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**CEMETERIES OF THE SOFIEVKA TYPE. FIELD  
RESEARCH, STATE OF PUBLICATION OF SOURCES AND  
GENERAL POSITION IN THE SYSTEMATICS OF TRIPOLYE  
CULTURE**

In almost 50 years of research into Sofievka type cemeteries (Fig.1) two aspects can be distinguished. One of them consists in procurement of sources and their selective presentation (including preliminary classification), the other involves the application of the data to advance numerous transregional synthetic theories [cf. among the earliest, e.g., Gimbutas 1956: 109-110; Cabalska 1967:53; Sulimirski 1970:186-188; Šiška 1972:145n]. The present article provides an account of the first aspect, being a general introduction into the materials part of the work.

**1. CEMETERIES. HISTORY OF RESEARCH**

The history of the research shall be presented from three points of view: record of field work, methods of documentation and interpretation, and publication of materials.

**1.1. FIELD WORK**

The first eight graves of the Sofievka type were discovered by Ivan Samoylovski and L. Shalina in 1947 (Expedition „Kiev the Great” of the Ukrainian Institute of Archaeology). They were situated on the dune near the village of Sofievka (Fig.1). In an area of 56 sq.m I. Samoylovski excavated 8 cremation graves with pottery, flint tools and copper items. Many finds from the destroyed graves were on the surface of the dune — broken pots, pottery, flint blades, flat axes, copper beads, stone hammer-axes. In April 1948 the director of Institute, Petro Efimenko, visited

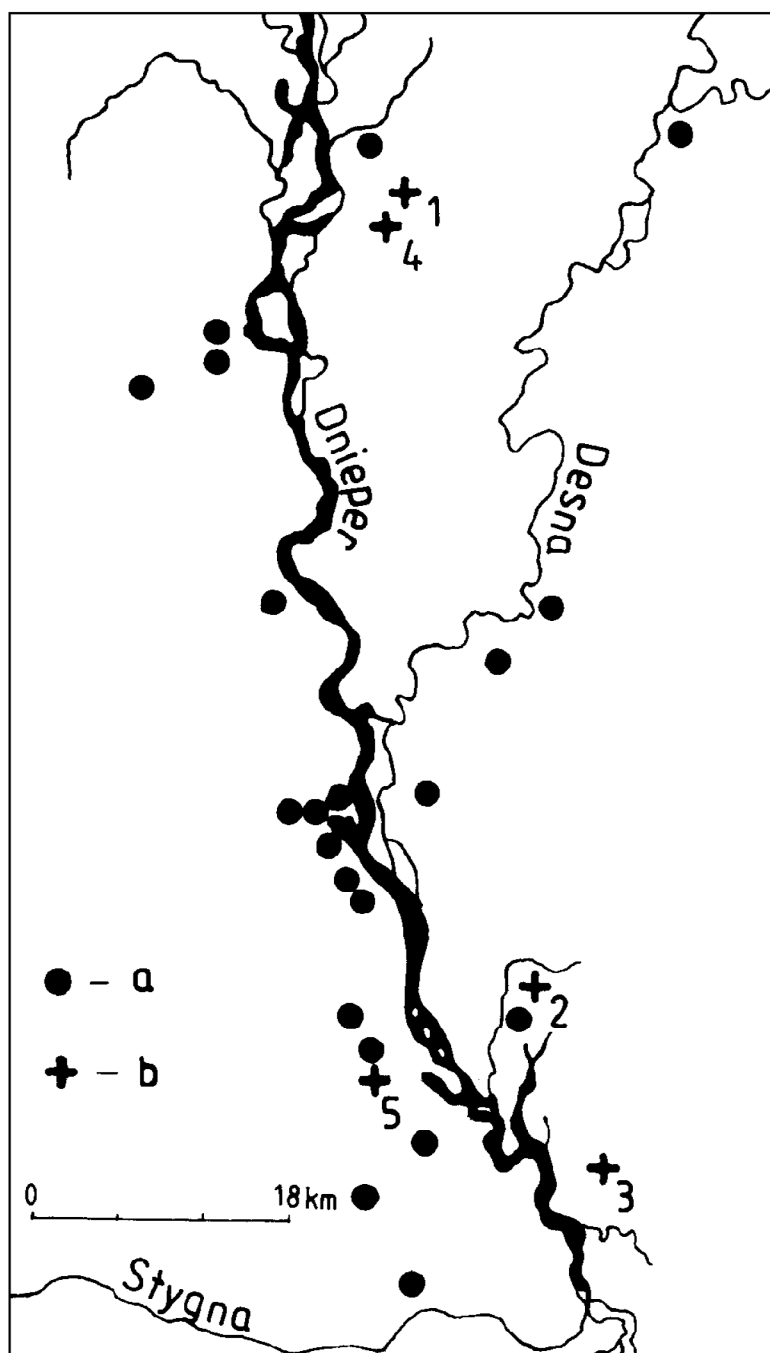


Fig. 1. Range of the Sofievka type sites: a - settlements; b - cemeteries (1 - Chernin; 2 - Krasny Khutor; 3 - Sofievka; 4 - Zavalovka; 5 - Chapayevka - single grave). Following V. Kruts with additions by the author.

