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RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES



L'INSTITUT D'ARCHÉOLOGIE
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ JAGELLONNE DE CRACOVIE

RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES
NOUVELLE SERIE

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**RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES
NOUVELLE SERIE 7**

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Małgorzata Byrska-Fudali¹, Tomasz Fudali²

Investigations conducted in 2014 at the settlement in Kryspinów, site no. 3, com. Liszki

Abstract: In the course of the excavations conducted in 2014 at site no. 3 in Kryspinów, com. Liszki, the north-eastern zone of the Przeworsk settlement was investigated. The settlement in question, and the northward located cemetery dated to the same period, was investigated by the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, in the years 1968–1998. The research presented here covered an area of ca. 16.5 ares, and resulted in the discovery of 186 archaeological features, mostly semi-dugouts and postholes. In the east, the settlement was adjacent to a bank running along the paleochannel of the Vistula river. Towards the north-east and north, the alignment of encountered features was not very dense, which may be due to fact that the investigations merely caught the fringes of the settlement. The trenches located in the southern part of the explored area were characterised by a great accumulation of features and artefacts. Almost three thousand fragments of pottery were obtained. They were mainly discovered within the fills of features, although some of them were also found within the cultural layer up to 40 cm thick. Among the metal artefacts, a Trajan denarius and five fibulae were especially noteworthy. The great majority of pottery represented forms typical of the Przeworsk culture. Based on the dating of ceramic vessels, this part of the settlement should be dated to the period from the A3 phase of the younger pre-Roman period until the C1a phase of the Roman Period. The archaeological material obtained from the cultural layer contained artefacts dated to other cultural units as well, such as those of the Neolithic, Bronze and Middle Ages.

Keywords: Przeworsk culture, younger pre-Roman period, Roman period, settlement, handmade pottery, fibulae, coin

In August and September 2014, archaeological investigations were carried out at site no. 3 in Kryspinów, com. Liszki. The site in Kryspinów is located north-west of Krakow, in the southern fringes of the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland. In the south, it is adjacent to the Tenczyn Ridge. The settlement was situated on a small hill, gently descending northward. In the east, it was naturally bordered by the meander of the paleochannel of the Vistula river.

The research area has been known in the archaeological literature thanks to long-standing excavations conducted by the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The investigations revealed a complex consisting of a cemetery (site no. 2) and a settlement

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(site no. 3) of the Przeworsk culture (Fig. 1). The excavations at the cemetery in Kryspinów were carried out in the years 1968–1994 under the management of Prof. Kazimierz Godłowski. In the course of that research, 130 features dated to phases B1–C1b of the Roman period were discovered (Godłowski 1969; 1970; 1971; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1976; 1977; 1980; 1986; Godłowski, Madyda 1986). In the period of 1993–1998 the investigations were conducted at the settlement (site no. 3) as well. They revealed 303 features dated from the A2 phase of the younger pre-Roman period to the C1a phase of the Roman period (Kaczanowski 1996; Bochnak, Kaczanowski, Margos 2004). In subsequent years, a great number of archaeologically supervised excavations were carried out at the sites in question or in their surroundings, commissioned by private investors in association with the development of housing complexes. They also delivered a certain amount of archaeological findings.

The research presented here was carried out under the management of Małgorzata Byrska-Fudali and Tomasz Fudali. The excavations preceded the construction of ten detached houses and were financed by private investors, namely Grzegorz Wyżga and Krzysztof Mastej.

In the course of the investigations of 2014, a part of the settlement was explored, located northward to the zone excavated by the Jagiellonian University. Ten trenches were established in the spot where the foundations of the prospective houses were planned to be laid. A total area of ca. 16.5 ares was investigated, which revealed 186 archaeological features (Fig. 2). Among the discovered features, the most interesting were relics of hollowed buildings (13 features). All of them had similar forms, in horizontal view being oval-shaped or rectangular-like. They were structures of considerable dimensions, with a length of ca. 3.5–5 m, and a width of 2.5–3 m. In their profiles, they had a shape of a hollow with a flat bottom. The only trait that allowed them

