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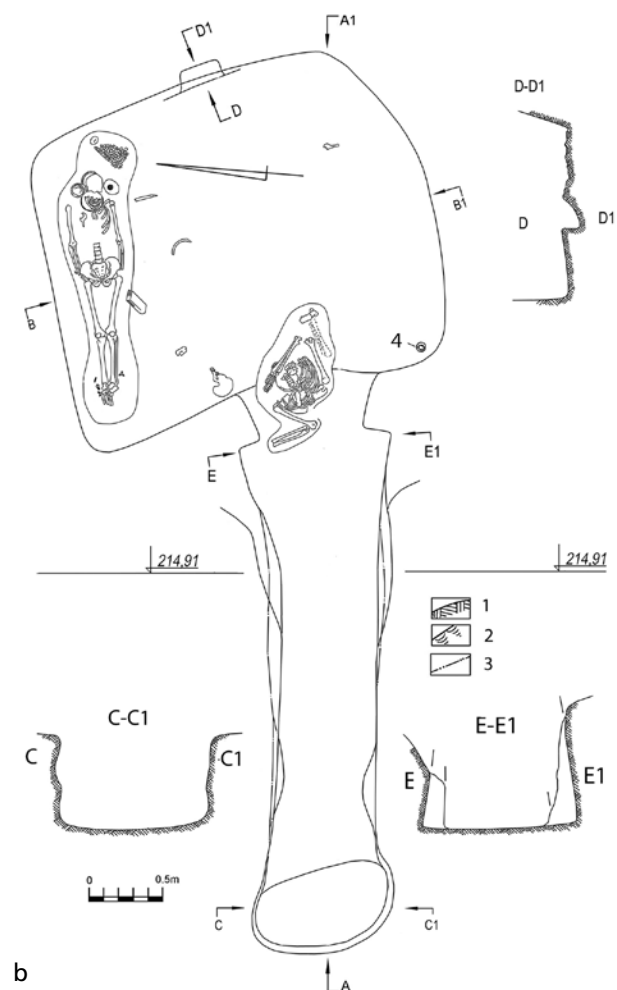
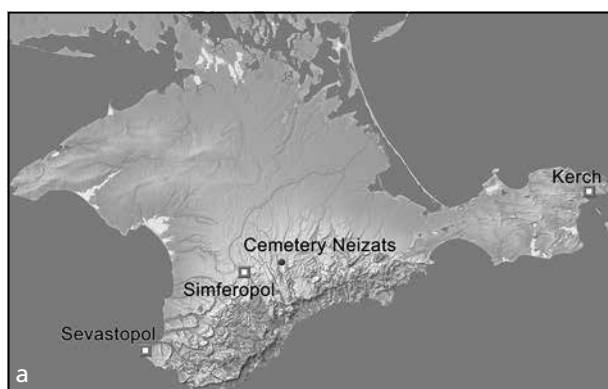
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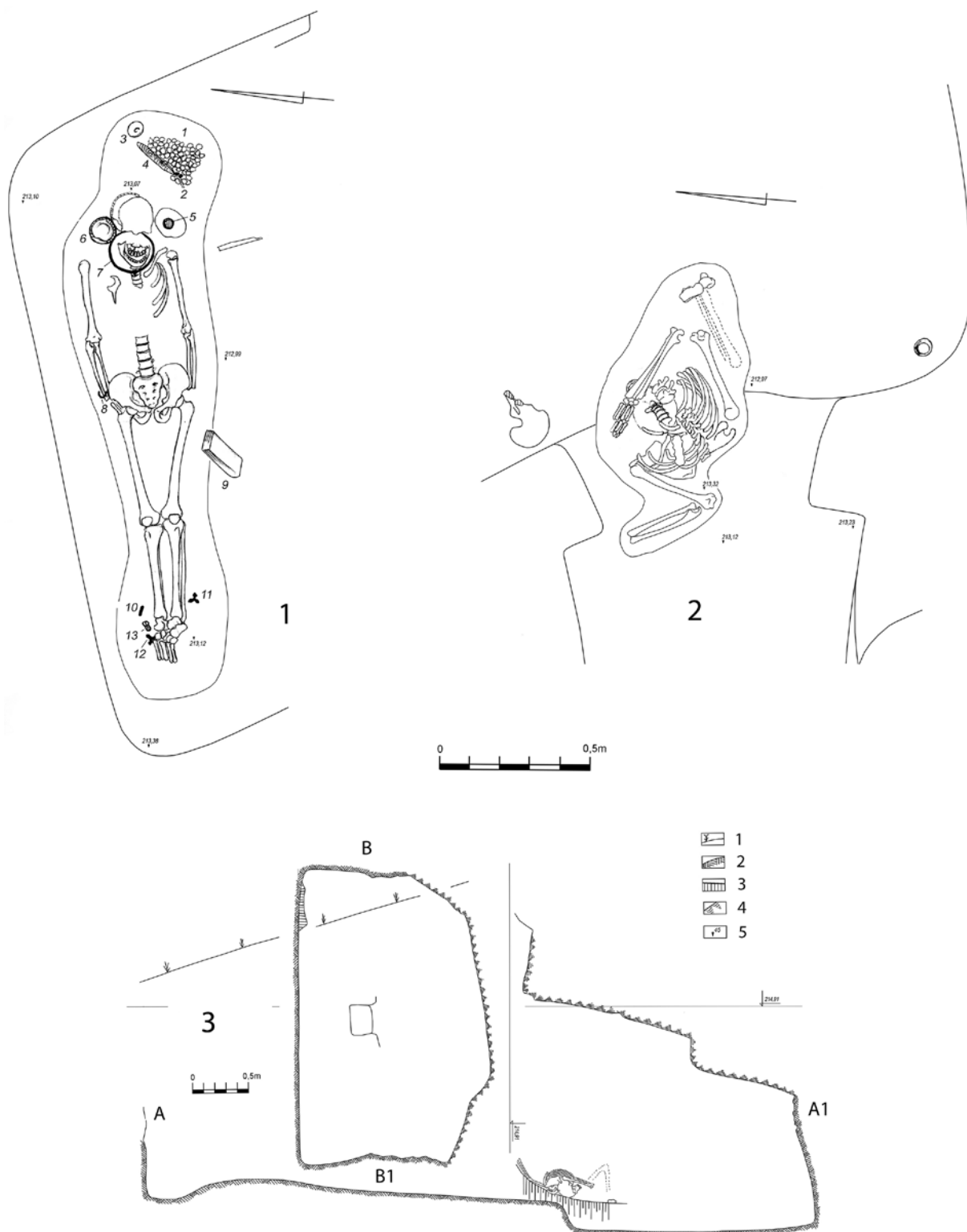
## A GRAVE FROM THE HUNNIC PERIOD IN THE CEMETERY OF NEIZATS (CENTRAL CRIMEA)

This publication is aimed to introduce into scholarship the results of the investigation of a new grave from the Great Migration Period, which was discovered in the cemetery of Neizats, grave 586 (Belogorsky rai.) on the Crimean Peninsula<sup>1</sup>.