Sofievka with Ivan Samoylovski and Yuriy Zakharuk. They gathered many finds in the area of the destroyed cemetery. Y. Zakharuk continued the investigations: from April 25th till May 10th and from August 29th till September 26th, 1948. He opened 139 cremation graves. In 1963 Y. Zakharuk and V. Kruts continued investigations on the Sofievka cemetery. In an area of 140 sq.m they found one cremation, flint tools and a group of three small pots. Besides graves, on the territory of the dune pottery from the Bronze and Early Iron Age and the Kiev Rus period were found. Thus, during the years 1947-1948 and in 1963 there were found 148 (8+139+1) graves belonging to the Tripolye culture.

The second cemetery near the village of Krasny Khutor (Fig.1) was discovered by Valentin Danilenko in the spring of 1950 (Expedition „Kiev the Great”), when he explored one cremation (number 167 of our catalogue). During the 1951 expedition, directed by Mikhail Makarevich, there were recovered 168 cremation graves in an area of 195 sq.m. V. Danilenko, V. Rybalova, S. Odintcova, E. Goncharova, A. Savchuk and post-graduate students Z. Baranovich and V. Kanivets also took part in this expedition. The cemetery was partly destroyed during World War Two — according to one report 20 graves suffered.

The next cemetery was discovered by Vladimir Kanivets on September 25th, 1950 and the excavation took place between September 27 and October 4, 1950 (Expedition of the Ukrainian Institute of Archaeology) near the village of Chernin (Fig.1). G. Titenko and A. Furems (Kiev) took part in this expedition. In an area of 40 sq.m they opened 94 cremation graves.

The last, fourth cemetery was discovered and excavated by Vladimir Kruts (Ukrainian Institute of Archaeology) near Zavalovka in 1962 (Fig.1). The excavated area comprised nearly 200 sq.m. V. Kruts opened 16 cremation graves. The cemetery was partly destroyed by pits of a Bronze Age village, and partly during World War Two. V. Kruts assumed that there were about 50 graves here.

In 1968 Vladimir Kruts and Anatolii Kubyshev found a single cremation near Chapayevka (during investigations of the Tripolye settlement and the inhumation cemetery of the B-II period). They assumed that here there was a cremation cemetery belonging to the C-II period, which was destroyed by ploughing (Fig.1).

Thus, during the period between 1947 and 1968 there were opened four cemeteries and one single grave, in all 428 cremation graves (this number was confirmed after the revision of reports and publications).

The actual number of burials is a matter which needs to be resolved and we shall return to this problem in the latter parts of this book.

