

NOTES ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE LUSATIAN CULTURE IN SLOVAKIA¹

RUDOLF KUJOVSKÝ 

Author provides a brief summary of the historical development of the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia. Following from the published results of archaeological investigations and surveys of settlements and burial grounds of the Lusatian culture, he uses information related to the burial rite, economic background and material expressions of social relations to suggest division of the development of individual stages. In the second part of the article, he specifies the material content of suggested individual stages of historical development using elements typical for the relevant period.

The beginnings of the Lusatian settlement have been discussed by experts for decades. Analysing the cultural base from which it was created, the author has come to a conclusion that the origin of the studied culture in Slovakia can be dated back as early as the Middle Bronze Age. He does not doubt the importance of the Tumulus culture in crystallization of the Lusatian culture. However, he points to the fact, that it was only one of the elements in this process in the north of Slovakia. He monitors gradual territorial expansion of the Lusatian culture, its relations to the neighbouring cultures, searches for causes of changes in the settlement process in individual stages. He deals only marginally with the generally accepted significant status of the Lusatian culture in production of bronze artefacts in its prime period in the Later and Final Bronze ages in Slovakia. For chronological conclusions, he uses the shapes and decorative motifs on pottery more frequently.

In his article, the author presents his opinion of gradual extinction of the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia in the Hallstatt period. He deals with the causes of this development and its possible regional results, without an attempt to provide a detailed analysis of its expressions. More exact conclusions regarding development of the Lusatian culture in individual Slovak regions in the Hallstatt period require extensive, mainly field, archaeological investigation.

Keywords: Slovakia, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Hallstatt Period, Lusatian culture, chronology, periodization.

The people of the Lusatian culture settled a large part of today's Slovakia's territory for centuries. In this area we can study development of the Lusatian settlement since the beginnings in the Middle Bronze Age to the final manifestations in the Hallstatt period. The numbers of studied sites (settlements, burial grounds, depots of bronze artefacts, etc.) and published papers growing in the course of more than a century allowed creation of several comprehensive evaluations and attempts of periodization of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia (*Budinský-Krička* 1947; *Eisner* 1933, 96–100; *Furmánek/Veliačik/Vladár* 1991, 128–137; *Kujovský* 2015, 177–184; *Točík/Vladár* 1969, 297–299; 1971; *Veliačik* 1983; and others).

The growing sum of information has naturally led to changes in opinions on the origin and development of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. *J. Eisner* (1933) considered it a result of expansion from Moravian or Polish environment as early as the first half of the 20th century and dated Lusatian artefacts in the Late and Final Bronze Age. *V. Budinský-Krička* (1947) arrived at the same conclusion. Excavation at the cremation burial ground in Martin in 1965, 1966 (*Pivovarová* 1967) allowed some authors to assume autochthonous development of the Lusatian culture

in Slovakia, dating the beginnings of this development in the end of stage BB2 (*Točík/Vladár* 1969; 1971, 399). In the following extensive evaluation of the excavation in Martin, *Z. Benkovská-Pivovarová* (1972) classified a considerable number of burials in the Middle Bronze Age, but she identified the finds dated in stage BD as Lusatian. *L. Veliačik* (1975, 27, 28) refused this cultural division in the end of the Middle Bronze Age and considered the burials from Martin dated to stage BC clearly Lusatian. He summed up his opinion on the beginnings and development of this culture in a monograph dedicated to the Lusatian culture in Slovakia (*Veliačik* 1983, 167–174). Later, such understanding of the Lusatian culture's development was presented in a monograph complexly dealing with the development of the Bronze Age in Slovakia (*Furmánek/Veliačik/Vladár* 1991). In recent years, investigators following from results of investigations in central and northern Moravia assume analogous development in Slovakia and perceive the finds dated in the Middle Bronze Age from the Považie region as expression of the young stage of the Tumulus culture (*Benkovský-Pivovarová* 2018, 60, 61; *Gášpar* 2018, 97–100; *Šabatová* 2004, 107).

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THE AREA OF SETTLEMENT

Specification of the geographical extent of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia was developed in a long time. The still growing number of new sites led to abandonment of the original ideas of Lusatian settlement in the mountain regions of western Slovakia and expansion of the assumed settlement oikumene (sometimes too much, some scientists considered the Kyjatice culture to be a result of expansion of the Lusatian culture even recently). In all the above mentioned works as well as in many others, attention was paid to the topic of specification of the Lusatian settlement area. We are not going to deal with the chronological development of opinions. We are going to present my current idea of the development of the Lusatian culture's extension in Slovakia, following from those opinions.

I consider the territory of Považie from the Trenčianska kotlina basin to Liptov the oldest settlement area. This is the territory in which crystallization of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia took place in the Middle Bronze Age. Settlement was based on groups of settlers which moved to the central Považie region from the west, from the Tumulus culture of central Moravia's territory and from the east, from the territory of the ending Otomani culture in stage BB2 (BC1). They followed from the remains of surviving, probably rather sporadic settlement of the Maďarovce culture. Those inhabitants were able to use geographical and climatic conditions of the environment for economic purposes. In the case of the Otomani culture, they might have been forced to do it because of the extinction of the Otomani settlement in eastern Slovakia (expressions of the Otomani culture are recorded in the southern territories of Slovakia in that period). In further development, these disparate elements created foundation of a new cultural entity.

As early as the late stage of the Middle Bronze Age (BC), the Lusatian culture expanded to the Turiec basin. It has not been documented by finds whether the settlement moved further to the region of Orava in that period. Nevertheless, in the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (BD), the Lusatian culture in Slovakia had enough inner power to expand its life space. In that period, the Lusatian settlement moves southwards and south-westwards along the streams of the Turiec, Hron, Nitra and Váh and their tributaries. Westwards, it crosses the Vlársky priesmyk pass in the Biele Karpaty mountains and it participates in creation of a small settlement enclave in eastern Moravia, which was gradually settled also by settlers from the Moravian Lusatian area (Dohnal 2018, 79). Burial grounds from the Vlára river territory show affiliation to the Slovak Lusatian

environment with their finds and in that period, burying starts at some of them (Dohnal 1977, 8–10). Their association with the settlement in region of Považie was assumed by J. Nekvasil (1977, 63).

The advance of the Lusatian culture southwards along the Váh river valley was stopped in the area between Nové Mesto nad Váhom and Piešťany, in the Nitra river valley in the area between Partizánske and Topoľčany. In both valleys, the reason was the settlement area of the Middle Danube Urnfields, which reached the largest territorial extension in southwestern Slovakia in that period (BD/HA1). A kind of a mixed settlement zone was created in the above-mentioned territories. In Pohronie region, the Lusatian culture moved from the territory of Zvolen, where it got in contact with the environment of the ending Piliny culture. Several finds document that the Zvolenská kotlina basin was settled by the Piliny culture people in the end of the Middle and the beginning of the Late Bronze ages (BC/BD; Zachar/Malček 2011, 36, 37). A mixed zone similar to the ones in regions of Považie and Ponitrie was created for a short time also in the territory of Zvolen. However, in the course of HA, the area of Zvolen was probably definitely ruled by the Lusatian culture. From Zvolen, the Lusatian culture advanced westwards and southwards along the Hron river valley (Žiar nad Hronom) and eastwards up the Slatina river stream (Detva). Although we cannot evaluate the course of the Lusatian expansion in the Late Bronze Age from the original Liptov settlement area eastwards to the territory of Spiš by our current knowledge, it is suggested by finds (Miroššayová 1976; Novotná 2003, 57–59; Soják/Soják/Suchý 2004). It probably did not reach the intensity of other above-described directions.

Further expansion of the Lusatian culture's settlement area southwards occurred in the end of the Late Bronze Age and the beginning of the Final Bronze Age (HA2/HB1). Very important changes preceded the movement of the Lusatian settlement southwards in the lowland area of southwestern Slovakia. In the end of the Late Bronze Age, the compact settlement of the Middle Danube Urnfields in this territory becomes extinct. This extinction had started in the course of stage HA1, when probably part of the tribes from the Nitra's lower stream, the Žitava and Hron rivers and possibly from the western part of the Podunajská nížina lowland moved southwards as part of the Great Migration (Furmánek/Veliačik/Vladár 1991, 126, 127; Paulík 1974, 75–77). The free area was settled by the people of the Velatice culture, which was smoothly transformed into a new cultural quality – the Podolie culture.

The entire central part of the Podunajská nížina lowland remained unsettled in the end of the Late

Bronze Age. Settlement of the Middle Danube Urnfields is detected in that period in the south of the Podunajská nížina lowland only on the edges of the former settlement area between the lower streams of the Žitava, Nitra and Hron, in the area of Bratislava and part of the Záhorská nížina basin and on the northern side of the Podunajská nížina lowland. It ends on the southern slopes of the Štiavnicke pohorie mountains, Pohronský Inovec and Tribeč mountain ranges. Causes of this situation are sought in the climate changes (lack of precipitations), which caused the change of the territory into a step in the Late Bronze Age (*Romsauer/Veliačik 1987, 303*). These circumstances, together with the growing number of Lusatian sites (and also members of Lusatian communities) in the northern regions led to more expansive advance of the Lusatian culture southwards in the end of the Late and the beginning of the Final Bronze Age along the Váh river as far as the territory of Trnava, along the Nitra river to the region of Nitra and to the upper Žitava river – the region of Zlaté Moravce. Like in the territory of the Štiavnické pohorie mountains, Lusatian culture overlaps the dying remains of the settlement of the Podolie culture in this area (Nitra-Mlynárce, Žitavany-Kňažice, Sitno).

The greatest territorial extent in southwester Slovakia is reached by the Lusatian settlement in the first half of the Final Bronze Age, when we find sites also rather deep below the border of mountains (*Romsauer 1986, 174, tab. 10; Romsauer/Veliačik 1987*). Manifestations of the Lusatian settlement gradually disappear in this territory in the end of the early stage of the Final Bronze Age (*Furmánek/Veliačik/Vladár 1991, 134*). In SW Slovakia, it is associated – apart from the internal situation in the Lusatian society – with the arrival of the Mezőcsát nomadic group, whose burials are detected in the former settlement area of the Middle Danube Urnfields in the end of the Final Bronze Age (*Romsauer 1998*). However, these groups of riders did not expand significantly further to the north into the areas of the Lusatian settlement, whose further development is associated with the situation in the following Early Iron Age.

The Hallstatt is the period of gradual extinction of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. While the Lusatian culture in the Final Bronze Age in its settlement area in Slovakia was expressed in material elements (pottery, etc.) more or less identically, the situation is different in the Hallstatt. Disintegration of the unity in the development of the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia in that period was recorded by *L. Veliačik (1988, 241)*, who explained it by local conditions or isolation of settled basins (*Veliačik 1989, 161*).

Thanks to numerous researches and surveys, we can suppose that the development of the Lusatian culture in the Hallstatt period in the territories of Orava (*Čaplovič 1987*) and Žilina (*Moravčík 1981, 180, 181*) was fluent. Certain cultural enclosure of the region and surviving traditions of the Final Bronze Age can be observed in Orava and the adjacent part of Považie region (*Benediková 2004, 93*). Manifestations of relations with southern cultural areas are typical for the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia mainly in later stages of its historical development. In the above-mentioned mountainous regions, loosening traditions and contacts with southern as well as adjacent northern Polish environment are expressed mainly in the later period of the Hallstatt (*Benediková 2004, 112*). In the territory of northern Slovakia, the Lusatian culture survives until the end of the Hallstatt period and its fading settlement participated in creation of the foundation for the newly occurring Púchov culture of the La Tène period (*Pieta 1982, 150–153; 2008, 32*).

