

Top of the pots. Late Neolithic ceramic lids from North Central Bulgaria

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ABSTRACT

Lids are a seldom discovered type of Neolithic vessels, which explains the lack of analyses of this category of ceramic assemblage. This study includes 41 unpublished fragments found at the settlements Samovodene, Kachitsa, Hotnitsa-Kashlata, Hotnitsa-Kaya bunar, situated in the Yantra river valley, as well as Koprivets which is located in the Rusenski Lom basin. They reveal certain changes in typology and decoration throughout the entire Late Neolithic period (according to the Bulgarian chronological system – 5400/5300-5000/4900 BC), namely the Hotnitsa and Dudești cultures in the Lower Danube region, plus some Early Vădastra elements. The absence of any Boian-Bolentineanu traces is not surprising, considering its vague specifics and even questionable existence.

Most of the forms described come from Samovodene (34 pieces), as it is one of the few extensively excavated sites. The majority have cylindrical (with straight or bulging walls) and slightly conical lids with planar top surfaces. The few pieces from Kachitsa, the sites in the vicinity of Hotnitsa and the single from Koprivets show different shapes, characteristic of the very end of the period. Various ornamentations are encrusted with white or, at rare occasions, red, pastes. Moreover, due to the diverse decorations, every single fragment included has its own specific appearance. The lids from North Central Bulgaria, as well as parts of the ceramic assemblage, find their closest parallels in the Dudești and Vădastra material from the Western Muntenia and Eastern Oltenia regions in Southern Romania.

KEYWORDS

Neolithic ceramics, typology, decoration, Lower Danube valley

Introduction

Ceramic lids are amongst the pottery forms that are frequently left out of thorough analyses although, they are often one of the most significant categories. The Late Neolithic assemblage in North Central Bulgaria (after the Bulgarian chronological system, 5400/5300 – 5000/4900 BC) is distinguished by typologically diverse lids which have different types of ornamentation. This applies not only to this region but also to the whole Lower Danube valley as well as Thrace. The paper examines 41 unpublished fragments coming from five sites in the area – Samovodene, Kachitsa, Hotnitsa-Kaya bunar, Hotnitsa-Kashlata and Koprivets (fig. 1; table 1). All of them are flat settlements, apart from Samovodene, where the thickness of the cultural layer reaches almost 3 m. Most of the pieces under study are cylindrical or slightly conical, rarely flat and solid. This research aims at bringing to light some new data about these specific shapes, trace their evolution and build a typology that might be useful for further work in the region.

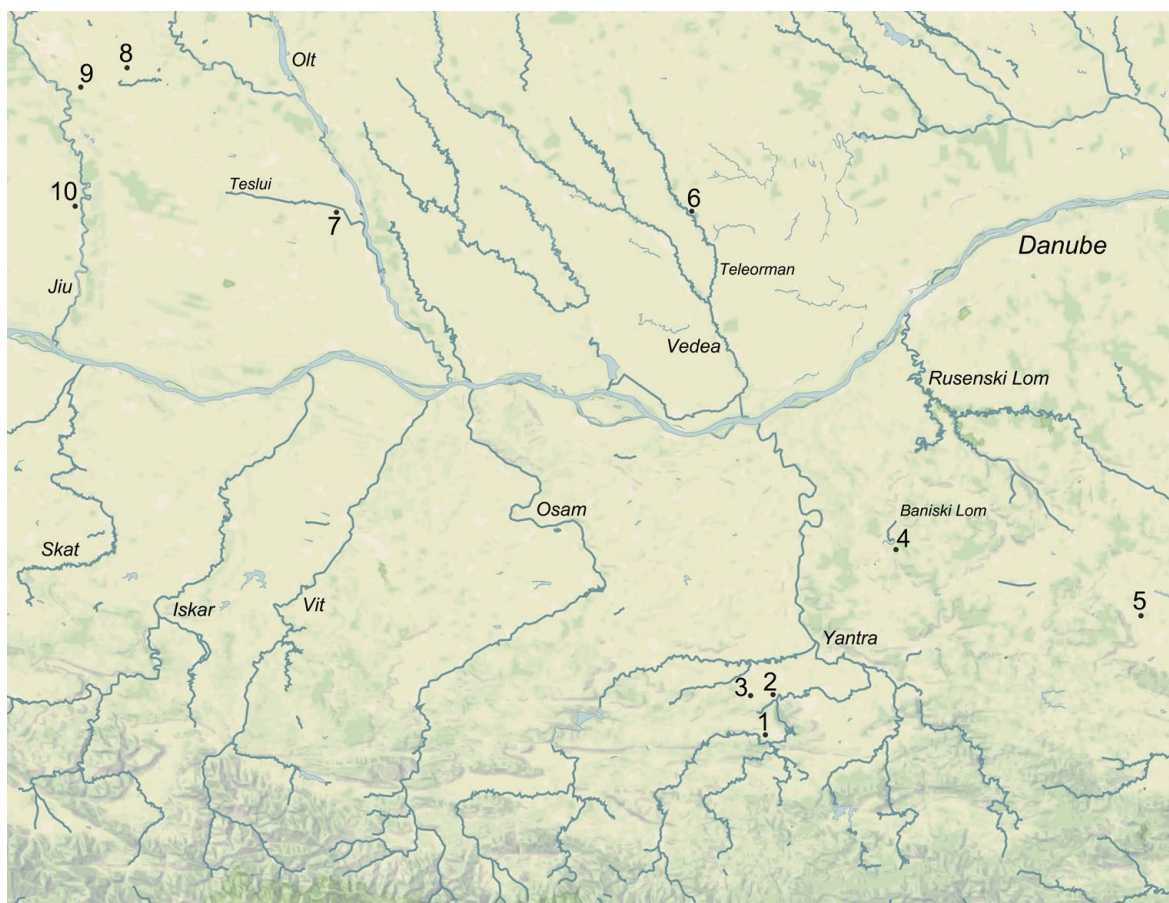


Fig. 1. Location of the sites under study and several contemporary sites with similar shapes in their ceramic assemblage (5-10). 1.1 Kachitsa, 1.2 Samovodene, 1.3 Hotnitsa, 1.4 Koprivets, 1.5 Podgoritsa, 1.6 Măgura-Buduiasca, 1.7 Fărcașu de Sus, 1.8 Gărlești-Surupătoare, 1.9 Cîrcea-Viaduct, 1.10 Padea-Dealul Viei (by the author)

Обр. 1. Местоположение на обектите включени в анализа и някои синхронни селища с подобни форми. 1.1 Качица, 1.2 Самоводене, 1.3 Хотница, 1.4 Копривец, 1.5 Подгорица, 1.6 Мъгура-Будуяска, 1.7 Фъркашу де Сус, 1.8 Гърлеши-Сурупътоаре, 1.9 Кърча-Виадукт, 1.10 Падя-Дялул-Виеи (от автора)

Analysis of the finds

Samovodene is the site with most pieces found (34) and a gradual stratigraphic development of the types and ornamentations can be registered only here. The settlement is the biggest Neolithic site in North Central Bulgaria and one of the most significant in the Lower Danube valley. Petar Stanev excavated it from 1974 to 1994 (Станев 2002), as well as Nedko Elenski in 2000 (Еленски 2002). Stanev revealed layers from the whole Neolithic period, distinguished by him in several stages – Samovodene B₁ and B₂ belong to the Middle Neolithic and B₂-C is Late Neolithic, the first two coeval with Karanovo III and the latter with Karanovo IV (Станев 2002, 23, 48-49). Later V. Nikolov revised the position of Karanovo III and put it in the Late Neolithic, consequently Samovodene A₂-B₁, B₁, B₂ and B₂-C all date back to that period - A₂-B₁ is contemporary to Karanovo III, B₁ to the newly formed Karanovo III-IV and the last two to Karanovo IV (Николов 1998, 207). Most of the lids were found in sector VI during the 1984 – 1992 field campaigns.

