



PAŃSTWOWE MUZEUM ARCHEOLOGICZNE  
w WARSZAWIE

BULETTIN  
ARCHÉOLOGIQUE  
POLONAIS

# WIADOMOŚCI ARCHEOLOGICZNE LXXIV



VARSOVIE 2023

WARSZAWA 2023

# WIADOMOŚCI ARCHEOLOGICZNE

## LXXIV

W 150. rocznicę  
wydania przez Jana Zawiszę pierwszego tomu  
„Wiadomości Archeologicznych”,  
czyli  
*Spostrzeżeń lat ostatnich w dziedzinie  
starożytności krajowych*

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Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne, ul. Długa 52 (Arsenał), 00-241 Warszawa  
tel.: +48 (22) 5044 841, +48 (22) 5044 813; fax: +48 (22) 831 51 95  
e-mail: j.andrzejowski@wiadomosci-archeologiczne.pl

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**ISSN**

**0043-5082**

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MIKALAI PLAVINSKI

## ANTLER CONTAINER FROM THE NAVASIOŁKI BARROW CEMETERY (MIADZIEL DISTRICT, MINSK REGION, REPUBLIC OF BELARUS) IN THE COLLECTION OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

POJEMNIK ROGOWY Z CMENTARZYSKA KURHANOWEGO NOWOSIÓŁKI (REJON MIADZIOLSKI OBWODU MIŃSKIEGO,  
 REPUBLIKI BIAŁORUŚ) W ZBIORACH PAŃSTWOWEGO MUZEUM ARCHEOLOGICZNEGO W WARSZAWIE

**Abstract:** The article analyses the antler container that entered the collection of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw in 1925. The container was discovered in the destroyed barrow of the Navasiolki (Polish Nowosiółki) cemetery in the Miadziel District of the Minsk Region of the Republic of Belarus. Archaeological excavations of this cemetery were carried out in 1961–1962 and 1988–1990, resulting in the study of 35 burial barrows. These can be divided into two cultural and chronological horizons. The antler container discussed in this article belongs to the second horizon, which is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> – middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**Keywords:** antler container, Middle Ages, Navasiolki barrow cemetery, Belarus

Słowa kluczowe: pojemnik rogowy, średniowiecze, cmentarzysko kurhanowe Nowosiółki, Białoruś

### INTRODUCTION

A antler container from the Navasiolki/Навасёлкі<sup>1</sup> (Polish: Nowosiółki) cemetery entered the collection of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw (PMA V/1045:9) in 1925 as part of a set of archaeological artifacts, probably obtained as a result of the destruction of barrows or treasure-hunting excavations. The objects were handed over to the museum by S. Gartkewicz from the *wójt* of the then Commune od *Miadziol* (Bel. Мядзел) Antoni Domaradzki<sup>2</sup> through the mediation of inspector Łannicki.

This artifact has been repeatedly mentioned in the literature, however, it has never been subjected to detailed study and special research<sup>3</sup>. The author's publication of the materi-

als from the excavations of the barrow cemetery Navasiolki, conducted in 1961–1962 and 1988–1990<sup>4</sup>, allows to clarify the archaeological context of the discovery of the antler container and its dating.

It should be noted that in the Polish-speaking tradition, this mound burial ground is known as *Nowosiółki*, which conveys the Belarusian name of the village in the Polish sound. The name *Nowosiółki* was used in the official records management<sup>5</sup> and in cartography<sup>6</sup> of the Second Polish Republic and logically continued to be used in the post-war and modern scientific literature<sup>7</sup>. At the same time, this article will use the present-day Belarusian name Navasiolki<sup>8</sup> in its romanized form.

It also makes sense to dwell on the question of why the finds from the destroyed barrows in Navasiolki were in 1925 deposited in the collection of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. At that time, *Nowosiółki/Navasiolki* was the part of the *gmina* (commune) *Miadziol* in *powiat* (county) *duniłowicki* of the Wilno Land Province. At that time, on the territory of Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic, there were practically no specialized archaeological museums and scientific centers that would purposefully deal with the issues of accounting, protection and study of archeological sites.

<sup>1</sup> Romanization of Belarusian acc. to UN rules (E/CONF.101/CRP2), of Russian acc. to BGN/PCGN 1947 System, of Ukrainian acc. to BGN/PCGN 2019 Agreement.

<sup>2</sup> A. Domaradzki wrote about himself as a Pole, a Catholic and an active participant in the struggle for the re-establishment of the Polish state in 1917–1921 – “Dziennik Wileński” VIII/259 (13.11.1924), 6 (here erroneously as *Domanadzki*). And after leaving the post of *wójt*, Domaradzki took an active part in the public life of *Miadziol*. In December 1926, on his initiative and with his participation, a People's House of Kresy Trustees Board was opened in Miadziel – “Kurjer Wileński” IV/28(777) (5.02.1927), 3.

<sup>3</sup> I want to express my sincere gratitude to the head of the Department of the Middle Ages and Archeology of the Modern Times, Andrzej Piotrowski and all the staff of this department. Without their comprehensive supportive assistance and advice, I would not have been able to prepare this article for publication.

<sup>4</sup> M.A. PLAVINSKI 2022a, 33–93.

<sup>5</sup> SKOROWIDZ... 1924, 29; Wykaz... 1938, 41.

<sup>6</sup> Tactical map of Poland, scale 1:100 000: *Miadziol*, pas 29 słup 44. Warszawa 1932 [Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny].

<sup>7</sup> J. ANDRZEJOWSKI ET ALII 2005, 146.

<sup>8</sup> J.A.N. RAPANOVIĆ 1981, 186.

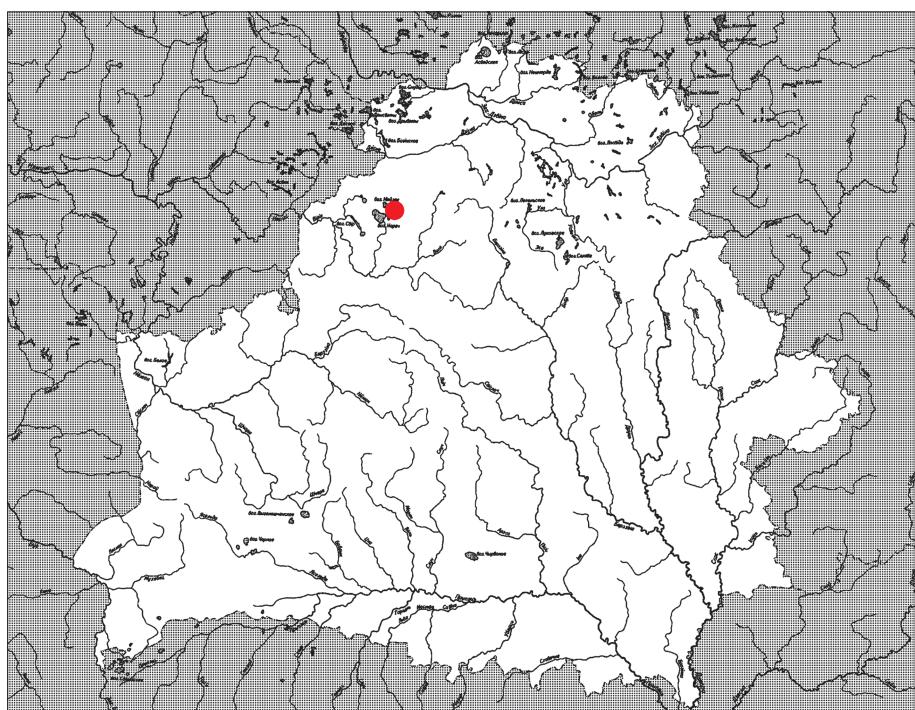


Fig. 1. Location of the Navasiolki barrow cemetery on the map of Belarus. Graphics: M. Plavinski.  
Ryc. 1. Lokalizacja kurhanowego cmentarzyska Navasiolki na mapie Białorusi. Oprac.: M. Plavinski.

