MONUMENTS OF THE FINAL PHASE OF CULTURES HAMANGIA AND SAVA ON THE TERRITORY OF BULGARIA

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Last decades as a result of intensive archaeological researches in area of the Northwest Coast of the Black Sea the significant base of sources is saved up. Knowledge about the development of the tribes, occupying this territory during prehistoric time, has considerably filled up. Enough data have already been collected, allowing finding out a number of the controversial problems considered till now is superficial, not pressing in details, because of the absence or fragmentariness of the cash information. One of them is the question on the ending of Hamangia culture.

Hamangia culture is opened by D. Berciu, in 1952 during the excavations near village Baia, district Constanța, Romania. It was distributed on the territory of modern Dobrudja and existed from 5250/5200 till 4550/4500 BC. Its periodization and relative chronology were exposed to a number of interpretations repeatedly.

Originally D. Berciu traces four phases in the development of culture. Later he expresses the idea, that it begins its development from a phase named him as „Protohamangia“, and has at least five more phases of development, and Hamangia V is synchronous Boian V and Precucuteni. D. Berciu considers, that

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3 Detailed comments of radiocarbon dates and absolute chronology of Hamangia culture see in Я. Бояджиев, Хронология на праисторическите култури на територията на Добруджа, Сборник Добруджа, 9 (1992), c. 10–12.
the fifth phase of Hamangia culture is submitted in Bulgaria in tell Sava, Varna district – then still familiar only about the preliminary M. Mirchev and D. Zlatarski’s report. He gives a number of casual finds from Dobrudja district which, show presence of this phase and to the north from Varna, and publishes three vessels from the collection „Solacolu”, concerning to this phase. D. Berciu thinks that it is very problematic to document IV phase of Hamangia culture, which characteristic he determines by the comparison previous (Ceamurlia de Jos) and the subsequent (tell Sava) materials. D. Berciu supposes, that Hamangia IV is submitted in necropolis near Mangalia and Cernavodă.

D. Berciu’s thesis about five-efficient periodization of Hamangia culture was criticized repeatedly. The first scientist, who made it, was V. N. Danilenko, he denies also isolation a protohamangia stage. E. Comșa considers, that the materials from the excavation of tell Sava are characteristic for the new culture named as „Varna”. Chronologically he puts it into the period between the ending of Hamangia culture and the beginning of a transitive phase from Boian culture to Gumelniţa culture; thus he rejects D. Berciu’s hypothesis about the presence of the fifth phase of Hamangia culture. Later H. Todorova isolates materials from the tell Sava into independent cultural group with three phases of development, and names last of them „the type Varna” (determined by E. Comșa like independent „culture Varna”). In her opinion, the existence of this phase is connected to rather brief period and cannot be allocated as an independent culture.

Basing on the data of stratigraphy and radiocarbon dates, V. Dumitrescu does not recognize the existence so named „protohamangia” phase and also specifies, that phase Ceamurlia de Jos (III under the order) should be simultaneous to all III phase of Boian culture (Boian–Vidra) and partly to the beginning of its IV phase (Boian–Spanțov). Later E. Comșa divides the development of Hamangia culture on three phases – Golovița, Ceamurlia de Jos and Mangalia, being based that the materials are not found, which could be related to I phase D. Berciu, which has described it only hypothetically. The opinion about three-efficient periodization of Hamangia culture and its ending with arrival of the tribes – carriers of a transitive phase from Boian culture

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7 D. Berciu, op. cit., p. 40–41, 110.
8 В. Н. Даниленко, Неолит Украины. Киев, 1969, c. 212.
with arrival of the tribes carriers of a transitive phase from Boian culture to Gumelniţa culture was ratified in the Romanian archaeology since then and it changes exists with little nowadays. 

The research of settlements Megidia—“Cocoaş” and Durankulak–Nivata is proved with the presence of earlier phase of Hamangia culture, than Goloviţa phase. Therefore P. Haşotti accepts Mangalia phase detached E. Comşa, as the last, third stage of Ceamurlia de Jos phase. Three-parted division of Hamangia culture is kept by this image. Examining the pottery of the last phase, P. Haşotti ascertains that it has heterogeneous shape that confirms necessity of the isolation of the several sub phases. He thinks that found materials are insufficient, not clear and not allowing making such division. 

