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SOUTH MORAVA BASIN IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD FROM THE BRONZE TO THE IRON AGE

Abstract. – Results of the recent investigations of the sites from the Transitional period between the Bronze and Iron Age in the South Morava basin are presented in this paper. On the basis of these results as well as the earlier research in this area a chronology of this period in the South Morava basin has been established. The analysis of the material, particularly pottery, shows that channelled pottery of Gava – Belegiš II type (Iron Age Ib) was a prevailing feature at the beginning of the Transitional period in the entire region. It is also stated that during the Transitional period a particular culture group formed in the basin of the river Pčinja, the upper course of the Vardar, then in the Kočane-Kratovo area and in the Vranje-Bujanovac valley, which later influenced south-east Kosovo and the Leskovac area. The group was named the Pčinja cultural group, after the central part of the territory.

Key words. – South Morava basin, Transitional period, Early Iron Age, phase Ha A₂ – Ha B₃, channelled pottery, pottery decorated with oval and slanted points, Pottery decorated with rectangular impressions, culture influences from the North and East, Pčinja culture group, Dardanians, Paeonians.

The South Morava basin is situated in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula at the crossroads of natural communication routes which bind the Danube valley with Macedonia and the Aegean, and the Black Sea shores with the Adriatic. The South Morava basin consists of three smaller geographical entities: the lower course – from the junction of the South Morava with the West Morava to the mouth of the Nišava (Kruševac area), then the middle course (Niš and Leskovac areas) and the upper course – territory, south of the Grdelica canyon to the border with Kosovo (Vranje area). The most northerly part of the South Morava valley is up to 10 km wide, while in the south, in the Vranje–Bujanovac valley, it narrows and is mainly up to 4 km wide. The basin, in the direction north-south, is about 150 km long, so it is not surprising that in spite of the fact that it represents one geographical entity, the ethno-cultural processes did not develop in the same manner over the entire area in particular prehistoric periods.

The Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age, which includes the two last centuries of the 2nd and the two first centuries of the 1st millennium B.C., is one of the less known prehistoric periods in this region and neighbouring areas. This time span corresponds to phases Ha A₁ – Ha B₃, according to Reinecke's

chronological division, and to Iron Age I, according to Garašanin's division of the Iron Age.¹

The Brnjica group was dominant in the Late Bronze Age in the entire South Morava basin.² Its disintegration began already at the beginning of the Transitional period, when the channelled pottery from the North became more prevalent. Cultural manifestation, characterised by channelled pottery, and its relation to previous and later cultures in this region, were stratigraphically clearly expressed at the sites Konopljara near Kruševac, Hisar in Leskovac, and Piljakovac in Kržince near Vladičin Han. Besides unpublished finds from excavated multi-period sites, the paper includes unpublished finds from the survey investigations. Many characteristic finds, already published are not presented here due to limited space, but the literature where they are published, is cited in detail.

¹ Гарашанин 1973, 401–449, Table V.

² On the Donja Brnjica – Gornja Stražava group, as it was named earlier, see: Srejšević 1959/60, 122–123; Трбуховић В. и Ј. 1970; Кретић 1992, 231–248; Гарашанин 1973, 439–440, 444; etc. Recently, several papers concerning this culture were published: Лазич 1996; Љуци 1998, 144–145; Булатовић 1999/2000, 23–42; Stojić 2000, 9–60; Ташић 2001, 7–9 etc.

The Leskovac region

The site Hisar in Leskovac, which has been systematically excavated for several years,³ is very important for the precise chronological determination of the channelled pottery, dated to the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age in the South Morava basin. Four developing phases were described in the Late Bronze Age, or the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age: Ia, Ib, IIa and IIb.⁴ The oldest phase (stratum I on south-east slope) is connected to the Brnjica culture; in phase II (stratum II) bowls with inverted horizontally faceted rim and vessels decorated with horizontal and vertical channels appear.⁵ In phase III (stratum III) dominant pottery types were bowls with inverted channelled or faceted rim, then amphorae with largely everted rim, decorated with channels on the interior side of the rim, or under it, amphorae's with accentuated belly, decorated with horizontal or slanted channels with two tongue-like horizontal handles, amphorae's with plastically accentuated belly, decorated with horizontal channels, which meet at a plastic protuberance, and vertically positioned handles, decorated with vertical channels. It is interesting to point out that already in stratum III ornaments appeared in the form of plastic extensions on the rims of bowls and tops of handles, then grooves, impressed circles and incised spirals.⁶

In stratum IV the same pottery types and ornaments appear as in stratum III. The new shapes are biconic bowls with tunnel-like, horizontally perforated handle on the rim.⁷

Several objects found at this site, excavated in 2006, are the best illustration of the relation between channelled pottery and stamped pottery, or pottery with impression of various shapes or incisions.⁸ In object 3, sector 1, sondage I/06, bowls with inverted faceted rim with a tongue-like handle (Fig. 1) were found, then amphorae with a belly, decorated with arched or horizontal channels and plastic thickenings (Figs. 2 and 3) and arched handles, decorated with vertical channels and conic or biconic plastic ornaments on the top (Figs. 5 and 6). At the same place pottery, decorated with horizontal channels, combined with a horizontal row of impressions in the form of triangular elongated incisions or rows of rectangular impressions were found (Figs. 4 and 7).

Object 14 in sector 1, sondage II/06, considerably damaged by later digging, contained, apart from mortar, mill-stone, bead, stone tools and weights, bowl fragments with inverted channelled rim (Figs. 8 and 9), amphorae, decorated with horizontal channels and plastic vertical

grooves, combined with horizontal rows of impressions in the shape of triangular incisions or circular impressions (Figs. 10–12).

In sector 1, sondage I/06, during the 2006 excavations, characteristic pottery was found: fragment of a conic bowl with ring-like thickened wavy rim (Fig. 13); fragment of a bowl with inverted faceted rim, decorated with broken lines (Fig. 14); fragment of a large biconic vessel with tongue-like handle on the belly (Fig. 15); fragment of a belly belonging to a large vessel, decorated with incised broken lines, arched channels and plastic vertical thickenings (Fig. 16); fragment of a belly, belonging to a large vessel, with tongue-like handle, decorated with slanted channels (Fig. 17); fragment of a vessel, decorated with channels and rows of incisions, similar to elongated triangles (Fig. 18); fragment of a belly decorated with channels and rows of incisions, similar to elongated triangles (Fig. 19); fragment of a vessel decorated with horizontal channels and incised spiral lines (Fig. 20); fragment of a belly decorated with broken crossed lines (Fig. 21); fragment of a belly decorated with rows of circular impressions (Fig. 22); fragment of a vessel, decorated with stamped concentric circles, with two rows of rhomboid shaped impressions in between (Fig. 23); fragment of a vessel, decorated with rows of impressed concentric circles, with rows of small rhomboid impressions in between (Fig. 24); fragment of knee-like handle with pointed top, decorated with vertical channels (Fig. 25); handle fragment with two protrusions, decorated at the top with vertical channels (Fig. 26); handle fragment decorated with transverse channels (Fig. 27); fragment of a vertical handle, decorated with vertical channels, combined with rows of incisions, similar to small elongated triangles (Fig. 28).

Channelled pottery from Hisar, on the basis of identical analogies in the Morava valley (phase Ib is, after M. Stojić, ascribed chronologically to period Ha A2),

³ Гарашанин М., Ивановић 1958, 42; Ерцеговић–Павловић, Костић 1988, 17–18, fig. 114.

⁴ Stojić 2001, 34–38.

⁵ Стојић 2001, Т. XIII/1–2, Т. XIV/2–3, 14–16.

⁶ Стојић 2001, Т. V/18–20, Т. VI/1–7, Т. XVI/3, 5–15.

⁷ Стојић 2001, Т. XVIIб, Т. XIX.

⁸ These finds are unpublished in the National Museum in Leskovac. I thank the director of the excavations M. Stojić for the possibility to include this material in my paper.

can be dated to period Ha A2/B1.⁹ The appearance of pottery characteristic of Gava–Belegiš II pottery (and phase Ib of the Morava group) which apart from channels, is decorated with rows of small triangular elongated incisions, can be considered as indicative. (Figs. 7, 11, 18, 19). This manner of decoration is not known on the Gava–Belegiš II pottery in the Danube valley, but it appears sporadically on the sites of Iron Age Ib in the Morava valley as well as in the north part of the South Morava valley.¹⁰

This new decorative motif points to influence from decoration by impression and stamping, which will mark the Early Iron Age in the territory of the Central and East Balkans. Pottery, decorated in this technique, appears in the Early Iron Age in the cultures Insula Banului, Pšeničevo–Babadag and Kalakača–Gornea, which preceded the Basarabi culture and are dated to the period Ha A2 – Ha B.¹¹

On Hisar, however, there are objects with pottery, decorated exclusively by channelling as in phase Ib of the Morava group (object 14 in sondage amphitheatre; object 8 in sondage I/06), which indicates two layers in the Transitional period – an early horizon, with pottery, decorated exclusively with channelling, and late horizon, with pottery, decorated with channelling and incisions.

Apart from pottery from objects 14/sector III and 8, handles decorated with narrow channels, as well as pottery decorated with parallel rows of impressed circles, belong to the early horizon, which is ornamentation, characteristic of Iron Age Ib in the Morava basin (Figs. 10 and 22).¹² Iron Age Ib in the Morava basin, according to M.Stojić, is dated to phase Ha A2, which corresponds to the earlier horizon of the Transitional period at Hisar.

Apart from pottery from objects 3 and 14/sector I, pottery from a cultural layer decorated with impressed concentric circles and rows of rectangular or rhomboid impressions in between, as well as pottery decorated with incised broken lines (Figs. 14, 21) belong to the late horizon. Pottery with the same style-typological features appears at the sites from Iron Age Ic and phase Kalakača in the Morava basin, as well as in the Kalakača horizon in the Danube basin.¹³ After P. Medović, the Kalakača horizon in Vojvodina belongs to phase Ha B, while M.Stojić dates Iron Age Ic and the Kalakača phase in the Morava basin to the same period. Bearing in mind that the early horizon of the Transitional period at Hisar is chronologically determined to phase Ha A2/B1, the late horizon, which follows immediately after, judging by the pottery with identical style-

typological characteristics, with just one new element – ornament executed by impression, but also according to the metal finds at the objects, belongs to phase Ha B1/B2.¹⁴

Identical pottery, decorated with stamping (concentric circles, rows of impression in grooves etc.), which appears sporadically together with channelled pottery in the later horizon of the Transitional period at Hisar, then in the surrounding of Niš, Svrlijig and Pirot, is known in Troy, in VIIb2, which contributes to the chronological determination of this pottery in the South Morava basin.¹⁷ This layer in Troy is dated earlier, between 1200 and 1100 B.C., which would correspond to Reinecke's phases Ha A1/A2.¹⁶ According to newly calibrated C14 dates, layer VIIb2 could be placed to the first half of the 10th century B.C. Bearing in mind that this pottery originates from East Thrace, it can be dated in Thrace somewhat earlier, to the 11th century B.C. or Reinecke's phase Ha A2.¹⁷ This data indicates that this

⁹ In recent times channelled pottery from the Transitional period in the South Morava basin is called »channelled pottery of type Gava–Belegiš II«. We think that much closer analogies for this pottery were uncovered in the Morava basin, in Iron Age Ib of the Morava culture, according to M.Stojić (Stojić 1986, 90–92); thus, we propose to name this pottery, belonging to the Transitional period in the South Morava basin and Pčinja basin, »channelled pottery type from Iron Age Ib of the Morava culture«.

¹⁰ In the Gava–Belegiš II cultural group there is pottery ornamentation, consisting of rows of puncture dots, but not of triangular incisions, which were found on the pottery from Hisar (Boroffka 1994, Abb.1/1, Abb.5/12,21, Abb.6/6,8,14, Abb.9/1–3,6; Bukvić 2000, T.I/2, T.II/4, T.3/4, T.23/1, T.50/3, T.52/1 etc. Similar ornamentation (slanted impressed incisions) appear on the channelled pottery from Iron Age Ib and Iron Age Ic in the Morava valley (Stojić 1986, T.7/5,10, T.VIII/3, T.IX/8,10; Стојић, Чађеновић 2001, T.IX/11, T.X/9, T.XVIII/3,6,8,9,15).

¹¹ Guma 1995, 99–137, Pl.XIX; Медовић 1994, 45–49; Jevtić 1994, 129–140; Стојић 2004, 218–221; Czyborra 2005, 120, Abb.69.

¹² Stojić 1986, T.7/11; Стојић 2004, T.4/13, T.6/23–24.