The first LN stage A₂-B₁ is presented by four fragments. Two of them are flat, while

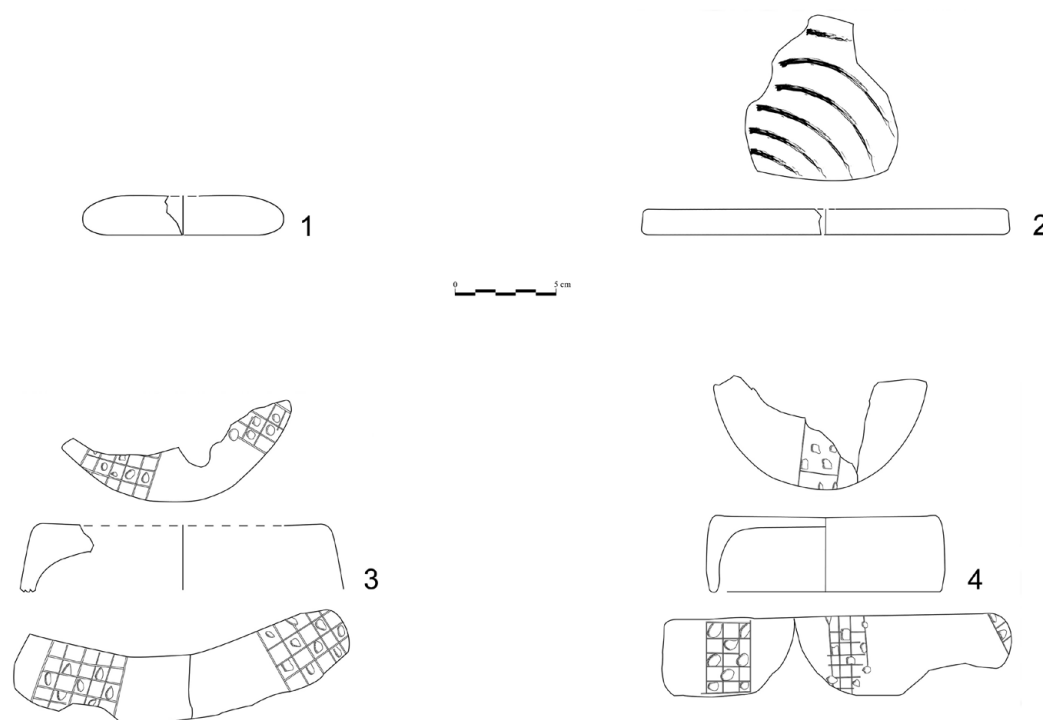


Fig. 2. Lids from Samovodene A2-B1 (drawings by the author, scale 1:2)

Обр. 2. Капаци от Самоводене А2-В1 (рисушки, автора, мащаб 1:2)

the other two are taller and hollow. The first flat piece has an oval edge, smoothed surface and its diameter is 10 cm (fig. 2.1). The other lid of this kind has a straight side wall and a diameter of 18 cm. Its surface is decorated with oval barbotine lines (fig. 2.2).

The lids from the other group differ - the first has conical walls, a rounded edge and planar surface (fig. 2.3), while the other has slightly bulging vertical walls and its peripheral edge hardly perceptibly projecting upwards (fig. 2.4). Despite that typological distinction, their decoration is identical and the ornamentation on the top surface is connected to the one depicted on the walls. In both cases it is a stripe (wide or narrow), hatched with incised, white-encrusted lines. This net itself is filled with small hollows - the part on the walls is in a chessboard-like pattern while the one on the top can be without any organization. Usually the stripes are paired and perpendicular, crossing on the top surface in a cruciform shape. The described fragments share the same type and bear similar decoration to some lids found in the earlier Neolithic layers (Станев 2002, обр. 126). As a matter of fact, the lids with conical or vertical walls and rounded edges were produced until the end of the settlement occupancy.

Samovodene B₁ deviates significantly from the A₂-B₁ pieces, as the decoration is more elaborated and quite diverse. The single flat piece has a burnished surface and a diameter of 10 cm (fig. 3.1). Two of the fragments are cylindrical with round edges, but in this next phase the ornamentation on the top is usually disparate from the one on the walls – parallel lines and circumscribed squares on the walls (fig. 3.2) or a row of combined triangles along the edges (fig. 3.3). Another previously known type has conical walls, a rounded edge and planar top surface. These two finds are ornamented with triangles filled with pricks, depicted on both of its parts (fig. 3.4) or hollows on the top and vertical hatched stripes and a chessboard-like pattern of hollows within (fig. 3.5). The third type is again cylindrical, but

