Family groups at Netta cemetery. From studies on horizontal stratigraphy

Anna Bittner-Wróblewska

1. INTRODUCTION

The grave and barrow field at Netta, site I, district Augustów, province Podlaskie, although awaiting comprehensive publication early in 2004 has enjoyed a relatively wide circulation in literature (Okulicz, 1955; Kaczyński, 1966; 1981; 1991; Kaczyński et al., 1987; Bittner-Wróblewska, 2001b; 2002). The rich body of evidence from Netta was examined in various studies concerned largely with refining the chronology of the Roman and the Migrations Period (Godkowski, 1970; 1974) and others, developing the typology of specific categories of finds from the Barbaricum (beads – Tempelmam-Mańczyk, 1985; buckles – Małyda-Łegutko, 1987). Nevertheless, source material from Netta continues to hold considerable appeal for various kinds of research, including the study of tissue on the borderline of archaeology and sociology, previously only rarely addressed by archaeologists concerned with the Baltic environment (cf. Czarnecka, 1990). This approach is taken in the present study, in which evidence from Netta is examined to gain insight into the structure of the local community, its evolution and internal relationships. Such analysis is made possible by the size of the cemetery, its 218 cremation graves (nos. 1 to 177) and two equine inhumations making it one of the largest grave fields investigated in the southern area of Baltic settlement.

As a first step a detailed analysis was made of the chronology of individual graves at Netta and of horizontal stratigraphy of the burial ground. Next, grave goods were analysed for the presence and the frequency of different categories of finds in individual assemblages to determine the quantity and the richness of grave furnishings. Substantial difference in grave goods recorded in Baltic environment suggests that they reflected the social status of the buried individual. Finally, additional insight on social structure of the users of the cemetery at Netta was sought by analysing the presence in grave inventories of objects understood to mark the social prestige of the buried individual.

The question of prestige objects has been little studied with regard to the Baltic environment (cf. Bittner-Wróblewska, 2001a, p. 121–127). Some inspiration may be drawn from similar research dealing with Germanic tribes (cf. Ringved, 1991, p. 59–61, fig. 27; von Carnap-Bornheim, Illkjær, 1996; Bursche, 1998, p. 205–222). Although the two environments differed in many respects, just to mention gold artefacts, altogether absent in Baltic graves, prominent in Germanic graves as important indicators of high social status, other elements may be safely accepted as interregional marks of prestige, namely, horse riding equipment and weaponry. The distinctive status of the mounted warrior among barbarians is unmistakeable (cf. Nørgaard Jørgensen, 1991). A key criterion for determining whether a given category belongs in the group of marks of prestige is its frequency in grave inventories, as competently demonstrated by a Scandinavian archaeologist (cf. Jørgensen, 1990, p. 63).

Various ornaments with enamelled details, featuring among the contents of female and male graves alike, presumably also had a special significance. This category, characteristic for an extensive territory of central-eastern Europe from the close of the Early Roman until the Migrations period (Bittner-Wróblewska, 1992, with a list of previous literature), is greatly heterogeneous, with many pieces made on individual commission. Exceptionally attractive ornaments of this type may have served as local marks of social prestige. Another category useful for displaying personal wealth may presumably be the fine
bronze pieces decorated with precious metal, eg silver foil or silver wire. Imports, Roman and barbarian, probably also helped to highlight the social status of the deceased. In richly furnished male graves among the Balts a notable element are drinking horn mounts, found only with the more elaborate burials (cf. Plikkaite – Kazakevičius, 1993). Horse trappings, war gear, enamelled ornaments, bronze ornaments decorated with silver wire and drinking horn mounts, are considered in the present study as categories of finds denoting prestige in Baltic environment; the author is fully aware that the proposed set is probably neither definitive nor comprehensive but at least by opening the discussion it may serve as a starting point for future research.

2. HORIZONTAL STRATIGRAPHY OF THE CEMETERY AT NETTA

Analysing the plan of the cemetery one notes that the graves apparently cluster in a number of zones, separated from one another by relatively well legible strips of empty ground (fig. 1). Only in the eastern section of the burial ground this empty belt is less easily discernible. It is worth stressing at this point that the plan of the grave field is not affected in any way by World War II destruction of some parts of the cemetery (trenches). The next stage of research was to correlate the above observation on zones distribution of graves with a detailed chronological analysis of the furnishing of individual assemblages and their structure before the concluding attempt at interpreting the findings.

