

# ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA



2016

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On the cover: a bronze strap end, late 8<sup>th</sup> – early 9<sup>th</sup> c. AD; see the paper of Cociş et al. in this issue; photo by Malvinka Urák.

# The Periphery of the Centre? The Late Avar Cemetery Part at Nădlac (Germ.: Nadlak; Hung.: Nagylak; Slov.: Nadlak)<sup>1</sup>

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XX, 1 (2016), 1-75

Sorin COCIȘ / Erwin GÁLL / Malvinka URÁK / Adrian URȘUȚIU

**Abstract:** In the frame of the Nădlac-Arad Motorway project 12 graves were excavated from the Late Avar period near Nădlac. According to the analysis of the burial customs, various object categories of the material culture (lock rings, earring, beads, components of belts with mounts, knives, potteries) can be dated to the end of the late Avar era, which corresponds to the late 8<sup>th</sup> or early 9<sup>th</sup> century. It can firmly be stated that some of the finds were the products of the latest metallurgical horizon (e.g. the punched belt-hole guard mount and the belt mounts with pendants) so some of the types found here can be connected to the last horizon, which is very important concerning their dating. The identity of the micro-community in Nădlac and their self-identification with a political community were influenced by the fact that they were a **primary group**. For them their micro- and macro-community traditions and their values and traditions at a micro-community level coming from their way of life might have been much more important than their ethnic identity. According to the clusters of late Avar sites and the supposed location of the hypothetical ‘**workshop circles**’ in the Carpathian Basin, it is clear that the cemetery researched by us and its micro-region is situated outside the central territories. It seems to be supported by the heterogeneity of the belt sets, which shows that the members of this community had more difficulty obtaining the various decorations. The anthropological deformations indicating hard physical work also seem to underpin this ‘**peripheral**’ status. Its location seems to show clearly that this micro-region, and within this the cemetery of this animal breeding and agricultural pagan population, is on the periphery of the power centre(s) of the Great Plain. They were the common people of the late Avar Khaganate in the eastern region of the Great Plain. We can talk about the cemetery of a settlement from the late Avar period, which was on the periphery, under the Khagan or some other Avar chief or big man (*tudun, iugurus*).

**Key words:** Nădlac, Avar period, burial customs, material culture, 8-9<sup>th</sup> centuries, periphery.

## ON THE EXCAVATION

The Nădlac-Arad Motorway project was started in 2011, and at that time the sites of the main section were researched. After the end of the project and of the expropriations, an archaeological diagnostic survey was carried out in the fall of 2012 on the road, which would link the town of Nădlac to the aforementioned motorway. Site 7M, which was unknown until that time, was identified during the survey in October 2012 and the first exploratory trenches were dug by the Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Cluj. The eight trenches were at a distance of ~50 m from one another, and their purpose was to limit the extent of the site in the section affected by the road works. The first four archaeological finds were unearthed at this time, as was the first Avar find, too (# 1). After the mechanical unearthing of the site, the finds were identified and researched in about two weeks (26.04.2014 – 07.05.2014)<sup>2</sup>.

Just as in the case of other sites in the Nădlac/Nagylak-Pecica/Pécska section of the motorway, the upper level was made up of loose

<sup>1</sup> The authors would like to express acknowledgements to Ilona Bede, Gergely Szenthe and Csaba Szalontay for their kind, friendly help.

<sup>2</sup> The research team comprised of: Adrian Ursuțiu, Szabolcs Ferencz, Malvinka Urák, Gelu Copos, Sava Victor, Florin Mărginean, Luminița Andreica (Szilagyi).