Therefore, individual accidental finds or finds from destroyed archaeological sites could be transferred to the capital's State Archaeological Museum<sup>9</sup>. The situation changed significantly only in the early 1930s, when the Stefan Batory University in Wilno became the main center for the study and preservation of the archaeological heritage of the historical Wilno Region, and the Museum of Archaeology of this university became the place where both accidental finds and collections, and materials from scientific excavations were received<sup>10</sup>.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE STUDY OF THE NAVASIOŁKI BARROW CEMETERY

The barrow cemetery Navasiolki got its name from the now non-existent village, which became part of the town Miadziel/Мядзель, a district center in the Minsk Region (Fig. 1). It is located ca. 1 km east of the northeastern outskirts of Miadziel, in the forest, next to the current town's cemetery (Fig. 2). The local name of the site is "French graves". The existence of barrows near village Navasiolki was first mentioned by Fedor V. Pokrovskiy<sup>11</sup>. According to Jaraslaŭ H. Zviaruha, in 1985 there were 169 barrows in the cemetery<sup>12</sup>.

The barrows in Navasiolki were repeatedly destroyed and plundered. Items obtained as a result of one of these destructions, fortunately, were transferred in 1925 to the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw. It should be noted that in 1961, Juryj I. Drahun, who conducted the first scientific excavations of this site, recorded the memories of a resident of Navasiolki, a blacksmith named Misun, that: "(...) barrows were dug in trenches under the head of the *wójt* of Myadel' Domaradzki in the 30s (...) Objects were sent to Warsaw. Subsequently, many residents of Navoselki dug up barrow without permission (...)")<sup>13</sup>. Obviously, the blacksmith Misun recalled some work on the territory of the necropolis, as a result of which objects were obtained that arrived in 1925 in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw.

In 1961, Yu.I. Drahun, who led the expedition funded by the Minsk Regional Museum of History and Local Lore in Maładziečna (Мінскі абласны краязнаўчы музей у Маладзечна), unearthed four barrows of the Navasiolki barrow cemetery<sup>14</sup>. In 1962, the research of the necropole was continued by the expedition of the Belarusian State Museum of History and Local Lore (then under construction; now the National Historical Museum of the Republic of Belarus) (Арганізацыйная група Беларускага дзяржаўнага музея: зараз Нацыянальны гістарычны музей Рэспублікі Беларусь) headed by Ida M. Ciuryna. Eight burial mounds were excavated<sup>15</sup>. During 1988–1990 the study of the barrow cemetery Navasiolki was carried out by an archaeological expedition of the Faculty of History of the Belarusian State University led by Valiancin N. Riabcevič

<sup>9</sup> J. ANDRZEJOWSKI ET ALII 2005, 9.

<sup>10</sup> The rapid growth of the significance of the Wilno University and its Museum of Archaeology as centers for the study of antiquities of the historical Wilno Region is associated, first of all, with the arrival of Helena Cehak (later Cehak-Hołubowiczowa) to work at the University in the 1931/1932 academic year (see: T. NOWAKIEWICZ, M. PŁAWIŃSKI, in print).

<sup>11</sup> F.V. POKROVSKIY 1893, 34.

<sup>12</sup> JA.H. ZVIARUHA 1987, 67.

<sup>13</sup> YU.I. DRAGUN 1962, 1.

<sup>14</sup> YU.I. DRAGUN 1962.

<sup>15</sup> I.M. CIURYNA 1963.

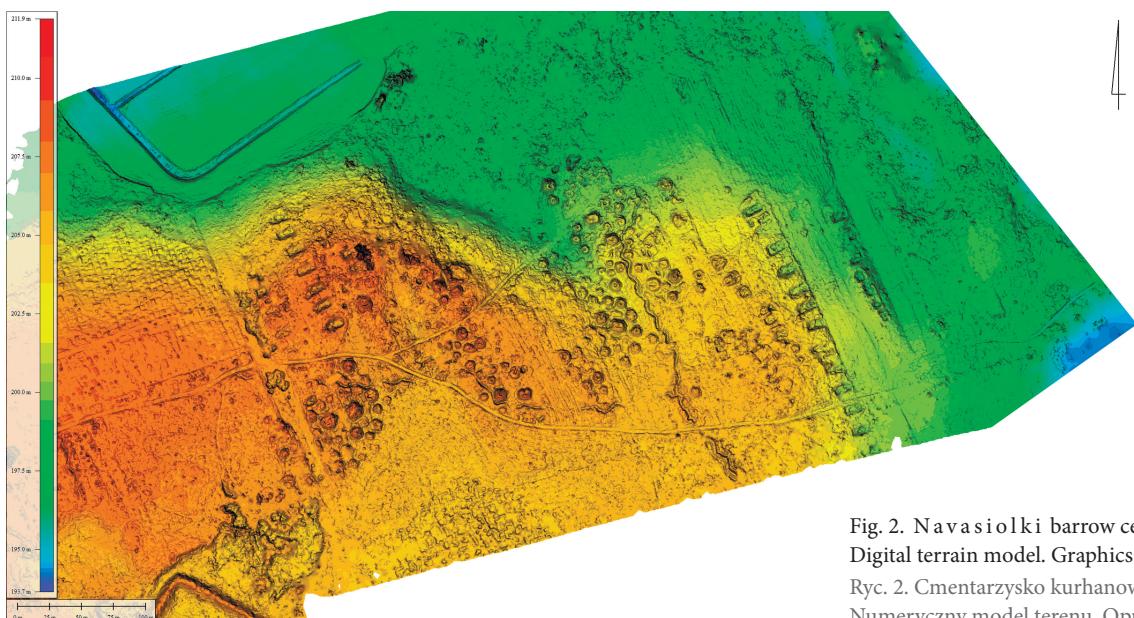


Fig. 2. Navasiolki barrow cemetery.  
Digital terrain model. Graphics: A. Sazonau.  
Ryc. 2. Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Navasiolki.  
Numeryczny model terenu. Oprac.: A. Sazonau.

and Aliaksandr M. Plavinski. 23 barrows were excavated in three years (Fig. 3:2)<sup>16</sup>. Thus, 35 barrows were excavated during 1961–1962 and 1988–1990 in the Navasiolki barrow cemetery.

#### DATING AND CULTURAL AFFILIATION OF THE BARROW CEMETERY NAVASIOLKI

The material from the excavations of the Navasiolki necropole was published by the author in a monograph dedicated to the burial sites of the Slavic population of the Upper Neris/*Binia* Region<sup>17</sup>.

The main results of the analysis of the funeral rite and grave goods of the barrow cemetery Navasiolki are as follows:

- in the functioning of the necropolis, two cultural and chronological horizons are distinguished;
- two barrows with cremation burials can be attributed to the first of these horizons, the dating of which is determined within the third quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium CE;
- the second horizon of the barrow cemetery Navasiolki, to which 30 barrows belong, can be dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> – the first half or the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century CE. The Old Russian people, who resided on the western border of the Polack Land and left the barrows of the second horizon, had established burial norms that remained unchanged throughout the functioning of the cemetery. The primary norms included placing the deceased's body at the base of the future barrow and orienting it with the head to the West. Deviations from this tradition were rare. They consisted of the possibility of orienting individual burials with their heads to the East or placing them in ground pits. Additionally, the appearance of single pit inhumations in Navasiolki probably did not occur until the middle or second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century;

– in 28 of the 30 barrows from the second horizon, the gender of the buried individuals can be determined with varying degrees of certainty (in three of these barrows paired burials were found). Therefore, the gender was determined for a total of 30 individuals, with the gender of one child remaining unknown. Of these burials, 19 belong to men and only 11 to women. The gender distribution of the burials in the cemetery shows a significant excess of males, almost twice as many as females. This may indicate disproportions in the composition of the group that was buried;

– a characteristic feature of the funeral rite of the second horizon of the Navasiolki cemetery is the exceptional number of weapons in burials. They were found in 17 out of 19 male graves. Accordingly, 84.5% of men in Navasiolki went 'armed' to that world;

– in addition, certain signs of elitism can be traced in some of the weapon burials (by the standards of the funeral rites of the Upper Neris Region and the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries Polack Land as a whole).

