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Mariia Videiko

Topography and archaeology of the city of Tropol on Dnipro in the 11th-13th centuries

Key words: Tropol, Rus, Dnipro, topography, archaeology, varangians.

Cuvinte cheie: Tropol, Rus, Nipru, topografie, arheologie, varegi.

Mariia Videiko

Topography and archaeology of the city of Tropol on Dnipro in the 11th-13th centuries

Tropol on the Dnieper, located between Kyiv and Vytachyov, is mentioned in the chronicles since the 11th century. At that time, Tropol was the largest city on the Dnieper trade route between Kyiv and Pereyaslav. Near Tropol there was a crossing over the Dnieper and a junction of important roads. We owe many ideas about the city in the chronicles to this circumstance. However, systematic archaeological research of this city was not carried out. Our goal is to fill this gap by collecting available information about its topography and archeology. The ancient city is located on the territory of the modern village of Trypillia, Obukhiv district, Kyiv region. Remains of buildings, fragments of ceramics, metal and other products that can be dated to the 10th-13th centuries have been found here. During its heyday in the 11th-13th centuries, the city occupied an area of 25 to 29 hectares, half of which had powerful fortifications in two parts. A separate small fortification could have served as a princely residence. Finds of Byzantine amphorae, pyrophyllite spinning wheels, and metal products indicate the presence of intensive trade here between the 11th and 13th centuries. Details of clothing of Scandinavian style may indicate the participation of merchants from the North.

Mariia Videiko

Topografia și arheologia orașului Tropol de pe Nipru în secolele XI-XIII

Tropol de pe Nipru, situat între Kiev și Vytachyov, este menționat în cronică încă din secolul al XI-lea. La acea vreme, Tropol era cel mai mare oraș de pe ruta comercială a Niprului între Kiev și Pereyaslav. Lângă Tropol exista o trecere peste Nipru și o intersecție de drumuri importante. Acestei împrejurări îi datorăm multe idei despre oraș din cronică. Cu toate acestea, cercetarea arheologică sistematică a acestui oraș nu a fost efectuată. Scopul nostru este de a completa acest gol prin colectarea informațiilor disponibile despre topografia și arheologia sa. Orașul antic este situat pe teritoriul satului modern Trypillia, raionul Obukhiv, regiunea Kiev. Aici au fost descoperite urme de clădiri, fragmente de ceramică, metal și alte produse care pot fi datate în secolele X-XIII. În timpul apogeului său din secolele XI-XIII, orașul ocupa o suprafață de 25 până la 29 de hectare, din care jumătate aveau fortificații puternice în două părți. O fortificație mică separată ar fi putut servi drept reședință princiară. Descoperirile de amfore bizantine, roți de filat din pirofilit și produse metalice indică prezența aici a unui comerț intensiv între secolele XI și XIII. Detalii de îmbrăcăminte în stil scandinav pot indica participarea negustorilor din nord.

Among the oldest (according to written records) cities on the Dnieper route, we know Kyiv (second half of the 9th century), Pereyaslav (beginning of the 10th century) and Vytachiv (middle of the 10th century). Tropol¹, located between Kyiv and Vytachev, was mentioned later, in the 11th century (fig. 1). As research has shown, it was at that time the largest city on the Dnieper trade route between Kyiv and Pereyaslav. However, systematic archaeological research of this city has not been conducted. Our goal is to fill this gap by collecting available information about its topography and archaeology.

The ancient city is located on the territory of the modern village of Trypillia, Obukhiv district, Kyiv region (fig. 1-10). The Kyiv Regional Archaeological Museum is located here. The museum's collections contain more than two thousand finds from the territory of Trypillia, transferred by local residents and discovered during archaeological searches in 2004-2024 (fig. 6-8). Thanks to this, it is possible to determine the territory of the city and some pages of its history.