Using the evidence recovered at Netta it was possible to distinguish three phases of utilisation of the cemetery. Phase 1, covering the later stage of the Early Roman period and transition from the Early to the Late Roman period (phases B3a through B3b/C1–C3c), Phase 2, probably synchronic with the Late Roman period (phase C3a–C3d), and Phase 3, corresponding to the close of the Late Roman and the Migration period (phases C3–C4, D and E).

Phase 1 may be subdivided further into Phase 1a, represented by a small group of the earliest burials found in the SE section of the cemetery (fig. 2). One is tempted to interpret this cluster as the final resting place of a distinct kinship group (family?) – founders of the necropolis at Netta. In this group definitely the most striking is the double Grave 81A-B containing an urned and a pit burial (Bitner-Wróblewska, 2001b, fig. 2). Although the number of categories of finds included in its grave goods is rather modest (cf. Appendix listing all the graves discussed), the burial contained exceptional objects, e.g., a unique spear point with a single barb, import from Scandinavia, and an enamelled horsehoe brooch, the only find of its kind discovered at Netta.

Analysing the distribution of all graves dated to Phase 1 (fig. 3) one notices that they tend to cluster in the SE portion of the cemetery, with some isolated burials found elsewhere in the cemetery, in its W and central section. This suggests that during Phase 1 the cemetery was used by three family groups, which I propose to identify as the SE, W and Central group. I am using here the concept of family and kinship groups, ie social units basing on a common ancestor. In earlier studies concerned with social structure and relationships during the Roman period family and kinship groups have been treated as basic units of economic and social structure (cf. Godkowski, 1960; Okulicz, 1979; Steuer, 1982).

Coming back to the cemetery at Netta, the strongest position was apparently occupied by SE group, the largest and at the same time, one including assemblages containing marks of prestige. The earliest element of Phase 1 is represented by Grave 81A-B cited earlier; the mature stage of the same phase, by Grave 30 (Kazakevičius, 1966, fig. 7–8). The latter, a burial of a warrior-warrior held a spur of Type F1 according to Ginalska (cf. Ginalska, 1991), a set of weapons including an axe and shield-boss (surviving only as a fragment), a belt hanging and fragments of corroded iron objects. Grave 30 lay in the neighbourhood of a circular pit (Grave 30A) containing a fractional (cranium and legs) inhumation of a horse (Scewara, 1970, p. 229–230). The prosperity of the local community, users of the cemetery at Netta, during Phase 1, does not appear to have been more than modest, to judge from the relatively small number of categories of finds in graves, Grave 30 among them. Nevertheless an attempt was made to emphasise differences in social status of the members of individual family groups, and the
presence of attributes of the warrior-horseman is a clear indication of the elevated status of the buried individual.

The economic and presumably also social situation changed during Phase 2, in the Late Roman period, time of growing prosperity of the local community. This is manifested both by the largest number of graves and the richness of their furnishings. The cemetery was used at this time by the SE, W and Central groups known from the previous period (fig. 4), the latter represented by a much larger number of graves than before. In addition, new graves are noted for the first time in NE section of the burial ground, unoccupied during the preceding period. We may imagine that a new family group had appeared and started burying its dead at Netta – the SE group.

Analyzing the furnishings of graves associated with Phase 2, one is struck by the manifestation of power and authority so evident within the SE group, having definitely the largest number of graves. It is the only group which includes the richest burials equipped with a greatly varied set of objects, ranging between 6 and 14 different categories of finds. Only the SE group includes assemblages with prestige goods such as elements of horse head trappings, sets of weapons and specialised implements, silver or silver-gilt ornaments, forms of ornaments typical for other regions of the Balts territory or the neighbouring Germanic lands.