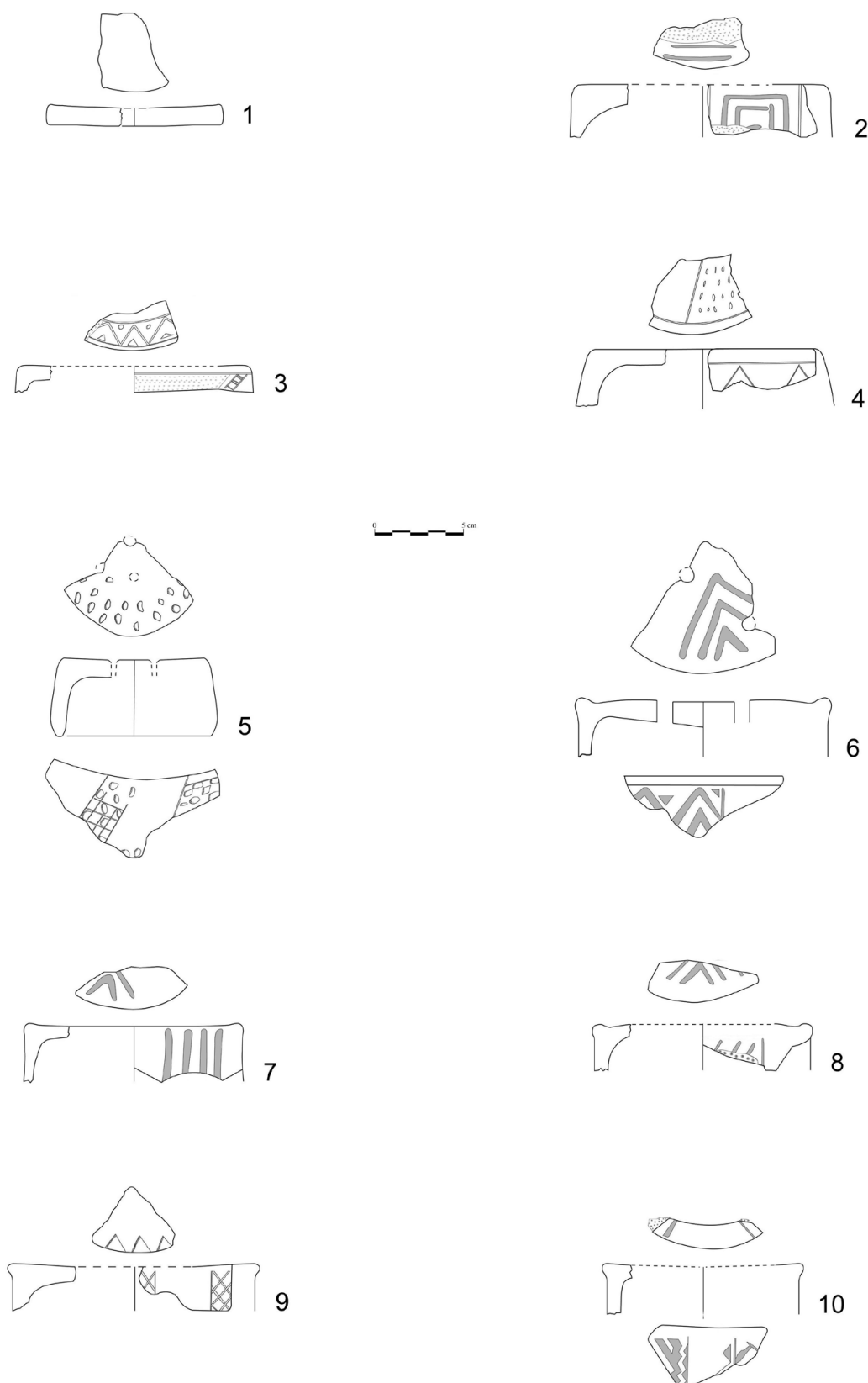


Fig. 3. Lids from Samovodene B1. The broader incisions are grey-coloured in order to distinguish them from the original surface (e.g. fig. 4. 6; 5. 1) (by the author)

Обр. 3. Капаци от Самоводене B1. Широките връзвания са оцветени в сиво с цел разграничаването им от оригиналната повърхност (напр. обр. 4. 6; 5. 1) (от автора)

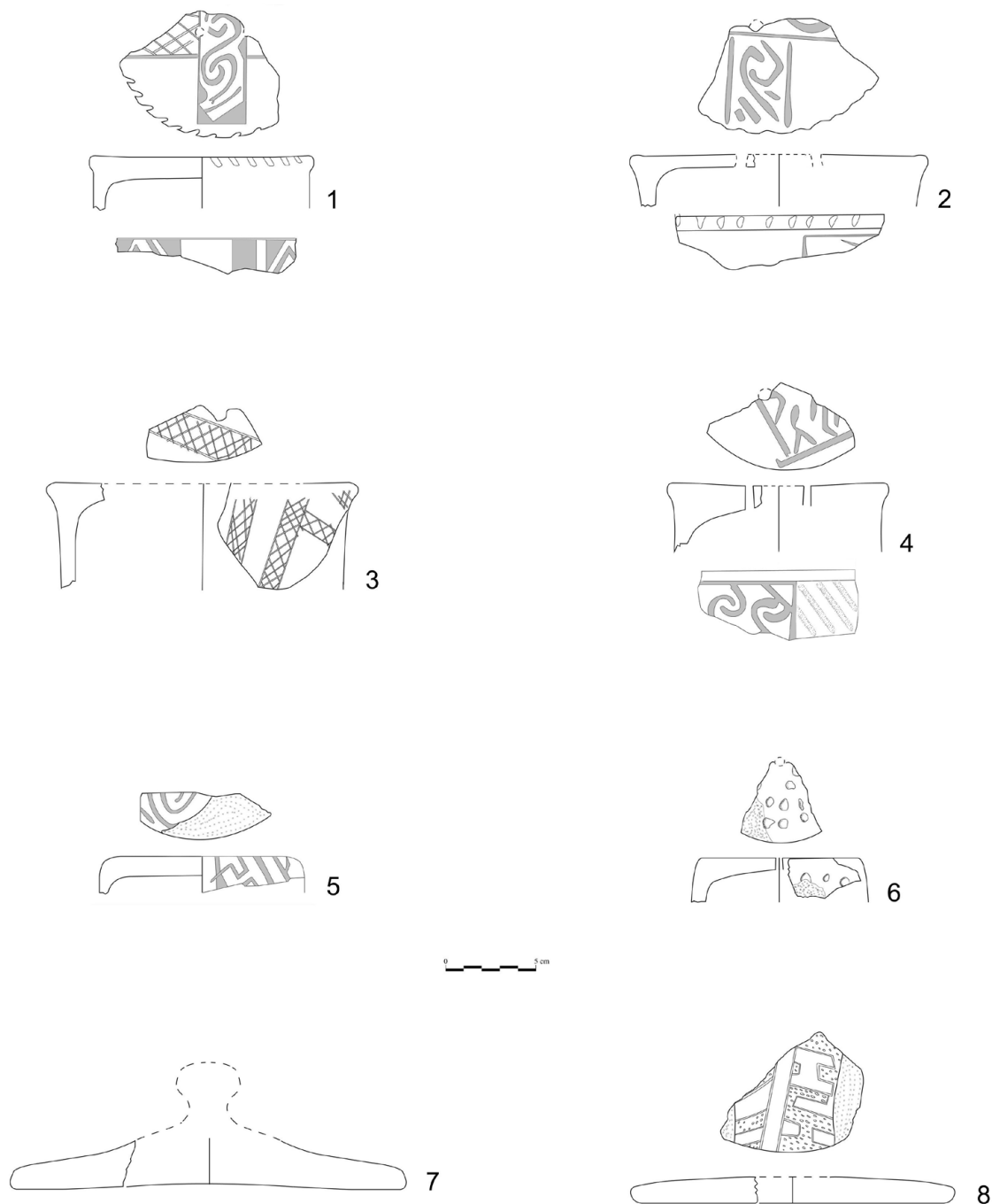


Fig. 4. Lids from Samovodene B2 (by the author)

Обр. 4. Капаци от Самоводене B2 (от автора)

the rounded edge projects upwards and resembles a knob. It is interesting that these three fragments share the same incised motif on their top surface – nested chevrons (or triangles). Their surface is flat or the edge closest inner part is grooved. The preserved parts of the walls are ornamented with straight or oblique lines and triangles (fig. 3.6-8; 9.1). This peculiar shape evolved from the last one described from the previous stage, as evident from the sherd with the simplest decoration (fig. 3.7). The last kind of lid for this stage is the most characteristic of the entire period. It has cylindrical walls and a ridged (extended sideways) peripheral edge. They are decorated with vertical hatched stripes on the walls and cut tri-

