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## AGNIESZKA RESZCZYŃSKA, JOANNA ROGÓŻ, DANUTA MAKOWICZ-POLISZOT, TERESA TOMEK

# A UNIQUE DOUBLE BURIAL FROM A PRZEWORSK CULTURE SETTLEMENT CONTEXT AT ZAMIECHÓW, SITE 1, WOJEWÓDZTWO PODKARPACKIE

#### ABSTRACT

A. Reszczyńska, J. Rogóż, D. Makowicz-Poliszot, T. Tomek 2013. A unique double burial from a Przeworsk Culture settlement context at Zamiechów, site 1, województwo podkarpackie, AAC 48: 135–170.

Discovered in a settlement context during archaeological fieldwork made in 2009/2010 in advance of motorway construction at Zamiechów, site 1 (woj. podkarpackie) in the Carpathian foothills region grave 345 was a double burial of an adult and child with a fairly rich inventory dated to Roman Period phase  $B_2/C_1$ . The article reports on the results of analysis of the grave form, its construction, grave goods and on the input from specialist human and animal bone analysis and metallography studies.

Some elements of the inventory of grave No. 345, not the least the peculiar features of the burial rite, are highly unusual in the Przeworsk Culture environment and attributable, to some extent, to the Wielbark Culture environment. Grave No. 345 discovered at Zamiechów may be associated with the "Eastern Zone" of the Przeworsk Culture and with the interaction and trade exchange associated with the operation of an amber workshop in the settlement at Zamiechów.

 ${\tt K\,e\,y}\ \ {\tt w\,o\,r\,d\,s}:$  Roman Period; Przeworsk Culture; Wielbark Culture; urned grave; double burial; amber

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#### INTRODUCTION

In 2005 the Carpathian foothills region (Podkarpacie in Polish) came under a project of archaeology of a geographic scope unprecedented in Poland. The research made in 2005–2011 in advance of the construction of motorway A4 by the Foundation of Rzeszów Centre for Archaeology took in stretches of road totalling 91.3 km, an area of nearly 140 ha, with investigation made of 83 sites (Czopek, Pelisiak 2011, 5, 11). Some of them yielded materials dated to the Roman Period, mainly from settlement contexts (Czopek 2011, 92). Of a small number of grave assemblages that were also recorded arguably the most outstanding is feature No. 345 identified at Zamiechów, site 1 (Czopek 2011, 92, Fig. 21; Ligoda, Podgórska-Czopek 2011, 275–277, 279, catalogue Nos. 76.1–8, Photo 121).

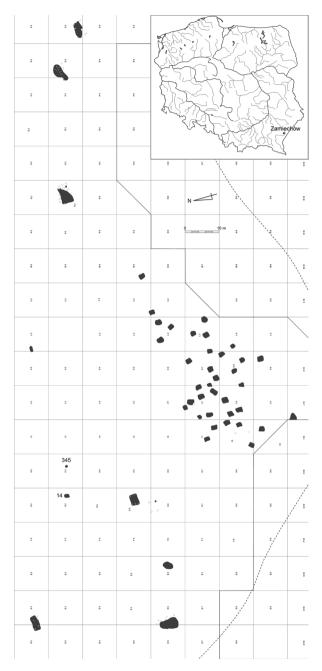


Fig. 1. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Site location and plan showing outlines of features containing Roman Period material; drawn by D. Bobak and I. Florkiewicz.

The locality Zamiechów lies in the eastern area of commune Chłopice about 6 km to the south-west of Radymno in distr. Jarosław. Site No. 1 was discovered in 1993 by A. and B. Szpunar during a field survey made as part of the nationwide fieldwalking project AZP and recorded on sheet 106–84 as No. 44 in that area (No. 1 at Zamiechów). During that first surface survey and in the course of subsequent projects carried out in late 1990s the site yielded evidence on occupation during Stone Age, Late Roman Period and early Middle Ages. An area excavation was made in advance of the construction of A4 motorway in November and December 2009 and continued until 12 December 2009, followed by more fieldwork in March–July 2010. The principal investigator on the behalf of the Foundation of Rzeszów Centre for Archaeology was E. Kędzierska MA, in cooperation with M. Buszta-Dec MA. Over four months a total of 16867 m² was explored at Zamiechów, site 1, uncovering 692 features and archaeological material attributed to the Neolithic Age, Mierzanowice Culture, the Roman Period, and to the period 6th–7th and 10th–13th cc.¹

Roman Period material was recorded in 17 features (16 of settlement character, six of them dugouts) and a cremation grave, marked as No. 345. A number of features not containing small finds also identified within the site are placed by their construction design and location firmly in the Roman Period and associated with the Przeworsk Culture settlement: 38 features interpreted as rectangular or sub-rectangular hearths, 28 postholes recorded within larger structures linked to domestic and household functions. The dugouts were discovered in two discrete clusters: one in the western, one in the eastern area of the settlement. The rectangular hearths, clustering in the southern area of the site, formed an observably separate zone found a small distance away from the domestic structures. Such an arrangement in which the residential area is separated visibly from the area given over to production activity is characteristic for Przeworsk Culture settlements mostly during the Late Roman Period (Michałowski 2003, 146). In the case of the settlement identified at Zamiechów, site 1, we presumably have to do with a single horizon of its existence, one spanning the close of the Early Roman Period and the older segment of the Late Roman Period. The only grave discovered at Zamiechów, site 1, lay near to the dugout features in the western area of the site (Fig. 1).

## CREMATION GRAVE NO. 345 — DESIGN, ANALYSIS OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL BONE REMAINS AND GRAVE INVENTORY

The feature marked as No. 345 belongs in the category of urned cremation graves but is unusual in that it held an inverted urn. It was detected under-

¹ Details about Zamiechów, site 1, and the excavated archaeological material are taken from the field documentation and the report from a rescue excavation of Zamiechów, site 1 developed by E. Kędzierska (2010) and from a post-excavation report developed by A. Reszczyńska, S. Kadrow, M. Kalita (2013). Both the fieldwork and the analysis of the excavated materials were financed by the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways.

neath the arable layer, at a depth of 40 cm, as an oval 88 × 79 cm pit oriented N-S. In profile its shape was that of a basin, its depth a mere 8 cm. Centrally within the pit was an urn, resting upside down, unfortunately mostly lost to ploughing or to heavy machinery used to remove the topsoil. Nevertheless it seems that the greater part of the grave inventory was recovered. It included ornaments and dress accessories, most notably, a silver brooch and sixteen amber beads. More notable are several bronze decorative elements, rivets and handles, associated with a casket, and an iron key (Fig. 2–3). There were both human and animal bone remains. Unfortunately, with the urn almost fully destroyed there is no way of determining which of the elements of the grave inventory originally rested inside this vessel. At the same time it appears from the field documentation that only the sheet bronze mounts and some of the animal bone remains were found outside the urn.

Osteology analysis of the bone remains established that the grave held two burials: a child whose age at death was specified as *infans I/infans II*, although



Fig. 2. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Grave No. 345 at the level of detection; Photo by E. Kędzierska.

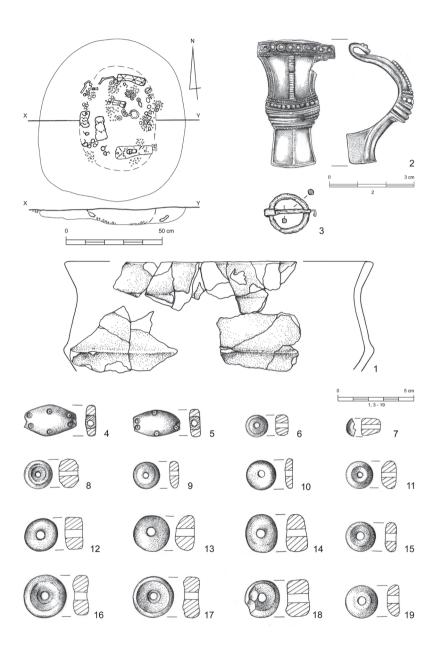


Fig. 3. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Grave No. 345; drawn by A. Reszczyńska, H. Jonášová, J. Nawrot-Bukowiec.

