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INFLUENCE OF THE PRZEWORSK CULTURE IN THE PÚCHOV CULTURE MILIEU¹

Abstract: The material content of the Púchov culture reflects complicated cultural relations in the Carpathian area. In the Early Roman Period, southern regions of the Púchov culture inclined towards Suebian cultural environment, whereas northern areas to the Przeworsk culture. Contacts between regions located north and south of the Carpathians, in the mountainous area of northern Slovakia, have been evident from the Late La Tène Period. They have been the most intensive since the 2nd century, especially in the Roman phases B2 and B2/C1. This is particularly noticeable on the metal findings and ceramic artefacts of the Przeworsk culture in the milieu of the Púchov culture, where they influenced local production.

Keywords: Northern Slovakia, Late La Tène Period, Early Roman Period, Przeworsk culture, Púchov culture, brooches, pottery

I. INTRODUCTION

The issue of contacts and interactions of different archaeological cultures has been a frequent topic. Even the researchers from the first half of the 20th century were dealing, in their works, with the question of north-eastern cultural impulses directing towards the south of the Danube (Beninger 1932; 1934; 1940). T. Kolník marginally dealt with this problem in Slovakia (Kolník 1961; 1965; Beljak, Kolník 2006). These contacts have been intensively researched in the Moravia and southwestern Slovakia mainly for the period of change, from the Early Roman to Young Roman Period, with regard to the Marcomannic Wars and their ethno-cultural consequences (Tejral 1999; 2015).

The relationship between northern Slovakia and the regions located north of the Carpathians has not been systematically evaluated yet. This paper is partially based on the dissertation thesis of co-author (Švihurová 2017).

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The settlement of the mountainous area of the Western Carpathians was represented by multi-ethnic Púchov culture in the Late La Tène and Early Roman Periods. Material content of its early phase is characterised by the great variety of features of autochthonous elements in connection with dominant part of the La Tène culture. Dacian elements occurred in the material base of the Púchov culture already towards the end of the La Tène Period, which are also present in Lesser Poland (Luščíková 2007; Pieta 1982b).

At the beginning of 1st century AD noric-pannonian products expanded to the north on a massive scale (Pieta 1996; 1997). At the same time Púchov fortifications were destroyed in the mountainous area of Slovakia and the whole settlement structure of the country subsequently changed (Pieta 2009).

In the Early Roman Period, material culture in the shrinking area of the Púchov culture was influenced by its powerful Germanic neighbours in the south, but mainly in the north. We can observe roots of these contacts already in the previous period. Typical Przeworsk pottery with characteristically formed rims and selected metal inventory occurred as early as in the course of the Late La Tène Period (Pieta 2010, 56). Przeworsk products appeared in their original version, however, they were more often imitated. The oldest elements, which could be connected with the Przeworsk culture, include pottery fragments from Liptovská Sielnica – Liptovská Mara III, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš, found in a workshop of the Púchov culture, dated to LT D2 (Pieta 1982a, Taf. XLIV: 12). The graves from Ihrište, dist. Púchov, and Cífer, dist. Trnava, with unclear archaeological context (Pieta 1974, obr. 23) represent a slightly older proof of Germanics' penetration to the Middle Danube region. For their characteristic inventory (sword, lance, shield and other artifacts), they can be classified as warrior graves of the Przeworsk or Oksywie culture, phase A2 (end of LT C2 to D1: Łuczkiwicz 2001, 27).²

Elements of the Przeworsk culture are visible above all in archaeological material from the settlements of the Púchov culture. Some types of brooches, parts of belts, beads and other decorations, as well as forms of vessels and their ornaments, have earlier chronological position in the area located north from the Carpathians. Some of them occurred on the Púchov culture localities only rare, others were more numerous and became a solid part (though modified to local relations) of the Púchov culture inventory. All of them can be instrumental in closer definition of contacts of the mentioned cultures.

² New evaluation by I. Bazovský (2017) shows that credibility of grave from Cífer is questionable and it is not one finding unit. According to analysis artefacts could be dated only more widely, from the Late La Tène to the older phase of the Early Roman Period.

II. BROOCHES

Brooches have a prominent position among early historic metal artefacts, as through their examination we can follow interregional and cultural contacts. Most of information related to the brooches from northern Slovakia, comes from stray finds, surveys or small rescue excavations. One of the biggest collections is from the research of Liptovská Mara agglomeration, which has been partly published (Pieta 1982a). Over the past few years, however, a variety of specimens have been accumulated. They have been obtained by field survey with the help of metal detector. Many of them are probably of the Przeworsk provenience. An increasing amount of evidence of brooches production in different parts of Barbaricum, including the Púchov territory (Fig. 1), calls for a careful mechanical search for the origin of these products in the area of their greatest distribution (Bazovský 2009; Cociş 2013; Elschek 2013, Abb. 3: 14-17; Tejral 2015, fig. 18, 19).