In the earlier segment of Phase 2, which corresponds to phase C12, the largest number of graves are Graves 12 and 78. Grave 12, holding the remains of a man and a woman, produced six different categories of finds – a brooch A.158, a pin, Beckmann Type B (of Beckmann, 1909), a pair of buckles, Mednye-Legutko Type C.12, a shield-boss similar to Type 1.7a (of John, 1916), an axe and, finally, a pottery accessory vessel (Kacyzynski, 1981, fig. 5). Grave 78 (not identifiable anthropologically as to gender but containing female type grave goods) contained a pair of Type A.162 crossbow brooches, a pair of wrist-band bracelets, a silver neck-ring, a belt with mounts and rivets, pendants of Schellenbergkopf type, common in Samland, a bucket shaped pendant, a number of amber and bronze beads, a spindleshank and a pottery accessory vessel (figs. 5–6), in all a dozen-odd categories of finds.

The later segment of Phase 2 is represented by four outstanding assemblages – Grave 31 (according to anthropological analysis – male, but the grave goods are of the type associated with female burials), Grave 79 (the remains of a woman, man and child) and a double grave containing a pit and an unmarked burial 138 A-B (the remains of 5 individuals). Each of these graves held a dozen-odd different categories of finds. Grave 79 was especially impressive, containing the remains of a horseman-warrior furnished for the afterworld by a horse-bit and an unusually rich set of horse trappings (nose-band, cracifor strap separators, rivets, female-pendants), a set of weapons consisting of a shield-boss and a spear point, ornaments, a cross-bow tendril brooch similar to A.168 and pin, Beckmann Type C, a knife, and a ceramic accessory vessel (figs. 6–8). Grave 31, published several times, was another richly furnished burial containing a pair of attractive crossbow type brooches additionally ornamented with notched wavy brooches, some of them silver, a neck-ring with a box-like fastening, a collar of pendants and beads, and a pair of elaborate wide wrist-band (Manschettenarmband) bracelets (Kacyzynski, 1966, fig. 9; Okulicz, 1973, fig. 208a–j). Grave 138 A-B is noteworthy primarily for the presence of a set of specialised carpentry (? ) tools, a very rare category (Kacyzynski et al., 1978, p. 97).

All of the above graves belong to SE group; none of the other groups, W, Central or NE, during Phase 2, included rich grave assemblages featuring finds which could be interpreted as prestige objects. This shows that the SE group definitely was the leader in the local community using the cemetery at Netta was, its position unmatched by any other family group. However, the situation takes an about-turn in Phase 3, at the close of the Late Roman Period and during the period of Migrations. The necropole at Netta continues to be used by four family groups SE, W, NE and Central (fig. 9). The SE group visibly loses its importance and is represented by a relatively small number of graves and more importantly, does not include burials distinguished by their grave goods lacking at the same time all objects of prestige, which on the other hand are observed in the three remaining groups.
Fig. 7. Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventory of Grave 79 (drawings by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylinska). Note: numbers marking the finds in the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix.


Fig. 8. Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventory of Grave 79 and inventory of Grave 129, barrow IV (drawings by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylinska). Note: numbers marking the finds on the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix.

8 pers. Netta, Augustów region. Dalsi kapa Nr 79 inwentarzus ir kapa Nr 129 inwentarzus, pilkapys IV (pictia W. Gawrysiak-
3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of the cemetery at Netta outlined in the present article is understandably only a preliminary attempt. An attempt to find new opportunities for research offered by a detailed chronological analysis of the cemetery combined with an analysis of grave goods and the presence of prestige objects. Thanks to studies of this type we may be able not only to reconstruct the spatial evolution of the grave field but also to gain valuable insight into the situation of the local community and relationships obtaining within.