Distribution of finds inside the grave pit (+ — human bone; × — animal bone) and grave goods (1 — urn, clay; 2 — brooch, silver; 3 — buckle, bronze; 4 — 19 beads, amber).

the latter age class is more likely, and an adult, presumably female. The bones were heavily burnt, cream-beige in colour. Their total weight was ca. 751 g, most of them were greatly fragmented and non-diagnostic. Their maximum length was between 30 and 45 mm. Examined macroscopically some of these fragments were identified as belonging to the cranium (neurocranium, fragments of the alveolar process of the mandible, dentition) and to the post-cranial skeleton (vertebrae, ribs, long bones of the limbs, bones of the hand). The presence of the remains of a child was deduced from the degree of dental development and from other skeletal fragments, such as the buds and roots of already developed permanent teeth. The bones of the calvaria were gracile, without evidence of cranial suture obliteration. There were also some fragments of incompletely developed bones, e.g., a femur head still not fused to the shaft. Some of the bone remains were attributed to a second, older individual. However, the fragmentation of this bone material and the small number of diagnostic fragments precluded reliable sex identification and age determination. At the same time, the fact that the surviving bone fragments are not robust led to their tentative identification as female.

Next to the human bone remains grave No. 345 yielded skeletal remains of at least five animal species, some of them found inside the urn, others outside it: from mammals (cream-beige) and birds (greenish-brown). Burnt pelvic bones (domestic pig) and ribs (sheep/goat) were recorded in the eastern area of the grave and, presumably, originally rested underneath the urn. A fragment of a burnt long bone with traces of working from a bovid-sized animal was discovered in the north area of the grave, on the same level as bones of all the other mammals. The largest number of animal bone remains in the grave were from birds (47 identifiable fragments and a few hundred small and very small fragments). An overwhelming number of the identifiable remains belonged to geese. Both the shape and size of the nonidentifiable remains suggest that they too may come from geese and it is quite likely that they represent pulverized fragments of the identified bones. The skeletal remains of geese were all wing bones. Of these, radiuses were the most numerous (not less than eleven). Next to them there were also ulnae (eight fragments from at least two bones) and a probable fragment of a humerus. Some of the goose bones found outside the urn, in south area of the pit, rested in a group parallel to one another. If we take into account the fragmentation and the presence of bones from both the right and the left side of the body, we may conclude that the grave held the remains of at least eight geese. The presence of such a large number of radiuses, in contrast to the much smaller number of surviving ulnas (which in the bird skeleton lie parallel to the radiuses and are significantly heavier than they) and their placement in a cluster suggests deliberate selection of radiuses as a burial offering. Other identifiable bird remains (two leg bones) were identified as probably belonging to chicken (the bone fragments are too small to rule out Galliformes living in the wild). The chicken bones rested in the south-east area of the grave.

Animal bones in Roman Period graves are not uncommon (Wegrzynowicz 1982, 76-79, 90-103, Table 11-12, map 7; Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 32-37). Usually, the burnt animal remains are interpreted as the remains of offerings made to supernatural beings, or, to the buried individual (Wegrzynowicz 1982, 205-206; Rodzińska-Nowak 2003, 339-340; 2006, 22; Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 34). In addition, next to domestic objects, personal attributes such as symbols of occupation and social status of the buried individual, graves of Przeworsk Culture people were furnished for their journey to the afterlife also with food, as documented by finds of animal bone of e.g., cattle and pigs (Wegrzynowicz 1982, 204-205). Alternately these remains are interpreted as traces of foods consumed during a ritual feast by the participants of the burial ceremony (Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 34). The significance of bird bones recorded in graves may be still different. In many mythologies and culture traditions birds play the role of guides to the land of the dead (Waluszewska-Bubień 1998; Czarnecka 2003, 276; 2004, 98). Bird bones are recorded relatively often in Przeworsk Culture cremation graves, bones of poultry in particular (Wegrzynowicz 1982, 247-248, map 7; Rodzińska-Nowak 2003, 340; 2006, 20; Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 31, 36). Analysis of species composition of bird remains from grave inventories from e.g., Nadkole (Andrzejowski 1998a, 119–124), Kamieńczyk (Dąbrowska 1997, 113, Table 3), Krupice (Jaskanis 2005, 118, Table 6), Dabek (Mistewicz 2005, 227-228, Table 1) and Opatów (Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 31–32) shows that chicken bones vastly outnumber the remains of geese and ducks. In the burial from Zamiechów it is the other way round: here bones of geese greatly outnumber chicken suggesting the unique nature of this grave, possibly the special social status of individuals buried in it. Moreover, the presence of only bones from the wings (the part of the bird used in flight) lends force to the ideological significance of this element of the grave inventory.

The form of the grave from Zamiechów and some elements of its inventory correspond to the burial tradition followed by the Przeworsk Culture people during the Roman Period. It may be said to be a variant of urned cremation burial in which the cremation was placed in the urn with most of the grave goods (Czarnecka 2003, 274–276; 2004, 97). The vessel used in grave No. 345 for an urn was very poorly fired and survived as 89 very small fragments (Fig. 3:1). This suggests that it was made specifically for the purpose of the burial, which is common for urns recorded in Przeworsk Culture graves (Czarnecka 2004, 100–101). Unfortunately, owing to its poor and incomplete preservation the urn cannot be classified conclusively to a specific vessel type. It is hand-built, with a smooth black surface, an inverted rim with a bevelled lip and has a diameter of 22 cm, a carinated biconical body and 6 mm thick walls. The tentative identification of this vessel from its surviving fragments would be group II in the typology of T. Liana (1970, 439, Pl. II:5, 6, 8–10, 13).

The inverted position of the urn in the grave cut, while it is recorded in Przeworsk Culture, is still rather irregular. Upside down urns were encountered in the cemetery at Kamieńczyk, grave No. 231 (Dabrowska 1997, 246, Pl. CXVI:231:1-5); Nadkole, grave No. 79 (Andrzejowski 1998a, 202, Pl. LI: 1-14); in ten graves at Niedanowo, e.g., gr. No. 31 (Ziemlińska-Odojowa 1999, Pl. XII:31:1–11), gr. No. 242 (Ziemlińska-Odojowa 1999, Pl. LXXIII: 242:1-9), and gr. No. 257 (Ziemlińska-Odojowa 1999, Pl. LXXXIII: 257:1-11). An inverted urn holding, similarly as at Zamiechów, the remains of two individuals was discovered at Korzeń in grave No. 48. Analogically to grave No. 345 from Zamiechów, this was a burial of a woman and a child (Kempisty 1968, 367, Fig. 38, Pl. XXXVI:7). The burials named earlier date to between the onset of the early stage of the Roman Period and the onset of the Late Roman Period. Inverted urns were discovered mostly in graves of adult women, although some of these urns held the remains of male individuals: e.g., grave No. 427 at Niedanowo (Ziemlińska-Odojowa 1999, 309, Pl. CLVIII: 427:1-17). An interesting case is that of grave No. 231 recorded at Kamieńczyk which held a selection of animal bones nearly identical to the grave inventory from Zamiechów. Next to mammal bones (sheep/goat, cattle) there were also the remains of birds: a chicken and 16 geese (Dabrowska 1997, 52). The reason for this practice is unknown, despite attempts to analyse and correlate the different elements of the grave furnishings, the sex and age of the burials with graves containing inverted vessels (Czarnecka 1990, 40). One possible explanation is that inverted urns are associated with a ritual dictated by a special form of death, for instance, a violent death. We cannot rule out also that this placement is associated with special status of the buried individual, for instance, someone suffering from a disease or disability or someone who practiced magic (Czarnecka 1990, 88-89).

