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GRAVE OF THE GLOBULAR AMPHORA CULTURE FROM SITE NO. 1 IN ŁOPIENNIK DOLNY KOLONIA (PROV. OF CHEŁM, POLAND)

On 7 February 1961, a farmer, F. Kosecki, excavating building stone or chalk rock with his brothers, discovered a stone grave about 55 cm below the ground. The discovery turned out to be a feature of the Globular Amphora culture (GAC) [Wieliczko 1961:232; Sztandar Ludu 1961]. The farmers removed the contents of the grave partially damaging some artefacts and their context.

A few days later J. Gruba arrived at the site and carried out emergency excavations [Nosek 1967:211-213]. The artefacts and stones were transferred to the Museum in Krasnystaw, where the grave was reconstructed under the direction of Z. Ślusarski [Opolowicz, Ślusarski 1962]. During verification, on 21 April 1988, a flint chip was found at the site (inventory no. 2902 in the Museum in Chełm). Previously found artefacts are permanently displayed in the Museum in Krasnystaw.

Physiographically, the area belongs to the Gieczew Plateau, the central part of the Lublin Plateau [Jahn 1956], and displays typical morphological features of this region. Among them are: elevated areas of a gently undulating plateau, steep and deep valleys, isolated hills and stretches of loess (Fig. 1).

1. GRAVE STRUCTURE

The feature was a cist grave covered, as it seems, with two stone slabs of which only one has survived (Fig. 2). The orientation of its longer axis was E-W. It was built of large slabs of Tertiary sandstone that does not occur in this area and that must have been imported. The E wall was made of one slab (Fig. 1 and 2), while the W wall was made of one slab according to J. Gruba [Nosek 1967:212] and of two following Z. Ślusarski's reconstruction. It is hard to say which version is true because the only existing photograph taken after the discovery of the grave is of poor quality. Still worse, it shows only one shorter wall, either E or W. There are