Development of the Lusatian culture in stage HC in the mountain areas of northern and central Slovakia in Považie region (*Benediková 2014, 28*), upper Ponitrie region (*Andreánska 2016*) and Pohronie region (*Kvietok 2014*) probably continued fluently. In the Hallstatt period, contacts with the east Hallstatt territory and Moravian Lusatian environment are expressed in this Lusatian area (*Benediková 2016, 67*). Expressions of those influences led to distinguished regional groups of the Lusatian culture in northern Slovakia in the Hallstatt period (*Benediková 2017, fig. 1*), similarly to expressions of mixed settlement in the border zone of the Lusatian, Podolie and Kyjatice cultures leading to attempts to distinguish the Zvolen (*Bátora 1979*) and Banská Štiavnica (*Labuda 1981*) groups on the southern border of the Lusatian settlement in the Final Bronze Age. In both cases, I consider such detailed geographical division of the Lusatian settlement insufficiently documented so far, but we can assume it and further investigations (mainly in regions further to the north) will probably allow it. Although most of Lusatian burial grounds are not used any more in this period, settlement continues. We don't know yet what caused burials to stop and we don't have any information about intensity of the settlement either. It might be an expression of insufficient archaeological research in the studied regions. Partial population weakening might have been caused by departure of part of the population further to the south in the first half of the Final Bronze Age (*Benediková/Katkinová/Budinský-Krička 2016, 336*). The above-mentioned settlement areas in the Hallstatt period were not under such extreme expansive pressure as the southwestern part of Slovakia. They were partly

protected by their geographical location, but mainly by numerous massively fortified hillforts (*Veliačik* 1989, 161). Construction of hillforts of various types has been documented in the territory of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia from the Final Bronze Age to the Late Hallstatt period. There have been constant disputes in literature about the reasons leading to construction of such large buildings and their classification from the aspects of chronology and purpose (*Veliačik* 2004, 70, 71). Nevertheless, I consider them evidence of existence of numerous farming settlements in the studied region, although they have not been sufficiently detected by excavations. Most of the hillforts (each?) must have had its economic background which allowed their existence (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2011).

Arrival of the Mezőcsát nomadic group in the Final Bronze Age was a severe interference with the Lusatian settlement in the southern parts of southwestern Slovakia. Its presence is documented by finds of inhumation burials, which – apart from typical metal inventory – included pottery related to various contemporary cultures (Ivanka pri Nitre, Maňa, Senica, Želiezovce, etc.), as the Mezőcsát group in southwestern Slovakia did not have its own pottery. We do not know its settlements reliably. The targets of such eastern, basically predatory nomadic groups were mainly economically developed and socially organized territories (*Romsauer* 1998, 96). Southern parts of southwestern Slovakia with insufficiently established Lusatian settlement were probably not such territories in the second half of the Final Bronze Age. The importance of the Mezőcsát nomadic group for further development of the Lusatian settlement in this territory lay mainly in slowing the dynamics of this settlement. It might have had influence in the early period of Hallstatt (HC), when settlement of the Kalenderberg (East Hallstatt) culture expanded in this region (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 84). Naturally, the influence of the Mezőcsát group on settlement of southwestern Slovakia in the end of the Final Bronze Age and in the beginning of the Hallstatt period (apart from construction of hillforts on the southern border of the Lusatian territory) will be specified by further research. The Kalenderberg culture gradually occupied the flat areas in southwestern Slovakia and overlapped the original Lusatian settlement (*Romsauer* 1986, 175). As suggested by results of excavations at the settlements in Nová Ves nad Žitavou (*Kujovský* 2012) or Čierne Kľačany (*Cheben/Chebenová/Cheben* 2016), the Lusatian part of the population probably adopted the new Hallstatt habit and partly participated in it. In that period, the cultural expression at fortified settlement changes as well (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2017, 393). In general, large amphoras are considered

expressions of the Lusatian part of settlement in the environment of the Kalenderberg culture in southwestern Slovakia (*Romsauer* 1993, 17; *Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 76). The “Lusatian” settlement in southwestern Slovakia definitely demises by introduction of the Vekerzug culture in the later stage (HD) of the Hallstatt period.

GENESIS AND INTERNAL CHRONOLOGY

The beginning of the Middle Bronze Age belongs to the most complicated periods of Slovak prehistory. In that era, significant social changes occurred all over the Slovak territory and were reflected in the structure of settlement and its material expressions. On the one hand, the developed civilization of the Early Bronze Age disappears, on the other hand, settlement starting development for another millennium is created.

We consider the territory of Považie, from the Trenčianska kotlina basin to Liptov, to be the area of crystallization of the Lusatian culture. Groups of settlers bringing elements of the Tumulus culture expanded to the western part of the delimited area from central Moravia in stage BB2 (BC1) via the passes in the Biele Karpaty mountains. It is evidenced by finds from the older horizon of settlement of Trenčín-Istebník (*Kujovský* 2004) and Liptovský Michal (*Veliačik* 1982). From the east, groups of people from the demising Otomani culture's territory arrive. We probably cannot speak of expansion of the Otomani culture. It is rather advance of smaller groups which settle in previously less inhabited valleys of Považie region in the period of general disruption. Residues of their original Otomani environment are visible on the finds from the settlement in Liptovský Trnovec (*Przybyła/Beljak* 2010) and Liptovská Teplá (*Veliačik* 1988). Important elements of the occurring new cultural quality undoubtedly include remains of probably sporadically original settlement of the Maďarovce culture as well. This settlement process was not one-off, it took a long time. With regard to its components, it could not have started before stage BB2 (BC1). It can be seen as part of previous development. However, it can be also perceived as the period when foundations of a new cultural entity were built. The finds from stage II of the burial ground in Martin, which have the most similar dating, show signs of a fully-developed culture, i.e. completed crystallization process.

Several authors in the 20th century dealt with the topic of internal division of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. The currently most widely used clas-

sification in Slovakia was elaborated by L. Veliačik for the period between stage BC and the end of the Late Bronze Age (Veliačik 1983, 163–174). Authors of individual classifications did not agree on the stage (BC or BD?) since which finds can be considered Lusatian. In the territory of central Moravia, where – as we have already mentioned – an important impulse for the settlement in Považie region came from, excavations have brought a significant change in opinions in the last decades. The finds previously classified in the Proto-Lusatian horizon are now considered evidence of the Tumulus culture settlement (Stuchlík 2020; Stuchlík/Kolbinger 1993; Stuchlík/Šmíd 1997; Šabatová 2004; 2014; Štrof 1993; 1995). Existence of the separate Tumulus culture is assumed and accordance between the pottery of the Tumulus and Lusatian cultures are considered evidence of their common development (Stuchlík/Šmíd 1997, 250). The beginnings of the Lusatian culture in central Moravia are dated to stage BD with a transitional Tumulus-Lusatian horizon at the turn of stages BC/BD. Actually, defining a transitional horizon between a demising and occurring cultures (from the aspect of archaeology) is common in literature on archaeology (Otomani-Piliny, Tumulus-Lusatian, etc.). This article shall not discuss whether the settlement in the given period presents the final stage of development of the previous culture or the initial stage of development of a chronologically and geographically subsequent culture. Calling the chronological period between two clearly specified cultures a “transitional” stage expresses the fact that the development fluently continues – influenced by new impulses – by a new cultural entity which starts to show its own typical features. From this point of view, it is logical to consider the Lusatian culture in central Moravia directly evolved from the Tumulus culture. Attempts to unify the chronologies and terminologies in Moravia and Slovakia might have partly been the reason why settlement in northern Slovakia in the Middle Bronze Age is attributed to the Tumulus culture (Benkovský-Pivovarová 2018, 62; Gašpar 2018, 100). Typical expressions of the Lusatian culture would later occur suddenly and in a large territory (Gašpar 2018, 101).

Nevertheless, the situation in north-western and northern Slovakia in the Middle Bronze Age is different. We do not assume that existence of typical expressions of the Lusatian culture is a result of a sudden cultural “leap”. On the contrary, we suppose that they were preceded by long and complex development in the particular geographical environment. There are definitely more of such crystallization territories, when speaking of a culture like the one of Lusatia. Central Moravia and northern Slovakia are geographically close regions and as-

sumed communication via the Vlársky priesmyk pass area (Dohnal 2018, 80) has been documented in other periods as well. The two territories must have influenced each other, but it does not mean that their development was necessarily identical.

We consider the developmental association of the sites of Trenčín-Istebník, Liptovský Trnovec, Liptovský Michal and Liptovská Teplá in Považie with the Tumulus and Lusatian cultures undisputable, although complexes of finds show features of a still non-homogenous environment. We do not think it is correct to call them Tumulus or Lusatian (or Otomani), despite some types of pottery brought by the colonists from their original territories. Only further development joins diverse elements and creates a new cultural quality. In our opinion, the chronologically subsequent finds from the burial grounds in Martin, Púchov and Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová dated to the Middle Bronze Age stage BC2 in the territory of northern Slovakia present the Lusatian cultural entity and its further evolution led to a significant expansion of the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia in stage BD.

Each culture must undergo a period of creation of its specific elements which make it distinct from the entities of its neighbouring settlement areas. This period, however, is part of its history and makes a starting point for further development of the culture. That is why we followed from the widely used classification elaborated by L. Veliačik in our internal division of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. Nevertheless, we perceive settlement from stage BB2 (BC1) as stage I of its historical development, although the finds from this period cannot be clearly identified as Lusatian. We might speak of a transitional “crystallization” stage of development. In specification of individual stages, we did not use names of “typical” sites. We do not think that this tradition – although widely used and still accepted – is good. Firstly, investigation brings more “typical and more typical” sites and, secondly, it often makes an impression that the site belongs to the relevant horizon, stage, etc. Occupancy of very few sites can be limited by one specific chronological horizon. Thus, we have chosen the more or less neutral word phase in terms of the historical development of settlement. As far as chronological classification is concerned, almost all previous classifications are chronologically attached to the currently historical (and adapted) Reinecke’s system. His names of development stages BA, BB, BC, etc. are generally used and chronologically understandable for all archaeologists, not only for those specializing in the relevant period and geographical territory.