Possibly the most outstanding element of the inventory of grave No. 345 from Zamiechów is a silver brooch which was recorded at the level of detection of the grave pit, within the perimeter of the urn. This specimen has a fairly broad bow, ornamented, with a central constriction just below the arch of the bow. At this narrowest point of the bow is a wide, ornate crest. The brooch head was formed by folding out the end of the bow, flattened and used as a cover for the brooch spring, and decorating it with a row of small rings of granulation. This is where originally the chord used to be. The brooch had a high catch-plate, its lower part now missing. The spring and the pin did not survive either. The length of the brooch is 42 mm, the width of its bow — 16 mm (Fig. 3:2; 8:1). The upper surface of the brooch is visibly worn suggesting heavy use and it being worn under an outer garment<sup>2</sup>. The specimen from Zamiechów belongs in the eastern series of spring-cover fibulae, type A II 41 (Almgren 1923, Pl. II). Over the last two decades fibulae of this form have been discussed

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Our warm thanks go to Professor Jan Schuster from University of Łódź Institute of Archaeology for consultation and valuable remarks.

in several analyses which addressed their detailed typology and variants recorded in different archaeological cultures (Oledzki 1992; 1995, 237–243; 1998, 76-80; Maczyńska 2006, 163-168, 170-175; Schuster 2006, 101-120). According to a more recent classification the specimen from Zamiechów is closest to variant Z of this group of spring-cover fibulae (Schuster 2006, 110-112, Fig. 10). Their distinctive feature is their fairly solid body, with a very broad central section of the bow as compared to other variants of the same type. They have either an expanded or a straight foot and a low-set crest. Their length is usually over 40 mm (Schuster 2006, 110-112). Brooches type A II 41 are regarded as typical examples of Wielbark and Przeworsk culture metalwork, mostly made of bronze, much more seldom of iron, and as a rule associated with female dress (Maczyńska 2006, 163). Finds of variant Z brooches cluster in the region of the Vistula River delta (Lower Vistula variant) and in the region between the Lower Vistula and the Lyna River (Schuster 2006, Fig. 12). On the territory of Wielbark Culture settlement on the Vistula River they are represented mainly by large and very broad specimens of this variant. In graves they have been recorded in association with forms diagnostic for phase  $B_2/C_1$ , to the east of the Vistula River they are known from assemblages dated to phase  $C_{1a}$  (Maczyńska 2006, 167). The brooch from grave No. 345 at Zamiechów despite its discovery on Przeworsk Culture territory has all the attributes typical for Wielbark Culture specimens. Type A. 41 brooches recorded in Przeworsk Culture deposits have a broad, trapezeshaped bow, a more narrow foot and crest, and a less arched bow (Schuster 2006, 112). Also uncharacteristic for Przeworsk Culture is the ornamentation and material of the brooch from Zamiechów. Silver specimens of spring-cover brooches of the eastern series are much less common than bronze ones. They are known e.g., from the cemetery at Weklice, from the richly furnished graves Nos. 208 and 342 (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 269, Pl. LXXXIII:2-3, 335, Pl. CXLIX:1,2), and from grave No. 203 at Pruszcz Gdański (Pietrzak 1997, Pl. LXVII:4). What is truly unique for this brooch type is the filigree and granulation ornament of the specimen from Zamiechów. Decoration with filigree or its imitation as such is encountered on type A.41 brooches. One specimen with this form of ornament is a silver brooch from grave No. 102 at Weklice (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 231, Pl. XLV:1); bronze brooches of similar form were found in graves Nos. 218, 250, 252, 256 in the same cemetery (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 277, Pl. XCI:1,2, 286, Pl. C:1,2, 287, Pl. CI:1,2, 293, Pl. CVII:1,2). A rich filigree decoration appears also on a silver-plated bronze brooch Almgren group II but — differently from the specimen from Zamiechów — with a cylinder rather than a cover for the spring which was discovered in the nearby cemetery w Trójczyce (Poradyło 2004, 143, Pl. IX:29, 145, Fig. 6). Still, the use — next to filigree — also of granulation is exceptional for brooches type A 41. This decoration, distinctive for the decorative manner in what is known as "Baroque style", is encountered in assemblages dated to phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>1a</sub> on crest-headed brooches from group A V, 8 series (Machajewski 1998, 189; Mączyńska, Rudnicka 2004, 402, 414, Fig. 7:9, 14, 16; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, 389; 2011, 277), like specimens from grave No. 252 at Weklice, in context with A II 40-41 brooches (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 287, Pl. CI:3), in assemblage No. 22 from Połowite (Cieśliński 2010, Pl. 30:2) and, on Przeworsk Culture territory, in grave No. 22 at Prusiek near Sanok (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2007, 63, Fig. 3; 2010, 389, Fig. 1:2; 2011a, 277, Pl. 2). The only specimen of a brooch type A. 41 possibly close to the find from Zamiechów, decorated with silver granulation, is an as yet unpublished iron specimen discovered in a Przeworsk Culture settlement at Charbinowice, site. 1 (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, 389). All finds similar to the brooch from grave No. 345 from Zamiechów invoked here confirm that it is a unique find in the Przeworsk Culture environment and may be safely attributed to Wielbark metalwork.

The next metal dress accessory from the same grave inventory is a small unipartite buckle with a round frame made of bronze, 26 mm in diameter and 4 mm in cross-section (Fig. 3:3). Belt buckles of a similar design and frame shape are long-lived forms, classified as AC, variant 13, in the typology of R. Madyda-Legutko, recorded in assemblages dated to between the close of the Late Roman Period and the early phase of the Migration Period (Madyda-Legutko 1986, 21). In most cases they are made of iron and are of round or rectangular section (Madyda 1977, 364, Pl. II:5; Madyda-Legutko 1986, 23). In Przeworsk Culture the period of mass occurrence of buckles with a round frame coincides with phase B2, in Wielbark Culture, also with phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> (Madyda-Legutko 1986, Tables 7, 8). Their much smaller number is recorded in assemblages dated to the Late Roman Period. They appear both in male and female graves but in Wielbark Culture they are mainly elements of the female costume (Madyda-Legutko 1986, 23). This type of wire buckle is noted in assemblages dated to the close of phase B<sub>2</sub> where it is seen next to brooches type A.41 (Madyda 1977, 365, 391). Just such a combination of these two important dress accessories is noted in grave No. 345 from Zamie-chów. Only the material of the buckle is uncharacteristic for a Przeworsk Culture inventory: bronze, rather than iron, the latter commonly used by the Przeworsk Culture people.

A group of equally unique finds discovered in grave No. 345 are metal elements of a casket. Parts of caskets and keys are not a rare find in women's grave inventories in Przeworsk Culture, most notably on the turn of the Early and Late Roman Period (Godłowski 1977, 130). However, the casket elements from Zamiechów appear to belong to a more sumptuous object than most. They comprise unique copper alloy mounts with rivet holes (21 fragments), in the form of strips decorated with an embossed geometric design — rows of short wavy lines and a stylised human figure. Their dimensions: length of between 40 and 260 mm, thickness of 1mm and a total surface of over 335 cm² (Fig. 4:1–13; 7:5). The mounts were fastened to the wooden sides of the caskets using rivets with

a domed head (38 pieces), the head diameter of 13–15 mm, shank length of 35–41 mm, most of the shanks bent at right angles (Fig. 5:6–19; 6:1–24; 7:1). Also attributed to a casket is a fragment of a bronze rectangular handle — or a grip, with a decorative ring at centre and at the terminal, its surviving length of about 70 mm. The surviving end retains an element used in mounting the handle to the side of the casket (Fig. 5:3; 7:2). Finally there are three bronze rings (grips?) with a diameter of 25–45 mm and a cross section of 4–6 mm, with pegs for attachment to the wooden parts of the casket (Fig. 5:1, 2, 4; 7:4).

Similar decorative elements of wooden caskets are known from a number of Przeworsk Culture sites (Fig. 9). Closest to the group from Zamiechów are casket mounts recorded at Chmielów Piaskowy in a rich grave inventory No. 39 and in assemblage No. 40 dated to phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> (Godłowski, Wichman 1998, 35–37, Pl. LXI, LXII, LXVI:12–21). Grave No. 39 also held objects similar to other casket elements recovered at Zamiechów: a quadrangular handle/grip, ring mounts/grips and rivets with a domed head (Godłowski, Wichman 1998, 152–153, Pl. LIX:33, LX:29, 30, LXIII, LXIV). Analogical forms recorded in a grave at Kraków-Płaszów, with an ornament of short wavy lines and a representation of a human figure, are also dated to phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> (Nosek 1947, 143–145, Fig. 44). This is the chronology of mounts discovered in grave No. 22 in the Przeworsk Culture cemetery at Prusiek (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2007, 64; 2010, 389, Fig. 1:3, 3a). Mounts with geometric designs and stylised solar discs, discovered in grave No. 1229 in the cemetery at Opatów, are thought to belong in phase  $C_{1b}$  (Zagórska-Telega 2000, 314–315, Fig. 4–5; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011b, 253, Pl. CCCXC, CCCXCI, CDLVI:a-e). Even younger is the westernmost find, from a grave at Boguchwałów, site 22, dated by its inventory to Roman Period phase C<sub>2</sub> (Godłowski 1968, 260–261, Fig. 8:1-2). Small fragments of ornamented sheet bronze mounts were discovered on the territory of Przeworsk Culture at Drochlin – a stray find (Kaczanowski 1987, Pl. XXXII:31), at Grodzisk Mazowiecki, in gr. No. 23 (Barankiewicz 1959, 203, Pl. VII:10) and at Starachowice, in gr. No. IV (Jamka 1959, 38-39, Fig. 12:h). The finds of casket mounts listed here are interpreted as provincial Roman imports (Tempelmann-Mączyńska 1985b, 51; Kaczanowski 1987, 92). However, a more likely interpretation is that they are local imitations of provincial Roman metalwork (Godłowski, Wichman 1998, 69; Zagórska-Telega 2000, 314). The metallography analysis of casket mounts from Zamiechów produced results similar to findings obtained for their parallels from Chmielów Piaskowy<sup>3</sup>. The only difference is in the higher content of Zn (10.16%) in the copper alloy used in making the specimen from grave No. 345. All the other parameters are identical or similar (Table 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The metallography analysis of the casket mounts from Zamiechów was made at the Nicolaus Copernicus Institute of Archaeology Archaeological finds conservation unit in Toruń commissioned by the Foundation of Rzeszów Centre for Archaeology.

