

CHRONICLE

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE *FILLING A SPACE: HOUSES – SETTLEMENTS – REGIONS*

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Filling a Space: Houses – Settlements – Regions is the seventh of the annual international archaeological conferences held in Museum of Regional History in Vynnyky, located on the outskirts of Lviv, Ukraine (full name: *Public Institution of the Council of Lviv Province Museum of Regional History [Komunalny Zaklad Lvivskoy Oblasnoy Rady Istorichko-Kraeznavchiy Muzei]*; until 2017: *Museum of Regional History in a Town of Vynnyky [Istorichko-Kraeznavchiy Muzei w m. Vynnyky]*). The meetings are prepared in co-operation with the Department of Archaeology and Special Branches of History of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, as well as, since 2014, the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Rzeszów. Additionally, as the representative of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, its Field Committee participated in organizing the 2016 edition. From the very beginning, the international Vynnyky conferences continue their problem-oriented policy. The proceedings of each seminar have been published as an issue of the Museum's journal, *Naukovi Studii*. The 2016 edition, dedicated to the various issues of the settlement studies, gathered over 60 researchers from Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Georgia.

The conference opened with a main panel, consisting of three presentations. The first to speak was Valentin Dergachev, who discussed the difference between the number of animal bones uncovered at the archaeological site and *minimum number of individuals* of each identified species. As it was noted, number of individuals of species represented in a rich collection of remains is most likely to be underestimated, while we may overestimate the number of individuals of species rarely recognized within the bone assemblage from the site. This relation may have been caused by different use of certain parts of settlement, as well as various depositional and postdepositional processes. Derchachev proposed a mathematical method to *correct* the minimum number of individuals. In other

words, the aim of the procedure is to produce a more accurate assessment of the number of individuals of each species, and thus obtain more precise information regarding the economy and breeding strategies of the inhabitants of the site, as well as the function of specific clusters of finds. While the majority of Eastern European archeozoologists still do not employ the taphonomic destruction of animal bone assemblage (including traces of skinning, butchering, cooking, and consuming the meat visible on the bones) to reconstruct human exploitation of animals within certain zones of a settlement, Dergachev's method attempts to obtain such interpretations based just on numerical data provided by archaeozoologists. A passionate appeal to recognize the value of animal bone remains in archaeological sites, delivered by Dergachev, met with common acclaim among the participants of the conference.

The next paper, co-authored by Evelina Kravchenko, Olha Manihda, and Oleksandr Shelekhan, summarized the archaeological investigation of the Early Iron Age Khotiv hill-fort, located on the periphery of Kyiv. Thanks to multi-disciplinary research it was possible to establish the role of the site within the contemporary settlement system. As noted by Kravchenko, the hill-fort was not inhabited. It was built rather in order to gather, store and protect people and their belongings. Excavation of 2016 season revealed the well-preserved remains of defensive structures. Based on the recovered finds, it was concluded that the Khotiv hill-fort was built most likely in the late 7th century BC, and, after successfully defeating an attack of the Scythians, remained in use until the end of the 6th century BC.

Glib Ivakin, Vsevolod Ivakin, Vyacheslav Baranov, Ivan Zotsenko, and Dmytro Bibikov presented *Archaeological research of the Ancient Rus' sites 'Feofaniya' in 2016*. As noted by V. Ivakin, the team have been excavating the Ancient Rus hill-fort and the satellite-site, located in historical village of Feofaniya, currently on the southern outskirts of Kyiv. Compared to the previous state of knowledge, the results of recent investigations are regarded as sensational. The excavations of 2016 led to the preliminary conclusion that the sites of Feofaniya may be interpreted as the location of a representative of the administration of the Great Kniaz, who was responsible for the protection of hill-fort Zvenyhorod. As we know from the chronicles, this strategically important hill-fort controlled the southwestern periphery of Kyiv. The excavations of 2016 in Feofaniya resulted in re-assessing the location of Zvenyhorod hill-fort in the map of early-medieval Kyiv area. It is very important that archaeological excavations finally provided the possibility to identify places known from historical records.

After the main panel, the conference split into two simultaneous sessions. Section I included the presentations regarding the period from the Stone to Iron Age, while issues covering the time from the Late Iron Age and classical antiquity to 18th century were discussed during the Section II.