The site is located about 20 km to the east of the modern city of Simferopol, in the valley of the Zuya River (fig. 1a), where the sub-mountainous area of the Crimea begins. About 2 km north of it, the Zuya Valley considerably widens, so the landscape looks like a steppe, sometimes framed by low barren hills. A continuous plain started 7 km to the north. Gradually rising mountains, covered with woods, stretch south of the cemetery. The cemetery of Neizats was studied systematically since 1996. In that period, 599 graves were uncovered within the area of 0.5 ha, including 88 burial vaults, 195 undercut graves, and 315 graves in simple pits in ground. Different grave goods accompanied the burials. The cemetery was in use from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries (for a review of the results of excavations of this cemetery see: Khrapunov 2011; 2013). The discovery of a burial from the Hunnic Period in grave 586 was a complete surprise. It shows that nomads from the steppe penetrated to the foothill area and used forgotten burial vaults to bury their own relatives there. Grave goods unearthed at the buried person leave no doubts in her cultural attribution because of a large circle of parallels scattered throughout the entire area populated by the Huns, both in Eastern and Western Europe. Despite the political strength of the Huns and the vast territories conquered by them, Hunnic graves are rarely discovered during archaeological excavations (cf. Aibabin



**Fig. 1** Neizats (Belogorsky rai.): **a** location of the cemetery. – **b** grave 586: ground plan and cross-sections (1 bedrock; 2 rock; 3 maximum extension contour; 4 fragments of a hand-made vessel). – (Illustrations S. Muld).



**Fig. 2** Neizats (Belogorsky rai.), grave 586. Burial vault cross-sections and plans of the burials: **1** burial in the chamber (no. 2); **2** burial(?) in the *dromos* (no. 1); **3** cross-sections of the burial vault. – Location of the grave goods: **1** pebble; **2** fragment of a bronze artefact; **3** ceramic spindle whorl; **4** iron knife; **5** bronze circular plate with gold foil and stones; **6** fragment of a hand-made vessel; **7** bronze neck-ring; **8** bronze bracelet; **9** whetstone; **10** bronze belt-end; **11-12** bronze strap-dividers; **13** bronze buckle. – Map features: **1** topsoil; **2** bedrock; **3** rock; **4** maximum extension contour; **5** elevation marks. – (Illustrations S. Muld).

1995). Every new burial, and particularly the one accompanied by a varied set of grave goods, becomes a valuable archaeological and historical source.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAVE

Grave 586 contains an inhumation of a 21-22 years old woman<sup>2</sup> in an underground burial vault, carved into sandstone bedrock. Sandstones form the mountain of Karshi-Bair, on a slope on which the cemetery is located. The entry pit, rectangular in plan, is oriented from the west to the east. Its dimensions: 3.4 m × 0.8 m; depth from the bedrock level: 0.4 m, from the modern surface 2.0-2.8 m (**figs 1b; 2**).

The *dromos* (corridor) is made into the eastern wall of the entry pit. Its dimensions are 0.8 m (width) × 0.35 m. The burial chamber has a sub-rectangular ground plan, measuring 2.6 m × 2.1 m. Its long axis runs almost at a right angle to the long axis of the entry pit. The floor of the burial chamber is 0.2 m lower than the *dromos* floor, with a transition shaped like a step. In the wall opposite to the entrance, at 0.45 m above the floor, there is a trapezoid niche. Its dimensions: 0.28 m × 0.2 m × 0.1 m (**fig. 1b**).

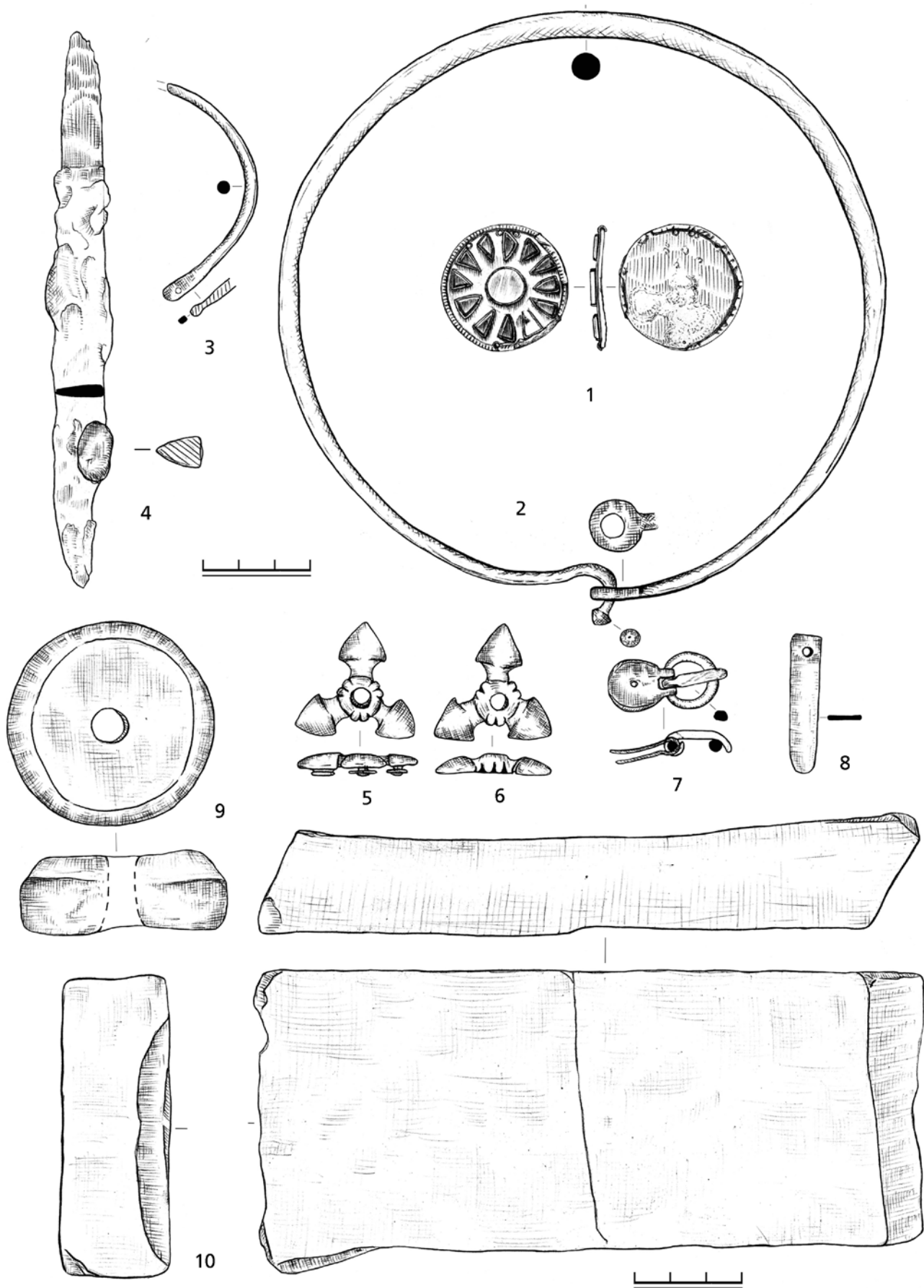
The *dromos* contained an unusual burial (**figs 1b; 2, 2**). The bones pressed by fallen pieces of the vaulting give the impression that the dead person squatted down. According to the physical anthropological research, this skeleton belonged to a man<sup>3</sup>.