Currently, it can be assumed that the second cultural-chronological horizon of the Navasiolki cemetery documents the inhabitants of the local administrative center who controlled the local population in the western Polish borderland<sup>18</sup>. It should be noted that a significant 'militarization' of the male funeral rite is characteristic of all barrow cemeteries of the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Slavic part of the Upper Neris/*Binia* Region, which can be defined as necropoles of local administrative centers of the western Polack borderland. The reasons for this phenomenon may lie not only in the special status of those buried, resulting from their control of the local population, but may also reflect the degree of militarization of the population of the western Polack borderland in a situation of constant potential threat by

<sup>16</sup> V.N. RABCEVIČ, A.N. PLAVINSKI 1988; 1989; 1990.

<sup>17</sup> M.A. PLAVINSKI 2022a, 33–93; 2022b.

<sup>18</sup> M.A. PLAVINSKI 2022a, 84–93; 2022b, 153–164.

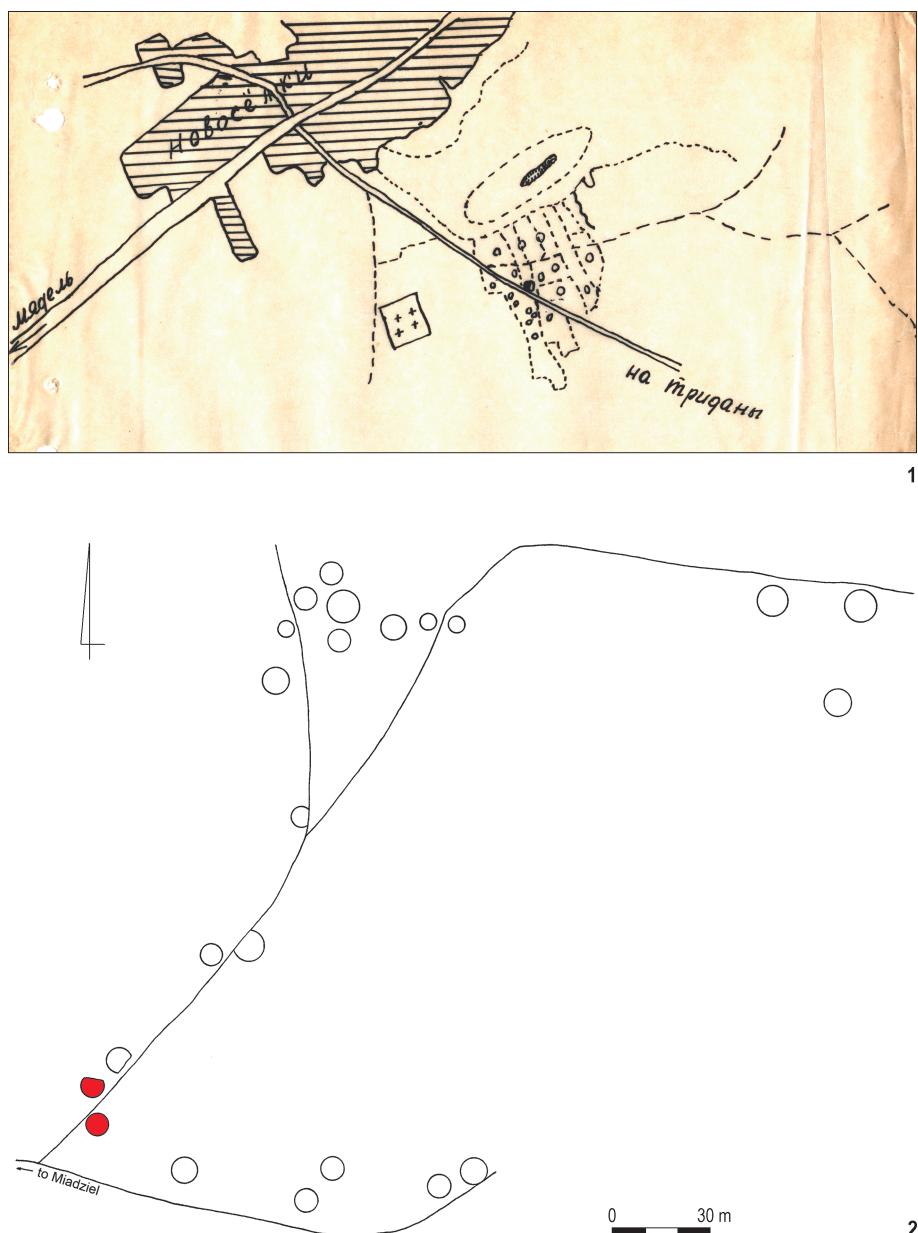


Fig. 3. Navasiolki barrow cemetery: 1 – plan taken in 1961 by H.L. Kocikaŭ, 2 – plan of the barrows excavated in 1988–1990 (barrows of the first horizon of the cemetery are marked in red).

After: I.M. CIURYNA 1963 (1).

Drawing: A.M. Plavinski (2).

Ryc. 3. Cmentarzysko kurhanowe Navasiolki: 1 – plan sporządzony w 1961 r. przez H.L. Kocikaua, 2 – rozmieszczenie kopców przebadanych w latach 1988–1990 (kurhany z pierwszego horyzontu cmentarzyska zaznaczono na czerwono). Wg: I.M. CIURYNA 1963 (1). Rys.: A.M. Plavinski (2).

invasions from the West – from the Baltic people of the East Lithuanian Barrow Culture.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE ANTLER CONTAINER AND ITS DATING

For the first time, a photograph of an antler container from Navasiolki was published by Maria Piaszykówna without a detailed description in her article on another container from the museum in Kalisz, as an analogy (Fig. 4:1). The place of discovery of the object we are considering was indicated by the author as *Nowosiółka*<sup>19</sup>. Subsequently, the drawing of the antler container from Navasiolki (Fig. 4:2) and its brief description were published by L.D. Pobol<sup>20</sup> in his book “Antiquities of Be-

larus in the Museums of Poland”. Finally, a detailed description of the container, by Andrzej Piotrowski and Agata Wójcik, and its photo (Fig. 4:3) were included in the catalogue of the ‘Byelorussian’ collection of the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw, which includes materials from the Pre-Roman and Roman Iron Age, the Middle Ages and Modern times<sup>21</sup>.

The find from Navasiolki is mentioned in the catalogues of antler containers by Bořivoj Dostál, Naďa Profantová, Mechtilde Schulze-Dörrlamm, Janusz Górecki, and Sten Tesch<sup>22</sup>, and all these researchers refer to the article by M. Piaszykówna.

<sup>19</sup> J. ANDRZEJOWSKI ET ALII 2005, 151, pl. 21:c.

<sup>20</sup> B. DOSTÁL 1981, 52, fig. 4; N. PROFANTOVÁ 1992, 714, map 9; M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 553, fig. 11; J. GÓRECKI 2005, 111 (here the finds spot was erroneously attributed to the territory of Lithuania); S. TESCH 2007, 235.

<sup>19</sup> M. PIASZYKÓWNA 1951, 119, fig. 3.

<sup>20</sup> L.D. POBOL' 1979, 182, fig. 102:1.

