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EARLY IRON AGE MOUND NEAR THE VILLAGE MALYNIVTSI IN PODILLIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research paper is to introduce the materials of mound 1 near the village of Malynivtsi in the Middle Dniester region to scientific circulation. It is crucial to characterize its funeral rites, as well as to attribute the inventory complex. Burials are included in the list of synchronous antiquities of the region. The social attribution of the persons buried there is conducted.

The scientific novelty of the work is in the general characteristic of the Early Iron Age complex from Podillia. Since its unique characteristic is the presence of both pre-Scythian and Scythian features in the rites, Malynivtsi burial complex is an important source for studying the evolution of the Early Scythian funeral rites in the Middle Dniester region, because most of the burial mounds in the region are associated with the somewhat later Kelermesskaia period.

Conclusions. Mound 1 near Malynivtsi contained several burials performed according to both inhumation and cremation rites. Analogies to them can be found in the Middle Dniester region and they are associated with both pre-Scythian and Scythian times. The pre-Scythian features include the presence of a group of graves under one mound, burial in a cist, group burials are more common, and the peculiar positioning of the dead in one tomb with their heads in different directions. The northwestern orientation of bodies also prevails in the pre-Scythian period and could be found in most necropolises of that time. At the same time, a number of features already have parallels in the Scythian times: the topography of the necropolis on the watershed, and the burning down of the wooden constructions of the tomb. The inventory complex contains mainly handmade pottery. Tulip-shaped vessels are characteristic of the pre-Scythian period. Pots with a roller on the rim and body, or only on the rim, existed both in the pre-Scythian and Scythian times. However, the first type is not yet known among the burials of the Western Podillia group of the Scythian period. Thus, according to the combination of features of the funeral rite and inventory, Mound 1 near the village of Malynivtsi can be attributed to the turn of the Pre-Scythian and Scythian periods.

Keywords: mound, burial, pre-Scythian times, Scythian period, handmade pottery

КУРГАН ДОБИ РАНЬОГО ЗАЛІЗА БІЛЯ С. МАЛІНІВЦІ НА ПОДІЛЛІ

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АНОТАЦІЯ

Метою статті є введення до наукового обігу матеріалів кургану 1 біля с. Малинівці на Середньому Дністрі. Важливим є характеристика його поховальної обрядовості, а також атрибуція інвентарного комплексу. Захоронення вводяться до кола синхронних старожитностей регіону. Проводиться соціальна атрибуція похованих тут осіб.

Наукова новизна роботи полягає у загальній характеристиці комплексу доби раннього заліза з Поділля. Оскільки унікальною його характеристикою є наявність в обрядовості як передскіфських, так і скіфських рис, то Малинівецький поховальний комплекс є важливим джерелом для вивчення становлення поховальної обрядовості ранньоскіфського часу на Середньому Дністрі, адже більшість курганів регіону відносяться до дещо пізнішого келермеського періоду.

Висновки. Курган 1 поблизу Малинівців містив декілька поховань, здійснених за обрядами як інгумації, так і кремації. Аналогії їм можна бачити в Середньому Подністров'ї як у доскіфський, так і в скіфський час. До передскіфських можна зарахувати такі ознаки, як наявність цілої групи могил під одним насипом, захоронення в кам'яному ящику, частіше трапляються групові захоронення, характерне покладання небіжчиків в одній гробниці головами в різні боки. Північно-західне орієнтування тіл теж переважає в доскіфську добу та відоме у більшості тогочасних некрополів. Водночас низка ознак знаходить паралелі вже у скіфський час: топографія некрополя на вододілі, спалення дерев'яних конструкцій гробниці. Інвентарний комплекс складається переважно з ліпного посуду. Тюльпаноподібні посудини характерні для передскіфської доби. Горщики з валиками по вінцю та корпусу, чи тільки по верху, існували й у передскіфський і в скіфський час. Однак перший тип поки що невідомий серед поховань Західноподільської групи скіфської епохи. Отже, за сукупністю ознак поховального обряду й інвентарю курган 1 біля с. Малинівці може бути віднесений до рубежу передскіфської та скіфської епох.

Ключові слова: курган, поховання, доскіфський час, скіфський період, ліпний посуд

INTRODUCTION

The advent of the Scythian period in the Northern Black Sea region, and the emergence of a wave of nomads in the steppes had a substantial influence on the cultural genesis of the population of southern Eastern Europe forest-steppe zone. That was manifested primarily in the spread of advanced for that time weapons and horse trappings in the region. Transformations also occurred in the funeral rite of the native population. This is fully illustrated with the materials of the Scythian period

from the Middle Dniester region where researchers have singled out the Western Podillia group of sites. One of the burial complexes, which illustrates those changes, was studied by Kamianets-Podilskyi State University expedition in 2003.



Fig. 1. Malynivtsi, mound 1, plan. 1 - turf layer; 2 - stones; 3 - burnt stone and soil; 4 - pits; 5 - cremation in an urn; 6 - contours of burial 1; 7 - mainland.

RESULTS

The mounds near the village of Malynivtsi, Kamianets-Podilskyi raion, Khmelnytska oblast were located south of the village on a plateau that had a slope to the Dniester river, on the bank of which ancient settlements were found, whose inhabitants could have used the necropolis¹. A total of 4 mounds were excavated there.

Mound 1, located 0.5 km from the southwestern outskirts of the village and 0.6 km from the river, is of particular interest. It was 0.5 m high with a diameter of 15 m. The mound was made of earth and stones that protruded from the ground. During clearing and surveying the ground of the top layer, stones protruded everywhere, covering an oval area of 12×13 m with a layer of up to 0.3-0.4 m. Small stones (up to 2-3 kg) prevailed, but there were also bigger ones. When the clearing of the stone layer was completed, it turned out that it did not completely cover the mound. Between the accumulation of stones in the center of the mound and on its periphery, there was a gap in the form of a stone-free ring (except unit 6-Д) 0.4-0.9 m wide (fig. 1), which seemed to separate the sides of the mound from its center.

In the mounds of the Scythian period studied in Podillia in previous years, in the place where the specified stone-free zone was found in the first Malynivtsi mound, as a rule, large stones were located, which were a kind of foundation of the structure and surrounded the central part with a vault. In the central part, the remains of burned-out wooden constructions were found, from which two strips of burned soil and stones with interspersed ash and embers remained. Those strips were 2.15 m apart and ran parallel to the walls of the primary burial, with which, probably, they formed one complex and stretched in the direction northwest – southeast. They were about 4 m long, 0.4 to 1.2 m wide, and 0.1 to 0.15 m thick. In general, the strips limited the square space around the primary burial with dimensions of about 4×4 m. There is no doubt that the indicated burned-out strips were the remains of some wooden structural parts, like a wall. It was not yet the classic wooden column tomb of the Early Scythian period with characteristic wooden structures burned out during the burial ceremony. But there could already be its ancestral form. The mound contained 4 burials: the primary one (No. 1), the cenotaph (No. 2) on the western side of the main tomb, Nos. 3 and 4 on the northern periphery.

Burial 1 was made under the center of the mound at the level of the ancient horizon, in a small rectangular cist with walls formed using the slabs (fig. 2). There were traces of the aforementioned burned-down wooden construction all around the area of 4×4 m. External dimensions of the cist were 2.1×1.05 m, internal – 2.1×0.7 m. It is oriented with a long axis from northwest to southeast. The longer walls were formed with specially selected oblong stones of regular shapes. They were placed in parallel to the burned stripes at a distance of 0.8 m from them. The narrower walls had no such a frame.

There were remains of two people's skeletons: a man of the age 35-40 and a woman of the age 20-25 in that specific cist. They were placed together in a crouched position, with their heads northwest. The anatomical integrity of the skeletons was violated but nevertheless, analyzes showed that the man was buried the first and

¹ Старенький І.О., Левінзон Є.Ю. Розвідки на Середньому Дністрі 2009–2019 рр. *Археологія і давня історія України*. 2020. № 4. С. 219.