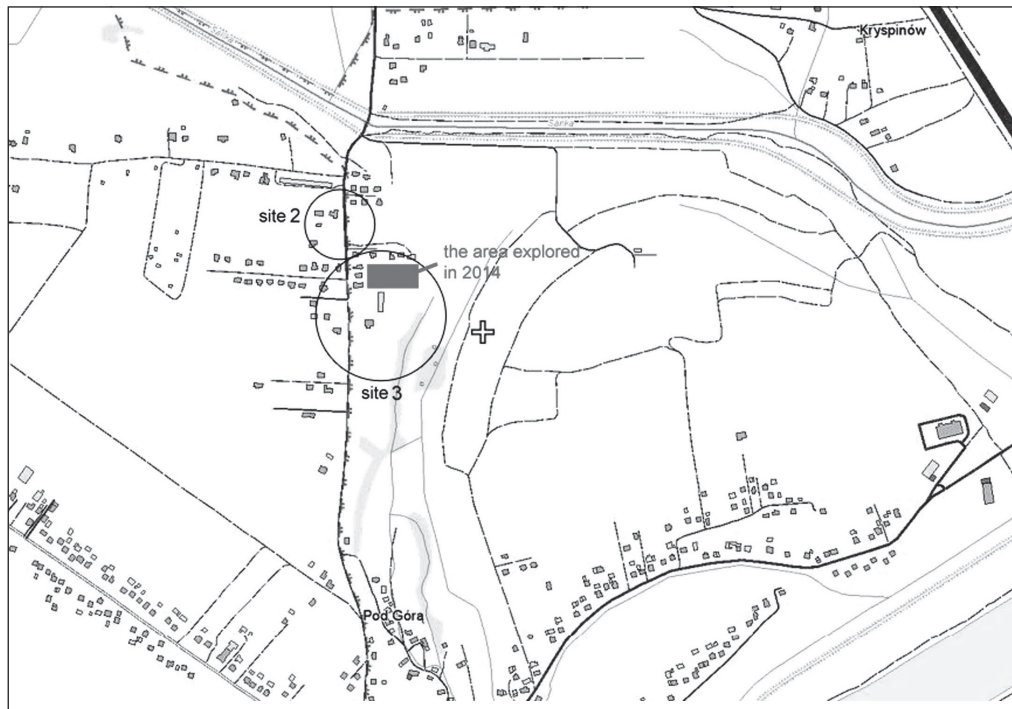


Fig. 1. Location of the research area explored in 2014

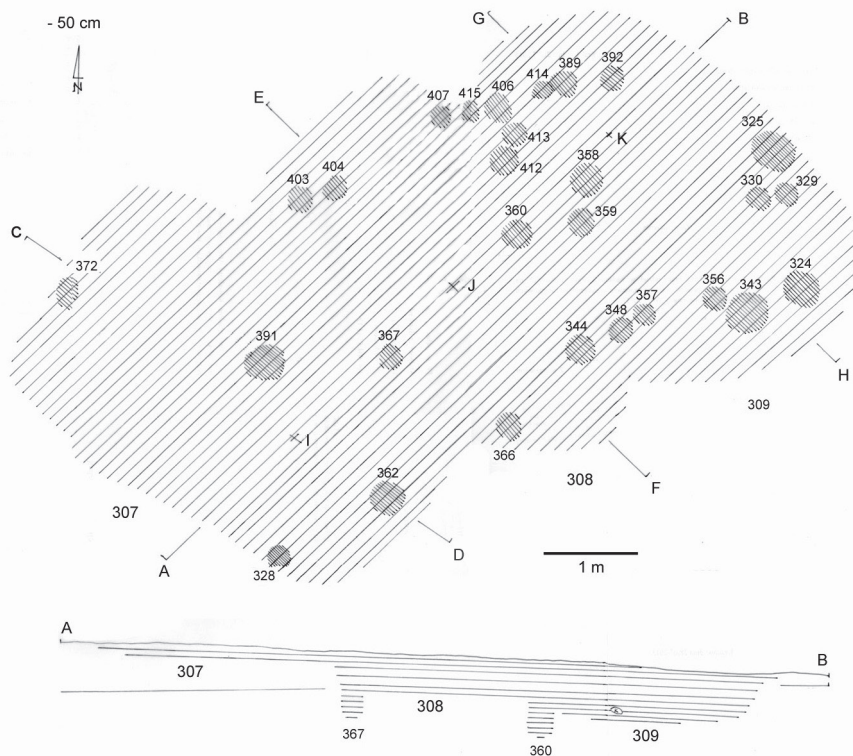


Fig. 4. Features nos. 307, 308 and 309 – vertical and horizontal view (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

In the trench located in the north-eastern corner of the plot, sediments formed in modern times were encountered, the formation of which was associated with the covering of the bank adjoining the floodplain of the Vistula valley.

