

THE BELOZERKA FIBULAE IN A BROADER CONTEXT¹

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The violin-bow and bow fibulae of the final Bronze Age of the north-western corner of the Black Sea were for many years in the focus of interest of many scholars, from west and east as well. The fibulae represent in the North Pontic area a phenomenon to some degree exceptional, as are also other characteristics of the Belozerka culture, which preceded the Cimmerian culture of the beginnings of the Iron Age. General surveys of the problems connected with the context of the fibulae of the Late and Final Bronze Age Moldova and the western Ukraine, were discussed published by a number of scholars (cf. esp. Agulnikov 1996, 2003; Кашуба, Гольцева 1991; Отрощенко 1975; Otroščenko 1998; Sava, Agulnikov 2003; Смирнова 1985; Vančugov 1996), while of the series of fibulae especially Vančugov (Ванчугов 2008) 2008 brings an exhaustive survey.

The violin-bow fibulae with double loop come from Lucașeuca (Lukaševka) tumulus, Širokoe and Strumok, the knee-shaped from Cazaclia (Kazaklia), Strumok, Stepnoe and Saharna, the early bow-shaped variety from Stepnoe and Cazaclia (Kazaklia), the snake-shaped variety from Lucașeuca (Lukaševka) settlement (fig. 1-2). All came from female graves, which partly also contained amber and glass beads (Ванчугов 2008, 210-214).

A few violin-bow fibulae (those with two loops are rare) and also some of the triangular-shaped are known from Romania, but they cannot be easily considered as the area from which the Belozerka fibulae were adapted. T. Bader published several Peschiera and similar fibulae, and a few triangular items (Bader 1983, 8, 12-15, pl. 1-2 and 41 - map). D. Gergova knew from Bulgaria several bow fibulae (Gergova 1987, 20-21, pl. 1-2). More fibulae are known now from eastern Bulgaria from the clandestine excavations; their exact localities are

