

**Stanisław Gołub**

**GRAVE OF THE GLOBULAR AMPHORA CULTURE  
FROM SITE NO. 8 IN KRASNYSTAW (PROV. OF CHEŁM,  
POLAND)**

In May 1981, an accidental discovery of a grave of the Globular Amphora culture (GAC) was made in Krasnystaw. A random selection of finds was presented to the local Museum by a history teacher. The finds were preselected and partially reconstructed by Sławomir Kadrow, at that time the Museum's employee.

In 1982, the present author verified the location of the grave and arranged for the pottery to be reconstructed. The site is located in area no. 83-87 and has been given number 8 within the locality. The area forms a part of the Dorohusk Valley. The artefacts were found in the slope of a high protruding terrace built of stratified loess of high thickness (Fig. 1). The inventory of the supplied artefacts is designated MK/A/173. Artefacts from surface exploration are in the District Museum in Chełm under call number MCH/A/389.

**1. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS**

Already in 1981 an entry appeared in the inventory book saying that there were two flint axes in the grave. Only on 27 August 1981 did the discoverer of the grave, J. Kluch, give more specific information about the find. It transpired that there had not been any axes but probably three flint chips.

It follows from the discoverer's account that the vessels and bones were found buried in loess soil 1.3 to 1.5 m below the surface. He is positive that there was not any stone structure. The vessels were located at the same depth next to each other. He remembers ash. While excavating foundations it seemed to him that the soil had been turned before. It could be an indication of the presence of the outline of a burial pit.

After reconstruction and conservation seven vessels have been obtained.