In the burial chamber, the funeral identified as female was made along the northern wall, above a layer of soil 0.05 m thick. The skeleton was in supine position, with the head to the east. The arms stretched along the body, with the hands below the pelvis. The legs were tightly connected in ankles (**figs 1b; 2, 1**). Besides, the infill of this grave contained a fragment of a child's skull<sup>4</sup>. It belonged to one of the persons buried there in the Pre-Hunnic Period.

## GRAVE GOODS

The grave goods discovered in grave 586 are in general typical of women's graves belonging to the nomads who lived in the Eastern European steppe in the Hunnic and Post-Hunnic Periods. However, the accumulation of stones at the dead lady's head remains unclear because this feature did not occur in other graves of the nomads from the steppe.

- A heap of 86 fine polished stones, each measuring from 1.1 cm × 0.6 cm × 1.6 cm to 1.7 cm × 0.9 cm × 1.9 cm. At the skull, to the east of it (**figs 2, 1; 5, 4**).
- Three fragments of corrugated bronze<sup>5</sup> plates, rectangular in shape, each with two through holes. Dimensions: 0.9 cm × 1.2 cm, 1.1 cm × 1.4 cm, and 1.1 cm × 1.7 cm. At the skull, near the heap of polished stones (**figs 2, 2; 4, 3**).
- Flat ceramic spindle whorl, biconical in shape. Diameter 5.6 cm; width 2 cm. At the skull, near the heap of polished stones (**figs 2, 3; 3, 9; 4, 2**).
- Iron knife, broken into two pieces. Overall length 14.9 cm. A stone was affixed to it. At the skull, near the heap of polished stones (**figs 2, 4; 3, 4**).
- Bronze plate, covered with yellow metal foil on the face side, with its edges turned around to the back side of the plate. The face side of the plate is framed with a relief grained border. In the middle of the plate is a circular socket made of a plate, which is soldered to the panel edgewise, holding an insert of transparent colourless glass. Around are twelve triangular inserts of carnelian, with their tops to the middle of the panel, inserted into sockets formed by plates of yellow metal foil, which is soldered to the panel



**Fig. 3** Neizats (Belogorsky rai.), grave 586: **1** bronze plate with carnelians. – **2** bronze neck-ring. – **3** fragment of a bronze bracelet. – **4** iron knife. – **5-6** bronze strap-dividers. – **7** bronze buckle. – **8** bronze strap-end. – **9** ceramic spindle whorl. – **10** whetstone. – (Drawings 1 S. Muld; 2-10 A. Vasilyev).

- edgewise. On either side of the panel are two through holes, where the needle and the catch-plate were fastened. Diameter 3.5 cm. To the left of the skull (figs 2, 5; 3, 1; 4, 1).
- Fragmented hand-made pot with an oval, elongated vertical body, out-turned rim, and flat bottom. The flat upper edge of the rim is decorated with aslant cutting. The inner surface of the vessel is fired. Top diameter 7.0 cm; bottom diameter 6.1 cm. To the right of the skull (figs 2, 6; 5, 1).
  - Neck-ring of solid bronze rod of circular cross-section, which slightly tapers to the ends. One of its ends is hammered to the form of a circular plate with a through hole in the centre; another end is shaped like a hook with a conical projection on the tip. Diameter 16.6 cm. Around the neck (figs 2, 7; 3, 2; 4, 5).
  - Fragment of a bracelet made of a bronze wire of circular cross-section. One of its ends survived: it is hammered, with a through hole. Fragment length 6 cm. On the right wrist (figs 2, 8; 3, 3; 4, 4).
  - Whetstone, rectangular, with aslant side walls. Dimensions: 17.5 cm × 7.8 cm × 2.6-3.0 cm. At the left thigh (figs 2, 9; 3, 10).
  - Strap-end in the shape of a bronze rectangular plate with rounded low edge and a hole at the top. Dimensions: 3.8 cm × 0.8 cm. To the right of the right fibula and tibia, closer to the heel (figs 2, 10; 3, 8; 4, 9).
  - Two strap-dividers in the form of a bronze three-petaled plate with a hole in the centre. Dimensions: 3.1 cm × 3.2 cm and 3.2 cm × 3.2 cm. To the right and left of right and left fibulae and tibiae, closer to the heels (figs 2, 11-12; 3, 5-6; 4, 6-7).
  - Bronze buckle with an oval frame and a tongue, which projects far and turns around its front edge. The oval panel is made of a plate, folded in half, with a single rivet (which is missing) in the back side. Dimensions of the frame: 1.5 cm × 1.7 cm, of the plate: 1.4 cm × 1.8 cm. To the right of the right fibula and tibia, closer to the heels (figs 2, 13; 3, 7; 4, 8).
- There are fragments of hand-made vessels (fig. 5, 2-3) and a wall shard of a red-clay amphora that remained of grave goods in former burials into the burial chamber and entry pit.

## GRAVE CONSTRUCTION AND BURIAL RITE

The architecture of the grave in itself and the inhumation rite are typical among the populations of the sub-mountainous Crimea in the Late Roman Period. Burial vaults not too different from that under study (fig. 1b) are well known in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries of a settled population (presumably Alans)<sup>6</sup>: the cemetery of Neizats only comprises more than 80 vaults of this type. An overwhelming majority of these vaults were constructed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, and only a few in the previous period (Khrapunov 2002, 73-74; 2011, 19). These chambers typically contain collective inhumations. Similarly to grave 586 (fig. 2, 1), the dead were supine, as a rule with the legs towards the entrance. Similar burials are also known in the mountainous Crimea and in the Early Migration Period (e. g. Aibabin 1999, fig. 23, 2). Nevertheless, it is necessary to mention that in the Hunnic Period burials in underground vaults or catacombs, whose constructions differed from Crimean structures, have also been documented among the Alans of the Ukrainian steppe, in such sites as Kubei (Belgorod-Dnistrovsky rai., Odessa obl.) and Kantemirovka (Chutovsky rai., Poltava obl.; Zassetskaia 1994, fig. 3, 6; Kazanski/Mastykova 2002; Kazanski 2009, figs 20-21).