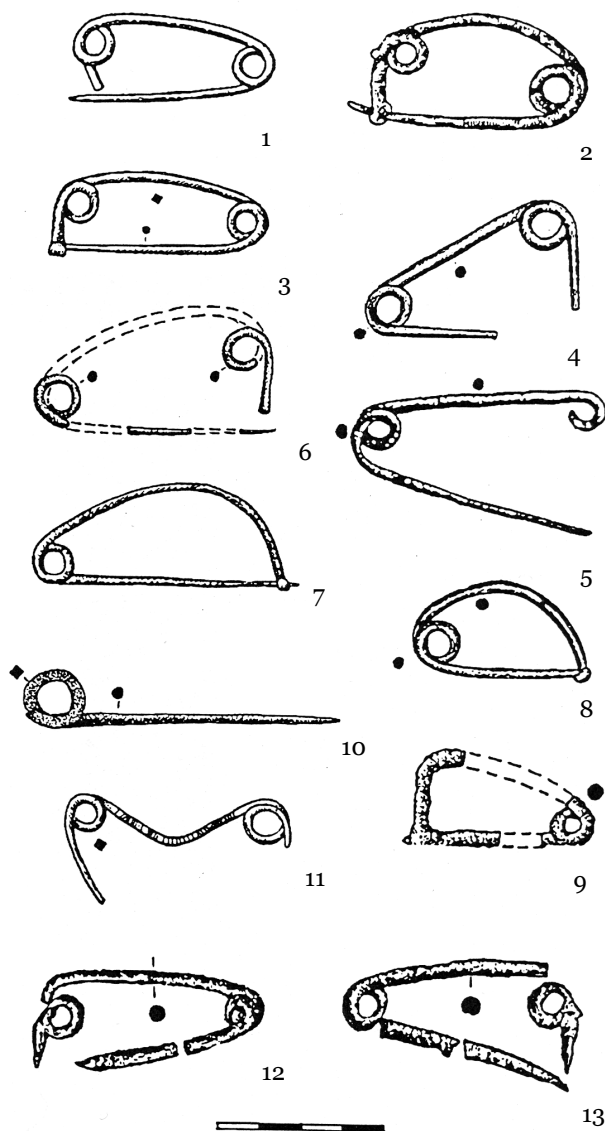


Fig. 1. First fibulae in the Northern Black Sea:
 1 - Lukjanovsk, tumulus; 2 - Širokoje, tumulus 2, burial 2; 3 - Pervomaevka, tumulus 5, burial 1; 4 - Cazaclia, grave 14; 5 - Strumok, tumulus 7, burial 1; 6 - Alkalia, tumulus 2, burial 1; 7 - Stepnoe, tumulus 3, burial 1; 8 - Cazaclia, grave 1; 9 - Cazaclia, grave 55; 10 - Kočkovatoe, tumulus 32, burial 2; 11 - Lucașeuca, settlement; 12-13 - Saharna (Țiglău), tumulus 4. 1-8, 10, 11 - bronze; 9, 12, 13 - iron (after Ванчугов 2008).

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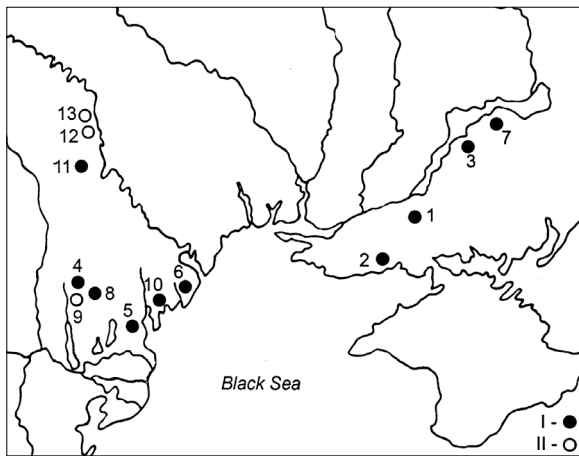


Fig. 2. Distribution of the first fibulae in the Northern Black Sea area: 1 - Lukaševka, tumulus; 2 - Širokoe; 3 - Pervomaevka; 4, 8, 9 - Cazaclia; 5 - Strumok; 6 - Alkalia; 7 - Stepnoe; 10 - Kočkovatoe; 11 - Lucașeuca; 12, 13 - Saharna (after Ванчугов 2008).

unknown, but large majority of them is essentially later. A few violin-bow fibulae are known from Slovakia (Novotná 2001, 12 ff.) and Moravia (Říhový 1993, 17 ff, pl. 1), while those from Poland are mainly of bipartite variety, the pin being made separately (Gedl 2004, 12 ff, pl. 1).

In the central Balkans they do not occur very often as is shown in the corpus of Vasić (Vasić 1999, violin bow p. 2-17, pl. 1-3, bow fibulae – mainly late, p. 44-48, pl. 24-25), while in the western Balkans violin-bow and simple bow fibulae are more common (Glogović 2003, violin-bow p. 4-8, pl. 1, bow fibulae p. 8-22, pl. 2-13). Both types are very common on the other side of the Adriatic, in Italy (Von Eles Masi 1986, triangular p. 5-13, pl. 2-3, simple bow p. 14-40, pl. 4-15) and in Greece (Blinkenberg 1926, 46-74; Sapouna-Sakelarakis 1978, violin bow p. 34-40: simple bow p. 41-52, pl. 1-2, cf. knee-shaped fibula no. 43 from Vrokastro).

The varieties of fibulae known in the North-Western part of the Black Sea were nowhere common. After my personal study of the fibulae at the National Museum of Archaeology and History of Moldova in Chișinău, thanks to the kindness of its director and staff, I must underline that they are differently made than their Greek and Italian parallels – the bow and foot are made of simple wire of circular section, without sophisticated elaboration of details, as it was common with Italic and Greek examples. This speaks in favour of their local production, but after models which were

current in Italy and Greece. In addition to this Mediterranean link we should remember us of the Hordeevka cemetery, which shows influences from the south, west and east in its jewellery as well; the two most common varieties around the Adriatic Sea, the Tiryns and Alumière types of amber beads, show links to the Baltic region in its raw material and with the Aegean and Italy in the shape of the beads (Berezanskaja 1998; here fig. 3).