¹³ Medović 1978, T.XXIII/1, T.XXVIII/3, T.XXXIX/5; Стојић 2004, T.8/4–6, T.9/9–11, T.10/3,15,17.

¹⁴ Metal finds from the objects confirm this dating. I thank Mr. M.Stojić for the opportunity to study this material.

¹⁵ Sandars 1978, 191–195, Fig.127/a. Concerning this pottery, see in detail the chapter »The Transitional period in the Nišava valley« later on.

¹⁶ Квита 1982, 28; Бокит 1982, 33–34.

¹⁷ C14 dates after D. Korpenhöfer (cited after: Czyborra 2005, 113–115).

pottery could not have reached the South Morava basin before the first half of the 10th century, or phase Ha B1/B2.

Channelled pottery, decorated in the manner of Iron Age Ib in the Morava basin, was found also in the surrounding of Medvedja (Figs. 29–30), which indicated the spreading of this pottery also beyond the main communication directions in the South Morava basin.¹⁸

The early horizon of the Transitional period at Hisar can be, as stated earlier, dated to phase Ha A2/B1, while the late horizon belongs to phase Ha B1/B2. The early horizon corresponds approximately to phase Hisar IIa, after the periodisation by M. Stojić, while the late horizon corresponds to phase Hisar IIb.

Confluence zone of the South and West Morava

The site Konopljara in Čitluk near Kruševac provided, apart from finds which belong to the Late Bronze Age, i.e. the Brnjica and Paraćin group, stratigraphically determined finds of the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age.¹⁹ Finds from object 12, which consisted of three cultural entities were characteristic: pit, then layer containing stones, clay and mortar which covered the pit, and a humus layer.²⁰ The finds from the pit belong to the Paraćin, or Brnjica group, the layer of stones, clay and mortar contained, apart from the Brnjica finds, channelled pottery (a bowl with inverted faceted rim, a vessel, decorated with horizontal channels on the belly, combined with a row of punctuated dots).²¹ In the humus layer Early Iron Age pottery was found (slightly biconic bowls and bowls with inverted rim, decorated with incisions and plastic extensions on the rim).²²

Pottery finds from the site Konopljara in Čitluk, as well as from other sites in the Kruševac region, show that the ethno-cultural picture in the north part of the South Morava basin in the Transitional period was almost identical with that in the Great Morava valley and that the entire region represented in this period a single ethno-cultural unity.²³

The Nišava region

In the Nišava region the ethno-cultural situation during the Transitional period was very similar to that in the Leskovac region. In Mediana culture, layers were not determined stratigraphically but according to the style-typological characteristics of pottery, one can distinguish three developing phases. The earliest phase corresponds culturally and chronologically to the Late Bronze cultures (the Brnjica culture with Paraćin

culture elements); second phase, (channelled ornaments, channelled handles with pointed top, bowls with inverted faceted or grooved rim, large channelled amphora rims etc.) corresponds to the early phase of the Transitional period at Hisar (Hisar IIa after M. Stojić), while the latest phase at Mediana (pottery decorated with concentric circles connected with rows of false cords, bowls with inverted rims and elongated horizontal plastic handles, decorated with incised triangles and false cords, shallow cups with high handle above the rim, and pressed bottom – omphalos), corresponds to the late phase of the Transitional period at Hisar (Hisar IIb after M. Stojić).²⁴ Recent finds from the surrounding of Svrljig (pottery decorated with concentric circles with rows of rhombi in between, shallow cup with a high handle and pressed bottom – omphalos) confirm that the influence of stamped pottery from the East (Pšeničevo culture) were very strong in this region and indicate that the main communication route for this influence was the Nišava valley.²⁵ The finds from the sites in the Nišava valley in the surrounding of Pirot (Donja Držina, Petljja, Dimitrovgrad, Mali Grad) support this assumption.²⁶

¹⁸ The site Okučnica Baneta Krstića in Rujkovac, 15 km north-east of Medvedja was found during systematic survey of the commune Medvedja by a team, which included archaeologist T. Čerškov from the Institution for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Niš, technical documentalist P. Teodorski and archaeologist A. Bulatović from the Archaeological Institute in Belgrade.

¹⁹ Гарашанин М., Гарашанин Д., 1951, 58; Тасић Н. 2001, 7–19; Чађеновић 1995, 49–52; Чађеновић 2001, 27–41; Стојић, Чађеновић 2001, 47–80; Стојић, Чађеновић 2006, 225–229.

²⁰ Стојић, Чађеновић 2001, 47 etc.

²¹ Стојић, Чађеновић 2001, Т. I/5, 10–12.

²² Стојић, Чађеновић 2001, Т. I/1–3.

²³ Стојић, Чађеновић 2006, 34, Т. V, VII, VIII, XII, XIX, XXIII i dr.

²⁴ Finds from Mediana, see: Garašanin 1983, T. CV i CVI; Garašanin 1996, Veil. I–III. Protection excavations at this site at the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 uncovered a habitation object with pottery belonging to the Brnjica and Paraćin cultures (Bulatović, in print).

²⁵ Филиповић 2007, Т. II. Apart from pottery from the site Signal in Palilula, pottery decorated in the manner of the Pšeničevo culture was found at the site Suvi Kladenac in Burdim near Svrljig. I thank colleague V. Filipović for this information.

²⁶ Стојић 1994, Т. I i II. Comp. Garašanin 1999, 45, note 28.

The Vranje region

At the sites in the valley area of the Vranje region, channelled pottery was represented with style-typological features, as in Iron Age Ib in the Morava valley. This pottery was found in Karadnik, Turija, Krševica, Trnava, Lučane (Figs. 39, 45–52, 54–55, 61, 64, 66, 68–72).²⁷ A symbiosis of the Brnjica pottery and the channelled pottery is illustrated by a handle with a fan-like broadening at the top (Fig. 50), which is a typical element of the Brnjica culture, but in this case shows noticeable influence from Iron Age Ib channelled pottery of the Morava valley. Metal finds from this period (end of phase Ha A and beginning of Ha B) in this region confirm that the channelled pottery bearers originate from the North of the Balkan Peninsula.²⁸

However, in the mountainous area, east of Preševo, at the site Gradina in Svinjište, pottery decorated with channels combined with impressed triangular incisions, similar to the pottery of the Transitional period at Hisar (phase Ha B1/B2), was found on the floor of a house from the late horizon.²⁹ Also pottery, decorated with rows of round or slanted pricks, incised triangles and rows of rhomboid impressions in the groove (so-called false cord), together with a bronze celt, dated to Ha B after Reinecke's periodisation, was found on this floor.³⁰ At the same site there was a metal find, characteristic for the dating of the lower chronological border of the late horizon. It is an iron button in the shape of a Maltese cross, which dates, according to V. Lahtov to phase Ha B3/C, and after Z. Videski to the beginning of phase Ha C.³¹ According to these metal finds and the style-typological features of the pottery, the late layer can be dated from the end of phase Ha B2, to the beginning of phase Ha C (9th–8th century B.C.).

In the north of the Vranje region, at the entrance to the Grdelica canyon, there is a different stratigraphic picture at the site Piljakovac in Kržince.³² Style-typological features of pottery show similarities to pottery from the north and central part of the South Morava basin, but also to pottery from the south. In the same layer, together with channelled pottery corresponding to pottery from Iron Age Ib in the Morava valley (Kržince III after M. Lazić), pottery decorated with rows of impressed circles, similar to that at Hisar from both horizons of the Transitional period, was found, which is particularly characteristic of Iron Age phases Ib and Ic in the Great Morava valley. However, in layer III in Kržince, pottery was sporadically found, which is characteristic mainly for the south of the South Morava basin and north-east Macedonia. It is

pottery, decorated with rows of oval and slanted pricks combined with channels or incised lines. Apart from channelled pottery, identical with Iron Age Ib pottery in the Morava valley, two pottery fragments were found in this layer, which were decorated with impressed »S« motifs.³³ In the next layer (Kržince IV after M. Lazić), which also contains finds from two closed entities (pits 1 and 2), pottery exclusively characteristic of the second half of the Transitional period (Early Iron Age) in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula was found (bound »S« motifs, false cord, stamped circles combined with rectangular impressions in groove and »S« motifs etc.). Layer III in Kržince, according to pottery parallels at Hisar, can be chronologically placed to the period which corresponds to the early and the beginning of the late horizon of the Transitional period, Hisar IIa/IIb after M. Stojić, or Reinecke's phases Ha A2/B1. The later layer (Kržince IV), with new elements in pottery –

²⁷ The site Donji Jasen in Karadnik was located in 1966 (M. Јовановић 1966, 313), and visited later on several occasions (P. Васић, О. Паламаревевић 1984, 135 ff., Fig. 1; Булатовић 2001, Т. III/1, 2; Булатовић 2007, 173–174). Systematic survey of the site Česma in Turija near Vujanovac was carried out in 2005 (Булатовић 2007, 198–200). The site Kale in Krševica, see: Микулчић, Јовановић 1968, 355–376; Поповић 2005, 141–174; Булатовић 2005а, 175–190). The site Trnavska Reka in Trnava was located during the survey in 2006. The site Resulja in Lučane was mentioned in the literature earlier (M. Јовановић 1967, 320; Булатовић 2001, 163–165; Булатовић 2007, 202–208).

²⁸ Comp. bronze sickle from Končulj and bronze swords with tongue handle (Griffzungenschwerter) from Golemo Selo and Pavlovac (Јовановић 1966, 247–248, Fig. 1; Harding 1995, 35, Taf. 12/78; Булатовић 1999/2000, 24–33, Т. I/13; Булатовић, 2007, 87–88, 163–164, 178–194, Т. VIII/1, Т. XLI/1, Т. LI/65).

²⁹ The site Gradina in Svinjište was excavated on two occasions 1997 and 2006 (Булатовић 1998/99, 7–17; Булатовић, Капуран 2007, 1–24).

³⁰ Petrescu-Dimbovita 1977, 95–97, Pl. 160/11, 12, Pl. 305/4, Pl. 322/7, Pl. 343/11 etc.

³¹ Lahtov 1965, 145, Т. XXIII/1, 2; Видески 2003, kat. nr. 293. On dating and spreading of »Macedonian bronzes«, see: Васић 2003, 143–152, Fig. 1/4.

³² Јовановић М. 1968, 505; Булатовић 2001, 168 ff.; Лазич 2005.

³³ These fragments were found in sondage B, where two pits from the later period were uncovered, with pottery decorated with »S« motif. It is possible that these two fragments accidentally fell into an earlier layer. This is supported by the fact, that up to now, Gava-Belegiš II pottery or pottery of Iron Age Ib in the Morava valley, was not found at the sites from the Transitional period together with pottery decorated with S motif.

ornaments in the shape of stamped concentric circles and false cord motifs, can be dated to the late horizon of the Transitional period at Hisar, and possibly to a period immediately after this (from the end of Ha B1 to the end of Ha B2).

Although layer Kržince III is approximately contemporaneous with the earlier layer at Svinjište, pottery from these two layers shows style-typological differences. In Kržince pottery characteristic of phase Ib in the Morava valley predominates, with sporadic Brnjica finds, while at Svinjište Brnjica pottery is found exclusively. Channelled ornaments, combined with triangular incisions, appear only in the later horizon in Svinjište. It supports the supposition that at the beginning of the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age in the Vranje–Bujanovac valley area, cultural processes develop, which differ from those in the mountainous area, east of the South Morava.³⁴

Ornamentation with rows of small impressed elongated triangular incisions, combined with channels, was characteristic of the entire Morava valley (Vrbica, Oparić and Glibovac in the Great Morava valley; Hisar and Bobište in the Leskovac plain; Kržince, Turija in the Vranje–Bujanovac valley – Fig. 51). This indicates cultural unity in this territory during phase Ha A2–B1, at least in the valley area, which can be explained by the domination of channelled Gava–Belegiš II pottery, or phase Ib of the Morava culture.³⁵

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Ornaments which are characteristic in the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age for the sites in the south region of the South Morava basin, then in the Pčinja valley, the upper course of the Vardar and the Bregalnica valley, are rows of slanted and oval pricks, mainly combined with channels and incised hanging hatched triangles.³⁶ Pottery decorated with oval pricks was found in Kržince in layer III, so the dating of this layer (phase Ha A2/B1) can be considered as terminus post quem for the appearance of this ornament in the South Morava basin. Besides Kržince, they are found in Kopanjane, Klinovac, Svinjište, Rusac, Pavlovac and Buić in the Vranje–Bujanovac valley (Figs. 37, 62–63, 67, 74, 79, 81), Ljušta in Kosovo and Orane near Lebane, then frequently in the south region of the Pčinja valley: Pelince, Mlado Nagoričino (Fig. 86), Makreš (Fig. 82–83), Vražogrnici (Fig. 84), Skopje, Gornje Konjare, Nemanjica (Fig. 87), Sopot (Fig. 88–89), Orizari, Kršla, Gornji Kozjak, Strnovac, Lipkovo.³⁷ In Volkovo, pottery decorated with rows of

oval pricks appears in the Donja Pčinja region, mat painted pottery in a large mound in Strnovac, where pottery with slanted pricks was also found, indicates that the appearance of this ornament can be approximately dated to phase Ha A, together with a bronze spectacle fibula of type Haslau–Regelsbrunn, which according to R. Vasić dates to the 9th century, or Reinecke's phase Ha B2/B3.³⁸ Similar pottery was found in mound III at the site Orlova Čuka, where some metal finds were also dated to the 9th century B.C.³⁹

These ornaments, a basic characteristic of this culture, were in use for a long time, appearing on pottery from the end of phase Ha A in Macedonia (Strnovac), as well as from Ha B in the south of the South Morava basin and in Kosovo (Kržince, Kopanjane, Klinovac, Svinjište, Orane, Ljušta, Lipovica). Apart from identical decoration, these sites contain identical pottery shapes, which also indicate a unique culture. These are bowls with inverted, faceted or slanted channelled rims, sometimes with tunnel-like handles or arched handles on the rim (Figs. 59, 75, 88), then pear-like amphorae with slanted, profiled or everted rims (Figs. 77–78), sometimes with horizontal handles on the belly.