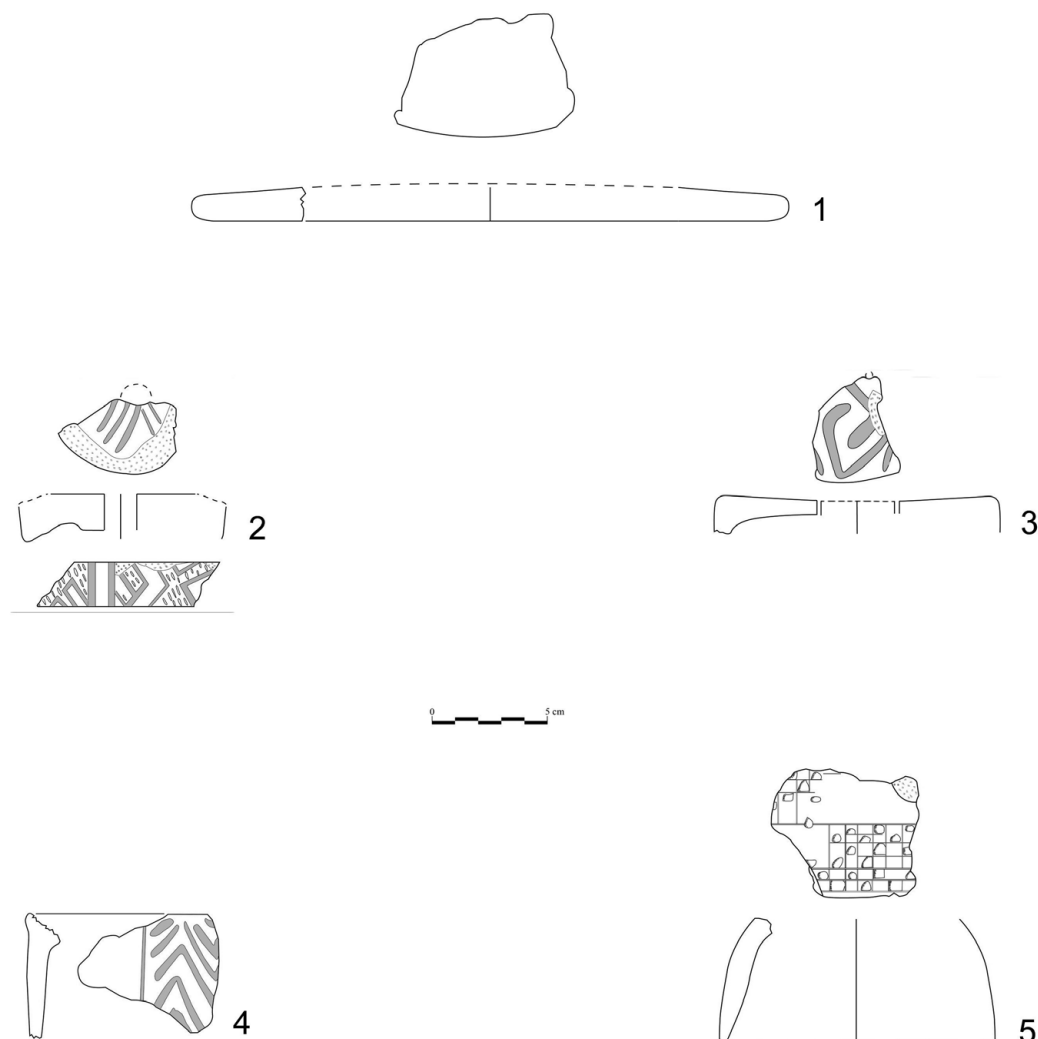


Fig. 5. Lids from Samovodene B2-C (by the author)
 Обр. 5. Капаци от Самоводене B2-C (от автора)

angles framing the top part (fig. 3.9), or panels with different incised ornaments (fig. 3.10). During this stage, the incisions widen, sometimes even looking like excised fields (fig. 3.10; 9.2). Almost all of the described examples are white-encrusted, a few of them red-encrusted (fig. 3.9).

The conical shapes with oval edges and the cylindrical ones with a ridged top part are part of the ceramic assemblages north of the Danube (Nica 1991, fig. 5, 8, 11; see below) and in Thrace (Stefanova 2005, taf. 30, 13; Klasnakov 2010, fig. 8, 1; Andreeva 2010, fig. 18, 4, 6).

The diameters are mainly in the range of 11-14 cm. Most of the lids have four oppositely perforated holes in the central part (not necessarily in the very centre) of their top (fig. 3.5; 4.1; 6.5) or one in the centre (fig. 4.6; 5.2). A string or a fiber was laced through them by which the lid was moved. Probably the largest part of the sherds from all phases of the settlement have a similar feature, although the badly preserved fragments make this conclusion uncertain. Another consequent function of the holes is to ensure the flow of oxygen to the contents of the pot underneath the lid. Some of the lids do not have a perfectly planar horizontal top surface, but rather a sub-concave one.

Samovodene B₂ is typologically similar compared to B₁, but the ornamentation is dis-

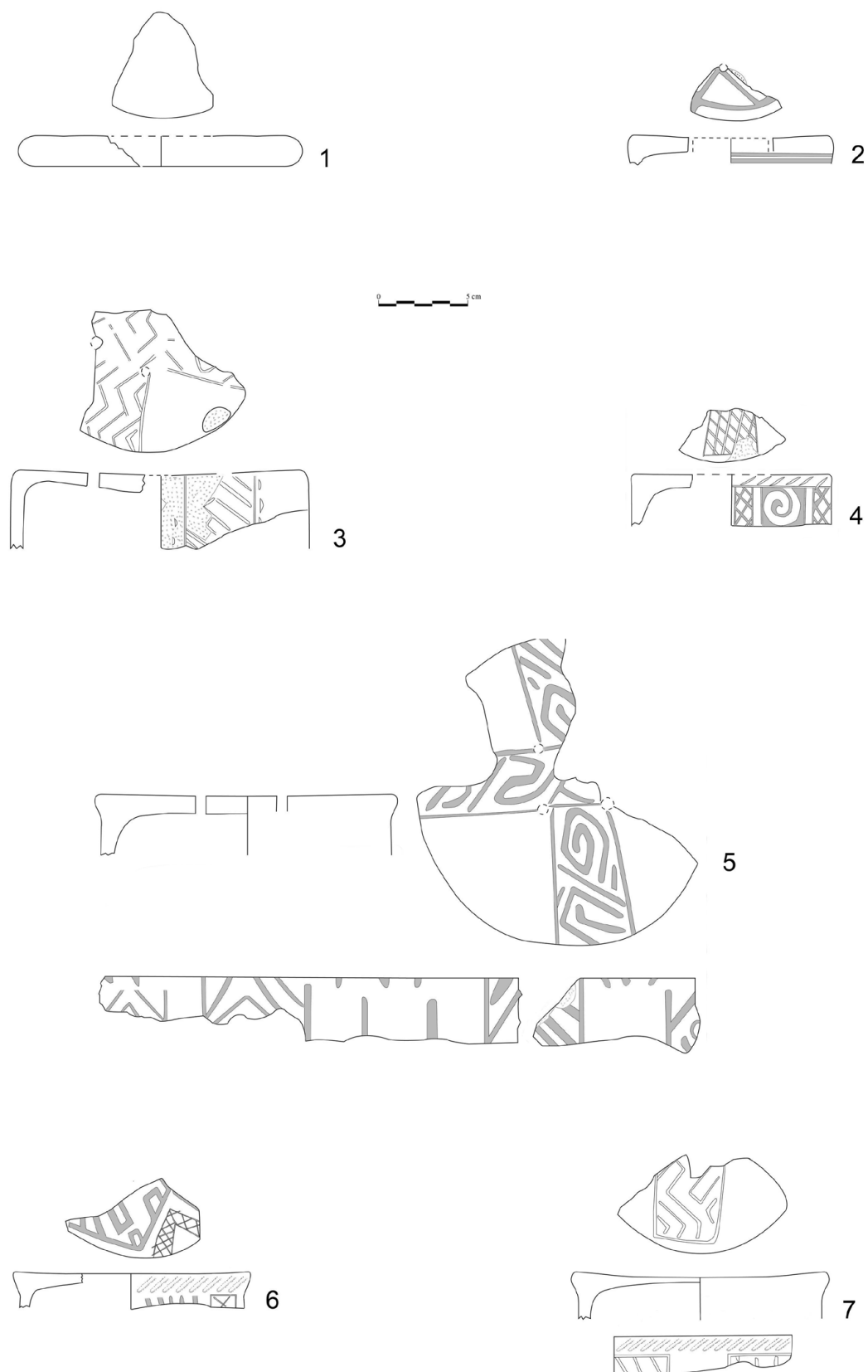


Fig. 6. Lids from Samovodene, uncertain stratigraphic context (by the author)
Обр. 6. Капаци от Самоводене с несигурен стратиграфски контекст (от автора)