1. A medium-size, bulbous, flat-bottom amphora with a medium high, pro-

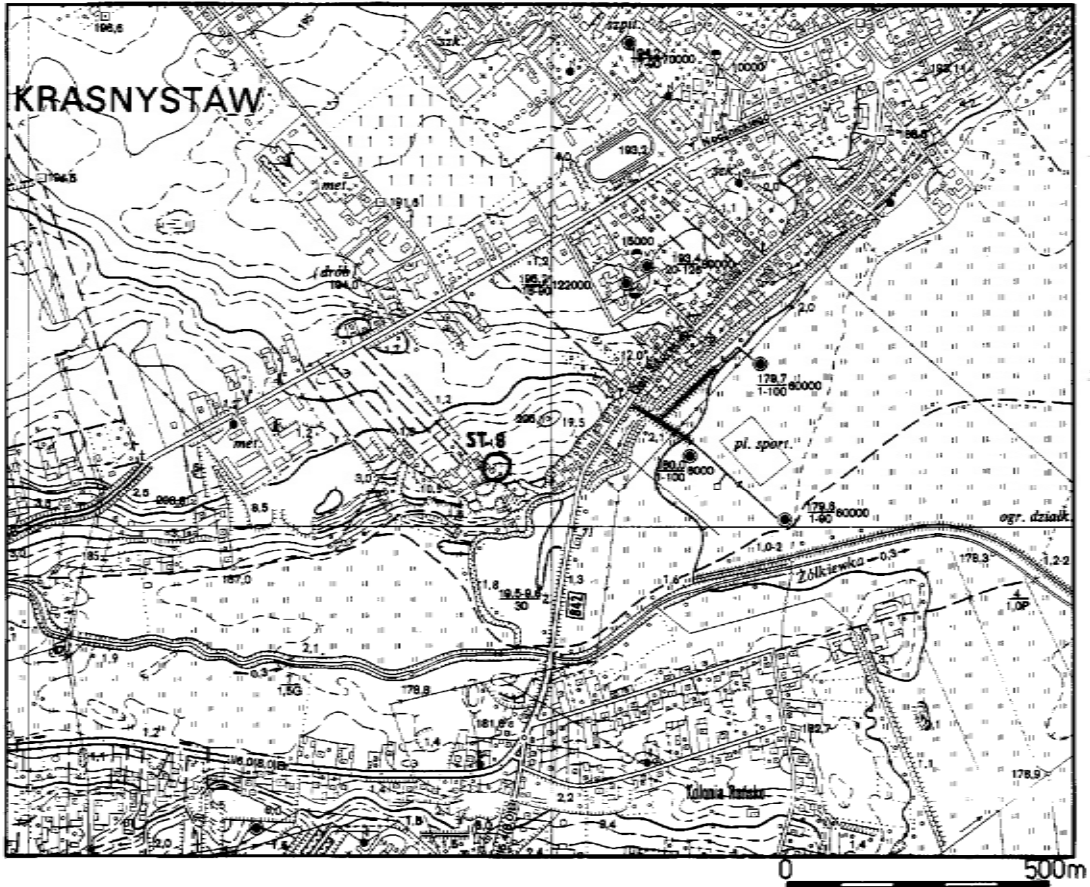


Fig. 1. Location map

minent neck (Fig. 2:1); completely reconstructed, similar to type IIA1 [Wiślański 1966:28-29]. The lip is slightly thickened and flared. The prominent bottom containing coarse, sharp-edged gravel has not been smoothed leaving it uneven on the outer side. It has four rounded handles with horizontal perforations (width 16-18 mm, diameter R about 7 mm). Undecorated. It is made of clay thinned down with mainly fine and also medium-size gravel of white, grey and pink colours. Small amounts of sand and mica are present as well. Outer and inner surfaces are uneven but well smoothed by smearing with slip. The colour has a patchy structure from bright yellow to greyish black. Wall fractures are invisible (thickness G: 6 to 6.5 mm). Dimensions: height (H): 222 mm, lip diameter (R1): 140 to 155 mm (form of ellipse), maximum belly diameter (R2): 285 mm, bottom diameter (R3): 115 mm.

2. A small amphora reconstructed up to the bend of belly, with a medium high, prominent neck (Fig. 2:2). The lip thins and slightly flares outwards. It has four rounded handles with horizontal perforations (R: 5.5-7 mm) placed at equal distances from each other and from the lip. The perforations were made with a