The archaeological material mostly consisted of pottery. In the course of the investigations of 2014, a total number of 2981 fragments of ceramic vessels were found. These were handmade specimens representing forms typical of the Przeworsk culture. Individual fragments might indicate the beginning of the settlement's existence, dated to the A3 phase of the younger pre-Roman period. This mainly concerns vessels with gently profiled (faceted) rims. A few fragments of painted pottery were also discovered, attributed to the so-called Tynieć group (Fig. 9:e). Most of the vessels represented forms encountered in the early Roman period and in particular there were a great number of specimens with rough surfaces. Among them, pots with S-shaped profiles were predominant, attributed by T. Liana to group V; there were also cups classified to group VII and vessels with gently profiled bellies representing group III (Liana 1970, 439, 440, tab. I, II). Moreover, specimens with intentionally blackened, smooth and shining surfaces constituted a particularly rich collection. These were mainly bowls and vases with strongly accented or biconical bellies, determined by T. Liana as groups IV and II (Liana 1970, 439, tab. II).

Apart from pottery, a group of metal artefacts was obtained, numbering 13 specimens in total. These were relics of five fibulae, a knife, a fragment of an iron buckle, a large bucket-shaped pendant, and undetermined fragments. Among the most interesting finds was a silver coin. It was

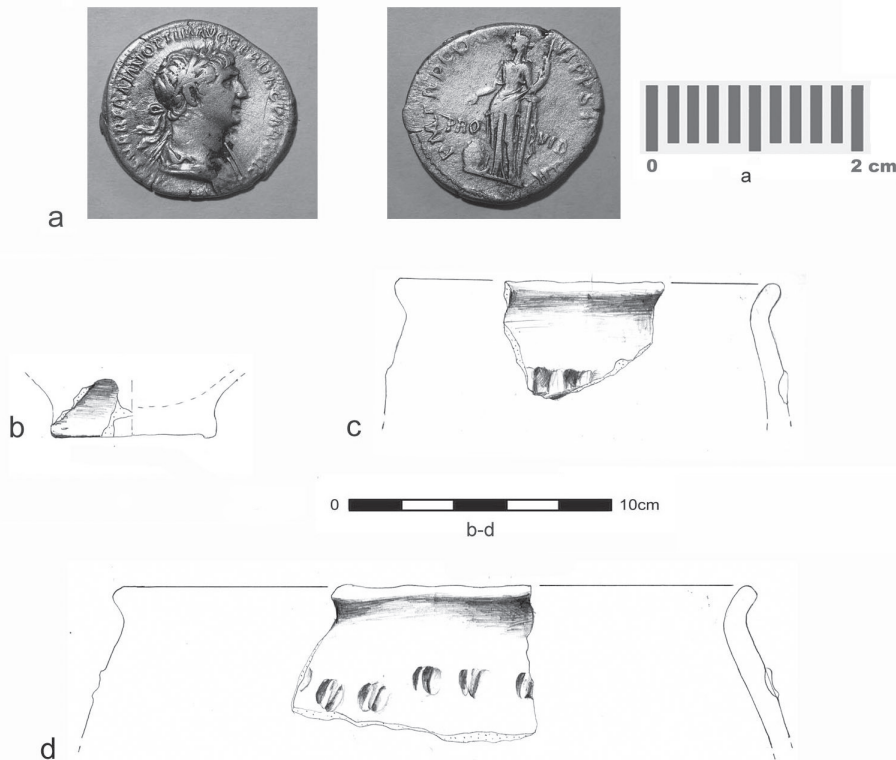


Fig. 5. Artefacts from feature no. 304; a: silver, b–d: clay (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

discovered in the fill of semi-dugout no. 304 (Fig. 5:a). The coin in question was an excellently preserved Trajan denarius. The specimen was coined in the Roman mint, in 114–117 A.D.