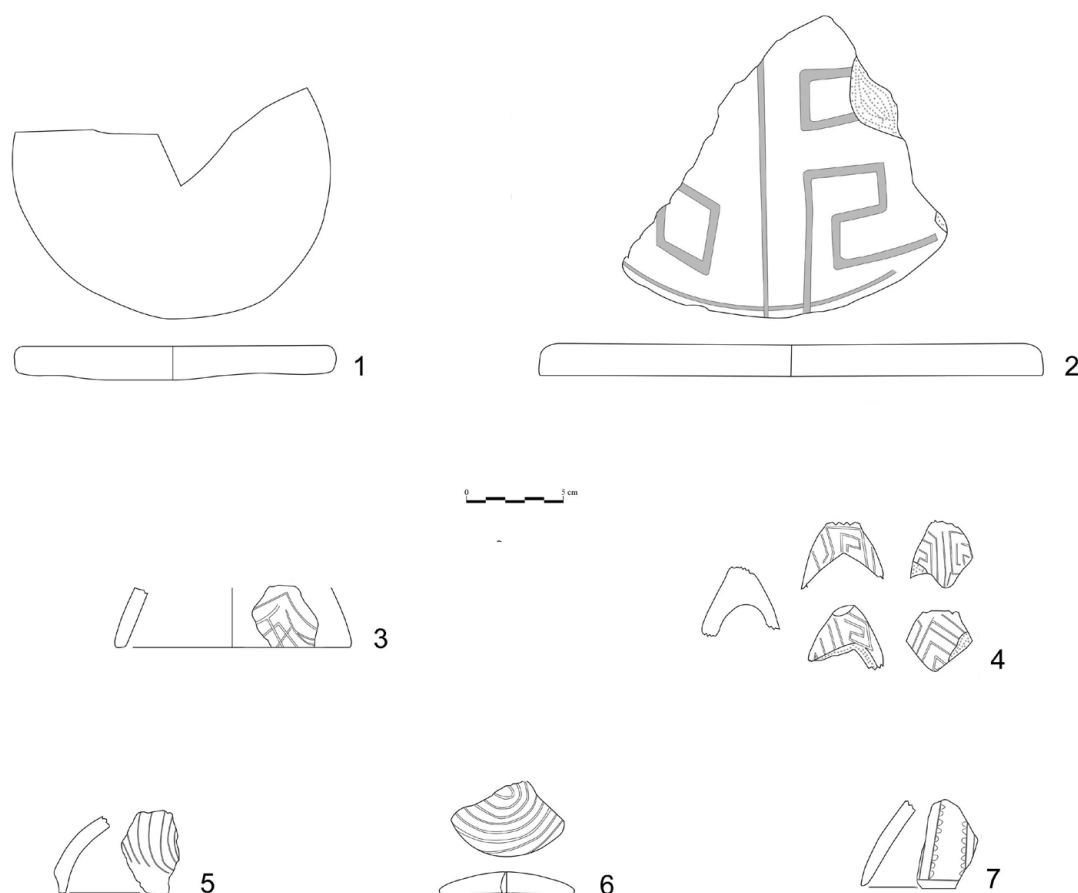


Fig. 7. Lids from Kachitsa (1-3), Hotnitsa (4-6) and Koprivets (7) (by the author)
 Обр. 7. Капаци от Качица (1-3), Хотнища (4-6) и Копривец (7) (от автора)

tinctive for the second half of the Late Neolithic period. All of the finds have cylindrical walls, except two flat pieces. The sideways-ridged top surface is dominant again, as four cylindrical lids belong to this type. Two of them have crossing bands depicted on their tops with different motifs within and notched peripheral edges (fig. 4.1-2; 9.3-4). The first one has excised fields on both parts. In another case, differently shaped hatched bands are placed by the periphery of the upper surface and onto the vertical wall (fig. 4.3). Similarly decorated lids come from the Late Dudești layers at Măgura-Buduiasca (part of the Muzeul Județean Teleorman exhibiton) and Fărcașu de Sus (Nica 1976, fig. 10, 2) but the latter is a more distant parallel. The last find of this group has detached panels filled with different ornaments on both of its parts and oblique flutes next to the one on the wall (fig. 4.4; 9.5). Two of the lids with vertical lower parts have oval rather than projecting peripheral edges. The first fragment is decorated with spirals on its top and the H-shaped motif on the walls, particularly characteristic of the second half of the Late Neolithic (fig. 4.5). The next one is the only example of a similar ornamentation all over the surface of a lid, in this case white-encrusted hollows (fig. 4.6). The last two fragments are flat and solid. The top side of the first one raises to the centre, where a handle was probably placed. A similar shape is part of the last Neolithic phase at Karanovo (Báčvarov 2002, taf. VII.2, 2). The suggested reconstruction (fig. 4.7) copies eventually similar handles from Podgoritsa and Usoe (Тодорова, Вайсов 1993, рис. 121а, 5, 7; рис. 126, 6). Another two H-shaped motifs are incised on the second flat lid – one of them is filled with pricks, the other is next to it but blank (fig. 4.8).

