

CHALLENGING POTTERY BASED CHRONOLOGIES AND NARRATIVES ON TRIPOLYE SOCIETIES

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Already since the end of the 19th century, the ceramics found in Tripolye settlements have attracted great interest among researchers both aesthetically and as a valuable source of information because of their elaborate ornamentation and shapes. Due to the almost complete absence of stratified settlements, style and techniques of ceramics became one of the most important material for chronological constructions, and even more, settlements with similar vessels started to be used for reconstruction of tribes. Thus, ceramics had ceased to be just dishes, but were equated with people. Thanks to the work of many generations of scientists, the archaeological remains in the enormous Tripolye distribution area was divided both temporarily and spatially into a number of accurate periods and 'local groups'. Unfortunately, there has long been a lack of independent sources to test the chronological relevance of the observed typological variability of pottery and interpretations based on it. In recent years, this situation has changed considerably insofar as different projects have systematically obtained a larger number of new 14c dates that can be used to review existing constructions based on pottery like chronological and others. In our paper we would like to discuss the question to what extent we need to revise and rethink existing narratives and in how far this opens up starting points for new approaches for the interpretation.

Keywords

Tripolye, Copper Age, Ukraine, Pottery style

Note/comment