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**NEW PERSPECTIVES OF STUDIES IN THE PRZEWORSK CULTURE
IN THE LUBLIN REGION – ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE RESULTS OF
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES OF SITE 5 IN NIESZAWA KOLONIA,
OPOLE LUBELSKIE DISTRICT, LUBLIN VOIVODSHIP**

Abstract: The last twenty years have brought discoveries which provide a large number of sources concerning the archaeology of the Roman Period in the Lublin region. The interdisciplinary studies related to site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin region, Poland, have generated a substantial part of these new sources. The multi-aspectual analysis of archaeological and biological sources allowed us to characterize of the economy of the dwellers of the settlement which was constituted by agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing.

The relative chronology of the settlement was established, and the first stage of its functioning was determined as belonging to phase B₂, until phase C_{1a} inclusive. The second stage of the utilisation of the settlement is dated to phase C₃-D₁. Three instances of radiocarbon dating confirm the chronological frame established by relative dating.

The presented analysis of selected archaeological sources from site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia, especially of ceramic material, seems to confirm the possibility that in the early Roman period, in the Lublin region, especially in its western part, infiltration of Dacian cultural elements into the Przeworsk environment took place.

It is undeniable that the chronology of the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia extends beyond the established time frame assumed for the functioning of the Przeworsk culture in the Lublin region. It is possible that in the late Roman Period the history of the settlement in question is part of a series of changes that took place in the areas of *Barbaricum* and Roman provinces. Some of the settlers of northern origin could have returned to the former settlements. The settlement in the mesoregion of the Lesser Poland Gorge of the Vistula is of particular importance for the revision of previous interpretations of the cultural changes taking place in the Lublin region in the Roman Period and in the early Migration Period.

Keywords: Przeworsk culture; settlement; Roman Period; early Migration Period; Lublin region; interdisciplinary studies; food economy; pottery; Dacian circle influences



I. INTRODUCTION AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The monographic publication of multi-aspectual study results concerning site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia¹, Józefów on the Vistula commune, Opole Lubelskie district, provides a new source and data base for the studies of various aspects of settlement in the Przeworsk Culture in the area of Lublin region during the Roman Period.

The settlement is located in the western part of the Lublin Upland, at the border of two meso-regions: The Lesser Poland Gorge of the Vistula and the Urzędów Hills (Kondracki 1998, 280–282) (Fig. 1).

The geomorphological character of the surroundings of the site was determined by two rivers: the Vistula, which is 1,5 km away from the site, and its right tributary, the Wyżnica. In the area of Nieszawa and Basonia, Opole Lubelskie district, the modern river bed of the Vistula is 1 km wide (Starkel 2001, 102). The geological-geomorphological studies conducted in this area point to frequent changes between the early Stone Age, the Roman Period and the Middle Ages. Geological, historical² and cartographic data, and especially the Numerical Terrain Model made on the basis of LiDAR data for this area show that during its functioning, the settlement could have been situated on the bank of the old river bed or the actual river (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 15, Fig. 3).

The settlement was set up on the partly preserved and partly duned sandy supra-flood terrace, on a small promontory in the vicinity of the estuary of the Wyżnica to the Vistula. The altitude difference between the flat part of the promontory and the bottom of the valley measures 7 meters in modern times. In the southern direction, the promontory joins a wide plateau of the Urzędów Hills (Fig. 2).

The location of the site reflects the tendencies of the Przeworsk culture people in the Lublin region to prefer naturally exposed places, connected with terraces of big valleys, often in the fork of the rivers, or other places naturally delimited by water³.

¹ *Nieszawa Kolonia stanowisko 5, powiat Opole Lubelskie. Interdyscyplinarna monografia osady z okresu rzymskiego* [Nieszawa Kolonia site 5, Opole Lubelskie district. An interdisciplinary monographic study of a settlement from the Roman period, Stasiak-Cyran (ed.), Lublin 2016.

² It is known from the historical sources that in the area of the old river bed in Nieszawa in the 15th century, a lake „Moschowsky” existed (Kuraś 1983, 159). Old maps show that the old river bed was filled with water still in the 19th century.

³ Similar examples of settlements located at small promontories in the vicinity of a large valley that can be enumerated in this context are: the settlement in Drażgów on the Wieprz river, Ryki district, site 2 (Kokowski 1989, 29) and site 3 (Castagne, Kokowski 1989, 24), as well as the settlements in Dobre, Opole Lubelskie district, which occupied a sandy promontory localized on a river bed terrace of the Chodelka river (Czopek 1980; Kokowski 1991, p. 69–70, Fig. 29) and Puławy-Włostowice – located on an alluvial terrace of the Vistula valley (Reder 2018, 131–132). On the other hand, in the river valley of the Świnka, in the area of its estuary to the Wieprz, a large settlement is located in Sobieszyn, Ryki district, site 14 (Łuczkiwicz 1999, 115). Characteristically located – in

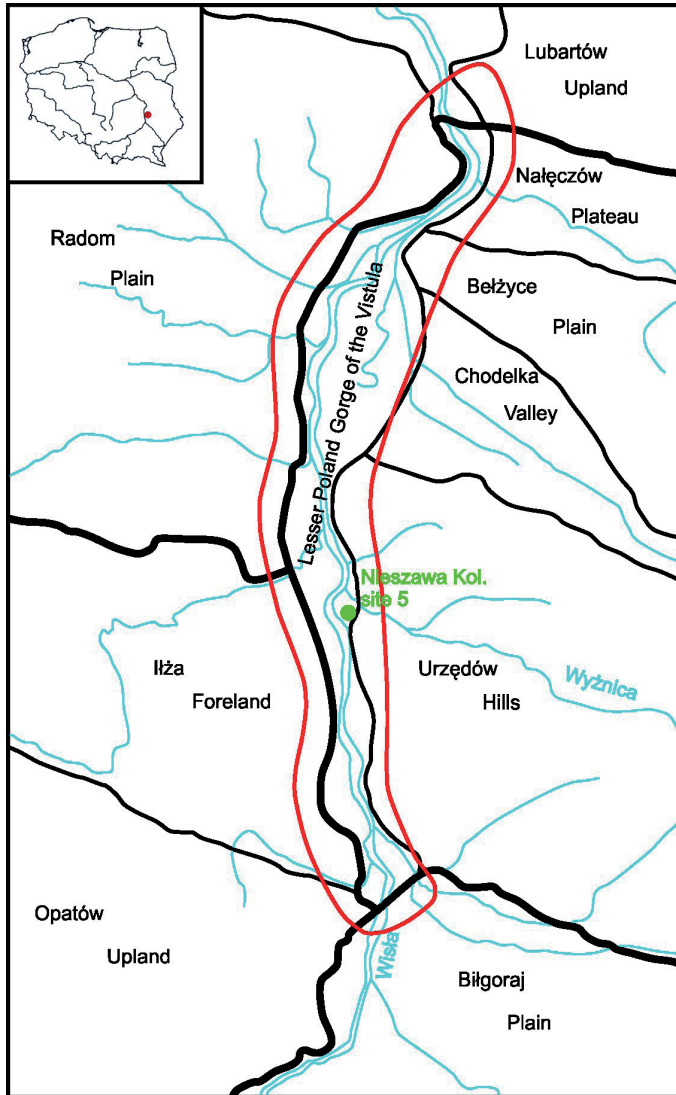


Fig. 1. Localization of site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland, on the background of geographical mesoregions (based on Kondracki 1998)

the fork of the rivers – is also the Przeworsk settlement in Tarkawica, Lubartów district (site 5) – a single household settlement there occupied a promontory-like hill in the fork of the Wieprz and Tyśmienica (Juściński 2008, 327). A similar localization – above the now non-existent meander of a large river – characterizes the settlement in Bykowszczyzna, Lubartów district, site 8 (Dzieńkowski 2014, 384–385, Fig. 1–2).

