

1ST BIENNIAL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE SOCIETY OF
IRANIAN ARCHAEOLOGY:
"CULTURAL INTERACTIONS,
CONTINUITY AND DISRUPTION"

EDITED BY:
SEYED MEHDI MOUSAVI
SHAHIN ARYAMANESH
MAJID MONTAZER ZOHORI
MORTEZA KHANIPOUR



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Nakhchivan Branch of Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences

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Existence of connections between the cultures of South Caucasus and those of the Middle East (including Mesopotamia) has drawn the attention of researchers for many years. Researchers such as R.M. Munchayev¹, O.A. Abibullayev², I.G. Narimanov³, T.I. Akhundov⁴ and others spoke about the spread and distribution of cultures of from Middle East in South Caucasus. Although the existence of these connections was sometimes demonstrated by single finds, now however these connections are demonstrated by a complex of archaeological materials. One such monument is the settlement of Nakhchivan Tepe which is characterized by Dalma Tepe ceramics. We consider that is necessary to introduce to the scientific community the fact that this cultural assemblage has been revealed for the first time in the South Caucasus, and also to define its place among the other Caucasian cultures.

The settlement of Nakhchivan Tepe is located on the right bank of Nakhchivançay, at the height of 853 m above sea level. The settlement is located on the brink of steep drop which was formed by rough

¹Мунчаев, Амиров, 2009, с. 41-52

²Абибуллаев, 1982, с. 72

³Нариманов, 1985, с. 271-277; Нариманов, 2003, с. 32

⁴Akhundov, 2007, p. 95-122

waters of Nakhchivançay. The river, now, flows 200 m away from the settlement. Apparently, in ancient times was close. Part of the settlement today is under cultivated fields, and part collapsed during construction of a bridge passing over the Nakhchivançay. Currently, the remaining part of the settlement covers an area of approximately 2 hectares.

During the research in 2017-2018, it was defined that in the settlement there are three building horizons. The lower building period which was at a depth of 2.10-2.50 m (NakhchivanTepe 3) was characteristic by semi-subterranean typed rooms. The analysis of the coal taken from the lower horizon showed 4945-4722 BC. For the second construction horizon (NakhchivanTepe 2) which was at a depth of 0.78-2, 10 m showed 4720-4529 BC¹. Rectangular rooms were characteristic for this horizon.

The first horizon was at a depth of 0, 8 m from the surface of the hill (NakhchivanTepe 1). This horizon was characterized by rectangular rooms. Analyses of coal from this horizon were absent so far. However on the basis of the comparative analysis of ceramics this period can be dated 4600-4400 BC.

The most parts of archaeological materials consist of pottery. Pottery on a stratigraphy of the settlement is divided into two groups. Pottery from the top horizon (NakhchivanTepe 1) is belong to Middle Chalcolithic Age (Fig. 3), and pottery of the lower horizons (NakhchivanTepe 2, NakhchivanTepe 3) is belong to Early Chalcolithic Age. Early Chalcolithic Age on the basis of the analysis of coal samples it is dated 5000-4600 BC (Fig. 1; Fig. 2). Excavation of 2018 generally revealed pottery of Middle Chalcolithic Age.

The settlement of Nakhchivan Tepe together with other settlements of the valley Nakhchivançay and Sirabçay allow us to specify a periodization the Chalcolithic Age monuments of South Caucasus including Azerbaijan. At the same time, the ceramic complex of the settlement Nakhchivan Tepe, which almost repeats that of Dalma Tepe, draws attention. The painted ceramics of the Dalma Tepe

¹This work was supported by the Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - Grant № EIF-KETPL-2-2015-1(25)-56/47/5

type are known from the settlement of Uzun Oba and Uçan Ağıl¹. Impressed ceramics have been attested at the settlement Uçan Ağıl, by a single copy. In other settlements, this has not yet been discovered. Similar ceramics have been found in isolated copies also in monuments of Karabakh². Research demonstrates that that in the monuments located on the basin of the lake of Urmia generally use the Zangezur obsidian³. Among the the settlements of Nakhchivan, they generally used Gekche obsidian⁴, from the lake basin in present-day Sevan. In spite of the fact that Syunik is closer to Nakhchivan than Gekçe, in Nakhichevan's monuments the Syunik obsidian isn't as common, and by percent is in the second place⁵. Apparently, the tribe occupying the Lake Urmia basin had communications with the obsidian deposits of the Zangezur Mountains by means of the tribes of Nakhchivan. It should be noted that recently, one stone hammer was found in the Nakhchivançay valley, with remains of copper ore on it, which demonstrates that the connections between these tribes with Zangezur Mountain were not caused not only deposits of obsidian, but also by copper deposits.

