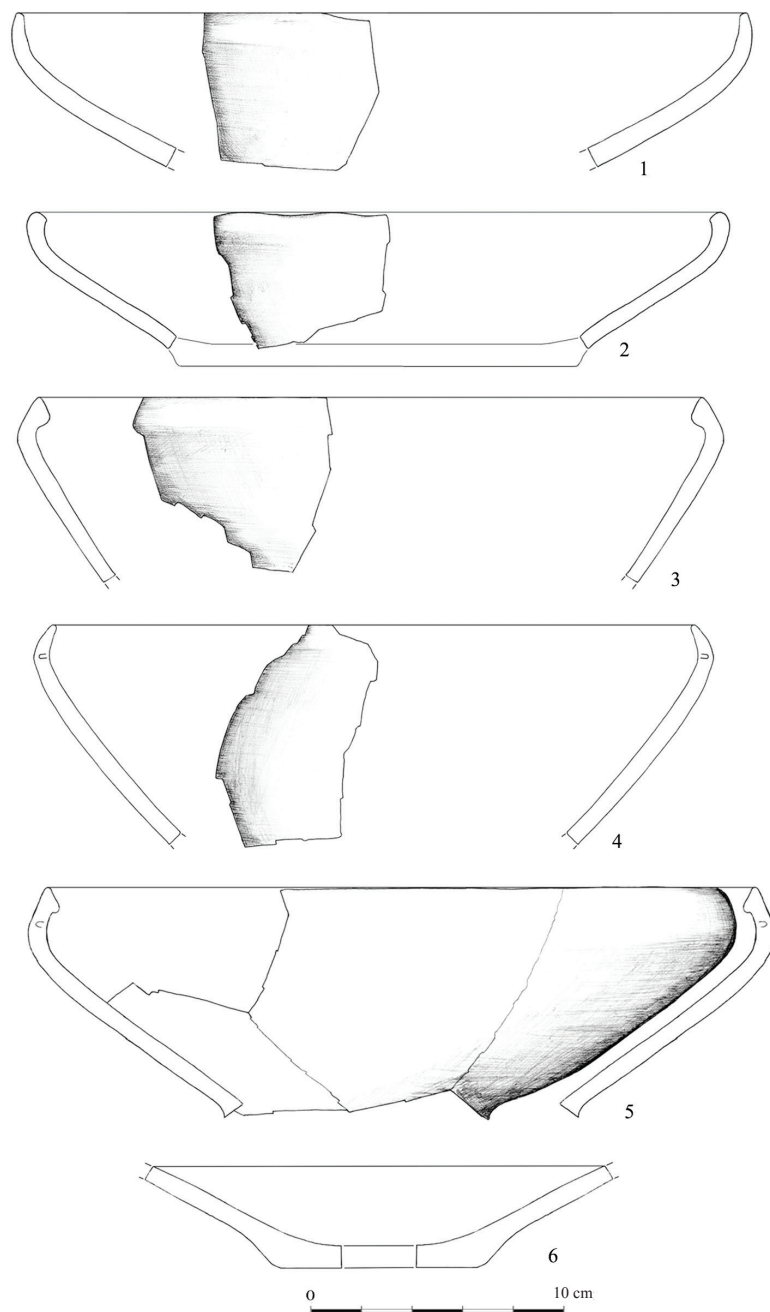


Fig. 41. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the second upper coaly seam

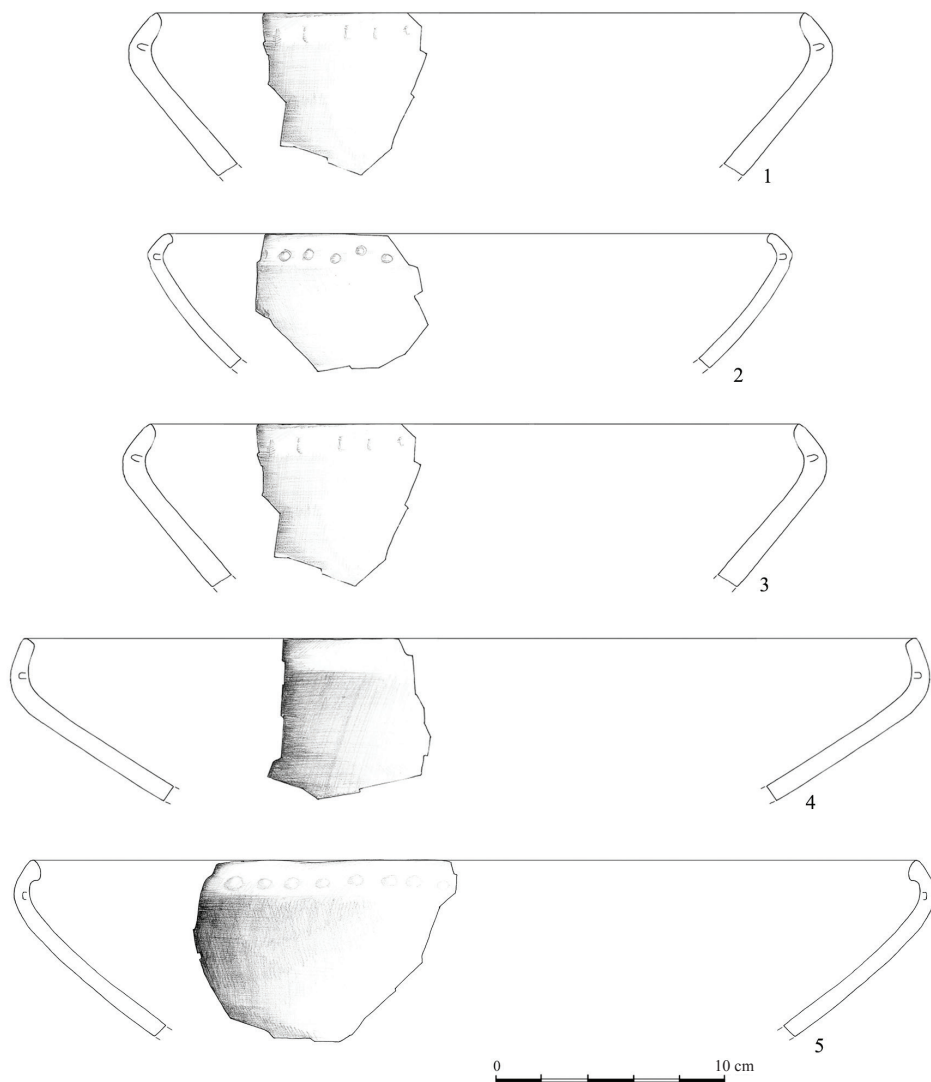


Fig. 42. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the second upper coaly seam

recorded in the northern excavation. A large ladle with oblique notches on the rim bevel was recorded in the barrow 5 near Perebykivtsi village, which is as well as a standard barrow 2 of the same burial ground applies to the first quarter of 6th century. BC [Smirnova 1979: 57, Fig. 15: 9; 1993: 116].

Among the Dnieper region monuments similar ornamentation is fixated on the finds of the Chervona Mohyla of the second half of 7th century BC [Kovpanenko 1984: Fig. 2:12]. At Motronin hillfort, pit 1 of the excavation 7, is known a similar ornamented chalice, which researchers attributed to the 7th-6th century BC [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 75, Fig. 45: 9].

Also in this complex there was recorded a miniature vessel in the form of barrel-shaped chalice with curved outwards rim (Fig. 25: 7).

Household tools are presented by two spindle whorls (Fig. 25: 8, 9) and two tools for leather currying and trimming of finished items [Pankovskiy 2000: 95; 2005: 122] (Fig. 26: 1, 2). The latter tools are made of cattle flat bones, the surface in the “handle” and “working parts” is largely polished. Analogous items are recorded on Chornolis monuments, namely on the settlement near Khreshchatyk village [Pokrovska *et al.* 1971: Fig. 6:10, 11] and Hryhorivka hillfort. Analyzing the materials of the abovementioned monument G.I. Smirnova noted that in the Western Podolia region these tools were the most widespread during Chornolis time [Smirnova 1983: 65, Fig. 8: 9].

Although such items have repeatedly been recorded on Motroin [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 105, Fig. 70:14] and Bilsk hillforts [Shramko 1975: Fig. 4:19; 2016: 317, Fig. 15: 1-4], including religious complexes [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 18]. They are also represented among Kelermes horizon of Pozharna Balka settlement [Andrienko 1992: 81]. Researchers noted the most spread of them during the end of 7th – first quarter of 6th century BC [Shramko 2004: 105]. Much of the complex 1 of Severynivka ware of instruments shows their continued usage.

Also, from this place originates a bone borer (piercing tool) (Fig. 26: 3).

Pit “f”

From this object wasn't received much material, which however had distinct features. It is notable a rim of a pot, decorated with stuck raised border, under which along the neck applied a row of pricks with pearls on the outside (Fig. 27: 1).

There was also an unusual find of the pot wall fragment with random applied oblique strokes on the outer surface (Fig. 27: 2). Currently, it is difficult to speculate about the nature of this highly fragmented find, but we can only note that such random ornamentation had pots from the Chornolis horizon of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 22: 2-3].

Here was also found a large pit wall fragment with a semicircular cannellure (Fig. 27: 4). The same gradual and slightly distinct feature of ornamentation is traced also on large pots fragments from household pits of the hillfort [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 6: 4]. At the Nemyriv hillfort such ornamentation appears only from the early-Scythian time [Smirnova 1999b: 242]. Most likely, this simplified decoration can be interpreted as a local ornamentation of “Villanova” type large pots [Kašuba *et al.* 2010: 32].

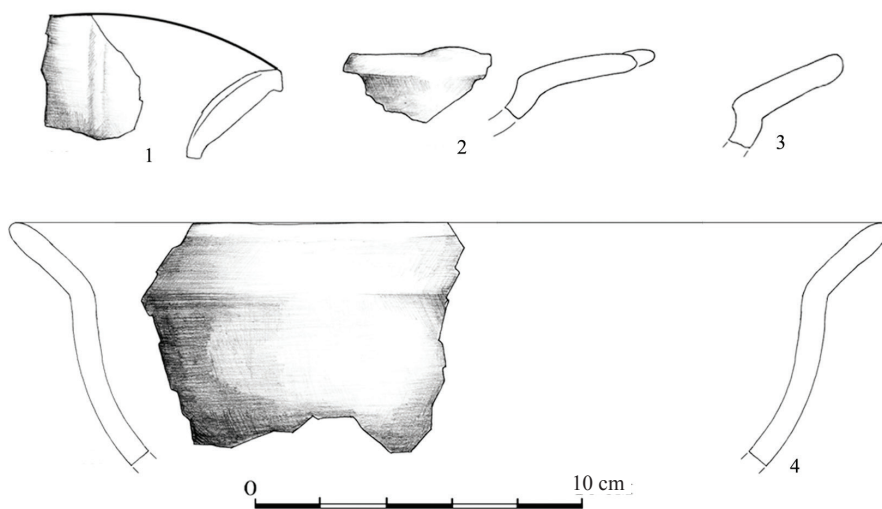


Fig. 43. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the second upper coaly seam

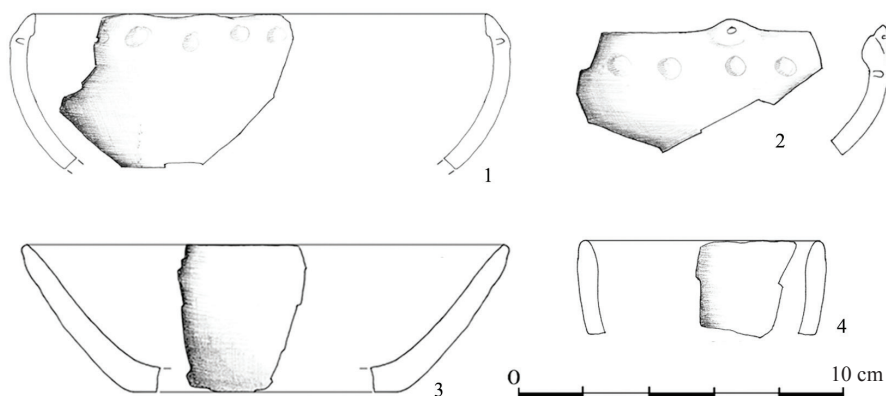


Fig. 44. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Small bowls of the second upper coaly seam

Tableware is presented by a ladle handle with a “button” (Fig. 27: 5) and two fragments of bowls. Both are of trapezoidal profile with a rounded rim bevel. But one of them is ornamented with pricks with expressive pearls on the rim bevel (Fig. 27: 6), and the second – only one stab on the extant part (Fig. 27: 7).

Household tools are presented primarily by a bone borer with a polished worn tip (Fig. 27: 8), moreover there was also found a tubular bone fragment with whitened edge (Fig. 27: 9). There were also recorded spindle whorls (Fig. 27: 10-12).

Another clay item with a through hole cannot be interpreted with a sufficient certainty through as a spindle whorl because of unusual cylindrical-conical shape and too thin hole (Fig. 27: 13). It should rather be attributed to the votives, for instance, models of grains [Shramko 1985b: 30]. Ceramic “counter”, made of a handmade vessel wall fragment (Fig. 27: 15) can be interpreted as also a votive that is connected with a solar or lunar cult [Kałagate 2013: 183], or as a technical tool, for instance a burnisher [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 84].

Miniature vessel similar to the analogous items from Bilsk hillfort, which B.A. Shramko interpreted as lamps [Shramko 1983: 88, Fig. 11: 15-17; 1999: Fig. 4:15, 16, 5:11]. It should be noted that on the mentioned monument is observed the parallel find of the such so-called lamps with ceramic religious plastics. It is notable that the lamps and clay plastics in the Basarab culture antiquities are treated as a set of cult objects [Stoian 2009: 234].

Individual material is also has counterparts in other complexes of the hillfort. In particular, in a pit “f” of complex 1 was found a tack-shaped earring with a fragmented loop-shaped hoop. From the earring of the pit 24, this find distinguishes by bigger and flatter nail-head (Fig. 27: 16).

V.G. Petrenko traced that these products range is mainly located between the Dniester and the Dnieper rivers. Also, the researcher assumed their Western origin [Petrenko 1978: 21-25]. Further studies reinforced the assumption of the researcher [Skoryi 1990: 36; Polit 2010: 356], although A. Gawlik defends the view about Eastern origin of the earrings, not rejecting their convergent development [Gawlik 2007: 231-232].

An analogous earring comes from the barrow near Lysychnyky village on the Dniester river region, which by the find of gray-clay ceramics is dated from the late 7th – beginning of 6th century BC [Smirnova 2006: 79, Fig. 2: 4, 5]. To the same horizon applies the earring from the pit 12 of the Dolyniany settlement in the Dniester region [Smirnova 1981: 43, Fig. 10: 7] and from Trakhtemyriv hillfort [Petrenko 1978: Tab. 16: 6, 11]. Similar gold earrings come from the complexes of the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC: barrow 4 near Hladkovschyna village, barrow 407 near Zhuravka village, burial 1 of Repiakhuvata Mohyla [Grigorev, Skoryi 2012: 452].

Such earrings from the burial in Zabłotce in the area of Tarnobrzeg group of Lusatian culture is assigned to the 6th-5th century BC on the basis of trilobate thread of beads referring to the mentioned period [Bajda-Wesołowska *et al.* 2014: 120-121; Kowalski-Bilokrylyy 2014]. Although, it is more likely to date these items by 7th-6th century BC [Leviłki, Haheu 2011: 57].

Also from the pit comes miniature cylindrical pipe named “vorvorka”. Its surface is smoothed, at the bottom there is applied a dotted ornament in the shape of four dots that form a triangle (Fig. 27: 17). Similar miniature bone vorvorka was

previously recorded in the north-western part of Severynivka hillfort, and at the Dolyniany settlement in the pit 39 [Smirnova 2001a: 36, Fig. 3: 2]. A similar find comes from a barrow 6 of the late Hallshtatt necropolis Trinca-Drumul Feteștilor [Levitskiy, Kashuba 2009: Fig. 3:10].

It can be also noted that bone and horn vorvorkas were common in archaic Scythian burials and are associated with accessories of the warrior implements. For example, in barrow 4 near Hladkivshchyna village [Grigorev, Skoryi 2012: 452]. A similar item was recorded in the composition of a quiver set from barrow 2 near Dolyniany village [Smirnova 1977: Fig. 4: 8]. Dot ornamentation on the vorvorka brings this item with elegantly decorated geometric ornament of Scythian Archaic exceptional things. Such as the horn pyxis from barrow 8 near Spasivka village on the western Podolia region [Mohylov, Hutsal 2008; Mohylov *et al.* 2016: 67].

Coaly layer 2 (upper fireplaces horizon)

This seam layer, which overlaid pits “e” and “f”, fireplaces 1, 2, and where laid the lense of fireplace 4, was abundantly rich of finds. The mass material is presented by fragments of handmade pottery. Among pots rims the vast majority of items shows morphological homogeneity. These are examples that are applied with stuck raised border with taps in combination with stabs or pricks (Fig. 28-34).

Two complete profile reconstructions represent barrel-shaped vessels with smoothly curved outwards rims and slightly curved body (Fig. 28: 7, 8). Indirectly, the prevalence of this form is indicated by finds of big fragments of bases (Fig. 36). Fragments of similar vessels originate from the excavations of Pivdenno-Podilska expedition [Smirnova 1961: 92, Fig. 5: 1, 6: 1-3]. The prevalence of this type of pots G.I. Smirnova records in the pit-house 1 filling on the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1961: 86]. A similar set of cookingware vessels was recorded in the pit-house 1 in the Skrypky tract near Selyshche village [Meliukova 1953: Fig. 32]. There is observed the prevalence of such forms among the materials of the third, middle-archaic horizon of the Pozharna Balka settlement [Andrienko 1994: 11-12].

There are notable two pots rims of a large size with a diameter of more than 20 cm (Fig. 29: 1, 2), which could be used as a tare vessels [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 6: 3]. Similar items were recorded in the barrow 2 of the necropolis near the Dolyniany village [Smirnova 1977: Fig. 3: 4].

Among the total number of pots rims there are a few exceptions. These include fragments with smoothed stuck raised border (Fig. 29: 4, 34: 12).

One fragment of a small weakly profiled pot has no ornamentation at all (Fig. 28: 6), and probably to the same type refers a similar rim (Fig. 32: 21). Such vessels are rarely found at Scythian settlements, including the settlement near Zalissia village [Hanina 1984: Fig. 1: 2], which refers to the second half of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 36].

Two finds are ornamented only with pricks and stabs (Fig. 32: 22, 23). One rim is decorated with pricks with distinct pearls on the outside and dimples on the upper side (Fig. 32: 24).

Similarly ornamented rims formed the basis of ceramic complex of Chornolis horizon on the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 104]. The complex of such rims from the south and lower Dniester river regions, namely Kartal and Glinjeni II hillforts I.V. Bruyako attributed as impact of the western Podolia in Scythian period monuments. The researcher also drew them as a cultural and chronological indicator of Selishte burial ground and attributed it to the horizon of the second half of 7th century BC [Bruyako 2005: 152, Fig. 32:13, 14, 34 A, 35].

B.A. Shramko noted that due to the archaic materials of the eastern Bilsk hillfort the wares with similar unusual ornaments collectively accounted no less than 7.8% [Shramko 1982; 1983: 81].

In one case, under the stuck raised border there was traced an oblique rod dimple (Fig. 32: 25), which could be accidental. A row of rod dimples on the neck under stuck raised border was met on pots of barrow 15 near Stebliv village [Klochko, Skoryi 1993: Fig. 3: 1]. Such ornamentation is widely represented on Trakhtemyriv hillfort [Fialko, Boltryk 2003: Tab. 11]. The dwelling 5 of excavation VI at Motronin hillfort, where were found some single pots, ornamented in a similar way, is dated by the end of 6th century BC [Skoryi, Bessonova 1996: 229, Fig. 5: 7].

Only one rim has a straight profile that is inherent to the weakly profiled jar-like vessels (Fig. 31: 2). A similar situation traced B.A. Shramko when studying archaic pottery of the eastern Bilsk hillfort. The researcher noted that jar-like vessels number only 1.1% of the total amount of the vessels [Shramko 1983: 74]. Instead on the Middle Dniester region jar-like pots were typical for pre-Scythian and Scythian time [Meliukova 1958: 48].

Ornamented wall fragments, associated with pieces of pots, are represented in a lesser amount (Fig. 35). The two biggest fragments make it possible to reconstruct the shape of the body. One of them has a large diameter of 24 cm (Fig. 35: 1). Other – 13 cm (Fig. 35: 2), the analogy of which was recorded in pit-houses 1 and 2 on the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 4: 9, 9, 2, 3].

A wall fragment is represented by a single case that has an open-ended raised border (Fig. 35: 3). G.I. Smirnova analyzing the research materials from the Pivdenno-Podilska expedition pointed to the fact that such ornament is typical for the Chornolis time and it is presented on the Severynivka hillfort by single items [Smirnova 1961: 100, Fig. 10:11]. To a greater extent such decoration is typical for cookingware from pit-house 2 of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 92, Fig. 10: 3, 7, 8].