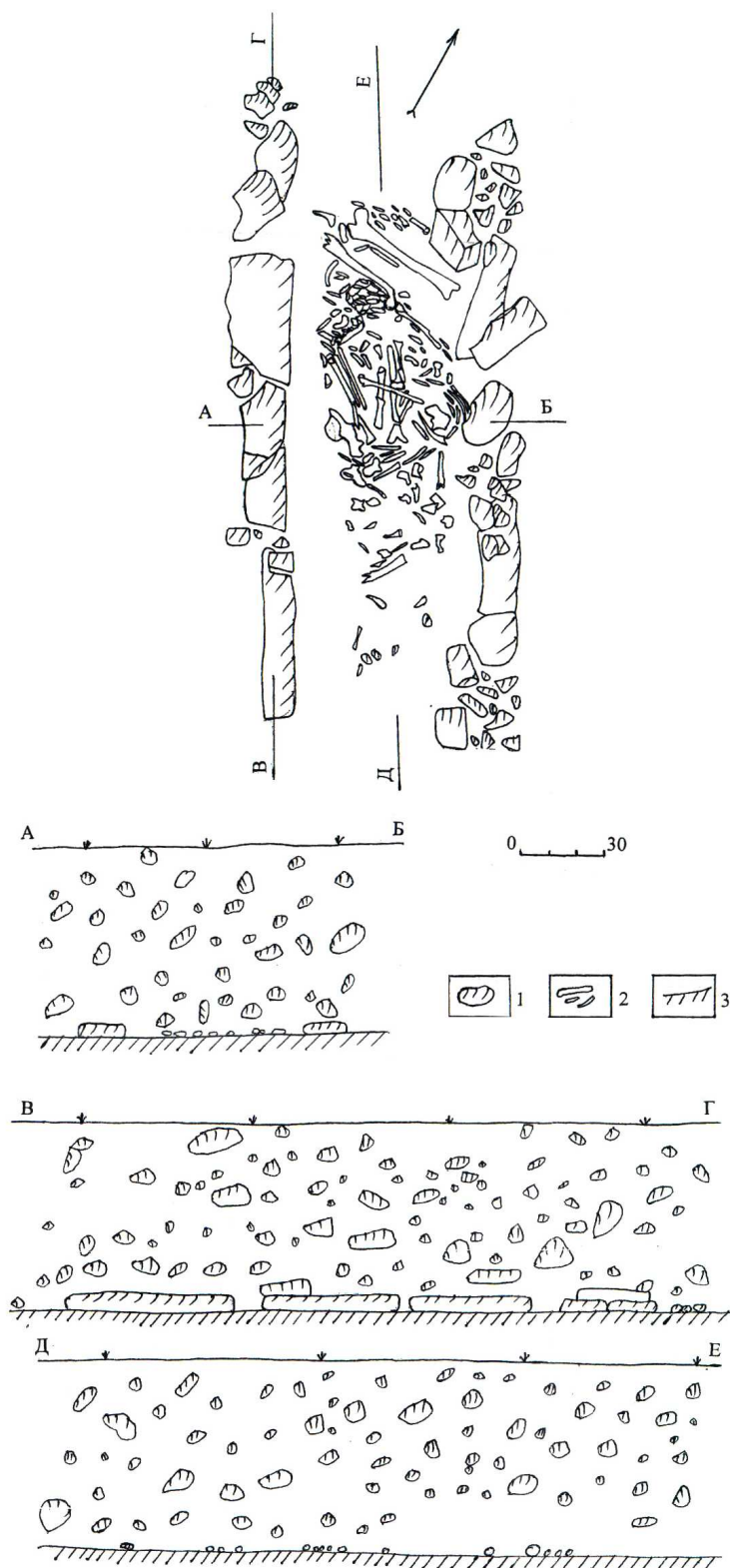


Fig. 2. Burial 1, plan: 1 - stones; 2 - bones; 3 - mainland.

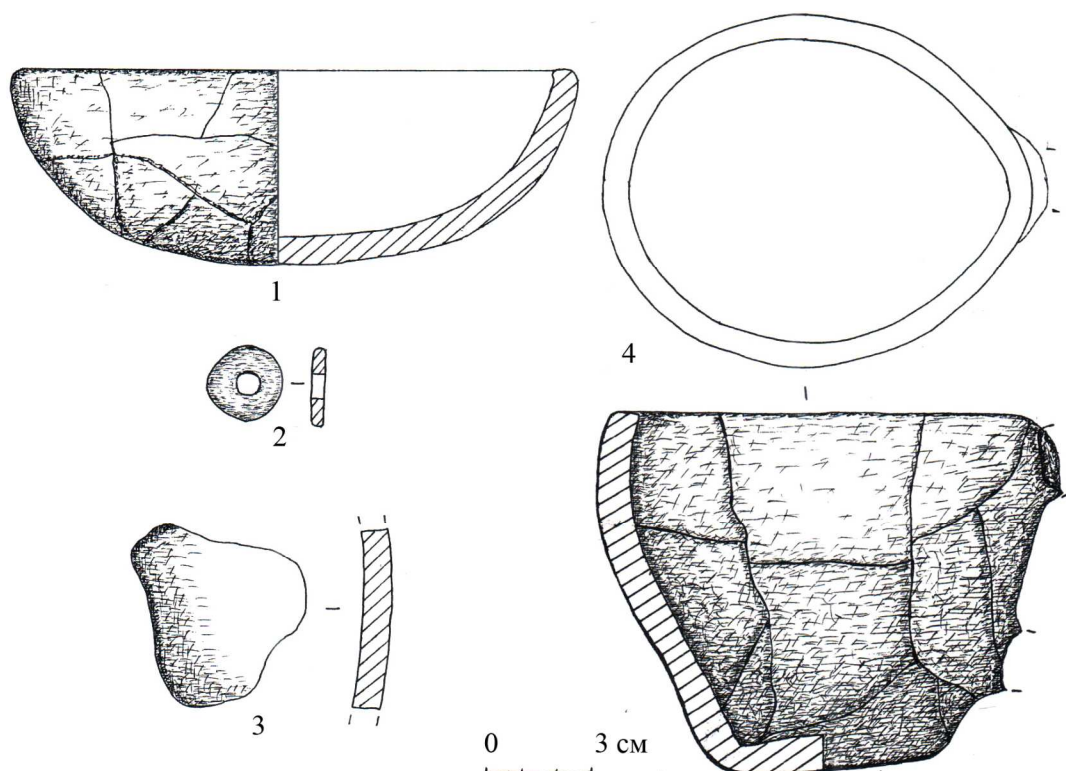


Fig. 3. Finds from burials 1 (1-3) and 2 (4): 1, 3, 4 – ceramics; 2 – stone.

after some time, the woman's body was buried there, too. Bones were in bad condition, and in addition, they were mixed. The fragments of a man's skull were in the northwestern corner, with two femurs placed parallel to each other on top of it. The left arm of the woman, who could be placed on her right side, was with an elbow bent at right angles. Perhaps the right arm was in the same position.

A crushed clay bowl was found farther to the north of the man's skull, at the edge of the grave (fig. 3, 1). The rim is rectilinear, slightly folded inward, and smoothly sloping to the walls and bottom. The vessel resembles a hemispherical cup with a height of 5.5 cm, the rim diameter of 16.2 cm. 30 cm north of the bowl, a stone bead and a fragment of a pot were found. The bead is made of a white stone slab with a width of 0.4 cm, and a diameter of 2 cm (fig. 3, 2). The hole has a regular round shape with a diameter of 0.7 cm. The fragment of the pot's wall was of brown color (fig. 3, 3).

The cenotaph burial 2 was found 3.6 m to the west of the primary grave. A rounded pit with a depth of 0.45 m and a diameter of 0.6 m was excavated there; there was no skeleton or its remains in the pit. The filling of the pit consisted of soil and individual stones. At its bottom, there was a clay mug-shaped ladle with a handle. Its shape is quite specific. It has an unusual for that time somewhat flattened shape of the body, which is why both the bottom and the rim are oval rather than round. The walls are almost straight, narrowing to the bottom, and the rim is slightly bent inwards and beveled in a horizontal plane towards the handle. Because of this, the front part is higher at 1 cm. The diameter of the base is 6-7 cm, the rim is 10-12 cm,

and the height - 10.2 cm. The handle is broken. It was round in section, attached to the rim and lower part of the body (fig. 3, 4).

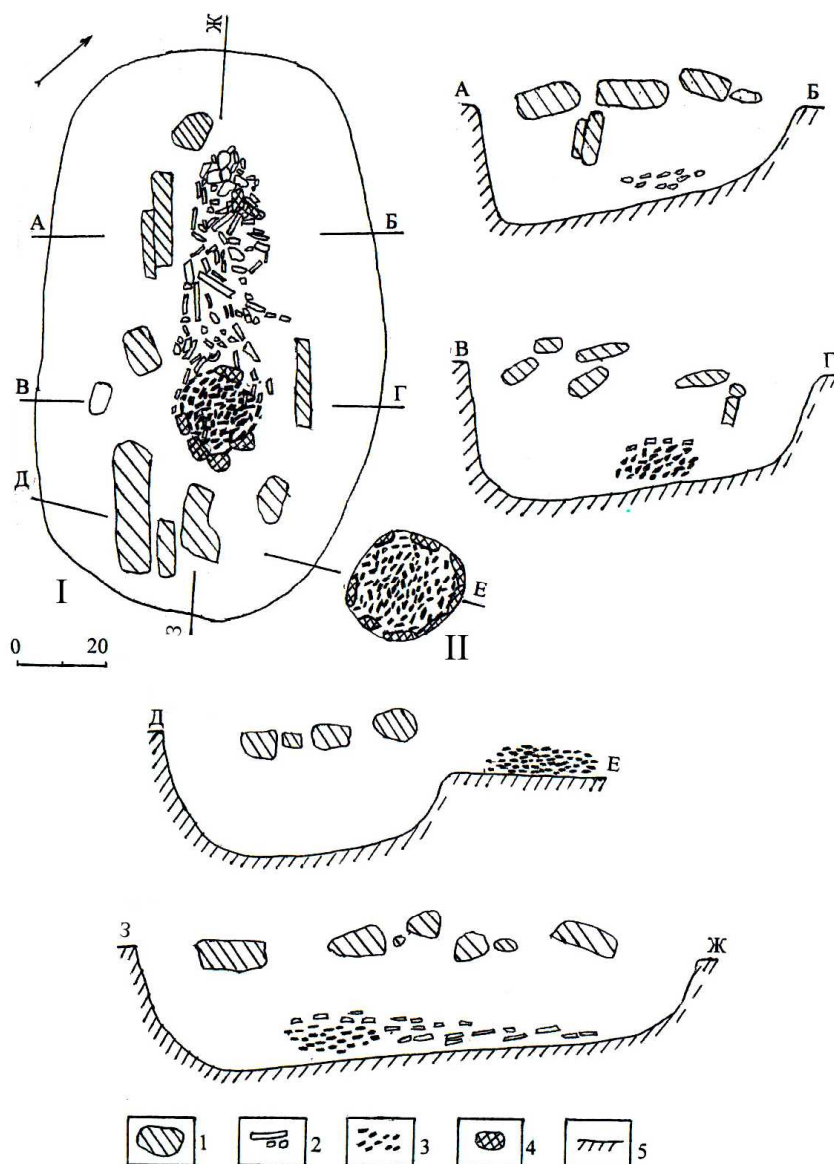


Fig. 4. Burial Nos. 3 (I) and 4 (II), plan: 1 - stones; 2 - bones; 3 - burnt bones; 4 - ceramics; 5 - mainland.

