

Research on the Lublin-Volhynian Culture

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The text summarises the field research of Jan Kowalczyk on the Lublin-Volhynian culture, and presents some conclusions resulting from the confrontation of his discoveries on the Jaszczów 5 and Gródek 1C sites with the current state of knowledge about this culture.

KEY-WORDS: Jaszczów, Gródek, Lublin-Volhynian culture, Jan Kowalczyk.

The later Danubian cultures were not in the mainstream of Jan Kowalczyk's research interests. Nevertheless, during his field activity, he was in contact with the remains of settlements of these cultural units. This applies primarily to the "Linear Painted Pottery culture", as – in accordance to the nomenclature adopted at the time – he called a group currently known as the Lublin-Volhynian culture.

In fact, only two sites on which Jan Kowalczyk discovered the remains of this culture settlement can be indicated. The first one is Jaszczów, Łęczna district, where in 1952 together with Zygmunt Ślusarski he carried out surface surveys. In deflation niche of the dune located on the right bank of the Wieprz River, they discovered a destroyed grave (Kowalczyk 1954/55), in which a group of vessels remained (Fig. 1). It was the second similarly damaged burial feature on this site, beside one discovered in 1949 by Stefan Nosek (1949). There were seven vessels (Fig. 2), four Cretaceous flint trapezes and three erratic flint flakes in the cluster.

This trivial collection of vessels provided important data about flint production of the Lublin-Volhynian culture and its cultural relations, under which the microlithic trend was developed. Namely, three of four trapezoidal insets were made by means of a Mesolithic microburin technique. The knowledge of this technique in the population of Lublin-Volhynian culture was confirmed not only by the discoveries of the trapezoidal insets, but also by microburins – production wastes (Wąwolnica, Puławy district, site 6 – Zakościelna 1996: 71, Tab. XXXVI: 21).

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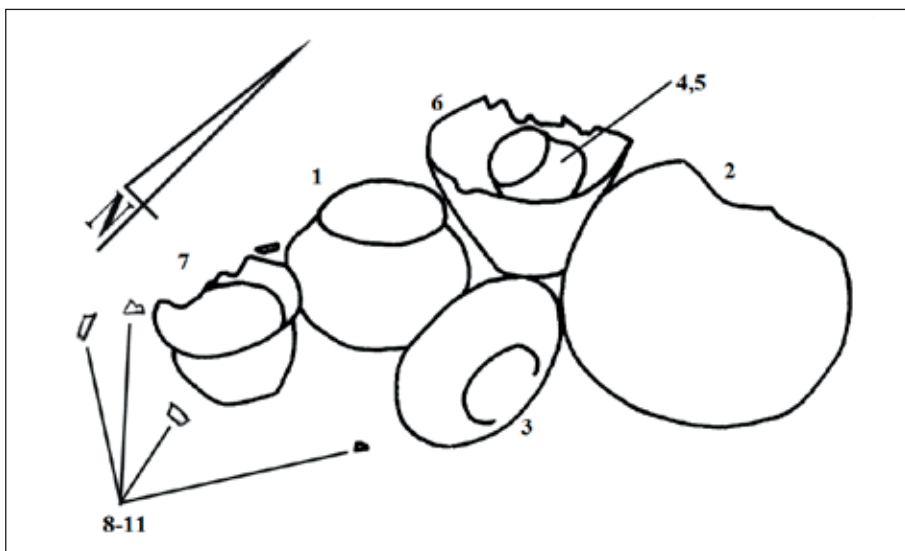


Fig. 1. Jaszczów, site 5. Vessel cluster plan – remnants of a grave (according to Kowalczyk 1954/55).

Obvious Mesolithic references led to the hypothesis of contacts with the epigones of previous era (among others: Zakościelna 1985), which – given the rather intense penetration of the Lublin Upland foreland by the Lublin-Volhynian communities (the manifestations of this are, among other things, graves discovered on the dune in Jaszczów) – seems to be fully possible. However, in formal terms, the specimens from Jaszczów – very low – do not fit in the typology of trapezoid Mesolithic insets and such items are not known from the inventories of this period. On the other hand, their presence is recorded in the para-Neolithic sites of forest zone groups, among others in Sośnia, Grajewo district (Więckowska and Kempisty 1970, Tab. IX: 15, 20, 21) and – what is significant – next to triangular projectile points made by trough-like retouch (*ibid.* Tab. IX: 24–28), which have strict analogies in the Lublin-Volhynian culture inventories (Zakościelna 1996: Fig. 9). Proof of relationships with the para-Neolithic groups of the forest zone was also provided by the research in Bronocice and Iżykowiec, Pińczów district, where “comb-impressed” ceramics were found in the settlement features of the Lublin-Volhynian culture (Kruk and Milisauskas 1985: 64, 65). On the basis of the flint-work, irrefutable evidence was obtained during the research on the cemetery in Książnice, Busko Zdrój district, mainly in grave No. 4, in the inventory of which low trapezoids are accompanied by Sośnia-type projectile points (Wilk 2004, Fig. 7: 12, 16–18; Zakościelna 2006: 284).