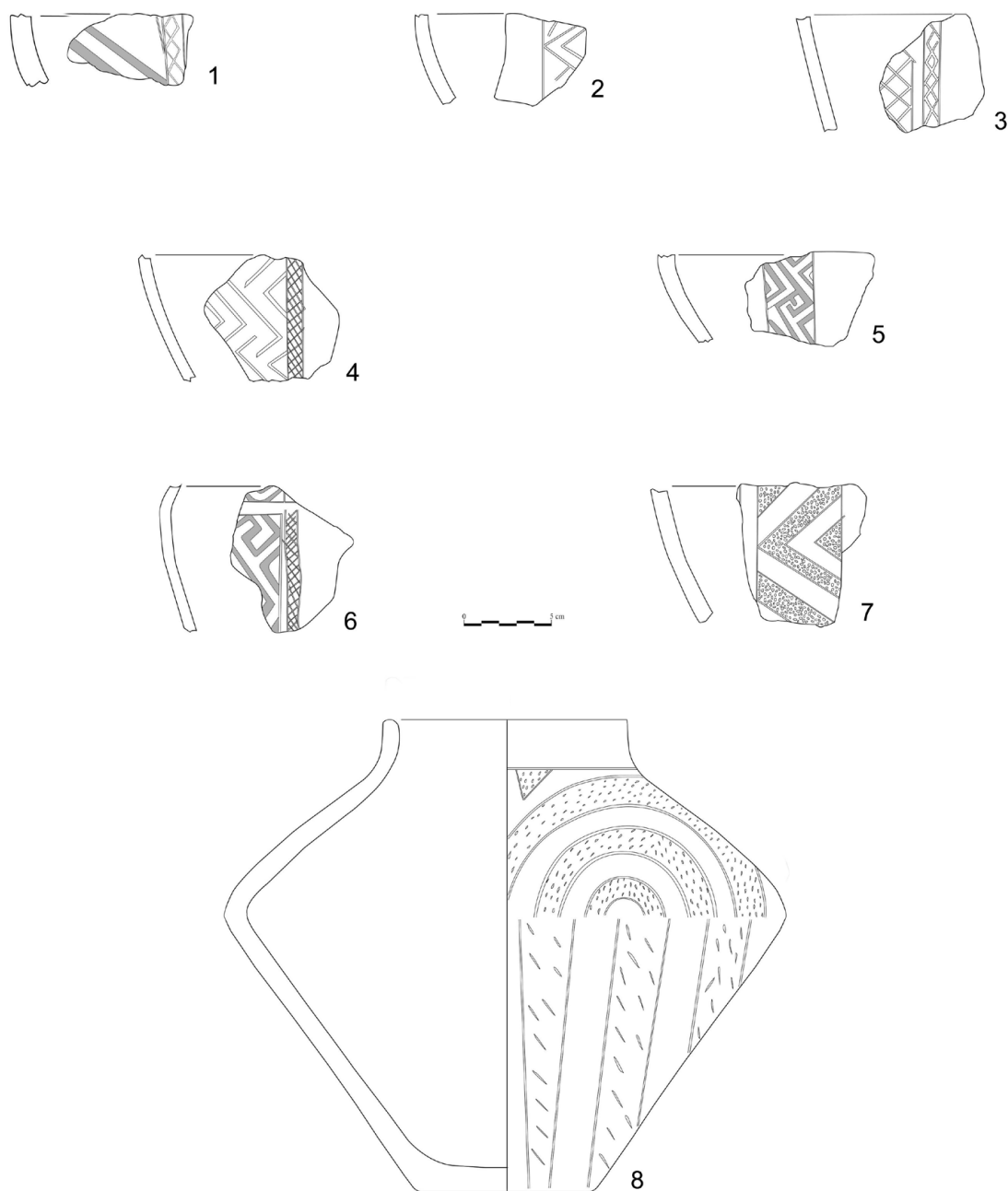


Fig. 8. Fragments from pots/jars from Samovodene B1 (1-2), Samovodene B2 (3-6) and Hotnitsa (7). Pot from Hotnitsa-Kaya bunar (8) (by the author)

Обр. 8. Фрагменти от гърневидни съдове от Самоводене B1 (1-2), Самоводене B2 (3-6) и Хотница (7). Гърневиден съд от Хотница-Кая бунар (8) (от автора)

This piece is also distinguishable by its differently organized ornamentation - two areas in its two halves, separated by a blank stripe in the middle. An identical one was discovered at Podgoritsa (Тодорова, Вайсов 1993, рис. 121a, 5). The diameters of the latter finds are 22 and 18 cm, while the cylindrical one vary between 9 and 17 cm, most of them about 12 cm.

The five lids from the last B₂-C phase are poorly preserved, one of them only a part of the wall. The single flat piece has plenty of organic substances in its clay and a diameter of 26 cm (fig. 5.1). The rest share the well-known shape - cylindrical walls and planar or sub-concave top surface. Perhaps one of them is with ridged peripheral edge. Its top part



Fig. 9. Lids from Samovodene B1 (1-2), Samovodene B2 (3-5) and Samovodene, uncertain context (6) (all photos made by the author)

Обр. 9. Капаци от Самоводене B1 (1-2), Самоводене B2 (3-5) и Самоводене с несигурен стратиграфски контекст (6) (всички снимки са направени от автора)

is decorated with oval incisions, while the walls have irregular motifs depicted, some of them filled with pricks (fig. 5.2). The other fragment with a preserved upper part is with an incised meander (fig. 5.3). The last one from this group, which is only a wall, is probably with an incised zigzag line (fig. 5.4). The conical lid suggests an oval edge and a decoration

of thinly outlined hatched fields filled with chessboard-like arranged hollows (fig. 5.5). Although the ornamentation looks similar to the one on the first Late Neolithic examples, its organization and the decorative technique are quite different. The diameters of the two best preserved pieces are both 12 cm.

Unfortunately, seven of the lids from Samovodene have no clear stratigraphic context or no context at all. The single flat fragment probably belongs to the A₂-B₁ stage (fig. 6.1). Most of the finds can be dated to the B₂ phase, all of them with cylindrical walls and oval or ridged edges. Each lid has its own decoration – broadly incised lines on the top (which form a triangle of its original surface) and horizontal ones below (fig. 6.2) or crossing stripes on the top bearing different motifs and oblique lines in panels on the walls (fig. 6.3). Another piece has a white-encrusted hatched triangle incised on the top, an oval edge with red-encrusted notches and alternating white-encrusted hatched vertical stripes and red-encrusted spirals on the walls (fig. 6.4; 9.6). The best preserved lid belongs to the cylindrical walls and ridged edge type, its top is ornamented with two crossing bands, while the walls below have triangles and vertical lines (fig. 6.5; 10.1). Two of the lids display sharper than usual peripheral edges, both of them fluted. They might be either B₂ or B₂-C, but the later stage seems more plausible. The first sherd reveals a hatched triangle plus a detached panel filled with different motifs on the top surface, with vertical incisions and a hatched stripe on the walls (fig. 6.6; 10.2). The last one has a panel with irregular broken lines placed on the top and two others on the walls with oblique and vertical lines inside (fig. 6.7). This specific type finds analogues in the Late Dudești material from Măgura-Buduiasca (part of the Muzeului Județean Teleorman exhibiton) and Cernica (Comșa 1974, fig. 10, 5).

All conical and cylindrical lids from Samovodene have well burnished outer surfaces and rougher, but still smoothed, inner ones. The flat pieces from the A₂-B₁ stage are smoothed and one of them is barbotine decorated. All of the ones from the next stages are burnished, except a fragment from the B₂-C phase. According to the Munsell soil colour chart (1994 edition), most of the fragments are grey in colour (5 YR 4/1 dark gray, 5YR 5/2 reddish gray, 7.5YR 3/1 very dark gray, 5Y 5/1 gray, 10YR 6/2 light brownish gray), while several are brown or yellowish (7.5YR 4/4 brown, 10YR 4/2 dark grayish brown, 7.5YR 7/6 reddish yellow, 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow). The clay temper is mainly mineral (sand and tiny stones), rarely containing organic substances and chamotte. The three types of described lids (flat, slightly conical and cylindrical) are found in all four phases of the settlement, with the cylindrical ones being dominant. Only two of all 34 sherds have complete profiles. The first one dates to the A₂-B₁ phase and its height is 4 cm (diameter 11 cm), the second comes from B₁ and its height is 4.5 cm (diameter 8 cm). One could expect that a smaller diameter would mean a bigger height, but the B₁ example disproves this assumption. Perhaps the maximum height of the lids was not more than 10 cm, or even less (7-8 cm). The important defining factor is the height of the neck of the vessel. Some examples from Cernica (Comșa 1974, fig. 10, 5) and Măgura-Buduiasca (Thissen 2013, pl. G. 4-5) in Romania suggest the production of higher shapes, but such fragments are absent in this region. Possibly one of the pieces from B₂-C (fig. 6. 2) could be comparable, but it is too damaged to be certain.

A certain rule of applying ornaments onto specific types of lids is observed – chessboard-like patterns on the slightly conical lids with oval edges, nested chevrons on the specific B₁ type, crossing bands upon cylindrical lids with ridged peripheral edges. Some of the oval ridged edges are notched, while the few sharp ones are fluted.