There are notable the kitchenware rims, ornamented similar to the pots, but of a larger and wider profile that are associated with cauldron-shape vessels. The two largest fragments represent wide vessels with a rounded body and even wider rim (Fig. 37: 1, 2). Three more ornamented wall fragments can be attributed to this category of vessels according to their profiles (Fig. 37: 3-5). A set of similar vessels was found in a trench III in 1948 [Smirnova 1961: Fig. 5: 2, 4]. By the presence of such vessels on Severynivka hillfort A.I. Meliukova emphasized the

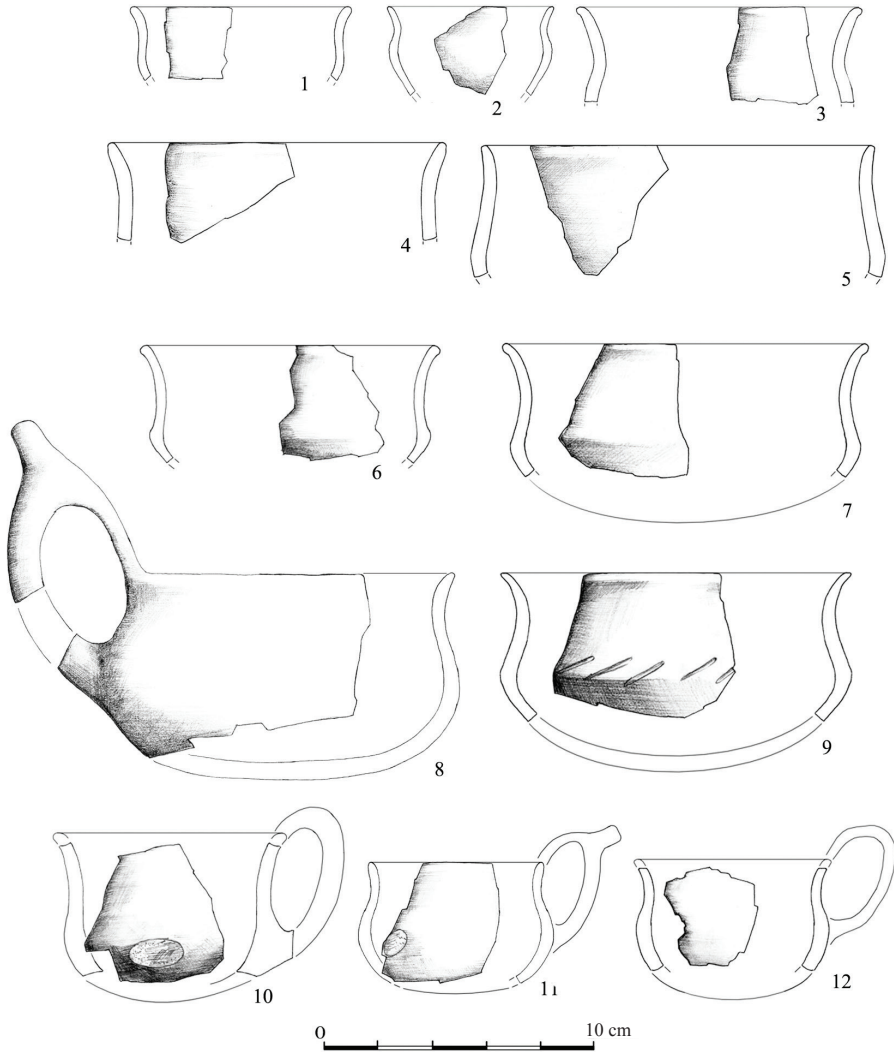


Fig. 45. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of ladles and chalices of the second upper coaly seam

difference between Severynivka and the Southern Bug river region in general and the monuments of the Middle Dniester region [Meliukova 1958: 37, 48]. Although due to large-scale excavations of settlement monuments there was found a significant number of cauldron-shaped vessels [Smirnova 2006: 81]. They had already

appeared at late Chornolis monuments, such as Vyshenka II [Boyko 2004]. A representative collection of cauldron-shaped vessels derived, for example, from the settlement near Dolyniany village [Smirnova 2001b: 66-68].

There are widely represented cauldron-shaped vessels among Motronin hillfort materials. Researchers trace their highest concentration in the excavation IV, where objects of cult are concentrated, and therefore suggest a ritual feature of such form of the vessels, comparing them with antique *luterys* [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 71]. However, to our opinion, it is rather explained by earlier archaeological materials from the excavation, rather than a certain value of these vessels.

There are lot of lids fragments of different diameters and section in the layer (Fig. 38). Big items with a diameter of 15-20 cm, which corresponds to the diameter of the cookingware pots, have a thickness in the range of 1.0-1.5 cm (Fig. 38: 1). It is possible their usage as braziers [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 87]. There are only a few items of narrower proportions with a diameter of about 10 cm (Fig. 38: 3). It can be supposed that the miniature items were assigned for pyxises [Kashuba 2000: 332]. The finding of such vessel in the pit 3 on the south-western part of the hillfort does not contradict this suggestion.

In general, the sample of lids from this horizon is analogous to the finds of the lower ashy layer. Their significant number confirms an observation of G.I. Smirnova about wide usage of lids by inhabitants of the hillfort [Smirnova 1961: 94]. Instead, analyzing the materials from Nemyriv hillfort, the researcher noted the not numerous finds of lids [Smirnova 1998: 108]. Although, judging by indications that not all the material from the excavations in Nemyriv was taken to the artifacts treatment, a small amount of lids may be explained by their low presentability. These items are typical for the Middle Dniester region settlements [Smirnova 2006: 81]. Moreover, the origin of this category of vessels is associated with a Cannelure Hallstatt cultures circle [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 87].

There is a notable lid, abundantly covered with stabs, which judging from the extant fragments located by circles around the center (Fig. 38: 5). At another small fragment there is traced only one stab (Fig. 38: 9). Similar vessels are recorded in the pit-house 1 of the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC at ash hill 11 of the Western Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1985: Fig. 2: 13]. They are also known on the Dolyniany settlement [Smirnova 1981: Fig. 8: 7] and on Khotiv hillfort [Petrovska 1970: Fig. 8]. Researchers interpret them as strainers or incense cups lids [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 87].

Finds of storage jars are relatively few. The rims are decorated monotonously – curved outwards, decorated with pricks or stabs items (Fig. 39: 2), typical for household hillfort assemblages [Smirnova a 1961: 94, Fig. 7: 7]. There are also rims of thin proportions that are likely to be tableware vessels (Fig. 39: 1, 2). The complete tableware large pot that was found in the cult place in 1991 at the ash lense 28 of the western Bilsk hillfort. Although this object was dated by the middle of 6th century BC, the researchers attributed the tableware to an earlier time, from the end of the 7th century BC [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 14-15, Fig. 2: 3].

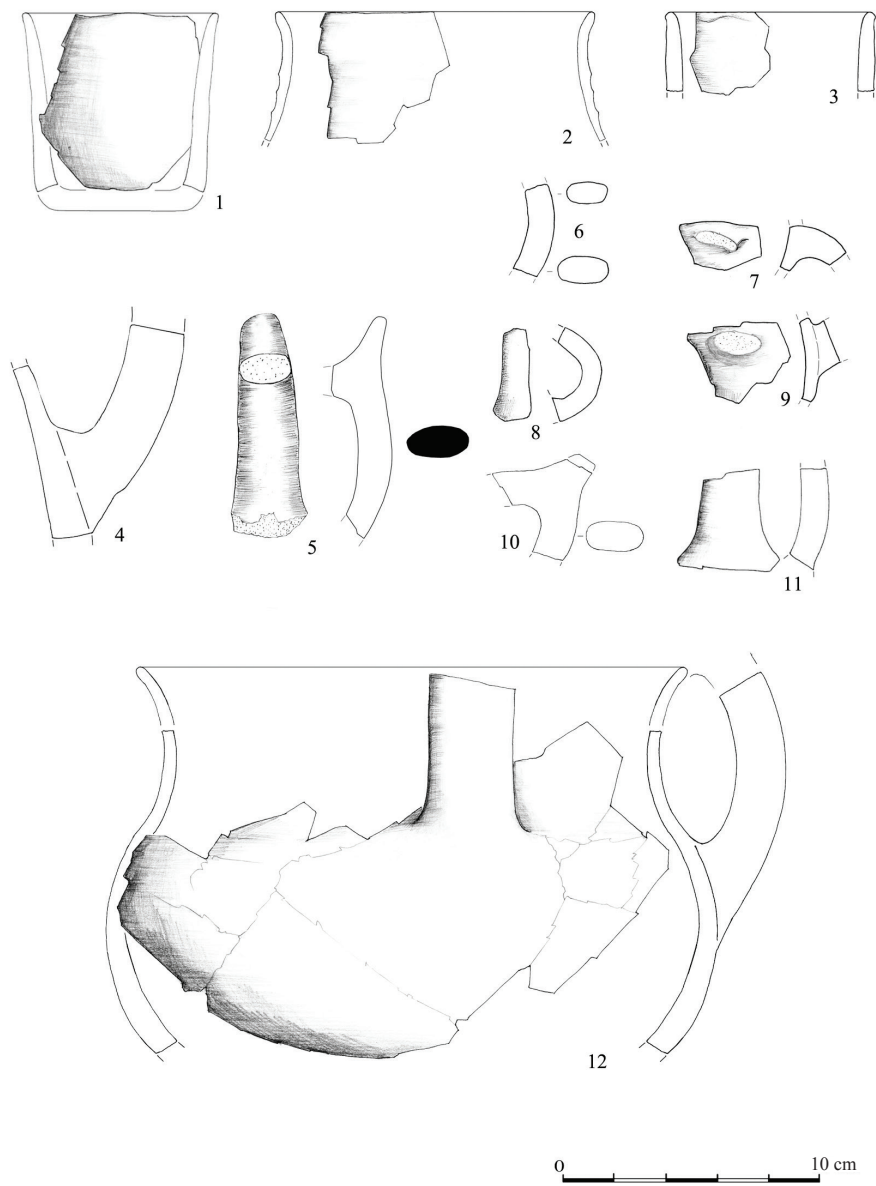


Fig. 46. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of ladles and chalices of the second upper coaly seam

Walls fragments are identified with large pots, decorated with handles-rests. Again, among them there are rough tare items (Fig. 39: 4, 5, 9) and fragments of thin-walled profiled vessels (Fig. 39: 6-8).

It should be noted that unlike the wall fragments sample of large pots in the ditch 4, in the second ashy layer there were recorded walls, ornamented only with narrow and deep cannelures (Fig. 39: 10-13), while there were no broad and smooth cannelures recorded.

In one case, on the large pot wall fragment there was fixated a hole, made after the vessel was burned (Fig. 39: 14). Perhaps it was a trace of a repair, similar to the one that was observed in a pit 15 in Severynivka. B.A. Shramko due to non numerous finds of large pots in the eastern Bilsk hillfort traced the sustainability of repairing tradition of such vessels and explained that by their manufacturing complexity [Shramko 1983: 86].

From the layer with fireplaces comes a significant amount of tableware fragments. Among the bowls there distinguished two main types – items with a rounded body (Fig. 40) and items with a trapezoidal in section body (Fig. 41, 42). In both cases the ornamentation of the bowls is the same – pricks from the outside of rim with more or less pronounced pearls outwards. Occasionally there are occurring exceptions and a bowl has a smooth not ornamented surface (Fig. 41: 1-3). Although in the Dniester region, for example, among the materials from the settlement near the Dolyniany village, bowls, ornamented with pricks, are in minority [Smirnova 2001a: 68].

In general, these bowls cannot be considered as a reliable cultural and chronological marker. Because this form had existed for a long time on a wide territory [Meliukova 1958: 17]. It should be noted only the absence in this layer, and throughout the Complex 1 in general, the bowls with a rounded base, typical for monuments of an earlier time, such as a necropolis near Tiutky village [Zaets 1979: 256] or Dnistrovka-Luka [Smirnova 1982: Fig. 2: 2].

High trapezoidal in section bowls are similar to the finds from Ivane-Puste settlement [Hanina 1965: Fig. 1: 7], which researchers attribute to the second half of VII – beginning of VII century BC [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 41].

Some findings with a wide diameter and striking moved apart walls (Fig. 42: 4) can be correlated with the so-called “vase-shaped” bowls, distinguished by B.A. Shramko on the basis of early materials from the eastern Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1983: 87].

A single find is a round base fragment of the bowl (Fig. 40: 7). Similar items are typical for materials of Chornolis Dnistrovka-Luka settlement [Smirnova 1984: 55]. At Scythian time there had been rarely met such fragments on the Dolyniany settlement [Smirnova 2001a: 68].

There were found bowls with curved outwards flat rim (Fig. 43). G.I. Smirnova emphasized that this type of bowls is peculiar only to the lower layer of monument [Smirnova 1961: 94]. In the complex they are present in both ashy horizons. It may

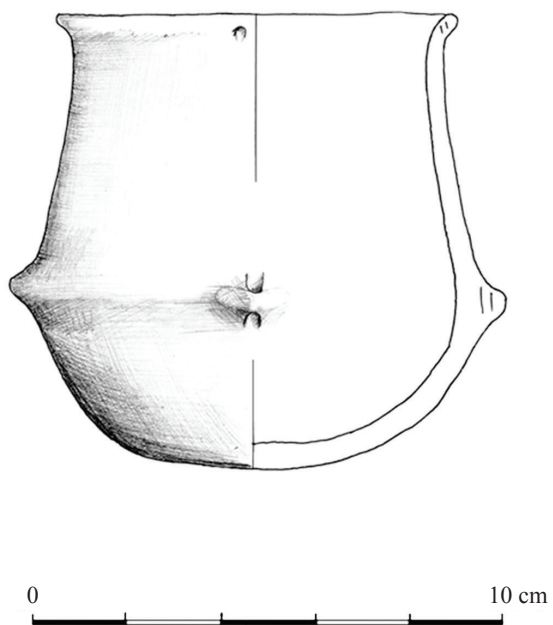


Fig. 47. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Chalice of the second upper coaly seam

be recalled that not ornamented bowls are among materials of the settlement near Zalissia village [Hanina 1984: Fig. 2: 5], which due to gray-clay ceramics finds belongs to the second half of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 36].

Similar to Severynivka hillfort bowl (Fig. 43: 4) was recorded in the barrow 3 near Perebykivtsi village of the first quarter of VI century BC [Smirnova 1979: 57, Fig. 12: 9; 1993: 116].

One of the fragments is ornamented on the top with cannelure (Fig. 43: 1), which finds matches in materials of pit-house 1 and to a greater extent in pit-house 2 of Nemyriv hillfort. G.I. Smirnova noted that these types are more typical for the Western Podolia antiquities [Smirnova 1998: 86, Fig. 5: 4, 13].

At the edge of another one is applied a pulled off tap (Fig. 43: 2). A.I. Meliukova indicated that oblique grooves and raised borders were widespread on the Middle Dniester region during Scythian time [Meliukova 1958: 33]. However, if to suggest that the researcher had made this assumption on the basis of materials from Hryhoriv hillfort and Pidmet settlement with an adjustment for the current understanding of ethnic and cultural development of the region, the ornamentation belongs to the late Chornolis horizon [Smirnova 1983: 60; 1984: 46].

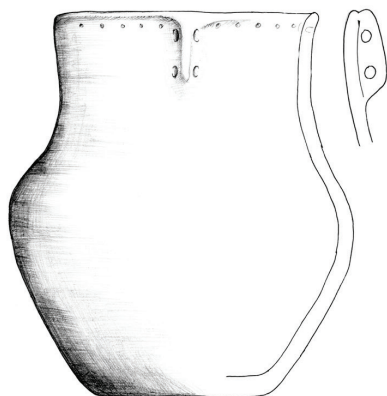
By single finds are presented bowl of small size, about 10 cm in diameter that are of the same shape that the standard items (Fig. 44: 1-4). Features a rim fragment with a pulled off tap, which is additionally decorated with a stab (Fig. 44: 2). Similar wares are typical for antiquities, allocated to the Chornolis time on the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 106]. The bowl with taps decoration was recorded in the pit-house 1 of the end of 7th – beginning of the 6th beginning BC in the ash hill 11 of the western Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1985: Fig. 2:13]. Presented examples are less than standard vessels, but not as small as miniature votive vessels, indicating their possible utilitarian purpose [Peliashenko 2016: 88].

Ladles and beakers are also presented by a significant number of finds (Fig. 45, 46). Despite the size difference, the majority of items demonstrate a certain typological uniformity. These are quality made wares with a smoothed surface, S-shaped profile with a gradually curved outwards rim and rounded base (Fig. 45: 1-12). In general, a set of ladles from the layer is analogous to the ladles from the ditch 4, as well as to the artifacts, discovered in the 1940-50-ies [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 6, 7, 9: 4]. It finds matches among such monuments as settlement near Zalissia village [Hanina 1984: Fig. 3: 1-3].

Extant fragments of handles are oval in section, with a “button” on top (Fig. 45: 8; 46:10).

In one case, there was recorded an ornamentation of oblique notches on the rim bevel (Fig. 45: 9), indicating the synchronicity of the second coaly layer and pit “e”.

It should be emphasized that cannelured rims of ladles and are typical for pre-Scythian time monuments. In particular, they were found on the Dnistrovka settle-



0 10 cm



Fig. 48. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pot of the second upper coaly seam

ment and their origin was associated with the impact of Basarab-Şoldăneşti culture [Smirnova 1985: 40, Fig. 3, 4, 13]. Similarly ornamented are jars from the Selişte burial mound [Lapushnian 1979: 83, Fig. 25: 7].

However, it should be noted that Severynivka samples are different in more sharp ornamentation in the form of notches. On this basis they are closer to the find from barrow – 5 near Perebykivtsi village of the first quarter of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1979: 57, Fig. 15: 9; 1993: 116]. At the Nemyriv hillfort analogous fragments are confidently applied only to the early Scythian horizon [Smirnova 1999: 242].

It is distinguished a thin-walled oversized ladle with a spherical body and curved outwards rim (Fig. 46:12).

Vessels, identified with chalices are rather diverse and expressive. Above all stands a find of a cylindrical vessel with a slightly widened rim (Fig. 46: 1).

Also revealing is the find of a thin-walled black-glossed rim fragment, decorated with horizontal cannelures (Fig. 46: 2). A similar item was recorded in ditch 1. Ladles with neck, decorated with cannelures, are typical for Chornolis Scythian horizons of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 106, Fig. 7: 4, 21: 2; 2001: 38. Fig. 2: 7]. Also, the chalice from late Chornolis Hryhoriv hillfort, ornamented the same way, was referred by G.I. Smirnova to the Basarab-Şoldăneşti type of ceramics [Smirnova 1985: 40, Fig. 3: 6]. From the eponymous monument, Şoldăneşti settlement, appeared analogous rims of chalices and funerary urns [Meliukova 1958: Fig. 14: 1, 20: 1, 2]. It is worth mentioning that among the Eastern Alps monuments such ornamentation is typical for chalices of Stična – Novo Mesto horizon, which corresponds the horizon HaC2 – HaD1 [Dular 1982: 83, Fig. 4: b, Tab. 10].

The most notable is a chalice with a hemispherical base and high conical truncated neck with drastically curved outwards rim. A characteristic feature of this item is the four diametrical stabs on the rim and located underneath them projections with vertical stabs (Fig. 47). It gets the impression that the stabs were designed for hanging the vessel like a censer.

A similar chalice, but not ornamented is known from the barrow 3 of the first barrow group near Medvyn village. According to the arrowheads and cowrie shells finds, this complex belongs to the horizon of the second half of 6th century BC [Kovpanenko 1981: 38-39, Fig. 27]. On the left bank of the Dnieper river a similar in profile chalice with four projections and various ornamentation on the rim bevel was found in the barrow 6 near Machuchy village [Kovpanenko 1970: Fig. 2:12].

Similar by morphology chalices (type 4 by Y. Dular) are widespread in eastern Hallstatt area. They have a similar profile, although neither on the rim, nor on the projections (if they are present) are visible the stabs. These analogies are related to the horizon HaC – HaD [Dular 1982: 21, Tabl. 94-97]. It may be also recalled that the bowls with vertical projections are known in classical Hallstatt antiquities of the horizon HaC2 – HaD1 [Dular, Jevremov 2010: 81, Tabl. 171: 8]. Quite similar

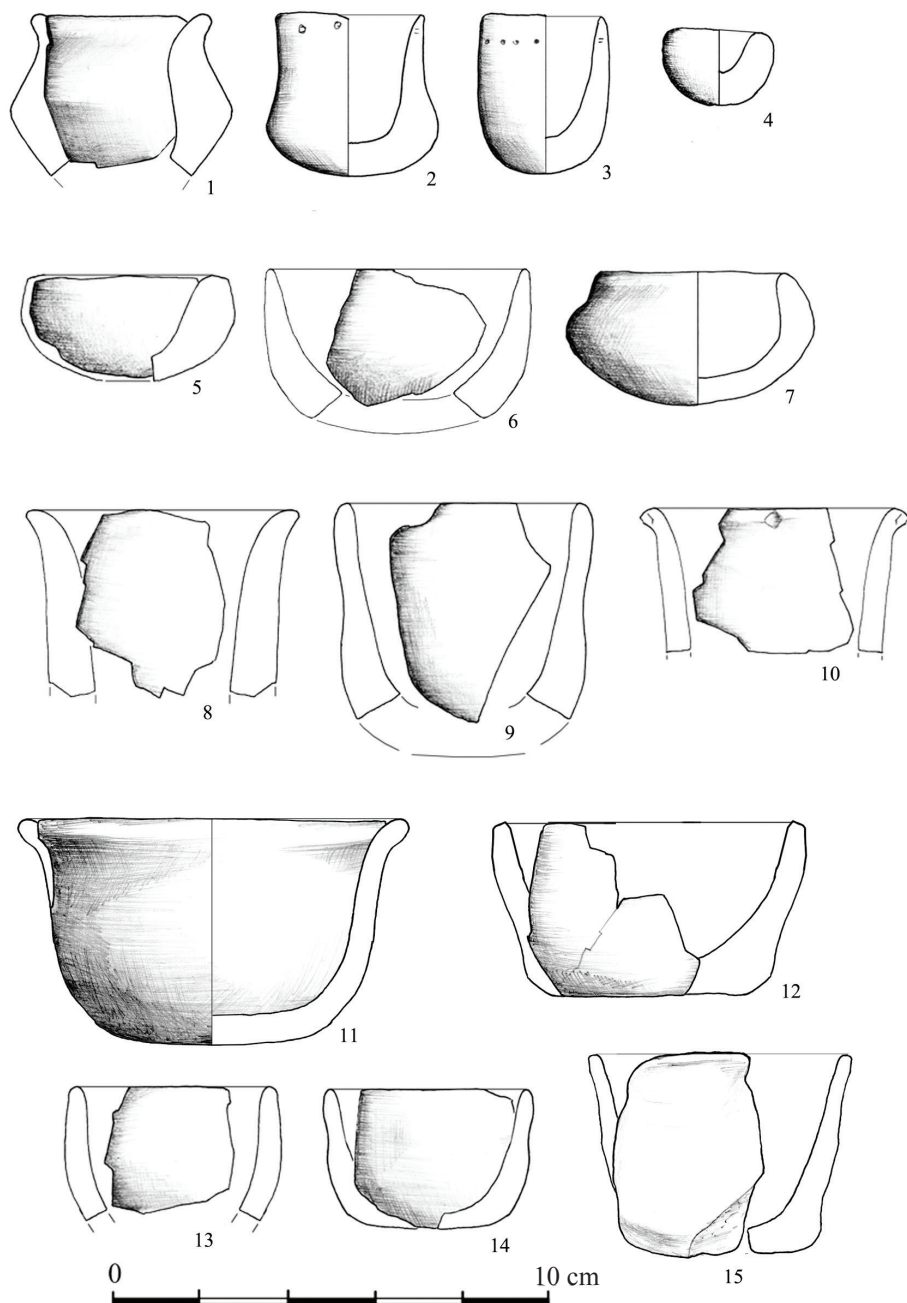


Fig. 49. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Miniature vessels of the second upper coaly seam

biconic bowls of Blaj necropolis in Transylvania, which refers to the end of 7th century BC [Vasiliev 1972: Tab. VIII: 4, XI: 2]. But, again, these examples haven't got similar stabs on the rim and projections.

From the remote parallels it should be remembered chalices, spread among antiquities of Lusatian culture. They have a similar low spherical body and a high neck. At the widest part of the body is a diametrical pair of projections, but with a horizontal eye [Matysiak, Prokop, 2005: 27-28].

Horizontal eyes with two holes are present on the chalice of Trzciniec monuments – burial mound Wolkowiany in Volyn region [Kłosińska 2008: 196-198, Fig. 4: 7]. But due to the chronological and territorial remoteness, this vessel shows a significant degree of variation in form and decoration. Instead chalice from Mołodutyn settlement from the same area, which had two holes in ear, a researcher engaged in a range of wares that illustrate the impact of the Eastern Black Sea forest-steppe and attributed it to the horizon HaD [Kłosińska 2008: 201, Fig. 5: 9].