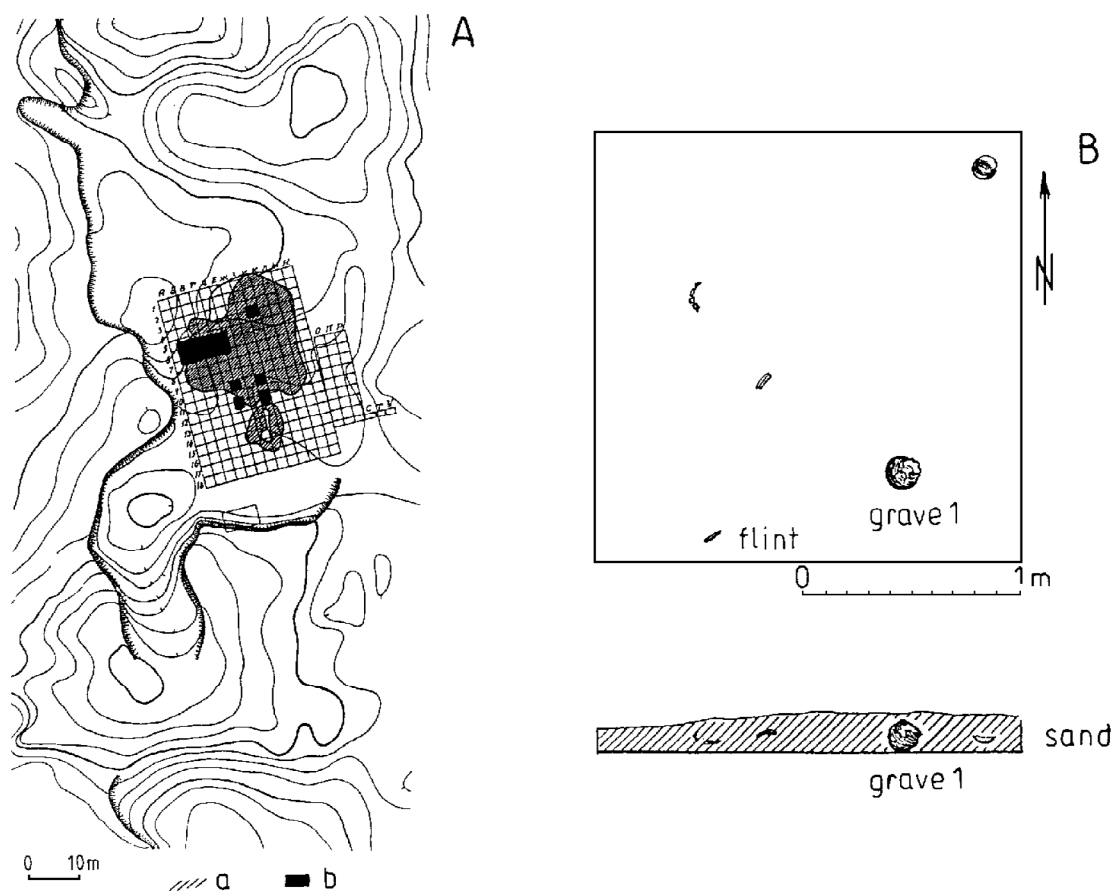


Fig. 2. Sofievka cemetery: A - general plan of the excavations 1947-1948 (a - range of bones from destroyed graves; b - excavations from 1947); B - example of documentation of the smallest exploration unit (2x2) - research of I. Samoylovski. Following I. Samoylovski, Y. Zakharuk.

## 1.2. METHODOLOGY OF THE EXCAVATIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE REMAINS

All of the cemeteries were divided into areas 2x2 sq.m (Chernin, Sofievka, Zavalovka) or 1x1m (Krasny Khutor) with the numbering done by letters and figures (Fig.2:A). Surface and finds levelled from conventional zero (in Sofievka: NW side of sq.9-z), and sometimes finds levelled from the surface (Krasny Khutor). All finds were traced in the general drawings (Fig.2:B) and the daybooks of the excavations (Fig.3). Stratigraphy of the dune was fixed on a general cross-section (Fig.2:B), local stratigraphy of the cremations was entered in daybooks, only in written form. All finds were recorded in lists (see archival materials). Every pot with ashes or a pile of burnt bones and every plot of scattered bones and ashes received a number as a separate cremation grave, because it was impossible to establish the extent of every

grave in the sand [Zakharuk 1952; Kanivets 1956; Danilenko, Makarevich 1956; Kruts 1968], Fig.4, 5.

Only I. Samoylovski described pots and ashes, which were as near each other as one cremation grave. This methodology is close to the views expressed in this work [cf. in this volume: Videiko, *Archaeological. . .* and Koško, *Videiko, Origins. . .*].

### 1.3. LITERATURE ON THE MATERIALS (PUBLICATIONS AND ARCHIVAL REPORTS)

#### a. Publications

The first articles about the excavations of Sofievka cemetery appeared in 1952. I. Samoylovski published a description of eight cremations, which were opened in 1947. He published the situation plan of the cemetery and descriptions of some objects from the graves and other gathered items [Samoylovski 1952:121-123, Fig.1-3].

In the same journal Y. Zakharuk presented a short report on the excavations of Sofievka cemetery in 1948. Information included descriptions of the dune, excavations, a funeral ceremony and categories of the grave goods. Illustrations were provided of the general plan, the cross-section of the dune and 31 objects from the cemetery such as, for example, weapons, beads, flint tools, and ceramics [Zakharuk 1952:112-120, Fig.1-4].

Publications on Krasny Khutor and Chernin appeared in 1956. V. Danilenko and M. Makarevich gave information about the cemetery and the 44 graves. The illustrations depicted the following: the plan of the cemetery, a general view of the cemetery, cremations (photographs), selected ceramics, hammer-axes, and copper and flint articles [Danilenko, Makarevich 1956:92-98, Fig.1-3, Tab.1]. V. Kanivets published concise information about the excavations of Chernin cemetery, with a description of 39 cremations and categories of grave goods. The illustrations depicted the following: the plan of the cemetery, a view of the central part of the cemetery, and finds [Kanivets 1956:99-110, Fig.1-4, Tab.I-II].

V. Kruts published full information about the Zavalovka cemetery in 1968 — with a table of the main parameters of graves and an analysis of grave goods. In the illustrations were the plan of the cemetery and some goods from cremations: copper and amber beads, flint arrowheads, and a clay figurine [Kruts 1968:126-130, Tab.1, Fig.1-3].

Some general information about the Sofievka type is contained in the first volume of the „Archaeology of the Ukraine” [Arkheologiya 1971:201-204, 1985:246-248], and in a monograph by V. Kruts devoted to the late Tripolye monuments on the Middle Dnieper [Kruts 1977].

