

BURIALS OF THE BADEN CULTURE FROM VEĽKÝ ŠARIŠ AND THEIR IMPORTANCE FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE STUDIED CULTURE IN THE NORTHERN TISZA REGION¹

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We do not know burial customs of the Baden culture people in the territory of Eastern Slovakia. Unique cremation burials have been reported only from Veľký Slavkov and Spišské Tomášovce-Hadušovce. However, their find situations have not been explained or published. Part of an incomplete human skeleton comes from a settlement pit in Streda nad Bodrogom, but the place where the finds and anthropological remains from the feature are deposited is still unknown. This makes the unexpected find of at least one cremation burial of the Baden culture from Veľký Šariš even more valuable. It was documented and rescued during the investigation of the exterior of the St. Cunigunde's chapel, which is a national monument from the late Gothic. Another group of vessels, without anthropological remains, comes from the supposed second Baden burial from the same site. The newly discovered finds from Veľký Šariš represent relics close to the oldest horizon of the Baden culture in Eastern Slovakia. On the basis of the analysis of the typological-chronological features of pottery, within relative chronology, they can be dated to stage Baden II at the latest.

Key words: Northeastern Slovakia, Middle Eneolithic, Baden culture, burial ground.

INTRODUCTION

The Carpathian zone and its adjacent territories of northeastern Slovakia and western Lesser Poland were the northeasternmost situated areas with the eneolithic complex of the Baden culture in 3400–2800 BC. The contribution of the Carpathians to the development of this cultural sphere has been subject to a detailed research carried out within a cooperation between the Archaeological Museum in Kraków and the Institute of Archaeology of SAS in Nitra. The international project is financed by the National Science Center Poland. One of the key topics of this cooperation is investigation of the initial phase of development of the Baden culture in the bordering areas of Lesser Poland, Spiš and Šariš. The discovery of cremation burials of the Baden culture in Veľký Šariš, outside the St. Cunigunde's chapel, is a new and very important source of knowledge. In the submitted study, we publish and evaluate these finds in a wider context of the Baden culture's development.

HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SITE

Veľký Šariš is situated in the valley of the Torysa river, between the Spišsko-šarišské medzihorie geomorphological unit and Bachureň, which is ap-

prox. 6 km north of Prešov. Šariš castle hill (570 m above sea level) is a relief dominant of Veľký Šariš and its surroundings. The town of Veľký Šariš lies at its southern foot, while on the right bank terrace of the Torysa river, a large polycultural archaeological site with traces of settlement documented from the Neolithic to this day (Fig. 1) was identified. Within the current urban area of the town, the researched site is delimited by Hlavná, Harmíny, Mlynská and Zámocká streets. Terraced houses have been built in this area in the last 50–70 years, surrounding sports facilities including a football pitch (parcel no. 357/1) with a stadium, an ice rink and a bowling alley. Before 1948, however, this part of Veľký Šariš was used for different purposes. A Renaissance manor house of the Rákóczy family with a park and other facilities were situated there (Fig. 2: 3). It was damaged by a fire in that year and then, it was disassembled. Later, a football pitch was built there (Fig. 2: 1). The St. Cunigunde's chapel was part of the manor house's area (parcel no. KN-C no. 396/1, 396/2, 397/2; Fig. 2: 1, 4). It was connected with the castle by an alley of linden trees and oaks, which has disappeared, with the exception of a few solitary trees. A more detailed background of the St. Cunigunde's chapel was not known. Indices of localization of an Augustinian monastery in this territory (*Romhányi 2005*) were definitely confirmed by the archaeological

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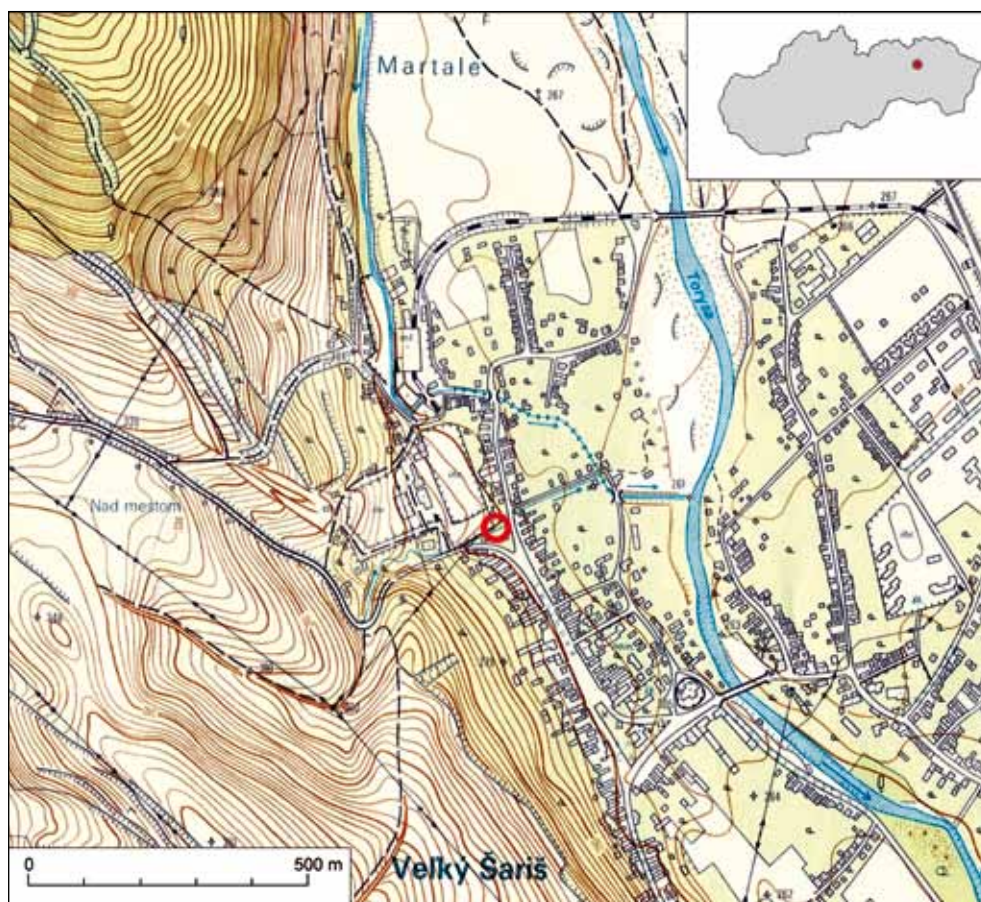


Fig. 1. Veľký Šariš (Prešov distr.). Section of map 27-44-23. Site of St. Cunigunde's chapel is marked with the red circle.

investigation carried out in 2003 by the Regional Museum in Prešov in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology of SAS in Nitra (*Miroššayová/Karabinoš 2005; Tomášová/Karabinoš 2006*). Besides discovering the so-far unknown immovable parts of the monastery, obtaining knowledge of its partial spatial dispositions, burying and a whole range of archaeological finds related to life in the monastery and from the time of its extinction, finds from chronologically older periods have been discovered. This enriched the sum of knowledge from the 1960s, when the sports area was being built (*Budinský-Krička 1974*).

HISTORY OF THE SITE'S ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION BEFORE 2010

Today's sports facilities in Veľký Šariš comprising several parcels are considered an archaeological site. The extraordinary concentration of archaeological finds was an argument for claiming the area of the football pitch a National Cultural Monument

registered with ÚZPF, in the record of immovable NCM under no. 2058/0; however, only the area of the former Augustinian monastery and still standing St. Cunigunde's chapel have been purposefully investigated. Archaeological investigation has touched this territory with little intensity. While the football pitch with the stadium were being built in the second half of the previous century, some phases of earthworks were monitored by workers of the today's Regional Museum in Prešov and by V. Budinský-Krička, an archaeologist from the Institute of Archaeology of SAS. He stated that settlement features which provided archaeological finds from the Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze Age, late La Tène period, Roman period and early Middle Ages were interrupted at the building site (*Budinský-Krička 1974*). No intense investigation of the site was carried out then. In 1964–1965, the St. Cunigunde's chapel was renewed by local parish members. The administrator of the local parish, an enthusiast and amateur archaeologist J. Leščák coordinated the works. Excavations provided archaeological finds which most probably ended up in the private collection of J. Leščák and are unknown today. In spring



Fig. 2. Veľký Šariš. St. Cunigunde's chapel. 1 – view of the current state of the site; 2 – investigation of the medieval Augustinian monastery (photos by B. Tomášová and A. Karabinoš); 3 – historical postcard from the archive of Š. Sárossy; 4 – historical view of the Rákóczy's manor house before 1903 from the archive of the Lenz family.

