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THE KOROBČINO FIND (UKRAINE) AND SOME PROBLEMS OF THE HUNGARIAN ETHNOGENESIS

We do not know any written source that would hint at Hungarians in the Ukraine prior to the 9th century. We know, however, that the Hungarians were already settled in the Dnieper region in the first half of the 9th century, where they held up the Russian delegates on their return from Constantinople in 839. The Nestor chronicle wrote about "Ugrian hills" in the ancient Kiev. They were first mentioned with regard to the year of 882 when Oleg arrived and defeated Askold and Dirt.[1] This place name, associated with the Hungarians, had probably appeared in Kiev much earlier. The annals reported in 898 that the Ugrians had arrived in Kiev from the east and the put up yurts on the hill called Ugor over the Dnieper.[2]

The appearance of the Hungarians in South-Eastern Europe is connected to the mobilisation of the Pechenegs on the territories east of the Volga, where Plano Carpini (1246) and Rubruk (1253) supposed the ancient homeland of the Hungarians.[3] Most of the researchers hold that the ancestors of the Hungarians were members of the Western Turk Kaganate. They got liberated from under its rule around 631 falling at the same time into the power sphere of the Kazars.[4] Consequently, the ancient homeland of the Hungarians was in the area of the Southern Ural. From here they started out westwards in the third quarter of the first Millennium.[5] The route of this migration was drawn in various ways. Some researchers think that Hungarians first moved to Bashkiria from the Southern Ural region and then crossed the Volga and the Don (N. A. Danilevsky, J. Perényi and others). Others hold that on their westward way they crossed the Volga and the Kama towards the upper reaches of the Oka and the Don (K. A. Grot, J. Moor and others). The migration from the Southern Ural to the Middle Danube Basin took a few centuries. They stopped for long periods during the migration. Among others, according to Constantinos Porphyrogeneitos, they lived in the neighbourhood of Kazaria for three years.[6] According to V. P. Šušarin this can be dated from 836 to 838.[7] This is where Levedia could be found, from where the Hungarians moved to the Etelköz. The stop mentioned by Constantinos Porphyrogeneitos was probably not a unique event. Hungarians could stop several times on the route and these stops could last long. Some researchers think that Hungarians lived in the neighbourhood of the Kazars not for three years but at least for a few decades or even a century (P. F. Sum, S. A. Makartej, K. Vestberg and others).

Levedia and Etelköz has not as yet been localised with certainty. Levedia has been placed between Kiev and Voronezh (E. Molnár), between the Don and the Danube (I. Erdélyi), and between the Donets and the Dnieper (K. A. Grot, V. V. Mavrodin and others). Sometimes Levedia and Etelköz are regarded to

[1] Povesť vremenyh let. Moskva–Leningrad 1950, I. 20.

[2] Polnoe sobranie Russkih letopisei. Leningrad 1927, I. 17–18.

[3] Puťešestvie v Vostočnye strany Plano Karpini i Rubruka. Moskva 1957, 48, 57, 72.

[4] M. I. ARTAMONOV: Istoriâ Hazar. Leningrad 1962, 338.

[5] There is another theory, which places the ancient homeland of the Hungarians into the Caucasus. – V. P. ŠUŠARIN: Russko-vengerskie otnošenia v IX. veke In: Meždunarodnye svâzy Rossi'i v XVII. v. Moskva 1961, 133.

[6] KONSTANTIN BAGRÂNORODNYJ: Ob upravlenii gosudarstvom. IGAIMK 1934, vyp. 91, 17.

[7] ŠUŠARIN *op. cit.* 134.

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be the same, and this country is placed in the steppe between the Dnieper and the Danube.[8] According to M. I. Artamonov "the Hungarians directly invaded the steppes of the Pontic region, then, pressed by the Kazars, soon retreated to the westernmost end of the Kazar lands, to Etelköz between the Dnieper and the Danube".[9] The written sources tell that at the time of the Byzantine-Bulgarian wars in 836–837, the Hungarians resided in the country of Etelköz, which could be found on the Danube. They stayed there until 895 when the Bulgarians and the Pechenegs pushed them beyond the Carpathians. This was where a new chapter opened in the history of Hungarians starting with the conquest of the new home in the centre of Europe.

The migration of the Hungarians from the Southern Ural to the Danube region is difficult to follow by archaeological methods. This is probably due to the fact that they were constantly on the move and they did not have a permanent settlement. This is why no settlements or dwellings that could authentically be associated with the Hungarians are known in South-Eastern Europe. A. N. Moshkalenko argues, at the same time, that the pottery cauldrons with interior handles, which are said to be characteristic traits of the Ugrian material culture, could be found in the nomadic dwellings from the 7th–9th centuries unearthed on the lower reach of the Don, the ones that S. A. Pletneva connected to the Bulgarians. Moshkalenko thinks that these finds evidence the temporary settlements of the Ugrians.[10]

Nor were the Hungarian cemeteries studied sufficiently in South-Eastern Europe. This can be explained by the facts that the graves were not marked and that it is often difficult to distinguish the Hungarian find material from that of the nomads if they do not contain any ethnically determinative object. At present less than 10 sites are known, mostly skeletons of warriors as e.g. Vorob'evo (Voronež c.),[11] Manvelovka (Dnetropetrovsk c.),[12] Krylos (Carpathians) etc. N. M. Boky unearthed the burial of a warrior's family (man, woman and child) at Subbotintsy (Kirovograd c.).[13]

Regarding the elements of the burial rite, the Eastern European Ugrian graves resemble the most the ones in Hungary. In Hungary more than 350 cemeteries are known from the end of the 9th century until the middle of the 10th century. Several of them were systematically excavated. The Hungarian burials in Eastern Europe and in the Middle Danube region are inhumations, the oblong shaft graves were not marked on the surface. The dead were placed in the shafts extended on the back with the head on the west, facing east. Horse heads or feet were often placed to the feet of the dead. Contemporary graves with similar rites are also known from the Southern Ural from the Volga and Kama regions.[14]

So the graves found in the Dnieper region – Manvelovka, Subbotintsy, – on the Don – Vorobe'evo, – and in the Eastern Carpathians – Krylos – can be fit among ancient Hungarian burials regarding the ritual elements. The circumstance that there is a limited number of written and archaeological sources on the history of the Ugrians before 895 increases the significance of every find dated from the time of the Conquest.

