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### **Lithic Assemblages of Early Agricultural Communities in Western Ukraine**

In recent years a number of settlements which belong to different communities of Neolithic-Chalcolithic time have been investigated on the territory of the south-western part of Ukraine and Moldova. All of them are located in the basins of the Prut, Dniester and Southern Bug and show different variants of the economy and culture of a particular region. Sakarovka (Krish in Moldova), Pugach, Gard, Dobrianka I-III (the Bug-Dniester culture), Yosypivka (LBK), Bernashivka and Ozheve-Island (Cucuteni-Trypillya) should be noted among these settlements. The peculiarity of these complex investigations is the high methodical level of research, which resulted in obtaining significant series of different categories of material culture, including presentable lithic assemblages, which enables to hold a comparative analysis of producing inventory of these sites, and to follow the common and distinctive features in processing technology for such important for the Stone Age material as flint.

The report presents the materials of lithic industry from such early farmers' settlements as Yosypivka I (LBK), Bernashivka I (Trypillya A) and Ozheve-Island (Trypillya B1), which are situated in one geographical region of the Middle Dniester. These cultural unities are associated with a complete reorientation of the population on extensive agriculture that results in the spread of permanent settlements with clay architecture. In terms of lithic technology, a complete shift to agriculture in the economy is reflected in trying to get the regular blades as blanks for the sickle insets - dissemination of the technology of forced pressure with using simple mechanisms - levers.

The literature has repeatedly expressed the idea of the genetic affinity of these cultures, and therefore the similarity of their flint inventory. Despite advances in methods of excavation and significant expansion of sources of research, understanding the processes of prehistoric cultures development still mostly remains within the unilinear evolutionary approach, where one phenomenon has to "logically" grow in from another with the absence of abrupt change in between.

But detailed analysis of the elements of material culture suggests no single-line development of each archaeological community. Every culture develops its own technological tradition that is more pronounced in lithic inventory than in ceramic complexes. If ceramic systems are often quite colorful phenomenon, lithic assemblages

demonstrates a high degree of unification, making it important for the cultural identification of the sites. The peculiarity of every cultural phenomenon seen in technology, which characterized by a focus on a particular type of blank and design of tools primarily associated with the procuring of food resources –arrowheads and attachments for sickles. Comparative analysis of assemblages proves, that there's no intermediate transition traditions between the technological vectors of LBC, Trypillya A and Trypillya B1

We can indicate two main technology types - microlithic and macrolithic which are associated with two directions of Neolithic economy - a complex economy with large part of appropriating forms (the Bug-Dniester culture, Trypillya A) and economy definitely focused on agriculture (LBK, Trypillya B).