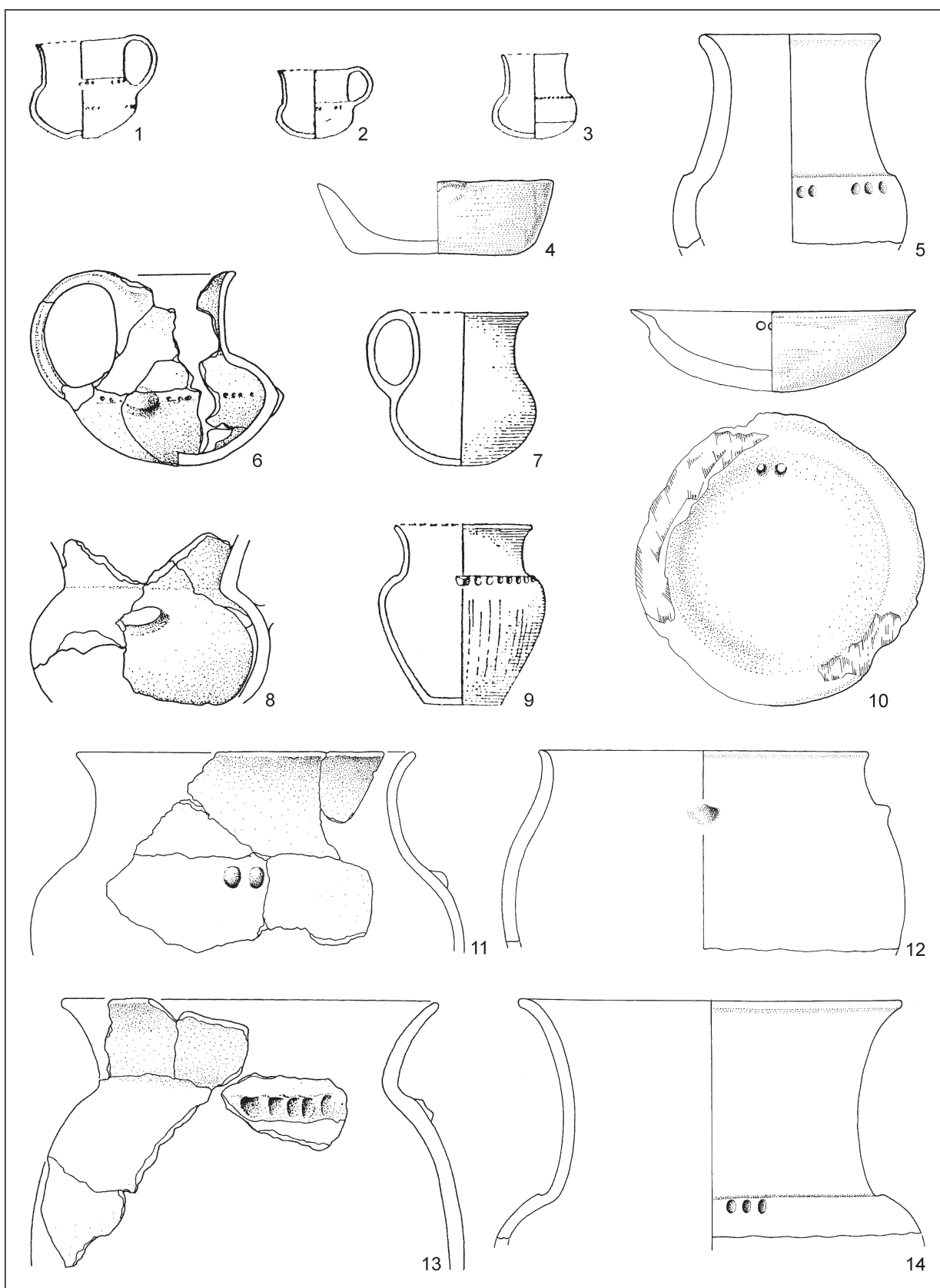


Fig. 1. Crystallization of Lusatian culture. Finds of phase I. 1, 2, 3 – Liptovský Michal (after Veličák 1982); 4, 5, 10, 12, 14 – Trenčín-Istebník (after Kujovský 2004); 6, 8, 11, 13 – Liptovský Trnovec (after Przybyła/Beljak 2010); 7, 9 – Liptovská Teplá (after Veličák 1988). Various scales.

CHARACTERIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT PHASES

Phase I [BB2 (BC1)] – Fig. 1

It is the period of crystallization of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia in Považie region. Components from three decisive cultural environments participated in creation of background for the Lusatian culture in Slovakia – mainly the colonizing settlement from the period of the forming Tumulus culture in the environment of central Moravia, disappearing settlement of the Maďarovce culture and colonizing settlement from the extinction horizon of the Otomani culture from the territory of eastern Slovakia. Our current knowledge is rather unilateral, as we only know about finds from settlements. As for the known sites, we can mention Liptovský Michal and Liptovská Teplá, relevant finds were detected also at the sites of Trenčín-Istebník and Liptovský Trnovec. Fading of this development can be observed also on the published older part of the burial ground in Martin (*Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972, pl. IX: 6; XII: 6). Insufficient cultural homogeneity occurs not only between individual sites but also within individual assemblages of finds in that period. This is typical for the period of occurrence of a new cultural quality. Pottery shows relation to the original settlement areas.

Small jugs from the Early Bronze Age, the shape fluently continuing its development in the newly created cultures of the Middle Bronze Age, were found at all four above mentioned sites. Finds of small jugs from Liptovský Michal (Fig. 1: 1–3; *Veliačik* 1982, fig. 2: 1–3), Liptovská Teplá (Fig. 1: 7; *Veliačik* 1988, fig. 2: 11, 14), Liptovský Trnovec (Fig. 1: 8; *Przybyła/Beljak* 2010, fig. 18: 7), Trenčín-Istebník (Fig. 1: 5, 14; *Kujovský* 2004, fig. 1: 1; 3: 1) follow from the environment of the Tumulus culture. The jug from feature 95 from Liptovský Trnovec (Fig. 1: 6; *Przybyła/Beljak* 2010, fig. 14: 2) follows from the traditions of the Otomani culture. Small protuberances or impressed circular spots encircled with a circle of fine incisions occur on rather rare sherds from amphoras. This decorative motif occurs also in the environments of the Otomani culture, the Carpathian Tumulus culture in Slovakia and the Middle Danube Tumulus culture in central Moravia. The Lusatian culture adopted it and it occurs on Lusatian pottery in its later stages. Pots are mostly S-profiled, without handles. They are usually decorated with protuberances, plastic horizontal pressed tapes on the shoulders (Fig. 1: 9, 11–13; *Kujovský* 2004, fig. 1: 8; *Przybyła/Beljak* 2010, fig. 21: 4; 27: 1, 5;

Veliačik 1988, fig. 2: 25). Roughing or strawing of the lower parts of pots and bodies of thick-walled storage vessels is common in this period. As for bowls, mainly the shallow shape of a bowl with everted rim resembling a plate is interesting (Fig. 1: 10). Such plate-shaped bowls were detected in Liptovská Teplá (*Veliačik* 1989, 153) and Trenčín-Istebník (*Kujovský* 2004, fig. 3: 2) as well as the Tumulus environment in Moravia (*Spurný* 1954, 372).

So-called tub-shaped vessels are a specific pottery shape whose occurrence is probably limited to this stage of development. They are roughly finished, elongated, narrow and low shapes of bowl-shaped vessels. Tub-shaped vessels have only been discovered at the settlement in Trenčín-Istebník (Fig. 1: 4; *Kujovský* 2004, fig. 2: 1), but their occurrence has been documented also in the contemporary environment of the Tumulus culture in Moravia, e.g. at the sites of Uherský Brod (*Hrubý* 1958, fig. 7: 17, 18) and Kroměříž-Hradisko (*Spurný* 1972, fig. 1: 1; 2: 3). Information on the content of phase I BB2 (BC1) is complemented by rather specific information from the research of the settlement in Trenčín-Istebník. In the older layer of settlement at this site, loosely scattered fragments of human bones were found together with animal bones. Anthropological analysis discovered traces of boiling or gnawing on the human bones (*Jakab/Kujovský* 1999).

Phase II (BC)² – Fig. 2

In this period, the Lusatian culture in Slovakia is expressed as a specific group of relics with specific elements. *L. Veliačik* (1983, 167) elaborated the material content based on finds from stage II at the burial ground in Martin and in Púchov. We currently do not know about settlements from stage II. Large vases with tall conical or cylindrical necks, wide rounded bellies and bent lower parts are the most significant pottery shape. There are short horizontal tapes on the belly, sometimes combined with vertical handles (Fig. 2: 4, 11, 12). Classification of these vessels in stage BC is supported by their common occurrence with fibulae with profiled heads terminated with knobs (Fig. 2: 7, 8; *Novotná* 1980, 89, 90) in Martin (burial 80; *Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972, pl. VII) or their common occurrence with profiled bowls on hollow stems (Fig. 2: 6, 10) and fibulae with disc-shaped heads (Fig. 2: 9; *Novotná* 1980, 90–93) in Martin (burial 120; *Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972, pl. XII). As for some shapes – the vessel with a conical neck from burial 107 or small jugs from burials 128 and 135 in Martin – they might show the fading

² Stage BC2. Stage/horizon Martin in the classification by *L. Veliačik*.

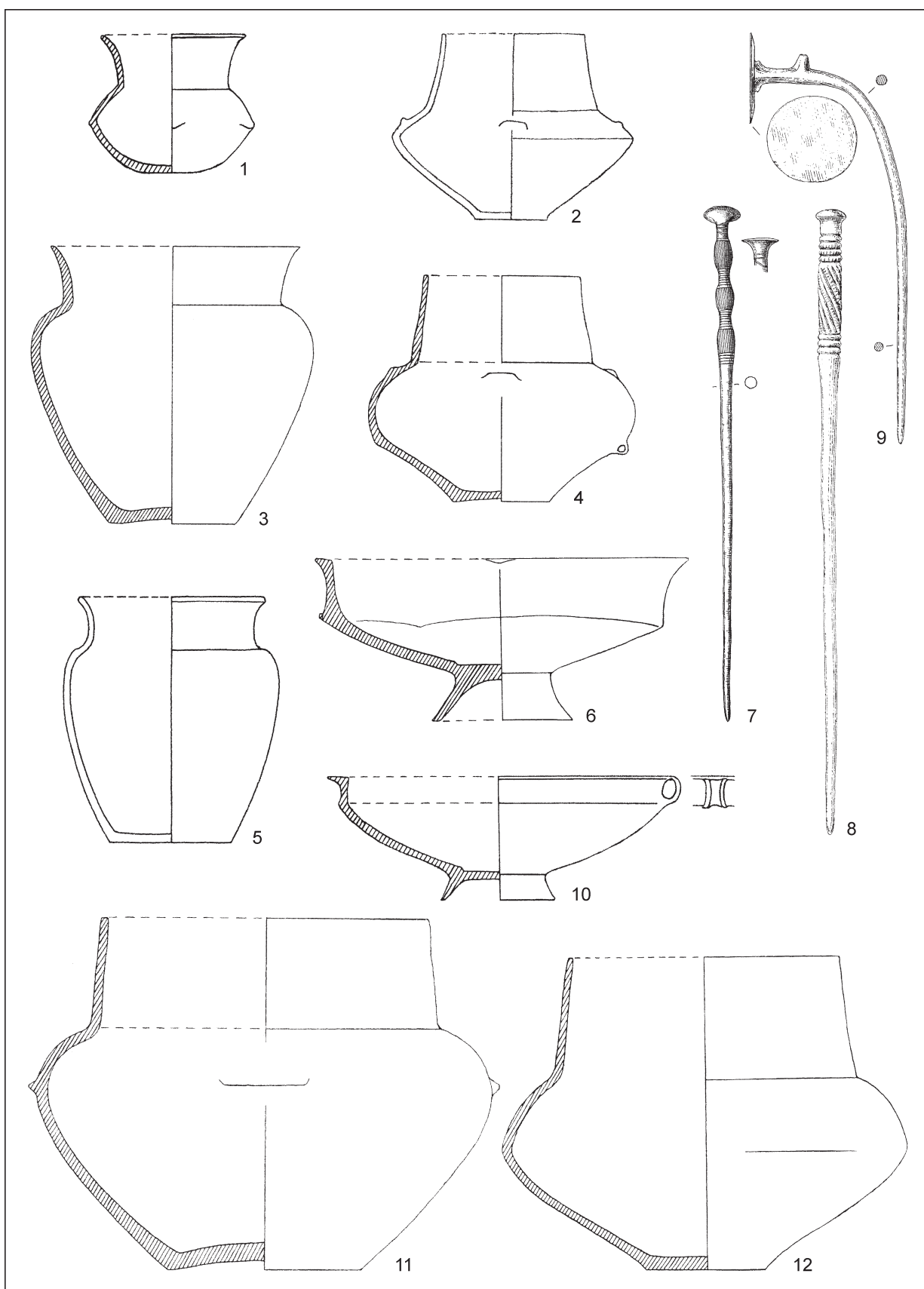


Fig. 2. Lusatian culture. Finds of phases II, III. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8–12 – Martin (after *Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972); 2, 7 – Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová (after *Veličik* 1975); 5 – Púchov (after *Veličik* 1983). Various scales.

influence of the Tumulus cultures. Pottery shapes of this stage are complemented with profiled bowls and handleless pots with S-shaped profiles (Fig. 2: 3, 5), whose occurrence continues with minimum changes in the following stages.

Cremation was the exclusively used burial rite. In most burials, cremated remains of dead bodies were deposited in urns (usually in a vase with a tall conical or cylindrical neck which was covered with a profiled bowl, sometimes in a pot). However, pit burials were also discovered (*Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972, 269). They are usually flat, but hollow and narrow circular ditches were detected around several burials, which is generally considered a sign of existence of an earthen mound – a tumulus above the burial (burial 120 and burial 133 in Martin).

