

THE SECOND STAGE OF NEOLITHISATION AND PARA-NEOLITHIC IN THE SOUTHERN BALTIC

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Переход к неолиту как феномену, экономически основанному в значительной мере на земледелии, в бассейнах рек Эльбы, Одера и Вислы связан с появлением в сер. 6 тыс. до н.э. сообществ носителей традиций линейно-ленточной культуры. Эти сообщества заселяли лишь небольшие территории, экологически благоприятные для земледелия. Впоследствии, в 5 тыс. до н.э., данные территории были заселены носителями пост-ЛЛК традиций. В этот период сообщества охотников-собирателей по-прежнему занимали примерно 70 % территории. Однако начиная с 4200–4100 л. до н.э. ситуация меняется: здесь появляются группы носителей культуры воронковидных кубков, которые начинают проводить активную экспансию на территории, заселенные до этого как охотниками-собирателями, так и земледельцами. Около 3500 л. до н.э. неолитическое влияние распространилось фактически на всю эту часть Центральной Европы. Именно поэтому распространение здесь культуры воронковидных кубков может быть отнесено ко «второму этапу неолитизации». Однако древняя история Южного Балтийского региона этого времени оказывается более сложной. Одновременно с первой и второй волной неолитизации происходит распространение глиняной посуды в позднемезолитических сообществах. И если в 5 тыс. до н.э. это были лишь единичные случаи, то в 4 тыс. до н.э. глиняная посуда начинает распространяться на значительной территории. Здесь сформировалась новая культурная модель, которая может быть названа «паранеолит». Основываясь на археологических данных, мы можем предполагать существование контактов между носителями традиций культуры воронковидных кубков и паранеолитическими группами населения. Последние (в основном представители неманской культуры) также начинают распространяться на значительной территории. В докладе будут показаны основные вехи этих процессов. Также будут представлены новые хронологические, типологические и генетические данные, важные для понимания генезиса культуры воронковидных кубков. Отдельное внимание будет уделено контактам между сообществами древних земледельцев и охотников-собирателей (мезолитических и паранеолитических), которые оказали значительное влияние на весь процесс неолитизации в регионе.

The origins of the Neolithic, understood as a phenomenon with food economy heavily dependent on agriculture, in the basins of the Elbe, Oder and Vistula rivers are associated with the appearance of communities reflected by the Linear Band Pottery culture (LBK), in the mid-sixth millennium BC (Fig. 1). Most probably, the origin of this first Neolithic is associated with the migration from the middle Danube basin, what is strongly suggested by the genetic data. These communities settled only small enclaves, distinguished by ecological conditions favourable to farming. Outside these enclaves, Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities continued to exist. Situation of this kind persisted in the 5th millennium BC. Different Neolithic groups of post-Linear character (the Stroke Band Pottery culture, the Lengyel-Polgár complex) still concentrated within the same, fertile enclaves. Consequently, at that time, hunter-gatherers still occupied ca. 70% of the territories under discussion. Similarly as in the 6th millennium BC, contacts between hunter-gatherers and farmers were rare. Certainly they did not cause major changes in the cultural systems of both cultural formations.

Complex cultural transformations took place between ca. 4200 and 3500 BC (fig. 1). They were associated with the spread of cultivation and husbandry based economy as well as other Neolithic attributes within most of the territories of this part of Europe. Despite singular pieces of evidence confirming the Neolithic use of other environmental zones than above-mentioned fertile enclaves before ca. 4200 BC, this ecological, and probably also mental, barrier was apparently not broken by the Linear and post-Linear groups. This was only achieved by the societies, whose archaeological legacy is known as the Funnel Beaker culture (TRB). Hence, the spread of the TRB can be called here as the “Second Stage of Neolithisation”. As the final result of this process, agriculture became the essential element of the economy of the populations inhabiting, in a relatively compact manner, majority of the southern Baltic area.

