
CHRONOLOGY OF SÂNTANA DE MUREȘ-ČERNJACHOV TYPE NECROPOLIS FROM BRĂVICENI, ORHEI DISTRICT

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Keywords: Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, Brăviceni, necropolis, chronology, 4th century AD.

As proven by archaeological explorations conducted so far, Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type sites dating back to Goths migration have an extremely high density between Prut and Dniester rivers, their total number exceeding a thousand. Accidental discoveries, especially systematic or rescue excavations undertaken over the past seven decades in several settlements and cemeteries have provided extensive information to our deeper knowledge of the content of the material culture of the region under consideration.

One of the important and much discussed problems in the literature is dating and periodization of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture. As we know, particularly valuable scientific data for determining the chronology of this type complexes of the central part between Prut and Dniester rivers, but also to elucidate other complicated subjects as the origin and ethnicity of the respective culture bearers, were obtained by large archaeological excavations executed in cemeteries from Budești (Рикман 1967; Vornic 2006) and Dănceni (Рафалович 1986). Interesting material to be dated was also provided by other funerary sites in the region, such as those from Mălăiești (Федоров 1960a, 253-302), Hansca-Lutărie (Никулицэ, Рикман 1973, 116-123), Bălțața (Федоров 1960b, 221-239; Федоров, Рошаль 1981, 89-93, Рикман 1988, 111-132), Petrești (Kurceatov, Bubulici 2001, 33-37; Kurceatov, Vornic 2005, 87-95), Cealiș (Щербаклова 1990, 141-162), Slobozia-Chișcăreni (Levinschi 1997, 117-130; Левинский 1999, 121-166) Ciocîlteni (Levinschi 1994, 21) etc., cemeteries that have been scientifically explored and exploited only partially.

One important object of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type, investigated by extended excavation and about which we report in this article,

is the cemetery at Brăviceni (Orhei district), along the lower course of the Răut river. Discovered during some building work, the site was investigated in 1977, 1980 and 1981 by rescue excavations coordinated by the late archaeologist Vasile Grosu. Following three archaeological campaigns, a large part of the necropolis was unveiled, exactly an area of 4588 m², disclosing 173 (?) tombs and 53 pits (fig. 1), along with about eight burial graves destroyed by urban works. Of the 181 (?) discovered tombs, 180 (?) are burial and only one cremation, revealing the biritual character of this cemetery.

Like other cemeteries of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type, the great majority of burial graves in the cemetery of Brăviceni are included in two main ways of orientation, directions W-E and respectively N-S, each having some deviations. The ratio between the two types of tombs are quite different, being in favor of those oriented W-E. Therefore, it was found that out of 160 complexes with specified orientation, 89 were placed on direction W-E and 56 on axis N-S, plus six graves arranged NE-SW, six NW-SE, two SW-NE, two E-W and one S-N.

The only cremation grave (no. 96) found in the necropolis of Brăviceni contained burned human bones filed in a pot, wheel-made of rough paste, placed upside down. It is noteworthy, that the tomb was in the eastern edge of the cemetery, in an area that has not been fully researched (fig. 1).

In this context, it should be mentioned that due to presented rite elements, the complex from Brăviceni finds great similarities with the synchronous necropolis from the Middle Dnieper basin at Žuravka, of which one cremation grave, 71 burial graves oriented W-E, 52 placed N-S and one with E-W orientation were investigated (Сымонович, Кравченко 1983, 65). It is interesting to note, however, that unlike the cemetery at Žuravka, where W-E oriented graves appear grouped in

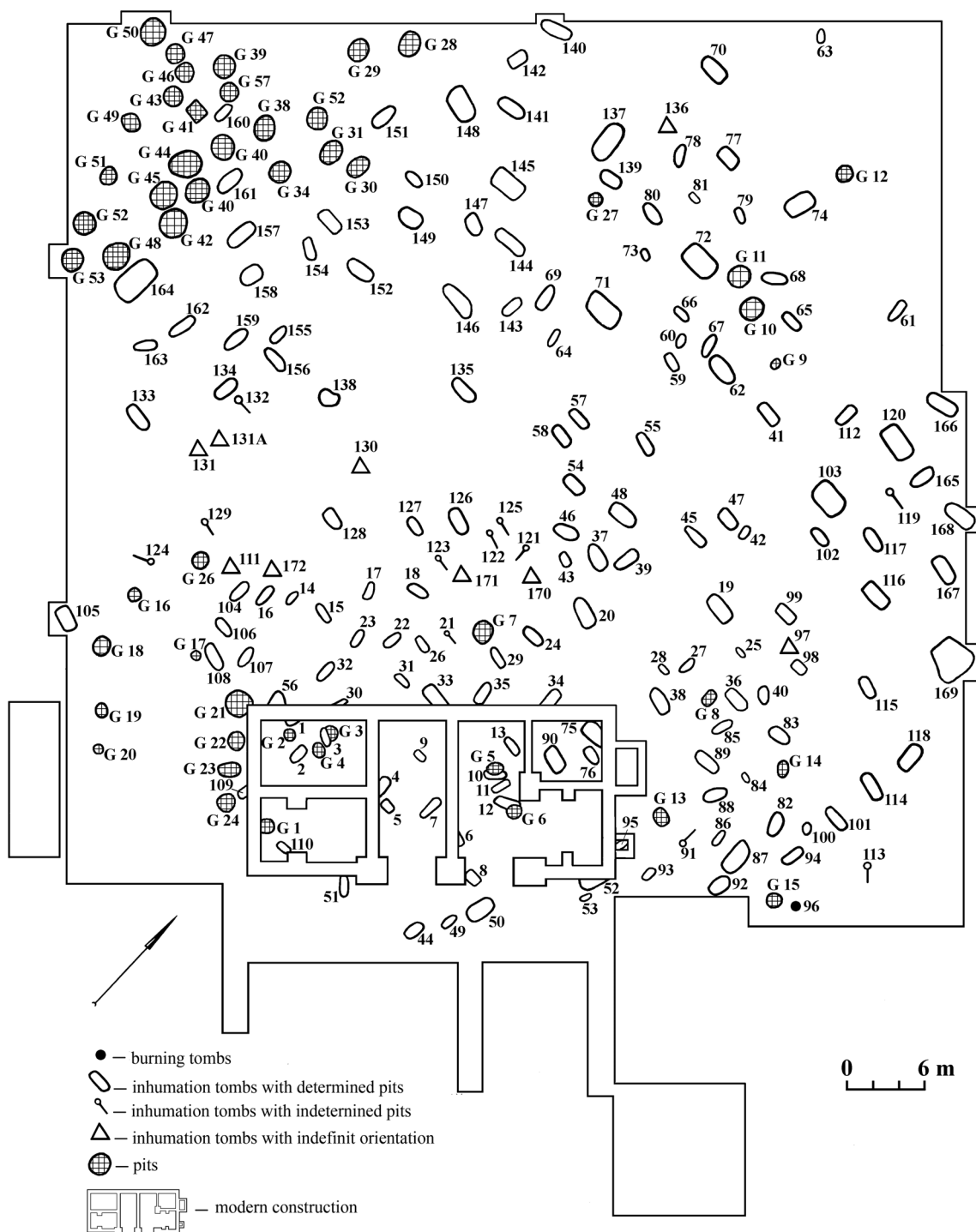


Fig. 1. General plan of the necropolis.

the western zone (Сымонович, Кравченко 1983, 134, табл. 8/1) at Brăviceni they are spread over the entire surface of the necropolis, like burials with orientation N-S (fig. 1).

Regarding the reported 53 graves from the mentioned cemetery, they were of circular or oval form, with dimensions ranging from 0.32×0.70

and 2.20×2.23 m and contained few archaeological remains (ceramic fragments and animal bones) or lacked altogether inventory. It should be noted that most burials were concentrated in the western edge and in the south sector of the cemetery (fig. 1).

