
REMAINS OF THE POTTERY KILN FROM THE CITY OF TREPOL

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Introduction

In the 11th century, the city of Trepol arose forty kilometers downstream from Kyiv on the banks of the Dnieper. It is located on a high mountain. One side of the hill extends to the Dnieper, and on the other is surrounded by the floodplain of the Krasna River (fig. 1). On the Dnieper side, the bank is heavily damaged by landslides (fig. 2). The mountain consists of yellow soil. In this soil, the darker soil associated with the cultural layer is clearly visible.

Archaeological findings confirm the existence of a large city here in the 11th century. As the mapping of finds of ceramic fragments showed, in the 11th-13th centuries the city occupied the mountain itself, its slopes and high places in the valley. The total area of the city reached up to 30-32 hectares (Маняка 2012; Буренко, Відейко 2012). This makes Trepol the third largest city in Russia on this stretch of the Dnieper trade route after Kyiv and Pereyaslav.

Archaeological studies of the city territory were carried out on a limited scale. These were collections of materials on the surface or during construction works (Маняка 2012). Part of these finds is in the archaeological museum in Trypillia. Fragments of ceramic dishes from the times of Rus can be dated to the 11th-13th centuries. There are fragments of ceramics from the 14th century (Буренко, Відейко 2012; Маняка 2012). This collection is replenished every year thanks to local residents who bring things found in the gardens. The modern village of Trypillia occupies the entire territory of the ancient city. However, at the central part of the mountain has preserved about 2 hectares that are not currently built on. It is possible to provide archaeological research here, which looks quite promising.

In 2018, it was possible to investigate several areas in the central part of the city. The remains of a dwelling with an oven and a cultural layer were found here. The finds are dated to the 11th-13th centuries. Metal products that can be dated to this time were also discovered (Відейко, Слесарев, Відейко 2018; Videiko 2022). In addition to finds from the 11th-13th and 14th centuries, there are a large number of fragments of ceramic items from the 16th-17th centuries from the territory of the city (Відейко 2007, 14-17).

The remains of a pottery kiln

The place where the kiln was found is in the south-eastern part of the hill. This is the territory of the seat of the ancient city of Trepol, located outside the defensive structures of the upper city (fig. 1/2). Currently, the territory is used for vegetable gardens and livestock grazing. In past years, fragments of ceramic dishes were collected on this territory, which are in the archaeological museum located nearby (Відейко, Відейко 2022). Among these finds are ceramics from the Trypillia Culture, the Early Iron Age and the 11th-18th centuries.

This is the first discovery of a pottery kiln on the territory of this city. The remains of it were discovered due to a landslide caused by Russian missile attacks. The most part of furnace was located on the side of the Dnieper and was destroyed by previous landslides (fig. 2/1, 2). Most of the remains of the mine in the form of burnt clay fell from a height onto the river bank. Ceramics from the filling of the pit for which it was built were also collected there.

The remains of the kiln are represented by its lower part, in which the support of the firing chamber has been preserved. The diameter of the structure is about two meters. It was lowered into a pit 1.5 m depth from current surface (fig. 2/2). The kiln was built of clay with a wooden frame. Imprints of this wooden constructions were pre-



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Fig. 1. The topography of the city of Trepol and the location of the pottery kiln: 1 - general view of the hill and valley where the city was located; 2 - plan of 1834 indicating the location of the discovery of (1) a pottery kiln.

served on clay. These prints indicate that the frame was made of chopped wood. The thickness of the clay walls was from 10 to 15 cm. In a clay base round holes with a diameter of about ten centimeters were made. Fragments of burnt clay with imprints of wood and the holes mentioned above were collected on the banks of the Dnieper, near the foot of the mountain.

Judging by the location of the remains, its fire-box should have been located on the side of the river. This means that the potter's workshop itself was probably located on the opposite side. The workshop complex, as shown by the excavations in Vyshgorod, was supposed to include a place for storing and processing clay ("potter's house"), a workshop and a master's dwelling (Бібіков,

