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## SOME DATA ON THE ENEOLITHIC OF PELAGONIA

*Abstract.* – Data on the Eneolithic of Pelagonia have been provided by smaller-scale archaeological excavations at Bakarno Gumno, Šuplevec, Crnobuki, Karamani, and Krušecani.

The first two belong to the type of naturally fortified settlement, while the others are of the familiar »tumble« (tell) type. In addition to Eneolithic strata, Bakarno Gumno and Crnobuki also contain, in their most recent layers, Early Bronze Age finds. At Karamani, the Eneolithic stratum is preceded by a Neolithic layer and continued by an Early Bronze Age one, while Šuplevec and Krušecani are exclusively Eneolithic, with two and four distinctive stages of development respectively.

Portable archaeological material from the above sites belongs to the Bubanj-Salcuta-Krivodol cultural complex, with some local traits. Most ceramic types are shown in the tables from Bakarno Gumno. As far as we know, the southernmost boundaries of the Bubanj-Salcuta-Krivodol complex cross the Pelagonian basin and Maliq (Albania).

Relative chronology:

- Bakarno Gumno I: earliest phase;
- Bakarno Gumno II – Šuplevec I–II – Karamani II (A–B) – Crnobuki I–III – Krušecani I–III;
- Bakarno Gumno III (latest phase, with Early Bronze Age elements) – Krušecani IV.

Archaeological excavation of the Eneolithic sites of Pelagonia, the largest basin in Macedonia, began after World War II and has been at its most intensive during the past twenty years or so. Smaller-scale excavations have been carried out at Bakarno Gumno, Šuplevec, Crnobuki, Karamani, and Krušecani. This is the order in which we shall present our remarks on this important period both in the prehistory of the region in question, and in archaeology at large. Our at-

tention will be focused on the settlements uncovered in the environs of Prilep, in northern Pelagonia.

The Pelagonian Eneolithic is known as the Šuplevec-Bakarno Gumno group,<sup>1</sup> which itself belongs to the Bujanja Hum I – Salcuta – Krivodol cultural complex,<sup>2</sup> more particularly to its southernmost reaches. Excavations at Bakarno Gumno were somewhat earlier than those at Šuplevec. Also, a vertical stratigraphy has been established at the former site. Both phases of Šuplevec coincide with phase II of Bakarno Gumno.<sup>3</sup> It would, therefore, be more correct to name the entire group after the earliest excavated settlement, i.e. Bakarno Gumno, which would in no way detract from the significance of the settlement at Šuplevec.

#### BAKARNO GUMNO

The settlement was built at the top of a natural hillock whose northern slope is so steep that the site is almost inaccessible from that direction. Three phases of development were found in the cultural layer, which was over 3 m thick.<sup>4</sup>

The earliest phase, Bakarno Gumno I, has two habitation horizons. No building remains belonging to the earlier horizon were found. The horizon extends from slightly above the subsoil, with a layer of yellow clay, most probably the floor of a house, seeing that it is thickly overlaid with soot; this ends in a mighty, unbroken stratum of well-baked daub. Above is a layer of earth, and yet another of daub. A thicker stratum of soot and ashes marks the end of this habitation horizon. The more recent horizon has yielded several small circular pits made with wooden stakes of varying diametres; they were aligned and dug into the earlier horizon. The distance between the stakes was between 1.25 m and 2.50 m. The rectangular dwellings were built on the surface, using the familiar prehistoric wattle and daub method.

Portable material consists chiefly of pottery (T.I),<sup>5</sup> of both coarse and fine fabric. Bowls with a conical or biconical profile predominate. Variants of the former include bowls with flat rims, those with rims thickened on the inside, and specimens with perforated handles below the rim. The latter have a turned-in

<sup>1</sup> Гарашанин М., Санев В., Симоска Д., Китаноски Б., *Предисториски култури во Македонија*, catalogue of exhibition, 1971, 15; Санев В., Симоска Д., Китаноски Б., Саржоски С., *Праисторија во Македонија* catalogue of exhibition, Скопје 1976, 16

