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(review) A. Marciniak, I. Sobkowiak-Tabaka, M. Bartkowiak and M. Lisowski (eds), *Kopydłowo, stanowisko 6. Osady neolityczne z pogranicza Kujaw i Wielkopolski (= Ocalone Dziedzictwo Archeologiczne 6) (Kopydłowo, site 6. Neolithic settlements from the borderlands of Kuyavia and Greater Poland (= Saved Archaeological Heritage 6)*. Pętkowice – Poznań 2015: Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Profil-Archeo Publishing House and Archaeological Studio, 344 pages.

*Kopydłowo, stanowisko 6. Osady neolityczne z pogranicza Kujaw i Wielkopolski (Kopydłowo, site 6. Neolithic settlements from the borderlands of Kuyavia and Greater Poland)*, coedited by Arkadiusz Marciniak, Iwona Sobkowiak-Tabaka, Marta Bartkowiak, and Mikołaj Lisowski, presents the results of analyses of the finds recovered in the course of excavations conducted at site 6 in Kopydłowo in 1984 and 1985. Back in the 1980s, only two short field reports were published (Gorczyca and Łukaszewski 1985; 1986). Thirty years later, divided archaeological sources were gathered and catalogued thanks to Lisowski, who at first had prepared a study of animal bones from Kopydłowo as his master's thesis (Lisowski 2012). The concluding publication of was financed by Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

The monograph consists of seven sections. Most of the chapters centre upon a specific category of archaeological sources attributed to three subsequent phases of the utilization of the area of the site in the Neolithic period: by the people of the Linear Band Pottery Culture (abb.: LBK), Late Band Pottery Culture (LBPC) and Funnel Beaker Culture (TRB). The exception is the sixth section, in which finds dated to the Bronze Age and the medieval period were presented. The main part of the book is in Polish, while some of the scientific analyses were written in English. Every section is accompanied by a summary in the other language plus there is also a DVD attached to the book. It contains all of the figures and tables prepared for the publication (sadly, not every table was included in print), alongside Lisowski's master's thesis, and his paper concerning horn processing in Kopydłowo (Lisowski 2014). It is quite disappointing that the exact description of the contents of the DVD is found nowhere in the book. Within the text of the articles, there are only few scattered references to the tables on the DVD.

The book opens with the *Wstęp (Introduction)*. Its first part, written by Marciniak, briefly summarizes the history of archaeological research in Kopydłowo 6, and gives a short account of the structure of the publication (p. 9-13). During the two excavation campaigns mentioned before, two trenches covered total size of 3 ares were excavated. Sadly, it is not possible to give their exact location in the field. The results of an ambitious attempt to specify the position of trenches within the area of the site by the geophysical investigations were inconclusive (p. 57-61). However, the prospection, carried by Mateusz Cwaliński and Jakub Niebieszczański, revealed numerous anomalies and their clusters, interpreted as traces of various past human activities (chapter I.3.; p. 53-64). It was suggested that only a small part of the site has been excavated.

The most essential part of the first section was entitled *Kontekst osadniczy, charakter i chronologia osadnictwa neolitycznego na stanowisku 6 w Kopydłowie (Settlement context, character, and chronology of the Neolithic occupation of site 6 in Kopydłowo)* (p. 15-51). This chapter was co-written by all of the editors of the book. The village of Kopydłowo is located on the Kleczew Plain, in the southern part of the Kuyavia Lake District. Thus, the site lays somewhere at the periphery of the well-investigated Kuyavia area. In the vicinity of Kopydłowo, the settlement of Early and Middle Neolithic cultures is represented just by few finds. In the era of FBC, so-called 'the Kleczew enclave of the Kuyavian long barrows' existed there (Gorczyca 2005). The mounds were located just about 3-10 km from the site, on the top of moren hills surrounding Kopydłowo from the west, east and south.

The text of the chapter centres upon clusters of archaeological remains grouped on the basis of their location within the site, chronology, and assigned function (p. 17). Complex data describing every feature discovered in Kopydłowo were given in a supplementing catalogue. Culture affiliation and proposed interpretation of remains was also included in the general plan showing dispersion of features in the site (fig. 3). Sadly, the plan does not serve well as an illustration to the text. First of all, identified clusters were not included in the figure. Secondly, the explanation of symbols used to mark the features may be misleading. Settlement pits were classified based exclusively on the pottery found in their fillings. Consequently, if a feature lacks pottery – in the plan it is marked as of an unidentified chronology, even if it seems to be a part of a complex consisting of well-attributed remains. A good example is feature no 45, considered in the figure as of 'undetermined' culture affiliation. From its description in the text we can learn that it was accompanied by LBPC settlement pits, and may have served as foundation trench of a trapezoid LBPC hut (p. 30). Thus, it would be more accurate if it was marked simply as 'possible LBPC'. It is worth mentioning that when it comes to giving the interpretation of features, the legend seems to be unnecessarily detailed, and some of the symbols were mentioned twice. It would be clearer if the number of symbols was reduced, and they were replaced with those considering that the reconstructed function of archaeological features is not always certain. In the figure only the most probable interpretation was used, while the text usually considers few possible scenarios.