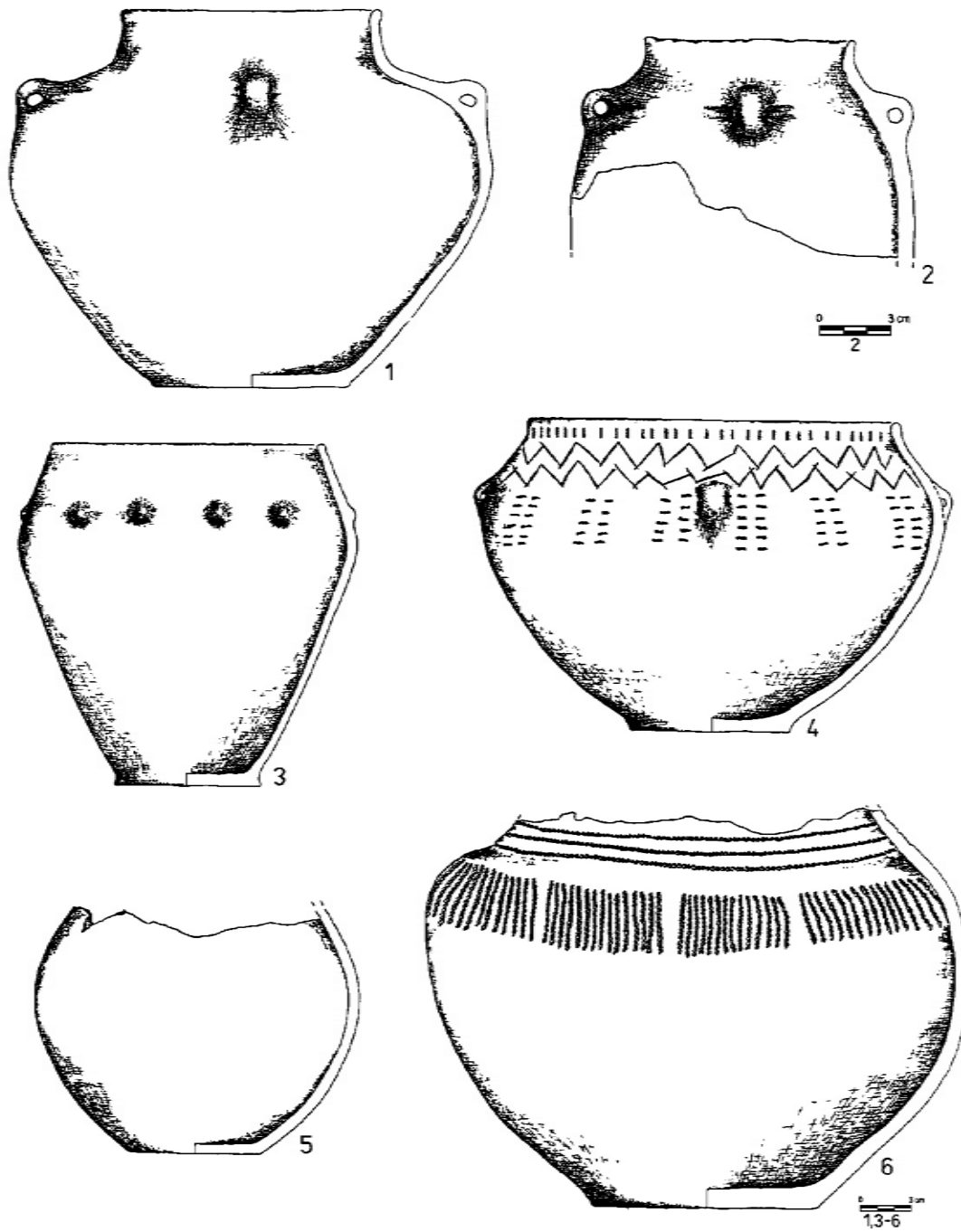


Fig. 2. Krasnystaw site 8. Vessels from the grave

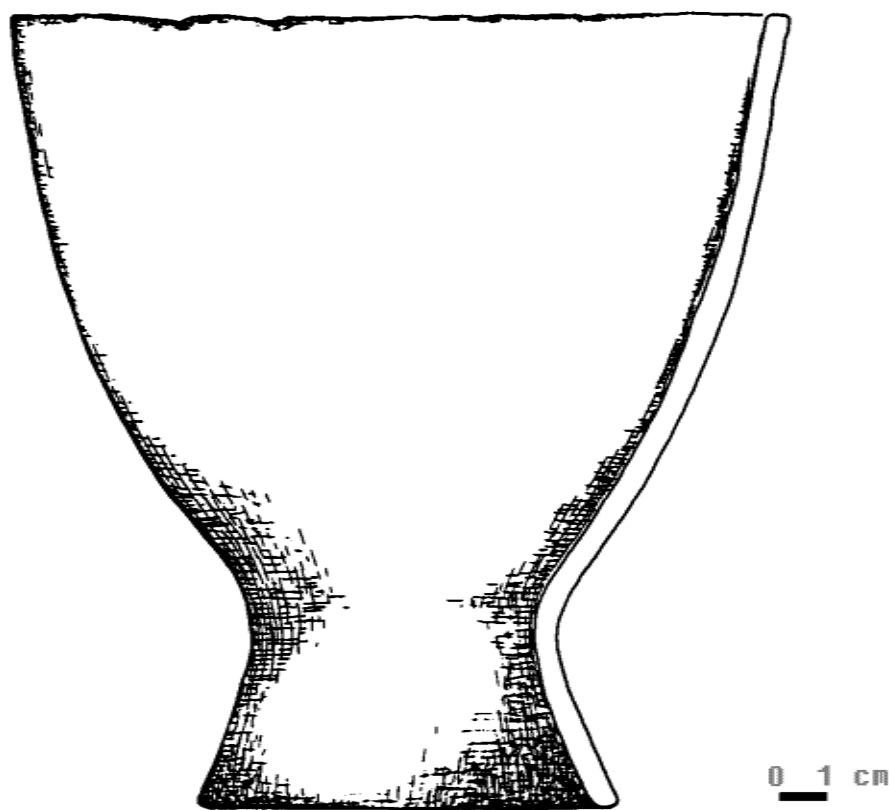


Fig. 3. Krasnystaw site 8. A ceramic drum from the grave

kind of round stick (?) which left a groove up to 40 mm wide and parallel to the lip. Undecorated. It is made of clay thinned down with fine and also medium-size gravel of white, grey, pink and black colours and with small amounts of fine sand. The outer surface is smooth and even with slight traces of burnishing. The inner surface, though, is very uneven and only slightly smoothed out. The colour is light and dark brown with patches of grey and black. Wall fractures are invisible (G: 6.5 to 7 mm). Dimensions: R1: 88-91 mm, R2: 144 mm.

3. A wide-opening pot with a flat, prominent bottom reminding of group VIIIA2 forms [Wiślański 1966:34]. Fully reconstructed (Fig. 2:3). The lip thins towards the edge, although it is thickened at places; the bottom is prominent and uneven on the outer side. There is an ornament of 11 relief buttons placed at different intervals from each other and at a more or less even distance from the lip edge. The pot has an admixture of sharp-edged gravel of various sizes and of pink and white colours. The gravel is responsible for local fracturing of the pot and for its rough outer texture. There is a small content of fine sand and burnt potsherds. Outer and inner surfaces have clearly been burnished, especially in the lip part. The colours are light to dark brown and black of patchy structure. The fracture is stratified consisting of



Fig. 4. Krasnystaw site 8. A ceramic drum from the grave. Photo by S. Gołub

three layers (thin outer and inner slip smearing). G: 3.6 to 6.3 mm. Dimensions: H: 203 mm, R1: 163-170 mm, R2: 201 mm, R3: 84-87 mm.