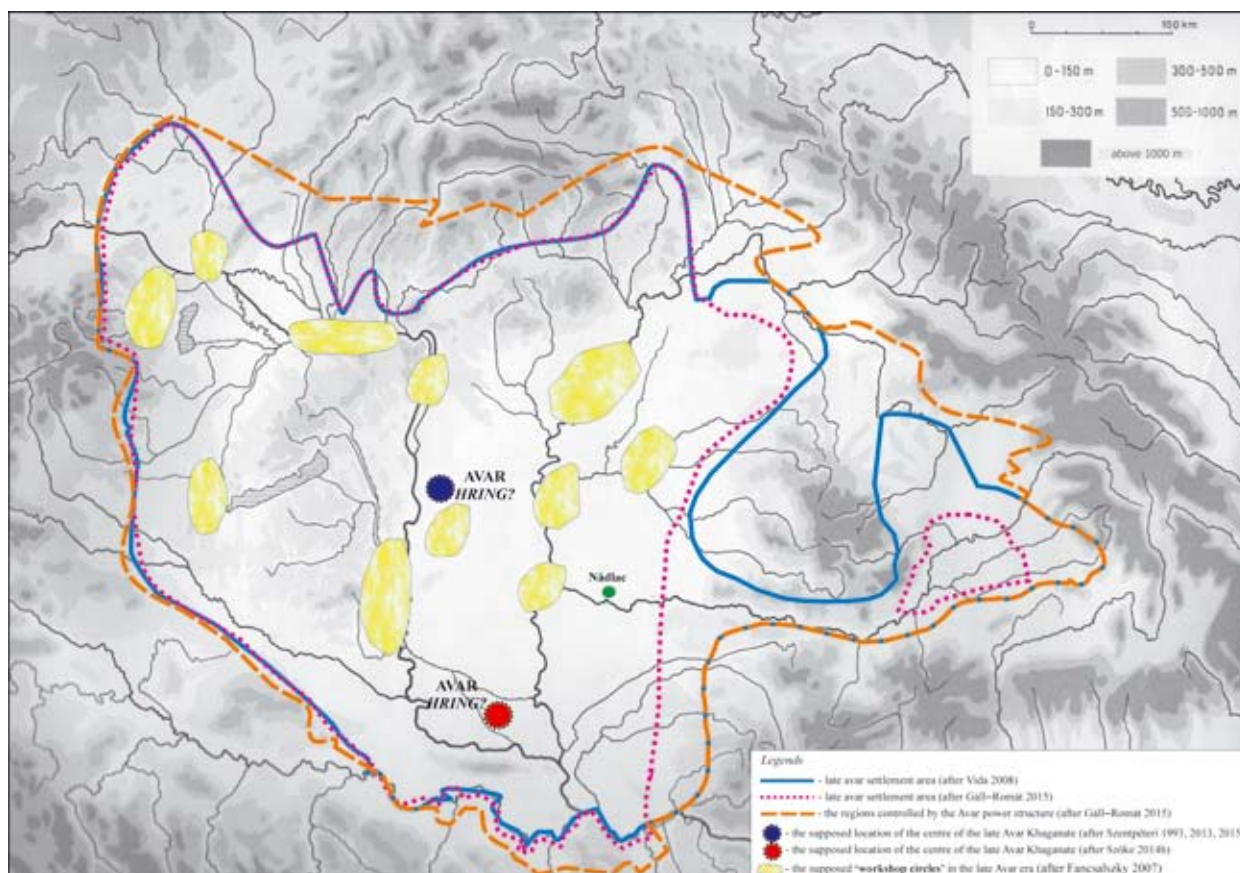


Fig. 9. The Carpathian Basin in the late Avar era: the 'Avar settlement area' and 'the areas under influence' controlled by the late Avar power structure

So it can be stated that in the case of Cemetery 7M (and the other two or three cemeteries) we cannot suppose the population of the core region in the late Avar era. According to the clusters of late Avar sites and the supposed location of the hypothetical 'workshop circles', it is clear that the cemetery researched by us and its micro-region is outside that territory. It seems to be supported by the heterogeneity of the belt sets, which show that the members of this community had more difficulty obtaining the various ornaments. The anthropological deformations indicating hard physical work (see the anthropological analysis later) also seem to underpin this 'peripheral' status. Its location seems to show clearly that this micro-region and within this the cemetery of this animal breeding and agricultural pagan people is on the periphery of the power centre(s) of the Great Plain. They were the common people of the late Avar Khaganate in the eastern region of the Great Plain. We can talk about the cemetery of a settlement from the late Avar period, which was on the periphery, under the Khagan or some other Avar chief or big men (*tudun, iugurus*<sup>61</sup>).