Trumpet brooches: an iron sample from Rakša, dist. Turčianske Teplice (Fig. 2: 1) has details specific for trumpet brooches of the variant 3 according to T. Liana (1970, tabl. III: 14), eventually for the variant 5 according to T. Dąbrowska (1995, 7-10), which are not as massive as in the variant 3. These brooches are

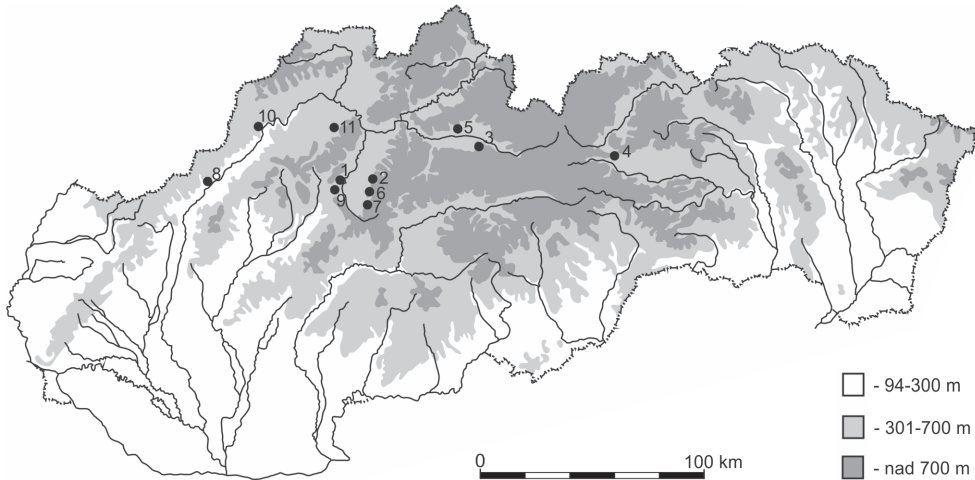


Fig. 1. Sites of the Púchov culture mentioned in text: 1 – Abramová, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 2 – Blatnica, dist. Martin; 3 – Demänovská Dolina, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš; 4 – Jánovce-Machalovce, dist. Poprad; 5 – Liptovská Sielnica, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš; 6 – Mošovce, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 7 – Rakša, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 8 – Skalka nad Váhom, dist. Trenčín; 9 – Slovenské Pravno, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 10 – Streženice, dist. Púchov; 11 – Turie, dist. Žilina

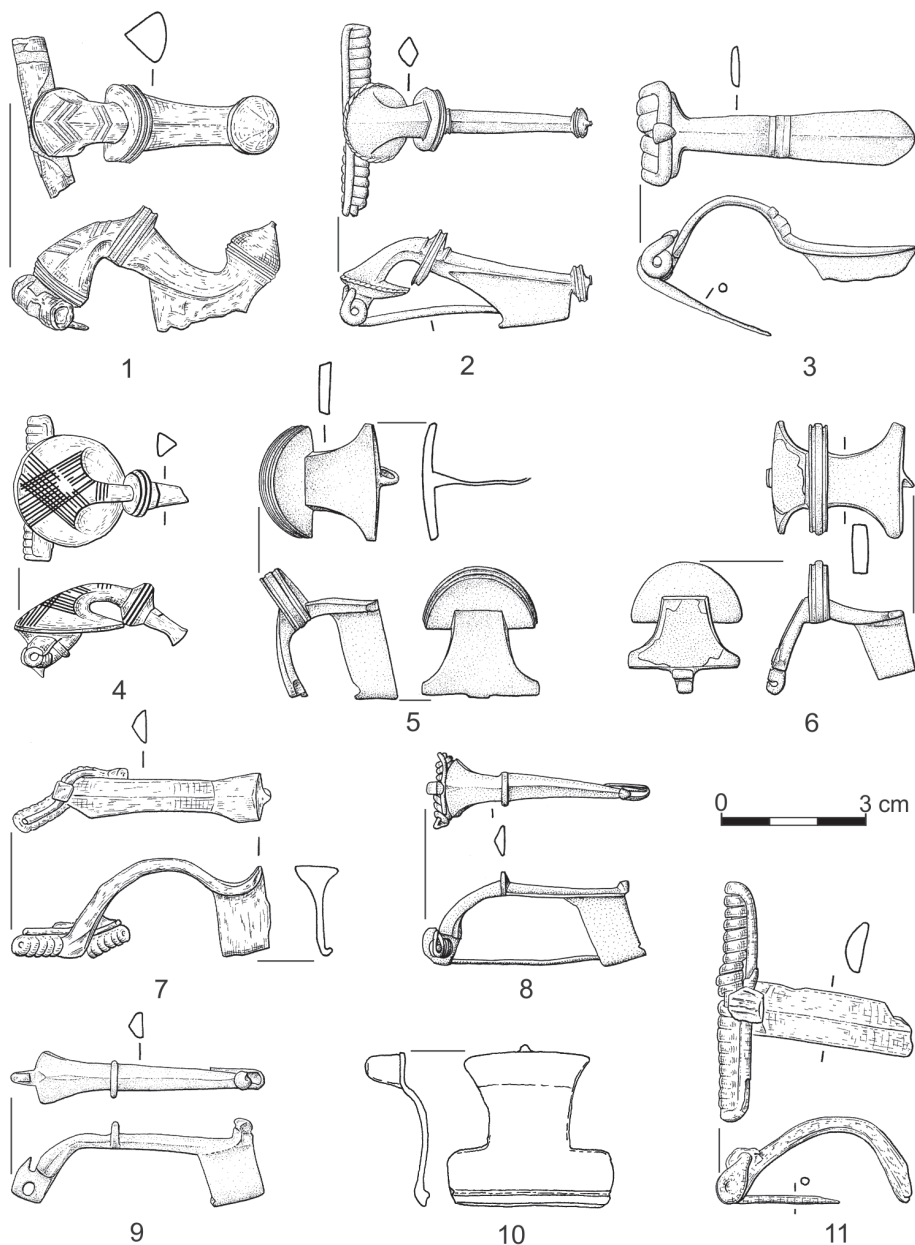


Fig. 2. Brooches from settlements of the Púchov culture. 1, 5-7 – Rakša, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 2, 3, 9 – Mošovce, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 4 – Likavka, dist. Ružomberok; 8 – Turie, dist. Žilina; 10 – Slovenské Pravno, dist. Turčianske Teplice; 11 – Abramová-Polerieky, dist. Turčianske Teplice