4. A fully reconstructed ceramic drum (Fig. 3 and 4), group IX [Wiślański 1966:24]. The lip is uneven but only slightly marked. The bottom has been reconstructed on the basis of dimensions. No ornamentation. It contains an admixture of fine, medium (dominating) and coarse, sharp-edged gravel. At certain places, this causes roughness of surface. The grains of the rough gravel, sometimes 6-7 mm in diameter, cause fracturing on the outer surface. The colours of the gravel are white, yellow, brown and grey. The outer and inner surfaces are smoothed and burnished in various directions. The colour of the vessel is from light brown to greyish-brownish-black and has patchy structure. Wall fracture is invisible (G: 6.5-7 mm). Dimensions: H: 181 mm, R1: 170-179 mm, R3: 97 mm, R of neck: 70 mm.

5. A fully reconstructed bowl (Fig. 2:4) of type IVA1 [Wiślański 1966:30]. The lip is low, slightly marked and thickened (visibly rounded). The bottom is poorly marked and has rounded edges. It has four rounded handles, 10-18 mm wide, horizontally perforated with a narrow tool. The vessel is richly decorated with impressions of a stamp and incisions (up to 2-3 mm deep). Vertical sections of the stamp pattern (7 mm long) run around the vessel beneath the lip. They are placed more or less regularly 5-7 mm from each other. Underneath, there are two rows of incised zigzags ringing the vessel. The zigzags must have been incised with a narrow, sharpened stick

or a bone leaving a V-shaped trace. At the most protruding portion of the belly there are horizontal sections of stamp impressions forming altogether 13 groups, each group consisting of two columns which, in turn, in most cases have five impressions each. The vessel contains an admixture of fine, medium and coarse gravel of white, grey and pink colours and also small amounts of fine sand and mica. The outer surface is light brown in its lower part and greyish black in the upper. It has patchy structure and is well smoothed. The inner surface is of light brown colour and smooth. The fracture is stratified and consists of three layers (slip smearing). G: 6.5 mm. Poorly baked. An outer, thin film is peeling off. Dimensions: H: 176-184 mm, R1: 219-225 mm, R2: 275 mm (without handles), R3: 95-100 mm.