<sup>61</sup> On the Avar dignity names, see Ligeti 1986, 145-149.

# The Anthropological Analysis of the Graves from the Late Avar Age from Nădlac

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XX, 1 (2016), 77-86

Luminița ANDREICA (SZILAGYI)

**Abstract:** Analysis of human skeletal remains provides a useful tool for investigating workload in societies of the past. In this paper, evidence of degenerative joint disease, squatting facet and enthesopathies reviews different markers of occupational stress as a means for exploring activity levels aimed at inferring specific daily jobs. Moreover, an average stature above the upper limit specific to that period may be a reflection of the quality and reliability of the individual's diet.

**Key words:** enthesopathies, physical activity, practicing riding, stature, Avar period.

## INTRODUCTION

Anthropological analyses of human skeletons help rebuilding and interpreting the health status and lifestyle of past populations. In order to draw some conclusions regarding these individuals' quality of life, degenerative changes in the joints, the presence of enthesopathies and indicators of nutritional stress were followed.

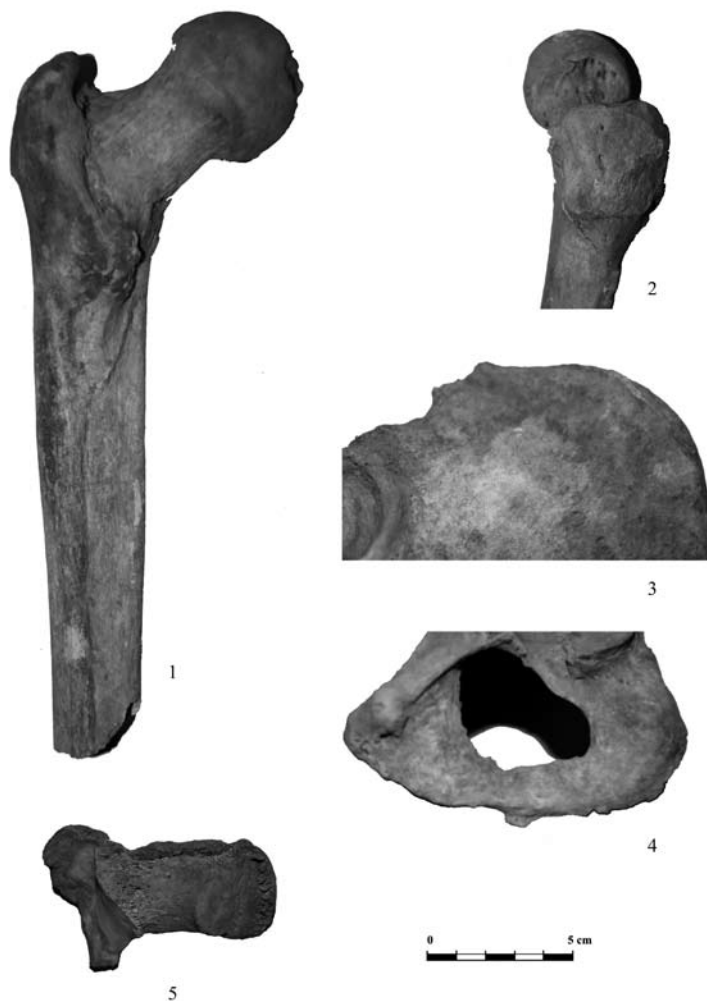
The term of degenerative change is somewhat ambiguous because all the adults who passed mature adult age category present joint attrition, which is part of the natural aging process. Pathological degenerative manifestations are identified those occurring much earlier than normally or those which disproportionately affect the skeleton, in terms of the side they are manifested or the mechanical function of the bone (Martin et al. 2013, 163). Enthesopathic lesions are bone irregularities or projections at the level of tendon and ligament insertion place, arising as a result of excessive and prolonged muscle activity (Larsen 1997, 188; Martin et al. 2013, 165). Their location and size on the skeleton provides clues to the individuals' daily activities (Larsen 1997, 188). Stress affecting the human body can be produced from the constraints of the environment, cultural system and host resistance (Larsen 1997, 6).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present anthropological analysis contains eight skeletons discovered at Nădlac site 7M in the rescue excavations carried out in 2014. The conservation and representation status of the skeletons of adults is relatively good compared to those of the sub-adults. Grave 17 and 37 were not in anatomical position, being robbed in ancient times, and in one case there was found an entire skeleton of a horse, which is assumed to belong to Grave 3.