No bronze depots are known from this stage, which is probably associated with the standard and extent of bronze processing. In this aspect, the Lusatian culture in Slovakia reached considerable development as late as its later stages.

Phase III (BC/BD)³

The transitional character of this period was noticed by Z. Benkovská-Pivovarová during evaluation of finds from the burial ground in Martin. She perceived the third stage of the Martin burial ground dated to the turn of stages BC/BD as a connection between the finds from stage BC and the finds dated to stage BD (*Benkovská-Pivovarová* 1972, 287, 288). This brief statement excellently describes the character of phase III (BC/BD). Following from the excavation of the burial ground in Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová, it was adopted also by L. Veliačik (only in the context of settlement by the Lusatian culture) who elaborated the content of the transitional phase/horizon Liptovský Mikuláš-Ondrašová (*Veliačik* 1983, 168). Naturally, a period of common occurrence of older as well as younger expressions exists between each pair of subsequent phases of cultural development. However, it is not always necessary to create an independent inter-stage. In this case, it was defined not only because of material expressions of the Lusatian culture, but mainly effort to emphasize fluency of cultural development.

The material content of Phase III (BC/BD) does not provide a homogenous picture. Some finds show association with the previous phase II (BC). Occurrence of profiled bowls and S-profiled handleless pots with funnel-shaped necks continues.

Occurrence of profiled bowls on hollow stems fades. There are still large vases with conical necks, but some shapes show tendency to use sharp bents on the belly and inversion of the lower body, which is included in the features of these vases mainly in the following Phase IV (BD).

Besides burying in flat cremation burials, tumuli encircled by distinct rings of stones start to occur (Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová). Large vases, exceptionally pots, were used as urns most frequently.

Occurrence of fibulae with disc-shaped heads and bent necks fades and fibulae with globular heads and thickened necks start to appear (Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová, Nemšová-Luborča, Martin). Although occurrence of bronzes among grave goods increased (Liptovský Mikuláš-Liptovská Ondrašová), we have not recorded bronze depots from this stage of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia.

Phase IV (BD–HA1)⁴ – Fig. 3

In the course of phase IV (BD–HA1), the Lusatian culture in Slovakia reaches its geographical as well as demographical prime. The number of sites (burial grounds and settlements) increased significantly and not only the Váh river valley, but also the valleys of its tributaries are settled. The increase in economic and human sources allowed the Lusatian culture to move the borders of its settlement area in the west partly to eastern Moravia (Vlářský priesmyk pass), in the south along the Váh river (Piešťany territory), the Nitra river (territory of Topoľčany), the Hron river (the area between Zvolen and Žiar nad Hronom), in the east (part of Spiš region) and in the north (Orava and probably also Kysuce region). The territory of the Lusatian culture gradually becomes the most dynamically evolving settlement territory of Slovakia. Expansion of the Lusatian settlement is visible in all its expressions.

Although large vases with conical necks (Fig. 3: 16) are still frequently represented among the pottery shapes, they are not predominant any longer. They are gradually replaced by new shapes in the function of urns. Large biconical vessels start to occur (Fig. 3: 21, 24; Krásna Ves, Mikušovce, Trenčianske Teplice, etc.) and, most importantly, amphoras become more frequent.

Since stage BD, amphora is the most significant part of pottery inventory of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. It occurs in two variants. In the first

³ Turn of stages BC/BD. Phase/horizon Liptovský Mikuláš-Ondrašová in the classification by L. Veliačik.

⁴ Stage BD and beginning of stage HA1. Phase/horizon Mikušovce in the classification by L. Veliačik.

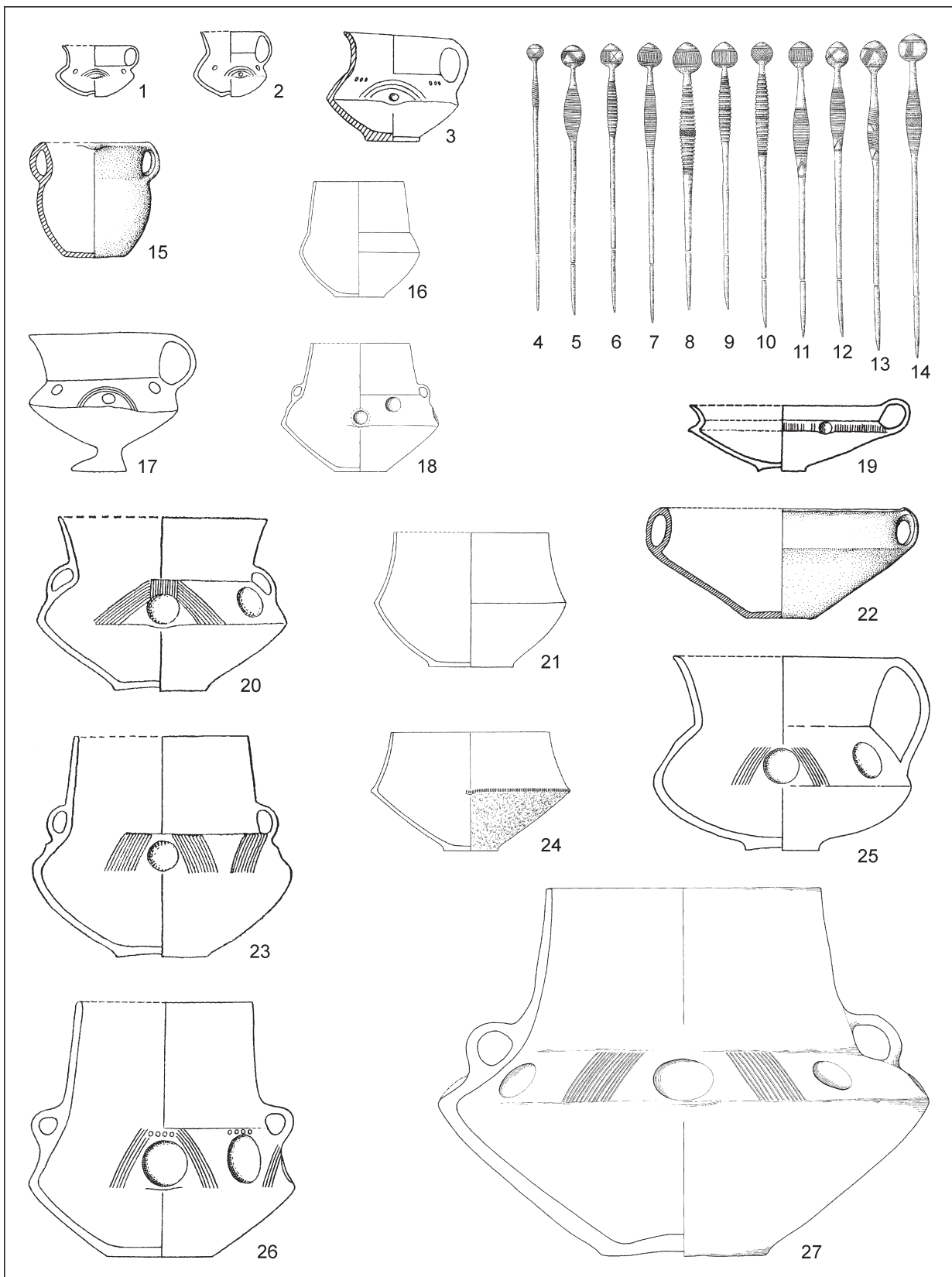


Fig. 3. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase IV. 1, 2, 17 – Belá; 3 – Martin (after Benkovská-Pivovarová 1972); 4–14 – Nová Lehota; 15, 22 – Krásna Ves (after Budinský-Krička/Veličik 1986); 16 – Mikušovce; 18 – Trenčianske Teplice; 19, 26 – Beluša; 20 – Partizánske; 21 – Trenčianske Teplice; 23 – Kotešová; 24 – Mikušovce (21, 24 after Pivovarová 1965); 25 – Malé Kršteňany (1, 2, 4–14, 16–20, 23, 26 after Veličik 1983); 27 – Dolný Kubín (after Cheben/Vojteček 2011). Various scales.

one, amphora has a tall conical neck and flat rim, two handles connect the lower part of the neck and the shoulder of the vessel, which is almost a rule with amphoras of the Lusatian culture (Fig. 3: 23, 26, 27). This amphora shape is wide-spread within the whole territory of the Lusatian cultural complex and it is probably a result of the fluent development of the Lusatian pottery. The second variant is specific for the Slovak Lusatian territory. They are vessels with sharply offset funnel-shaped necks and flat rims. Handles connect the lower part of the neck and the shoulder of a vessel (Fig. 3: 20). The amphora shape with funnel-shaped neck is usually associated with influences from the territory of the Carpathian basin. In Slovakia, "sharp" profiles of amphoras with cants on bellies is typical of both variants in phase IV (BD–HA1). Amphoras can be undecorated, but the surface of shoulders is often used for ornamentation. Basic decorative elements include impressed dimples and bands of oblique grooves. The decorative motif composed of impressions and sharp profiles is chronologically significant and classifies the vessel in phase IV (BD–HA1). We discover them at burial grounds (Beluša-Pechová, Mikušovce-Nivky, Partizánske-Šimonovany, Trenčianske Teplice, etc.) as well as settlements (Dolný Kubín-Ožnica, Partizánske-ZDA, etc.). Occurrence of jugs ends in this phase (Fig. 3: 1–3, 17; they are exceptional in further periods). They are gradually replaced by sharply profiled cups (Fig. 3: 19). Large jugs are rather rare (Fig. 3: 25). Profiled bowls (Fig. 3: 22) and profiled handleless pots continue, occurrence of profiled double-handled pots with handles connecting rims and shoulders of vessels is more frequent (Fig. 3: 15).

Although research of settlements was carried out at considerably lower number of sites compared to burial grounds, we find the above-described pottery in stage IV (BD–HA1) also at settlements. First dwellings from this period have been studied. They are probably stake structures with wattle-and-daub walls (Visolaje) or sunken huts whose sunken parts of walls can be tiled with stone plates (Dolný Kubín-Ožnica). The dead were most often buried in flat urn or pit graves. Large tumuli with stone rings are the most remarkable manifestation of the burial rite in this period. They were probably partly simultaneously built with smaller tumuli with stone cases (Krásna Ves, Mikušovce, Trenčianska Teplá).

In phase IV (BD–HA1), metallurgy, which can be associated with production by the Lusatian population, starts to evolve. The most typical bronze artefact from phase IV (BD–HA1) is a large fibula with a globular head and thick neck decorated with an

engraved spiral (Fig. 3: 4–14; *Novotná 1980*, 107–110). They are found among grave goods from cremation burials (Krásna Ves, Mikušovce, Partizánske), in settlement features (Dolný Kubín-Ožnica) and mostly in depots. Numerous monotype depots of such large fibulae are concentrated mainly in the territory of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia (Nová Lehota, Ovčiarsko, Turčianske Teplice-Malá Vieska, etc.). They are important evidence of development of bronze metallurgy in the Lusatian culture's environment. Finds of such fibulae in the neighbouring cultural territories document busy exchange similarly to finds of bronze artefacts of the Piliny provenance in the Lusatian environment (Horná Štubňa). The extending contacts definitely contributed to development of the Lusatian society in Slovakia also in further stages.

Phase V (HA1)⁵ – Fig. 4

Stage HA1 is the period of fading elements from the previous phase and stabilization of settlement in the territory occupied by the Lusatian culture in the period of its first territorial expansion in phase IV (BD–HA1). Development is fluent, but the social changes which created the background for the boom in the end of the Late and the beginning of the Final Bronze Age start in this period. Appearance of new elements in pottery, burial rite, and the range of produced bronze artefacts is obvious. L. Veliačik discussed significant differences between finds from phase IV (BD–HA1) and phase V (HA1; *Veliačik 1983*, 170). Similar development in stage HA1 is observable also in the settlement territory of the Piliny culture, where it led to distinguishing of a new cultural entity – the Kyjatice culture (*Furmánek/Mitáš 2010*, 97).