The Old Stone Age archaeology was represented only by Guram Chkhatarashvili, who gave an extensive account of research in Early Upper Paleolithic site of the Dzudzuana Cave in eastern Georgia. More crowded was the Early and Middle Neolithic session

(Sławomir Kadrow, Anna Rauba-Bukowska, Valeriy Manko, Serhiy Telizhenko, Catalin Lazar, Theodor Ignat). Of particular note would be the paper presented by Kadrow and Rauba-Bukowska, concerning the chronology of the settlement of the Linear Pottery Culture in Moldova. On this territory, there are no sites with the classic Želiezovce ornamentation, accepted as the characteristic feature of the late phase of eastern part of Linear Pottery Culture. Kadrow and Rauba-Bukowska analyzed the 8 ceramic assemblages attributed to the musical note ceramic style, with special regards to wall-thickness and admixture of the pottery. It was revealed that the changes of technology of the ware fully correspond with the trends known from the Linear Pottery sites with Želiezovce ornamentation. As noted by Kadrow, this observation puts in favour the hypothesis that in Moldova, as well as adjacent territory of Ukraine, the music note decoration may have continued in the late phase of Linear Pottery Culture and have not been replaced with the Želiezovce style.

A significant share of the session was taken up by presentations regarding various issues of the Tripolye Culture. New excavations were introduced by Mykhailo Sokhatskiy (Werteba Cave) and the multi-national team consisted of Małgorzata Rybicka, Oleksandr Diachenko, Dariusz Król, Andriy Havinskiy, Natalia Bilas, Valentyn Pankovskiy, Oleksandra Kozak, and Ghenadie Sîrbu (Vynnyky-Zhupan and Vynnyky-Lisivka). It is worth mentioning two comprehensive studies of settlement regions. Sîrbu gave an extensive account of the sites of Gordinești group, attributed to the late period of the Tripolye Culture, while Dmytro Verteletskiy analyzed the chronological changes of the settlement of this culture in the middle part of Horyn river valley.

Dmytro Chernovol presented a paper *The hierarchy of Tripolye residential constructions*. The author proposed complex classification of the dwellings, based on their size and/or presence of specific type of furnishing. As noted, apart from conventional residential dwellings, at the Tripolye settlements there were workshops, as well as special buildings of a large size. Chernovol regards them as *men's houses*, known from various tribes described by culture anthropologists. Special places inside the Tripolye houses were dedicated to economic or religious activities. Dwelling structures often seem to form clusters that may be considered as workgroups. As emphasised by the author, the internal organization of Tripolye settlements, especially giant ones, forms a system composed of various elements.

There were two presentations concerning the final Neolithic (Elżbieta Sieradzka, Vasyl Ilshchychyn). They were supplemented by an interesting paper by Dmytro Pavliv *'He was drawing in the site'. Lviv records of the first excavations of the site Złota in Poland*. The author introduced the newly-found sketches produced in 1894 during the semi-amateur explorations of Neolithic cemeteries led by Zdzisław Lenartowicz.

The Bronze Age and Early Iron Age session was well-represented. There were papers concerning new data on the Holihrary and Vysotsko culture in western Ukraine (Mykola Bandrivskiy, Larysa Krushelnyska, Mykhailo Bilyk), as well as a summary of the phases of populating the forest-steppe zone in the left bank of Dieper river valley (Denys Hrechko).

In the excellently-prepared presentation, Zoia Ilshchychyn gave a comprehensive account of the issues of *Iron Age hillforts in the Berezina and Daugava river interfluvium*. Finally, the team of researchers (Natalia Bilas, Oleksandr Silaev, Vitaliy Konopla) shared new data concerning the Funnel Beaker and Chernyakhov culture settlement in the Yarychivka river valley.

Oleksandra Kozak presented *Accommodation of the water environment by the people of the Babyno culture from Sukhokleia based on the anthropological analysis*. Examining the human remains found during the excavation of one of the kurgans in the Sukhokleia site, the author found evidence of an abnormal bone growth within the ear canal (surfer's ear). This condition is caused by long-term exposure of the ear to cold wind and water, and nowadays is observed among divers, surfers, or sailors. The occurrence of surfer's ear in the Babyno culture population suggests that the people must have spent significant amount of time in or near water, therefore most likely their basic occupation was fishing. Closing the proceedings of the Section I, we have to mention two theoretical papers presented by Diachenko and Vovolymyr Hdera.

The Section II started with a short excursion to classical antiquity. Pavlo Ostapenko summarized the state of research of the ancient city of Tyra, and introduced new data obtained by the Bilhorod-Tyra archaeological expedition. Thanks to the most recent investigations, the historical topography of the city was corrected. There were three phases of inhabiting Tyra between 6th century BC to 3rd century AD. Ostapenko was able to reconstruct the borders of the city at different historical times. Interestingly, it was suggested that during the Hellenistic period the central part of Tyra was abandoned.

