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## The Excavation Site „Behind Raščica near Krog“ – the Settlement of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci Culture

In accordance with the project of the protection of archaeological heritage, the section of the planned Vučja vas – Beltinci motorway was examined extensively and thoroughly in 1999 (Fig. 1). Potential archaeological sites that were located during this phase were further examined with the so-called „intrasite method“. The works were carried out by Dr. Bojan Djurić, the president of SAAS, and the favourable results enabled rescue excavations of archaeological sites on the planned section of the aforementioned motorway.

Field-examinations showed that the section of the Vučja vas – Beltinci motorway had been settled in all archaeological periods. Thus an archaeological site was confirmed at the location Behind Raščica near Krog and a plan for rescue excavations (covering 22,469 m<sup>2</sup>) on this area was proposed to the company for motorways of the Republic of Slovenia. The archaeological excavations, which took place from 7<sup>th</sup> May to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 and from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2002, were under the domain of The Provincial Museum of Murska Sobota.

The excavation site „Behind Raščica near Krog“ is located on a plain 280 meters south-west from the exculpatory channel of Ledava-Mura, between the villages of Bakovci and Krog. Before the excavations, the area was covered with conjoined fields that belonged to different owners. The surface of the site was divided into sectors (I–VIII), which were subdivided into quadrants of 10x10 meters.

The geological accompaniment and geomorphological description revealed that the soil consists of sandy gravel that had been deposited by the river Mura during the period of the last glaciation in the Alps. The Mura extended four kilometres or more in width at that time, with its interior densely interwoven with individual active river beds that altered their position regularly. Amidst the active river beds longitudinal sandbanks were formed, and the latter can be regarded

as the basis for the archaeological sites. The areas between these sandbanks were subsequently filled with various sediments, while at certain regions the sedimentation managed to reach the very tops of the sandbanks. Certain flood-sediments (sand and sandy silt) acted as fills in the Mura and other nearby brooks and streams. Because of their unique topography certain areas between sandbanks functioned as river beds and were responsible for the formation of the sand. Indubitably, these processes took place in all archaeological periods and were the main cause of the constant alteration of the landscape, especially in the sense of its ever greater flatness. Human influence is most visible in a series of changes in the natural environment, such as the drop in the original level of groundwater or the process of moving of material from higher to lower parts that was a consequence of intensive farming. At the site of Behind Raščica there is a sandbank, deposited by the river Mura and forms the geological basis of the site. Below the first (cultivable) soil-strata, oxidized sand was found; which had been formed as fluvial sediment before the process of cultivation. In certain areas the sandbank is covered in sand-sediments, while in certain other cases a 90 cm thick stratum can be found below the arable land which one could interpret as a cultivable stratum. Such thickness can be understood as a result of a sudden influx of flood material to the basic surface. At three distinct areas the river beds flowing in the direction west–north-west were filled up completely.

### Archaeological (cultural) strata

*Stratum no. 1* – arable land; it consisted of dark-brown clay, measuring 0.25 m to 0.35 m in thickness; it covered the whole surface of the land; it contained several items of prehistoric and more modern pottery, building materials and numerous other finds of recent date.

*Stratum no. 2* – constituent part of stratum no. 1 (i.e. arable land), 0.05 m to 0.20 m in thickness, sometimes found below stratum no. 1 as a consequence of deep ploughing; it contained diverse prehistoric material, including a stone-mould (Fig. 6: 3), an ornamented vessel on a foot (Fig. 2: 4) and various materials of more recent date.

*Stratum no. 3* – formed by continuous flooding and cultivation of the land; basically a brown clayey soil, 0.60 m to 0.86 m in thickness, it was located below strata 1 and 2.

*Stratum no. 5* – brown-red soil mixed with river sand, 0.05 to 0.10 m in thickness; it lay on stratum 5A (sterile geological stratum in which many different prehistoric structures were incorporated) and on numerous prehistoric structures; it contained prehistoric pottery (Figs. 2: 3, 5; 3: 6–7; 4: 1; 6: 5), household lep,<sup>1</sup> spindles, wheel of a model handcart (Fig. 5: 3), small stone tools and querns.

*Stratum no. 7* – a destroyed prehistoric structure; consisted of brown soil in which the following items were found: pottery (Figs. 4: 6; 5: 4), household lep, spindles (Fig. 4: 7) and querns; it was of irregular shape (13 x 6.5 m in size), 0.10 to 1.15 m in thickness; it was found below stratum no. 1 and partially below stratum no. 3; it was found in sec. V and VI (qu. 70, 71, 86, 87).

*Stratum no. 34* – formed in a manner very similar to that of stratum no. 3; consisted of brown clay, was of irregular shape, measuring 42 x 15.5 m in size, 0.20 m in thickness; it was found above stratum 321 and covered a large number of prehistoric structures; it was found in sec. IV–VI (qu. 49, 49 A, 51–53, 68–70, 84–87).

*Stratum no. 62, 180* – formed in a manner very similar to that of stratum no. 3; consisted of brown clay, was of irregular shape, 58 x 22 m in size, up to 0.15 m in thickness; located below stratum 1 and found above stratum 5A; it covered a large number of prehistoric structures: 995 fragments of prehistoric pottery were found in this stratum (Fig. 3: 2), 20 pieces of lep, 3 spindles, 2 microliths; it was found in sec. I, IA to V (qu. 9A, 10A, 10–13, 27–30, 43–46, 60–63, 77–79).

*Stratum no. 110* – deposited stratum; consisted of brown clay, 0.40 m in thickness; it was located under stratum 3 and was found above the stratum of sterile clay, no. 321; it was found in sec. VI (qu. 74, 75, 90, 91); the stratum was very probably a passable area within Feature no. 32.

*Stratum no. 580* – deposited stratum; consisted of dark-grey swampy clay, up to 0.40 m in thickness; it was found below stratum no. 565; it was found in sec. I to III (qu. 114–117, 139–140, 162); some fragments of pottery were found in this stratum.

*Stratum no. 613* – consisted of yellowish-brown sandy clay with a diameter of 8 m; interpreted as structural ruins since it contained prominent patches of burnt soil at the edges and pottery; 0.50 m in thickness and it covered structures; it was found in sec. VII and VIII (qu. 227, 228, 230, 231).

*Stratum no. 614* – consisted of brown-red clay with gravel stones; 0.60 m in thickness.

*Stratum no. 615* – consisted of dark-grey clay with gravel stones; located in sec. VII (qu. 226).

### *Prehistoric structures (Annex)*

Archaeological excavations at the site Behind Raščica near Krog confirmed that this area was first settled in the Early Bronze Age (the Somogyvár – Vinkovci culture); a damaged grave that was found confirms a graveyard from the Bronze Age that was destroyed at a later date; sec. VII and VIII give evidence of a poorly preserved stratum from the Roman times. In the present article I will focus strictly on the settlement of the Early Bronze Age period.

### *More important prehistoric features*

*Feature no. 6, 32* (qu. 74–76, 90–92), 17 x 10 m in size and 0.15 to 0.20 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5. The fill consisted of brown clay with a great number of prehistoric finds. On the inside of the feature, that is, at its furthest edge, the following items were located: a water reservoir (no. 374), remnants of gravelly paving (no. 354), several dug pits and hollows (no. 417, 407, 319) and numerous post holes (no. 97, 336, 397, 408, 410, 423, 428). The feature contained 3908 fragments of prehistoric pottery (Figs. 3: 1, 3, 4; 4: 5; 5: 1, 5; 6: 4), 400 pieces of lep, 5 spindles, 5 microliths, fragmented wheel of a model handcart (Fig. 5: 6) and fragments of a model handcart (Fig. 5: 2).