The burial rite is still exclusively of the cremation type, with prevalence of flat burials. In phase V (HA1), occurrence of large tumuli with stone rings fades. Occurrence of relatively large tumuli with full stone covers, which were less frequently built also in the previous phase IV (BD–HA1; Krásna Ves, Mikušovce-Nivky, Sklabinský Podzámok) continues. Amphora is more frequently used as urn and becomes more significant among pottery shapes since this stage. Both variants of amphoras with two or four handles over the interface of body and neck (with conical as well as funnel-shaped necks) still occur. In decoration, grooves or bands of vertical grooves decorating shoulders of amphoras or vases are used. These decorative elements are sometimes interrupted with impressed dimples

⁵ Stage HA1. Phase/horizon Diviaky nad Nitricou I in the classification by L. Veliačik.

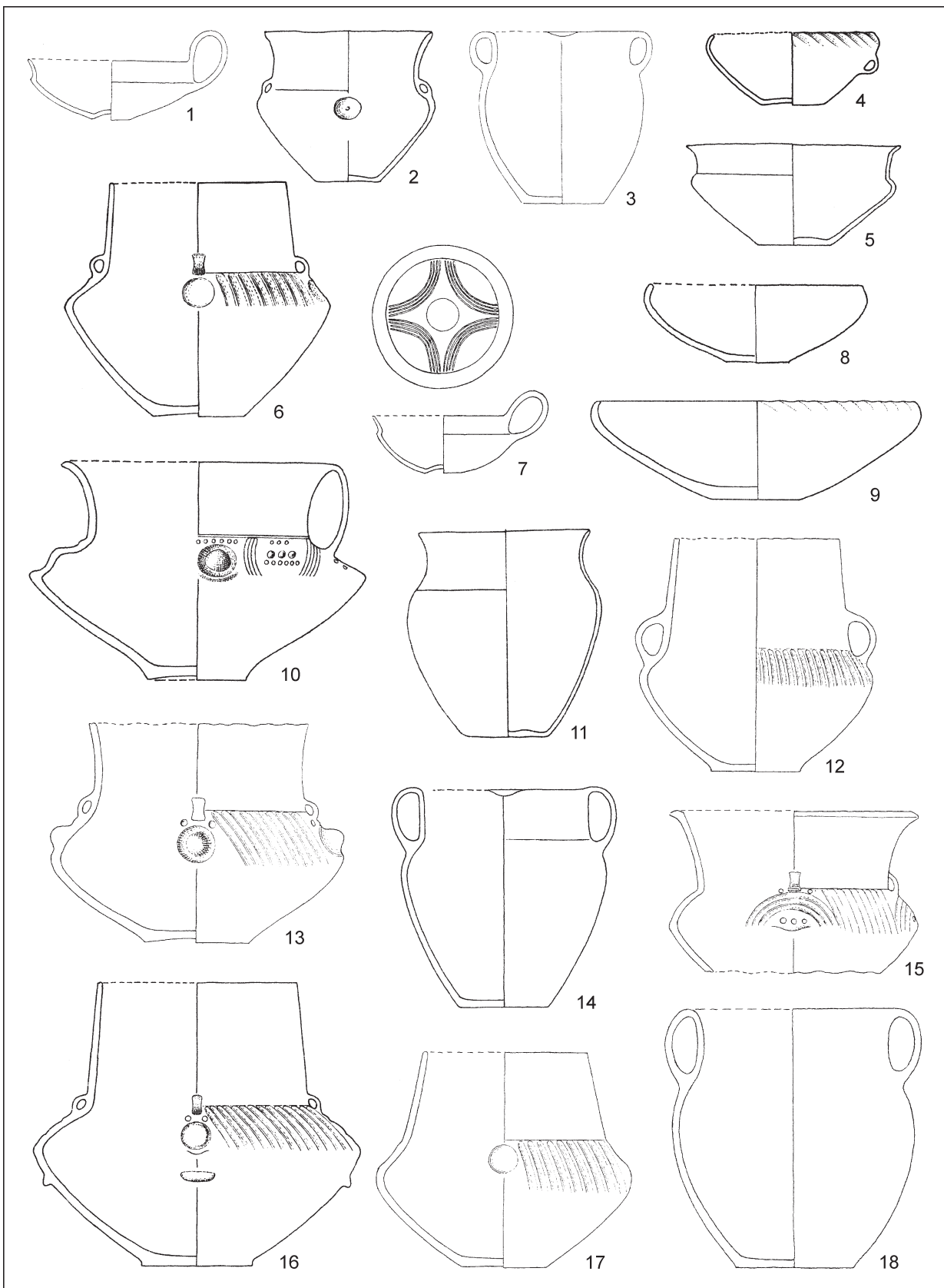


Fig. 4. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase V. 1, 3, 7, 12, 13, 15, 18 – Diviaky nad Nitricou (after *Veliačik* 1991); 2, 5, 11 – Háj (after *Hrubec/Kujovský* 1994); 4, 8, 9, 16 – Partizánske; 6, 17 – Prenčov; 10 – Beluša; 14 – Opatovce nad Nitrou (4, 6, 8–10, 14, 16, 17 after *Veliačik* 1983). Various scales.

which are later replaced by protuberances (Fig. 4: 2, 6, 12, 13, 15–17). The sharp profile of vessels becomes smoother. Engraved decoration survives only on smaller shapes. Dating of these vessels in phase V (HA1) is supported by their sporadically occurrence in the environment of the neighbouring Urnfield cultures, e.g. among the grave goods from the chieftain tumulus of the Velatice culture in Očkov (*Paulík 1962*, tab. VI: 2), which is only two kilometres far from the Lusatian settlement in the cadastral area of Pobedim. Frequent large sharply profiled vases with tall conical (cylindrical) necks disappear as well as large biconical vessels, which lose their sharp profiles in the following period and occur only rarely. Occurrence of large jugs with decoration including protuberances and grooves (Fig. 4: 10; Varín) is also scarce. In the course of phase V (HA1), conical bowls with inverted rims (Fig. 4: 4, 8, 9; Krásna Ves, Partizánske, Zvolen-Balkán, etc.) start to appear in the environment of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia. Profiled shallow cups with elevated handles are enriched with inside decoration of their bodies (Fig. 4: 7; typical motifs include rectangles of bands consisting of parallel grooves – so-called false garlands).

As for miniature bronze jewels among grave goods, fibulae with profiled heads and club-shaped fibulae are noteworthy (*Novotná 1980*, 139–144), but depots of bronze artefacts from the sites in Ivanovce, Martinček, Osádka, Žaškov and others belong to the same stage. In stage HA, production of bronze artefacts in the settlement territory of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia expands, which is shown also in the number of depots. Bronze swords are undoubtedly the most significant manufactured artefacts (*Novotná 2014*).

Phase VI (HA2)⁶ – Fig. 5

In stage HA2, the fluent development of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia continues. The number of sites in individual regions increases, but the pace of increase in density of settlement can only be assumed. Most sites were discovered during minor rescue excavations or field surveys and the timespan of their existence has not been documented sufficiently. The boom was probably not identically intense in all regions of the Lusatian culture.

Flat urn burials are still most frequent in the burial rite. Occurrence of relatively large tumuli (diameter of app. 2.5–5 m) with stone covers (Diviaky nad Nitricou, Krásna Ves, etc.) cease and

smaller covers of stones are used. Proportion of double-urn burials and the number of grave goods increases. Amphoras are most frequently used as urns. The variant with funnel-shaped neck probably disappears in phase VI (HA2), but amphoras with conical necks and flat or everted rims still occur. Decoration on shoulders of these vessels with bands of vertical flutings disintegrates into groups of grooves combined with protuberances and arcuate flutings. Profile and interface of the neck and body of amphora becomes smoother and is emphasized in the lower part of the neck with horizontal flutings (Fig. 5: 8, 9, 11, 13). Incidence of conical bowls with inverted rims (Fig. 5: 1, 3, 4; Háj, Partizánske, Zvolen-Balkán, etc.) and profiled cups with inner decoration including garlands consisting of bands of parallel grooves (Fig. 5: 7, 10) increases. S-profiled double-handled pots with handles starting on the rim or just below it (Fig. 5: 2) probably disappear. Minimally profiled pots with handles in the upper third are more common (Fig. 5: 5).

In the field of metallurgy of bronze and production of bronze artefacts, the Lusatian territory in Slovakia becomes dominant, which is the development commenced in the previous period (*Furmánek 1988*, 220, 221). It is documented by the relatively more frequent bronze artefacts among grave goods (small fibulae with globular, profiled, bowl-shaped heads, etc.), but mainly depots including artefacts using more material – swords, axes, sickles, fragments probably meant for secondary processing (Brvnište, Komjatná, Trenčianske Bohuslavice, Zvolen, etc.).

Phase VII (HA2–HB1)⁷ – Fig. 6

In the end of the Late and in the beginning of the Final Bronze Age, further extension of the Lusatian culture's settlement area in Slovakia occurs. Although we cannot exclude minor moves in other directions, the territorial expansion took place mostly southwards, in the territory of southwestern Slovakia to the emptied settlement area of the Middle Danube Urnfields. In the first half of the Final Bronze Age, the Lusatian culture in Slovakia reached its prime. We have data (*Veliačik/Romsauer 1994*) on the Lusatian settlement in the territory of Trnava (Abrahám, Budmerice, Dolné Lovčice, Majcichov, Šulekovo, etc.), in Ponitrie (Branč, Kolíňany, Nitra, Šurany, Veľký Lapáš, etc.), Požitavie (Bajč, Beladice, Zlaté Moravce, etc.), Pohronie (Horná Seč, Rybník, Šarovce, etc.) mainly from field surveys.

⁶ Stage HA2. Phase/horizon Diviaky nad Nitricou II in the classification by L. Veliačik.

⁷ End of stage HA2 to HB1.