The cemetery at Netta was established by a single family group, joined soon after by two other groups. Each continued to bury their dead in a different part of the grave field, the areas used by individual families separated from each other by broad strips of empty ground, during Phase I no less than 20 m wide. These empty areas were sustained throughout the entire period when the cemetery at Netta was in function, an additional argument in favour of the family structure hypothesis. It is worth noting that the maximum extent of the sacred spacial defined during

Analysis of the distribution of the most opulent Phase 3 burials prompts a number of interesting conclusions. It seems that the situation is altogether different than during the two preceding phases. The undeniably high position of the SE group has become a thing of the past and the three remaining family groups using the cemetery at Netta are vying for power, none of them managing to prevail for good. Rather than concentrating in one of the groups elements of prestige manifesting the power and position of the individual groups are noted in all three.
Grave 30 square 10 K (pit burial)

Inventory:
1. Iron mount. L. 7.4 cm. 2. Iron shield-boat fragments. 3. Iron axe. L. 17 cm. 4. Iron spur. Ginalska Type F1. Bow span 8.9 cm. 5. Damaged iron rivets. L. 1.3–1.9 cm. 6. 2 potsherd. Surface orange-brown. 7. Potsherd with impressed cord ornament (Corded Ware culture).

Bones of a single individual. Adultus, male.

Grave 30 A square 10 K (horse burial)

Inventory: none.

Tarpan, 8–9 year old male.

Grave 31 square 10 K (pit burial)


Bones of two individuals. Late adultus, male (7). Infans I.

Grave 42 A B square 11 K (urnred and pit burials)


Grave 42 B 5. Iron pin fragment. Surviving L. 2.5 cm. 6. Tongue-shaped belt-end mount of sheet bronze, broken tip. Samiland type according to A. Böttner-Weßelska (2001a). Deformed, traces of fire on surface. Surviving L. 8.5 cm. 7. 2 iron diamond-shaped belt mounts with circular terminals; one of them broken off. L. 5.2 and 4.2 cm. 8. Iron square belt mount, embossed ornament. Fire patinated. 2.6 x 2.2 cm. 9. Iron oval belt mount, embossed ornament. Fire patinated. 2.2 x 2.3 cm. 10. 2 iron rectangular mounts, one of them broken. L. 5.6 and 3.4 cm. 11. Iron mount fragment, embossed ornament. L. 3 cm. 12. Iron mount fragment with bronze rivet. D. 1.8 cm. 13. 8 iron mount fragments. L. 1.8–3 cm. 14. Bronze drinking horn rim mount. D. 7.6 x 6.5 cm. 15. Bronze oval-shaped foil (drinking horn mount). L. 1.8 x 1.1 cm. 16. Iron wire fragment. L. 1 cm. 17. Iron spear point with iron socket and slender, short, leaf with prominent ridge. Similar to Kaczanowski Type XIII (cf Kaczanowski, 1995) L. 31 cm. 18. Lumps of melted bronze. 19. Reconstruction of rim of pottery vessel, smooth surfaced, brown. R. ca 23 cm. 20. Reconstruction of pottery rim, smooth surface, dark brown. R. 18 cm. 21. Non-characteristic potsherds.


Barrow I, grave 57 square 12 K (urnred burial)

Inventory: 1. Iron crossbow brooch with closed catchplate (?), bronze knobs on spring ends. Surviving textile fragments. L. 7.7 cm. 2. Bronze sheath brooch (Blechbund) with semicircular head and oval foot; iron axle. Surviving textile fragments. Group B according to A. Kocowski (cf Kocowski, 1996). L. 5 cm. 3. Blue glass bead, partly melted, T-M Type 30a. D. 1.6 cm. 4. Blue glass bead. T-M Type 57. D. 1.2 cm. 5. 3 links of bronze chain, round-sectioned wire. D. 0.7 and 1 cm. 6. Bronze drinking horn mount with silver foil, embossed ornament. L. 0.67 cm; surviving L. of foil 3.4 cm. 7. Bronze coiled band. D. 0.9 x 0.6 cm. 8. Bronze round-sectioned wire, flexed at ends. L. 2.2 cm. 9. Iron needle fragment. Surviving L. 3.4 cm. 10. Iron awl with remains of wooden handle. L. 1.9 cm. 11. Iron knife with remains of wooden sheath. L. 10.5 cm. 12. Iron knife fragments. Surviving L. 5.3 cm. 13. Silver lumps. 14. Pottery bowl with angular shoulder. Surface weathered, originally smoothed, brown. R. 21 cm; B. 21.5 cm; H. B. 8.4 cm; H. 11.5 cm.

Grave 55: bones of two, possibly three individuals.


