

Family groups at Netta cemetery. From studies on horizontal stratigraphy

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1. INTRODUCTION

The grave and barrow field at Netta, site I, district Augustów, province Podlaskie, although awaiting comprehensive publication early in 2004¹ has enjoyed a relatively wide circulation in literature (Okulicz, 1955; Kaczyński, 1966; 1981; 1991; Kaczyński et al., 1987; Bitner-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 (Godłowski, 1970; 1974) and others, developing the typology of specific categories of finds from the Barbaricum (beads – Tempelmann-Maczyńska, 1985; buckles – Madyda-Legutko, 1987). Nevertheless, source material from Netta continues to hold considerable appeal for various kinds of research, including the study of issues on the borderline of archaeology and sociology, previously only rarely addressed by archaeologists concerned with the Balt environment (cf Czarnicka, 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)² and two equine inhumations making it one of the largest grave fields investigated in the southern area of Balt settlement³.

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 Balt 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 Balt environment (cf Bitner-Wróblewska, 2001a, p. 121–127). Some inspiration may be drawn from similar research dealing with Germanic tribes (cf. Ringtved, 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 Balt 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 unmistakable (cf. Nørgård 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 (Bitner-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

¹ The monograph of the cemetery at Netta is at present being prepared for publication by the author, to appear in the *Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica* series.

² Many graves are double burials containing pit and urned graves, several are collective graves, a unique pit contained several urned burials.

³ Although ca 15% of the cemetery's surface suffered destruction when trenches were dug in August 1939 it has been possible to investigate the greater part of the necropole.

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 Plinkaigalis – 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 Balt 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 zonal 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 B_{2b} through B₂/C₁-C_{1a}), Phase 2. probably synchronic with the Late Roman period (phases C_{1b}-C₂), and Phase 3. corresponding to the close of the Late Roman and the Migrations period (phases C₃-D, 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

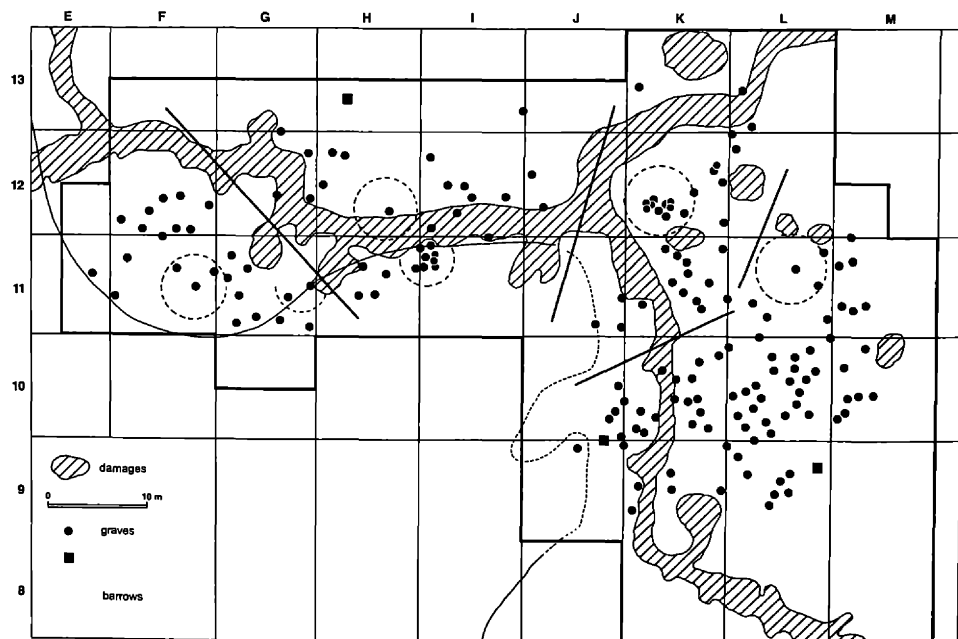


Fig. 1. Plan of cemetery at Netta showing boundaries between individual grave clusters (by J. Żabko-Potopowicz).

1 pav. Nettos kapinyno planas, kuriame parodytos ribos tarp atskirų kapų grupių (braižė J. Żabko-Potopowicz).

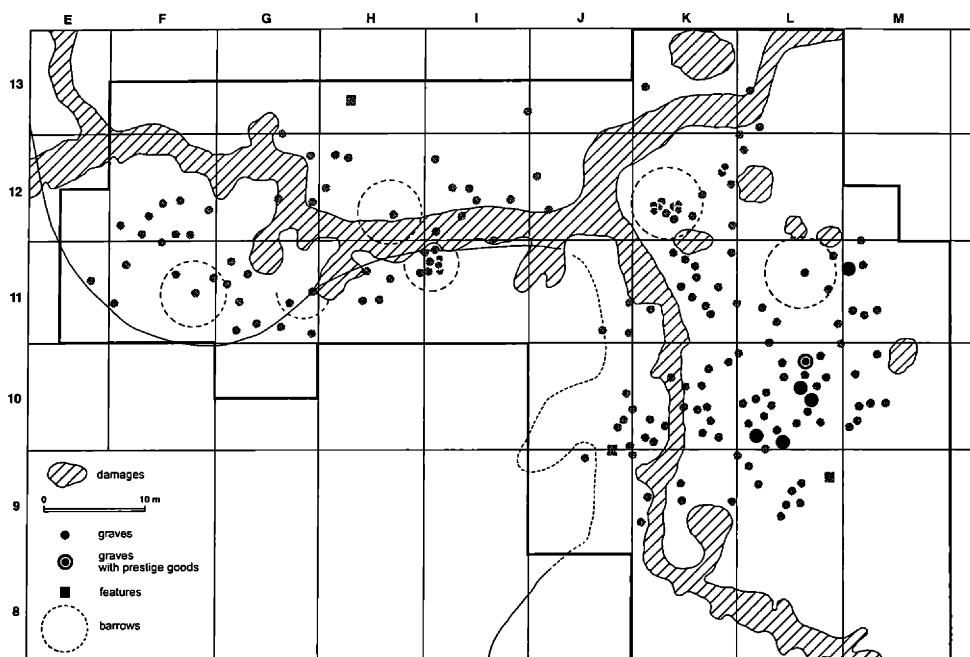


Fig. 2. Netta, district Augustów. Graves from Phase 1a (by J. Żabko-Potopowicz).

2 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. 1a fazės kapai (braižė J. Žabko-Potopowicz).