From the history of archaeological research

The first information about finds of antiquities of the 10th-13th centuries at Trypillia appeared in the 19th century [Beliashivskii 1889; Antonovich 1895, 24-25]. An attempt to reconstruct the topog-

1. From the 11th to the 15th centuries the original place name of the city was "Tropol". The name "Trypol" appeared since 1500 and used in 16-17 th centuries and was replaced by current name "Trypillia" in 18-19 th centuries.

raphy of ancient Trepol belongs to V.G. Liaskoronskii. He quite correctly localized this city on a mountain above the Dnieper [Liaskoronskii 1900]. Archaeological explorations that discovered the remains of the city of Trepol took place after 1950 [Rappoport 1952; Shmaglii, Petrovskaia 1960]. At the same time, it was established that finds of the 11th-13th centuries extend beyond the mountain [Dovzhenok 1962, 19]. The finds obtained during these studies are stored in the funds of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine [Blazhevich *et al.* 2007, 318]. The results of archaeological research on the monuments were summarized in 1984 in a monograph devoted to the settlements of the Rus' period in the Dnieper region [Kuchera *et al.* 1984]. In it, Trepol was finally localized "on the cape of the right bank of the Dnieper River at its confluence with the Krasna River". The area of the settlement in this work was determined at 1.2 hectares. The next survey of the Trypillia territory was carried out by V. Petrashenko and V. Kozuba in 1999. They specified the size of the city, determining its area at 12 hectares [Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999, 15-16].

Further archaeological research of the city area was also carried out on a limited scale. These were collections of materials on the surface or during construction work carried out between 2000-2008 by M. Kvitnytskii, M. Kolesnikov and M. Yu. Videiko. On this basis, the historical topography of Trepol was reconstructed [Maniaka 2012].

In 2018, during the reconnaissance, we managed to explore several areas in the central part of the city. Here, in two pits on the site near the monument opposite the museum, the remains of a dwelling with a stove and a cultural layer were discovered. The finds are dated to the 11th-13th centuries and the 17th-18th centuries. In the clearings on the cliff, objects of the 19th – early 20th centuries were discovered. Metal products were also discovered, which can be dated to the 10th-13th centuries (fig. 5; fig. 8) [Videiko *et al.* 2018; Videiko 2022].

Description of the area

The area in which the city arose is located in the middle reaches of the Dnieper. Here passes the Pridniprovska Upland, which forms the right bank of the river, as well as the Pridniprovska Lowland, which forms the left bank. The right bank rises to

50-80 m above the river level, and the left bank is lowland, sandy. The width of the Dnieper valley due to the low-lying left bank reached 8-10 km (fig. 10).

The peculiarity of the location of Trypillia is due to the fact that in this area the heights of the right bank reach the Dnieper in the area of the ford of two of its tributaries: Stugna and Krasna. Then the heights retreat, forming an arc about 3-4 km long, to again reach the riverbed. In the middle of this arc, directly along the riverbed, there is a hill about 800 m long, which rises 10-40 m above the riverbed (fig. 1-4). The modern name of this hill is "Posadova Gora". Higher up the Dnieper, the Krasna River flows into the main channel. It separates part of the modern village, which also occupies part of Divich-Gora. This mountain is the highest point of the right bank of the Dnieper in this area. The map of Trypillia from 1854 (fig. 2,2) shows that part of the valley between the mountain and the high bank could be flooded during floods. Thus, Posadova Gora had advantageous natural boundaries for protection: a bank with a steep cliff on the Dnieper side and a wide valley with a river and flooding on the other side.

The Dnieper opposite Trypillia had several branches and bays, separated by large islands and peninsulas. Topographic maps show that these islands were in turn networked by numerous small channels and lakes (fig. 10). Cartographic material, which covers the period from the 18th to the mid-20th centuries, that is, for about three hundred years, shows us approximately the same picture. On all plans and maps we see two main channels of the Dnieper. One of them runs directly under the high right bank in the place where Trepol was located.

According to the description of the beginning of the twentieth century, the width of the main riverbed in the Trypillia region was from 320 to 850 m. During the flood, the water covered a space of about 5.6-10.6 km wide. At the same time, the total width of the alluvial valley in the Trypillia region reached approx. 16 km. [Maksimovich 1901, 11]. On the left bank the valley was bounded by a high sandy bank covered with forest. Now this bank has become the natural boundary for the Kaniv reservoir.

According to the information provided by V. Maksimovich, in the summer the depth of the Dnieper riverbed in some places in the Trypillia re-

gion did not exceed 1-1.5 m, which opened up opportunities for crossing without the use of boats or ferries. However, after crossing the main riverbed, travelers had to overcome several more water obstacles to get to the left bank, crossing islands covered with bushes and trees, covering a distance of at least 10 km. Thus, for pedestrians, crossing the Dnieper in this place would require two to three hours, for horseback riders – more than an hour.