It is especially true in the case of rich graves. The find assemblage unearthed at Korobčino (Dnetropetrovsk c., Krinički district) belongs to this group. The objects arrived in the Historical Museum of Dnetropetrovsk in 1989.

[8] Another opinion holds that the Hungarians were subdued by the Kazars on the northern coast of the Black Sea and they collected taxes for them from the Slavs. – E. MOLNÁR, Studia Historica 13 (1955) 127. – Some medieval authors (Gardizi, Ibn Dasta, Ali Bekri, Al Marvazi) wrote that they had led successful attacks against the Slavs. – A. N. NOVOSEĽCEV: Vostočnye istočniki o vostočnych slavânah i Rusi VI–IX. vv. In: Drevneruskoe gosudarstvo i ego meždunarodnoe značenye. Moskva 1965, 389–390. – The chronicle of Anonymous wrote in the 12th–13th century that the Ugrian tribes led by Álmos (d. around 894) proceeded towards west and they conquered on their way the "Kingdom of the Rus" and occupied Kiev. The Ugrians left only after the Kievians had paid a large tribute. Some researchers, however, doubt the authenticity of the statement. – ŠUŠARIN *op. cit.* 139–140.

[9] ARTAMONOV *op. cit.* 344.

[10] A. N. MOŠKALENKO: Slavâno-vengerskie otnošeniâ v IX. v. i drevneruskie poselenii Srednevo i Verhnevo Dona. PADIU, 194.

[11] Otčet IAK za 1905 g. Sankt-Peterburg 1897, 54–55.

[12] L. N. ČURILOVA: Pogrebenie s serebrânoj maskoj u sela Manvelovki na Dnepropetrovščine. SA 1986:4, 261–266.

[13] N. M. BOKIJ–S. A. PLETNEVA: Zahoronenie sem'i voina – kočevnika X v bassejne Ingula. SA 1988:2, 99–115.

[14] E. A. HALIKOVA: Boľše-tugarskij mogiľnik. SA … :2, 158–178; E. A. HALIKOVA: Pograbaľnyj obrâd Tankeevsokovo mogiľnika i ego vengerskie paralleli. PADIU, 145–167; I. Fodor: K voprosu o pogrbaľnom obrâ'ade drevnyh vengrov. PADIU, 168–176.

The following finds were uncovered during the construction of a dam in the desiccated basin of a river at the north-eastern edge of the village: a bowl and a cup made of gilded silver, a gold and a silver bracelet, a sabre and the mouth fragment of its scabbard, 5 round gold plaques, a square-shaped gold plaque and an oblong gold plaque with double terminals. The collaborators of the museum found the following few objects during the authentication of the site: a gold burial mask, the fragment of a gold scabbard mount, an iron stirrup, 2 iron arrowheads and the fragment of a clay jug. The villagers handed over 5 round gold plaques. They observed that some more clay vessels were destroyed during the earth works. Some human and horse bones were also recovered during the authentication of the site.

At Korobčino, evidently the grave of a rich nomadic warrior was disturbed. Some of the finds got lost, and the majority of the ones that could be recovered were made of gold or silver. Nineteen of the preserved 24 objects were made of precious metals.

The collected grave furniture can be divided into two, quantitatively unequal groups. One contains the objects of practical use (weapons, harness, vessels, jewellery), the other contains the paraphernalia of the burial rites (mask and plaques). The first group can further be divided into table set (silver bowl and cup, clay jug), jewellery (bracelets and applicable plaques), weapons and their accessories (sabre, silver elements of the scabbard, arrowheads) and harness (stirrup).

The bowl and the cup are eminent productions of medieval applied art, made in Central Asian goldsmith's workshop centres. The bowl is large and flat with a diameter of 22.5 cm. The centre is ornamented by an eight-petal rosette enclosing an octagonal rosette with clover motives at the terminals. Each a stem ending in three points was incised into the petals. The centre of the rosette is round and convex and it is framed by beading, similarly to the eight petals. The inner surface of the rosette is ornamented with punching (*Fig. 1.5; Fig. 2.1*). This rosette type is interpreted as a sun symbol and was thought to be capable to avert evil (charming with eyes).[15] Morphologically and stylistically similar bowls can be met in A. I. Smirnov's book of illustrations.[16] They belong to products characteristic of the eastern part of Central Asia, in the group of Fergana–Interfluve of Seven Rivers (according to B. M. Marshak) or in the Sogd group (according to V. P. Darkevich).[17] A. P. Smirnov dates the bowls with similar ornaments from the 9–10th centuries, B. I. Marshak from the 8th–9th centuries, while V. P. Darkevich from the second half of the 8th century to the first half of the 9th century.[18]

The cup is small, hemispherical, its height measures 5.7 cm (*Fig. 1.2; Fig. 2.2*). The interior surface is gilded. A gilded rim ornament can be observed on the exterior of the low neck composed of a row of round palmette-shaped flowers and a narrow herringbone motive running along the edge of the rim. The morphologically similar vessels were widely distributed in the East in the early Middle Ages.[19] Floral motives composed of palmette-shaped bulky flowers are often met on the silver products of the Fergana–Interfluve of Seven Rivers group in the 8th–9th centuries.[20]