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 horseshoe 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 Godłowski, 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 segment of Phase 1. is represented by Grave 81A-B cited earlier; the mature stage of the same phase, by Grave 30 (Kaczyński, 1966, fig. 7–8). The latter, a burial of a horseman-warrior held a spur of Type F1 according to Ginalski (cf Ginalski, 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 (Serwatka, 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

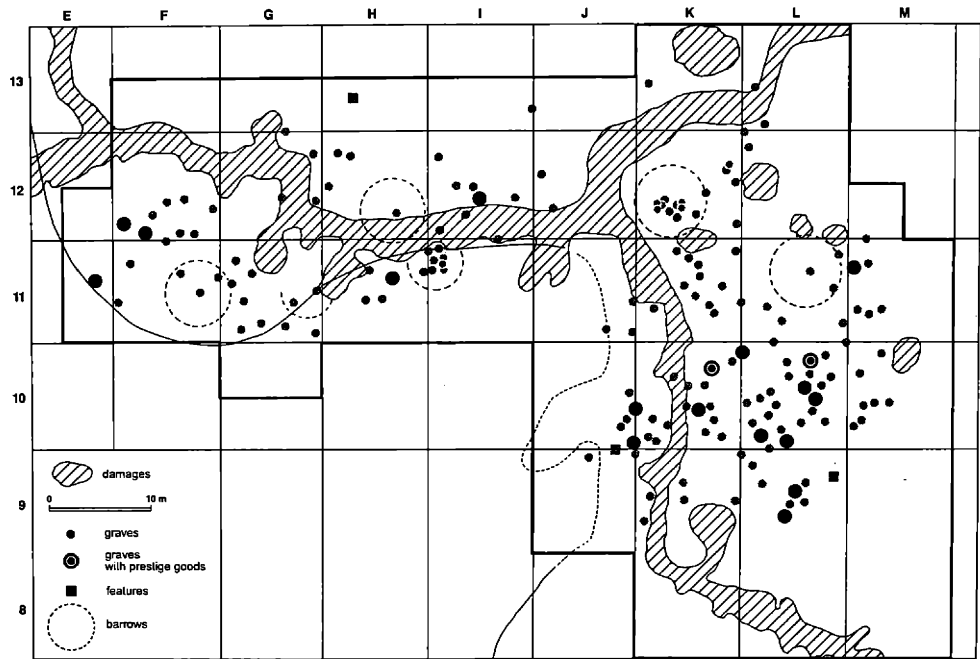


Fig. 3. Netta, district Augustów. Graves from Phase 1 (by J. Żabko-Potopowicz).
 3 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. I fazės kapai (braižė J. Žabko-Potopowicz).

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 NE group.

Analysing 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 Balt territory or the neighbouring Germanic lands.

In the earlier segment of Phase 2. which corresponds to phase C_{1b}, the most striking 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 (cf Beckmann, 1969), a pair of buckles, Madyda-Legutko Type C.13, a shield-boss similar to Type J.7a (cf Jahn, 1916), an axe and finally, a pottery accessory vessel (Kaczyński, 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 *Schellenberlock* type, common in Samland, a bucket shaped pendant, a number of amber and bronze beads, a spindlewhorl and a pottery accessory vessel (figs. 5–6), in all a dozen-odd categories of finds.

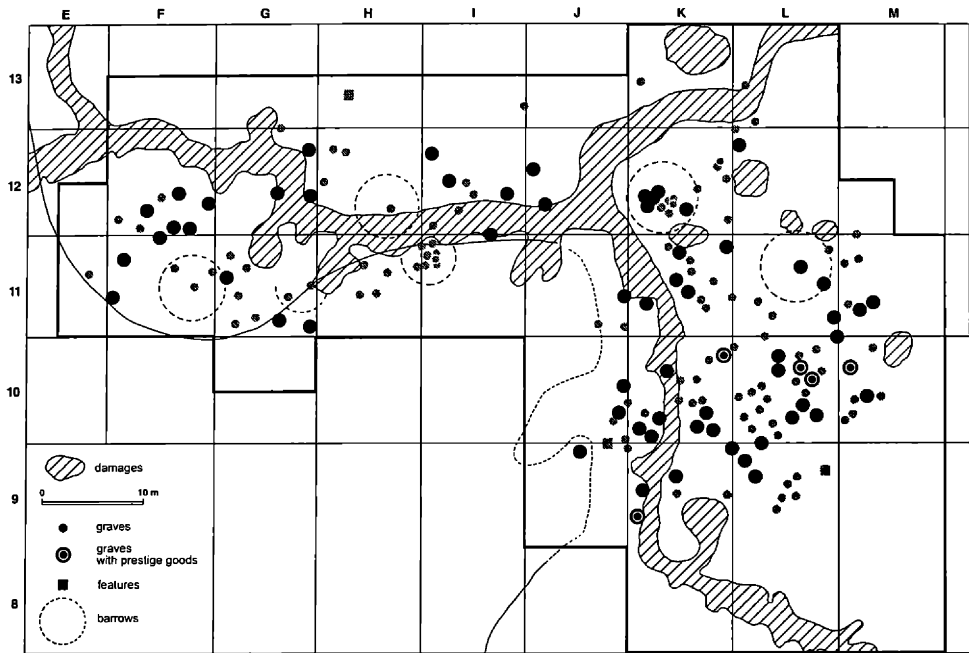


Fig. 4. Netta, district Augustów. Graves from Phase 2 (by J. Żabko-Potopowicz).

4 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. 2 fazės kapai (braižė J. Žabko-Potopowicz).

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 urned 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, cruciform strap separators, rivets, ferrule-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 cross-bow tendril brooches additionally ornamented with notched wire hoops, 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 (Kaczyński, 1966, fig. 9; Okulicz, 1973, fig. 208a-j). Grave 138A-B is noteworthy primarily for the presence of a set of specialised carpentry (?) tools, a very rare category (Kaczyński et al., 1987, p. 87).

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.

