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**THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE STUDY OF CULTURAL CHANGES IN TRANSCARPATHIA**

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**Introduction**. The process of cultural changes in the Upper Potis in the late Eneolithic (second quarter of the 3rd millennium BC) took place when the Polgar culture was replaced by a new culture known as the Canneled Ware Culture or Baden Culture. The territory of its formation in the Upper Danube region is covered, in particular, in the Vienna Basin area near the city of Baden (modern Austria), where it reached its greatest development. The process of the spread of the Baden culture to the Carpathian Basin is described, in particular, to Transcarpathia, which became its easternmost area. The features of local variants of the culture and the specific location of settlements in the Carpathian Basin are analyzed, which were mainly concentrated in favorable areas for life between the southern spurs of the Carpathians and the Potish Plain. The Bronze Age in Transcarpathia (3000–1200 BC) was characterized by the development of societies that used copper and bronze to make tools, weapons, and jewelry. The region was now an important part of cultural exchange, particularly through trade routes that ran through the Carpathians.

In the Early Bronze Age (around 3000–2000 BC), the first communities that actively used copper and began to produce bronze (an alloy of copper and tin) were formed in Transcarpathia. This period is characterized by the development of local cultures, in particular, the Corded Ware culture, which interacted with neighboring regions. The main occupations of the population were agriculture, cattle breeding, metallurgy, and exchange of goods.

In the Middle Bronze Age (around 2000–1500 BC), cultures associated with the Trzciniec-Komarivo cultural and historical community appeared in Transcarpathia. Funeral rites, such as burial mounds and inhumation (burial of bodies), were significantly developed. Contacts with neighboring territories, in particular with the regions of Central and Southern Europe, expanded.

Bronze metallurgy reached a high level: tools, swords, spearheads, and jewelry were produced. Transcarpathia became an important part of the European trade network, providing for the exchange of metals, ceramics, and other goods. The Late Bronze Age paved the way for the following Iron Age, when the use of iron began to dominate, and the region became even more integrated into pan-European cultural processes.

**Analysis of research and publications on the issue.** The region is included in the group of regions of Ukraine with high potential in the sphere of historical and cultural tourism. This indicates significant saturation and diversity of cultural and historical resources, which serve as a basis for development of tourism infrastructure. The mentioned scientists (V. Bidzilya, V. Kotigoroshko, L. Matskevsky, S. Penyak, V. Sytlivy, L. Soldatenko, F. Potushnyak) confirm in-depth study of the region. This indicates the presence of a high-quality database for further development of tourism products and strategies. Their work also emphasizes the role of an interdisciplinary approach in the study of historical and cultural heritage. The presence of a significant number of monuments opens up prospects for the development of cultural and historical routes; creation of interactive museum spaces; organization of festivals, exhibitions and other events increasing the tourist attractiveness of the region. Registration and protection of monuments are the most important components for preservation of historical and cultural heritage. This creates prerequisites for their further use for tourism purposes without damage to their authenticity. This analysis allows us to understand that the region has all the necessary resources for the development of the tourism sector, but it is important to ensure their preservation, popularization and effective use [2, р. 121].

**Aim and tasks.** The article examines the possibilities of effective use of historical and cultural resources, including archaeological sites in recreational activities. Particular attention is paid to the prospects for solving this issue using the example of Transcarpathia, taking into account the international experience of neighboring countries such as Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, where the correct organization of the presentation of cultural objects and the dissemination of information provide a significant economic effect.