$T_{i}$	able 1	1
Results of metallography analysis of casket mounts from Zamiechów No. 345		
and from Chmielów Piaskowy, grave No. 39 (cf. Godłowski, Wichman 1998, 68, Ta	ble 2).	

Feature	Main element	Sn	Pb	Ag	Zn
Chmielów Piaskowy gr. 39	Cu	0.96%	0.26%	0.053%	3.32%
Zamiechów gr. 345	Cu (66.76%)	1.39%	0.26%	0.05%	10.16%

Specimens from the territory of Pannonia and adjacent areas feature different decorative motifs than casket elements recorded in Poland (Gáspár 1986). Nevertheless, basing on provincial Roman finds we may attempt a reconstruction of the appearance of the casket from Zamiechów. The most decorative mounts, with a geometric motif and a stylised human figure, were likely to be the central element of the front side of the casket. This is suggested by the characteristic "tendril" terminals of these mounts (Gáspár 1986, Fig. XVIII, LXII, LXIX). The smaller sheet fragments decorated with short wavy lines presumably were attached to the edges of the front panel and the lid (Gáspár 1986, Fig. XVIII). The rectangular handle would have been attached to the top of the lid or in its front part (Gáspár 1986, Fig. XVIII, LXXXIII, CXV). The three circular elements presumably secured the lid to the body of the casket. Used in pairs they made it possible to open and close the lid (Gáspár 1986, Fig. LXVII). The circular element represented on Fig. 5:2 may have also had a function of a side grip.

Another object tentatively linked with the casket, next to the decorative elements and handles, made of iron and surviving in fragments, rectangular of section, is interpreted as the remains of a lock spring, but its preservation is too poor to determine its original appearance and function.

A find definitely associated with the presence of a casket discovered in the grave at Zamiechów is an iron key, surviving in six fragments, of rectangular section, with a single U-shaped bit (Fig. 5:5; 7:3). Keys of this form are classified as type A (Kokowski 1997, 14, Fig. 18:1). They are the most popular type encountered in central European Barbaricum and account for 77% of all finds. In Poland the largest number of type A keys is recorded in the western area of Przeworsk Culture territory, in south Great Poland and adjacent areas of Silesia (Kokowski 1997, 23–24). They are noted with the highest frequency in inventories from the mature and late phase  $B_2$  but are numerous also during phase  $B_2/C_1$  (Kokowski 1997, 25). In the eastern area of Przeworsk Culture territory they are much more rare (Kokowski 1997, 38). In the Carpathian foothills region keys type A have been recorded in the cemetery at Gać (Kokowski 1997, 56), in grave No. 15 at Kopki (Jamka 1936, 34,

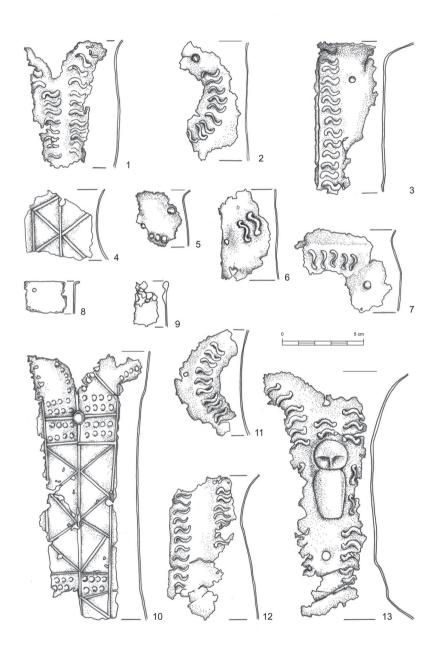


Fig. 4. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Inventory of grave No. 345; drawn by A. Reszczyńska, J. Nawrot-Bukowiec.

1-13 — rectangular casket mounts, copper alloy.

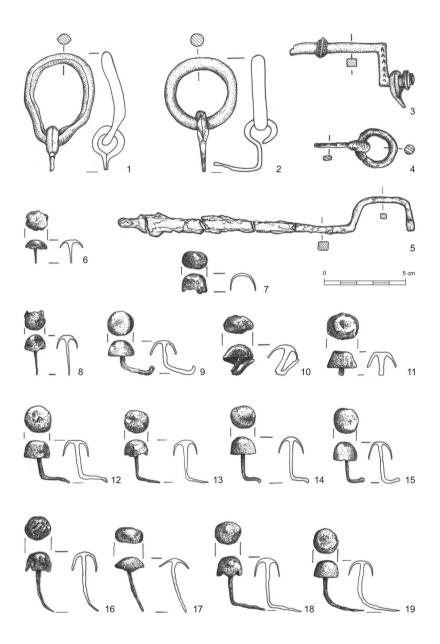


Fig. 5. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Inventory of grave No. 345; drawn by A. Reszczyńska, J. Nawrot-Bukowiec.

1–2, 4 — ring grips from the casket, bronze; 3 — rectangular handle, bronze; 5 — key (reconstruction), iron; 6–19 — rivets, bronze.

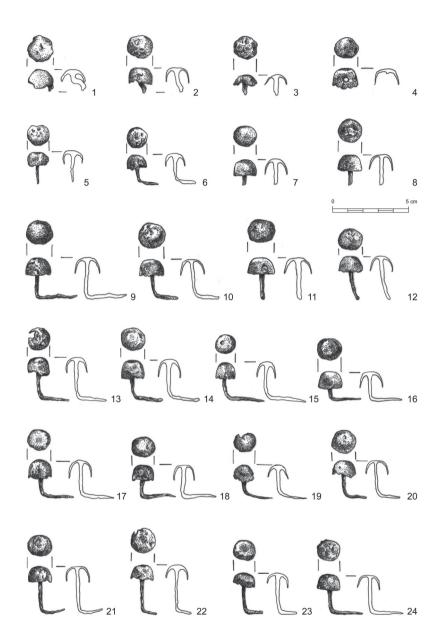


Fig. 6. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Inventory of grave 345; drawn by J. Nawrot-Bukowiec.

1-24 — casket rivets, bronze.

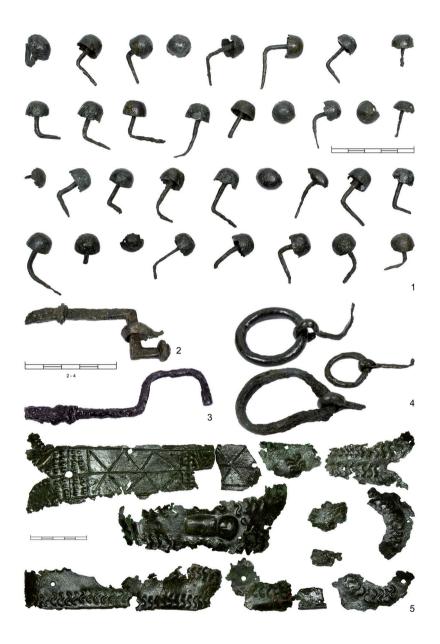


Fig. 7. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Inventory of grave No. 345; Photo G. Stec.

1-2, 4-5 — metal elements of a wooden casket; 3 — an iron key.



Fig. 8. Zamiechów, site 1, powiat Jarosław, województwo podkarpackie, Poland. Inventory of grave No. 345; Photo G. Stec.

1 — a silver brooch; 2–3 — amber beads.