Burial 3 was unearthed 3.7 m to the north from the first burial (fig. 4, 1). In an oval pit with dimensions of 1.3×0.8 m and a depth to 0.3 m, closed up with stones, a biritual burial was found: cremation in urns and two crouched inhumations of children. The earlier one was the urn cremation located deeper. It is partially destroyed by the later burials. Some parts of that vessel were found on top of the stones that covered the grave. The urn was a pot that was only partially preserved.

Given the preserved upper part, it was a tulip-shaped vessel or something between a tulip-shaped or a jar-shaped form (fig. 5, 1). Under the rim and along the body, it is decorated with an applied roller with pinches and indentations. There are also through punctures along the upper roller. Rim diameter – 18 cm, body – 21.5 cm. The iron ring with an external diameter of 3.5 cm was found near the parts of the urn. It was made of a round in section iron rod almost 0.4 cm thick (fig. 5, 2).

Over the aforementioned cremation, there were also children's burials: two skeletons with their heads in opposite directions. One skeleton belonged to a child of the age 6-7 and was placed in a crouched position on his right side with his head to the northwest; the hands with their palms turned to the face. The other child had southeastern orientation and was several months old, and his position was probably crouched, too. But due to the bad condition of the bone remains, it was hard to say definitely about that.

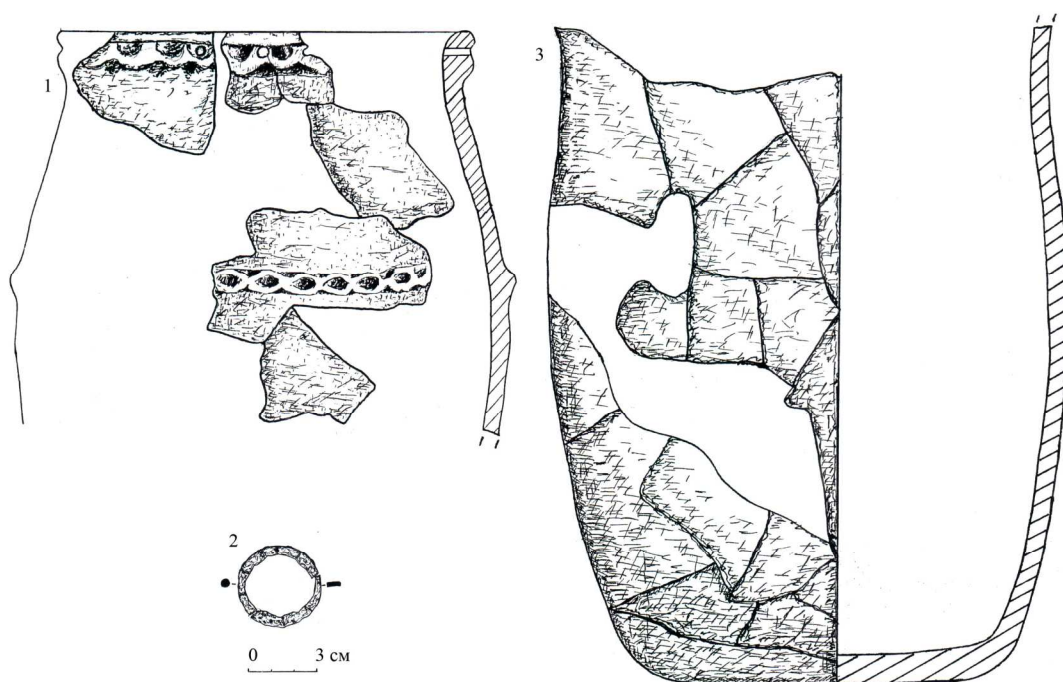


Fig. 5. Finds from burials 3 (1, 2) and 4 (3): 1, 3 – ceramics; 2 – iron.

Burial 4 was also discovered in a northern section of the mound, 0.2 m to the east of the southern edge of the grave 3 (fig. 4, 2). A narrow crushed pot contained burned bones belonging to an adult. The urn pot was a high vessel with up to 30 cm of slender proportions preserved for more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of its height (except for the upper part). It could be close to tulip-shaped vessels. The diameter of the body – 23 cm, of flat bottom with a rounded edge – 15 cm (fig. 5, 3).

The complex of funerary gifts was discovered in the southeastern part of the mound in units 5-Д and 6-Д at the level of the old ground surface. There, among the stones in the area of approximately 1 m² the fragments of several handmade vessels were unearthed. It was impossible to renew completely their shape. But it was determined that those were among them that belonged to the pots with a roller under

the rim. During the research, taking into account the find in burial 3, the authors did not exclude that such rollers could be found on the body of those pots. However, it was hard to check that hypothesis due to the absence of their corresponding parts.

The following forms were the subject to reconstruction from collected fragments:

Large pot having a rounded body and thickened everted rim (fig. 6, 1). The fragments of the neck are decorated with shallow horizontal fluting. The rounded body with projections-applications with three directed downward stripes along the upper part of the body is preserved a little bit better. The bottom is flat, rising smoothly into the walls. Height – 29 cm, diameter of a rim – 21 cm, neck – 16 cm, body – 27 cm, bottom – 10 cm.

Fragment of the lower part of the pot's body with a diameter of up to 27 cm. Width of the wall is up to 1.5 cm (fig. 6, 2).

Fragment of the pot's rim with a diameter of up to 14 cm, that according to its profile, is mean between tulip-shaped and jar-shaped. It is decorated with a low partitioned roller with pinches and punctures along the rim. There are also two deepened slightly profiled horizontal grooves on it (fig. 6, 3).

Upper part of the pot with the roller with indentations and through punctures. Diameter – up to 14.5 cm (fig. 6, 4).

Part of the pot bottom, diameter – 9 cm. The bottom is flat; the walls rise steeply (fig. 6, 5).

The fragments of the ladle's handle are cylindrical in section. One of them clearly shows how the handle was attached to the vessel. Its edge was thinned and after attaching it was thoroughly smoothed (fig. 6, 6).

There were 6 persons buried in the mound 1 near Malynivtsi in 4 graves (one of which, probably, was a cenotaph) of which 3 adults (a man and a woman) and 2 children were identified. Most of the bodies were buried in crouched positions (4 skeletons). 2 urn cremations in other places were studied as well.

The first Malynivtsi mound is located in the area where in the pre-Scythian times Chornyi Lis-Zhabotyyn sites were located. In the Early Scythian times, they were replaced by the antiquities of the Western Podillia group. The mound that is being published is interesting for the presence of the pre-Scythian features as well as the Scythian ones, which illustrate the development of funeral rites in the Middle Dniester region. As of today, funeral sites of the pre-Scythian period in the region have been well studied². It allows us to characterize the funeral rite of that time³.

² Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження курганного могильника передскіфського часу на Середньому Дністрі. *Археологія*. 1952. Ч. VII. С. 89-102; Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении памятников типа Сахарна-Солончены и Жаботин (по материалам курганов у с. Мервинцы на Днестре). *Советская археология*. 1977. № 4. С. 94-98; Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскіфские комплексы у села Днестровка-Лука. *Древние памятники культуры на территории СССР*. Ленинград: Государственный Эрмитаж, 1982. С. 31-32. Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник из Среднего Поднестровья в системе памятников раннего железного века. *Скифы, Хазары, Славяне, Древняя Русь*. Санкт-Петербург: Издательство Государственного Эрмитажа, 1998. С. 34-35.

³ Гуцал А.Ф. Поховальний обряд населення Середньої Наддністрянщини передскіфського часу. *Матеріали ІХ Подільської історико-краєзнавчої конференції*. Кам'янець-Подільський: Кам'янець-Подільська друкарня, 1995. С. 94-95; Гуцал В.А. Поховальний обряд передскіфського часу на Могилівщині. *Друга Могилів-Подільська краєзнавча конференція*. Могилів-Подільський: Оіум, 2006. С. 47-52. Могилів О.Д. О формировании раннескифской культуры на Среднем Днестре. *Stratum plus*. 2020. № 3. С. 132.

