

**UKRAINIAN FORTRESSES
A STUDY OF A STRONGHOLDS SYSTEM
FROM THE EARLY IRON AGE IN PODOLIA**

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Editor's Foreword

This volume of *Balic-Pontic Studies* presents the results of the latest Polish-Ukrainian studies on the 'fortresses of Ukraine', a name originally used to denote a network of Early Iron Age hillforts in the Ukrainian forest-steppe. The scope of their identification is related to the earlier findings of Ukrainian researchers, who linked the issue of 'fortified settlements' (the so-called giants' strongholds) with the influence of the nomads of the steppes. The Scythians brought East-Eurasian cultural patterns to the Pontic region, which was coetaneously colonised by the Greeks. Directly inspiring the cognitive framework of the programme, the findings of Ukrainian archaeologists failed to provide answers to basic questions about the genesis of settlement agglomerations of the 'fortresses of Ukraine' or the way they functioned. Neither did they enable to establish secure dating for this cultural phenomenon.

Diagnostic for the archaeological research on the issue, the site of Severinivka, Zhmerynka Region, Vinnytsia Oblast, was identified as a fortified settlement dating from 'Scythian times' by the 1946-1948 'South-Podolian archaeological expedition' of the Leningrad University led by Mikhail I. Artamonov. The research was continued in the 1960s by Galina I. Smirnova, who analysed the results of M.I. Artamonov's earlier research, and in the 1980s by B.M. Lobay. Intended to determine the typochronology of the hillfort, the investigations did not furnish any detailed information about the context of the settlement base.

The presented Polish-Ukrainian 'Podolia programme' was carried out between 2009 and 2015, under the grant of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; the Institute of Prehistory (now the Institute of Archaeology) Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland; the Poznań Prehistoric Society; and from 2013 also the National Science Centre under the grant: „*Fortece Ukrainy. Badania nad systemem grodzisk z wczesnego okresu epoki żelaza na obszarze Podola*” [*The Fortresses of Ukraine. The studies on the system of the Early Iron Age hillforts in Podolia*] (No. UMO-2012/07/B/HS3/01917).

In addition to excavations that were aimed at examining the fortifications of this diagnostic fortified settlement and producing archaeological and bioarchaeological sources, this programme included also an innovative (in terms of its methodology) geospatial prospection. Providing the first summary of the issue of the

fortresses of Podolia, this collection of papers offers a prologue for further research, mainly into the way these Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hillforts of the forest-steppe zone functioned in the settlement space.

This volume discusses the results of such outlined research programme in two cognitive dimensions. The first – general, macro spatial – looks at the geography of the settlement in right-bank Ukraine (part 1). The other one is source-related. It seeks to identify the concept behind the settlement in the Severinivka hillfort, a ‘test area’ for detailed findings, mostly regarding the taxonomy, typochronology and chronometry of the phenomenon of the ‘fortresses of Podolia’ (part 2).

The papers in this volume of BPS were peer reviewed by Professors Janusz Czebreszuk and Przemysław Makarowicz.

Editorial comment

1. All dates in the B-PS are calibrated [BC; *see*: Radiocarbon vol. 28, 1986, and the next volumes]. Deviations from this rule will be point out in notes [bc].
2. The names of the archaeological cultures and sites are standarized to the English literature on the subject (e.g. M. Gimbutas, J.P. Mallory). In the case of a new term, the author's original name has been retained.
3. The spelling of names of localities having the rank of administrative centres follows official, state, English language cartographic publications (e.g. *Ukraine, scale 1 : 2 000 000*, Kyiv: Mapa LTD, edition of 1996; *Rèspublika BELARUS', REVIEW-TOPOGRAPHIC MAP*, scale 1 : 1 000 000, Minsk: *BYELORUSSIAN CARTOGRAPHIC AN GEODETIC ENTERPISE*, edition 1993).

Marcin Ławniczak*, Marcin Ignaczak**

MACROSPATIAL ANALYSIS OF EARLY SCYTHIAN FORTIFIED SETTLEMENTS IN THE RIGHT-BANK OF UKRAINE

ABSTRACT

The macrospatial analysis of fortified settlements in the right-bank of Ukraine allows for observations of a few regularities related to the location of sites along the rivers and watersheds. 'Land' settlements, e.g. Yakushyntsi or Mlynok, may have connected sites located along large watercourses, e.g. Trachtemirov, Rudkivtsi, which specialised in trade with the Greeks.

