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2950–2750 BC

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# CONTENTS

EDITOR'S FOREWORD  ......................................................... 1

Mihailo Y. Videiko, CEMETERIES OF THE SO.FIEVKAA TYPE.
FIELD RESEARCH, STATE OF PUBLICATION OF SOURCES
AND GENERAL POSITION IN THE SYSTEMATICS
OF TRIPOLYE CULTURE  ..................................................... 3

SOURCES  ........................................................................... 15

Mihailo Y. Videiko, ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE SO.FIEVKAA TYPE CEMETERIES  ................................. 15

Nikolay Kovalyukh, Mihailo Videiko, Vadim Skripkin, CHRONOLOGY
OF SO.FIEVKAA TYPE CEMETERIES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND ISOTOPIC ONE .......................................................... 135

Sławomir Kadrow, ABSOLUTE CHRONOLOGY OF THE SO.FIEVKAA
TYPE IN THE LIGHT OF "WIGGLE MATCHING" ANALYSIS ........... 141

ANALYSIS  ............................................................................ 148

Janusz Budziszewski, FLINT MATERIALS FROM CEMETERIES
OF THE SO.FIEVKAA TYPE .................................................. 148

Viktor F. Petrougne, PETROGRAPHICAL-LITHOLOGICAL
CHARACTERISTICS OF STONE MATERIALS FROM LATE-TRIPOLYE
CEMETERIES OF THE SO.FIEVKAA TYPE  ................................ 190

Sławomir Kadrow, Aleksander Koško, Mihailo Y. Videiko POTTERY
STYLISTICS OF THE SO.FIEVKAA TYPE, GENETIC-CULTURAL
QUALIFICATION ............................................................... 200

Malgorzata Daszkiewicz, Jerzy Raabe, TECHNOLOGY OF THE SO.FIEVKAA
TYPE POTTERY. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PHYSICO-CHEMICAL
EXAMINATIONS ............................................................... 214

Viktor I. Klochko, Aleksander Koško, WEAPONS FROM SO.FIEVKAA
TYPE CEMETERIES .......................................................... 228

Viktor I. Klochko, COPPER OBJECTS AND QUESTIONS OF "SO.FIEVKAA
METALLURGY" ................................................................. 235
Viktor I. Klochko, Barbara Stolpiak, GLASS BEADS FROM SOFIEVKA CEMETERY ........................................ 243
Aleksander Kośko, Mihailo Y. Videiko, ORIGINS OF NEOLITHIC-ENEOLITHIC CREMATION RITES IN EUROPE AND SOFIEVKA TYPE RITUALS .............................. 247
References ........................................................................ 259
List of Authors .................................................................. 277
Editor's Foreword

The history of research into the cemeteries of the Sofievka type of the Tripolye culture (from the village of Sofievka near Kiev) is about 50 years old. However, the research has not provided yet any comprehensive report on the cemeteries, nor a full presentation of material finds or their thorough analysis. This can be justified by the extraordinary character of the said set of sources and their place outside the civilizational standard of the late eneolithic in the Northern Pontic zone.

The aim of this volume is to present the Sofievka issues from a wider perspective of the border zone of the three cultural areas: circumpontic, circumcarpathian and circumbaltic. The papers included in this volume show both a full array of sources, as far as it is possible at present, and the analytical documentation of their multidirectional genetic implications.

Therefore, this volume should encourage wider discussion of Central European conditioning of the development of the Tripolye culture, or generally, of the mechanisms of cultural contacts in the border zone between eastern and western Europe in the first half of the 3rd millennium BC.