

ABSTRACT BOOK

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30th EAA Annual Meeting (Rome, Italy 2024) - Abstract Book

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placed in the grave pit can lead to several kinds of conclusions. Firstly, this allows the identification of the construction types of the earliest known wagons in this area. Secondly, this can lead to identifying how important wheeled transport was for a society of the Eurasian Steppe in the Early Bronze Age and why they were placed in such sacred contexts. And thirdly, it is important to identify who the people buried with wagons and their elements were for their immediate social environment and if it is possible to find a common trait among them. Because this rite was long-lasting and supraregional, the tradition survived to the later stages of the Yamnaya culture and would eventually be inherited by younger Steppe area groups. The question about similar Yamnaya influences on other parts of Europe, in both the technological and ritual spheres, is the subject of an ongoing inquiry.

16 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS OF THE EARLY BRONZE AGE MOUNDS IN THE MIDDLE AND LOWER TUNDZHA RIVER

Valchev, Todor (Historical museum - Yambol) - Sobotkova, Adela (Aarhus University)

The second half of 4th and the first half of 3rd millennium BC is one of the most dynamic and interesting periods in Balkan history. This is a period of movement of people, ideas and innovations.

During this time, the Tundzha River Valley sees the arrival of the steppe people – mainly the Yamnaya culture communities originally spread from the Ural Mountain to the Hungarian plain. Their presence is attested by burial mounds, which represent a new way of depositing the dead within earthen monuments so as to facilitate remembrance of venerated relatives and claims to land.

This paper reviews the properties of ten excavated Early Bronze Age mounds in the Yambol Province, showing these mounds are substantial in size and tend towards high-prominence locations in the landscape. These attributes are then used to extract mounds of similar properties from a dataset of 1090 mounds registered in the Yambol province since 2009. Two different sets of criteria produce two subsets of 52 potentially Early Bronze Age mounds, differing slightly in location.

17 OCHRE IN THE PICTORIAL ACTIVITY OF PIT-GRAVE TRIBES OF CENTRAL UKRAINE

Syvolap, Mykhaylo (Cherkasy City Archaeological Museum)

The article deals with the few cases of the pictorial activity of Pit-Grave burial rite.

In 1989, the author excavated 5 burial mounds in the triangle at confluence of Sula tributary into Dnieper on the Left bank Dnieper terrace plain. The biggest mound No4 (h 3m, d 51m) was located 3km northeast of the Klishchyntsi village, Zolotonosha district, Cherkasy Region, Ukraine. It contained 9 ancient burials, 6 of which belonged to the Pit-Grave culture [Syvolap, 1989]. The burial rite of these burials was specific to the Northwest group of Yamna culture (Merpert, 1968). The inlet burial No4 was the latest in the mound, inserted according to the radial principle. The deceased was orientated with head to SW & laid on the back with arms extended along the body & legs bent with knees up. The most interesting feature of this burial were the remains of drawing in bright red ochre between two layers of three-layer bedding, traced on both sides of the upper part of the deceased. Due to significant damage of the burial, only one composition in the form of six-axis wheel (d 10cm) can be clearly distinguished.

Small unreadable remains of similar drawings were discovered by the author twice more in the burial No5 of the same mound & in the mound No11 "Valiavkyna Mohyla" [Syvolap, 1990] on the right bank of the Dnieper near Cherkasy City.

Another interesting case of ochre use in the ritual visual practice of the Pit-Grave tribes is evidenced in barrow No1 "Vorozhbyna Mohyla" some 6km to the northwest of "Valiavkyna Mohyla". The primary burial contained the skeleton of teenager with same orientation as Klishchyntsi burial deceased. On the skull of deceased a layer of red ochre formed two parallel stripes 4-5cm wide (ochre drawing?) & traces of white plaque (white paint?).

18 TWILIGHT OF THE GOLDEN AGE

Burdo, Nataliia (Kyiv Domain Archaeological Museum) - Videiko, Mykhailo (Kyiv Borys Grinchenko University)

The impetus was climate change, thanks to which pasture resources for nomads increased. Before finally disappearing, Trypillia-Cucuteni led to the creation of a number of new cultural groups with other economic systems, including pastoralist ones.

These groups (the Usatovo, Zhivotilivka in the Steppe zone; the Gorodsk, Sofivka in the Forest zone), were considered by some researchers to be part of the Trypillia-Cucuteni for a long time. Their emergence can be considered as a process of adaptation of various population groups to new natural conditions.