mainly defined by its conical knob. An augmented head, a distinct knob, most frequently decorated by a few rills and with rills on the handle of head and knob, often inlaid by silver wire are characteristic of both variants (Dąbrowska 1995, ryc. 3). Germanic iron trumpet brooches have occurred in contexts of the Przeworsk and the Wielbark culture in stages B1b and B2 (Liana 1970, 442-444; Godłowski 1981, 93; 1994, 480-484). They have been often found with brooches of Almgren types 148, 38, 39 and 132 (Dąbrowska 1995, 19; 1998, 151). Their chronological position was confirmed by the inventory of new chieftain's grave from Zohor in the Lower Morava Valley (Elschek 2013).

Another exemplar of trumpet fibula from Mošovce, dist. Turčianske Teplice, is made of copper alloy (Fig. 2: 2). It has a trumpet-shaped head with a circumferential groove and a roof-like slabbing, a straight bow with a disc-shaped knob with a circumferential groove. Catch-plate of triangular shape goes out from under the whole bow, from the knob to the foot. The knob on the foot is round, fixed within the axis of the brooch, so it is not bent upward, again with a circumferential groove and an end button. The original filigree decoration on the head, on the disc-shaped knob of the bow and on the knob of the foot haven't been preserved. The sample belongs to the Almgren type 77, typical for the Roman phase B2 (Dąbrowska 1998, 149-150; Tejral 1983, 90). Other variants of trumpet brooches of Germanic provenience are known from the localities at Spiš region, from Hrabušice and Žehra (Pieta, Soják 2004, obr. 7: 18, 20), as well as a Roman provincial iron brooches, as variant of type Almgren 86 from Likavka in Liptov region (Fig. 2: 4; Beljak, Kolník 2006, 80-81).

The production of these brooches in Turiec region was proved by the finding of two-part bronze mould from Blatnica, dist. Martin (Fig. 3; Pieta 2014, 147). It differs from the classical Elbe Germanic fibulae of Almgren type 79 by a markedly wide catch-plate³. The bronze mould in the Middle European Barbaricum is a particularly rare finding. Two bronze moulds, one of which was for casting of brooches, was found in the grave 24 on Prusiek graveyard in the Polish part of the Carpathians, dated back to the end of the phase B2, eventually to the beginning of the phase C1a (Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak 2014, 278, ryc. 1 - with literature).

Eye brooches: in Mošovce, dist. Turčianske Teplice, a fibula of the main series of group III in Almgren's classification, probably Almgren type 53 was also found there (Fig. 2: 3). The brooch is a single-part, with a hook to the bowstring with six coils. The bow is distinctively bent and at the transition from the bow to the foot, a small knob is situated there. The foot is straight, slightly extended in the lower section and is ended triangularly. The foot is not ornamented with an

³ Contacts of the Púchov culture bearers with the Elbe Germanic area are mirrored by findings of knee brooches, Almgren type 140 from Liptovská Mara III and VII (Pieta 1982a, taf. X: 12, 13).

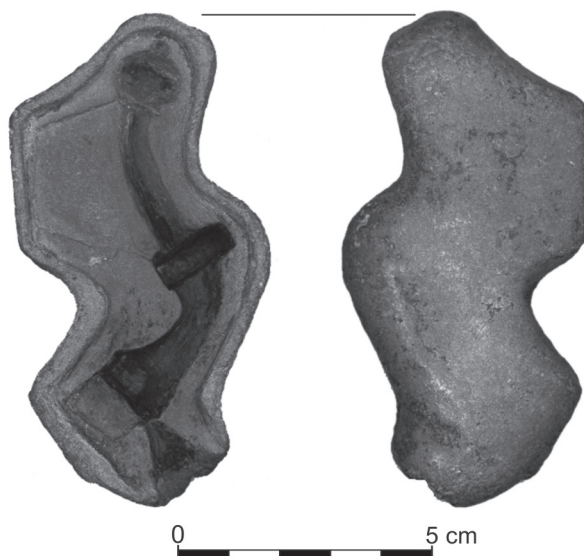


Fig. 3. Blatnica. Two-parts bronze mould for production of trumpet brooches

eye-pattern or lines, which suggest its later dating. Brooches of Almgren types 50-53 are quite common in the northern Slovakia as well as in the whole Middle Danube area (Pieta 1982a, 45). Similar forms as from Mošovce are known from the grave 37 in Sládkovičovo (Kolník 1980, 142, tab. CXLIII: 37/b), or from the cremation grave 1 in Mikulov (Peškař 1972, 72, tab. 3: 8). Forms of Almgren type 50-53 have occurred together with younger distinctly shaped brooches of Almgren type 68 in Middle Danube Barbaricum, which means in the horizon of second third until the end of the 1st century (Maćczyńska 2004, 212; Peškař 1972, 72-73; Pieta 1982a, 45; Tejral 1970, 151), eventually to the 40s – 70s of the 1st century (Kunow 1998, 105-106, Abb. 4).