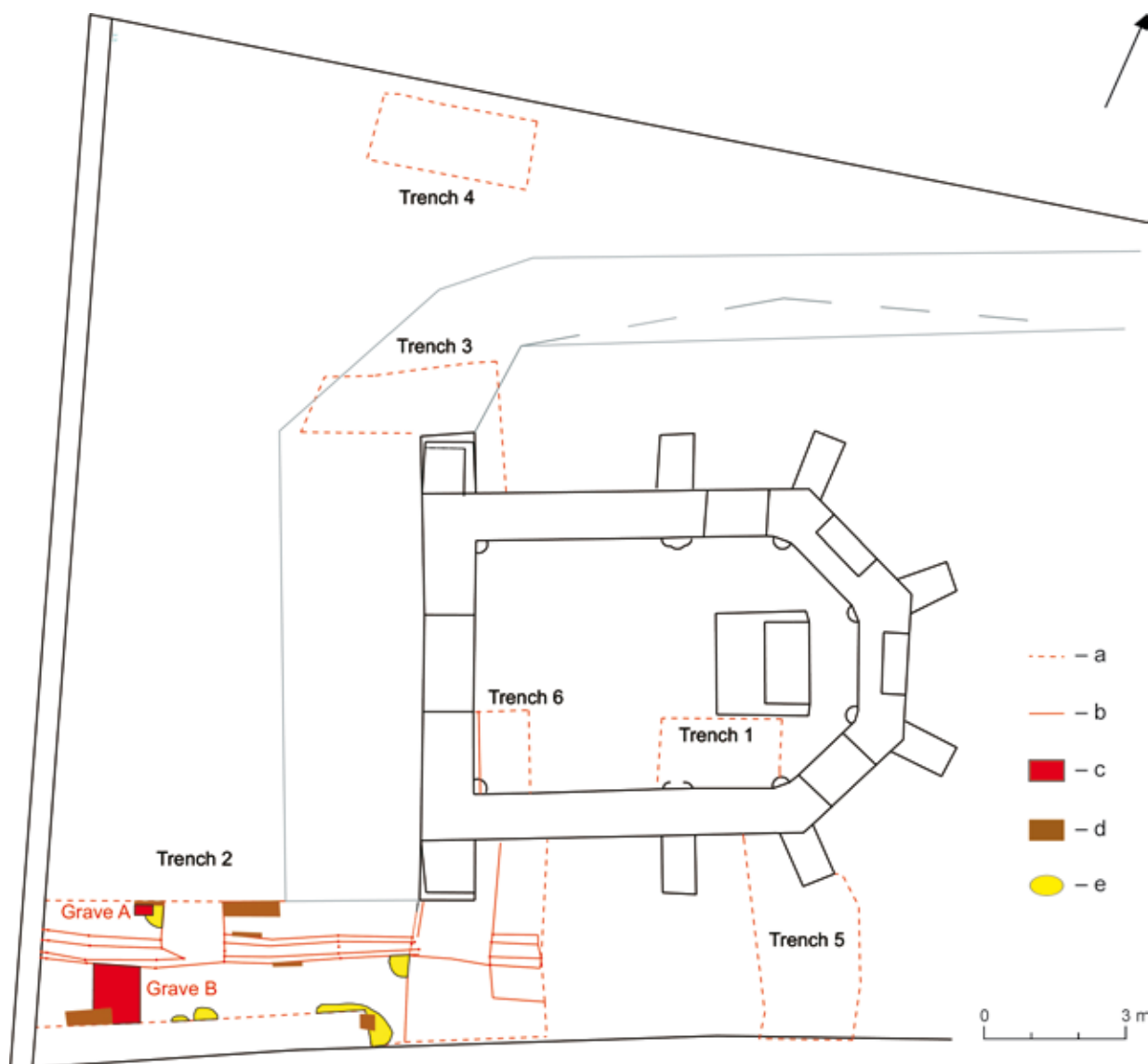


Fig. 3. Veľký Šariš. St. Cunigunde's chapel. Situation plan of the investigation in 2010. Legend: a – extent of archaeological trenches; b – detected masoned structures; c – locations of finds of Baden culture pottery depots (Grave A, Grave B); d – skeleton burials from the high Middle Ages and early modern history; e – archaeological features.

and summer 2003, M. Uličný from the Regional Monuments Board in Prešov collected sherds from several time periods during earthworks related to construction of the ice rink. Pottery from the high and late Middle Ages predominates in the collection. In the same year, an archaeological investigation was carried out in the immediate surroundings of the St. Cunigunde's chapel – westwards to southwestwards. This investigation identified part of disposition of the medieval Augustinian monastery (Fig. 2: 2; Miroššayová/Karabinoš 2005; Tomášová/Karabinoš 2006). Simultaneously, a geophysical survey using resistance method was done

by J. Tirpák from the Nitra office of the Institute of Archaeology of SAS. Besides identification of positive and negative traces related to constructions of individual parts of the medieval monastery, some anomalies were detected and identified as sunken settlement features from chronologically older periods (Tirpák 2003). A short-term archaeological investigation aiming to document the settlement stratigraphy uncovered during construction of a fence of the neighbouring plot was carried out in 2009 on the border of parcels no. 396/1 and 397/2, i. e. east of the St. Cunigunde's chapel's presbytery (Čurný 2010; 2013a, 31–34; 2013b, 82).

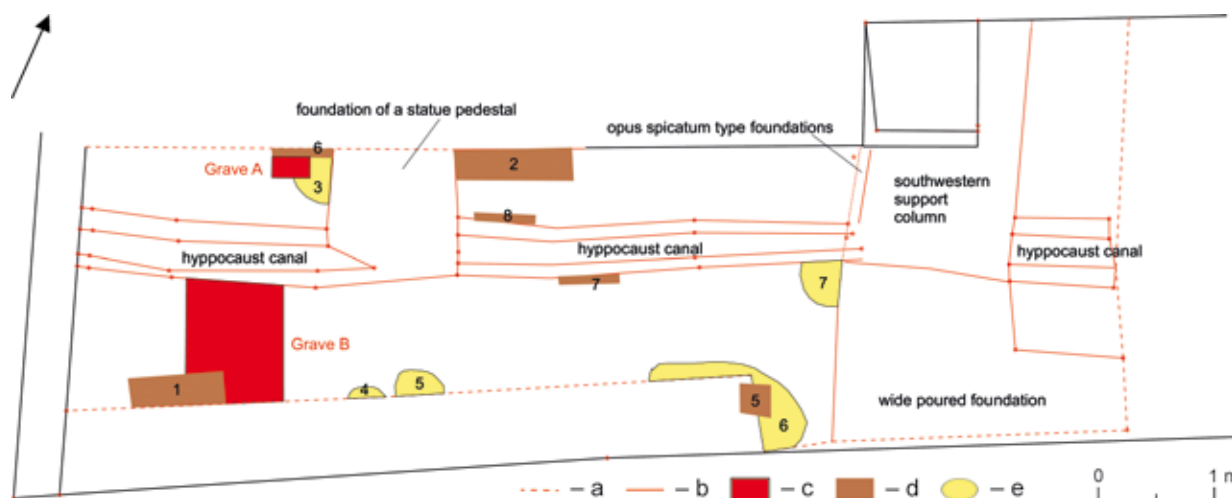


Fig. 4. Veľký Šariš. Exterior of St. Cunigunde's chapel. Detail of trench 2/2010. Legend: a – extent of archaeological trenches; b – detected masoned structure (hypocaust canal, foundation of a statue pedestal, opus spicatum type foundations, southwestern support column, wide poured foundation); c – locations of finds of Baden culture pottery depots (Grave A, Grave B); d – skeleton burials from the high Middle Ages and early modern history (burials 1, 2, 5, 7, 8); e – archaeological features (features 3, 7 – Bronze/Iron Age, features 4–6 – not dated).

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SITE IN 2010

The archaeological investigation in 2010 was carried out in the interior and surroundings of the St. Cunigunde's chapel in form of manually excavated trenches (Fig. 3; Čurný 2015, 65–66). Two of them were situated in the chapel's interior (trenches 1 and 6) and four were in the exterior (trenches 2–5). Position of trenches in the terrain was conditioned by presence of large iron-concrete panels tiling the area west of the chapel. For the submitted study, detection of two clusters of Baden culture pottery depots in trench 2 is crucial and we are going to deal exclusively with those.

Trench 2 was made southwest of the support column of the St. Cunigunde's chapel and was reaching the southwestern edge of the parcel (Fig. 3). Its longer axis was oriented in the east-west direction. Originally, excavation of trench 2 was aimed to explain the stratigraphy outside the chapel, verify the possibilities of connections between the chapel's masoned constructions and premises of the Augustinian monastery as well as explain the extent and intensity of burying on the site from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Dimensions of trench 2/2010 were 10.4 x 2.3/2.4–4.2 m (Fig. 4). The maximum depth of lowered technical layers was 2 m.

Find situation in trench 2/2010

When the terrain in trench 2/2010 was lowered by approx. 0.5 m, a situation occurred which defined

further procedures in the investigation. Previously unknown architecture was detected. It was a piece of masonry reaching from under the southwestern support column southwards, a block strengthened with mortar leading from the northern profile of the trench and a channel built of quarry stone. First inhumation burials and first sunken settlement features appeared in the stated depth or on a slightly more shallow level.

The channel of quarry stone was studied along the whole course of trench 2. It was detected in the western profile of the trench, on the level below the concrete foundations of the fence, 0.4–0.5 m deep, and its footing bottom reached approx. 0.7–0.8 m deep. From the aspect of stratigraphy and construction succession, it is clear that it is chronologically younger than the shallow stone foundation masonry running from the southwestern support column of the chapel to which it is attached, but it is older than the stone block. The function of the stone channel could probably be connected with hot water pipes of the floor heating, hypocaust, which probably heated the feature detected south of the St. Cunigunde's chapel. The stone foundation block which was interpreted as a foundation for a statue pedestal disturbed two inhumation burials – burial 2/2010 and 6/2010. It seems to be a result of the latest construction activity at the St. Cunigunde's chapel.

In trench 2, 6 inhumation burials (1/2010, 2/2010, 5/2010 to 8/2010) and 5 settlement features (3/2010 to 7/2010) were studied altogether. Since none of the inhumation burials contained any movables,