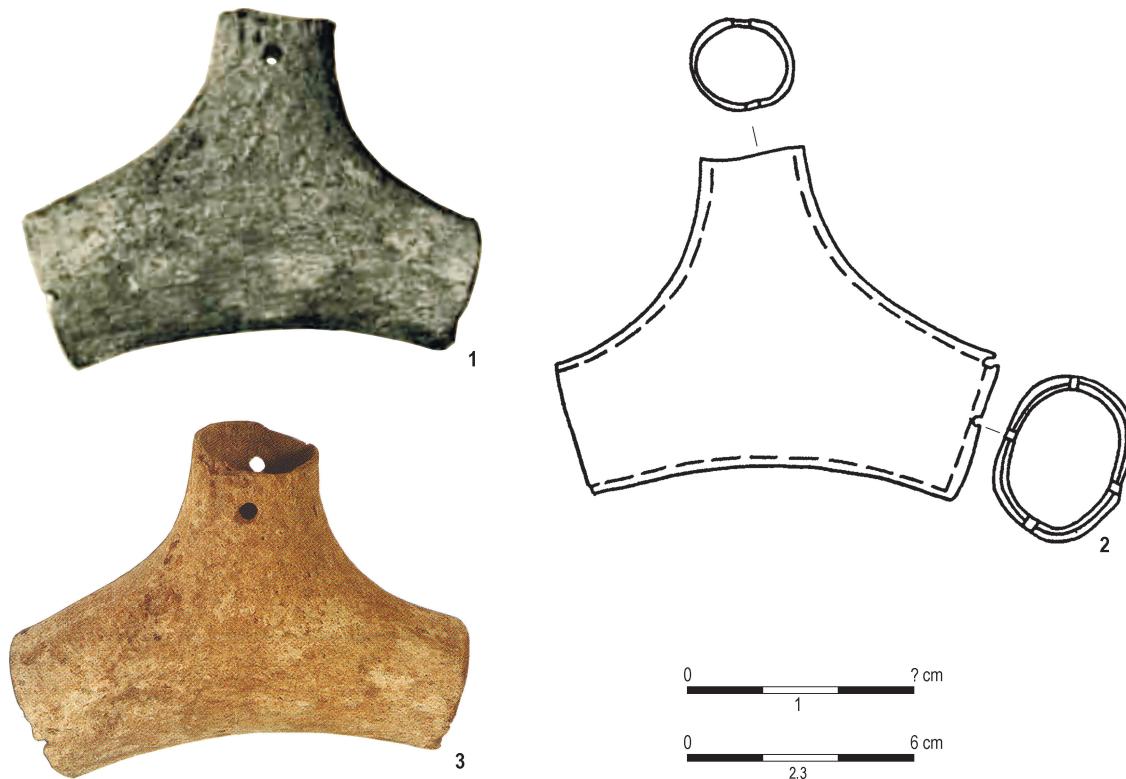


Fig. 4. Antler container from the Navasiolki barrow cemetery. After M. PIASZYKÓWNA 1951 (1; not to scale), L.D. POBOL' 1979 (2) & J. ANDRZEJOWSKI ET ALII 2005 (3).

Ryc. 4. Pojemnik rogowy z cmentarzyska kurhanowego Navasiolki. Wg: M. PIASZYKÓWNA 1951 (1; bez skali), L.D. POBOL' 1979 (2), J. ANDRZEJOWSKI ET ALII 2005 (3).

The container is made of deer antler<sup>23</sup> and repeats its natural shape (Fig. 5). It was cut from the lower part of the antler branch, than the spongy horny substance was removed from the inside. Thus, a hollow object was obtained, close to a triangular, or T-shaped, with three oval holes. The container measures 11.9×8.7 cm and is 3.4–3.6 cm thick. Its outer surface is rather rough, with traces of cutting the uneven surface of the antler. It is obvious that it has not been polished. The ‘top’<sup>24</sup> hole measures 2.7×3.5 cm, with two 0.4×0.5 cm mounting holes under its edge. The side holes are slightly different in their security and appearance. One has external dimensions of 3.6×4.2 cm and internal dimensions of 3.1×3.8 cm. On the inside of this hole there is a well-worked groove 0.25–0.45 cm deep, probably for fixing a lid or plug, and four symmetrically placed fixing holes up to 0.25 cm in diameter. Only one of these holes has survived completely, while the other three are only partially preserved. It is possible that the outer edge of the hole has been worn away as a result of long-term use. The second side hole has an external size of 3.4×3.7 cm and an internal one of 3.25×3.85 cm. Traces of three asymmetrically placed holes for fastening can be observed along its edge. Probably, the edge

of this hole was partially lost (broken off) during operation, after which it could be repaired – the broken edge was sown off, and new mounting holes were not drilled.

Thus, it can be assumed that the antler container could be used for quite a long time and could be repaired due to wear and tear. Initially, all three holes of the container were closed with some kind of lids or corks.

Due to the fact that the antler container originates from the destroyed burial of the Navasiolki barrow cemetery, it is not possible to determine its exact date. At the same time, since the container shows no signs of fire damage, it can be confidently assumed that it originates from an inhumation burial and is therefore associated with the second horizon of the Navasiolki cemetery, and dates to 11<sup>th</sup> century – the first half/middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

#### DATING AND FUNCTIONAL USE OF ANTLER CONTAINERS (A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHY)

The review of the extensive literature devoted to the study of T-shaped antler containers will not be discussed in detail here. Readers are referred to the latest article by Dmytro H. Diachenko, in which he thoroughly examines the historiography of the issues of origin, distribution, dating and existing interpretations of this category of artifacts<sup>25</sup>. We should also mention the recent

<sup>23</sup> Determination of Maryna S. Sergieieva PhD, leading research fellow of the Institute of Archeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, for which the author expresses his sincere gratitude.

<sup>24</sup> The definition of holes as ‘top’ and ‘side’ in this case is conditional.

<sup>25</sup> D.H. DIACHENKO 2022, 72–79.

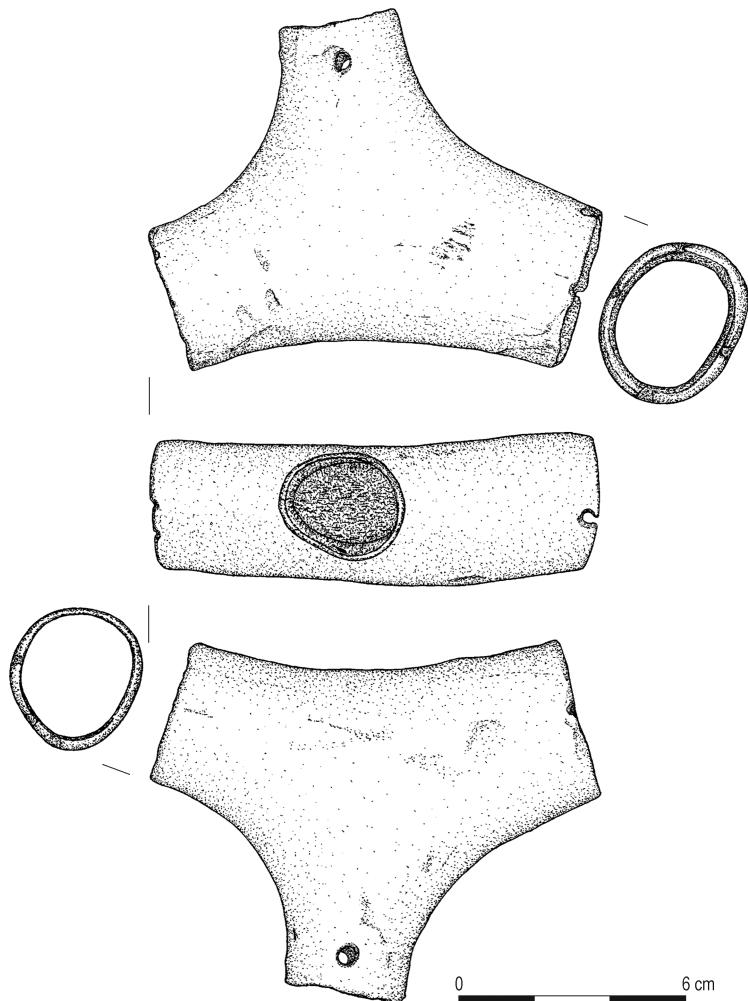


Fig. 5. Antler container from the Navasiolki barrow cemetery. Drawing: M. Plavinski

Ryc. 5. Pojemnik rogowy z cmentarzyska kurhanowego Navasiolki. Rys.: M. Plavinski

works by Iwona Florkiewicz and Marcin Wołoszyn, and Nina A. Kokorina<sup>26</sup>, which provide detailed reviews of the history of the study of antler containers. The author of this text outlines existing opinions on two key issues in the study of this group of artifacts: their chronology and functional use.