There is a group of sites documenting the placement of a votive horse's corpse in the entry chamber. However, on the Crimea, there is no documented case of human sacrifices from the Late Roman and the Great Migration Periods. No such cases are known in other places in the northern Black Sea area and the North Caucasus. Therefore, the human skeleton in the *dromos* of vault 586 (fig. 2, 2) is an exceptional case, hardly

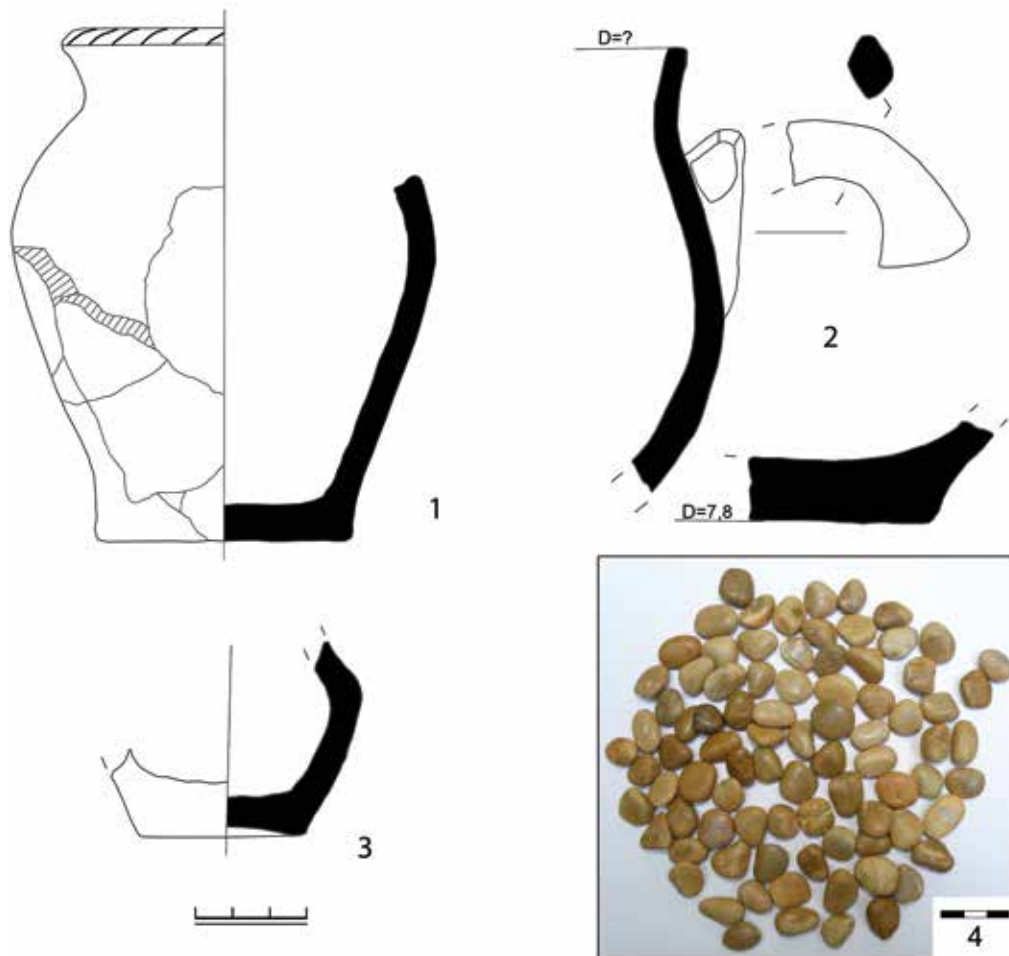


**Fig. 4** Neizats (Belogorsky rai.), grave 586: **1** bronze plate with carnelians. – **2** ceramic spindle whorl. – **3** bronze fragment. – **4** fragment of a bronze bracelet. – **5** bronze neck-ring. – **6-7** bronze strap-dividers. – **8** bronze buckle. – **9** bronze strap-end. – (Photos A. Stoyanova).

relatable to some specific ritual. Most likely, it is a matter of an accident, when collapsed soil covered a participant of the funeral or a grave robber.

The burial in vault 586 was made in the Great Migration Period (for its chronology see below), in contrast to the rest of graves in the cemetery of Neizats, which date from the Roman Period. In the case in question, the reconstruction of the course of events is beyond doubts. A certain population group that appeared in the Zuya Valley in the 5<sup>th</sup> century cleaned a vault in the abandoned cemetery of Alanic burials and made there an internment of their own tribespersons. Such a practice has been documented on the Crimea in the cemeteries of Marfovka (Leninsky rai.) and Beliaus (Chernomorsky rai.; Zasetkaia 1994, 177; Dashevskaiia 2014, 76-77).





**Fig. 5** Neizats (Belogorsky rai.), grave 586: **1-3** fragments of ceramic vessels. – **4** pebble. – (Drawings 1 S. Muld; 2-3 O. Yashnaya; photo A. Stoyanova).

## INTERPRETATION OF THE GRAVE GOODS

The set of grave goods – a bronze appliqué framed with gold foil, with insets of glass (central) and carnelians, a neck-ring, a bracelet, a knife, footwear fittings, and a hand-made vessel – meets with parallels both among the settled population in the south of Eastern Europe and the Nomadians – Huns and Alans. In the northern Black Sea area, spindle whorls are more typical of the grave goods of settled barbarians.

### Circular plate

Especially attractive is the circular plate in the polychrome style (**figs 3, 1; 4, 1**), whose functional purpose remains obscure. Quite probably, it was a brooch. Although the artefact in question does not have a clasp, we may suppose that the once broken but still beautiful and precious item accompanied the dead person as a prestigious jewel.

Rather careless trimming of sub-triangular stones sets this artefact apart. There are two most similar parallels. The first originates from A. Merle de Massonneau's collection, which comprises artefacts from South

Russia (Damm 1988, no. 19 fig. 49). The second has been discovered in the cemetery of Almalyk-Dere (Bakhchysaraisky rai.) on the South-Western Crimea, in grave 65, accompanied with goods typical of Period D2 of the European Barbaricum timeline, that is c. 400/410-440/450 (Mączyńska/Urbanik/Jakubczyk 2011, fig. 10, 1). In this case, there was a clasp on the back side of the plate, so the artefact was a brooch. This artefact is decorated with carelessly-worked sub-triangular stones, in a way actually typical of the Hunnic Period, and therefore rather often appearing on the ornaments from this period (e. g. Zsetskaia 1982, figs 3-4, 1; 7; Kazanski 2009, fig. 9).