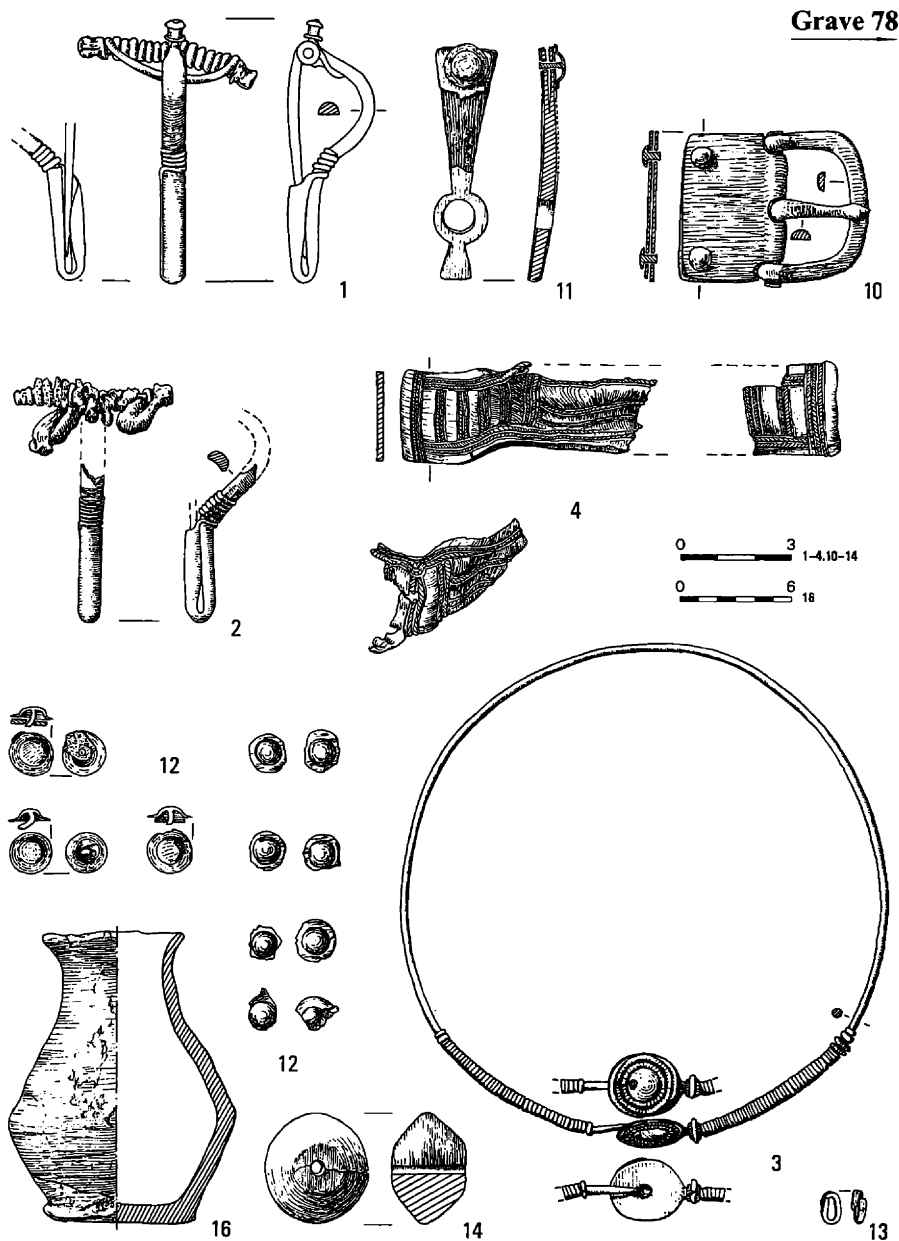


Fig. 5. Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventory of Grave 78 (drawing by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczyńska). Note: numbers marking the finds on the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix.

5 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. Dalis kapo Nr. 78 inventoriaus (piešė W. Gawrysiak-Leszczyńska). Pastaba. Numeriai, žymintys radinius piešinyje, atitinka katalogo numerius – žr. priedą.

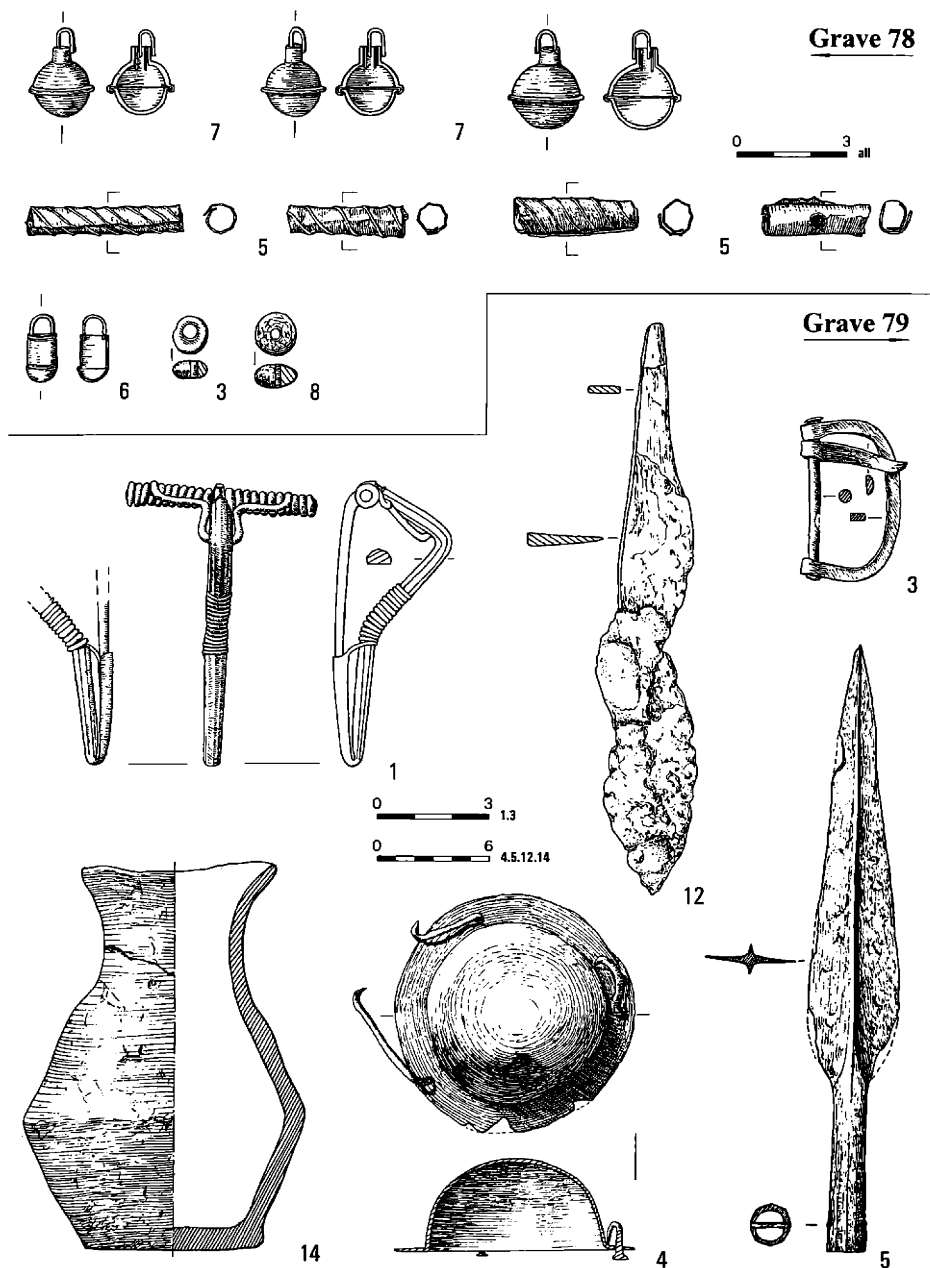


Fig. 6. Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventories of Graves 78 and 79 (drawings by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczyńska, L. Kobylińska). Note: numbers marking the finds in the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix.