**Research results.** In the late Eneolithic (second quarter of the 3rd millennium BC), a new population arrived from the west to replace the Polgar culture in Upper Potisia, which left behind monuments in Transcarpathia that were called the “canalized ceramics” culture or the Baden culture. The territory where the culture was formed was the Upper Danube region, but it achieved its greatest development in the Vienna district on the territory of the city of Baden (present-day Austria), from which it received its name. Soon the culture spread throughout the Carpathian Basin [1, р. 15). In this territory, it, of course, had a number of local-cultural and chronological variants. Transcarpathia in the Carpathian Basin was the easternmost territory covered by the Baden culture. According to mapping, the settlements occupied the most habitable territory of the region, at the junction of the southern spurs of the Carpathians and the Potish plain: the village of Malye Geyevtsy, Staritsa Onga tract, Beregovo (former Bucha village), Tysobyken village, Piyterfolvo (Brauntog tract); in the foothills: Mukachevo city (Malaya Gora tract), Bol'shiye Lazy village (Stavlinets tract), Osiy village (Chishchanik Fedyukovny tract) [7, р. 15]. The bearers of the culture lived in long-term settlements, were engaged in crop farming and cattle breeding, with the latter predominating. The main criterion for characterizing the Baden culture so far is ceramics (bowls, jugs, pots, ladles), decorated with incised ornament, stamped impressions and plastic rollers-flutes. The production inventory is represented mainly by polished stone tools: axes, chisels, adzes and hammers with drilled holes for the handle. Sandstone, slate and flint-like rocks of local stone were used for their production.

The Bronze Age (early 2nd – early 1st millennium BC) is represented on the archaeological map of the region by 43 sites and 139 treasures, most of which were recorded in the Beregovsky District – 19 [6, р. 94]. If earlier this period was known only by the finds of bronze treasures, today dozens of settlements have become known, a significant part of which have been studied. For example, this is the settlement of the Early Bronze Age in Velikaya Dobron, Derzen, Mukachevo (Malaya Gora tract), burial mounds in Znetsovo, Medvedevtsy, Batrad, Makarev. The Middle Bronze Age (15th – 13th centuries BC) is represented by artifacts of the Ottoman culture, which until recently was known from the teplopal burial mounds in Stanovo and Kholmtsy. Currently, a number of settlements have been discovered in Beregovo, Nevetlenfol, Bolshaya Pallada, Zabolotye, Chinadiev, and Baranintsy. The Late Bronze Age is represented by the antiquities of the Berkes-Demecher group and the Gava culture. It is divided into two stages: the early stage (12th to 8th centuries BC), which still belonged to the Late Bronze Age, and the late stage (8th to first half of the 6th century BC), which already belongs to the early stage of the Iron Age. The first stage is characterized by the high development of bronze smelting, as evidenced by dozens of bronze treasures: Negrovo, Klyachanovo, Malaya Biygan, Nevetlenfol, etc. The second stage is called pre-Kushtanovitsky, a characteristic feature of which was the appearance of fortified settlements: Uzhgorod, Nevitskoye, Ardanovo, Shelestovo, Irshava, Belaya Tserkov [3, р. 94].

The early period of the Bronze Age in the Upper Potis was called the Nirsheg-Zatin culture. The latter's landmarks include settlements on Malaya Gora in Mukachevo, Derzen, V. Dobron (Legelev tract). Unfortunately, land reclamation works in the Beregovsky district in the vicinity of the villages of Neveletlenfola, Forgolan, V. Palad, Sasovo, Zabolotye destroyed a number of settlements of this culture. Settlements of this culture were recorded on the banks of small rivers, in naturally fortified areas, on sand dunes and the last southern spurs of the Carpathians. The bearers of the culture used semi-dugout and above-ground dwellings and light tent-type structures. Fires were located in the center of the dwelling, the fire – near the dwellings. In the dwellings and behind them there were utility and household pits of various shapes. The settlements were short-lived, and the explanation for this should be sought in unstable natural conditions and an increase in population with extensive agricultural practices [4, р. 38].

As for the burial ritual, it should be emphasized that neither necropolises nor individual burials are known in Transcarpathia. The burial ritual can only be discussed based on the monuments discovered in the adjacent territories of northeastern Hungary and eastern Slovakia. There, cremation burials were found (Tarpa, Tisza-Palkonya, Somotor). There are also burials with a twisted body position (Elep, Tisacheg). These two types of burial ritual were characteristic of this period not only for Upper Potys, but also for the entire Carpathian Basin [5, р. 78].