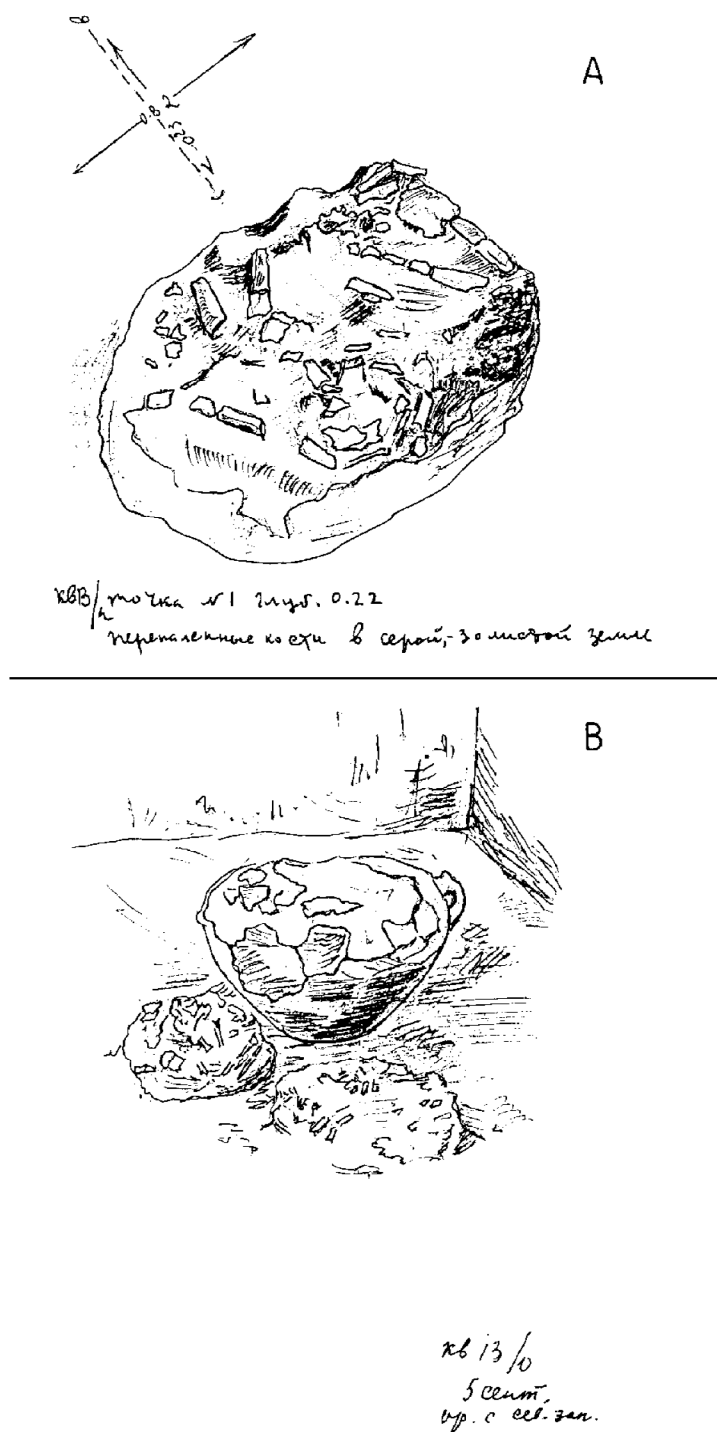


Fig. 3. Sofievka cemetery - 1948, drawings from the daybook of Y. Zakharuk: A - sq. 13-P, grave 135 (138) - "burnt bones in grey, ashy soil"; sq. 13-0, graves 137 (139), 138 (140), 139 (141) - "September 5, view from the north-west".

