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DATA TO THE POTTERY OF THE BÜKK CULTURE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM THE SETTLEMENT  
AT FELSŐVADÁSZ-VÁRDOMB

This paper focuses on the finds of the ceramics of the Bükk Culture that came to light at the excavations made by J. Koós and F. Losits at *Felsővadász-Várdomb* between 1982 and 1984. The site lies SE of the village of Felsővadász, at the bank of the Vadász-brook, in the Cserehát hill region of the North-Hungarian Mountains. The hill of „Várdomb” has a direction from NW to SE. It lays at 160–184 m above sea level and it is built up of sand and sandstone. In the course of sand mining the SW-part of the hill has been destroyed. During the excavations parts of prehistoric settlements were revealed from the Neolithic (Bükk Culture), from the Copper Age (Hunyadihalom Group and Baden Culture) and the Bronze Age (Hatvan and Füzesabony Cultures) on an area of about 350 m<sup>2</sup> (KOÓS 1986a).

The author of this paper made her thesis on the analysis of archaeological finds and settlement remains of the Bükk Culture in Felsővadász. Unfortunately, very few features of the Neolithic settlement could be observed – 7 pits, 3 postholes, remains of a (house?) floor and a double burial (the last cf. K. ZOFFMANN 2000). Because of that the size and structure of this settlement could not be established. The most important finds are the ceramics, more than 10.000 pieces, 90% of which have not been derived from any settlement features. A description and analysis of vessel forms and decoration of fine ware and coarse ware are presented here.

The pieces of *fine ware with incised decoration* have most often been made from floated clay, and are thin-walled and dark-coloured with a smoothed and burnished surface. According to the raw material of this ware 2 types of ceramics („a” and „b”) have been distinguished („a” type is the most frequent). These types have been analysed by petrographic method by Gy. Szakmány (SZAKMÁNY 2001, in this volume).

The most typical *vessel forms of fine ceramics* are the bomb-shaped vessels (Pl. I., 1–2; Pl. XI., 1) and the hemispherical bowls (Pl. I., 3–4; Pl. II., 1–2; Pl. XI., 3–4). The conical and the spherical segment-shaped bowls, the biconical and the pear-shaped vessels as well as the vessels with cylindrical neck and ball-shaped body („amphorae”) have occurred more rarely. Among others a fragment of a vessel with four-cornered bottom (Pl. X., 1) and a piece of a pedestalled bowl (Pl. X., 4) are of special interest. The vessel forms have been identified at Felsővadász are common at the other settlements of the Bükk Culture (LICHARDUS 1974, 24–29). These types have been derived from the forms of the Linear Pottery Culture of the Great Hungarian Plain (AVK) and can be found at the late groups of the AVK coexistent with the Bükk Culture (KALICZ–MAKKAY 1977).

*Incised decorations of fine ceramics* have been analysed according to J. Lichardus's system (cf. LICHARDUS 1974). „Decorations of the rims” (Pl. IV.), „the decorative triangles” („Schmuckdreiecke”, Pl. V/a.), „the styles of the decoration” („Verzierungsstilen”, Pl. VI.), the ornamentation of the neck of „amphorae” (Pl. V/b.) and „additional decorations” have been discussed here. The potters of the Bükk Culture used white-, red- and yellow-coloured incrustation in the incisions of vessels at this settlement.

On the basis of the elaboration and the forms of the ceramics, the fine incised decorations (densely placed bundle of lines), the motives of ornamentation, the large number of white-incrustated pieces and the application of red- and yellow-coloured inlay *uniformly dates the find material to the end of the classical and the late phase of the Bükk Culture – the end of Bükk B and Bükk C according to J. Lichardus's inner chronology* (LICHARDUS 1974, 84–93).

According to the raw material of *coarse ware 7 types of ceramics* („A”–„G”) have been distinguished („A” is the most often, e.g. Pl. III., 2; „D” is a special, phyllite-tempered one, Pl. XII., 10–11). „A” and „D” types have been analysed by petrographic method by Gy. Szakmány (SZAKMÁNY 2001, in this volume).