Other types of brooches, which represent a foreign element in the Púchov culture milieu, come from the mentioned site in Rakša, dist. Turčianske Teplice, Turiec region. The iron fibula of Almgren type 43 has a high transversal rib which is decorated by two circumferential rills filled with silver inlay (Fig. 2: 5). The head of another iron sample from Rakša was originally covered by gilded silver foil (Fig. 2: 6). Brooches of Almgren type 43 were typical for female graves of the Przeworsk culture during the Roman phase B2/C1, although they occurred already at the end of the phase B2 (Ołędzki 1992, 96-97; 1998, 82; Maćczyńska 2009, 41). An exemplar from Zvolen is probably connected with Germanic tribes penetrating the middle and the Upper Hron River basin, the former area of the

Púchov culture (Beljak, Kučeráková 2015, 16; Rajtár 2002, 362). Their number has recently risen significantly in the Middle Danube Barbaricum (Rajtár 2018).

Fibula of Almgren type 148 from the collection of finds in Rakša, dist. Turčianske Teplice, is another foreign product in the Púchov culture (Fig. 2: 7). These brooches were spread mainly in Germany and Poland, where they are dated mostly to the phase B2, resp. from the second half to the end of 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd century (Peškař 1972, 91; Maćczyńska 2009, 51-52). They are neither absent in Moravia or south-western Slovakia (Rajtár 2015, 383, 384, with literature). A fragment of an iron brooch with S-shaped stripe bow was found in Abramová, site Polerieka, dist. Turčianske Teplice, too (Fig. 2: 11).

Samples of Germanic brooches on the Púchov culture localities include S-shaped bronze fibulae probably of Almgren type 110 (Liptovská Mara: 2 pieces) and their iron variants from Liptovská Mara, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš (Pieta 1982a, 46, Taf. X: 1, 2). A similar sample made of copper alloy with cylindrical head, Almgren type 110 or 120 with decorative filigree on the head and the foot was discovered in Demänovská dolina, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš (Soják, Struhár 2014, obr. 9.6). Several pieces were found in the original area of the Púchov culture in the middle Váh territory, which was colonized in the 2nd century by Quads (sites Skalka nad Váhom, dist. Trenčín; Streženice, dist. Púchov). These fibulae were spread in the area of the Przeworsk culture mainly in the phase B2 (Machajewski 1998, 188-189). Samples similar to Almgren type 120 fibula are possible to find in Moravia (Peškař, Ludikovský 1978, obr. 4: 2). Its iron variant was found in Bratislava-Trnávka (Varsik 2011, 43, obr. 15:17).

A fibula with a cylindrical head of Almgren type 124/Machajewski form 5a is also typical of the areas located north of the main West Carpathian range. It was found in Jánovce-Machalovce, dist. Poprad, Spiš region (Pieta, Soják 2004, obr. 7: 21). These fibulae also belong to typical products of the stage B2/C1 (Machajewski 1998, 192), from destruction horizon of the north Slovakian settlements. Spreading of brooches with a cylindrical head has the centre in the areas located north of the Carpathians. Except for the Lower Vistula region, they have occurred in large amounts in the western part of the oecumene of the Przeworsk culture, too (Olędzki 2004, 246).

Series 11 of group V in Almgren's classification is also present in the northern Slovakia. A sample found in Slovenské Pravno, dist. Turčianske Teplice (Fig. 2: 10), was published several times (Pieta 1994, Abb. 1: 3; Šalkovský 1989, obr. 3: 3). It belongs to a type similar to Almgren types 116-117. It represents the so-called Bornholm series 11 of group V, or more precisely the Leonów type distinguished by R. Jamka (1963, 70-73). The sample from Slovenské Pravno was made of iron, like most of such brooches. They have appeared in the highest number from the end of B2 to B2/C1 in assemblages of the Przeworsk culture in Greater Poland (Godłowski 1977, 22-23; Jamka 1963, ryc. 3) and only sporadically

in the areas occupied by other Germanic cultures, e. g. in the Wielbark culture (Natuniewicz-Sekuła 2017). In Slovakia, except for the site at Slovenské Pravno they were only found in the Lower Morava River basin, in the cemetery Sekule, dist. Senica, and site Závod, dist. Malacky (*unpublished*, pers. com. J. Rajtár).

The final phase of the Púchov culture in northern Slovakia is characterized by two-part fibulae of Almgren type 84, which were massively spread in the vast areas of Sarmatian settlement in eastern Hungary, through the Danubian Barbaricum to the area of the Przeworsk culture (Dąbrowska 1992; 1995; 1998, Abb. 6; Pieta 1994). Unpublished samples are known from the site at Turie, dist. Žilina, and from the site at Mošovce, dist. Turčianske Teplice (Fig. 2: 8, 9).

III. OTHER ORNAMENTS AND PARTS OF DRESS

The well-known exported product from the north, which spread to northern Slovakia through the area of the Przeworsk culture, was Baltic amber. Only seven localities with the occurrence of raw amber or decorations have up till now been registered (Švihurová 2015, 98). Only larger collection comes from the settlement Liptovská Sielnica-Liptovská Mara III. A big bead of spherical shape of red colour and four nubs of raw amber were found in the feature from the second half of the 1st century. They were also found three intact beads and some fragments of other two beads of lenticular shape. In the second feature from phases B2 – B2/C1, bones and antler were processed there.