The clay vessel of the Korobčino find was wheel-thrown, brick-coloured with coarse surfaces. It was made of finely levigated clay, the body is rounded, downwards widening (*Fig. 3.14*). Horizontal concentric circles can clearly be seen on the lower part. Morphologically, it resembles the grey or black Saltovo jugs with smoothed surfaces,[21] and its analogues can also be found in the graves of the Tanke'evka cemetery in the Volga region dated from the beginning of the 10th century.[22]

The round plaques with a diameter of about 2 cm were applicable ornaments made of gold foil (*Fig. 3.4–13*). A cordiform dot ornament can be seen in their centres, and the edges were decorated by pressed convex framing motives. The cordiform motive was characteristic of the conquering Hungarians in

[15] G. K. GRIGOR'EV: K istorii narodnogo Vostoka. Iskusstvo 1937:1, 141.

[16] A. I. SMIRNOV: Vostočnoe serebro. Sankt-Peterburg 1909, XI. 103.

[17] B. I. MARŠAK: Sogdijskoe serebro. Moskva 1971, 26; V. P. Darkevič: Hudožestvenyj metall Vostoka. Moskva 1976, 90, Fig. 12.

[18] A. P. SMIRNOV: Železnyj vek Baškirii. Kultura drevnyh plemen Priuraľâ i Zapadnoj Sibiri. MIA 57. Moskva 1957, 85; Maršak *op. cit*. 26; Darkevič *op. cit*. 87.

[19] SMIRNOV *op. cit.* CVI, 235, 236.

[20] DARKEVIČ *op. cit*. 90, Fig. 12.

[21] S. A. PLETNEVA: Na slavâno-hazarskom pogranič'e (Dmitrievskij arheologičesky kompleks). Moskva 1989, 124–131.

[22] T. A. HLEBNIKOVA: Keramika pamâtnikov Volžskoj Bulgarii. Moskva 1988, 87, Fig. 22.1, 2.

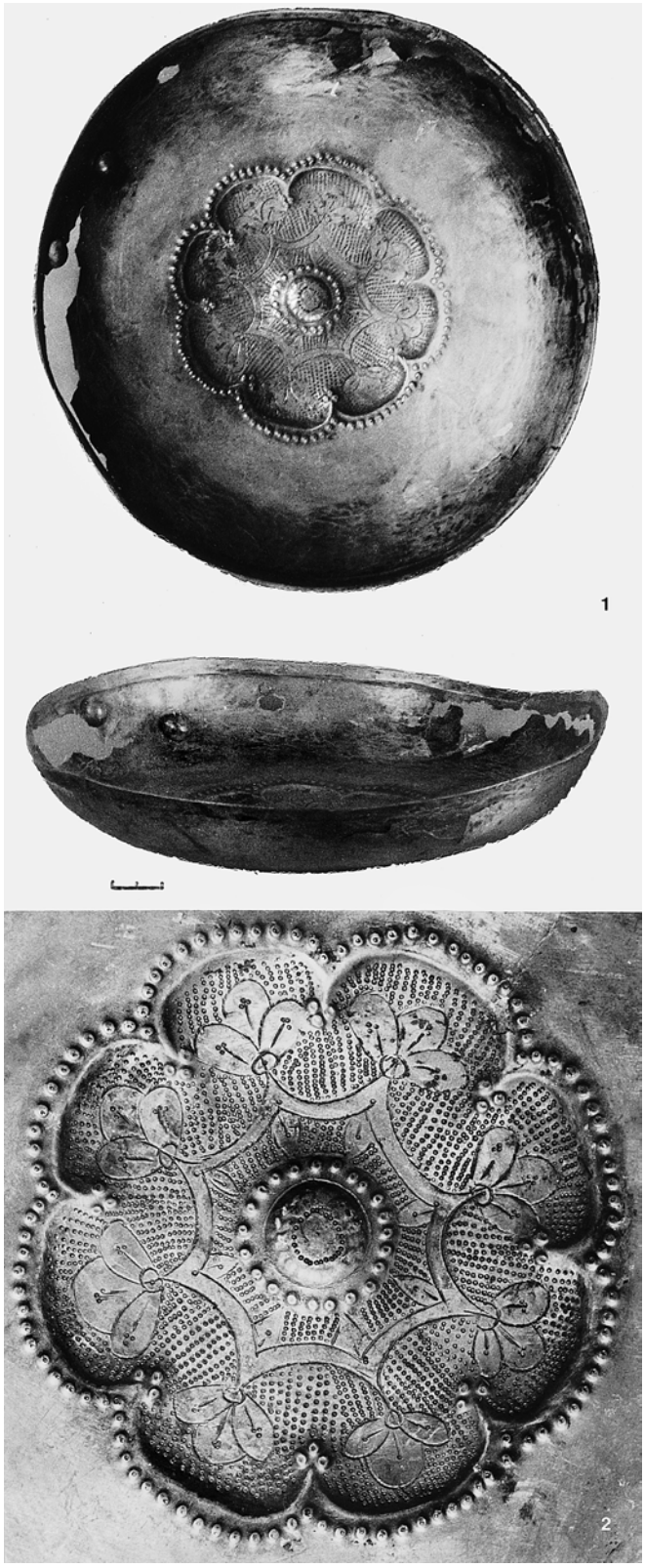

Fig. 1. Silver bowl from Korobčino. (Below: detail of the incised and relief ornament on the bottom)