The majority of artifact finds are ceramic products. Two types of ceramics are distinguished – table and kitchen. The first is better worked, with a smooth, sometimes polished surface, ornamented. Both kitchen and table ceramics are of different sizes, from small 3-5 cm to 50-70 cm in height [5, р. 79]. The most common type were single-handled jugs of different sizes and variations. A group of vessels represented by biconical basins of different sizes and variations is well expressed. Finger impressions and pricks were used for ornamentation, which were placed under the crowns, on the neck, on the greatest convexity of the vessels. Amphora-shaped urns of various types and sizes were quite common dishes. They have two or four ears on the walls, and the lower part of the vessels is decorated with painting. In general, the ornamentation of ceramics played an important role in the lives of its bearers. This differs significantly from the cultures of other regions of the Carpathian Basin.

Due to the small number of settlements studied, the set of tools of the Nirsheg culture has been studied rather poorly. that the main branches of economic life were crop farming and cattle breeding. This is confirmed by the location of settlements in areas suitable for agriculture, economic and household complexes [5, р. 112].

Antiquities of the Middle Bronze Age in the region are represented by artifacts of the Otoman culture, which occupies a chronological period between 1800 and 1600 BC. In Transcarpathia, they were discovered on the border from the foothills to the Pozhim plain and were attested at the Tovvar settlement in Diida, the villages of Kvasa, Zabolotye, Neveletlenfola, Piyterfolvo in the Beregovo district. Some settlements are located in naturally fortified places (Beregovo, Diida), others – in river floodplains, on the banks of reservoirs, sand dunes (Neveletlenfola, Bolshaya Palad, Zabolotye, Sasovo, etc.). The settlements of the Otoman culture bearers are small in size. They occupy an area of ​​0.3 to 0.5 hectares. As a rule, dwellings are located in a narrow strip on the banks of rivers and reservoirs. On hills and dunes, a bush arrangement of dwellings is attested. Above-ground single- or double-chamber dwellings predominate, the sizes of which fluctuate from 8 to 16 m2 [7, р. 17]. The dwellings contained ovens with a vault measuring 1 x 1 or 1.4 x 1.4 m. Sometimes they housed round hearths, which were surrounded by sides along the perimeter. As a rule, household utensils were placed closer to the oven or fire. In large dwellings, wooden shelves and couches were built near the walls.

**Conclusion.** Transcarpathia is a real treasure trove of archaeological sites, where all historical eras are represented, from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages. Ancient artifacts are found throughout the region, with the exception of places where archaeological excavations have not been carried out. A significant part of the archaeological heritage of the region is now actively involved in tourism and recreational activities. The development of archaeological and scientific tourism in Transcarpathia is an important stage, since antiquities from different eras are of great importance for the formation of tourist routes.

An important part of the archaeological landscape of Transcarpathia are the Eneolithic monuments, reflecting the transition from the Early Stone Age to the Metal Age. This period, which lasted from the end of the 4th to the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC, is characterized by the development of a sedentary lifestyle and the beginning of the use of copper for processing tools. At present, cultures that left numerous burial mounds, settlements and household items have been actively developing on the territory of Transcarpathia.

The transition to the Bronze Age, which spans the period from the middle of the 3rd to the end of the 2nd millennium BC, is marked by significant changes in social structure and technology. During this time, contacts between different cultures expanded, which is reflected in archaeological finds such as bronze items, which indicate the ability to produce metals and use them to create tools and jewelry. The cultural layers of the Bronze Age in the territory of Transcarpathia are evidence of the development of local civilizations that preserved unique traditions that influenced the culture and development of the region in subsequent eras.