An exceptional finding in the northern Slovakia is a bony needle with multiply sectionalized head from Liptovská Sielnica-Liptovská Mara III, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš (Pieta 1982a, Taf. XVI: 1). It was found together with pottery of phases B2 and B2/C1. According to manufacturing tracks, the needle was made on lathe and we can assign it to Germanic cultural environment. Similar samples can be found in the subtype VIIIB in typology of A. Dulkiwicz (2009, tabl. VI), which was spread on the territory of the Przeworsk culture until the Roman phase B1 and was used up to the phase B2/C1 (Dulkiwicz 2009, 231, mapa 6). Similar shapes are also known from other territories of Barbaricum, e.g. from Denmark. These are dated to the late phase of B1. However, they got there in the earlier period from North-western Germany (Liversage 1980, 97, fig. 35, C12: cf).

A bronze needle from the site Liptovská Sielnica-Liptovská Mara III, dist. Liptovský Mikuláš, has a small pointed head and right below, there is a hanging ear attached to the side of the needle (Pieta 1982a, Taf. XVI: 2). According to the accompanying material, i. a. brooches of Almgren type 68 and of type Okorág, it can be dated to the Roman phase B1b-c. Such samples are unknown in the area of northern Slovakia and in its closest surroundings of the Middle Danube Barbaricum. Analogies of a relatively similar shape come from Baltic region,

where they occurred from the phase B2, or eventually in Bogaczewo culture from C1a (Juga-Szymańska 2014, 169-170). The cited author classifies them in her typology as type H, which belongs to the most numerous forms of needles present in west-baltic sphere (Juga-Szymańska 2014, 167, ryc. 113).

A rare finding in the area of northern Slovakia is a one-piece bony comb from Slovenské Pravno, dist. Turčianske Teplice (Pieta 1982a, Taf. LIV: 8). It has semi-circular handle decorated by horizontal rills, with two elongated rivets. This bony comb belongs to the type B-I according to S. Thomas (1960, 62-64), which occurred in the period from the phase B2 to the phase C1 (Zeman 2001, 113). Their distribution was evident mainly on the territory of the Przeworsk culture (Thomas 1960, 62-63. Kt. 2), but also in Elbe Germanic sphere (Zeman 2001, 113). A sample from Slovenské Pravno is dated by a knee provincial fibula with a semi-circular plate above spring to the second half of the 2nd century (Pieta 1982a, Taf. LIV: 7).

IV. POTTERY

Contacts between the Púchov culture and the inhabitants from behind the Carpathians are possible to observe mainly on ceramics. The analysis of vessel shapes and their decoration, or the way of their production enables us to distinguish not only singular chronological phases, but also to learn something about cultural affiliation of ceramic inventory.

Through the analysis of pottery from the site Liptovská Sielnica-Liptovská Mara III, we managed to set apart those forms of vessels which in general originate in the tradition of the Przeworsk culture. The most frequent form of tableware pottery from the settlement were biconical bowls (Fig. 4: 7, 9-10, 12) and three-part vase-like bowls (Fig. 4: 6, 11), which were typical findings in the Púchov culture settlements from phases B2 and B2/C1 of the Roman Period. An example is a sunk feature 1_VI/68 from Liptovská Sielnica-Liptovská Mara III with a supposed farming function (Fig. 4).

The influence of the Przeworsk culture is well noticeable in the vase-shaped bowls. Characteristic element of these forms is the bend at the maximal width under the mouth or in the upper third of the vessel. Lower part of vessels is usually conical or mildly concave, the base is straight, mostly indent, which evokes the foot-like effect. The first type has analogic shapes in T. Liana's typology as a variant 2 of group VI (Liana 1970, 439, tabl. II: 12), but the Púchov forms differ from them by their mouth profile. In the case of the Przeworsk shapes, the upper part of vessels are vertical and cylindrical, while the upper part of the Púchov bowls is sharply bent towards the inside. Similar samples of the three-part vase-like bowls can be found mainly in the Przeworsk culture milieu where