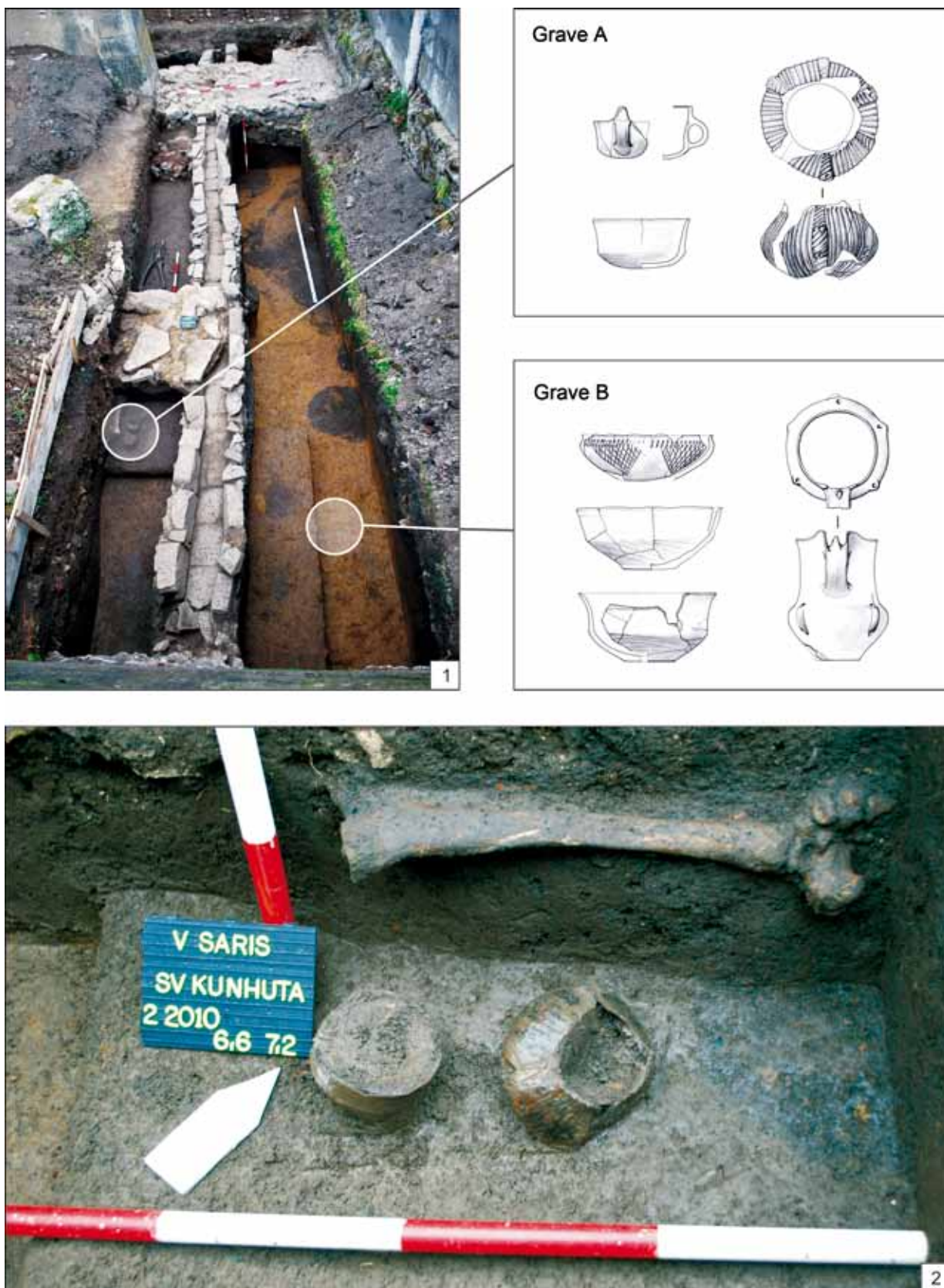


Fig. 5. Veľký Šariš. St. Cunigunde's chapel. 1 – photodocumentation of A and B graves' position in trench 2 with illustrations of vessels from the graves (drawn by B. Gabrowska); 2 – detail photo of the find situation in Grave A (photos by M. Čurný)..

devotional items or other personal property, they can be connected with burying within the high medieval and early modern phase of the site settlement – when the Augustinian monastery existed – only on the basis of vertical stratigraphy. The settlement features were small pits. They come from the high Middle Ages, Roman and La Tène periods and Bronze Age. While the neolithic settlement is represented only by pottery finds at secondary positions, the eneolithic settlement is represented by the first layer above the bedrock, a layer of light-brown soil slightly contaminated by charcoals and clusters of daub. This layer provided a collection of complete vessels or their large torsos from the Baden culture (at least seven pottery individuals in total). This layer can be considered the oldest original layer on the site. The layer from the late Stone Age lying on the bedrock was interrupted in multiple places by sunken features from the Bronze Age, late La Tène, late Roman periods and other features which did not contain any chronologically important finds in their fills.

Settlement in the Bronze Age is represented by settlement features 3/2010 and 7/2010. Together with finds from the younger layers, they probably belong to the final phase of the Bronze Age or the Hallstatt period. Identically, finds of the younger as well as late La Tène period come from secondary positions in the younger layers and also from feature 6/10. The Roman era is documented by sherds from secondary positions in the younger layers which can be distinguished from the young La Tène pottery only with difficulties. The collection of finds from the younger Roman era is complemented by a bronze fibula. Finds of pottery from prehistory, the La Tène and Roman periods, together with sherds from the high Middle Ages, come from the second overburden layer. It represents the older medieval horizon on the site which can be classified in the high Middle Ages. Similar situation was detected in the third overburden layer. All discovered inhumation burials were sunken in this layer. It can be preliminarily dated to the high or late Middle Ages. There is one more layer above it and it contains finds from the modern era as well; even recent finds were found in its upper part.

Description of find circumstances of the Baden culture burials

When describing the find circumstances of two independent aggregates of pottery depots of the Baden culture, we must refer to the stratigraphic situation, where also burial 6/2010 and feature 3/2010 were detected.

Burial 6/2010 – bones of probably a leg were identified from the burial. Originally, it was an inhumation burial with the body deposited in straight position, on its back, east-west oriented. The burial was disturbed by stone statue foundation in the east. It was situated 0.58–0.62 m deep. It did not contain any accompanying finds (Fig. 4).

Feature 3/2010 – it looked like a small round pit and approx. one half to three quarters of it were visible on the level of its detection. It was studied by means of a verification section. It interfered with burial 6/2010 situated above it (Fig. 4). West of the feature's mouth, two Baden culture vessels which seemed complete at first sight were discovered in the layer slightly contaminated by daub clusters in the in situ position (Fig. 5: 1, 2). Due to absence of datable archaeological material, the feature can be dated to prehistory, probably the Bronze Age, only on the basis of relative horizontal stratigraphy.

The above mentioned Baden vessels were in no relation to feature 3/2010 or inhumation burial 6/2010. They were in mutual subposition. They were situated in a layer of light brown soil slightly contaminated by daub clusters, or on the interface of this layer and the layer above. No anthropogenic features (pits, recessions, etc.) have been detected. Vessels were not damaged by the storage pit excavation (feature 3/2010); it missed them very closely. They were not damaged by burial pit 6/2010 either; its supposed bottom was situated in a higher nivelette. The vessels were documented and submitted for laboratory processing together with their content which consisted of unique tiny bits of calcinated bones. Several such bone bits were also found next to the vessel situated further to the east. The vessels were standing on their bottoms, slightly leaning (Fig. 5: 2). During laboratory processing, it was discovered that in fact, it is an aggregate of three vessels, as a smaller cup with a handle had been placed inside the westernmost bowl (Pl. 1: 1). No further terrain monitoring was carried out, since untouched loess-clay bedrock lied under the layer of light brown soil.

The second group of Baden vessels appeared in another part of trench 2/2010, 0.5–0.8 m deep. They were almost complete vessels or larger torsos of four vessels. They were found within an area smaller than 1 m² (Fig. 5: 1). We cannot obtain more detailed information about this find because manual workers at the investigation did not follow the correct working procedure. Some fragments were collected from the upcast.

It is clear from the description above that the Baden culture vessels represented two aggregates – a smaller one, later named Grave A (3 vessels, expertly detected and documented, situated right next

to the mouth of feature 3/2010, near the northern profile of trench 2/2010 behind the stone channel) and a larger aggregate later named Grave B (four vessels, improperly removed from an area of approx. 1 m² between the channel from quarry stone, which was disturbed by the stone foundation of a statue, and the trench's southern profile) which were originally situated within an area of 1.4 m in the west-east direction and 1.7–1.9 m in the north-south direction. They are two independent aggregates approx. 1.5 m from each other clearly documenting burial practices of the Baden culture people on the site.

Description of finds from the Baden culture burials

Grave A (Pl. I)

1. Torso of a jug or a small amphora-shaped bulbous vessel. The neck and bottom of the vessel have not been preserved. Its body is decorated with wide vertically oriented grooves alternating two preserved vertically perforated subcutaneous handles and three vertical plastic ribs. Short oblique grooves occur on the surface of the subcutaneous handles. Colour: shades of brown. Preserved parameters: max. height of the body without the neck and bottom is 4.3–6.3 cm; max. width of the body is 12.6 cm (Pl. I: 4a, 4b).
2. An almost completely preserved bowl with rounded lower part of the body and flat bottom. Its walls slightly widen towards the rim. The outer surface of the lower part of the bottom bears traces of shallow and barely visible oblique flutings. On the inside, part of the vessel above the bottom is roughened. Colour: shades of brown. Parameters: max. height of 4 cm; mouth's width of 9.4 cm; body width above the bottom of 8.5 cm (Pl. I: 3).
3. A mostly preserved cup with rounded bottom, slightly widened body and a strap handle slightly bent in the middle. A dull flat protrusion reaches above the cup's rim where the handle is attached. Colour: shades of brown. Parameters: height of the cup without the handle is 2.5 cm; height of the cup with the protrusion above the handle is 4.1 cm; mouth's width is 4.6 cm; bottom's width is 4.1 cm (Pl. I: 2).

Grave B (Pl. II)

1. A mostly preserved jug with a Viss type strap handle. It has a rather narrow and high neck and a slightly compressed and rounded body. On the maximum diameter of the body, three

vertically perforated subcutaneous handles are attached, alternating two vertical plastic ribs. The strap handle starts in the lower part of the neck and rises up towards the rim, where the mouth of the vessel is shaped into two dull protrusions; between them, the third (and slightly more pointed) protrusion starts from the upper part of the handle. Colour: terracota-brown. Parameters: Height of the vessel without the Viss type protrusions is 12.5 cm; height of the vessel with the Viss type protrusions is 14 cm; mouth's width is 7.6 cm; maximum diameter is 10.3 cm; bottom's width is 3.6 cm (Pl. II: 1a–1d).

2. Torso of a double-conic bowl with an incurved mouth and a slightly outcurved profiled rim. The bottom of the vessel has not been preserved. Under the rounded rim, there are two lines of incisions. Decoration in form of engraved gridded triangles is attached to them. Colour: grey-brown. Parameters: preserved height is 5.3 cm; maximum width is 15.5 cm (Pl. II: 2a, 2b).
3. Half preserved bowl with slightly widened upper part of the body. The lower part of the vessel bears barely visible traces of shallow oblique flutings on its outer surface. Unclear horizontal flutings are visible also in the upper part of the widened body. Colour: grey-brown. Parameters: height: 7.2 cm; mouth's width: 16.6 cm; bottom's width: 6.4 cm (Pl. II: 3).
4. Fragmentarily preserved profiled bowl with higher outcurved neck. In the lower part of the vessel, traces of irregular shallow flutings are indicated. Colour: grey-brown. Parameters: height of approx. 8 cm; mouth's width of approx. 18.8 cm; bottom's width of approx. 5.8 cm (Pl. II: 4).

Results of the anthropological analysis from Grave A

Burned human bones occurred in a single burial – Grave A (Pl. I: 1). The result of anthropological analysis was the determination of the extent to which the bones have been burned, the number of individuals buried in a given feature and the age at death of the designated individual (*Dokladal 1999; White/Folkens 2005*). On the basis of the colour of the bones, it was possible to estimate the temperature at which the remains were burned (*Fairgrieve 2008*). Establishing the number of individuals buried in a single object is possible due to the presence of diagnostic components in human skeleton which come as single or paired (*Gładykowska-Rzeczycka 1972*). As archaeological feature usually contains only part of the remains burned at the pyre, anthropological analysis offers the possibility of

determining the smallest possible number of the individuals buried inside a single grave (MNI – minimum number of individuals).

Age at death was established based on anatomical and morphological criteria commonly applied in anthropology (Fairgrieve 2008). In the case of child skeletons, the analysis also includes the ossification level of long bones (Scheuer/Black 2000).