The pre-Belozerka and Belozerka fibulae are those among the signs of some kind of pre-colonisation contacts in the Black Sea, too. Moreover, the Herodotus story of the Hyperborean maidens and what has been sent later packed in straw sent via the Scythians and Illyrians (Herrod. IV, 33-35) reminds one of the return route of the Argonauts and also of the old theories of an eastern Amber Route between the Baltic and Black Sea, for which more arguments are available now (cf. Bouzek 2010b). The earlier scholars, who saw in the Belozerka fibulae Greek or Italic influence, were probably on good path. There were more phenomena showing long-distance relations already in pre-Cimmerian times during Sabatinovka and Belozerka cultures, some of them can be explained by trade and by religious pilgrimages of peoples living in these areas, others by migrations of groups preceding that of the Cimmerians; this field has been much studied already earlier in more general studies (cf. esp. re (Kločko 1998; Крушельницкая 1990; László 1986; László 1994; Metzner-Nebelsick 2002; Otroščenko 1998; Смирнова 1985; Ванчугов 1996; Ванчугов 1990; Bouzek 1983). Some of them can be traced to the Caucasus (cf. Bouzek 1997, 203-205), but there was very probably also some kind of other contacts. The Mediterranean peoples had interest also in metals available in the north-western corner of the Black Sea, while for nomadic peoples the steppe was more like the sea than their land, as again witnessed to by Herodotus' story on the conversation between the Scythian envoys and Darius.

The people of the Belozerka culture had some knowledge about the dress fasteners fashion in the Aegean, western Balkans and Italy and made their own fibulae in accord with this fashion. This specific fact is another hint to try to get more knowledge of the situation preceding the Greek colonisation in the Black Sea in general, possibly with participation of early Greek and Phoenicians