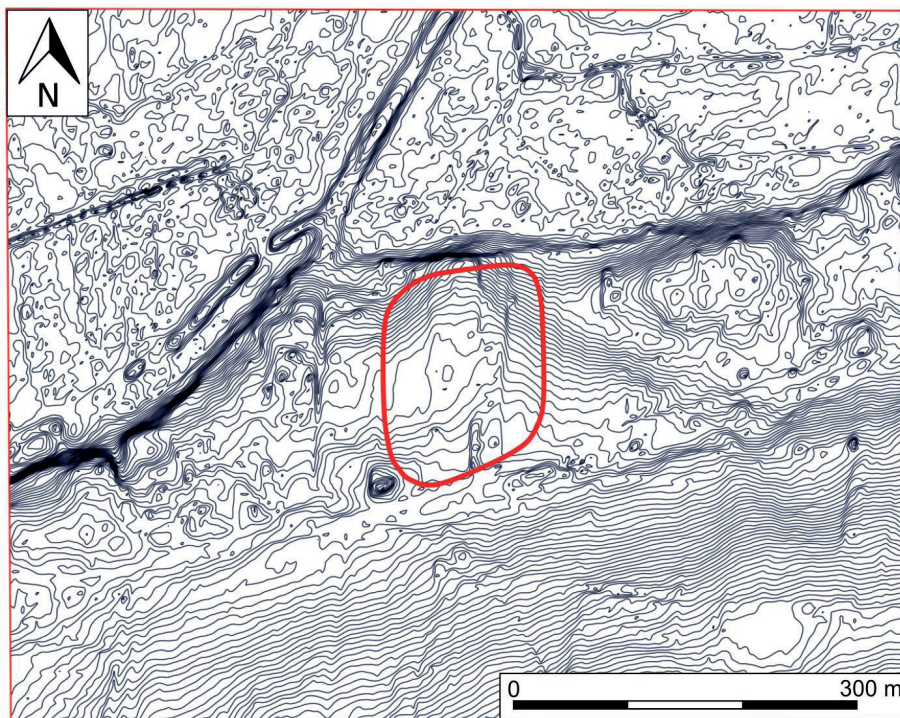


Fig. 2. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland. Range of the settlement on the altitude plan (contour lines every 1 m), after Jakubczak, Szubski (2015)

II. THE ECONOMY

The multi-aspectual analysis of archaeological and biological sources allowed for the creation of characteristics of the fundamental economy of the people from the settlement. These characteristics do not differ substantially from the basic trends of economic development of the settlements of the Przeworsk culture people also at its other territories (cf. Rodzińska-Nowak 2012; Kontny 2016, 203–206).

The archaeozoological analyses can be viewed as exceptional with respect to the quantity of the studied osteological material. Species affiliation was determined for over 50% of animal bones (Ratajczak *et al.* 2016, 291, Fig. 1). The scientific value of this material is raised by the fact that around 80% out of 7000 bone pieces submitted for analysis were found within the filling of features of the Przeworsk culture. General characteristic was constructed which referred to the type and level of livestock farming economy. The structure of livestock

farming has been determined. The main type of meat food of the dwellers of the settlement was the meat of domesticated mammals and fish. The majority of the remains is constituted by cattle and pigs (Ratajczak *et al.* 2016, 292 Tab. 1, 293 Figs. 2, 3). In the studied material, the share of wild mammals is rather small – 1,5%, which is also typical for the majority of settlements of the Przeworsk culture (Piątkowska-Małecka 2014, 83–84; Rodzińska-Nowak 2017, 191). It may be assumed that meat from wild mammals constituted a mere addition which enriched the diet. Among the remains of wild mammals, the majority, such as the deer, roe deer, badger and fox, are connected with a forested area and its borders. The large number of remains of ruminants proves, on the other hand, that in the vicinity of the settlement, next to the thick forest, there were also vast open spaces, at which cattle grazing could be conducted. Also bones of animals associated with water and swampy areas were recorded. Apart from fish, one can enumerate: amphibians, mud turtles, beavers and elks (Ratajczak *et al.* 2016, 292 Tab. 1, Fig. 2).

It is possible that in the case of the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia, the Vistula and the Wyznica rivers determined the basis of the economy. One of the consequences of such location was, as it seems, a greater role of fishing than in many other settlements of the Przeworsk culture. Fish remains constitute 10% of the entire bone material subjected to archaeozoological analyses (18% among the determinable bones). It was possible to determine fish bones and scales and to identify at least 6 fish species (Ratajczak *et al.* 2016, 292 Tab. 1; Witkowski 2016, 288–290, Tab. 1). In the set of tools discovered within the settlement, particularly noteworthy were the items related to fishing – fishing hooks (Fig. 3:1,2), tools made of antler for weaving the net (Fig. 3:3,4), clay and stone net-weights (Fig. 3:5–7), a harpoon (Fig. 3:8) or chisel for cutting ice on the river (Fig. 3:9)⁴.

On the basis of archaeobotanical studies, it was possible to establish the preferred set of arable crops and the wild plants. Seven arable plant species were identified: millet, barley, rye, seed, peas, Camelina and poppy. It was also possible to confirm the occurrence of 24 wild plant species⁵. The great proportion of weeds in the set of identified plants, like the discovery of a tool resembling ploughing

⁴ Unfortunately, at other sites of the Przeworsk culture in the Lublin region, which were situated on large rivers, even if partially published, no archaeozoological analyses were carried out. Therefore, it is not possible to compare the degree of participation of fishing in the food economy of their dwellers with the results obtained for the settlement under discussion. The artefact inventories, however, record analogical tools connected with this way of obtaining food. For example, at the settlement in Dobre in the valley of the Chodelka river, analogical weights for fishing net made of clay and rock are known (Kokowski 1991, 80, 81, Fig. 37:a–b), while at site 14 in Sobieszyn on the Wieprz river bronze fishing hooks were discovered (Łuczkiwicz 2010, p. 64 Fig. 11:3).

⁵ A common occurrence of pigweed (*Chenopodium album*) in the samples of macro-remains points to the specific diet of the settlement dwellers, in which plant food seems to have dominated, including soups prepared from this high-protein weed (Wasylikowa *et al.* 2010, 132; Rodzińska-Nowak 2012, 137–139).