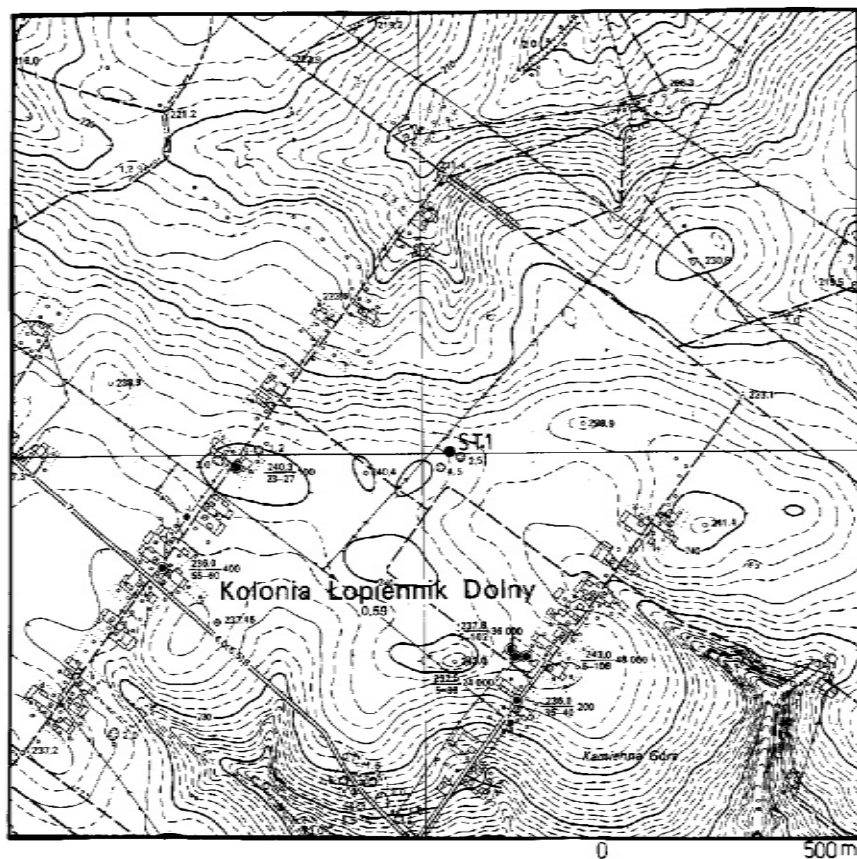


Fig. 1. Location map

more doubts concerning the dimensions and the number of slabs. Information of 1961 puts the number of slabs at 11 which rather agrees with the reconstruction (Fig. 1) and not with S. Nosek's account [1967:212]. The slabs were carefully fitted and fixed with wedges. Stone no. 8 is broken.

The walls were on the average 80-87 cm high (Fig. 3). The outer dimensions according to different sources were as follows: 2 x 1 m [Sztandar Ludu 1961], 2.35 x 1.20 m [Nosek 1967:212] and 2.05 x 1.16 m (reconstruction). At the bottom were hard clay with loess and scattered stones. In the E part was a large rectangular stone slab (no. 12) on which the deceased's head rested. There was also another small triangular slab (no. 13). In the SW corner there was one more stone. Bone remains belonged to a man who died at the age of 25-30 years [see Kozak-Zychman, *Anthropological...*, in this volume].

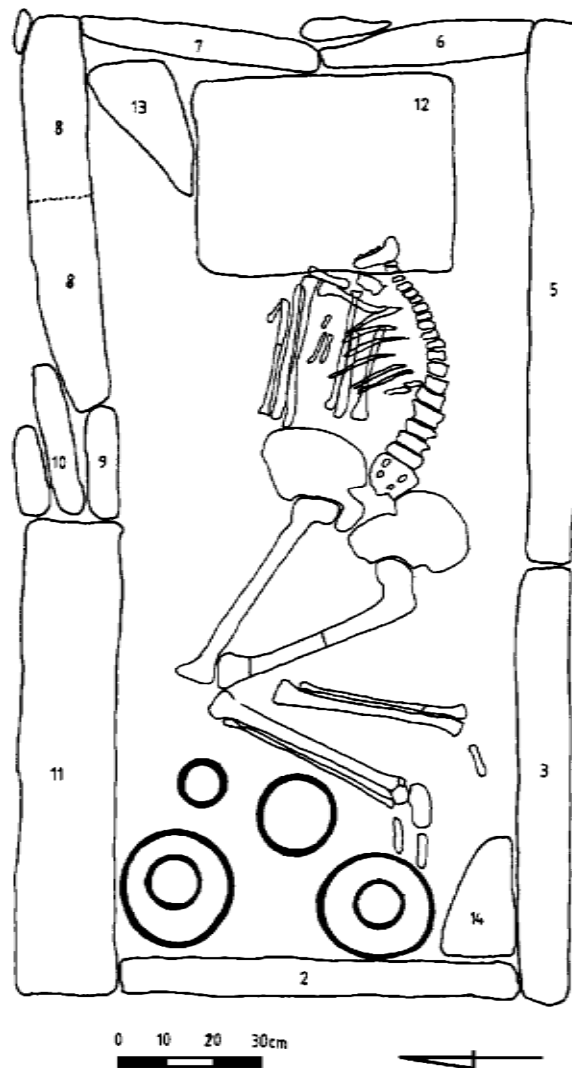


Fig. 2. Łopiennik Dolny Kolonia site 1. Plan of grave showing location of grave-goods

2. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIALS

Next to the head were found an axe and a chisel made of banded flint (Fig. 4:1,2).

The axe (Fig. 4:1) is large, tetrahedral and has a trapezoidal shape. Its cross-section is rectangular. The edge is curved while the butt is flat and rectangular. The surface is carefully smoothed. Dimensions: length (L): ca 147 mm, edge width (W e): ca 61 mm, butt width (W b): ca 24 mm, maximum thickness (T): ca 20 mm.