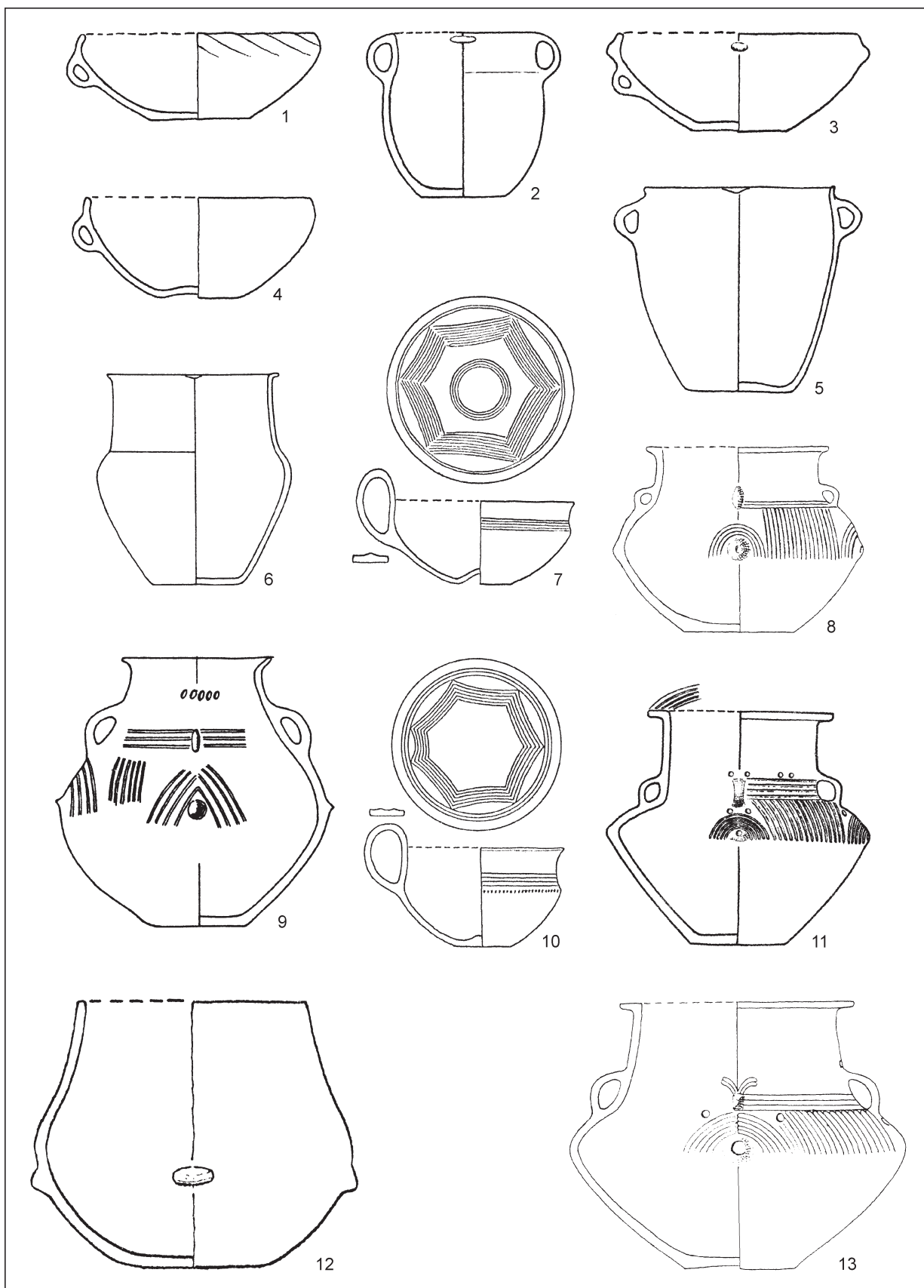


Fig. 5. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase VI. 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 12 – Žitavany-Křažice (after Kujovský 2018); 2, 11 – Partizánske (after Veličák 1983); 5, 6, 9 – Háj (after Hrubec/Kujovský 1994); 8, 13 – Diviaky nad Nitricou (after Veličák 1991). Various scales.

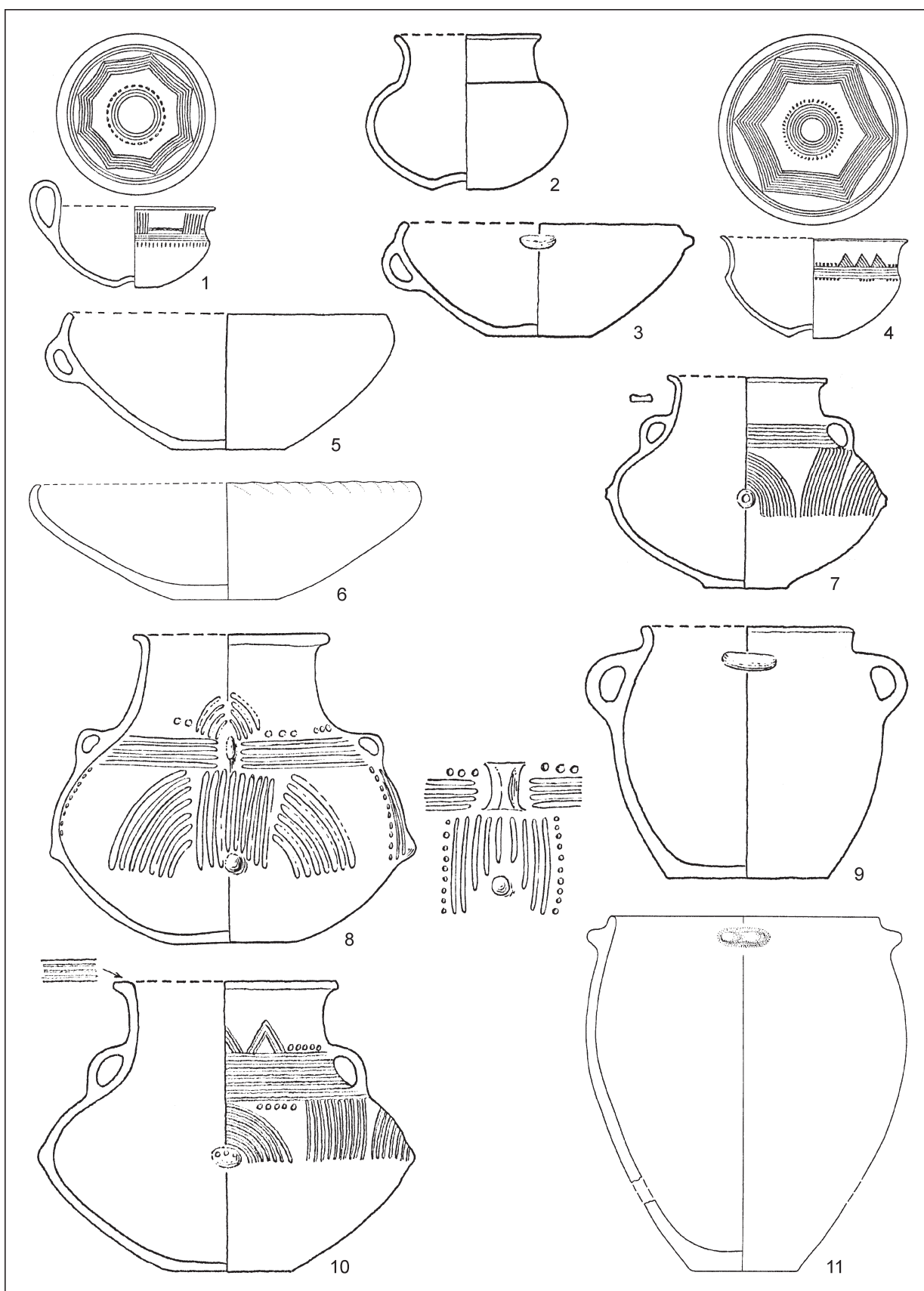


Fig. 6. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase VII. 1–11 – Žitavany-Kňažice (after *Kujovský 2018*). Various scales.

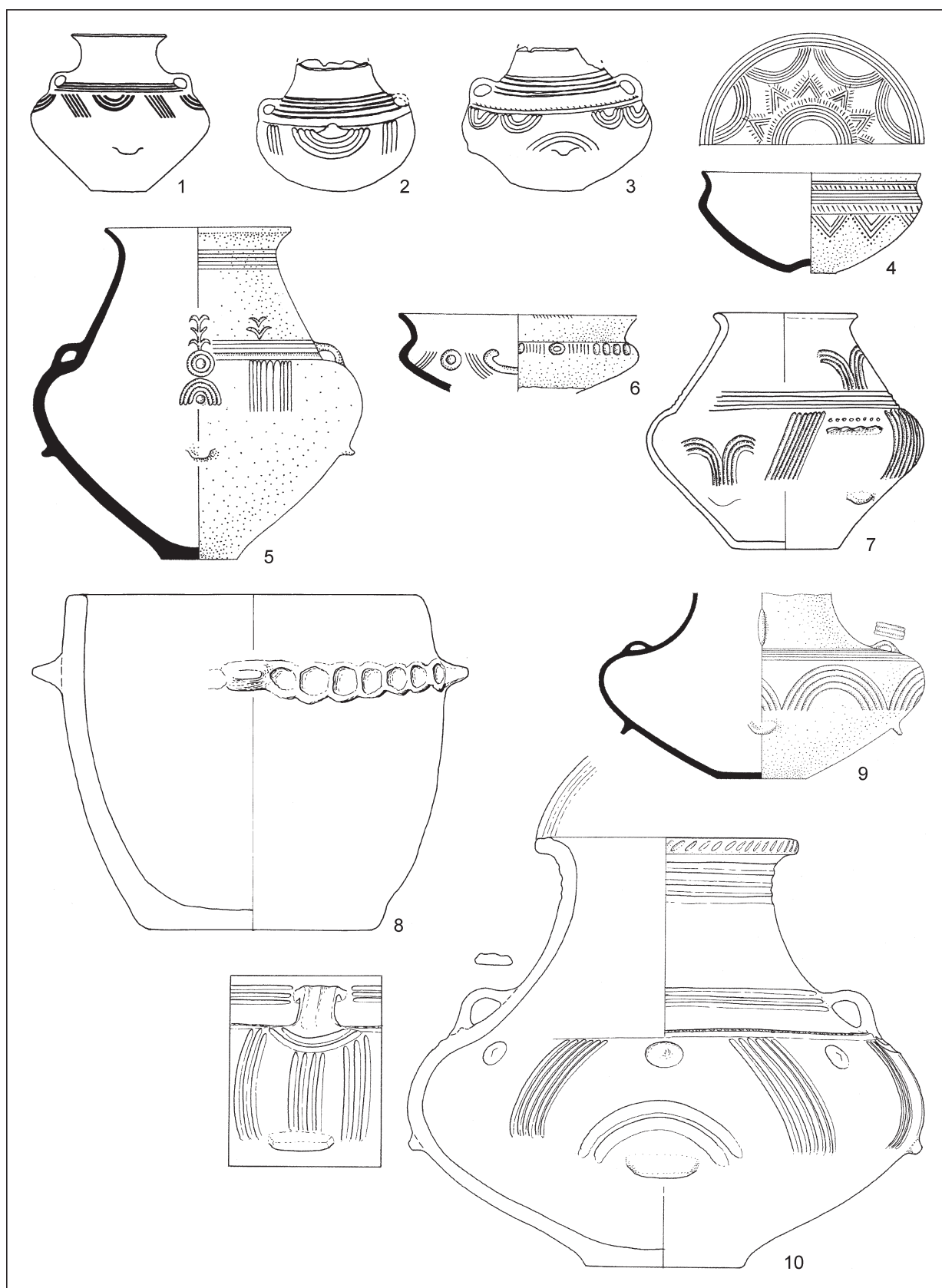


Fig. 7. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase VIII. 1 – Malé Kršteňany; 2, 3 – Nitra-Dražovce (1–3 after *Stegmann-Rajtár* 1994); 4, 5, 6, 9 – Pobedim (after *Studeníková/Paulík* 1983); 7 – Prašník (after *Novák* 2011); 8 – Zvolen (after *Balaša* 1964); 10 – Chrabrany. Various scales.

As suggested by the development in the second half of the Final Bronze Age, the Lusatian people did not create a stable settlement area with long-term settlement in the new territories.

Burying continues at most burial grounds used in stage HA. Urn burials are typical – they are often indicated with groups of stones. Burials of more important individuals were covered with small stone covers – small tumuli. The number of multi-urn burials increases. Some small stone tumuli or multi-urn burials can be – with regard to the number and composition of buried individuals – considered family tombs (Žitavany-Kňažice). Mainly amphoras and pots were used as urns. However, almost each pottery shaped was used as urn. Amphoras of the end of the Late Bronze Age are relatively slim and everted rim, angular on the inside, also occurs. In the course of phase VII (HA2–HB1), amphoras achieve more distinct horizontal dimension and their shoulders are often richly decorated with bands of flutings, dimples, breast-shaped protuberances, etc. (Fig. 6: 7, 8, 10). Conical bowls with inverted rims (Fig. 6: 3, 5, 6) and profiled cups with rich exterior and interior decoration (Fig. 6: 1, 4) appear. Multiple garlands of parallel grooves are a frequent decorative motif. In general, pots with two handles connecting the neck and the suggested shoulder of a vessel (Fig. 6: 9), but also fewer handleless pots with plastic protuberances below the rim (Fig. 6: 11) are used.

Distinct expression of contacts with the Middle Danube and South-eastern Urnfields is typical mostly for the southern parts of the Lusatian territory. It is obvious that in the regions of Nitra, Zlaté Moravce, in the Štiavnické vrchy hills, the Lusatian culture overlapped the disappearing original population. Culturally mixed burials at the burial grounds of phase VII (HA2–HB1; Nitra-Mlynárce, Žitavany-Kňažice) confirm symbiosis of their coexistence (Kujovský 2018).