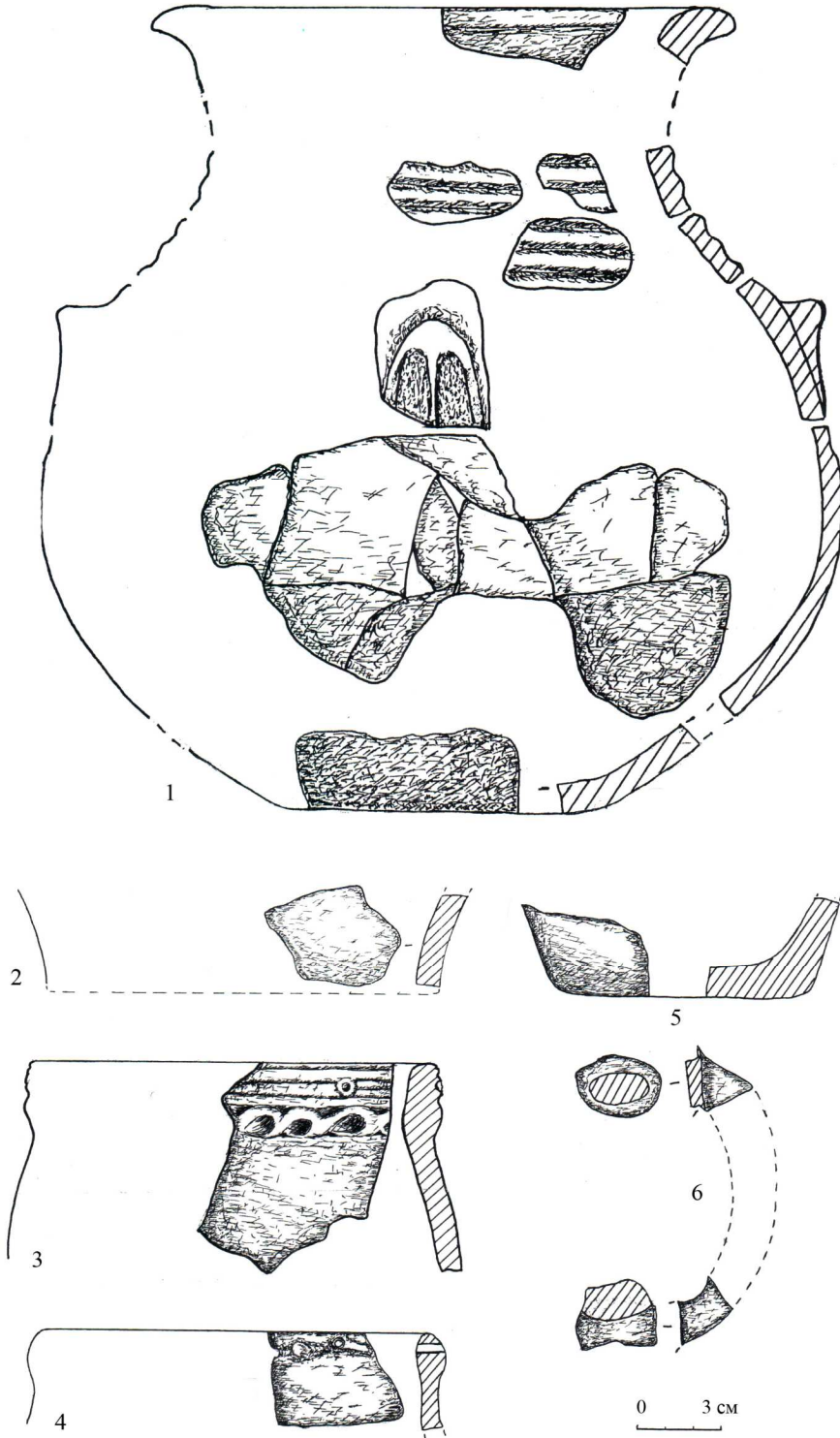


Fig. 6. Handmade vessels from a complex of accompanying laying of ceramics.

Necropolises were characterized by their location mainly in river valleys and adjacent slopes. The complexes at the watersheds are found only in the east of the region. Mound and underground burials were widespread similarly. Both mound and underground burials were equally common, and necropolises could be mound, underground, or mixed. Under mounds that often had stone constructions, several graves as well as single ones could be found (but then there were cases when there were several bodies in it). Cists and simple pit-graves, as well as burials located on stone layings or with a stone paving floor, are known. There were individual, double, or collective burials. Inhumations in crouched positions prevailed. Those with extended burials were very few. Cremation burials (mainly in urns) were even less in number. Inventory was quite modest and monotonous with the prevalence of handmade pottery, which shows that property and social differentiation were not yet well developed.

Burial sites of the Scythian times of the region, allocated to the Western Podillia group, are studied better⁴. Taking into account the earlier publications, it can be stated that the funeral rite of the Middle Dniester region compared with the pre-Scythian times had undergone changes⁵. Necropolises had moved from river backwaters and slopes to the watersheds. The underground and mound rite was replaced by the predominant mound one. The size of the mounds and the range of inventory began to vary greatly, reflecting the social and property stratification. Stone layings in the mounds continued to be found regularly. Together with it, such a detail as a stone rampart around the tomb appeared. Mostly there was only one grave under the mound, and cases with more than one grave were much less in number. Wooden tombs became widespread; stone paving could be still often found as well. The cases of cremation (in another place, with pouring ash into the urn or to the bottom of the tomb or burning down together with a tomb) increased highly in number and, along with inhumations, became widespread.

Knowing these details of the development of funeral rites of the Middle Dniester region population, we will try to characterize mound 1 in Malynivtsi.

The topography of Malynivtsi necropolis, its location on the slope of the plateau, is associated rather with the Scythian times, when the burials moved to the watersheds⁶. Their location in river valleys or on their slopes in the region is mainly characteristic of the pre-Scythian times: Luka-Vrublivetska⁷, Bernashivka⁸. Mounds from Mervyntsi and Bandyshivka⁹ tending to the plateau are located in the very east of the region and distant from Malynivtsi complex.

⁴ Sulimirski T. Scytowie na zachodniem Podolu. Lwow: Nakładem Lwowskiego Towarzystwa Prehistorycznego, 1936. S. 45-100; Мелюкова А.И. Памятники скифского времени на Среднем Днестре. *Краткие сообщения Института истории материальной культуры*. 1953. Вып. 51. С. 60-67; Смирнова Г.И. Курганы у с. Перебыковцы – новый могильник скифской архаики на Среднем Днестре. *Труды Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1979. Вып. XX. С. 36-64; Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могилов А.Д. Новые исследования курганов скифского времени на западе Восточноевропейской Лесостепи. *Кадьрбаевские чтения*. Актюбэ: ИА КН МОН РК, 2012. С. 141-151.

⁵ Могилов О.Д. О формировании... С. 137.

⁶ Ibid. С. 137.

⁷ Шовкопляс І.Г. Курганний могильник передскифського часу на Середньому Дністрі. *Археологічні пам'ятки УРСР*. 1952. Вип. IV. С. 5.

⁸ Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 34.

⁹ Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 93-94; Скорый С.А. Киммерийцы в Украинской Лесостепи. Киев-Полтава: Археология, 1999. С. 79.

Mound burials dated to the pre-Scythian times are well known in the Middle Dniester region. At that time there were mound necropolises: Luka-Vrublivetska¹⁰, Mervyntsi¹¹, Dnistrivka¹², underground necropolises: Lomachyntsi¹³, and also mixed ones, with burials under the mound as well as underground ones that prevailed: Bernashivka¹⁴. In the Scythian period, mound necropolises were dominant¹⁵, while some underground burials, are known only in the west, on the former Vysotsko and Holihrary lands¹⁶.

The small size of the mound is associated rather with the pre-Scythian tradition when the mounds usually did not exceed 1-1.1 m (but they often were lower). At the same time, in the Scythian times, because of social stratification, they began to vary greatly in size¹⁷, from barely noticeable – up to 1-2 m and bigger – up to 4.5 m¹⁸.

The tradition of making *stone mounds* in Podillia dates back to the Bronze Age¹⁹. During the pre-Scythian times, that rite continued to develop: Bernashivka²⁰, Mervyntsi²¹, Luka-Vrublivetska²², Bandyshivka²³. It dominated in the Scythian period when there were a majority of such mounds²⁴.

The spreading of mounds with one grave as well as with several ones was typical for the pre-Scythian times. The first group includes complexes 1 and 2 in Mervyntsi, 2 and 3 near Luka-Vrublivetska, and 2 near Bernashivka. Mound 1 near Dnistrivka, 1, 4-8 in Luka-Vrublivetska, and 1 near Bernashivka²⁵ belong to the second one. In the Scythian times, one primary but as a rule, a larger grave prevailed²⁶. Cases with

¹⁰ Шовкопляс І.Г. Курганний могильник... С. 5-8; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція 1949-1951 рр. *Археологічні пам'ятки УРСР*. 1956. Вип. VI. С. 34-36; Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 90-107.

¹¹ Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 94-101.

¹² Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские... С. 31-32.

¹³ Могилев А.Д. К археологической карте Северной Буковины раннего железного века. *Revista arheologica*. 2010. Vol. V. С. 105, 108.

¹⁴ Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 34-35; Гуцал А.Ф. Дослідження чорноліських курганів в регіоні Дністровської ГАЕС. *Археологія і давня історія України*. 2019. 4 С. 148-157.

¹⁵ Sulimirski T. Scytowie... S. 45-99; Гуцал А.Ф. Поховальний обряд населення... С. 94-96; Mogylov O. The barrows of the West Podolian group of the Scythian period. *Mousaios*. 2013. Vol. XVIII. P. 203-205.

¹⁶ Смирнова Г.И. Некоторые вопросы раннескифского периода на Среднем Днестре (По поводу статьи М. Душека). *Archeologicke rozhledy*. 1967. Vol. XIX, Issue 2. С. 229-230.

¹⁷ Могилев О.Д. О формировании... С. 137.

¹⁸ Гуцал А.Ф. Поховальний комплекс скіфського часу в кургані №9 біля Спасівки на Збручі. *Феномен Більського городища*. Київ-Полтава: Центр пам'яткознавства НАНУ, 2014. С. 44.

¹⁹ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могилев О.Д. Дослідження курганного некрополя Спасівка-Іванківщина Хмельниччини. *Археологічні дослідження в Україні 2010 р.* Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2011. С. 93, 94.

²⁰ Гуцал А.Ф. Дослідження чорноліських курганів... С. 148-152.

²¹ Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... Рис. 1.

²² Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 91-93, 98, 99.

²³ Скорый С.А. Киммерийцы в Украинской Лесостепи. Киев-Полтава: Археология, 1999. С. 79.

²⁴ Гуцал А.Ф. Некоторые черты погребального обряда племен Среднего Поднестровья в VIII-V вв. до н.э. *Археологические исследования на Украине в 1978-1979 гг.* Днепропетровск, 1980. С. 76-77; Mogylov O. The barrows... P. 203-205.