G.I. Smirnova assumed that some pyxises with a horizontal eye could be used in religious purposes in hanging position. The appearance of such vessels on the Middle Dniester region monuments of Chornolis culture the researcher linked to the influence of Sakharna-Soloncheny culture [Smirnova 1983: 71, Fig. 5:11]. Also it was assumed that one of the miniature egg-shaped chalices from the settlement Dnistrovka-Luka could have holes for hanging [Smirnova 1996: 22, Fig. 3: 4]. But M.T. Kashuba indicates that the holes on pyxises was used to secure the lid [Kashuba 2000: 336].

B.A. Shramko on the materials from the Eastern Bilsk hillfort distinguished a group of lamps with holes designed for hanging [Shramko 1983: 88, Fig. 11:13].

Fragment of the pot rim or a cauldron-shaped vessel with an eye and a vertical hole comes from a layer of Dolyniany settlement. G.I. Smirnova assumed that this eye was meant for hanging the vessel [Smirnova 1981: 53, Fig. 11: 7]. Although, judging by the massiveness of cauldron-shaped vessels, this assumption is unlikely.

We separately should note a pot from barrow 2 near Servatyntsi village on the Middle Dniester region. This item by the profile is similar to the pot, described below (Fig. 48), but on its rim bevel there are two projections with vertical stabs. With the vessel in the barrow was recorded a “scaly” armor, large pot of Villanova type, a large tare pot with stuck raised border under the rim and a bowl with concentric cannelures on the inner surface [Sulimirski 1931: 95-97, Tab. XI: 10, XIV: 1-4; XV: 3; XVI: 7]. This complex probably refers to the second half of VII century BC. It should be added that in the next barrow 1 of the same necropolis was recorded a gray-clay ceramic pot of Kruglyk type of the second half of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Kashuba *et al.* 2010: 32-33].

We should describe a complete pot that by the quality of production and unusual decoration was also classified to the tableware. It is a vessel with biconic body and high cylindrical neck. Particularly interesting is the ornamentation – the rim is decorated with stabs and two diametrically projections in a shape of vertical raised border, each of which has two horizontal stabs (Fig. 48).

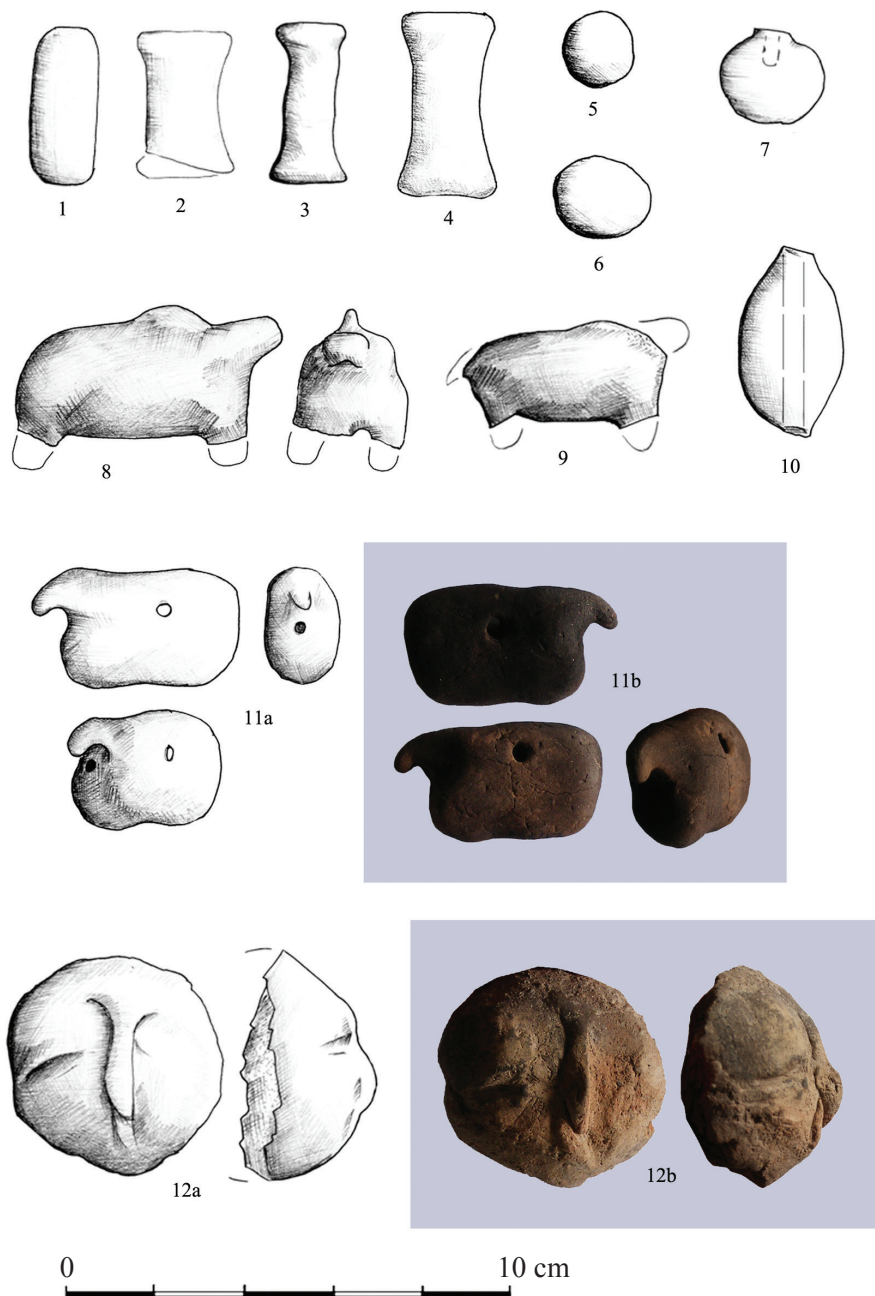


Fig. 50. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Handmade plastics of the second upper coaly seam. 1-4 – spools; 5, 6 – spheroids; 7 – “a loaf of bread”; 8, 9, 11 – zoomorphic plastics; 10 – grain model; 12 – anthropomorphic plastics

For this pot most exact analogies could be found among the so-called “vase-like vessels” of Mohyliany group. Researchers draw attention on the similarity of this pottery and examples from the area of Lusatian culture. Generally they are considered as antiquities of the Hallstatt C horizon [Samoliuk 2005: Fig. 7: 4, 5-11].

Also we can speak about the similarities with face urns of Pomeranian culture. The beginning of Pomeranian culture refers to the horizon HaD [Czopek 1992: 87; Jadczykowa 1992: 239]. Contacts between the tribes of the Black Sea region forest-steppe and Central Europe had been already recorded during the late Bronze age [Czopek 2008: 165; Ignaczak 2008: 155; Klochko 2008: 239]. In 6th century BC certain elements of Pomeranian culture reached the east in the Upper Dniester and Zbruch regions [Czopek 2010: 363].

Such a significant find clearly indicates the north-western vector of contacts. Also it could be valuable dating source for its analogies from Volyn.

Miniature vessels from this layer are also presented by examples of different shapes and sizes (Fig. 49). Some of them imitate full-sized chalices, sometimes with ornamentation (Fig. 49: 1-3, 8-11). Other miniature vessels can be considered the so-called “saltcellars”, as they are similar to the bowls (Fig. 49: 5-7, 12-14). Analyzing materials from the Hryhoriv hillfort, G.I. Smirnova assumed a cult feature of such miniature vessels and linked their appearance among Chornolis antiquities with the influence Sakharna-Soloncheny culture [Smirnova 1983: 71]. K. Yu. Peliashenko traced their attraction to religious objects and interpreted them as votive items or toys [Peliashenko 2016: 88].

Handmade ceramic plastics demonstrate the wide range of items. First of all, we should note that from here comes a series of clay spools of different profiles (Fig. 50: 1-4). The views of researchers on these subjects are ambiguous. It is supposed that they were used as spools in spinning and weaving [Meliukova 1958: 20, 81]. S.S. Bessonova suggests that these items are nothing less than primitive anthropomorphic figurines [Bessonova 1996].

There are also several miniature clay spheroids that can be identified votive tiny “flat cake”, or grains models (Fig. 50: 5-7), which are the part of the fertility cult rituals [Shramko 1985: 30]. Clay balls are known on the Dnister region, namely on the settlement near Dolyniany village [Smirnova 2001b: 63, Fig. 3:8]. On the Dnieper region they are known among the materials of Khotiv hillfort [Petrovska 1970: 134]. In the Motronin hillfort there was traced attraction of the “tiny loaves” to the religious complexes – a pit with a burial, a pit near the altar etc. It is emphasized their absence in the materials of pre-Scythian horizon [Skoryi, Bessonova 1996: 230; Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 85-86].

One “flat cake” has a narrow prick (Fig. 50: 7), another amorphous ceramic item – a long narrow stab (Fig. 50: 10), which not allows to link the ware with spindle whorls. Perhaps there has been a loaf of bread decoration with plants [Grechko, Pashkevich 2005: 152]. It is possible that these products can be considered as grains models [Shramko, Yanushevich 1985: Fig. 3-7].

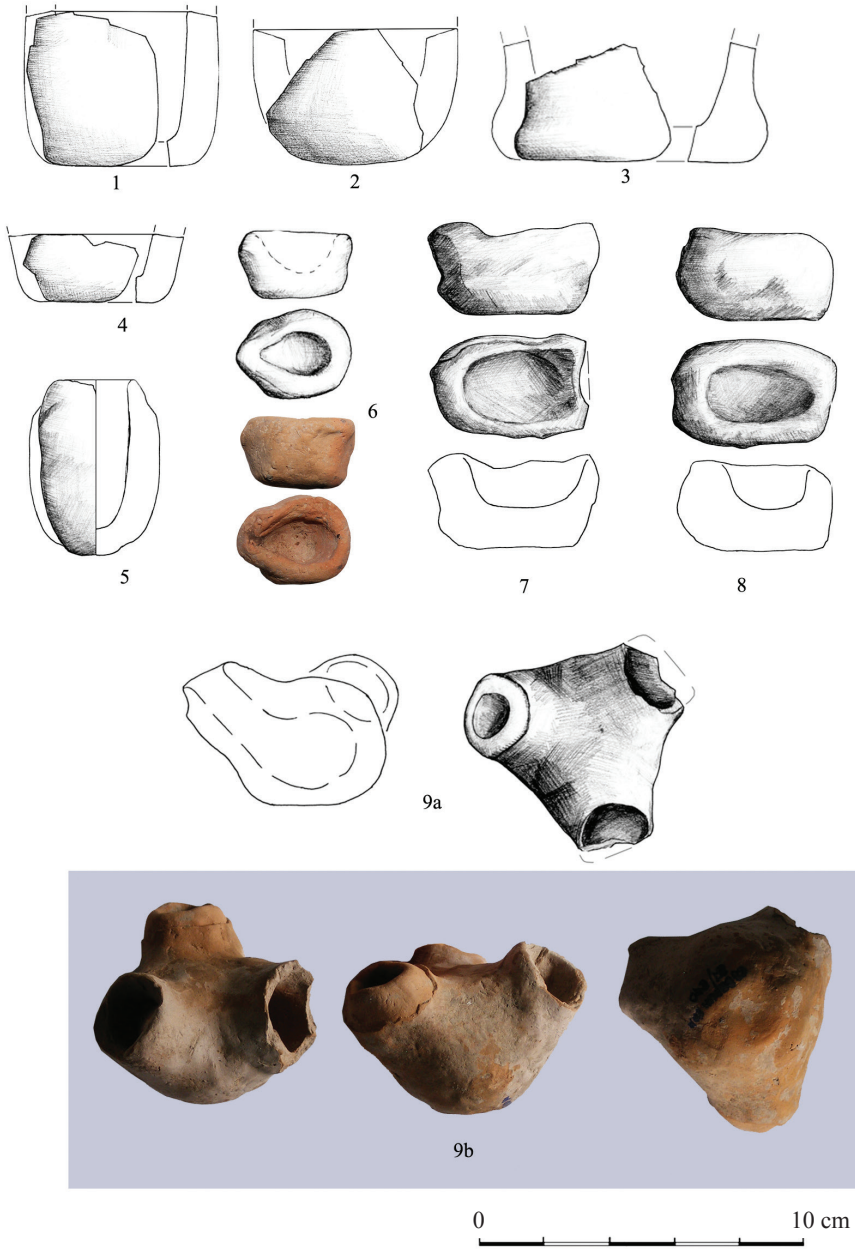


Fig. 51. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Miniature vessels of the second upper coaly seam

The researchers noted the widespread of spoils among archaic monuments of the Black Sea region forest-steppe [Meliukova 1958: 18]. A series of similar spoils was fixed in the pit-house 1 of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 5: 9-11]. B.A. Shramko noted the affinity of the ceramic plastics to the religious complexes on the example of excavation XXIII at the eastern Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1976: 202]. The same can be said about Motronin hillfort complexes, where spoils are accompanied by miniature vessels and loaves of bread [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 86-87].

We should note that in the lower fireplaces horizon of our complex “the loaves of bread” were not recorded.

Zoomorphic plastics is represented by two fragmented figurines, which can be perceived as a horse figure (Fig. 50: 8, 9) due to the presence of “mane”, formed on the back of the creature by taps [Shramko 1976: Fig. 6:13, 20, 22]. It is interesting that as in Holihrad samples here is less attention paid to the formation of the head and legs [Maleev 2007: 65]. Ceramic handmade plastics both anthropomorphic and zoomorphic have origins in agricultural cultures of the Late Bronze Age and has nothing in common with Scythian animal style [Polidovich 1996: 339]. In general, we should note that the statuettes of domestic animals are treated as apotropaic sacrifices, the substitutes of real animals [Maleev 2007: 73].

Also another figurine is rather interesting, which depicts far from reality creature, perhaps poly- or anthropomorphic. In its form can be discerned the contours of head, eyes are formed with a through stab, on the other side there is a crest, nose or tail formed by a tap, under which is placed a prick (Fig. 50: 11). Analogies to this ware have not been known yet.

Another fragmented item can be carefully interpreted as an anthropomorphic image. On poorly fired clay spheroid was formed a human face by a few taps (Fig. 50: 12). A number of similar finds was found at Bilsk hillfort. B.A. Shramko traced the presence of both female and male figures, and associated them with fertility cults [Shramko 1976: 204, Fig. 5: 1-5; 8; 1985: 3, Fig. 1-5]. For Holihrad antiquities the researchers noted the affinity of anthropomorphic plastics only to the hillforts, explaining it by the specific social distribution of certain religious practices [Maleev 2007: 73]. One can also assume the anthropomorphic statuettes connection with ancestors’ cult, or hearth cult [Nikulitse 1987: 105]. Attention is drawn to a certain asymmetry of the face that suggests an association with the one-eyed man statuette from the Bilsk hillfort, which B.A. Shramko compared with the Scandinavian god Odin [Shramko 2016: 349].

Technical ceramics unites the group of miniature vessels, for which it might be suggested the usage in technical purposes. In particular, to them refer thick rough thick-walled vessels bases with some snuff inside (Fig. 51: 1-5). A small cylindrical vessel (Fig. 51: 5), similar to the find from the pit-house 1 of the ashy lense 11 of the western Bilsk hillfort, can be interpreted following B.A. Shramko as a crucible [Shramko 1985a: 79, Fig. 2:29]. It should be noted that this dugout due to the number

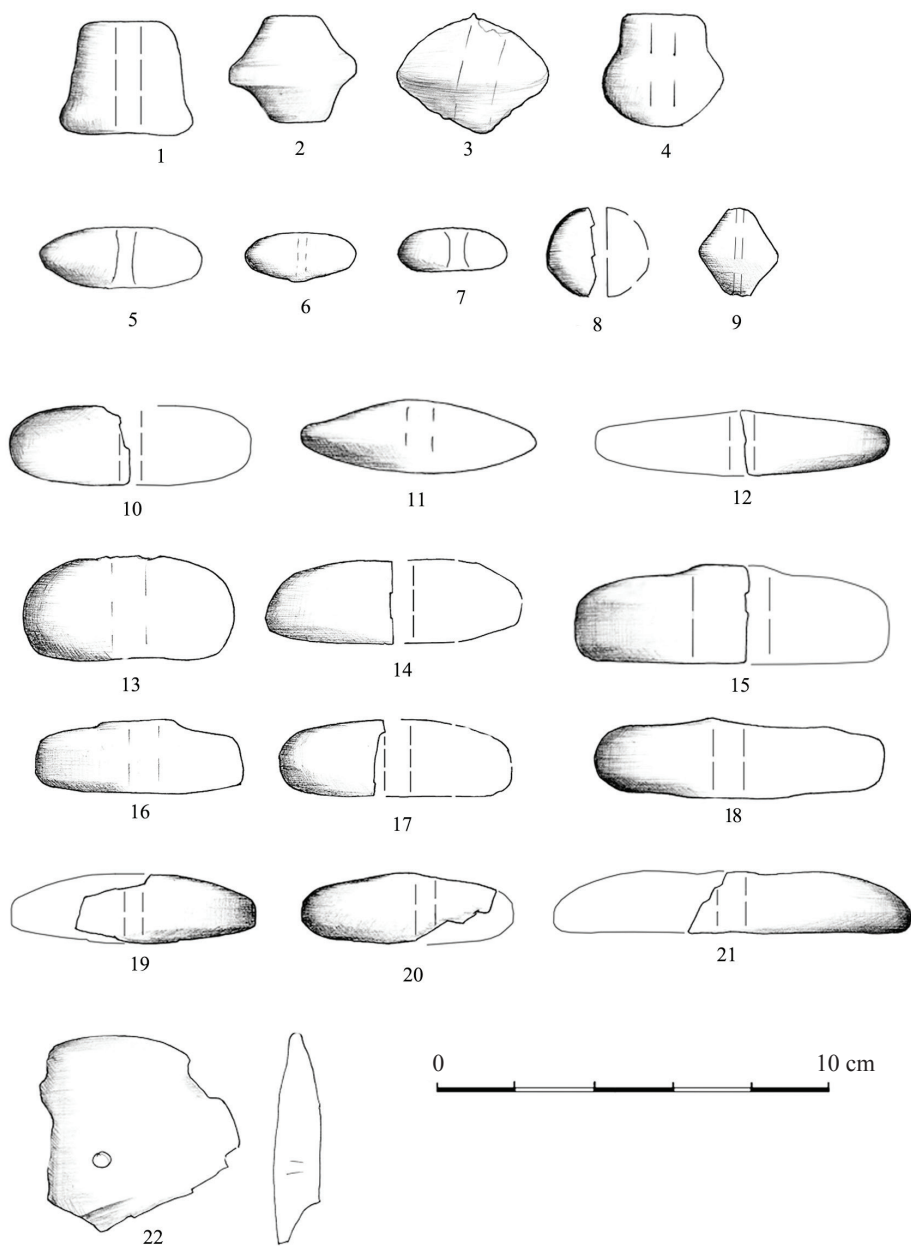


Fig. 52. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Spindle whorls and loom and netweights the of the second upper coaly seam

of features can be attributed to the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC. Similarly was interpreted a small vessel of earlier time from the Glinjeni II–La Şanţ settlement [Kashuba 2000: 318, Fig. 25: 3]. Also, as an analogy can be named a dipper for pouring hot metal from the Sakharna Mare hillfort [Niculiţă *et al.* 2013: 260, Fig. 48:21].

There is an interesting find of a dipper (?) with a nozzle (Fig. 51: 6). As for other similar thick-walled items, but without nozzles and manufactured in the form of a “trough” (Fig. 51: 7-8), also can be assumed their usage in a foundry as a crucibles [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 89]. But it is possible that they, like a similar item from the pit “f”, were used as lamps [Shramko 1983: 88, Fig. 11: 15-17].

A unique find is a three-nozzled miniature kernos (?) (Fig. 51: 9). From the classic high-quality vessels of pre-Scythian time [Daragan 2010: 96, Fig. 5: 1; 2011: 462] it differs by the absence of black gloss, miniature size and simplified form. However, the vessel is made of well silty clay and quality fired. Its surface covers slipped layer that can be traced on one of the rims fragments.

M.M. Daragan followed the origins of its form from the Hallstatt monuments of the Carpathian region, underlining their ritual function [Daragan 2011: 463]. Kernoses are presented also among Vysotsko culture antiquities [Krushelnyska 1995: Tab. 7]. The emergence of such wares on the left Dnieper river region can be explained by the influence of Vysotsko culture population [Svetlichnaya 1996: 157].

Mass technical ceramic vessels are presented by spindle whorls (Fig. 52: 1-9). Among them the vast majorities are of biconic and wide-spherical shape, but a notable find is of the large pot shape (Fig. 52: 4). For Chornolis culture antiquities on the Middle Dniester region such shape is peculiar to the western, Dniester-Lenkivets'k group [Smirnova, Kashuba 1988: 21].

Items of bigger size than spindle whorls, for instance, of a disc-shaped form, can be associated with netweights or loomweights (Fig. 52: 10-22) [Kaľagate 2013: 184].

Concluding the consideration of pottery from the upper fireplaces horizon, we should focus on one of the few ancient vessels finds. It is a wall fragment of an amphora, which by the light slip on the outside surface can be attributed to the proto-Thasian circle (Fig. 53). The lower limit for existence proto-Thasian ware in the forest-steppe is considered the second quarter of 6th century BC³.

The following categories of material culture, discussed below, although are rare, but have a particular importance for understanding the cultural and historical positions of the studied assemblage.

Firstly, the horn items should be mentioned (Fig. 54: 1-3). Cheek-pieces are presented by two fragments of the same type with three holes that belonged to different wares. From one of them remained only the middle part (Fig. 54: 2).

³ We appreciate PhD A.V. Buyskykh (Institute of Archaeology NAS of Ukraine) and PhD S.A. Zadnikov (Kharkiv National University of V.N. Karazina) for the comprehensive consultation.



Fig. 53. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Amphora wall fragment of the second upper coaly seam

The second find is presented by a cheek-piece with thickened middle part and a single out smooth “neck”. The only extant end is decorated with a creature head that can be guessed as a griffin-ram (Fig. 54: 1). Although this image is very different from the traditional image of this mythical creature [Kantorovich 2012: Fig. 16-21]. This image had undergone processing in all three spaces. Although the carving from the inside is made with less detail.

The beak, rounded and without predatory sharpness, is guessed only by the typical curved lines. However, the outline of the “beak” is more like round shape of sheep’s heads, which are known, to instance, from the Kelermes thread of beads [Riabkova 2005: Tab. 2: 5-22; Kantorovich 2012: Fig. 21], or cheek-pieces from Posullia region [Ilinskaya 1961; 1968: Tab. XIII]. The eye is absent, and the “horn” is applied with raised border that outlines the head.