Grave 65 of Almalyk-Dere contained another brooch, which in contrast has rounded stones and a relief border around the central stone (Mączyńska/Urbanik/Jakubczyk 2011, fig. 10, 2). A circular brooch in the polychrome style occurred in vault 126/grave 3 in the cemetery of Luchistoe (Alushtinsky rai.) in the south coast of the Crimea. The brooch has a needle and a catch-plate, and its panel is decorated similarly to the second brooch from Almalyk-Dere, with circular stones and additional raised border around the central stone (Aibabin 2001, fig. 6, 3). The Luchistoe grave also contained goods typical of Period D2. Another circular plate with circular stones, though with rich granulated ornamentation, was found in Kerch, in inhumation 9 of the collective vault 154 of the year 1904. Most probably, this artefact was also a brooch, as it was discovered on the left shoulder of a buried lady (Shkorpil 1907, 44). It was accompanied by earrings typical of Period D2 (Zsetskaia 1993, pls 50. 246).

A circular plate in the polychrome style, similar to the find from Neizats, was uncovered in a grave at Novopokrovka (Kirovsky rai.) on the Eastern Crimea (Gavrilov 1996, fig. 2, 7). It was on the chest of the buried lady, and therefore it was probably a brooch. However, the stones of this ornament were trimmed in another way, to an oval, more regular shape. This grave dates from the Post-Hunnic Period (second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> or first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century) (Zsetskaia et al. 2007, 15. 18).

In Taman' (Temriuksky rai., Krasnodar krai), there is a plate, similar to the finds from Neizats and Novopokrovka, identified as a sword pommel from the Great Migration Period. However, similarly to the Novopokrovka find, it is decorated with well-trimmed oval stones, and also has rich pseudo-granulated and filigree decoration (Damm 1988, no. 102 figs 187-188).

Finally, we have to note plates in the polychrome style from sets of Hunnic finds in Zelenokumsk and Tatarka (Sovetsky rai., Stavropol krai), in the North Caucasus (Zsetskaia 1994, pls 13, 5; 17, 3)<sup>7</sup> and Ust'-Alma (Bakhchisaraisky rai.), grave 635, on the South-Western Crimea (Puzdrovski/Zaitsev/Nenevolia 1999, figs 3-4), and a series of parallel plates in Verkhniaia Rutkha (Irafsky rai., Republic of North Ossetia-Alania; Uvarova 1900, pl. 101, 3-7).

## Neck-ring

Neck-rings are typical of many barbarian cultures from the Great Migration Period. They are often made of gold and have status value, indicating their owner's privileged position (for recent bibliography see Tejral 2011, 195-199; Loskotova 2012).

Neck-rings of a metal rod or twisted wire often occur among Eastern European steppe finds in the Post-Hunnic Period: Novaia Maiachka (Tsyuryupinsky rai., Kherson obl.; Zsetskaja 1994, pl. 10, 1); Aleshki-Kuchugury (Golopristsansky rai., Kherson obl.; Zsetskaia 1994, pl. 15, 9; Kazanski 2009, fig. 17, 10); Tatarka (Zsetskaia 1994, pl. 18, 2); Sovkhoz Kalinina (Krasnogvardeiskiy rai.; Zsetskaia 1994, pl. 22, 16); Shipovo, barrow 2 (Zelenovskiy rai., West-Kazakhstan obl.; Zsetskaia 1994, pl. 42, 5), and Beliaus, grave 3 (Dashevskaja 2014, pl. 174, 1). They are also known in the Hunnic context of Central Europe, in Szeged-Nagyszéksós (Kom. Csongrád; Alföldi 1932, pl. 17, 2). However, there is another type of neck-rings which predominated

in the Hunnic Period, with a tie or its imitation at the lock. As an example, let us mention such finds as Untersiebenbrunn (Bez. Gänserndorf) in Austria, Keszthely-Ziegelfabrik (Kom. Zala) in Hungary, Markovac (okr. Podunavlje) in Serbia (L'Or des princes barbares 2000, no. 9, 1; Tejral 2011, figs 102-103. 149), Uileacu Șimleul (jud. Sălaj) in Romania (Harhoiu 1998, pl. 84, 2), Szeged-Nagyszéksós (Alföldi 1932, pl. 17, 2), Pietroasele (jud. Buzău; Odobescu 1887-1900, fig. 133), and Kerch, grave 165/1904, inhumation 7 (Zasetskaia 1993, pl. 55, 299).

Concerning the type of the neck-ring from grave 586 of the cemetery of Neizats (**figs 3, 2; 4, 5**), it was known as early as the Late Roman Period from the finds in Prussia, in the cemetery of Warnikam/Pervo-maiskoe (Gurievsky rai., Kaliningrad obl.), grave 28 (Nowakowski 1996, pl. 75, 11), and also at the western frontier of the Cherniakhov Culture, in Muntenia, in the cemetery of Drăgănești-Olt (jud. Olt), grave 11 (Trohanu/Zorzoliu 1983, fig. 7, 1), in the grave of Muslyumovo (Muslyumovsky rai., Republic of Tatarstan) in the Urals (Zasetskaia 1994, pl. 43, 1), which dates from the Pre-Hunnic or Early Hunnic Period (for its chronology see Kazanski 1995, 192). Generally, the Crimean monuments from the Roman Period contained four neck-rings with one flattened end with a hole and another end bent as a hook (Stoyanova 2011, 121-122). One neck-ring is made of a plain wire (Pereval'noe, grave 17b, Simferopolsky rai.; Stoyanova 2011, fig. 6, 2), the rest are pseudo-twined (Druzhnoe, grave 20, Simferopolsky rai.; Chatyr-Dag, grave 14, Alushtinsky rai.; Chatyr-Dag, grave 21; Stoyanova 2011, fig. 6, 3-5). The end of one pseudo-twined neck-ring finishes with a knob, similarly to the artefact in question (Druzhnoe, grave 20; Stoyanova 2011, fig. 6, 3). Neck-rings with a similar lock and a pseudo-twined rod are also known in Taman' (Damm 1988, no. 41 figs 86-87).

In the Hunnic Period, there is a neck-ring analogous to the find from Neizats originating from Kerch, grave 165/1904, inhumation 1 (Zasetskaia 1993, 81 no. 276). Its end is curved into a loop, with the junction covered with a circular soldered button.

In the Post-Hunnic Period, neck-rings with a lock in the form of a circular plate with a hole and a knobbed hook appeared in the North Caucasus, in the cemetery of Pashkovskii in the Lower Kuban area (Krasnodar, Krasnodar krai), graves 1/1949 and 5/1949 (the hook does not have a knob); in the Upper Kuban Basin, in the cemetery of Baïtal-Chapkan (Habezsky rai., Republic of Karachay-Cherkessia), grave 23 (the hook also does not have a knob), perhaps in grave 20 (the fragment with a plate survived; Mastykova 2009, 75 figs 75, 1; 76, 1; 77, 1-2); and in Dagestan, in the cemetery of Palasa-Syrt (Derbentsky rai.), barrow 91 (the knob is broken off; Magomedov et al. 2006, fig. 2, 35).