Grave 78 square 10 L (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Bronze crossbow brooch with knob on head, iron axe. Spring distorted by fire, knobs partly melted at ends. Similar to A.162. L. 7 cm. 2. 12 bronze crossbow brooch fragments, iron axe. Spring and chord melted in the fire. Surviving L. 4.5 cm. 3. W of spring 4.6 cm. 3. Silver ring-coiled wire on terminals, a disc-and-hook fastening. D. 13.5 cm; Weight 22.40 g. 4. Bronze wrist-band Manschette-naarband bracelet fragments belonging to two specimens (6 pieces and splinters), distorted by fire. W. 2.4 cm. 5. 4 bronze foil embossed beads, three of them deformed or broken. L. 2.8 cm; 3.2 cm; 3.3 cm; 4.1 cm. 6. Bronze bucket-shaped pendant. L. 1.8 cm. 7. 3 iron Schellenbork type pendants. D. 1.8 cm. 8. Amber bead. T-M Type 388. D. 1.1 cm. 9. Amber bead. T-M Type 391. D. 1 cm.


Grave 81A B square 10 L (urnred and pit burials)

Inventory: Grave 81A: 1. bronze horsehoe brooch with red enamel, iron pin. Type II according to A. Jabłonko (cf Jabłonko, 1992). L. 5 cm. 2. Pottery vessel, biconical, no rim. On vessel base traces of coarse crushed stone. Surface above vessel shoulder carefully smoothed, in places polished; below shoulder, roughened and rubbed. Light brown. D. 36.8 cm; B. 14 cm; surviving H. 28 cm.

Grave 81B: 3. iron spear point with a single barb, indistinct ridge. Socket faceted in upper section. Kaczanowski Type O. L. 15.8 cm. 4. Iron knife retaining remnants of wooden handle. L. 14 cm. 5. Body sherd, polished, brown (Taellinen culture?).

Grave 81A: bones of two individuals—early maternity, male and juvenis, female (nb damage of the upper part of the urn makes it impossible to determine the number of individuals whose bones were originally deposited in the vessel). Grave 81B: juvenis (?), female (?).
Barrow III, grave 109 square 12 H (pit burial, robbed)

Inventory: 1. Marcus Aurelius denarius, heavily worn. Weight 2.57 g. 2 Iron buckle. M-L Type H.11. 2.2 x 1.6 cm. 3 Iron buckle, pin broken. M-L Type H.11. 2.6 x 1.6 cm. 4. Iron radiate, broken tip. Slightly deflected both sides. Surviving L. 24.4 cm. 5. Iron spur bow (?) fragments. Surviving L. 4.4 cm. 6. Iron awl fragment with remnants of wooden handle. Surviving L. 5.2 cm. 7. Fragment of iron object (belt end mount?). Surviving L. 8.8 cm. 8. Sheet fragment of iron mount. Surviving L. 1.7 cm. 9. Fragments of bronze wire and foil. 10. Silver lumps. Weight 1.35 g. 11. Small potsherds from a vessel with gently sloping shoulder (bowl?). Surface polished, brown.

Loose finds (probably associated with grave 109)
1. Iron spear point with slender leaf and ridge. Similar to Type 14 (=Skiaker) according to J. Ilkjär (cf Ilkjär, 1990). L. 33 cm. 2. Iron battle knife; blade tip broken; tined and stamped. Ornament. Surviving L. 34.4 cm.

Bones of two individuals. Lat. adults (?) female. Mature, male.

Barrow IV, grave 129 11 F (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Bronze tennīl crossbow brooch with notched bronze wire hoops. Similar to A.167 L. 5.3 cm. 2. Fragment of melted wrist-band Mannechenarmband bracelet. 3.3 x 3.3 cm. 3. Amber bead. Turned. M-T Type 437. L. 1.3 cm. 4. Amber bead. M-T Type 388. D. 0.9 cm. 5. Iron buckle. M-L Type H.11. 3.2 x 2.1 cm. 6. Bronze drinking horn ring fragments of: distorted by fire. D. ca 4.6 cm. 7. Iron knife fragments. L. ca 15.5 cm. 8. Fragment of melted bronze ornament. 9. Miniature pottery vessel with gently sloping shoulder, rim funnel-like. Surface smoothed, dark brown. R. 5.5 cm. M. 9.5 cm. B. 7 cm. H. 9 cm. 10. Reconstruction of pottery vessel rim. Surface smoothed, dark brown. R. ca 14.1 cm. 11. Body sheCd, smoothed, light brown.