Classic images of griffin-ram, are widely known in archaic monuments. Among the most representative is worth mentioning a cheek-piece from Starsha Mohyla, barrow 2 near Oksiutyntsi village and the barrow – of 1886 near Vovkivtsi village in Posullia [Ilinskaya 1968: Tab. IV: 2; XX: 16; XXXIV 1]. A number of interesting examples are derived from ash hill 1 in the Tsaryna Mohyla settlement, which researchers date by 6th century BC [Makhortykh *et al.* 2006: Fig. 37: 2].

However, none of the abovementioned analogies can not demonstrate such a strong mutual penetration of various creatures features, as we see on the cheek-piece from Severynivka. We are unable to find direct analogies to that syncretistic modification. It can only be recalled the cheek-piece of simplified style form the barrow 40 near Huliai-Horod village [Ilinskaya 1975: Tab. III: 2]. But in the given burial, unfortunately, in addition to horse bridle wasn't found other reliable chronological items. As an analogy draws attention a series of relatively late cheek-pieces from the barrow 448 near Zhuravka village in the Dnieper region and from the barrow 15 of the Nartan burial mound that belong to the first half – middle of 6th century BC [Mohilov, Didenko 2009: 46, Fig. 1; Makhortykh 2013: Fig. 2: 6].

We consider it appropriate to support the researchers that are not excluding the possibility of surviving zoomorphic horn cheek-pieces till the beginning of 6th century BC [Bruyako 2005: 154-157; Mohilov, Didenko 2009: 46]. High chronological position of that item in comparison to other cheek-pieces, may explain its stylistic features [Shkurko 1982: 3].

It is also recorded a horn arrowhead of pyramidal shape (Fig. 54: 3).

In this layer was also recorded a number of horn preforms of various treatment degrees (Fig. 54: 4-11). They are into the already allocated by the researchers three stages of horn treatment [Baron *et al.* 2016: 30]. One of the preforms, almost formed, with a smooth surface-truncated conical shape, perhaps, was intended for the vorvorka manufacture (Fig. 54: 4). Finished truncated-conical items are associated with accessories of a quiver set. In particular, they were found in the barrow 2 near Perebykivtsi village that G.I. Smirnova refers to the final phase of the of early Scythian culture stage 3 [Smirnova 1993: 115-116], which corresponds to the first quarter of 6th century BC.

Other preforms, which are fragments of the deer horn branches with traces of chipping and sawning demonstrate the preparation stage of the material to product forming (Fig. 54: 6-9), such as finds from the dwelling on the Dnistrovka-Luka settlement [Smirnova 1982: Fig. 12:12] and from a bone cutter pit-house of the eastern Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1976: Fig. 3:22]. Similar preforms could have been used for making knife handles [Smirnova 1981: 42, Fig. 8:10] or other household tools [Skoryi 2008: 166].

Finally two pieces of horn of the hempy part with traces of rough breaks and flakes are the extant items that remained from the initial stage of raw material dressing (Fig. 54: 10, 11).

Bone articles are presented only by household tools. In particular, there were found four borers. Three of them of a standard form with a joint on a hadle place and slightly curved smoothed point (Fig. 54: 12-14) that are typical both for the pre-Scythian and Scythian time [Meliukova 1958: 18]. These artefacts can be treated as kochedyks [Shramko 2016: 320]. On the multilayer monument Grzybiany these finds were the most typical for the layer of 7th – beginning of 6th

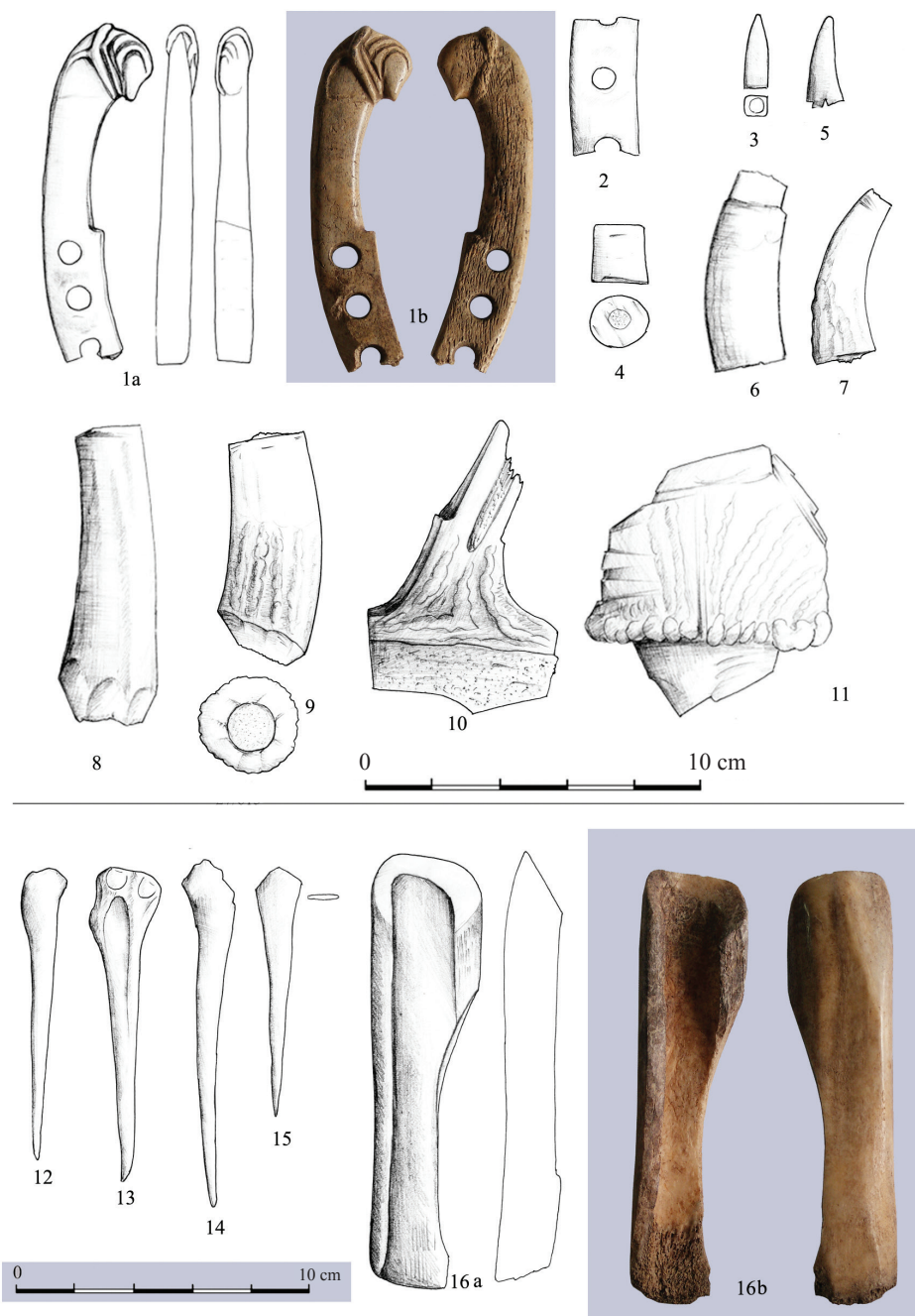


Fig. 54. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Horn and bone items of the second upper coaly seam. 1, 2 – cheek-piece fragments; 3 – arrowhead; 4-11 – performs and production waste; 12-15 – borers; 16 – polisher

century BC [Baron *et al.* 2016: 32, Tab. 1]. The other tool is slightly smaller and has a flat back part (Fig. 54: 15).

Noteworthy is a tool made of a large tubular bone. Its handle and flat working surface parts are worn to a shine. Additionally, there are traced the marks of worn-out (Fig. 54: 16). Similar items are interpreted as polishers that are found at the Chornolis monuments, in particular on the eponymical hillfort [Terenzhkin 1952: 152, Tab. V: 1]. It is supposed that they had been used for the skin treatment [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 105, Fig. 70:10].

The usage of primitive bone tools, including the described above borers and tools for leather currying and trimming of finished items, V.B. Pankovskiy is considering as heritage of Bronze Age technology. According to the researcher such tools were used in the home manufacturing [Pankovskiy 2000: 97].

From the household objects there are known also iron finds. They include knives (Fig. 55: 1-3). Judging from the extant fragments, they all had petiolar handle, but differed in blade shape. Two examples have a straight back (Fig. 55: 1, 3). Analogies to such knives are found among Hallstatt antiquities – including Jablanica necropolis of 8th – early 7th century BC [Gavranović 2011: 122, Fig. 121: 3, 4].

While the third blade – with bent back and possibly curved to the top point (Fig. 55: 2). Such blade profile is also typical for the Hallstatt knives and appears already in 8th century BC, namely on the Donja Dolina necropolis [Gavranović 2011: 122, Fig. 121: 1]. A similar artefact was fixated at Chornolis settlement Dnistrovka-Luka [Smirnova 1984: Fig. 9: 4] and on the Saharna Mare hillfort in the southern Dniester forest-steppe region [Niculiță *et al.* 2013: Fig. 45: 1]. An indicative find of a similar knife originates from the barrow 6 near Yasnoziria village of the middle of VII century BC [Kovpanenko *et al.* 1994: Fig. 6:11].

In the Lower Danube such form survived by 7th – 6th century BC, which was recorded by a find in the burial 73 of Cherna necropolis [Vasilchin 1999: 58-60, Fig. XXV: 164]. In the dwelling 2 and pit 9 of Dolyniany settlement similar knives with fragments of ancient vessels of 6th century BC were recorded [Smirnova 1981: 42-43, 56-57, Fig. 6:10, 10: 1].

The first and the second knives had a lost point that according to B.A. Shramko may indicate their usage in bone carving [Shramko 2016: 319].

A number of iron needles are also an interesting find (Fig. 55: 4-7). Bronze needles are known in the Dniester region during late Chornolis time, namely from Hryhorivka hillfort, Dnistrovka-Luka settlement [Smirnova 1982: Fig. 12: 2, 3; 1983: Fig. 7: 2] and from the burial ground near Luka-Vrublevetska village [Shovkoplias, Maksimov 1952: Fig. 2: 1]. Iron products presented among later Eastern Bilsk hillfort antiquities [Shramko 1973: Fig. 4:20]. Iron and bronze wares are known in Motronin hillfort [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 98]. A needle of a similar shape was found in a barrow 4 near Hladkivshchyna village that dates by the end of 7th century BC [Grigorev, Skoryi 2012: 453].

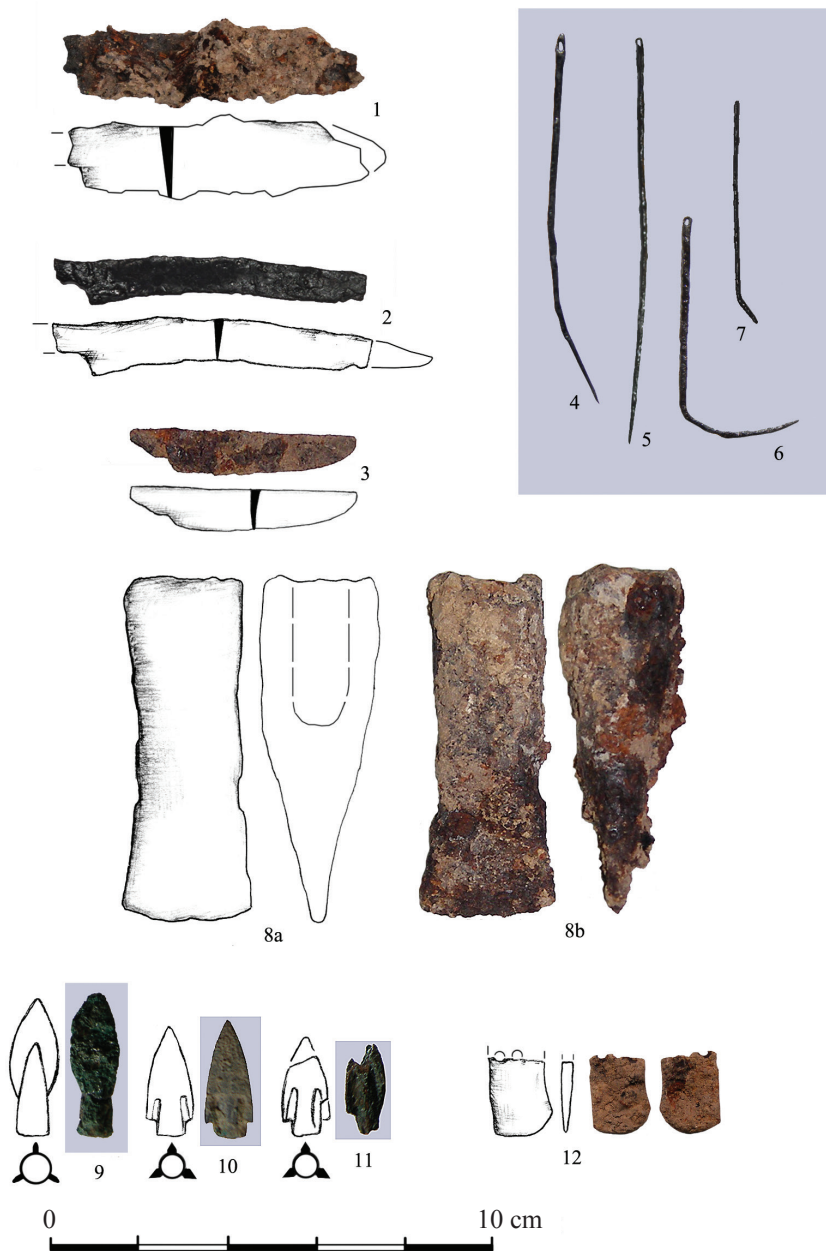


Fig. 55. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Metal items of the second upper coaly seam. 1-3 – knives, 4-7 – needles; 8 – socketed axe; 9-11 – arrowheads; 12 – armor plate

The following metal items are related to weapons. It mainly attracts attention a **socketed battle-axe** that was recorded on the fireplace 4 (Fig. 55: 8).

This very simple form had been known during the Late Bronze Age [Vlassa 1982: 65]. Iron socketed axes are probably derived from the bronze celts [Wan-zek 1988: 103]. N. Boroffka names the upper limit of their existence in 700 BC [Boroffka 1987: Tab. 2].

This find can be compared with iron socketed axes, which were common in the Eastern Hallstatt area by the early Iron Age [Egg 1996: 151]. They were spread among both noble and ordinary warriors [Hvala 2012: 114-122, Fig. 46: 3-14]. While most military items have more thin proportions, there are also known massive artefacts like the one from Severynivka. As an example, there can be named finds from such necropolices as Stična, Magdalenska gora, Ostrovec, Bukovje in the Eastern Alps region [Dular 2003: Fig. 68:18, 78:10, Tabl. 31: 6, 62: 7; 62: 2]. There are known similar finds in the north-west of the Balkan Peninsula. In particular, a socketed axe from the Donja Dolina necropolis can be attributed to the second half of 6th century BC [Gavranović 2011: 146-147, Fig. 148: 1].

Two socketed axes with a square and short shaft-hole were found among the treasure of the Lusatian hillfort Wicina. These items, as well as similar finds from the monument's layer were assigned to the carpentry tools [Michalak, Jaszewska 2011: 58-60; Michalak 2013: 217].

It is noteworthy the Severynivka find location on fireplace. It should be noted that a special place of axes in religious worships had been traced at least since the Bronze Age [Harding 2000: 321].

We believe that this find supports the assumption of the wave of Eastern Hallstatt impact presented by trophies and prestigious objects. In particular to the Hallstatt weapons were referred openwork bouterolles and adzes-axes with side wings or palstaves [Smirnova 1999: 242; Kashuba 2008: 245; Eberts 2016: 169]. Additionally, M.M. Daragan includes to this list the spears with cross raised borders – imitation of winding on the shaft-hole [Daragan 2010: 104]. However, if the researcher attributed this process to a short period of time near the middle of 7th century BC, in our opinion, the barrows with such artefacts (Shvaikivtsi, Perebykivtsi, Perepiatyha, Repiakhuvata Mohyla, barrow 406 near Zhuravka village) belong to the horizon of the second half of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC.

In this regard we can mention the discovery of an axe-palstave from the settlement of the Scythian time near Dolyniany village, which due to the finds of gray-clay wheel-made pottery and ancient import, can be attributed to the end of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1999a: 50-54; 2001b: Fig. 5: 8]. The axe was recorded in the pit 47. This complex was treated as a ground-dwelling, had irregular shape and was complemented by two noncontemporaneous pits, inlet from the floor-level and a fireplace [Smirnova 2001b: 61, Fig. 1, 5:14].



Fig. 56. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Metal items of the second upper coal seam. 1-3 – pins; 4 – bracelets; 5 – ring; 6 – iron item; 7, 8 – cowrie shells

Arrowheads in the second coaly layer Complex 1 are represented by three items. All of them are trilobate in section, but are different by shape. One arrowhead is trilobate in the shape of bay leaf with a broad head and protruding socket (Fig. 55: 9).

The other two are of the same type – trilobate with a triangular point and short socket and a separated notch and cut at obtuse angle blades (Fig. 55: 10, 11). Similar items were found in the following complexes: barrow 3 Dolyniany [Smirnova 1993: Fig. 5: 2], barrow 2 Perebykivtsi [Smirnova 1993: Fig. 8: 20-21], barrow 9 of the burial mound Piatymary I [Grechko, Shelekhan 2012: Fig. 12: 4]. The first two complexes are dated by the end of 7th – first quarter of 6th century BC, while the Piatymary I barrow is referred to the so-called transitional phase between the early Scythian and middle Scythian, *i.e.* till the middle of 6th century BC. Such point was recorded in the ash hill in the southern part of the settlement in Pozharna Balka village that is assigned to the earliest Scythian horizon [Andrienko 1992: 73]. Thus, based on analogies the lower limit of bedding the abovementioned three arrowheads is limited by the end of 7th century BC, and the upper, based on the lower edge of overlying layer, does not go further than 6th century BC.

Another discovery can be cautiously interpreted as a piece of armor plate (Fig. 55: 12). It is a flat plate with the width of 1.5 cm with a semicircular end and with traces of the three holes at the turn of the other side. By shape it refers to the plate type 3 by E.V. Chernenko. These products are prevalent throughout Scythian period, practically unchanged [Chernenko 1968: 27]. Due to E.V. Chernenko observation, the burials with scaly armor in the archaic period are present in small quantities in the right-bank and left-bank forest-steppe [Chernenko 1968: Tab. 2]. Their finds are present not only within the sepulchral monuments, but also on the settlements. So they are present in large numbers in Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 2016: 337, Fig. 54: 8-10, 13-16], one fragmented piece comes from Motronin [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: Fig. 63:26]. Similar finds are presented among plates from the barrow 4 near Dolyniany village in the Dniester river region [Smirnova 1977: Fig. 8: 6].

Jewelry is presents by diverse and expressive material. Specifically there were found a complete iron pin with a bent head in a loop and legs fragments of two more pins (Fig. 56: 1-3). According to V.G. Petrenko typology it belongs to the first variant of type 21 [Petrenko 1978: 18 Tab. 13: 4]. According to the researcher's observations, the pins of this type occur mainly in the early monuments on the right bank, although there some single pins met in other forest-steppe groups, except Posulska, Middle Don and Western Podilska [Petrenko 1978: 18]. To the same type by V.G. Petrenko refers a pin from the pit 19 of the south-western part of Severynivka hillfort.

Especially attractive is an **iron bracelet** find, made of round in section wire, bent in one and a half turns. The ends of the bracelet disjoint and designed in the shape of oval snake heads. On the heads there are traced slight notches that are forming a herringbone ornament (Fig. 56: 4).

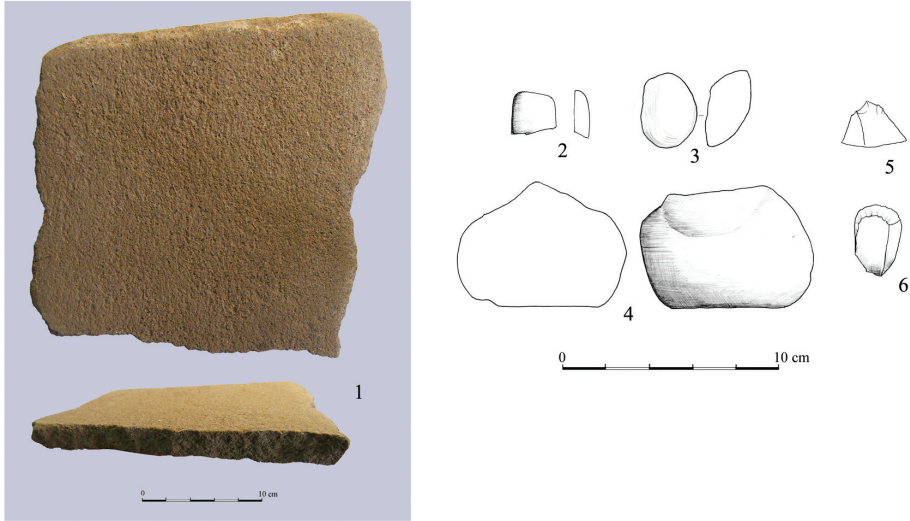


Fig. 57. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Stone items of the second upper coaly seam. 1 – grinding stone; 2, 3 – polisher fragments; 4 – grindstone; 5, 6 – flint fragments

Plate-like bronze bracelets with the ends, ornamented similarly occur even among antiquities of Saharna-Cozia culture, in particular, in the barrow 3 of the burial ground Saharna II [Kašuba 2008: Fig. 2: 3]. They are also known in the pre-Scythian burials, including the barrow 5 near Luka-Vrublevetska village [Shovkopliias, Maksimov 1952: 99, Fig. 2: 3]. They are notable among Vysotsko culture monuments, including Chehy burial ground [Sulimirski 1931: Tab. XXV: 27].

M.M. Daragan linked them with the Hallstatt influence and with burials of noble women – heads of the families, or priestesses [Daragan 2010: 88, 107-108]. Traced by a researcher relationship of these ornaments with the Eastern Hallstatt world confirms our assumption that we carefully put forward earlier during the search for analogies for chalices with neck, ornamented with cannellures. Also here should be noted that the traced connection between priestesses and kernoses [Daragan 2010: 108] is reflected also Severynivka archaeological materials, as the three-nozzled “lamp” may be a kernos too.

We should note that M.M. Daragan relates female-priestesses burials to a narrow gap of the end of HaC2 – beginning of HaD1, the fact of what according to the researcher corresponds to the date of the middle of 7th century BC and not later of the end of the century [Daragan 2010: 108-109]. However, we believe that the archaeological realities of the Northern Black Sea region make us to correct it.

In particular, an identical bronze bracelet comes from the barrow Mala Ofirna, where were also recorded the finds of the western look – a spear with raised border on the socket, a double-edged axe and palstave, and a set of black-glossed

vessels [Petrovska 1968: 164, Fig. 4: 7]. A horse bridle and arrowheads complex indicates that the second half of 7th century BC would be a more likely date.