The flat settlement Kachitsa is situated underneath the western area of modern Veliko Turnovo. It was excavated from 1972 to 1979 by Petar Stanev (Станев 1996). Two of the



Fig. 10. Lids from Samovodene, uncertain context (1-2) and Hotnitsa (3). Body sherds from Samovodene B2 (4-5) (by the author)

Обр. 10. Капаци от Самоводене с несигурен стратиграфски контекст (1-2) и Хотница (3). Фрагменти от гърневидни съдове от Самоводене B2 (4-5) (от автора)

three lids in total were found in burnt dwellings. They are flat, with smoothed surfaces and diameters of 16 and 26 cm (fig. 8.1-2). The larger one is decorated with broadly incised vertical lines and meanders. Another wide incision is added along the periphery. This artifact might have another purpose. During the Late Neolithic, clay plates with a characteristic

incised ornamentation appear, considered as images with symbolic meanings or even proto-writing signs (Suvandzhiev, in press). The round shape of this particular find supports the idea that it is a lid, but this should not be accepted unquestionably. A very similar find comes from a burnt dwelling at Nova Zagora-Hlebozavoda in Thrace, where it was interpreted as the lid of a fireplace (Kănčeva-Ruseva 2000, abb. 2; taf. III-V). Incised motifs have also been found on secondary burnt debris - parts of the walls of a house or clay facilities.

The last piece is again secondarily burnt and belongs to a semi-spherical lid, its diameter is 12 cm. The incised ornamentation reveals a combination of intersecting triangles, straight and curved lines (fig. 7.3). This shape and ornament are characteristic of the Late Dudești layers at Fundeni (Comșa 1971, fig. 18, 26) and Gărlești-Surupătoare (Nica 1994, fig. 6, 7) and the beginning of Vădastra at Măgura-Buduiasca (Thissen 2013, pl. AD, 1-3).

Three Late Neolithic settlements have been located near the village of Hotnitsa - Orlovka, Kashlata and Kaya bunar. In 1958 E. Comșa visited the excavations of the Chalcolithic mound, led by N. Angelov. During his stay, he examined the material from the near country Orlovka. Based on the analyzed pottery and its abundant resemblances, Comșa defined the site as eponymous for the period in the region. Unfortunately, the majority of material was gathered through field surveys by I. Kokorkov and P. Parashkevanov and has no stratigraphy (Суванджиев 2014, 447, 449). The only excavated site is the one at Orlovka (Чохаджиев, Чохаджиев 2014, 97-121). Ceramics and some finds from the aforementioned sites were published by V. Ilcheva (Илчева 2008) and N. Elenski, who dates them to the very end of the Neolithic (Еленски 1998). The fragments included here are probably discovered at Kaya Bunar and Kashlata. The expansive site spreads across the two countries and in fact, the Late Neolithic settlement is the same. Each of the three pieces is of a different type, which complement the typology of the settlement, known from the forms published by N. Elenski (Еленски 1998). The settlements in the vicinity of Hotnitsa are chronologically later than Samovodene and the style of the finds is distinct. Two of the fragments have cylindrical lower halves, which transform through a differently shaped indentation into a conical or semi-spherical upper part. Normally the ornamentation on these two halves is different and white-encrusted. Most of the lids from those settlements are with conical upper halves, but usually they are poorly-preserved and only the described part is found (Еленски 1998). A similar unpublished artifact is ornamented with incised meanders (fig. 7.4; 10.3), whilst the one with a semi-spherical upper part has succeeding parallel, curvilinear incisions (fig. 7.5). These two types are indicative of the Late Dudești and especially Early Vădastra layers north of the Danube. Fragments with conical upper parts have been discovered at Padea-Dealul Viei (Nica, Nița 1979, fig. 20), Leu-La Tei (Nica, Nița 1979, fig. 11, 13; fig. 16, 2-3), Gărlești-Surupătoare (Nica 1994, fig. 5, 10; 9, 3) and Cîrcea-Viaduct (Nica 1991, fig. 8, 3, 4, 6, 7, 16). The semi-spherical end is not so popular – being found only at Padea-Dealul Viei (Nica, Nița 1979, fig. 20, 3), Cîrcea-Viaduct (Nica 1991, fig. 8, 5). Similar shapes are part of the Karanovo IV ceramic assemblage in Thrace - Nova Zagora-Hlebozavoda (Jungsteinzeit 1981, taf. 50, b; Тодорова, Вайсов 1993, рис. 112, 2). The only sherd of a flat lid is small in diameter (7 cm) and slightly projecting in its centre. Its surface is decorated with an incised spiral (fig. 8.6). Identical lids, although with solid lower surfaces, are characteristic of Nova Zagora-Hlebozavoda (Kănčeva-Ruseva 2000, abb. 1; taf. III-V). Such shapes have also been discovered at Usoe (Тодорова 1973, рис. 4, 3), Krushaka (Лещаков 2005, фиг. 7), Karanovo III-IV (Băčvarov 2002, taf. VII.2, 3), Bourgas-Fresh water channel and Bourgas-the bay (Klasnakov 2010, fig. 5-6).

Koprivets is the northernmost settlement among the sites in this study. It was in-

Site	Context Sector Square		Phase	Diameter	Surface	Colour (after Munsell 1994)	Fabrics
Samovodene	VI	И/5	A ₂ -B ₁	10	smoothed	very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1)	mineral
Samovodene	V	A/1	A ₂ -B ₁	18	barbotine	strong brown (7.5YR 5/6)	mineral, chamotte
Samovodene	VI	И/10	A ₂ -B ₁	14	burnished	gray (5Y 5/1)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	VI	3/2	A ₂ -B ₁	11	burnished	gray (5Y 5/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/12	B ₁	10	burnished	dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/7	B ₁	14	burnished	dark gray (5YR 4/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	3/9	B ₁	13	burnished	reddish gray (5YR 5/2)	mineral, chamotte, organics
Samovodene	VI	10	B ₁	13	burnished	reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6)	mineral, chamotte, organics
Samovodene	VI	3/3	B ₁	8	burnished	gray (5Y 5/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/6	B ₁	12	burnished	reddish gray (5YR 5/2)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	4	B ₁	12	burnished	reddish gray (5YR 5/2)	mineral
Samovodene	V	A/1	B ₁	14	burnished	dark gray (5YR 4/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/8	B ₁	14	burnished	light brownish gray (10YR 6/2)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	3/2	B ₁	11	burnished	reddish yellow (5YR 7/6)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	Б/23	B ₂	12	burnished	dark gray (5YR 4/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/7	B ₂	16	burnished	dark gray (5YR 4/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VII	Ж/13	B ₂	17	burnished	dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	VI		B ₂	12	burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral, chamotte
Samovodene	V	Б/2	B ₂	11	burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	VI	И/13	B ₂	9	burnished	gray (5YR 6/1)	mineral
Samovodene	V	2	B ₂	22	burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	3/10	B ₂	18	burnished	gray (5Y 5/1)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	3/1	B ₂ -C	26	smoothed	light brownish gray (10YR 6/2)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	III	6	B ₂ -C	?	burnished	reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	И/7	B ₂ -C	12	burnished	weak red (2.5YR 4/2)	mineral
Samovodene	V	Б/2	B ₂ -C	12	burnished	grayish brown (10YR 5/2)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	VI		B ₂ -C		burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral
Samovodene	VI	9	A ₂ -B ₁ ?	16	burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral
Samovodene	VII		B ₂ ?	16	burnished	light brownish gray (10YR 6/2)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	?		B ₂ ?	11	burnished	very dark gray (7.5YR 3/1)	mineral
Samovodene	V	5	B ₂ ?	11	burnished	dark gray (5YR 4/1)	mineral, organics
Samovodene	VI	К/13	B ₂ ?	17	burnished	dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2)	mineral
Samovodene	?		B ₂ -C?	13	burnished	grayish brown (10YR 5/2)	mineral
Samovodene	?		B ₂ -C?	14	burnished	brown (7.5YR 4/4)	mineral, organics
Kachitsa	VI	Б/4		16	smoothed	secondary burnt	mineral, organics
Kachitsa	VIII	A/14		26	smoothed	secondary burnt	mineral, organics
Kachitsa	VI	7		12	burnished	grayish brown (10YR 5/2)	mineral
Hotnitsa					burnished	weak red (2.5YR 4/2)	mineral
Hotnitsa					burnished	gray (5Y 5/1)	mineral, chamotte
Hotnitsa				7	burnished	grayish brown (10YR 5/2)	mineral
Koprivets	I	21			burnished	reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6)	mineral