Two fibulae were discovered in the fill of feature no. 309. They were identified as late forms of the Almgren group IV, which may be linked with the B2 phase of the Roman period. One of them represented the A.83 type (Fig. 7:a). This was an incomplete specimen made of bronze, with a preserved length of 3.8 cm. Its bow was decorated with a delicate ornament of lines formed by punched triangles, running along the ridge in the middle of the bow. The other fibula was made of iron and its state of preservation was considerably poorer (Fig. 7:b). It had a foot with a solid, conical knob; its bow was decorated with a comb, while the distinguished head was not flared. The fibula spring was covered with a cylinder. The object in question had a length of 4.6 cm. Similar specimens have already been encountered in Kryspinów, during the former excavations conducted at the cemetery. A fibula of this type, also made of iron, was discovered in grave no. 9 (Godłowski 1969, fig. 1:a); another one, made of bronze, came from grave no. 64 (Godłowski 1974, fig. 2:f). A similar fibula, though without a cylinder on its spring, was found at the cemetery in Opoka, Lublin voivodeship, in grave no. 72 (Kokowski 1991, 102, fig. 48:i). An analogous pair of fibulae, with cylinders on their springs, was encountered in grave no. 30 in Brzeźce, site no. 2 (Balke 1976, 178, fig. 40a, c). A pair of fibulae with cylinders was also discovered in grave no. 78 at site no. 4 in Strobin, where it co-occurred with

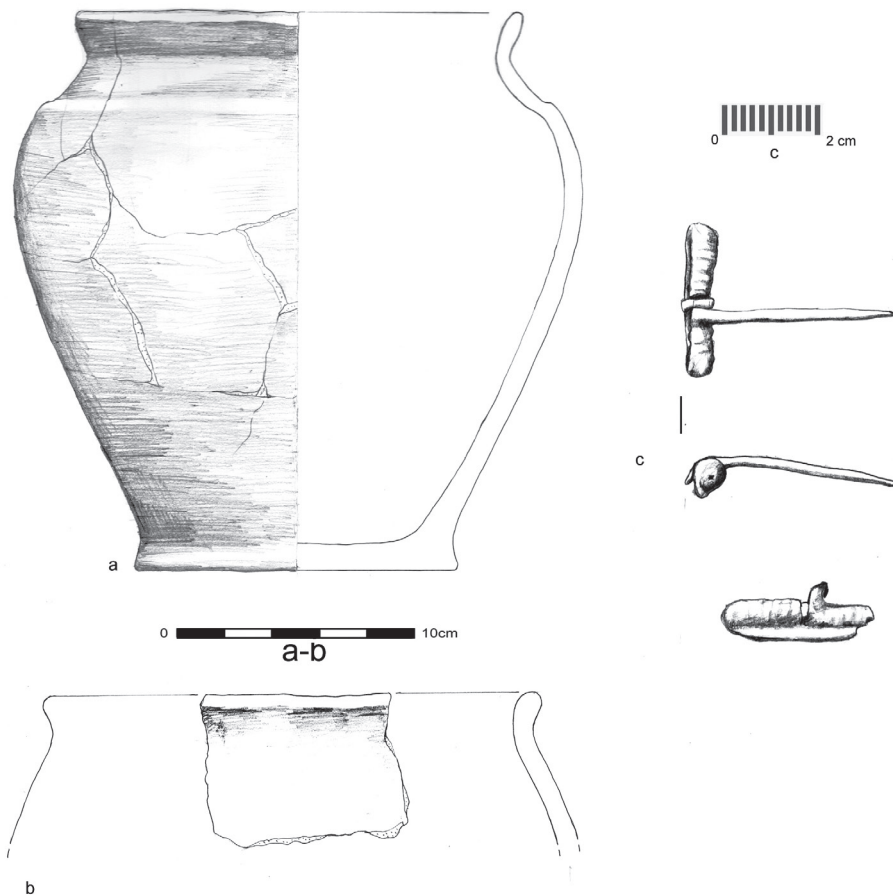


Fig. 6. Artefacts from feature no. 308; a-b: clay, c: iron (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

the A-132 fibula (Abramek 1985, 75, tab. XII:1,2,3). Kokowski suggested distinguishing a new type of profiled fibulae and he named this variant as the Brzeźce type. The author quoted above dated these forms to the younger B2 phase of the Roman period. This dating could be supported by a finding made in grave no. 72 in Opoka, where a fibula of the Brzeźce type was accompanied by a pair of trumpet fibulae, resembling A.72 forms (Kokowski 1991, 102, 103).