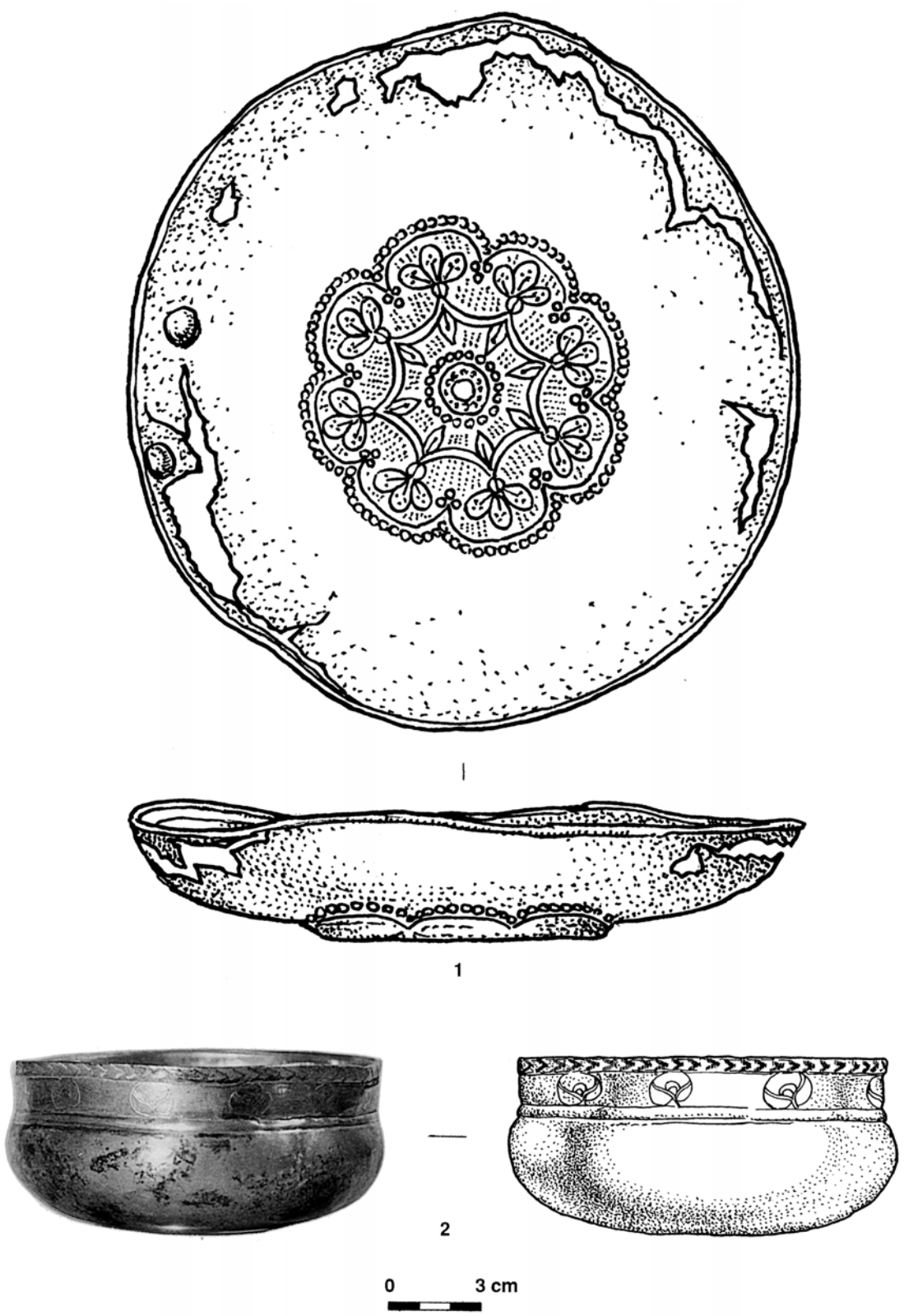

Fig. 2. Finds from Korobčino. 1: silver bowl (see Fig. 1); 2: hemispherical silver cup