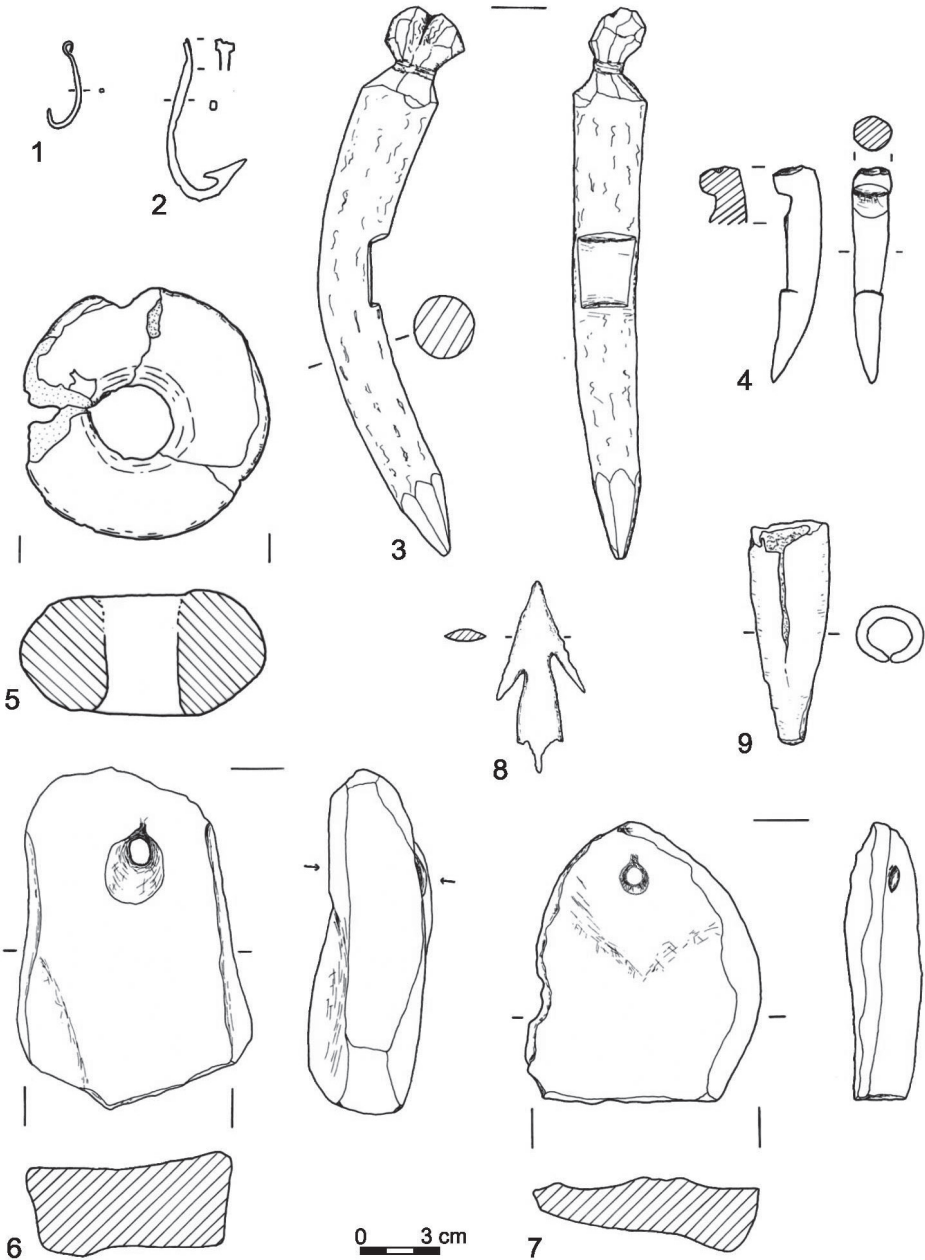


Fig. 3. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland. Set of artefacts related to fishing (1 – bronze; 2, 8, 9 – iron; 3, 4 – antler; 5 – clay; 6, 7 – stone).
Drawn by M. Stasiak-Cyran

cutting blade in a storage pit (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 38, Pl. XCVI:2) point to the use of the two-field crop rotation system.

It may be concluded that although the settlement was situated on light sandy soil, the farmlands were most probably set up on quite fertile soil, mainly on the terrace of the Vistula river. The plant material only weakly reflects the swamp territories connected with the river basin, which clearly points to the directions of the exploitation of the surroundings. Apart from the farmlands of undetermined size⁶, the settlement was also surrounded by forests, in which raspberries and blackberries were picked. The forest complexes also provided timber. The analysis of charcoals showed that oak and pine were the most common fuel material (Wasylikowa *et al.* 2010, 133, 136).

The picture of the economy of the settlement dwellers can be completed with the results of archaeoceramological analyses. The comparison of selected samples of ceramics with the modern samples of clay from the basin of the Wyźnica pointed to the exploitation of the local deposits of clay for vessel production, whose fragments were collected from the features of the Przeworsk culture (Daszkiewicz, Schneider, Bobryk 2016, 241 Fig. 13). The archaeological excavations did not reveal pottery kilns within the settlement. However, it cannot be excluded that household pottery firing was carried out in hearths and multi-functional kilns. The forests provided both building and fuel material for the hearths and kilns, while the nearby river and water springs provided easy access to water.

Within some of the hearths, especially their concentrations in the southern part of the settlement, may have been involved in some less advanced metallurgic activity (Biborski, Stepiński, Biborski 2016, 260–261). Indirectly, this thesis is supported by the findings in the form of tools which may have been used in metal forming processes: small ‘jeweller’s hammer’, files, clay melting pots as well remnants of slag recorded in some features and in the cultural layer (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, Pl. LVI:6, LXXIV:3, LXXXIX:2, CI:2).

III. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

The site in Nieszawa Kolonia remains one of the largest and best studied settlements from the Roman Period in the Lublin region, which provides a lot of data concerning dwelling constructions of the Przeworsk culture people. 123 archaeological features were excavated: 11 post constructions of dwelling or dwell-

⁶ As a result of the NMT analysis based on data from LiDAR for the vicinity of the settlement, it was possible to record remains of low dykes aligned into irregular rectangles measuring 15–20 by 25–30m, which resemble the so-called *Celtic fields* (Jakubczak, Szubski 2015, 8). So far, there are no clear indications that these structures should be related to functioning of the settlement during the Roman period.

ing-household character, 34 hearths and kilns and 78 domestic features⁷ (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 18–58). The construction features: dwelling, domestic related to food storage or processing, or production (e.g. lime kilns) substantially contribute to the knowledge of the dwelling and domestic constructions of the Przeworsk culture people. It may, for example, be noted that the existing synthesizing publications related to the settlement of the Przeworsk culture have so far not included or treated marginally the source data from the territory of the Lublin region (Cf. Jadczykowska 1983, 111, Fig. 1; Michałowski 2003, 110–11; 2011, 307, Pl. 1).

The characteristic feature of the special planning at the settlement under discussion is the existence of complexes of features. Around a large household which is a post construction there were other features: domestic features of various function, including hearths, circular pits of, sometimes, sizeable depth, concentrations of daub. A very similar character of constructions – roofed deep storage pits – was recorded at some settlements of the Beskids zone in the younger Roman Period and early Migration Period, among others, in Lesko (Barłowska 1984, p 58, 65, 69–74). In Nieszawa Kolonia, an example of a pit was also recorded with a probably intentionally dug-in storage vessel (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 34, Pl. XXV). Such a feature is also known, among others, from settlements of the Carpathian Mountains (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 71–73).