*Feature no. 12, 13* (qu. 41–42, 57–58) was of irregular shape, 4.4 x 2.2 m in size, 0.20 to 0.50 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5. The fill consisted of brown clay with a great number of prehistoric finds: 1788 fragments of pottery (Figs. 2: 1, 2; 3: 5; 4: 2, 4), a whole vessel, 340 pieces of lep, microliths, fragments of querns and a spindle. Outside the feature and possibly connected with it were dug pits and hollows (no. 94, 96, 11), a fireplace (no. 528) and 12 post holes of smaller dimensions.

*Feature no. 223, 165* (qu. 86) was of irregular shape, 6.5 x 4 m in size, 0.17 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 34 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of dark-brown clay. Within the

feature 2 post holes were found. It was probably related to feature no. 34 A, 554.

*Feature no. 34 A, 554* (qu. 85, 86) was of irregular shape, 4.7 x 3.5 m in size, 0.15 to 0.20 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 34 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of dark-brown clay with a great number of finds: 886 fragments of prehistoric pottery (Figs. 2: 5; 4: 2), 122 pieces of lep and 2 microliths. On the inside 6 smaller post holes and a small hollow were found (no. 178, 179).

*Feature no. 298, 299* (qu. 49, 49 A) was of irregular shape, measuring 5.5 x 5.5 m in size, 0.20 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 110 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following finds: 43 fragments of prehistoric pottery. On the inside a smaller hollow was found. Immediately next to it, on the outer side of the feature, yet another hollow (no. 300) was found (2.2 x 1.2 m in size) that very probably belongs to the same feature.

*Feature no. 183, 314* (qu. 16, 23, 97, 121) was of irregular shape, 16 m in diameter, 0.50 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 3 and buried in stratum no. 553. The fill consisted of brown clay with the following finds: 1768 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 4 fragments of querns, 2 spindles, a microlith and several pieces of household lep. On the inside several smaller hollows were found (no. 312, 313; 507, 508; 389, 390).

*Feature no. 540, 539* (qu. 1, 1 A, 1 C) was of irregular shape, measuring 6 x 6 m in size, 0.40 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 3 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of dark-grey-brown clay with the following finds: 749 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 62 pieces of lep, 2 microliths, and a piece of a quern. Within the feature two post holes and two hollows were found, and at the outside, in the immediate vicinity of the feature, were three hollows. Radio-carbon analysis of the charcoal (carried out by Ruder Bošković Institute, Zagreb) showed that the feature dates back to between 2210–1970 BC.

*Feature no. 589, 590* (qu. 144, 145) was of irregular shape, 2.20 x 9.00 m in size, 0.30 m in depth. The fill consisted of brown clay with the following finds: 641 fragments of prehistoric pottery, a spindle, a microlith and several pieces of lep. Within the feature and in its vicinity some post holes and several large and small hollows were found (no. 584, 586, 588, 600, 602, 604, 647, 649, 651).

### **Storage vessels**

In the immediate vicinity of feature no. 589, 590, two large pithoi were found – no. 652, 653 (Fig. 6: 1, 4) and no. 654, 655 that were buried in stratum no. 5.

### **Post holes**

The concentration of post holes (no. 226–242, 457–473, 477–483, 545) in qu. 34, 35, 50, 51 suggests the presence of a large structure measuring 8 x 10 m. The post holes measure 0.15 to 0.30 m in diameter and 0.05 to 0.18 m in depth. They were found under stratum no. 110 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay, charcoal and some fragments of pottery.

A similar concentration of post holes (no. 46, 48, 98, 100, 111) was found in qu. 95 and 96. In their vicinity the following hollows were found: no. 86 measuring 0.75 m in diameter, no. 85 measuring 1 m in diameter, no. 113 measuring 1.3 x 0.9 m in diameter and SE 116 measuring 1.5 x 1.4 m in diameter. The prevailing element in the fill was prehistoric pottery.

A relatively high concentration of post holes was also found in qu. 92 and 93 together with their corresponding hollows: no. 338 measuring 2.3 x 2 m in diameter, no. 52 measuring 1 m in diameter, no. 327 measuring 0.80 m in diameter and no. 323 measuring 1 m in diameter. All the hollows measured 0.23 to 0.90 m in depth and their fill consisted of fragments of prehistoric pottery, spindles, microliths, household lep and a wooden axe. A concentration of prehistoric pottery no. 29 also belongs to the post holes in question.

A smaller concentration of post holes was also found in qu. 63 and 79 (no. 102, 104 and 520), qu. 51 (no. 247, 249, 251, 255), qu. 21, 22 and 38 (no. 270, 307, 303, 305, 308, 310, 376) and qu. 37 (no. 378, 380, 495, 499, 501).

### **Water reservoirs**

8 reservoirs were found at the site.

*Reservoir no. 374, 373, 395, 396, 412, 420* in qu. 75 is circular in shape, measuring 5.5 m in diameter, 4.45 m in depth. It was found below feature no. 6 and buried in stratum no. 5A. In the reservoir several fills were found: 1716 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 263 pieces of lep, 3 microliths, a fragment of a quern and wooden weapons.

Charcoal analysis of fill SE 412 showed that the reservoir dates back to between 2140–1920 BC.

*Reservoir no. 118, 117, 320* in qu. 79, 80, 95, 96 was of irregular shape, 2 to 2.20 m in diameter, and 1.55 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. In the reservoir several fills were found: a whole vessel, 345 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 107 pieces of lep, a spindle, a chipping, 3 microliths and a fragment of a quern.

*Reservoir no. 129, 128* in qu. 51 was circular in shape, 2.6 m in diameter, 1.15 m in depth. It was found

below stratum no. 3 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with some gravel and the following finds: 34 fragments of prehistoric pottery and 7 pieces of lep.

*Reservoir no. 325, 324, 357, 360, 361* in qu. 35 was of irregular oblong shape, 4 x 1.7 m in diameter. The feature became circular at a depth of 0.10 m with a diameter of 1.6 m; its' depth was 1.00 m. It was found below stratum no. 3 and buried in stratum no. 321. In the reservoir several fills with the following finds were found: 173 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 25 pieces of lep, 3 spindles and a fragment of a mould made of clay (Fig. 6: 2). Charcoal analysis of fill no. 360 demonstrated that the feature dates back to between 2340–2110 BC.

*Reservoir no. 353, 352, 368, 371, 386* in qu. 79 was circular in shape, measured 3 m in diameter, 2.35 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. In the reservoir several fills with the following finds were found: 2 vessels, 4221 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 146 pieces of lep, 5 fragments of spindles, 4 pieces of stone-chipping and a fragment of a quern.

*Reservoir no. 570, 571* in qu. 124/125, 1.80 m in diameter, 0.75 m in depth, with beaten yellow clay as a fill that can be interpreted as a water reservoir.

*Reservoir no. 572, 573* in qu. 125, which was circular in shape, and measured 1.70 m in diameter, 0.70 m in depth. The fill was beaten yellow clay containing 3 fragments of prehistoric pottery.