<sup>2</sup> Гарашанин М., Симоска Д., *Контролни ископувања на Шулевец и некои проблеми на истражувања Шулевец – Бакарно Гумно*, Macedoniae Acta Archeologica 2, Прилеп 1976, 24; Tasić N., *Bujanj – Salkuca – Krivodol kompleks*, Praistorija jugoslavenskih zemalja III, Sarajevo 1979, 88

<sup>3</sup> Гарашанин М., Симоска Д., *op.cit.*, 21

<sup>4</sup> Kitanoski B., *Bakarno Gumno*, Epoque prehistorique et protohisto-historique en Yougoslavie, Beograd 1971, 139

<sup>5</sup> Due to limited space, tables of ceramic types are here given only for Bakarno Gumno. The pottery of other sites, except Kušeanska Čuka, was presented in earlier publications.

rim with slanting sheaves of incised lines below it and, at times, a pair of moulded handles on the shoulder. Globular vessels with a shorter neck and flared rim are very frequent. They have strap handles laid out horizontally along the widest part of the vessel. Other globular vessels have a rim that is flat on the inside and a pair of handles on the belly. Also to be found are biconical vessels with a higher cylindrical neck and flared rim. Some have two handles which start from the rim or immediately below and end on the shoulder or belly. A variety of this type has a very short neck. Somewhat rarer are the cups with a tall, hollow foot and globular strainers. There is also an example of a cup-shaped vessel with a single ribbon handle. Decoration in this phase is usually by incision, fluting, or cross-hatching. Other finds include flint artefacts, bone awls, and seated figurines.

In the section of the site, the Bakarno Gumno II phase is distinguished by a thicker stratum of earth mixed with ashes and soot; here again, this ends with a mighty layer of compact, redbaked daub, with distinct wattle impressions. The foundations of the house have not been clearly determined. As regards pottery new forms (T. II) are added to the ones described above, which are still in existence. A type of conical bowl with a turned-in rim becomes prominent. There is also a variety of the same type with a widened and flattened rim decorated on the outside with transverse notches and wart-like additions. Biconical bowls include a type with a turned-in rim and well-articulated base. Short-necked globular vessels are decorated on the shoulder with slanting sheaves of parallel incised lines, wider notches, or a combination of both. There is also a variety with a transversely nicked rim. Other decorative techniques include the use of white paint on a dark-grey ground (broad parallel lines) and red crusted paint. Terra cotta includes standing female figurines and figurines with a hole for the head. Various bone implements were also among the finds.

Bakarno Gumno III, the last phase, is marked by a thinner stratum of earth mixed with ashes and soot, which ends with a thick layer of daub, overlaid with the modern humus. Pottery is still uniform and similar to that of the previous phases (T. III). Bowls with rims thickened on the inside are characteristic. Ornamentation consists of fluting, notches, and incised lines. A new technique is introduced, using dark paint on a light-brownish ground (shaded triangles). Female figurines with a hole for the head are still found. A novelty, however, are vessels with one or two ribbon handles rising above the rim. Though this phase does not belong exclusively to the Early Bronze Age, it does contain elements indicative of that period.

#### ŠUPLEVEC

Excavation work at this site was carried out on two different occasions. The existence was established of two horizons containing uniform material.<sup>6</sup> The surface dwellings were of the usual kind, and the configuration encouraged the use of the rock face as one of the wall.

<sup>6</sup> Гарашанин М., Симоска Д., *op.cit.*, 9

Pottery shapes in both phases include bowls with a turned-in rim, vessels with a thickened rim, smaller amphorae whose handles do not reach above the rim, vessels with a turned-down rim, amphorae, sieves, and vessels reminiscent of Baden pottery. Decoration is fluted, grooved, or impressed; white crusted paint and notching are also used. Conical lids with handles shaped like female figurines are encountered, as well as other shapes. There are basket-shaped weights, cones with a handle over the rim decorated with incised lines, and boat-like weights with elongated perforated ends. Terra cotta rings and weights are many. The predominant type of Terra cotta are female figurines with a special hole for the head. Among decorative techniques, the cord ornament, produced by impressing a twisted cord onto the surface, is especially prominent.<sup>7</sup> Worthiest of note is the wellknown stone sceptre bearing the stylised representation of a horse's head. Other finds include stone axes, bone implements, a harpoon, an antler hammer, various awls, spatulas, etc.