In 1972 H. Todorova expressed the opinion according to which „a transitive phase Varna” chronologically followed III phase of Hamangia culture is the general final stage of Sava and Hamangia cultures, which area covers their territories. In 1984 H. Todorova made the critical review of existing opinions about the periodization of Hamangia culture and suggested a new one. She divided the culture on four phases, and each of them – on two sub phases, specifying, what finds from what objects characterize every sub period. H. Todorova thinks that the southern border of the dissemination of Hamangia culture is the area between Šabla and Kavarna. According to her opinion, during the last, fourth, phase the pottery from Dobrudja and from Longoz gets almost identical shape and that’s why she names this sub period „a phase Varna of Sava and Hamangia cultures”. H. Todorova dates the same time a collective find from

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19 X. Тодорова, Колективна находка на идол и съд от Балчик, ИАИ, 33 (1972). c. 39, 42, 44.


Balčik, the settlement at the village Techirghiol, the graves in the resort Droužba, the settlement in Dulapkulak locality at village of Draganovo, levels tells Hîrșova, Golyamo Delčevo and Sava. In her monograph devoted to the Copper Age in Bulgaria, printed a little bit later, she changes the name of IV phase of Hamangia culture to „phase Techirghiol”\textsuperscript{22}.

Recently T. Dimov has suggested dividing Hamangia culture again into five phases. According to his opinion, the final phase (Varna) is followed to IV phase (Techirghiol), which, he thinks, is simultaneous to IV phase of Sava culture\textsuperscript{23}.

I had an opportunity to publish the large part of the pottery found during the excavation of VII level of tell Golemiya ostrov and its necropolis near the village of Durankulak, Dobrič district\textsuperscript{24}. The found materials prove the unification of characteristics of the last phases of Sava and Hamangia cultures. Almost all the features of a ceramic complex from Durankulak and the pottery found in synchronous objects of Southern Dobrudja, Longoz and the Varna lakes district, are identical – forms, technology, the techniques of the ornamentation, ornamental motifs and compositions. In this article I would like to list checked in the objects on the territory of Bulgaria which are dated this general final phase of Hamangia and Sava cultures (fig. 1)\textsuperscript{25}. The majority of monuments are poorly investigated (or archaeological excavations were not carried out). I think, that this information will be useful to the future researches of prehistory of Dobrudja and the western Black Sea coast. Examined objects are easily dated on the pottery which, despite of short existence of the mentioned phase, considerably differs on a number of testimonials from the vessels of the previous and the subsequent periods and cannot be confused with them.

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Tell Golemiya ostrov near the village of Durankulak, Dobrič district, and its necropolis

The tell is situated on the Big island of Durankulak lake. It was being investigated from 1974 to 1998 under the management of H. Todorova. 7th level concerns to the last phase of Hamangia culture, and the stratigraphy of the object and found materials point on it. It has been dug out five constructions till now. It was published the plan of the two houses investigated\textsuperscript{26} and the significant part of

\textsuperscript{22} Х. Тодорова, Каменно-медната епоха в България. София, 1986, с. 118–119.
\textsuperscript{23} Т. Димов, Културата Хаманджия в Добруджа, Сборник Добруджа, 9 (1992), с. 32–33; Т. Димов, Културата Хаманджия в Южной Добруджа, Studia praehistorica, 11–12 (1992), с. 129–130.
\textsuperscript{24} V. Slavčev, The links between Dobrudja and the forest-steppe zone of Eastern Europe during the Middle Eneolithic (based on data from the pottery from tell Golemiya Ostrov near the village of Durankulak, Varna region), Archaeologia Bulgarica, 1 (1997), 3, p.1–14; V. Slavčev, Charakteristik der Keramik von Schicht VII aus dem Siedlungshügel „Die Große Insel“ bei Durankulak, Nordostbulgarien, Сборник Добруджа, 21 (2004), S. 145–175.
\textsuperscript{25} The author uses four-efficient periodization of H. Todorova. The objects are described from the north to the south.
\textsuperscript{26} Y. Boyadžiev, Archaeologia Bulgarica, 8 (2004), 1, fig. 2, fig. 6.
the found pottery\textsuperscript{27}. The necropolis is about 450 m to the southwest from the tell. The results of its research for the period from 1979 to 1990 are full published\textsuperscript{28}. 164 tombs can be concerned to IV phase of Hamangia culture\textsuperscript{29}. The materials from the tell and the necropolis are kept in the Historical museum of Dobrič and the National Historical Museum in Sofia.

**Settlement near the town of Šabla, Dobrič district**

The settlement was between Šabla–Ezerets lake and Šablenska tuzla, in Novite lozya locality. It existed during Hamangia II, III and IV phases. It was completely investigated in 1974 by H. Todorova. The cultural layer has been entirely destroyed by long-term farming and the erosion, and finds are strongly fragmented. Some tens of fragments of pottery vessels are kept in the fund of the Historical museum of Dobrič (fig. 2). The results of the excavation are not published, some general conclusions about chronology and cultural definition of the settlement were only mentioned\textsuperscript{30}.