Table 1. Graphic table with details of the lids

Таблица 1. Таблица с детайли на капациите – стратиграфски контекст, диаметър, повърхност, цвят (според Munsell soil colour chart 1994) и примеси

habited in the Early and Late Neolithic. The site was excavated by V. Popov and I. Vajsov (Попов, Матева 1993; Вайсов, Попов 2014). The only lid is semi-spherical and light brown in colour. Because of the size of the sherd, its diameter is not clear. A small part of the ornamentation is preserved - a broad vertical notched motif, delineated by two thin incisions (fig. 7.7). Possibly, it was repeated all over the surface or else alternated with another one. A horizontal thin line incised near the rim closes the composition. A quite similar artifact was found in the Vădastra layers at Măgura-Buduiasca (Thissen 2013, pl. AD, 3).

Another Vădastra find in the region comes from the ceramic assemblage at Novgrad (Krauß 2006, taf. 19, 2), but it belongs to a later stage of the complex.

Vessels the lids were placed upon

The described hollow cylindrical and conical lids were used to cover pots (also called jars) with rounded bi-conical or bi-conical bodies and low or relatively high cylindrical necks. Usually they are decorated with vertical bands filled with broadly incised motifs (meanders, spirals, zigzags), sometimes with narrower hatched stripes next to them. Both ornamental panels are usually white-encrusted, only rarely red-encrusted. Such fragments are known from Samovodene B₁ (fig. 8.1-2) and B₂ (fig. 8.3-6; 10.4-5), Măgura-Buduiasca (Thissen 2013, fig. 11; Mirea, in press), Poroschia-La Vii (Mirea 2005, pl. 8, 3) and perhaps Roşiorii de Vede and Plosca (Mirea 2005, pl. 7, 6-7). The lids and the related pots from Măgura share the same fabrics (Thissen 2013, 32), which show that they were probably produced simultaneously and each lid was made for a certain pot. Such an assumption raises the question if there is a possible connection between the decoration of the pot and the accompanying lid, but the chance of finding the two parts together is minimal.

In other cases, the pots are ornamented with differently shaped incised fields filled with pricks (the so-called "Vinča band"), like the ones found at Hotnitsa-Kaya bunar (fig. 8.7-8), Koprivets (Попов 1996, обр. 40, 2), Usoe (Тодорова, Вайсов 1993, рис. 120), Gârleşti-Surupătoare and Cîrcea-Viaduct (Nica 1991, fig. 7, 1, 7), or Late Dudeşti motifs - Cîrcea-Viaduct and Padea-Dealul Viei (Nica 1991, fig. 7, 3, 10).

The semi-spherical lids were used to cover deep bowls with narrow mouths or pots. The diameters of the flat lids are larger, as they were placed upon different types of vessels or maybe even particular facilities. Some conical bowls and holemouths have special protrusions on the inner side of their rims, probably added for placing of a lid upon them. Such bowls have been found at Kachitsa, holemouths at Poroschia-La Vii (Mirea 2005, pl. 8, 4), Drăgăneşti-Olt (Nica, Zorzoliu 1992, fig. 6, 7) and Gârleşti-Surupătoare (Nica 1994, fig. 9, 7), pots at Gârleşti-Surupătoare (Nica 1994, fig. 9, 5).

Conclusion

The analysis of the shapes from Samovodene shows a gradual chronological development of the main type of lid found at the site – cylindrical/conical walls and planar top. During the initial Late Neolithic A₂-B₁ stage, the edge is rounded or slightly protuberant upwards and the ornamentation on both parts is similar and bounded (fig. 2. 3-4). In the next B₁ stage, the edge grows firmly projecting upwards (fig. 3.6) or sideways (fig. 3.9-10). The ornamentation on the walls and the top are separate, yet in some cases still similar (fig. 3.2, 4, 6), no matter what type the lid is. Samovodene B₂ introduces the second half of the

Late Neolithic, when the ridged peripheral edge is predominant (sometimes notched or fluted) and the decoration consists of miscellaneous motifs and combinations (fig. 4). The final occupational level of the settlement does not reveal significant new varieties (fig. 5). The only type produced in all stages is the flat solid lid, although with different curves of the rounded edge.

All fragments from Kachitsa, Hotnitsa and Koprivets are characteristic of the final stages of the period – semi-spherical lids, lids with cylindrical walls and conical or semi-spherical upper parts (fig. 7). The previously widely popular cylindrical shape with planar top surface is absent.

As already repeatedly mentioned, each lid in the study has its own specific ornamentation and appearance, probably the same applies to the decoration of each pot as well (fig. 8). This may hint at the peculiar role and place of these shapes in the ceramic assemblage and their meaning and value for the Neolithic society.

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Върхът на гърнетата. Къснонеолитни керамични капацы от Централна Северна България.

Иван Суванджиев

(резюме)

Керамичните капацы са сред формите, които често остават без подробен анализ, макар и да са сред сигнификативните елементи на керамичния комплекс. Късният неолит в Централна Северна България се отличава с типологическо разнообразие на находки, носещи различна стилистика на орнамента. Това важи не само за посочения регион, но и за целия ареал на Долния Дунав, както и Тракия. Настоящата статия разглежда 41 непубликувани фрагмента от капацы, произхождащи от 5 обекта – Самоводене, Качица, Хотница-Кая бунар, Хотница-Къшлата и Копривец. Всички обекти, с изключение на Самоводене, където културният пласт достига почти 3 м, се причисляват към селищата от открит тип. Самоводене е единственият обект, в който може да проследим постепенно типологическо развитие на формите и украсата по тях. Капаците от началната A_2 - B_1 фаза (обр. 3) са плоски, конични, с равна горна част и заоблен ръб (преход между двете части) и цилиндрични, с равна горна повърхност и слабо издаден нагоре ръб. Орнаментът по стените и горната част е единен и свързан. С настъпването на Самоводене B_1 мотивите по двете повърхности на капаците се разделят и различават, макар и някои от тях да са все още сходни (обр. 4). Споменатият за първата фаза слабо издаден нагоре ръб е вече отчетливо разграничен. През този етап се появява най-характерният тип капак, имащ цилиндрични стени, равна горна част и издаден встрани ръб. Тук все още се открива в равни количества с формите със заоблен переход към горната част, но през следващия B_2 той доминира. Периферният ръб е вече украсен - назъбен или канелиран. Фрагментите от посоченият етап носят най-богата орнаментация (обр. 5). Финалните нива от обитаването на селището не разкриват значими нововъведения в типологията и украсата на формите (обр. 6).

Фрагментите от останалите 4 селища са типични за самия край на неолита и значително се различават от Самоводене (обр. 8). Характерни са капаците с цилиндрична долна част и конична или полусферична горна половина, познати в района от Хотница. По-рядко се срещат изцяло полусферични форми, подобно на тези от Качица и Копривец.