6 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. Dalis kapų Nr. 78 ir 79 inventoriaus (piešė W. Gawrysiak-Leszczyńska, L. Kobylińska). Pastaba. Numeriai, žymintys radinius piešinyje, atitinka katalogo numerius – žr. priedą.

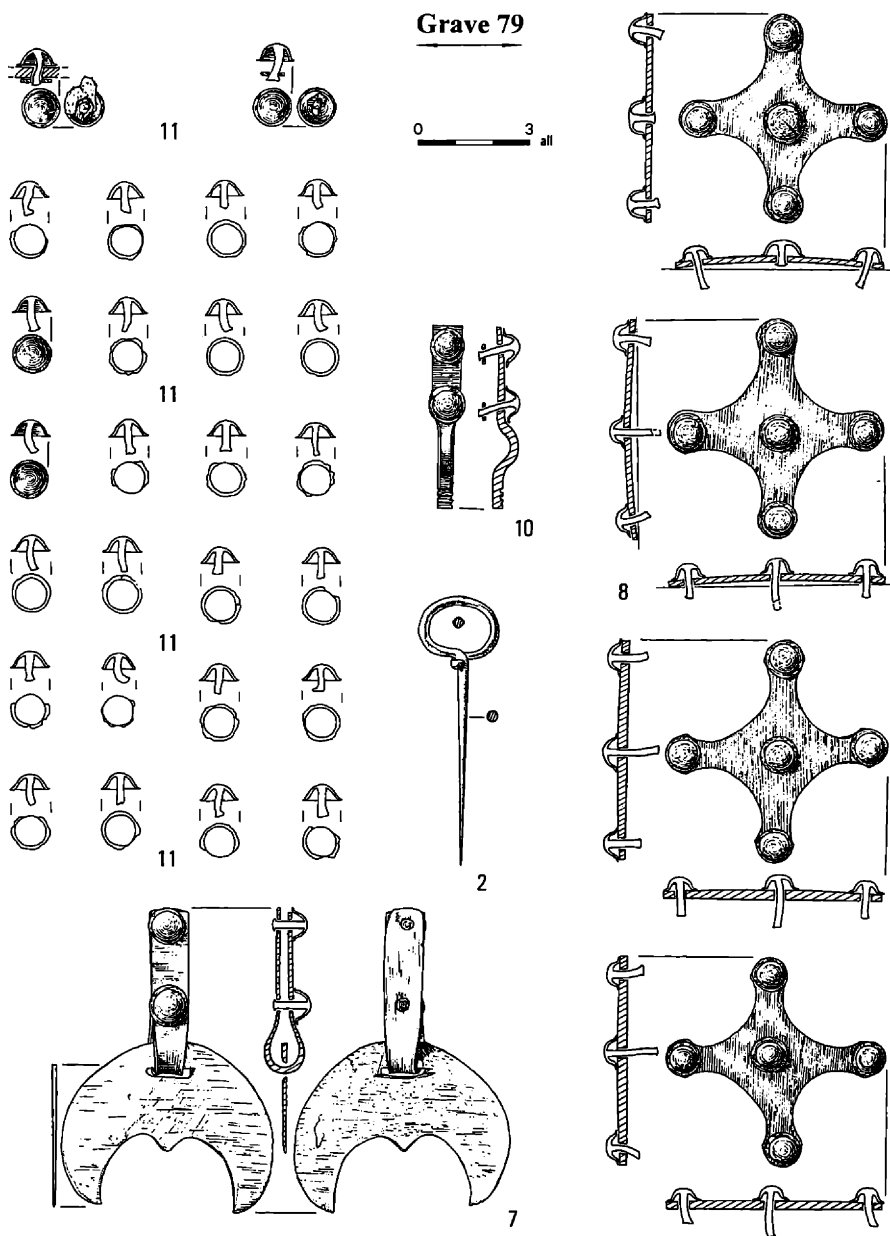


Fig. 7. Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventory of Grave 79 (drawings by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylńska). Note: numbers marking the finds in the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix. 7 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. Dalis kapo Nr. 78 inventoriaus (piešė W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylńska). Pastaba. Numeriai, žymintys radinius piešinyje, atitinka katalogo numerius – žr. priedą.