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***Пеняк Павло, Малець Олександр, Малець Наталія. Роль археологічних пам'яток у вивченні культурологічних змін на Закарпатті***

Стаття присвячена джерелознавчому аналізу археологічних пам'яток Закарпаття, що відіграють ключову роль у вивченні культурних змін у регіоні від пізнього енеоліту до пізньої бронзи. У центрі уваги – трансформація культурної ситуації в пізньому енеоліті (друга чверть ІІІ тис. до н.е.), коли полгарську культуру замінила баденська культура, або культура канельованої кераміки. Розглянуто територію формування баденської культури у Верхньому Подунав’ї, зокрема у Віденському басейні поблизу міста Баден (сучасна Австрія), та процес її поширення на Карпатський басейн, із акцентом на Закарпаття, яке стало її східним ареалом. Окрему увагу приділено культурним змінам у період бронзи, коли Закарпаття стало важливим перехрестям культурної взаємодії. Археологічні пам’ятки раннього бронзового віку, зокрема поселення та могильники, відображають процеси адаптації місцевого населення до нових технологій і соціально-економічних моделей. Значну роль відіграли контакти із сусідніми регіонами, зокрема територією сучасної Словаччини та Угорщини, які сприяли поширенню металургійних знань та інновацій. Для середнього бронзового віку характерна поява нових форм соціальної організації та посилення міжрегіональної торгівлі. У цей період у Верхньому Потиссі фіксуються елементи культури Отомань-Фюзешабонь, що демонструють розвиненість ремесел, зокрема виробництва кераміки з багатою орнаментацією, а також вдосконалення знарядь праці. Пам’ятки пізнього бронзового віку, такі як курганні поховання та залишки укріплених поселень, свідчать про значне зростання соціальної стратифікації та формування локальних владних структур. Особливий інтерес викликають поселення у сприятливих природних умовах між південними відрогами Карпат і Потиською рівниною, які мали доступ до стратегічно важливих шляхів через Карпатський хребет. Стаття підкреслює важливість археологічних пам’яток як джерела для розуміння процесів культурної еволюції, взаємодії та змін, що відбувалися в регіоні від енеоліту до пізньої бронзи. Вони дозволяють простежити динаміку культурних впливів і адаптацію населення до нових умов, що має значення для реконструкції історичних процесів у Центрально-Східній Європі.

**Ключові слова**: джерелознавство, археологія, пам’ятки, артефакти, культура, мистецтво, музеєзнавство, спадщина, еволюція.

***Penyak Pavlo, Malets Oleksandr, Malets Natalia. The role of archaeological sites in the study of cultural changes in Transcarpathia***

The article is devoted to the source analysis of archaeological sites in Transcarpathia , which play a key role in the study of cultural changes in the region from the Late Eneolithic to the Late Bronze Age. It focuses on the transformation of the cultural landscape in the Late Eneolithic (the second quarter of the third millennium BC), when the Polgar culture was replaced by the Baden culture, also known as the culture of channelized ceramics. The article examines the area of formation of the Baden culture in the Upper Danube, particularly in the Vienna Basin near the city of Baden (modern Austria), and the process of its spread to the Carpathian Basin, with a focus on Transcarpathia, which became its easternmost area. Special attention is given to cultural changes during the Bronze Age, when Transcarpathia became an important crossroads for cultural interaction. Archaeological sites from the Early Bronze Age, including settlements and burial grounds, reflect the processes of adaptation of the local population to new technologies and socioeconomic models. Contacts with neighboring regions, especially the territories of modern Slovakia and Hungary, played a significant role in the dissemination of metallurgical knowledge and innovations. The Middle Bronze Age is characterized by the emergence of new forms of social organization and the intensification of interregional trade. During this period, elements of the Otoman-Füzeshabon culture were recorded in Upper Potyssia, illustrating the development of crafts, including the production of richly ornamented ceramics, as well as the improvement of tools. Late Bronze Age monuments, such as mound burials and the remains of fortified settlements, indicate a significant increase in social stratification and the formation of local power structures. Of particular interest are the settlements in favorable natural conditions between the southern spurs of the Carpathians and the Potyssia Plain, which had access to strategically important routes across the Carpathian mountain range. The article emphasizes the importance of archaeological sites as a source for understanding the processes of cultural evolution, interaction, and change that occurred in the region from the Eneolithic to the Late Bronze Age. These sites allow us to trace the dynamics of cultural influences and the adaptation of the population to new conditions, which is crucial for the reconstruction of historical processes in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Keywords:** source studies, archaeology, monuments, artifacts, culture, art, museology, heritage, evolution.

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