On the basis of the finds, both phases of Šuplevec can be attributed, more or less, to Bakarno Gumno II, while the sceptre and corded ware point to steppe influences.

Unlike Bakarno Gumno and Šuplevec, built at naturally fortified locations, the settlements of Crnobuki, Karaman, and Krušanska Čuka are of the tell type.

#### CRNOBUKI

The existence of four cultural strata, the first three Eneolithic and the fourth of the Early Bronze Age, has been established at the site.<sup>8</sup>

Dwellings in Crnobuki I were surface-built, while the prevalent pottery shapes were different types of conical and biconical bowls: with turned-in rim; with turned-in rim and knobs on the protruding part; with two double knobs set crosswise; decorated with parallel vertical incised lines; with perforated handles; with faceted rim; with twisted belly, etc. Bowls with a conical section have a flat rim thickened on the inside, knobs and perforated handles below the rim. There are also globular vessels with a shorter neck and turned-down rim or with a moulded, drawnout rim; a biconical type with a perforated handle on the cone; a pear-shaped vessel with flat rim, turban-like belly, and white horizontal ribbon below the rim. Other types include vessels with a single vertical handle, as well as strainers. Biconical vessels include »kantaros« pottery, either plain or with a false cord ornament, and vessels with a cylindrical neck and two vertical ribbon handled which start at the rim. Some vessels are decorated with reddish-brown bands below the rim. Biconical vessels with an »S« section are either plain or

<sup>7</sup> Jovanović B., *Stepska kultura u eneolitskom periodu Jugoslavije*, Praistorija jugoslavenskih zemalja III, Sarajevo 1979, 383.

<sup>8</sup> Симоска Д., Китаноски Б., Тодоровић Ј., *Населбајта Црнобуки и проблемој на истоимената култура во светлината на новиите археолошки истражувања, Македонија* Acta Archaeologica 2, Прилеп 1976, 43.

have an ornament of slanting incised lines which form an angle; this ornament is sometimes accompanied by a nicked line. Particularly important is a highnecked, flat-rimmed vessel with knobs on the belly. There is also a type of biconical vessel with horizontally set handles on the belly. A very interesting type is that of a cup with a tall, hollow foot. Pottery also includes smaller conical lids. Stone and bone tools and weapons are relatively few. Several pierced antlers were found, which were used in tilling. Seated idols were also unearthed.

In Crnobuki II too, the dwellings were surface-built. Most pottery shapes were taken over from the earlier phase. A new addition are the biconical bowls with perforated knobs on the shoulder. Conical bowls now have knobs below the rim. Another new type is the globular vessel with cylindrical neck and ribbon lugs on the shoulder, the ends of which are raised. There also appears a biconical bowl whose rim is usually decorated with painted ornaments.

The next layer, Crnobuki III, has yielded remains of surface dwellings built using the old technique. Pottery shapes are fewer and mostly of an older date. There is very little innovation, which points to a decline in ceramic manufacture. New shapes include a bowl with drawn-out rim and protrusions on it, and a biconical bowl with moulded rim. The same stratum has also produced a globular vessel whose tall, cylindrical neck is horizontally fluted.

The Crnobuki finds are related to all the phases of Bakarno Gumno except the earliest; also, Crnobuki IV is probably later than Bakarno Gumno III.