Similar neck-rings are known in Central Russia: in the cemeteries of Finns in the Volga Area, such as Borok (Shilovsky rai., Ryazan obl.), grave 525 (Akhmedov/Kazanski 2004, fig. 7, 2), Zarech'e-4 (Korzablinsky rai., Ryazan obl.), grave 1 (Akhmedov/Belotserkovskaia 1996, fig. 3, 2), Koshibevo (Sasovsky rai., Ryazan obl.), graves 6 and 70 (Spitsyn 1901, pls 7. 12). They also occur in the Middle Volga Area, according to the finds in the cemetery of Komintern-II (Engelsovsky rai., Saratov obl.), grave 43 (Kazakov 1998, fig. 32, 26), and also in graves 10 and 11, though in these two cases the lock hook does not have a knob, in contrast to the find from Neizats (Kazakov 1998, figs 14, 13; 15, 8).

In the Early Merovingian Period, neck-rings of a rod with a lock shaped like a circular plate and a knobbed hook appeared in West Europe, for example in cemeteries of Basel-Kleinhüningen, grave 101 (Kt. Basel-Stadt; Giesler-Müller 1992, pl. 19, 101.3), or Eschborn, grave 45 (Main-Taunus-Kreis; Ament 1992, pl. 18, 2).

### **Bracelet of circular cross-section**

Bracelets rarely occur among steppe nomads in the Hunnic and Post-Hunnic Periods: see for example Pokrovsk (Engelsovsky rai., Saratov obl.), barrow 36 (Zasetskaia 1994, pl. 29, 15), Morskoi Chulek (Nekli-

novsky rai., Rostov obl.), grave 2 (Zasetskaia et al. 2007, pl. III, 5-6), Shipovo (Zasetskaia 1994, pl. 40, 12-14). A find from a Hunnic grave at Leninsk (Leninsky rai., Volgograd obl.) in the Lower Volga Area (Zasetskaia 1994, pl. 33, 12; Kazanski 2009, fig. 13, 22) is the closest parallel to the bracelet of circular cross-section with a flattened end with a hole (figs 3, 3; 4, 4) from Neizats.

### Footwear fittings

The appearance of metal footwear fittings in the European Barbaricum is considered as a result of Alano-Sarmatian influence. Actually, in the Late Sarmatian Period and in the Early Great Migration Period, footwear fittings appeared in barrow graves in the steppe of Moldavia and Left-Bank Ukraine (Tejral 2011, 285-286). On the Crimea in the Late Sarmatian Period, footwear fittings also occurred in cemeteries created by the settled Sarmato-Alanic population, such as Druzhnoe and Neizats. Simultaneously, researchers have mentioned the distribution of footwear fittings in the territory of the Roman Empire (von Rummel 2007, 337-342; Eger 2015, 264-269).

Footwear fittings from the Great Migration Period are well documented in the Pontic-Caucasian Area, among settled populations (Khairidinova 2003; Mastykova 2009, 59. 146. 148) and nomads (Komar 2010). As for the nomads, footwear fittings occur mostly in man's graves, though there are a few cases which existed in allegedly woman's graves from the Hunnic and Post-Hunnic Periods, such as Likhachevka (Kostevskiy rai., Poltava obl.), and Shipovo, barrow 2 (Komar 2010, 109).

In the Great Migration Period, footwear fittings occur in elite barbarian graves, man's – in Szirmabesenyő (Kom. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén; Bóna 2002, fig. 143, 3), Lengyeltóti (Kom. Somogy; Bóna 2002, fig. 147, 7), Lébény (Kom. Győr-Moson-Sopron; Bóna 2002, fig. 152, 4), Thuburbo Majus (Gouv. Zaghuan; von Rummel 2007, 337-342), and woman's – Smolin (okr. Brno-Venkov; L'Or des princes barbares 2000, no. 22, 9), Turda (jud. Cluj; Bârbulescu 2008, pl. 19, 4). Perhaps they formed a part of prestigious costume.

Let us start with the types of footwear fittings parallel to the finds from Neizats, grave 586 (figs 3, 5-8; 4, 6-9) and discovered in the Caucasus-Pontic-Danubian Area. In the first instance, our attention is attracted by footwear fittings with three-partite movable or solid dividers. They are documented in the funeral context of settled populations in the Hunnic Period, such as the finds from Luchistoe, vault 88, grave 5, Tanais, grave 27.1985 (Miasnikovskiy rai., Rostov obl.; Khairidinova 2003, fig. 3; Ajbabin/Chajredinova 2010), Nyíregyháza-Rozsrétszölő, grave 69/1 (Kom. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg; Pintye 2014, pl. 3, 7-10), Phanagoria, grave 34/2005 (Temriulskiy rai., Krasnodar krai; Stokov 2013). In the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, footwear strap-dividers of the kind are also known on the Crimea (Khairidinova 2003, 130), particularly among the sets of the so-called heraldic style: Luchistoe, vault 43, grave 3 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 17, 1, 1-3); vault 64, grave 2 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 12); vault 77, grave 3 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 11); vault 164, grave 5 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 16); vault 170, grave 3 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 14); vault 189, grave 3 (Khairidinova 2003, fig. 15).

Shoes with three-partite strap-dividers are well known among the nomads in the steppe. For the 5<sup>th</sup> century, there are finds in Likhachevka in Left-Bank Ukraine (Zaretskoi 1888, pl. 2, 9-10. 12-13), as well as in the cemetery of Tsarskii, barrow 51 – 5 km far from Tanais (Il'iukov 2004, fig. 10, 2-3. 5-6). For the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, the most reliable find with a three-partite strap-divider in the steppe context is that in Khristoforovka, barrow 7, grave 7 (Bashtanskii rai., Mykolaiv obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 11).

There are well-known footwear sets comprising buckles and plain strap-ends. Among steppe nomads in the Hunnic Period, footwear strap-ends with buckles appeared in barrow 1 of the above-mentioned Alanic cemetery of Kantemirovka (Kazanski/Mastykova 2002, fig. 2, 4-5). In the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> cen-

turies, i. e. in the »heraldic sets« horizon, footwear sets with buckles and strap-ends are documented in Black Sea steppe graves such as Sivashovka, barrow 3, grave 2 (Novotroitsky rai., Kherson obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 7), Vinogradnyi, barrow 5, grave 3 (Melitopolsky rai., Zaporizhzhia obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 9), Dmitrovka, barrow 1, grave 12 (Voznesensky rai., Mykolaiv obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 1), and Vasil'evka, barrow 2, grave 1 (Vasylivky rai., Zaporizhzhia obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 13, 1-8).

Such fittings are known among the settled population of the Crimea from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, particularly at the sites of Druzhnoye, vault 87, burial C (Khrapunov 2002, fig. 211, 3-4; Khairedinova 2003, fig. 5, 1-2), Karshi-Bair, vault 7 (Sevastopol, Crimea; Khairedinova 2003, fig. 6, II), Luchistoe, vault 77 (Khairedinova 2003, fig. 8, 7-8), undercut grave 99 (Khairedinova 2003, fig. 9, I-II, 1-5), vault 105 (Khairedinova 2003, fig. 8, 5-6), vault 176 (Khairedinova 2003, fig. 8, I-II, 1-4), vault 205 (Khairedinova 2003, fig. 7) and Skalistoe, vault 499 (Bakhchysaraisky rai.; Khairedinova 2003, fig. 9, 6-9).