In 1981, B. Dostál, in his article devoted to the publication of two antler containers from the excavations of the Great Moravian settlement of Břeclav-Pohansko, summarised information on 33 finds of containers from the territory of Europe and proposed to divide them into three groups: 1 – specimens with an unworked surface; 2 – specimens with a polished surface; 3 – ornamented specimens, and two types: asymmetric (T-shaped) and symmetrical (Y-shaped)<sup>27</sup>.

In 1992, N. Profantová published a fundamentally important work summarising the information about the finds of T-shaped horn containers in Europe was published. In the course of researching objects of Avar origin north of the boundaries of the Avar settlement in Europe, she specifically studied T-shaped antler containers and collected information on 55 finds,

which were divided into four geographical and chronological groups. The researcher classified containers from Avar burials of the 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> centuries into the first group, which is the most numerous. The second group comprises finds from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries from the territory of Great Moravia (modern Czech Republic and Slovakia). The third group consists of containers from Dalmatia and the Danube Basin dated back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Lastly, the fourth group includes objects found in the Elbe Region and the Baltic<sup>28</sup>.

The conclusions made by N. Profantová had a significant impact on the further course of the study of T-shaped antler containers<sup>29</sup>. However, subsequent studies revealed that such artifacts were distributed over a much larger area than just the territory of Central, Southern and Eastern Europe. They were found from Transbaikalia in the East, where they are known from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE–1<sup>st</sup> century CE, to Roman Britain of the 3<sup>rd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> centuries in the West<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> I. FLORKIEWICZ, M. WOŁOSZYN 2018, 461–463; N.A. KOKORINA 2014; 2017.

<sup>27</sup> B. DOSTÁL 1981.

<sup>28</sup> N. PROFANTOVÁ 1992, 640–642, map 9.

<sup>29</sup> M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 529–530; J. GÓRECKI 2005, 86; S. TESCH 2007, 228; A. SCHÄFER 2010, 307.

<sup>30</sup> M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 530.

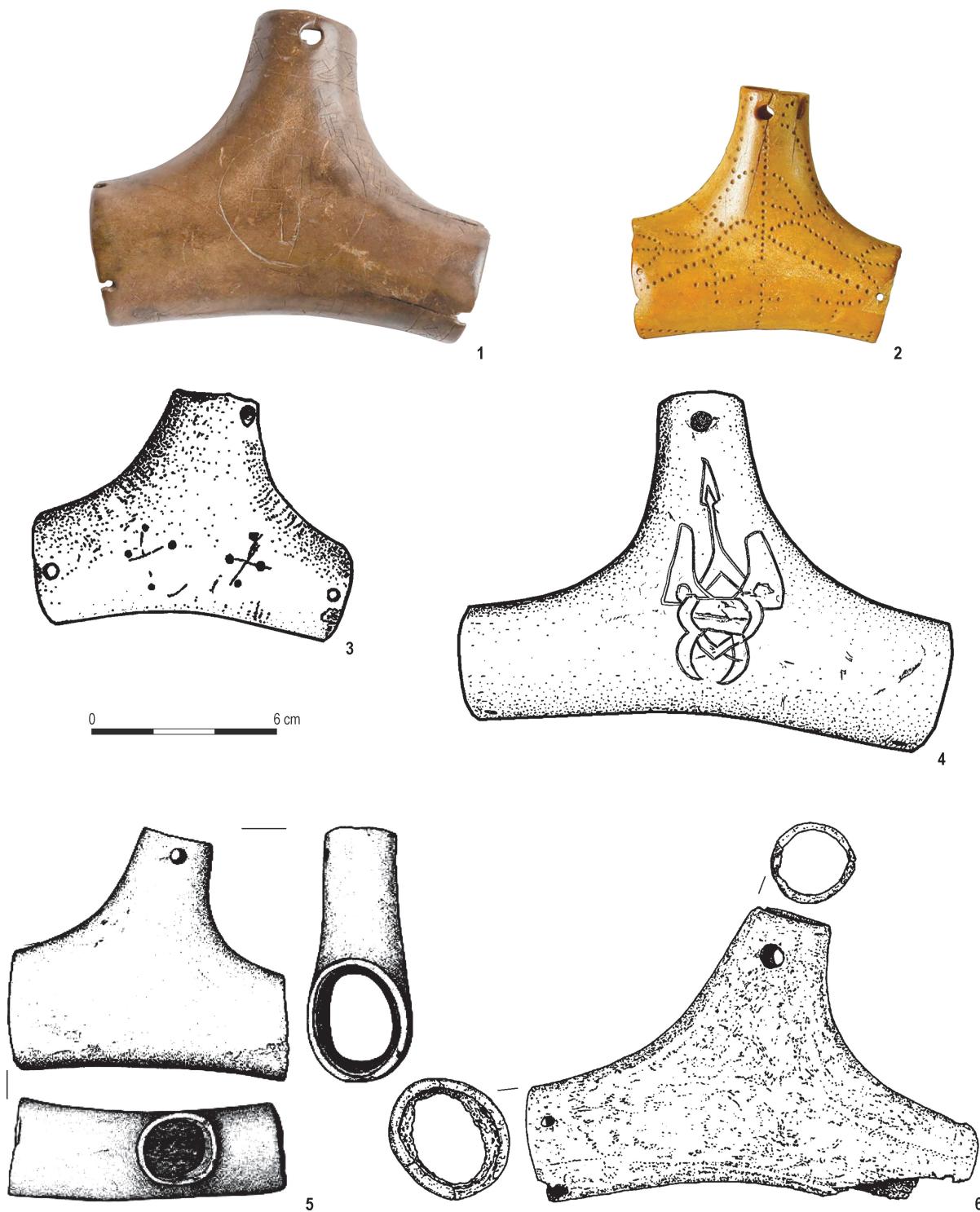


Fig. 6. Antler containers from the territory of Old Rus: 1, 2 – Veliky Novgorod, 3 – Voinska Greblia, 4 – Zhovnyn, 5 – Ostriv, 6 – Czermno. Photo: <https://novgorod-iss.kamiscloud.ru/entity/OBJECT/776192?query=солонка&fund=11&index=0> (accessed: 10.09.2023) (1). After: B.A. KOLCHIN, V.L. YANIN, S.V. YAMSHCHIKOV 1985 (2; not to scale), M.S. SERGIEIEVA 2015 (3, 4), D.H. DIACHENKO 2022 (5), I. FLORKIEWICZ, M. Wołoszyn 2018 (6)

Ryc. 6. Kontenery rogowe z terytorium Dawnej Rusi: 1, 2 – Nowogród Wielki, 3 – Voinska Greblia, 4 – Zhovnyn, 5 – Ostriv, 6 – Czermno. Fot.: <https://novgorod-iss.kamiscloud.ru/entity/OBJECT/776192?query=солонка&fund=11&index=0> (dostęp: 10.09.2023) (1). Wg: B.A. KOLCHIN, V.L. YANIN, S.V. YAMSHCHIKOV 1985 (2; bez skali), M.S. SERGIEIEVA 2015 (3, 4), D.H. DIACHENKO 2022 (5), I. FLORKIEWICZ, M. Wołoszyn 2018 (6)