Grave A (bones from a cup)

Bones strongly and evenly burnt, cream-white in colour, weight 7 g. The preserved elements include small fragments of cranial vault (the largest ones are 22 x 18 mm in size), all sutures are unfused. Postcranial skeleton is represented by small pieces of long bones' diaphyses.

Grave A (bones from a jug)

Bones strongly and evenly burnt, cream-white and grey-white in colour, weight 40 g. The preserved elements include small fragments of cranial vault (the largest ones are 24 x 20 mm in size), one of them is a piece of squamous part of occipital bone with transversal sinus; all present sutures are unfused. Postcranial skeleton is represented by fragments of long bones' diaphyses (the biggest ones are 51 mm long) and epiphyses as well as small pieces of ribs shafts.

White colour of analysed bones indicates that the bone reached a temperature higher than 8 000 °C, meaning that the temperature at the cremation site was about 1 000–12 000 °C (Piontek 2002). The preserved elements of skeleton enable to conclude that the remains belong to an individual aged *infans*, the sex was undetermined.

Evaluation of finds from Baden culture burials

The most common ceramic inventory from cremation burials in Veľký Šariš includes bowls (4 specimens in total). The best preserved bowl comes from Grave A where it protected a cup used as an urn. Bowls from Grave B were found in torsos which could have been caused by careless manipulation at the moment of discovery. From the aspect of typology, each of the described bowls has a different shape. The bowl from Grave A is chronologically indifferent with its body shape. We consider its surface finish just above the bottom much more important; aesthetically indistinct oblique and very shallow flutings can be found there (Pl. I: 3). We come across similar finish of some bowls at the burial ground in Pilismarót (Bondár et al. 2015, 29, 31, 38, 54, 65, pl. 1: 9; 3: 2; 8: 5; 21: 3, 10; 29: 12). The roughened surface

of the lower part of the most dominant vessel from burial 16/59 B is also described in Malá nad Hronom (Němejcová-Pavúková 1974, fig. 53: 4; Nevizánsky/Ožďáni 1995–1996, 256, pl. 1: 4). On other sites of the Boleráz group, besides bowls (Ruttkay 1999, fig. 16: 12), similar surface finish occurs on pot-shaped (Medunová-Benešová 1981, pl. 161) and amphora-shaped vessels (Horváth et al 2014, fig. 301: 9). Three bowls come from Grave B. The simplest specimen is a bowl of CH type, without a neck, with uncurved rim (Pl. II: 3). A profiled J type bowl with a funnel-shaped neck is different in details (Pl. II: 4). Bowls of both mentioned types appeared in different variations during the whole development of the Baden culture. The crucial role at their dating is played by decorative motifs (Horváthová 2010, 53). Bowls of CH and J types from Veľký Šariš seem to be undecorated at first sight. Only shallow oblique, irregular and partly horizontal flutings are barely visible on their outer surfaces. They can be identified with the surface finish of the bowl from Grave A. The inner surface of all three described bowls is smoothed more carefully than their outer surface. Within the Baden culture's relative chronology in eastern Slovakia, a bowl of J type from Košice-Barca, the site of Nad Begányiho mlynom, is connected with the Fonyód-Tekovský Hrádok horizon (Hájek 1961, fig. 4; Horváthová 2010, 53, fig. 18; Němejcová-Pavúková 1979b, 38). It is typical with its pattern of engraved horizontal twig combined with a line of incisions. J type bowls with identical outer decoration including tunnel handles on the border between their necks and bodies are known from the necropoli in Fonyód (burial 1, Banner 1956, 38, pl. XI: 8), Balatonlelle (burial 5; Nagy 2010, 431, 432, fig. 6: 2) and in Malá nad Hronom (burial 9/83; Nevizánsky/Ožďáni 1995–1996, pl. 2: 2). At the settlement in Tekovský Hrádok, in feature 1/53 dated to the post-Boleráz horizon, such bowls were decorated also on the inside (Němejcová-Pavúková 1974, fig. 58: 1, 2). Similar decoration style also occurs on some vessels from the upland settlement in Hlinsko which are dated to stages Baden Ib and Baden II (Šebela et al. 2007, fig. 66: 12; 67: 9).

The third bowl from Grave B is the most significant chronological indicator from the aspects of body's morphology and decoration (Pl. II: 2a, 2b). It is a torso of a biconical vessel with the body rounded in two thirds of its height. The bowl has an incurved mouth and a slightly outcurved profiled rim. This vessel type corresponds with H type bowls, which occur during the whole period of the Boleráz group, less frequently in its old and more frequently in its younger phase (Němejcová-Pavúková 1979a, 392). Such vessels are not very frequent in the post-Boleráz period of the Baden culture's development

and later they slowly disappear. According to the typological-chronological scheme of V. Němejcová-Pavúková (1981, fig. 2: H1, H2; 1984, fig. 11/H1-3, 33/H1-3), the bowls of H type are dated to stages Baden Ib and Baden Ic. They were still used in stage Baden II at the settlement in Hlinsko u Lipníka nad Bečvou (Šebela et al. 2007, fig. 64: 27). They usually have undecorated and perfectly polished surface. In case of larger vessels, their lower part was often roughened² or there is a polished band just below the rim and the rest of the body is roughened. Engraved fluted decoration is not specific to this vessel shape but when it occurs, we can consider it a decoration import from other shapes (Němejcová-Pavúková 1964, 181, 182). Higher frequency of H type bowls is only known from the settlement in Nitriansky Hrádok, the site of Vysoký Breh (Němejcová-Pavúková 1964, fig. 19). Sporadically, they occurred in settlement features in Štúrovo, Svodín, Blatné and Vrbové (Němejcová-Pavúková 1979a, 386, fig. 1; 1979b, 25–27, pl. 1, fig. 4: 7; 7: 12; 1984, 93; fig. 7: 6; 9: 2–6). The H type bowl from Veľký Šariš represents a so-far unique and precious example in the territory of eastern Slovakia. It is unusually decorated by a combination of incisions and engravings. The incisions are arranged in two circular lines under the rim. They are followed by engraved gridded triangles with their apexes turned down. Identical triangles were engraved on one fragment of an H type vessel from Štúrovo; however, the area inside the triangles is not gridded, it is shaded (Němejcová-Pavúková 1979b, 25, 27, fig. 4: 4). Vessels with representations of triangular motifs filled with grids or simple horizontal lines are rarely documented at the burial ground in Pilismarót (burial 459). The grid ornament is unusually encrusted with white lime coating (Bondár et al. 2015, pl. 49: 7, 8). Another such vessel with almost identical decoration has been published from the Boleráz group settlement feature 3/56 from Komjatice (Němejcová-Pavúková 1979b, fig. 17). According to the opinion of V. Němejcová-Pavúková (1981, fig. 4: J6, P3), the style of engraved decoration with the grid (or net) pattern started to appear on Baden culture vessels more frequently in the Červený Hrádok – Szeghalom – Dioér horizon, stage Baden IIb. It became typical in stage Baden III, which corresponds with the Nevidzany – Viss – Ossarn horizon (Němejcová-Pavúková 1981, fig. 5: H1, P2). It is used as decoration also on several vessels from burials in Mezőcsát (Kalicz 1999, 64, 66, 68, 87, fig. 12: 3; 14: 4; 15: 6, 7) but the closest analogies to the combined decoration of the H type bowl from Veľký Šariš are found especially on the L type bowls from the site of Viss (Banner 1956, pl. LXXX: 1, 2, 6, 8;

LXXXI: 2). As for the H type bowl from Veľký Šariš, it is a very archaic vessel shape with representation of a younger decorative style.

The cup from Grave A is also chronologically sensitive; a flat rounded protrusion rises above its rim in the position of a handle (Pl. I: 2). Cups and jugs with one protrusion above the handle occur on Baden culture sites during the whole development of stage Baden II (Horváth 2012, 17; Horváthová 2007, 8, pl. I: 21; Cheben 1984, 162; Němejcová-Pavúková 1981, 277; Nevizánsky 1999, 70, fig. 4: 9, 10). In the earlier period, the shapes of cups and jugs are larger and they include a stick-shaped handle with circular cross-section. In the younger development, these vessel types are smaller and have thinner walls; simultaneously, the stick-shaped handle changes into the strap type. These differences can be observed on the pottery from Fonyód (Banner 1956, pl. XII: 3) as well as Balatonőszöd (Horváth et al. 2014, fig. 288: 2), Bíňa (Cheben 1984, fig. 4: 11, 13), Bajč-Vlkanovo (Nevizánsky 1999, 70, fig. 4: 9, 10) and certainly from some other sites. As for the territory of eastern Slovakia, cups with single protrusions above handles have been published only from Brehov (Horváthová 2005, 37, fig. 1: 13; 8: 3). Several other examples have occurred recently in the newly discovered settlement features in Prešov, the site of Za cintorínom, in Kašov, Šarkan site, and in Trebišov, Kovaľka site (unpublished).

The small jug from Grave A belongs to the most carefully made pottery among all the vessels from Veľký Šariš. It is characterized by very thin corroded walls, without any visible traces of polishing. The whole outer surface of the vessel is decorated with shallow vertical flutings. The bulbous body is emphasized by genuine subcutaneous handles and vertical plastic ribs. Their surface is decorated with shallow oblique flutings (Pl. I: 4a, 4b). Within the territory of eastern Slovakia, similar decoration of Baden culture vessels can be found only exceptionally. We can mention the jug from Bracovce (used as an urn) among the published finds. It has symmetrically distributed vertical plastic ribs on the maximum diameter of its globular body; at least two of the ribs are drilled and adjusted as false subcutaneous handles. The jug's body is also decorated with compact clusters of vertical and oblique flutings. It includes a wide strap handle which is ended by five pointed protrusions. Two edge protrusions reach above the rim. The jug from Bracovce with its shape and decoration of the handle shows several features identical with jugs from the site of Viss in eastern Hungary (Banner 1956, 106, pl. LXXXI: 10, 12); nevertheless, the way

² Which can also be observed in case of other bowls from Veľký Šariš.

how the subcutaneous handles are applied to the bulge of the jug is similar to older jugs from the end of the Boleráz development, or from the early classical development of the Baden culture identified with the Fonyód – Tekovský Hrádok horizon (Malá nad Hronom, burial 9/83, *Nevizánsky* 2005, fig. 14: 19; *Nevizánsky/Ožďáni* 1995–1996, 254, pl. 2: 4, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e; Sopron, *Banner* 1956, 18, pl. 1: 1–3; Keszthely, *Torma* 1969, 93, fig. 2: 2). The same can be said about the decoration of the preserved jug body from Grave A. Common occurrence of vessels for liquids which have strap handles decorated with one or multiple protrusions can be seen as another correlation to the material from the Fodyód – Tekovský Hrádok horizon. Simultaneous occurrence of both decorative elements in one find complex has been recorded e. g. in Svodín (feature 1/59, *Němejcová-Pavúková* 1974, fig. 69: 1–3, 10) or Brehovo (feature 1; *Horváthová* 2005, 31–33, fig. 1: 13; 2: 10). Isolated occurrences come from Veľký Šariš as well. We are talking about the cup from Grave A with a flat protrusion above the handle and the jug from Grave B with a handle similar to the Viss type. Besides the site of Viss (*Banner* 1956, pl. LXXXI: 8, 11), identically modelled part of handle as seen on the jug from Grave B can be found on another pottery fragment from the Budapest-Tabán site (*Banner* 1956, pl. XLII: 18). Subcutaneous handles combined with vertical plastic ribs occur on the jug from Grave B (Pl. II: 1a, 1b). Their position on the vessel is similar to the jug from Grave A (Pl. I: 4b).