Also, an analogous item is known from the barrow 407 near Zhuravka village [Ilinskaya 1975: Tab. X: 14]. This barrow is dated well by a number of features. In particular, the conical beads and a mirror are marking to the third quarter of 7th century BC [Riabkova 2010: 186], the features of gold plates decoration with three helices can point at the beginning of 6th century BC [Fialko 2014: 162].

It should be noted that these items are known among ordinary burials of the agricultural population too. Thus, a bronze bracelet comes from a burial 82 of Pyrohivskiyi burial ground, although the quality of the image leaves this question opened [Maksimov, Petrovskaya 2008: 12-13, Fig. 14: 6].

On the left bank of the Dnieper it is known a find of a snake-head bracelet from the barrow 5 mound near Vovkivtsi village. This complex de to the archaic Samos amphorae find belongs to the first quarter of 6th century BC [Lomtadze, Firsov 2005: 181, Fig. 2: 2].

A bronze bracelet with the snake-heads ends was recorded in the ash hill 1 of Tsaryna Mohyla settlement [Murzin *et al.* 1998: 17]. A fragment of a similar artefact comes from the excavation 29 of the eastern Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1996: Fig. 2: 4]. The emergence on the left-bank of such items is associated with Vysotsko culture population penetration [Svetlichnaya 1996: Fig. 3].

In Central Europe snake-heads bracelets are found among materials of Vekerzug culture [Chochorowski 1985: Abb. 11: 7, 15], the formation of which occurs at the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC. But M.M. Daragan doesn't mention these finds in the text, limiting only to providing some illustrations [Daragan 2010: Fig. 20: 2]. Also noteworthy is a find of a snake-head bracelet among Vitashkovo treasure items that belong to the third quarter of 6th century BC [Nebelsick 2015: 141].

There is also an interesting find of an unusual ring made of bent wire, the end of which was curved in a knot, forming a “shield” (Fig. 56: 5). Such rings with a shield made of spiral wire only rarely are found among Podolia antiquities. Here may be recalled the discovery of the early Scythian settlement Dolyniany. G.I. Smirnova noted that such items were spread the most among antiquities of Vysotsko culture [Smirnova 1981: 48, 60, Fig. 4: 6].

Remains unclear the nature of the iron disc with the raised border on the edge (Fig. 56: 6). So it's attribution to the category of jewelry remains at the level of suggestion.

Indicative are two finds of cowry shells, which are considered jewelry inherent to the archaic time (Fig. 56: 7, 8). Detailed attention to this category of jewelry dedicated I.V. Bruyako linking its widespread with nomads. The researcher pointed out that they could be both a horse and women adornment. Also he noted the absence of cowries on the Dniester region. The lack of this shells at the Nemyriv hillfort together with presence of ancient ceramics shows the author's

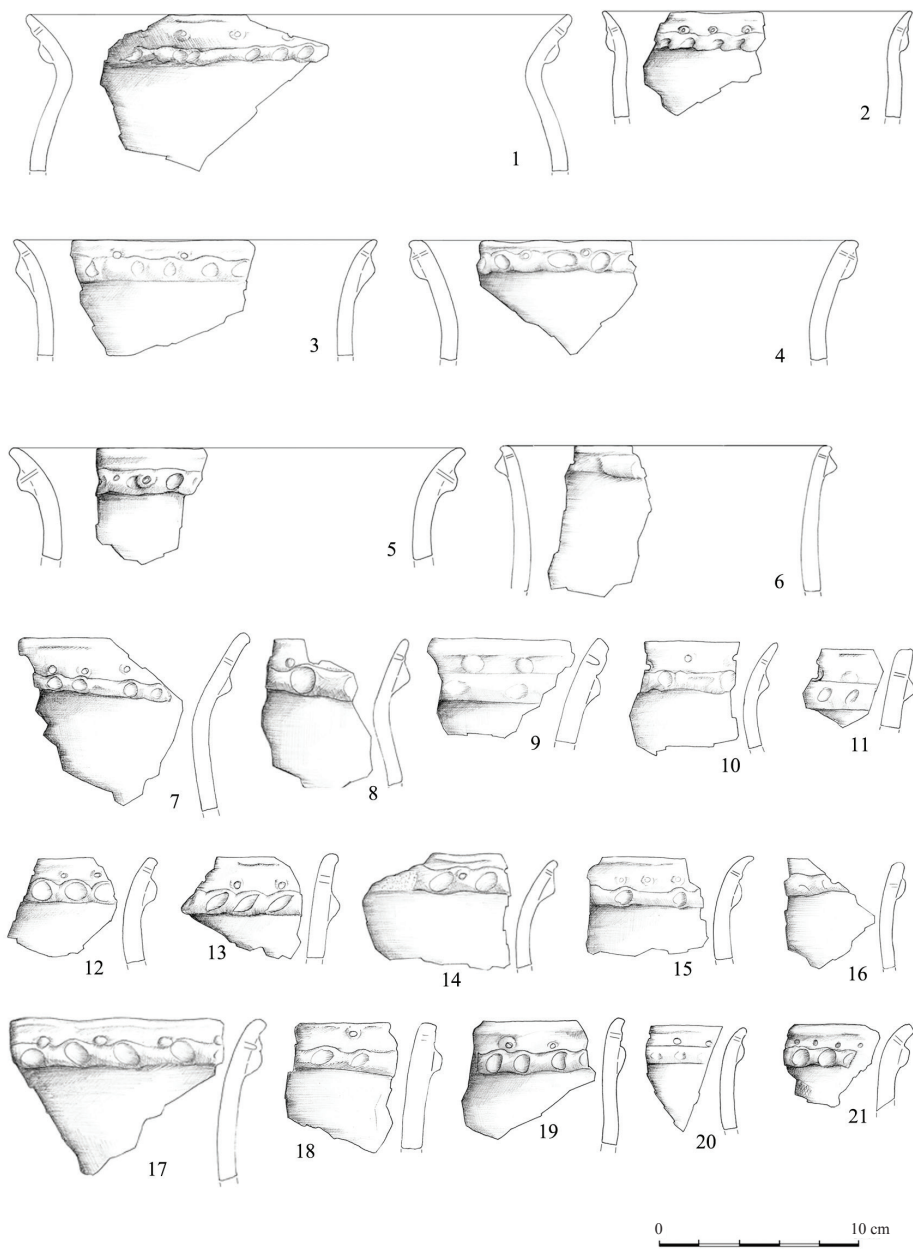


Fig. 58. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Pots rims of the cultural layer

opinion about not implication of Greek traders in the spread of cowrie in the Ukrainian forest-steppe [Bruyako 2005: 252].

G.I. Smirnova paid attention to the cowrie too. Specifically, analyzing the barrow near Ivankovychi village, she attributed their existence to the middle of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC [Smirnova 2002: 228]. On the Dolyniany settlement the cowry shell was recorded in the pit 12 with the earring and arrowhead of the mentioned time [Smirnova 1981: 43, Fig. 10: 7]. There is also known a find of the Chervona Mohyla barrow near Fliarkivka village of the second half of 6th century BC [Kovpanienko 1984: Fig. 2:14]. Recently the collection of such jewelries from Podolia increased with a find from the barrow 3 near Teklivka village, which dates from the second half of 7th century BC [Hutsal, Mogilov 2011: 107].

B.A. Shramko, analyzing the ash hill 28 deposits noted that most widely such adornment were found in the layer of the late 7th – first quarter of 6th century BC [Shramko 2004: 105]. In addition, cowry shells are present in the pit-house 1 of ash hill 11 of the Western Bilsk hillfort, which can be dated by the same time [Shramko 1985: Fig. 3: 6]. To the earlier time may be attributed the find of cowry shell from the Pozharna Balka settlement [Andrienko 1992: 81].

On the late Hallstatt necropolis Giurgiulești in the Lower Danube river region several cowry shells were met in a burial 1, which is by the fibula find with a back of the “Boiotian shield” form refers to a time within the middle of 7th – middle of 6th century BC [Levițki, Haheu 2011: 67-69].

Also cowries were common at later time. In Central Europe, cowry shells were found in burials of the burial ground Chotin [Dušek 1966: Taf. I, IV, VII] and group Chumbrud complexes of the second half of 7th century BC [Kozubová, Skakov 2015: 309, Abb. 1: 18-30]. J. Chochorowski records the widespread of cowry shells adoption in the Vekerzug culture and connects it with active relationships with the Northern Black Sea region population [Chochorowski 1985: 51-56]. This category of adornment in the Prut river region in Moldova survives until the second half of 6th century BC [Bruyako 2005: 174].

Finally, it should be mentioned the stone wares. Here we can name a stone slab with one polished surface (Fig. 57: 1) and one grinding stone (Fig. 57: 4), which were probably forming a set. B.A. Shramko notes that these artifacts could have been used as household tools in order to grind grain, and in the religious procedures when creating cosmetics or drugs [Shramko 1989: 84].

It was also recorded two small fragments of grinding stones (Fig. 57: 2, 3) and processed flint fragments (Fig. 57: 5, 6).

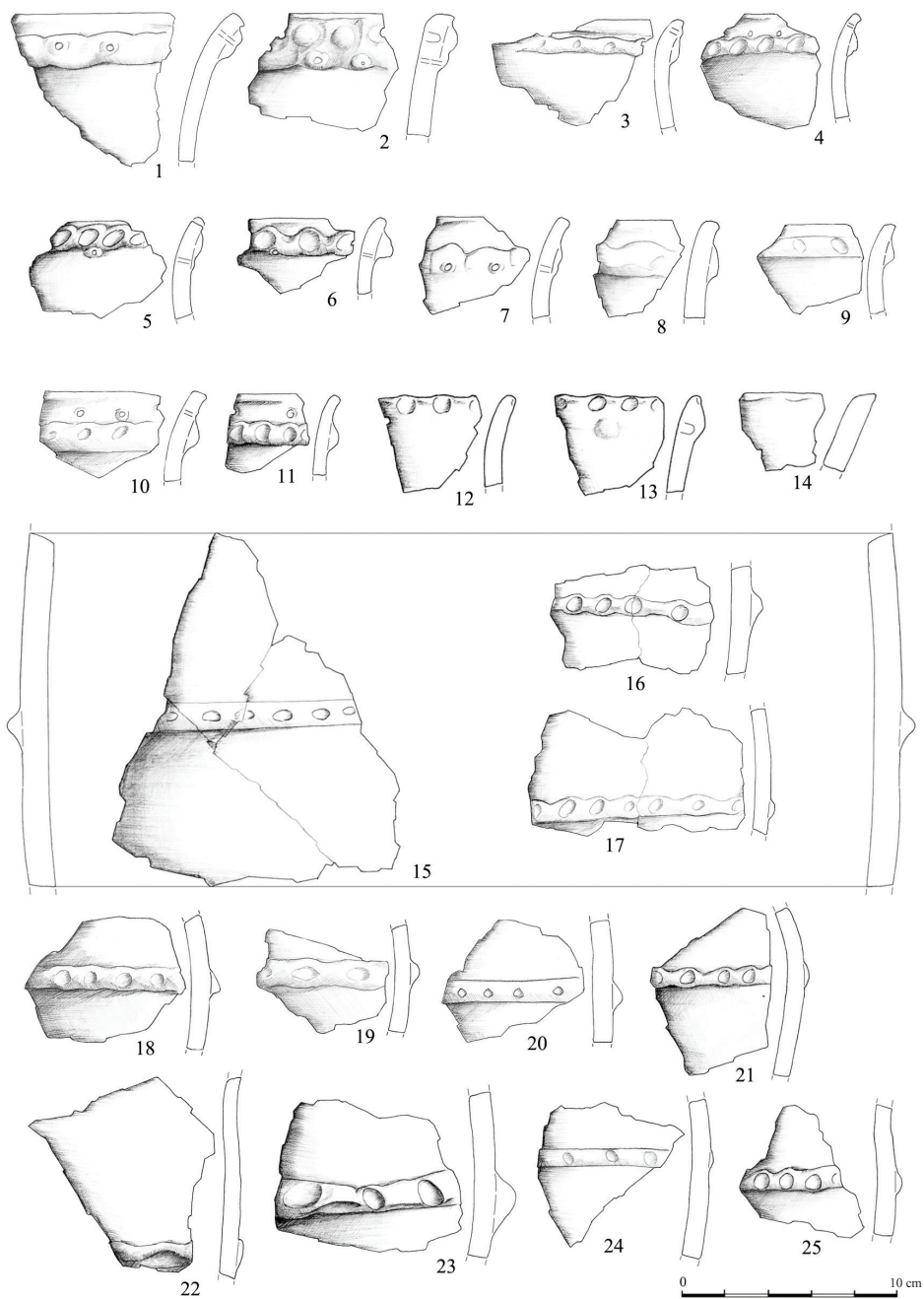


Fig. 59. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Rims and ornamented pots wall fragments of the cultural layer

3. THE CULTURAL LAYER ABOVE THE COMPLEX I

Over the second layer of black soil lies a thick layer of mixed chernozem-clay soil that is also rich of abundant human life remains, although to a lesser extent. The material from this layer is expressive and does not differ significantly from the previous stratigraphic horizon artifacts.

Fragments of pots mostly show typological homogeneity. Usually they have curved outwards rims that are ornamented with stuck raised border, taps and pricks or stabs (Fig. 58, 59: 1-11). The prevalence of this type pots G.I. Smirnova records in pit-house 1 filling of the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1961: 86].

In rare cases continue to meet the pots rims ornamented only with taps on the upper edge (Fig. 59: 12) or in combination with pricks (Fig. 59: 13), or even not ornamented (Fig. 59: 14), which was typical for Chornolis layer of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 104].

There were recorded pots wall fragments in this layer, ornamented with stuck raised border, typical for pit-house 2 of Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: 92, Fig. 9: 2, 3]. Some of them are quite large in size, with a diameter of 40 cm (Fig. 59: 15). The rest of the walls correspond simple cookingwares by size (Fig. 59: 16-25).

The lids also show lack of standards in the design of the rim. Instead, items of thin proportions (Fig. 60: 1) and large examples (Fig. 60: 2, 3) are also notable.

A set of bowls is a little different. Firstly, we should note the prevalence of items with straight walls and trapezoidal profile (Fig. 61: 1-5, 66: 1). One of the few rims of a round-side bowl is decorated on the upper edge with wavy cannellures (Fig. 62: 3). Similar vessels are not known in the lower layers of the complex. They can be found on the sites of pre-Scythian time [Meliukova 1958: 15, Fig. 2: 8].

Secondly, more varied, although the same not numerous, are bowls with curved outwards rims. It is notable a rim of a thin-walled glossed bowl, decorated on the outer surface with a gradual semicircular cannellures (Fig. 62: 5). An analogous fragment, which differs only by a rounded rim, G.I. Smirnova attributed to the lower horizon of the monument [Smirnova 1961: 94, Fig. 10: 1]. The direct analogy to this rim is a bowl from the barrow 1 near Kruglyk village, which refers to the last quarter of 7th century BC [Smirnova 1993: 110, Fig. 3].

To this horizon also refer fragments of black-glossed rims with a smooth surface (Fig. 62: 4), similar to the rims from the ashy layers, and also a small fragment of the other similar rim, decorated with an obliquely projection (Fig. 62: 6) that is matching the second coaly layer.

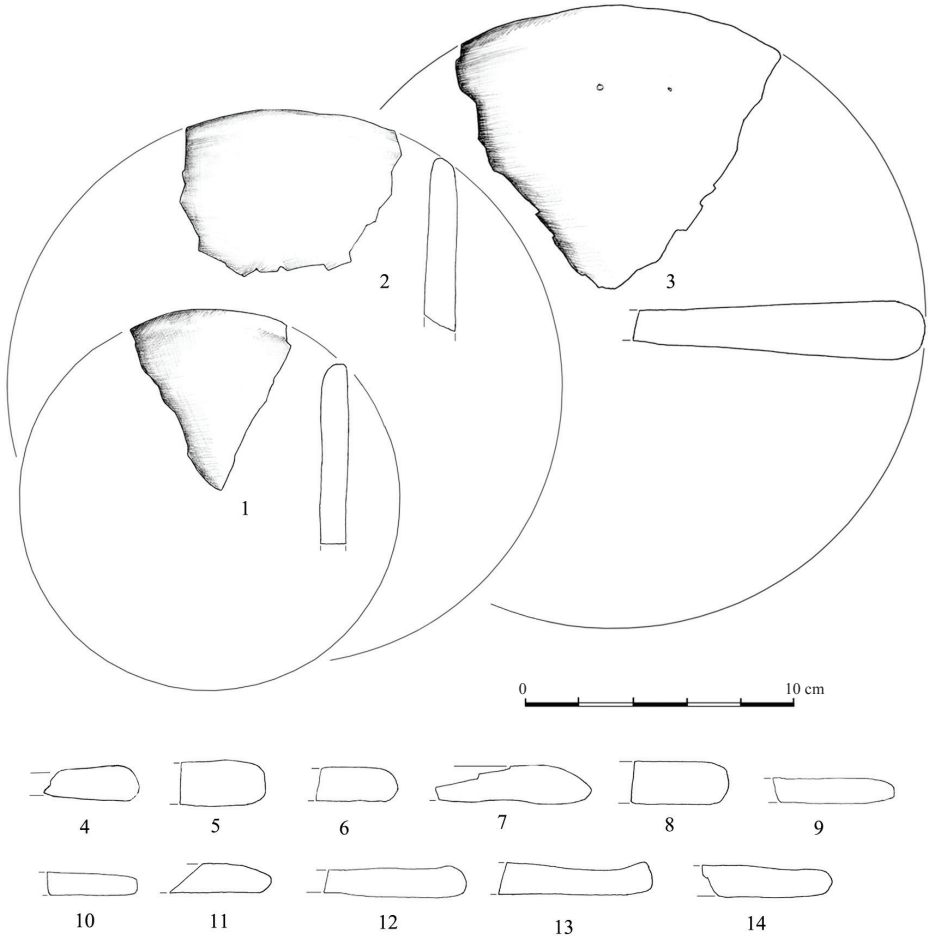


Fig. 60. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of lids of the cultural layer

Also there was met one piece with stamped ornament in the shape of zigzag, which was applied to the flattened rim with the flange (Fig. 62: 7). It is typical that G.I. Smirnova also noted not numerousness of such rims among materials of Pivdenno-Podilska expedition and marked to this feature as the distinctive feature of Severynivka hillfort among other monuments of Podolia [Smirnova 1961: 94].

For example, on the Nemyriv hillfort such items are hardly known. G.I. Smirnova pointed to this feature of Podolia monuments, noting that the serrated punch to

a greater extent inherent to the Middle Dnieper region antiquities [Smirnova 1998: 86, 94, 112].

On the other small fragment of flattened rim were traced two aslant strokes (Fig. 62: 8).

The vast majority of ladles from this layer has a low shallow cup, but a side bend of the rim bevel can be isolated by a sharp edge, or can be gradual (Fig. 63). All known fragments of handles are flattened, oval in section (Fig. 63: 6-10). Extant fragments of bases are decorated with omphale (Fig. 63: 5, 12-14).

Beakers with which we identify vessels with high body without handles, also number a representative sample of high-quality thin-walled items (Fig. 64).

Finds of large pots are not numerous too, instead, there are notable some of the fragments, identified with tableware ceramics. In particular, these are high-quality, relatively thin-walled rims, decorated with pricks (Fig. 65: 1-3). It is notable a fragment of tableware large pot with rounded body and diameter of 20 cm and high wide-open neck. The diameter of the vessel by the rim is 20 cm (Fig. 65: 4). Similar complete vessel was found in the cult place in 1991 at ash hill 28 of the western Bilsk hillfort. Although the complex was dated by the middle of 6th century BC, researchers attributed the tableware to an earlier time, from the end of 7th century BC, explaining that by the continuous usage of tableware in religious purposes [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 14-15, Fig. 2: 3].

Also there were revealed a number of massive wall fragments with handles-rests (Fig. 65: 5-8). There are single finds with cannellured ornament, each of which is made differently. On one wall there were traced stuck cannellures in the shape of lowered semicircles (Fig. 65: 10). Another wall has horizontal smoothed cannellures that probably were placed on the neck of the vessel (Fig. 65: 11). On the third wall was traced a narrow cannellure in the shape of semicircle (Fig. 65: 9).

Miniature vessels are presented by chalices, ladles and bowls fragments (Fig. 66: 1-4), the size of which indicates their usage as votives [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 12]. The category of votive pottery also includes a miniature spheroid (Fig. 66: 5) and spools (Fig. 66: 6-8). There is also notable a phallus-shaped statuette (Fig. 66: 9).

Technical ceramics is represented by spindle whorls (Fig. 66: 10-17), among which there are examples, ornamented with transversal slashes (Fig. 66:15) and dots (Fig. 66: 17). Ornamented spindle whorls are considered to be a heritage of pre-Scythian time [Kashuba 2000: 315-316]. Also in this layer there are disk-shaped loom weights (Fig. 66: 18-21).

It is notable a slightly fired and not diligently made ceramic find that looks like a small boat-shaped vessel with nozzle (Fig. 66: 22). B.A. Shramko considered such items as lamps [Shramko 1983: 88, Fig. 11: 16].

Also there are presented household items, particularly, fragments of grinding stones (Fig. 66: 23-26). In addition, there were recorded fragments of processed

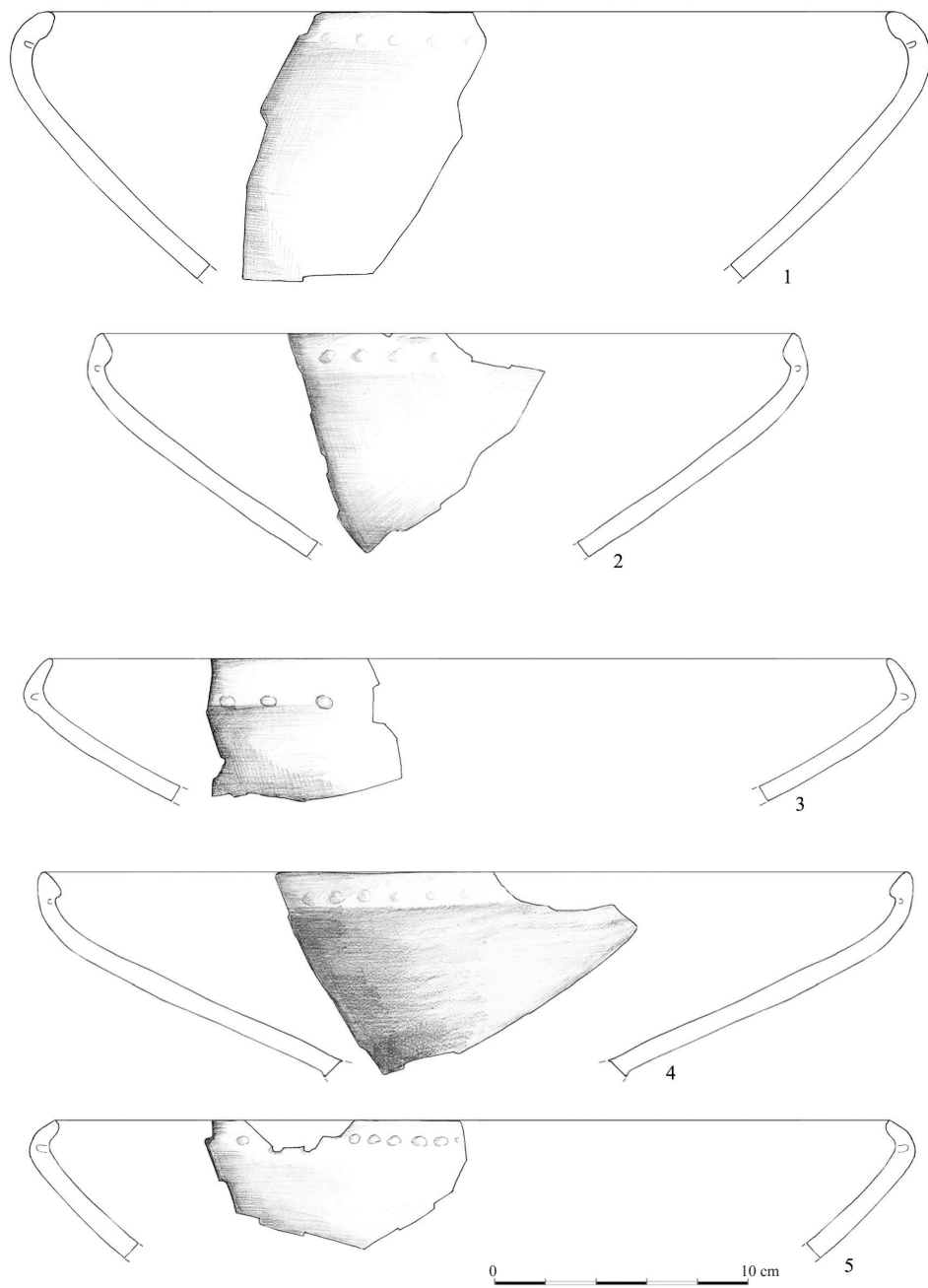


Fig. 61. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the cultural layer

flint (Fig. 66: 27-29). Iron household items are presented only by fragments of a knife point (Fig. 66: 30) and a needle (Fig. 66: 31).