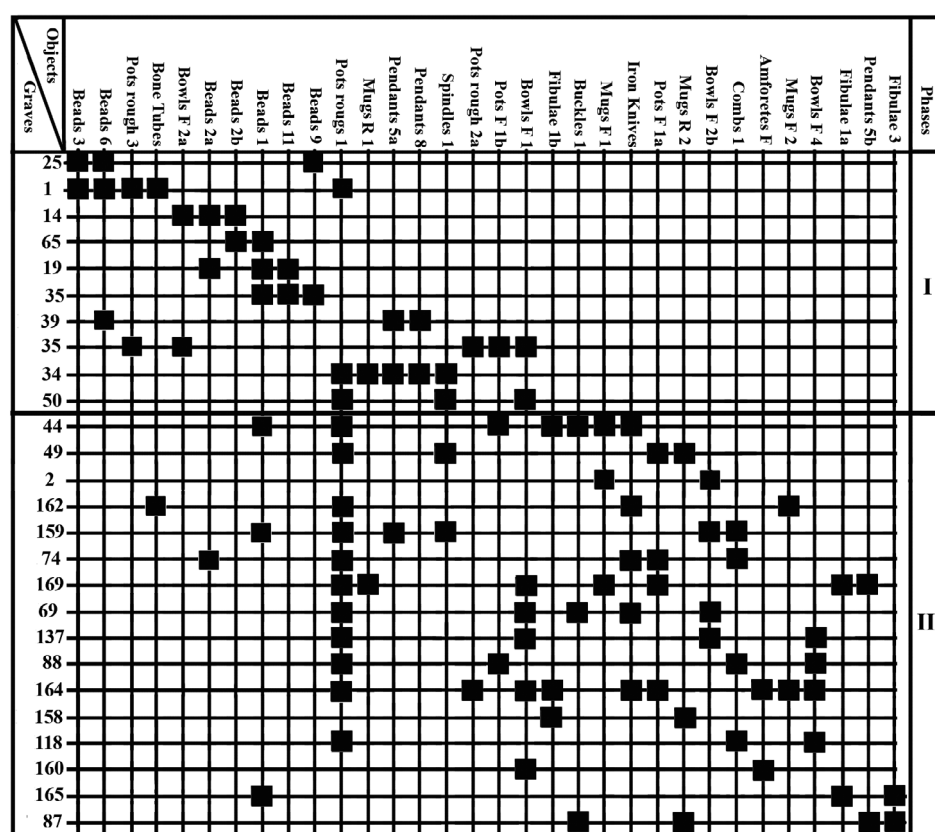


Table 1. Incidence of typological series in graves.

Unlike other complexes of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type, inventory found in the necropolis of Brăviceni is poorer, although is varied, comprising over 100 pottery, a glass and fragments of a glass cup (?), four silver coins, 16 bronze or silver fibulae, eight bronze, silver or iron buckles, six bone combs, about 465 glass, coral or carnelian beads, 25 pendants-amulets of metal, glass, shell or bone, three silver or bronze temple rings, seven clay spindle-whorls and a glass one, seven iron knives, two poultry bone tubes, a bronze tweezers, a bronze scissors, an iron padlock (?) and an iron arrow head. Besides, some N-S oriented graves contained animal bones and birds eggshells from food offerings.

The distribution of pottery and other categories of objects in tombs is far from uniform. Rich inventory was present only in few graves, most tombs being poor or completely lack of inventory. It is interesting to note, that of the nearly 100 graves that did not report any item inventory, about 70 were oriented W-E.

Complexes and various categories of inventory, discovered in the necropolis of Brăviceni, were analyzed more or less completely in several recent publications (Grosu, Vornic, Ciobanu 2006, 104-127; Grosu, Vornic 2009, 20-28; Vornic, Grosu 2009, 327-340; Vornic, Ciobanu 2010, 58-80; Vornic 2010a, 189-213, Vornic 2010b, 88-98; Vornic, Ciobanu, Kurceatov 2011, 95-117; Vornic, Ciobanu 2015, 337-344; Ворник, Чобану 2010, 62-90), providing a basis for establishing the internal chronology of this important archaeological object.

We mention, that for chronological ordering of discoveries, we have used the method called “automatic change of matrix”, using the program PAST (Palaeontological Statistics), version 2.17c¹. For determining the types of objects participating in the combinatorial analysis, two basic conditions were respected simultaneously: the presumptive type to be present in at least two closed complexes

¹When drawing the diagram we were helped by dr. Vasile Iarmuschi whom we thank in this way.

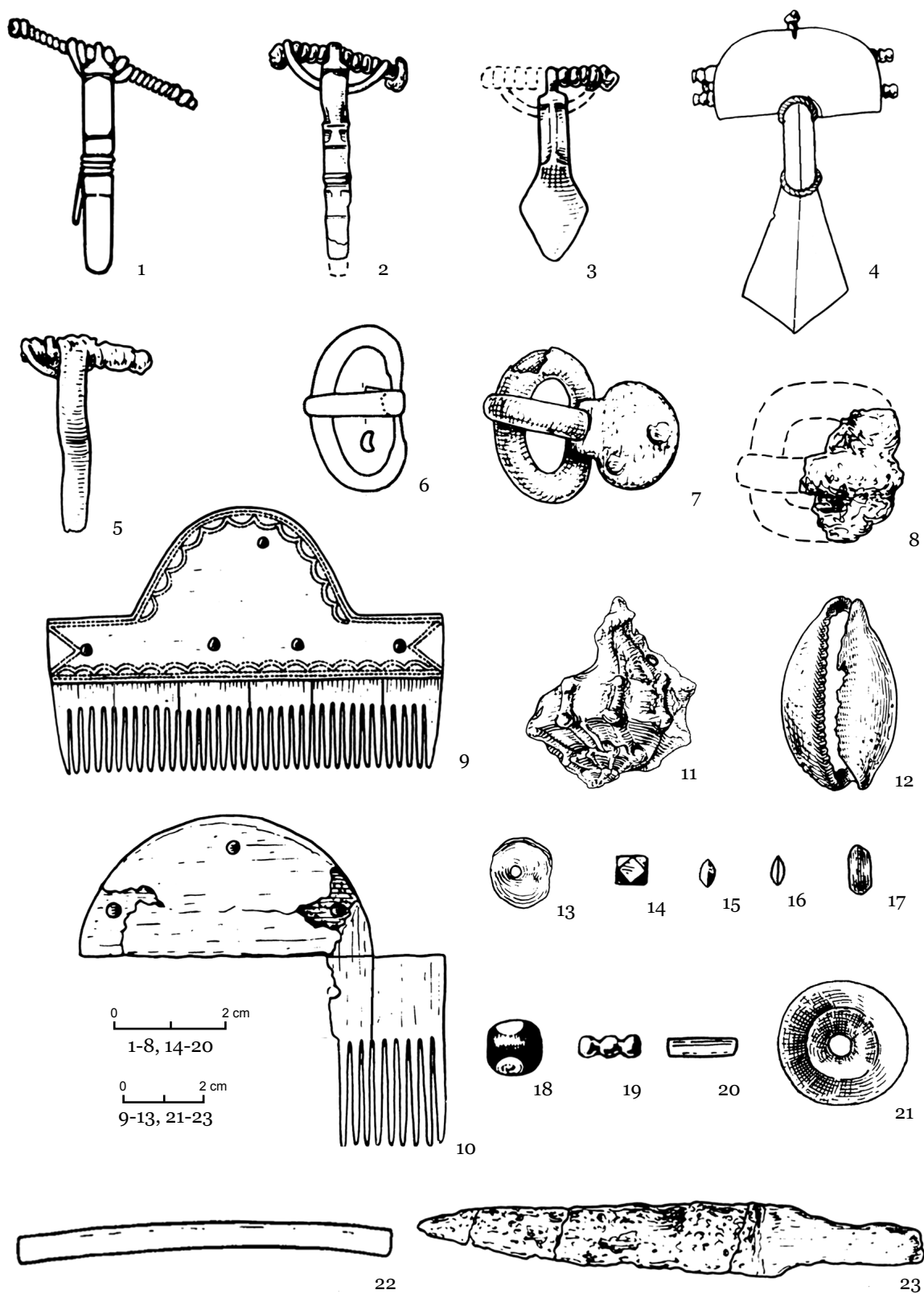


Fig. 2. Fibulae type 1 (1), 1b (2), 2a (3), 2b (5), and 3 (4), buckles tipe1 (6) 2 (7), and 3 (8), bone combs type 1 (9) and 2 (10), pendants-amulets type 5 (11), 5b (12) and 8 (13), beads type 1 (14), 2a (15), 2b (16), 3 (17), 7 (18), 9 (19) and 11 (20), clay spindle type 1 (21), poultry bone tube (22) and iron knife (23) of graves 1 (17), 14 (16), 19 (15, 20), 23 (3), 25 (18, 19), 39 (11, 13), 44 (2), 69 (23), 71 (5, 8) , 74 (15), 82 (10), 87 (4, 6, 12), 88 (10), 162 (22) and 165 (1).

and simultaneously benefit from the combination of at least one of the remaining types of objects in the complexes occurs. We also note that to “save” some types of objects for using in combinatorial analysis, in some cases we used unification of the same form variants (especially pottery).