On the basis of the above described stylistical-chronological features of the pottery from graves A and B, the newly discovered burial ground in Veľký Šariš is dated to the transitory Boleráz-early classical horizon of the Baden culture (stage Baden II). Classification of the finds closer to the Fonyód – Tekovský Hrádok horizon can be done on the basis of the archaic shape of the H type bowl as well as of the roughened surface finish of other bowls which do not have any other decoration. In stage Baden II, decoration of strap handles in form of individual or multiple protrusions was simultaneously applied on jugs and cups. In stage Baden III, only plastic decoration of the Viss type handles was further developed. Subcutaneous handles in combination with vertical ribs and fluted decoration seem to be an older decorative element. The youngest decorative element from the whole finds complex is the engraved decoration of the H type bowl representing triangular pattern with grids or nets, which started to occur on the Baden culture vessels by the end of stage II more frequently and became typical in stage Baden III. Burials from Veľký Šariš are thus one of the few

documents of the oldest settlement of the Baden culture in eastern Slovakia. Their dating also relies on the latest results of the investigations in Prešov, Kašov and Trebišov (*unpublished*). On the basis of these investigations, it will be possible to reconsider the previously published finds of the Boleráz-like character from the eastern Slovakia's sites in the territory of the Košice basin, Šariš and Zemplín and improve their chronological classification (*Bánesz* 1970, 326, 327; *Budinský-Krička* 1976, 54; *Hájek* 1961, 65; *Horváthová* 2008, 113–115; 2010, 87, 88; 2015a, 159, 160; *Němejcová-Pavúková* 1974; *Šiška* 1976, 97; 1998, 125–133).

THE BADEN CULTURE BURIALS FROM VEĽKÝ ŠARIŠ IN THE CONTEXT OF BADEN CULTURE BURIAL GROUNDS WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE NORTHERN TISZA REGION

The complex investigation of older and newly discovered sites of the Baden culture within the vast area of its expansion is progressing very slowly. It is especially true of the little known burial grounds where there is still a considerable disproportion in the number of researched burials, along the two most important rivers – the Danube and Tisza (*Bondár/Raczky* 2009; *Bondár et al.* 2015; *Nevizánsky* 1981; 1985, 249–272, fig. 1; *Sachße* 2010, fig. 2). Such concentration of burials as recorded on the necropolis of the Boleráz group in Pilismarót (110 burials; *Bondár et al.* 2015, 13; *Torma* 1973) or at the Baden culture burial ground in Budakalász (436 burials; *Raczky* 2009, 476) has not been investigated in any of the currently recorded middle to young eneolithic sites situated east of the Danube.

Compared to the number of investigated burials at the sites of the Polgár cultural complex, we have an uncomparable starting position at the investigation of the burial rite of the Baden culture's eastern enclave. From the aspect of quantity, we have recorded more than 300 burials from the Tiszapolgár culture settlement only (*Lichter* 2001, 269). At all these necropoli, with the exception of unique cases from the territory of the East Slovak Lowland, the people of this culture strictly followed the inhumation burial method (*Bistáková* 2009, 79, map 2; *Šiška* 1968). In Lúčky, the site of Pláne, bone fragments and ashes deposited in four larger vessels classified as urns and burned soil which contained the finds suggest use of cremation (*Sztáray* 1881, 273 nn.). We have recorded only one find of a cremation burial in Veľké Raškovce, where

44 burials were investigated in the whole area of the burial ground. Evidence of cremation of human remains related to another burial come also from another site in the village (Šiška 1963, 215–217). In Tibava, Hrun za cintirom site, the find situation at identification of individual burials was complicated by almost totally burned skeletal remains. S. Šiška (1964, 339) distinguished three, max. four, cremation burials at the biritual burial ground in Tibava. Traces of fire used within the burial ritual can be observed not only at sites of eastern Slovakia; they are visible also at the burial ground in Tiszapolgár-Basatanya (Bognár-Kutzián 1963, 361). Today, we know about approx. 750 burials from the Bodrogkeresztúr culture reaching the furthest from the eastern massive of the Carpathians, as far as the banks of the central Danube and Sava rivers. Almost 87% of them are burials with evidence of inhumation (Lichter 2001, 321). They come from the burial grounds in Bodrogkeresztúr, Tiszapolgár-Basatanya, Fényeslitke, Tiszavalk and others; nevertheless, burials at settlements were not uncommon either (Bistáková 2009, 98, map 4; Kalicz 1998, 334). Cremation rite is documented on two sites only – in Jászládány (Patay 1945, 8) and Fényeslitke (Patay 1969, 18). Inconsistence in following religious practices in the northern Tisza region can be observed mainly at the sites of the Hunyadi-halom – Lažňany culture, where first cremation burials occur along with biritual burials. The culture's source base comprises five necropoli with 95 studied burials in total. We have come across cremation in the eastern part of the Lažňany group sphere in Zemplín (Zalužice, originally Malé Zalužice-Lažňany) and in the Uzh region (Velikije Lazy). On the other hand, in its western area in the Košice basin, inhumation burials prevail at biritual burial grounds (Barca-Baloty, Šebastovce-Lapiše). Exclusively inhumation burials are used in the territory of Bačka (Vajska) (Bistáková 2009, 99, 106, map 2; Budinský-Krička 1963; 1964; Lichter 2001, 354 nn.; Nevizánsky 1981; 1984; Šiška 1972). The problem of absent analyses of the already mostly inaccessible osteological finds occurs when we want to confirm cremations at the above mentioned sites of the Polgár cultural complex. It is not clear from the small burned bones whether they are human or animal remains.

Finds which could be connected with practicing of the Baden culture burial rite are very rare in eastern Slovakia. The first notice in written sources mentions a cremation burial in a stone box from Spišské Tomášovce-Hadušovce (Eisner 1933, 30, 31; Novotná/Štefanovičová 1958, 275, 279; Pasternak 1928, 157). The find was not available even in the time of the initial publishing. In the 1930s, an al-

most completely preserved vessel was discovered in Seňa, Istendomb site, during exploitation of gravel. According to its finder, it was surrounded by stones (Lamiová-Schmiedlová/Bánesz 1962, 222, 223, fig. 3). The content of the vessel and the stones from the supposed box burial have not been preserved. With regard to missing information, we cannot say whether this find is evidence of an urn or a symbolical burial; we also cannot exclude its relation to any other type of cultic rituals. Several symbols suggesting some unknown message are depicted on the surface of the preserved vessel from Seňa (Horváthová 2010, fig. 29: A/B–C/E–D/7, pl. LXXIII: 5; Nevizánsky 2002, 84). An unknown number of cremation burials is supposed to come from Spišská Nová Ves, the upland settlement in Tarča (Javorský 1993, 16). We do not have any detailed information where the documentation has been deposited. Further information on the existence of a cremation burial is related to the investigation in Veľký Slavkov, the upland settlement of Burich (Novotný/Novotná/Kovalčík 1991, 27). Again, there is a lack of more detailed information. Part of a randomly placed and incomplete human skeleton was discovered by B. Polla (1956, 640) in a Baden culture settlement pit in Streda nad Bodrogom. We do not know where the anthropological material and finds from the settlement pit were deposited. Correction of our knowledge of cremation burial had been initiated by the analyses of the osteological material from the urn from Bracovce which revealed that the calcinated bones deposited in a jug did not belong to a human individual but only to larger or smaller animals – ruminants (Nevizánsky 2003, 1–6). The significance of this unusual find can be seen in certain symbolism of animal sacrifice for undefined purposes. The only currently known analogy to cremation of a sacrificed animal comes from the Baden culture burial ground in Szentes, Nagyhegy site, where burned small bones were discovered in burial 1 in a vessel deposited next to the dead person's head (Banner 1956, 89). The burned bones have not been professionally evaluated in this case either. We can conclude that there is only one burial of the Baden culture in the territory of eastern Slovakia in which the find circumstances have been thoroughly documented. It is the presented Grave A from Veľký Šariš. Another supposed Grave B from the same site with preserved pottery goods allows us to consider the site near the St. Cunigunde's chapel a burial ground for several individuals of the studied community. Due to old and new terrain adjustments on the site as well as to the limited extent of archaeological investigation, we are not able to estimate the size of the burial ground even approximately. Finds of

the Baden culture discovered on this site and in its surroundings before 2010 were not available in time of publication of this contribution. However, we do not exclude the possibility that if they are discovered, it would not be clear whether they come directly from the burial ground or a potential settlement situated near the necropolis.

No burial ground is known from the territory of the Carpathian Ruthenia or Romania, with the exception of a unique burial from the site of Valealui Mihai, Bihor county (*Roman/Németi* 1978, 14, 149; *Roska* 1932, 73, fig. 11, 12: 1). Seemingly, most information comes from the territory along the Tisza river basin in Hungary, where 15/16 burials at the necropolis in Mezőcsát (*Kalicz* 1999, 57–84, further literature here), 8 burials in Center (*Kalicz* 1963; *Kemenczei* 1964, 10–14), 10 burials in Szentes (*Banner* 1956, 89, 90), 2 burials in Szentsimon (*Koós* 1994, 201–207) and 7 burials in Tiszavasvári-Gyepáros (*Kalicz* 1999, 84–101) have been studied. Burials have also been detected directly in the settlement areas in Hódmezővásárhely (*Banner* 1939, 13–23; 1956, 78, 79, 84, 85, pl. 12), Ószentiváni (*Banner* 1956, 75), Orosháza (*Olasz* 1961, 285) and Tiszavasvári-Wienerberger brickyard (unpublished).