The existence of crossings on this section of the Dnieper is repeatedly recorded in chronicles from the 11th to the beginning of the 13th century. The chronicle report of 1093 states that “Volodymyr, having crossed the river with a small army for many fell from his regiment and his boyars died there and having come to the other side of the Dnieper”. The report for 1151 states that “Yuriy and his children crossed the Dnieper near Trepol” [Litopis 248]. The report uses the word “crossed” to describe the crossing of the Dnieper, which meant “crossed the ford”, not crossed by boat.

The place where Trypillia was founded was rich in those natural resources, the presence of which was important for the existence and maintenance of the city's life. The geological structure of the surrounding mountains includes an upper layer of loess tens of meters thick. It is underlain by waterproof spondyl clay. As a result, water is concentrated above it, flowing out on the slopes in the form of springs [Maksimovich 1901, 27]. Thus, the mountain near Trypillia could be provided not only with river water (from the Krasna and Dnieper), but also with better quality water, from natural springs and wells. Wells still exist on individual estates in this part of the village, including the upper part of the mountain.

Sources of clay are available in the scree of the high bank and the neighboring ravines were raw materials for ceramic production and construction work. Below the clay in this place there are also layers with inclusions of bog ore – raw materials for iron production. The surrounding valleys and slopes of the plateau in ancient times must have been covered with deciduous forests, as shown on maps and plans of the 18th-19th centuries. The remains of the oak forest have survived to this day on the floodplain terrace in the area of the Stugna mouth and in the form of undergrowth in old pine plantations. The forest must have been sufficient for the construction of fortifica-

tions, buildings and economic needs. The Dnieper floodplain was also a good place for grazing cattle, hunting and fishing.

The Dnieper in the 10th-13th centuries. was an important communication route, as we have periodic mentions in written sources. In particular, in the home work of Constantine Porphyrogenitus “De administrando imperio” dated to the mid-10th century, there is a report about a gathering point and a significant parking lot of boats in the city of Vytychiv before continuing along the Dnieper [Constantin, 75Be]. The settlement of this city is located downstream from Trepol. The low right bank near Trepol was a good place to stop.

From the valley between Trepol and the plateau on the right bank of the Krasna River, it was possible to climb two roads through the ravines. South of the exit of these roads to the plateau were border fortifications – “snake ramparts”. Probably, a road led up through the ravines from Trepol to them. It is possible that in 1093 the Rus' princes used this road, going to battle with the Polovtsy: “Svyatopolk, then Vladimir, and Rostislav, having prepared for battle, set off. On the right side Svyatopolk walked, and on the left – Vladimir, and in the middle – Rostislav, and, having passed Trepol, they passed the rampart. And here the Polovtsy walked opposite, and the archers opposite in front of them. Ours then formed a border with two ramparts, and set up their banners, and the archers came out from behind the rampart” [Litopis 134].

On the left bank of the Dnieper, roads from the crossing led to the chronicled cities of Boryspil (via Protsiv or Voronkiv) and Pereyaslav (via Golovuriv and Stare) (fig. 10). Thus, the location of Trepol-Trypilla was at the crossroads of roads that connected Kyiv and the cities on the Dnieper, as well as the left bank with the right. It was also the first convenient crossing across the Dnieper after Kyiv.

Posadova Gora, in its position, approached the island and was a very advantageous, well-protected place for the location of the city near the crossing across the Dnieper. The chronicle mentions the location of Trepol somewhere near the Dnieper, without giving any details [Litopis 133-135, 181, 189, 243, 248, 280, 285, 289-291, 297, 308, 321, 326, 329, 330, 341, 356]. The only message that somehow confirms the location of the city near the water is as follows: “And they moved to the city to Trepol, and Mstislav went to the

gates to the water, pretending [that he was going to] fight..." [Litopis 322]. Thus, the real borders of the city of Trepol in the 11th-13th centuries can now be established on the basis of archaeological evidence.

Archaeological finds and definition of the city's territory

Fragments of Rus period pottery from the 12th-13th centuries were discovered in vegetable gardens at the foot of the mountain from the South-West, at the level of the floodplain of the Krasna river (location 3 (fig. 1,2)). There are reasons to include this site within the city limits, taking into account the already mentioned chronicle information about the "water gate".