Post constructions are the most typical forms of dwellings at the territory of the Przeworsk culture (Kontny 2016, 201). According to the typology of buildings of the Przeworsk culture established by Michałowski, the majority of the dwelling features at the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia are represented by the subterranean buildings with irregular dispersion of the traces of post-holes (type 2.2.2 according to the typology of Michałowski 2011, 131–138).

Significant for the studies of the Przeworsk culture settlement is the discovery of specialized features, to which one can include part of the hearths and kilns, especially those, which were accompanied by post constructions. Their presence suggests that these places served not only for the purpose of food preparation, smoking (e.g. fish), but also for other, more advanced production activities.

The studies at the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia yielded new data for the study of lime production and led to verification of all sources from the Lublin region which were connected with this type of activity. The subject of lime production at settlements from the Roman Period has been weakly recognized, and synthetic studies on the subject referred only to selected regions of Poland (e.g. Pyrgała 1971; 1972, 229–254). The accumulation of new sources which has occurred in recent years, mainly in connection with the rescue excavations, allowed for supplementing and systematizing of the knowledge in this respect (Michałowski,

⁷ Site 5 was discovered in 1979 during surface examination and excavated archaeologically in the years: 1986, 1996–2000, 2003, 2006 and 2008.

Sobucki 2011; Michałowski, Teska 2015). The new data from the Lublin region allow for a new attempt to synthesize the subject in question in relation to this area⁸.

IV. CHRONOLOGY

On the basis of relative chronology, it can be concluded that the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia was settled in two stages. First stage, based primarily on analysis of metal artefacts, can be generally related to phases B_2-C_{1a} of the Roman Period. The oldest artefacts include a bronze pin (Fig. 4:1), belonging to group IVa of pins with profiled head, according to Beckamnn (1966, 26–28). It can be placed in phase B_2 , probably in its early stadium. Dated to the fully developed phase B_2 , are the profiled fitting of a belt end (Fig. 4:2), representing type 1, variety 7, according to Madyda-Legutko (2011, 21), as well as an unipartite comb belonging to type A I, according to Thomas's classification (1960) (Fig. 4:9). Similar dating can be ascribed to the iron fibula derived from the strongly profiled ones with traces of decoration of the head with silver wire and gold foil and comb on the bow (Fig. 4:3). Rich decorations⁹ in the form of incrustation, which were made using a silver filigree wire, were also observed on the brooch variant 2 of trumpet fibulae¹⁰ (Fig. 4:4). To phases B_{2b} or B_2/C_1 , one can ascribe the bronze brooch A.84¹¹, or the so-called "legion brooch" type A.247 (Fig. 4:5,6). The ring-shaped fitting of belt end (Fig. 4:7) – type 5, variety 1 (according to Madyda-Legutko 2011, 50), a fibula with an inverted, widened foot of A.181 type (Fig. 4:8), or the fragment of a glass vessel with a fold ornament (Stawiarska 1999, 263) (Fig. 4:10) constitute the youngest horizon of the first stage of the functioning of the settlement, which corresponds to stadium B_2/C_1-C_{1a} of the Roman Period¹².

⁸ Within the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia, 2 kilns were discovered (features 60 and 94), which due to their construction and remnants of lime in the filling, can be determined as lime kilns, although it cannot be excluded that they could have played other functions. Taking into account the typology of lime kilns established for the materials from Greater Poland (Michałowski, Sobucki 2011, 278, 290-294; Michałowski, Teska 2015, 324, Fig. 8) it can be claimed, in the Lublin region, the dominant lime kilns are those with a recessed trough shaped construction, with the walls lined with stones and the bottom filled with clay (variant II1a). Around the features from Nieszawa Kolonia, traces of accompanying post constructions were recorded. The presence of post-holes suggests the existence of some roofing or fencing connected with the functioning of the kilns. It is possible that they are remnants of fencing – a kind of fire wall separating the kiln from the rest of the buildings in the settlement (Cf. plan: Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 46, Fig. 6). Such fences could have also played a role of shielding from sudden gusts of wind which could have affected the process of firing of lime (Michałowski, Sobucki 2011, 299).

⁹ The richly decorated fibulae II and IV of the Almgren group are representative of the eastern zone of the Przeworsk culture, and their concentration is observed at sites from the turn of the early and younger Roman period in the San river area (Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak 2017, p. 301–309).

¹⁰ According to the typology of Liana (1970, p. 443–444).

¹¹ According to the typology of Almgren (1923).

¹² From the archaeological feature (hut) 59 a radiocarbon date was obtained (R_Date Poz-75681) 130–215 cal AD (probability 68,2%) (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, p. 84, Fig. 29 for further details).