Fig. 11:4), and in the settlement at Otalęż (Podgórska-Czopek 1999, 136, 150, Pl. XXIV:4).

Caskets and keys presumably were personal belongings of the buried women. Basing on the furnishings of inhumation graves one may conclude that they were used for storing jewellery, valuables, beads, etc. Graves with caskets tend to be richly furnished and hold adult burials — women aged *adultus* and *maturus*. They are regarded as graves of women of higher social rank (C z a rnecka 2010, 19–20). Another explanation is that keys placed in graves had a magic function, keeping the dead individual safe or — the other way round — keeping the living safe from the dead. The function of locking and opening may have been a symbol of control, protection and giving access (C z a rnecka 2010, 22). Thus, the key as an element of the grave goods may have served

two functions: utilitarian and that of an amulet. To summarize the above remarks, caskets and keys in Roman Period graves may be interpreted tentatively as marks of authority over a household, symbols of wealth, social status, marriage, and also as objects associated with magic. The key for opening the afterworld may have been a necessary element for the buried individual, helping him or her to complete the rite of passage, such as death definitely was, and to safely begin a new life (Czarnecka 2010, 26).

The cremation grave No. 345 also held fifteen intact amber beads and a small fragment of an incomplete amber bead. The group included two oblong forms, sub-lozengic of shape, decorated with six ring-and-dot motifs (Fig. 3:4, 5; 8:2). Other beads are circular, barrel-shaped and plano-convex in section (Fig. 3:6, 8-19; 11:3). The fragmented bead presumably was a conical form (Fig. 3:7). Most of the bead forms named here are long-lived; they enter the archaeological record and linger in central European Barbaricum between phase B, and the Late Roman Period (Maczyńska 1977, 66). Much less common are the oblong beads (type 410 of Tempelmann-Maczyńska), noted during the Roman Period phase B<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>, recorded only on Wielbark Culture territory (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1985a, 191, Pl. 65), e.g., in the cemetery at Pruszcz Gdański — graves Nos. 98, 147 and 168, dated to phases B<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> (Pietrzak 1997, 126, Pl. XXVIII:6; 152, Pl. LIV:4; 157, Pl. LIX:4). They were also present at Weklice, in the grave assemblage No. 366 where they appeared next to two brooches type A.40-41 (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 347, Pl. CLXI:34). Outside the Lower Vistula region two oblong beads surfaced in a pit grave No. XIX in the cemetery at Drohiczyn, an assemblage with the youngest chronology (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1985a, 277). Nevertheless, in contrast to their parallels just cited the beads from Zamiechów are ornamented. This is something seen very rarely on amber beads, only on types 426–427 — pendants of assorted shape, dated to phase  $B_2/C_1-C_{1a}$ . (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1985a, 74, 191-192, Pl. 16). Another rare type are conical beads (type 402 of Tempelmann-Maczyńska), recorded chiefly in Wielbark Culture assemblages from phases  $B_0$  and  $B_0/C_1$  (Tempelmann-Mączyńska 1985a, 69). They were present in graves Nos. 211 and 428 at Pruszcz Gdański (Pietrzak 1997, 172, Pl. LXXIV; 226, Pl. CCXXVIII:7) and in grave No. 4/71 at Pajewo-Szwelice (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1985a, 69). Amber conical beads have been recovered also from Przeworsk Culture settlements, from amber workshop contexts. P. Wielowiejski listed conical beads among types discovered in Roman Period sites identified at Regów and, very likely, also Jacewo (Wielowiejski 1991, 344, Table 7).

Unfortunately, the uses of amber beads by the Przeworsk Culture people are very poorly understood; for this we can blame the cremation burial rite which resulted in the destruction of many grave goods. Everywhere in central European *Barbaricum* concentrations of amber bead finds are observed only in regions from which there is a record on burial by inhumation and in areas where there was no tradition of burning the grave goods during the cremation

rite, which in Poland means the territory of Wielbark Culture, the West Balt culture environment and the region of Western Pomerania (Mączyńska 1977, 77, 80; Reszczyńska 1998, 93–96, maps 1–21). We can only guess how widespread amber beads were in the Przeworsk Culture environment basing on inhumation graves recorded on this territory, which have yielded a great number of specimens. A good example is a rich grave from Łódź-Retkinia and burials from Żerniki Wielkie (Tempelmann-Mączyńska 1985a, 122, 124). This regrettably rather modest data is supplemented to some extent by settlement finds associated with amber workshop contexts (Wielowiejski 1991) and by stray finds.

Despite the not fully conclusive results of osteological analysis grave No. 345 is likely to belong to class I of double graves distinguished in Przeworsk Culture. It held a joint burial of a woman and child. This is the largest class of multiple burials (almost 30%) distinguished in Przeworsk Culture cemeteries (Wiśniewska 1999, 59–60). Most of these graves are urned, furnished with modest, more rarely, moderately rich grave goods, in evidence throughout the entire Roman Period and during the early phases of the Migration Period. The basic set of grave goods in this class consists of a brooch and a knife. On the other hand, only a small percentage of graves in this class contain a typically female inventory, e.g., casket elements, a key or a spindlewhorl. A similar percentage of burials had a moderately rich and rich inventory. The age of the investigated individuals suggested the possibility of the existence of a close relationship between the buried individuals: woman (mother) and child (Wiśniewska 1999, 60).

Specialist analysis of human bone remains from grave No. 345 did not specify the age of the adult individual in closer detail. More data was actually furnished by analysis of the grave inventory. Elements attributed to the casket and also the presence of a key suggest that the woman was of adultus, possibly, of a maturus age, since individuals from these two age groups tend to be accompanied with caskets interpreted mostly as mark of social status (Czarnecka 1990, 49). The grave from Zamiechów may be classified as a relatively rich/elite burial and linked conclusively with a group having a higher social status. This is evidenced by sumptuous decorative elements of the casket which make it a fairly rare find, and by the richly ornamented silver brooch. In case of similarly exceptional artefacts it may be worth considering the attribution of individual grave goods to the burials. As was noted earlier the elements of the casket and the key are certain to have been deposited with the woman in mind, similarly as the brooch and the amber beads. As regards the bird bones, during the Early Roman Period their significant number is registered in burials of younger women and infants (Madyda-Legutko, Zagórska-Telega 2006, 36). Bird remains were recorded in quite a few single burials of children as well. Their presence may document the sphere of belief, for instance, they may have served as amulets in the grave, similarly as some of the animal bones with evidence of working (Czarnecka 1990, 67). On the other hand, bones of animals other than birds tend to be recorded in adult burials and are more likely to be associated with food (Czarnecka 1990, 46, Table 8).

#### DISCUSSION

The findings from analysis place the grave inventory from Zamiechów conclusively in the horizon of female grave inventories common in Roman Period phase  $B_2/C_1$  (Godłowski 1981, 96; 1982, 64). It displays many similarities with assemblages such as grave No. 39 from Chmielów Piaskowy, grave No. 22 from Prusiek etc., all of them evidently inspired by style design distinctive for Wielbark Culture. At the same time the grave inventory from Zamiechów shows a greater divergence from these other Przeworsk Culture assemblages.

The presence of imports and objects related to Wielbark Culture style design in graves of Przeworsk Culture people was addressed by J. Andrzejowski in two case studies published in 1994 and 2001. Detailed qualitative and quantitative analyses of different finds categories — ornaments, dress accessories, weapons and pottery (Andrzejowski 1994; 2001a, 61-82, Fig. 2, 5, 6-9, 11-13, 15-17, 22) — bring us closer to grasping the phenomenon, recognized for some time in specialist literature, of evident dissimilarity of deposits from the eastern Przeworsk Culture territory and the unmistakable influence exerted on this zone by the Wielbark Culture environment (cf. Dabrowska 1981a; 1981b). During the Early Roman Period from the territory defined provisionally as Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture, mainly the area of Mazovia on the right bank of the Vistula, we have an archaeological record somewhat different than from other areas of Przeworsk Culture settlement. What is observed here is a combination of typically "Przeworsk" elements with some external attributes, attributable chiefly to Wielbark Culture, but also, to western Scandinavian, Elbian and Balt culture environment. Strong impact from Wielbark Culture is reflected not only by the presence of imported objects but also, and even more importantly, by the relatively common adaptation of models, evidenced by the distinctive range of dress accessories and ornaments and a significant percentage of bronze and precious metal objects (Andrzejowski 2001a, 82). This distinct character is evident also during phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>1a</sub> in the stylistic affinities with Wielbark Culture at the time of the development of the so-called "Baroque style" (Andrzejowski 2001a, 61). Eastern Przeworsk elements are present also in sites spread the length of the Vistula River, in western Lublin region and in a small pocket to the west of it. This territory, together with eastern Lesser Poland, forms a zone in which there is evidence on the coming together of local, western and eastern Przeworsk elements (Andrzejowski 2001a, 83).