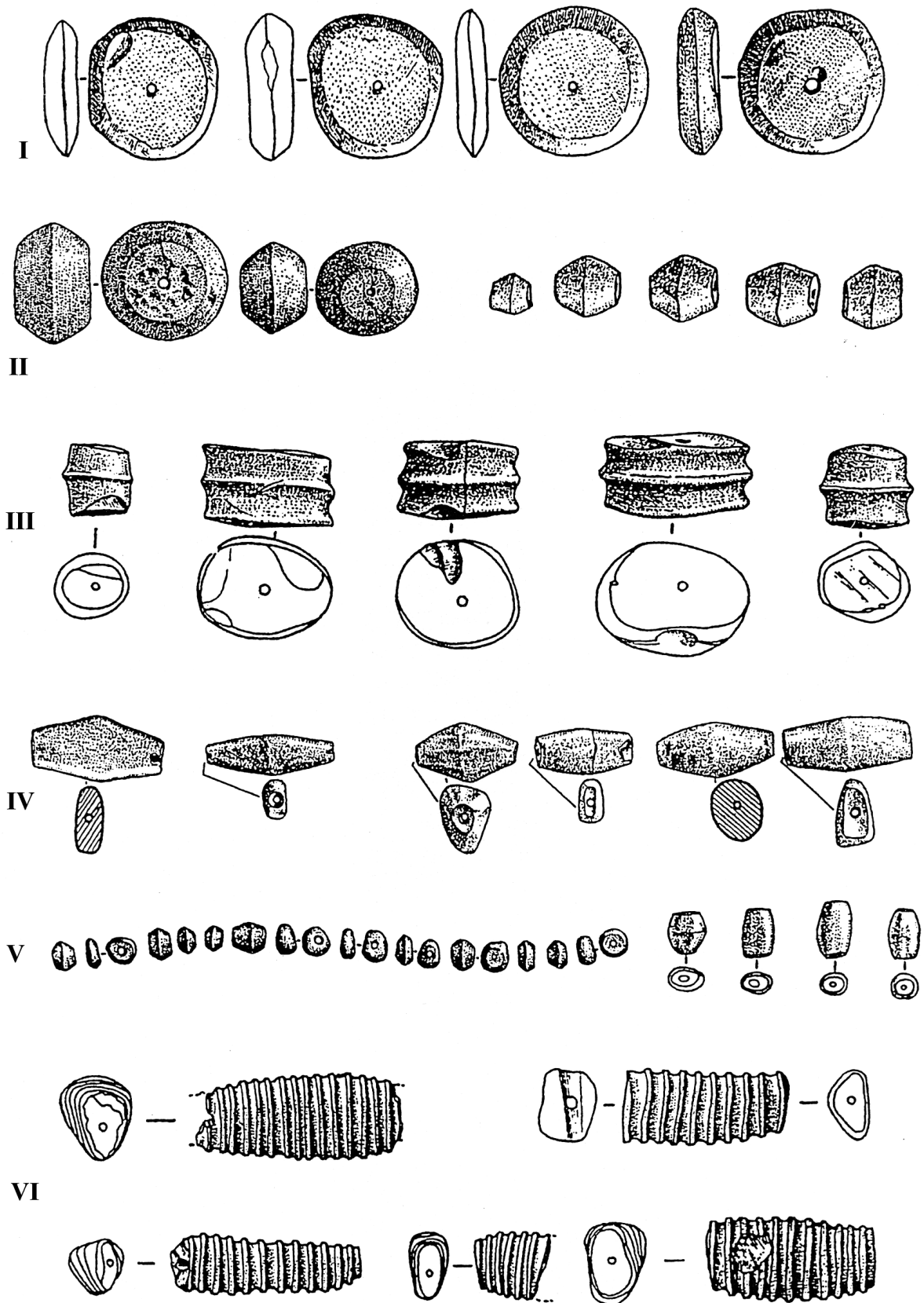


Fig. 3. Hordeevka, amber beads of the Tiryns (III) and Alumière (VI) types and other varieties of them (after Berezanskaja 1998).