An interesting example of a bronze coiled wire fibula was discovered in the ceiling of semi-dugout no. 320 (Fig. 8:a). It was made of two fragments of bronze wires: one of them, bent to form the shape of a rectangle, constituted a frame, around which the other one was wound. Moreover, the latter one formed two spiral discs on the head, where it attached the foot. The fibula had a wide, 18-coil spring, wound around an additional fragment of a bronze wire; the catch-plate of the fibula has not survived. The discovered fragment had a length of 3.6 cm and almost identical fibulae were found at the cemeteries of the Przeworsk culture in Nadkole, in grave no. 117 (Andrzejewski 1998, 57, pl. CXIII/2), and in Łaszew (Gawlikowska, Guszpit, Żurek 1994, 554,

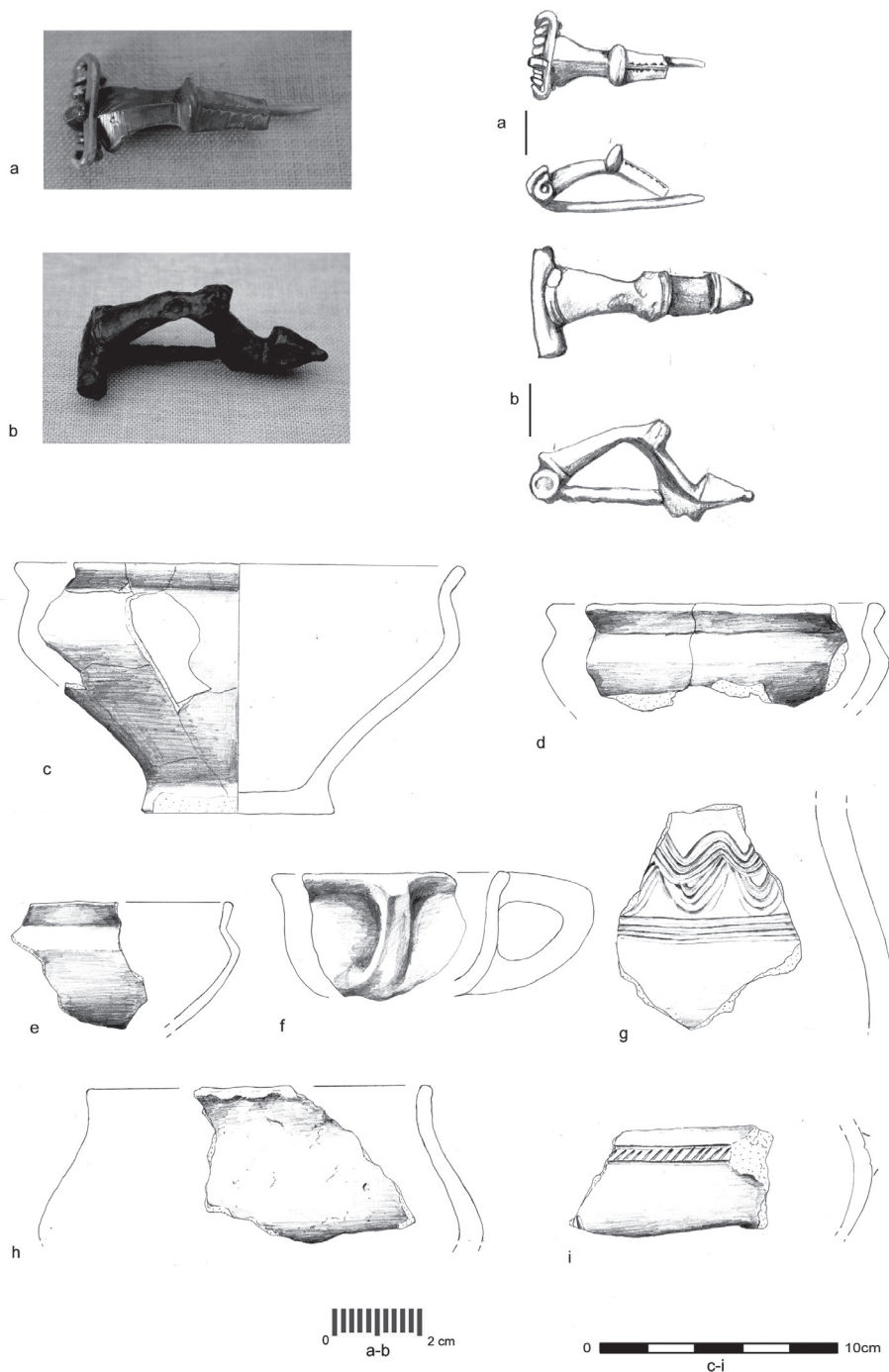


Fig. 7. Artefacts from feature no. 309; a: bronze, b: iron, c-i: clay (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