The chisel's edge is curved, while its cross-section is rectangular and the heel

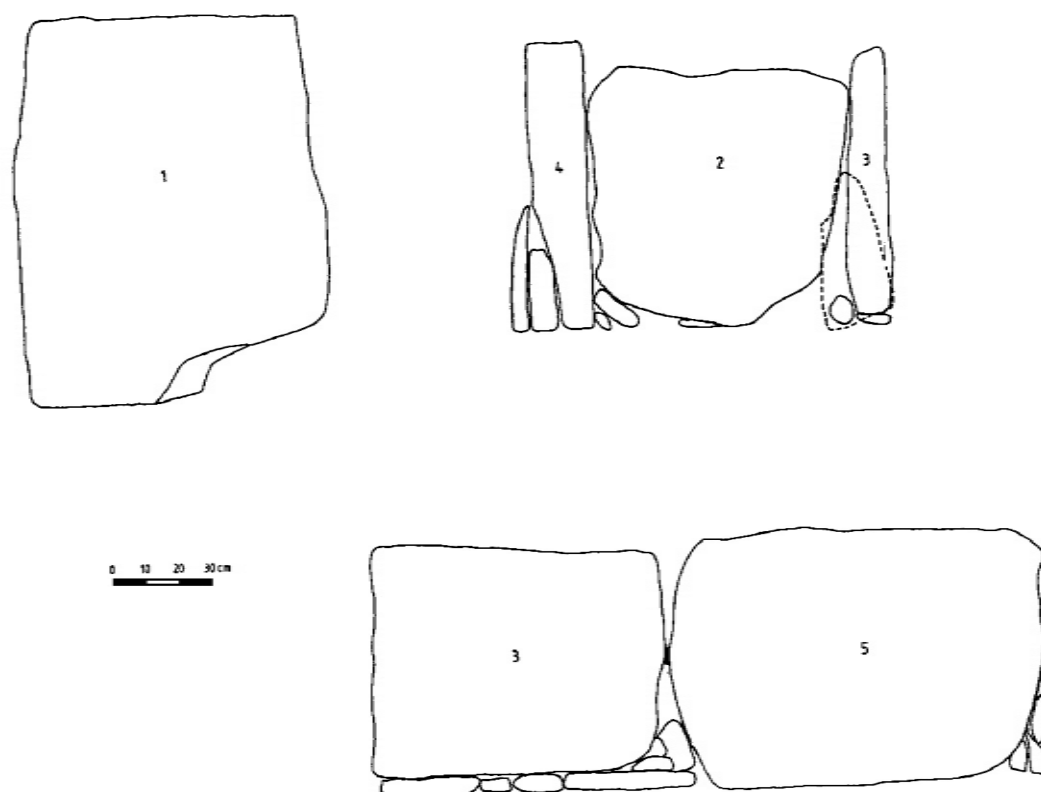


Fig. 3. Łopiennik Dolny Kolonia site 1. Wall cross-sections: a) southern b) western from the outside and plan of stone slab from grave cover. Hatching marks the stone slab that was added. Individual stones are 1 - 5 as in Fig. 2

is bevelled (Fig. 4:2). As the axe, it is also carefully smoothed. Dimensions: L: ca 108 mm, W e: ca 18 mm, heel width: ca 14 mm, T: ca 15 mm.

In one of the amphorae, a pig fang was found. „Sztandar Ludu” and M. Wieliczko mention an ornament made of a wild boar fang. At present, however, the museum’s inventory contains two fragments of pig fangs (Fig. 4:3,4). Although they show signs of cutting, it is difficult to determine what their function was, whether they were tools or ornaments. Dimensions of the larger one: L: 63 mm, W: 11-12 mm, T : 6 mm. Dimensions of the smaller one: L: 49 mm, W: 15 mm, T: 7-8 mm. Both are badly damaged and incomplete.