³⁴ Булатовић 2007, 40–44.

³⁵ Stojić 1986, T.7/10, T.12/4, T.IX/8, 10; Стојић 2001, T.XXI/17–19; Лазић 2005, T.VI/8.

³⁶ Ornamentation with slanted or oval pricks was rarely found outside this territory; it appears sporadically on the sites of the Babadag, Cepina and Pšeničevo culture (Hänsel 1976, Taf.44/8, Taf.76/1, Taf.77/5; Czyborra 2005, Taf.20/9, Taf.26/2,5).

³⁷ Булатовић 2007, T.LXVII/22–24, T.LXX/15, 17; Булатовић 1998/99, T.II/1,3,12; Bulatović, Kapuran 2007, Pl.I/10, Pl.II/13, Pl.VIII/3; Jevtić 1983, T.XXXVI/7; Булатовић, Јовић 2007, Сл. 4–6; Georgiev 1989, T.III/4, T.IV/3, T.VI/6–7, T.VIII/2–3, T.XIII/5, T.XX/3, T.XXVIII/3, T.XXIX/4, T.XXX/1,4, T.XXXIII/4, T.XXXVI/5, T.XXXVIII/1, T.XXXIX/1,3, T.XL/ 1,3,6; Георгиевски 1992, 51–68. The site Gumnište in Pavlovac was known since the 30ies of the last century. Ca 500 m south-west from that site, at the site Pudarnica, a bronze Griffzungenschwert was uncovered by ploughing, which dates to phase Ha A (Bulatović 2007, 163–164). Possibly the same site is in question because the finds can be dated approximately to the same period. I thank here colleague J.Stankovski from the National Museum in Kumanovo for the opportunity to study the unpublished material from the mound in Strnovac. A similarly decorated fragment was found recently at the site Jeričište in Lipovica near Leskovac. I thank colleague S.Jović from the Leskovac Museum for this information.

³⁸ Гарашанин, Санев, Симоска, Китаноски 1971, кат. бр. 274а; Vasić 1999, Taf. 62/B, Taf. 70.

³⁹ Мацев, Јованов 1993–1995, 45–55.

It is not clear, however, whether the Kosovo sites with this pottery mark a north-west periphery of this culture in its expansion phase, or belong to the same period as the sites in north-east Macedonia and south-east Serbia. The site Široko in Kosovo with the same vessel shapes, decorated with oval pricks, as in the Pčinja region and the Vranje–Bujanovac valley, was dated in earlier literature to the 7th/6th century B.C.⁴⁰ Double looped globular fibulae and double looped fibulae with twisted bow from this site can be dated to the 8th/7th century, according to new data.⁴¹

For this reason, it can be concluded that pottery, decorated with rows of slanted and oval pricks, originates in the Pčinja valley, under the influence of local channelled pottery decorated like the pottery from phase Ib of the Morava culture, but also that of stamped pottery from Thrace (Razkopnica, Djadovo, Galabnik), and so during the Transitional period slowly spread towards the north-west and north.⁴² Sporadic pottery finds with the same style-typological features in the valley area of the South Morava basin (Karadnik, Lučane), as well as in Buić on the communication route between the Preševo area and Kosovo, support this supposition. The material from the site Buić also indicates the routes along which this pottery spread towards the north-west, to Kosovo (Široko, Ljušta, Belačevac), but probably only from the end of phase Ha B.⁴³

Ornamentation containing rows of rectangular impressions without grooves, sometimes combined with channels and hanging hatched triangles, was also characteristic of the Pčinja and Vranje–Bujanovac valleys.⁴⁴ This ornamentation appears on pottery from Karadnik, Božinjevac, Lučane, Oraovica, Pelince (Figs. 41, 56, 73, 76, 78, 85).⁴⁵ It developed from the ornamentation with slanted and oval pricks, as seen from the fact that both ornaments were characteristic of the same territory (the Pčinja basin, the upper course of the Vardar, the Bregalnica valley, the south part of the South Morava basin and Kosovo) and mainly appear combined with ornaments identical to those of the previous phase. They appear very rarely outside this territory (central part of the South Morava basin, the Leskovac region, the Great Morava valley, Pelagonia) and mainly on pottery shapes other than those of the original territory.⁴⁶ It is noticed that the ornamentation with slanted and oval pricks appears at sites where ornaments with rectangular impressions were not found (Makreš, Skopje, Orizari, Buić), while on the contrary rectangular impressions on pottery appear only at sites where ornamentation with slanted and oval pricks was also found, which suggests that the ornamentation with

slanted and oval pricks was earlier than that with rectangular impressions. The relation between pottery decorated with rectangular and oval impressions is illustrated best in the necropolises in the village Star Karaorman near Stip. In this village two necropolises were found, approximately 1,5 km apart. In the earlier necropolis at the site Orlova Čuka, dated to the 9th/8–7th century B.C., or phase Ha B2–C, only pottery decorated with oval pricks was found, while in the later necropolis at the site Gorno Pole, which is dated to 7th–5th century B.C., pottery with rectangular impressions was discovered.⁴⁷ Slanted and oval pricks, however, appear in this territory together with pottery decorated with false cords, thus it can be concluded that the false cord motif was earlier than rectangular impressions.⁴⁸ Rows of rectangular impressions were found on pottery from Ranutovac near Vranje, together with channelled pottery and a bowl with tunnel-like handle on the rim, which is similar to a bowl from stratum IV at Hisar, dated to phase Ha B1/B2. Bearing in mind that site Ranutovac contains only one cultural layer, the appearance of rectangular

⁴⁰ Đurić-Slavković 1964, 537–555.

⁴¹ Vasić 1999, Taf.30/355–356,367–368, Taf.31/399–401, Taf.32/402–404, Taf.70.

⁴² Czyborra 2005, Taf.26/2,5; Detev 1981, Fig.55/2; Георгиева 2003, Т.III/12.

⁴³ It seems that this pottery appears in Kosovo through the Vardar and Strumica valleys, only as a cultural influence from the south. The fact that at this time in Kosovo the dead are cremated and not inhumed, as in south-east Serbia and north-east Macedonia, speaks in favour of the supposition that two different cultures are in question (Đurić 1970, 281–303; Tasić 1998, 172–177; Митревски 1997, 286,298–299,312–313; Булатовић 1996/97, 5–14).

⁴⁴ This ornamentation is produced by impressing a cogwheel with longer cogs, which leaves only rectangular impressions on the vessel surface. Cogwheel instruments with short cogs also leave a groove in which the impressions are placed. The same ornament can be produced by impressing a stick with a rectangular end.

⁴⁵ The site Visočica-Timčino Lozje in Božinjevac was found in 2005, during a survey by a team including members from the Institution for the Protection of Monuments in Niš, National Museum in Belgrade and National Museum in Vranje. For site Kacipur in Oraovica, comp. Vukmanović-Popović 1982, 189–210. For Pelince, comp. Georgiev 1989, Т.II/3, Т.III/3,6,8, Т.IV/1–2; Трајковска 1998, Т.II/7–8.

⁴⁶ Стојић, Јоцић 2006, Т.LXXVII/226; Стојић, Чађеновић 2006, Т.XCVIII/1; Митревски 1997, 305/48.

⁴⁷ Georgiev 1989, Т.XLII/1,2,4, Т.XLIII/2,4, Т.XLIV/6. For chronological determination, see: Митревски 1997, 312–313.

⁴⁸ Z.Georgiev reached similar conclusion in his M. D. (Georgiev 1989, 70–81) and N. Tasić (Tasić 2003a, 69).

impressions on pottery in the Vranje–Bujanovac valley can be approximately dated to phase Ha B2–B3, while its use in this territory was particularly characteristic in phase Ha C, or during the developed Iron Age.⁴⁹

* * *

These data indicate the existence of a separate cultural group from the Transitional period, which originated in the Pčinja basin, the Skopje plain and the Moravica valley. Its origin was the previous Brnjica group (pear-like amphorae with slanted profiled rim, and frequently a groove on its inner side), but also channelled pottery, similar to that of phase Ib of the Morava group (bowls with inverted faceted or channelled rim, amphorae with channelled belly, rows of pricks etc.) and stamped Pšeničevo pottery from the east (false cord, slanted pricks?).⁵⁰ There are two developing phases of this group. Bowls with faceted or channelled rims, bowls with spool or tunnel-like handles or with slanting semicircular handles on the rim, then pear-like amphorae with slanting profiled or everted rims, sometimes with horizontal handles on the belly, and the most indicative element – ornament with slanting or oval pricks combined with channels and incised triangles belong to the earlier phase. On the basis of the find from Strnovac it appears at the end of phase Ha A, or phases Ha B1–B2. The later phase includes the same pottery shapes as in the earlier phase, but together with slanted and oval pricks, rows with rectangular impressions appear too. Finds from Ranutovac and Lucane indicate that this phase begins at the end of phase Ha B2, and certainly from phase Ha B3. This group reached its climax during phase Ha C (Strnovac- later mound, Oraovica, Rusce, Orlova Čuka etc.), spreading cultural elements to Kosovo, the Bregalnica valley, Pelagonia and west Bulgaria (Široko, Star Karaorman, Prilep, Pernik).⁵¹

The sites of the Transitional period and the Early Iron Age in the north of the Vranje region do not contain ornaments with rows of slanting or rectangular impressions, characteristic of the Pčinja culture group. In this way the north border of this group is indirectly defined. On these sites pottery was decorated with S motifs, false cord and concentric circles (Slivnica – Figs. 31–35, Raška – Fig. 36, Kržince, Palja).⁵²

There were suggestions even earlier concerning the existence of this separate Iron Age cultural group in north Macedonia, south-east Serbia and east Kosovo. M. Garašanin noticed that the Early Iron Age culture in this territory differs from neighbouring cultures in its

style-typological features.⁵³ R. Vasić, N. Tasić and other authors who study this problem support this opinion.⁵⁴ Several names were proposed for this culture but none was accepted in the literature because they did not define its chronological, territorial and style features as a whole. Bearing in mind that the territory of origin of this culture is the course of the Pčinja and that this river connects the territory of south-east Serbia with north-east Macedonia, from where this group spreads to the neighbouring areas, we propose to name this manifestation, the Pčinja cultural group.

* * *

At the moment, however, it is difficult to speak about the ethnicity of this group. It is certain that it was created partly in the tradition of the Brnjica culture, partly in that of the channelled pottery of the Morava group in the north, but also under the influence of stamped pottery from the east. Although its style-typological pottery features clearly differ from the

⁴⁹ A detailed analysis of the so-called Lapotince urn shows rows of rectangular impressions, and not dots, as was thought up to now. As this ornamentation does not appear before phase Ha B2/B3 in the Vranje region, it can be dated to the end of phase Ha B and the beginning of phase Ha C in the Leskovac region and in Kosovo (Гарашанин, Ивановић 1958, 41, T.IX/1; Васић 1977, 25–27).

⁵⁰ Unlike Kosovo, where the dead were cremated in this period, in north Macedonia and the Vranje-Bujanovac region inhumation under tumuli or in flat necropolises was in use (Bulatović 1996/97, 5–14). There is another argument that at the end of the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age there were two different groups, one in the Pčinja valley and the other in the Preševo area (on burial rituals in this period in Macedonia and Kosovo, see: Митревски 1997, 33–40, 86–96; Тасић 1998, 172–184).