²⁵ Смирнова Г.И. 1977. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 94-97; Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 90-97; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... С. 34-35; Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 148-155.

²⁶ Могилев О.Д. О формировании... С. 137.

additional graves were rare: mounds 4 and 5 near Spasivka and Ivankivtsi²⁷, 1 in Shydlyvtsi²⁸, and 7 near Shutnivtsi²⁹.

Wooden details of the graves in the Eastern European Forest-Steppe have been known since the Bronze Age³⁰. Cases of their burning down have also been recorded³¹. There were some cases in the region dated to the pre-Scythian times³². Wooden constructions were used by the Cimmerians as well³³. They are not an exception for Middle Europe³⁴. But in the Middle Dniester region of that time, such cases were quite rare and are more often associated with the east of the region but not with the western periphery of Late Chornyi Lis-Zhabotyn tribes where Malynivtsi mound was studied. Therefore, it is possible that the primary tomb of mound 1 of Bernashivka burial ground could have had wooden vaulting³⁵. The tent-shaped vaulting is found on the grave of mound 1 near Bandashivka³⁶. Some structures that looked like *walls* or fence based on thin wooden poles were found only in burial 1 of mound 1 near Luka-Vrublivetska³⁷. It is interesting that there, like in Malynivtsi mound, they were constructed around the cist.

Tombs with wooden pillars dated to the Scythian times became widespread at the sites of the Western Podillia group³⁸. Usually, the whole construction of the tomb was made of wood. In Malynivtsi mound 1 beyond burned layers, only two parallel walls were found. Probably, there we had an example of the formation of the wooden vault tradition in the Middle Dniester region which would acquire its classical form during the Early Scythian period.

Burning down of wooden constructions of the tombs was also not typical for the Middle Dniester region in Late Chornyi Lis-Zhabotyn times. Only one case with tent-shaped construction of mound 1 in Bandashivka, located in the very east of the area, can be mentioned³⁹. Mound 1 near Malynivtsi was the evidence of such rites formation in the region. Fire funeral rites were not too typical for the pre-Scythian Dniester sites. Among them, we can only mention light traces of burning on two stone layings with ware on them, which could be cenotaphs, in mounds 4 and 5 near Luka-

²⁷ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могиллов О.Д., Болтанюк П.А. Дослідження курганної групи Спасівка-Іванківці у Позбруччі. *Археологічні дослідження в Україні 2009 р.* Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2010. С. 101-103; Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могиллов О.Д. Ранньоскіфський курган з кремацією на Західному Поділлі. *Археологія*. 2021. № 1. С. 86-95.

²⁸ Sulimirski, T. Scytowie... S. 75-76.

²⁹ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Мегей В.П. Розкопки курганів скіфського часу на Кам'янецьчині. *Археологічні відкриття в Україні 1999-2000 рр.* Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2001. С. 18.

³⁰ Свешников И.К. Культура шнуровой керамики. *Археология Прикарпатья Волыни и закарпатья (энеолит, бронза и раннее железо)*. Киев: Наукова думка, 1990. С. 52; Березанська С.С., Клочко В.І. Гордіївський могильник. *Гордіївський могильник*. Вінниця, 2011. С. 9, 15, 20.

³¹ Березанская С.С. Северная Украина в эпоху бронзы. Киев: Наукова думка, 1982. С. 150.

³² Скорый С.А. Киммерийцы... С. 12-13; Ильинская В.А. Раннескифские курганы бассейна р. Тясмин. Киев: Наукова думка, 1975. С. 78.

³³ Махортых С.В. Киммерийцы Северного Причерноморья. Киев: Шлях, 2005. С. 52-95.

³⁴ Gedl M. *Kultura luzyska*. Krakow: Uniwersytet Jagielloński, 1975. S. 90.

³⁵ Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 150.

³⁶ Скорый С.А. Киммерийцы... С. 79.

³⁷ Шовкопляс І.Г. Курганний могильник... С. 7.

³⁸ Гуцал А.Ф. Дерев'яні склепи ранньоскіфського часу в курганах Середнього Подністров'я. *Археологія і давня історія України*. 2018. Вип. 27. С. 51-63.

³⁹ Скорый С.А. Киммерийцы... С. 79.

Vrublivetska, and also charcoals in the first mound aforementioned⁴⁰. Cremations of bodies can also be attributed to such evidence. However, they, as it was mentioned, were few in number in the region. At the same time, it should be added that in the culturally close region of the Middle Dnipro region, the fire in funeral rites was used much more often⁴¹. The mass burning of wooden tombs in the Middle Dniester region became widespread only in the Scythian times⁴². Mound 1 being studied, shows an initiation of that tradition.

Most of the additional graves in Malynivtsi were small *pits*, quite a universal type of burial during the whole Early Iron Age. Their small sizes still look like their pre-Scythian analogues, such as the burials from Bernashivka⁴³, 6 of mound 1 near Dnistrivka⁴⁴, 6 of mound 4, 1 and 2 of mound 5 near Luka-Vrublivetska⁴⁵. The Scythian tombs, even of relatively small size, generally differ, firstly, by their larger size, and secondly, by their wider proportions, like mounds 5 near Spasivka⁴⁶, and 1, 2, and 3 near Kolodiivka⁴⁷. Narrow shallow cist made of slabs has also analogues in the region dated to the pre-Scythian times – burials: 1 of mound 1, 4 of mound 4, 2 of mound 7 near Luka-Vrublivetska⁴⁸, and mound 2 in Mervyntsi⁴⁹.

In Malynivtsi, *single*, *double*, and *collective* burials were found. Such a phenomenon in the region is dated to the pre-Scythian⁵⁰ as well as Scythian times⁵¹. However, in the Early Scythian period, as a rule, larger and wider graves were used for double and collective burials.

The crouched burial rite in the Middle Dniester region completely dominated in the pre-Scythian times. Only such skeletons were found in necropolises in Luka-Vrublivetska mounds: 1 grave 1; 2 burial 1; 3 burial 1; 4 complexes 1-5; 6 burials 1-2; 7 burials 1-4; 8 tombs 2, 3. They also were found in Lomachyntsi⁵². Most of them were

⁴⁰ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 94-99.

⁴¹ Ильинская В.А. Раннескифские курганы... С. 36, 50; Ковпаненко Г.Т. Курганы раннескифского времени в бассейне р.Рось. Киев: Наукова думка, 1981. С. 23-24; Романюк В.В., Гречко Д.С., Могилев О.Д. Дослідження курганів раннього залізного віку в Поросці. *Археологія і давня історія України*. 2018. Вип. 27. С. 254.

⁴² Гуцал А.Ф. Дерев'яні склепи... С. 81-91.

⁴³ Гуцал А.Ф. Поховальний обряд населення... С. 94-95; Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 34-35.

⁴⁴ Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские комплексы у села Денстровка-Лука. *Древние памятники культуры на территории СССР*. Ленинград: Государственный Эрмитаж, 1982. С. 35.

⁴⁵ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 96, 99-100.

⁴⁶ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могилев О.Д. Ранньоскіфський курган... С. 46.

⁴⁷ Гуцал А.Ф. й ін. Кургани ранньоскіфської доби біля села Колодіївка на Середньому Дністрі. *Археологічні відкриття в Україні 2003-2004 рр.* Запоріжжя: Дике Поле, 2005. С. 118.

⁴⁸ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 94-95.

⁴⁹ Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 96.

⁵⁰ Шовкопляс І.Г. Курганний могильник... С. 6-8; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... С. 34; Шовкопляс І.Г. Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 90-102; Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 94-97.

⁵¹ Sulimirski, T. Scytowie... S. 45-100; Смирнова Г.И. Курганы у с. Перебыковцы... С. 37-60; Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А. Курганна група ранньоскіфського часу у пониззі Смотрича. *Вісник Кам'янець-Подільського національного університету ім. І. Огієнка: Історичні науки*. 2009. 2. С. 5-13.

⁵² Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... С. 35-36; Шовкопляс І.Г. Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 102; Смирнова Г.И. О хронологическом соотношении... С. 94-97; Могилев А.Д. К археологической карте... С. 105-108.

in Bernashivka – mounds 1, 2 and underground burials⁵³. Among inhumations, such cases were also frequently dated to the Scythian period⁵⁴, although the percentage of cremations increased then.

In the region, *cremation in urns* is a minority of burials among Chorni Lis-Zhabotyntyn antiquities: 4 of mound 1 in Dnistrivka, 3 of mound 6, and 1 of mound 8 in Luka-Vrublivetska⁵⁵. A certain number dated to the next era were also found in the antiquities of the Western Podillia group – mounds: 2 in Tarasivka⁵⁶, 19 near Kolodyivka⁵⁷, and 1 not far from Spasivka⁵⁸. It happened against the background of the fact that in the region during the Scythian period, the role of fire in funeral rites increased (both in the form of burning wooden tombs and the cremation of the bodies of the dead).

We should note the *biritualism* of the rite among those buried under one mound in Malynivtsi, where the researchers found the evidence of both cremation and inhumation. Such a phenomenon is associated with the Dniester region of the pre-Scythian times – mounds: 6 near Luka-Vrublivetska, and 1 near Dnistrivka⁵⁹. There were also such cases dated to the Early Scythian period, and they illustrate the constancy and gradual development of some funeral rites – mounds: 3 and 5 near Perebykivtsi⁶⁰, 3 near Kupyn⁶¹, 4 and 12 near Kolodiivka⁶².