Next to the lower limbs four vessels were found (Fig. 5). Data concerning their mineral admixture, colour, baking and fracture are hardly obtainable because of the complete reconstruction and colouring carried out almost twenty years ago. Loose fragments of only two vessels were found making it possible to describe these vessels in greater detail.

1. A large, bulbous amphora with four handles and an ornament (Fig. 4:2). Fully preserved, the vessel resembles the forms of type IIA1 [Wiślański 1966:23,

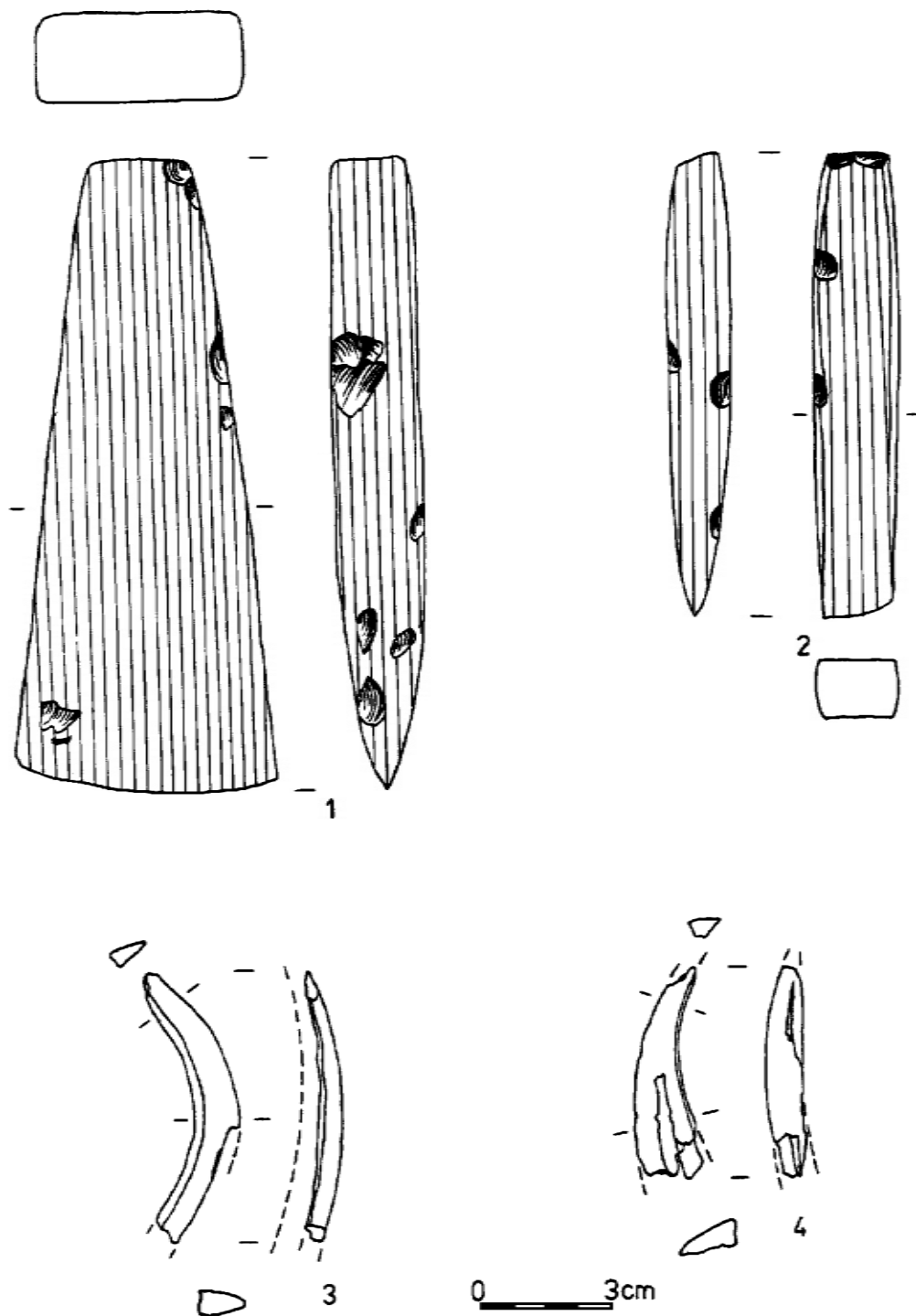


Fig. 4. Łopiennik Dolny Kolonia site 1. Grave-goods: 1 - flint axe, 2 - flint chisel, 3-4 - ornaments of pig fangs