⁵¹ Станковски 1999–2001, 93–114; Мацев, Јованов 1993–1995, 45–55; Ђурић-Slavković 1964, 537–555; Митревски 1997, 305; Михаилов 2006, 21–34.

⁵² Protection works in the yard of the church of the Holy Virgin were done by the Institution for the Protection of cultural monuments in Niš (Булатовић, Алексић, Праисторијска керамика из порте манастира Пресвете Богородице у Палји код Сурдулице, in preparation). Finds from Slivnica, ca. 20 km east of Vranje, collected during the survey in 2005 by the Vranje Museum, are not published. The site Rasina okučnica in Vranje was discovered in the 50ties of the last century. During the survey by the Vranje museum, finds from Neolithic and La Tene periods were also uncovered (Булатовић 2005, 9–23).

⁵³ Гарашанин 1975, 19–24; Гарашанин 1988, 66–68.

⁵⁴ Vasić 1987, 647–685; Tasić 1999, 57–58; Тасић 2003, 45–52; Тасић 2003a, 68–69; Georgiev 1989, 87–91; Булатовић 2007, 45–48.

pottery in the neighbouring areas, one notices a certain cultural unity in the Central and East Balkans based on pottery with impressed or stamped motifs. On the other hand, though the material culture is similar (first of all in decoration techniques of pottery) throughout this vast territory, various burial rituals were known which can indicate differences in spiritual culture, i.e. in the ethnic appurtenance of the inhabitants of this territory. Already in the Transitional period, within this unique cultural complex including the Central and East Balkans, regional cultural groups appeared with specific characteristics in their material culture. In the north, in the Serbian Danube region, the Kalakača–Gornea group developed, in south-west Rumania and east Serbia the group Insula Banului, in Thrace the Pšeničevo cultural group, in the Rumanian Danube region the Babadag group, in the Morava valley the Morava group (phases Ic-IIa), and in the Pčinja valley and the upper course of the Vardar the cultural manifestation named the Pčinja group.

In this period, there was a large ethnic complex in the Central and East Balkans, which M. Garašanin identified as pre-Daco-Moesian or pre-north Thracian.⁵⁵ According to the material and spiritual culture of the Pčinja group, it is certain that it belongs to this ethnic complex.

Many authors go further in the ethnic interpretation and consider the bearers of the earlier Brnjica group as proto-Dardanians or pra-Dardanians.⁵⁶ If this supposition is correct, then the bearers of the Pčinja group, who originate partly in the tradition of the Brnjica group, could also belong to this ethnos. Written sources from a later period, support this presumption. Strabo says that Medi lived in the territory, which can be identified with the upper course of the river Bregalnica and the Kočane–Kratovo area, while their neighbours to the west were the Dardanian tribe Thunatai.⁵⁷ The cited data situates the Dardanians in the territory where the Pčinja group had developed several centuries earlier. However more than six centuries had passed, from the creation of the Pčinja group to the first mention of the Dardani in the ancient sources, and due to insufficient investigation, it is difficult to follow the development of the material and spiritual culture throughout all this period in this territory. Thus, great caution is necessary in bringing any conclusion, concerning the ethnicity of the Pčinja group. In this, the period after the end of the 6th century presents a particular problem, when this territory became part of a large cultural complex, which apart from Greece, included Thrace, South Serbia, Macedonia and the Adriatic coast.

Although metal finds do not provide reliable support for the territorial spreading of one culture, it is

interesting to notice that the spreading of the so-called Macedonian bronzes or »Paeonian bronzes« to the north, in the 7th and 6th century, corresponds with the territory of the Pčinja group.⁵⁸ If these metal objects can be ascribed to the Paeonians, then in this period Paeonian influence penetrated the Pčinja culture group and the neighbouring groups in the north, to a certain degree.⁵⁹ It explains the appearance of the Paeonian bronzes in the upper course of the Pčinja in Gornja Ljubata and Rusce.⁶⁰

Thus, it seems that this territory at the time of the Pčinja group belonged to a population which can be conditionally considered as proto-Dardanian, but later at the time of Paeonian expansion the south part of this territory (Bregalnica and the Skopje–Kumanovo region) fell under the Paeonian influence. On the other hand, »Proto-Dardanians«, turned towards the north and north-west (Kosovo, the Leskovac region) because of this Paeonian pressure.⁶¹ Influences from the south, apart from the so-called Macedonian or Paeonian bronzes, were visible also in pottery forms, which contained elements from the lower Vardar valley, such as jugs with slanted rim, decorated with oval pricks or rectangular impressions, combined with hanging hatched triangles – typical decoration of the Pčinja group (Volkovo, Radanje, Star Karaorman, Sredno Nerezi, Skopje).⁶²

Ancient sources (Strabo, Justin), which speak of Dardanian presence in the Skopje–Kumanovo region in the 3rd and 2nd century B.C., indicate that Dardanian ethnic substrate (Pčinja cultural group) survived Paeonian pressure from the south.⁶³

⁵⁵ Garašanin 1988, 73.

⁵⁶ Srežović 1973, 39; Garašanin 1983a, 778; Tasić 1999, 57; Ташић 2001, 11; Tasić 2003a, 69.

⁵⁷ Papazoglu 1969, 145, 161.

⁵⁸ Comp. the map of sites in: Видески 2003, 3.

⁵⁹ Петрова 1999, 46–54, comp. maps I and II; Vasić 2003, 150.

⁶⁰ Миков 1957, 295; Булатовић 2007, 237–239, T.LXXII/10.

⁶¹ This ethnic community can not be identified with the Dardanians only on the basis of the identical territory they occupied. To recognize the Pčinja group as Dardanian, it is necessary to establish a continuity in the development of the material and spiritual culture on this territory from the Transitional period to the 4th century B.C., when the Dardani were mentioned in the written sources.

⁶² Georgiev 1989, T.XVIII, T.XLVI/6, T.XLII/1–4, T.XXV/1, T.XXV/2.

⁶³ Sources on the Dardani cited after: Папазоглу 1969, 161; Papazoglu 1988, 151.

In spite of all these arguments and even if this supposition seems acceptable, it is premature to speak of Dardanian origin of the Pčinja group, before continuity of the material and spiritual culture has been established in this territory from the Transitional period (the Pčinja group) to the end of the Early Iron Age, when the Dardanians were mentioned in the written sources. The process of formation of the Paleobalkan tribes, known from history, developed during the advanced Iron Age, which does not enter the chronological framework of this paper. For the moment one can say with certainty that the population of the Pčinja group was part of a large ethno-cultural complex, which inhabited the territory of the Central and East Balkans and differed substantially from the communities in the West and South of the Balkan peninsula. At that moment, a suitable ethnic basis was created for the formation of the Paleobalkan tribes, which will remain on the historical scene till the Roman conquest of this territory.

CONCLUSION

During phase Ha A2, the channelled pottery culture, characteristic of Iron Age Ib in the Morava valley, is dominant in the Great and South Morava basins. At the same time, in the hilly-mountainous part of the upper course of the South Morava, small communities of the Brnjica group continued to exist (Surdul, Svinjište, Prvonek, Vranjska Banja, Prosečnik etc.), retreating from the channelled pottery population, which occupied the former Brnjica plain settlements (Okučnica Baneta Krstića in Rujkovac, Kržince, Kale in Krševica, Resulja in Lučane, Donji Jasen in Karadnik), but also founded new settlements (Turija, Trnava etc.).⁶⁴ This period marks the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age, and can be defined as the horizon of channelled pottery, or the earlier horizon of the Transitional period in the South Morava basin. Apart from the sites cited, it includes also the site Hisar in Leskovac (early horizon of the Transitional period – Hisar IIa, after M. Stojić), Surdulica etc.

Already at the end of this period and at the beginning of phase Ha B1 the first rows of impressions in the form of small elongated triangular incisions appear on channelled pottery, and soon after, the Pšeničevo culture penetrates into the north and central part of the South Morava basin, as seen on the pottery, decorated in this manner, from Mediana, Palilula, Hisar, Čitluk, Dimitrovgrad, Kržince and other sites in this territory.

At this time, in the South Morava basin, south of Vranje, ornamentation with slanted and oval pricks, most frequently combined with channels and hatched hanging triangles, appears on bowls with inverted faceted or twisted rim, on pear-like amphorae with channelled belly and other pottery shapes. It was a unique cultural manifestation, originating in the Pčinja basin, the upper course of the Vardar and Moravica valleys, or in the Skopje–Kumanovo and Bujanovac–Preševo region, under the influence of the former Brnjica culture, channelled pottery from Iron Age Ib in the Morava culture, as well as the stamped pottery culture from the East (Pšeničevo culture, so-called Cepina culture). Oval and slanted pricks evolved later in a similar motif, in the form of rectangular impressions, which was characteristic for sites in the Ovčepolje–Bregalnica, Skopje–Kumanovo and Vranje regions, but also in Kosovo. This cultural manifestation, called the Pčinja cultural group, appeared already at the beginning of the Transitional period, perhaps at the end of phase Ha A2, but certainly in phase Ha B1–B2 (phase I of the Pčinja group – Map 1); later, during phase Ha B2–B3 (phase II of the Pčinja group – Map 2), it spread to Kosovo, and its influence was visible in the north (Orane by Bojnik, Lapotince, Lipovica).

At the end of the earlier horizon of the Transitional period, in the region north of Vranje, apart from channels, characteristic of Iron Age Ib pottery in the Morava culture, false cord and impressed circles are dominant, together with rows of S motif (Kržince, layer III). In the later horizon of the Transitional period (phase Ha B1/B2–B3) pottery with S motifs, false cord and concentric circles dominates in this part of the South Morava basin (Palja, Kržince – layer IV, Slivnica), while ornamentation with rectangular impressions, characteristic for phase II of the Pčinja group, appears only in Ranutovac (Map 3, Tables 1 and 2).

The region between the Grdelica canyon and Pribojska Sutjeska (ca 10 km north of Vranje) represent the transitional zone between two cultural groups of the later horizon of the Transitional period – the Pčinja cultural group in the south and the group, whose style-typological features, is close to the pottery, found north of the Grdelica canyon (the Morava valley, central and north part of the South Morava basin), and which, for lack of a more adequate name, can be called the Pre-Basarabi horizon or the Lanište I culture, after Stojić.

⁶⁴ Булатовић 2007, 40–44.

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Резиме: АЛЕКСАНДАР БУЛАТОВИЋ, Археолошки институт, Београд

БАСЕН ЈУЖНЕ МОРАВЕ У ПРЕЛАЗНОМ ПЕРИОДУ ИЗ БРОНЗАНОГ У ГВОЗДЕНО ДОБА

У првом делу рада презентовани су необјављени резултати археолошких истраживања са локалитета у басену Јужне Мораве који се хронолошки опредељују у прелазни период из бронзаног у гвоздено доба. Посебна пажња посвећена је локалитету Хисар у Лесковцу који се систематски истражује већ неколико година. На основу стратиграфије са овог локалитета, затим локалитета Пиљаковац у Кржинцу код Владичиног Хана и локалитета Градина у Свињишту код Прешева, као и налаза сличних стилско-типолошких одлика са других локалитета у басену Јужне Мораве, установљена је хронологија прелазног периода из бронзаног у гвоздено доба за басен Јужне Мораве. Након брњичке културе, карактеристичне за позно бронзано доба на територији Јужноморавског слива (Вг С/D-На А1, према Рајнекеовој периодизацији), уследио је период честих миграција, нестабилних културних манифестација и појаве првих гвоздених предмета. Тај период, који је трајао до стабилизације култура развијеног гвозденог доба (На С, према средњоевропској хронологији), дефинисан је као прелазни период из бронзаног у гвоздено доба. Старији хоризонт прелазног периода (На А2-В1) на целокупној територији басена Јужне Мораве означила је културна група са керамиком стилско-типолошки блиској керамици Гава-Белегиш II културе, односно идентичној керамици

ци фазе Ib поморавске културе. Млађи хоризонт прелазног периода (На В2-В3), који се може назвати и рано гвоздено доба, у северном делу басена обележио је продор пшеничево културе, као и орнаментални мотиви на керамици који се заснивају на техникама убадања и жигосања, док је у јужном делу басена у овом периоду егзистирала пчињска културна група.