The very first communities of the TRB in the Elbe, Oder and Vistula basins are known from Holstein, Mecklenburg, Western and Central Pomerania, Chełmno Land, Kuyavia and possibly also from northern Greater Poland. In the case of the three last regions we should date the beginnings of the TRB close to 4000 BC. The chronological

antecedence should be given to more northern regions, in the light of the recent discoveries made in the south-western zone of the Baltic Sea coast. On few sites located there remains of the early TRB groups were identified, which seem to appear in the context of local Late Mesolithic groups. To the east of the lower Oder river these groups, from the point of view of flint knapping, can be identified as belonging to the Chojnice-Pieńki tradition evolving toward the Ertebølle culture, while to the west of the said river they belong to the Ertebølle tradition. Therefore, the “funnel beaker” early phases are logical conclusion of the local Late Mesolithic development. The notion of the pottery containing features of both the Ertebølle and the TRB (the so-called transitional vessels in Dąbki) is also significant in this context. Radiocarbon dates obtained at several sites (Wangels, Parow, Stralsund and Baabe in Germany; Tanowo and Dąbki in Poland) point to the period ca. 4200–3950 BC.

Consequently, we assume that the zone extending along the south-western coast of the Baltic Sea, from east Holstein to Central Pomerania, was the area in which the new cultural model was formed, and from this zone that the spread of the TRB patterns took place.

The appearance of the “funnel beaker”, Neolithic attributes (i.e. flexible agro-pastoral economy; relatively stable but at the same time adaptable settlement; “funnel beaker” pottery including the archetypical forms of funnel beaker, amphora, collared flask and plate; “new” funeral rite with its “communal” and “monumental” aspects) in other areas was, to a certain extent, the result of leapfrog colonisation and ecological infiltration. However, not only these processes were responsible for the spread of the “funnel beaker” cultural model. Due to its attractiveness, it gained general acceptance within different cultural backgrounds — both of the late-Linear, Neolithic and of the Late Mesolithic, hunter-gatherer populations. We could figuratively say that the TRB was a kind of coat which wrapped various groups and different cultural traditions. Mesolithic and Neolithic traditions and echoes are in fact fairly well perceptible within it. Few genetic records also indicate that the TRB is a specific blend of Early Neolithic and Mesolithic inputs, even considering the relatively late sites (e.g. the cemetery at Ostorf).

One way or another, at about 3600/3500 BC the TRB cultural milieu ultimately dominated the region under our consideration.

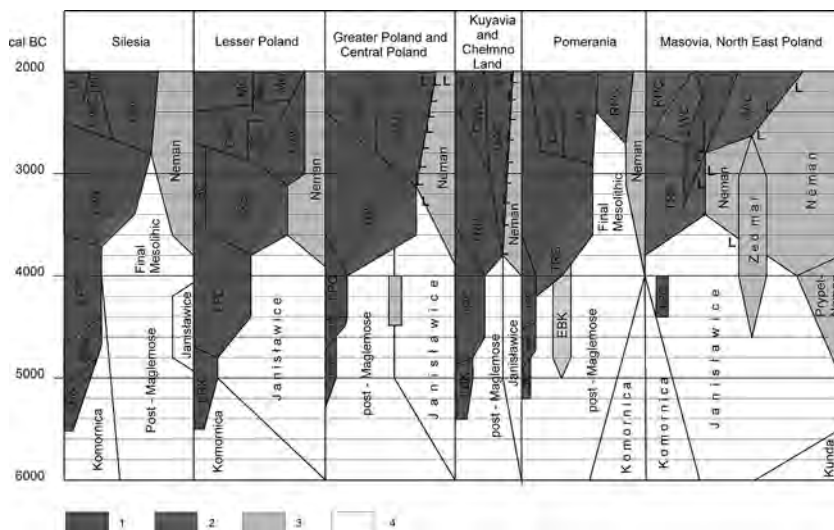


Fig. 1. Archaeological cultures and main socio-economic formations in Polish territories between 6000 and 2000 BC; source: Fig. 7 in M. Nowak, Middle and Late Holocene hunter-gatherers in East Central Europe: changing paradigms of the “non-Neolithic” way of life, *Documenta Praehistorica* 34 (2007), 89–103, with significant modifications. 1 — agro-pastoral and pastoral Neolithic, 2 — agro-pastoral Neolithic with some contribution of hunting and gathering, 3 — pottery-using hunter-gatherers (para-Neolithic), 4 — hunter-gatherers (Mesolithic). LBK — Linear Band Pottery culture; SBK — Stroke Band Pottery culture; LPC — Lengyel-Polgár complex; TRB — Funnel Beaker culture; GAC — Globular Amphorae culture; CWC — Corded Ware culture; U — Unetice culture; BB — Bell Beakers; BC — Baden culture; ZC — Złota culture; MC — Mierzanowice culture; IC — Iwno culture; DG — Dobre group; RPC — Rzucewo/Pamariu culture; L — pottery of Linin type