In phase VII (HA2–HB1), construction of fortified upland settlements, i.e. hillforts, starts. Hillforts are being built in the whole territory of the Lusatian cultural complex in the Final Bronze Age, but their occurrence in Slovakia and Moravia is remarkable. Some of them must have played the role of guardians on trade routes (Detva-Kalamárka, Prašník-Hrádok, Vítkovce-Tureň, etc.), but most of them were probably built for economic, administrative and protective reasons. Their density is noteworthy. There are seven of them within an only 20 km long section of the Tribeč mountains (Romsauer 1998, 89, 90).

Phase VIII (HB2–HC)⁸ – Fig. 7

Later half of the Final Bronze Age meant – after the period of relative territorial expansion – withdrawal of the Lusatian settlement from the newly occupied territories. The gradual decline of the Lusatian settlement did not happen at the Podunajská nížina lowland alone. Burying ends at several burial grounds in phase VIII (HB2–HC). Such development was not identical in the whole territory of the Lusatian culture's expansion in Slovakia. There is still exclusively cremation burial rite and no significant changes have occurred in the burial design compared to the previous development phase. Flutings, engraved lines and small protuberances on the belly are used to decorate vessels (Fig. 7: 10). Bands of arcuate flutings hanging on horizontal decoration are a typical decorative motif on amphoras (Fig. 7: 1–3). Profiled cups have very rich decoration (Fig. 7: 4, 6). On the other hand, barrel-shaped pots are usually only very roughly shaped, with plastic protuberances or tapes below rims (Fig. 7: 8). In pottery, vertical dimension is gradually emphasized. Slim amphoras with tall conical necks and everted rims from the end of the Bronze Age resemble large vases of the Hallstatt period (Fig. 7: 5, 7). Production of bronze is probably reduced, although we have depots of bronze artefacts from phase VIII (HB2–HC; Liptovský Mikuláš–Liptovská Ondrašová, Sitno).

The reasons for the gradual extinction of the Lusatian culture in some regions of its original settlement area in the following Hallstatt period must be sought in the development of the Lusatian culture itself. Expansion of the Mezőcsát group into this territory in the Final Bronze Age is considered to be the reason behind the attenuation of the Lusatian settlement in the area of the Podunajská nížina lowland (Romsauer 1998, 90). Members of the nomadic Mezőcsát group in the area of the Urnfields of southwestern Slovakia are considerably different with their inhumation burials. In the Carpathian basin, we can preliminarily speak of two areas with numerous occurrences of relics of the Mezőcsát group. There is mainly north-eastern Hungary with remarkable concentration of sites and southwestern Slovakia. The number of Mezőcsát burials in Slovakia has increased in recent years by re-assessment of older finds (Dvorníky, Maňa, Senica) and discovery of new burials (Ivanka pri Nitre, Pata, Želiezovce). A typical feature of the Mezőcsát group is that it actually does not have its own typical pottery shapes, thus, we find pottery of the local cultures in its burials. Typical shapes of the Lusatian, Kyjatice

⁸ Stage HB2 to the beginning of HC.

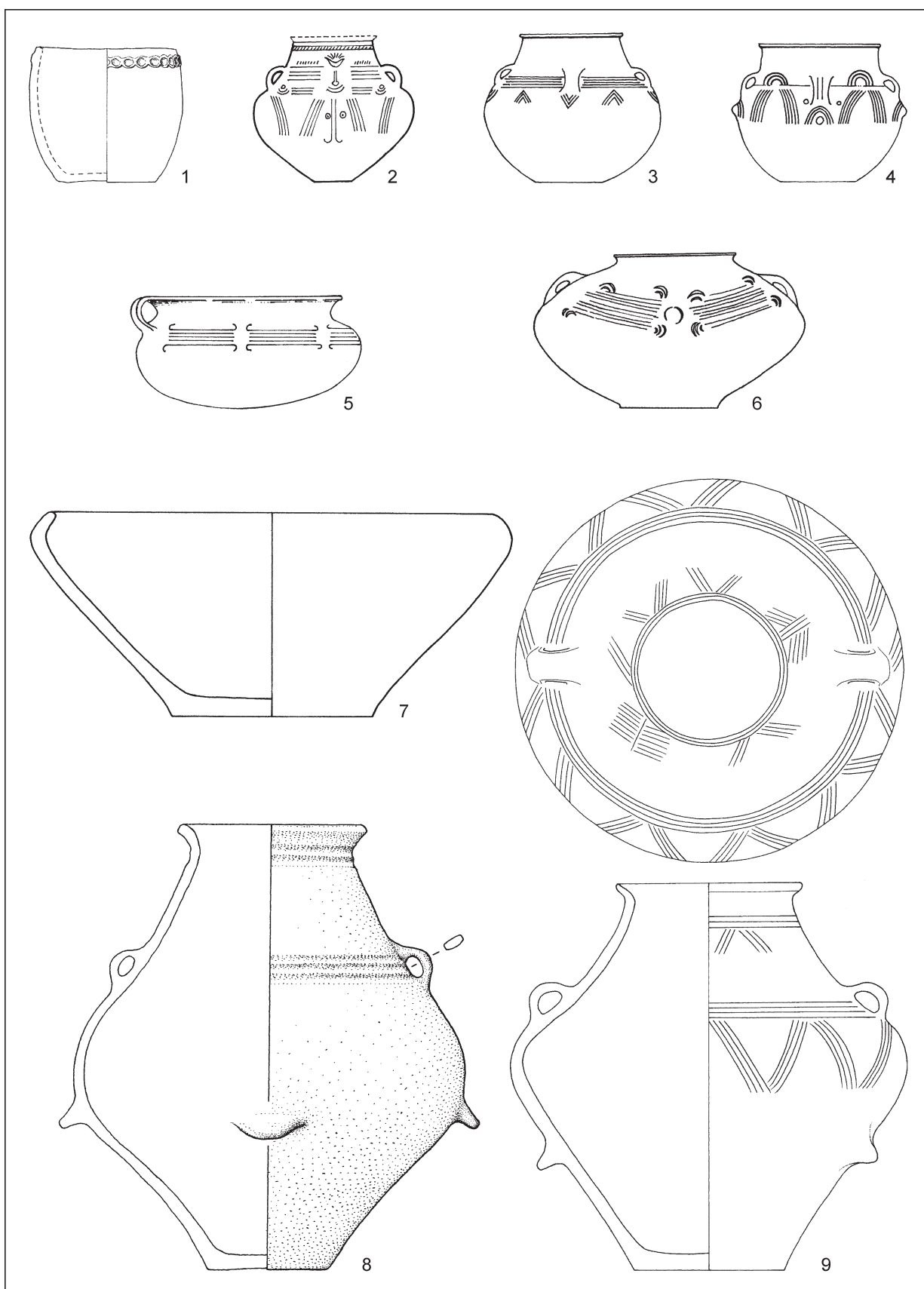


Fig. 8. Lusatian culture. Finds of phase IX. 1, 6 – Gbeřany (after Moravčík 1980); 2–5 – Dolný Kubín II (after Čaplovič 1987); 7, 9 – Nová Ves nad Žitavou (after Kujovský 2012); 8 – Nové Zámky (after Stegmann-Rajtár 2009). Various scales.

and Gáva cultures (Ivanka pri Nitre, Maňa, Senica) allow us to date these burials in stage HB2. We have not recorded any settlements of the Mezőcsát group in Slovakia. Surface survey and minor rescue researches detected settlement features in the Podunajská nížina lowland from phase VIII (HB2–HC) which we consider features of the Lusatian culture, since they contain Lusatian pottery. If we follow from the situation in inhumation burials, it is not necessarily true. Attack of these nomadic groups hit the southernmost settlement territory of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia destabilized and associating the extinction or weakening of the Lusatian settlement in this part of Slovakia in phase VIII (HB2–HC) with the arrival of the Mezőcsát group is probably legitimate. It is also obvious that the Mezőcsát group did not advance into the higher located Lusatian space more significantly. Thus, we can associate construction of hillforts of the Lusatian culture on the northern edge of the Podunajská nížina lowland in the end of the Bronze Age with this threat (Romsauer 1998, 90, 91).

Phase IX (HC–HD) – Fig. 8

I suppose that new investigations will allow further division of this phase. In the Hallstatt period, the unity of expression of the Lusatian settlement in Slovakia disintegrates. Fluent development continues in the region of Orava and the adjacent part of Považie (Čaplovič 1987; Moravčík 1981), according to traditions of the Final Bronze Age (Benediková 2004) with elements in pottery, burial rite typical of this territory. Short and more bulbous amphoras with two or four vertical handles richly decorated with flutings and engraved lines (Fig. 8: 2–4, 6) as well as cups with rounded bottoms and un-elevated vertical handle starting on the rim (Fig. 8: 5) are distinct pottery shapes. The above-mentioned settlement areas in the Hallstatt period were probably not under such extreme expansive pressure like southwestern Slovakia. They were partly protected by their geographical location as well as numerous massively fortified hillforts (Veličák 1989, 161). This allowed the Lusatian culture to survive until the end of the Hallstatt period and its demising settlement was probably part of the background for creation of the Púchov culture of the La Tène period in northern Slovakia in the following period (Pieta 1982, 150–153; 2008, 32).

In the territory of southwestern Slovakia, settlement of the East Hallstatt (Kalenderberg) culture is established in the end of the Bronze Age and the early stage of the Hallstatt period (HC; Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 84). The Kalenderberg culture gradually

occupied flat areas of southwestern Slovakia and overlapped the then original Lusatian settlement (Romsauer 1986, 175). Nevertheless, the development is not the same as in the beginning of the Final Bronze Age, when the Lusatian and Podolie cultures met. Bearers of both cultures then created mixed settlement of the region with typical expressions (at least in pottery, but not only in it). In the beginning of the Hallstatt period in this territory, the Lusatian part of the population probably adopted a new cultural habit and participated in it to some extent. It is documented by the results of the excavations at the settlements in Nová Ves nad Žitavou (Kujovský 2012) or Čierne Kľačany (Cheben/Chebenová/Cheben 2016), but also at hillforts (Smolenice-Molpír, Štitáre-Žibrica; Stegmann-Rajtár 2017, 393). Large amphoras are most often considered evidence of Lusatian expressions in the environment of the Kalenderberg culture in southwestern Slovakia (Romsauer 1993, 17; Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 76). A vessel from the settlement from Nová Ves nad Žitavou is a typical shape documenting such connection with the Lusatian culture (Fig. 8: 9). Its dating in stage HC is confirmed also by the find of a bow fibula from the same settlement (Novotná 2001, 64, pl. 31). Finds of such amphoras (Fig. 8: 8) are recorded at several sites of the Hallstatt settlement in southwestern Slovakia, but mainly at the hillfort of Smolenice-Molpír (Dušek/Dušek 1995). Occurrence of roughly thrown barrel-shaped pots with plastic protuberances or a plastic tape below the rim (Fig. 8: 1) and conical bowls with inverted rims (Fig. 8: 7) continues. The question is, whether we can still speak of the Lusatian culture in southwestern Slovakia in the end of the early stage of the Hallstatt period? Reminiscences of the Lusatian settlement in this part of Slovakia definitely disappear with the start of the Vekerzug culture in the later stage (HD) of the Hallstatt period.

Numerous expert studies deal with the Lusatian culture and it definitely belongs to the best studied cultures of Slovak prehistory. Despite that, field excavations bring new questions. Solving them will require attention of further generations of archaeologists. This does not apply only to the period of origin and demise of the Lusatian culture, but also to e.g. structure of settlement, remarkable number of hillforts, typology of settlements and settlement features, expressions of contacts with neighbouring European territories, etc., generally accepted significant production of bronze artefacts, which we dealt with only marginally and which is a great topic itself. The aim of these notes is to provide a review as we see it and allow easier orientation in the chronologically long period of development of the Lusatian culture in Slovakia.