### **Hearths and fireplaces**

*Fireplace no. 124, 125* in qu. 52. In the upper part was a ruin of irregular shape, 2 x 1.3 m in size, located below stratum no. 2 and lay on the top of stratum no. 125. The ruin contained 79 fragments of prehistoric pottery and 400 pieces of lep. In the lower part a construction made of burnt soil was located measuring 1.4 x 1.3 m in size, 0.03–0.05 m in thickness. The construction reached up to 0.10 m in thickness at its edges. It was found below stratum no. 124 and buried in stratum no. 321.

*Hearth no. 528* in qu. 41 was of irregular shape, 0.95 x 0.95 m in size. It consisted of extremely burnt red soil that lay on the top of stratum no. 244.

*Hearth no. 597, 598*, qu. 16, 32 was of irregular circular shape, and measured 1.90 x 2.20 m in size, 0.56 m in thickness. The fill was greasy dark-grey clay, burnt soil, 373 fragments of prehistoric pottery and 70 pieces of lep. The hearth was found inside of feature no. 314. Charcoal analysis showed that the feature dates back to between 1960–1730 BC.

### **Larger structures (hollows) located outside the features**

*Hollow no. 8, 9* in qu. 63 was of irregular shape, 1.90 x 1.40 m in size, 0.15 - 0.25 m in depth. It was found below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of dark-brown clay and the following artefacts: a whole vessel, 70 fragments of prehistoric pottery (Fig. 4: 3) and 3 pieces of lep.

*Hollow no. 61, 60* in qu. 55 was circular in shape, measuring 1.90 m in diameter, and 0.15 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 244. The fill consisted of light-brown clay with the following finds: a whole vessel and 18 fragments of prehistoric pottery.

*Hollow no. 109, 108* in qu. 94, 95 was of irregular oval shape, 1.60 x 1.10 m in size, and 0.09 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 244. The fill consisted of light-brown clay with the following finds: a whole vessel and 18 fragments of prehistoric pottery.

*Hollow no. 130, 131* in qu. 51 was circular in shape, 2.10 x 1.00 m in diameter, and 0.12 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 2 and buried in stratum no. 321. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following artefacts: a whole vessel (Fig. 3: 2), 20 fragments of prehistoric pottery and 25 pieces of lep.

*Hollow no. 189, 188 (362, 362)* in qu. 26, 41, 42 was of irregular shape, 4.5 x 2.5 m in size, and 0.23 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 2 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of light-brown clay with the following artefacts: 306 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 68 pieces of lep, 3 fragments of querns and a spindle.

*Hollow no. 265, 220* in qu. 27 was of irregular shape, measuring 4.80 x 2.90 m in size, and 0.22 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following artefacts: 3 whole vessels, 426 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 106 pieces of lep, a fragment of a quern and a spindle.

*Hollow no. 264, 221* in qu. 27, 28 was of irregular shape, 3.10 x 1.60 m in size, 0.18 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 180 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following artefacts: 118 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 47 pieces of lep and a stone-chipping.

*Hollow no. 419, 418* in qu. 77 was of irregular shape, 2.30 m in diameter and 0.14 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following artefacts: 49 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 15 pieces of lep, a fragment of a quern, a fragment of a spindle and a fragment of a stone-axe.

*Hollow no. 432, 431* in qu. 8 was of irregular oval shape, measuring 6.30 x 3.70 m in size, and 0.40 m in depth. It was located below stratum no. 1 and buried in stratum no. 5A. The fill consisted of grey-brown clay with the following artefacts: 538 fragments of prehistoric pottery, 139 pieces of lep, 2 microliths and a fragment of a quern.

## Architecture

The excavation site was either mixed with the cultivated stratum or was located immediately beneath it. Many important archaeological structures were damaged because the prehistoric settlement had been subjected to heavy and extensive cultivation for several decades. Features were preserved mainly as small or large hollows, concentrations of household roughcast (i.e. lep), post holes, water reservoirs, hearths and fireplaces. Buried features were found (no. 554, 013, 314, 298, 540, 183, 589) measuring up to 10 m in diameter and above-ground structures such as no. 6 measuring 17 x 10 m in size, a concentration of post holes in qu. 34, 35, 50, 51 that indicates the presence of a larger feature measuring 8 x 10 m in size, a concentration of post holes and smaller hollows in qu. 92, 93 that could also indicate above-ground structures. Eight water reservoirs were found, as well as one fireplace and two hearths. Outside these features around thirty larger features were found, which were later interpreted as hollows. Their dimensions ranged from 6.3 x 3.7 m to 1.00 x 0.8 m and were approximately 0.5 to 0.85 m deep.

## Finds

The prevailing element at the site Behind Raščica is pottery, though there is a great number of finds that were made of stone (chippings, kernels, blades), as well as several stone-axes and querns. Among the most common forms from the period of the Early Bronze Age are pots (Figs. 3: 5; 4: 5; 5: 1; 6: 1, 4). The vessels are mostly biconical in shape, normally have cylindrical necks, thickened mouths (plastic split rib) and strip-like handles. Also, many smaller jugs with one or two handles (Fig. 4: 1–4) and several bowls were found. The latter normally have semi-circularly rounded bodies (Figs. 2: 1–3; 3: 3, 6, 7), but there were also some pointed (Fig. 6: 5) and deep (Fig. 5: 4) bowls. Cups usually have cross-shaped feet (Figs. 2: 4, 5; 3: 1, 2, 4), while bowls have handles (Fig. 5: 5). There were also several spindles (Fig. 4: 7), two pieces of moulds, one made of sand-stone (Fig. 6: 3) and the other of clay (Fig. 6: 2), two wheels of a model handcart (Fig. 5: 3, 6) and a piece of the ornamented wall of a handcart (Fig. 5: 2).

Most of the vessels are ornamented. The prevailing modelling type is that where the decoration is raised from the wall of the vessel. This modelling method also includes mouths that have been attached to the outsides of the vessels and frequently ornamented with fingerprints. These were found on pots (Figs. 3: 5; 4: 5; 5: 1; 6: 4) or bowls (Figs. 2: 1; 5: 4). Incised decoration is another type of ornamentation that can often be found on bowls and pots, and is sometimes accompanied by stitches (Figs. 2: 2, 5; 3: 6; 4: 5) and ornaments made with the furrow-stitch technique (Fig. 3: 3, 7). There are some cases of application made on the walls of the vessels (Fig. 6: 1). Bigger vessels are often decorated by the barbotin technique, which is normally located on the lower part of a vessel (Fig. 5: 1).

The prevailing elements in the case of stitches and ornaments made with furrow-stitch technique are geometrical motifs; especially as horizontal lines or incised V patterns (Figs. 2: 4; 3: 1, 7). Similarly frequent are hatched triangles in combination with zigzag (Fig. 2: 2–5), scale motif (Fig. 3: 1, 6) or stitches (Figs. 2: 2, 5; 3: 6; 6: 5).