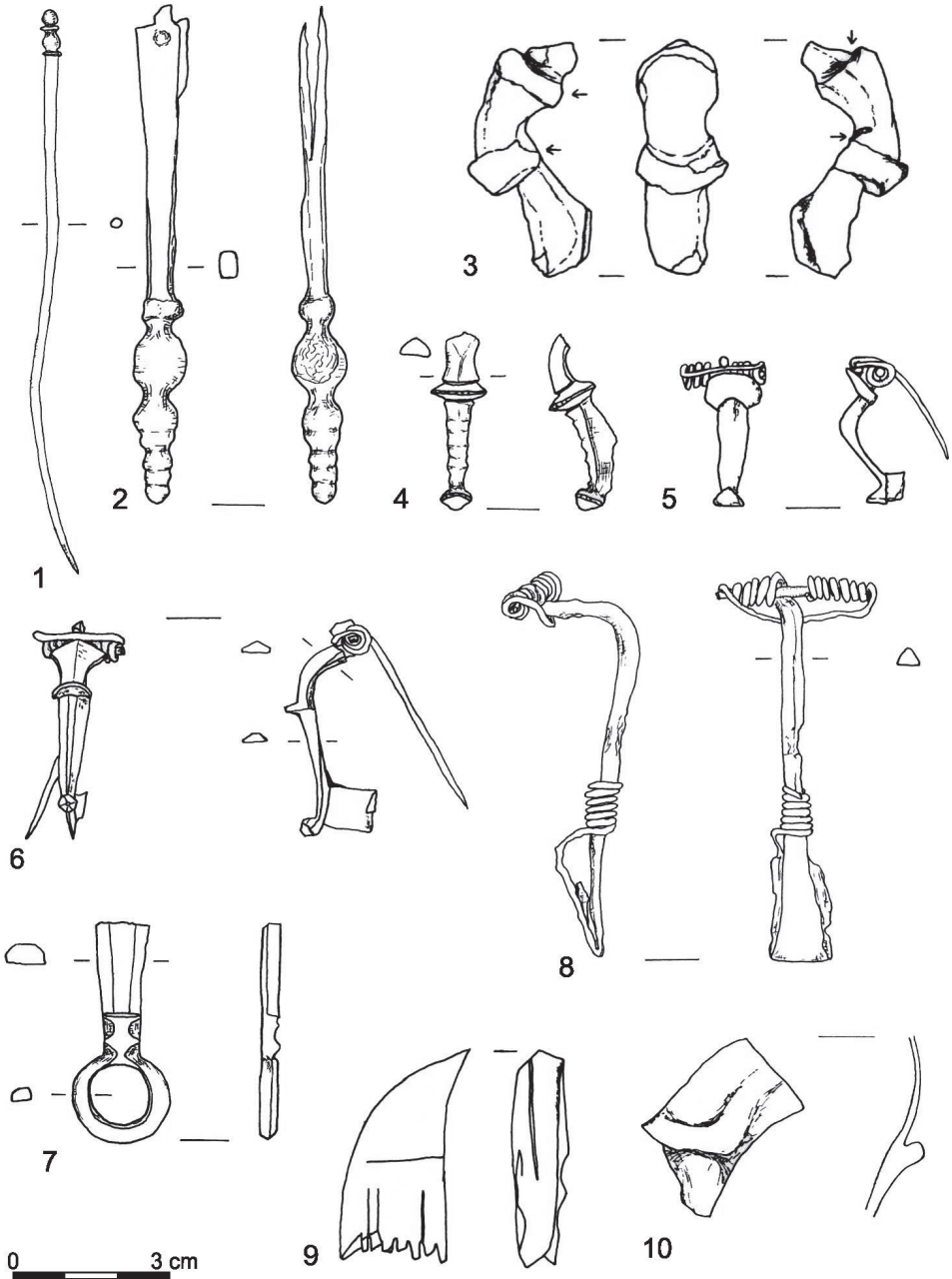


Fig. 4. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland. Selection of artefacts from phases B₂-C_{1a} of the Roman period (1, 5, 6 – bronze; 2, 7, 8 – iron; 3 – iron with silver and gold; 4 – bronze, silver; 9 – antler; 10 – glass). Drawn by M. Stasiak-Cyran

It is undeniable that the chronology of the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia extends beyond the established time frame assumed for the functioning of the Przeworsk culture in the Lublin region (Cf. Kokowski 2019). To the elements, which determine the second stage of the functioning of the settlement, belongs a large bronze brooch A.158 (Fig. 5:1), with a trapezium shaped cross-section of the bow which is decorated with metopes and engraved lines, as well as a foot which is slightly shorter than the bow and is decorated with a pattern of oblique incursions and triangular stamps. Brooches A.158 from the territory of the Przeworsk culture were catalogued by I. Jakubczyk, who included the Nieszawa item to variant Ojców 3, dated to phase C₃/D₁ (Jakubczyk 2014, 133–134, 145, Fig. 4, 156, 198, Pl. XXII).

In this time horizon, one can also place two iron tools – fire-steels ?¹³ of Żerniki Wielkie type (Fig. 5:2,3). The closest, territorially, items of this type were found at two sites from the south-eastern Lublin region. They are dated to the times from about the middle of 4th to about the middle of 5th century AD (Piotrowski, Dąbrowski 2009, 233, Fig. 1:1; Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2009, 202, 226, Fig. 14:8–10). From the pit in Nieszawa Kolonia, from which one of these tools was extracted, radiocarbon dating was obtained as 250–333 cal AD (probability 68,2%) (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 85, Fig. 31 for further details).

Similar dating applies to the fragments of storage vessels of *Krausengefässe* type, which occurred at the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia, among others, in one domestic feature with a late variant of fibula type A.158 and an iron tool of the Żerniki Wielkie type (Fig. 5:4, 5). Storage wide-collared vessels appear on a larger scale in the inventories of the Przeworsk culture in late Roman Period, and they are connected with the Period of mass production and use of wheel-made pottery (Cf. Dobrzańska 1990, 44–48; Wilk 2005, 361–363; Rodzińska-Nowak 2006, 135).

V. CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

It should be emphasized that detailed analyses involved the entire ceramic material from the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia¹⁴. The reconstructed forms of hand-made vessels, and those made on wheel, both the ones discovered in features dated to early and the beginning of younger Roman Period and those coming from

¹³ Tools of this form, are called piercers with a bar-shaped handle by some researchers (among others, J. Szydłowski 1977, p. 103), fire-steels of Żerniki Wielkie type (Kokowski 2009, 201–203) or awls of „Dresden-Dobritz/Zerniki Wielkie” type (Schuster 2011, p. 66). Apart from the debatable function, the most interesting is the question of their distribution and dating (ibid. 68, 74, Fig. 2).

¹⁴ The collection of ceramics, which has nearly 30,000 items, has been thoroughly characterized and systematized in the monograph of the site (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 58–72). The technological analysis is supplemented with specialized laboratory studies (Stasiak-Cyran *et al.* 2010; Daszkiewicz, Schneider, Bobryk 2016).