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PhDr. Rudolf Kujovský, CSc.
Archeologický ústav SAV, v. v. i.
Akademická 2
SK – 949 21 Nitra
rudolf.kujovsky@savba.sk

Poznámky k vývoju lužickej kultúry na Slovensku

Rudolf Kujovský

SÚHRN

Lud lužickej kultúry osídľoval dlhé stáročia rozsiahlu časť územia dnešného Slovenska a preto pochopiteľne vyvolával záujem u mnohých archeológov. Narastajúce množstvo informácií viedlo prirodzene aj k zmenám názorov na vznik a vývoj lužickej kultúry na Slovensku. Predložený text je pokusom o stručný prehľad historického vývoja lužickej kultúry na vyššie zmienenom území na základe niektorých jeho prejavov.

V oblasti Považia, od Trenčianskej kotliny po Liptov, prebiehala v strednej dobe bronzovej kryštalizácia lužickej kultúry. Do západnej časti vymedzeného územia prenikali v období stupňa BB2 (BC1) priesmykmi Bielych Karpát zo strednej Moravy skupiny osadníkov, ktorí so sebou priniesli prvky mohylovej kultúry. Z východnej

strany prenikali do uvedeného priestoru skupiny obyvateľstva z oblasti doznievajúcej otomanskej kultúry. Zrejme nemožno hovoriť o expanzii otomanskej kultúry, ale skôr o postupe menších skupín, ktoré sa v období všeobecného rozvratu usadzuju v predtým menej osídlených údoliach Považia. Dôležitým prvkom vznikajúcej novej kultúrnej kvality boli nepochybne aj zvyšky, zrejme skôr sporadického, pôvodného osídlenia maďarovskej kultúry.

V priestore strednej Moravy – odkiaľ, ako sme už uviedli, prišiel zásadný impulz na vývoj osídlenia na Považí – priniesli výskumy v posledných desaťročiach závažnú zmenu názorov. Nálezy, predtým zaraďované do „protolužického horizontu“, sú dnes chápané ako doklad osídlenia mohylovou kultúrou. Počiatky lužickej

kultúry na strednej Morave sú datované do stupňa BD, s prechodným mohylovo-lužickým horizontom na prelome stupňov BC/BD. Označenie chronologického obdobia medzi dvomi jednoznačne špecifikovanými kultúrami za prechodné, vnímam ako vyjadrenie skutočnosti, že vývoj vplyvom nových impulzov plynule pokračuje k novej kultúrnej entite a tá sa postupne prejavuje svojimi vlastnými typickými prvkami. Snaha o zjednotenie chronológie a terminológie na Morave a na Slovensku sa možno čiastočne podieľa na pripísaní osídlenia severného Slovenska v strednej dobe bronzovej priamo mohylovej kultúre. Typické prejavy lužickej kultúry by sa potom objavili náhle a na veľkom území.

Na severozápadnom a severnom Slovensku v strednej dobe bronzovej však vnímame situáciu čiastočne inak. Nepredpokladáme, že existencia typických prejavov lužickej kultúry je výsledkom náhleho kultúrneho „skoku“. Naopak si myslíme, že k nim vedie dlhý a zložitý vývoj v konkrétnom geografickom prostredí. Takýchto kryštalizačných oblastí pri takej kultúre ako je lužická bolo samozrejme viac. Stredná Morava a severné Slovensko sú geograficky blízko a predpokladaná komunikácia prostredníctvom oblasti Vlárskoho priesmyku je doložená aj v iných obdobiach. Nepochybne sa obidve oblasti navzájom ovplyvňovali, ale to neznamená, že vývoj musel byť identický.

Vývojovú spojitost' lokalít Trenčín-Istebník, Liptovský Trnovec, Liptovský Michal a Liptovská Teplá z Považia s mohylovou a lužickou kultúrou považujeme za nespornú, aj keď nálezy celky vykazujú znaky kultúrne nehomogénneho prostredia. Nepovažujeme za správne ich označiť priamo znaky mohylovej kultúry, ale ani kultúry lužickej (alebo otomanskej), napriek niektorým typom keramiky, ktorých znalosť si už spomínaní kolonisti zo svojich pôvodných oblastí priniesli. Až ďalším vývojom dochádza k stmeleniu nesúrodých prvkov a vytváraniu novej kultúrnej kvality. Chronologicky následné nálezy z pohrebísk v Martine, v Púchove a v Liptovskom Mikuláši-Liptovskej Ondrašovej, datované do strednej doby bronzovej stupňa BC2, podľa nás už v oblasti severného Slovenska prezentujú lužickú kultúrnu entitu. Ďalší vývoj viedol k výraznému rozmachu lužického osídlenia na Slovensku v stupni BD.

Už v priebehu mladšieho stupňa strednej doby bronzovej (BC) prenikala lužická kultúra do Turčianskej kotliny. Či už v tejto dobe nastal posun osídlenia aj na Oravu zatiaľ nie je nálezmi doložené. V každom prípade, v počiatku mladšej doby bronzovej (BD), už mala lužická kultúra na Slovensku dostatočnú vnútornú silu na rozširovanie svojho životného priestoru. V tomto čase sa osídlenie posúva na juh a juhozápad pozdĺž tokov Turca, Hrona, Nitry, Váhu a ich prítokov. Smerom na západ prekračuje cez Vlársky priesmyk Biele Karpaty a podieľa sa na vytváraní menšej sídelnej enklávy na východnej Morave, v tej dobe postupne osídľovanej aj osadníkmi z moravskej lužickej oblasti.

Postup lužickej kultúry na juh údolím Váhu sa zastavil v priestore Nové Mesto nad Váhom – Piešťany, v povodí rieky Nitry v priestore Partizánske – Topoľčany. V obidvoch údoliach bola dôvodom sídelná oblasť stredodunajských popolnicových polí. V uvedených priestoroch sa vytvorila zmiešaná sídelná zóna. Na

Pohroní postúpila lužická kultúra do oblasti Zvolena, kde sa dostala do kontaktu s prostredím doznievajúcej pilinskej kultúry. V priestore Zvolena sa zrejme vytvorila podobná zmiešaná zóna ako na Považí a Ponitri. Zatiaľ nemožno presnejšie zhodnotiť postup lužickej expanzie v mladšej dobe bronzovej z pôvodnej liptovskej sídelnej oblasti smerom na východ do oblasti Spiša.

K ďalšiemu rozšíreniu sídelnej oblasti lužickej kultúry smerom na juh došlo v závere mladšej a počiatku neskorej doby bronzovej (HA2/HB1). V tomto období prenikla popri toku Váhu až do oblasti Trnavy, povodím rieky Nitry sa dostáva do oblasti Nitrianska a na hornú Žitavu do zlatomoravského regiónu. V tomto priestore, rovnako ako v oblasti Štiavnického pohoria, prekrýva doznievajúce zvyšky osídlenia podolskej kultúry (Nitra-Mlynáre, Sitno, Žitavany-Kňažice). Najväčší územný rozsah na juhozápadnom Slovensku dosahuje lužické osídlenie v prvej polovici neskorej doby bronzovej, kedy evidujeme lokality aj pomerne hlboko pod hranicou pohorí. Postupný ústup lužického osídlenia nastáva zrejme už v závere staršieho stupňa neskorej doby bronzovej. Za dôvod tohto útlmu sa okrem vnútorných spoločenských pomerov považuje útok nomádskej skupiny Mezöcsát z východu. Cieľom takýchto skupín, už zo svojej podstaty koristníckych, boli vždy predovšetkým hospodársky vyspelé a spoločensky organizované oblasti. Južné časti juhozápadného Slovenska, s ešte nedostatočne etablovaným lužickým osídlením, však takouto oblasťou v druhej polovici neskorej doby bronzovej zrejme neboli. Význam nomádskej skupiny Mezöcsát pre ďalší vývoj lužického osídlenia v tomto priestore spočíval možno skôr v spomalení dynamiky tohto osídlenia. To mohlo mať vplyv v staršom období doby halštatskej (HC) pri prenikaní osídlenia kalenderberskej (východohalštatskej) kultúry do tejto oblasti.

V staršej dobe železnej pozorujeme rozpad jednoty lužického osídlenia na Slovensku. Za plynulý možno považovať jej vývoj v tomto období na Orave a v Žilinskej kotline. Na Orave a priľahlej časti Považia možno v staršom období doby halštatskej pozorovať určitú kultúrnu uzavretosť regiónu a pretrvávajúce tradície neskorej doby bronzovej. V spomínaných horských oblastiach sa uvoľnenie tradícií a kontakty s južným, ale aj priľahlým severným poľským prostredím, prejavujú skôr v mladšom období doby halštatskej. V priestore severného Slovenska sa lužická kultúra dožíva záveru staršej doby železnej a jej doznievajúce osídlenie sa zrejme podieľalo na kryštalizácii púchovskej kultúry v dobe laténskej.

Pravdepodobne plynule pokračoval vývoj lužickej kultúry v stupni HC aj v severnejších oblastiach jej ekumény na Považí, hornom Ponitri a na Pohroní. V dobe halštatskej sa v tomto priestore prejavujú kontakty s východohalštatským okruhom a tiež s moravským lužickým prostredím. Prejavy týchto vplyvov viedli k vyčleneniu regionálnych skupín lužickej kultúry na severnom Slovensku v dobe halštatskej, podobne ako zmiešané osídlenie v hraničnej zóne s podolskou a kyjatickou kultúrou v neskorej dobe bronzovej viedlo k pokusom o vyčlenenie zvolenskej a štiavnickej skupiny. V obidvoch prípadoch považujeme takéto detailné geografické delenie lužického osídlenia zatiaľ za nedostatočne podložené, ale je možné ho predpokladať a ďalšie výskumy (predovšetkým

v severnejšie položených regiónoch) ho zrejme umožnia. Aj keď v tejto dobe končí využívanie väčšiny lužických pohrebísk, osídlenie pokračuje. Zatiaľ nevieme, čo spôsobilo ukončenie pochovávaní a nemáme dostatočné informácie ani o intenzite osídlenia. Jeho čiastočné oslabenie mohol spôsobiť odchod časti populácie južnejším smerom v prvej polovici neskorej doby bronzovej. Uvedené sídelné oblasti severného Slovenska v dobe halštatskej boli chránené geografickou polohou, ale predovšetkým početnými mohutne opevnenými hradiskami. Budovanie hradísk rôznych typov máme doložené na území lužickej kultúry na Slovensku od neskorej doby bronzovej po mladšiu dobu halštatskú. O dôvodoch budovania týchto veľkých stavieb a ich chronologickom a účelovom zaradení prebieha v odbornej spisbe neustála diskusia. V každom prípade ich považujeme za doklad existencie početných roľníckych osád v daných regiónoch (aj keď zatiaľ výskumom nedostatočne zistených). Väčšina hra-

dísk (každé?) musela mať hospodárske zázemie, ktoré umožňovalo ich existenciu.

V staršom období doby halštatskej (HC) preniká z juhu na územie Slovenska osídlenie kalenderberskej (východohalštatskej) kultúry. Táto postupne obsadzovala rovinaté oblasti juhozápadného Slovenska a prekryvala pôvodne lužické osídlenie. Ako naznačujú výsledky výskumov sídlisk v Novej Vsi nad Žitavou alebo v Čiernych Kľačanoch, lužická zložka obyvateľstva zrejme prevzala nový halštatský habitus, na ktorom sa čiastočne podieľala. Zároveň v tejto dobe dochádza aj ku zmene kultúrneho prejavu na opevnených sídliskách. Je ale otázne, či v závere staršieho úseku doby halštatskej na juhozápadnom Slovensku možno ešte hovoriť o lužickej kultúre. Reminiscencie „lužického“ osídlenia v tejto časti Slovenska definitívne doznievajú nástupom vekerzugskej kultúry v mladšom stupni (HD) doby halštatskej.