As a result, the combinatorial diagram (table 1) includes 26 graves (no. 1, 2, 14, 25, 34, 35, 39, 44, 49, 50, 65, 69, 74, 87, 88, 118, 135, 159, 160, 162, 165 and 169) and 32 typological series of objects, namely: bronze fibulae with curved foot, band-shaped body and long spring worked of two / three segments (type 1) (fig. 2/1) or short spring worked of a single piece of wire (type 1b) (fig. 2/2), silver fibulae with a plate and semi-disc (type 3) (fig. 2/4), bronze buckles with oval frame without gasket (type 1) (fig. 2/6), bone combs worked of three rows of plates fastened with bronze rivets, with semicircular handle and straight or oblique wings (type 1) (fig. 2/9), pendants-amulets of sea-shells *Murex brandaris* (5a) (fig. 2/11) and *Cypraea panterina* (type 5b) (fig. 2/12), pendants-amulets of fish vertebrae (type 8) (fig. 2/13), polyhedral or cubical beads of blue glass (type 1) (fig. 2/14), discoid beads of blue (type 2a) (fig. 2/15) and green (2b) glass (fig. 2/16), middle-size glass ring beads (type 3) (fig. 2/17), medium spheroidal glass paste beads with decoration inlaid (type 7) (fig. 2/18), segmented beads of colored glass, overlaid with metal foil (type 9) (fig. 2/19), coral beads (type 11) (fig. 2/20), bifrustoconical clay spindle-whorls (type 1) (fig. 2/21), iron knives (fig. 2/23), bird bone tubes (fig. 2/22), spheroidal-shaped wheel-made pots of rough paste (type 1) (fig. 3/1), slender (type 2) (fig. 3/2) and bifrustoconical pear-shaped vessels (type 3) (fig. 3/3), small (type 1) (fig. 3/4) and medium or large (type 1b) (fig. 3/6) spheroidal wheel-made pots of fine paste, wheel-made mugs of fine paste, with rounded body and funnel-shaped mouth (type 1) (fig. 3/5), mugs of fine paste (type 2) (fig. 3/7), wheel-made frustoconical bowls of fine paste (type 1) (fig. 4/1), tall (type 2) (fig. 4/3) or short (type 2b) (fig. 2) wheel-made bifrustoconical bowls of fine paste, bowls with three handles (type 4) (fig. 4/4), wheel-made amforettes of fine paste (fig. 4/6) and Roman clay mugs with trilobate (type 1) (fig. 5/2) or round mouth (type 2) (fig. 5/3).

The number of complexes contained in the chart is still quite low, the 26 burials representing only

11% of closed complexes discovered in the cemetery at Brăviceni. We remind that about 100 graves are completely lack of inventory and other complexes, graves or pits contain only one piece or broken uncharacteristic ceramic vessel, which did not allow their inclusion in the combinatorial diagram. It is interesting to note, that of 26 tombs contained in the combinatorial chart, 19 are oriented on axis N-S, four have orientation W-E and three are placed on NE-SW direction.

According to the archaeologist O.L. Şovan, who applied, systematically and with revealing results, methods of statistical and combinatorial analysis and the analysis of spread of types to establish the internal chronology of the great cemetery of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type from Mihălăşeni, the incidents succession of typological objects series in the combinatorial diagram would indicate – from left to right – their development in time, starting from the first series of types used in the cemetery, also, each typological objects series taken vertically would show the period, when these objects were used by members of the respective community, depending on the fashion fluctuation, aesthetic tastes or conservatism manifested over time (Şovan 2005, 181). On the other hand, the chronological ordering of discoveries took into account the fact, that graves, presenting different combinations of objects types, are not always chronologically determined, they may also represent different, but contemporary social, ethnic, religious or gender groups (Бажан, Еременко 1992, 14-21).

Taking into account the inventory items association in the Brăviceni necropolis complexes introduced in the combinatorial diagram, we highlighted two main groups of tombs that would correspond to two phases of burials. The first group includes 10 complexes, and the second – 16, each group being characterized by certain typological objects series or combinations of them.

For the first group (I) the following categories and types of objects are specific: small disk-shaped green glass beads (type 2b), glass ring beads (type 3), inlaid glass beads of spherical shape (type 7), segmented glass beads coated with a metal foil (type 9), coral beads (type 11), pendants-amulets of fish bones (type 2), bifrustoconical pots made of rough paste on a wheel (type 3) and bifrustoconical high bowls of fine paste worked on a wheel (type 2a). Also, in the graves of this group

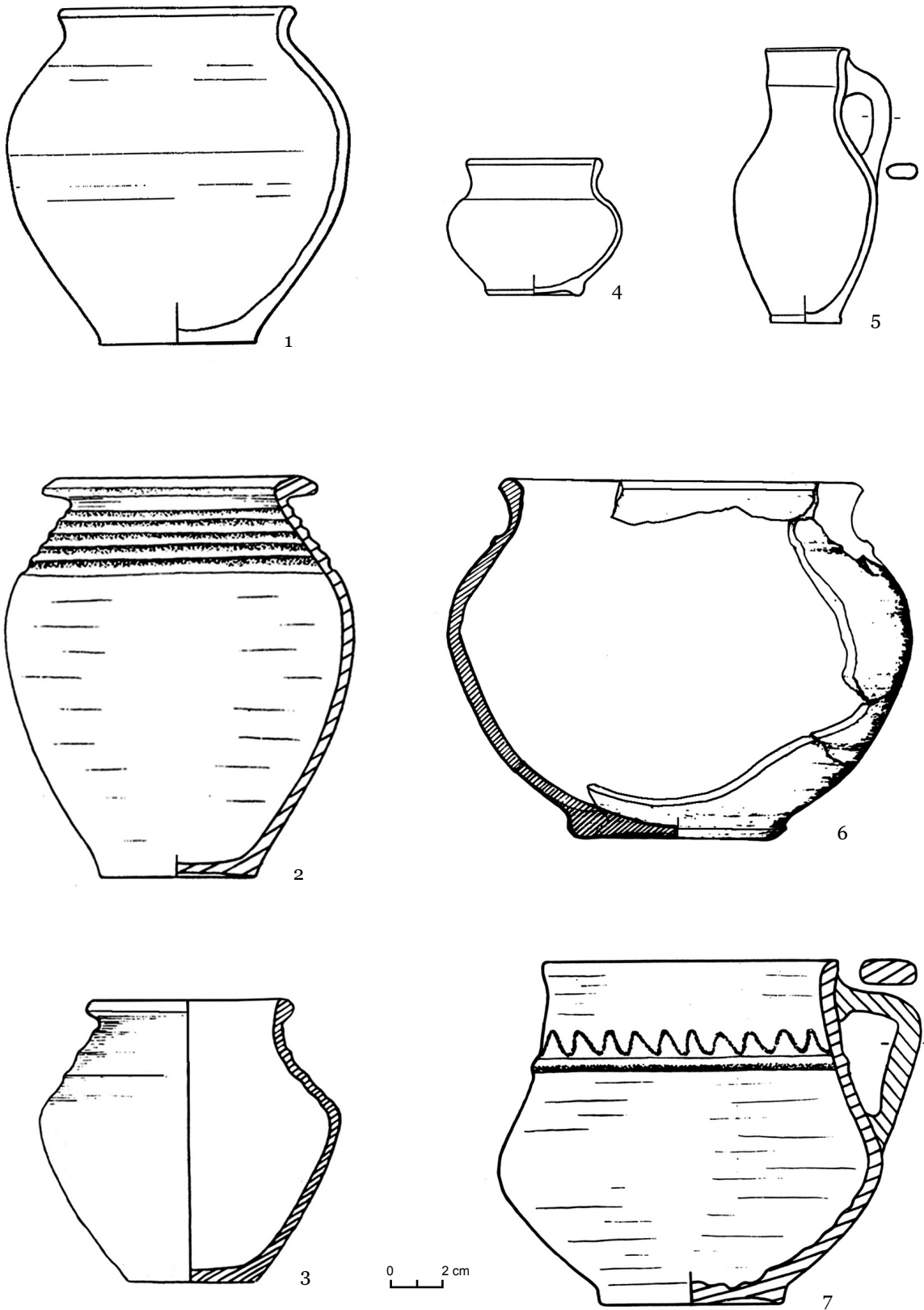


Fig. 3. Pots made on the wheel of rough paste type 1 (1), 2a (2) and 3 (3), pots made on wheel of fine paste type 1a (4) and 1b (6) and cups made on wheel of fine paste type 1 (5) and 2 (7). discovered in graves 35 (3), 44 (5, 7), 74 (1), 162 (2) and 164 (7).