In the mound near the village of Malynivtsi, the northwestern orientation of the bodies prevailed. That is how the dead were laid in the primary grave, including the lower-placed man, in whose honor the construction of the mound began. The older child from complex 3 was also positioned the same way. At the same time, another baby from the mentioned tomb was placed with its head in the opposite direction, to the southeast. In general, the positioning of bodies with the head in the northwest sector (in the interval from west-northwest to north-northwest) prevails in the pre-Scythian complexes of the Middle Dniester region. That was how the smaller number of skeletons in Luka-Vrublivetska⁶³, and almost half of the deceased in Dnistrivka⁶⁴, buried in Bernashivka mounds, were positioned⁶⁵.

⁵³ Гуцал А.Ф. Бернашевский могильник... С. 34-35; Гуцал А.Ф. Дослідження чорноліських курганів... С. 150-154.

⁵⁴ Гуцал А.Ф. й ін. Розкопки курганів ранньоскіфської доби біля села Колодіївка у Середньому Подністров'ї. *Археологічні відкриття в Україні 2004-2005 рр.*, Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2006. С. 159; Гуцал В.А. Дослідження ранньоскіфського кургану біля с. Купин на Хмельниччині. *Археологія і давня історія України*. 2019. Вип. 31. С. 260.

⁵⁵ Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские комплексы... С. 34; Шовкопляс І.Г. Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 102; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... С. 35-36.

⁵⁶ Гуцал А.Ф., Мегей В.П. Дослідження курганів скіфського часу біля с. Тарасівка. *Кам'янецьчина в контексті історії Поділля*. Кам'янець-Подільський, 1997. С. 86, 88.

⁵⁷ Гуцал А.Ф. й ін. Продовження робіт на курганах ранньоскіфського часу біля с. Колодіївка. *Археологічні дослідження в Україні 2005-2007 рр.* Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2007. С. 159.

⁵⁸ Могилов А.Д., Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А. Первый Спасовский курган. *Culturi, Procese si Contexte in Arheologia*. Cisinou: Tipografia «Garamont-Studio», 2016. С. 248.

⁵⁹ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 100-103; Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские... С. 31-32.

⁶⁰ Смирнова Г.И. Курганы у с. Перебыковцы... С. 51, 57, 61.

⁶¹ Гуцал В.А. Дослідження ранньоскіфського кургану... С. 260.

⁶² Гуцал А.Ф. й ін. Кургани... С. 119; Гуцал А.Ф. й ін. Розкопки курганів... С. 159.

⁶³ Шовкопляс І.Г. Поселення... С. 6-8; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... С. 34-35; Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 90-102.

⁶⁴ Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские комплексы... С. 33.

⁶⁵ Гуцал А.Ф. Дослідження чорноліських курганів... С. 150-154.

Placing the dead in one tomb with their *heads in different directions* is a typical pre-Scythian Middle Dniester tradition. Evidence of that could be seen in burials 2 and 3 of mound 1 in Dnistrivka⁶⁶, 1 of mound 1, 1 and 3 of mound 4 near Luka-Vrublivetska⁶⁷.

The inventory complex of the mound with a predominance of handmade ceramics is a general characteristic of the Dniester region and is dated to both the pre-Scythian and Scythian periods; although the number of complexes with metal and glass produced items (weapons, bridles, ornaments) of the Scythian period is larger. *Pots with a tulip-shaped profile* are characteristic primarily of the pre-Scythian period⁶⁸. Their variants with rollers both under the rim and on the body are transitional forms to the Early Scythian jar-shaped pots. Such vessels emerged in the pre-Scythian period and were used in the Scythian archaic period, at pre-Kelermesskaia sites, and even in the Early Kelermesskaia period. In the Middle Dniester region, they were found at settlements near Luka-Vrublivetska⁶⁹, Dnistrivka⁷⁰, in mound 8 near Luka-Vrublivetska⁷¹ and were dated to the pre-Scythian times. They also came from more eastern forest-steppe regions among which Nemyriv settlement⁷². Decoration in the form of two rollers can be occasionally found on vessels of Basarab-Sholdenesht culture⁷³.

The analogues dated to the Early Scythian times are sometimes found in the Dniester region, for example, the settlements of Dolyniany⁷⁴ and Neporotove⁷⁵. However, most of the analogies came from the Right Bank Forest-Steppe Dnipro region. Mound 6 near Yasnozoria is dated to pre-Kelermesskaia period⁷⁶. Mounds near Mala Ofirna⁷⁷ and Ivankovychi⁷⁸ are dated back to Kelermesskaia period. Similar Early Scythian wares came from Nemyriv giant settlement in the Forest-Steppe Buh region⁷⁹, and the Western Bilsk settlement in the Vorskla region⁸⁰.

⁶⁶ Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские комплексы... С. 33.

⁶⁷ Шовкопляс І.Г. Поселення... С. 8; Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... С. 93-94.

⁶⁸ Смирнова Г.И., Кашуба М.Т. О двух локальных группах культуры позднего чернолесья на Среднем Днестре. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1988. 29. Рис. 3; Могилев О.Д. Комарів. Поселення доскіфського часу на Середньому Дністрі. Київ: ІА НАНУ, 2021. С. 54-57.

⁶⁹ Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... Табл. I: 11.

⁷⁰ Смирнова Г.И. Поселение у с. Днестровка – памятник чернолесской культуры на Днестре. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1985. 26. С. 5-29.

⁷¹ Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... Рис. 7: 4.

⁷² Смирнова Г.И. Гальштатский компонент в раннескифской культуре Лесостепи Северного Причерноморья (по материалам Немировского городища). *Российская археология*. 2001. № 4. Рис. 1: 15.

⁷³ Бруяко И.В. Землянка культуры Басараби из Картала (о соотношении культурных традиций в древностях эпохи среднего гальштата в низовьях Дуная). *Culturi, Procese si Contexte in Arheologia*. Cisinai: Tipografia «Garamont-Studio», 2016. Рис. 5: 14.

⁷⁴ Смирнова Г.И. Поселение скифского времени у села Долиняны в Днестровском Правобережье. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1978. 19. Рис. 7: 1.

⁷⁵ Крушельницька Л.І. Чорноліська культура... Рис. 5: 1.

⁷⁶ Ковпаненко Г.Т., Бессонова С.С., Скорый С.А. Новые курганы раннего железного века в Поросье. *Древности скифов*. Киев: Институт археологи АН Украины, 1994. Рис. 5: 5.

⁷⁷ Петровська Є.О. Курган VI ст. до н.е. на Київщині. *Археологія*. 1968. Вип. XXI. Рис. 6: 7.

⁷⁸ Скорый С.А., Солтыс О.Б., Белан Ю.А. Большой курган эпохи скифской архаики на Киевщине. *Российская археология*. 2001. № 4. Рис. 9.

⁷⁹ Смирнова Г.И. Немировское городище – общая характеристика памятника VIII-VII вв. до н.э. *Археологія*. 1996. № 4. Рис. 6: 3, 4.

⁸⁰ Шрамко Б.А. Бельское городище скифской эпохи (город Гелон). Киев: Наукова думка, 1987. Рис. 49: 1.

It should be noted that such pots seem to be unknown in the Western Podillia mounds of the Scythian period. However, the fact of the use of a similar item as an urn dated to the pre-Scythian times is recorded in the mentioned burial near Luka-Vrublivetska.

Pots with a roller, indentations, and pinches under the rim emerged as early as the pre-Scythian period, but then they were inferior in number to tulip-shaped pots⁸¹. Finds of that time came from the Dniester region settlements near Nagoriany⁸², Mereshivka⁸³, Komarove⁸⁴, Luka-Vrublivetska⁸⁵, Neporotove⁸⁶, Lenkivtsi⁸⁷, Dnistrivka⁸⁸, Bronnytsia⁸⁹, Teremtsi, Strikhivtsi⁹⁰ and also from burial complexes: mounds 4 and 6 near Luka-Vrublivetska⁹¹, burials near Velyka Slobidka⁹².

Some produced items of this type were also found in the eastern forest-steppe lands. In the Buh region, the mentioned kitchenware is known from Vyshenky-2⁹³. In the Right Bank Dnipro region, such produced items are found en masse in the late pre-Scythian antiquities⁹⁴. They also came to Moldova, where they are known in Sholdanesht layers⁹⁵.

Such pots became the predominant variety in the Early Scythian period. Although in the Dniester region during pre-Kelermesskaia period, they still seemed to be in the minority⁹⁶. At least this can be assumed for some settlements: Kozliv⁹⁷ and the upper layers of Neporotove-II⁹⁸. They became the dominant type during Kelermesskaia

⁸¹ Смирнова Г.И., Кашуба М.Т. О двух локальных группах... Рис. 3; Могиллов О.Д. Комарів... Рис. 136.

⁸² Шовкопляс І.Г. Поселення ранньоскіфського часу на Середньому Дністрі. *Археологія*. 1954. Вип. IX. Табл. 1: 6.

⁸³ Мелюкова А.И. Памятники скифского времени лесостепного Среднего Поднестровья. *Материалы и исследования по Археологии СССР*. 1958. Вып. 64. Рис. 6: 17.

⁸⁴ Могиллов О.Д. Комарів... С. 62-64.

⁸⁵ Шовкопляс І.Г. Поселення.. Табл. 1: 9, 11, 12; Шовкопляс І.Г. Середньодністровська експедиція... Табл. I: 1, 2.

⁸⁶ Крушельницька Л.І. Чорноліська культура... Рис. 40: 4.

⁸⁷ Мелюкова А.И. Памятники скифского времени лесостепного... Рис. 2: 19-21.

⁸⁸ Смирнова Г.И. Последний сезон работ на чернолесском поселении Днестровка-Лука и вопросы хронологии позднего чернолесья. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1986. Вып. 27. Рис. 5: 1, 2.