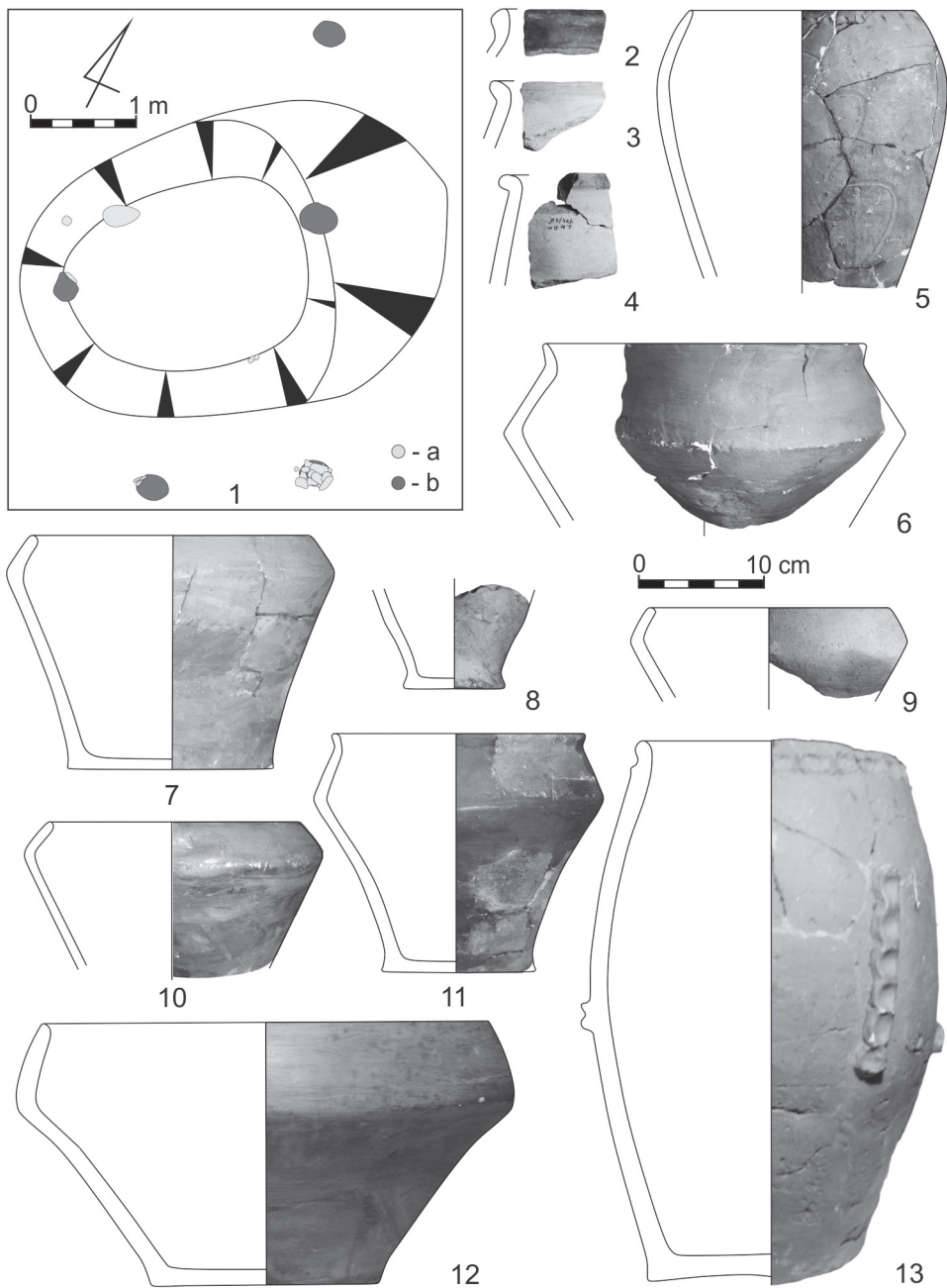


Fig. 4. Liptovská Sielnica, site Liptovská Mara III. Feature 1_VI/68

they correspond with group II/3 according to T. Liana (1970, 439, tabl. II: 6, 9, 13) occurring during both phases of the Early Roman Period. Contrarily to the Przeworsk forms, the Púchov samples have straight base and they are not formed into a foot.

With regard to other findings we can assume with caution that they penetrated, as models, to northern Slovakia from the Przeworsk culture area. Their provenience is not always clear and it is not possible to exclude their origins in the La Tène patterns. A bowl with a cylindrical neck, which in sharp bend traverses to the conical lower part of the body, often mildly bent towards the inside. According to accompanying material, this type can be dated to the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century A.D. At the burial sites of the Przeworsk culture similar bowls can be observed in type A1 according to T. Dąbrowska (1997, 104, Taf. VI: 7, 11, XXVII: 57, 2, LIV: 104, 8). They occurred mainly in graves from B1 and only rarely they passed to the older stage of the phase B2 (Dąbrowska 1997, 104). This type also corresponds with type IV/1 of classification by T. Liana (1970, 439, Tabl. II: 7, 11). Similar samples to the bowls with a cylindrical neck can be found in Suevo area, too (Elschek 1995, Abb. 4: 22, 5: 5; Varsik 2011, obr. 25: 2, 3).

The origin of the low hemispherical bowls with omphalos is also searched in the Przeworsk culture (Pieta 1982a, Abb. 10: 98). Bowls have a round and indented lower part from the neck. They are mildly pointed at the maximum width, some samples may have a softer S-profile. Mostly undecorated samples have occurred in the Púchov culture. On the vessels of the Przeworsk culture, the decoration in form of radially scattered rills and channels concentrate in the lower part of the body. Their occurrence in the Przeworsk culture is bound to the Roman phase B2 and corresponds with the group VI/2 according to T. Liana's classification (Liana 1970, 440, tabl. I: 17, 18).

Cups of hemispherical shape with a massive handle ended by a pointed protrusion have roots undoubtedly in the Przeworsk culture (Liana 1970, tabl. I: 11). They occurred in the Roman phase B2 in the Púchov culture area (Pieta 1982a, Abb. 10: 43). The entire shape can be found only sporadically, mostly only fragments of their handles testify their presence (e. g. site Liptovská Sielnica – Liptovská Mara III).

Except for the analogous shapes of the vessels, other elements accredited to the Przeworsk culture have been also noticed on the ceramics of the Púchov culture. Slabbing of the rim and graphite-coated of the vessels surface which doesn't have roots in previous evolution of the Púchov culture are typical features. On the other side, fragments with a glossy, black surface (imported vessels of the Przeworsk culture) have occurred only sporadically in the Púchov culture settlement material. It is important to note that in settlement material of the Przeworsk culture as well, such fragments are found only in small amounts.

They represent only 6 -10 % of the material from settlements (Podgórska-Czopek 1999, 152). We can observe contacts between the Púchov and Przeworsk culture in the opposite direction, too. It is undoubtedly connected with distribution of the Púchov culture in Kraków region during the Early Roman Period.