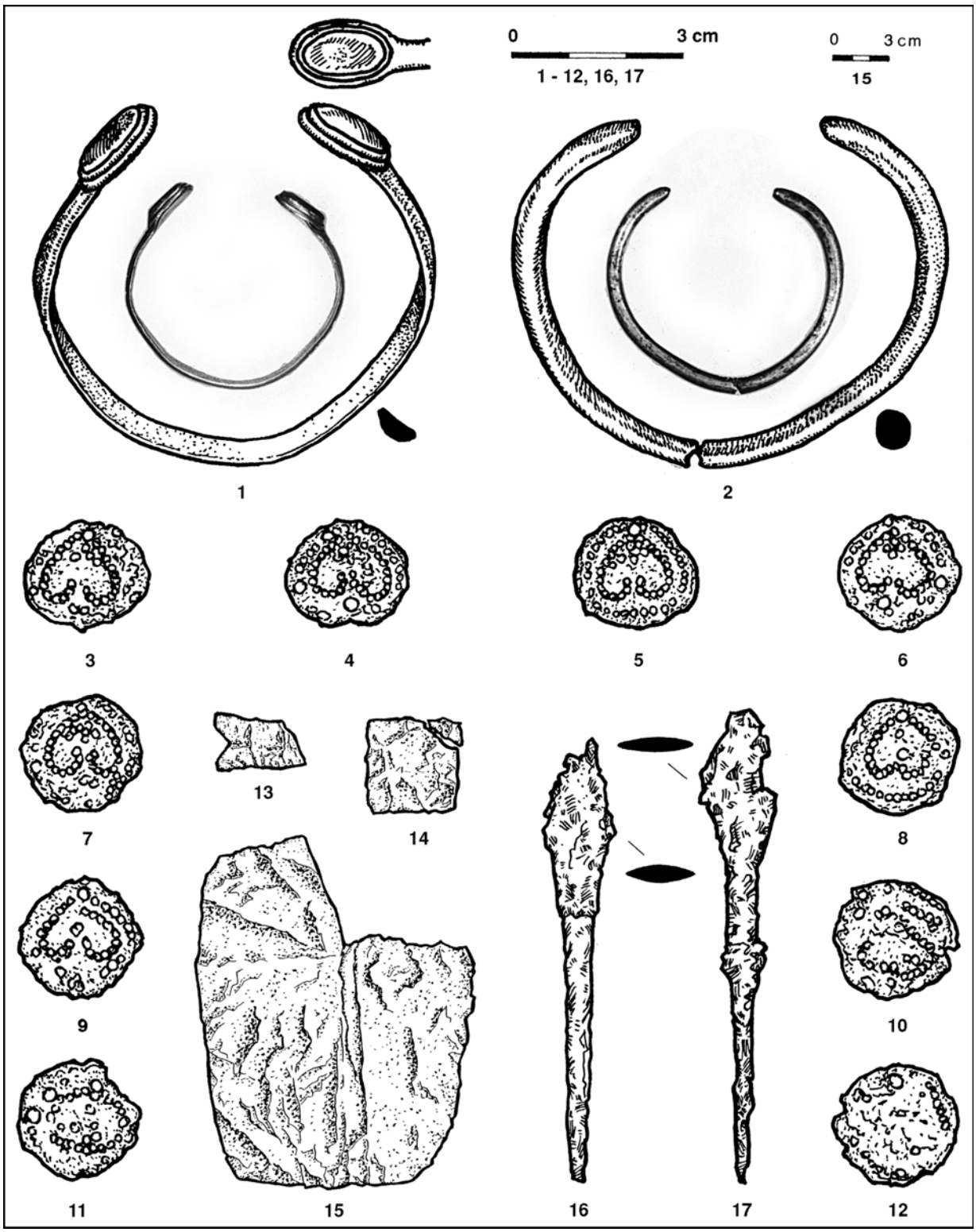

Fig. 3. Finds from Korobčino. 1: bracelet from sheet gold; 2: silver bracelet; 3–12: round gold foil plaques; 13–14: square-shape gold plaques; 15: trapezoid gold plaque (burial mask?); 16–17: iron arrow-heads

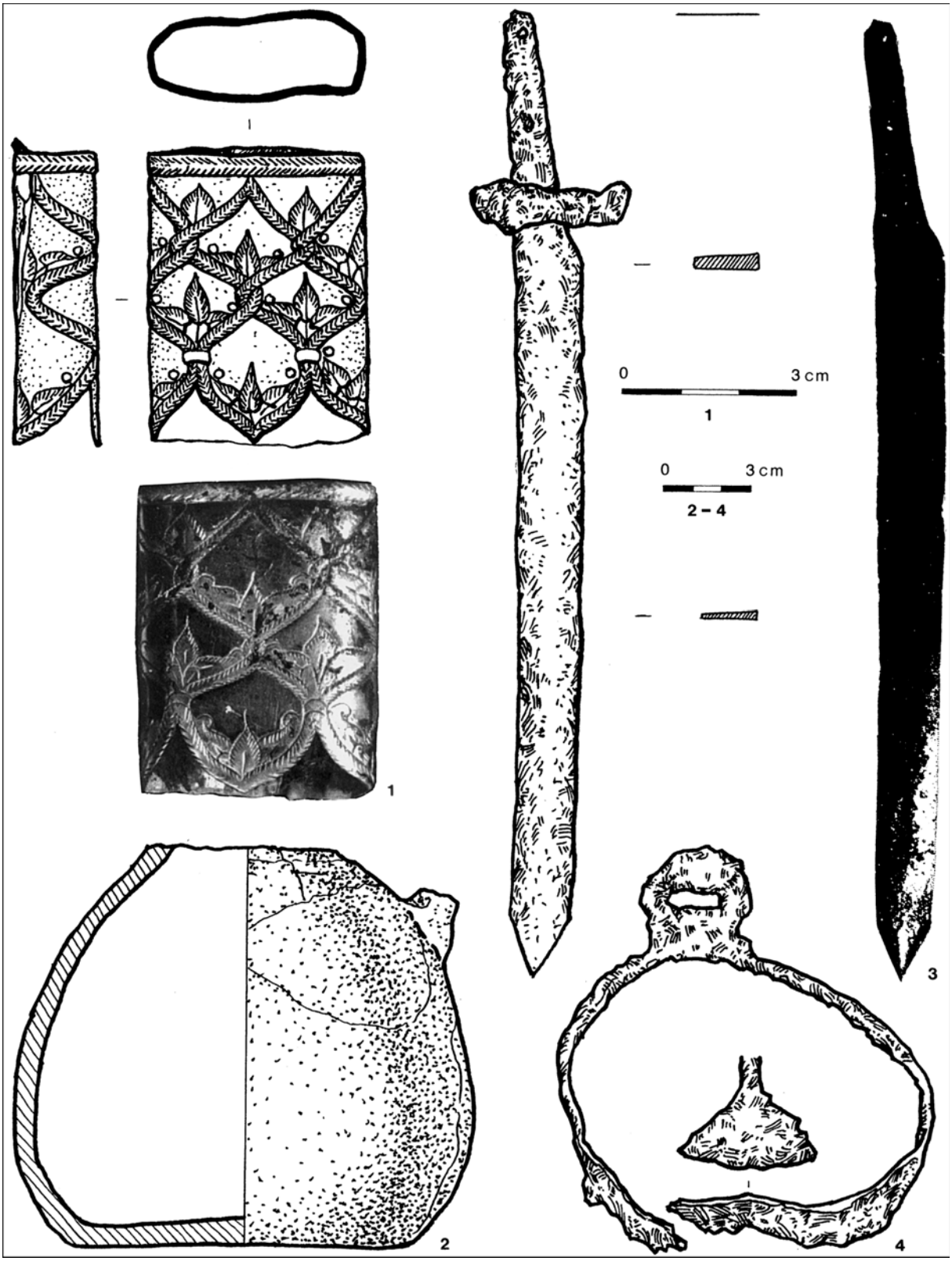

Fig. 4. Finds from Korobčino. 1: silver mouth mount of a sabre scabbard; 2: wheel-thrown jug; 3: sabre; 4: deformed iron stirrup

the 9th–10th centuries.[23] The framing motive of pressed "beads" can be found on plaques in the Kama region, in Bashkiria, in the central Volga region and also in the Don region. It appeared on Hungarian products in the 10th century.[24]