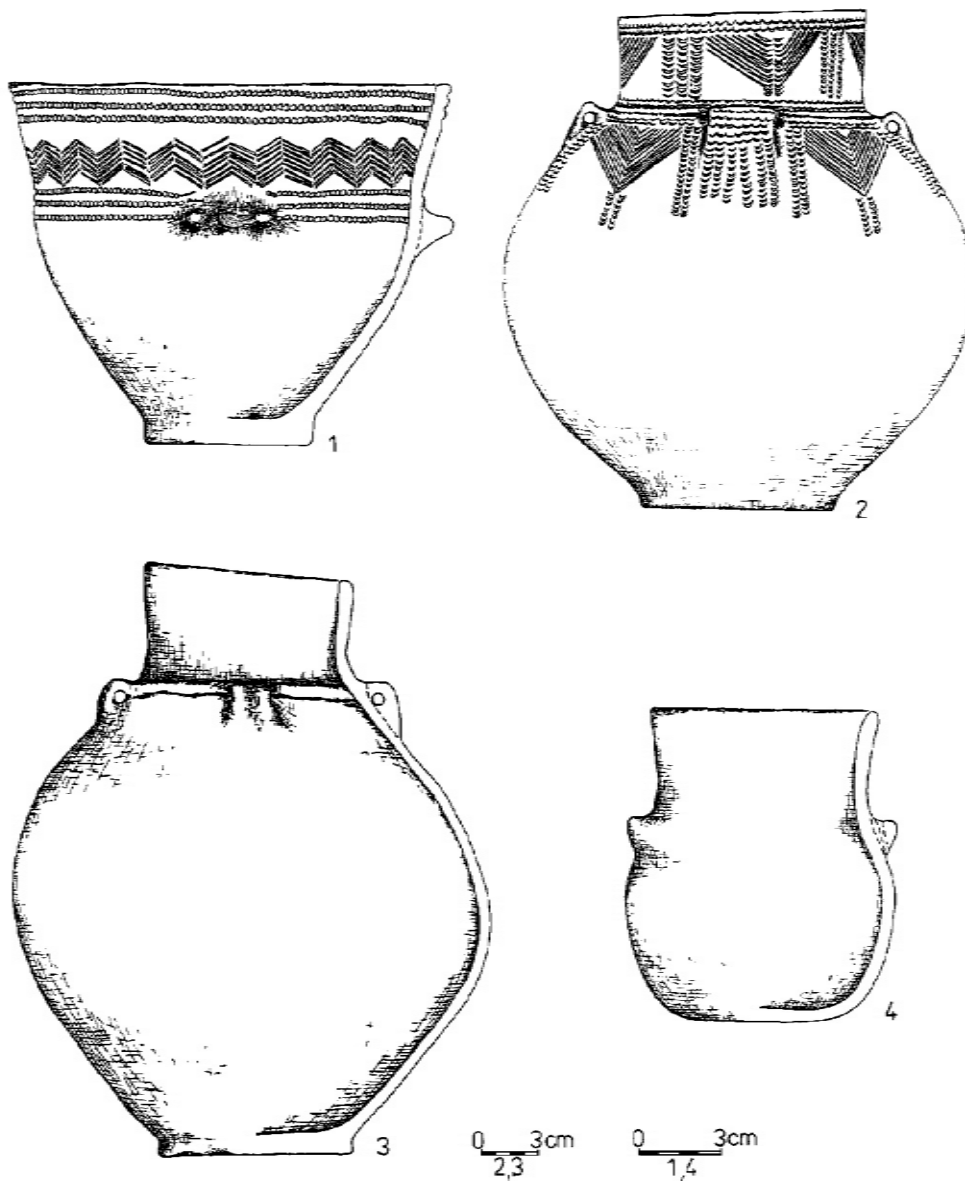


Fig. 5. Łopiennik Dolny Kolonia site 1. Pottery

28-29]. It has a high cylindrical neck and a clearly marked bottom. The lip is slightly rounded. It has a considerable admixture of fine and small-grained gravel of grey and white colours. Both inner and outer surfaces are uneven, smeared with slip and show signs of burnishing. The colour changes from light brown on the inside to dark brown and black. The fracture is stratified into three layers. The four, elbow-like handles are relatively wide and are symmetrically placed. They are horizontally perforated and joined by a relief moulding. The vessel is richly ornamented on the

neck and the upper portion of the belly. The ornaments are incised or impressed with a stamp and include a combination of overlapping triangles as well as vertical and horizontal rows of arches. Dimensions: height (H): 251-257 mm, lip diameter (R1): 128-129 mm, maximum belly diameter (R2): 244 mm, bottom diameter (R3): 100 mm.

2. A large, bulbous amphora with four handles and no ornament (Fig. 5:3). The vessel also resembles the forms of type IIA1 [Wiślański 1966:23, 28-29]. It has a high, slightly flared neck and a clearly marked bottom in the form of a small foot. The lip is cut almost flat. The vessel's upper portion is highly asymmetrical. It has an admixture of medium and coarse-grained gravel of white, pink and red colours. Both inner and outer surfaces are uneven and patchy light brown, grey and black. The fracture is clearly stratified into three layers. The four, elbow-like handles are symmetrically placed, horizontally perforated and joined by a relief moulding. Dimensions: H: 295-305 mm, R1: 104 mm, R2: 140 mm, R3: 102 mm.