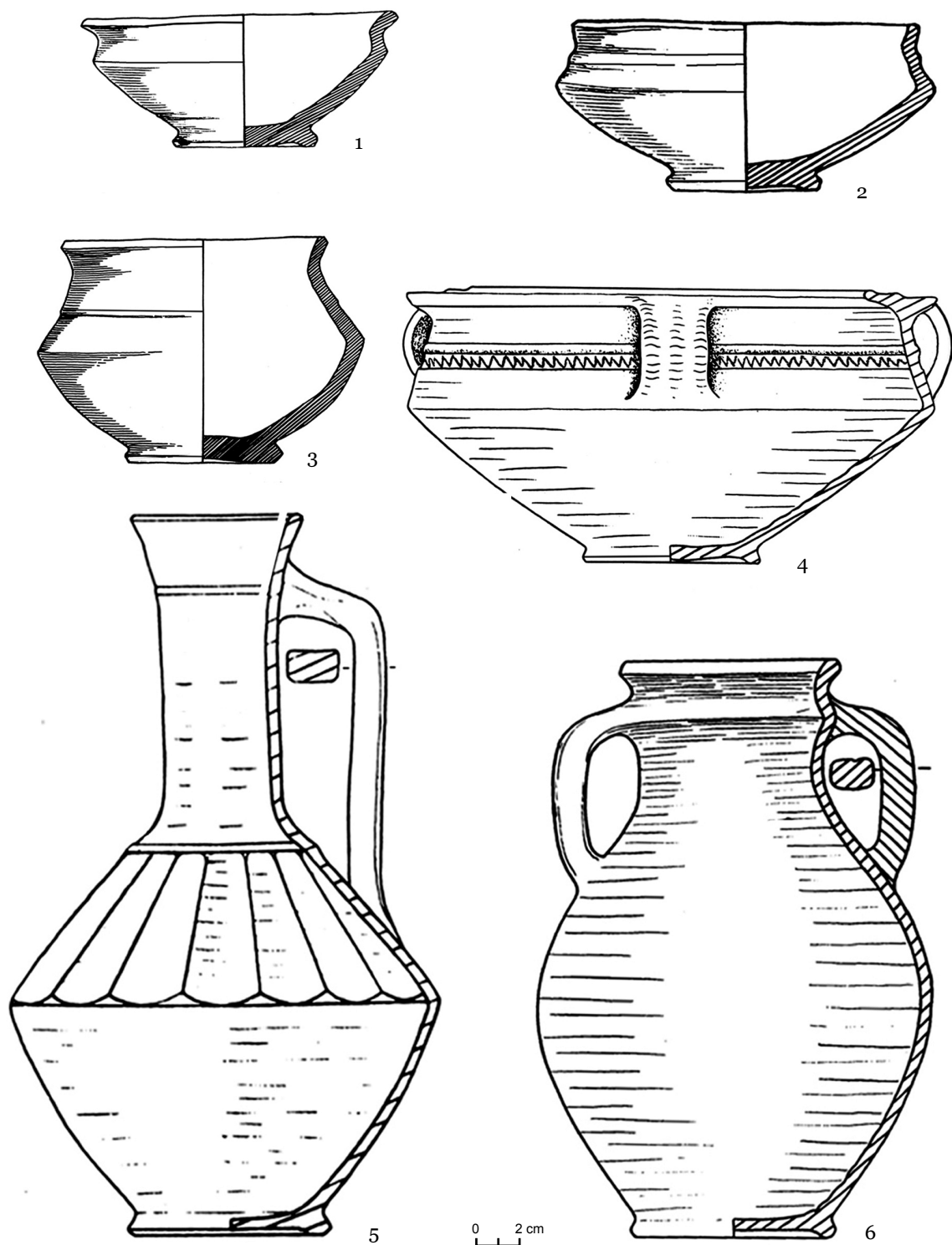


Fig. 4. Bowls made on wheel of fine paste type 1 (1), 2a (3), 2b (2) and 4 (4), mug made on wheel of fine paste type 4 (5) and amphoreta made on wheel of fine paste (6) of graves 2 (2), 14 (1, 3), 114 (5), 164 (4, 6).

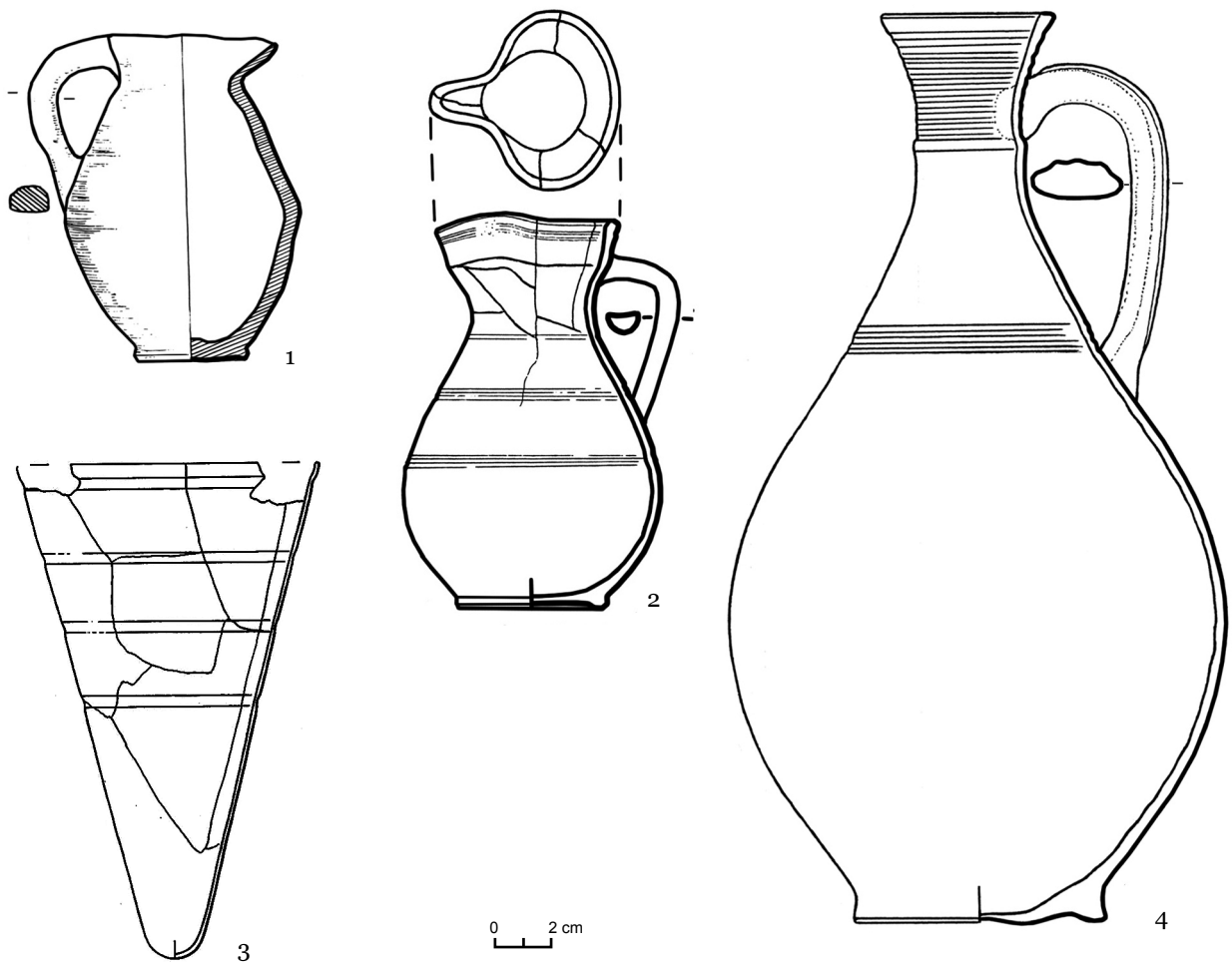


Fig. 5. Mug with trilobite mouth made on wheel of fine paste (1), Roman clay mug of type 1 (2) and 2 (3) and glass cup (4) of graves 68 (1), 87 (3) 108 (4) and 169 (2).

you can see many disc-shaped blue glass beads (type 2) and pendants-amulets of sea-shells *Murex brandaris* (5a).