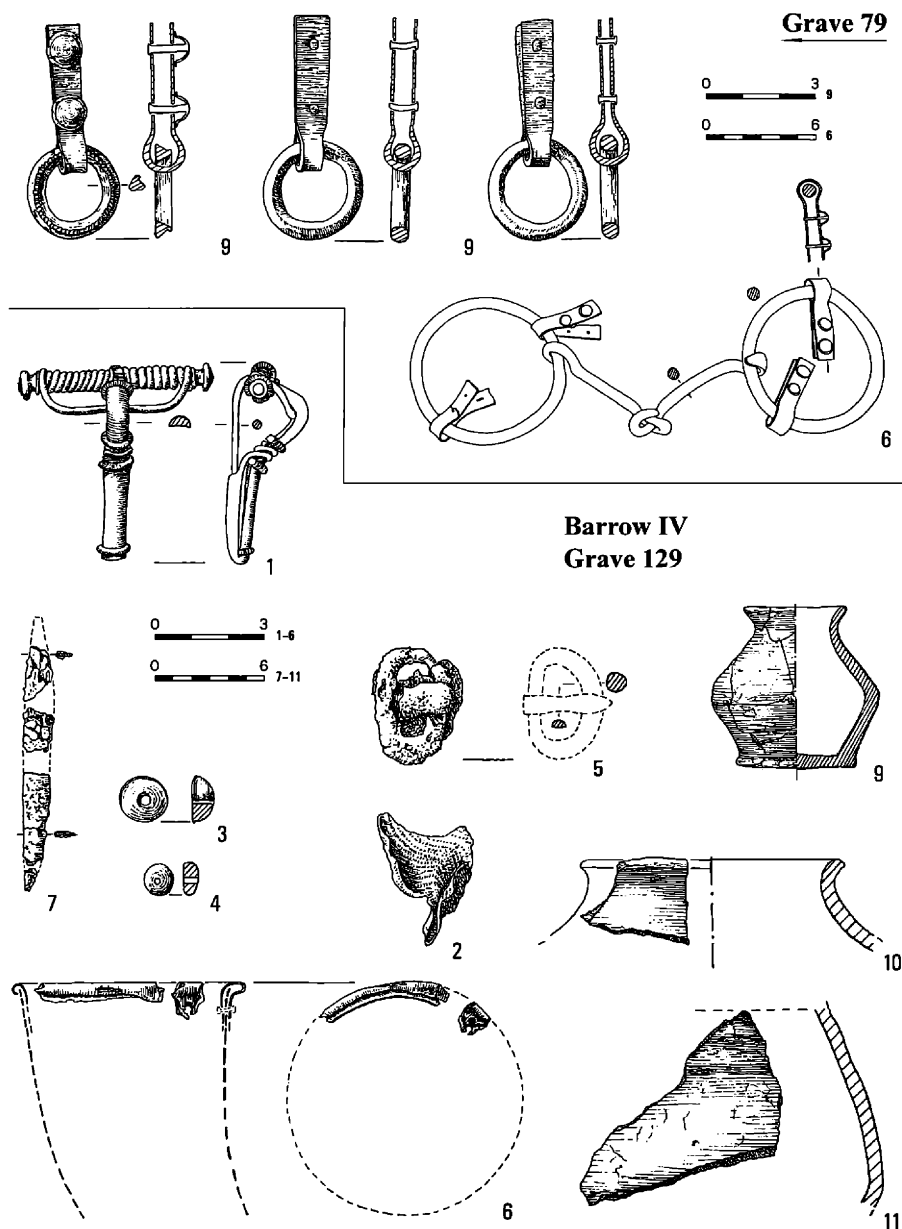


Fig. 8 Netta, district Augustów. Part of inventory of Grave 79 and inventory of Grave 129, barrow IV (drawings by W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylińska). Note: numbers marking the finds on the figure correspond to numbers in the catalogue – see Appendix.

8 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. Dalis kapo Nr. 79 inventoriaus ir kapo Nr. 129 inventorius, pilkapis IV (piešė W. Gawrysiak-Leszczynska, L. Kobylińska). Pastaba. Numeriai, žymintys radinius piešinyje, atitinka katalogo numerius – žr. priedą.

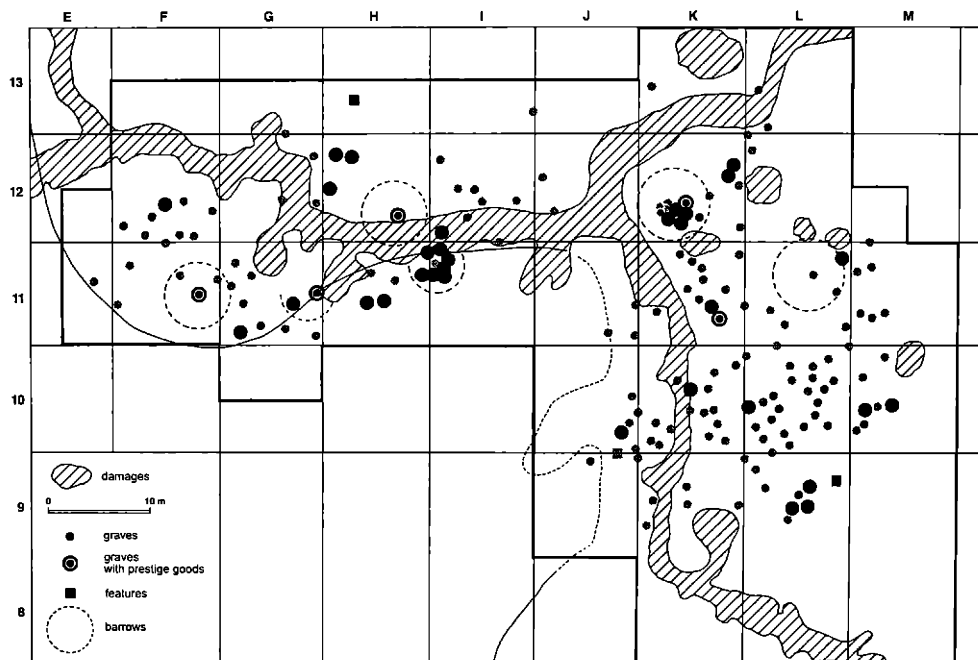


Fig. 9. Netta, district Augustów. Graves from Phase 3 (by J. Żabko-Potopowicz).

9 pav. Netta, Augustavo rajonas. 3 fazės kapai (braižė J. Zabko-Potopowicz).

Group NE includes two noteworthy burials – female Grave 57 in barrow I and Grave 42A-B holding with the remains of several individuals. Grave 57 dates from the earlier segment of Phase 3., phase C₃–D in interregional chronology. Its grave goods included a pair of brooches, one of them an imported (*Blechfibel*) sheet brooch, and a drinking horn rim mount⁴ with embossed silver foil (Kaczyński, 1966, Plate II, 1–14). Grave 42B, originating from mature Phase 3., also contained a drinking horn mount as well as a spear point and a set of ornamental belt mounts (Kaczyński, 1966, Plate I, 4–14).

⁴ An exceptional occurrence of a drinking horn mount inside a female grave; during the period in question drinking horn mounts are an attribute of male graves (cf. Kazakevičius, 1993). Perhaps we have a case here in which the dead women took over functions traditionally ascribed to male members of the kinship group. A wider interpretation of this fact falls outside the scope of the present article. It is only worth noting at this point that during the later – early medieval – period drinking horn mounts in the Balt environment are noted in male and female graves alike (cf. Simniškytė, 1998).

Among the users of the cemetery at Netta during Phase 3. the most numerous group is the Central, with a special position occupied by Grave 109 from barrow III, despite having been robbed already in antiquity. The burial, of a warrior-horseman (containing the remains of two individuals, one of them male), included among the surviving grave goods a fragment of a spur, a battle knife and a heavily weathered Marcus Aurelius denarius (Kaczyński, 1981, fig. 6:2). Probably another fine battle knife and a spear point originally also belonged to the same burial.