In order to determine sex, there were followed both the characteristics of the skull and those of the postcranial skeleton (standard characteristics used to identify sex, see Buikstra / Ubelaker 1994, 16-20). In order to estimate the age of sub-adult skeletons, tooth eruption (Buikstra / Ubelaker 1994, fig. 24, 51) and long bone lengths (Bernert

**Plate 2:** 1 Grave 16A: Enthesophyte at the insertion of the *Gluteus minimus*, *Iliacus* and *Adductor magnus* (left femur); 2 Grave 16A: Degenerative changes on the femoral head; 3 Grave 16A: Enthesophyte at the insertion of the *Obliquus externus abdominis* (iliac wing); 4 Grave 16A: Enthesophytes at the ischial tuberosity; 5 Grave 16A: Exostosis at the insertion of Achilles' tendon (*Calcaneum*)



Enthesopathic lesions were also visible in this case, but they are less emphasized (see **pl. 1**); on the left clavicle, at the insertion place of the conoid ligament there is visible a small bone projection (on the right that area is destroyed postmortem). On the right humerus there is a slight enhancement in the *Pectoralis major* and *Teres major* muscle insertion level. On the left one the changes are almost insignificant. The bicipital tuberosity from both radii presents an incipient robust expression (Joan Ignasi Galtés / Assumpció Małgosia 2007, 4). Both calcaneal bones present enthesophytes at the insertion place of the Achilles' tendon. Degenerative changes were visible on the sternal ends of the clavicles and the distal epiphysis on right humerus.

The majority of the dental pieces, both in the mandible and on the maxilla, there can be seen marked traces of tartar deposition (**pl. 3/2**). It seems that there is no direct link between the accumulation of tartar and the type of food; tartar formation may be influenced by a variety of non-food factors such as oral hygiene, the mineral content of the drinking water, using teeth as tools etc (Keenleyside 2007).

The stature calculated using the full length of the left femur (47.1 cm) and the right tibia (38.2 cm) is 173.2 cm.

#### GRAVE 19

This is the skeleton of a child of 2-3 years of age, in a state of very precarious conservation and representation; from the layer there

# Animal Remains Discovered in a Partially Researched Cemetery from the Avar Period at Nădlac 7M

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA  
XX, 1 (2016), 87-91

Imola KELEMEN

**Abstract:** Six of the graves identified at the archaeological excavation at Nădlac 7M (Graves 3, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 37) contained animal bones. Apart from a domestic goose bone, all fragments belong to mammals. Seven of these could not be connected to a skeleton or part of a skeleton, the rest on the other hand are the remains of 6 different animals: a juvenile and a mature sheep, two juvenile and an adult goat as well as a mature horse. Except for the horse that seemed to have had the whole skeleton buried at one time, the small ruminants present themselves by cranial fragments and the end of members, which are characteristics of skin burials.

**Key words:** archaeozoology, animal bones, Avar period, burial customs.

Six of the graves identified at the archaeological excavation at Nădlac 7M (Graves 3, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 37) contained animal bones. We have handled a total of 251 remains and after some joining, gluing and restoration 202 fragments are what we can calculate with. Apart from a domestic goose bone, all fragments belong to mammals. Seven of these could not be connected to a skeleton or part of a skeleton, the rest on the other hand are the remains of 6 different animals (see **fig. 1**): a juvenile and a mature sheep, two juvenile and an adult goat as well as a mature horse. Except for the horse that seemed to have had the whole skeleton buried at one time, the small ruminants present themselves by cranial fragments and the end of members, which are characteristics of skin burials.