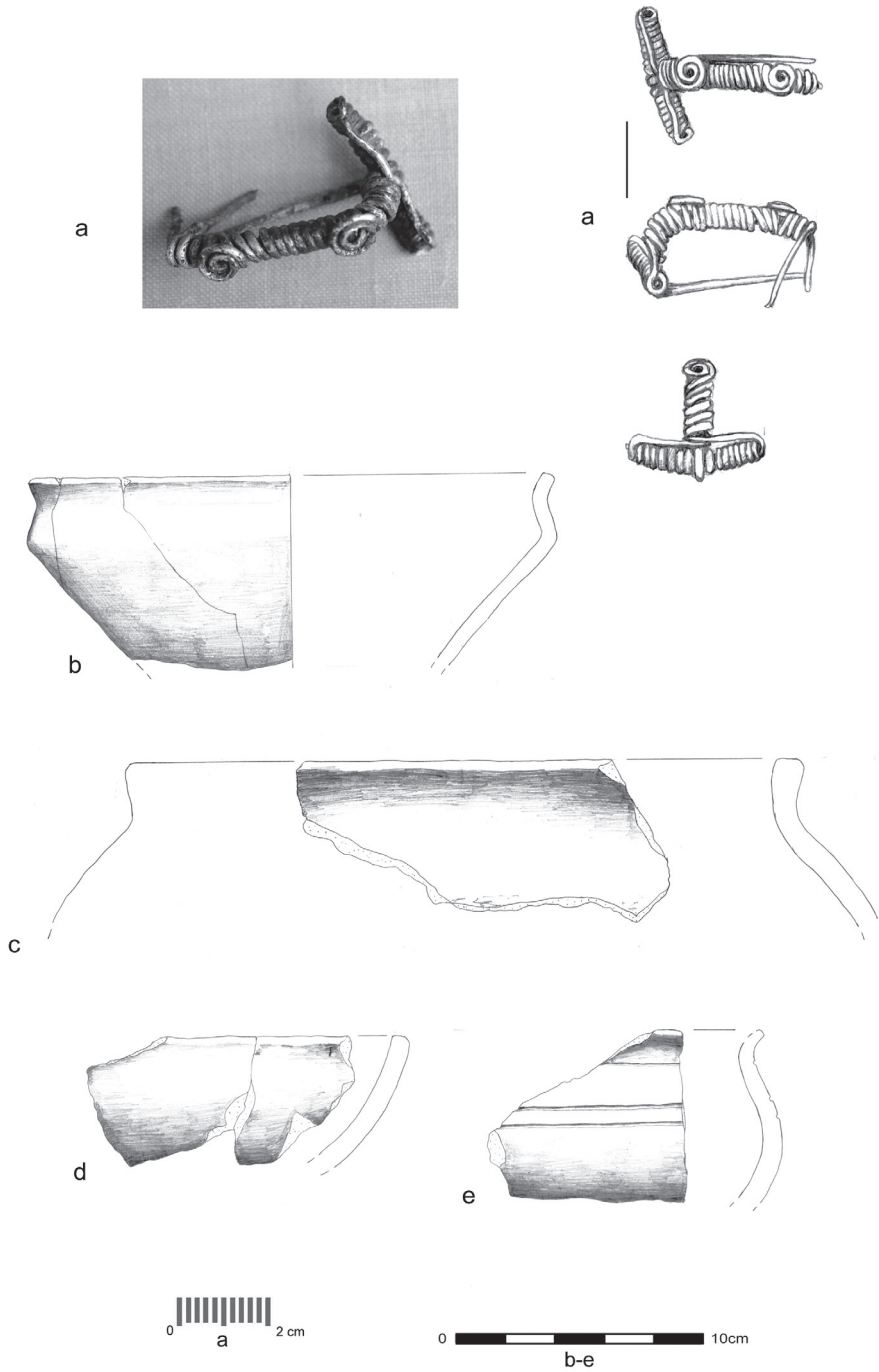


Fig. 8. Artefacts from feature no. 320; a: bronze, b–e: clay (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

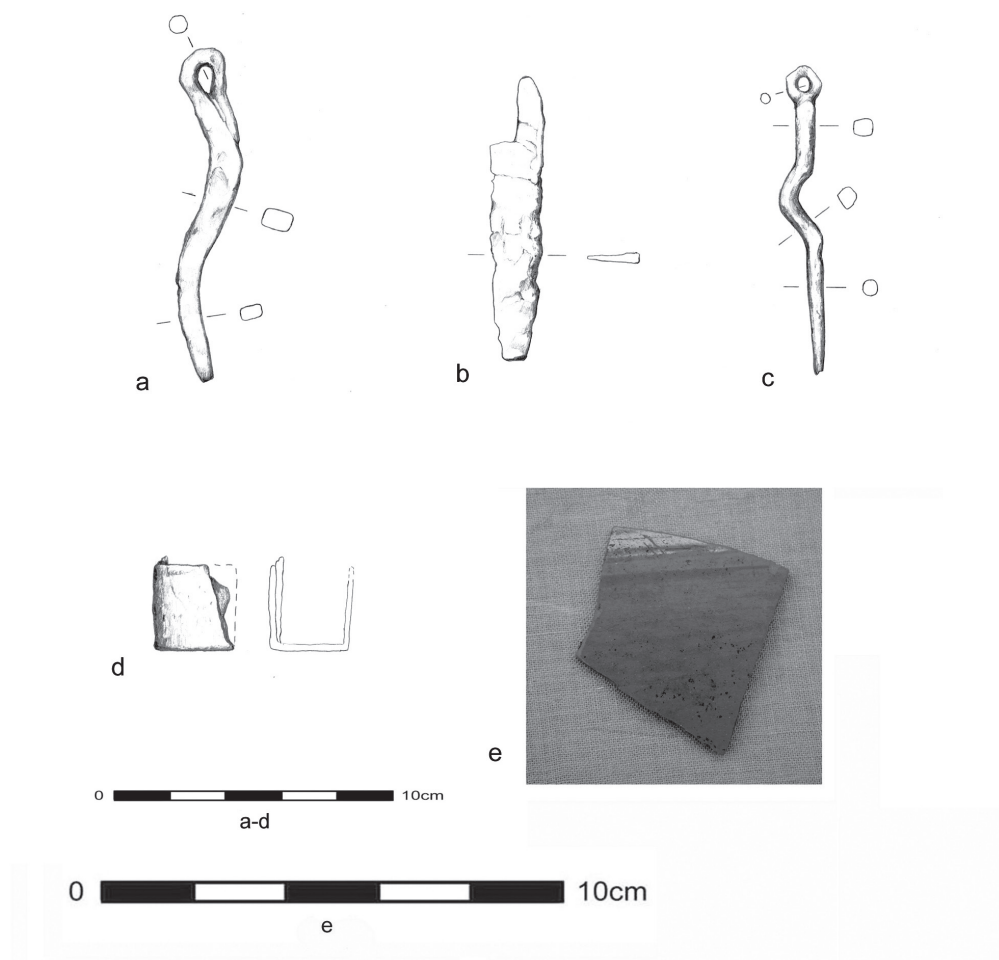


Fig. 9. Stray artefacts from the cultural layer; a-d: iron, e: clay (drawn by M. Byrska-Fudali)

fig. 2:3). Within the extent of the Przeworsk culture, iron variants of the fibulae in question have also been encountered, e.g. in Opatów (Andrzejewski 1998, 57). The chronology of such forms encloses within a period between the late B2 phase and the C1a phase (Andrzejewski 1992).