The next site with a significantly larger number of finds is located at the beginning of modern Heroiv Trypillia Street. This is location 4 (fig. 1,2). Not only fragments of 12th-13th centuries pottery were found here, but also amphorae, as well as metal products. Further, towards the Dnieper, archaeological finds in small quantities were discovered in vegetable gardens on the mountain slope with access to the valley in location 5 (fig. 1,2). Ceramics of the 11th-13th centuries are distributed around the mountain on all sides. Except for the Dnieper bank in the Northeast (location 1) (fig. 1,2), all sites can be associated with the existence of a city here in Rus times.

On the mountain itself, 11-13 centuries finds were discovered almost throughout the area (locations 6-13) (fig. 1,2). In its North-Western part, locations 6 and 7 are associated with the cultural layer disturbed in 2003 during excavations (fig. 1,2), as well as with the excavations of 2018, location 8 (fig. 1,2). Location 14 – collections on the territory of the boarding school and landslides on the edge of the plateau in this area (fig. 1,2). The largest number of finds come from here, probably thanks to the schoolchildren who handed them over to the museum. Among them, in addition to fragments of 12th-13th centuries pottery, fragments of Byzantine amphorae should be mentioned (fig. 7,3-6). It is worth mentioning that one of the buildings of the boarding school is a converted cinema on the market square of the village of Trypillia, during the construction of which in 1934, part of an amphora from the 12th-13th centuries and fragments of 12th-13th centuries pottery were found [Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999, 16].

Location 10 is represented by the collections from the territories of the garden of the boarding school (fig. 1,2). Fragments of ceramic vessels of the 12th-13th centuries and later were found here. Further to the Southeast is the area where the remains of a pottery kiln from the Rus period were found in the bank section (fig. 1,2). Location 13 along Heroiv Trypillia Street is also represented by finds of ceramic vessels of the 11th-13th centuries (fig. 1,2). Location 13 is also associated with the finds in 1960 of the remains of a Rus times dwelling on a street that cuts through the mountain slope (fig. 1,2).

Our generalization of the available information regarding the finds of pottery of the 11th-13th centuries and the probable contours of the city fortifications made it possible to clarify both the outlines and the location of the components of ancient Trepol. This opens up the possibility of making an attempt to determine its area. According to measurements, the area of the fortifications of the "castle" could be from 1.15 to 1.2 hectares. The fortified part of the city occupied within 11-12 hectares. The part of the city outside these fortifications reached an area of 12-15 hectares. Thus, the total area of the territory of Trepol in the 11th-13th centuries could be from 24 to 29 hectares (fig. 4).

Fortifications of Trepol. The outlines, location and characteristics of the fortifications of ancient Trepol can be determined taking into account written, cartographic and archaeological sources, which mutually complement each other (fig. 1-5). The location of part of the fortifications of Trepol of the 11th-13th centuries can be determined by comparing the plans of the 18th century, the plan of 1834 (fig. 2-3). Their real outlines, marked on these maps, do not correspond to the types of defensive structures that were built after the invention of firearms and marked on maps in the 16th-17th centuries. In all cases, the ramparts that were preserved on the territory of the town in the 19th century and then were demolished and the territory was built up are marked. [Liaskoronskii, 1900]. Thus, a later series of streets repeated the outlines of the ancient fortifications, and some preserved the old street system.

Ancient fortifications occupied the upper part of Posadova Gora. From the Dnieper and the North and partly South-West, their route was determined by steep slopes (fig. 3), where there was no need to create artificial embankments. It was