As for the occupation of the site in the Neolithic period, six clusters of remains were identified. The first of them (cluster I) was attributed to the earliest phase of Neolithic activity in Kopydłowo. It consists of two large LBK refuse pits joined together (fig. 5). According to radiocarbon dates supported by stylistic analysis of pottery (chapter II.1.), the features may have been in use about 5200-5000 BC (p. 19).

Cluster II consists of four household pits of the LBPC. With this group may also be associated feature 45 mentioned above. Additionally, several dozen metres from these possible remains of a LBPC farmhouse, within the first excavation trench, a grave attributed to this culture was discovered (p. 40). In the only partly excavated feature, there was a skeleton of an adult woman with a copper bead lying next to her skull (p. 40). Obtained radiocarbon date positions this phase of Kopydłowo within the range of 4300-4100 BC, which corresponds with the classical phase of the LBPC in Kuyavia.

All of remaining four clusters were classified as the remains of various activities of TRB people. All of them were attributed to the phase IIIB-IIIC of the TRB in Kuyavia. It is consisted with six radiocarbon dates of samples from homogenous TRB features. Therefore, the TRB may have occupied the area of site 6 in Kopydłowo about 3600-3400 BC, while it seems that the TRB settlement in the western part of the excavated area (trench I) may slightly precede the TRB features in its eastern part (p. 17).

A set of household pits and postholes located in the north-western part of trench II was marked as cluster III. Unfortunately, the remains were generally poorly preserved, and the area of the cluster was only partly excavated. It was suggested that the features may have had an economic function and/or a dwelling structure may have existed there (p. 33-34). Cluster IVA is a complex of construction pits interpreted as the remains of a trapezoid house (p. 35). Before it was built, this area had been occupied by a sunken feature (cluster IVB). It probably did not serve as a proper dwelling structure, but rather a workshop used in horn processing (p. 36). The last cluster (no. V) consists of remains of a possible shed structure, and few pits of storage or economic use. When initial use of features was terminated, they became refuse pits (p. 37-40).

The second chapter of the monograph is dedicated to the various analyses of Neolithic ware. Its opening part, co-authored by Bartkowiak and Sobkowiak-Tabaka, presents an archaeological classification of pottery (p. 67-126). Following traditional standards, technology, morphology, and ornamentation of potsherds was described. Additionally, samples of vessels of each technological group were analysed under the microscope. The microphotographs of types of clay paste are a very useful supplement to the text. When it comes to figures, only the photos of potsherds were presented (alongside with the sketch of the profile). Thus, some of the ornaments on the vessels are not as distinctive as it would be if drawings had been employed.

While the chapter of Bartkowiak and Sobkowiak-Tabaka is generally creatively written, and embraces a wide spectrum of characteristics of the pottery (see below), it seems that sometimes the Authors found themselves entrapped in a conventional archaeological

narration. As for TRB pottery, the so-called 'cultural components' of the ceramic style were described (p. 119). Sadly, some of identified features seem repetitive. For example, the Tripolye provenance of bottomless vessels, firstly suggested by Aleksander Koško (1981, 161), is doubtful due to lack of any direct Tripolye counterparts of such pots (cf. e. g. Der-gachev 1980; Kadrow et al. 2003; Markevich 1981; Ryzhov 2012). The pattern of opposing triangles, in the chapter mistakenly regarded as a 'herringbone', mentioned as an evidence of contacts with Globular Amphora Culture communities, was listed by Agnieszka Przybył as one of the most typical Baden motifs on the pottery of Lowland FBC (Przybył 2009, 89). It is also worth mentioning that the chapter requires a paragraph considering what these carefully described stylistic elements of pottery could actually have meant for the people of Kopydłowo (cf. Rzepecki 2014, 566).

Continuing one of the main topics of the book, chapter II emphasizes the functional aspects of artefacts. Bartkowiak and Sobkowiak-Tabaka try to find a link between morphology, technology, and use of pots. What is more, analysis of use-wear on pottery walls was implemented (fig. 18), which is quite rare in Polish prehistoric archaeology, and, maybe, Polish archaeology in general (cf. e. g. Lis 2010). This part of the narration would not be complete without a set of scientific tests. In section II 2. Joanna Abramów presents the results of archaeobotanical analysis of daub and grain imprints on ceramics. The next chapter, co-written by Mélanie Roffet-Salque and Richard P. Evershed, centres upon lipid residues of pottery. In the course of the analysis, vessels serving to cheese-making and cooking meat were identified. Sławomir Pietrzak is an author of section II 4., in which were described traces of wood-tar production in the LBK and TRB.