The evidence of the grave from Zamiechów as well as other recent finds from the Carpathian foothills region in Poland support the argument that similar developments are observed also in areas lying even more to the south-east, as far as the Polish Carpathians (cf. Madyda-Legutko et al. 2006a; 2006b; 2007; 2010; 2011a). Analysis of finds secured from the cemetery at Prusiek, which have a chronology similar to that of the Zamiechów grave inventory, shows that at least a part of the community using this grave field may have come from the Eastern Zone of the Przeworsk Culture. This is indicated by the presence of some forms of metal object, the style design of the hand-built pottery and certain features of the burial rite, which suggest links with the Wielbark Culture environment (M a d y d a - L e g u t k o et al. 2006a, 64–65; 2007, 66; 2011, 283). A form present in some of the female grave inventories at Prusiek is O. Almgren group II-IV, series 3 brooch made of bronze, one of the most diagnostic for the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture (Andrzejowski 2001a, 64, Fig. 5; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2005, 121-122, Fig. 2:1; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2006a, 63, Fig. 4:1; 2006b, 396, Fig. 3:1; 2007, 63); an iron brooch, group V, 8 series, decorated with silver foil and filigree and granulation, in its style design is similar to forms known from the eastern territory of the Przeworsk Culture (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2007, 63, Fig. 3; 2010, 389, Fig. 1:2). Also, some details of items of weaponry recorded at Prusiek suggest ties with the Eastern Zone. One notable case are inlaid heads of pole weapons (Madyda-Legutko 2007, 64, Fig. 5) — most finds of their earliest specimens cluster precisely on the territory of Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture (Andrzejowski 2001a, 79, Fig. 20; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2007, 64). The cemetery at Prusiek is interpreted as a "link" between sepulchral material of Przeworsk Culture known from the territory of the lower San River and their counterparts discovered in the Upper Tisa Basin (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2006a, 65; 2011, 282-283). This is understood to correspond to the expansion of the Przeworsk Culture people in a southerly and south-easterly direction during the mature phase of the Early Roman Period and during the early stages of the Late Roman Period, which is documented by grave finds from eastern Slovakia, Carpathian Ukraine, north-eastern Hungary and north-western Romania (Budinský-Krička 1967, 309-310; Budinský-Krička, Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1990; Lamiová-Schmiedlová, Mačala 1991; Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1992, 75–78; Godłowski 1985, 82–84, Fig. 6; 1994, 72-73, Fig. 2). During the same period the people of Przeworsk Culture penetrated also to the basin of the Upper Dniester (Smiszko 1932; Kozak 1984; map 1; Godłowski 1985, 81–82, Fig. 5).

The evidence obtained from the cemetery at Prusiek it a good starting point for the study aimed on determining the direction of contacts of groups of Przeworsk Culture people who had penetrated to the Carpathian zone on the turn of the Early and Late Roman Period. This material shows that at least a part of this population originated from the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 283). What is more, some of the more rare finds recorded at Prusiek have parallels in the region on the Baltic Sea but are not observed in the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture. A bronze belt set

discovered in the grave inventory No. 40 at Prusiek includes a buckle with a rectangular frame with a prong shaped like the letter "H" and a rectangular buckle plate, type 43 of R. Madyda-Legutko (1986, 54) as well as a chunky strap end with a ring terminal and an expanded trapeze-shaped projection (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 281–282, Fig. 10a). This type of buckle in Przeworsk Culture male costume is usually made of iron and analogical bronze specimens are recorded only rarely (Madyda-Legutko 1986, maps 39-41; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 281). At the same time a similar set made of bronze is known from a few finds recorded on the Wielbark Culture territory (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 282). A case in point would be a set discovered in a cremation grave No. 139 at Weklice dated to stadium IIC of that cemetery, or, to the turn of the Early and Late Roman Period (Natuniewicz-Sekuła, Okulicz-Kozaryn 2011, 126, Pl. LIV:2, 3). Also a bronze strap end from the assemblage from Prusiek so far has no analogies from the territory of Przeworsk Culture settlement (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 282). We are faced with a similar situation in the case of the find from Zamiechów, where direct analogies from the Przeworsk Culture environment are lacking but we find striking similarities in grave assemblages of Wielbark Culture, e.g., in the cemetery at Weklice. It seems therefore that next to evident ties with the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture, both in case of finds from Prusiek and from Zamiechów, some form of long-distance intercultural contact cannot be discounted, one that linked the territory on the Upper San with the Baltic Sea region. This form of contact during the Early Roman Period would be confirmed by the discovery in the nearby settlement at Hłomcza of a bronze brooch type A.71 decorated on the bow and foot with silver inlay (Muzyczuk, Pohorska-Kleja 1994, 85, Pl. V:24; Nowakowski 1999, 287, 289, Fig. 4j; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2011, 277-278). A.71 brooches are characteristic mostly for the western region in the Baltic Sea basin, from which area during stadium B<sub>10</sub> they spread eastward as far as the Lower Vistula (Nowakowski 1999, 286, Fig. 5). Specimens similar to the find from Hłomcza, with a more elaborate decoration than finds from the Baltic coast, were discovered in Mazovia at Karwowo, Sochaczew and Pajewo-Szwelice (Nowakowski 1999, 286–287, Fig. 5). The author of a case study dealing with these finds concluded that these forms were produced in a workshop in the area of Mazovia on the left bank of the Vistula River under a one off impulse, which reached this region directly from the western Baltic Sea region or, possibly, by way of the Wielbark Culture territory and that, moreover, the specimen was brought to the settlement at Hłomcza down a route running up the Vistula and its tributary the San to the Carpathian passes, and on to the Tisa Basin (Nowakowski 1999, 287; cf. J. Wielowiejski 1980, map 2; Okulicz-Kozaryn, W. Nowakowski 1996, 163–168).

The map of distribution of grave assemblages with caskets decorated with bronze mounts similar to the specimen from Zamiechów and dated to the close of the Early and onset of the Late Roman Period shows that next to the finds from the Carpathian foothills region they have been recovered in the region extending to the left of the Vistula, starting from the Mazovian cluster mentioned earlier and which includes the site at Grodzisk Mazowiecki, by way of Chmielów Piaskowy, Starachowice, as far as Kraków-Płaszów (Fig. 9). Most of these sites lie directly in a zone of contact with the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture. A highly similar distribution of sites is observed if we analyse the maps of many other forms distinctive for the eastern Przeworsk style recorded in the western zone of the Przeworsk Culture (cf. Andrzejowski 2001a, Fig. 2, 5, 7–9, 11, 13, 16).

Analogical observations were brought in by studies of distribution in the western territory of Przeworsk Culture of forms typical for the Wielbark Culture environment such as shield-headed bracelets (german *Schlangenkopfarmring*), Pomeranian variant (Andrzejowski 1994, Fig. 8), and also, gold spherical or inverted pyriform pendants (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, Fig. 2). A detailed analysis confirms that in this region their finds are less numerous than in the eastern zone. The majority of these finds may be seen to cluster in a zone of contact between cultures and a small number noted in the drainage basin of the Odra and in Central Poland<sup>4</sup> are certain to be imports from the Wielbark Culture territory, or possibly from the eastern region of Przeworsk Culture (Andrzejowski 1994, 323; 2001a, 74).

Analysis of gold spherical and inverted pyriform pendants revealed also that except for two specimens they all come from inventories dated to a narrow chronological horizon which takes in late Roman Period phases  $B_2$  and phase  $B_2/C_1$ . Next to these pendants grave inventories from this horizon have yielded brooches decorated with silver and metal mounts of wooden caskets, thus, objects demonstrating the high status of the individual buried in the grave (M a d y d a - L e g u t k o et al. 2010; 392–393). Consequently even if it contained no spherical or inverted pyriform pendants the grave from Zamiechów may still be classified by the elements of its inventory to the group of assemblages interpreted as burials of women of high social rank as e.g., grave No. 39 from Chmielów Piaskowy or grave No. 22 from Prusiek.