One of the Korobčino bracelets was made of silver. It is round in cross-section, the surface is smooth (*Fig. 3.2*). This type of jewellery was widely distributed and existed for a long time. The other bracelet was made of gold, it was laminated and there were carnelian inlays in oval panels on the two terminals (*Fig. 3.1*). Its analogues can be found between the Volga region and the territory of Hungary in the 9th–10th centuries.[25] The bracelets are traditionally associated with women's wear. This is, however, not always true. Bracelets made of valuable precious metals can sometimes be found in the burials of the aristocracy where they indicate power and rank. From this respect we can mention the grave of a high-ranked Sarmatian at Vinitsa connected to "King" Farzoios, which contained a massive gold bracelet.[26]

The scabbard mounts of the sabre are important elements of the Korobčino grave furniture. One plaque measured 5×3.7 cm, the other 11.5×3.5 cm.[27] The first one is especially worth examining. This element was mounted on the mouth of the scabbard (*Fig. 4.1*). The surface is covered by an incised cord net and the eyes of the net are ornamented by clovers of narrow, elongated leaves. The upper edge of the mouth is horizontal with incised cord ornament, the lower edge displays figural cordiform protrusions. The braids of the "net" are extended to the edges of these protrusions. The scabbard mouths of early medieval sabres found in the territory of Hungary were often decorated by similar protrusions.[28]

The braids of the floral ornament and the clovers with elongated narrow leaves are the leading motives of the ancient Hungarian applied art. It is generally accepted that the Hungarian floral style was born from metal art of the ancient Iran on the eve of the development of the early feudal state. "The richly ornamented motives" wrote Antal Bartha "found a way to the heart of the barbarian tribal aristocracy, who wished to express their power in outward appearances."[29] But while the representatives of the Central Asian floral ornaments were applied on table sets, the Hungarian patterns decorated first of all weapons and harness (swords, sabres, daggers, sabretaches etc.).

The analogues of the ornament on the mouth of the Korobčino scabbard were found in Hungary, regarding the composition and the individual elements. They were observed on sabre hilts and scabbard mounts,[30] on sabretaches,[31] dress ornaments,[32] breast discs,[33] headwear finials[34] etc.

The same ornamental motive can be found on weapons in the Southern Ural and in the Volga region. The special clover motive combined with shield-shaped fields appears on dagger hilts in the Krûkovo-Kužnoe and Tanke'evka cemeteries[35] and on a sabre hilt in the Kolosovka I. cemetery.[36] Similar patters can also be observed on objects in the Middle Dnieper region from the 10th century as e.g. on the hilt of the Kiev sword and on the smaller gilded silver rhyton found in the Čërnaâ Mogila at Černigov.[37] The decoration of the latter stands the closest to the Korobčino one in its shape and ornament. This is also true of the cordiform protrusions on the lower edge and the cord braid ornaments with the clover motives in the eyes of the net.

[23] GY. LÁSZLÓ: Árpád népe. Budapest 1988; R. S. ORLOV: Srendedneprovskaâ tradiciâ hudožestvenoj metalloobrabotki v X–XI vv. In: Kuľtura i isskustvo srednevekovogo goroda. Moskva 1984, 43.

[24] E. P. KAZAKOV: O nekotoryh vengerskih analogiâh v veščevom materiale Tankeevskogo mogiľnika. PADIU, 165.

[25] Stepi Evrazii v epohu srednevekov'â. Moskva 1981, 79; LÁSZLÓ *op. cit.* 96.

[26] A. V. SIMONENKO–B. I. LOBAJ: Sarmaty Severo-zapadnovo Pričernomor'â v I. v. n. e. Kiev 1991, 24. Fig. 14. 6.

[27] The second plaque was lost in the museum.

[28] I. DIENES: A honfoglaló magyarok. Hereditas. Budapest 1974, fig. 16.

[29] A. BARTHA: Istoki vengerskoj kuľtury X. v. PADIU, 120.

[30] DIENES *op. cit.* fig. 13.

[31] GY. LÁSZLÓ: A honfoglaló magyar nép élete. Budapest 1944, XXX. 17.

[32] DIENES *op. cit.* fig. 36.

[33] *Ibid.* fig. 35.

[34] *Ibid.* fig. 12.

[35] I. P. IVANOV: Krukovo-Kužnovsky mogiľnik. In: Materialy po istorii mordvy VIII–IX. vv. Moršansk 1952, 211. Tabl. 27. 1; Kazakov *op. cit.* 164. Fig. 2. 9.

[36] I. A. DITLER: Mogiľnik v rajone p. Kolosovka na r. Fars. In: Sbornik materialov po arheologii Adygei. Majkop 1961, 185, tabl. XIX.2.

[37] Istoria i kultura drevnej Rusi. Moskva–Leningrad 1948, 125. Fig. 81. 2.

Regrettably, only some fragments have remained from the one-edged sabre. They are the spike and a 27.2 cm long fragment of the blade (local people broke and rasped the blade). There is a round hole in the hilt. The laminated crossbar widens to a diamond shape in the middle and the terminals are slightly bent downwards. It stands at a small angle to the hilt (*Fig. 4.3*).