#### KARAMANI

Three cultural layers have been unearthed at the site. Only the middle, which contains two distinct stages of development, belongs to the Eneolithic.<sup>9</sup>

The pottery of this stratum includes several shapes resembling those of Šuplevec and Crnobuki. A characteristic example has a conical section and four horn-like protrusions on the very rim. Also found are globular vessels with cylindrical necks of varying length. Closed shapes with flat rims are still to be found, and so are conical types. Some vessels have horizontal moulded handles. The same stratum contains vessels with ribbon handles which start from the rim or just below it, and end at the neck; their lower ends are flared, with a slight concavity in the middle, and resemble Salcuta handles.<sup>10</sup> Pots with vertically perforated handles are also found. Globular vessels may have button- or crescent-shaped applique ornaments or ribbon handles on the belly. These types continue into the Early Bronze Age, which points to a continuity between the Eneolithic and Early Bronze. There are also cups on a tall hollow foot. Handles triangular in section, lids modelled after the recipient and having a single vertical handle, saddle-shaped solid handles, and perforated handles of circular shape, all announce a change in the Eneolithic material

<sup>9</sup> Симоска Д., Китаноски Б., Тодоровић Ј., *Пристиориска населба Тумба во село Карамани кај Биџола*, *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica* 3, Прилеп 1977, 12

<sup>10</sup> Berciu D., *Contribuții la problemele neoliticului în România în lumina noilor cercetări*, București 1960, 309, fig. 143, 144

culture and, perhaps, point to the gradual arrival of new ethnic cultures in Pelagonia. Pottery finds lead to a comparison of this period with some Crnobuki and Šuplevec ceramic shapes and its probable attribution to Bakarno Gumno II–III.

#### KRUŠEANSKA ČUKA

The settlement is situated near the village of Vrbjani, close to the new bed of the river Blato and in the immediate vicinity of its former bed. It is a medium-sized tell with an irregular round base. Four habitation horizons belonging to the Eneolithic period have been established. This is the only site known to us which belongs to a single cultural period, the Eneolithic.<sup>11</sup> The surface dwellings were built using the prevalent prehistoric technique. The cultural layer is over 3 m thick.

Portable archaeological material is uniform throughout. Pottery is plentiful and bears the traits of the Pelagonian Eneolithic. It is, for the most part, finely burnished, dark grey or, less often, brownish. The most frequent shapes are various types of conical and biconical bowls. Conical bowls with a rim thickened on the inside are also numerous. Other shapes include globular vessels with a longer or shorter cylindrical neck, with or without vertically set ribbon handles; cups on a tall hollow foot; strainers; conical lids with a small button-shaped handle. Ornamentation is rich and varied. Painting is combined with incision in the form of inlay. Crusted painting is also common, when paint is laid on after the vessel has been baked. The most frequent incised motives are vertical or slanting sheaves of parallel lines, either on the neck below the rim or on the widest part of the vessel. Fluting is in the form of parallel lines, either thin or deeper and thicker. Impression is rare; the only motive is a row of small circular impressions, combined with incised ornaments. The entire surface of a globular vessel, from the shoulder down, was decorated with horizontal lines of triangular cuts. The latest habitation horizon – Krušeani IV – has yielded a motive consisting of sheaves of parallel incised lines which form upward-pointing angles. The same motive can be found at other Eneolithic sites too, especially Šuplevec. The cord ornament is less frequent and motives include sets of three slanting, horizontal, or semicircular parallel lines. This ornament is found up to phase III, which points to a correspondence between these phases and Šuplevec, i.e. Crnobuki I. An interesting vessel with a turban-like ornament on the belly belongs to the earliest phase, as in Crnobuki I. Scratching was used to produce an ornament of three or more parallel slanting lines. Graffiti is the rarest technique of ornamentation; the motives are usually oblique sheaves of three broader parallel bands on the widest part of the vessel. An unbroken standing Terra cotta figurine with a hole for inserting the head belongs to the last phase. Similar artefacts have been found in Bakarno Gumno II and III. The same phase

<sup>11</sup> Тодоровић Ј., Симоска Д., Китаноски Б., *Осврћ на резултатите од археолошките истражувања на њирисјоријата во Пелагионија*, *Зборник на трудови* 6–7–8, Битола 1985/86/87, 12

has produced a finely-worked long bone pin with a pointed end and a spherical head. Of particular significance is the severely damaged copper pin, also from the last phase of Krušeanska Čuka; it is the first metal artefact of precise stratigraphic attribution, unlike the chance finds of copper axes at Prilep.<sup>12</sup> and Kravari, near Bitolj, where a casting mould was also unearthed, indicating that axes were manufactured in Pelagonia itself, at least in the later stages of the Eneolithic or at the very beginning of the Early Bronze Age.<sup>13</sup>