Another rich and despoiled grave of a warrior is noted in the W group, namely, Grave 164 in barrow VI, featuring an extraordinary imported razor with a panther-head handle, and a spear point, a set of belt mounts, amber beads and a whetstone (Kaczyński, 1991, fig. 17–20). Also striking in this group is Grave 129 from barrow IV, furnished with six different categories of finds, among them a drinking horn mount and a decorative crossbow brooch ornamented with hoops made of notched wire (fig. 8).

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 the three.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The social interpretation of the spatial evolution of 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 1. 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 space defined during

the initial phase by graves of group SE and W was almost never breached by later burials.

For several generations (phases 1.–2.) the SE group definitely visibly headed the local community. Its high position is evidenced by the fact that only within this group we find richly furnished burials containing marks of social prestige. During Phase 3. the group lost its importance and the members of the three other families – the W, NE and Central groups – struggled for its power. Finds possibly indicative the elevated status of the deceased have been registered equally in graves of all the three groups showing that none of them was able to gain the upper hand.

Interpretation of the spatial development of the cemetery at Netta is a convincing explanation of the outwardly chaotic horizontal stratigraphy of this necropole, widely different from the “orderly” stratigraphy of many sites of the neighbouring Przeworsk culture where the groups of graves belonging to a single phase tend to cluster in one the same zone (cf Dąbrowska, 1997; Andrzejowski, 1998; Ziemińska-Odojowa, 1999). There is great potential therefore for using horizontal stratigraphy in dating the graves grouped in each of such zones even if chronologically diagnostic elements are not available. With Netta this potential is greatly limited because the development of this necropole was guided by other principles, closely connected to the specific nature of the local social structure. It might be very enlightening to examine other Balt necropolises from this angle, where the situation was probably analogous with Netta, eg Grebieten (Nowakowski, 1996, Plate 42–47), Warengen (Nowakowski, 1996, Plate 71–74) or Wyszembork (Szymański, 2001).

Translated by Anna Kinecka

Appendix CATALOGUE OF GRAVES DISCUSSED IN THE ARTICLE

Grave 12 square 9 K (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Iron tendril brooch. A. 158. Fragmented. L. ca 7.4 cm. 2. Iron crozier-headed pin. Beckmann Type B. Fragmented. L. 9.1 cm. 3. Iron buckle. M-L Type C.13. 3.2 x 3 cm. 4. Iron buckle. M-L Type C.13. 2.9 x 2.7 cm. 5. Iron shield-boss with short blunt spike. Type J.7a/1. D. 13.7 cm; H. 10 cm. 6. Iron socketed axe. Polygonal-sectioned shaft-hole. Socket retaining

heavily mineralised remains of wooden handle. L. 11.8 cm; shaft-hole D. 3 cm. 7. Reconstruction of miniature pottery vessel with gently sloping shoulder. Surface smoothed, light brown. R. ca 14 cm; D. ca 13 cm; B. ca 10 cm; H. ca 7 cm.

Bones of two individuals. Adultus, male. Early adultus, (age ca 20 years), female⁵.

⁵ Anthropological analysis of material from Netta, Professor Alina Wiercińska Anthropology Department State Archaeological Museum Warsaw.

Grave 30 square 10 K (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Iron mount. L. 7.4 cm. 2. Iron shield-boss fragments. 3. Iron axe. L. 17 cm. 4. Iron spur. Ginalski Type F1. Bow span 8.9 cm. 5. 3 damaged iron rivets. L. 1.3–1.9 cm. 6. 2 potsherds. 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 male⁶.

Grave 31 square 10 K (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Bronze crossbow tendril brooch with bronze and silver ornamental notched hoops. Similar to A.167. L. 7.1 cm. 2. Bronze crossbow tendril brooch with bronze and silver ornamental notched hoops. Similar to A.167. L. 7.1 cm. 3. Bronze wrist-band *Manschettensarmband* bracelet. W. 6.8 cm. 4. Bronze wrist-band *Manschettensarmband* bracelet, deformed and broken. W. 6.8 cm. 5. 2 bronze neck-ring fragments, coiled wire on terminals, a disc-and-hook fastening. Partly melted. D. of rod 0.4 cm. 6. 6 bronze cruciform pendants. L. 2.4 cm to 3.2 cm. 7. Green glass bead, cracked. Type T-M 4a. D. 0.9 cm. 8. Glass red opaque bead fragment. Type T-M 12. D. 1.3 cm. 9. Blue glass bead. Type T-M 2a. D. 0.9 cm. 10. Blue glass bead fragments. Type T-M 2a. D. ca 0.8 cm. 11. Bronze bead. Type T-M 520. D. 0.9 cm. 12. Iron band, spirally coiled (hilt clasp ?). D. 2.4 cm. 13. Iron buckle, broken off ferrule. M-L Type G.30. Buckle frame: 3.7 x 3.7 cm; Buckle ferrule: 3.7 x 2 cm. 14. Iron belt-end mount with hoop at terminal. Type J.II₁ (= M group II,1) (cf Raddatz, 1957; Madyda, 1977). L. 7.1 cm. 15. Bronze rectangular mount (belt hanging ?), slightly melted. Iron rivets. 4 x 2.9 cm. 16. Bronze rectangular belt mount, distorted by fire. Iron rivets. Surviving L. 2.6 cm. 17. Bronze rectangular mount, deformed, partly melted. Iron rivets. Surviving L. 2.7 cm. 18. Bronze disc (belt mount) with iron rivet. D. 2.4 cm. 19. Iron awl with remains of wooden handle. L. 6.3 cm. 20. Melted fragment of bronze object. L. 2.2 cm. 21. 5 fragments of corroded iron objects.

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

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

Inventory: **Grave 42 A:** 1. Bronze solid crossbow brooch with closed plate and long foot, distorted by fire. Type Dollkeim/Kovrovo according to A. Bitner-Wróblewska (2001a). L. 7.9 cm. 2. Bronze two-coil spiral finger-ring of semi-circular sectioned wire. Distorted, partly melted. D. ca 2.5 cm. 3. Bronze lumps. 4. Wide-necked pottery vessel with goblet-like widening walls. Surface uneven, rough, coarse-grained temper. Brown, in places brick-red-brown. R. 28 cm; B. 13 cm; H. 20 cm.