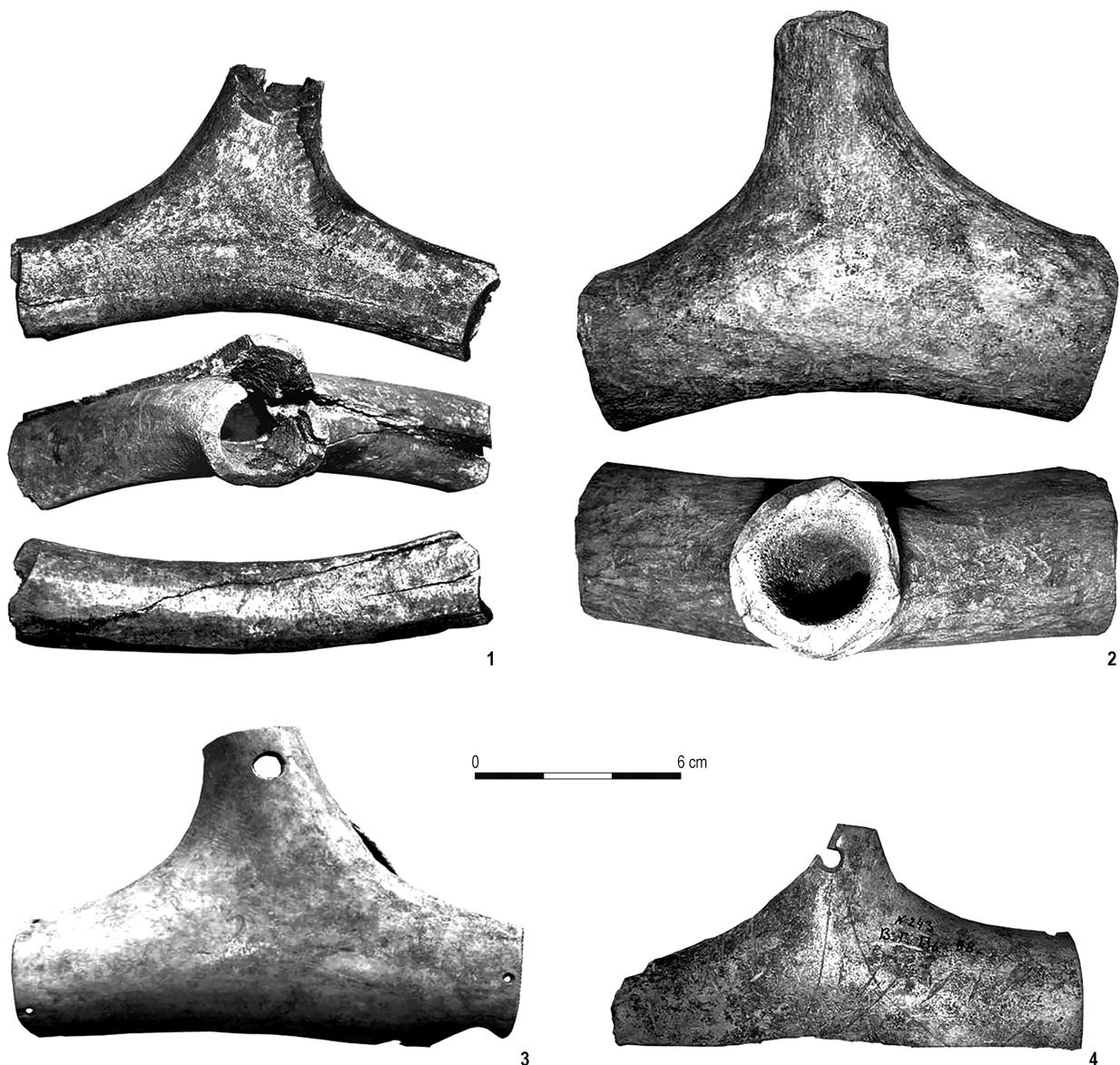


Fig. 7. Antler containers and blanks the from hillfort Voinska Greblia. After: M.S. SERGIEIEVA 2015  
Ryc. 7. Pojemniki rogowe i ich półwytwory z grodziska Voinska Greblia. Wg: M.S. SERGIEIEVA 2015

It is worth noting that separate T-shaped antler containers have been discovered as early as the Neolithic period, as evidenced by a find from the Piges Koromilias Cave in northern Greece<sup>31</sup>, and the Bronze Age, as shown by an artifact from Sos Höyük in Eastern Turkey, which has been dated to 2350–1945 cal. BCE<sup>32</sup>. The earliest T-shaped container from Central Europe known to the author has been preserved in small fragments. It was found in a Cloche Grave Culture cremation burial (feature 16) dating from the end of the 5<sup>th</sup>–beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century at the Janówek XI burial ground, Legionowo County, in the northern part of the Warsaw Basin<sup>33</sup>. There is

no evidence to suggest a connection between the Neolithic, Bronze Age, or Early Iron Age antler containers and the extensive series of finds from the Middle Ages.

It is likely that craftsmen from different eras independently came up with the idea of making containers from antler, using its natural form. The shape of the antler powder flasks from the Modern times confirms this, as they closely resemble medieval T-shaped containers in their original form<sup>34</sup>.

Considerable attention has been given to the study of T-shaped antler containers from the Middle Ages. M. Schulze-Dörrlamm<sup>35</sup> analysed over 75 finds, J. Górecki summarised

<sup>31</sup> K. TRANTALIDOU, N.H. ANDREASEN 2015, 55–57, fig. 13.

<sup>32</sup> C. SAGONA, 2019, 20–32.

234 <sup>33</sup> B. KACZYŃSKI 2022, 27, 69–71, 96, fig. 15, 34:3, pl. VIII/16:4.

<sup>34</sup> K.A. LYPA, L.S. BILOUS 2014, 57–58.

<sup>35</sup> M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 552–557, fig. 11.

information on 98 finds from Europe<sup>36</sup>, and S. Tesch collected information on containers of the late group (fourth group acc. to N. Profantová). S. Tesch's catalog includes information on 20 T-shaped containers and 11 blanks<sup>37</sup>.

Several hypotheses exist regarding the function of antler containers<sup>38</sup>. They may have been used as:

- supports for the hand of a horse hunter, on which a hawk would sit during falconry<sup>39</sup>;
- tinder storage containers<sup>40</sup>;
- necks from leather bags for storing liquids<sup>41</sup>,
- containers for storing viscous or loose substances<sup>42</sup>, such as medicinal herbs<sup>43</sup> or salt<sup>44</sup>.

The last of these interpretations is the most commonly accepted in European archaeology. At the same time, it is important to note that all of the above interpretations, except for the idea that antler containers were used as supports for hunters' hands, are similar and support each other. It is clear that the T-shaped antler containers were sturdy and durable enough to store any substances that needed to be kept dry, including salt, dried herbs or spices, and tinder. The functional use of medieval T-shaped antler containers aligns with that of similar antler powder flasks from the Modern times.

#### **CONTAINER FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GRAVE GOODS OF THE NAVASIOJKI BARROW CEMETERY**

Despite the fact that the true functional use of T-shaped antler containers remains unknown, almost all researchers agree that these objects are among the elite items and, if found in burial complexes, reflect the high social status of the dead<sup>45</sup>.

There are very few T-shaped containers found in the territory of Old Rus. Apart from the specimen from Navasiolki, there are only two containers from Veliky Novgorod/Великий Новгород (Fig. 6:1.2),<sup>46</sup> one from the Ostriv/Острів burial ground in the Rokytné District of the Kyiv Region (Fig. 6:5)<sup>47</sup>,

<sup>36</sup> J. GÓRECKI 2005, 113.