The second group of graves (II) is characterized by bronze fibulae with curved foot, band-shaped body and a long (type 1) or short spring (type 1b), silver fibulae with a plate and semi-disc (type 3), bronze buckles with oval frame (type 1), bone combs having a semicircular handle and lateral wings (type 1), pendants-amulets of marine shells *Cypraea panterina* (type 5b), iron knives, spheroidal wheel-made small pots of fine paste, (type 1a), bifrustoconical low bowls worked on the wheel of fine paste, (type 2b), bowls with three handles (type 4), wheel-made mugs of fine paste (type 2) with rounded body (type 1) and Roman clay mugs with round mouth (type 2). In these tombs, the majority of wheel-made spheroidal pots of rough paste (type 1) and wheel-made bowls of fine paste

having approximately frustoconical shape (type 1) are also present.

Another series of typological elements, namely polyhedral blue glass beads (type 1), bone tubes, clay spindle-whorl of bifrustoconical shape (type 1) and Roman clay mugs with three-lobe mouth (type 1) is present uniformly in both groups of graves.

Noting that the absolute majority of different types of beads appear in the first group of graves and iron knives – exclusively in the second, initially we asked the question, whether the two highlighted groups of complexes represent groups of graves of different sex without chronological relevance. After a closer examination of the chart, however, we realized that all archaeological data²

²We note in this context that, unfortunately, osteological material found in the necropolis at Brăviceni does not benefited by a corresponding anthropological study.

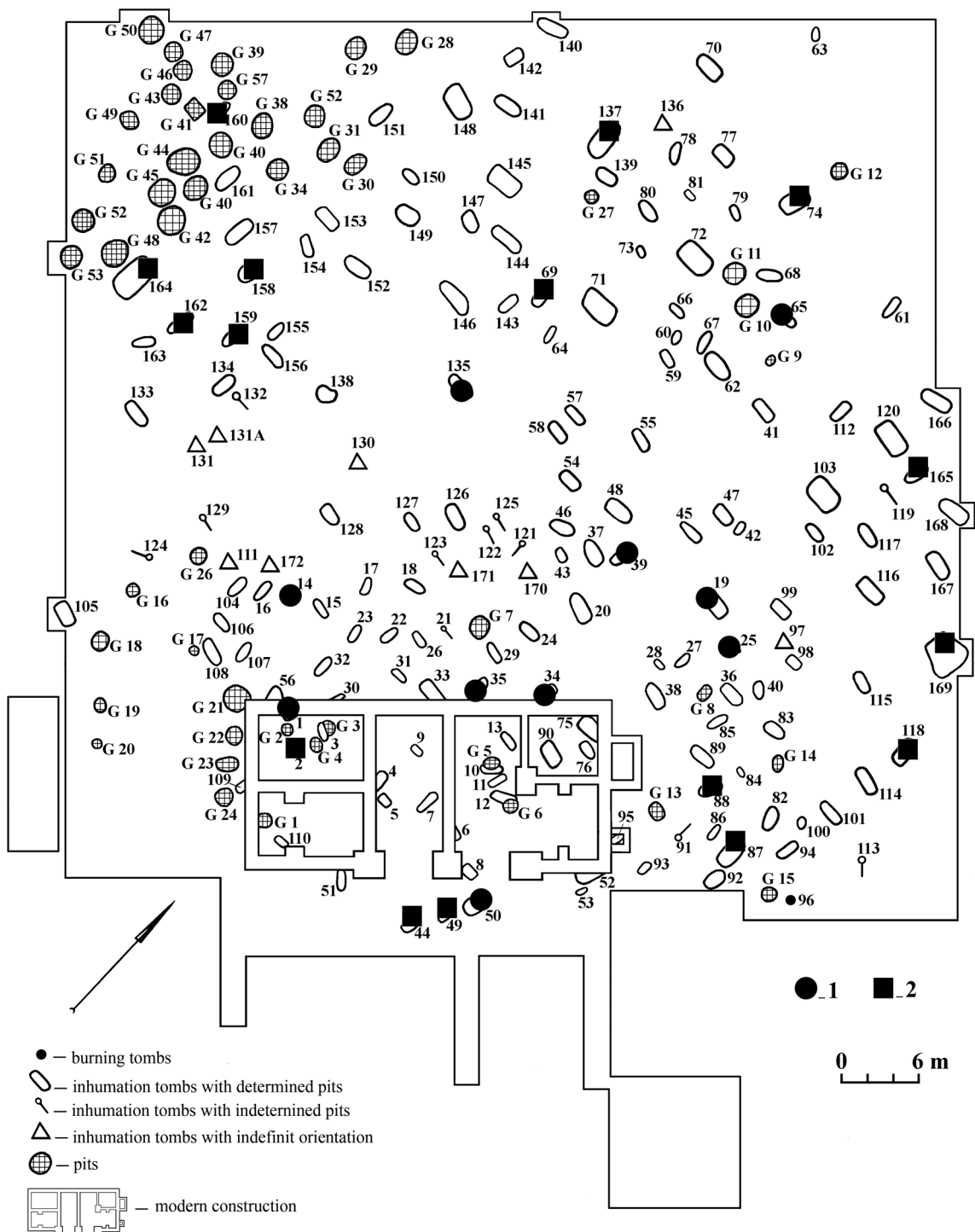


Fig. 6. Graves from phase I (1) and II (2).

refute this hypothesis. First, it should be noted that, judging by inventory, some female individuals are attributed not only graves with necklaces of beads at the top of the combinatorial chart, but most complexes, including the last from the table (no. 87), containing, among others, two silver fibulae with a plate and semi-disc, although it is

well known that in Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov communities wearing fibulae in pairs was an exclusively females feature. Secondly, we note that, as proven by the finds so far, iron knives are discovered in Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov cemeteries both in graves of men and women (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1989, 139; Магомедов

2001, 76; Șovan 2005, 204). For example, at Mihălășeni from the total of 21 graves with knives in inventory, according to the anthropological determinations, 11 were of men, seven of women and three belonged to children (Șovan 2005, 23-143, 196, 198). As for the Brăviceni cemetery, of the five complexes with iron knives included in the diagram, female persons can be attributed to at least two graves (no. 44 and 74), in which, inter alia, one glass beads necklace was also found. It should also be noted, that spindle-whorls (pieces placed almost without exception in women graves (Șovan 2005, 23-143, 196, 198) appear near the middle of our table with the incidence of typological series of objects, being present uniformly in both groups of graves. Therefore, the two tombs groups, highlighted in the combinatorial diagram, are not of different sex, but correspond to two evolution successive phases of the cemetery from Brăviceni.

Regarding the arrangement of the two groups of tombs in the necropolis plan, we mention that they occupy distinct areas. Tombs of group I, representing the first phase of burials, are grouped almost exclusively in the southeastern part of the necropolis (fig. 6/1). Here, in the initial basic area, eight graves of 10 from group I are found. Two other tombs (no. 65 and 135) are located in the central zone or northeast. It is interesting to note, that both graves are W-E-oriented. We underline in this context that all four graves with W-E orientation meet in phase I, which surprises, because after some comments, the most head-W-oriented graves from Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov cemeteries belong to the late phase of the culture.

Tombs of group II does not appear in the initial area of funerals. Instead, they are spread both in central sectors and on the periphery of the necropolis (fig. 6/2).

Therefore, two groups of tombs contain different areas of burials, which in terms of space are evolving from south-eastern sector towards the center and periphery. This spatial development is likely to confirm the evolution in time of combinations of typological series contained in the chart, thus showing, once again, that the graves of groups I and II are actually two phases of burials.