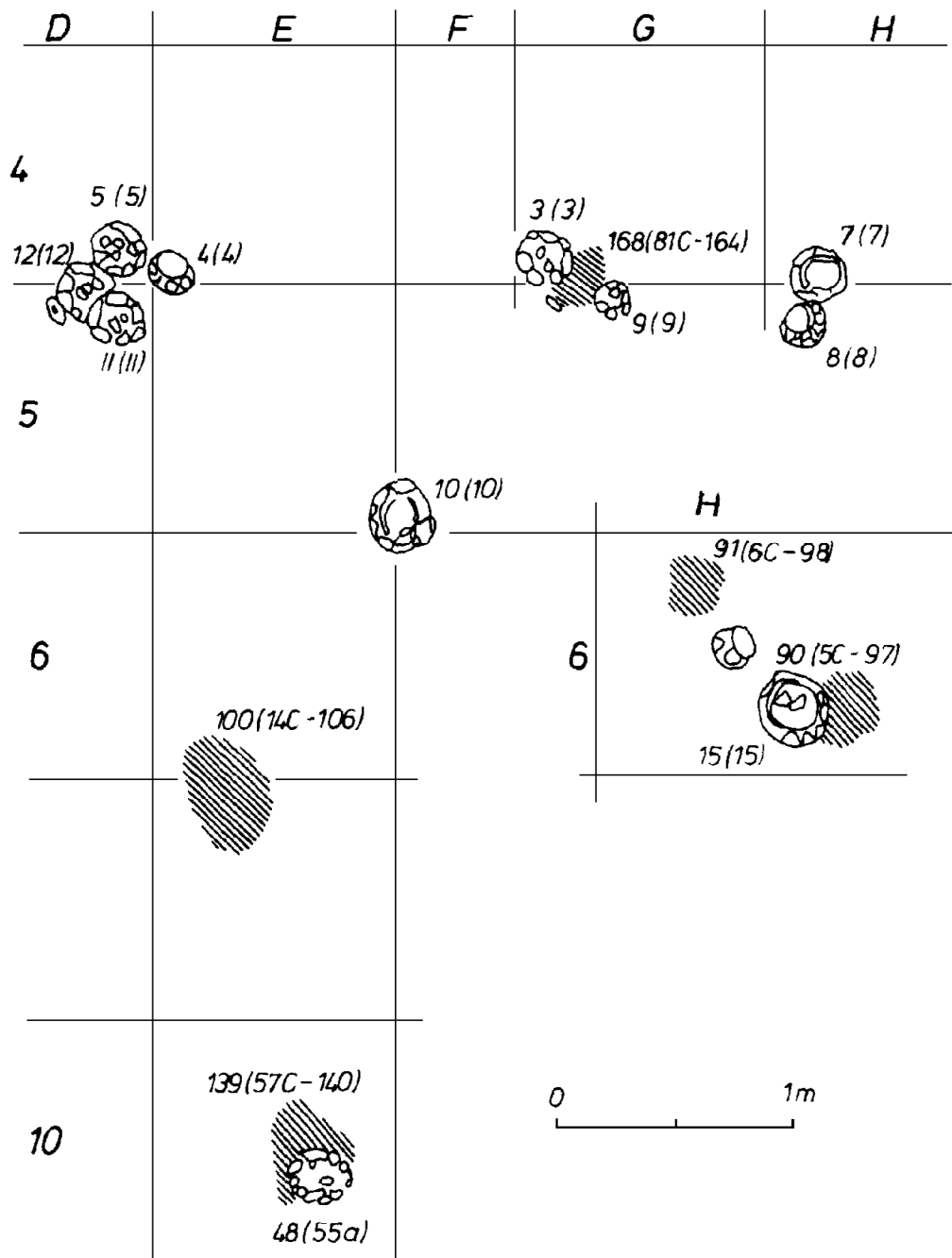


Fig. 4. Krasny Khutor cemetery. An example of horizontal mapping of the range of graves. Based on field documentation of V. Danilenko and M. Makarevich.