<sup>37</sup> S. TESCH 2007, 235.

<sup>38</sup> It is important to acknowledge that the various interpretations of T-shaped containers as cult objects are not considered separately. Although a significant number of objects in this category were richly ornamented, it is impossible to deny the presence of a certain semantic meaning behind these images. However, this issue is not within the scope of this publication, primarily because there are no traces of ornamentation on the container from Navasiolki.

<sup>39</sup> A. SCHÄFER 2010, 315.

<sup>40</sup> C. SAGONA 2019, 31.

<sup>41</sup> N.A. KOKORINA 2014; 2017.

<sup>42</sup> J. GÓRECKI 2005, 124–125; F. BIERMANN 2008, 253.

<sup>43</sup> M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 544, 550–551; D.H. DIACHENKO 2022, 78.

<sup>44</sup> V.Y. DOVZHENOK, V.K. HONCHAROV, R.O. YURA 1966, 81; B. DOS-TÁL 1981, 56–58; P. STADLER 2005, 144, pl. 173; S. TESCH 2007, 231–232; B.M. SZÓKE 2014, 89.

<sup>45</sup> N. PROFANTOVÁ 1992, 640–641; M. SCHULZE-DÖRRLAMM 2001, 542; S. TESCH 2007, 232; D.H. DIACHENKO 2022, 77.

<sup>46</sup> B.A. KOLCHIN, V.L. YANIN, S.V. YAMSHCHIKOV 1985, fig. 183; N.N. FARADZHEVA 2009, 59, fig. 4:3.

<sup>47</sup> V. BARANOV, V. IVAKIN 2018, 118, fig. 13:15, 15:4; D.H. DIACHENKO 2022, 73.

and a series of objects from the Voinska Greblia/Воїнська Гребля hillfort<sup>48</sup>, where at least five specimens were found (Fig. 6:3, 7), two of which are semi-finished products<sup>49</sup>, one container from the hillfort Zhovnyn/Жовнин (Fig. 6:4)<sup>50</sup>, and, with some reservations, a find from Czermno, Tomaszów Lubelski County (Fig. 6:6)<sup>51</sup>. The find from Vyshhorod/Вышгород, Vyshhorod District in the Kyiv Region can also be included, although there is limited information available beyond S.R. Kiliievych's publication<sup>52</sup>. Based on this limited series, it is challenging to draw any definitive conclusions about the topography and chronology of the finds. Two observations can be made: firstly, all known containers were discovered in the border areas of the Old Russian ecumene; secondly, there is a concentration of finds in the Middle Dnieper Region, where the Sula and Ros' Rivers meet the Dnieper.

Regarding the grave goods of the Navasiolki barrow cemetery, the discovery of a T-shaped container is an anomaly, as it does not align with the material culture of the rural population of the western borderlands of the Polack Land during the 11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Despite its relative ease of manufacture, the rarity of this item should have increased its status.

Mikalai Plavinski PhD

Faculty of Archaeology, Warsaw University

Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28

PL 00-927 Warsaw

m.plavinski@uw.edu.pl

plavinski.arc@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0660-7298>

Received: 9.01.2023 / Revised: 14.02.2023 / Accepted: 12.09.2023

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<sup>48</sup> Voinska Greblia and Zhovnyn hillforts were both flooded by the waters of Kremenchuk Reservoir.

<sup>49</sup> V.Y. DOVZHENOK, V.K. HONCHAROV, R.O. YURA 1966, 80–81, pl. XXIII:1.2.4–6; M.S. SERGIEIEVA 2011, 196, fig. 7; 2015, 61–62, 76, fig. 78, 79, 108–110.

<sup>50</sup> S.R. KILIIEVYCH 1965, 193, fig. 4; V.Y. DOVZHENOK, V.K. HONCHAROV, R.O. YURA 1966, 80, pl. XXIII:3.

<sup>51</sup> I. FLORKIEWICZ, M. WOŁOSZYN 2018, 459–461.

<sup>52</sup> S.R. KILIIEVYCH 1965, 193; cf. D.H. DIACHENKO 2022, 73.

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## POJEMNIK ROGOWY Z CMENTARZYSKA KURHANOWEGO NAVASIOLKI (REJON MIADZIOLSKI OBWODU MIŃSKIEGO REPUBLIKI BIAŁORUŚ) W ZBIORACH PAŃSTWOWEGO MUZEUM ARCHEOLOGICZNEGO W WARSZAWIE

## STRESZCZENIE

W 1925 roku do zbiorów Państwowego Muzeum Archeologicznego w Warszawie trafiła kolekcja artefaktów archeologicznych pochodzących z cmentarzyska kurhanowego w dawnych Nowosiółkach (dzis. Navasiolki, w rejonie miadziolskim obwodu mińskiego Republiki Białorusi; Ryc. 1).

W latach 1961–1962 i 1988–1990 przeprowadzono wykopaliska archeologiczne cmentarzyska Navasiolki, w wyniku których przebadano 35 kurhanów. Analiza materiałów wykopaliskowych pozwoliła na wyodrębnienie dwóch horyzontów kulturowo-chronologicznych tej nekropoli (Ryc. 2, 3). Pierwszy z nich datowany jest na 3. IV wieku n.e. – z tego okresu pochodzą dwa kurhany. Pozostałych 30 kopców należy do drugiego horyzontu, obejmującego okres od XI do 1. połowy lub połowy XII wieku. Z tą fazą użytkowania cmentarzyska Navasiolki łączona jest ludność lokalnego ośrodka administracyjnego, którego mieszkańcy kontrolowali zachodnie pogranicze ziemi połockiej.

Opisywany tu pojemnik rogowy (Ryc. 4, 5) należy również do drugiego horyzontu kulturowo-chronologicznego. Wycięto go z dolnej partii gałęzi poroża jeleniego, przy zachowaniu jego naturalnego kształtu (Ryc. 5). Po usunięciu z wnętrza substancji gąbczastej uzyskano wydrążony przedmiot o kształcie zbliżonym do litery „T”, z trzema ovalnymi otworami. Pojemnik ma wymiary 11,9×8,7 cm i grubość 3,4–3,6 cm.

Podobne pojemniki rogowe były dobrze znane w Europie Środkowej, Wschodniej i Południowej między VII a XII wiekiem (Ryc. 6, 7), gdzie prawdopodobnie były używane do przechowywania różnych substancji (na przykład soli, ziół, przypraw, hubki), które należało chronić przed wilgotcią.

Pomimo faktu, że rzeczywista funkcja pojemników rogowych pozostała dyskusyjna, niemal wszyscy badacze są zgodni co do tego, że należą one do elitarnych obiektów kultury materialnej.