The last two iron fibulae were incomplete and poorly preserved. One of the fragments, with a long spring, was found in feature no. 308 (Fig. 6:c).

Within the cultural layer a noteworthy iron artefact was encountered. It had the form of a large bucket-shaped pendant, with a diameter of 2.7 cm (Fig. 9:d). In the middle, there was a fragment of a wire, which could have been a part of an eyelet. From the layer in question, two further iron objects were obtained; one of them had a length of 10.2 cm, the other one 10.9 cm (Fig. 9:a,c). They were both made of a thin bar, rectangular in cross-section, arch-shaped in the middle, and rolled-up into an eyelet at the end.

Among the lithic artefacts that can be associated with the Przeworsk culture, a few whetstones and fragments of stone querns should be named.

The oldest, although very scarce, traces of settlement at the site in question came from the A3 phase of the younger pre-Roman period. The explored part of the site did not deliver any non-portable features that could be linked with the above-mentioned period; it is evidenced merely by a few fragments of pottery obtained from the cultural layer. All of the non-portable features may be dated to the early Roman period. The predominance of archaeological materials coming from the B2 phase was clearly visible, which was particularly true for fibulae. Among the youngest artefacts (dated to the second half of the B2 phase until the C1a phase), a bronze coil wire fibula and a Roman coin can be named.

The decline of the settlement is indirectly indicated by the lack of wheel-turned vessels that were commonly encountered at sites of the Przeworsk culture in the C1b phase of the Roman period (Rodzińska-Nowak 2006, 181).

The investigations presented here have also delivered an insignificant number of artefacts dated to the Middle Ages (ca. 10 fragments of pottery), the older Bronze Age (ca. 100 fragments of pottery), and few fragments of Neolithic vessels. In general, they were discovered within the cultural layer or in secondary sediments, in the fills of features dated to the Roman period. Flint artefacts (30 pcs) found at the site in Kryspinów should most likely be linked with the Neolithic or the Bronze Age. A stone axe was also found at the site in question.

Badania prowadzone w 2014 roku na osadzie w Kryspinowie, st. 3, gm. Liszki

W trakcie badań w 2014 roku rozpoznano północno-wschodni obszar osady kultury przeworskiej na st. 3 w Kryspinowie, gm. Liszki. Osada ta, jak również leżące na północ cmentarzysko z tego samego okresu, była badana w latach 1968–1998 przez Instytut Archeologii UJ. Powierzchnia obecnych badań wyniosła około 16,5 ara. W trakcie badań wyeksplorowano 186 obiektów archeologicznych, głównie półziemianek i jam posłupowych. W stronę wschodnią osada opiera się o skarpgę w stronę starorzecza Wisły. W stronę północno-wschodnią i północną obiekty występowały w dużym rozrzedzeniu, co może świadczyć o eksplorowaniu granic osady. Natomiast wykopy w części południowej charakteryzują bardzo duże nagromadzenie obiektów i materiału zabytkowego.

Pozyskano prawie 3 tysiące fragmentów ceramiki, pochodzących głównie z wypełnień obiektów, a także z warstwy kulturowej, posiadającej miejscami miąższość do 40 cm. Wśród zabytków metalowych na uwagę zasługuje denar Trajana oraz 5 zapinek. Zdecydowana większość ceramiki jest charakterystyczna dla kultury przeworskiej. Na podstawie datowania ceramiki funkcjonowanie tej części osady należy datować na okres A3 młodszego okresu przedrzymskiego do fazy C1a okresu wpływów rzymskich. W materiale zabytkowym z warstwy kulturowej stwierdzono obecność zabytków także innych kultur, pochodzących z okresu neolitu, epoki brązu i średniowiecza.

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