We do not know any burials of the oldest Boleráz stage of the Baden culture from the territory near the Tisza river basin, although in the Danube bend, the stage represents almost 100% of the investigated burial ground in the village of Pilismarót, Komárom county (*Bondár et al.* 2015; *Torma* 1973, 483–512) or burials from Malá nad Hronom (*Nevizánsky/Ožďáni* 1995–1996, 251–269). Two newly discovered burials from Veľký Šariš can be considered the oldest in this region. On the basis of the typological-chronological analysis of pottery finds, graves A and B are dated in stage Baden II, more probably in its beginning. Cremation in the Tisza region is also documented at the end of stages Baden II and Baden III at the biritual burial grounds of Mezőcsát and Tiszavasvári-Gyepáros. Results of the investigation of these burial grounds suggest that cremation of the dead prevailed over inhumation even in the Hungarian territory of the northern Tisza region. Remains of osteological material were deposited in pits or urns. Cremation burials in Mezőcsát were rather richer in goods than inhumation burials. Accompanying finds included pottery, chipped stone industry, clusters of ochre and perforated mussels, a drilled bead of limestone, animal teeth and copper beads which were originally parts of necklaces (*Kalicz* 1999, 83). On the geographically limited area near the rivers of Hagony, Lapša and today non-existent stream of Fekete, tributaries of the Slaná (Sajó) river,

we can observe transformation of the burial rite in form of depositing of the cremation remains in urns of anthropomorphic shapes. Now, we know about four necropoli from this microregion. The already mentioned two of them are situated on the territory of Hungary (Center-Kőfej, Szentsimon-Kenderföldék). Other two belong to the most important sites of the Baden culture in the south of central Slovakia. They are situated in the village of Gemer, Alsótábla site (24 burials; *Kovács* 1984, 45) and in Včelince, Feketesár site (8 burials, *Kovács* 1984, 47). These burial grounds of the Ózd group have been hardly investigated so far (*Kovács* 1987, 99–105). Each of them bore traces of significant damage during the period of investigation. Cremation burial rite was strictly followed in the investigated parts of the necropoli. Only burial 4 in Center is different from other burials as it did not contain any osteological material (*Kalicz* 1963, 10; *Kovács* 2002, 9). Besides urns, the finds fund of the burials also contained other vessels which covered them and further pottery deposited in the burial. Burials were poor in non-pottery finds. Rarely, they contained a flat stone axe, chipped stone industry, drilled beads and copper patches. The burial ground in Gemer has been investigated to the greatest extent. Burials here created two groups. The larger group B contains 18 burials. According to the author of the investigation Š. B. Kovács (2002, 10), survivors probably deposited urns directly on the then terrain and piled a circular mound with a diameter of 2–3 m and a stone wreath over it (Včelince, Center). In the initial stage of burying in Gemer, river pebbles were used to create the stone wreaths. In the later stage of the burial ground, these wreaths were created from white limestones from the Csínca stream's valley (*Kovács* 2002, 10). Processed stone stele probably marked the burials at the burial grounds in Včelince, Gemer, Center and Mezőcsát. Tombstones were made of travertine. They were mainly found in secondary horizontal positions. Their unprocessed lower parts show that they were originally embeded in the ground. Remains of calcinated bones from four burials in Center (burials 2, 3, 6, and 7; *Kalicz* 1963) and one burial in Včelince (burial 1) were submitted for anthropological analysis. Results of the analyses in Center suggest that mostly children between six months and five years of age were buried at the burial ground. Burial 3 contained ashes of a woman between 36 and 50 years of age deposited in a bigger urn, while ashes of two children of 1.5–3.5 years of age were deposited in smaller urns. Burned remains of a man of 23–39 years of age were deposited in an urn in burial 7 (*Kalicz* 1963). According to the

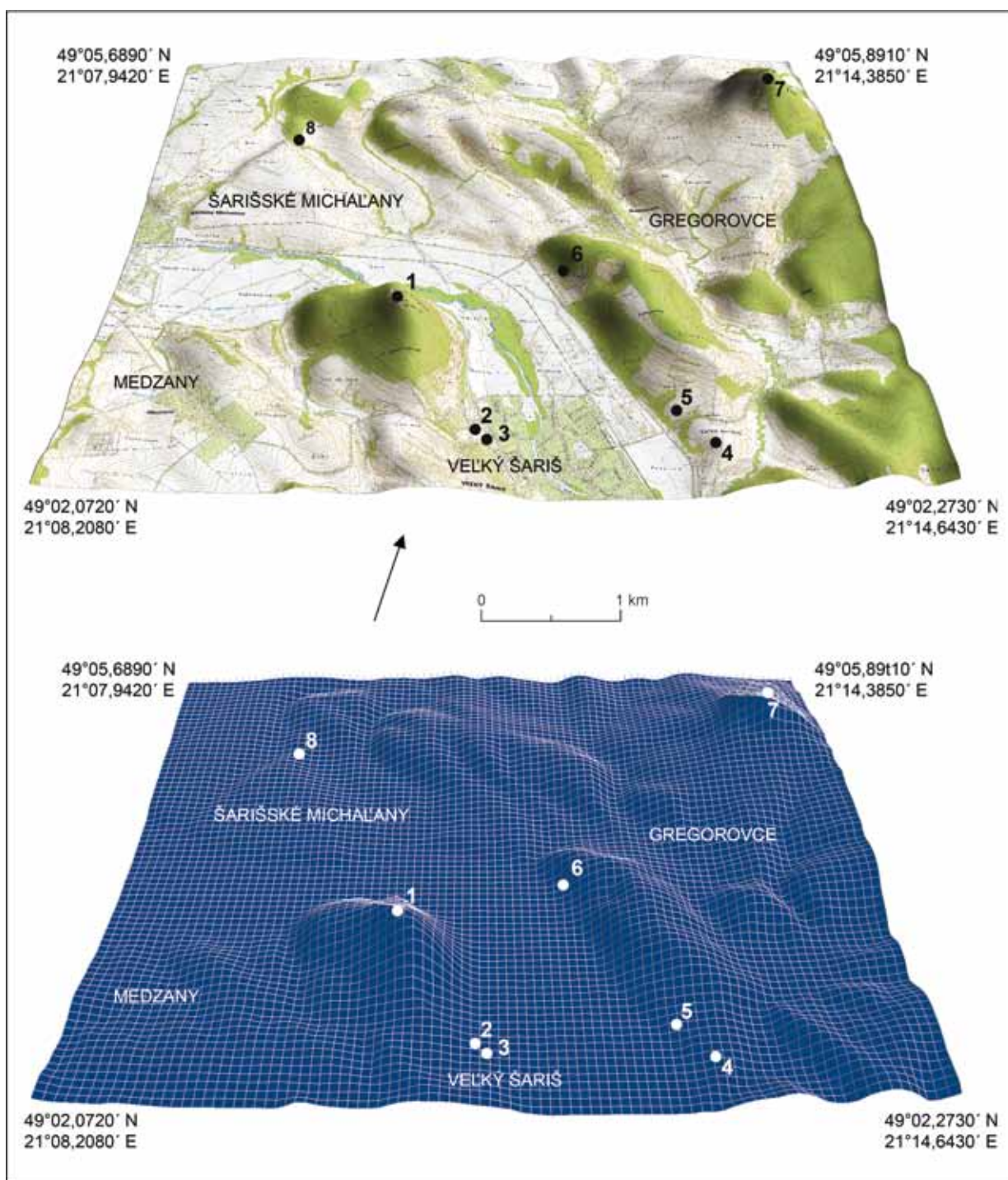


Fig. 6. 3D map with marked sites of the Baden culture in Veľký Šariš and its surroundings. 1 – Veľký Šariš-Šariš castle hill; 2 – Veľký Šariš-Ihrisko; 3 – Veľký Šariš-St. Cunigunde's chapel; 4 – Veľký Šariš-terasa nad Dzikovým potokom; 5 – Veľký Šariš-Sordok; 6 – Gregorovce-Tanarok; 7 – Terňa-Lysá Stráž (?); 8 – Šarišské Michalany-Fedelemla.

results of the analyses, the calcinated bones from burial 1 in Včelince belonged to an adult individual or several adults. They were deposited in four anthropomorphic urns of various sizes. According to M. Stloukal, who evaluated the bones from burial 1 in Včelince, the total amount of preserved

burned bone remains does not correspond with the amount of ashes of even a single individual. One urn contained animal bones along with human bones. The heat during cremation was probably very high, as the bones were almost totally burned (Kovács 2002, 16–20, 38).

EVALUATION OF THE BADEN CULTURE SETTLEMENT IN VEĽKÝ ŠARIŠ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Settlement of the Baden culture in Veľký Šariš and its near surroundings can be restored to some extent on the basis of at least eight archaeological sites (Fig. 6). The site of Šariš castle hill is the most dominant one in the terrain as it stands out in the hilly landscape of the Spišsko-šarišské medzihorie geomorphological unit. Fragments of Baden culture pottery come from the investigation of the rampart fortification of the castle's plateau but only a sketch of drawn reconstruction of a decorated bowl has been published (Slivka 1984, 147–150; Slivka/Olexa 1977, 258, fig. 168: 17). The rampart's body also contained finds from a younger settlement. Further evidence of the Baden culture people's presence in today's residential area of the town is known from the southeastern foot of Šariš castle hill. It was discovered during surface researches and collections from the larger area of the so-called manor house's terrace at the time of several construction phases of the sports complex, nearby streets and the local stream's regulation (Budinský/Krička 1974; Tomášová/Karabinoš 2006, 195, 196). The famous polycultural site on the terrace above the Dzikov potok stream is crucial for the investigation of the given topic; a torso of a stylized clay idol of a female sculpture comes from this site (Budinský/Krička 1974, 88, fig. 6: 1a–1c). Several settlement pits from the late Stone Age were disturbed on the site during excavations for water pipeline. We suppose that at least three of them could have belonged to the Baden culture (Blahuta 1963, 169–171; Budinský-Krička *et al.* 1962, 294; Šiška 1966, 55). The site is being monitored only in form of unsystematic surface prospecting (Vizdal/Derfiňák 2004, 201; 2006, 213). From other sites situated on the town's periphery, we can mention the site of Sordok, which belongs to the part of town called Kanaš (Blahuta 1965; Budinský-Krička 1984, 56; Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1966) and another site detected in the territory of Gregorovce, Tanarok site (Budinský-Krička 1948/1949, 274; 1974, 88). In 2014, the bottom part of the settlement pit was investigated in Sordok. Its original shape and size are unknown due to the remarkable damage. An almost complete bulbous cup decorated with vertical and oblique flutings comes from the pit as well as a fragment of a bowl rim with a developed Viss type handle; the fragment is decorated with incisions on its body. A bone awl, burned bones, a swollen river mussel and small charcoals (unpublished)³ were also found in the pit. The obtained finds are dated