## WYKAZ SKRÓTÓW TYTUŁÓW CZASOPISM I WYDAWNICTW WIELOTOMOWYCH

### ABBREVIATIONS OF PERIODICALS' AND SERIAL PUBLICATIONS' TITLES

- AAC – „Acta Archaeologica Carpathica”, Kraków  
 AAHung. – „Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae”, Budapest  
 AFB – „Arbeits- und Forschungsberichte zur sächsischen Bodendenkmalpflege”, Berlin (Stuttgart)  
 Amtl. Ber. – „Amtlicher Bericht über die Verwaltung der naturgeschichtlichen, vorgeschichtlichen und volkskundlichen Sammlungen des Westpreußischen Provinzial-Museums für das Jahr...”, (później: „Amtlicher Bericht über die Verwaltung der naturhistorischen, archaeologischen und ethnologischen Sammlungen des Westpreußischen Provinzial-Museums für das Jahr...” oraz „Amtlicher Bericht über die Verwaltung der naturgeschichtlichen, vorgeschichtlichen und volkskundlichen Sammlungen des Westpreußischen Provinzial-Museums für das Jahr...”), Danzig  
 APolski – „Archeologia Polski”, Warszawa  
 APS – „Archeologia Polski Środkowowschodnie”, Lublin (wcześniej: Lublin-Chełm-Zamość)  
 AR – „Archeologicke rozhledy”, Praha  
 B.A.R. Int. Series – British Archaeological Reports, International Series, Oxford [BAR Publishing]  
 BerRGK – „Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission”, Frankfurt a.M.-Berlin  
 BJahr. – „Bonner Jahrbücher”, Köln/Bonn  
 BMJ – „Bodendenkmalpflege in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern”, Lübstorf (wcześniej: „Bodendenkmalpflege in Mecklenburg. Jahrbuch ...”, Schwerin/Rostock/Berlin)  
 CRFB – Corpus der römischen Funde im europäischen Barbaricum  
 FAP – „Fontes Archaeologici Posnanienses” (wcześniej: „Fontes Praehistorici”), Poznań  
 Inf.Arch. – „Informator Archeologiczny. Badania rok ...”, Warszawa  
 InvArch. – „Inventaria Archaeologica. Pologne”, Warszawa-Łódź  
 JmV – „Jahresschrift für mitteldeutsche Vorgeschichte”, Halle/Saale  
 JRGZM – „Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz”, Mainz  
 KHKM – „Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej”, Warszawa  
 KSIA – Краткие сообщения Института археологии Академии наук СССР, Москва  
 MIA – Материалы и исследования по археологии СССР, Москва  
 MatArch. – „Materiały Archeologiczne”, Kraków  
 MS – „Materiały Starożytnie”, Warszawa  
 MSiW – „Materiały Starożytnie i Wczesnośredniowieczne”, Warszawa  
 MSROA – „Materiały i Sprawozdania Rzeszowskiego Ośrodka Archeologicznego”, Rzeszów-Krosno-Sandomierz-Tarnów (-Przemyśl/Tarnobrzeg)  
 MZP – „Materiały Zachodniopomorskie”, Szczecin  
 PA – „Památky archeologicke” (wcześniej: „Památky archeologické a místopisné”), Praha  
 PArch. – „Przegląd Archeologiczny”, Poznań  
 PMMAE – „Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi. Seria Archeologiczna”, Łódź  
 PomAnt – „Pomorania Antiqua”, Gdańsk  
 Prahistoria ziem polskich – *Prahistoria ziem polskich*, tom I: *Paleolit i mezolit* (red. W. Chmielewski, W. Hensel), Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk 1975; tom II: *Neolit* (red. W. Hensel, T. Wiślański), Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk 1979; tom III: *Wczesna epoka brązu* (red. A. Gardawski, J. Kowalczyk), Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk 1978; tom IV: *Od środkowej epoki brązu do środkowego okresu lateńskiego* (red. J. Dąbrowski, Z. Rajewski), Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk 1979; tom V: *Późny okres lateński i okres rzymski* (red. J. Wielowiejski), Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków-Gdańsk 1981 [Ossolineum]  
 Prussia – „Sitzungsberichte der Altertumsgesellschaft Prussia” (później: „Prussia. Zeitschrift für Heimatkunde”), Königsberg.  
 PZ – „Praehistorische Zeitschrift”, Berlin-New York  
 RArch. – „Recherches Archéologiques”, Kraków  
 RB – „Rocznik Białostocki”, Białystok  
 RGA – Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde: 1. edycja: J. Hoops (wyd.), tomy 1–4 (K.J. Trübner, Straßburg 1911–1919), 2. edycja: H. Jankuhn, H. Beck i in. (wyd.), tomy 1–35 (Walter de Gruyter/De Gruyter, Berlin-New York 1973–2007).  
 RO – „Rocznik Olsztyński”, Olsztyn  
 RosArh. – „Российская археология”, Москва  
 SJahr. – „Saalburg Jahrbuch”, Berlin-New York  
 SIA – „Slovenská archeológia”, Bratislava  
 SovArh. – „Советская археология”, Москва  
 SprArch. – „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne”, Kraków

- SprPMA  
 WA
- „Sprawozdania P.M.A.”, Warszawa
  - „Wiadomości Archeologiczne”, „Wiadomości Archeologiczne. Spostrzeżenia lat ostatnich w dziedzinie starożytności krajowych. Czasy przedhistoryczne” (I–IV – 1873–1882); „Wiadomości Archeologiczne. Organ Państwowego Grona Konserwatorów Zabytków Przedhistorycznych” (V–IX – 1920–1925); „Wiadomości Archeologiczne. Organ Państwowego Muzeum Archeologicznego” (X–XXII – 1929–1955); „Wiadomości Archeologiczne” (XXIII–XXXI – 1956–1966), „Wiadomości Archeologiczne. Organ Muzealnictwa i Konserwatorstwa Archeologicznego” (XXXII–LV – 1966–2001); „Wiadomości Archeologiczne” (od LVI – 2002), Warszawa
- ZfE  
 ZNUJ  
 ZOW
- „Zeitschrift für Ethnologie”, Berlin
  - „Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego”, Kraków
  - „Z otchłani wieków”, Warszawa

## WYKAZ SKRÓTÓW NAZW WYDAWNICTW

ABBREVIATIONS OF PUBLISHING HOUSES NAMES

- FBAPKJ  
 FMAB  
 FPIAUW  
 IAE PAN  
 IA UG  
 IA UJ  
 IA UŁ  
 IA UMCS  
 IA UW  
 MAE  
 MAG  
 MAK  
 MfVF  
 MKiDN  
 MSHM  
 OODA  
 Ossolineum  
 PAU  
 PMA  
 PWN  
 RGZM  
 SNAP  
 UJ  
 UŁ  
 UAM  
 UMCS  
 UW  
 WA UW  
 ZBSA
- Fundacja Badań Archeologicznych imienia Profesora Konrada Jażdżewskiego (Łódź)
  - Fundacja Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica (Warszawa)
  - Fundacja Przyjaciół Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (Warszawa)
  - Instytut Archeologii i Etnologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk (Warszawa)
  - Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego (Gdańsk)
  - Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego (Kraków)
  - Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego (Łódź)
  - Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej (Lublin)
  - Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (Warszawa)
  - Muzeum Archeologiczne i Etnograficzne w Łodzi (Łódź)
  - Muzeum Archeologiczne w Gdańsku (Gdańsk)
  - Muzeum Archeologiczne w Krakowie (Kraków)
  - Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Berlin)
  - Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego (Warszawa)
  - Muzeum Starożytnego Hutnictwa Mazowieckiego im. Stefana Woydy (Pruszków)
  - Ośrodek Ochrony Dziedzictwa Archeologicznego (Warszawa)
  - Wydawnictwo Ossolineum (Wrocław), dawn. Zakład Narodowy imienia Ossolińskich. Wydawnictwo (w latach 1953–1990 – wydawnictwo Polskiej Akademii Nauk)
  - Polska Akademia Umiejętności (Kraków)
  - Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne w Warszawie (Warszawa)
  - Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe (Warszawa)
  - Römisches-Germanische Zentralmuseum (Mainz)
  - Stowarzyszenie Naukowe Archeologów Polskich
  - Uniwersytet Jagielloński (Kraków)
  - Uniwersytet Łódzki (Łódź)
  - Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu (Poznań)
  - Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej (Lublin)
  - Uniwersytet Warszawski (Warszawa)
  - Wydział Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (Warszawa)
  - Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie (LEIZA-ZBSA) (Schleswig), dawn. Zentrum für Baltische und Skandinavische Archäologie – Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen Schloss Gottorf

**Sprzedaż / Retail:**  
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e-mail: wydawnictwapma@pma.pl

Państwowe Muzeum Archeologiczne. Warszawa 2023. Wydanie I. Nakład 350 egz.

Druk i oprawa: Bis-ART Drukarnia Krystyna Białaszewska, ul. Kielecka 39/5, 02-530 Warszawa