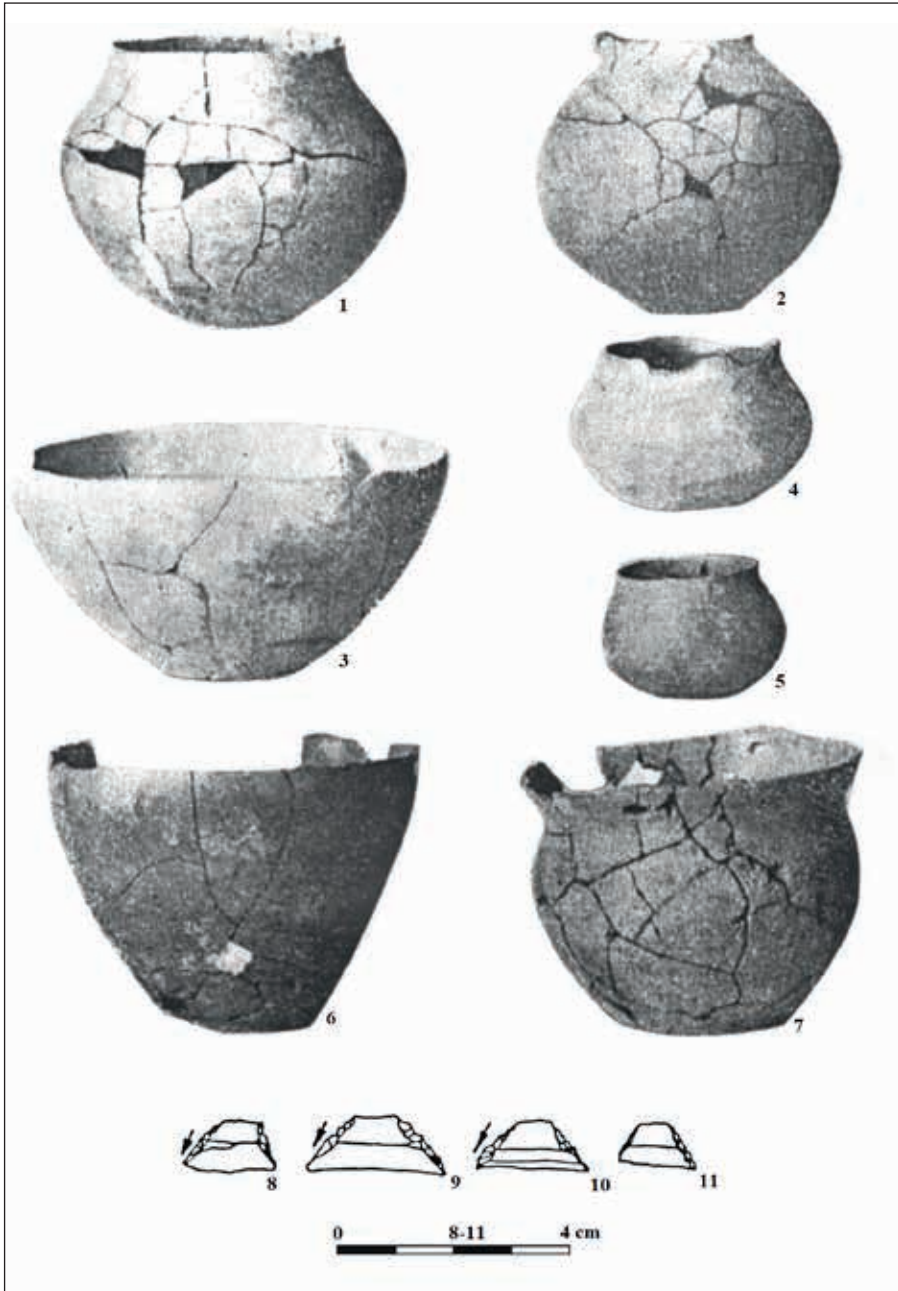


Fig. 2. Jaszczów, site 5. Grave inventory (according to Kowalczyk 1954/55 and Zakościelna 1985).