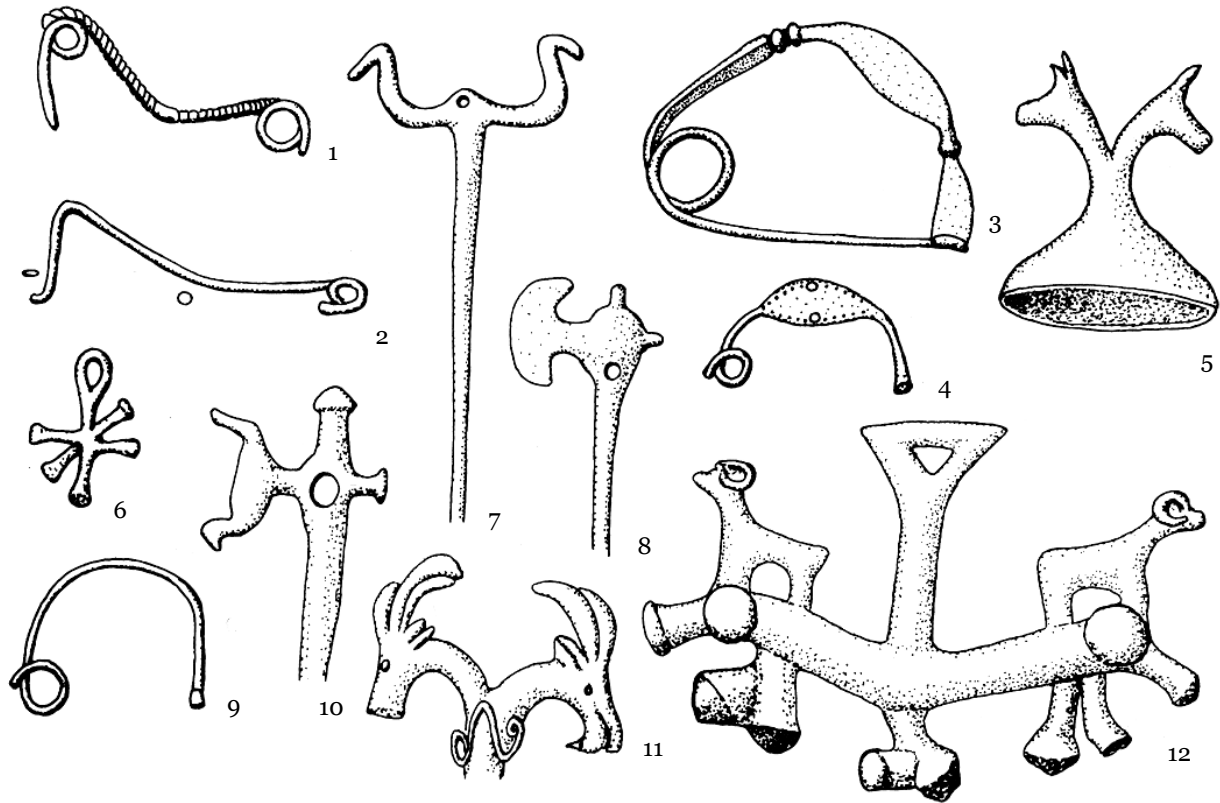


Fig. 4. 1 - Lucașeuca; 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 - Koban culture (2 - Zmejskoje settlement; 7 - Styrsgaz; 8, 10 - Tli; 11 - Seržeñ Jurt); 3, 4-6 - Kolchis (3 - Novyj Afon; 4, 6, 8 - Abarchuk; 5, 12 - Eščeri) (after Bouzek 1997).

explorers (the latter were probably responsible for the raw glass and glass beads, cf. Bouzek in print), and on the eastern amber route mentioned by Herodotus, besides other links, more in detail investigate by scholars from the given area, as documented in the Hänsel, Machnik (eds. 1998) volume, and also by several Ukrainian and Moldavian colleagues (new surveys also cf. esp. Apakidze et al., eds. 2007 with bibliography). It should, however, be reminded that the so-called pre-Cimmerian bronzes known in the western Balkans and further westwards, first identified by Amalia Mozsolics, show that some elements came from the NW Pontic area westwards in Ha A 1-2. The pre-Cimmerian horizon and the Sabatinovka dag-

gers in the Carpathian area (cf. Bouzek 1997, 203, here fig. 6) show that also earlier nomads from the North-Western Pontic area exerted some influence further westwards.

Further eastwards from NW Pontic area, among other objects with western relations, also triangular *Peschiera* fibulae have been found (fig. 4/1-2, for other later western elements in the Caucasus area cf. fig. 4/3-12), as documented especially by V. Kozenkova (Коженкова 1989; Kozenkova 1992; Коженкова 1998; Seržeñ Jurt). The fashion of wearing fibulae to fasten the dress was followed by the general acceptance of the bow fibulae in the Caucasus region (Bouzek 1997, 190-191), but this time more probably directly from Greece by the sea, as the Eastern (Insular) types after Blinkenberg (1926, 69-85, pl. 19-32) are documented in Transcaucasia from the coastal sites in Colchis and from Armenia (fig. 5). For the Cimmerians, it should be remembered that the beginnings of Kelermes cemetery still displays the Novočerkask types of bronze objects: the stylistic transmission between Cimmerian and Scythian art was smooth (Galanina 1997, 183-191, esp. 189, pl. 17-19, fig. 31/19; cf. Ivančik 2001; Kossack 1994).

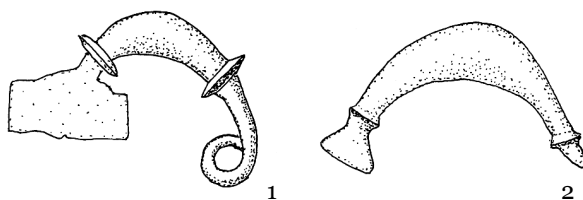


Fig. 5. Bow fibulae with knots from Erebuni, Armenia (1) and Gižgit, Colchis (2) (after Bouzek 1997).