Bones of two individuals. Infants I, Maternus.

Grave 138A & B square 10 M (turned and pit burial)

Inventory: Grave 138 A: 1. Bronze tennīl crossbow knob-head brooch with notched wire hoops. Splayed triangular foot. Distorted by fire; with adhering links of a melted bronze chain and bronze profiled connecting piece. L. of brooch 7 cm. L. of connecting piece ca 7.5 cm. 2. Bronze tennīl (?) crossbow brooch with triangular foot fragments, melted. L. of spring ca 4 cm. 3. Entire and fragments of bronze chain links of triangular-sectioned wire. D. 0.9 cm. 4. Fragments of bronze round-sectioned wire, partly melted. D. of wire 0.3 cm. 5. Wrist-band Mannechenarmband bracelet, decorated by fire. W. ca 4.5 cm. 6. Greensish glass bead, damaged. M-T Type 4b. D. 1.3 cm. 7. Iron buckle, fragments of melted bronze objects adhering to frame. M-L Type G.16. Frame L. ca 3.7 x 2.7 cm. W. of ferrule 3.7 cm. 8. Silver lumps. Weight 0.59 g. 9. Bronze lumps. 10. Sharply profiled pottery bowl, strongly outslipped rim. Surface polished, in places heavily weathered. Dark brown. R. 22 cm; M. 23 cm; B. 11.5 cm; H. 10 cm.


Barrow VI, grave 164 square 11 G (pit burial, destroyed)

Inventory: 1. 2 amber beads. M-T Type 388. D. 1.5 cm; l. 1.4 cm. 2. Bronze buckle with metope on pin and rectangular ferrule. M-L Type H.38. Buckle frame: 2.1 x 1.5 cm. 3. Buckle ferrule 1.8 cm. 3. Iron belt buckle ferrule with fragments of pin and frame; damaged. Surviving L. 4.4 cm. 4. Iron razor with bronze pancreatic handle; at handle base (neck of panther) ornament: row of stamped circles. On blade, remains of wood (sherd?) H. 11.2 cm. 5. Fragments and splinters of bronze foil (driking horn mount? belt mount?), twisted, distorted by fire. Some fragments retaining fragments of rivet-holes Th. of foil 0.5 cm. 6. Iron spear point with long socket and short leaf with ridge. Similar to Kaczanowski Type VIII, variant I. L. 10. Reconstruction of upper section of miniature sharply profiled pottery vessel. Surface smoothed, light brown. D. 8 cm. 11. SherdS from a large pottery vessel with smoothed surface. 12. Textile remains. Middle maternus (age 45–50 years), male.


Nowakowski W., 1996. Das Samland in der römischen Kaiserzeit und seine Verbindungen mit dem römischen Reich

Olkule J., 1955. Cmentarzysko z III–IV w. naucz ery z

Olkule J., 1973. Pradzieje ziemi pruskich od późnego
paleolitu do XII w. n. e. Wrocław–Warszawa–Kraków–
Gdańsk.

Olkule J., 1979. Metody badań struktur osadniczych
i populacyjnych okresu północnoleśnego i ryzykowego

Raddatz K., 1975. Der Thorsberg Moorfund. Gürtelteile

Ringsted J., 1991. Fremmede genstande på jællfodgræv-
pladsen, Nordjylland. Import as lokal kontekst. In: Samfundorganisation og Regional Variation. Norden i
romersk jernalder og folkvandtidsalder (eds. C. Falbe, J. Ringfreed). Syk Arkæologisk Selskab Skrifter XXVII
Århus, p. 47–73.

Serwatka S., 1970. Szczyczy kościół z cmentarzyska okresu


Szymański P., 2001. Mikroregioan osadniczy z okresu
wpływów ryzykowych w rejonie jeziora Sępól w Pojezierzu
Mazurskim. Miroswynia pracy doktorskiej w archiwum
Institutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.