Varied individual finds also demonstrate the proximity of this layer to the previous ones. In particular, there were also recorded the traces of horn treatment. From this place originates a cheek-piece perform. This item shows the first stage of treatment. This plate of horn is about 20 cm long. On the outside there are traced channels of blood tubules. The sides' facets were cut off so that the product became concave in shape that is typical for the cheek-piece. In addition, from the outside there can be traced notches that are associated with the beginning of a decoration applying (Fig. 67: 1). This ware is on the same level with performs, which are known, for example, on the Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 1976: Fig. 3: 2; Murzin *et al.* 1998: 21; Chernenko *et al.* 2004: 14; Makhortykh *et al.* 2006: 53].

The next stage of a cheek-piece treatment demonstrates a perform find from the ash hill 1 in the Tsaryna Mohyla hole of the Bilsk hillfort. It is also a horn plate without holes, but it has an indication of the general ware shape. It is divided into zones, which has marks of the alleged animal style image [Murzin *et al.* 1998: 21-22].

It was also found a trilobate arrowhead in a form of cuspidal leaf with a spine and an protruding socket (Fig. 67: 2). Similar items are derived from the following archaic complexes: barrow 469 Aksiyutyntsi [Galanina 1977: Tab. 19:11, 14, 16], barrow 474 between Osytniazhka and Pastyrske villages [Galanina 1977: Tab. 15: 25-28], tombs 1 and 2 of Repiakhuvata Mohyla [Ilinskaya *et al.* 1980: Fig. 6:13, Fig. 14: 2-4], barrow 38 Huliai-Horod [Ilinskaya 1975: Tab. II: 15-18], barrow 2 Perebykivtsi mound [Smirnova 1993: Fig. 8:11, 12], barrow 10 Skorobor [Shramko 2016: 363, Fig. 70:16]. All these barrows belong to the archaic time. Particularly noteworthy is a quiver set from the barrow 3 of Dolyniany village, where were found arrowheads of similar to the discovered in complex 1 layer forms [Smirnova 1993: Fig. 5: 2-4, 5, 9]. According to G.I. Smirnova this complex is dated from the late 7th – first quarter of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1993: 112].

Not clear is the purpose of a small iron ware, which experienced strong deformation that prevented an idea of its original form (Fig. 67: 3). Perhaps it was a socket (?) of some object. However, the exact analogy we have not found yet.

Jewelry finds are presented by two pins, one of which is has a flat nail-shaped head (Fig. 67: 4). M.M. Daragan includes these jewelries to the separated by her post-Zhabotyn horizon, which by her representations are dated from the middle of VII century BC [Daragan 2010: 103]. V.P. Andrienko notes about belonging of similar jewelries to the Kelermes horizon of Pozharna Balka settlement [Andrienko 1996: 357].

An analogous bronze jewelry was found at the Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 15: 6]. Such nail-shaped pin was found in a Bilsk hillfort rampart with an archaic complex of vessels and arrowheads [Shramko 1974: Fig. 5-6] and in the pit-house 3 of ash hill 12 at the western Bilsk hillfort [Shramko 2016: Fig. 12: 1,

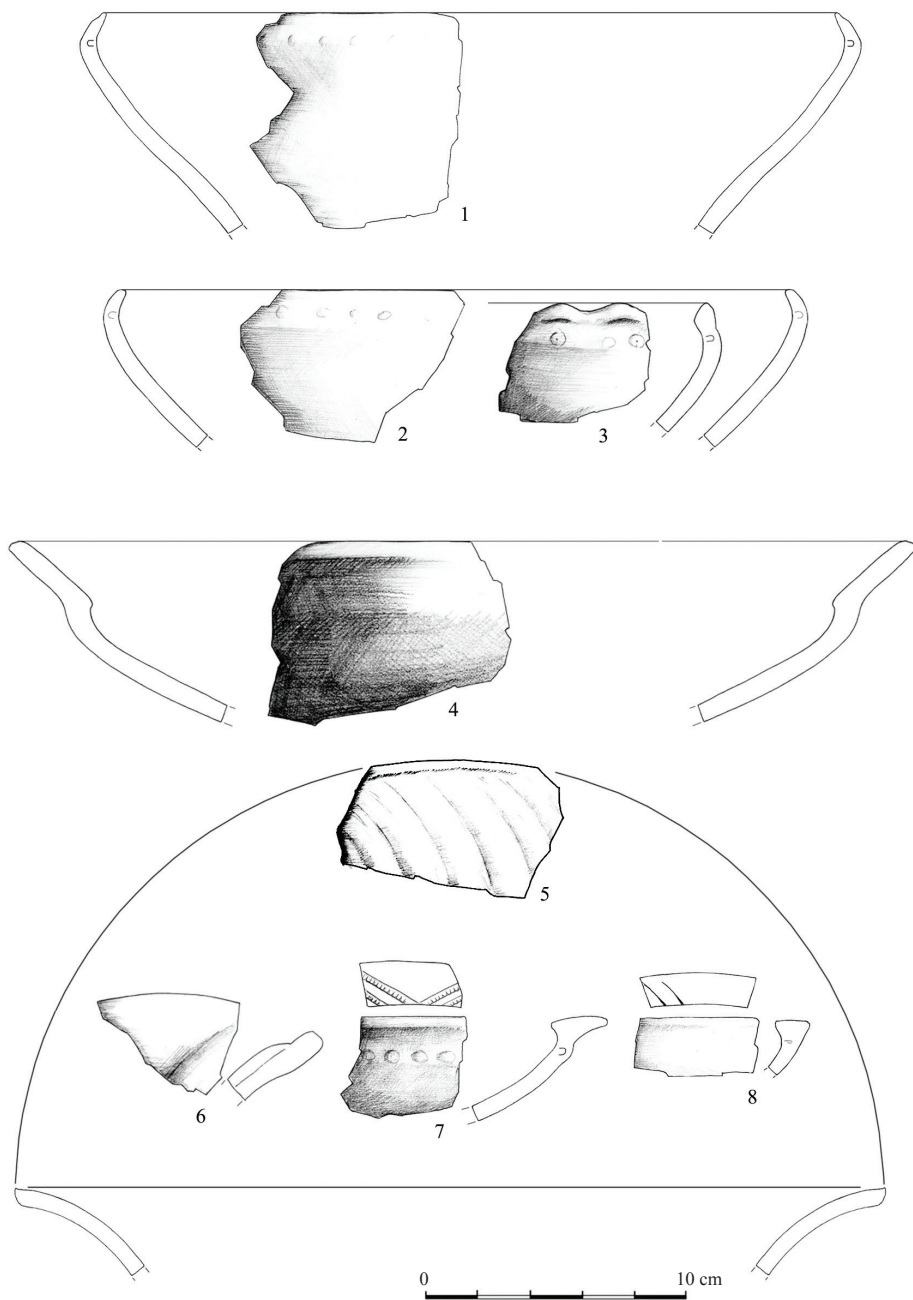


Fig. 62. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Bowls of the cultural layer

9] that by bead-rosette find can be attributed to the end of VII century BC [Riabkova 2010: 186]. In the dwelling 2 of Dolyniany settlement anail-shaped pin was recorded with an ancient pottery fragment of 6th century BC [Smirnova 1981: 41, 56-57, Fig. 6:16].

We should note that none of the found on the Severynivka hillfort pins had ornamentation in the form of transverse raised borders or notches on the rod, which is considered a typical feature of such jewelries [Daragan 2010: 103].

Moreover, there were found a cowry shell, similar to those that were described above (Fig. 67: 6) and a river shell with a hole in the middle part, which was probably used as a pendant (Fig. 67: 7). The usage of river shells with a hole is known from Saharna Mare hillfort materials [Niculiță *et al.* 2013: Fig. 31: 3].

There was also discovered an iron razor with blade, curved on the concave side. One end is designed as a raised hook, the other one is rounded (Fig. 67: 8).

From sickles this item differs by its total gracile construction, the lack of prongs on the blade and the shape of a hook handle – on the household sickles the hook is bent to the side [Shramko 1973: Fig. 9: 5; 1976: Fig. 3:17; Smirnova 1982: 45; Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 100].

It should be noted that the interpretation of this item can be ambiguous. In particular, an analogous find from the settlement near Khreshchatyk village in the Dnieper river region was interpreted as a sickle, although there were not any prongs on it [Pokrovska *et al.* 1971: 107, Fig. 9:12]. The same is about an item from Trakhtemyriv hillfort that is also called a sickle [Kovpanenko *et al.* 1989: 52, Fig. 8:36].

Dump

We should briefly note that the finds of cooking ware from the spoil heap generally correspond to the material from the complexes layers. There were met pots rims, ornamented with stuck raised border (Fig. 68: 1-19), in some cases raised border was fixated on the wall fragment of some vessel (Fig. 68: 3, 20-24). Also there were found fragments of lids (Fig. 68: 25-27) and large pots (Fig. 68: 28-30).

An interesting find of not ornamented low bowl (Fig. 69: 1), also draws attention another find with flattened rim of a bowl with chiseled stamp ornament (Fig. 69: 2).

From the heap also comes a significant number of informative ladles. Most of them represents a standard S-shaped form with gradual curves of the cup and thoroughly polished surface (Fig. 69: 7, 8). Some finds have raised ornament. One miniature artifact is decorated with slight dashes on the neck that probably form a zigzag frieze (Fig. 69: 5). Such ornamentation is typical for the pre-Scythian pottery, such as a beaker from Hryhoriv hillfort [Smirnova 1983: Fig. 3: 7], or Soloncheny settlement [Meliukova 1958: Fig. 24: 1], as well, on the find from Nemyriv hillfort [Smirnova 1998: Fig. 25: 3]. The other is distinguished by ornamentation with a row of dots and dashes on the side of the rim bevel (Fig. 69: 9). In general, the dot pattern on ceramics is more inherent

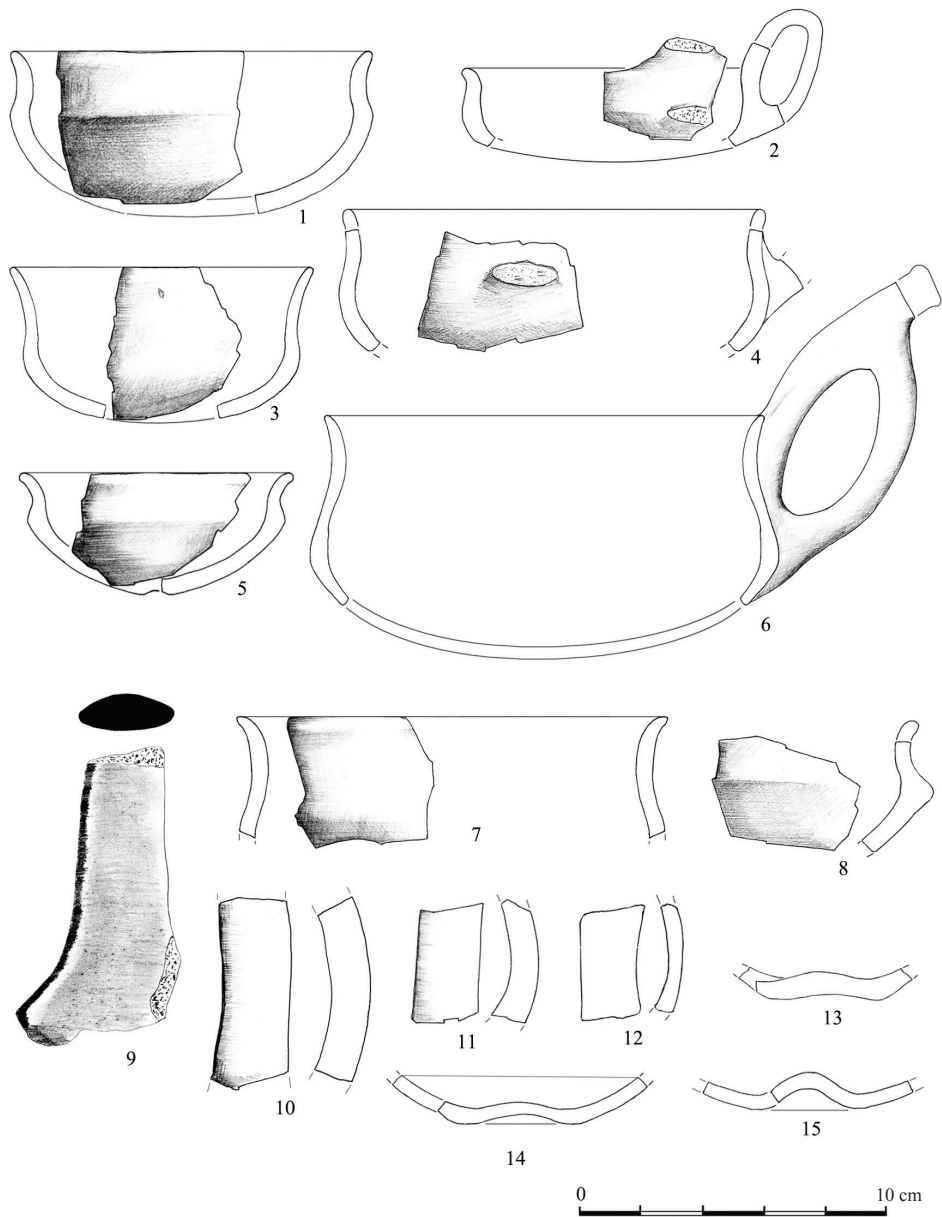


Fig. 63. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of ladles of the cultural layer

for pre-Scythian monuments, such as the Olshana barrow [Kovpanenko, Skoryi 2004: 285, Fig. 16: 1].

One fragment can be associated with a tableware large pot according to the profile and the thickness of its wall. It is decorated on the rim bevel with a number of rod dimples (Fig. 69: 10).

Finds of miniature wares (Fig. 69: 11-14) and votive objects (Fig. 69: 15-16) are consistent with finds from the assemblage. In the same way were discovered spindle whorls and loom weights (Fig. 69: 17-21), similar to the described above.

Single finds from the spoil heap are represented by a lot of items. For instance, a series of horn cheek-pieces. One of them has three holes and the extant end is designed as a head of griffin-ram. The creature is shown with clearly identified horn, protruding eye and an expressive beak. Under the horn there are raw with lowered ovolos (Fig. 70: 1). Above the upper hole there are traced two irregular cuts, which can be interpreted as cutting traces of bits [Pankovskiy 2015: 288]. A similar item that comes from Nemyriv hillfort is referred to the end of 8th – beginning of 7th century BC [Smirnova 2002: 224]. Although a griffin-ram image, in our opinion, is more typical for antiquities of the middle of 7th – first half of 6th century BC [Polidovich 2004: 148], which exist not only on the cheek-pieces decoration, but also on the buckle-beads [Hutsal, Mogilov, 2008: 47] and bow staves [Shramko 2015: 500].

Of the second cheek-piece remained only a fragment of the middle part with the transition to a narrow neck. This item was broken in antiquity, its entire surface is severely burnt (Fig. 70: 2).

A fragment of the third cheek-piece remained at the lower part. Here the end of the item is decorated in a hoof-shape depicting a “heel” on the lower edge (Fig. 70: 3).

Moreover, there were found fragments of processed horn preforms (Fig. 70: 4, 5).

From the dump also come a significant number of metal items, as they are often recorded by a detector only for not very deep depth of loose soil.

An arrowhead is trilobate in the shape of bay leaf with a broad head and protruding socket (Fig. 70: 6). A similar artifact was found at the section of the ramrart in the eastern-northern part of the hillfort. The most widespread such arrowheads were among quiver sets of the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC: Repiakhuvata Mohyla, burial 2 [Ilinskaya *et al.* 1980: Fig. 14], Kurylivka, barrow 77 and Lazirtsi, barrow 2 [Kovpanienko 1981: Fig. 25, 26].

Tanged knife with a curved blade (Fig. 70: 7) stands somewhat apart from the bulk of household tools, as the vast majority of Scythian knives had a bent back [Shramko 1965: 137].

Two more fragmented finds can be interpreted as pins. These are iron, slightly curved items made of round in section wire (Fig. 70: 8, 9). If our interpretation is correct, these items fit into the collection of antiquities of the archaic complex [Petrchenko 1978: 10]. Although with no heads, it is not possible to characterize them more precisely. Here also were fixated the finds of grinding stones (Fig. 70: 10-12) and a hammerstone (Fig. 70:13).

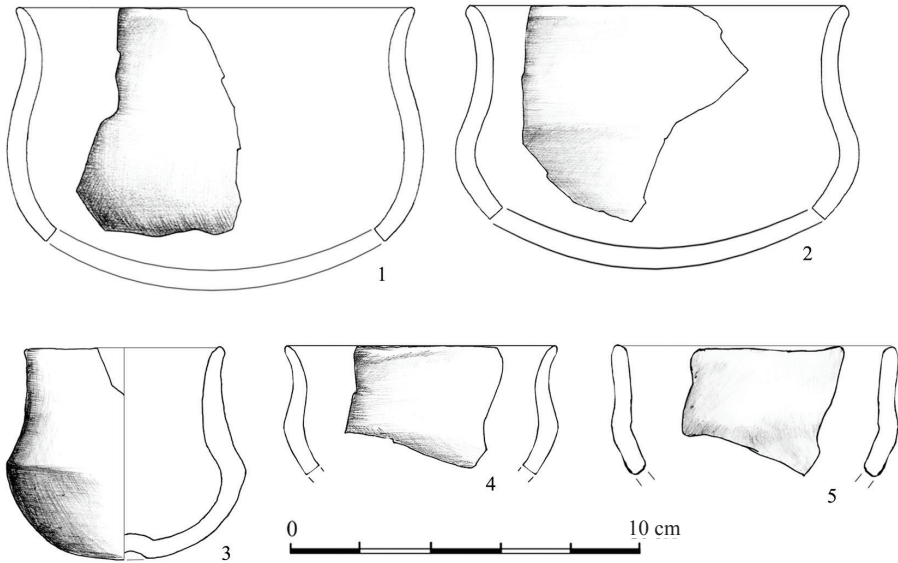


Fig. 64. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of chalices of the cultural layer

4. CHRONOLOGICAL POSITION OF THE CENTRAL COMPLEX

It should be noted that the items of the Scythian animal style were fixated only in the upper ashy layer (Fig. 71). In the ditches and lower horizon they are not known. On the one hand, this can be explained by chronological mismatch of the researched megacomplex parts. According to the modern concepts Scythian culture was spread in Podolia in the middle or second quarter of 7th BC [Smirnova 1993: 105; 2006: 78; Bruyako 2005: 149]. Thus, one would assume that the upper layers of the central complex belong to the Scythian period and the lower layers – to the pre-Scythian time.

However, the analysis of finds makes us to protect ourselves against this approach. Firstly, we should note that by setting the chronological position of this complex we start from the date of proto-Thasian slipped amphorae wall fragment. Of course, by the find of one wall fragment it is hard to make reliable assumptions, but with the overall absence of imported materials, we have to the available sources. Therefore, we should note that the introduction of proto-Thasian import in the Northern Black Sea region took place not earlier than in the first half of 6th century BC.

Accordingly, to the first half of 6th century BC belong the main chronological indicators of the second upper coal seam. The rubbish layer, which formed over the ashy one, we cannot detach from that date in accordance to the homogeneity of the material. The lower layers of the complex are limited by the date of an iron arrowhead, which dates back not earlier than the middle of 7th century BC. In favor of this indicate the forms of the vast majority of ceramics. Thus, for the only exception, there are no bowls with aslant stuck raised borders. One sample comes from a ditch 4 backing (Fig. 13: 6). Generally, there are no ladles with a spherical or trapezoidal in section cup. All ladles and beakers from all the layers demonstrate traditional S-shaped profile, typical for the early-Scythian time. Most of the pots fragments also apply to the namely early-Scythian type of rims – with high stuck raised border.

One of the main sources for these analogies naturally arisen dwelling complexes of Nemyriv hillfort. The latter, in addition to distinct and numerous samples of handmade pottery distinguished by representative finds of imported vessels. But the opinions on their dating greatly differ.

M.Y. Vakhtina attributed the earliest fragments of ancient geometric style pottery to the second quarter of 7th century BC, firstly, without reference to their context [Vakhtina 1996: 85; 1998: 125]. In another research, analysing a set of painted tableware, the researcher concluded that pit-house 1 on the Nemyriv hillfort refers to the last quarter of 7th century BC [Vakhtina 1998: 135, Fig. 1: 1, 2, 2: 8, 3: 1, 6, 4] However, it does not exclude the possibility of samples classification from the hillfort to the next century that concerned also both tare and tableware ceramics [Vakhtina 1998: 124, 132, Fig. 1, 5], and single sample of amphorae fragments she included to the second half of 6th century BC [Vakhtina 1998: 124].