Chapter III gives an account of the flint and stone tools discovered in Kopydłowo. Sobkowiak-Tabaka wrote an archaeological analysis of LBK and TRB flint industry. The section centres upon artefacts discovered within homogenous features (p. 157). Due of a lack of such features of the LPBC, the characteristics of the flint industry of this culture were not described. What is more, all of the flint tools found in the pits alongside pottery of various cultures, as well as within the culture layer of the site, have been automatically classified as of 'undetermined chronology' (p. 167). It seems disputable that Sobkowiak-Tabaka did not make any efforts to establish culture attribution of some of these omitted flint artefacts. The starting point of such analysis could be comparing technological features of remaining flint tools with those from homogeneous features (cf. Piątkowska and Dobrzyński 2014, 257-259). Special regards should be given to the raw material of flint artefacts. As it was evidenced by Sobkowiak-Tabaka, there is a striking difference between types of flint used in LBK and TRB phases. While about 94% of tools from homogenous LBK features were made from imported chocolate flint (p. 160), raw material of over 82% of TRB artefacts was identified as local erratic Cretaceous Baltic flint (p. 165).

In chapter III 2. Maciej Jórdeczka and Katarzyna Pyżewicz characterize the Neolithic stone tools found in Kopydłowo. The artefacts are carefully described, considering exact dimensions, raw material, culture affiliation (Jórdeczka and Pyżewicz decided to employ

categories like 'possible TRB' and 'undetermined Neolithic'), and traces of use. In the closing section of chapter III, Pyżewicz gives an account of the use-wear analysis of all the flint artefacts found in Kopydłowo.

The next part of the book is entitled *Kości zwierzęce (Animal Bones)*. It opens with the archaeozoological study of faunal remains written by Lisowski. The chapter is a modified version of his master's thesis (Lisowski 2012). Alongside the detailed biological characterization of bones, issues of taphonomy, animal exploitation, and consumption were presented. Special regards were given to two interesting deposits. At the bottom of pit 36, attributed to the LBPC, an almost complete skeleton of a sheep was found. Lisowski deduced that the find should be regarded not as a proper burial, but rather as chunks of sheep meat stored in the pit (p. 228-229). In the lowest part of feature 31 (TRB, cluster IVB) there was a pile of horncores of cattle, aurochs, and goat. The bones bear evident traces of horn processing, and they have been interpreted as a deposit of stored raw material and/or discarded refuse (p. 226-228).

The second part of the fourth section, co-authored by Lisowski, Pyżewicz, and Mateusz Frankiewicz, gives an account of the results of the technological and functional analysis of artefacts made from animal bone, teeth, and antler. The remaining part of this chapter consists of four articles concerning various scientific tests. Firstly, ancient DNA from animal remains was obtained (chapter IV 3.). In the next section Elizabeth Henton gave an account of her attempt to reconstruct the seasonality of herd management in Kopydłowo using an oxygen isotope analysis of tooth enamel (chapter IV. 4). Additionally, strontium isotope values in animal tooth enamel were studied (chapter IV. 5). Finally, data concerning the diet of people and animals were extracted on the basis of stable carbon and nitrogen analysis (chapter IV. 6).

In chapter V, Alicja Drozd-Lipińska presented the anthropological description of human remains documented in Kopydłowo. The sixth section, as it was already mentioned, centres upon remains dated to the Bronze Age and the Middle Ages. In Kopydłowo 6, there were recorded three graves, possibly attributed to the Neolithic/Bronze Age transition period (chapter V. 1). Sadly, due to lack of grave inventories, as well as no obtained radiocarbon dates, this hypothesis could not be confirmed (p. 305). Moving on, four cremation burials and scarce remains of a settlement (three pits) of the Lusatian culture were identified (chapter V 2.). The area of the site was also inhabited in the first part of the 10<sup>th</sup> century (V 3.). Finally, the ending section of the book, co-authored by Marciniak, Sobkowiak-Tabaka, Bartkowiak, and Lisowski, gives a summary of presented data, concerning issues of economic activity, food, and manufacture of Kopydłowo 6 inhabitants in the era of the LBK, LBPC, and TRB.

In conclusion, *Kopydłowo, stanowisko 6. Osady neolityczne z pogranicza Kujaw i Wielkopolski Wielkopolski (Kopydłowo, site 6. Neolithic settlements from the borderlands of Kuyavia and Greater Poland)*, undoubtedly makes the book worthy of notice. The Authors managed to successfully deal with the fact that the analysed finds were not recovered

following modern exploration methods. In many ways, notably the scientific analyses, the publication goes beyond the general standards of description accepted in archaeological literature. The chapters should be praised for their continuity in focusing on functional interpretations of sources, as well as on the aspects of economy and subsistence of past communities. Unfortunately, the book suffers from occasionally clumsy editing and questionable choices made by some of the Authors. Regardless, it still manages to remain a consistent, valuable, and engaging publication.

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