

THE EBA HORIZON OF THE FLUTED POTTERY IN SOUTH BULGARIA. SOME PROBLEMS OF THE INTERPRETATION

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The report concerns problems of the existence and specification of the pottery decorated by channelling all over South Bulgaria in the beginning of the EBA. The evidence comes from Tell Yunatsite levels 17-15, site Ovchatitsa 2 and Karanovo (Southeast Bulgaria) and site Kovachevo (Southwest Bulgaria). The shapes and decoration of this ceramics symptomatic for the EBA 1 in different parts of Upper Thrace have not been yet a subject of comparative analysis.

The whole fluted vessels in Upper Thrace are few so the supposed reconstructions of pottery shapes and types, as well as the compositions of patterns, are based mainly on sherds. The technology of fluted vessels is compared with the coarse and semi-coarse ware manufactured in the EBA 1 in Upper Thrace and almost all of them are classified as fine and semi-fine ware. The problems of comparative chronology and the regional specifics are discussed using evidence from closed complexes (Ovcharitsa 2, Karanovo and Kovachevo) and from a site with long sequence (Tell Yunatsite).

According to the author's opinion it is not possible to formulate "*Pre-Ezero A*" horizon as synonymous of the "*Horizon of the fluted ceramics*", i.e. to place Yunatsite 17-15 before Ezero A, due to the following two main reasons:

1. The fluted pottery is in the context of typical Ezero A shapes in the pits in Karanovo and dwellings in Ovcharitsa 2, situated close to Tell Ezero in the Southeast Bulgaria.
2. The lack of fluted decoration in the publication of Ezero levels 13-9 is obviously an error caused by the manner of the authors studying only the representative part of the mass-materials from these very big excavations.