Unfortunately, the picture rendered by the combinatorial diagram and "horizontal stratigraphy" is not confirmed by the "vertical stratigraphy"

data, since none of the complexes involved in the overlapping could be integrated in the combinatorial diagram. We note, in this context, that in the necropolis of Brăviceni three cases of complexes intersection and overlap were reported: 1) grave 3 oriented W-E overlap pit 3; 2) Pit 5 overlaps tomb 10 placed SW-NE; 3) Pit 6 overlap grave 12 oriented W-E.

It is interesting to note that all these complexes are located in the south-eastern part of the necropolis, in an area with burials from the first phase (fig. 6). Undoubtedly, overlaps and penetrations of graves are due to the lasting use of the necropolis land. At such a large number of discovered complexes, however, few cases of overlap were noted, which can be explained by the fact that during the functioning of the cemetery, there was a certain system of marking graves in order not to disturb them.

Fixing the chronological limits of the cemetery from Brăviceni and projecting the two phases of the complex development in the absolute chronology is quite difficult. We appreciate, however, that some types of objects can give sufficient guide marks to establish, even roughly, the chronological limits between which this cemetery functioned. Besides, rites and rituals practiced by the community from which antiques from Brăviceni remained provide certain chronological clues.

Before discussing inventory items with chronological value, we do mention that four silver coins (dinars issued by the emperors Trajan, Lucius Verus, Marcus Aurelius and Commodus) discovered in graves 7 and 42, can not be considered, they representing relics. As demonstrated in literature, gold and silver coins had a very long circulation outside the Roman Empire, because of the value of the metal they were made of, being mainly used as pendants as ascertained, at least, in the case of perforated pieces of tomb 42 from Brăviceni.

Among pieces of the inventory, that can be used for dating and periodization of the investigated necropolis, there are fibulae, buckles, combs, beads, pendants, glass recipients and some types of pottery.

If we examine pieces of clothing, firstly fibulae, which are dated more exactly, we find that types,

specific for early phases of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, are missing at Brăviceni. Like the rest of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov cemeteries, the best documented at Brăviceni is the type of fibula with leg back and wrapped (type 1, our classification), which comprises eight pieces. Of these, two items are provided with long spring and form version a, while other six have a short spring, crossbow-shaped, forming variant b. Chronologically, fibulae with oblong spring are dated usually earlier, especially in the second quarter of the 4th century AD, while those with short spring are appropriate to stage C_{3b}, corresponding to the third quarter of that century (Ioniță 1992, 77-79, 82). However, we remind, that at Brăviceni both fibulae type 1a and 1b are characteristic of the late phase of the cemetery functioning.

Fibula type with fixed-clip holder and the type with plate and semi-disc are less represented, each comprising three samples, belonging to two variants. Fibulae chronology with fixed-clip holder (type 2, variants a and b) (fig. 2, 3, 5) is not so well defined, probably because they occur rarely in Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture complexes, being dated generally in the IV-th century AD. Graves 23 and 71 that contained fixed-clip holder fibulae were not included in the combinatorial chart. However, taking into account the context in which they were found (the initial sector of burials or in combination with coral beads), we believe that the fibulae with fixed-clip holder from Brăviceni date in the first phase of the necropolis functioning. As for the plate and semi-disc fibulae (type 3), they appear in the chart as the last typological series, representing one of the most important dating elements of the cemetery from Brăviceni. Being well known the fact, that they are specific to late stages of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, plate and semi-disc fibulae, along with other clues and materials, support fixing the upper chronological limit of the studied cemeteries towards the end of the 4th century or even early next century.

In turn, buckles constitute another class of inventory items that can be dated, although it is generally considered, that their chronological value is smaller than that of fibulae. Moreover, buckles are poorly represented at Brăviceni, being identified only eight such pieces. Most are made of bronze, with oval link, thickened in the front, with

or without a threshold (type 1). Chronologically, buckles of this type are dated wider, generally in the 4th century AD. It is interesting to note, that bronze buckles with oval link at Budești cemetery occur mainly in the early stage of the complex development (Vornic 2006, 238, tab. 1), while at Mihălășeni they are characteristic only for the final stage of the cemetery functioning (Șovan 2005, 154, 186, pl. 387). Referring to pieces from Brăviceni, they are dated in the late phase of the complex development. The only iron buckle also belongs to the late phase (type 3) (fig. 2/8), being discovered in tomb 69 in combination with a bronze buckle with oval link, an iron knife and some pottery. As for the bronze buckle with oval link, threshold based spin and circular gasket (type 3) (fig. 2/7), it dates from the first phase. Remember, that the mentioned item was identified in tomb 71 from the central area of the necropolis, along with several pieces of inventory, including two fixed-clip holder fibulae and a necklace made of coral beads. This type buckles are found less often in Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture complexes. Among analogies, quote those from Târgșor, dated in the middle phase of the cemetery development (Ioniță 1986, 297, 302, 316, Taf. 1), and from Mihălășeni, which are assigned to the late phase of the complex functioning (Șovan 2005, 154, 186, pl. 304, 23; 387).

Bone combs discovered in several graves at Brăviceni also present late forms. Most are pieces with a semicircular handle and straight or oblique wings (type 1), being dated in the late phase of the necropolis existence. In all probability, the comb with a semicircular handle and lateral straight wings, with outer plates made of two pieces, belongs to the same chronological stage (type 2). The evaluation is based on the observation that tomb 82, where in the item has been found, is located in an area with funerals from phase II. We also mention that at Mihălășeni combs with outer plates made of two pieces are dated exclusively in the late phase of the cemetery development, projected in the Hun period of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture Șovan 2005, 186, 189, pl. 387).

For dating and, especially, ascertaining the lower chronological limits of the Brăviceni cemetery, some kinds of beads, such as small discoid glass beads (type 2b), rings (type 3), spheroidal with decoration inlaid (no. 7) and segmented covered

with a metal glass (type 9) and coral foil (type 11), which are found exclusively in the first phase of the complex existence, turn out to be important. According to researcher O.V. Gopkalo, the author of a monograph devoted to beads and pendants of Černjachov culture, these types of beads are specific for the second or third quarter of the IV-th century AD (Гопкало 2008, 28-29, 45-47, 77, 106, 108, табл. II; IV; 3, 1). Referring to polyhedral blue glass beads, which are the most numerous in the necropolis of Brăviceni and appear uniformly in both phases of the functioning of the complex, they are dated by the author in a late phase of Černjachov culture, corresponding mainly to the third quarter of the IV-th century AD and synchronize, among others, with large conical glasses (Гопкало 2008, 41, 108-109, табл. 3/1, рис. 3/4). According to our observations, however, this narrow dating does not fully correspond to reality. For example, in the vast necropolis of Mihălășeni it turned out that conical glasses date back only to the late phase of the cemetery existence, projected by O.L. Șovan in the latter part of the IV-th century AD and early next century, while poly-faceted glass beads have a greater period of use, beginning with the middle phase until the final stage (graves 313, 333, 378, 409 and 477) (Șovan 2005, 158, 190, pl. 387). A similar situation occurs in the synchronous necropolis from Budești, where conical or tronconic glasses decorated with hexagonal facets are specific only to the final stage and polyhedral glass beads appear from the end of phase I and continue to be in use until the last step of the cemetery development (Vornic 2006, 208, 237-240, 462, tab. 1). It is important to emphasize that this broader dating of polyhedral blue glass beads is confirmed by discoveries of Roman-Byzantine necropolis from Mangalia, where beads of this type were found in graves (no. 15, 53, 356), alongside with imperial bronze coins issued in the period 330-375 year (Preda 1980, 56-57, 86, 89, 114).