Тема другог дела рада јесте пчињска културна група која је констатована на територији Пчињског слива и горњег тока Вардара, затим у Врањско-бујановачкој котлини и Прешевској повији. Карактеришу је зделе увучених, фасетираних или косо канелованих обода, у неким случајевима са калемастим, односно тунеластим дршкама или косо постављеним лучним дршкама на ободу, затим крушколике амфоре косо профилисаних или разгнутих обода, често са хоризонтално постављеним дршкама на трбуху. Од орнамената најчешћи су коси и овални убоди, у старијој фази, и низови појединачних правоугаоних отисака без жлеба, у млађој фази. Почети ове културне групе могу се определити у период На В1-В2, а врхунац у развоју та група је достигла током периода На В3-С, према средњоевропској хронологији, када се њени утицаји шире на север, до Лесковачког поља.

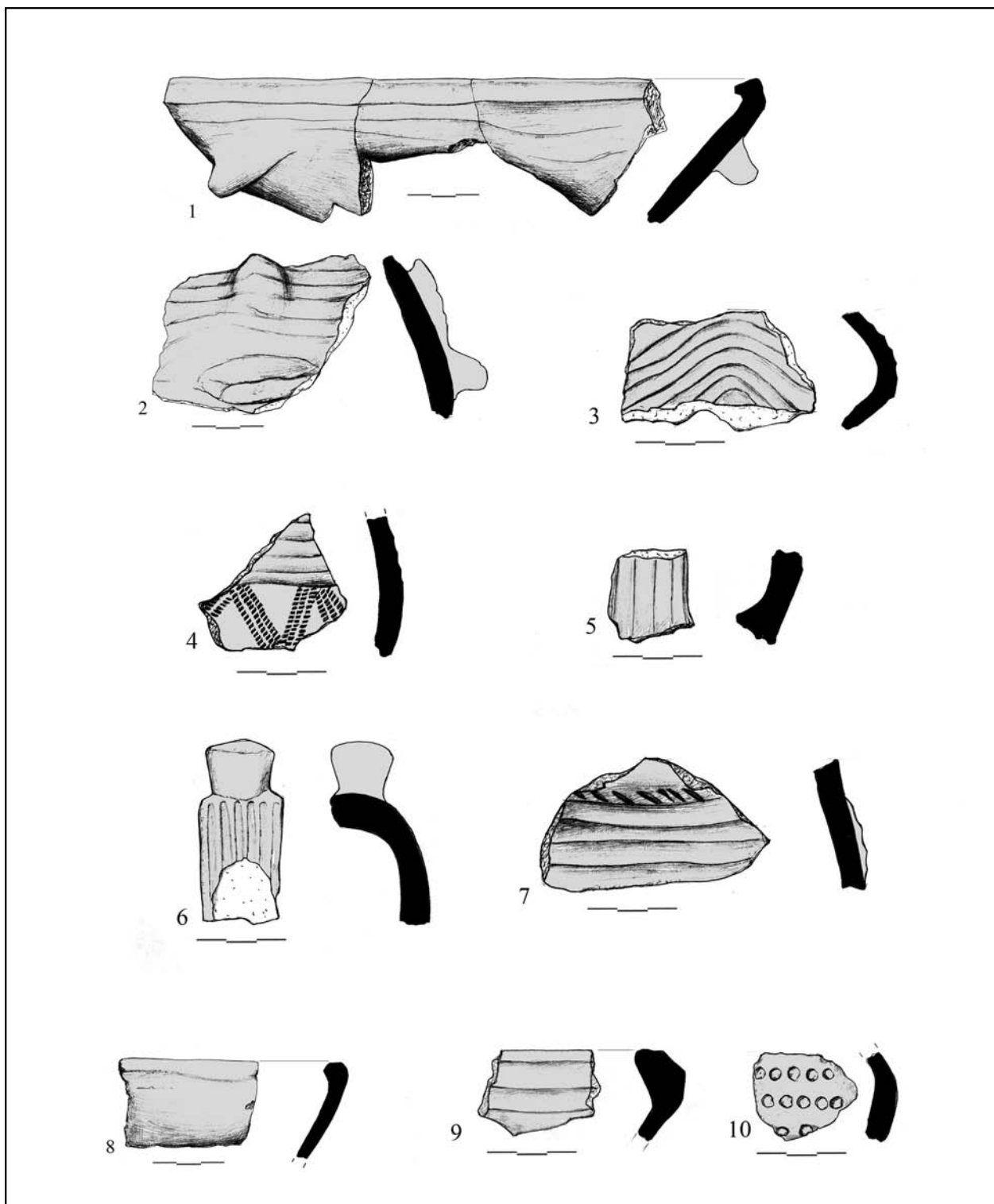


Plate I: 1–7 Site Hisar, Leskovac, sector I, sondage I/06, object 3;

8–10 Site Hisar, Leskovac, sector I, sondage II/06, object 14

Табла I: 1–7 Локаліїетї Хисар, Лесковаи, секїор I, сонда I/06, обїекатї 3;

8–10 Локаліїетї Хисар, Лесковаи, секїор I, сонда II/06, обїекатї 14

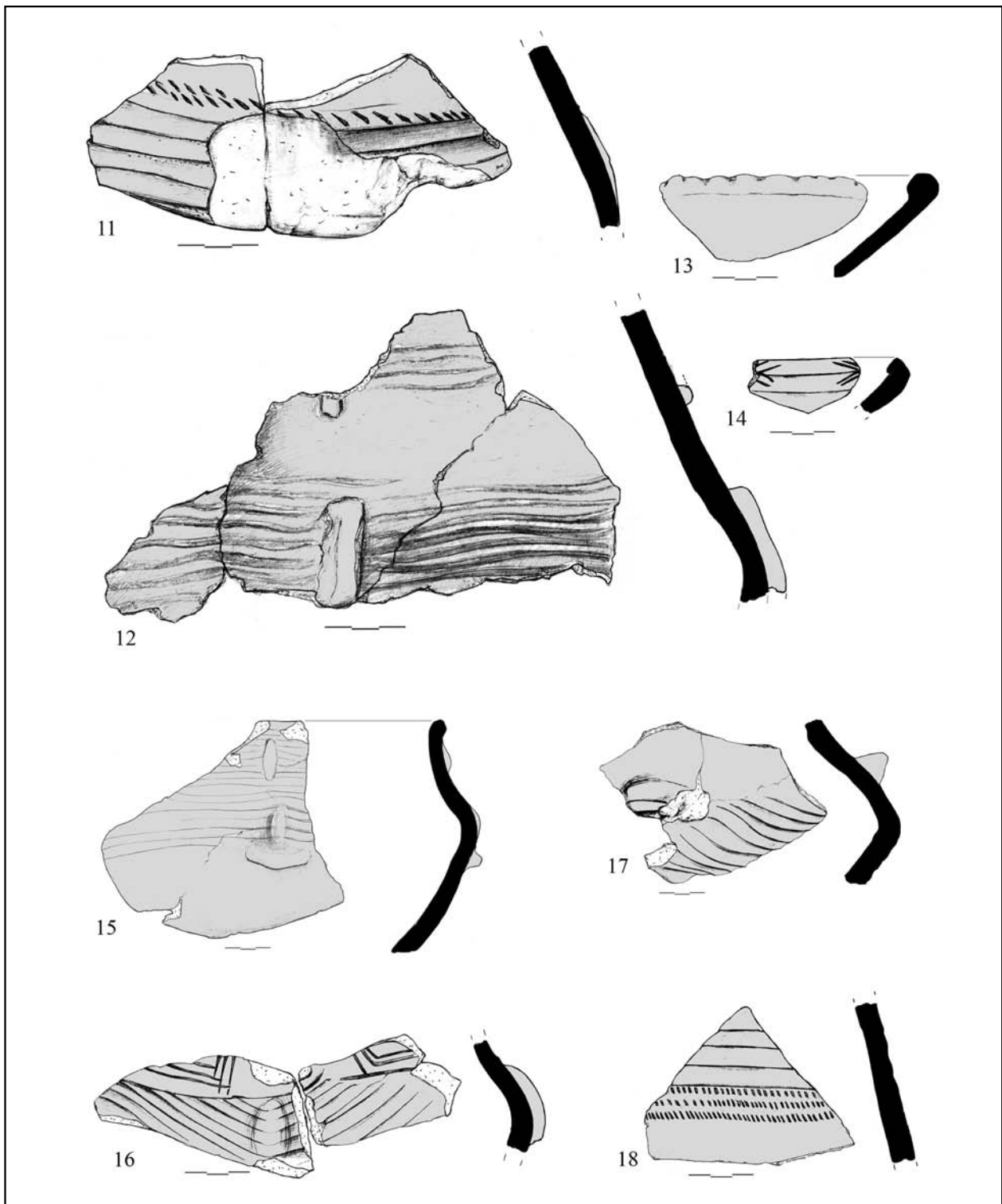


Plate II: 11–12 Site Hisar, Leskovac, sector I, sondage II/06, object 14;
13–18 Site Hisar, Leskovac, sector I, sondage I/06, pottery from the layer

Табла II: 11–12 Локалителиј Хисар, Лесковац, сектор I, сонда II/06, објект 14;
13–18 Локалителиј Хисар, Лесковац, сектор I, сонда I/06, керамика из слоја

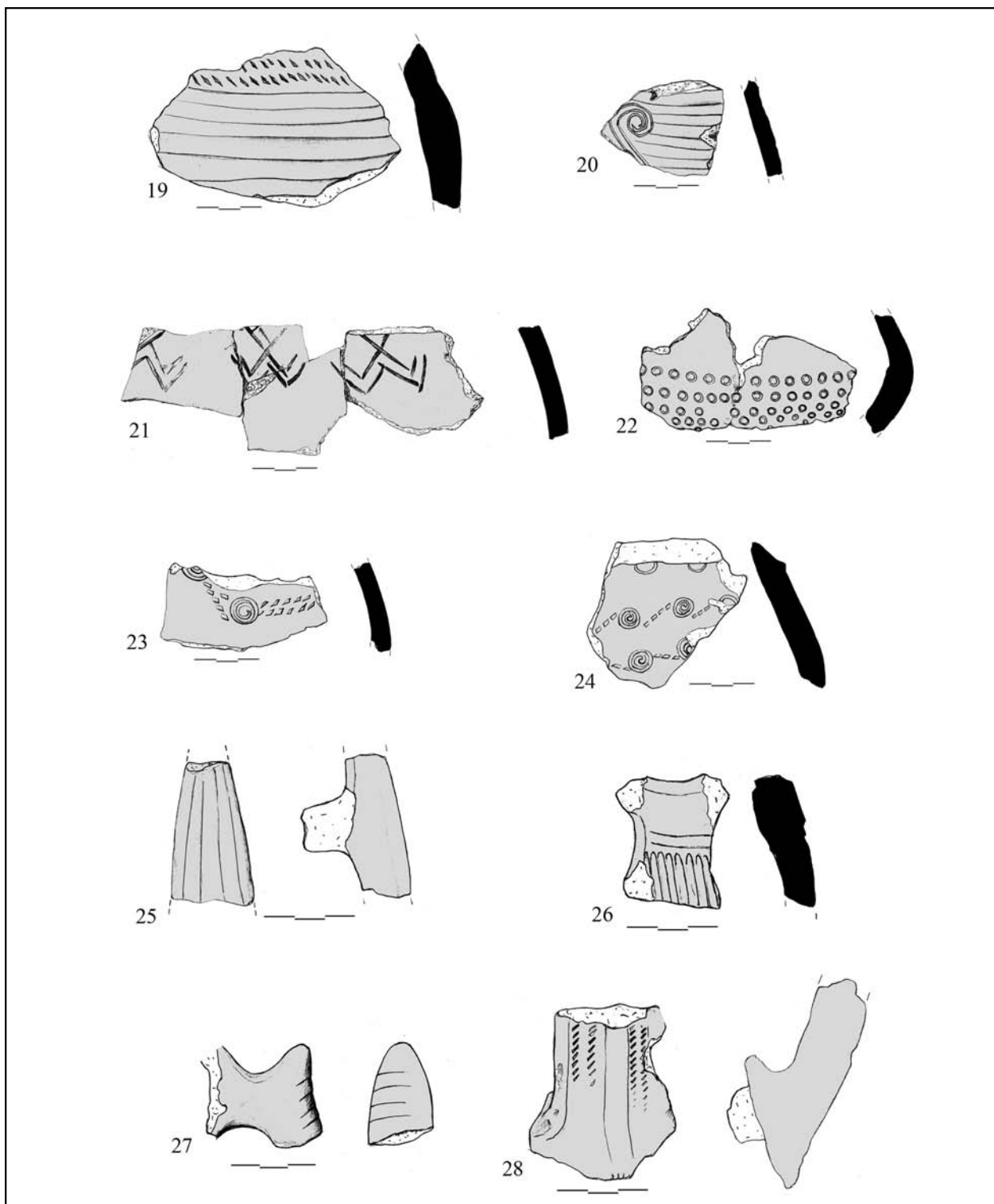


Plate III: 19–28 Site Hisar, Leskovac, sector I, sondage I/06, pottery from the layer