⁸⁹ Осокин И.В. Памятники чернолесской культуры Левобережного Среднего Поднестровья (по материалам Юго-Подольской экспедиции 1953-1954 гг.). *Археологические вести*. 1994. № 9. Рис. 2: 4, 7, 8.

⁹⁰ Могиллов О.Д. Теремці – поселення доскіфського часу на Середньому Дністрі. *Археологія і фортифікація Середнього Подністров'я*. Кам'янець-Подільський: ПП «Медобори-2006», 2011. Рис. 4: 1-9; С. 23-31; Могиллов О., Нечитайло П. Археологічні розвідки на поселеннях раннього залізного віку в Середньому Подністров'ї. *Археологія і фортифікація України*. Кам'янець-Подільський: ПП Буйницький, 2016. Рис. 3; 6.

⁹¹ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... Табл. I:5; III: 7.

⁹² Гуцал В.А., Мегей В.П. Поховання ранньоскіфського часу на багаточаровому поселенні Велика Сlobідка. *Наукові записки Кам'янець-Подільського державного університету*, 2005. 14. Рис. 2: 8.

⁹³ Бойко Ю.Н. Вишенка-2 – новий чернолесско-жаботинський пам'ятник в Среднем Побужье. *Древности*. Харьков: НМЦ «МД», 2004. Рис. 3: 9.

⁹⁴ Покровская Е.Ф. Предскифское поселение у с. Жаботин. *Советская археология*. 1973. № 4. Рис. 5: 12.

⁹⁵ Кашуба М.Т. Заметки о формировании среднегальштатской культуры Басарабь-Шолдэнешть в Днестро-Прутском междуречье. *Stratum plus*. 2000. № 3. Рис. 4: 6; 6: 4.

⁹⁶ Могиллов О.Д. Комарів... С. 63-64.

⁹⁷ Белозор В., Могиллов А., Скорый С. Комплексы раннего железного века у с. Козлов на Среднем Днестре. *Tyragetia*. 2010. Vol. XIX, Issue 1. Рис. 7: 3, 7, 9.

⁹⁸ Крушельницька Л.І. Чорноліська культура... Рис. 5: 4.

period. In the Middle Dniester region, they were found in the mounds: 2 in Dolyniany⁹⁹, 3 and 5 in Perebykivtsi¹⁰⁰, 4 near Bilche-Zolote, 2 near Ivakhnivtsi¹⁰¹, 2 in Tarasivtsi¹⁰², etc. They were also traditional for that time settlements of the region: Sukhostav¹⁰³, Oselivka¹⁰⁴, Dolyniany¹⁰⁵, Zalissia, and Ivane-Puste¹⁰⁶.

Such jar-shaped produced items were also spread to the Upper Dniester region¹⁰⁷. They were massive in the Middle Buh region¹⁰⁸ and the Right Bank Dnipro region¹⁰⁹.

Thus, pots with a roller under the rim are characteristic primarily of the Early Scythian period. However, in the Middle Dniester region, their finds also occur at the sites dated to the pre-Scythian period, where they are also found in burials.

Straight-sided bowls have analogies in the pre-Scythian antiquities of the Middle Dniester region: the settlements of Halytsia-2¹¹⁰, Mereshivka¹¹¹, Teremtsi¹¹², and Kozliv¹¹³. They were found in mounds 4 and 6 near Luka-Vrublivetska¹¹⁴. Their synchronic analogies are known at Chornyi Lis settlements of the Right Bank Dnipro region: Moskovske¹¹⁵, Zalevkynske¹¹⁶, and Subotivske¹¹⁷. Sometimes they are found at the sites dated to Vysotska culture¹¹⁸.

Such produced items existed in Ukrainian Forest Steppe at the Scythian times.

⁹⁹ Смирнова Г.И. Курганный могильник раннескифского времени у с. Долиняны. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1977. 18. Рис. 3: 4.

¹⁰⁰ Смирнова Г.И. Курганы у с. Перебыковцы... Рис. 12: 8.

¹⁰¹ Sulimirski T. Scytowie...Tabl. XVII: 10-12.

¹⁰² Гуцал А.Ф., Мегей В.П. Дослідження курганів... Рис. 1, 2.

¹⁰³ Свешніков І.К. Поселення ранньоскіфського часу біля с. Сухостав, Тернопільської області. *Археологія*. 1957. XI. Табл. I: 10, 11.

¹⁰⁴ Никитина Г.Ф. Землянка скифского времени у с. Оселивка Черновицкой области. *Советская археология*. 1979. № 3. Рис. 6: 3.

¹⁰⁵ Смирнова Г.И. Новые данные о поселении у с. Долиняны (по материалам раскопок 1977-1978 гг.). *Археологический сборник государственного Эрмитажа*. 1981. Вып. 22. Рис. 11: 1, 2.

¹⁰⁶ Ганіна О.Д. Поселення скіфського часу у селі Іване-Пусте. *Археологія*, 1965. XIX. Рис. 1, 6-8; Ганіна О.Д. Поселення ранньоскіфської доби поблизу с. Залісся. *Археологія*. 1984. Вип. 47. Рис. 3, 2.

¹⁰⁷ Бандрівський М. й ін. Пам'ятки гальштатського періоду в межиріччі Вісли, Дністра і Прип'яті. Київ: Наукова думка, 1993. Рис. 88: 1, 6; 105: 11.

¹⁰⁸ Смирнова Г.И. Северинское городище (по материалам Юго-Подольской экспедиции 1947-1948, 1953 гг.) *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1961. Вып. 2. Рис. 5: 1; 6: 1-3; Смирнова Г.И. Гальштатский компонент... Рис. 2: 15-17.

¹⁰⁹ Ковпаненко Г.Т. Раскопки Трахтемировского городища. *Археологические исследования в Украине в 1967 г.* Киев: Наукова думка, 1968. Рис. 10: 26; Петровська Є.О. Ранньоскіфські пам'ятки на південній околиці Києва. *Археологія*. 1970. Ч. XXIV. Рис. 5: 4; Ильинская В.А., Мозолевский Б.Н., Тереножкин А.И. Курганы VI в. до н.э. у с. Матусов. *Скифия и Кавказ*. Киев: Наукова думка, 1980. Рис. 24: 1, 2.

¹¹⁰ Гуцал А.Ф. Нові пам'ятки раннього залізного віку в Середньому Подністров'ї. *Археологія*. 1979. Ч. 31. Рис. 2, 9.

¹¹¹ Левицкий О.Г. Горизонт раннего железного века на поселении Мерешовка. *Молдавское Приднестровье в первобытную эпоху*. Кишинев: Штеница, 1987. Рис. 2: 7.

¹¹² Могилев О.Д. Теремці... Рис. 7: 5.

¹¹³ Белозор В., Могилев А., Скорый С. Копмлексы... Рис. 9, 10.

¹¹⁴ Шовкопляс І.Г., Максимов Є.В. Дослідження... Табл. I: 8.

¹¹⁵ Тереножкин А.И. Предскифский период на Днепровском Правобережье. Киев: Издательство АН УССР, 1961. Рис. 44: 3.

¹¹⁶ Покровська Є.Ф. Поселення VIII-VI ст. до н.е. на Тясмині. *Археологія*. 1952. VII. Табл. I: 15, 16.

¹¹⁷ Гершкович Я.П. Суботовское городище. Киев: Институт археологии НАН Украины, 2016. Рис. В7: 5.

¹¹⁸ Крушельницька Л.І. Могильник висоцької культури в м. Золочеві. *Археологія*. 1965. 19. Рис. 7: 1-3.

They were found, for example, in mound 4 in Teklivka in Podillia¹¹⁹, Cherepyn, and Lahodiv in the Upper Dniester region¹²⁰.

Large pots with a rounded body and everted rim are also characteristic of the pre-Scythian and Early Scythian sites of the region. However, at the Scythian times, they often had an asymmetry of the body with an elongated upper part, and often a sharper transition in the center of the body¹²¹, which is not observed on the large pot from Malynivtsi. With its more symmetrical roundness of the body, it is closer to some pre-Scythian large pots from Hryhorivka¹²² and Rudkivtsi¹²³ settlements of the Dniester region. Large pots decorated with a fluting spread at Chornyi Lis-Zhabotyn sites of the Dniester region under the influence of fluted Hallstatt cultures. It is also subject to such a type of decoration as a *fluted neck*. In general, it was not a very common type of decoration in the region at that time. Its samples are known on vessels from settlements in Komarove¹²⁴, Dnistrivka¹²⁵, and Neporotove¹²⁶. Such a decoration can sometimes be found among synchronous antiquities of the Forest-Steppe Dniipro region¹²⁷.

Dated to the Early Scythian period, large pots with a fluted neck at the sites of the Western Podillia group are found only occasionally: mounds in Kachanivka¹²⁸ and Loievtsi¹²⁹. On some vessels, the stylization of the motif occurred, and the decoration obtained the form of drawn rollers¹³⁰. The mentioned decoration, dated to the same time, is known to be found further east, in the Buh¹³¹ and Dniipro¹³² regions.

The ornamentation of large pots with knobs is also typical for the Middle Dniester region in the Early Iron Age. This detail is believed to be spread there under the influence of the fluted Hallstatt cultures¹³³. Such decor is associated in the region with the finds dated to the pre-Scythian¹³⁴ and Scythian¹³⁵ times. However, mostly these are simple conical applications. The large pot from Malynivtsi is characterized by a

¹¹⁹ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могилов О.Д. Теклівські кургани на Західному Поділлі. *Древности Восточной Европы. Сборник научных трудов к 90-летию Б.А. Шрамко*. 2011. Харьков: ХНУ, Рис. 6: 8.