As is well-known, Dalma Tepe ceramics were explored for the first time at the settlement of the same name, at Charles Burney's excavation in 1959, and then also in 1961 to Cuyler Young⁶. Other similar ceramics have been uncovered from the settlements of Hasanlu, Haji-Firuz⁷ and Tepe Seavan⁸. The Dalma Tepe have been found, in the territory of Iran and Iraq, together with typical Halaf and Obeid ceramics. Similar ceramics were discovered on a survey of Zagros Mountains monuments, such as settlements of the Kangavar valley like Seh Gabi B⁹ and Godin Tepe¹⁰, where Dalma Tepe period

¹Baxşəliyev, 2017, s. 117-124

²Ахундов, 2017, с. 197-198, табл. 22, 1; табл. 56, 1 et al.

³Khademi et al., 2013, p. 1956-1965

⁴Бахшалиев, 2015, с. 143

⁵Бахшалиев, 2015, с. 143

⁶Hamlin, p. 111-127

⁷Voigt, 1983, p. 20

⁸Solecki, Solecki, 1973, p. 98-117

⁹Henrickson, 1983, p. 153-169

¹⁰Young, 1974, p. 80-90; Henrickson, 1983, p. 172-173

layers were found¹. Numerous Dalma Tepe ceramics were also found at the Mahidasht valley, among the surface materials of 16 settlements. Among these monuments is the Tapa Siahbid² settlement as well as Choga Maran³, which was investigated by a sounding, and Tepe Kuh,⁴ investigated by survey. Among superficial material at Tepe Kuh, ceramics like those from Dalma Tepe prevailed⁵. Similar ceramics have also been found in Iraq at the settlement of Jebel, Kerkuk⁶, Tell Abad, Kheit Qasim and Yorgan Tepe⁷. It should be noted that such ceramics also prevailed in the Kangavar valley, but that in the Mahidasht valley, the percent of Dalma Tepe ceramics decreased very sharply. Whereas in the Kangavar valley⁸ these ceramics comprised 68%, and Mahidasht the number was 24%. The research shows that this type of ceramics lessened to the south. Although it had earlier been assumed that the similar ceramics were widespread to the South and the West of the Urmia basin, now we understand that similar ceramics were also present in the north of Lake Urmia⁹, and now in Nakhchivan. In the territory of Iranian Azerbaijan, this culture is also revealed from the settlement at Culfa Kültepe¹⁰, Ahranjan Tepe¹¹, Lavin Tepe¹², Ghosha Tepe¹³, Idir Tapa¹⁴ and Baruj Tepe¹⁵. Now similar ceramics have been discovered in the territory of Southern Azerbaijan at more than 100 monuments. Some of these settlements belonged to settled population,

¹Levine and McDonald, 1977, p. 39-50

²Henrickson, 1983, p. 305-314

³Henrickson, 1983, p. 317

⁴This settlement some researchers it is called as Pushti Kuh (Henrickson, 1983, p. 436) or Kuhi Sefid (Henrickson and Vitali, 1987, s. 38)

⁵Henrickson and Vitali, 1987, p. 38

⁶Henrickson, 1983, p. 39

⁷Henrickson and Vitali, 1987, p. 39-40

⁸Henrickson and Vitali, 1987, p. 39

⁹Abedi, 2017, p. 69-87

¹⁰Abedi et al., 2014, p. 33-167

¹¹Talai, 1983, p. 7-17

¹²Hejebri et al., 2012, p. 95-117

¹³Hejebri and Purfaraj, 2005, p. 304

¹⁴Abedi, 2017, p. 80

¹⁵Alizadeh, 2003a, p. 4-25; Alizadeh, 2003b, p. 3-21

while others to tribes living a nomadic way of life¹. According to researchers, this culture blossomed in North Western Iran, and extended from here to the South and the West of Urmia basin². Chemical analysis of Dalma Tepe ceramics has shown that they were the product of local manufacture³.