In the light of the present state of research, it can be said, that the issue of direct contacts between the population of Lublin-Volhynian culture and the para-Neolithic groups of the forest zone, as a result of which the microlithic trend of flint processing developed in the Lublin-Volhynian culture, is beyond discussion, and the materials obtained by Jan Kowalczyk in Jaszczów were the first tangible evidence of these relationships.

Jan Kowalczyk also came across the remnants of the Lublin-Volhynian settlement at the site 1C “Horodysko” in Gródek, Hrubieszów district. His research was a continuation of the excavation work undertaken there by Konrad Jażdżewski in 1952 on behalf of the State Archaeological Museum and the “Research Commission on the Cherven Cities (or Grods)” (Jażdżewski 1958; Poklewski 1958). During four research seasons (1954–1957), he explored 15.6 hectares of area in the central loess plateau on which the site is located (Fig. 3, 4), and also identified its northern and southern extents by test excavations (Fig. 5). This excavation campaign resulted in the discovery of the exceptionally rich remains of the Funnel Beaker culture settlement (several dozen settlement features, tens of thousands of artefacts) and relics of a fortified settlement in the form of a fragment of a ditch (as it turned out in the 1980s originating from the Lublin-Volhynian culture – Jastrzębski 1985: 5–7). The results of these studies were reported by Jan Kowalczyk on a regular basis through extensive reports in the



Fig. 3. Grodek, site 1C. Aerial view of the site. Photo: S. Orłowski.



Fig. 4. Grodek, site 1C. A view of the site from the west. Photo: A. Zakościelna.

Wiadomości Archeologiczne (1956; 1957a; 1957b; 1958). In addition to the presentation of the excavation results, he drew attention to several important general issues, including the relation with the Tripolye culture, whose numerous imports, as well as examples of pottery imitations and also Tripolye influence on the form of residential constructions were confirmed by his research. A full synthesis of these excavations was published at the end of the 1980s (Gumiński 1989).

Thanks to Konrad Jażdżewski (1958) and Tadeusz Poklewski (1958) at first, and then to Jan Kowalczyk, the site 1C in Gródek has permanently entered into the scientific literature as so-called upland settlement of the Funnel Beaker culture, although the history of settling of the Horodysko site – a naturally defensive plateau standing out in the landscape – is older and much longer (Kokowski 1993). The unique wealth of settlement residues attracted the attention of the researchers specialized in various eras, which has resulted in several excavation campaigns aimed at various research or conservation problems. Very interesting discoveries, including Lublin-Volhynian culture funerary features, were made by farmers during field work. In the majority of cases they were later excavated by archaeologists (for example: Kokowski and Ściborowie 1994). Attention should be drawn to two expeditions that have brought the most information about the settlement of this place by the Lublin-Volhynian culture, preceding the settlement of Funnel Beaker culture.

Thirty years after Jan Kowalczyk's excavations, Sławomir Jastrzębski made an attempt to explain the cultural attribution and course of the ditch, the fragment of which was discovered in the central part of the site in the 1950s (Kowalczyk 1975b: 305). It turned out to be a part of the Lublin-Volhynian cultural settlement, as indicated by both