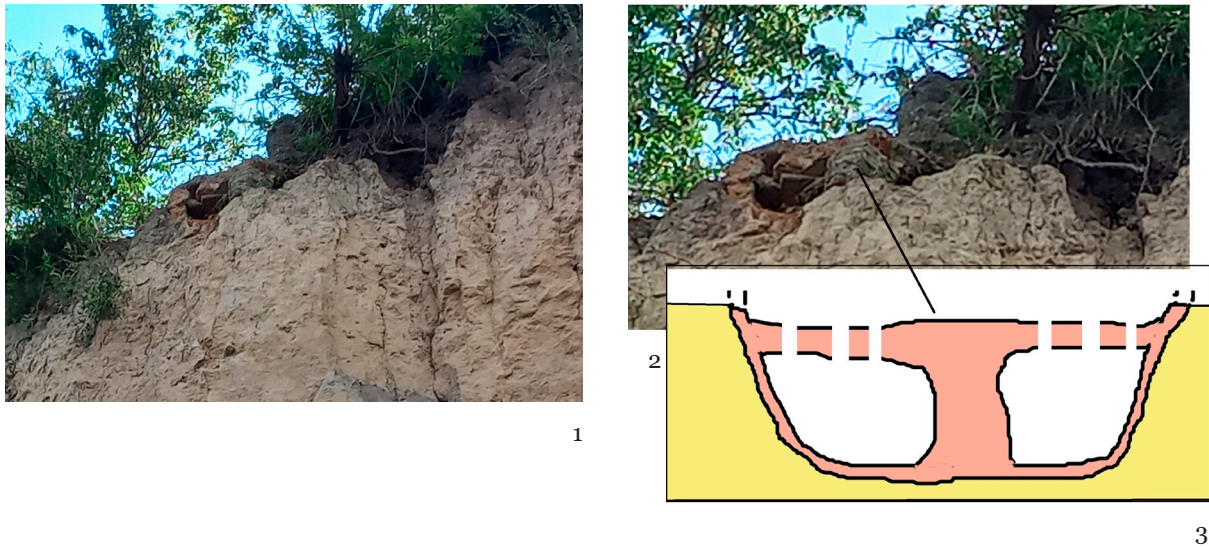


Fig. 2. Tropol, the remains of a pottery kiln:
1, 2 - view from the Dnieper side; 3 - reconstruction of the lower part of the kiln.

Оленич 2017, 306). Thus, this part of the workshop may be explored in the future.

The kiln is typical for this time. This is a two-tier furnace with vertical movement of warm air (fig. 2/3). Such professional heat engineering devices are used by artisans who make large quantities of tableware for sale. Kilns of this type include a round firing chamber with holes in the floor and an attached firebox. Similar in design and size, pottery kilns in the Dnieper region were discovered during archaeological excavations in the city of Vyshhorod. More than 200 of them were found there, most of which were located within the lower city, outside the fortifications (Бібіков, Оленич 2017).

Finds from kiln area

Near 200 fragments of Rus time pottery were discovered among the remains of the kiln and next to it, and also down on the bank of the Dnieper. These are mostly fragments of different pots (fig. 3-4). Two fragments of Byzantine amphorae were also found (fig. 3/6). The color of ceramics is black, gray, red and white. There are traces of soot on the black fragments. Perhaps fragments of white pots were not in use and may have been used during the construction of the kiln (fig. 3/5). In the upper part, the pots were decorated with horizontal or wavy drawn lines. On some prod-

ucts, these types of decoration were applied together (fig. 3-4).

On three bottoms of the pots marks were found. This is a circle, inside of which there are probably a trident-like(?) marks (fig. 5). Similar signs on the bottoms of pots from the time of Rus have various explanations. It covers a wide range of versions. These images on the bottom of the vessels are considered “master’s marks”, “master’s marks” or ritual symbols (Гупало 1996а; Гупало 1996b).

According to the rims profiles, the materials from the kiln can be dated to the 12th-13th centuries (fig. 4). This dating is consistent with other finds previously made around this place previously (Відейко, Відейко 2022, 77-78).

In addition to this items, many fragments of Trypillia Culture pottery of the BI-II stage were discovered. This is a consequence of the fact that the was inserted into the cultural layer of the settlement of the Trypillian Culture, traces of which were also found in this area (Відейко, Відейко 2022, рис. 1). Further in the cliff you can see pits, part of which spilled material onto the banks of the Dnieper. This pottery can be dated to the 17th-18th centuries (fig. 3/7, 8). It is possible that pottery production in this part of the city continued even at this time.