The issues of the Chernyakhov culture, as always, were of interest (Tetiana Rudych, Bohdan Strotsen, Yaroslav Onyshchuk). Onyshchuk in his paper *Considering the Goth-Slavic contact zone between the north-western Podillia and Volhynia in the late Roman period* identified the mentioned regions as an area of the most intensive contacts between Germanic and early Slavic populations. According to Onyshchuk, two centuries of interaction resulted in the integration of elements of culture that transformed the initial Germanic cultural features into the multi-ethnic Chernyakhov culture.

Slavic archaeology was one of the well-represented sections. Presentations were focused mostly on analytical data considering the Slavic cultures in different areas (Bohdan Pryshecha, Leontij Voitvych, Natalia Steblyi, Maryna Yahodynska). Among the papers, we would highlight the presentation of Yahodynska, who analysed 109 Slavic sites in the vicinity of Terebovlia in the Ternopil region. The sites belong to the Prague-Korchak and subsequent Raikovets cultures. Most of them are settlements, hill-forts and cemeteries and 62% of the sites were discovered in the 21st century, this number being explained as the consequence of the activity of rescue archaeology in the region. Yahodynska concluded that the concentration of sites near Terebovlia, that may have served as a community centre of Slavic settlements in 5th-10th century and successfully evolved into important sites of the Kievan Rus'.

Numerous set of papers reflected the whole variety of archaeological investigations of medieval cities. Several groups of presentations may be identified according to chronological principles. The archaeology of the Ancient Rus' cities is represented by research in: Luchesk (Viktor Bauyk), Potelych (Volodymyr Petehyrych and Andrii Havinskiy), Kyiv (Sergiy Taranenko), Buzhsk (Petro Dobhan) and the cities of Volhynia (Vasyl Chekurov). The second group of papers are those focused the issues of cities in the Late Medieval period including: Kyiv (Olena Onogda), Vinnytsia (Larysa Vynhorodska) and the cities of Ternopil region (Ludmyla Strotsen). Finally, there were presentations concerning regional clusters of sites. This category includes the works of Volodymyr Koloda on the surroundings of Mohnach, Sviatoslav Terskyi in Peresopnytsia, Vitalij Liaska and Yaroslav Pohoralskiy in Roztochcha, as well as Oleksij Voitiuk in the Styr and Horyn interfluve.

Pavlo Nechytailo and Volodymyr Oryshchuk presented *Household complex of the first half of the 18th century at Polskiy rynok in Kamyanets-Podilskiy*. The paper introduced the results of excavations conducted in 2016. Rescue works in Ukraine, with their positive and negative sides, require special attention, especially as the majority of archaeological excavations in Ukraine have a rescue character. A positive aspect of this widespread rescue work is the monitoring of all constructions, especially earthworks in cities with preserved medieval layers. The obtained results allow previous knowledge of the city to be refined considering its plan, city-forming processes, as well as specific objects. Rescue excavations are often followed by sensational discoveries but, on the other hand, the negative part of rescue archaeology is its dependence upon the construction companies, resulted in limitations of time and area of research, i.e. the issue of work in winter time. Meanwhile, rescue excavations provide Ukrainian archaeology with funding.

Finally, we should underline the cross-chronological topic that considered different types of settlements and cities presented by Viktor Voinarovskiy, *Craft place, regional centre, centre*. The well-known Ukrainian scholar presented an analytical study focused upon craft complexes. This work was unique in terms of the analysis of a variety of issues, including patterns in the location of the craft places within a settlement, as well as the methodology of their interpretation. Voinarovskiy proposed separating the sporadic and normally distributed finds within the dwellings allowing the identification of a particular craft. The author focused on various kinds of artisanship: metallurgical and pottery complexes, production of artefacts made of stone, bone, wood, and leather working, jewellery-making and other craft-related activities through the ages.

To sum up, the conference *Filling a Space: Houses – Settlements – Regions* must be praised for its diverse set of embraced subjects. The presentations were generally well-prepared, while some of the authors decided to deal with peculiar or controversial topics. The friendly atmosphere of the Museum of Regional History stimulated constructive discussion and the notable outcomes of recent excavations allowed the re-examination of several well-established assumptions. We have to stress that during the sessions not only were the bright sides of Eastern European archaeology considered and a significant part of

the debate touched upon issues of under-financing, negative consequences of rescue excavation, or the crisis of archaeozoology. Undoubtedly, it is the problem-oriented and very productive character of the Vynnyky conference that makes it worthy of note.

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