in the classical development stage of the Baden culture. Chronological classification of the oldest settlement in Terňa, Lysá Stráž hill (698 m above sea level), is uncertain. F. Blahuta (1965, 37), who followed exclusively the stone industry finds collected during the survey of the hill, suggested that this site could have been first settled by the people of the Baden culture. Evaluative excavations carried out in 1953 and 1954 on the plateau under the peak and at the southeastern foothill of Lysá Stráž have not confirmed this assumption yet. Only Bronze Age and Hallstatt period settlements have been documented in this area (Budinský-Krička/Miroššayová 1992, 47–76). The Baden culture people in the Torysa river valley occupied some hillfort sites as well. The best known such site is situated in Šarišské Michaľany, Fedelemka site, where during a few-years' systematic investigation, S. Šiška (1995) documented 41 settlement features of the Baden culture altogether (Horváthová 2010, 15–18). In the nearby Prešov-Solivar, Chmeľové-Tichá dolina site, 25 more settlement features have been documented (Horváthová 2015b, 382; Horváthová/Tirpák 2012, 119–130). Fortification/Fence in form of unevenly deep and wide ditches has been documented on both hillfort sites, around their residential areas. New elements at founding hillfort settlements include first traces of planned urbanization. We can take at least six to eight log structures arranged in two lines in Šarišské Michaľany into consideration (Horváthová 2010, 27; pl. II; Šiška 1995, 48). Results of the terrain excavation together with the data of the geophysical prospecting in Prešov-Solivar, Chmeľové-Tichá dolina, also confirmed line arrangement of features not only in the inner area of the settlement but also along the outer circumference of the ditch (Horváthová/Tirpák 2012; Horváthová 2015a, 158, pl. III: 3, 4; 2015b, fig. 3: 4). Referring to the radiocarbon data of ¹⁴C AMS, we date the settlement in Prešov-Solivar, Chmeľové-Tichá dolina, in the beginning of stage Baden III, which corresponds with the older phase of the classical Baden culture (feature 10/2009, Poz-46313, 4440±35 BP; feature 18/2009, Poz-46312, 4550±35 BP; Horváthová 2015a, 160, 161, fig. 3; 2015b, 387–392, fig. 5–8). From Šarišské Michaľany, data from three features can be considered reliable – feature 205/1985 [Poz-41494], 4480±35 BP, 3331–3096 BC (68,2%), 3342–3029 BC (95,4%); feature 28/1981 [Poz-71497], 4425±35 BP, 3264–2938 BC (68,2%), 3327–2922 BC (95,4%); feature 48/1982 [Poz-71495], 4285±35 BP, 2916–2886 BC (68,2%), 3013–2873 BC (95,4%), which are comparable with the previously dated feature 241/1985 [VERA-769], 4385±35, 3078–2925 BC (62,2%) and 3096–2909 BC (95,4%). This allows us

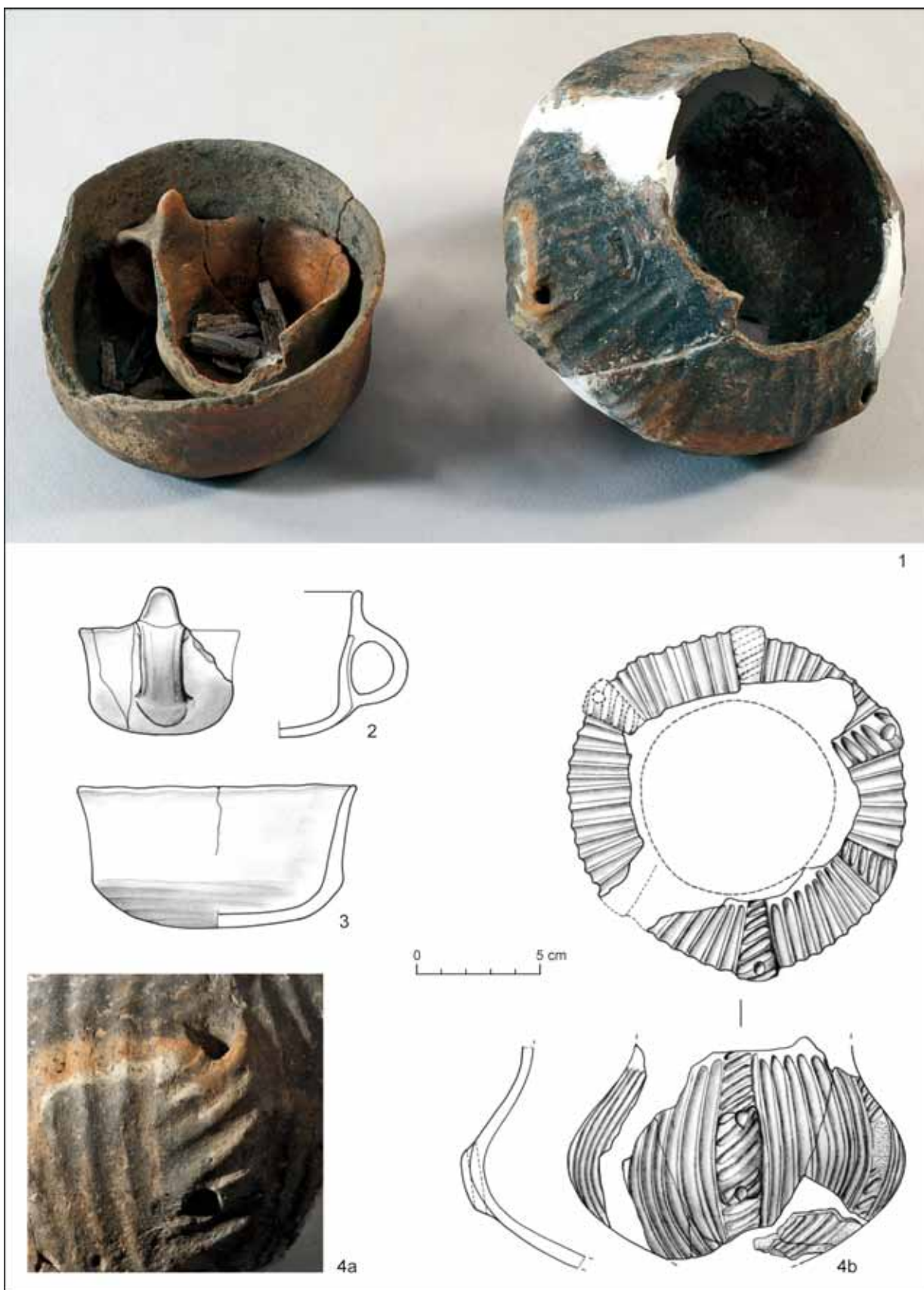
³ We thank L. Záhorec from the Archeovýskum, s. r. o. company for the information.

to classify the site to the turn of stages Baden III/IV (Horváthová/Zastawny 2016, 959–966). Cultural and chronological classification of the burials from Veľký Šariš results exclusively from the analysis of the pottery material. The closest parallels can be found in the accompanying finds from the four recently investigated settlement pits in Prešov-Solivar, Za cintorínom site. Very similar features are shown on the pottery fragments from Lubotice, Šarišské lúky site (previously Prešov-Šarišské lúky; Šiška 1976, 96–98, pl. XIV: 17–29; XV: 1–22). We assume that the burial ground in Veľký Šariš, together with the settlement in Prešov-Solivar, Za cintorínom site, and another settlement in Lubotice, Šarišské lúky site, represent the oldest horizon when first groups of the Baden culture people became established in the Torysa river valley and which is identified with stage Baden II, probably its very beginning. At the same time, the people of the studied culture started to occupy the southern part of eastern Slovakia from where it penetrated to the territory of Šarišské Podolie. Finds of the Baden culture from Spiš suggest much younger chronological classification.

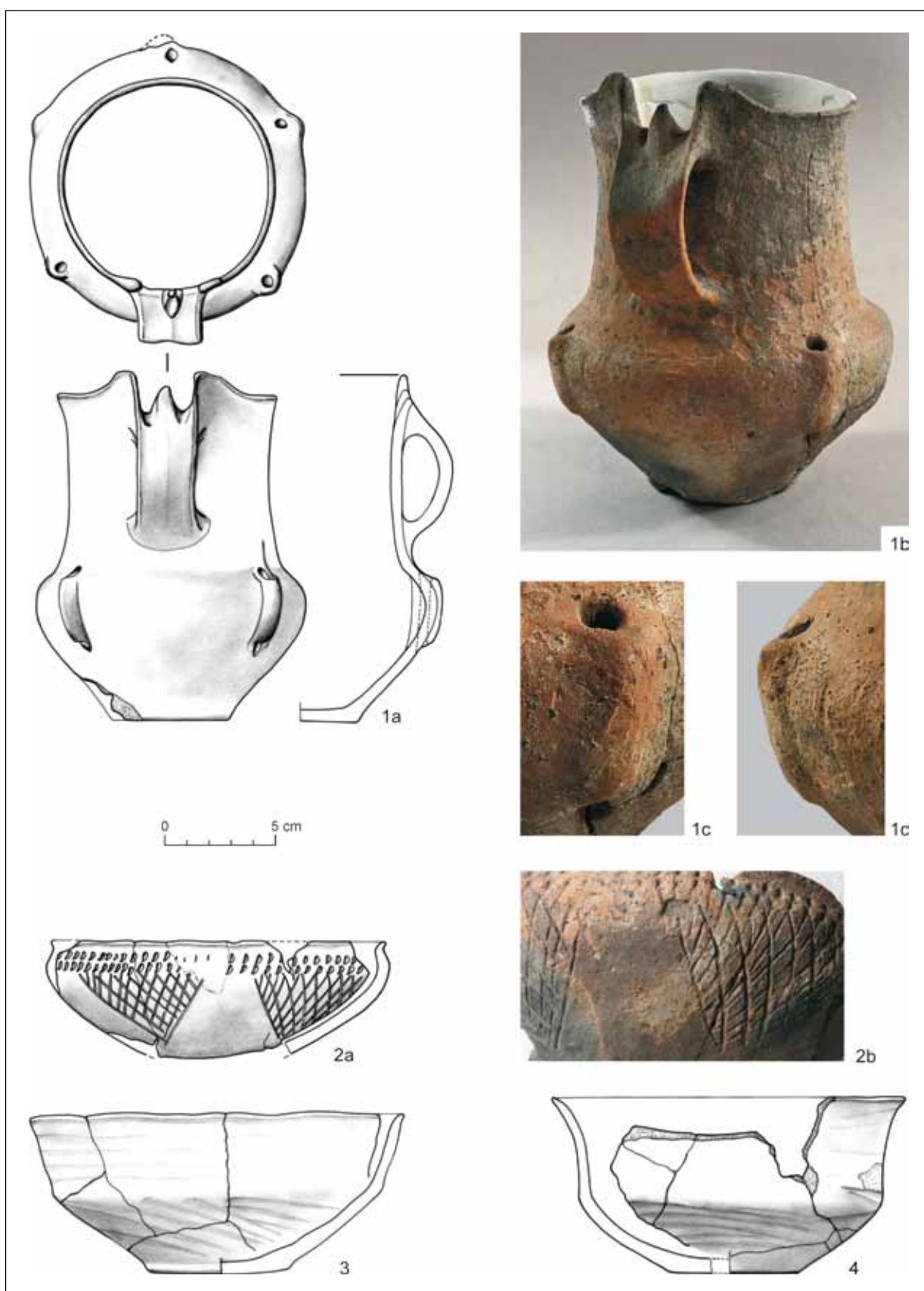
CONCLUSION

In the last ten years, several Baden culture sites were discovered in the foreland of Šariš. At least three of them are considered very important (Prešov-Solivar, Chmeľové-Tichá dolina; Prešov-Solivar, Za cintorínom and Veľký Šariš, exterior of the St. Cunigunde's chapel). We managed to obtain most information from Prešov-Solivar, Chmeľové-Tichá dolina site. At the time of investigation in