Рис. 1. Археологические культуры и основные социально-экономические образования на территории Польши от 6000 до 2000 лет до н.э.; по: (fig. 7 in M. Nowak, Middle and Late Holocene hunter-gatherers in East Central Europe: changing paradigms of the “non-Neolithic” way of life, *Documenta Praehistorica* 34 (2007), 89–103, с существенными дополнениями). 1 — земледельческо-скотоводческий и скотоводческий неолит, 2 — земледельческо-скотоводческий неолит с некоторой долей охоты и собирательства, 3 — охотники-собиратели, использующие керамику (паранеолит), 4 — охотники-собиратели (мезолит). Археологические культуры: LBK — линейно-ленточной керамики; SBK — штрихованной керамики; LPC — материалы типа ленгель-полгар; TRB — воронковидных кубков; GAC — шаровидных амфор; CWC — шнуровой керамики; U — унетичская; BB — колоколовидных кубков; BC — баденская; ZC — злота; MC — мирзановическая; IC — ивно; DG — группа добре; RPC — ржуцевская/памарская; L — керамики лининского типа

However, the prehistory of the southern Baltic territories was more complicated in those days (Fig. 1). Parallel to the first and second Neolithizations, independent processes of “ceramisation” of the Late Mesolithic communities proceeded. While in the 5th millennium BC they were fairly selective, in the 4th millennium, in the eastern part of the southern Baltic area, they were quite intensive. A new cultural model formed here, which might be called “para-Neolithic”. In archaeological terms it is locally represented mainly by the Neman and Zedmar cultures. Significantly, agriculture played no role among the para-Neolithic groups till the end of their existence (possibly in the Early Bronze Age). Pottery constitutes in practice the only formal reference to the Neolithic. A certain duality characterizes this pottery already in the 5th millennium BC. On one hand, it refers to the pottery of para-Neolithic groups in Eastern Europe, but on the other it demonstrates some features originating from local Neolithic cultures. The situation continues unchanged in the 4th and 3rd millennia BC.

Researchers of the para-Neolithic in Polish territories usually accept the idea of migration from the east and/or northeast as a fundamental explanation of the genesis of the para-Neolithic in the Vistula and Oder river basins. Alternatively, local groups of the para-Neolithic could have been of local origin; they would simply have been an extension of the local development of the native Late Mesolithic. The patterns of ceramic production were the only ones to arrive from the east and northeast. They were willingly adopted because of the cultural closeness to the eastern European para-Neolithic societies in opposition to “foreign”, Central European Neolithic societies. These patterns were at the same time adapted and changed on the spot to some extent, i.e. in effect of contacts with the said Neolithic groups.

In this situation, a strict separation of the Mesolithic and para-Neolithic loses its original sense, the two being two branches of the same phenomenon, i.e. of the hunting-gathering populations operating in the Middle Holocene forests of Central Europe.

Archaeological data indicate contacts between “expanding” TRB communities and para-Neolithic communities; the latter (mainly the Neman culture) show also a significant territorial development. It is not even as much a question of presence of such elements among the earliest TRB materials in the south-western Baltic coastal zone. If we

accept that, indeed, the local hunter-gatherer population of this area generated this new cultural quality, then it is understandable. We are referring here to the systematic presence of pottery with features not of “funnel beaker” kind and not even having “Neolithic” traits. This applies to all regional groups of the TRB in the Oder and Vistula basins. It is the pottery with a band of comb ornamentation (but with also other types of ornamentation) and with temper of broken shells.

It is impossible to decisively settle here the dispute whether this pottery is of eastern origin (hunter-gatherers of the middle Dnieper and the lower Pripyat, with the agency of the Trypillia culture), or maybe rather of north-eastern one (the Narva culture), or of rather local one (the Neman culture). Undoubtedly, it is the outcome of contacts and relationships between the TRB farmers and para-Neolithic hunters-gatherers. Perhaps, the fact of evident expansion of para-Neolithic cultures (mainly the Neman culture) in the southern Baltic area in the 4th and also in the 3rd millennium BC, which has already been identified for a long time but somewhat overlooked by the specialists of the “proper” Neolithic, remains in a certain conjunction with this issue. Another fact also confirming such contacts is the phenomenon of the so-called Linin type of pottery, among which there is a version consisting of a blend of features typical of the Neman and Funnel Beaker cultures. Although it is most common in Masovia, in smaller quantities it is also present in most of the areas within the eastern section of the southern Baltic area.