It is quite obvious that Behind Raščica is a settlement that belongs to the cultural group of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture, which was spread throughout the Pannonian Plain in the Early Bronze Age (KALICZ–SCHREIBER 1986, 249). In the older literature these two cultures were treated as two separate groups (for example GARAŠANIN 1983, 471–475; BÓNA 1963–1964, 17–63), but over the years they were gradually merged into one entity – the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture (BONDÁR 1995, 197). Some authors feel that the carriers of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture occupied the area that had previously been settled by the late Vučedol culture (Vučedol C). The latter was supposedly and to a certain extent contemporary with the early Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture – a fact that was demonstrated by Vučedol finds in the strata of the early Vinkovci culture (DIMITRIJEVIĆ 1979, 338; MARKOVIĆ 2003, 120). At the Behind Raščica site quite a few elements were found that speak of a certain amount of contact or influence, for example the decoration of the wall of a model handcart (Fig. 5: 2) with the motif of Andrew's cross that is usually found on the normal or cross-shaped feet in the late classical Vučedol phase (DIMITRIJEVIĆ 1979, 293, T.32: 3, 8). G. Bándi suggested that in the first phase of the Early Bronze Age the cultures of Makó and Somogyvár–Vinkovci were contemporaneous, while in the second phase the Nagyrév and Glockenbecher-Csepel cultural groups started to appear in the area of the Makó culture, while the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture remained intact (BÁNDI 1981, 25). He also mentioned that the Somogyvár–Vinkovci

together with certain other cultures contributed a lot to the formation of some new cultural phenomena (MARKOVIĆ 1994, 116). R. Kalicz-Schreiber drew conclusions that were similar to those of G. Bándi, namely that in the Early Bronze Age the older phase of the Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture in the Carpathian Basin was contemporaneous with the Makó, late Vučedol and Schneckenberg-Glina III cultures, while the younger phase coincided with the early Nagyrév, Csepel and Nyrsegy cultures (KALICZ-SCHREIBER 1999, 93, 94, Abb. 1, Abb. 2).

Pottery is highly representative of the Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture. The depository pot (Fig. 6: 1) is similar to the pots in Börzönice (type H7 after Bondár) (Bondár 1995, 203, Fig. 13), while the pot with the cone-shaped neck and rounded mouth (Fig. 6: 4) can be connected to Bondár's type H 6 (BONDÁR 1995, 203, Fig. 13). Pots with thickened and fingertip-ornamented mouths that frequently carry barbotin ornaments in the lower parts (Fig. 4: 5, 5: 1) have excellent analogies in the settlement of Börzönice (BONDÁR 1995, Tabs. 154: 218; 156: 235, 238), Nagykanizsa - Inkey kápolna (BONDÁR 2003, Tabs. 2: 2; 3: 7, 8; 5: 5, 6, 9; 9: 6; 4: 3; 9: 6; 10: 8; 12: 6) and are also known from the site of Založnica (Velušček 2003; Tabs. 2: 1, 6; 4: 3; 9: 1, 4, 8; 10: 1, 2). Many of the pots that were found at Börzönice also have barbotin ornaments in the lower parts (BONDÁR 1995, Tab. 125: 21–24). Two comparatively larger pots (depository vessels) have split ribs extracted from the strip-like handles (Fig. 6: 1) and are similar to pots found at Založnica (VELUŠČEK 2003, Tab. 13: 7) and Börzönice (BONDÁR 1995, Tab. 158: 247).

Smaller jugs with strip-like handles (Fig. 4: 1–4, 6) are also very frequent and are very similar to those found at Börzönice (BONDÁR 1995, Tab. 173: 331–349), Založnica (VELUŠČEK 2003, Tab. 4: 4, 6) and Ptujski grad (Ptuj castle) (KOROŠEC 1975, Tab. 15: 2). Bowls and cups on feet that are ornamented both on the inside and outside (Figs. 2: 4, 5; 3: 1, 2, 6, 6: 5) can be compared to those found at Börzönice (BONDÁR 1995, Tabs. 149: 192; 181: 425), Nagykanizsa-Inkey kápolna (BONDÁR 2003, Tabs. 2: 1; 6: 3; 11: 4; 14: 3), Založnica (VELUŠČEK 2003, Tab. 10: 6) and Ptujski grad (Ptuj castle) (KOROŠEC 1975, Tabs. 14: 1, 3a, 3b; 15: 1). Some cups have cross-shaped feet (Fig. 3: 4), a characteristic that is also found in Založnica (VELUŠČEK 2003, Tab. 17: 5). However, it is important to note that – if compared to the above-mentioned sites – Behind Raščica has a larger number of bowls and cups that are ornamented both on the inside and outside, while the very ornamentation itself is significantly richer and more diverse. Inner and outer ornamentation is one of the

characteristics of the Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture in the area of Transdanubia (Kulcsár 1998–1999, 118–119, Tab. 3).

Among the finds two fragmented wheels that belong to the model handcart (Fig. 5: 3, 6) are of special importance. Model handcarts were not rare at that period: at the site of Börzönice some examples of wheels were found (BONDÁR 1995, Tab. 179: 445, 446, 452, 453, 454, 456, 457, 455) as well as a model of a whole handcart (BONDÁR 1995, Tab. 177: 422). The model of the handcart that imitates the original (it was probably made of wood) has several analogies especially in the Romanian area. The model handcart found in Börzönice undoubtedly represents an intermediate phase between the models from the Late Copper Age and the Middle Bronze Age. The preserved wheels of model handcarts measure 3 to 8 cm in diameter, which according to the author indicate that the original handcarts were of varying dimensions (BONDÁR 1995, 217, 218). For comparison: the wheels found Behind Raščica measure 5 cm in diameter. The ceramic fragment ornamented with the motif of Andrew's cross probably belongs to the wall of a similar model handcart and is as such – at least with regards to its rich ornamentation – a unique specimen from the Early Bronze Age.

Two fragmented moulds that were found Near Raščica speak of a developed metallurgic activity in that region; the stone mould is of triangular shape with a shallow canal that runs in the middle (Fig. 6: 3), while the one made of clay is of trapezoidal shape (Fig. 6: 2). Both at Založnica (VELUŠČEK 2003, 129, Tab. 4: 10) and Börzönice (BONDÁR 1995, 214, Tab. 179, 432) a few examples of moulds were preserved. The latter were used to cast needles (Börzönice) and Kozarac type axes (Založnica). So far the purpose of the two moulds found at our site has not been ascertained. Metallurgic activity has also been confirmed by dross that was found mostly in strata no. 1, 2, 3 and 5 and the following structures: feature no. 12–13 and hollow no. 566–567.

Velušček (2003, 132, 133) established that the life at Založnica and Parte (the two sites have several features in common) had started in the late 26<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> century BC. He classified both settlements under the Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture (both levels Vinkovci 1 and 2) and based on certain findings came to conclusion that the Somogyvár-Vinkovci culture at the Ljubljana Marshes was not contemporaneous with either the late Vučedol or Ljubljana culture.

Finds from Behind Raščica are also similar to those of Ptuj, especially to the material found at Ptujski grad. B. Lamut (1996, 22–25) classified the finds from Prešernova ulica 6 and those found at Ptujski grad

(Ptuj castle) as belonging to the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture. However, the material from Ptujski grad (Ptuj castle) was compared to the Hungarian sites that belong to the older phase of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture, while the finds of Prešernova were compared to the sites that belong to the younger phase of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture.

Mária Bondár (1995, 229, 237) places the settlement at Börzönce in the Early Bronze Age Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture, i.e. the culture that followed Vučedol C. Finds demonstrate connections with Vinkovci A1 and also with the Glina III-Schneckenberg, Coțofeni, Gyula-Roșia, Belotić-Bela Crkva, Ljubljana and Proto-Nagyrev cultures. It was also emphasized that there is still no consensus as to where to draw the chronological line between the Late Copper and Early Bronze Age.