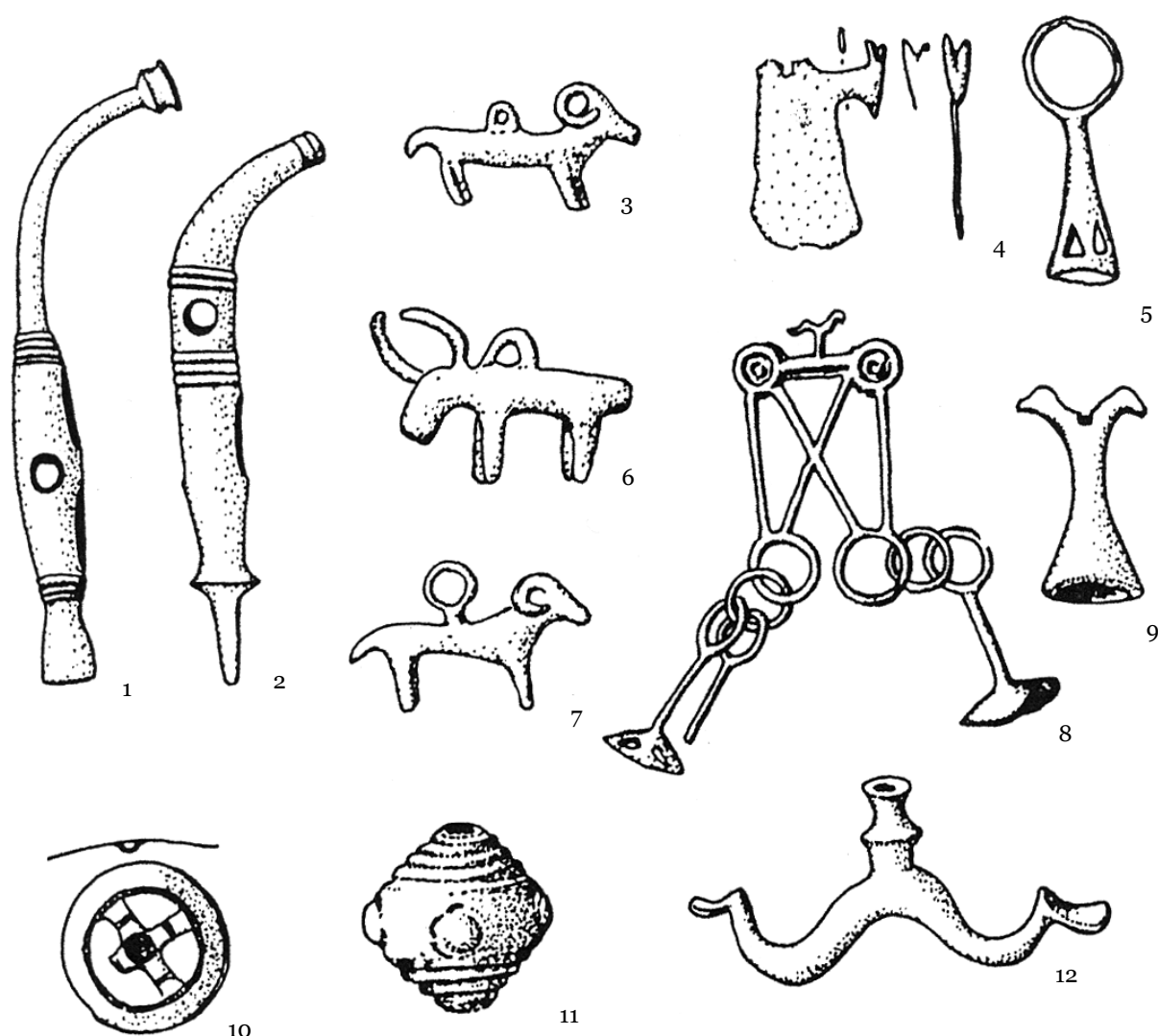


Fig. 6. "Pre-Cimmerian" bronzes in Europe: 1, 2 - cheek-pieces of horse-bits from Staré Sedlo in Bohemia and Larnaud in France; 3, 6, 7 - animal figurines with suspension loop from Orșova in Transylvania, Poljanci and Batina in Croatia; 4 - Thracian axe pendant in museum Benaki, Athens; 5, 9-12 - bell-shaped pendant, pole-tops (?), wheel button and bead from Brodski Varoš, Croatia (after Bouzek 1997).