**Settlement in Dulapkulak (Dolapkulak) locality near the village of Draganovo, Dobrič district**

It is about 5 km to the south from the village. It was investigated with the trenches by H. Todorova in 1975, and in 1984–1993 (with the big breaks) by A. Bonev and T. Dimov. The settlement existed during the time of IV phase of Hamangia culture, Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages. Preliminary results of the researches and some finds were published\textsuperscript{31}. The materials are kept in the fund of Dobrič Historical museum.

**Settlement in Korjata locality near the town of Suvorovo, Varna district**

The single-layered settlement is located on a terrace with an easy inclination on the south, on the right bank of the Černata voda river about 1.5 km to the north from Suvorovo, near to the road to the village of Drândar. The excavations of the object were carried out in 1983 and 1990 under the management of I. Ivanov\textsuperscript{32}. One dwelling and the parts of seven more are almost completely investigated. The materials are unpublished. The finds are kept in the


\textsuperscript{29} In a joint account of tombs are included and dated „Hamangia IV/Varna I“. This dating is dictated by that circumstance, that they reflect smooth development of one culture into another and show a combination of the features, some of which are characteristic for the ending of Hamangia culture, and others – for the beginning of Varna culture.

\textsuperscript{30} Х. Тодорова, Каменно-медната епоха в България. София, 1986, c. 78–79; Т. Димов, Културата Хаманджия в Добруджа, Сборник Добруджа, 9 (1992), c. 27. My gratitudes to prof. H. Todorova and T. Dimov for the materials they gave me to work with.

\textsuperscript{31} А. Bonev, Т. Димов, Приноси към краисторията на Добруджа, Векове, 14 (1985), 1, c. 35–37, c. 39; Т. Димов, Културата Хаманджия в Добруджа, Сборник Добруджа, 9 (1992), c. 26, c. 30, таб. V: 5.

Necropolis in the St. Konstantin resort near Varna

It is open during the excavations before the building of the post-office of the resort (former Družba). The exact number of tombs isn’t fixed. Three skeletons were found, but there were ceramic vessels only near two of them. The materials are published also are kept in the fund of Varna Regional historical museum.

Settlement in Batareyata region near Varna

It is located about 3,5 km to the north from Varna. It was found in 1956 during the digging for building. All found materials, which have acted in Varna Regional historical museum, are published. The excavations of the settlement were not carried out.

Varna II necropolis

It was in the Western industrial zone of Varna, on the place of former base of the House-building factory. In 1976 I. Ivanov investigated three tombs, two of which had been destroyed. It has not been found more tombs. All finds are published. The materials are kept in the fund of Varna Regional historical museum.

Tell near the town of Provadia, Varna district

It is on the territory of the hydrochloric mines, about 3 km to the south from the town. In 1963 it was made a test pit by A. Margos. In Provadia Town museum one ceramic vessel and some stone artifacts are kept, and in Varna Regional historical museum there are some ceramic fragments from this tell. Judging by them, the settlement existed during Usoe II, Sava IV and Varna II phases. The results of the research are unpublished except two short articles, which were published in the local newspapers (fig. 4: 1–7).

Tell Sava near the town of Dilgopol, Varna district

It is about 4 km to the southeast from the town of Dilgopol, and in about 500 m to the south from the Golyama Kamchiya river, and it is between two its inflows. In 1953 M. Mirchev and D. Zlatarski investigated tell making test pits. On the basis of the depths of the cleared ovens and the floors of the dwellings away, they found totally nine building levels. As the slopes of tell are very abrupt, and the researchers dig out the site of the periphery, the number of the levels

36 From the surface of the fragment represented on fig. 4: 2 was taken a sample for the research of mineral structure of the spil. The results are published in Р. И. Костов, В. С. Славчев, Минерален състав на пигменти в халколитна керамика от Североизточна България, Минерогенезис–2004, с. 44–45 (sample № 10).
37 А. Маргос, Праисторическа селищна могила при Солниците край Провадия, в Провадийски глас, 15. 07. 1964; А. Маргос, Праисторическата селищна могила край Провадия, в Народно дело, 10. 01. 1978.
determined is represented doubtful. The depths of the dwellings were measured from the height of the central reference point tell. Thus distinctions in their depths are quite possible within the framework of one level depending on the distance from the center of the settlement, and in this situation the researchers mechanically could divide one level into two or even more. E. Comșa and H. Todorova, relying on the typological features of the pottery, assume the presence of two horizons concerning to the last phase of the same Sava culture. In our opinion, the bases for such typological division are absent, and it is impossible to distinguish „the early” from „the late” materials in the pottery complex. The questions of the stratigraphy and chronology of the settlement remain obscure without carrying out of new control diggings of tell. The biggest part of the materials is published by H. Todorova. The finds are kept in the fund of Varna Regional historical museum and Dălgopol Town museum.