## GRAVE 3

The archaeological description mentions 4 animal bones: two mandibles by the left femur of the 30-35 years old man in the grave, as well as two horse bones north to his skull. The archaeozoological analysis revealed first of all the remains of a juvenile aged sheep (*Ovis aries*) (body parts: left and right maxilla, left and right mandible, left and right metatarsus), but also two other fragments, possibly belonging to the same sheep/goat individual: a mandible and a radius. The latter presents small cut marks and both bones' surface was weathered, wrinkled, as if it had been staying in water or humid earth for a long time. Besides these we also identified two femurs (left and right) possibly originating from the same ca. 3.5 years old horse (*Equus caballus*) individual. Both fragments presented cut marks beneath the head of the femur, *caput femoris*.

## GRAVE 19

According to the archaeological description the grave belongs to a 2-3 years old child and close to the pelvis, in the abdominal area an ani-

and right scapula, left and right humerus, right radius, right ulna, sesamoid, carpal bone, pelvis, right metatarsus/mt. III, mt. II., phalanges 1-2-3, ribs, cervical and thoracic vertebrae). Oddly, the withers heights calculated from the whole humerus and radius are very differing; the horse's height according to the former bone was 1224 mm, while by the latter it was 1360 mm (**fig. 2**). The average of the two is 1292 mm which, according to the height-categories by Vitt (1952), is small-medium. The archaeological description mentions the grave of the horse belonging to the individual buried in Grave 3.

<b><i>Ovis aries</i> (sheep), <i>maturus</i> – Grave 21/pit 2</b>								
<i>Cornu</i>	GL	Cf	GØ	SØ				
	49.4	59.4	20.7	14.1				
<i>Mandibula</i>	GL <sub>M1-3</sub>	GL <sub>M3</sub>	GB <sub>M3</sub>					
	45	22.6	8.6					
		23	8.6					
<i>Phalanx 1</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd				
	33.4	12.3	10	10.7				
<i>Phalanx 2</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd				
	19.8	10.4	7.6	8.4				
<b><i>Capra hircus</i> (goat), <i>adultus</i> – Grave 21/pit 3</b>								
<i>Metacarpus</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd	With.h.			
	112.6	22.1	12.7	24.5	647.45			
	113	22.4	12.2	23.7	649.75			
<i>Metatarsus</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd	With.h.			
	119.4	20.1	11.3	23.7	637.6			
	118	10.8			630.1			
<b><i>Equus caballus</i> (horse), <i>maturus</i> – Grave 25</b>								
<i>Scapula</i>	SLC	GLP	LG	BG				
	59	90.1	53.7					
	61	≈88.9	≈54.7	≈45.7				
<i>Humerus</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd	Marm.			
	256	85.2	34.9	74.4	1224			
<i>Radius</i>	GL	GLI	Bp	BFp	SD	Bd	BFd	With.h.
	380	330	79	72.9	37.9	71.3	59.4	1360
<i>Ulna</i>	SDO	DPA	BPC					
	44.7	59.4	43.6					
<i>Metatarsus</i>	Bd							
	49.1							
<i>Phalanx 1</i>	GL	GLax.	Bp	SD	Bd			
	83.2	73.1	51.9	35.3	44.9			
	81.9	72.7	51.9	34.7	44.3			
<i>Phalanx 2</i>	GL	Bp	SD	Bd				
	43.5	50.9	46.4	51.8				
	43.3	50.9	46	51.5				
<i>Phalanx 3</i>	GL	GB	LF	BF				
	65.8	77.1	25.6	48.5				

**Fig. 2.** Biometric data of the measurable bones found at site 7M Nädlac (after von den Driesch 1976)



# Eggshell Remains in an Avar Age Grave in Nădlac

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XX, 1 (2016), 93-96

Beáta TUGYA

**Abstract:** The article publishes the results of the examination of eggshell remains from grave # 20 in Nădlac. The analysis shows that the eggs were from chicken and geese; they had been hatched, so they cannot be considered as food donation.