Табла III: 19–28 Локалнїеїј Хисар, Лесковац, сектор I, сонда I/06, керамика из слоја

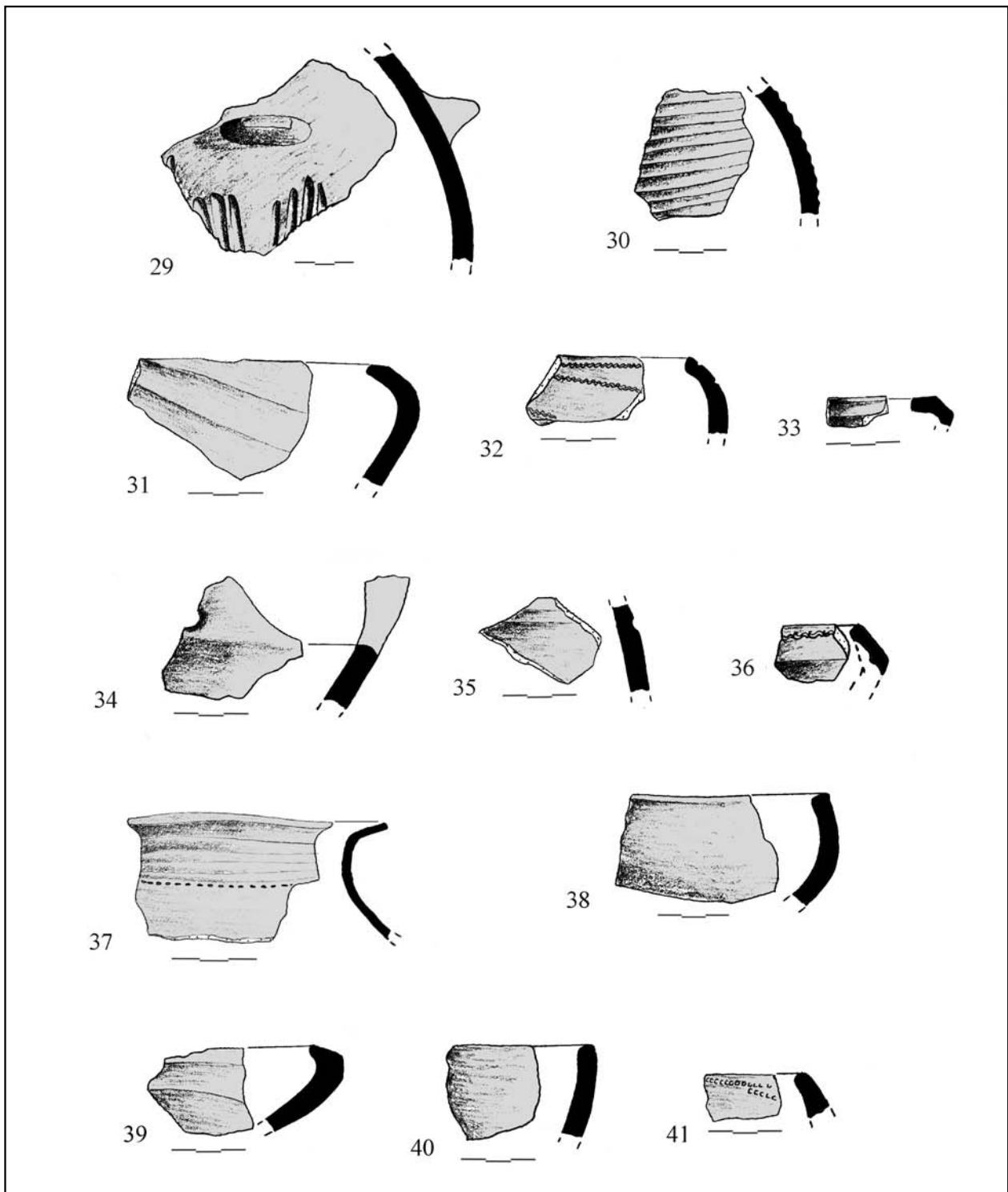


Plate IV: 29–30 Site *Okućnica Baneta Krstića, Rujkovac, Medvedja*;

31–35 Site *Pavlova njiva, Slivnica, Vranje*; 36 Site *Rašina okućnica, Raška u Vranju*;

37 Site *Gumnište, Pavlovac, Vranje*; 38–41 Site *Donji jasen, Karadnik, Bujanovac*

Табла IV: 29–30 Локалитет Окућница Банета Крстића, Рујковац, Медвеђа;

31–35 Локалитет Павлова њива, Сливница, Врање; 36 Локалитет Рашина окућница, Раска у Врању;

37 Локалитет Гумниште, Павловац, Врање; 38–41 Локалитет Доњи Јасен, Карадник, Бујановац

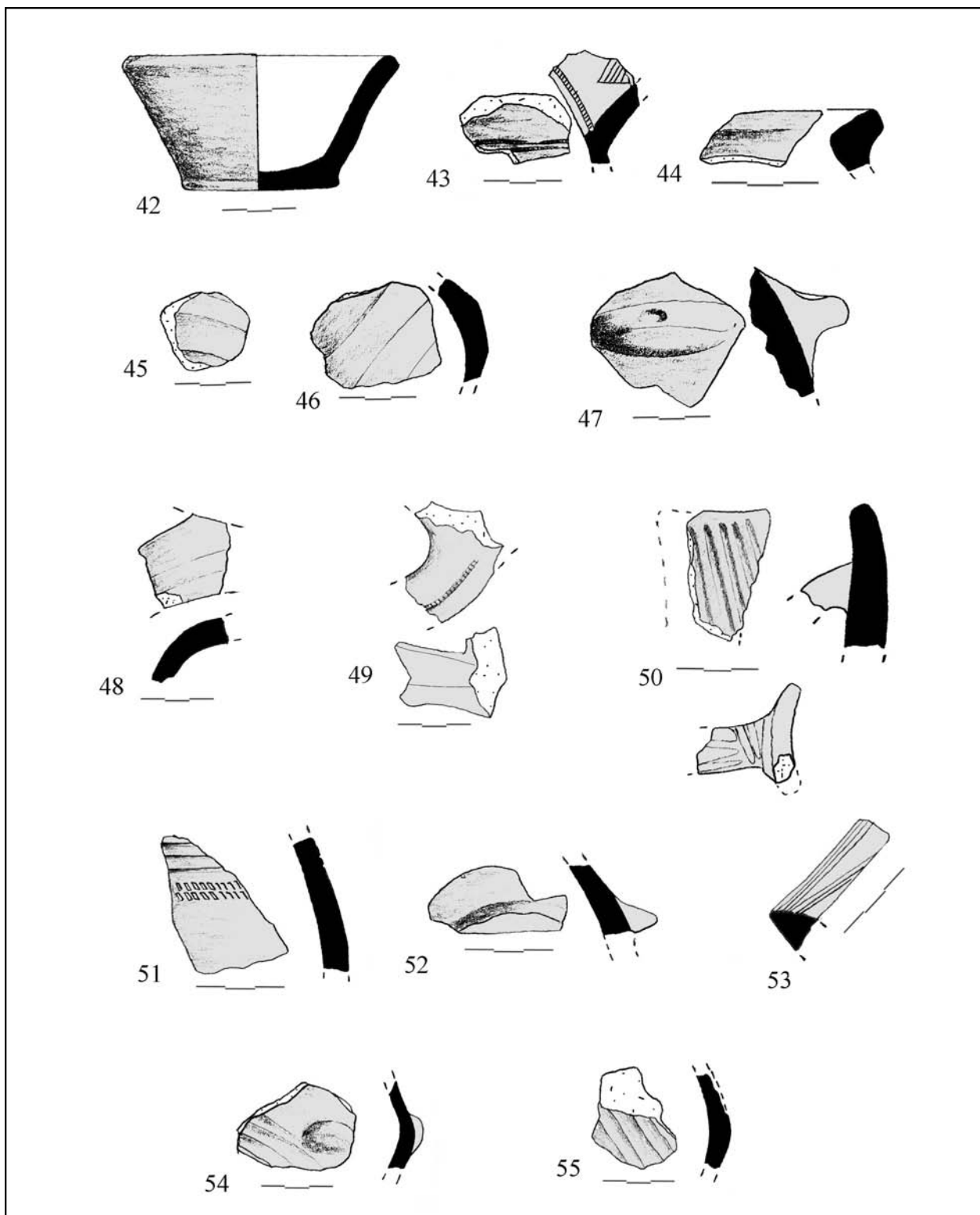


Plate V: 42–50 Site Donji Jasen, Karadnik, Bujanovac;

51–52 Site Česma, Turija, Bujanovac; 53–55 Site Kale, Krševica, Bujanovac

Табла V: 42–50 Локалитетѝ Доњи јасен, Карадник, Бујановац;

51–52 Локалитетѝ Чесма, Турија, Бујановац; 53–55 Локалитетѝ Кале, Кршевица, Бујановац

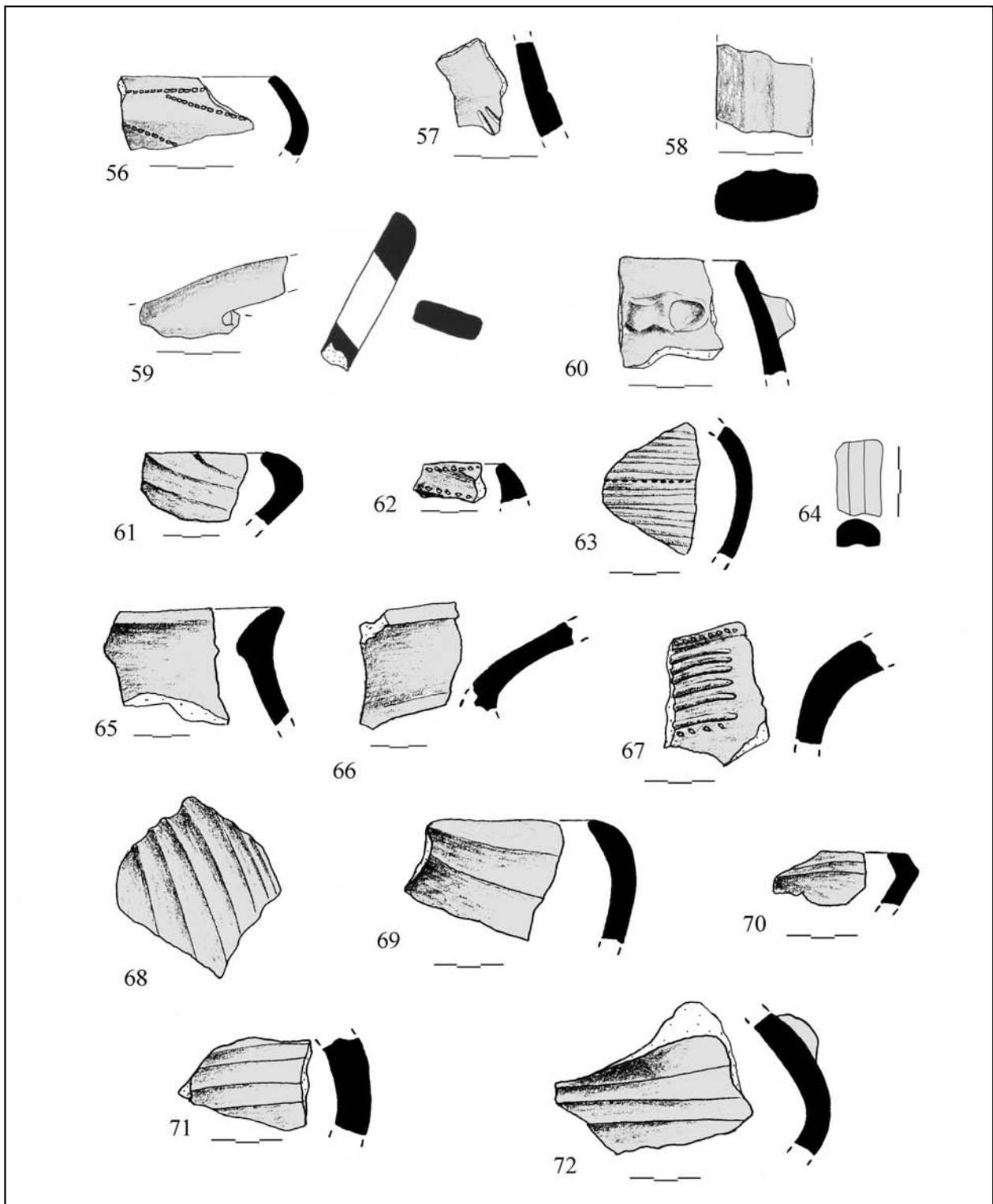


Plate VI: 56–60 Site Timčino Lozje–Visočica, Božinjovac, Bujanovac; 61–67 Site Šeitske Livade, Bujić, Preševo;
68 Site Trnavska Reka, Trnava, Preševo; 69–72 Site Resulja, Lučane, Bujanovac