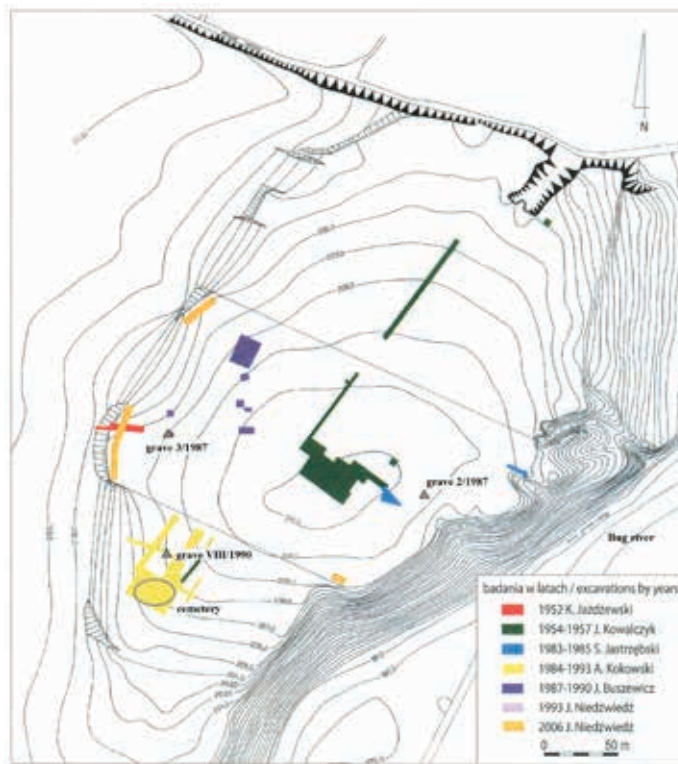


Fig. 5. Gródek, site 1C. Location of the excavations in particular research seasons and location of the single graves and cemeteries of the Lublin-Volhynian culture (according to Komisarczuk 2008 and Zakościelna 2010).

the materials in the fill and the radiocarbon dating of organic materials lying in the bottom of the feature (Jastrzębski 1991: Tab. 1; Zawiślak 2013: 115 and Tab. 2). A single settlement pit and quite a large redeposited assemblage of ceramic material of this culture indicated the functioning of the settlement in the classical and late phase (Bronicki *et al.* 2004: 104).

In 1984-1990, a huge excavation was conducted by Andrzej Kokowski in the southern part of the site 1C (among others: 1989, 1993). The research, aimed at exploring the Roman period cemeteries provided important discoveries related to the Eneolithic phase of Horodysko, including the Lublin-Volhynian culture settlement. A cemetery of six graves (Fig. 6), badly damaged by the Funnel Beaker culture settlement was recorded (Zakościelna 2010: 52–53).

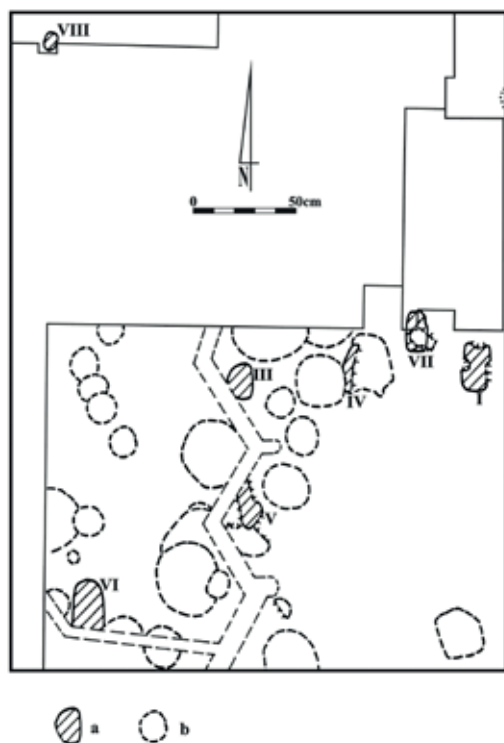


Fig. 6. Gródek, site 1C. Cemetery of the Lublin-Volhynian culture: a – graves; b – settlement pits of the Funnel Beaker culture (according to Kokowski 1989 and Zakościelna 2010).

After more than 60 years since Jan Kowalczyk's excavations at site 1C in Gródek, the history of its settlement has been significantly enriched, although it is difficult to say that we have a comprehensive picture of it. As for the Eneolithic settlement sequence, the use of the plateau situated above the Bug valley was started by the Lublin-Volhynian culture in the classical phase, with a settlement surrounded by a ditch, which functioned also in the late phase (Bronicki *et al.* 2004). The older phase of this settlement is connected with five human graves located in various parts of the site, while the graveyard, a bit remote from the settlement, was created in the late phase (Zakościelna 2010: 45–46, 52–53). The population of the Lublin-Volhynian culture left Horodysko no later than around 3650 BC, then the representatives of the Funnel Beaker culture arrived, and covered the site with a very intense settlement (phase Gródek I: 3650–3500 BC – Bronicki *et al.* 2004: 104–108). It seems to have been a hostile takeover of the area, the settlement pits of this culture destroyed graves of the Lublin-Volhynian culture cemetery, which probably were still visible on the surface (Fig. 6).

In the introduction, I mentioned that Jan Kowalczyk's research interests did not focus on the Later Danubian cultures. The above-mentioned examples of his discoveries, however, significantly contributed to explaining the origins of the microlithic trend in the Lublin-Volhynian culture flint processing and to supplementing the history of settlement of one of the most important prehistoric sites at in this part of the Vistula and Bug watershed.

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