The charcoal samples from various structures of Near Raščica settlement enabled radio-carbon dating. The process was carried out at Ruder Bošković Institute, Laboratory for physical chemistry of traces. Thus we have at our disposal radio-carbon dates of charcoal taken from the water reservoir (no. 325, 324, 357, 360, 361 from sec. III, qu. 35) that dates to 3777±89 BP (2340 cal. BC (54%) 2110 BC) and from

feature no. 539–540 (sec. I, qu. 1) that dates to 3710±75 BP (2210 cal. BC (62.3%) 2010). It can therefore be concluded that Behind Raščica settlement belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 24<sup>th</sup> century BC and is hence somewhat younger than the one found at Založnica but contemporaneous with the Vinkovci culture from Croatia (VELUŠČEK 2003, 128, 133).

Behind Raščica is the first known archaeological site from the beginning of the Bronze Age in Prekmurje and as such completes the settlement area of the Somogyvár–Vinkovci culture in the southwestern edge of the Carpathian valley where so far 26 sites have been found, none of which (with the exception of Börzönce) have been systematically explored as of yet (BONDÁR 2001, 71, Pict. 3).

The extensive, horizontal Early Bronze Age settlement at Behind Raščica was not fully examined during the excavations because our work was restricted to the area designated to the Vučja vas - Beltinci motorway. Consequently this contribution is limited to provide preliminary results (the material has not been fully assessed) and was initially the result of a long-term wish to get acquainted with the Early Bronze Age settlement of Prekmurje.

#### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Lep-coat made of burnt clay.

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## A Somogyvár–Vinkovci kultúra települése „Behind Raščica near Krog“ lelőhelyen (Szlovénia)

1999-ben a Vučja vas – Beltinci autópálya szakaszon megelőző feltárást végeztünk, mely során 22 469 m<sup>2</sup> területet tártunk fel. A vizsgált terület minden régészeti korszakban lakott volt, de ebben a dolgozatban csak a bronzkori települést ismertetem. A település egy sík területen helyezkedik el a Lendva- és Mura-folyóktól 280 méterre, Dél-Nyugatra, Bakovci és Krog között. A területet elsőként a Somogyvár - Vinkovci kultúra népessége lakta. A vizsgált területen egy bolygatott bronzkori sír is előkerült, ami temető meglétére utal, ami azonban a mezőgazdasági művelés következtében elpusztult. Az objektumok nagy része szintén bolygatott volt. A feltárt objektumok között igen nagyméretű gödrök is előkerültek, melyek átmérője akár a 10 métert is elérhette. Felszíni építmények nyomaira is bukkantunk, az egyik ilyen mérete 17 x 10 méter volt. Cölöplyukak koncentrációját is meg lehetett figyelni, amelyek szintén nagyobb felszíni épületekre utalhatnak. Nyolc olyan objektum került kibontásra, amelyeket valószínűleg víz tárolására használtak. Egy tűzhely és két kemence maradványai kerültek még elő. Ezek az objektumokon kívül szétszórva 30 nagyobb „mélyedést” találtunk, amelyekben sok bronzkori kerámia volt.

A leletanyag legnagyobb részét a kerámiaanyag alkotja, de előkerült számos pattintott kőeszköz, őrlőkő valamint kőbalt is. A leggyakoribb edény típus a fazék. A fazekak többnyire kettőskúposak, hengeres nyakkal, duzzadt peremmel és szalagfüllel. Szintén gyakoriak az egy- vagy kétfülű korsók, valamint a gömbszelet alakú tálak, de előfordul kúpos valamint íveltebb formájú kúpos mélytál is. A csészék általában alacsony keresztmetszeten állnak. Számos orsógomb, valamint két öntőminta töredéke is előkerült. Az egyik öntőminta agyagból, míg a másik homokkőből készült, de az, hogy milyen tárgy készítésére használták őket töredékes voltuk miatt nem megállapítható. Két miniatűr kerék is előkerült, amelyek kocsi model-

lekhez tartoztak, valamint egy kocsi modell díszített oldala is napvilágot látott.

A díszítő motívumok közül a plasztikus, ujjbenyomkodással tagolt bordák dominálnak. A plasztikus díszítés megtalálható fazekakon és tálakon. A karcolt díszítés szintén gyakori a fazekakon és tálakon. Néhány esetben a karcolt díszítés tűzdelt díszítéssel, vagy tűzdelt barázdás díszítéssel van kiegészítve. A nagyobb edényeket gyakran barbotinok díszítik. A karcolt, tűzdelt valamint tűzdelt barázdás díszítések geometrikus mintákat alkotnak, gyakoriak a vízszintes vonalak, a karcolt V motívum, valamint sávzott háromszögek cikk-cakk mintával vagy tűzdelt mintával kombinálva. Külön említést érdemel az előkerült kocsimodell karcolt, András keresztrel díszített oldaltöredéke, amely kapcsolatot mutat a Vučedol kultúrával. A feltárt leletanyag formáját és díszítését tekintve a leletanyagnak kitűnő párhuzamai vannak a magyarországi Börzöncéről, Nagykanizsa–Inkeykáporna lelőhelyről, valamint a szlovéniai Založnica és Ptujski grad lelőhelyekről.

Lelőhelyünk jelentőségét emeli, hogy a párhuzamként említett lelőhelyeknél itt nagyobb számban fordultak elő kívül és belül is díszített tálak és csészék, valamint a díszítőmotívumok mintakincse is gazdagabb. Faszénmintákból készült C<sup>14</sup> adatok alapján a bronzkori település kora 3777±89 BP (2340 cal. BC (54%) 2110 BC) és 3710±75 BP (2210 cal. BC (62.3%) 2010) közé tehető. A bronzkori település fiatalabb a založnica-i településnél, de egyidős a horvátországi Vinkovci kultúrával. Az itt bemutatott Behind Raščica település az első ismert település a bronzkor kezdetéről Prekmurje térségéből, így kiegészíti a Somogyvár–Vinkovci kultúra településeiről ismert képet.



