

Early Balkan Metallurgy, International workshop, Sozopol, 23 to 26 April 2015

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The two chalcolithic cemeteries of Varna were at the centre of the discussion of this workshop that was sponsored by subproject A01 “Resources and the emergence of inequality. Raw materials and communication systems in prehistoric South-Eastern Europe” of the research cluster 1070 at the University of Tübingen and funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. There are two major reasons for this: First, a project on the gold finds and the human remains from Varna, funded by the same institutions and in cooperation with the Historical Regional Museum of Varna and the Archaeological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, had been completed and it was the aim of this workshop to discuss the results of this project in a wider context, especially in view of new radiocarbon dates published by Higham *et al.* (2007), which shifted the traditional chronology of eastern Bulgaria and beyond by about 300 years.

The German Varna project is embedded in a larger context of a comprehensive publication of the Varna necropolis that will be published in the *Archäologie in Eurasien* series, a monograph series of the Eurasien-Abteilung of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI).



Fig. 1. Photo of the workshop participants
Обр. 1. Снимка на участниците в семинара

It is planned to publish three volumes consisting of

– A complete catalogue of *contexts* that have so far been described as graves. These contexts comprise burials, cenotaphs and other complexes that cannot be considered as burials but are simply stratigraphical contexts in archaeological terms.

– The second volume will contain contributions by various authors on the scientific and typological study of all materials from the *contexts* without the metals and the human remains.

– The third volume will be devoted to the metal finds together with an archaeological summary and interpretation.

Reference

Higham, T., Chapman, J., Slavčev, V., Gaydarska, B., Honch, N., Yordanov, Y., Dimitrova, B. 2007. New perspectives on the Varna cemetery (Bulgaria) – AMS dates and social implications. *Antiquity* 81, 640-654.

Annex

Workshop program

Second Workshop within the project

“Resources and the emergence of inequality. Raw materials and communication systems in prehistoric South-Eastern Europe”

on

Early Balkan Metallurgy

23 – 26 of April 2015, Hotel Selena, Sozopol (Bulgaria)

Friday, 24. April

9:00 Vladimir Slavchev: Varna I cemetery publication: present status

1) Absolute chronology, anthropology and symbolism

9:30 Thomas Higham/Bisserka Gaydarska/John Chapman: The AMS dates for the Varna cemeteries

10:00 Steve Zäuner: Anthropological investigations of the human remains from Varna I

10:30 Petăr Zidarov: Varna I tools and weapons from animal bones and antler

2) Statistic analysis and internal chronological organization

11:30 Raiko Krauß: Data acquisition for statistical analysis and correspondence analysis of the Varna I cemetery

12:00 Jonas Abele: Topographic issues and intra-site network patterns of the Varna I cemetery

12:30 Clemens Schmid: Age, Gender & Material – A bivariate approach to Varna I statistics

13:00 David Kirschenheuter: Horizontal stratigraphy of Varna I and the relationship with Varna II

14:30 Bernhard Weninger: Gaussian Monte Carlo Wiggle matching of the Varna I radiocarbon dates according to correspondence analysis of the graves

3) Organic materials

- 15:00 Elena Marinova, J. Athanassova, I. Hristova: Plant remains preserved in products of metal corrosion: source of evidence on ancient plant materials and environment from burial contexts
- 15:30 Bisserka Gaydarska, John Chapman: The shell ornaments of the Varna I cemetery: aesthetics, costumes and social practices
- 16:00 Marion Etzel, V. Slavchev, K. Dimitrov: Some new studies on complexes with human images from the Varna cemetery

4) Gold and copper items

- 17:00 Kalin Dimitrov: Gold and copper objects from the Varna cemeteries
- 17:30 Verena Leusch: Results of the chemical analyses of chalcolithic gold items from Bulgaria
- 18:00 Barbara Armbruster: Technological aspects of the gold items from Varna I

Saturday, 25. April

5) Stone artefacts

- 9:00 Laurence Manolakakis: Varna I chipped stone artefacts
- 9:30 Maria Gurova: Varna cemetery flint grave-goods: functional connotations
- 10:00 Georgi Marinov, Ivan Ivanov†: Some results of the field studies of the Varna I cemetery human burials

6) Medni Rid project on prehistoric copper mining

- 10:30 Petăr Leshtakov, Kalin Dimitrov, Rene Kunze
- 11:30 Time for further discussion

13:00 Excursion to the Medni Rid copper mines

Sunday, 26. April

Opportunity for a trip to Varna (museum and site of the Varna I cemetery) and return to Sofia in the late evening