Another important group of objects is the pendants-amulets, pieces that have a lower frequency than the beads in graves, but are of rather varied shapes and materials. The combinatorial diagram could include only pendants-amulets of sea-shells *Murex brandaris* (5) (fig. 2/8) and *Cypraea panterina* (type 5b) (fig. 2/9) and pendants-amulets of vertebrae of fish (type 8), the latter falling in the first phase, those of sea-shells *Cypraea pan-*

terina in the second phase and type 5 pendants in the chronological interval between the last part of phase I and the first sequence of phase II. Other types of pendants discovered at Brăviceni are also dated differently. Thus, the iron pendant-bucket (type 2), claw-shaped blue glass pendant (type 3) and medallion-shaped bone pendant (type 7) are assigned to the first phase, since they were discovered in graves (no. 1 and 34) that could be integrated in the chart, being exactly dated in phase I. On the other hand, the two pyramidal bone pendants (type 7) come from a grave (no. 159) dated based on other inventory pieces in phase II. In all probability, silver coins from the reign of emperors Aurelius Marius (161-180 AD) and Commodus (179-180 AD), discovered in the tomb 7, are attributed to the late phase too. Our appreciation is based on the fact, that respective tomb also contained a miniature spherical pot wheel-made of fine paste (type 1), which is specific to phase II of the cemetery functioning. Regarding the two perforated silver coins from the reign of emperors Trajan (98-117) and Lucius Verus (161-167), like the hatchet-shaped silver pendant (type 1) and jug-shaped glass pendant (type 4), they can not be dated with precision, because they were found in graves (no. 7, 64 and 67) not included in the combinatorial chart and do not contain chronologically relevant inventory items. We mention in this context that, according to O.V. Gopkalo, types of pendants identified at Brăviceni are dated mainly in the middle third and in the second half of the 4th century AD (Гопкало 2008, 43, 54-55, 63, 78-90, 97, 106, 108).

From the late discoveries of the Brăviceni cemetery, a glass cup with thin walls (fig. 5/4) from grave 108, oriented on W-E, is to be mentioned. According to specialists, this type of glasses of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture chronologically must be attributed to the second half of the 4th century and early 5th century (Kazanski, Legoux 1988, 24, 25, 28, no. 42; 56; G. Gomolka-Fuchs 1999, 135; Гавритухин 2000, 265-269). It is interesting to note, that graves with conical glass cups from Târgșor (no. 195) and Mihălășeni (no. 376) cemeteries were dated in the final stages of the development of complexes (Ioniță 1986, 305; Șovan 2005, 165, pl. 387).

Finally, ceramics, whether local or imported, can be considered late as forms and technical. Regard-

ing handmade pots, it must be pointed out that pots of Germanic tradition with bent inward edge, dated in the early stages of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture are missing at Brăviceni. Instead, there are present few spheroidal edge-splayed pots, characteristic of later phases of that culture (Vornic, Ciobanu, Kurceatov 2011, 96, 97). Unfortunately, complexes with such pots (graves 61 and 93) could not be included in the combinatorial analysis to be dated accurately. A very important element for determining the upper chronological limit of the Brăviceni cemetery is a wheel-made of fine gray paste cup with cylindrical neck and bifrustoconical body, decorated on top with vertical facets (fig. 4/5) from grave 114, located in an area with graves from phase II. We mention in this context, that three cups called of "Čistilov type" were identified in the necropolis of Mihălășeni, all being dated in the late phase of the complex development (Șovan 2005, 31, 79, 116, 189, pl. 34, 7; 134A, 2; 210, 10). It seems, that a mug of fine gray paste with trefoil mouth (fig. 5/1), discovered in tomb 68 from the northern sector of the necropolis, is dating from the late phase. Appreciation is based on the fact, that this type vessel (type 8 after O.L. Șovan's classification) at Mihălășeni was enclosed without exception in the last phase of the cemetery functioning, corresponding to the last decades of the 4th century AD and possibly the beginning of the next century (Șovan 2005, 169, 185-190, pl. 387).

In all probability, most discovered graves in the necropolis of Brăviceni are attributed to the late phase. Respective chronological placement is based on the ascertainment that the great majority of tombs are massed on the eastern edge of the cemetery, where graves are met without exception belonging to phase II. In addition, we note that a pit (no. 52) could be certainly dated in Phase II based on fragments of a bowl with three handles, which is specific to this final chronological level.

Some indices for dating and periodization of the Brăviceni cemetery are provided by funerary customs practiced by the community, which left the studied remained antiques. As recent research shows, burial rites and rituals used by carriers of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture have undergone profound changes over the evolution of that culture. If early the funerary practice predilection was cremation, then in later stages – inhu-

mation, in medium phases N-S-oriented graves are predominant, often provided with offerings of food and drinks (represented by vessels and animal bones), but in the late phase W-headed graves are predominant, generally free of inventory (Ioniță 1989, 159-183; Ioniță 1995, 259-261; Ioniță 2001, 622-625; Șovan 2005, 185-190; Vornic 2006, 239, 241). By some estimations of I. Ioniță, the first W-E-oriented burials in cemeteries of Sântana de Mureș type appear around the middle of the 4th century, becoming increasingly common in the coming decades, especially towards the end of this century and the next century (Ioniță 1995, 261).

As we already mentioned, of the 181 graves discovered at Brăviceni cemetery one is cremation and 180 are inhumation, among them prevailing W-E-oriented complexes. In light of these data, the necropolis in question appears as one of the late objectives of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture throughout its area of distribution. In all likelihood, most of the W-E-oriented tombs in the cemetery at Brăviceni date in the late phase of the development of the complex, although the four funerals with orientation W-E (no. 19, 25, 65 and 135), contained in the combinatorial analysis, belong to the first phase. Our opinion is based on the late dating of W-E-oriented graves, found in other cemeteries of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type and observation that at Brăviceni graves to which we refer are placed not only in the initial area, but are spread relatively even on the entire necropolis surface. In addition, remember that two of the later inventory pieces of the Brăviceni cemetery, namely a conical glass cup and a cup of fine gray paste with faceted decor, were found in graves oriented W-E.

Taking into account all discussed elements, we consider that the lower chronological limit of the cemetery from Brăviceni could be established somewhere in the second third of the 4th century and the upper chronological limit – the end of the 4th century or early next century. As for the time duration of the two phases of cemetery evolution, considering the picture presented by the combinatorial diagram, we think that phase I was shorter, ending perhaps until the Huns invasion, and Phase II, which included a larger number of graves, covered the last part of the 4th century, possibly the first two decades of the 5th century.

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Cronologia necropolei de tip Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov de la Brăviceni, r-nul Orhei

Cuvinte cheie: cultura Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov, Brăviceni, necropolă, cronologie, sec. IV p. Chr.

Rezumat: În articol este examinată problema datării și periodizării necropolei de la Brăviceni, r-nul Orhei. Descoperit cu ocazia unor lucrări de construcție, situl a fost investigat prin săpături de salvare în anii 1977, 1980 și 1981, fiind descoperite 181 de morminte și 53 de gropi rituale (fig. 1). Din totalul de 181 morminte identificate, unul este de incinerare, iar 180 – de înmormântare, între care predomină cele orientate V-E, considerate creștine.

Pentru stabilirea cronologiei interne a necropolei s-a recurs la metoda numită „modificarea automată a matricei”, fiind utilizat programul PAST (Palaeontological Statistics), versiunea 2.17c.

În diagrama combinatorie au fost incluse 26 de morminte și 32 serii tipologice de obiecte. Ținându-se seama de asocierea pieselor de inventar în complexele introduse în diagrama combinatorie, au fost evidențiate două grupe principale de morminte, care ar corespunde cu două faze de înmormântări. Prima grupă cuprinde 10 complexe, iar a doua – 16, fiecare grupă fiind caracterizată prin anumite serii tipologice de obiecte sau prin combinații ale acestora.

Pentru prima grupă (I) sunt specifice următoarele categorii și tipuri de obiecte: mărele discoidale mici de sticlă verde (tip 2b), mărele de sticlă inelare (tip 3), mărele de sticlă sferoidale, încrustate (tip 7), mărele de sticlă segmentate, poleite cu foiță metalică (tip 9), mărele de coral (tip 11), pandantive-amulete din vertebre de pești (tip 2), oale lucrate la roată din pastă zgrunțuroasă de formă bitronconică (tip 3) și castroane lucrate la roată din pastă fină, de formă bitronconică, înalte (tip 2a).

Grupele a doua de morminte (II) îi sunt caracteristice fibulele de bronz cu piciorul înfășurat, corpul din bandă și resortul lung (tip 1a) sau scurt (tip 1b), fibulele de argint cu placă și semidisc (tip 3), cataramele de bronz cu veriga ovală (tip 1), pieptenii de os având mânerul semicircular și aripi laterale (tip 1), pandantivele-amulete din scoici marine *Cypraea panterina* (tip 5b), cuțitele de fier, oalele sferoidale de dimensiuni mici, lucrate la roată din pastă fină (tip 1a), castroanele lucrate la roată din pastă fină de formă bitronconică, scunde (tip 2b), castroanele cu trei torți (tip 4), cămile lucrate la roată din pastă fină, cu corpul rotunjit (tip 1) și în formă de halbă (tip 2), și cămile de lut romane, cu corpul piriform, gâtul îngust și gura rotundă (tip 2).