Steuer H., 1982. Frühgeschichtliche Sozialstrukturen
in Mitteleuropa. Göttingen.

Eppelmann-Małyńska M., 1985. Die Perlen der ro-
mischen Kaiserzeit und der frühen Phase der Völkerwande-
rungszeit im mittelmeereischen Barbaricum. Mainz an
Rhein.

Ziemelinska-Oliwowa W., 1999. Niedanowo. Ein Grab-
feld der Przeworsk- und Wielbark-Kultur in Nordma-
sowien. Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica VII. Kraków.

Das Gräberfeld Muntowo/Alt-Muntowen – ein fast einhundert Jahre
verst detached Ausgrabungsbericht

Wojciech Nowakowski

Ein besonderer Forschungsstand der massurischen Archäologie nach Zerstörungen des Zweiten Weltkrieges
wurde schon vielmals geschildert. Als verloren gelten seitlich die Kolonie des Prussia-Museums, als auch
alle Sammlungen kleinen Heimatmuseen in Ortslern (Szytno), Łözten (Giczcko) und Lyk (Ekh) und vor
dann – die Dokumentation aller vor dem Jahr 1945
durchgeführten Ausgrabungen. Somit wurde der bezeichneten „Vorgeschichtlichen Übersichtskarte von
Ostpreußen“ (Hollack, 1908) ihre ganze wissen-
Schaftliche Basis entzogen. „Die großen Gräberfelder nach
Christi Geburt“ (vgl. Tischler, Kempt, 1902) bleiben
also kaum bekannt, weil Archäologen nur sehr alte und
unvollständige Veröffentlichungen zur Verfügung
stehen.

Als ein einzigartiger Ausweg aus dieser schwieriger
Sache geht die Bearbeitung der Reste der
archäologischen Sammlungen und zugänglichen
Archivmaterial in der Stadt. Das beste Beispiel stellt eine kurze
nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg publiziert Monographie ein kaiserzeitlicher Gräberfeldes Bogačewo/
Kulbrickice aus Masuren dar (Olkule, 1958). Ihre
wissenschaftliche Basis bildet sowohl ein gerechter Teil
der Kollektion der Führerkräftigen Gedenkhalle in
Lützen als auch Archivalien aus der privaten
wissenschaftlichen Kartei einer örtlichen Archäo-
gie Marta Schmiedehelm. Dieser Aufsatz versucht eine
Fortsetzung der damals von Jerzy Okulicz vorgeschla-
gene Forschungsrichtung zu bilden; Im heutigen
Forschungsstand konnte es jedoch nur ein kurzer und
wie es schon im Aufsatztitel betont wurde – „fast
ehinacht Jahrhundert verspäteter Ausgrabungsbericht“
darstellen.

Netton kapinas buvo pradetas naudo suvien giminis
pietyrių grupės (2 pak.). Prie kurių greitai pradėjo dū
dėk, dunką ir centrinę (3 pak.). Tikvėjus jų laidoju sav
miruvininko kūnų kapinyno dalis, kiekvienas giminio ką
grupę buvo atskirais viena po kita plačiose dalies
žemės josciostės. 2 fazei kapinyną suvietė knyge
grupės giria su kubelėmis rytais (4 pak.). Per kelias kartas (1 i 2 fazei) pietyrių grup̆ įtraukė vad
vykavą viejimą bendruomene. Ėmę tūkstančius tūkst. vi
miruvininkų grupės tūkst. turtų, kurių šiaurės, šiaurės rytų ir
centrinės narių. Dėka, sudarantys ape auklės miruvinis
vienuolynus, aptikta trių grup̆s kapas (9 pak.), tų
dėka, kad kiekvienoje giminio grupėje

1264

1. AUSGRABUNGEN IN
MUNTOWO/ALT-MUNTOWEN

ungszeitigen Gräber auftreten (Hollack, 1908, S. 6). Die gehobenen Funde gelangen in Königsberg.

Prussia-Museum, wo sie mit einer Bezeichnung: Band


1369