V. UNCLEAR GRAVES AND ISOLATED FINDS

Direct presence of the people with Przeworsk culture on the territory of the Púchov culture may be testified by accidentally obtained findings reminiscent of grave finds. In the cadastre of Blatnica, dist. Martin, location Rémová, in the mouth of Gader valley, a secondarily burnt and artificially deformed sword in scabbard together with the point of lance was found (Pieta 2005, 50; 2014, 147, obr. 18: 1). These weapons, related to the Przeworsk culture, probably come from a grave or from a sacrificial place. According to several signs, the sword belongs to the rare late La Tène variants (Łuczkiwicz 1997, 176 according to Pieta 2010, 296). We would like to call attention on another La Tène iron sword in scabbard, discovered together with a two-piece chain belt in other site of Blatnica, is known from the border line of the Early and Middle La Tène period (Pieta 2014, 152, obr. 18: 6). Already mentioned grave from Ihřište, dist. Púchov, known from the drawing of E. Hoening, is also connected with the penetration of the Przeworsk culture elements to this area as early as at the end of the La Tène period. The grave contained i. a. a single-edged sword, a shield boss type Jahn 4b and a point of spear (Pieta 1982a, 189).

In Blatnica, dist. Martin, location Rémová, at the steep slopes in the mouth of Gader Valley, a collection of artefacts consisting of parts of a belt (Fig. 5: 1-5), brooches (Fig. 5: 6, 7), burned artificially deformed shield bosses (Fig. 5: 11, 12), other artefacts (Fig. 5: 8-10) together with fragments of bones of a large mammal and arm bones of young human individual were accidentally found there. A part of fibula of Almgren type 84 (Fig. 5: 7) and a Roman provincial brooch with a triangle foot of type Jobst 4F (Fig. 5: 6), together with types of shield bosses determine dating of these unusual artefacts, unfortunately deposited probably in secondary position on steep slope, to the 2nd century AD (Andrzejowski 1992; Leitner, Färber 2013, 218-219). This could imply the presence of graves or a sacrificial place from the B2/C1 in this exposed location (Pieta 2014, 147).

A deformed sword – spathe and a point of a lance found in Varín, dist. Žilina, may be from the grave as well (Mihok, Pieta 2004). Dating of the finding remains open. According to the shape of the blade's profile, this spathe belongs to the Late Roman Period.

Analogically to the situation in northern Slovakia, we do not know sepulchral localities of the Púchov culture from Lesser Poland either. Two known cases, which

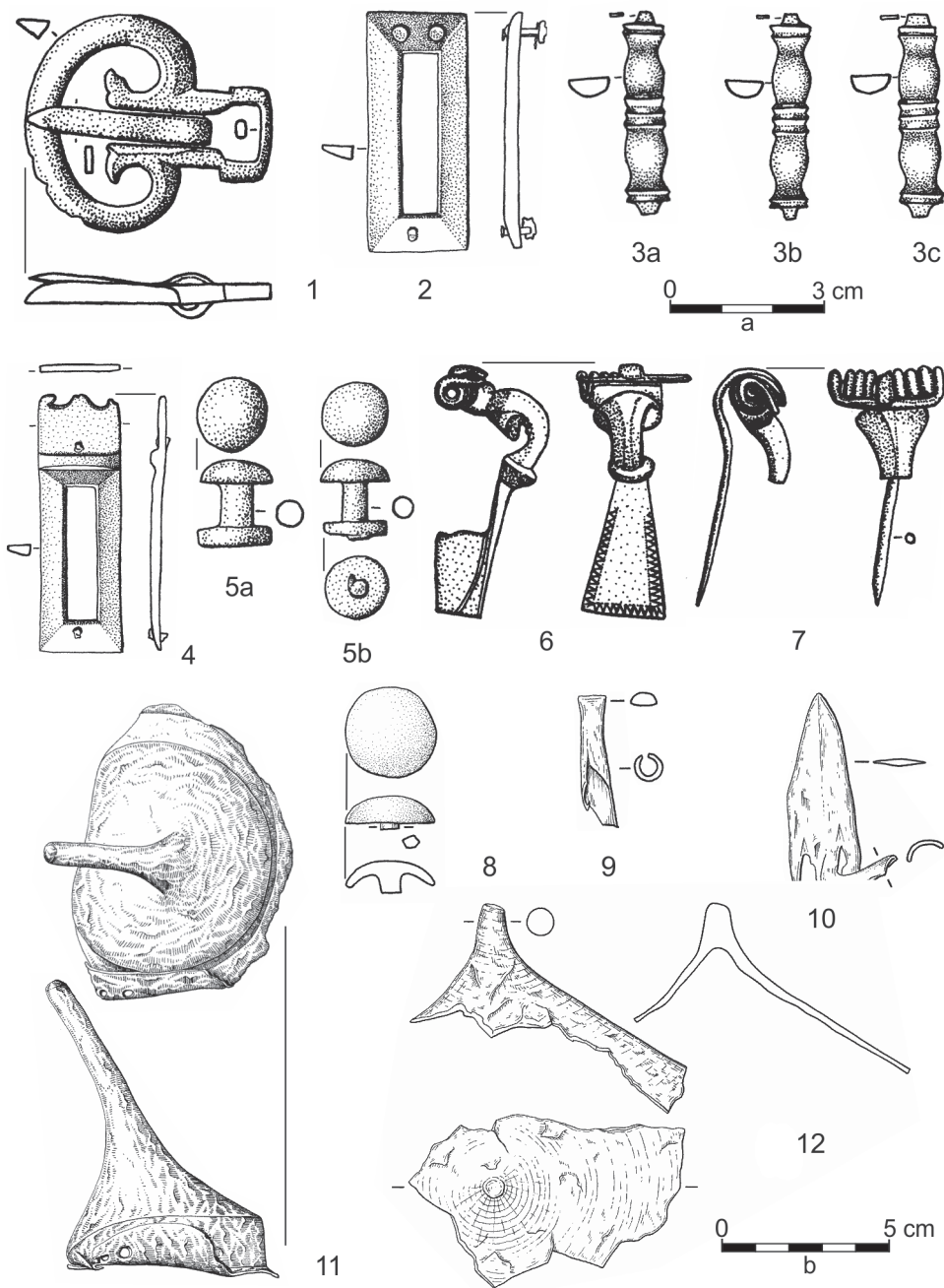


Fig. 5. Blatnica, site Rémová. Selection of artefacts. Scale: a – 1-10, b – 11-12