Finds by chance

In 1968 in a stone borrow pit at Balčik, Dobrič district, has been found a collective find of a clay anthropomorphic figure and a ceramic vessel. The subjects are kept in Balčik Historical museum.

The ceramic vessel, according to the inventory book, „found in Dobrudja” is kept in the fund of the museum of the Institute of Archaeology (fig. 4: 8).

In the fund of Varna Regional historical museum are kept a small ceramic vessel with a lid, its site is not known (fig. 4: 9).

In 2004 in Varna Regional historical museum has acted a ceramic vessel, which was found near the village of Sindel, Varna district (fig. 4: 10).

Apparently, the number of monuments of the last phase of Hamangia and Sava cultures on the territory of Bulgaria is significant. It is possible to think that

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43 Н. Тодорова includes also Tsonevo, Tărnak and Dobrič in the list of the monuments of the last phase of Hamangia and Sava cultures. The materials from these settlements had not been kept in the funds of Dobrič and Dălgopol museums, and we cannot say anything about their chronological and cultural belonging. Absolutely differently there is a question about III and IV horizons tell Golyamo Delchevo. Despite of their initial reference to the problem phase (Sava IV) – see Х. Тодорова, Ст. Иванов, В. Василев, М. Хопф, Х. Квита, Г. Кол, Селищната могила при Голямо Делчево, София, 1975 (=РП, 5), 1975, с. 12–13, 23–29 – Н. Todorova has recently changed her opinion. She has already believed them to be settlements of IV phase of Polyanitsa culture – see Х. Тодорова, Праисторически културни блокове и етнокултурни комплекси на Балканския полуостров, Българска етнография, 1990, 5, c. 12; E. Pernicka, F. Begemann, S. Schmitt-Strecker, H. Todorova, I. Kuleff, Prehistoric copper in Bulgaria. Its composition and provenance, Eurasia Antiqua, 3 (1997), p. 50. The author of this article shares this opinion.

Despite of the big territorial affinity Golyamo Delchevo and Sava – about 6 km, the differences in the materials of these settlements are too significant. It is interesting to notice that the number Hamangia and Sava finds in Golyamo Delchevo is much more, than the subjects belonging to the tradition of Polyanitsa culture, found in tell Sava. Probably, it specifies indirectly the leading part of the tribes of the coast of the Black Sea in contacts to their neighbours.
in the future it will grow, as these settlements and necropoleis were not the objects of purposeful search.

Nowadays it is possible to date as the examined period only two monuments on the territory of Romania – the top level of the settlement near the village of Techirghiol, which was investigated by trenches in 1959\textsuperscript{44}, and some tombs of the necropolis, which is situated to the west from the lake Mangalia near the village of Limanu, investigated in 1960\textsuperscript{45}. The absence of the monuments of this time is explained by the opinion, that to the south from the line Histria–Medgidia–Costineşti–Cernavodă the situation in Dobrudja is differ\textsuperscript{46}, that is caused by other influences\textsuperscript{47}. Having in our view of the presence of the intensive contacts between the inhabitants of Southern Dobrudja and the carriers of Precucuteni culture, III phase\textsuperscript{48}, we believe, that in Northern Dobrudja in the future the monuments of this period will be found and they can show the ways of the penetration Precucuteni influences on the south.

\textsuperscript{44} E. Comșa, D. Galbenu, A. Aricescu, MCA, 8 (1962), p. 165–173.
\textsuperscript{45} See D. Galbenu, MCA, 9 (1970), fig. 2/1–4, 6; fig. 3/5, 10; fig. 6/10, 13; W. Volschi, M. Irimia, Pontice, 1 (1968), fig. 48, fig. 54–56.
\textsuperscript{46} E. Comșa, Dacia, N. S., 6 (1962), p. 65.
Fig. 1 - Distribution of the monuments of the final phase of cultures Hamangia and Sava on the territory of Bulgaria:

a – settlement; b – necropolis; c - find by chance;
1 – Durankulak; 2 – Šabla; 3 – Dulapkulak; 4 – Suvorovo;
5 – St. Konstantin (ex-Družba); 6 – Batareyata; 7 – Varna II;
8 – Provadia; 9 – Sava; 10 – Balčik; 11 – locality unknown;
12 – locality unknown; 13 – Sindel
Fig. 2 - Pottery from Šabla
Fig. 3 - Pottery from Suvorovo
Fig. 4 - Pottery from Provadia (1–7), unknown localities in Dobrudja (8), around Varna (9) and near Sindel (10)