It is possible to tell that pottery with painting and fingerprints, was present at the first half of the V millennium BC. However researches showed that the similar ceramics was used also in the second half of the V millennium BC. It is also proved by excavation of settlements Sirabçay valley as Uzunoba, Uchan Ağıl and Bulovkaya. On the basis of researches it is possible to tell that Nakhchivan entered to culture of Dalma Tepe area.

The most ancient sites of Sirab are dated to the Chalcolithic period. In the valley of the Sirabçay, more than 23 settlements of Chalcolithic Age have been revealed. Some of these monuments can be dated to the early, and others to the late period of the Chalcolithic Age. The analyses of charcoal taken from these monuments have shown dates of 4690-3800. Generally, the early period of Chalcolithic Age in South Caucasus has not been sufficiently studied. In this regard the settlements of Uzun Oba and Uçan Ağıl, revealed in the valley the Naxçıvançay and Sirabçay, have attracted scientific attention. These settlements are dated on basis of C14 analyses to 4690-4450 BC and belong to the earlier period of the Late Chalcolithic Age, represented by the settlement Ovçular Tepesi⁴.

At the same time certain features of the Uzun Oba settlement attract attention. Research on the settlement has shown that its occupation layer was covered by a 2 meter layer of earth, in which there were no material-cultural remains. This settlement is located near the village of Uzun Oba Babek district, on the right side of the Naxçıvançay, and has been studied only by sounding excavations. One sounding has been put on the east slope of the monument. At the cut, revealed by excavations with a length of 2 m, it was possible to traced the sequence

¹Abedi, 2017, p. 80

²Abedi, 2017, p. 80

³Henrickson and Vitali, 1987, p. 40

⁴Bakhchaliyev, Marro, Ashurov, 2010, s. 34

of cultural deposits to a thickness of 2,5 m. During excavation, painted ceramics of Chalcolithic Age were found which give the chance to date the occupation layer to the 5th millennium BC. This is a very unusual occurrence for South Caucasus. The material and cultural remains of this period were revealed also in the settlement of Kültepe near Culfa during research in 2010¹. This shows that in the 5th millennium BC, settlements of the Naxçıvançay valley were closely connected with monuments of Northwest Iran (Southern Azerbaijan). Archaeological research on the valleys of the Naxçıvançay and Sirabçay show that some settlements, including the settlement of Uzun Oba and Deyirman Yeri, apparently were exposed to a flood at the end of the 5th millennium. The cause of these events has been studied by geomorphological research. But this fact actually demonstrates that some settlements of Chalcolithic Age disappeared underground in ancient times.

Uçan Ağıl settlement is located in the northeast of the village Sirab, of Babek district. Surface materials include painted ceramics and chaff tempered pottery. Among finds, pottery of Kura-Araxes culture also occurs. There is also one stone tool, similar with stone hammers of Duzdag. In the territory of the settlement, three excavations sites were explored in 2015. The size of two of them was 5x5m, while the third was 5x10m. Archaeological research shows that the thickness of the occupation layer, depending on a relief, is consistently 0, 2 - 1 m. During excavation at Uçan Ağıl settlement, redcolored pottery and painted ceramics were revealed. Preliminary analysis suggests that the pottery belongs to the first half of 5th millennium BC. It corresponds to the previous period of Chalcolithic Age, presented by the settlement Ovçular Tepesi.

This date is confirmed also by analyses of the charcoal taken from Uçan Ağıl settlement. Discovering painted pottery like that of the Dalma Tepe ceramics in the settlement Uçan Ağıl, which are known also from the settlement of Kültepe near Culfa, shows that there were close ties among these settlements. Analyses of charcoal from the settlement of Ovçular Tepesi have shown Late Chalcolithic dates. In this settlement, ceramics of the Obeid type were also found, which

¹Abedi et al 2014, p. 110, fig. 8-10

demonstrates certain communications with Northern Mesopotamia. Pottery from the settlement Ovçular Tepesi is connected with such settlements in East Anatolia as Tülintepe¹ and Norşuntepe². In East Anatolia as well as at Ovçular Tepesi, the Late Chalcolithic ceramics are characterized by ceramics with chaff temper and comb ornament. However the ceramics of settlements in East Anatolia are distinguished on certain technological grounds from ceramics of Ovçular Tepesi, especially in differences of color³. Pottery of the Sirabçay valley are close to ceramics of the monuments in the Urmia basin in color and in technological features.