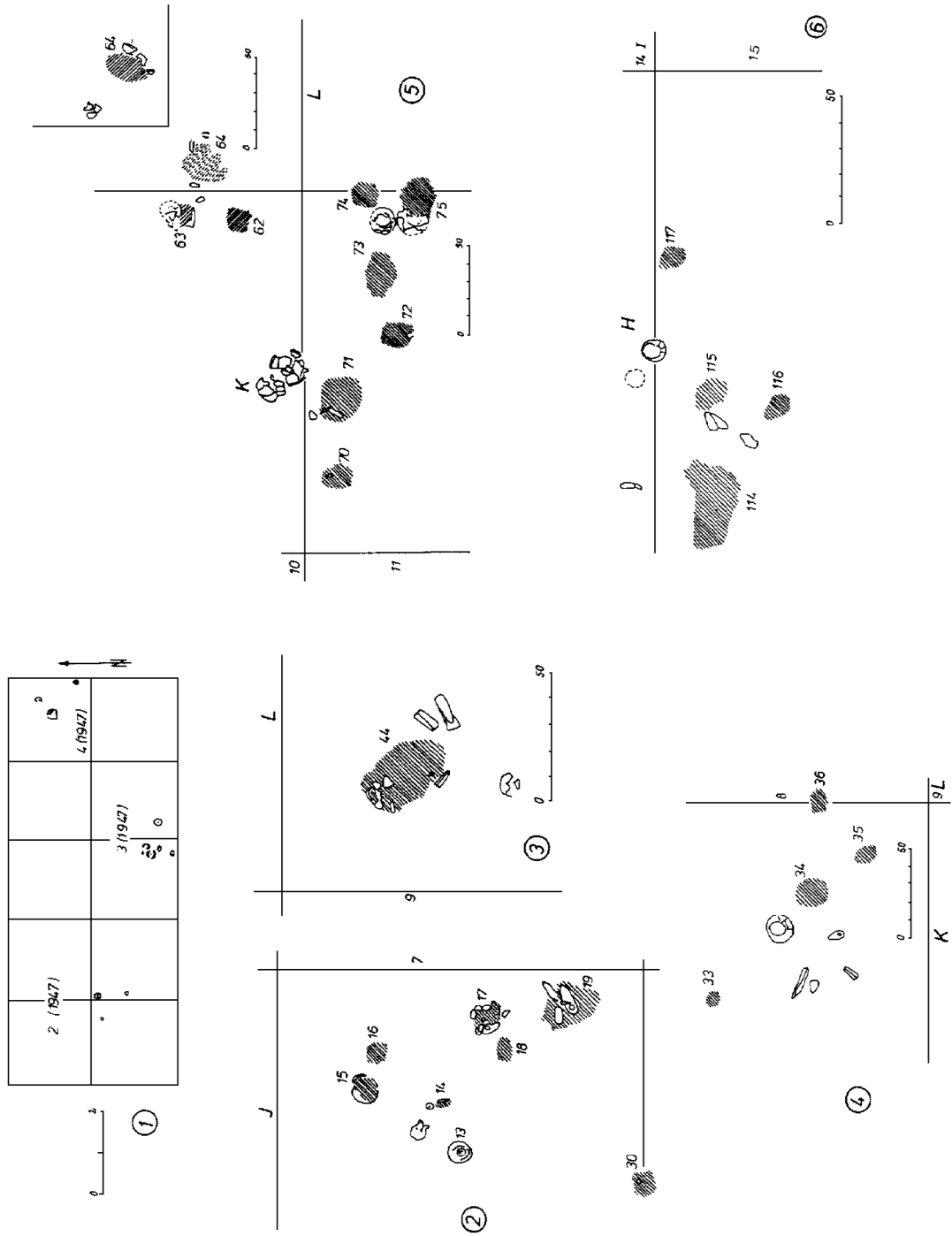


Fig. 5. Sofievka cemetery - 1947 (1), 1948 (2-6). Examples of horizontal mapping of the range of graves. Based on the documentation of I. Samoylovski and Y. Zakharuk.

The first attempt at a full publication on the cemeteries appeared in 1991, in a monograph by V. Dergachev and I. Manzura, which was the first attempt in the historiography of all burial complexes, connected with the final (C-II) Tripolye in the territories of Romania, Moldova and Ukraine [Dergachev, Manzura 1991:143-191, Fig.90-112]. Publication of the Sofievka cemeteries used the archival reports and collections, with illustrations of most of the complexes and plans of the cemeteries. It was very hard work to prepare such a work 30-40 years after the last excavations. This was particularly the case with regard to the Sofievka and Krasny Khutor sites; there are some mistakes in the text and illustrations of this monograph, which are also uncomplete. Later V. Dergachev published a translation of this book in Germany [Dergachev 1991].

b. Archival reports

All the archival materials connected with the excavations of the Sofievka type cemeteries are in the Scientific Archive of the Institute of Archaeology (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) in Kiev.

*Chernin.* Kanivets V.I., Otchet o raskopkakh mogilnika u s. Chernin Vyshe Dubechanskogo rayona Kievskoy oblasti v sentiabre-oktiabre 1950 goda, 39 pp., 21 illus., 2 drawings, daybook of excavations, list of finds, negatives (F.E. n.1091-1950/13).

*Krasny Khutor.* Danilenko V.N., Makarevich M.L., Otchet o rabote Borispolskogo otriada ekspeditsii „Bolshoy Kiev” v 1951 godu (Krasnokhutorskiy mogilnik), 34 pp., 26 illus., 1 drawing, 3 daybooks of excavations, list of finds, negatives (F.E. n.1199-1951/8b).

*Sofievka.* 1. Samoylovski I.M., Tilopalny nekropol epokhi midi bila s.Sofievka v okolitsakh Kieva. Korotkiye povidomlennia pro rozvidkovi rozkopki 1947 g., 17 pp., 24 illus. (F.E.n.755-1947/27).

2. Zakharuk J.M., Otchet o rabote Sofievskoy arkheologicheskoy ekspeditsii Instituta Arkheologii AN Uk. SSR 1948 goda, 103 pp., 3 drawings, daybook of excavations, negatives of photographs, list of finds (F.E.n.885-1948/9). All previous publications on Sofievka were prepared using only these two reports.

3. Zakharuk J.M., Sofievskiy mogilnik kak istochnik k izucheniyu epokhi bronzy v Sredniem Podniprovyu — Ph.D. dissertation in history (F.12.N.319-177p.).

4. Zakharuk J.M., Kruts V.A., Raskopki pozdnetripolskogo poselenya u s. Sofievka Borispolskogo rayona Kievskoy oblasti, 21 pp., 16 illus., 13 drawings, 2 daybooks of excavations, negatives, list of finds (F.E.n.4410-4414-1963/8a).