**Key words:** Nădlac, Avar period, burial customs, material culture, 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries, eggshell, mamillary layer.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Among the archaeological animal remains, eggs have been researched the least of all and have been paid the least attention to. As in the Avar Age – especially in the graves – hens are the most frequent birds, the eggs coming to light are generally included in this species. Archaeologists have considered eggs for long decades – without carrying out scientific examinations – as food donation or burial sacrifice put into the grave, similarly to bones. We are looking for answers to important questions, i.e. do, as a matter of fact, come all the eggs from hens and can the eggs be considered as food donation placed next to the dead?

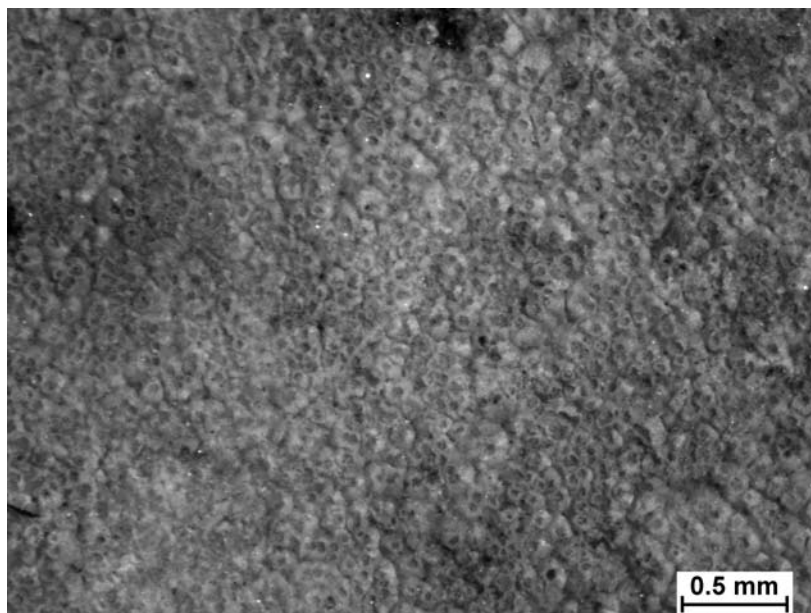
The microscopic examination of egg remains has yielded new results; the finds from the grave in Nădlac are the remains of eggs which were hatched. Therefore, they cannot be considered as food donation placed next to the dead. How should we interpret this custom? How often does this phenomenon occur? What did the empty eggshells put into the grave symbolize?

## 2. METHODS OF EXAMINING THE EGGS

Only one grave – grave # 20 – of the 12 graves in Nădlac contained the remains of eggshells which were placed next to the left femur of a man aged 45 to 55. They were in a small earth ball prior to the microscopic examination. Cleaning and drying of the fragments were necessary to the examination.

The eggs cracked during hatching. In more than thousand years, which they spent underground, further disintegration of them took place. Instead of the broken remains of the complete egg only a few smaller fragments come often to light from the graves. During the examination, each shell fragment of the egg remains was examined under a microscope and microscopic photographs of the interior side of those being most suitable for photographing were taken. There were also fragments in a bad condition which were unsuitable for an analysis. It was necessary to choose pieces the inside surface of which was concave to the least possible extent. In order to take good-quality and clear-cut microscopic photographs, an even surface was needed. The microscopic photographs were taken magnified 31.5 times by a stereo microscope model Nikon SMZ800 at the Archaeological Cabinet of the Hungarian National Museum (**fig. 1-2**).

**Fig. 2.** Shell fragment of a goose egg hatched, magnified 31.5 times. The crater-like *mamillae* are visible



the number of *mamillae* going to 1 mm<sup>2</sup> ranges from 28 to 57. The shell of the egg of the greylag goose (*Anser anser* L.) is 0.525-0.55 mm thick and the number of *mamillae* on a surface of 1 mm<sup>2</sup> ranges from 28 to 87 (Sidell 1993). The eggs of domestic and greylag geese could not be separated within the material of finds. Therefore, they are only referred to as goose.