Painted ceramics⁴, revealed from the Chalcolithic Age monuments of Nakhchivan accordingly are connected with monuments of the neighboring countries. The painted pottery of Nakhchivan has variations in the equipment of figuration. Some examples are painted directly on an unpainted surface of vessels, and in others over paint⁵. The painted ceramics of the second type are revealed in a large number from Xələc settlement. The most part of pottery of Xələc are painted in red color (Fig. 4, 7). Some examples are painted on a red background with black paint. Others are painted on a red surface. Ornaments are drawn with straight and wavy lines (Fig. 4, 1-5). Similar ceramics are known also from Şortepə⁶ and Ovçular Tepesi⁷. Among the painted vessels of Xələc, the pottery painted on a red background, and sometimes with a polished surface, in black and brown paint prevails. It should be noted that some examples of this pottery are made of clay without impurities. Some examples of pottery of Xələc and Ovçular Tepesi are painted directly on a ceramic with black paint, apparently soot.

The Xələc ceramics are close to ceramics of monuments of the Urmia basin in form and technological indicators. However the ornamental motive of ceramics of Xələc differs in some features from

¹Esin and Arsebük 1982, 127-133

²Gülçür, 2000, p. 375-418; Marro, Bakhchaliyev and Ashurov, 2009, p. 31-87

³Bakhchaliyev, Ashurov, Marro, 2010, s. 11-15

⁴Bakhshaliyev, 2015b, p. 28-39

⁵Seyidov, Baxşəliyev, Mahmudova V, 2010, s. 74-77

⁶Seyidov, Baxşəliyev, 2013, s. 124-126

⁷Marro, Bakhchaliyev and Ashurov, 2011, p. 76

ceramics of Gey Tepe. However in Gey Tepe there is also an ornament applied over slip. Some comparisons can be made with the settlement of Yanık Tepe. In the settlement of Yanık Tepe, ornament constituted from wide strips is also encountered. The ornamental motive of ceramics of Xələc differs from ornaments of ceramics of nearby monuments such as Tilkitepe and Texut. Some ornaments of Xələc are close to ceramics of monuments of the Mill steppe in motive, especially to ceramics of the settlement Kebirli¹. The technology of the drawing of the ornament is also identical. In certain cases, ornamentations on slip are used on the pottery of the Mill steppe, as well as in ceramics of Xələc. Motive ornamentations of some examples are similar to ornamentations from Norşuntepe. However, in Norşuntepe, ornaments are put not on red slip, but directly on the ceramics. Ornaments of ceramics from Xələc are in some features also close to ceramics of the Halaf type. Painted ceramics from monuments of the valley of the Naxçıvançay and Sirabçay, especially ceramics of settlements of Yeni Yol, Uçan Ağıl and Uzun Oba are similar with respect to ornamental motives to ceramics of Hacı Firuz² and Dalma Tepe³. The research of the new revealed monuments shows that the painted ceramics of Nakhchivan are connected with ceramics East Anatolia and Urmia basin in certain features, however more close ties are traced with monuments Urmia basin. Some examples can be considered imported products from Northern Mesopotamia. However the imported products are few, and currently are represented by only one example from Ovçular Tepesi.

