

REVIEWS AND SHORT REVIEW NOTES

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(Review) Aleksandr Diachenko, Małgorzata Rybicka (eds), *Between the East and the West. Dynamic of Social Changes from the Eastern Carpathians to the Dnieper in 4th – beginning of 3rd Millennium BC (Preliminary study)*. Rzeszów 2019: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 262 pp.

Małgorzata Rybicka, co-editor of the reviewed volume, has been conducting intensive archaeological research on the Eneolithic of the borderland of south-eastern Poland and western Ukraine for several years, successfully establishing cooperation with the local researchers representing both central archaeological institutions (Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences, Kyiv, Ukraine), as well as regional museums. The activity of the research team conscripted by M. Rybicka has already resulted in numerous publications, primarily of a descriptive nature (*i. a.* Hawinskyj *et al.* 2013; Hawinskyj *et al.* 2015), but also including synthesizing works. These include collective publications (*i. a.* Diaczenko *et al.* 2016; Pozikhovskiy *et al.* 2013), as well as M. Rybicka's book about relations between the Tripolye culture and the Funnel Beaker culture communities (Rybicka 2017). Recently, the range of this research has been extended to Moldova, as reflected in the scientific project *Between the East and the West. Dynamic of Social Changes from the Eastern Carpathians to the Dnieper in 4th – beginning of 3rd Millennium BC* (NCN Opus 8 UMO 2014/15/B/HS3/02486), implemented in 2015-2019 by the international research team headed by M. Rybicka. The reviewed volume is the first, preliminary summary of the research conducted under this project. It consists of 16 studies developed by over a dozen specialists: archaeologists, ceramic specialists, use-wear experts and bioarchaeologists, representing Polish, Ukrainian and Moldovan scientific institutions.

The goals of the project and the reviewed publication include an attempt to explain the intercultural relations between populations of the three main Eneolithic formations occupying Central and Eastern Europe: the Funnel Beaker culture, the Cucuteni-Tripolye culture and the Baden culture. The basis for tracking these relationships was the spread of

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ceramic imports and stylistic innovations on a micro-regional and regional scale. The catalogue of research tasks also includes the creation of a demographic model and the reconstruction of settlement and socio-economic changes in the middle 4th millennium BC, at the dawn of the Cucuteni-Tripolye culture.

In the course of research, old, “rediscovered” sources were used, and new excavations were carried out at several Ukrainian (Vynnyky-Lisivka, Vynnyky-Zhupan, Lvov district) and Moldovan (Gordinești II-Stînca goală, Edineț district) sites. In addition, a non-invasive geomagnetic study of one of the Tripolye culture settlements (Myrohoshcha, Dubno district), which revealed the presence of earth fortifications, was carried out. The sources and information obtained, as well as the observations made during the field research were subjected to multi-faceted archaeological, ceramological, archaeobotanical and use-wear analyses. The work was carried out not only with the use of traditional archaeological methods of source studies, but also specialist analyses, significantly enriching the possibilities of inference. Mathematical analysis methods were used to reconstruct the spatial and demographic systems, while the whole study was supplemented with high-quality illustrations.

Most of the articles included in the volume present the results of field research and the development of acquired sources. Particularly worth attention are informative articles by Dmytro Verteletsky on ceramics from Vynnyky-Zhupan and Zvenyachyn (*Pottery of Gordinești group of the Tripolye culture from Vynnyky-Zhupan. Preliminary study; Pottery of Gordinești group of the Tripolye culture from Zvenyachyn. Preliminary study*), as well as studies on flint materials from the Vynnyki-Lisivka site by Iwona Sobkowiak-Tabaka (*Flint knapping industry of the Funnel Beaker culture population from the site Vynnyky-Lisivka, Lviv district, excavation season 2016*) and a typological and functional (use-wear) study on bone and antler products originating from several sites by Valentin Pankovsky – (*The Late Tripolye and the Funnel Beaker Industries of Bone and Antler from Volhynia to Galicia: The UPTE Contribution*). Articles presenting the results of specialist analyses of particular materials (ceramic – Anna Rauba-Bukowska; botanical – Agata Sady, and use-wear – Jolanta Małecka-Kukawka) are extremely important; in the last case, it is regrettable that such a modest number of tools was subjected to functional analyses.

Some articles also discuss general issues related to the chronology and development of Cucuteni-Tripolye and Funnel Beaker culture settlement in western Volhynia, eastern Roztocze and northern Moldova, the complex interactions between these groups, and the impact of the Baden environment on the ceramic style and cultural face of these formations (e.g. A. Diachenko, A. Hawinskyj, D. Król, M. Rybicka, G. Șirbu, *New excavations in Vynnyky and the issue of the Funnel Beaker culture – Tripolye frontier*; G. Șirbu, M. Rybicka, A. Diachenko, D. Król, L. Șirbu, V. Burlacu, *Preliminary results of archaeological investigations at the Gordinești II-Stînca goală settlement. The 2016 campaign*).

Some articles undertake broader, generic issues, e.g. regional networks in the context of Volhynian flint distribution (A. Diachenko, M. Rybicka, *Volhynian flint and the trans-regional networks of the Funnel Beaker populations*), the settlement of Funnel Beaker

and Tripolye cultures on the studied area (D. Król, *Eneolithic settlements of the Funnel Beaker culture and the Late Tripolye culture of the Western Ukraine and Northern Moldova in the topo-hydrological contexts. A comparative study*), settlement and socio-economic strategies in the context of climate change, and centre-periphery relations at the twilight of the Tripolye culture (A. Diachenko, *The Late Tripolye: Spatio-demographic frames for culture change*).

This is an extremely interesting and valuable publication, which fills a crucial source and interpretation gap. Thanks to this work, researchers dealing with the Eneolithic of Central and Eastern Europe obtain a package of new sources and explanations, hypotheses, and – especially – research questions, determining the directions of further studies, for which the reviewed work is – as indicated in the introduction – a prologue. One can expect an explanation of the nature of cultural change in the borderland of the Cucuteni-Tripolye and Funnel Beaker cultures from the aforementioned main work, which summarizes the results of research conducted under the project, as well as the answer to the question as to the role played by the Baden culture community in this process: was the Tripolye culture “Badenised” as the Funnel Beaker culture community in the area of western Lesser Poland (Kruk, Milisauskas 1999).

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