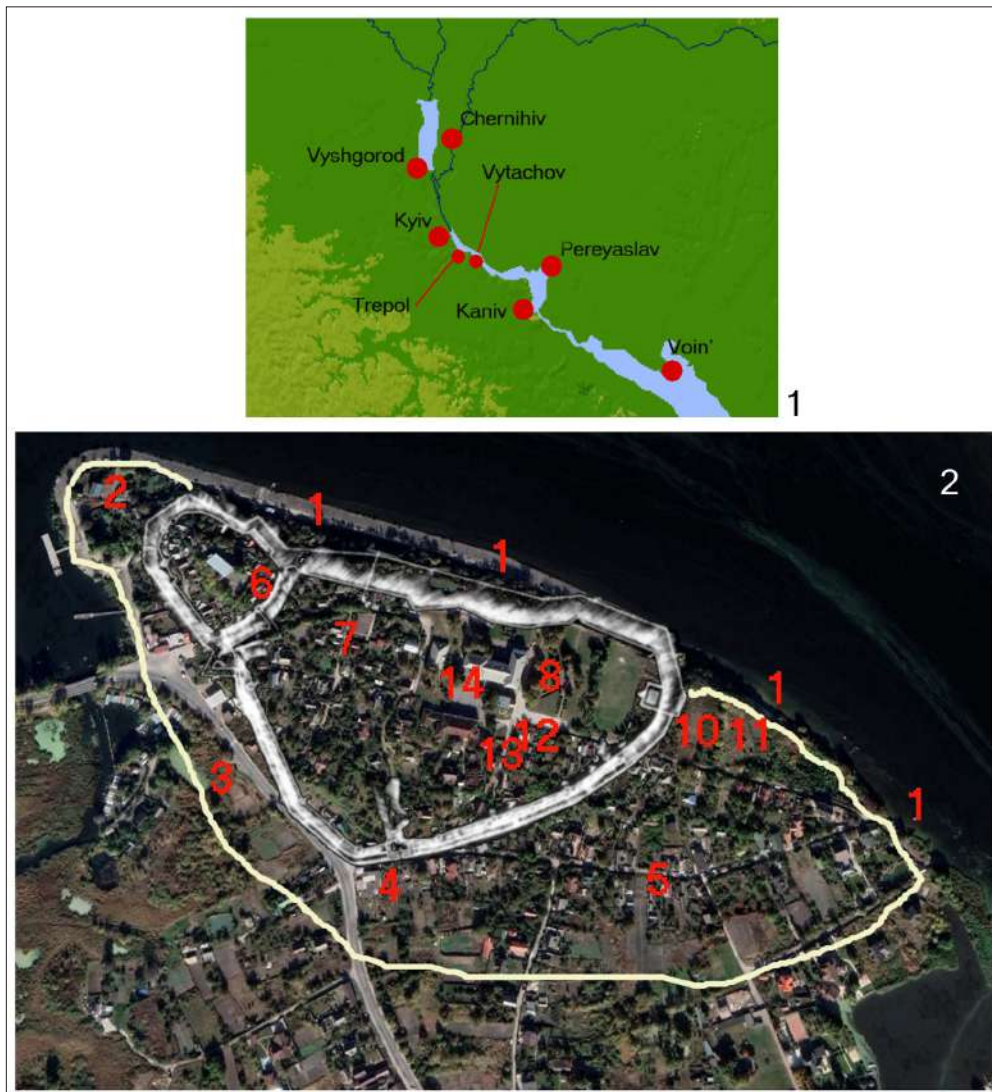


Fig. 1. Location of cities of the Rus' era on the Dnieper (1) and locations of finds from the 11th-13th centuries in the territory of Trepol (2).

enough to arrange a wooden fence. The 1751 year plan shows the profiles of the fortifications above the cliffs, which provided for the leveling of areas 8-10 m wide and the arrangement of palisades up to 5.5 m high. Given that the natural height of the cliffs was from 26 to 30 meters, together this created an obstacle 31-35.5 m high.

From the South-East, most of the rampart passed in the upper part of the mountain slope with a much lower steepness. The plan of the "Trypillia retracement" from 1751 also shows the profiles of the fortifications from different sides of the hill. They have an existing ditch 7.5 m deep and a palisade on an embankment about a meter high (fig. 3). The total height of the earthen forti-

fications according to the profile in this area could have been 12-13 meters.

The boundary of the Eastern section of the fortifications can be established due to the presence of a scale on the 18th century plans. The distance from the North-Western edge of the mountain (the castle territory) to the Eastern one can be determined within 380-400 meters. On the ground, this area corresponds to a depression overgrown with trees and bushes, which is located between the modern Heroiv Trypillia Street and the edge of the mountain above the Dnieper (fig. 2,2). On the 18th century profile, the width of the ditch in this place was about 8.5 m., now the depression has become wider. The existence of an artificial ditch in