In 1968 I.G.Narimanov found vessels with red-brown paint during the survey in Kültepe I. According to I.G.Narimanov, the red-slipped painted ceramics which were found out in Kültepe I confirm the existence of contact with the monuments of East Urmia⁴. According to S.Kroll this is true, although Azerbaijan had especial special local cultural traditions during the Neolithic and Chalcolithic epochs, while the Late Chalcolithic the Urmia basin is characterized by Ubaid

¹Нариманов , 1987, s. 40, рис. 37

²Voigt, 1983, p. 131, fig. 85 k, fig. 92

³Hamlin 1975, p. 111-128

⁴Нариманов, 1987, с. 124

traditions¹. The red-slipped painted ceramics are found in monuments in Iranian Azerbaijan like Yanık Tepe, Gey Tepe, Kültepe, Livar and others². Researches show that the red-slipped painted pottery is characteristic for monuments Azerbaijan. In spite of the similarities between pottery from Nakhchivan and from Eastern Anatolia, however the presence of certain ceramics in Nakhchivan, Mil steppe and of Urmia basin shows that the Late Chalcolithic ceramics of Nakhchivan are most connected to Northern Mesopotamia and the Urmia basin.

Registration and mapping of these monuments through GPS showed that these settlements remain from the South to the North and are located on the road to the Zangezur Mountains. The research of these settlements shows that the pastoral way of life existed since the Neolithic Age. On the basis of research, it is possible to say that these settlements played a certain role in exploitation of metal and not metal deposits of mountains to Geyam, Daralayaz and Zangezur³. Findings of remains of copper ore and a ceramic casting mold from the settlement Zirincli demonstrates that there was metal working in this settlement. Casting molds from the settlement of Zirincli were intended for casting standard flat axes. The casting mold shows that there was a serial production of these axes in this settlement. In the settlement of Ovçular Tepesi there was also clay nozzle for metal-melting furnaces⁴. As is well-known, the copper ores of the Zangezur Mountains were used in ancient times. In the copper mines of the Zangezur Mountains, traces ancient mine and metal working were found⁵. It is possible to assume that settlements of the Sirabçay valley had a certain value for an exploitation of copper mine of the Zangezur Mountains. The Zangezur obsidian deposits are located close to the northern border of Nakhchivan. Analyses of obsidian fragments from the settlements at Çay Ağzı, Kaleme Bulag, Uçan Agıl and Zirincli have shown that they were brought from the Zangezur deposits. 48% of

¹Kroll, 1990, p. 71

²Kroll, 1984, p. 23

³Иессен 1935; Бахшалиев, 2015, с. 143

⁴Gailhard, N. et al., 2017, p. 530-550

⁵Иессен, 1935, с. 7-216; Бахшалиев, 2005, с. 16-28

obsidian fragments from Kultepe also came from Zangezur and more than 90% of obsidian from sites in the Urmia basin came from the Zangezur deposits. These findings suggest that sites in the Sirabçay and Kakhabçay valleys played an important role in distributing obsidian to settlements south of the Araxes Valley.

The newly revealed materials allow the development of Chalcolithic culture in the territory of South Caucasus, Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan to be tracked. At the same time, materials of an early stage of the Chalcolithic Age have value because this period in the Caucasus is under-studied. They allow the establishment of transition stages from the Neolithic to Chalcolithic Age and communication with the Middle Eastern countries. On the other hand thanks to these monuments we can track the movement of ancient tribes to ore and not the ore resources of the Caucasus.