În ceea ce privește dispunerea în planul necropolei, cele două grupe de morminte ocupă zone distincte. Mormintele din grupa I, reprezentând prima fază de înmormântări, sunt grupate aproape în exclusivitate în partea sud-estică a necropolei. Mormintele din grupa a II-a nu apar în sectorul inițial de înmormântări. În schimb, ele se găsesc răspândite deopotrivă în sectoarele din centrul și de la periferia necropolei.

Luându-se în considerație toate elementele, limita cronologică inferioară a necropolei de la Brăviceni este stabilită aproximativ în a doua treime a sec. IV, iar limita cronologică superioară – la sfârșitul sec. IV sau la începutul veacului următor. Cât privește durata în timp a celor două faze din evoluția cimitirului, avându-se în vedere tabloul redat de diagrama combinatorie, se constată că faza I a fost mai scurtă, încheindu-se probabil până la invazia hunilor, iar faza II, care a cuprins un număr mai mare de morminte, a acoperit ultima parte a sec. IV, eventual și primele două decenii ale sec. V.

Lista figurilor:

Fig. 1. Planul general al necropolei.

Fig. 2. Fibule de tip 1a (1), 1b (2), 2a (3), 2b (5) și 3 (4), cataramă de tip 1 (6), 2 (7) și 3 (8), piepteni de os de tip 1 (9) și 2 (10), pandantive-amulete de tip 5a (11), 5b (12) și 8 (13), mărgelă de tip 1 (14), 2a (15), 2b (16), 3 (17), 7 (18), 9 (19) și 11 (20), fusaiolă de lut de tip 1 (21), tub de os de pasăre (22) și cuțit de fier (23) din mormintele 1 (17), 14 (16), 19 (15, 20), 23 (3), 25 (18, 19), 39 (11, 13), 44 (2), 69 (23), 71 (5, 8), 74 (15), 82 (10), 87 (4, 6, 12), 88 (10), 162 (22) și 165 (1).

Fig. 3. Oale lucrate la roată din pastă zgrunțuroasă de tip 1 (1), 2a (2) și 3 (3), oale lucrate la roată din pastă fină de tip 1a (4) și 1b (6) și căni lucrate la roată din pastă fină de tip 1 (5) și 2 (7), descoperite în mormintele 35 (3), 44 (5, 7), 74 (1), 162 (2) și 164 (7).

Fig. 4. Castroane lucrate la roată din pastă fină de tip 1 (1), 2a (3), 2b (2) și 4 (4), cană-ulcior lucrată la roată din pastă fină de tip 4 (5) și amforetă lucrată la roată din pastă fină (6) din mormintele 2 (2), 14 (1, 3), 114 (5) și 164 (4, 6).

Fig. 5. Cană cu gura trilobată lucrată la roată din pastă fină (1), căni de lut romane de tip 1 (2) și 2 (3), pahar de sticlă (4) din mormintele 68 (1), 87 (3), 108 (4) și 169 (2).

Fig. 6. Morminte din fazele I (1) și II (2).

Tabelul 1. Incidența seriilor tipologice în morminte.

Хронология могильника типа Сынтана-де-Муреш–Черняхов у с. Брэвичень Оргеевского района

Ключевые слова: культура Сынтана-де-Муреш–Черняхов, Брэвичень, могильник, хронология, IV в. н.э.

Резюме: В статье рассматривается проблема датировки и периодизации некрополя у с. Брэвичень Оргеевского р-на. Могильник, случайно обнаруженный во время строительных работ, был исследован в 1977, 1980 и 1981 гг., было раскопано 181 погребение и 53 ритуальные ямы. Из 181 погребения лишь одно было кремационным, остальные 180 – ингумационными, среди них преобладают труположения с ориентацией З-В, считающиеся христианскими.

Для определения относительной хронологии был применен так называемый метод «автоматической модификации матрицы», для которого была использована программа ПАСТ (Palaeontological Statistics), версия 2.17с.

Комбинированная диаграмма включает 26 погребений и 32 серии типологических предметов. С учетом сочетаний элементов инвентаря из комплексов, размещенных в диаграмме, были установлены две основные группы погребений, которые соответствуют двум фазам захоронений. Первая группа включает 10 комплексов, вторая – 16; каждая из них характеризуется наличием определенных типологических серий предметов или их комбинациями.

Для первой группы (I) специфичны следующие категории и типы предметов: маленькие зеленые стеклянные бусины дисковидной формы (тип 2b), стеклянные кольцевые бусы (тип 3), инкрустированные стеклянные бусы сферической формы (тип 7), сегментированные стеклянные бусы, покрытые металлической фольгой (тип 9), коралловые бусы (тип 11), амулеты из рыбьих костей (тип 2), гончарные шероховатые горшки биконической формы (тип 3) и гончарные серолощенные высокие миски биконической формы (тип 2a).

Для второй группы погребений (II) характерны бронзовые фибулы с прогнутой подвязной ножкой, с длинной (тип 1a) или короткой пружиной (тип 1b), серебряные щитковые фибулы (тип 3), бронзовые пряжки с овальной рамкой (тип 1), костяные трехслойные гребни с полукруглой спинкой и плечиками (тип 1), подвески-амулеты из морских раковин *Cypraea panterina* (тип 5b), ножи железные, гончарные серолощенные

сфероидальные маленькие горшки (тип 1a), гончарные серолощенные низкие миски биконической формы (тип 2b), трехручные вазы (тип 4), гончарные серолощенные кувшины с округлым корпусом (тип 1) и биконическим профилем (тип 2), а также римские краснолаковые узкогорлые кувшины с грушевидным корпусом (тип 2).

На общем плане некрополя эти две группы погребений занимают разные зоны. Почти все захоронения первой группы сконцентрированы в юго-восточной части могильника. Погребения второй группы не отмечены в первоначальном секторе захоронений, но распространены в центральном секторе и на периферии некрополя.

Учитывая весь комплекс элементов, в качестве нижней хронологической границы могильника типа Сынтана-де-Муреш-Черняхов у с. Брэвичень взята вторая треть IV в., а в качестве верхней – конец IV в. или начало следующего. Что касается временной продолжительности этих двух фаз в развитии некрополя, согласно данным комбинированной диаграммы первая фаза была короче и закончилась приблизительно в период нашествия гуннов, а вторая фаза, которая включает больше погребений, охватывает конец IV в. и, возможно, первые два десятилетия V в.

Список иллюстраций:

Рис. 1. Общий план могильника.

Рис. 2. Фибулы типа 1a (1), 1b (2), 2a (3), 2b (5) и 3 (4), пряжки типа 1 (6), 2 (7) и 3 (8), костяные трехслойные гребни типа 1 (9) и 2 (10), подвески-амулеты типа 5a (11), 5b (12) и 8 (13), бусы типа 1 (14), 2a (15), 2b (16), 3 (17), 7 (18), 9 (19) и 11 (20), глиняные пряслица типа 1 (21), трубка из птичьей кости (22) и железный нож (23) из погребений 1 (17), 14 (16), 19 (15, 20), 23 (3), 25 (18, 19), 39 (11, 13), 44 (2), 69 (23), 71 (5, 8), 74 (15), 82 (10), 87 (4, 6, 12), 88 (10), 162 (22) и 165 (1).

Рис. 3. Гончарные шероховатые горшки типа 1 (1), 2a (2) и 3 (3), серолощенные гончарные горшки типа 1a (4) и 1b (6), кувшины типа 1 (5) и 2 (7), найденные в погребениях 35 (3), 44 (5, 7), 74 (1), 162 (2) и 164 (7).

Рис. 4. Серолощенные гончарные миски типа 1 (1), 2a (3), 2b (2) и 4 (4), кувшин типа 4 (5) и амфоретка (6) из погребений 2 (2), 14 (1, 3), 114 (5) и 164 (4, 6).

Рис. 5. Серолощенный гончарный кувшин-ойнохоя (1), римские краснолаковые кувшины типа 1 (2) и 2 (3), стеклянный кубок (4) из погребений 68 (1), 87 (3), 108 (4) и 169 (2).

Рис. 6. Погребения первой (1) и второй (2) фазы.

Таблица 1. Совпадения серийных типов предметов в погребениях.

11.03.2016

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