At the same time, despite its similarity to the inventories from Chmielów Piaskowy, Prusiek, and Kraków-Płaszów (containing sumptuous casket mounts and other elements of caskets, a Wielbark style brooch, similar animal bone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We mean here finds of shield-headed bracelets from grave assemblages from Dobra and Kietrz (Peschek 1939, 318, Fig. 35:8; Gedl 1988, 155, Fig. 32:a; Andrzejowski 1994, 322, Fig. 8) and finds of gold inverted pyriform pendants from Kurów, Opatów, Stary Zameku (Chłodnicki 1996, 40, Fig. 25; Domański 1992, 105, Pl. 3; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, 392, Fig. 2) and a spherical pendant from Dobra (Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, 392, Fig. 2). It is notable also that the presence of inverted pyriform pendants in the Odra Basin could result from exchange with the Elbian culture environment (see Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, 392, Footnote 12) and stray finds of shield-headed bracelets, Pomeranian variant, from Central Poland (Chajew and Szarów) may be the result of commercial activity via the Amber Road (Andrze-jowski 1994, 322).

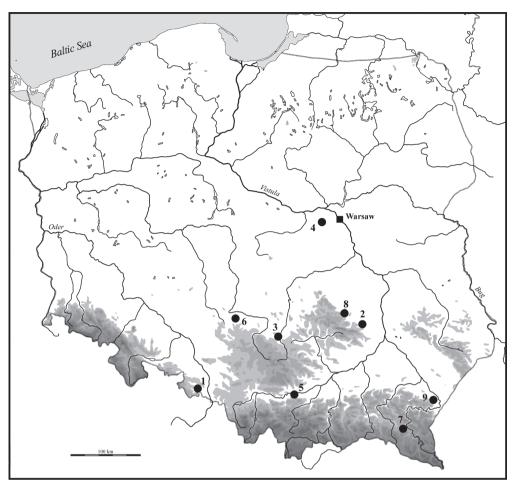


Fig. 9. Ornamented rectangular casket mounts recorded on Przeworsk Culture territory (p. — powiat; w. — województwo; all sites — Poland); drawny by A. Reszczyńska and I. Jordan. 1 — Boguchwałów, p. Głubczyce, w. opolskie; 2 — Chmielów Piaskowy, p. Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, w. świętokrzyskie; 3 — Drochlin, p. Częstochowa, w. śląskie; 4 — Grodzisk Mazowiecki, p. Grodzisk Mazowiecki, w. mazowieckie; 5 — Kraków-Płaszów, p. Kraków, w. małopolskie; 6 — Opatów, p. Kłobuck, w. śląskie; 7 — Prusiek, p. Sanok, w. podkarpackie; 8 — Starachowice, p. Starachowice, w. świętokrzyskie; 9 — Zamiechów, p. Jarosław, w. podkarpackie.

assemblages), the grave inventory from Zamiechów includes forms fully exceptional for Przeworsk Culture assemblages, namely, intact amber beads. From Eastern Przeworsk women's inventories we have a record of fairly numerous gold and silver pendants and silver filigree beads (Andrzejowski 2001a, Fig. 11; Madyda-Legutko et al. 2010, Fig 2). Quite often the main element of necklaces there are glass beads, encountered quite frequently. At the same time, by analogy to necklaces recorded during the same period in Wielbark Culture deposits, we may surmise that originally these necklaces included amber elements, which perished during cremation (Andrzejowski 2001a, 70).



Fig. 10. Amber working sites on Przeworsk Culture territory, directions of exchange and trade in amber during the Roman Period; after P. Wielowiejski (1991, Fig. 18) and T. Makiewicz, A. Michałowski (1998, Fig. 6 [p. — powiat; w. — województwo; all sites — Poland]); drawn by A. Reszczyńska and I. Jordan.

a — amber workshops already in operation during the Early Roman Period; b — amber workshops from the close of the Early and Late Roman Period; c — main route; d — secondary route.

1 — Inowrocław, p. Inowrocław, w. kujawsko-pomorskie; 2 — Krusza Zamkowa, p. Inowrocław, w. kujawsko-pomorskie; 3 — Łojewo, p. Inowrocław, w. kujawsko-pomorskie; 4 — Jacewo, p. Inowrocław, w. kujawsko-pomorskie;

5 — Konary, p. Inowrocław, w. kujawsko-pomorskie; 6 — Regów, p. Grodzisk Mazowiecki, w. mazowiecki;

7 — Izdebno Kościelne, p. Grodzisk Mazowiecki, w. mazowieckie; 8 — Biskupice, p. Pruszków, w. mazowieckie;

9 — Sosnowiec, p. Śrem, w. wielkopolskie; 10 — Jakuszowice, p. Kazimierza Wielka, w. małopolskie; 11 — Zamiechów, p. Jarosław, w. podkarpackie.

On the other hand, there is no denying that phase  $B_2/C_1$ , to which the grave inventory from Zamiechów is dated, is a period of extraordinary interest in objects made of amber among the communities of Wielbark Culture (Resz-

czyńska 1998, 96, 98). Compared to the preceding phase not only is there an increase in the percentage of graves containing amber but also in the quantity of amber beads in individual assemblages. The largest number of amber objects is recorded in the richer cemeteries, most notably in an area classified as "zone A" by R. Wołągiewicz (1981, 84) which extends from the Lower Vistula region to the Elbląg Heights in the east and takes in the area centred on Chełmno (Chełmno Land) and the Drawskie Lakeland in the west (Reszczyńska 1998, 96, map 7–8). Particularly large amounts of amber were unearthed to the east of the Vistula River near Elbląg and in the area around localities Pruszcz Gdański and Lubowidz, and also in cemeteries which tend to feature among sites with materials analogical to the elements of the grave inventory of No. 345 from Zamiechów. From phase  $B_2/C_1$  we get the first evidence on a shift in a south-eastward direction of the tradition of using objects made of amber (Reszczyńska 1998, 98, maps 7–8).

Thought-provoking evidence for interpreting the extraordinary assemblage from Zamiechów is furnished by the study of the archaeological record from Mazovia and Podlahia which illuminates the burial rite practiced within Wielbark Culture communities resident in the region. At the cemetery at Jartypory, next to fire affected metal objects, some cremation graves held glass, and even amber, beads (Andrzejowski, Żórawska 2002, 53-54). This and other cemeteries belong to a cluster of Wielbark Culture grave-sites recorded on the Lower and the Middle Liwiec River datable in their origin to the time of settling this region by the people of Wielbark Culture during early Roman Period phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> (Andrzejowski, Żórawska 2002, 55). This is associated with the shift in the settlement pattern of the Wielbark Culture people as they moved south-eastward through the regions of Mazovia and Podlahia (Wołągiewicz 1981, 85-88; Dąbrowska 1981a, 53-54; Godłowski 1985, 68–78; 1986, 130–137; 1992, 62; Kokowski 1999, 44–47; 2005, 281–290; Andrzejowski 2001b, 110; cf. also Bierbrauer 1992). On the turn of the Early and the Late Roman Period there was presumably a temporary coexistence of the autochthonic Przeworsk Culture population of the Eastern Zone with the allochthonic Wielbark Culture population, with a gradual abandoning of earlier settlements by some groups of the older population and a parallel acculturation of some other of its groups (Andrzejowski 2007, 233). Conceivably one result of this coexistence would be the obvious domination of cremation in the Wielbark Culture burial rite during phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub>, and possibly also other, still unexplained elements of the mortuary practices, including the mixing of burial rites (Andrzejowski 2007, 233). Such a situation was observed in grave No. 122 at Jartypory, which assemblage displays evident similarities with the burial rites known from the Masłomecz Group and presumably reflects con-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For the time being this phenomenon lacks explanation mostly owing to the far from complete publication of archaeological findings and the shortage of comparative materials from other cemeteries of Wielbark Culture in Mazovia and Podlahia (Andrzejowski, Żórawska 2002, 54).

tacts of this group with the Wielbark Culture communities from the settlement cluster on the Liwiec River (cf. Andrzejowski et al. 2002).

During phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> the Wielbark Culture territory extended quite far to the south-east (cf. Andrzejowski, Cieśliński 2006, Fig. 3). Reliably dated finds are known from northern Podlahia (Poland) and Polesia (Belarus), from Volhynia and southern reaches of the Lublin region in Poland (Dabrowska 1981a, 53-55, map 2; Andrzejowski 2001b, 110, Fig. 11; 2007, 232, Fig. 1; Andrzejowski, Cieśliński 2006, 282, Fig. 3; Vyargey 1999; Belyavets 2007; Kokowski 1986, 155-160; 1991, 188, Fig. 89; 1999, 130, Fig. 159; Shchukin 1989, 300-301; Shchukin 1994, 247; 2005, 103-108, Fig. 26). During the same phase the first cemeteries of the Masłomecz Group are set up (Kokowski 1991, 188; 1998, 704). From the perspective of a possible relationship to the grave assemblage from Zamiechów we need to note that the leading forms chronologically diagnostic for phase B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> in Wielbark Culture in Mazovia and Podlahia include brooches A.128, A.40-41, the more rare A.96 brooches with a high catchplate group VII, 1 series and artefacts made in what is known as the "Baroque" style (Dabrowska 1981a, 53-54; Godłowski 1985, 72-73; Andrzejowski 2007, 232). Moreover a characteristic feature of burials found in cemeteries on the eastern fringe of the Wielbark Culture territory is the modest number of ornaments and dress accessories in grave inventories as compared to the standard rich Wielbark costume, which is manifested by e.g., a smaller number of brooches (cf. Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1989, 69-77). Thus, if all the arguments presented earlier are brought together we cannot discount direct links of the grave assemblage from Zamiechów with the Wielbark Culture environment, associated with its expansion to the territory of the Eastern Zone of Przeworsk Culture.

It seems also that in case of the unusual materials from grave No. 345 and their relationship to Wielbark Culture some role may have been played by the amber workshop, the remains of which were recorded in the settlement at Zamiechów<sup>6</sup>. Feature No. 302, in a posted construction, and other settlement features too, yielded finished objects crafted from amber, their half-products and fragments of raw amber, a total of 150 g. A comparison of materials from Przeworsk Culture amber workshops with evidence from the settlement site at Zamiechów places the latter in a group of workshops typically containing a large quantity of small-size pieces made of poorer quality amber and a small number of finished products. It is likely that such workshops had a more local character, their entire wares soon found a market locally or the finished products were taken away at the time when the settlement was quitted by its inhabitants. We may classify to this group the amber workshop site at Jakuszowice (Wielowiejski 1991, 343, 345). A comparison of the route taken by different directions of exchange and trade in amber with the location of site

 $<sup>^6</sup>$  These materials, at present undergoing analysis, will be published in a forthcoming issue of Acta Archaeologica Carpathica.

No. 1 at Zamiechów shows that, similarly as other amber workshops, it lies near to its itinerary (Fig. 10). Actually, this would be the stretch running upstream the Vistula and the San to the area of today's Ukraine (Wielowiejski 1991, 352, Fig. 18). Analysis of the chronology of amber workshops on Przeworsk Culture territory suggests that most of them operated during the Early and the Late Roman Period. Of Early Roman Period date are only the finds from Sosnowiec, Jakuszowice, Krusza Zamkowa and Regów, and less likely, from Inowrocław and Łojewo (Wielowiejski 1991, 356-357, Fig. 20; Makiewicz, Michałowski 1998, 148; Wielowiejski 1998, 162). This distribution of amber workshops on Przeworsk Culture territory is attributed by P. Wielowiejski to the fluctuation in the demand for amber in response to changes in the fashion for objects crafted from this resource. Increase in demand for amber during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, the result of fashion within the Roman Empire, stimulated interest of Przeworsk Culture people in this mineral, as evidenced by early amber workshops spread the length of the main branch of the Amber Road (Wielowiejski 1991, 358).

In the case of settlement features identified at Zamiechów, site 1, the only source available for establishing their chronology are pottery finds. The forms and style design of vessels discovered in the fill of these assemblages are characteristic for the close of the Early Roman Period and for the early phase of the Late Roman Period. This chronology of the amber workshop would suggest it operated in times of change in interest in amber. After the Marcomannic Wars, when the eastern direction gained in importance, the branch near to which Zamiechów, site 1, was situated, there was change in long-distance trade and exchange, amber was worked on a smaller scale and took on a more local character (Wielowiejski 1999, 358). Naturally, basing only on the ceramic material recorded in the features containing amber investigated at Zamiechów it is not possible to establish conclusively whether amber was being worked during the same period as when the exceptional burial came about.

The presence of such a large number of amber beads in grave No. 345 definitely places this inventory in a group of exceptional finds. All the beads had been placed intact in the grave. This shows that they escaped the customary cremation and destruction in the fire which consumed most elements of the grave furnishings, so characteristic in the Przeworsk Culture burial rite. Possibly this is sufficient evidence that in the case of the burial discovered at Zamiechów some other funeral tradition than the Przeworsk Culture one was also at work, possibly one practiced the Wielbark Culture people. Given the amber working activity documented at Zamiechów we cannot rule out a temporary sojourn in the Carpathian foothills region, both during phase  $B_2/C_1$  and even later, of people with ties to Wielbark Culture communities. If also some finds with an earlier dating from the Upper San region are taken into account perhaps the role of a go-between in this form of exchange could have been played by the concentration of Przeworsk Culture settlement sites observed in

Mazovia on the right bank of the Vistula, also with well-developed amberworking crafts. This argument is supported by the discovery in the workshop at Regów of amber bead variants analogical to the specimens from Zamiechów (Wielowiejski 1991, 344, Table 7). The same direction of exchange is indicated also by the A.71 brooch recorded in the settlement at Hłomcza, manufactured presumably in a workshop in the area of Mazovia on the left bank of the Vistula River.

Definitely, different factors may have been at play in the transfer of elements associated with women's dress (cf. Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1989). Most frequently, the introduction of non-local forms is interpreted as the result of trade, on a local scale and of long-distance kind, more rarely, it is thought to document the movement of individual human groups. It may also be the result of marriage, when the married woman, a foreigner, brought to her new home her native costume. This sort of phenomenon is observed in all the cultures on the territory of Central European Barbaricum (Tempelmann-Maczyńska 1989, 139-140). Possibly, the inventory discovered in grave No. 345 at Zamiechów is one such case. Next to the brooch and the buckle characteristic for Wielbark Culture style design this would be evidenced by the presence in the burial of intact amber beads, which in Przeworsk Culture graves are rare and survive virtually only in inhumation burials. We cannot rule out either that the siting of the grave next to the settlement is connected to the fact that the buried individual was culturally and ethnically "separate" from the rest of the community. An additional confirmation of this interpretation could be the inverted position of the urn within the grave pit, presumably the proof of "strangeness" of some kind. Naturally these are only tentative guesses made in an attempt to formulate one of possible interpretations although definitely the most difficult to prove basing only on the material record.

#### CLOSING REMARKS

The main aim of the present study was to report on an unusual burial assemblage excavated at Zamiechów, site 1. The discussion given here is meant to signal various possible ways of interpreting this assemblage so dissimilar from other Przeworsk Culture grave finds. A more in-depth study of the presence of Wielbark elements in Przeworsk Culture assemblages in the Carpathian foothills region in Poland (Podkarpacie) should be possible only after the full analysis and publication of all the grave finds, both from pre-development led archaeological research and from the more recently investigated cemeteries. Only then can we hope to settle the question of whether we may associate the presence of this type of archeological material only with links presented here within the Przeworsk Culture and with the expansion of its population south and south-east, or whether we need to consider the scenario of more complex

contacts between different archaeological cultures, observable on the turn of the Early and Late Roman Period.

Grave No. 345 is the richest Roman Period feature identified at Zamiechów, site 1, definitely of major significance for research. The burial is made unique not only by its unusual inventory but also by its location. In this case two interpretations come to mind: 1. the grave was sited within a functioning settlement and 2. the grave is a feature of special significance and, possibly, lies at a small distance from a cemetery which eluded detection during our fieldwork. It seems that in case of the Zamiechów find we may have to do with more than just strong culture influences, listed earlier, attributable to the Eastern Zone of the Przeworsk Culture. Perhaps we need to take into account the presence in an area inhabited by Przeworsk Culture people of an individual who had ties with the Wielbark Culture environment. We cannot rule out that the tradition from which this individual hailed was so strong that she and the child were buried in keeping with some elements of the Wielbark Culture rite. No doubt, the woman buried in grave No. 345 at Zamiechów was someone with a relatively high social status, possibly associated with the activity of the amber workshop and trade exchange contacts, as evidenced by the fairly rich grave goods unique in the Przeworsk Culture environment.

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MAB Monumenta Archaeologica Barbarica.

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