6. A bottom part of a reconstructed, bulbous vessel (Fig. 2:5). The bottom is flat and almost round. No ornament. It contains an admixture of fine gravel and a little sand. Sporadically, there are lumps of larger grain gravel. The admixture is well mixed with clay so that it is hardly visible from outside or inside. The outer surface must have been lightly burnished diagonally and smoothed. The inner surface, however, has been only smoothed. The colour is brown-grey-black and patchy. The fracture is three-layered with outer and inner slip smearing (G: 5-6.4 mm). Dimensions: R2: 192 mm, R3: 78 mm.

7. A partially reconstructed vessel (Fig. 2:6). The lip part is missing. The bottom is only slightly marked. The vessel displays an ornament of three circumferential corded lines. Below them, there are sections of corded ornament, vertical or oblique, each about 40 mm long. An admixture of fine, medium and mainly coarse gravel of white and pink colours is noticeable. A small amount of fine sand is present. The outer and inner surfaces are slightly uneven but are well smoothed. The colour of the vessel is light brown to greyish-black and has patchy structure. The fracture is three-layered. Dimensions: R2: 320 mm, R3: 134 mm.

## 2. RESULTS OF ANIMAL BONE ANALYSIS

The analysis was carried out by A. Lasota-Moskalewska.

The majority of remains comes from two young pigs. One of them was about one year old, while the other was 3 years old. Both of them were morphologically immature because the bases of long bones were not knitted with shafts. Despite their young age, these were large animals. The older one was 72 cm in withers.

The bones make up almost a full skeleton except for the bones of the cerebral and visceral parts of the skull and for vertebrae (Fig. 5). It seems that the missing of the axial portion of the skeleton is intentional. Since the bones are quite well preserved, it can be presumed that once placed in the ground all of them had the same chance of survival. Besides, they bear no signs of intentional chopping.

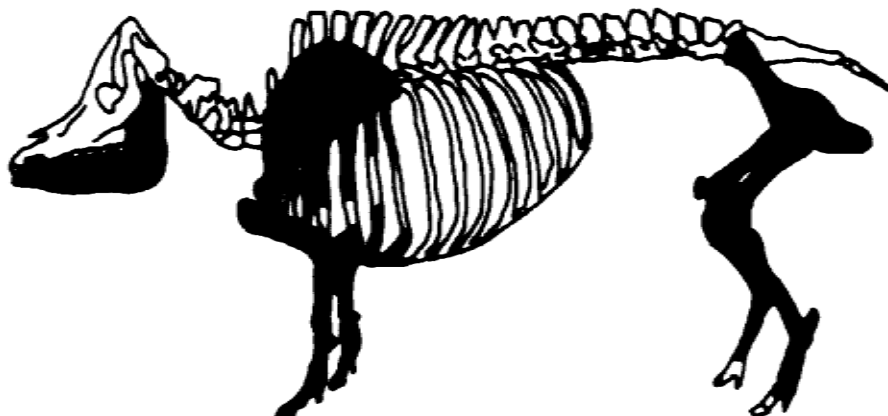


Fig. 5. Krasnystaw site 8. Diagram of selective interment of pig bones of two individuals. Black colour marks identified bones.

A small number of bones of a sheep or a goat were also identified. Among them were badly damaged fragments of two bones from a pelvic limb and a few ribs.

#### *Bone catalogue*

Pig: 6 frag. of teeth, 2 frag. of a metacarpus, a frag. of the scapula, 9 frag. of ribs, a frag. of the sternum, a patella, 3 bones of the instep, 8 frag. of the pelvis, 7 frag. of the mandible, 5 frag. of the radius, 3 frag. of tibiae, 4 frag. of femurs, a frag. of the talus, 3 frag. of ulnae, 8 frag. of humeri.

Sheep/goat: 4 frag. of ribs, 3 frag. of tibiae, 6 frag. of femurs.

Undetermined: 80 fragments.

### 3. RESULTS OF HUMAN BONE ANALYSIS

The analysis was carried out by W. Kozak-Zychman.

Bone remains of different structure and shape belonged to two adult individuals. Individual No. 1 was a man who died at the age of about 50 years (Maturus).