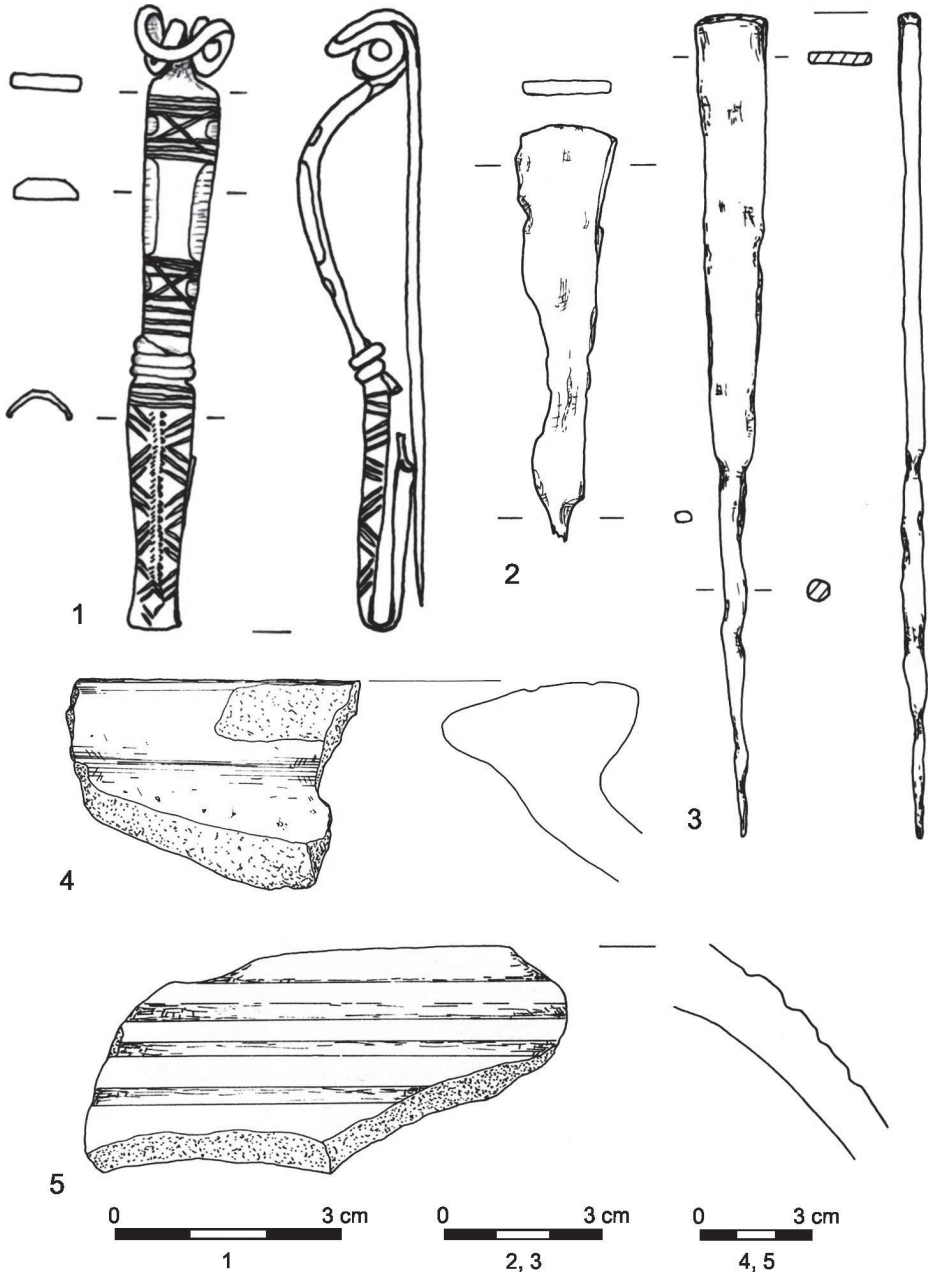


Fig. 5. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland. Selection of artefacts from phases C₂-D₁ of the Roman and early Migration periods. Features: 63: 1, 2, 5; 87: 4; 116A: 3 (1 – bronze; 2, 3 – iron; 4, 5 – clay). Drawn by M. Stasiak-Cyran

features containing artefacts with late Roman Period chronology do not diverge from the tradition of pottery production of the Przeworsk culture people.

Thanks to its location on the Vistula river, the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia was an important commercial centre in the early Roman Period. On its territory, denarii were found, imported ornaments such as the fibulae from Pannonia (Gładysz-Juścińska 2003, 201, Fig. 1: A, Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 74, Fig. 27: A, B). The ceramic material also provides interesting data on cultural influences and migration processes.

For some time now, attention has been paid in settlement materials in south-eastern Poland to the ever-emerging ceramics of “foreign origin” identified with the circle of Dacian cultures¹⁵. In the early Roman Period, in the Przeworsk culture in south-eastern Poland, especially in the Carpathians, one can observe, especially in the ceramic material, other elements characteristic of the Dacian cultural circle. This is manifested by the occurrence of vessel forms typical of Dacian culture, such as cups on high foot, jugs, so-called Dacian bowls and often appropriate plastic ornaments (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 63, Florkiewicz 2006, 196–220, Fig. 1). The process of permeating some cultural traits from the Dacian circle, visible, for example, in the form of plastic ornamentation untypical of the hand-made pottery of the Przeworsk culture, was strongest from the B₂ to C_{1a} phase (Florkiewicz 2004, 673).

It is possible to note at the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia the presence of fragments of ceramics with plastic ornament, mostly in the form of knobs (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, Pl. LX:3, LXIII:5). It seems plausible to interpret this as the result of the adaptation of the ornamentation from the south-east, with the cultural interactions of the Dacian circle. With regard to pottery made on the wheel, a large part of fragments does not allow for the reconstruction of the vessels. Among them, attention is drawn to the part of the handle that may belong to a jug (Fig. 6:1). This fragment of wheel-made pottery as well as some fragments of thin-walled, carefully fired, usually light brown vessels with traces of the activity of a high-speed potter’s wheel (Fig. 6: 2–3) can be regarded as an import from the territories of the Roman provinces or their directly adjacent area¹⁶.

It should also be taken into account that some of the storage vessels discovered in Nieszawa Kolonia, especially the hand-made fragments with s-shaped rim (Fig. 7:1) can be associated with the influence from south-east (with the Dacian cultural complex) in the early Roman Period (Lasota 2010, 80–84).

¹⁵ One of the first to notice this was Kokowski summarizing at the end of the 1990s the state of research on the pre-Roman and Roman settlements in south-eastern Poland (2001, p. 117).

¹⁶ As part of the provenance groups from archaeoceramological research carried out for the ceramics from Nieszawa (Daszkiewicz, Schneider, Bobryk 2016, 230–231, Table 2), the category of imports was distinguished alongside local and regional products. Only fragments made using a pottery wheel were found in it.

They are characterized by with a thick admixture, careless finish, thick walls up to 15mm, irregular smoothing of the surface of the vessel which resembles scratches similarly to the items from south-west Lesser Poland. This influence may also be attributed to the hand-made storage vessels with a flange-shaped rim (Fig. 7:2,3), as well as the fragments of the middle parts of bellies with enhanced knob-handles (Fig. 7:4–7).

Such characteristic forms are known from the ceramic materials at sites in the vicinity of Kraków and the Dunajec and Raba basin (Lasota 2010, 83 Fig. 3, 86–87), and also from the basin of the upper San (Madyda-Legutko *et al.* 2013, 410–411, Fig. 2:9). One should also not forget that storage vessels occur already in the materials from the first centuries of our era, among others, at the territory of Transcarpathian Ukraine (Kokowski 2001, 117).

Nevertheless, some of the storage vessels made on the wheel discovered on the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia, especially fragments of *Krausengefässe* vessels, should be linked to the later stage of the functioning of the settlement. The discovered fragments, technologically and stylistically do not diverge from numerous occurring at settlements from the C₂–D phases in south-eastern Poland (Wilk 2005, 367). Such chronology is confirmed by other types of vessels, including bowls with a wide-collared rim (Fig. 6:4; also Stasiak-Cyran 2016, Pl. LXX: 1), which are a common in Przeworsk culture in the Lesser Poland region, occurring primarily in inventories of objects dating from the C_{1a} / C_{1b} phase transition, with a noticeable increase in occurrence in the C₂ and C₃–D phases (Dobrzańska 1990, 79–81, Fig. 19; Rodzińska-Nowak 2010, 82).

Among the fragments of wheel-made vessels, technologically speaking, one can distinguish the typical smoothed “grey” ceramics which was characteristic for the territory of western Lesser Poland, fragments of well-fired ceramics with smoothed black surfaces and burnished ornament (Fig. 6:4). There is also brown colour ceramics with a hard surface, and no visible thinning admixture (Stasiak-Cyran 2016, 65 Fig. 24), which is particularly characteristic of the Beskids zone (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 79). Pottery with soft, abrasive surfaces, also present in the material from Nieszawa Kolonia, are directly related to the presence of Przeworsk culture potters from the south-east¹⁷ (Okoński, Szpunar 2000, 268).

However, materials of the Przeworsk culture character, but with a clearly later dating, can testify to the re-emigration of the representatives of the Przeworsk culture to their former residences, who took part in the political

¹⁷ The “abrasive” ceramics occurring most often in the south of the country is the subject of discussion, especially in the context of its cultural provenance. It is often connected with the pottery of the Dacian circle (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 77). Technological research indicates, however, that the abrasiveness of ceramics made on a potter’s wheel is not of a cultural nature, but involves technology, that is, errors at the stage of raw material selection and firing (Dobrzańska, Kielski, Wodnicka 2004, 686–688).