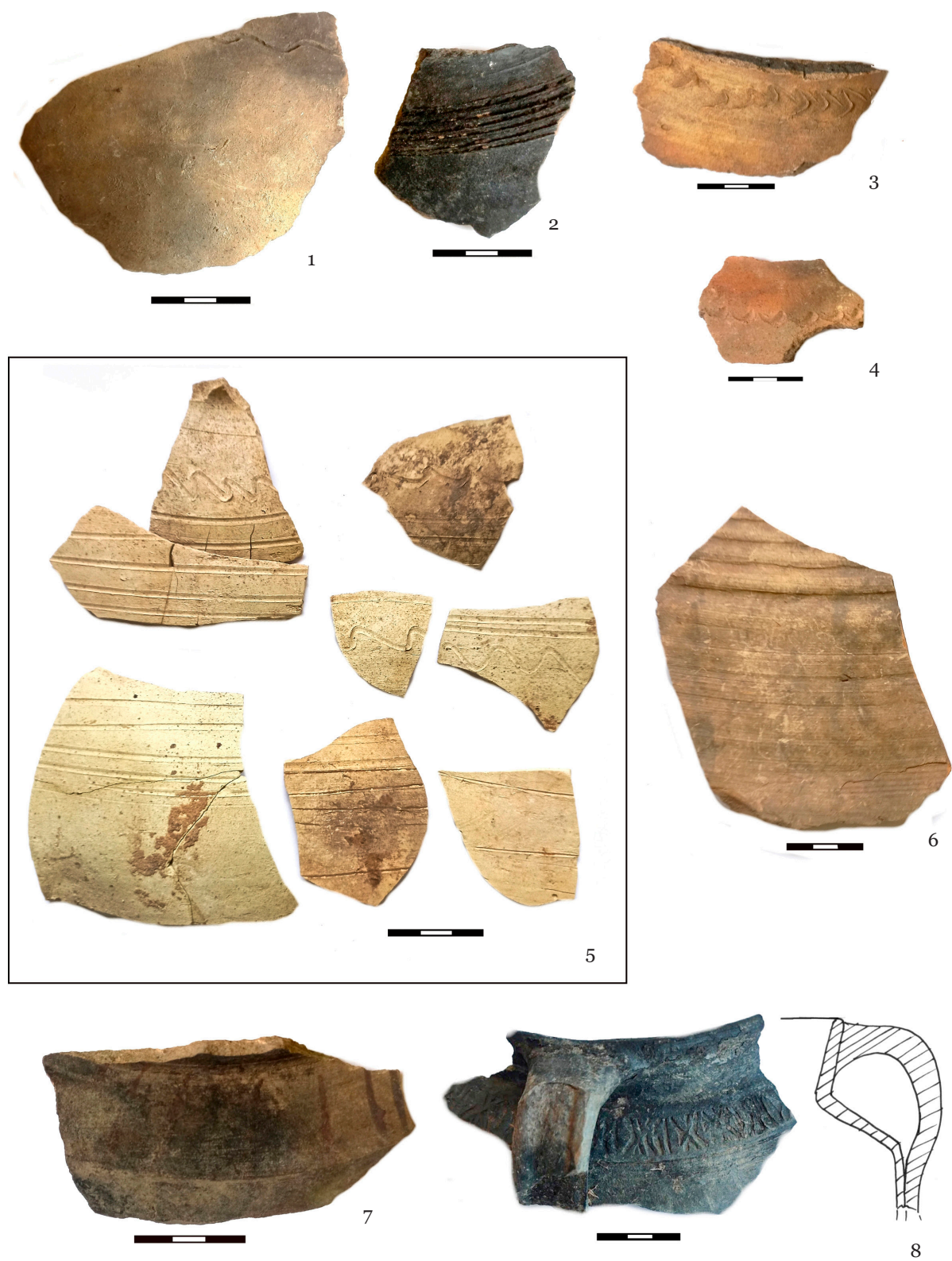


Fig. 3. Trepol, pottery from the kilns' pit (1-6) and the surrounding area (7, 8); 6 - fragment of Byzantine amphorae.