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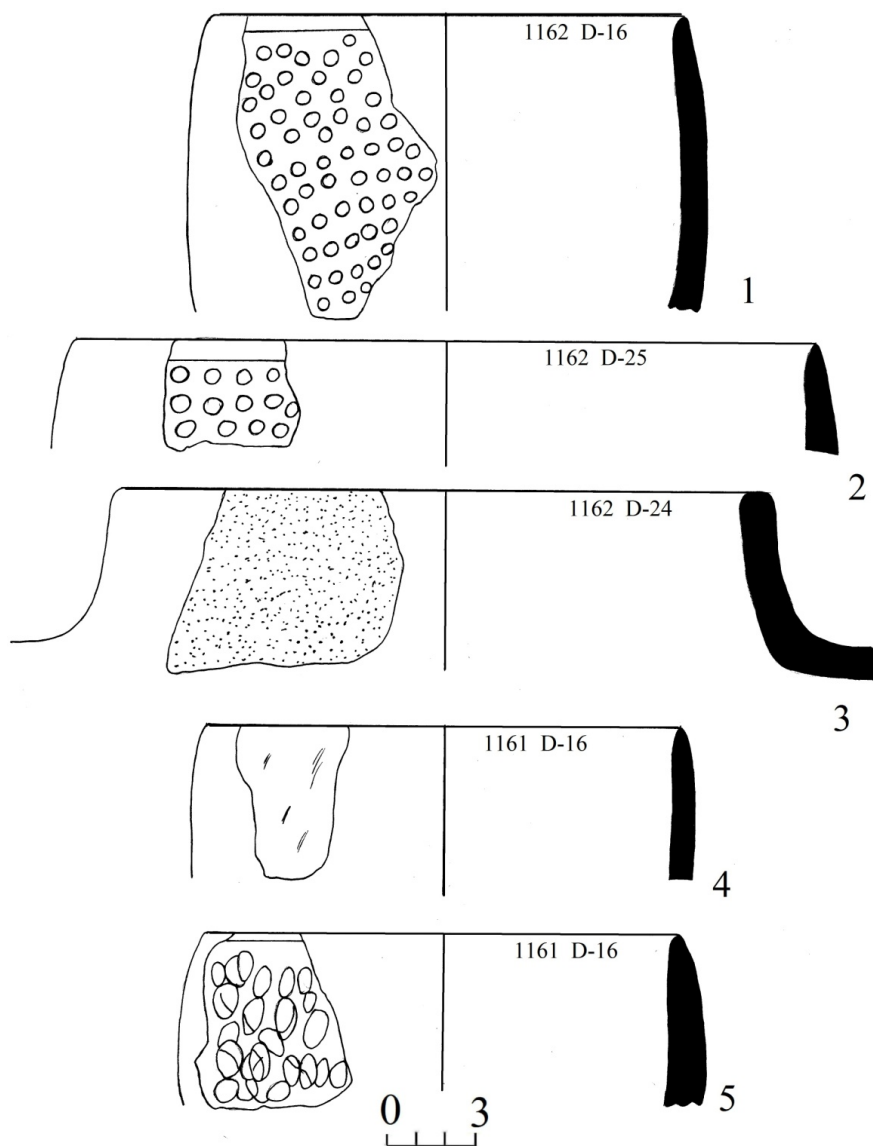


Fig. 1. Fingerprint and red slipped seramiks of the first stage of Nakhchivan Tepe (Early Chalcolithic Age).