2009, this site was considered one of the oldest sites of the Baden culture on the periphery of the Košice basin and Šariš. But only investigations in Veľký Šariš, outside the St. Cunigunde's chapel area (2010) and in Prešov-Solivar, Za cintorínom site (2011, 2014), clearly proved even older settlement of the studied culture which had been prognosticated by S. Šiška (1998, 127) in the past at least in Lubotice-Šarišské lúky. Burials from Veľký Šariš also reliably prove the location of the burial ground of this people practising cremation burial rite at the time of their arrival to eastern Slovakia. Thus, the previous notices of finds documenting postmortal burning of individuals from Spišské Tomášovce-Hadušovce, Veľký Slavkov or Spišská Nová Ves become more probable. Hypothetically, however, they should be younger finds, with regard to the fact that the Baden culture settlement horizon from stage Baden II is not known from the upper or lower Spiš region. Only the unique find of a box or a symbolic burial from Seňa (Košice-okolie district) and another single find of a jug used as an urn from Bracovce (Michalovce district) with burned remains of two animal individuals can be connected with the oldest arrival of this population. Practising cremation in eastern Slovakia in the middle Eneolithic can be connected with the heritage of burial customs from the circle of the Hunyadi-halom – Lažňany culture groups (with biritual burials in Košice basin); nevertheless, we cannot underestimate the significant role of the heritage of the Boleráz group related to the newly appearing Baden culture people, who preferred cremation burials as seen from the examples of the burial grounds in Pilismarót and Malá nad Hronom.



Pl. I. Veľký Šariš. St. Cunigunde's chapel. Finds from Grave A (photos by A. Susuľ; drawn by B. Grabowska). Scale: 2, 3, 4b.



PL. II. Veľký Šariš. St. Cunigunde's chapel. Finds from Grave B (photos by A. Susuľ; drawn by B. Grabowska). Scale: 1a, 2a, 3, 4.

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SÚHRN

Reliéfou dominantou Veľkého Šariša a jeho okolia je Šarišský hradný vrch. Na jeho južnom úpätí sa rozprestiera mesto Veľký Šariš a zároveň tu na pravobrežnej terase rieky Torysa bola identifikovaná rozsiahla polykultúrna archeologická lokalita, ktorú v súčasnosti vymedzujú ulice Hlavná,

Harmíny, Mlynská a Zámocká. Do roku 1948 mala táto časť Veľkého Šariša iné využitie. Nachádzal sa tu renesančný kaštieľ rodiny Rákociovcov s parkom a ďalšou hospodárskou vybavenosťou. V uvedenom roku ho postihol požiar a následne bol rozobratý. Na ploche kaštieľa a priľahlého

parku neskôr vzniklo futbalové ihrisko so štadiónom. Súčasťou areálu kaštieľa bola aj Kaplnka sv. Kunhuty, ktorá sa ako jediná architektonická pamiatka zachovala dodnes. Indície o zaniknutom augustiniánskom kláštore lokalizovanom v tomto priestore potvrdil až archeologický výskum v roku 2003, ktorý realizovalo Krajské múzeum v Prešove v kooperácii s Archeologickým ústavom SAV.

V roku 2010 pokračoval Archeologický ústav SAV vo výskume lokality formou šiestich ručne kopaných sond. Dve z nich boli situované v interiéri Kaplnky sv. Kunhuty (sondy 1 a 6) a ďalšie štyri v jej exteriéri (sondy 2, 3, 4 a 5). Pre účely predloženej štúdie sú najpodstatnejšie zistenia dvoch zhľukov keramických depónií z obdobia stredného eneolitu v sonde 2/2010, ktoré reprezentujú pamiatky blízke málo známemu najstaršiemu horizontu osídlenia badenskej kultúry na východnom Slovensku.

V sonde 2/2010 sa zachytili aj ďalšie archeologické objekty – kanál z lomového kameňa (*hypocaustum*), šesť kostrových hrobov z vrcholnostredovekej a včasnónovovekej etapy osídlenia polohy (1/2010, 2/2010, 5/2010 až 8/2010) a päť sídliskových objektov (3/2010 až 7/2010) pochádzajúcich z obdobia vrcholného stredoveku, doby rímskej, laténskej a bronzovej. Osídlenie v neolite pripomínajú iba nálezy keramiky v sekundárnych polohách.

Nádoby badenskej kultúry (spolu minimálne sedem keramických jedincov) predstavovali dva samostatné súbory. Prvý súbor pozostával z dvoch nádob, ktoré pôvodne stáli na svojich dňach. Až pri laboratórnom spracovaní nálezov sa zistilo, že v skutočnosti ide o súbor troch nádob, keďže v miske bola uložená ešte jedna menšia šálka s uškom. Šálka a džbán obsahovali prepálené kosti jedného ľudského jedinca vo veku *infans*. Nález bol z tohto dôvodu dodatočne označený ako žiarový hrob A. Nádoby zo žiarového hrobu neporušoval výkop zásobnicovej jamy (objekt 3/2010) a rovnako neboli zasiahnuté ani výkopom mladšej hrovej jamy kostrového hrobu (6/2010). Výskyt ďalšieho antropogénneho objektu (jamy, prehĺbeniny a pod.) priamo súvisiaceho s hrobom A nebol spozorovaný.

Vo vzdialenosti približne 1,5 m od žiarového hrobu A sa nachádzal druhý súbor nádob badenskej kultúry. Išlo o štyri takmer kompletne nádoby alebo ich väčšie torzá vyskytujúce sa spoločne na ploche menšej ako 1 m². Napriek tomu, že detailnejšie informácie o primárnych nálezových okolnostiach tohto súboru nie sú známe, pravdepodobnosť, že taktiež súvisel s pohrebnými praktikami ľudu badenskej kultúry je veľmi vysoká. Z tohto dôvodu bol aj druhý keramický súbor dodatočne označený ako hrob B, a to aj napriek tomu, že pozostatky antropologického materiálu sa v halde zeminy nepodarilo dohľadať.

Medzi najpočetnejší keramický inventár dvoch hrobov badenskej kultúry z Veľkého Šariša patrili misy (dovedna štyri exempláre). K najvýraznejším chronologickým indikátorom z hľadiska morfológie stavby tela i z aspektu vyhotovenia výzdoby je misa typu H z hrobu B. Ide o torzo dvojkónickej nádoby so zaoblením asi v dvoch tretinách jej celkovej výšky s vŕtanutým ústím a mierne von vyhnutým a profilovaným okrajom. Táto misa predstavuje na východnom Slovensku nateraz ojedinelý a vzácny exemplár. Je neobvykle zdobená kombináciou vpichov a rýh. Ide o veľmi archaický tvar nádoby s vyobrazením mladšieho výzdobného štýlu. Chronologicky citlivá je aj šálka z hrobu A, z ktorej v mieste ucha nad okraj prečnieva plochý zaoblený výčnelok. Malý džbánok z hrobu A patrí k najstarostlivejšie vyhotovenej keramike zo všetkých nádob badenskej kultúry na lokalite. Vyznačuje sa veľmi tenkými korodovanými stenami bez evidentných známk po leštení. Celý vonkajší povrch nádoby zdobia plytké, zvislo orientované žliabky. Baňaté telo zvýrazňujú pravé subkutánne uchá a zvislé plastické rebrá. Ich povrch je dekorovaný plytkými škľmými žliabkami. Z územia východného Slovenska sa podobná výzdoba na nádobách badenskej kultúry objavuje len výnimočne. Z publikovaných nálezov možno spomenúť džbán z Bracoviec. Na základe štylisticko-chronologických znakov keramiky pochádzajúcej z hrobov A a B je datované novoobjavené pohrebisko vo Veľkom Šariši do prechodného boľarázsko-včasnoklasického horizontu badenskej kultúry (stupeň Baden II). Zaradenie nálezov bližšie k horizontu Fonyód-Tekovský Hrádok je možné vyvodiť z archaického tvaru misy typu H, ako aj zo zdrsnenia úpravy povrchu ostatných, inak nezdobených mís. Z celého nálezového celku sa považuje za najmladší výzdobný prvok rytá výzdoba misy typu H zobrazujúca mriežkovany, resp. sieťovaný triangulárny vzor, ktorý sa na nádobách badenskej kultúry začal častejšie zobrazovať na sklonku stupňa Baden II a typickým sa stal až v stupni Baden III. Hroby z Veľkého Šariša sú teda jedným z mála dokladov najstaršieho osídlenia badenskej kultúry na východnom Slovensku. Ich datovanie sa opiera o najnovšie výsledky výskumov v Prešove, Kašove a Trebišove. Na ich základe bude možné prehodnotiť a chronologicky lepšie posúdiť aj dávnejšie publikované nálezy „boľarázoidného“ charakteru z východoslovenských lokalít na území Košickej kotliny, Šariša a Zemplína. Je predpoklad, že pohrebisko vo Veľkom Šariši spolu so sídliskom v Prešove-Solivare, v polohe Za cintorinom a ďalšou osadou v Ľuboticiach, v polohe Šarišské lúky, reprezentujú najstarší známy horizont osídlenia badenskej kultúry na priľahlom území údolia Torysy, ktorý možno stotožniť so stupňom Baden II.