In general, with the proposed dating the position of G.I. Smirnova was coherent, who studied the rest of the material from the dwellings. Thus, the researcher synchronized pit-houses 1 and 3, referring them to the last quarter of 7th century BC [Smirnova 2000: 84]. Regarding the pit-house 2, which had two stratigraphic horizons the researcher noted the difficulty in separating the material by layers because of their not diligent fixation. But due to some differences she allowed to put pit-house 2 to the so-called pre-colonial phase of early Scythian culture or to the second quarter – middle of 7th century BC [Smirnova 1998: 82-112; 2002: 217-231]. In one of the next articles the researcher pointed out that she considers the lower layer of pit-house 2 relating to the Zhabotyn or post-Zhabotyn time [Smirnova 2001a: 34].

It should be noted that G.I. Smirnova generally used lower dates of Scythian Archaic by G. Kossak and I.N. Medvedskaya [Kossak 1987: 24-86; Medvedskaya 1992: 86-107]. Although as I.V. Bruyako pointed, the way these researchers are dating the Black Sea region sights by the lower chronological limit of ancient import samples can not be acceptable [Bruyako 2005: 230-238]. Therefore, G.I. Smirnova correctly noted that in the Middle Dniester river region the earliest Scythian monuments (such as barrow near Lenkivtsi village) can be dated only

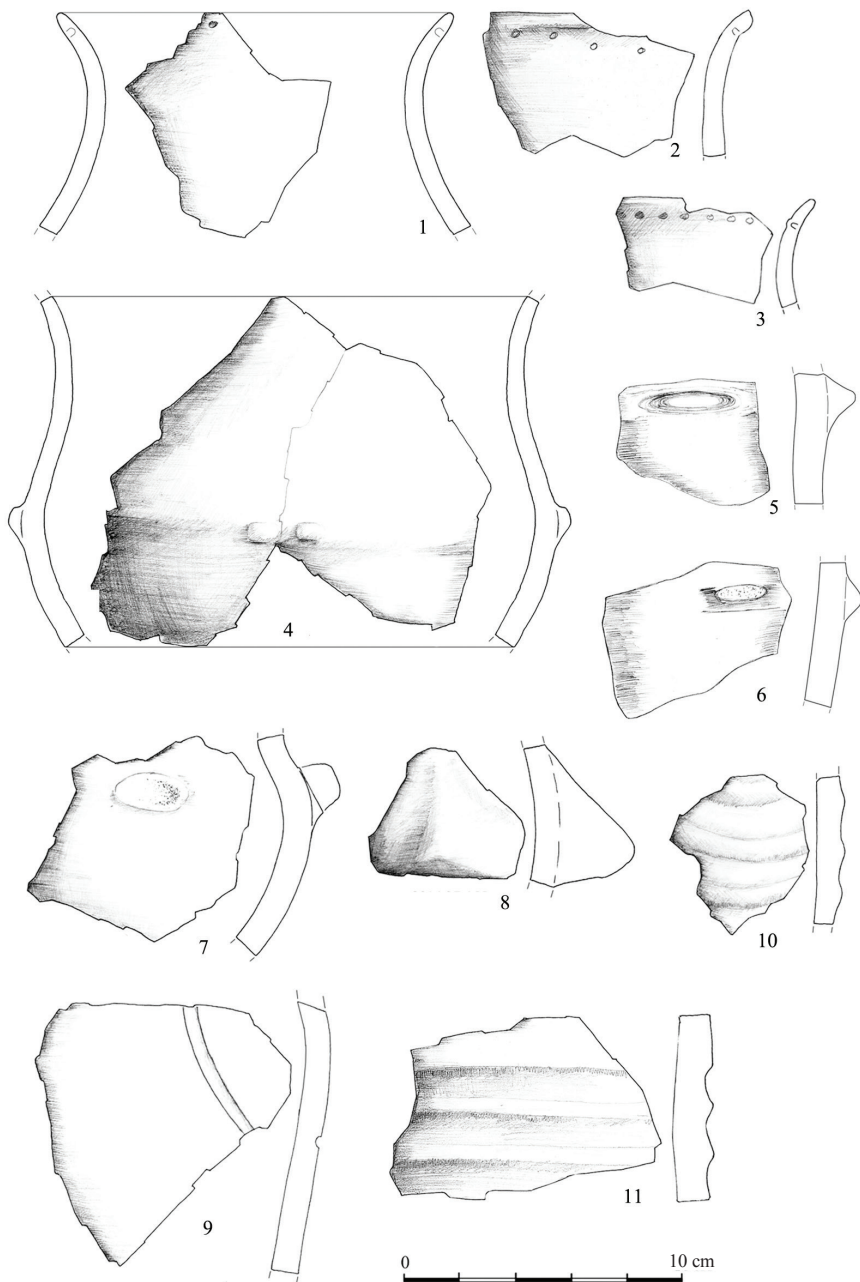


Fig. 65. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Fragments of large pots of the cultural layer

from the second quarter of 7th century BC without referings to the previous century. Also the researcher offered to attribute the final stage of early Scythian culture 3 to the first half of 6th century BC, based on the burial grounds research near Dolyniany and Perebykivtsi villages [Smirnova 1993: 101; 2002: 217].

Later the dating of painted wares from the pit-house 1 and from the upper horizon of pit-house 2 was lowered by M.Y. Vakhtina and M.T. Kashuba to the third quarter of 7th century BC. But the construction of pit-house 1 was refer to the second quarter of 7th century BC, and the first horizon of the dugout 2 without ancient import was lowered even to the end of 8th century BC [Vakhtina, Kashuba 2014: 71; Vakhtina, Kashuba, 2014: 59].

Not being experts in the study of ancient ceramics and using only the dates that are proposed by competent researchers, we should note that chronological position of ancient import may indicate either a direct date of the complex, or on its terminus post quem. But the date of imported vessels cannot be later than the date of the complex in which it appeared. Therefore, setting the date of pit-house 1 by the earlier time than the date of painted ceramics from the same pit-house seems illogical. The next step, that is lowering of the Scythian horizon without imports down to 8th century BC (“bypass the Maginot Line” in the words I.V. Bruyako) makes this logical structure more unstable.

Similar to Nemyriv painted ceramic fragments were observed in the lower layers of ash hill 5 [Zadnikov 2009: 16, Fig. 1] and on the buried surface of ash hills 10 and 13 on the western Bilsk hillfort [Zadnikov, Shramko 2011: 143, Fig. 2]. According to the researchers, they are dated like Nemyriv items from the third quarter of 7th century BC. Due to this time refers the dating of all the appropriate layers. Therefore, to this horizon may be attributed most of the materials from the central complex of Severynivka hillfort.

The presence or absence of quality black-glossed wares is unlikely to be a strong argument for establishing a small periodization. For example pit-house 3, from Nemyriv was located on the margins of ash hill, where was not recorded neither glossed pottery, nor ancient imports. Also there was distinguished total poverty of found material. However, the average cookingware is typologically similar to the pit-house 1 that is leading to the idea of their synchronism. In this case the difference in the material is explained by the property and social inequality of the inhabitants [Smirnova 1998: 98].

Therefore, the existence of the Severynivka hillfort is well correlated with related settlement structures. The comparison of the material assemblage indicates the proximity of the upper early Scythian layer of Nemyriv hillfort or early Scythian culture periods 2-3 according to the terminology of the researchers of this monument [Kašuba *et al.* 2010: 24].

Although it should be said that compared to the mentioned monument there is a certain provincialism of Severynivka hillfort. Obtained materials also look quite similar Trakhtemyriv hillfort antiquities. The upper date of the latter is also

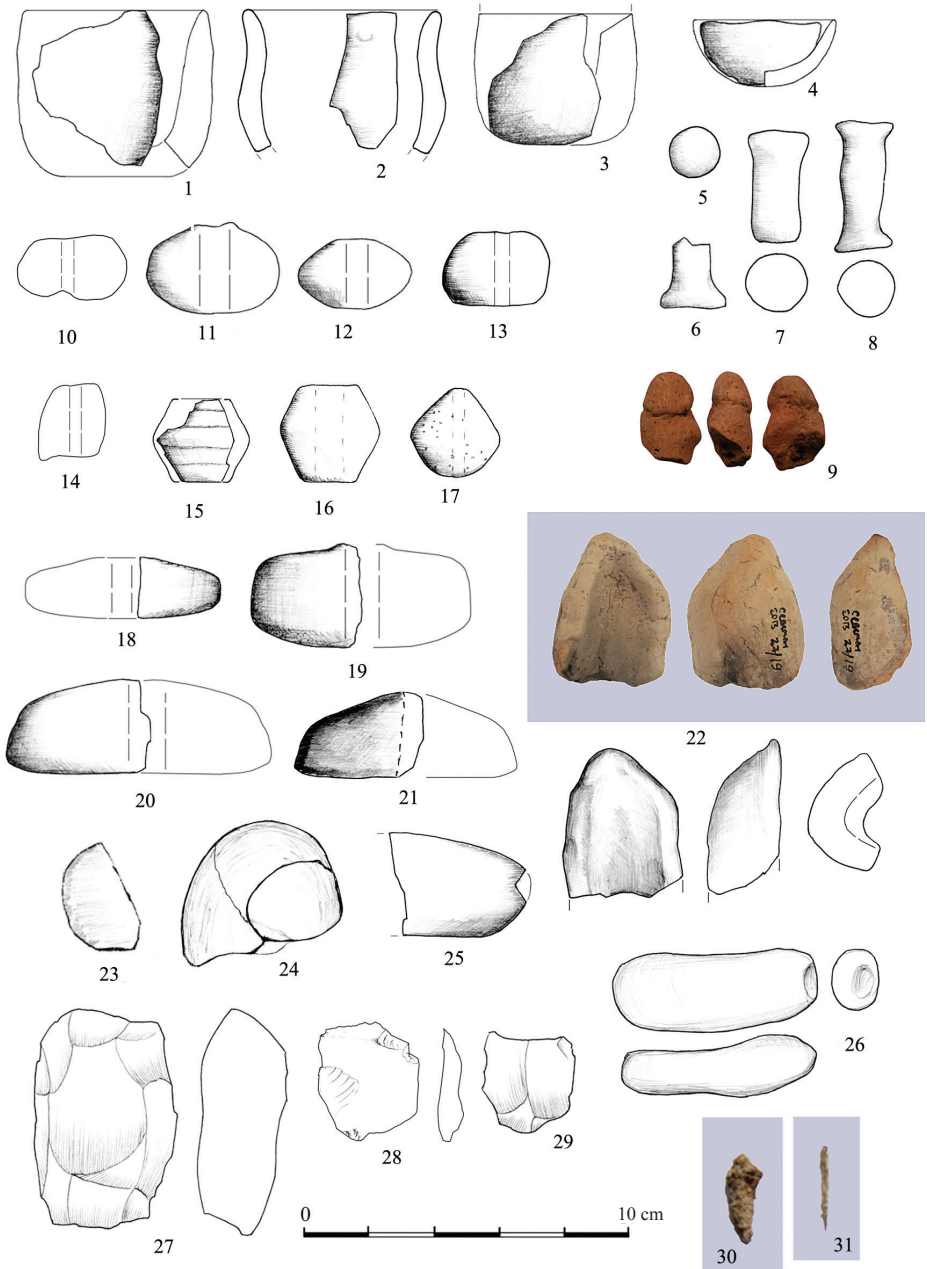


Fig. 66. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Finds of the cultural layer. 1-4 – miniature vessels; 5-8 – spools; 9 – phallus-shaped plastics; 10-21 – spindle whorls and loom weights; 22 – miniature vessel; 23-26 – flint tools; 27-29 – flint fragments; 30 – knife fragment; 31 – needle fragment

limited to the second quarter of 6th century BC [Fialko, Boltryk 2003: 82]. Also, the archaeological materials of Severynivka is consistent with a horizon B of the Western Bilsk hillfort, which dates by the mentioned date due to the ancient import finds [Shramko 2016]. The latter is important to us especially because of the lack of the narrow dating material.

5. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE COMPLEX 1

For a better understanding of the complex it is offered to consider the features of its construction separately.

The shape and the construction

Unfortunately, due to incomplete complex research, we cannot say what area covered the ditches. On the current surface they aren't recorded in any of the ways, and at the same time, their outlines are not visible in the precipices of the hillfort from the north and west. Perhaps a small area in the central part of the hillfort was surrounded by ditches. Judging by the fact that on the revealed part the ditches were lying by parallel lines, it may be assumed that there was built a rectangular or square area, the angles of which were oriented to the four corners of the earth.

Orientation of ancient sanctuaries to the corners of the earth and binding their axes to the anchor points of defensive structures was traced on the example of the eastern Bilsk hillfort sanctuary [Boyko 1990: 59-61]. Religious platforms of different shapes and sizes are well-known European tradition of the Iron Age sanctuaries construction [Rusanova 2002: 18-20]. Also it should be noted that the central complex is located on the point crest, from which all the hillfort area was visible. Similarly, the central ash hill of Motronin hillfort with several religious objects was located on the highest part of the monument [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 29].

Also attracts attention a considerable depth of the complex base – ditch 4 was deepened to 4.25 m from the buried surface. In Europe the tradition of building deep religious objects for “conversation” with the other world have been known at least since the Neolithic [Harding 2000: 313]. It is worth mentioning that on the settlement Glinjen II, where were recorded numerous traces of religious rites performances, were traced two ditches that surrounded the ritual accumulations under the ash hill [Goltseva, Kashuba 1995: 13]. Although its filling was sterile, and the size was much smaller than Severynivka ditches, this practice fixes a common tradition of surrounding the sacred space [Kashuba 2000: 338].

We should focus on the characteristics of sepulchral and ritual structure of the ancient settlement Viktorivka in the Southern Bug river region, discovered



Fig. 67. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Single finds of the cultural layer. 1 – cheek-piece preform; 2 – arrowhead; 3 – bush; 4, 5 – pins; 6-7 – pendants made of shells; 8 – razor

by D.V. Bondarenko and A.I. Smirnov, in more details. Researchers have cleared a part of the big foundation pit of 2.42 m in depth, to which led three broad steps. On the steps there were recorded five simultaneous not inventory burials, each skeleton of which had traces of violent death, in addition, two of them were completely dismembered. Based on the foundation pit backfill, the authors dated it by the end of 6th – first quarter of 5th century BC [Bondarenko, Smirnov 2014: 8-11].

It may be recalled that the tetragon hillforts-sanctuaries of La Tène time could be designed namely that way [Rusanova 2002: 25]. The rectangular sanctuaries are known in Celtic culture. One of the most extensively studied is Libenitsa. A wide ditch was surrounding a rectangular platform, where was recorded a burial, menhirs and sacrificial pits [Rybová, Soudský 1962: 246; Rosen-Przeworska 1964: 231].

The fireplaces on the floor-level and near-hearth pits in the assemblage

In ordinary household and dwelling-like buildings the presence of inlet synchronous pits and fireplaces do not cause any problems. However, the scale and amount of such items, whose number exceeds the limits of the required minimum, makes to look closely at the causes of the problem.

I.P. Rusanova noted that the presence of multiple fireplaces in the building that exceeds the minimum required for its heating could indicate their religious purpose [Rusanova 2002: 11]. Researchers of Bilsk hillfort, analyzing its religious structures, noted that inside the ceremonial areas, some altar may be a part of the floor [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 12]. Traced lens of white clay over the fireplace 4 can be interpreted as a small column, an element of the credence foundation, like among numerous altars of the eastern Bilsk hillfort sanctuary [Shramko 1985b: 3].

Also attract attention pits located on both sides of the fireplaces. On the one hand, they can be considered as near-fireplaces pits designed for sweeping household waste. Indeed, in their filling are deposited ashy seams and fragments of bones and pottery. The formation of ashy lenses is probably connected with fireplace burning. But archaeological material that appeared in the pits can be also explained by ritual circumstances [Boyko 2004a: 31].

I.P. Rusanova have examined the sacrificial pits in the special paragraph of her monograph. Most of them the researcher linked to ash hills [Rusanova 2002: 126]. But in our case the absence of ashy seam accumulation over the fireplaces in the central complex indicates that the ash does not accumulate, as in ash hills, but was carefully cleaned out.

M.T. Kashuba, analyzing rites of Cozia-Saharna culture, notes that in a number of sights there were recorded the overlapping of offerings by a natural clay. In particular, on the bottom of the Solonchen-Hlinaia religious complex were recorded three small backed pits, each of which contained a ladle. On the Alchedar hillfort in a large public buildings were found backed pits with animal offerings [Kashuba 2000: 338].

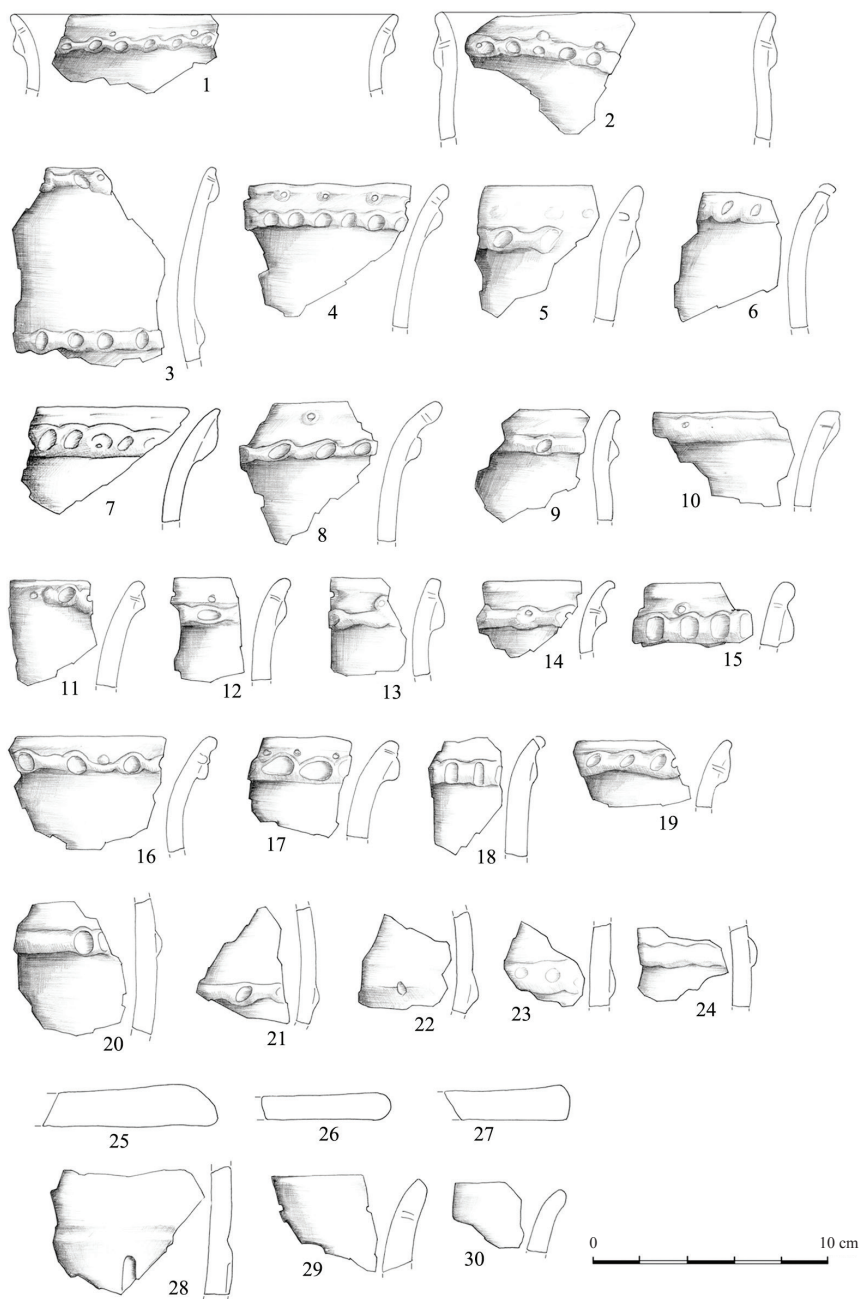


Fig. 68. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Ceramic vessels of the spoil heap. 1-24 – fragments of pots; 25-27 – fragments of lids; 28-30 – fragments of large pots

The tradition of placing religious pits is also common in the Middle and Upper Dniester river region. Thus, on Neporotiv settlement there was discovered a cult multi-sectional building, inside of which were recorded a stone pavement and sacrificial pits [Krushelnytska 1975: 28]. On the Cherepyn settlement of the Cherepyn-Lagodiv group was found a large public building, in the bottom of which was a pit filled with ashy soil and fragments of ceramics. The author of the research interpreted it as a complex for ritual sacrifice [Krushelnytska 1976: 115; 1993: 173].

In the context of the search for analogies for central complex of Severynivka hillfort attract attention burials that were discovered on Nemyriv hillfort. Two of them convincingly were attributed by G.I. Smirnova to Cherniakhiv culture [Smirnova 2003: 20-23]. Cultural interpretation of burial 3, studied in the early 20th century, remains under question. It should be recalled that S.S. Gamchenko excavated a square building, oriented to the four corners of the earth of the size 2.15 × 2.15 m (or 3.47 × 3.51 m) and a depth of 2.4 m from the current surface or 1.07 m from the buried surface. At the bottom, paved with stones, was recorded a flexed on the right side skeleton, the head of which was oriented to the north/north-west with hands painted with ocher. Around the skeleton were found skulls of animals and fragments of pottery. Over the backfilled grave, on its outlines, at a depth of 1.4 m from the modern surface there was built a square stone pavement, overlapped in turn with a layer of clay with the thickness of 30-32 cm and a diameter of about 2.0 m. In the center of the pavement was located a fireplace [Smirnova 2003: 23-24].

The complex material is under question. At the bottom and in the filling of the pit there were found fragments of early Iron Age ceramics, including an oinochoe fragment of the end of 7th – beginning of 6th century BC. But to take it to the Scythian period does not allow the pieces of glassware of 1st century BC that probably come from the filling too, though not extant until today [Smirnova 2003: 24].

Leaving open the question of the complex attribution, G.I. Smirnova noted that it is unique among archaic sepulchral monuments of Podolia [Smirnova 2003: 24-62]. However, if we consider this complex as not a sepulchral structure (and to factor out the lost pieces of glassware) it more or less likely can be attributed to a ritual object. After all, human remains were repeatedly recorded in the basement of altars [Bilozor 2004: 60]. Also stone and clay pavement with traces of burning in turn resembles clay altars, which were spread in the Early-Scythian time forest-steppe [Bessonova 1996: 25], and can often take the form of rectangular platforms [Zadnikov 2000: 31].

Of course, today we are not able to reliably verify the circumstances of this extraordinary object finding. However, when you compare it with the central complex of Severynivka settlement, there also can be seen a sequence of actions. This includes the initial construction of the deepening with bright chthonic traces of worship that have been backfilled, and has served as the basis for fire rituals afterwards.