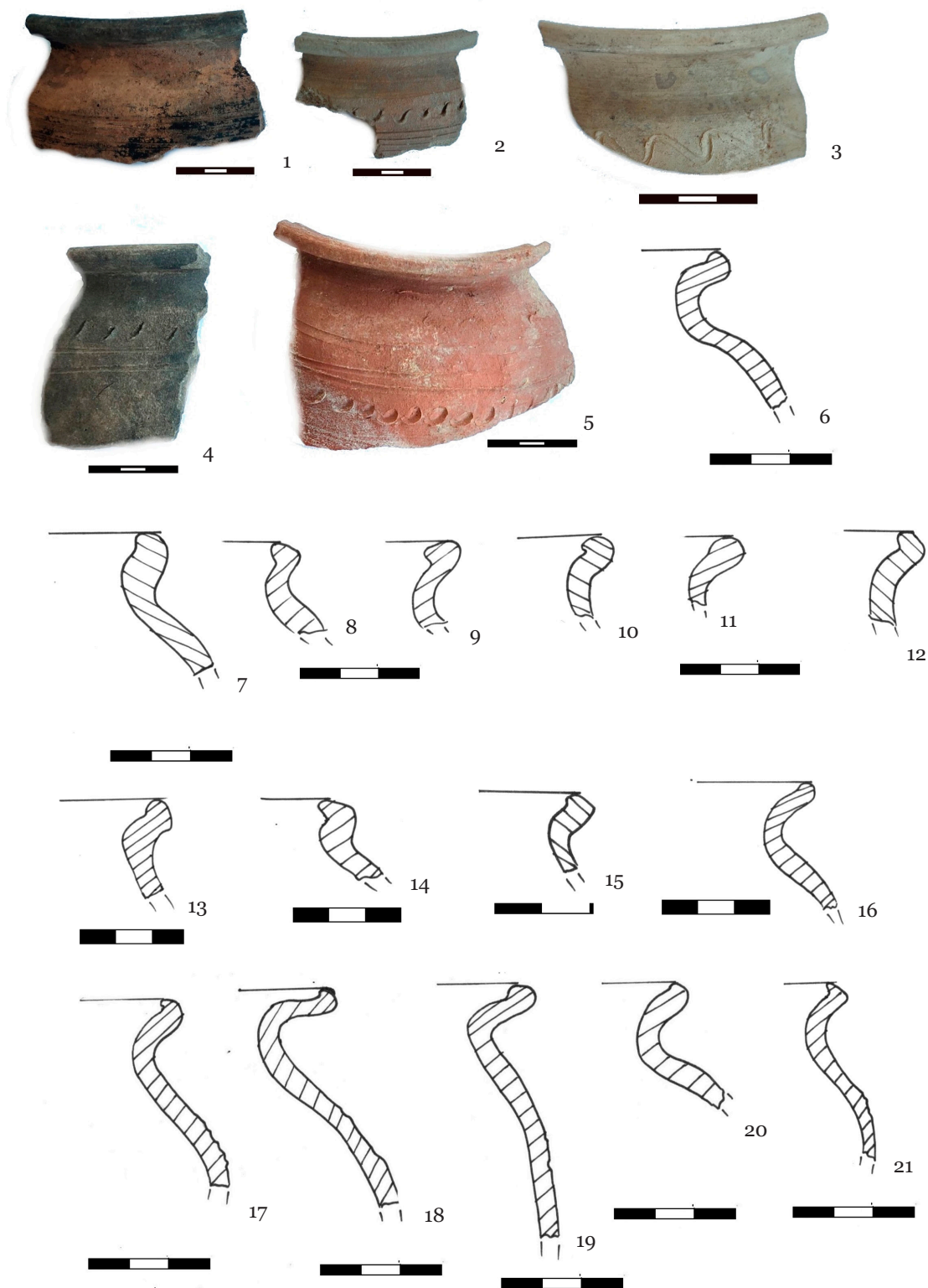


Fig. 4. Tropol, pottery from the kilns' pit and profiles of rims.



Fig. 5. Trepol, vessel bottoms with “trident” mark.

Conclusions

The presence of ceramics of the 12th and 13th centuries around the area of the find indicates that the kiln was built on the territory of the city. The discovery of a potter's kiln on the territory of Trepol post allows us to conclude about the existence of a corresponding craft industry on the territory of the city. The location of the furnaces near the cliff provided good traction during firing. This place has prospects for further research. As the excavations in Vyshhorod showed, workshops and places for working with clay were located near the pottery kilns (Бібіков, Оленич 2017, 306-320).

It was previously suggested that the pottery production was moved outside the city of Trepol. The basis was the discovery of the traces pottery workshop located at the Krasna river valley in 2 km from the city. This workshop was dated back to the 12th-13th centuries (Буренко, Відейко 2012). The new find shows that this craft also existed directly on the territory of Trepol. This discovery is a contribution to establishing its historical topography. Further research will allow establishing new details regarding the history of this part of Trepol-Trypillya in the 11th-17th centuries.