Survival body height reconstructed by the method of L. Manouvier was about 160 cm, which indicates that the individual was of a rather short posture.

Of the skull, a small, 6-7 mm thick fragment of the parietal bone has survived. A section of the lambdoid suture included in it is obliterated on the outside and completely sealed on the inside. The postcranial skeleton is represented by:

- right femur: the head, greater trochanter and medial condyle are damaged; physiological length (M-2 measurement acc. to R. Martin): ca 420 mm; maximum length (M-1 measurement): ca 425 mm;

- a fragment of the left femur: the upper part of the shaft and the lateral condyle are damaged; the head is separated from the shaft; diameter ca 44 mm;
- both tibiae: lower parts of the shafts and lower bases are damaged; in the right tibia the medial condyle and in the left tibia the lateral one are also damaged; a fragment of the lower base is separated from the bone;
- the middle parts of shafts of both fibulae and the lower base of the left one;
- fragments of both calcanei: in the left one, the lateral part is damaged; of the right one, the posterior part with the calcaneal tubercle has survived.

Individual No. 2. was a woman who died at the age of about 25 to 30 years (Adultus). Of the skull, fragments of both parietal bones with their plates remained. Of the right parietal bone remained four fragments (3 of them fit together); the parietal edge and frontal angle are damaged; thickness: 2 to 4 mm and 6 mm at the sphenoid angle. Of the left parietal bone remained three fragments that fit together and another four including the mastoid angle; the central part has survived, while the edges are damaged; thickness: 2 to 4 mm.

The postcranial skeleton is represented by:

- the middle portion of the left humerus shaft and its lower base,
- a fragment of the left ulna; the lower portion of the shaft and distal base are damaged,
- fragments of both femora: of the right one has survived the upper portion of the shaft; of the left one the damaged head, smaller trochanter and lower base; also a separate part of a head of femur;
- a fragment of the right tibia shaft with the lower base and the middle portion of the left tibia shaft;
- the middle portion of the left fibula shaft;
- a fragment of the left calcaneus with the surviving posterior ankle surface;
- the right talus and a fragment of the left one with the posterior talocalcanean surface.

Some bone fragments, which cannot be easily ascribed to a specific individual, have been excluded. Among them were:

- pieces of pelvis, including a fragment of the right (with part of hip joint) ilium and the left ilium (with ear-like surface), a piece of the iliac plate (possibly belonging to a male),
- part of a vertebral arch;
- two proximal foot phalanges, including toe no. 1;
- small pieces of long bone shafts.

Human bones were submitted to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis [see Kadrow, Szmyt, Absolute. . . , in this volume].

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

Due to a small amount of remains and the accidental discovery of the grave resulting in insufficiency of information, interpreting is particularly difficult. The find, because of the absence of any stone structure and the presence of a ceramic drum, is exceptional. In the dozen or so of GAC graves that have been already discovered in the Prov. of Chełm, stone structures clearly dominate. Nevertheless, several graves have been found that did not have any such structures — the closest is located in Stadarnia [Skibiński 1958:384], others in Wytyczno [Gurba 1957:160] and Raciborowice. Flat burials, as probably the feature in Krasnystaw, are believed to be typical of the western group of the GAC. However, their incidence in the area of Lublin (Lublin, Las Stocki, Strzyżów, Świerszczów in eastern Poland) has recently gone up. The number of vessels is relatively large, which distinguishes this grave complex from others [Nosek 1967:273]. Technologically, the vessels are quite uniform. Granite gravel is a dominant admixture, outer and inner surfaces are smoothed and colours have a patchy structure. The last mentioned characteristic testifies to uneven baking in open hearths. The ornamentation is also typical of complexes of the Polish territorial group of the GAC and of nearby complexes. Selected pig remains, with additions of goat/sheep bones, are also an observable phenomenon, whereas the presence of the ceramic drum, bearing a close resemblance to the form found in Pikutkowo at site 5B [Wiślański 1966:222-225] is an absolutely exceptional occurrence. It can be explained by treating it as an import from western Poland.

*Translated by Piotr T. Żebrowski*