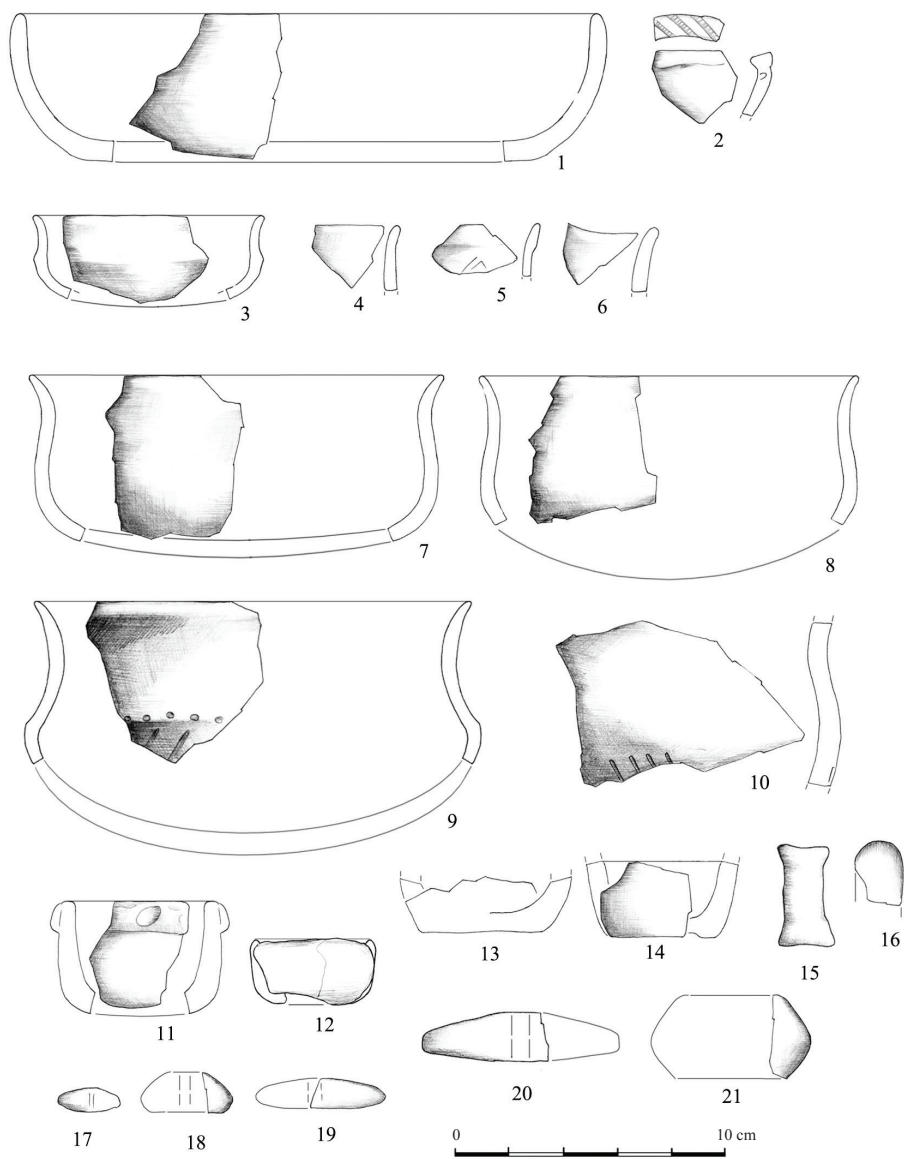


Fig. 69. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Ceramic vessels of the spoil heap. 1, 2 – bowls; 3-10 – fragments of ladles and chalices; 11-14 – miniature vessels; 15 16 – spools; 17-21 – spindle whorls and loom weights

It should also be mentioned the objects of the central ash hill of Motronin hillfort. The most distinct complex was called “the foundation pit” or pit 8-1990 of the excavation IV. This is a great rectangular structure with an uneven bottom and walls. In the bottom, that was dug in the natural loess by ledges lowering from east to west the pits with seams of combustion products, animal bones and occasionally human bones were recorded. Some of the pits were completely clogged with bones, along with others there were recorded slaughtered animal skulls. It was traced overlaying of the pits by layers of white clay. Near the pits were constructed the fireplaces. Stairs and pits in the bottom of the foundation pit were overlaid with a sterile soil. The structure depth was 2.0 m from the surface of the ash hill; the pits bottom was recorded at a depth of more than 4.5 m. From the top the foundation pit was backfilled with a usual rubbish cultural layer and overlaid by ash hill layers. The type of construction and material led the authors of the research to the cult nature of the complex, comparing it with public buildings of the Olbian chora settlement Bogdanivka 2 [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 18-21, Fig. 12, 13: 1].

Also noteworthy is that not far from the “foundation pit” it was cleared the dwelling 1, where were recorded two fireplaces. One of which was assumed as a basis of pole-shaped clay altar [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 21]. Likewise nearby there was explored the pit 10-1990, where in the rubbish layer filling was recorded an adult male burial in a flexed position. A part of the other individual upper jaw and a child skull fragment were found in the burial too. Near them were placed a pot with drilled holes, which according to the researchers, was used as an incense burner [Bessonova, Skoryi 2003: 22-23, 58, Fig. 13: 3, 29:21].

Continuing the description of Motronin hillfort cult objects, we should note that in the same excavation there was studied one of the earliest complexes – dwelling 3-1992. In its bottom there was recorded a layout of animal jaws, and above them a few pottery “counters” and a human jaw [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 27]. Although the researchers include the excavation IV and its sacred complexes to 6th – beginning of 5th century BC, the mentioning of the black-glossed pottery fragments with geometric ornamentation on the bottom of the dwelling 3-1992. It could indicate a much lower date of the studied area [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 27-29].

One more chalice made of a skull was recorded in the burial 1 in backfill of the excavation I. It was tarranged in the bell-shaped pit. On its bottom with faces down were two male skeletons, oriented in opposite directions. To the authors of the research point, the complex had a sacrificial role [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 8]. Also it was stated that single fragments of human bones occasionally occurred in other household pits of the hillfort [Bessonova, Skoryi 2001: 52].

The connection of adjacent pits with altars followed B.A. Shramko on the example of Bilsk hillfort complexes, comparing this tradition with complexes of Trahtemyriv hillfort and Scythian Neapolis. There was fixated that near a number of credences from the excavations 23 and 29 of the East fortification were located numerous pits. They were filled with material that was similar to the altar layer. It

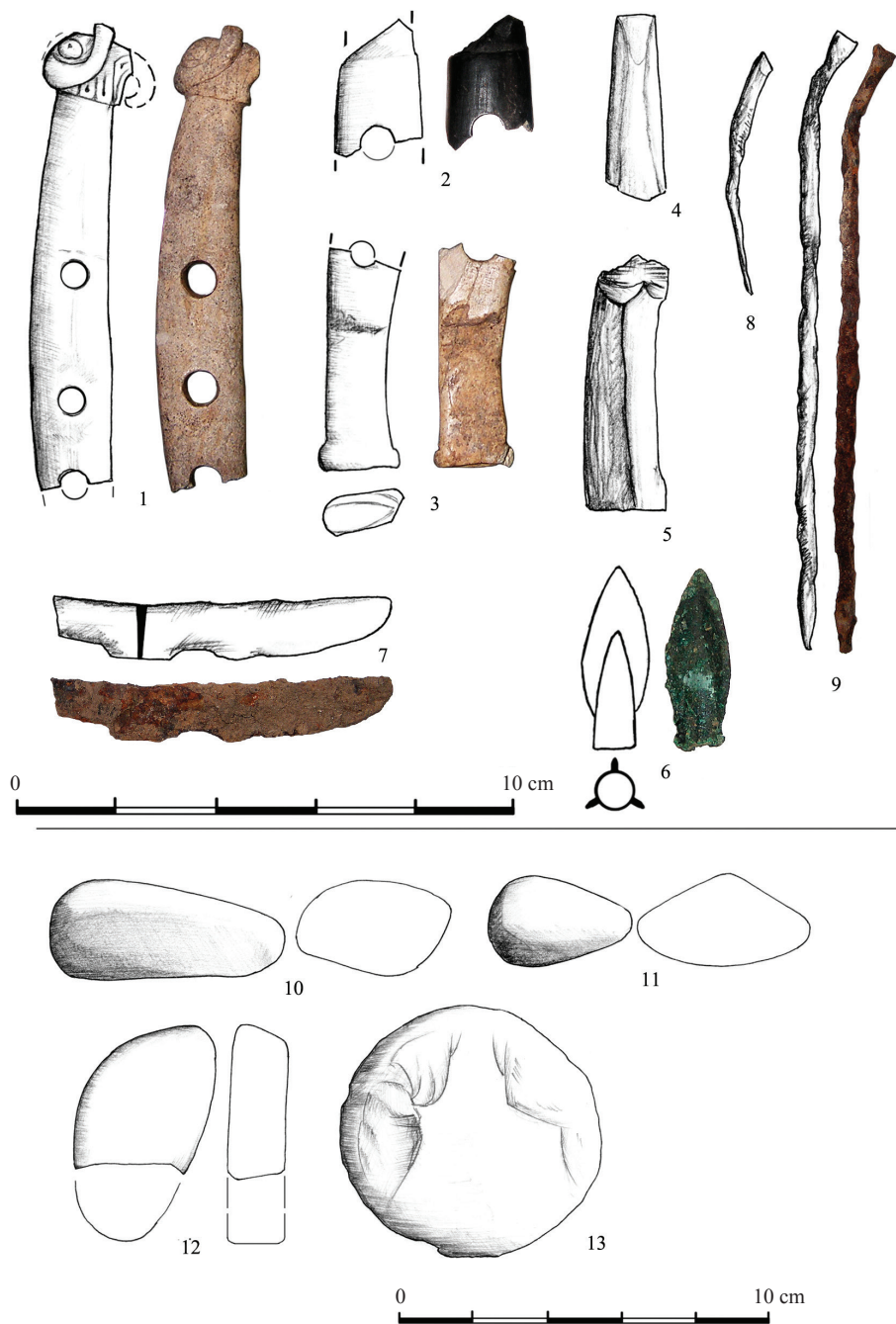


Fig. 70. Severynivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. Single finds of the spoil heap. 1-3 – cheek-pieces fragments; 4, 5 – horn preforms; 6 – arrowhead; 7 – knife; 8, 9 – fragments of pins; 10-12 – stone polishers; 13 – fabricator

distinguished by the concentration of miniature wares, ceramic plastics and sacrifice remains [Shramko 1985b: 5]. Particularly there was distinguished the pit 157 that outwardly did not differ from others. Instead, in its filling there was observed a complex of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic sculptures and also clay models of plough, which was associated with agricultural ritual of the first ploughing [Shramko 1996: 67].

Noteworthy is a religious building from the eastern Bilsk hillfort – pit 85 of the excavation 29. This is a great pit-house, in the bottom of which were built four pits, where in filling were recorded fragments of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic plastics, fragments of human skulls and accumulation of animal bones. Analysing the central cult complex of the eastern fortification in Bilsk hillfort, Y.N. Boyko noted that the sacrificial pits had been often associated to religious complexes and were devoted to chthonic powers [Boyko 1990: 54].

At the western Bilsk hillfort during the ash hill 13 research a botros, was explored. It was interpreted as a capacitive credence, preceded by the construction of religious complex [Shramko, Zadnikov 2006: 19].

An interesting complex was investigated at the Arkhanhelsk hillfort in the Don River basin. There were cleared the remains of the building with the area of 170 m², which revealed three deep pits with almost no cultural remains and the human burial near the pits. Although the author of the publication [Moskalenko 1955: 99] did not consider it possible to give an assumption on the interpretation of this structure and its cult nature seems more possible [Pusanova 2002: 126].

Later, cult pits were well represented in the Celtic ritualism. Specifically, a altar near Prosne village in Marykovska valley consisted of a pit and a fireplace. In the pit filling were found fragments of vessels and jewelry, while in the fireplace layer there were remains of human skulls [Pieta, Moravčik 1980: 284]. Near the cult-public structure on the Liptovska Mara hillfort were recorded a stone pavement and two pits filled with coaly layers and fragments of vessels, animal and human bones [Pieta 1971: 326].

The long structure was discovered on the hillfort of the Roman period Liptovska Mara in Slovakia. There was recorded a stone floor pavement with several fireplaces and many archaeological materials – jewelry, coins, weapons and agricultural tools. In addition, in the filling there were recorded scattered bones of five individuals. The researchers interpreted this object as a building for sacrificial rituals and prophetics [Rosanova 2002: 22].

Human sacrifices

In the Complex 1 there were found a severed female lower jaw that raises a question about possibility of its usage in religious purposes. During searching of analogies for the construction of the Complex 1 it was mentioned some examples of human sacrifices in cultic building. Next it should be specifically described the cult of cutted head in the Scythian culture. The tradition of human sacrifice in the Northern Black Sea region agricultural cultures originates from the Bronze Age.

Not the last place in the rituals had manipulations with skull, including jaws too. M. Irimia identified five kinds of burials within the settlement structure. Separately were considered complexes, which contained only a skull or a jaw [Irimia 2003: 262].

Several Bilozerka burials show traces of post-mortem skull modifications [Tsimidanov 2014: 41]. In the Usovo Ozero settlement in one of the dwellings was built a deep pit, which contained a human skull [Berezanskaya 1990: 87]. The original jaw cult was recorded in the Late Bronze Age tribes of the Northern Black Sea region [Usachuk *et al.* 2010: 197]. For the culture Gava population it was typical a cult pits building that are distinguished by the presence of animal skulls and human bones [Lascu 2012: 81].

The practice of human sacrifice is often seen among the population of the Carpathian-Dniester region that had had a significant influence on the farmers culture of Ukrainian forest-steppe. The usage of human bones in rituals is reliably shown for Cozia-Saharna culture bearers [Kashuba 2000: 476]. An exceptional number of human remains differs a sanctuary of Saharna-Soloncheny culture of Glinjen II hillfort, where in the layer and in separate complexes were recorded bones of 165 individuals. Particularly, attracted the attention the finds of skulls and jaws with signs of post-mortem treatment, some of which are associated with the so-called ritual clusters. It is supposed usage of the lower jaws as amulets.

This complex is treated as a great sacred center that functioned in line with the ideas common to the early Hallstatt culture population. The origins of the post-mortem practices tradition with a human skull M.T. Kashuba sees in traditions of Urnfield culture population [Goltseva, Kashuba 1995: 11; Litvinova 1995: 92; Kashuba 2000: 338-339]. In general, M. Kashuba noted the wide spread of human remains depositing tradition among eastern Balkan early Hallstatt cultures and connected them with the “gifts for the gods” [Kašuba 2008: 112].

The lower jaw of the elderly woman was found in a pit 2/SIII at the settlement Dealul Tichilești of culture Babadag. The researchers suggest that the scattered human bones with mechanical post-mortem lesions often occur at the monuments of this culture and associate it with the post-mortem manipulation with the body tradition [Ailincăi 2013: 57-59]. Three human skulls were recorded in the pit of the rampart at Babadag hillfort. The researchers pointed out that the pit was constructed after the fortifications termination [Jugănar, Ailincăi 2003: 57]. So it may be associated with the abandonment of the monument ritual.

Several pits of 8th-6th centuries BC, treated as the objects of worship, were discovered at the Svilengrad settlement. Such characteristic was brought on the basis of the presence in the pits, most of which belonged to children and even infants. Additionally, in the pit was recorded a pair burial of elderly men. The deceased were placed in a flexed position; on the skull of one of them were traces of trepanation [Nekhrizov, Tsvetkova 2008: 380, 398]. Other pair burial of elderly men in a pit had traces of post-mortem dissection of bodies [Nekhrizov, Tsvetkova 2012: 182-183].

Finds of skull fragments were recorded in the Black Sea region at the late pre-Scythian time. A skull calvarium was recorded at the bottom of the pit 19 of the farmstead 3 at the settlement Vyshenka 2. Except it there were no finds in the pit. The author of the published material marked on the western parallels of the head cult [Boyko 2004: 243, 254]. The upper part of the human skull was recorded in the pit-house filling of the excavation II at Zhabotyń settlement that was interpreted as the remains of the sanctuary [Pokrovskaya 1973: 174; Bessonova 1996: 28].

During the early-Scythian time this tradition was popular too. Thus, Y.D. Razuvaev notes a broad chronological and territorial range of human remains finds in Scythian settlements and associates them with certain sepulchral tradition. However, the finds of single skulls fragments the researcher associated with the existence of the skull cult, which included a post-mortem ritual of body modifications [Razuvaev 2014: 159-162].

A large number of human sacrifice traces features the western Bilsk hillfort. A cup fragment made from human skull was recorded in the pit-house 1 of the ash hill 1 [Shramko 1985a: 80]. Separate fragments of the skull were found in the archaic layers of ash hill 19 [Shramko 1971: 54].

At the eastern Bilsk hillfort in the basis of clay altar was immured a cup made of a human skull. In the excavation block XXIII on the eastern Bilsk hillfort was found a sanctuary, made up of seven round clay credences, where were found five skulls and eight cups made of skulls [Radzievskaya, Shramko 1980: 186; Shramko 1976: 202]. Two skull bowls recorded on the farmstead of a bone carver [Radzievskaya, Shramko 1980: Fig. 4]. A skull cups was recorded in the dwelling 81-28-1979, which had credence [Shramko 2016: 289].

Also, among five credences discovered at the Tsaryna Mohyla hole, each one contained skull fragments in the construction [Bilozor 2004: 60]. In particular, the lower jaw of an elderly male was recorded on the altar in the ash hill 3 of Tsaryna Mohyla hole [Makhortykh *et al.* 2006: 57-58].

A skull of a child with broken clay altar and numerous animal bones were recorded at the bottom of the pit 40 on Knyshivske hillfort. There were also two skull fragments contained in the base of pise credence [Gavrish 1988: 18; 1989: 14]. Later, the post-mortem manipulations were widely practiced in the classical Scythian time [Grechko, Shelekhan 2012: 59].

Among the middle European analogies it should be recalled the classic monument of the late Hallstatt time – a cave on the Býčí skála cave. Numerous human bone remains, including the cup from the skull, were treated as a sacrifice to the gods and ancestors [Peter-Röcher 1997: 55], although the burial function of the monument wasn't an exception [Peter-Röcher 1998: 27]. Wide practice of the head cult was recorded by the researchers in the Celtic society [Rusanova 2002: 41]. Also, ritual practices with human bones are well-known in classical ancient civilizations of the Middle East [Bremmer 2015: 119].

6. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, a detailed analysis of the construction and materials of the central complex of Severynivka hillfort showed that here we are dealing with a remarkable structure. I.P. Rusanova outlined five features of a cult building: 1) the location of the object in an unusual place; 2) unusual construction; 3) sacrificial composition of the finds; 4) analogies with non-functional objects of worship; 5) analogies with ethnographic and epigraphic sources [Rusanova 2002: 11].

Investigated complex is consistent with the proposed criteria. It is located in the central part of the hillfort, where its whole area is visible. Even being not fully investigated, it shows that its extremely complicated construction needed an extraordinary expenditure of efforts that goes beyond common sense. The number of discovered simultaneous fireplaces exceeds everyday needs. Finds of the destruction layer (qualitative and miniature tableware with unusual ornamentation, ceramic plastics, women's jewelry, fragments of animal skulls and a human jaw) differ qualitatively and numerically on a modest material from the household complexes of the hillfort. Above mentioned analogies for the construction (Viktorivka etc.), which were treated as religious ones, are strongly favored the proposed set of the complex features.

Translated by Ira Sheyko

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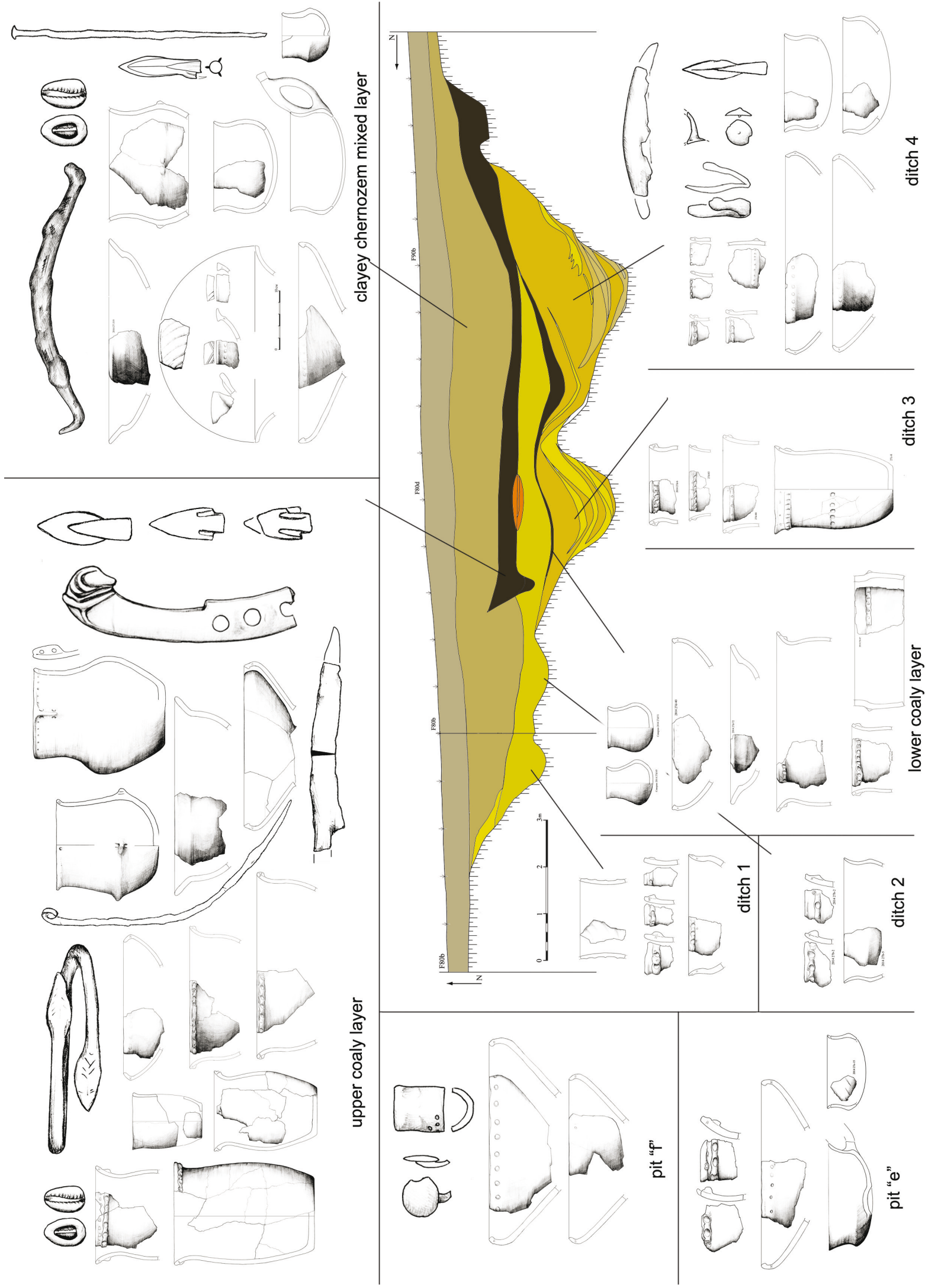


Fig. 71. Severnyivka, Vinnytsia Oblast. The layout of the material by layers and objects in the assemblage