Let us now discuss parallels to every individual footwear fitting from grave 586. Small buckles (**figs 3, 7; 4, 8**) with a circular frame, a circular panel, and a long tongue turned around the frame were widely distributed in the late 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries in the south of Eastern Europe, as well as, to a lesser extent, in the Middle Danube and in the Balkans (Beck/Kazanski/Vallet 1988, note 52; Mastykova 2009, 58; Kazanski 2009, figs 21, 5-6. 18; 78, 49; 79, 18; 80, 40. 47; 89, 18-19; 103, 1. 9; 113, 14; 119, 6-7; Tejral 2011, figs 3, 1; 20; 27, 4; 88; 282, 2). Some of them have a single rivet in the central area of the panel. As an example, there is a find from Nikolaevka, grave 20 (Berislavsky rai., Kherson obl.) in the Lower Dnieper Area (Tejral 2011, fig. 23, 2), buckles from the so-called Mesaksudi's Tomb (grave of 1918 in Kerch; Beck/Kazanski/Vallet 1988, 68-69 fig. 1, 11; Kazanski 2009, fig. 75, 10-11), as well as buckles from Novo-Podkriazh, barrow 3, grave 3 (Tsarychansky rai., Dnipro obl.; Kostenko 1977, pl. 3, 3; Kazanski 2009, fig. 21, 19), Szirmabesenyő (Kom. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén; Kazanski 2009, fig. 119, 6-7; Tejral 2011, fig. 282, 2), from a »princely« grave in the cemetery of Klin-lar 3 (Kislovodsk, Stavropol krai) and graves 500 and 517 in the cemetery of Diurso (Novorossiisk, Krasnodar krai; Mastykova 2009, fig. 41, 6. 9-10), and from the cemetery of Zhivotinnoe, grave 4 (Ramonsky rai., Voronezh obl.; Komar 2010, fig. 4, 1-2). These buckles were probably used both in belt and footwear sets and also in warrior's equipment and horse's trappings.

As far as we know, solid three-petaled strap-dividers (**figs 3, 5-6; 4, 6-7**) do not meet with exact analogies. Numerous three-petaled appliqués/strap-dividers of similar but not identical forms belong to belt and footwear sets in the »heraldic style« from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the North Caucasus, three-petaled appliqués are known as early as the 5<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the destroyed twin burial 118 of the cemetery of Zaragizh (Chereksky rai., Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria; Mastykova 2009, fig. 48, 10). There is a three-petaled appliqué discovered in woman's grave 30 of the cemetery of Klin-lar in a reliable context of the Post-Hunnic »Shipovo« Horizon (mid-5<sup>th</sup> to mid-6<sup>th</sup> centuries) of Eastern European antiquities (Mastykova 2009, fig. 48, 9). Similar appliqués are known in other graves from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as catacomb 4 of the cemetery of Berduty (Chechen Republic), where they were accompanied with a buckle from the »Shipovo« Horizon (Mastykova 2009, fig. 48, 10).

The plain strap-end with a rivet (**figs 3, 8; 4, 9**) possibly consisted of two riveted plates, but its backplate does not survive. Such strap-ends are discovered in three graves from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in the cemetery of Neizats, and in Late Sarmatian graves come to light near the modern city of Azov and in the cemetery of Tanais (Khrapunov 2008, 65). On the sub-mountainous Crimea, this strap-end meets with parallels in the context from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century in the cemetery of Druzhnoe, graves 3 and 9 (Khrapunov 2002, figs 73, 14; 81, 12). Similar artefacts occur in vault 23/11 of the cemetery of Sirenevaia Bukhta (Leninsky rai.) in the Crimean Azov Sea coast, accompanied by the materials from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> centuries (Maslennikov 1997, 36 figs 23-25). The same end-pieces are known on the Crimea among footwear sets from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> centuries (Khairedinova 2003, 132 figs 6, 12-14; 9, 2-5. 7. 9). In the Hunnic Period, strap-

ends of the same form also occurred in steppe context in Kyzyl-Adyr (Belyaevsky rai., Orenburg obl.; Zaset-skaia 1994, pl. 37, 15) and in the North Caucasus, in Palasa-Syrt (Gmyria 1993, fig. 35, 16.017). In the Post-Hunnic Period, plain strap-ends with circular ending are known at the North Caucasus, particularly in woman's grave 6 in the cemetery of Klin-lar 3 (Mastykova 2009, fig. 48, 1), and also in the Middle Volga Area, in the cemetery of Komintern II, grave 46 (Kazakov 1998, fig. 36, 3. 6). The finds from the cemetery of Komintern II are related to A. V. Bogachev's »Pre-Heraldic Style«, which he dates from the second third of the 6<sup>th</sup> century (Bogachev 2010, pl. 1/2, 32-33). The above-described strap-ends may belong to belt or footwear sets.

#### Ceramic biconical spindle whorl

Spindle whorls are not typical of nomads of the steppe. In the period in question, there are beside the example from Neizats (**figs 3, 9; 4, 2**) two more finds: in the cemetery of Kobi (Shelkovsky rai., Chechen Republic), barrow 7, grave 1 (Mamaev/Narozhny/Rostunov 2011, fig. 3, 2), and in the cemetery of Staraia Sarata (Dist. Falești), in Moldova, grave 7 (Grosu 1990, 94 fig. 29, 5). On the contrary, spindle whorls used as grave goods were typical among settled population of the Crimea from the Late Roman Period on, according to the finds in the cemeteries of Druzhnoe or Neizats (Khrapunov 2002, figs 77, 12; 81, 5. 19; 82, 15-16, etc.; 2011, fig. 37, 12-14. 16-18).

#### Hand-made vessel

We are not able to name direct parallels of the hand-made vessel (**fig. 5, 1**) among pottery, which rarely occurs in Hunnic graves. One can only notice a rim with analogous decoration from a barrow near Rovnoe (Engelsovsky rai., Saratov obl.) in the Volga Area (Zaset-skaia 1994, 187 pl. 29, 13). We should particularly underline that the form, the type of surface treatment, the firing, and inclusions in paste of this vessel drastically differ from those of vessels dating to the Roman Period, which number in the cemetery of Neizats exceeds 1000, and also from shards of hand-made ware discovered in grave 586 (**fig. 5, 2-3**).