It is clear, on the basis of the above, that there were two types of Eneolithic settlements in Pelagonia: lowland settlements of the »tumble« (tell) type (Crnobuki, Karamani, Krušeani) and settlements built at naturally fortified sites (Šuplevec, Bakarno Gumno). The former were chiefly farming communities, while livestock-breeding probably predominated in the latter.<sup>14</sup> Dwellings were built above ground throughout the Pelagonian basin, they were rectangular in shape and built using the most widespread prehistoric technique. At Šuplevec, the rock face served as a wall.

Both in shape and ornamentation, the pottery belongs to the Bubanj-Salcuta-Krivodol complex, but with some local traits of its own. Crusted painting in red is to be found in Bakarno Gumno II and Krušeani; in white, at Šuplevec. The use of white paint has been registered at in Bakarno Gumno II, reddish-brown in Crnobuki I, and Crnobuki II also includes painted ornaments. White inlaid painting is found at Krušeani, and dark inlay is a feature of Bakarno Gumno III. This has helped establish a correspondence between Bakarno Gumno II, on the one hand, and Šuplevec I–II, Crnobuki I–II, and Krušeani, on the other. The cord ornament is limited to both phases of Šuplevec, Crnobuki I, and Krušeani I–III. A turban-like ornament is present in Krušeani I and Crnobuki I. Sheaves of three parallel bands executed by scratching are found at nearly all the sites, while Graffito is very rare. Other pottery features include the handles found on vessels from the Eneolithic stratum of Karamani, which are similar to those of the Salcuta culture. Standing female figurines with a hole for the head have been found in Bakarno Gumno II and III, Šuplevec, and Krušeani IV. The last, third, phase of Bakarno Gumno has yielded »kantáros« cups with two ribbon handles over the rim, which point to the Early Bronze Age.<sup>15</sup>

In conclusion, here is a relative chronology for the Eneolithic of Pelagonia: Bakarno Gumno I would be the earliest phase. Bakarno Gumno II would be more or less simultaneous with Šuplevec I–II, Karamani II A–B, Crnobuki I–III, and Krušeani I–III. Though still largely Eneolithic, Bakarno

<sup>12</sup> Китаноски Б., *Неколку ѓриисториски наоди од Прилеј*, Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica 2, Прилеп 1976, 119

<sup>13</sup> Китаноски Б., *Неколку ѓодииоци за металнојо доба на Македонија*, Materijali XIV, Prilep 1976, 27

<sup>14</sup> Tasić N., *Bubanj-Salcuta-Krivodol kompleks*, 110

<sup>15</sup> Heurtley W. A., *Prehistoric Macedonia*, Cambridge 1939, 193, Cat. n° 320 f.; Китаноски Б., *Праисториски садovi од Љепигово крај Прилеп*, Stremež 3, Prilep 1960, 55

Gumno III contains Early Bronze Age elements as well. It is contemporaneous with, or slightly later than, Krušeani IV.

Chronological relations between the Eneolithic sites of Pelagonia and other sites in the Bubanj-Salkuta-Krivodol complex will be dealt with on another occasion.

### НЕКОЛИКО ПОДАТАКА О ЕНЕОЛИТУ ПЕЛАГОНИЈЕ

#### Резиме

О овом значајном праисторијском периоду Пелагоније сазнајемо преко археолошких ископавања, извршених после другог светског рата. Иако су та истраживања мањег обима, она су ипак драгоцене. Реч је о Бакарном Гумну, Црнобуки, Карамани, Шуплевец и Крушеани. Прва два припадају типу природно утврђених насеља, а остала типу добро познатих „тумби“ (телова). На Бакарном Гумну и Црнобуки поред енеолитског стратума, постоји у најмлађим слојевима и ранобронзаноопски. На Карамани енеолиту претходи неолитски, а наставља ранобронзаноопски стратум. Шуплевец са две и Крушеани са четири фазе развоја, припадају искључиво енеолитском периоду.