Reports on Thracian thalassocracy following that of the Pelasgians can be placed in the Dark Age. The finds of Bronze Age types ingots and of stone anchors from the Bulgarian coast are not precisely dated and the alleged finds of Mycenaean pottery in this area are in most cases doubtful (Bouzek 2007b; Tsetskhladze 2007; De Boer 2007). The alleged finds of Geometric pottery from Histria and Berezanj have not been confirmed by modern excavations; the Cypriot Black-on-Red fragments of Histria are not exactly dateable (Bouzek 1990, 17 f.; 2007a, 1222-1224). The pre-colonial trade, however, had rather other priorities than bringing pottery to the local inhabitants. Pottery

is certainly more important for archaeologists than it was for early travellers; similar situation is attested at the earliest trading stations of the Phoenicians in the Western Mediterranean (Celestino, Rafel, Amada 2008; cf. Bouzek 2010a and in print).

In the field of bronze objects, some parallels derived from links transmitted from larger distances than local potteries; the "international" Belozerka elements with links westwards, southwards and eastwards are predecessors of later situation in the Cimmerian period, when many types of bronze objects connected the Caucasus area with

the Balkans and even with central Europe, while Caucasian eighth-seventh centuries B.C. bronzes are known for ex. from Samos Heraeaum (cf. Bouzek 1997, 200-202). All these elements show that some contacts between the Aegean and the Black Sea existed prior to colonization and pottery imports, too. The close relations between the Babadag pottery and Troja VIIb Knobbed Ware can also be remembered here in the frame of present discussion.

It can be summed up that, in general, the area of lower Dniester was important for relations between East and West, between the Baltic and the Black Sea, and had also pre-colonial links with the Aegean, starting with the Kurgan culture migrations in the Balkans including Greece, the Borodino hoard and with Pontic plants found in Akrotiri on Thera, and it was rather intensive in the Late Bronze Age, several centuries before the Greek colonization of the Black Sea coasts.

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Fibulele Belozerka în context mai larg

Rezumat

În articol sunt examinate fibulele de tip Peschiera, fibulele triunghiulare și în formă de arc, atribuite culturii Belozerka, precum și fibulele din perioade mai timpurii, provenite din nord-vestul Mării Negre. Tradiția de a utiliza fibulele pentru a prinde hainele a fost inspirată din regiunea mediteraneeană și se datează în spațiul menționat din perioada pre-colonială. Aceste piese au fost aduse din lumea greacă și/sau feniciană prin intermediul comerțului sau a religiei.

Lista ilustrațiilor:

- Fig. 1. Primele fibule în zona de nord a Mării Negre: 1 - Lukjanovsk, tumul; 2 - Širokoje, tumulul nr. 2, mormântul nr. 2; 3 - Pervomajevka, tumulul nr. 5, mormântul nr. 1; 4 - Cazaclia, mormântul nr. 14; 5 - Strumok, tumulul nr. 7, mormântul nr. 1; 6 - Alkalia, tumulul nr. 2, mormântul nr. 1; 7 - Stepnoe, tumulul nr. 3, mormântul nr. 1; 8 - Cazaclia, mormântul nr. 1; 9 - Cazaclia, mormântul nr. 55; 10 - Kočkovatoe, tumulul nr. 32, mormântul nr. 2; 11 - Lucașeuca, așezare; 12-13 - Saharna (Țiglău), tumulul nr. 4. 1-8, 10, 11 - bronz; 9, 12, 13 - fier (după Ванчугов 2008).
- Fig. 2. Răspândirea primelor fibule în zona de nord a Mării Negre: 1 - Lucașeuca, tumul; 2 - Širokoe; 3 - Pervomajevka; 4, 8, 9 - Cazaclia; 5 - Strumok; 6 - Alkalia; 7 - Stepnoe; 10 - Kočkovatoe; 11 - Lucașeuca, așezare; 12, 13 - Saharna (după Ванчугов 2008).
- Fig. 3. Hordeevka. Mărgele din chihlimbar de tipurile Tiryns (III) și Alumière (VI) și alte varietăți ale acestora (după Berezanskaja 1998).
- Fig. 4. 1 - Lucașeuca; 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 - cultura Koban (2 - așezarea Zmejskoje; 7 - Styrsgaz; 8, 10 - Tli; 11 - Seržeň Jurt); 3, 4-6 - Colhida (3 - Novyj Afon; 4, 6, 8 - Abarchuk; 5, 12 - Eščeri) (după Bouzek 1997).
- Fig. 5. Fibule în formă de arc cu nod de la Erebuni, Armenia (1) și Gižgit, Colhida (2) (după Bouzek 1997).
- Fig. 6. Bronzuri „Pre-Cimeriene” în Europa: 1, 2 - psalii (1 - Staré Sedlo, Bohemia; 2 - Larnaud, Franța); 3, 6, 7 - figurine zoomorfe cu suspensie pentru bucle (3 - Orșova, Transilvania; 6, 7 - Poljanci și Batina, Croația); 4 - pandantiv în formă de topor tracic din muzeul Benaki, Atena; 5, 9-12 - pandantiv în formă de clopoțel, nasturi în formă de roată și mărgele de la Brodski Varoš, Croația; 8 - pandantiv în formă de lanț cu pasăre de la Bingula-Divoš, Croația (după Bouzek 1997).