Grave 42 B: 5. Iron pin fragment. Surviving L. 2.5 cm. 6. Tongue-shaped belt-end mount of sheet bronze, broken tip. Samland type according to A. Bitner-Wróblewska (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. 2.8 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 x 6.5 cm. 15. Bronze oval-shaped foil (drinking horn mount). 1.8 x 1 cm. 16. Iron wire fragment. L. 1 cm. 17. Iron spear point with long socket and slender leaf with prominent ridge. Similar to Kaczanowski Type XIII (cf Kaczanowski, 1995)⁷. L. 48 cm. 18. Lumps of melted bronze. 19. Reconstruction of rim of pottery vessel, surface smoothed, brown. R. ca 23 cm. 20. Reconstruction of pottery vessel rim, smooth surface, dark brown. R. 18 cm. 21. Non-characteristic potsherds.

Grave 42 A: adultus, male. Grave 42B: two individuals. Late adultus – early maturus, female. Iuvenis (age 16–18 years).

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

Inventory: 1. Iron crossbow brooch with closed catchplate (?), bronze knobs on spring ends. Surviving textile fragments. L. 7.7 cm. 2. Bronze sheet brooch (*Blechfibel*) with semicircular head and oval foot; iron

⁶ Archaeozoological analysis of horse bones from Netta, S. Serwatka (1970).

⁷ Similarity of weapons from this part of Balt lands to weapons of Przeworsk culture makes it justified to use the classification of lance and spear points by P. Kaczanowski.

axle. Surviving textile fragments. Group B according to A. Kokowski (cf Kokowski, 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. D. 6.7 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. 9.9 cm. **11.** Iron knife with remains of wooden sheath. L. 10.5 cm. **12.** 2 iron knife fragments. Surviving L. 3.8 cm. **13.** Silver lumps. **14.** Pottery bowl with angular shoulder. Surface weathered, originally smoothed, brown. R. 21 cm; D. 21.5 cm; B. 8.4 cm; H. 11.5 cm.

Grave 55: bones of two, possibly three individuals. Adultus – maturus, male. Older than infans II, female. Adult individual, sex ? Grave 56: iuvenis – early adultus. Grave 57: early adultus (20–22 lat), female. Grave 58: adultus, male.

Grave 78 square 10 L (pit burial)

Inventory: **1.** Bronze tendril crossbow brooch with knob on head, iron axle. Spring distorted by fire, knobs partly melted at ends. Similar to A.162. L. 7 cm. **2.** 2 bronze tendril crossbow brooch fragments, iron axle. Spring and chord melted in the fire. Surviving L. 4.5 cm; W of spring 4.6 cm. **3.** Silver neck-ring, coiled wire on terminals, a disc-and-hook fastening. D. 13.5 cm; Weight 22.40 g. **4.** Bronze wrist-band *Manschettenarmband* 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 *Schellenberlock* Type pendants. D. 1.8–2 cm. **8.** Amber bead. T-M Type 388. D. 1.1 cm. **9.** Amber bead. T-M Type 391. D. 1 cm. **10.** Iron buckle. M-L Type D.17. 4.9 x 4 cm. **11.** Bronze belt-end mount with a ring and tongue terminal. J. Type II₄ (= M group II,3). L. 6.2 cm. **12.** 12 entire or damaged bronze spindle-headed rivets. Iron rivet-discs. D. 1–1.2 cm. **13.** Bronze square-sectioned wire hoop, flattened. D. 0.9 cm. **14.** Clay spindle-whorl, biconical, cracked, surface smoothed, brown. D. 3 cm. **15.** Bronze lumps. **16.** Bottle-like pottery vessel with low set shoulder and funnel neck. Smoothed surface, in places polished, uneven/rough. Light brown. R. 8 m; D. 12.8 cm; B. 8 cm; H. 16.4 cm.

Bones of two individuals. Infans II (aged ca 12 years). A small number of bones of an adult individual, adultus.

Grave 79 square 10 L (pit burial)

Inventory: **1.** Bronze tendril crossbow brooch with false spring. Facetted bow and foot. Similar to A.168. L. 7.5 cm. **2.** Iron crozier-headed pin. Beckmann Type C. L. 7.3 cm. **3.** Iron buckle. M-L Type D.30. 4.3 x 2.5 cm. **4.** Iron hemispherical shield-boss. D. 12.8 cm; H. 4.9 cm. **5.** Iron spear point with long slender leaf and highly prominent ridge. Facetted socket. Similar to Kaczanowski Type XV. L. 32.6 cm. **6.** Two-piece iron bit with rings and two pairs of ferrules. Ring D. 8 cm. **7.** Bronze lunula-like nose-band. W. 5.9 cm. **8.** 4 bronze, cruciform strap separators. D. 5.5 cm to 6 cm. **9.** 3 bronze hoops with ferrules, one of them ornamented with lateral incisions. L. 5.9 cm to 6.2 cm. **10.** Bronze strap end mount. L. 4.9 cm. **11.** 62 entire or fragmented bronze spindle-headed rivets. D. 1 cm. **12.** Iron knife with a unilaterally defined blade. L. 15.2 cm. **13.** Fragments of corroded iron objects. **14.** Bottle-like pottery vessel with a low set, gently sloping shoulder. High cylindrical neck, funnel-like rim. Surface polished, light brown. R. 10.8 cm; M. 15.4 cm; B. 9.5 cm; H. 20.4 cm.

Bones of three individuals. Middle maturus (40–50), female. Adultus – early maturus (?), male (?). Infans I (?).

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

Inventory:

Grave 81A: **1.** bronze horseshoe brooch with red enamel, iron pin. Type II according to A. Jabłońska (cf Jabłońska, 1992). D. 5,4 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. 38,6 cm; B. 14 cm; surviving H. 28 cm.

Grave 81B: **3.** iron spear point with a single barb, indistinct ridge. Socket facetted 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 (Trzciniec culture ?).

Grave 81A: bones of two individuals – early maturus, male and iuvenis, female (nb: damage of the upper sections of the urn makes it impossible to determine the number of individuals whose bones were originally deposited in the vessel). Grave 81B: iuvenis (?), 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 battle knife, broken tip. Tang defined on 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. 1.8 cm. 8. Fragment of sheet 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. Ilkjær (cf Ilkjær, 1990). L. 33 cm. 2. Iron battle knife; blade tip broken; notched and stamped ornament. Surviving L. 34.4 cm.

Bones of two individuals. Late adultus (?), female. Maturus, male.