*Zavalovka.* Telegin D.Y., Mitrofanova V.I., Berezanskaya S.S., Kruts V.A., Otchet ob arkheologicheskikh issledovaniyakh v zone Kievskogo vodokhranilishcha v 1962 godu, 84 pp., 40 illus., 58 drawings, daybooks, list of finds, negatives (F.E. n.3996-3999-1962/1).

Cemeteries of Sofievka type. History of field investigations and publications

cemetery	year	exc. area	graves	exc. by	publications
Sofievka	1947	56 sq.m	8	I. Samoylovski	Samoylovski 1952
	1948	500 sq.m	139	Y. Zakharuk	Zakharuk 1952
	1963	140 sq.m	1	Y. Zakharuk V. Kruts	Zakharuk, Kruts 1963
Krasny Khutor	1950	–	1	V. Danilenko	Danilenko, Makarevich 1956
	1951	195 sq.m	168	M. Makarevich V. Danilenko	
Chernin Zavalovka	1950	40 sq.m	94	V. Kanivets	Kanivets 1956
	1962	200 sq.m	16	V. Kruts	Kruts 1968
Chapayevka	1968	*	1	V. Kruts A. Kubyshev	Kruts, Kubyshev 1971
In all	1947 – 1968	1131 sq.m	428		Dergachev, Manzura 1991

\* Single grave, may be from destroyed cemetery.

The finds from the excavations are now in the Institute of Archaeology (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) in Kiev. They are located in two places: Scientific Funds and the Archaeological Museum. There are four collections:

1. *Chernin*, N II/190, excavations of V. Kanivets in 1950 of the late Tripolye cemetery near v. Chernin, Vysshaya Dubechnya district, Kiev region. In the collection: pottery, flint, copper items, ashes from cremations.
2. *Krasny Khutor*, N II/197, excavations of V. Danilenko and M. Makarevich in 1951 of the late Tripolye cemetery near Krasny Khutor (Kiev). In the collection: pottery, flint, some stone hammer-axes, copper beads, ashes and cracked bones from graves.
3. *Sofievka*, N II/102, excavations of I. Samoylovski and Y. Zakharuk (1947, 1948, 1963) on the late Tripolye cemetery near Sofievka, Baryshev district, Kiev region. In the collection: pottery, copper objects, beads, some stone hammer-axes, flint, some burnt bones and ashes from cremations, finds from following periods.
4. *Zavalovka*, N II/518, excavations of V. Kruts in 1962 near v. Zavalovka of Vysshaya Dubechnya district, Kiev region. In the collection: pottery, flint, stone tools and beads, ashes from cremations, pottery of the Early Bronze Age period.

In the exposition of the Museum are the best finds from all four cemeteries: a collection of stone hammer-axes, copper knives and daggers, large flint blades, flat axes, arrowheads, copper beads, one copper bracelet, pottery, and one pot with ashes.