suggest contacts of the Púchov and Przeworsk culture bearers in this area, make an exception. An isolated cremation grave was discovered in Kraków-Bieżanów, stan. 30. An egg-shaped vessel decorated with fingerprints and engraved lines was used as an urn. It is characteristic for the Roman phase of the Púchov culture (Fraś, Reguła 2003, 234, ryc. 6). Second sample was found on the left bank of Vistula on the Przeworsk culture cemetery in Kraków-Kryspinów, stan. 2. An egg-shaped vessel of the Púchov culture was used as an urn in the grave 66 (Godłowski 1974, 29). Finding is seen as a proof of cultural and ethnical contacts of both spheres (Pieta 1982a, 190; 1986, 42). We cannot thus exclude that these cases are expression of taking over of the local burial rite by bearers of the Púchov culture (Lasota, Pawlikowski 2009, 371). From this point of view, the urn grave from Chełmiec, stan. 2, dated to the beginning of the Roman phase B2, deserves a special attention. It is situated on the western edge of Sącz Basin not far from the Púchov culture settlement in Podegrodzie, stan. 9 (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 47-51). The vessel used as an urn and inventory from the grave were interpreted as the Przeworsk because of the characteristic cremation burial rite (*ibidem*, 55). So it is considered to be another proof of penetration of the Przeworsk culture bearers in the Early Roman Period to the territory of the Carpathians (Madyda-Legutko *et al.* 2005, 117).

VI. CONCLUSION

Geographical location of northern Slovakia enabled contacts of the Púchov culture bearers either in southern direction with south-western Slovakia (and further to the Roman provinces) or with regions situated on the other side of the Carpathians through different mountain passes and river valleys.

The first, until now, only poorly documented phase of the contacts of the Przeworsk culture in the West Carpathians from the end of the Late La Tène period can be observed on the findings from Liptovská Mara. They have been well detected during the Roman phase B1, mainly in forms and decorations of table-ware pottery of the Púchov culture. Occurrence of the Przeworsk elements in the content of the Púchov culture has been more intensive during phases B2 and B2/C1. It was manifested both in pottery and in the distribution of brooches and other decorations. Fragmentary proofs of burial rite or ritual practices have not been clear or persuasive enough so far.

An important evolution milestone in the northern Slovakia at the beginning of the Roman Period was the violent destruction of the Púchov culture fortifications, accompanied by the signs of fight and by deposition of votive sacrifices and hoards. An undoubted consequence of this historical event was the radical change of continuous settlement structure. It was accompanied by the flow of

new elements into the Púchov culture, where alongside Dacian and Suebian elements, pottery and jewellery production influences of the Przeworsk culture gained their recognition (Pieta 2009). Mutual influence of both regions is more or less observable also in contact space, on the territory of Lesser Poland.

Such as archaeologically recorded clear fact has to reflect such important historical events. According to one of the hypotheses, the cause of this fundamental intervention could have been the expansion of the Przeworsk culture inhabitants to the south through the main Carpathian range. The reflection of this event in historical sources could have been the tribal rivalry of Lugii and Vannius's Quads, mentioned by Tacitus (Annales 12, 29, 30). A multi ethnic territory of the Púchov culture in the north and north-western Slovakia was an open space suitable for mutual expansion or power struggle.

According to the pottery from the settlements of the Púchov culture in Liptov and Spiš regions, a noticeable influence of the Przeworsk culture on the Púchov culture area survived during the entire Early Roman Period. In many papers, an exceptional intensity of artefacts occurrence of the Przeworsk and Wielbark culture during phases B2 and B2/C1 at the Moravia and southwestern Slovakia was repeatedly mentioned, for example at the burial ground in Sekule (pers. com. J. Rajtár). On the other side, it seems that the flow of artefacts of the Przeworsk provenience hit territory of the Púchov culture only marginally. Brooches from the 2nd century are concentrating mainly in the southwestern part of the Púchov culture area, mostly in Turiec region. It is important to remind readers that the main sources of the information about supposed ethnical interventions – burial grounds – are absent in the Púchov culture.

At the same time, corresponding with the period of Marcomannic wars, settlement of the Púchov culture ceases to exist and from the end of the 2nd century, prominent parts of the area of northern Slovakia, mainly Orava and Liptov regions, remain only minimally settled until the new colonisation of the North Carpathian group by the end of 4th century arrives. A different situation outlines in Spiš region. Even here settlements of the Púchov culture were deserted at the end of the 2nd century but new, unpublished finding testifies the existence of the settlement in the 3rd century. It concentrated in the lower Spiš region, at site Dolány-Pod Brusníkom, Domaňovce-Na Dlhom, Klčov-Roveň, Spišský Hrhov-Povrazy (Soják 2009, 104-105). The information about findings of cremation graves in Levoča which are supposed to belong to the Przeworsk culture have already been published (Tamaškovič, Ontko, Diačiková, Žák Matyaszowsky 2019).

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