There are several formations in the Steppe, the influence and participation in the formation of which Trypillia-Cucuteni was different. The Usatovo culture contains the most Trypillian components. Nomadic animal husbandry was the basis of the economy of the Usatovo culture. The Vykhatyntsi cemetery was left by a group with mixed traditions – Trypillia and Usatovo. The origin of the not Trypillia tradition in the Usatovo culture is tightly associated with the

Chernavoda-I culture. Trypillian traditions were most clearly manifested in the barrow burials of the Usatovo eponymous landmark. The mixed nature of the population of the Usatovo culture is confirmed by DNA research.

The post-Mariupol culture and the Zhyotilovka group show connections with Maykop. Trypillia-Cucuteni artefacts in their mound burials should be considered as imports and imitations of Trypillia-Cucuteni traditions. Archaeological materials show the penetration of Zhyotilovka traditions along with carriers into the Usatovo area. This is also confirmed by DNA research.

After 3000 BC, the diversity of cultural traditions of the "twilight of the golden age" was replaced by the uniformity of the traditions of the pit culture nomads, whose way of life turned out to be more adapted to the new climatic realities.

360 THE 4TH AND 3RD MILLENNIUM BC STEPPE IMPACT ON PREHISTORIC EUROPE PART 2

Session theme: 2. Archaeological Sciences, Humanities and the Digital era: Bridging the Gaps

Session organisers: Topal, Denis (National Museum of History of Moldova) - Heyd, Volker (University of Helsinki) - Kulcsár, Gabriella (Institute of Archaeology, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities) - Dani, János (University of Szeged) - Palalidis, Stefano (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)

Session format: Session with keynote presentation and discussion

In January 2019, the ERC Advanced Project 'The Yamnaya Impact on Prehistoric Europe (YMPACT)' embarked on a journey to investigate the massive transformation that swept across Europe approximately 5000 years ago. Hosted by the University of Helsinki, Finland, and with partners working in the UK, Germany, and Hungary, the project has been an international and interdisciplinary team effort focusing on the western end of the huge Yamnaya distribution area, in the steppe landscapes of present-day territories of Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Hungary. Despite the unforeseen obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, close collaboration with local archaeologists in these countries facilitated intensive fieldwork and sample collection, culminating in three archaeological excavation campaigns, in Boldeşti-Grăditea in Romania (2019), Magila in Bulgaria (2021), and Hajdúszirmény in Hungary (2023).

This session aims to offer a comprehensive overview of research conducted not only by YMPACT in the past five years, but also inviting other scholars to add data enriching our understanding of the Yamnaya impact on prehistoric Europe and opening up lines of future research. Drawing inspiration from the project's collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, the session will host contributions spanning archaeology, bio-anthropology, genetics/ancient DNA, biomarker lipids, and isotope biogeochemistry. Geo- and environmental sciences will contribute to discussions on palaeoclimatology, climate change research, soil formation processes, and landscape reconstructions. Lectures will present latest research, delving into the funerary archaeology of Yamnaya kurgans and material culture; exchange dynamics with southeastern European societies; the physical appearance and population dynamics of the Yamnaya; data on their mobility, diet, occupation, and lifestyle; their intricate connection with the environment; and the profound nature of the wider Yamnaya Impact.

ABSTRACTS

1 SEPARATION, HYBRADISATION, AND NETWORKS: GLOBULAR AMPHORA SEDENTARY PASTORALISTS CA. 3200-2700 BCE

Mueller, Johannes (Kiel University)

Around 3000 BCE, a turning point occurred in Europe: Long-existing regional societies entered into a process of transformation. The result is a world in which new global communication networks brought different regions closer together.

From 3200/3100 BCE, the Globular Amphora phenomenon was the trailblazer in Eastern and Central Europe. Due to the focus on pastoral subsistence, new ritual practices were created. We initially observe the symbolic separation of sedentary pastoralists from more agrarian societies. The structural process is linked to the creation of supra-regional GA networks from the Elbe to the Siret, but also to hybridisation effects in different regions.

The emergence of the GA networks is described as social separation on the basis of social disharmonies within Funnel beaker societies, which is also visible via a reduction of the human impact in palaeoecological archives. A new connectivity of diversified groups developed as a form of levelling mechanism, which in the long term was part of the transformation of the entirety of European prehistory around 3000 BCE.