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF EGGS AND ANALYSIS

One can say that the amount of shell fragments is good; there are approx. three dozens of them, their size ranging from 0.5 cm<sup>2</sup> to more than 1 cm<sup>2</sup>. It became clear as early as at the time of cleaning the fragments that shell fragments of eggs of two species had been found, almost in the same ratio. Yet, the small thinner pieces are more fragile and they break easily, making their size even smaller. The thinner fragments are 0.3-0.35 mm thick (**fig. 1**), the more robust ones are of a thickness of 0.6 mm (**fig. 2**). *Mamillae* going to 1 mm<sup>2</sup> amounted to 107 pieces/mm<sup>2</sup> in case of chicken eggs and 48 pieces/mm<sup>2</sup> in case of goose eggs.

We could find a fair number of remains of both types of eggs the mamillary layer of which terminated in a crater, thus, they were parts of the shell of eggs which had been hatched. The fragments with rounded *mamillae* also originate from eggs hatched. However, they belong to the region of the air chamber where no resorption takes place.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

All recent analyses of eggs have shown that remains of eggs hatched were placed without exception in the graves of the Avar cemeteries, irrespective of whether it was an Early or Late Avar Age cemetery. Most often it was not the whole egg but a part of it; they placed repeatedly only a few small pieces of the whole egg in the grave. This is not a local custom and it is not limited to one region, but can be observed everywhere in the regions of the Carpathian Basin which have been examined so far.

Interpretation of this little-known custom is not an easy task. Why did they put the shell remains of eggs hatched into the graves and why did they put them in the majority of cases into women's and children's

# REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

XX, 1 (2016), 97-100

## **Henny PIEZONKA. Jäger, Fischer, Töpfer. Wildbeutergruppen mit früher Keramik in Nordosteuropa im 6. und 5. Jahrtausend v. Chr. Archäologie in Eurasien, Band 30, Habelt-Verlag, Bonn 2015, 438 Seiten, 205 Abbildungen, 107 Tafeln.**

Die Herstellung von Keramikgefäßen gehört zweifellos zu den wichtigsten Technologien des Neolithikums. In vielen Regionen SW-Asiens und Europas ist die früheste Keramik mit der Entstehung von Sesshaftigkeit, Ackerbau und Viehzucht korreliert, oder fiel mit der Ausbreitung einer landwirtschaftlichen Lebensweise zusammen. Weit verbreitet waren Keramikgefäße zudem in den Jäger-Fischer-Sammler-Gesellschaften (JFSG) des Frühen und Mittleren Holozäns, insbesondere in Eurasien und Nordafrika. So wurden die frühesten Keramikgefäße in Ostasien (ab 18.000 v. Chr.) und Nordafrika (ab 9.500 v. Chr.) in kleinen Gemeinschaften von mobilen Jäger-Sammlern hergestellt. Diese frühe „Wildbeuterkeramik“ geriet im letzten Jahrzehnt zunehmend in den Blickpunkt der europäischen Vorgeschichtsforschung.

Die früheste Keramik der JFSG in Ost- und Nordeuropa datiert zwischen dem ausgehenden 7. und frühen 4. Jt. v. Chr. Trotz einer umfangreichen Materialbasis und zahlreicher regionaler Untersuchungen fehlte bislang eine Zusammenschau dieses Phänomens. Dies liegt zweifellos in der lückenhaften und teils schwer nachvollziehbaren Materialvorlage begründet und dieses Forschungsdesiderat bildet den Ausgangspunkt für Henny Piezonkas Studie „Jäger, Fischer, Töpfer. Wildbeutergruppen mit früher Keramik in Nordeuropa im 6. und 5. Jahrtausend v. Chr.“ Piezonkas Buch beschäftigt sich mit der Keramik der JFSG im Gebiet östlich und nördlich der Ostsee, von ihrem ersten Auftreten bis zum Aufkommen der „mittelneolithischen“ Keramikstile des 4. Jt. v. Chr. Ziel der Arbeit ist die Klärung der chronologischen Entwicklung und räumlichen Verteilung der frühesten Keramik. Die Verf. nähert sich diesem Ziel auf zwei Wegen. Zum einen wird durch Analysen ausgewählter Keramikkomplexe eine zuverlässige Datenbasis für das Arbeitsgebiet geschaffen (Kapitel 3). Zum anderen werden die Ergebnisse von zahlreichen regionalen Studien zusammengeführt, um ein Bild des kulturellen Gesamtkontextes der frühen Wildbeuter-Keramik in Eurasien zu zeichnen (Kapitel 4).