Key words: macrospatial analysis, fortified settlements, Podillia, Scythian time, Early Iron Age

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Marcin Ławniczak*

MICROSPATIAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED EARLY SCYTHIAN FORTIFIED SETTLEMENTS IN PODOLIA

ABSTRACT

There are two levels of detailed characteristic of the aforementioned sites. The first is the construction aspect, such as the area of the site (within the fortifications only) and the shape of the fortifications. The second level of detailed characteristics is description and presentation of the natural factors surrounding the sites, such as landforms and its location regarding to watercourses and watersheds.

Key words: microspatial analysis, fortified settlements, Podolia, Scythian time, Early Iron Age

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PHOTOGRAMMETRY-BASED SPATIAL ANALYSES OF SETTLEMENTS IN SEVERYNIVKA AND NEMYRIV

ABSTRACT

During the Polish-Ukrainian archaeological project “Fortresses of Ukraine”, it was proposed to study two of the most significant sites with the newest possible technology. In the end the decision was made to apply the digital photogrammetry that was acquired with the use of drones.

Key words: photogrammetry, Scythian time, hillfort, fortification, defensive structures, Early Iron Age

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Oleksandr Shelekhan*, Oksana Lifantii, Yuriy Boltryk***, Marcin Ignaczak******

DEFENSIVE STRUCTURES OF SEVERYNIVKA HILLFORT (EXCAVATIONS OF 2009 AND 2012-2013)

ABSTRACT

The article focuses on the research results of Severynivka hillfort fortifications. In 2009 a rampart and a moat on a cliff on the south floor-level side. In 2012-2013 there was made a rampart and escarp sections in the north-eastern part of the fortification. Separate stages of its construction are distinguished; the possible reconstruction of the defensive structures is suggested.

Key words: Black Sea region forest-steppe, Scythian time, hillfort, fortification, defensive structures, Early Iron Age

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RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL PART OF SEVERYNIVKA HILLFORT (QUADRATS F80, F90, G71, G81)

ABSTRACT

The article deals with excavations in the central part of Severynivka hillfort. In the mentioned area there was found and studied a part of the large multi-layered complex, which is considered as the remains of probable public worship structure. In the complex filling there were revealed numerous finds of wares, including a number of complete tableware and miniature forms, tools, jewelry and weapons. Also there were traced the tracks of rites administering that is recorded by the physical layout of objects in the complex and a female jaw find.

Key words: eastern European Forest-Steppe, Scythian period, hillfort, sanctuary, objects of worship, ritual practice, Early Iron Age

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Oleksandr Shelekhan*, Oksana Lifantii**

THE ELEMENTS OF THE HORSE BRIDLE FROM THE SEVERYNIVKA HILLFORT

ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to horse bridle details. They are made from horn and belong to the Scythian time. Artefacts and associated materials are analysed in complex. The supposition of their local production is proposed.

Key words: Eastern Podollia, Scythian time, horse bridle, horn carving, Early Iron Age

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¹ We are truly grateful for advice in branch of horn and bone carving to dr. V. Pankovskyi (Institute of archaeology of NAS of Ukraine).

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METAL ARTIFACTS FROM THE SEVERYNIVKA HILLFORT

ABSTRACT

The bronze and iron products originating from the Severynivka hillfort are considerable. The findings were divided into groups by function. Assumption has been made about the source regions of their origin.

Key words: Eastern Podillia, Scythian time hillfort, iron, bronze, weapons, household implements, ornaments

¹ South-Podillian expedition led by M.I. Artamonov, salvage excavations led by B.M. Lobay and Ukrainian Polish expedition led by Yu.V. Boltryk and M. Ignaczak.

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THE FORTRESSES OF UKRAINE. THE BUILDERS OF EARLY IRON AGE HILLFORTS IN PODOLIA

ABSTRACT

The most challenging question regarding the defended settlements of the Pontic forest-steppe is why they were constructed at all and why they were so huge. Most frequent interpretations centre around two questions: were they to protect from external threats (i.e. the nomads) or were they the result of a carefully planned construction strategy related to the economic and social pressure from the Greek colonies in the Black Sea region? It is also possible that both explanations are true.

Key words: Black Sea region forest-steppe, eastern European forest-steppe, fortified settlements, Podillia, Scythian time

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