The most typical *vessel forms of coarse ware* are the „bomb-shaped pots” (vessels with a „pulled-in-mouth” and elongated ball-shaped body, Pl. III., 2–3) and the pots with a broad mouth and elongated ball-shaped body (Pl. III., 4). The bowls are often found, too, and among them there are hemispherical, spherical segment-shaped (Pl. XIII., 1–3) and conical types (Pl. XIII., 4). The „amphorae” with cylindrical neck and ball-shaped body can be found in coarse ware as well as in fine ceramics (Pl. II., 4; Pl. IX., 5–6; Pl. XIII., 5–9). Storage jars have been occurred at this settlement, too, but only one type of it can be distinguished. This is a large-sized vessel with cylindrical neck, curved shoulder and elongated body (Pl. XIII., 12a–b).

The vessel types described above are common at the other sites of the Bükk Culture (LICHARDUS 1974, 24–29), in the pottery of the AVK (KALICZ–MAKKAY 1977; BÁNFFY 1999, 142–145) and in the late groups of the AVK coexistent with the Bükk Culture, too (KALICZ–MAKKAY 1977). The finds of Felsővadász are conspicuously similar to the coarse ware of the Szakálhát Culture is (cf. e.g. the finds of Battonya-Gödrösök, GOLDMAN 1984).

*A special vessel (possibly a fermenting one)* came to light „in situ” at the excavation in 1982. This is a pot-like vessel with a broad mouth, four ears and a hole at its bottom, perhaps from the Neolithic (Pl. III., 1). There is a small rim around the hole in the inner part of the vessel and there are two ears on the inner surface. Its analogy has not been known so far from prehistoric find materials of the Carpathian basin.

Among „*the decorations*” of *coarse ware* there are almost plastic ones. „The hanging-down knobs” are the most frequent type (Pl. III., 2–3), but the rib decoration is very rare. There is a row of holes below the rim on the great number of sherds of the coarse ware (Pl. III., 4).

Pieces of *crusted red painted ceramics* (8 sherds, among them two fragments of undecorated red ochre-container cups, Pl. VIII., 8–9), *red slipped ceramics* (9 sherds) and *different types of black painted ware* (33 sherds, paint on the surface without patterns or oblique stripes or stripes below the rim or paint on the entire surface of the vessels, Pl. IX., 1–4) are also presented in the material.

Pieces with *incised decoration* that *have been made according to the tradition of the pottery of the AVK* are also found at Felsővadász (Pl. VII., 5–6; Pl. VIII., 1–7). A fragment of the rim of a *face pot with „sickle motif”* is of particular interest (Pl. VII., 5). This type of face pots has been common in the AVK and in the late groups of it, except the Szakálhát Culture (KALICZ–MAKKAY 1972, 15).

There are *4 pieces of vessels* in the find material that *have been decorated by the technique that is typical of the Szakálhát Culture* (the clay has not been smoothed along the incised lines, Pl. VII., 1–4). There probably is a *wall-fragment of a Szakálhát-type face pot* with a handle in the shape of a hand, with oblique grid-like patterns and meandering motives among these sherds (Pl. VII., 1). On the basis of these fragments of imported or imitated vessels *the contacts* of the inhabitants *with the population of the Szakálhát Culture* are provable. *The contacts with the Zseliz Culture* are also provable, based on a stone raw material, the greenschist.

To summarise that it could be said that its significant quantity, high quality of its decorations and its contact-marker role gives the importance of the ceramics of the Bükk Culture from Felsővadász. This find material has not given an explanation for the reasons of the destruction of the Bükk Culture and for the subsequent life of its people. To give an answer to these questions it is necessary to look for new archaeological sites in the Cserehát or in other less-investigated parts of the North-Hungarian Mountains.

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