Табла VI: 56–60 Локалיותи Тимчино Лозје–Височица, Божињевац, Бујановац;
61–67 Локалיותи Шейтске Ливаде, Бујић, Прешево; 68 Локалיותи Трнавска Река, Трнава, Прешево;
69–72 Локалיותи Ресуља, Лучане, Бујановац

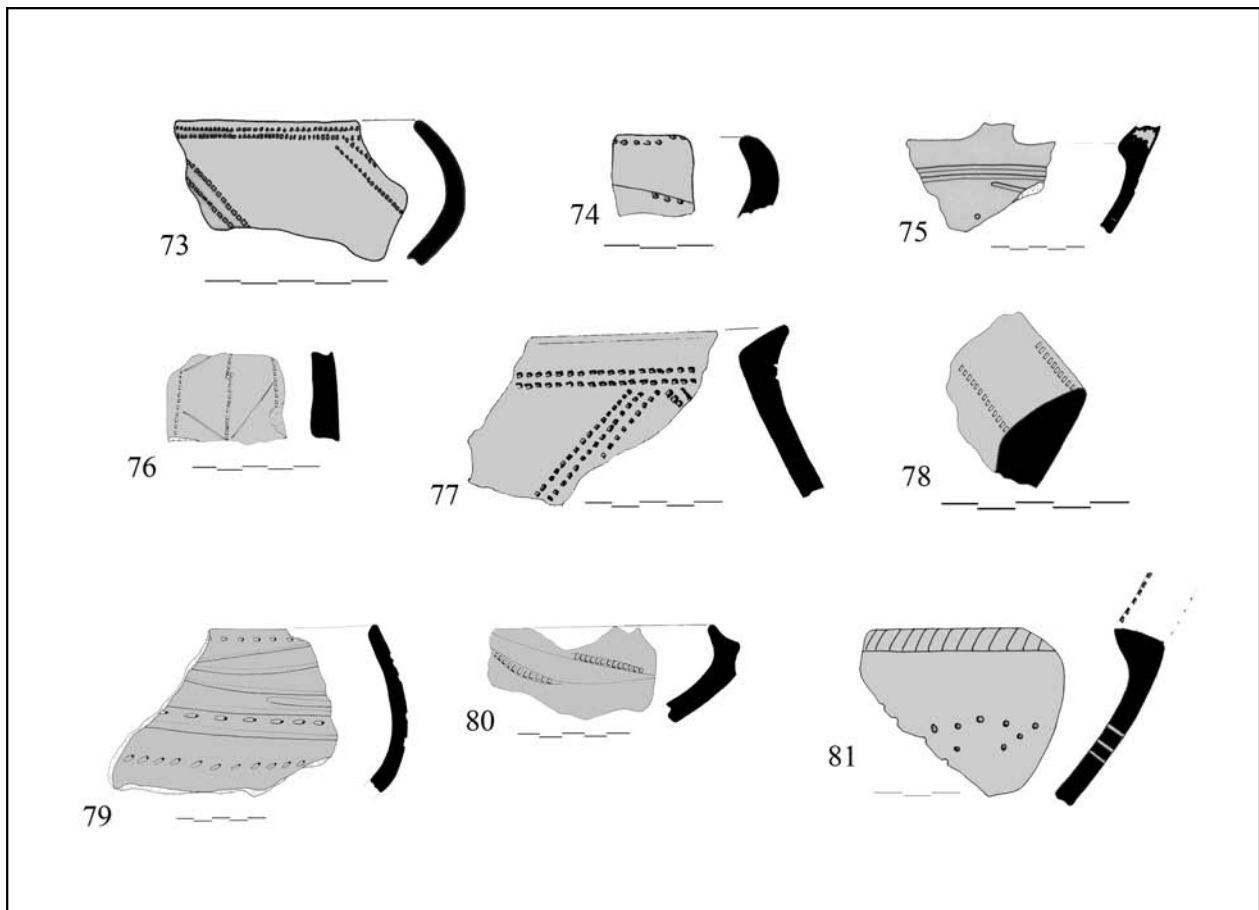
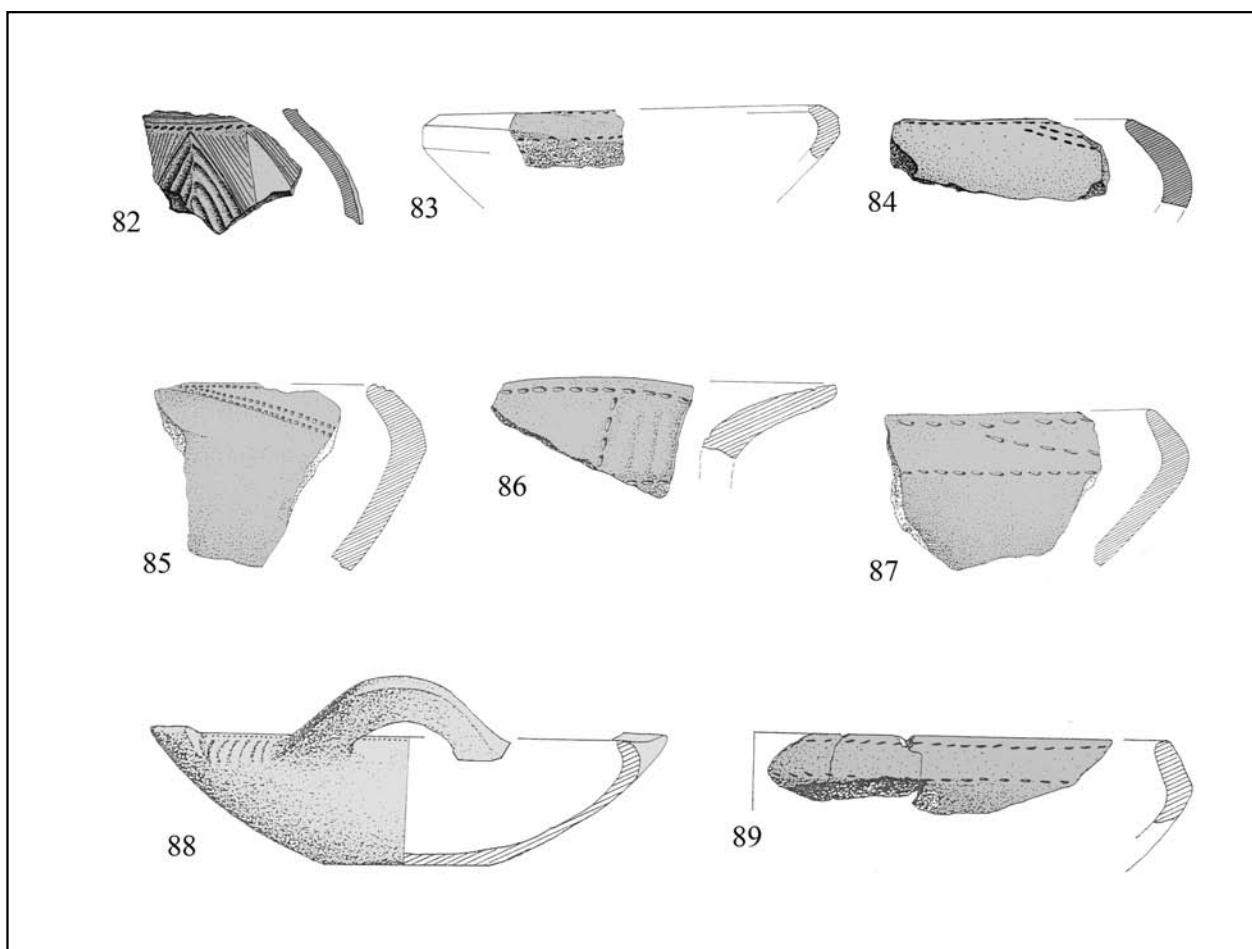


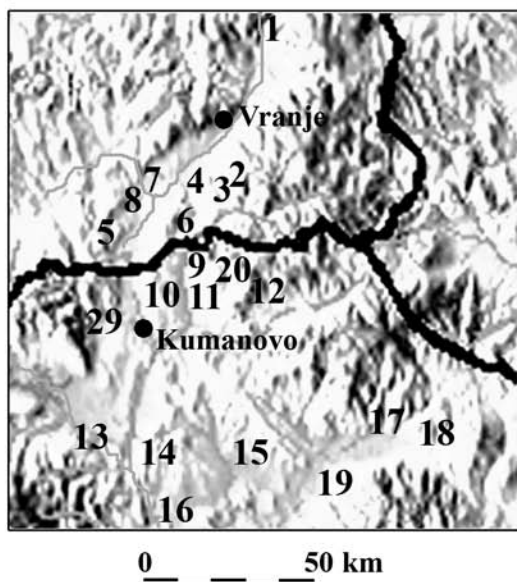
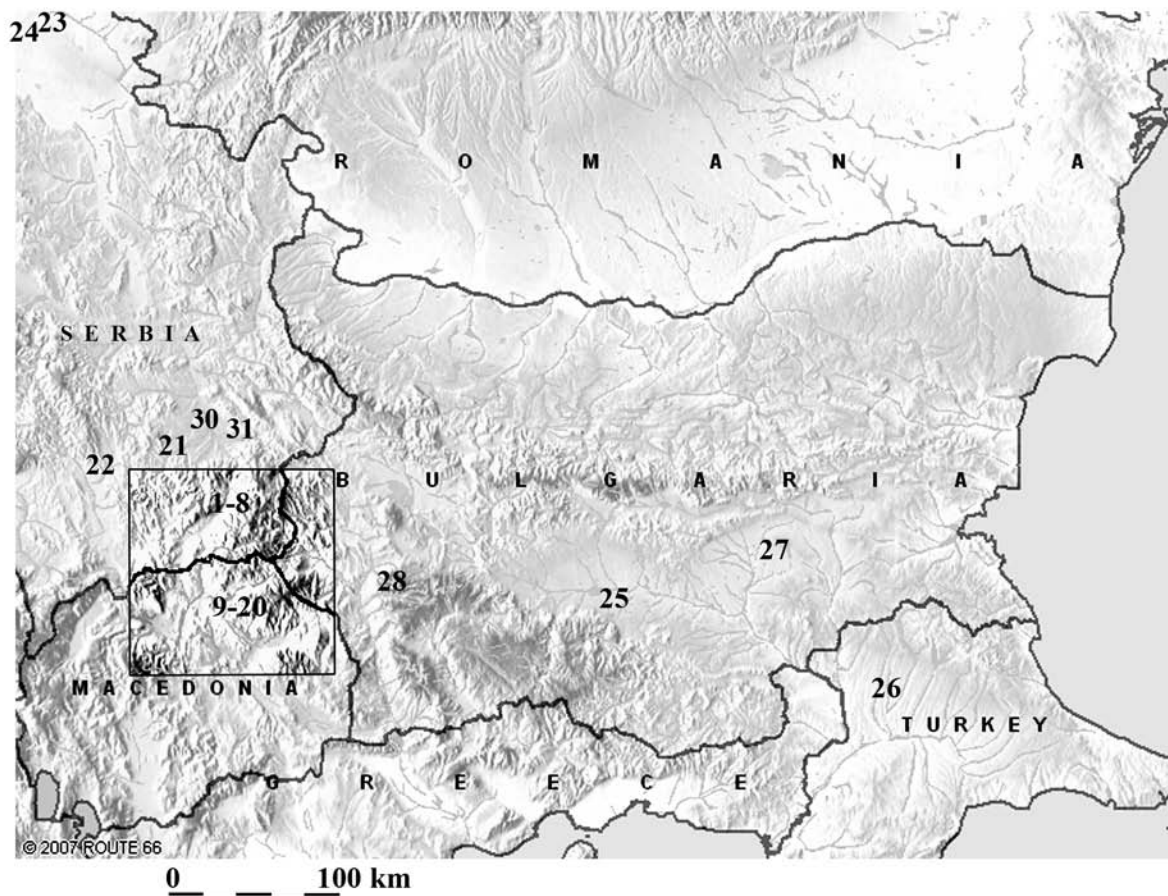
Plate VII: 73–75 Site Resulja, Lučane, Bujanovac; 76 Site Meanište, Ranutovac, Vranje;
77–78 Site Kacipur, Oraovica, Preševo; 79–80 Site Ogrački Dol, Kopaňane, Vranje;
81 Site Raskrsja, Rusce, Bujanovac