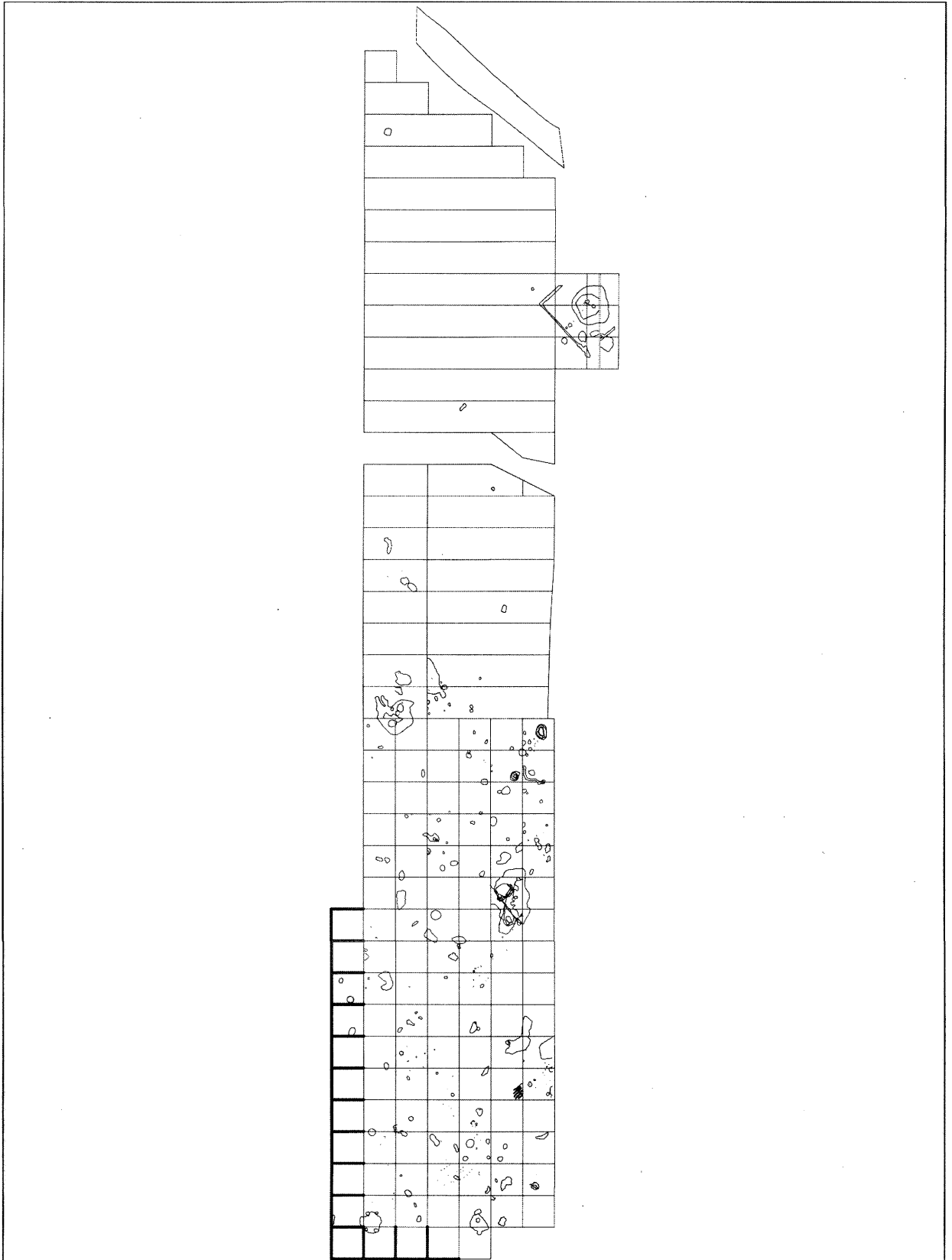


Fig. 1: Ground-plan of the site of Raščica  
1. kép: Raščica lelőhely összesítő alaprajza

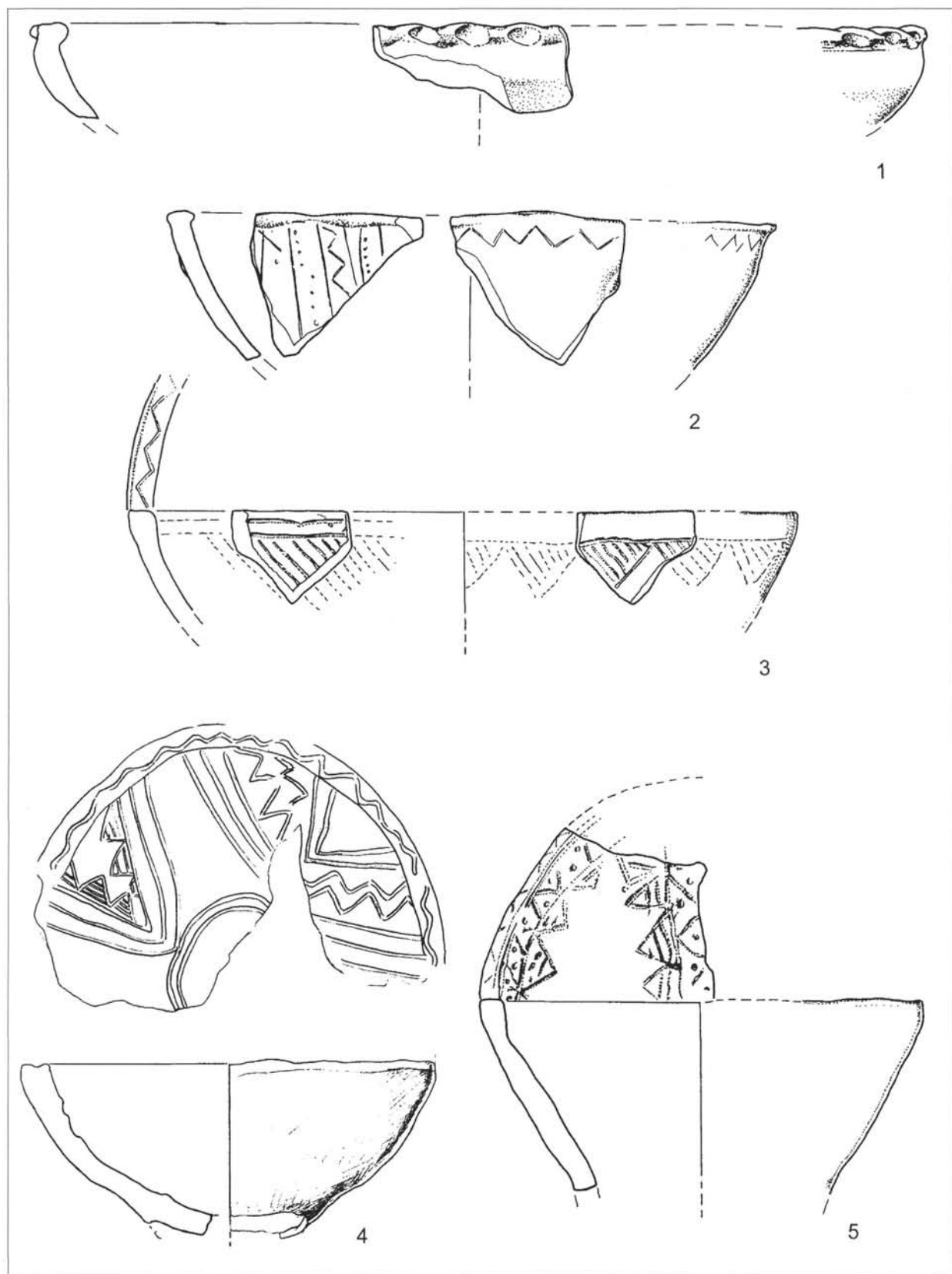


Fig. 2: Characteristic vessel types from Rašćica  
 2. kép: Jellegetes kerámia típusok Rašćicáról (M = 1:2)