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Vestigiile ale unui cuptor de olar din orașul Trepol

Cuvinte-cheie: Rus', Nipru, orașul Trepol, cultura Trypillia, cuptor de olar, olărit, meșteșug.

Rezumat: Pe malul Niprului, la patruzeci de kilometri mai jos de Kiev, sunt cunoscute vestigiile orașului Trepol, întemeiat în secolul al XI-lea. După cum arată cartografia descoperirilor de fragmente ceramice, în secolele XI-XIII, orașul a ocupat un platou, versanții acestuia și locurile mai înalte din luncă. Spre est platoul se extinde până la Nipru, iar pe restul laturilor este înconjurat de lunca inundabilă a râului Krasna. Aici, în urma unei alunecări de teren provocate de loviturile rachetelor rusești, au fost descoperite vestigiile unui cuptor pentru ars ceramica. Resturile cuptorului sunt reprezentate de partea inferioară a acestuia, în care s-a păstrat suportul camerei de ardere cu diametrul de aproximativ doi metri. Cuptorul a fost coborât într-o groapă cu adâncimea de 1,5 m de la suprafața actuală. Forța a fost construită din carcasa de lemn, unsă cu lut. Printre rămășițele cuptorului, în apropierea acestuia și pe malul Niprului, au fost descoperite aproximativ 200 de fragmente de ceramică de la diferite vase din perioada rusă, precum și două fragmente de amfore bizantine. Pe baza profilelor oalelor, materialele din cuptor pot fi datate în secolele XII-XIII.

Lista ilustrațiilor:

Fig. 1. Topografia orașului Trepol și locul amplasării cuptorului de olărit: 1 - vedere generală a locului pe care se afla orașul; 2 - plan din 1834, cu indicarea locului descoperirii (1) cuptorului de olărit.

Fig. 2. Trepol, resturile cuptorului de olărit: 1, 2 - vedere dinspre Nipru; 3 - reconstrucția părții inferioare a cuptorului.

Fig. 3. Trepol, ceramică din groapa cuptorului (1-6) și din împrejurimi (7, 8); 6 - fragment de amforă bizantină.

Fig. 4. Trepol, ceramică din groapa cuptorului și profile ale buzelor vaselor.

Fig. 5. Trepol, funduri de vase cu semn în formă de „trident”.

Остатки гончарного горна из города Треполь

Ключевые слова: Русь, Днепр, город Треполь, культура Триполье, гончарная печь, гончарное дело, ремесло.

Резюме: В XI веке на берегу Днепра, в сорока километрах ниже Киева, возник город Треполь. Как показало картирование находок фрагментов керамики, в XI-XIII веках город занимал холм, его склоны и возвышенности в долине. Одна сторона холма простирается до Днепра, с другой он окружен поймой реки Красна. Со стороны Днепра берег сильно поврежден оползнями. В статье рассматривается первая гончарная печь, обнаруженная на территории города. Остатки ее обнажил оползень, вызванный российскими ракетными ударами. Это нижняя часть печи, в которой сохранилась опора обжиговой камеры. Диаметр конструкции составляет около двух метров. Горн углублен в яму на 1,5 м от нынешней поверхности. Сооружение состояло из деревянного каркаса и глины. На глине сохранились отпечатки деревянных конструкций. Среди остатков печи и рядом с ней, а также на берегу Днепра обнаружено около 200 фрагментов керамики русского времени. В основном это фрагменты разных горшков. Также были найдены два фрагмента византийских амфор. По профилям горшков материалы из печи можно датировать XII-XIII веками. Новая находка свидетельствует о том, что гончарная мастерская находилась на территории города.

Список иллюстраций:

Рис. 1. Топография города Треполя и местонахождение гончарной печи: 1 - общий вид холма и долины, где располагался город; 2 - план 1834 года с указанием места обнаружения (1) гончарной печи.

Рис. 2. Треполь, остатки гончарной печи: 1, 2 - вид со стороны Днепра; 3 - реконструкция нижней части печи.

Рис. 3. Треполь, керамика из ямы горна (1-6) и с прилегающей территории (7, 8); 6 - фрагмент византийской амфоры.

Рис. 4. Треполь, керамика из ямы горна и профили венчиков сосудов.

Рис. 5. Треполь, днища сосудов со знаком трезубца.

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