The Korobčino sabre with its slightly arched blade belongs to the early Saltovo type. Similar weapons were found in sites dated from between the 8th century and the first half of the 10th century.[38] The later sabres from ancient Russian graves and Hungarian cemeteries dated from the 10th century and the beginning of the 11th century have arched blades and hilts, and the latter is bent toward the edge.[39]

Two iron arrowheads also belong to the weapons. They were about 8 cm long. The spikes are long and flattened diamond-shaped, the wings are short. This type is widely known from sites of the 10th–11th centuries.[40]

The stirrup is rounded, the flat loop is divided from the arched part by a plate (*Fig. 4.4*). Similar stirrups were commonly used in the Eurasian steppes in the 8th–10th centuries.[41]

The gold plaques are interesting components of the Korobčino find assemblage. One is a large, trapezoid item measuring 17.3×13.7 cm. The second one is square-shaped measuring 4.4×4.4 cm, while the third one is oblong-shaped with double terminals measuring 4.2×2.4 cm (*Fig. 3.3*). It is well known that the covering of the face of the dead with a burial mask (a kind of shroud) was an important element of the burial rite of the ancient Hungarians. It is possible that these plaques were elements of such a shroud.

Burial masks appeared in the territory of Hungary with the arrival of the Hungarians at the end of the 9th century. They were made of an oblong-shaped piece of leather without holes in it. Rectangular silver plaques were put in the place of the eyes and the mouth.[42] Archaeological sources imply that the Hungarians brought the rite of burial masks to the Danube Basin from the Middle Volga and the Ural regions. Silver masks with apertures at the eyes and the mouth were found in 19 graves of the Tanke'evka Turk-Ugrian cemetery in the Middle Volga region.[43] The traces of the silver fabric were preserved under the masks. Most of the graves with masks contained male skeletons, rarely female ones, who were furnished with rich grave furniture. Similar burial masks were unearthed in cemeteries from the 6th–11th centuries in the Middle and Upper Kama regions.[44] A silver mask with apertures was also found in the Manvelovka grave in the Middle Dnieper region dated from the 9–10th centuries.[45] Gold masks, eye and mouth pieces can be found in the burials of the aristocracy in Asia Minor, in the Mediterranean and in the Pontic region.[46]

The most probable solution is that the larger plaque in the Korobčino grave was a burial mask, while the smaller plaques were eye and mouth pieces. They could be placed on the face in the same way as the ones applied on leather in the graves unearthed in Hungary.[47]

We have mentioned that the origin of the mask rite can be found in the Mediterranean and in Asia Minor. The various peoples, standing on different levels of social evolution, adopted the rite from these regions. M. Benkő differentiates five regions of the nomadic peoples where the burials dated from different periods contained burial masks. The earliest ones from the 1st–4th and the 6th–7th centuries were found in the foothills of the Tien Shan and the Altai. Masks from the 6th–9th centuries are known in the Ural, Volga

[38] V. A. GRINČENKO: Pamâtnika VIII stokolo s. Voznesenski na Zaporižži. Arheologiâ 1950:3, 44, Tabl. 11, 13, 14; G. F. KORZUHINA: Iz istorii drevnerusskogo oružiâ. SA 1950, XIII, 75, Tabl. II. 6–8; N. Â. MERPERT: Iz istorii oružiâ plemen Vostočnoj Evropy v rannem srednevekov'e. SA 1955, XXII. Fig. 1–5.

[39] KORZUHINA *op. cit.* Tabl. III. 5–8.

[40] A. F. MEDVEDEV: Ručnoe metaľnoe oružie. Luk, strely, samostrel. SAI E1–36. Moskva 1966, Tabl. 13–16.

[41] G. A. FEDOROV-DAVYDOV: Kočevniki vostočnoj Evropy pod vlastu zolotoordynskih hanov. Moskva 1966, 11; N. A. MAŽITOV: Ûžnyj Ural v XII–XIV. vv. Moskva 1977, 195. Tabl. I. 20.

[42] I. DIENES: Honfoglalóink halottas szokásainak egyik ugorkori eleméről. ArchÉrt 90 (1963) 109–111.

[43] HALIKOVA *op. cit.* 153.

[44] E. P. KAZAKOV: O naznačenii pogrebalnyh licevyh pokrytij Tankeevskovo mogiľnika. In: Trudy Kamskoj arheologičeskoj eskpedicii 19. Kazan' 1968, 232–233.

[45] ČURILOVA *op. cit.* 261–266.

[46] N. N. POGREBOVA: Zolotye licevye plastiny iz pogrebenij Neapolâ Skifskogo. In: Istoriâ i arheologiâ drevnevo Kryma. Kiev 1957, 142–154; V. M. ZUBAR': Nekropoľ Hersonesa Tavričeskogo I–IV. vv. n. e. Kiev 1982, 109–113.

[47] FODOR *op. cit.* 108.

and Ob regions and they appeared along the middle reaches of the Dnieper and the Danube in the 9th–10th centuries.[48]

Burial masks were used because people were afraid of the dead and tried to shut them out of the world of the living.[49]

Most of the objects with dating force in the Korobčino assemblage came from the 9th–10th centuries. It means that the grave can be dated from a period close to the Conquest, when Hungarians appeared in South-Eastern Europe before proceeding towards west and settling on the Danube.