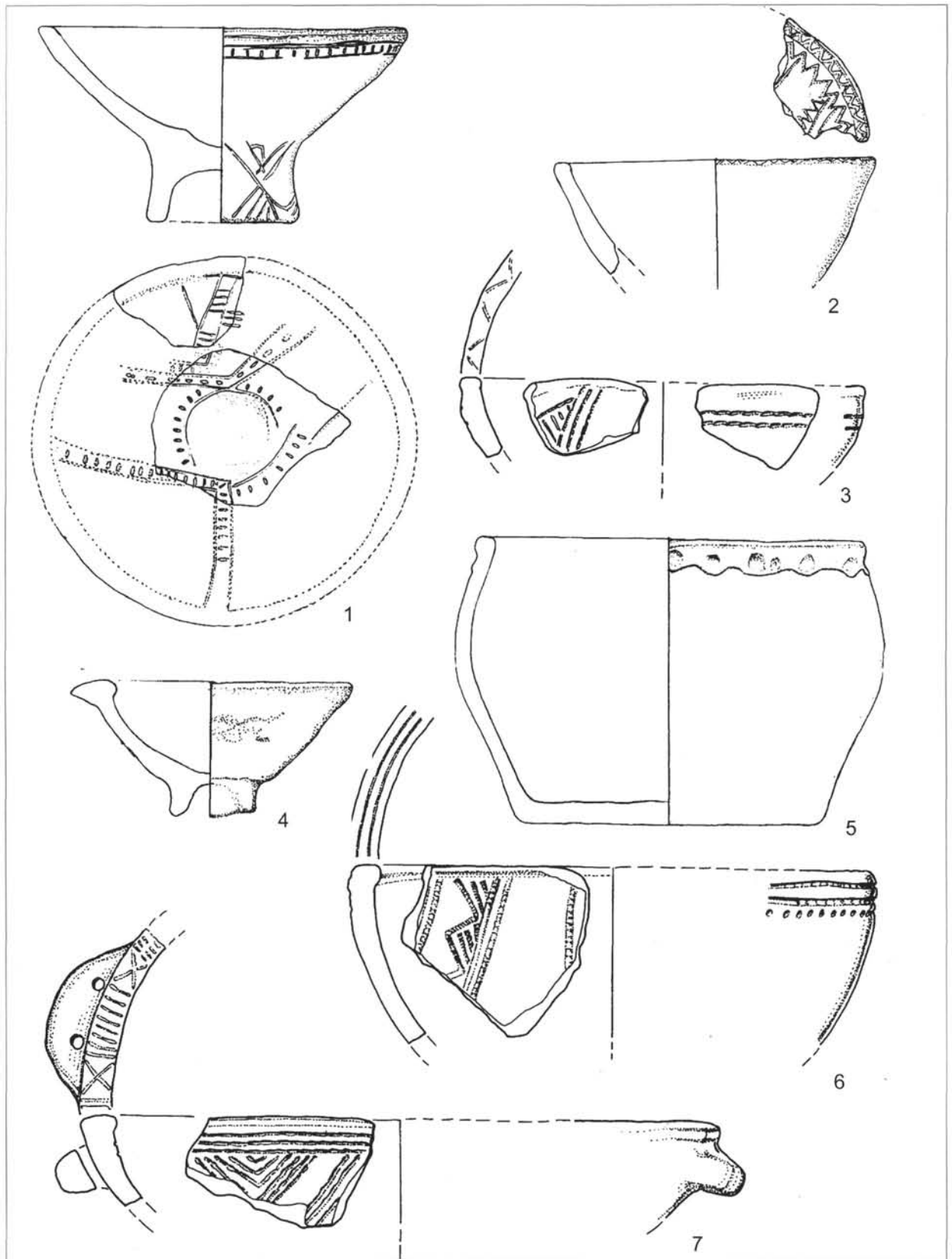


Fig. 3: Characteristic vessel types from Rašćica  
3. kép: Jellegzetes kerámia típusok Rašćicáról (M = 1:2)

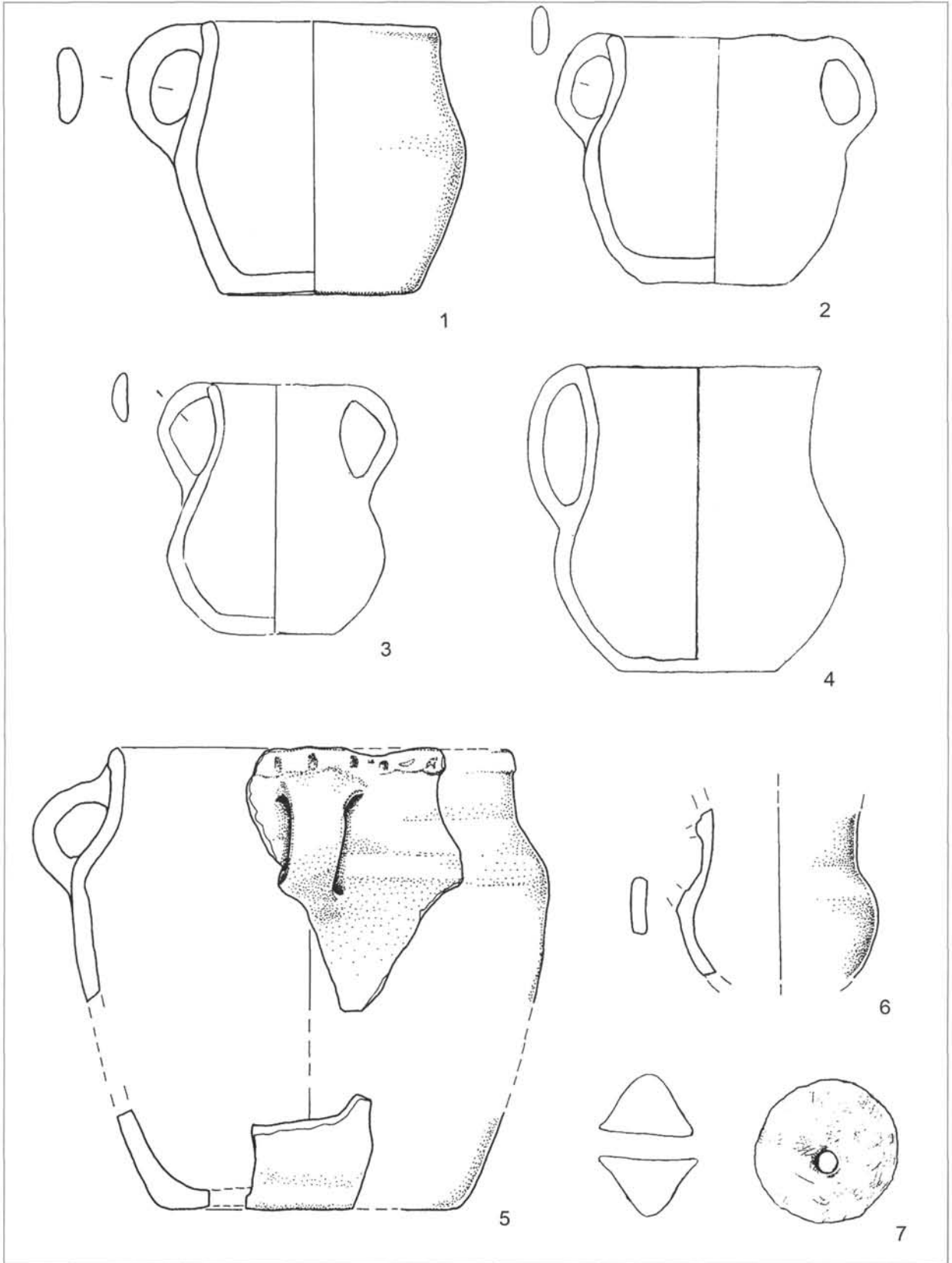


Fig. 4: Characteristic vessel types and a spindle-whorl from Rašćica  
 4. kép: Jellemző kerámia típusok és orsógomb Rašćicaról (M = 1:2)