¹²⁰ Бандрівський М. й ін. Пам'ятки... Рис. 87: 10; 197: 27.

¹²¹ Sulimirski T. Scytowie... Tab. XIV-XV; Могилов А.Д. О формировании... Рис. 2.

¹²² Смирнова Г.И. Матеріальна культура Григоровського городища (к вопросу о формировании чернолесско-жаботинских памятников). *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1983. Вып. 23. Рис. 1: 7.

¹²³ Винокур І.С. й ін. Довідник з археології України. Хмельницька, Чернівецька, Закарпатська області. Київ: Наукова думка, 1984. Рис. 10; Гуцал А.Ф. Рудковецьке городище і перший похід скіфів у Придністровський Лісостеп. *Давня і середньовічна історія України*. Кам'янець-Подільський: НВЦ Кам'янець-Подільського університету, 2000. Рис. 2.

¹²⁴ Могилов О.Д. Комарів... С. 78.

¹²⁵ Смирнова Г.И. Закрытые предскифские... Рис. 10: 4.

¹²⁶ Крушельницька Л.І. Чорноліська культура... Рис. 19: 5.

¹²⁷ Тереножкін О.І. Розвідки і розкопки 1949 р. в північній частині Кіровоградської області. *Археологія*. 1952. Ч. VII. Рис. 7.

¹²⁸ Sulimirski T. Scytowie... Tab. XV: 4.

¹²⁹ Крушельницька Л.І. Чорноліська культура... Рис. 83: 6.

¹³⁰ Sulimirski T. Scytowie... Tab. XV: 4, 5; Ганіна О.Д. Поселення скіфського часу... Рис. 5, 7.

¹³¹ Смирнова Г.И. Гальштатский компонент... Рис. 3: 11.

¹³² Петровська Є.О. Курган VI ст. до н.е... Рис. 7.

¹³³ Смирнова Г.И. О формировании позднечернолесской культуры на Среднем Днестре по материалам поселения Днестровка-Лука. *Археологический сборник Государственного Эрмитажа*. 1984. Вып. 25. С. 56.

¹³⁴ Могилов О.Д. Комарів... С. 76-77.

¹³⁵ Sulimirski T. Scytowie... Tab. XIV-XV; Могилов А.Д. О формировании... Рис. 2.

rare applied volute, with three vertical stripes. Among the few analogies, we can name the fragments of large pots, where 2 or 3 stripes run from the applied volute downwards. They were found at the Early Scythian Trakhtemyriv fortified settlement¹³⁶. On the fragment from the pre-Scythian settlement in Teremtsi, the applied volute is moon-shaped, and the projecting parts directed downwards are small¹³⁷.

The ladle has a rather non-standard shape, similar to a mug. The traditions of making vessels with such a body in the Middle Dniester region date back to the Late Bronze Age¹³⁸. For the pre-Scythian and Early Scythian times of the region, such forms are uncharacteristic. Sometimes they are found at the sites dated to Vysotska culture¹³⁹.

Thus, the set of wares includes a number of features that in the Middle Dniester region can be considered predominant for the pre-Scythian period. A pot with two rollers, more likely – a large pot and a ladle, which, despite its rare shape, looks quite archaic. On the other hand, pots with a roller under the rim, although they are sometimes found in the pre-Scythian mounds, mostly belong to the Early Scythian period.

So mound 1 in Malynivtsi has a number of both pre-Scythian and Scythian features. The stone layer and biritualism in funeral rites are common features. Among the pre-Scythian ones, we should note a group of graves under the mound, their small size, such types as a narrow pit or a cist, the bodies positioned in different directions in one tomb, and the burial method (predominance of crouched inhumations at the same time with the presence of cremations in urns). Although the percentage of burials in vessels seems to be somewhat high. Most of the inventory also resembles the pre-Scythian assortment: a few decorations, no weapons, and too few metal objects in general. Belonging to the mentioned period, if we consider burials, it could be the pots with two rollers and a large pot, as well as a ladle, because of its shape. Pots with a decorated upper part would seem to be closer to wares from the Early Scythian burials, although they are known to emerge as early as the pre-Scythian period. The complex of laid ceramics was located at the level of the ancient horizon under the stone layer and can be stratigraphically associated with the earliest primary burial No. 1. We should also note that the stone bead looks unusual for the Scythian times.

The topography of the necropolis on the watershed should be counted among the Scythian features, albeit with a slope toward the river valley. Burned-down wooden tombs are mainly attributed to that period, although mound No. 1 in Malynivtsi seems to demonstrate only the formation of such rites. As a secondary argument, one could add the fact that Malynivtsi necropolis continued to exist in the Early Scythian period (to which most of its mounds are dated).

Therefore, based on the totality of facts, mound 1 in Malynivtsi should be attributed to the turn of the pre-Scythian and Scythian periods. Unfortunately, no chrono-indicators were found in the complex that could specify such a position

¹³⁶ Дараган М.Н. Начало раннего железного века в Днепровской Правобережной Лесостепи. Киев: КНТ, 2011. Рис. V: 50: 4; V: 51: 7.

¹³⁷ Могилев О.Д. Теремці... Рис. 6: 4.

¹³⁸ Смирнова Г.И. Поселение позднебронзового века и раннего железа возле с.Магала Черновицкой области. *Краткие сообщения Института истории материальной культуры*. 1957. Вып. 70. Рис. 1.

¹³⁹ Sulimirski T. Sycytowie... Tab. XIX: 1, 8.

(weapons, bridles, jewelry, etc.). In absolute terms, the time of its construction can be close to the end of the 8th – the beginning of the 7th century BCE. Chronologically, the earliest burial under the mound was the primary burial 1, and the complex of ceramics from the southeastern part of the mound might belong to it. Later are secondary burials 3 and 4, but their mutual sequence is not clear. Within burial 3, the earliest was an urn burial.

In *social attribution* of the buried, the size of their burial mound is important in comparison with the synchronous burials of the region. In the case of the burial that is being published, such attribution is somewhat complicated with its mid period chronological position, because the mounds of the pre-Scythian and Scythian times have their individual, sometimes different, features. Low mounds are characteristic of the first of the periods, and their variability from barely noticeable to 2-4.5 m high is typical for the second one. In addition, the complexes of that time, with possible more or less exact dating, can already be attributed to Kelermesskaia period, which is much later than the mound from Malynivtsi. Given this, as well as the size of the mound and the predominance of the pre-Scythian rites, in our opinion, the attribution of the complex to the pre-Scythian burials looks more promising. We should note that the mound illustrates the end of that range of antiquities with the transition to the Scythian phase.

Sociological analysis should be started with the assumption that the concentration of a group of burials under one mound in Malynivtsi can testify in favor of the kinship of the buried, their belonging to the same family or clan. The small size of the burial complexes and the modest inventory indicate that property stratification probably did not go far within clans or the local community. It is assumed that the small necropolises of the Scythian period in the Middle Dniester region could hardly be the burial place for all the members of numerous local communities, who could also be buried in little-studied underground necropolises in settlements, following the rites that had left little archaeological evidence¹⁴⁰. These assumptions can also be applied to the slightly earlier Malynivtsi mound. It is unlikely that 8 people buried there represented the entire population of the settlement. Pre-Scythian necropolises (Bernashivka, Lomachyntsi) indicate the existence of underground burials at that time. Their predominance in the mixed burial ground in Bernashivka can indicate the fact that the elite were buried in the few mounds and ordinary members of the community – mainly in underground complexes. Despite the larger size of the primary burial mound tombs, their variability and social stratification in Bernashivka community are also not as noticeable as in some Scythian necropolises. The elite of the pre-Scythian times can be better distinguished by analyzing the materials of the Bandyshivka mounds with large tombs. Talking again about the first Malynivtsi mound, we consider it quite possible that part of the population of the local community could also be buried following the mentioned moundless rites, however, such locations have not been discovered yet. In this case, the mound burial could stand out significantly, representing a wealthier and socially significant family. However, the dimensions of the graves of Malynivtsi complex are approximately identical to the synchronous underground graves of the region. Therefore, with such a model, population stratification was still in an early phase.

¹⁴⁰ Гуцал А.Ф., Гуцал В.А., Могилев О.Д. Ранньоскіфський курган... С. 51.

CONCLUSIONS

When determining the place of the mound among the pre-Scythian sites of the region, we should note that all the mounds of that time had relatively small dimensions of up to 1-1.1 m, indicating the absence of a notable stratification of communities. According to the size of the hillocks and tombs, only the mounds near Bandyshivka can stand out. There, the elements of the bridle, which are rare in the region, were found. Whereas according to the variety and larger scale of the constructions, the mounds in Bernashivka can also stand out, but to a lesser extent. It is probably possible to add here the one-meter-high mound 1 near Mervyntsi, where details of the horse trappings were also discovered.

Malynivtsi mound can illustrate the next social group of burials. The level of their stratification changes gradually. The largest are the one-meter-high mounds 8 and 9 in Luka-Vrublivetska, with a diameter of 9-10 m. However, they covered several graves. The mound under consideration can stand, if not in parallel, then immediately behind them. Despite half the height, it has a larger diameter. This series is continued by smaller Dniester region mounds, which, as a rule, cover several burials. After them, there are simple underground graves.

Therefore, mound 1 near Malynivtsi may be the burial of a family that insignificantly, but still stood out in one of the Middle Dniester region communities. Perhaps its status was at the stage of the initial, but already noticeable social formation of the tribal nobility at the level of local communities. As evidenced from other chronologically close burial complexes of the Middle Dniester region, such processes occurred there everywhere, but particular progress they had in the east of the region. It is possible that it was facilitated by the close proximity to the more socially stratified population of the Middle Dniester region and the nomadic steppe.

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