На свим локалитетима на истраживаном простору утврђено је постојање четвртастих надземних стамбених објеката, грађених уобичајеном праисторијском техником, а на Шуплецу је природна стена коришћена као део зида куће.

На територији Пелагоније енеолит је познат као Шуплевец – Бакарно Гумно група, која шире припада Бубањ – Салкуца – Криводол културном комплексу, разуме се са извесним локалним обележјем. Овај културни комплекс, према досада познатим резултатима истраживања, завршава се на југу баш у нашој котлини и Албанији. С обзиром да су обе фазе на Шуплецу паралелне углавном са Бакарним Гумном II, а на последњем се налазе и фазе које претходе и настављају оне из Шуплевца, оправданије је да се група именује само као Бакарно Гумно.

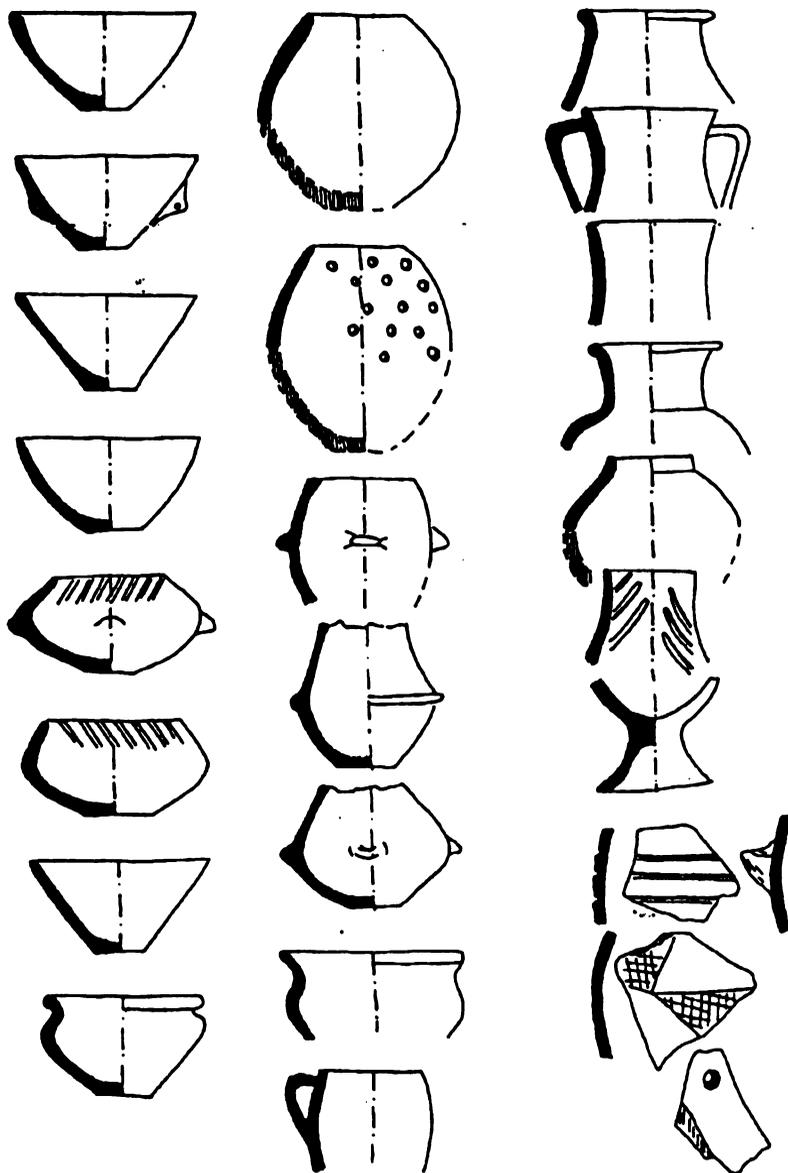
Керамика из овог периода Пелагоније по фактури, боји, облицима и орнаментима, уклапа се углавном у поменути комплекс. Облици и орнаментика су дати на таблама из Бакарног Гумна. За цео комплекс па и код нас, карактеристичне су зделе коничног и биконичног облика у више варијанти, пехари (кантароси) са две дршке које полазе од обода, већи судови, разни поклопци, тегови итд. Керамика се украшава урезима, канелурама, убодима, гребанем, Wickenschlug-ом и знатно ређе графитом. Од пластике заступљене су седеће, полуседеће и стојеће женске фигуре. Последње имају посебан отвор за главу.