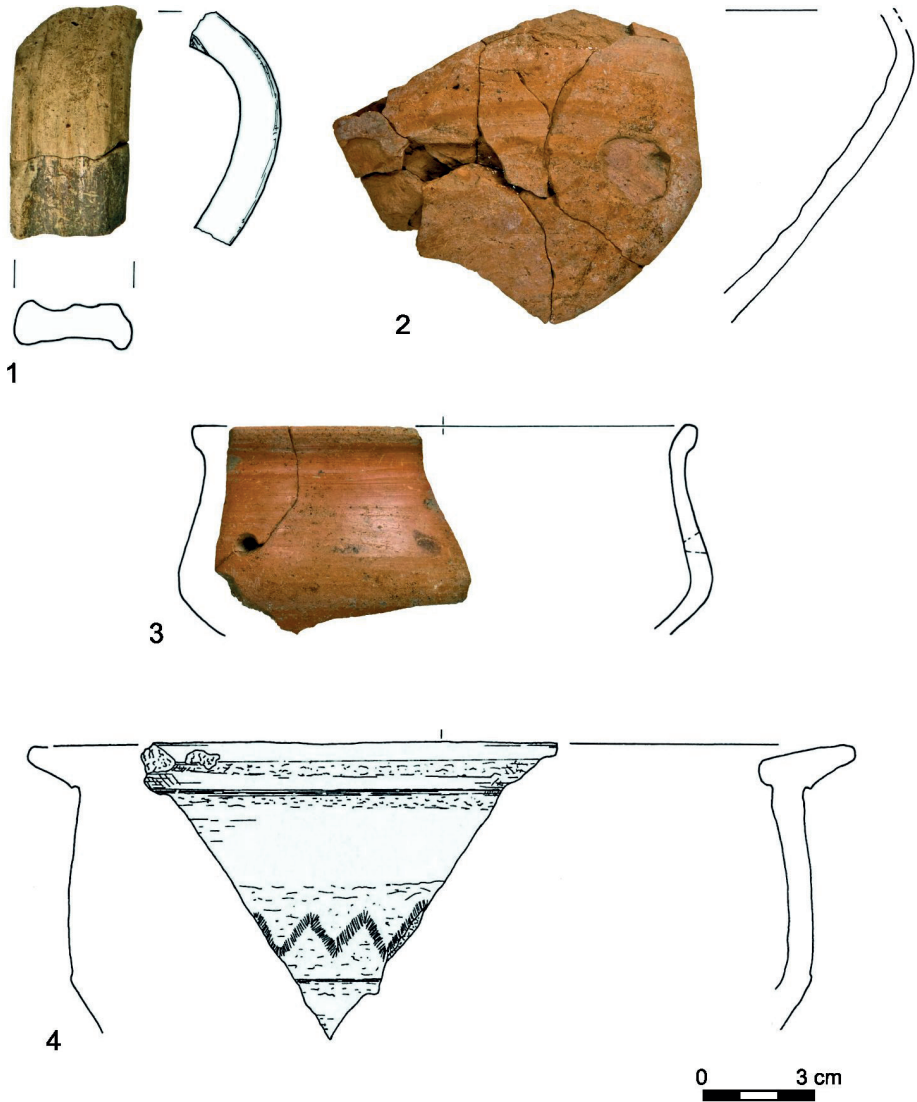


Fig. 6. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland.
 Selection of wheel-made pottery. Drawn by M. Stasiak-Cyran, photo P. Maciuk

events in southern Europe related to Goths (Kokowski 2001, 121–123). Perhaps the same explanation can be given to the presence of artefacts dating back to the end of the Roman Period and the early phase of the migration Period at the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia.

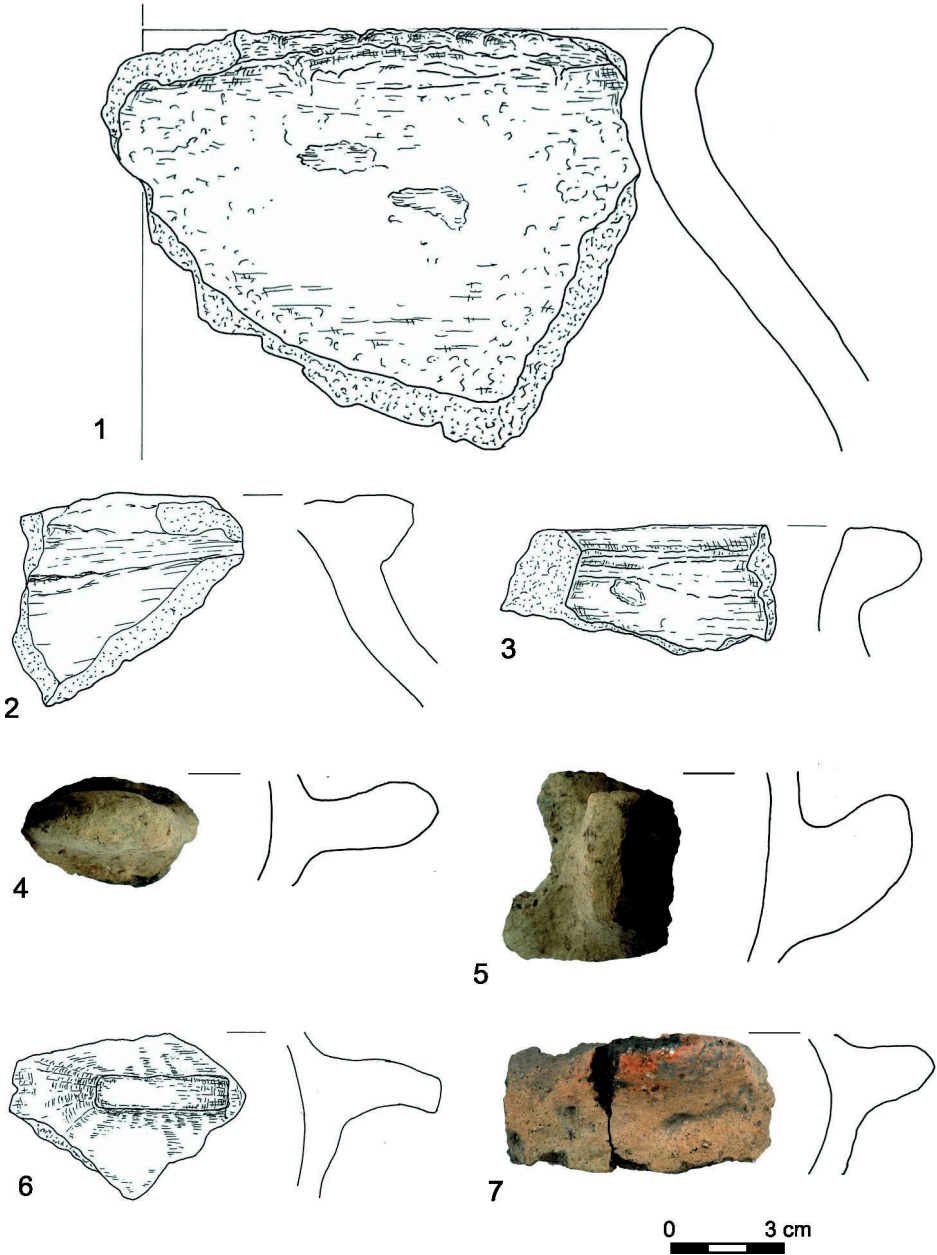


Fig. 7. Nieszawa Kolonia, site 5, Opole Lubelskie district, Lublin voivodship, Poland. Selection of hand-made pottery. Drawn by M. Stasiak-Cyran, photo P. Maciuk

Considering the question of the cultural context of these artefacts, one can recall Godłowski's statement that the Przeworsk culture cannot be treated mechanically as a set of elements of an archaeological culture. It occupies a special position in the Central European *Barbaricum*, distinguishing itself with the developmental continuity from the beginning of the younger pre-Roman Period to the early Migration Period (Godłowski 1976, p 18, 21). The Lublin region is one of the eastern borderlands of this culture where, apart from the elements of West and East Przeworsk, there are local characteristic features. This zone shows a certain separateness (perhaps also tribal) from other areas of the Przeworsk settlement (Andrzejowski 2001, 83).