Табла VII: 73–75 Локалитетѝ Ресуља, Лучане, Бујановац; 76 Локалитетѝ Меаништиѝ, Ранутовац, Врање;
77–78 Локалитетѝ Каципуј, Ораовица, Прешево; 79–80 Локалитетѝ Ограчки Дол, Копањане, Врање;
81 Локалитетѝ Раскрсја, Русце, Бујановац



*Plate VIII: 82–83 Site Gradište, Makreš, Kumanovo (after Z.Georgiev);
 84 Site Bldiž, Vražogrnice, Kumanovo (after Z.Georgiev);
 85 Site Gradište, Pelince, Kumanovo (after Z.Georgiev);
 86 Site Kostopevska Karpa, Mlado Nagoričino, Kumanovo (after Z.Georgiev);
 87 Site Vres, Nemanjica, Štip (after Z.Georgiev);
 88–89 Site Dabici, Sopot, Veles (after Z.Georgiev)*

*Табла VIII: 82–83 Локалитетот Градиште, Макреш, Куманово (према З.Георгиеву);
 84 Локалитетот Блдиж, Вражогрнице, Куманово (према З.Георгиеву);
 85 Локалитетот Градиште, Пелинце, Куманово (према З.Георгиеву);
 86 Локалитетот Коспојевска Карпа, Младо Нагоричино, Куманово (према З.Георгиеву);
 87 Локалитетот Врес, Немањца, Штип (према З.Георгиеву);
 88–89 Локалитетот Дабици, Сопој, Велес (према З.Георгиеву)*

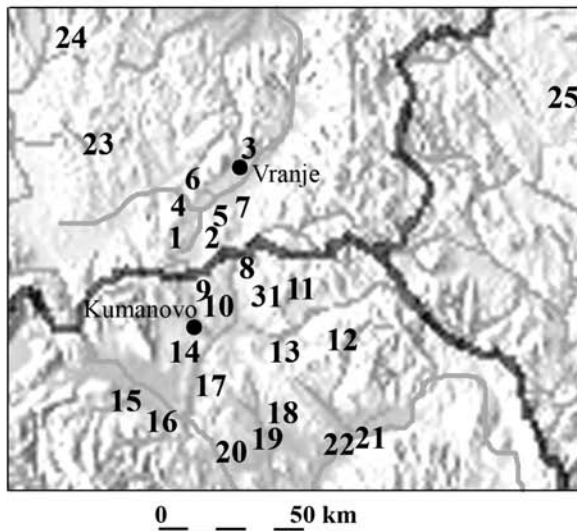
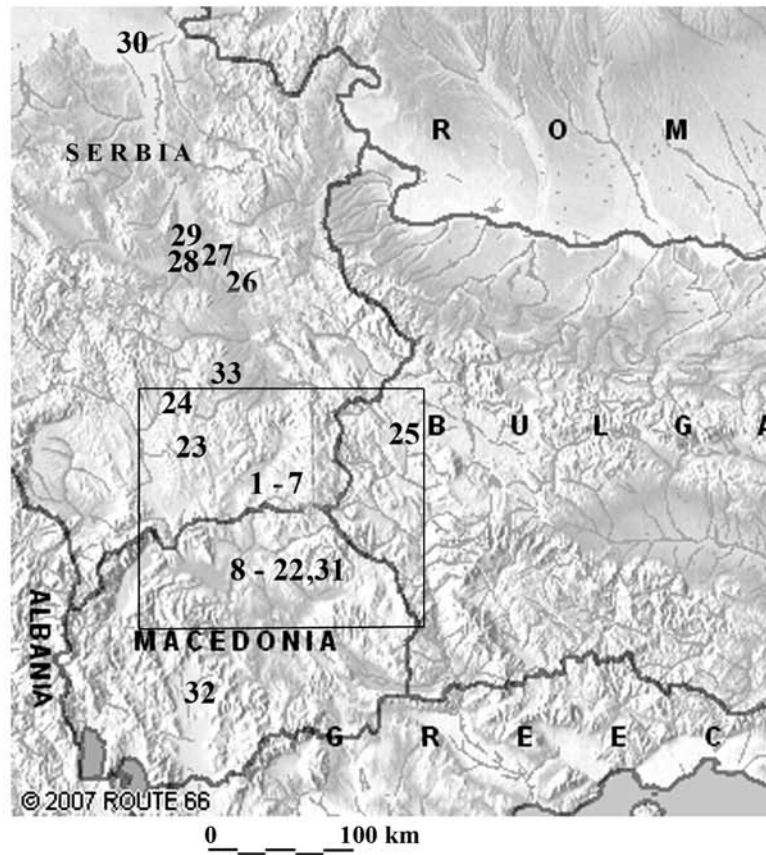


Spisak lokaliteta:

1. Kržince 2. Kopanjane 3. Rusce
4. Klinovac 5. Buić 6. Svinjište
7. Karadnik 8. Lučane 9. Pelince
10. Mlado Nagoričino 11. Makreš
12. Vražogrnici 13. Skoplje 14. Gornjo Konjare 15. Nemanjica 16. Sopot
17. Orizari 18. Kršla 19. Gornji Kozjak 20. Strnovac
21. Ljušta 22. Orane 23. Kać 24. Novi Sad 25. Raskopanica 26. Kukuler Mezarghi 27. Đadovo 28. Galabnik
29. Lipkovo 30. Lipvica

Map 1. Sites with pottery decorated with slanted and oval pricks and sites of phase I of the Pčinja group (in section)

Карта 1. Налазишта керамике украшене косим и овалним уводима и налазишта I фазе пчинјске културне групе у исечку

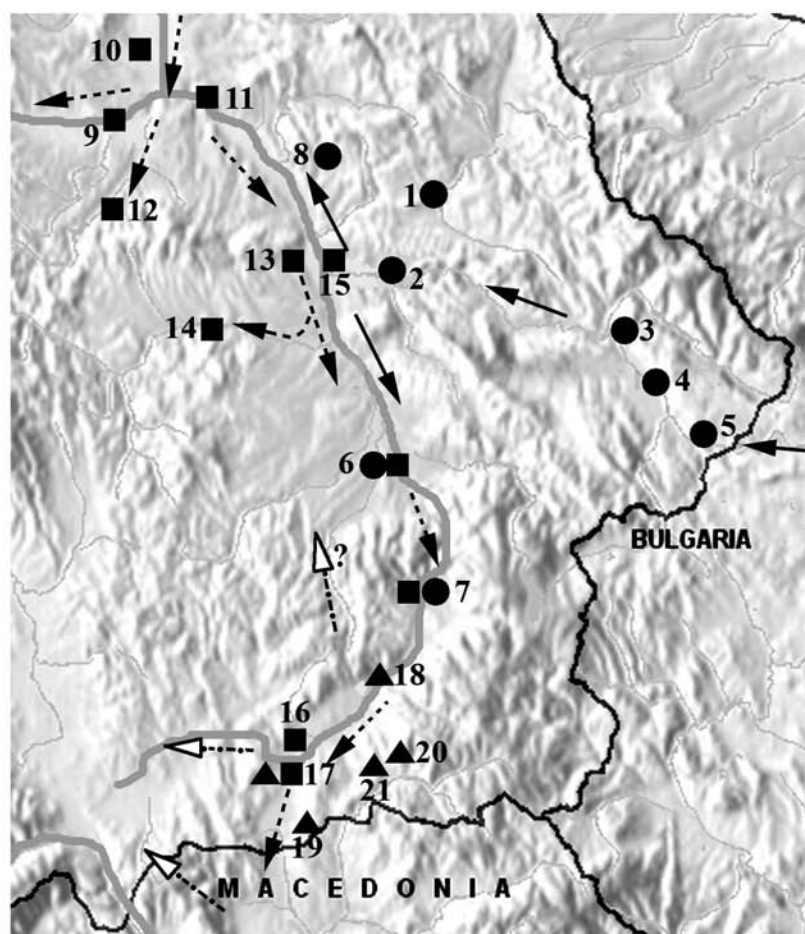


Spisak lokaliteta:

1. Oraovica 2. Buštranje 3. Ranutovac
4. Lučane 5. Božinjevac 6. Veliki Trnovac
7. Krševica 8. Pelince 9. Golno Konjare
10. Mlado Nagoričino 11. Vražogrnice
12. Kratovo 13. Šopslo Rudare 14. Pčinja
15. Sredno Nerezi 16. Studeničani 17. Gornjo Konjare
18. Nemanjica 19. Knežje 20. Sopot
21. Gornji Kozjak 22. Radanje 23. Belačevac
24. Valač 25. Pernik 26. Bubanj 27. Glogovica
28. Pozlata 29. Korman 30. Kovin 31. Strnovac
32. Prilep 33. Lapotince

Map 2. Sites with pottery decorated with rectangular impressions and sites of phase II of the Pčinja group (in section)

Карта 2. Налазишта керамике украшене правоугаоним описцима и налазишта II фазе пчинјске културне групе у исечку



Spisak važnijih lokaliteta prelaznog perioda:

Legenda:

- ▲ lokaliteti pčinjske kult. grupe
- lokaliteti pomoravske kulture
- lokaliteti pšeničevo kulture

-----> širenje pomoravske
kult. grupe Ib (Ha A2/B1)

————> širenje pšeničevo kulture
(Ha B1/B2)

.....> širenje pčinjske kult.
grupe (Ha B2/3)

1. Palilula, Svrlijig 2. Medijana 3. Pirot 4. Donja Držina
5. Dimitrovgrad 6. Hisar 7. Kržince 8. Čitluk, Soko Ba-
- nja 9. Čitluk, Kruševac 10. Varvarin 11. Praskovče 12.
- Jablanica 13. Biljeg 14. Trnava, Prokuplje 15. Bujanj
16. Trnava, Preševo 17. Lučane 18. Ranutovac 19. Svi-
- njište 20. Kopanjane 21. Rusce

Map 3. Thr South Morava basin in the Transitional period from the Bronze to the Iron Age

Карта 3. Басен Јужне Мораве у прелазном периоду из бронзаног у гвоздено доба

Dat.	Kruševačka regija	Niška regija	Leskovačka regija	Vranjska regija (južni deo)		Period.
				severni deo	južni deo	
1300.	Brnjica II-Morava Ia	Brnjica II (Medijana I)	Brnjica II (Hisar Ib)	Brnjica II	Brnjica II	Br D
1200.	Ha A1
1100.	Morava Ib (Gava-Belegiš II)	Channelled pottery (Morava Ib-Gava-Belegiš II-Medijana II)	Channelled pottery (Hisar IIa-Horizon of Transitional period)	Channelled pottery (Kržince III)	Brnjica III (Svinjište I) Channelled pottery	Ha A2
1000.	Morava Ic	Pšeničevo penetration (Medijana III)	Pottery with impressions-Pšeničevo penetration (Hisar IIb-Late horizon of Transitional period)	Pottery with impressions-Pšeničevo penetration (Kržince IV)	Pčinja group I (Svinjište II)	Ha B1
900.	Morava II Kalakača hor.					Ha B2
800.	Morava IIb Lanište I	Morava IIb Lanište I	Morava IIb Lanište I	Morava IIb- Lanište I (Palja-Slivnica)	Pčinja group II (Rusce)	Ha B3
700.	Basarabi kultura	Basarabi kultura	Basarabi kultura		.	Ha C

Table 1. Chronology of the Transitional period cultures in the South Morava basin

Табела 1. Хронологија култура прелазног периода у басену Јужне Мораве

Dat.	Povardarje i Pelagonija	Donja Pčinja	Pomoravlje	Kosovo bez Metohije	Period.
1300.	Vardarski rid II-Ulanci	Ulanci (?)	Paraćinska-Morava Ia	Brnjica I (?)	Br D
1200.				Brnjica II	Ha A1
1100.	Madžari-Krivi Dol	Brnjica III - Channelled pottery	Morava Ib	Channelled pottery Brnjica III (?)	Ha A2
1000.	Vardarski rid III - Bubušti-Tren II	Pčinja group I	Morava Ic	?	Ha B1
900.			Morava IIa-Kalakača		Ha B2
800.	Vardarski rid IV-Babušti-Tren III	Pčinja group II	Morava IIb-Lanište I	Pčinja group II Belaćevac I-Široko	Ha B3
700.			Lanište II-Basarabi		Ha C

Table 2. Chronology of the Transitional period cultures in the neighboring regions

Табела 2. Басен Јужне Мораве у прелазном периоду из бронзаног у гвоздено доба