Релативна хронологија енеолита Пелагоније, на основу досада познатих података, изгледала би овако:

- Бакарно Гумно I – најстарија фаза
- Бакарно Гумно II – (нешто раније, а можда и касније) – Шуплевец I-III
- Црнобуки I – III – Карамани II (A,B) – Крушеани I – III
- Бакарно Гумно III већим делом припада још увек енеолитском периоду, али садржи и елементе раног бронзаног доба. Са њим би била паралелна, или нешто ранија и последња IV фаза са Крушеана.

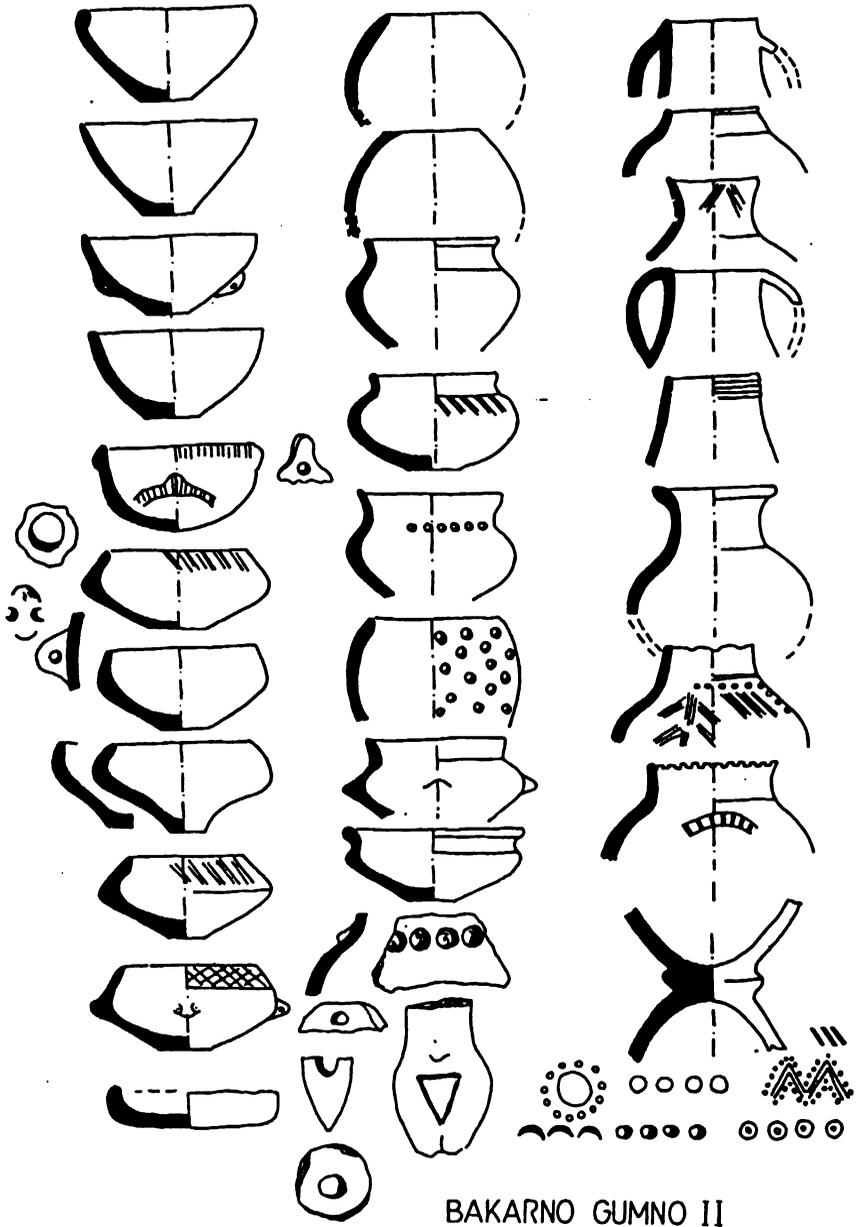
О хронолошким корелацијама енеолитских налазишта Пелагоније са осталим ближим и даљим регионима у оквиру поменутог културног комплекса, биће речи другом приликом.