It is obvious that the warrior buried at Korobčino belonged to the higher layers of the Ugrian aristocracy. Gardizi Persian historiographer in the 11th century reported that the high power was divided at the Hungarians between the military leader and another leader who dealt with the rest of the affairs.[50] Constantinos Porphyrogeneitos named the two major representatives of the power following the prince: the "yila" and the "karcha".[51] Besides, at that time Hungarians belonged to seven tribes and each tribe had its leader. The chief was called Levedi.[52] It seems highly probable that the grave of Korobčino held one of these high-ranked persons. Anyhow, even though some of the grave furniture were lost, the Korobčino grave is, for the time being, one of the richest representatives of Hungarian burials from the Conquest period.

CATALOGUE OF THE KOROBČINO FINDS

1. Silver bowl. The wide mouth is flattened (*Fig. 1; Fig. 2.1*). The inner edge is segmented by a flat rim. Two round rivets have been preserved in the wall, which probably held the lost handle. An incised and embossed relief ornament can be seen on the interior of the bottom. It is a complicated eight-petal rosette, which encloses an octagon with clover motives. The surface of the rosette is covered with small incised circles. The outer parts of the petals of the rosette are decorated by relief circles: "beading". Apertures, fissures and holes developed in the walls. The height of the bowl is 4.2 cm, the diameter of the mouth is 22.3 cm, the diameter of the rosette is 11 cm, the diameter of the rivets is 1 cm. The bowl weighs 347.4 g, silver test 875.

2. A hemispherical silver cup gilded on the inside (*Fig. 2.2*). A gilded rim ornament composed of rounded, half open buds on short stems can be seen on the circumference of the low neck. The edge of the rim is decorated by a herringbone pattern. A fissure runs along the bottom of the ornament. Fresh scraping and markings left by a cutting tool can be seen on the inside and the outside of the bottom. The height of the vessel is 5.3 cm, the diameter of the mouth is 11.5 cm, the diameter of the body is 12.8 cm, the height of the rim ornament is 1 cm. The cup weighs 276.6 g, silver test 875.

3. Silver mouth mount of a sabre scabbard (*Fig. 4.1*). The exterior is decorated by an incised net pattern with incised clover motives in the eyes of the net. The upper horizontal edge of the object is framed by a cord ornament. Cordiform protrusions were formed on the lower edge. The length of the mount is 11.5 cm, its width is 3.5 cm, it weighs 21.7 g, silver test 916.

4. Bracelet from sheet gold (*Fig. 3.1*). The terminals are decorated by carnelian inlays (cabochon) placed in bezels with indented edges. Its diameter is 6.5 cm, the width of the sheet is 0.7 cm, the larger diameter of the closing element is 1.7 cm, the diameter of the inlay is 1.5 cm. It weighs 44.4 g, gold test 930.

5. A silver bracelet of round cross-section (*Fig. 3.2*). It was broken into two. Its diameter is 7.5 cm, the diameter of the cross-section of the wire is 0.5 cm. It weighs 38.8 g, silver test 900.

6. Round gold foil plaques (10 items) with holes for application at the edges (*Fig. 3.3–12*). They have pressed cordiform ornaments on the surfaces and "beaded" frames along the edges. Their diameter is around 2 cm. They weigh each 0.65 g, gold test 900.

7. Trapezoid gold plaque, perhaps part of a burial mask. One corner broke off. Traces of folding can be seen on the surface (*Fig. 3.15*). Measurements: 17.7 × 9 cm. It weighs 29.95 g, gold test 930.

8. Square-shaped gold foil plaque, one corner broke off (*Fig. 3.14*). There are two small holes on one side. Measurements: 4.4 × 4.4 cm. It weighs 2.4 g, gold test 950.

9. A square-shaped gold foil plaque with double terminals (*Fig. 3.13*). Measurements 4.2 × 2.4 cm. It weighs 1.3 g, gold test 930.

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10. A wheel-thrown jug without the mouth and the handle (*Fig. 4.2*). The body is rounded, bulky, narrowing toward the low foot. The butt of the handle with an oval cross-section has been preserved on the upper part. Two concentric lines can be seen on the lower part of the body. The surface is light grey, light brown in section. The clay was finely levigated and tempered with tiny sand grains.

11. Sabre (*Fig. 4.3*). Only the spike survived from the hilt, a small section of the blade and a fragment of the crossbar. The crossbar stands at a small angle to the blade. The round hole in its centre probably served the attachment of the hilt cover. The blade was slightly arched, it is triangular in cross-section. The length of the surviving part of the sabre is 34.2 cm, the length of the surviving part of the blade is 27.2 cm, its width is 2.4 cm. The hilt is 6.7 cm long and 1.5 cm broad at the bottom and 1 cm at the top. The crossbar (what remained of it) could be drawn on the hilt. It is laminar, widening to a diamond shape in the middle. The terminals are rounded and arched. The present length is 6 cm, its width is 1.9 cm in the middle and 1 cm on the surviving terminal.

12. Spiked iron arrowhead (*Fig. 3.16*). It is elongated triangular, the spike is round in cross-section. The entire length is 8 cm, the length of the head is 3.5 cm, its width is 1.4 cm, the length of the spike is 4.5 cm, its lower diameter is 0.2 cm, the upper diameter is 0.5 cm.

13. Spiked iron arrowhead (*Fig. 3.17*) The elongated neck ends in a diamond-shaped head. The entire length is 8 cm, the length of the head is 4.3 cm, its width is 1.4 cm, the length of the spike is 3.7 cm, the lower diameter is 0.1 cm, the upper diameter is 0.4 cm.

14. Deformed rounded iron stirrup (*Fig. 4.4*). A plate separates the loop hammered from a sheet from the rest of the stirrup. There is an elongated oval aperture in the middle of the loop. The foot-plate is flat, oblong-shaped. The height of the stirrup is 13 cm, the diameter of the loop is 3.5 cm, its width is 3.6 cm, the length of the aperture is 1.5 cm, its width is 0.5 cm, the width of the arch is 0.6 cm, the width of the foot-plate is 4.2 cm.