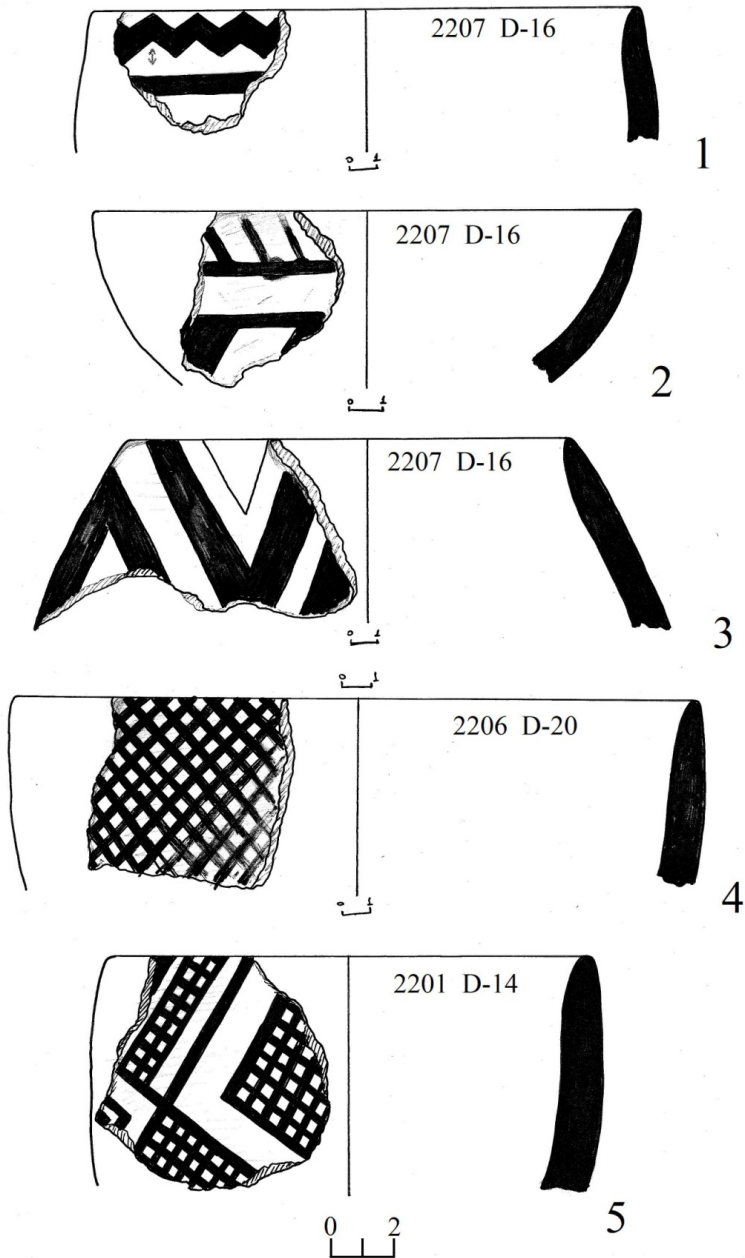


Fig. 2. Painted pottery of the first stage of Nakhchivan Tepe (Early Chalcolithic Age).

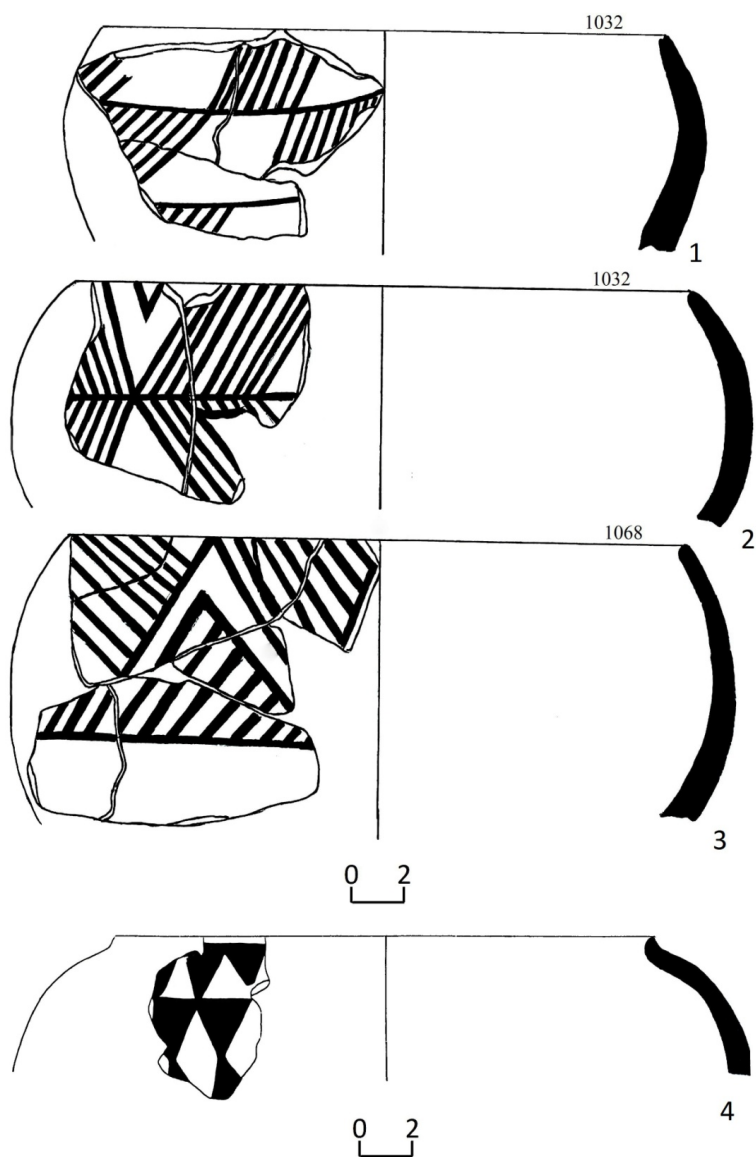


Fig. 3. Painted pottery of the second stage of Nakhchivan Tepe (Middle Chalcolithic Age).