T.I



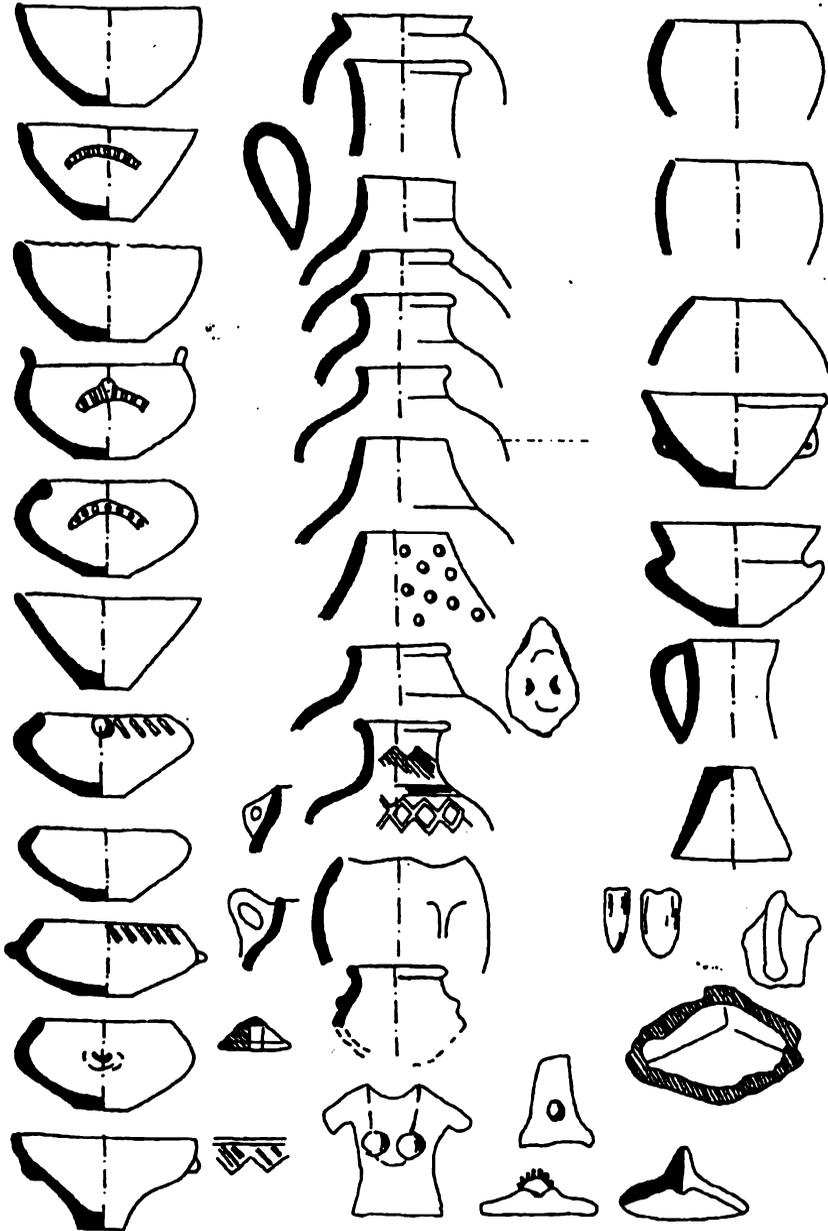
BAKARNO GUMNO I

T. II



BAKARNO GUMNO II

T. III



BAKARNO GUMNO III