The political and cultural situation of the Przeworsk culture at the end of its existence should be considered particularly complicated. Godłowski wrote about this in relation to the south – western and southern areas of the Lublin region, giving as an example the youngest materials from cemeteries in Gościeradów, Kraśnik district, and in Jakubowice, Kraśnik district, which by definition were interpreted as belonging to the Wielbark culture. This researcher, however, considered the area under discussion to be more influenced by the Przeworsk than the Wielbark culture, stating that this problem could be resolved by further systematic research¹⁸ (Godłowski 1985, 106–107).

The verification of this thesis was hindered by the fact that the majority of the researched and at least partially published sites of the Przeworsk culture from the western Lublin region are cemeteries. Their chronology is limited to the early and beginning of the younger Roman Period¹⁹.

In the western part of the region, some of the artefacts from the cemetery in Kraśnik-Piaski, Kraśnik district, have been considered to be the youngest materials of the Przeworsk culture, dated to stage C_{1b} (Wichrowski 2000, 103). According to the state of research, established in the literature, the Wielbark culture entered this area in phase C₂, however, it can be found only on the basis of grave finds and numismatics (e.g. Kokowski 1991, 190). It is to this culture that, for example, treasures or individual finds of the latest chronology were ascribed (Kokowski 1991, 187, Maćzyńska 1999, 31, Kokowski *et al.* 2012, 132).

Fortunately, this incomplete cultural image has the potential to be supplemented by a large increase in sources from settlement research²⁰ that has tak-

¹⁸ Similarly, A. Kokowski (2005, 510–511) wrote about the tendency to automatically include late Roman finds from the Lublin region to the catalogue of the Wielbark culture.

¹⁹ The cemeteries studied to a greater extent include: Opoka, Puławy district (Szarek-Waszkowska 1971, Kokowski 1991, Stasiak 1994), Gościeradów, Kraśnik district (Niewęglowski 1981), Wola Skromowska, Lubartów district (Kokowski, Kutylowski 1987), Puławy-Włostowice, Puławy district (Gajewski, Gurba 1981, Lis 1997, Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2018), Drażgów site 1, Ryki district (Kokowski *et al.* 1997), Kraśnik-Piaski, Kraśnik district (Wichrowski 2000).

²⁰ Excavation of settlements constitute more than 40% of all fieldwork carried out over the last twenty years at sites from the younger pre-Roman period and the Roman period in the Lublin region (according to the data of the Provincial Office for the Protection of Monuments in Lublin).

en place in recent years (see Gładysz-Juścińska *et al.* 2007, 81–91; Łuczkiwicz, 2009, 176; Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2009, 195, 239, Fig. 27; Kokowski *et al.* 2012, 131–133). However, the state of their publication is still unsatisfactory. Apart from the monograph of the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia (Stasiak-Cyran 2016), one can list the results of a single dwelling settlement in Tarkawica (Juściński 2008), and a monograph of a multicultural site in Puławy-Włostowice (Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2018). The results of research at other sites remain at the stage of partial presentation of sources.

It is undisputed that the chronology of the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia goes beyond the dates recognized so far as the period of the duration of the Przeworsk culture in the Lublin region. Artefacts found in certain features, such as the single bronze fibula A.158, iron tools of the Żerniki Wielkie type, fragments of storage vessels of the *Krausengefässe* type, the majority of wheel-made pottery²¹ indicate that we are probably dealing with settlement in a horizon corresponding to the decay phase of the Przeworsk culture (see Stasiak-Cyran 2008, 2016, 87–88).

Ceramics made on a potter's wheel should probably be included in the import category. In this case, we can talk about contacts connecting the settlement on the Vistula with western Lesser Poland (presence of grey pottery) and with the south-eastern zone of the Przeworsk culture (so-called *Krausengefässe* storage vessels, brown ceramics, ceramics with abrasive surfaces). In the early and the beginning of younger Roman Period, cultural impulses and probably the products themselves came from the Dacian circle. This was done perhaps through the pottery centres of the Sanok Valley (see Okoński 2000, p 163–164; Madyda-Legutko 2010, p 28–30).

V. CONCLUSIONS

The presented analysis of selected archaeological sources from site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia, especially of ceramic material, seems to confirm the possibility that in the early Roman Period, in the Lublin region, especially in its western part, infiltration of Dacian cultural elements into the Przeworsk environment took place. It is also possible that in the late Roman Period the history of the settlement in question is part of a series of changes that took place in the areas of *Barbaricum* and Roman provinces. Some of the settlers of northern origin could have returned to the former settlements. The issue of re-emigration of representatives of the

²¹ The collection of ceramics made on the wheel constitutes only 1.5% of the total ceramic material – nevertheless, it is the largest documented and systematized collection of this category of sources from a Przeworsk culture site in the Lublin region.

Przeworsk culture at the end of its existence is raised from time to time in the literature on the subject (e.g. Barłowska 1984, 96–97; Kokowski 2001, 121–123; 2005, 513; Sadowski 2010, 254; Mączyńska, Jakubczyk 2017, 295). It remains to be determined whether this was an incidental penetration of certain groups of people probably coming from the south to the Vistula areas of the western Lublin region, or whether we are dealing here with a wide-scale settlement. In order to resolve this matter, we need further comprehensive analysis and publication of the results of surveys of the Przeworsk culture in the western part of this area, especially the mesoregion of the Lesser Poland Gorge of the Vistula.

The return to the former places of settlement of the representatives of the Przeworsk culture population is one of the possible interpretations of the cultural context of the youngest horizon of artefacts discovered at site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia as well as at site 3 in Puławy-Włostowice (Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2018, 607–609). One may also consider a different, albeit less likely, hypothesis – the existence of enclaves with the settlement traditions associated with the Przeworsk culture on the territory in question, despite the expansion of the Wielbark culture, which in the Lublin Upland was not a one-time act but a process over time, especially in relation to the western part of the region (Kokowski 1991, 187; 2007, 86). There did not have to be a sharp breakdown in the settlement of the Przeworsk population still within the younger Roman Period. The attractive locations on the Vistula, even temporarily abandoned, could be re-settled.

Reconstruction of the process of permeating cultural influences in the Lublin region, especially in its western part at the end of antiquity, still requires further studies. The key issue to complement the picture of changes and cultural processes in this part of the region during the Roman Period and in the early stages of migration may be studies on ceramics, including the origin and chronology of ceramics made on the wheel.

An interdisciplinary study of the results of research on site 5 in Nieszawa Kolonia can be considered a big step in this direction. It seems that, just like the results from the settlement complex in Ulów, Tomaszów Lubelski district (e.g. Niezabitowska-Wiśniewska 2009; 2010; 2017) for the Gothic cultures of the eastern Lublin region, so the results from the settlement in Nieszawa Kolonia for the area between the Wieprz and the Vistula may affect the revision of previous interpretations of the cultural changes taking place in the Roman Period in the western part of the region.

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