Белозерские фибулы более широком контексте

Резюме

В статье рассматриваются несколько типов фибул (Пешиера, треугольные и дугообразные), отнесенных к Белозерской культуре, а также более ранние фибулы, найденные в северо-западном Причерноморье. Традиция использования фибул для крепления одежды исходит из средиземноморского региона и датируется доколониальным периодом. Эти предметы были привезены с греческого мира и/или финикийского посредством торговли или религии.

Список иллюстраций:

- Рис. 1. Первые фибулы в Северном Причерноморье: 1 - Лукьяновск, курган; 2 - Широкое, курган № 2, погребение № 2; 3 - Первوماевка, курган № 5, погребение № 1; 4 - Казаклия, погребение № 14; 5 - Струмок, курган № 7, погребение № 1; 6 - Алкалия, курган № 2, погребение № 1; 7 - Степное, курган № 3, погребение № 1; 8 - Казаклия, погребение № 1; 9 - Казаклия, погребение № 55; 10 - Кочковатое, курган № 32, погребение № 2; 11 - Лукашеука, поселение; 12, 13 - Сахарна (Циглэу), курган № 4. 1-8, 10, 11 - бронза; 9, 12, 13 - железо (по Ванчугов 2008).
- Рис. 2. Распространение первых фибул в Северном Причерноморье: 1 - Лукашеука, курган; 2 - Широкое; 3 - Первوماевка; 4, 8, 9 - Казаклия; 5 - Струмок; 6 - Алкалия; 7 - Степное; 10 - Кочковатое; 11 - Лукашеука, поселение; 12, 13 - Сахарна (Циглэу) (по Ванчугов 2008).
- Рис. 3. Гордеевка. Янтарные бусы типа Тиринф (III) и Алюмер (VI) и их вариации (по Berezanskaja 1998).
- Рис. 4. 1 - Лукашеука; 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 - культура Koban (2 - поселение Змейское; 7 - Стирсгаз; 8, 10 - Тли; 11 - Сержень-Юрт); 3, 4-6 - Колхида (3 - Новый Афон; 4, 6, 8 - Абарчук; 5, 12 - Ещери) (по Bouzek 1997).
- Рис. 5. Дугообразные фибулы из Еребуни, Армения (1) и Гижгит, Колхида (2) (по Bouzek 1997).
- Рис. 6. Докимерийские бронзовые изделия в Европе: 1, 2 - псалии (1 - Старе Седло, Богемия; 2 - Ларно, Франция); 3, 6, 7 - зооморфные фигурки (3 - Оршова, Трансильвания; 6, 7 - Полянцы и Батина, Хорватия); 4 - кулон в виде фракийского топора из музея Бенаки, Афины; 5, 9-12 - кулон в виде колокольчика, пуговицы в виде колеса и бусы из Бродски Варош, Хорватия; 8 - кулон в виде цепочки с птицей из Бингула-Дивош, Хорватия (по Bouzek 1997).

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