3. A bowl or vase with a slightly flared lip (Fig. 5:1). It is ornamented and resembles the forms of types IVA1 or VB1 [Wiślański 1966:23, 30-32]. The bottom is clearly marked, whereas the lip is slightly bevelled. It has an admixture of fine and medium-grained sand and gravel of predominantly greyish-white colour. Both outer and inner surfaces are smoothed and of black and brown colours. A relief handle, in the form of a button with two dimples at the end, is present. The upper portion displays an incised and stamp ornament. Underneath the lip edge runs a triple row of impressions of an oval stamp forming continuous lines. Below them runs a multiplied pattern of incised zigzags (8-9 elements) followed below by a repeated pattern of stamp lines. S. Nosek mentions that the ornamentation patterns were inlaid with white paste [Nosek 1967:212]. Dimensions: H1: 130 mm, R1: 161 mm, R2: 142 mm, R3: 62 mm.

4. A small undecorated amphora with two handles (Fig. 5:4). It is related to the forms of type IB3 [Wiślański 1966:23, 27]. The neck is slightly flared, while the bottom is unmarked and rather flat. The lip is clearly rounded. It has an admixture of fine and medium-grained gravel (white, pink and black) and sand. The fracture is visibly divided into three layers with thin and dark outer layers separated by a greyish-pink inner layer. The colour of the vessel is dark brown to black. The two handles — relief buttons — are vertically perforated. Dimensions: H1: 113 mm, R1: 83 mm, R2: 100 mm, R3: about 60 mm.

Two human bones (the dextral femur and the sinistral tibia) were submitted to the ¹⁴C analysis [see Kadrow, Szmyt, Absolute. . . , in this volume].

Translated by Piotr T. Żebrowski