### DATE AND CULTURAL ATTRIBUTION OF THE GRAVE

Generally, the chronology of grave goods embraces both the Hunnic and the Post-Hunnic Periods. The circular plate in the polychrome style and, probably, the bracelet with a flattened perforated end belong to the Hunnic Period, though three-partite plates which connected footwear straps are typical of the Post-Hunnic Period. The rest artefacts, the buckle, the strap-end, the neck-ring, and the spindle whorl, have a wider chronology. From the period when the grave goods of this assemblage were in use, we have reasons to date this grave to the end of the Hunnic or the beginning of the Post-Hunnic Period, i. e. the second third of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

In that period, the Crimean steppes were inhabited by nomadic Huns, who left behind isolated graves (Aiba-bin 1995; 1999, 71-73. 97. 173-178; Khrapunov/Kazanski 2015). According to Jordanes' account of the period between 480 and 527 (Kazanski 2013), in the Crimean steppe in the Post-Hunnic period there lived a Hunnic people of the *Altziagiri* (Jordanes, *Getica* 37). No information is available for the ethnonyms of the Crimean nomads in the Hunnic Period.

## Notes

- 1) Translated from Russian by Nikita Khrapunov. – Latinization of Russian and Ukrainian personal and place names follows the Library of Congress' patterns, but without overlines.
- 2) Determined by Vladimir Radochin, Simferopol.
- 3) Determined by V. Radochin.
- 4) Determined by V. Radochin.
- 5) Since no metal analysis had been made, henceforth we call »bronze« the finds made, according to visual surveillance, of copper alloys.
- 6) The culture of the population of the sub-mountainous Crimea in the Late Roman Period was similar to synchronous antiquities of forefathers of medieval Alans of the Caucasus according to many elements, such as so demonstrative as construction of graves, funeral rite, or some types of hand-made vessels. Therefore, the majority of scholars relate these Crimean cemeteries with the Alans, who supposedly migrated from the North

- Caucasus. However, we should underline that the first written source about the Alans on the Crimea is an inscription from Pantikapaion, which dates from the late 1<sup>st</sup> and early 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries (Vinogradov/Shestakov 2005, 43; Saprykin 2005, 47-49; Saprykin/Parfenov 2012, 175-176), or the late 2<sup>nd</sup> and early 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries (Bowersock/Jones 2006, 127-128; Ivanchik 2013, 62-64). A 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries inscription from Hermonassa, which was in the Asian side of the Kimmerian Bosphoros, mentioned the chief interpreter of the Alans, *Ἡρακας* by name (Alemany 2000, 113). Further, an anonymous *Periplous* from the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pseudo-Arrian) states that the city of Theodosia on the South-Eastern Crimea had Alanic or »Taurian« name of *Ἀρδάβδα*, *Ἀρδαύδα* (*Périple anonyme*, §51; cited by: Bashmakoff 1948, 146.147). Later, written sources document the Alans on the Crimea only in the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 7) According to a buckle discovered in the same assemblage, the Tatarka find probably dates from the Post-Hunnic Period: Khrapunov/Kazanski 2015, 184.

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### *Zusammenfassung / Summary / Résumé*

#### **Ein Grab aus der Hunnenzeit im Gräberfeld von Neizats (Bergland der Krim)**

Diese Veröffentlichung will die Ergebnisse der Untersuchung zu einem neuen reiternomadischen Grab aus der Völkerwanderungszeit vorstellen, das im Gräberfeld von Neizats (Grab 586) auf der Krim entdeckt wurde. Es handelt sich um die Körperbestattung einer 21 bis 22-jährigen Frau in einer unterirdischen Grabkammer. Die in Grab 586 entdeckten Beigaben sind allgemein typisch für Frauengräber von Nomaden aus der osteuropäischen Steppe während der Hunnenzeit und der Zeit direkt danach. Die Grabarchitektur an sich und der Ritus der Körperbestattung sind charakteristisch für die Bewohner am Rande des Berglandes der Krim in der späten römischen Kaiserzeit und der Völkerwanderungszeit. Auf dieser Grundlage datieren wir das Grab in die Hunnenzeit und in die direkt anschließenden Jahrzehnte bzw. das zweite Drittel des 5. Jahrhunderts, als die Steppe auf der Krim von nomadisch lebenden Hunnen bewohnt war, die Einzelbestattungen hinterließen.

#### **A Grave from the Hunnic Period in the Cemetery of Neizats (Central Crimea)**

This publication aims to present the results of the investigation of a new Hunnic grave from the Great Migration Period, which was discovered in the cemetery of Neizats, grave 586 in the Crimea. The grave contains an inhumation of a 21-22 years old woman in an underground burial vault. The grave goods discovered in grave 586 are generally typical of women's graves belonging to the nomads who lived in the eastern European steppe during the Hunnic and Post-Hunnic periods. The architecture of the grave itself and the inhumation rite are typical among the populations of the sub-mountainous Crimea in the Late Roman and Great Migration Periods. On the basis of the grave goods, we have reason to date this grave to the end of the Hunnic or the beginning of the Post-Hunnic periods, i. e. the second third of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. In that period, Crimean steppes were inhabited by nomadic Huns, who left behind isolated graves.

### **Une tombe de la période des Huns dans un cimetière de Neizats (Crimée centrale)**

Cette publication est consacrée à une tombe hunnique de l'époque des Grandes Invasions, découverte dans le cimetière de Neizats, tombe 586 en Crimée. Elle représente une inhumation d'une femme de 21-22 ans dans un caveau souterrain. Le mobilier funéraire découvert est typique des tombes féminines de la steppe pour l'époque hunnique et post-hunnique. L'architecture de la tombe en elle-même et le rite de l'inhumation sont typiques des populations de la Crimée semi-montagneuse à l'Antiquité tardive et à la période des Grandes Invasions. La chronologie du mobilier funéraire englobe à la fois des époques hunnique et post-hunnique, leur assemblage indique le deuxième tiers du 5<sup>e</sup> siècle, date la plus probable de la tombe. A cette époque les steppes de Crimée étaient occupées par des Huns, qui ont laissé quelques tombes isolées.

#### *Schlüsselwörter / Keywords / Mots clés*

Krim / Völkerwanderungszeit / Hunnen / Grab  
Crimea / Migration Period / Huns / grave  
Crimée / période des Grandes Invasions / Huns / tombe

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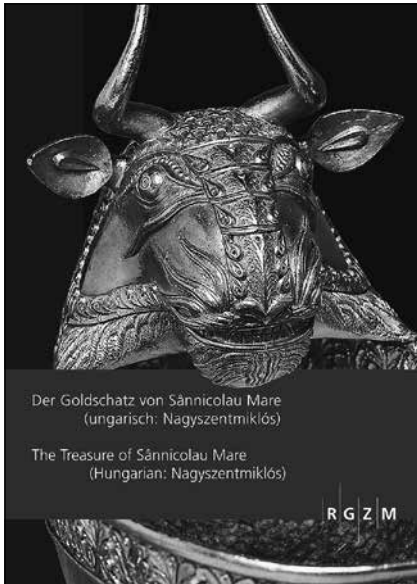
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