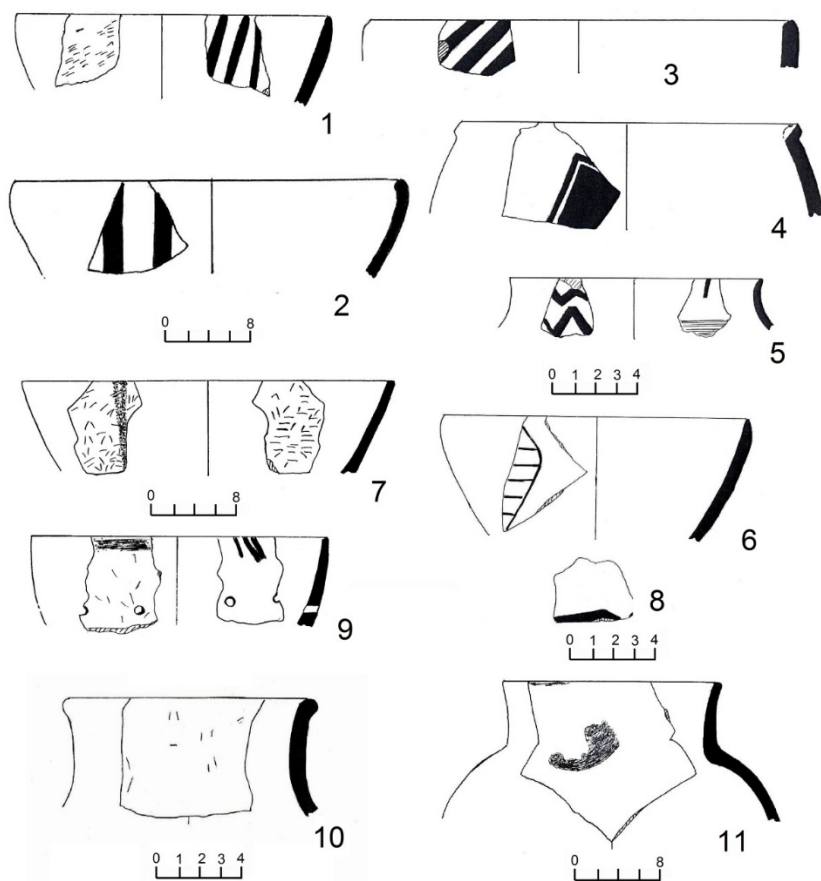


Fig.4. Pottery of the Xələc settlement : 1-6, 10-MiddleChalcolithic Age. 9, 11 Late Chalcolithic Age).

انتشارات آریارنا

انتشارات آریارنا بر آن است تا کتاب‌های ارزندهٔ تألیفی و ترجمه‌ای پژوهشگران ایرانی یا نیرانی را در زمینه‌های گوناگون ایران‌شناسی همچون باستان‌شناسی، تاریخ، فرهنگ و زبان‌های باستانی منتشر کند، کتاب‌هایی که برای شناخت تاریخ و فرهنگ گرانسنگ و ورجاوند ایران بسیار ارزشمند باشند. با توجه به پیوندها و ریشه‌های ژرف و عمیق فرهنگی میان ایران و جهان بشکوه ایرانی که از سده‌ها بلکه هزاره‌های دور و دراز برجا بوده است و در دهه‌های اخیر تلاش دشمنان بر آن بوده تا این پیوندهای ژرف را بگسلند و ریشه‌های عمیق را با تیشه برکنند، ایران فرهنگی که دل و دین به آن سپرده‌ایم از چشم دست‌اندرکاران انتشارات آریارنا دور نمانده و چاپ کتاب‌های پژوهشی و ترجمه‌ای ارزنده دربارهٔ جهان ایرانی یا ایران فرهنگی از اولویت‌های انتشارات آریارنا است؛ باشد که از این راه پیوندهایمان پیوسته‌تر و ریشه‌هایمان ژرف‌تر شود. کتاب‌های انتشارات آریارنا پیشکشی ناچیز است به ایرانیان، ایرانی‌تباران، ایران‌دوستان و همهٔ مردمان جهان ایرانی که ایران و جهان ایرانی را از جان دوست‌تر می‌دارند.



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نخستین

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”برهمکنش‌های فرهنگی، پیوست و گسست“

به کوشش

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