Barrow IV, grave 129 11 F (pit burial)

Inventory: 1. Bronze tendril crossbow brooch with single notched bronze wire hoops. Similar to A.167. L. 5.3 cm. 2. Fragment of melted wrist-band *Manschettenarmband* bracelet. 3.3 x 3.3 cm. 3. Amber bead, turned. T-M Type 437. D. 1.3 cm. 4. Amber bead. T-M Type 388. D. 0.9 cm. 5. Iron buckle. M-L Type H.11. 3.2 x 2.1 cm. 6. 2 bronze drinking horn rim fragments of; distorted by fire. D. ca 6.4 cm. 7. Iron knife fragments. L. ca 13.5 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 cm. 11. Body sherd, smoothed, light brown.

Bones of two individuals. Infans I. Maturus.

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

Inventory: **Grave 138 A:** 1. Bronze tendril 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 tendril(?) crossbow brooch

with triangular foot fragments, melted. L. of spring ca 4 cm. 3. 3 entire and fragments of bronze chain links of triangular-sectioned wire. D. 0.9 cm. 4. 2 fragments of bronze round-sectioned wire, partly melted. D. of wire 0.3 cm. 5. Wrist-band *Manschettenarmband* bracelet, distorted by fire. W. ca 4.5 cm. 6. Greenish glass bead, damaged. T-M Type 4b. D. 1.3 cm. 7. Iron buckle, fragments of melted bronze objects adhering to frame. M-L Type G.16. Frame: 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 outslipping rim. Surface polished, in places heavily weathered. Dark brown. R. 22 cm; M. 23 cm; B. 11.5 cm; H. 10 cm.

Grave 138 B: 11. Bronze tendril crossbow brooch with notched wire hoops, partly melted. A.167. L. ca 8 cm. 12. 4 rectangular bronze mounts, ornamented with longitudinal engraved lines. L. 3.5 cm. 13. 14 square pieces of bronze sheet with a semicircular knob at centre and fragments of birch bark. L. 1.1 to 1.7 cm. 14. 14 bronze spindle-headed rivets, 4 ornamented on the head with cruciform incision. 15. Bronze tweezers with a movable section. Stamp ornamented. L. 7.6 cm. 16. Iron socketed axe. L. 17.5 cm. 17. 3 Iron wood-working tools. Surviving L. 23.4 cm; 26 cm; 27.4 cm. 18. Iron hook. L. ca 8 cm. 19. Iron knife with bilaterally defined blade. Ornamented blade. L. 15 cm. 20. Lumps of melted bronze ornaments. 21. Miniature pottery vessel. Surface smoothed, brown. R. 3.8 cm; B. 2.5 cm; H. 2.5 cm.

Grave 138 A: bones of two individuals. Early maturus, female. Infans II – iuvenis. Grave 138 B: bones of three individuals. Early maturus, male. Late iuvenis – early adultus, female. Infans I (age 6–7 years).

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

Inventory: 1. 2 amber beads. T-M Type 388. D. 1.5 cm; 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; L. 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 panther-head handle; at handle base (neck of panther) ornament: row of stamped circles. On blade, remains of wood (sheath?) H. 11.2 cm. 5. 5 fragments and splinters of bronze foil (drinking 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 3. L.

22 cm. 7. Stone whetstone, quartzite. L. 22.5 cm. 8. 2 bronze rivets, one of them with circular rivet-piece. Round-sectioned shaft. L. 0.9 cm. 9. Fragments of the base and high cylindrical neck of a pottery vessel. Originally surface smoothed, at present weathered. Light brown.

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 maturus (age 45–50 years), male.

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GIMINIŲ GRUPĖS NETTOS KAPINYNĖ. IŠ HORIZONTALIOSIOS STRATIGRAFIJOS STUDIŲ

Anna Bitner-Wróblewska

Santrauka

Nettos kapinynas priklauso didžiausiems iki šiol tyrinėtiems baltų regiono pietinės dalies kapinynams. Jame aptikta 218 degintinių kapų ir 2 griautiniai arklių kapai (1 pav.). Šiame straipsnyje mėginama pateikti kapinyno analizę vietinės bendruomenės struktūros, raidos ir tarpusavio ryšių požiūriu. Tokių tyrinėjimų išėitais taškas yra kruopšti atskirų kapų chronologinė analizė ir horizontali kapinyno stratigrafija, taip pat įkapių analizė įvairių daiktų kiekiu ir prestižo rodiklių buvimo atžvilgiu (raitelio aprangos elementai, ginklų komplektai, papuošalai su emaliu, dirbiniai iš brangiųjų metalų, importo daiktai, geriamųjų ragų apkalai).

Galima išskirti tris Nettos kapinyno naudojimo fazes. 1 fazė apima ankstyvojo romėniškosios įtakos laikotarpio vėlyvesnį etapą ir perėjimą iš ankstyvojo į vėlyvąjį romėniškąjį laikotarpį (nuo B_{3b} periodo iki B₂(C₁–C_{2a} periodų). 2 fazę galima sutapatinti su vėlyvuju romėniškosios įtakos laikotarpiu (periodai C_{1b}–C₂), o 3 fazę – su vėlyvojo romėniškojo laikotarpio pabaiga ir tautų kraustymosi laikotarpiu (C₃–D, D ir E periodai).

Nettos kapinynas buvo pradėtas naudoti vienos giminės pietryčių grupės (2 pav.), prie kurios greitai prisidėjo dvi kitos, vakarų ir centrinės (3 pav.). Kiekviena jų laidėjo savo mirusiųjų kitoje kapinyno dalyje, kiekvienos giminės kapų grupės buvo atskirtos viena nuo kitos plačiomis tuščios žemės juostomis. 2 fazėje kapinyną ėmė naudoti ketvirta giminės grupė – šiaurės rytų (4 pav.).

Per keletą kartų (1 ir 2 fazės) pietryčių grupė aiškiai vadavo vietinei bendruomenei. Jos užimamą aukštą visuomeninę padėtį liudija faktas, kad tik šios grupės rajone aptinkama turtingų įkapių kapų su visuomeninio prestižo rodikliais (5–8 pav.). 3 fazėje pietryčių grupė neteko savo reikšmės (9 pav.), o dėl jos „turto paveldėjimo“ prasidėjo neišsprendžiama kova tarp likusių grupių (vakarinės, šiaurės rytų ir centrinės) narių. Daiktų, liudijančių apie aukštą mirusiųjų visuomeninį statusą, aptikta trijų grupių kapuose (9 pav.), o tai rodo, kad nė viena grupė neįgijo pranašumo.

Iš lenkų kalbos vertė M. Michelbertas

Įteikta 2003 m. kovo mėn.