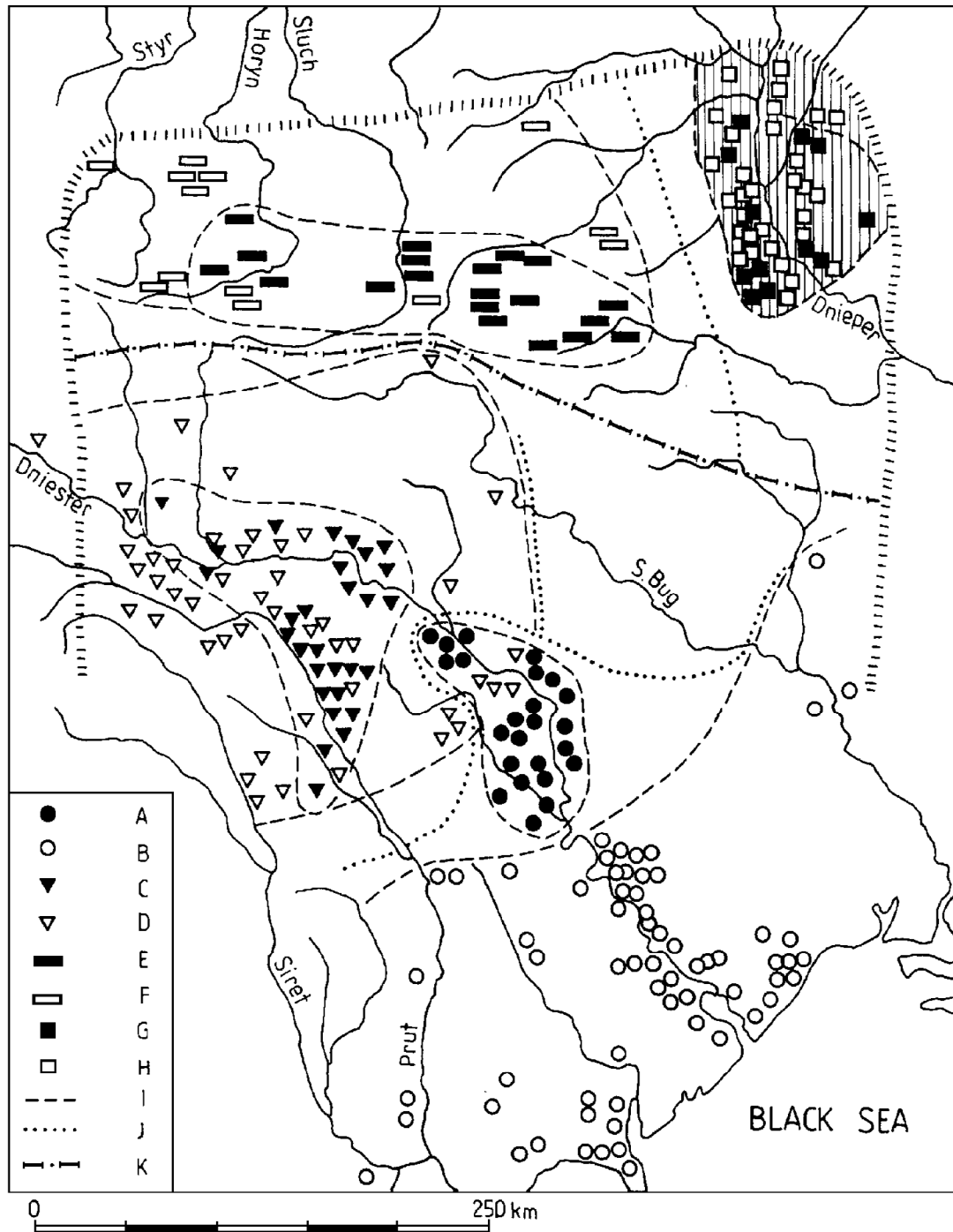


Fig. 6. Ranges of types (groups) of the late Tripolye culture: A - Vykhatintsy; B - Usatovo; C - Brynzny; D - Gordineshty; E - Troyanov; F - Gorodsk; G - Lukashi; H - Sofievka; I - boards of types; J - boards of local variants; K - boards of regional zones. Following V. Dergachev, I. Manzura.

## 2. DEFINITION OF THE SOFIEVKA TYPE

The problem of definition concerns, in particular, (a) the question of identification of unique genetic features of the „type”, and (b) the nature of the difficulties that have been experienced in the identification of its sepulchral version that is essential to its identification.

The first monuments of the Sofievka type were discovered at the end of the nineteenth century (Kirillovskie Vysoty, etc.), but until the cemetery excavations they were related to the Gorodsk-Usatovo type [Pasek 1949].

Definition of the Sofievka type became possible only after the excavations of 1947-1951. In 1953 Y. Zakharuk created the conception of Sofievka type [Zakharuk 1953:78-80], as a special type of the late Tripolye (Fig.6).

a. We have three versions of the origin of the Sofievka type:

1. The Sofievka type was the outcome of the development of the Tripolye culture on the Middle Dnieper, from period B I/II, from types of Kolomiyshchina-Chapayevka-Lukashi [Zakharuk 1953, 1971; Kruts 1977].

2. Kievo-Tripolye culture (or the Sofievka type) appeared not as the result of an evolution of the Tripolye culture, but after an assimilation of the Tripolye elements by the local Neolithic population, and transformed later to the Dnieper-Desna culture [Danilenko 1953:81].

3. The Sofievka type appeared as a result of the interaction between the local Tripolye component (type Lukashi) and Tripolye types from the Dniester-Prut region, but the last influence came over the Troyanov type of Volhynia region [Dergachev 1980:142], or from the Zhvanets type from Dniester as well [Movsha 1985:249].

It seems to us that V. Dergachev is right, because he took into consideration materials from the Dniester area, which were unknown to V. Kruts or Y. Zakharuk.

b. The first problem is that there is absent a full publication of all materials from the excavations. Then there are the problems of interpretation of this materials: What was a cremation grave? Grave goods? Funeral customs? Next are the problems of study by specialists: typological identification of flint tools, technology and typology of pottery, petrographical studies of stone and flint raw materials, metallurgy of the Sofievka type, weapons and absolute chronology. The study of these records will give us the possibility to create a new view of the problems of the origin and the disappearance of the Sofievka type cemeteries, origins of the cremation custom in the Copper Age, and inter-cultural relations in this period.

We understand that it is not possible to solve all these problems. Our main aim is to make available to all scholars the brilliant archaeological complexes from Ukraine which awaited full publication for 40 years.

*Translated by Mihailo Y. Videiko and Piotr T. Żebrowski*