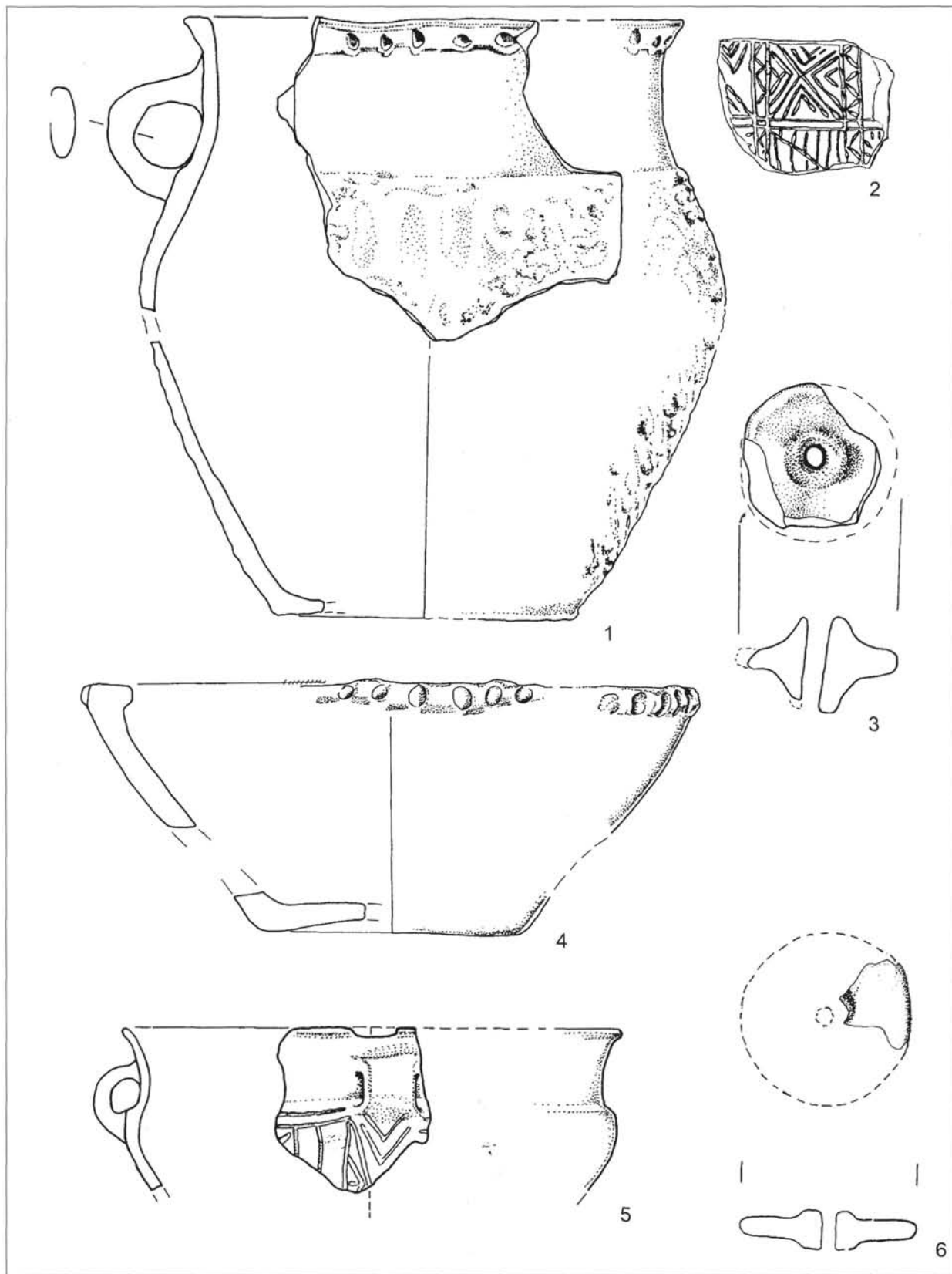


Fig. 5: Characteristic vessel types, model handcart wheels and a decorated fragment of a model handcart from Raščica  
 5. kép: Jellemzőes kerámia típusok, kocsimodell kerekek és díszített kocsimodell töredéke Raščicáról (M = 1:2)

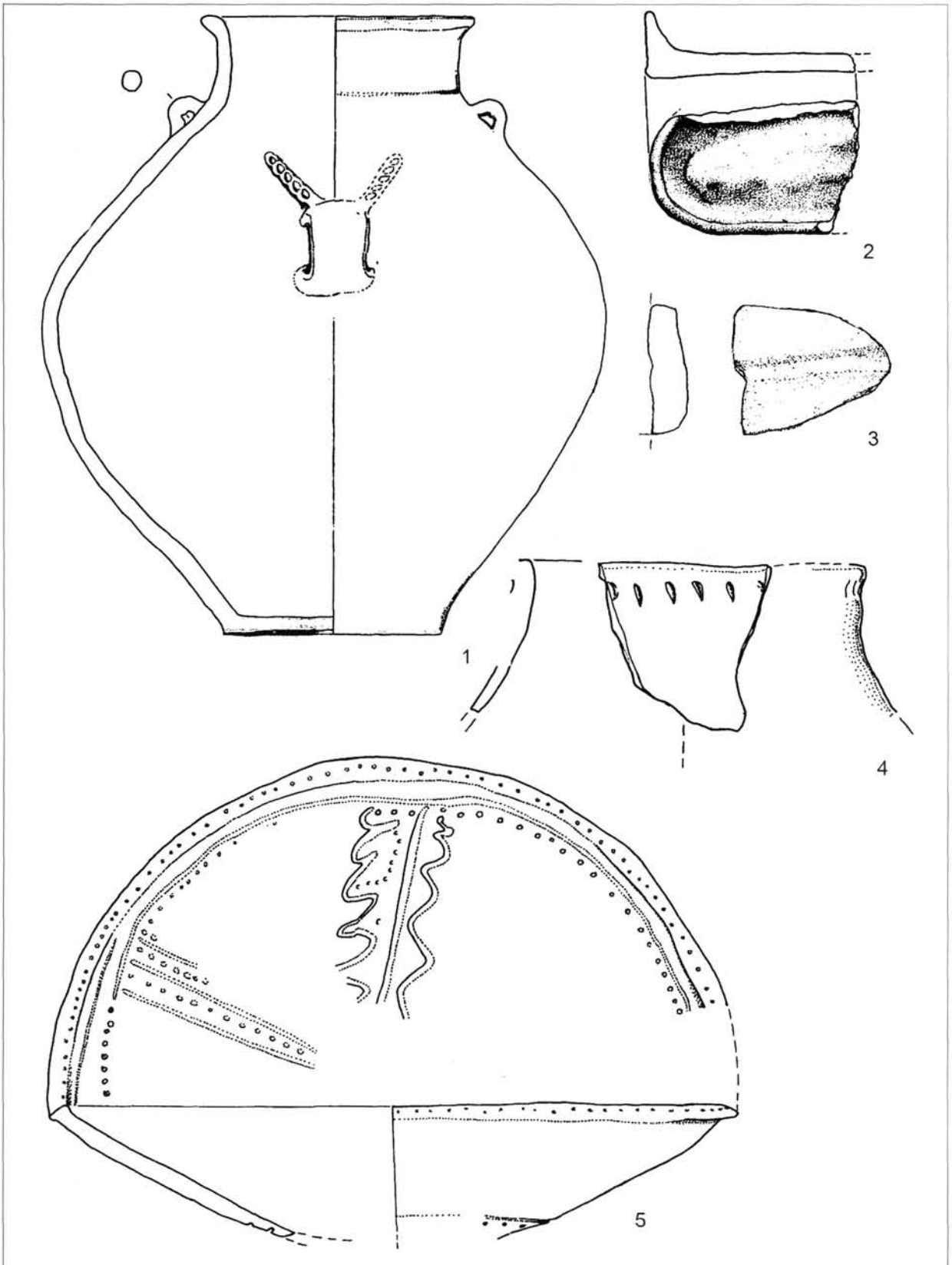


Fig. 6: Characteristic vessel types and two moulds from Raščica  
 6. kép: Jellegetes kerámia típusok és két öntőminta töredéke Raščicáról (M = 1:2)