Von insgesamt 939 in Frage kommenden Fundpunkten im Arbeitsgebiet östlich und nördlich der Ostsee (siehe Anhang 10.2) wählte die Verf. siebzehn Fundorte für eine detaillierte Keramikanalyse aus (Abb. 8). Die Fundplätze bestechen durch eine hohe Qualität des Keramikmaterials und seiner wissenschaftlichen Bedeutung, und es wurde eine möglichst vollständige geographische Abdeckung erreicht. In Kapitel 3.2 erscheinen katalogartig alle wichtigen Informationen: Fundplatzgeschichte, Befunde, Fundmaterial, relative Chronologie und Radiokarbon-Datierungen. Karten, Pläne und Profile wurden qualitativvoll umgezeichnet und dienen dem besseren Verständnis.

Die Aufnahme einer großen Zahl von Merkmalen der Herstellungstechnik (Magerung, Aufbautechnik, Oberflächenbehandlung,

# REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGIA BULGARICA

XX, 1 (2016), 101-104

**Larissa BONFANTE (ed.). *The Barbarians of Ancient Europe: Realities and Interactions.* With contributions by Keyser, Paul T. / Ivantchik, Askold, I. / Rolle, Renate / Marazov, Ivan / Wells, Peter S. / Frey, Otto-Herman / de Grammund, Nancy Thomson / Marincola, John / Stevenson, Walter / Farkas, Anne E. Cambridge University Press, 2011, xxiii + 395pp., 101 black-and-white illustrations, 23 colour plates. ISBN 978-0-521-19404-4.**

Library shelves are not lacking in surveys devoted to the prehistory of Europe, the majority in English, amongst which Vere Gordon Childe's *Danube in prehistory* must surely stand at the head. More recently multi-authored has been Milisauskas (2002) and Jones (2008) while one may observe an increasing interest in Eurasia notably by Barry Cunliffe, most prolific of contributors to many volumes including this one (Cunliffe 2015). None has exceeded in form, richness of illustrations and in its positively world-wide coverage as *The dawn of civilization* (Piggott 1961) while for single-authored titles perhaps none are so elegantly written as that by Stuart Piggott (1965) while Kristian Kristiansen's 1998 survey of the second and first millennia BC in Europe in some ways may be compared to the present volume if with more detail on the material culture of the region surveyed. Indeed, one might think that there is no room for another overview. But not so.

*The barbarians of ancient Europe*, edited by a distinguished Etruscologist, had its origins in a conference held at the University of Richmond, Virginia in 2003 and, rather than examining once more the Greek concept of the barbarian, surveys the indigenous peoples of Europe who had contact with Greece. More than Greece and Etruria the book's coverage extends beyond those of most previous surveys with chapters dealing with the Scythians (Ivantchik and Rolle) and Thracians (Marazov and – in part – de Grammund) – topics rarely covered in English. The Preface and thirteen chapters – plus a fascinating analysis by Anne E. Farkas of Eugène Delacroix' 1859 painting of 'Ovid amongst the Scythians' now in the National Gallery, London – starts with Bonfante's overview of the volume, of the contrast between Classical and barbarian and of approaches to the study of non-Greek peoples both in the past and present, the study of textless communities, of ancient written sources and modern archaeology. Concerning the last she cogently points out that archaeological evidence is never objective but must always be subject to interpretation, interpretation which reflects our own biases. Bonfante's preface ends: 'In our . . . book on the barbarians of ancient Europe we look for the reality and relationships of the lives, belief and customs of these ancestors, and along the way we often encounter our own world' (p. 25). I am reminded how Piggott, concerned to demonstrate how much of our own society is rooted in the barbarian past, concludes his own survey of ancient Europe with a description of the great fourth-century AD silver dish