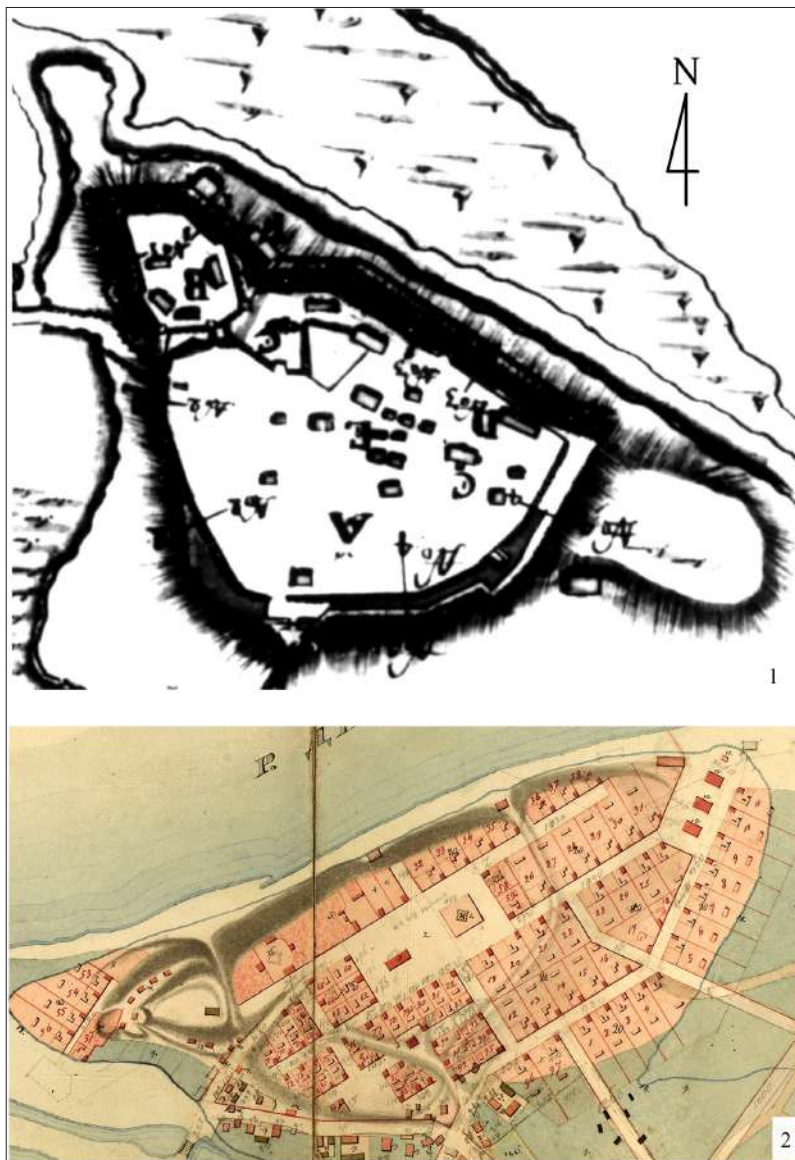


Fig. 2. The central part of Trepol-Trypilia: 1 – fragment of the 1731 plan; 2 – plan of 1854.

this place is confirmed by the profile of its bottom part, discovered in 2003 in the profile of the trench for the gas pipeline (fig. 5,3-4). The ditch was dug in yellow loess and was gradually filled with dark soil washed by rain from the slopes of the rampart and the surrounding surface. On the plan of 1834 and the map of the mid-19th century. in this place a street is shown, which goes to the bank of the Dnieper (fig. 2.2). It has a continuation to the opposite part of the town and, probably, recreates the ancient descent, which could lead to the city gates. On the Eastern side, a ditch is also shown, about 5.5 m deep, which together with the palisade and the fill around it is up to 11 m (fig. 3).

This is the least powerful part of the city's defense system, it is also the shortest in length - about 110 m, that is, in case of danger it was possible to concentrate most of the city's defenders on it. In the 17th-18th centuries. this particular area was additionally reinforced with two towers, located at an interval of about 40 m (fig. 2,1; fig. 3). Such a distance corresponds to the effective distance of using hand-held throwing weapons common in the 11th-13th centuries, namely bows and darts. Perhaps the towers in the 17th-18th centuries. were located on the site of older fortifications.

Gates 1 could have been located on the descent, which began on the bank of the Dnieper in

the North, passed through a moat and went out into the valley behind the mountain. On the 18th century plan, two gates for sorties are shown on this site (fig. 2,1). So, the arrangement of the entrance to the city here looks quite logical. It also solved the issue of communication between its fortified part and the part of the city located on the slopes of the mountain to the East.

Another gate (gate 2) was probably located on Zamkova Street, where the 18th century plans show a ravine-descent. It started from the new gate in the lower part of the fortifications and led to the upper part of the city (fig. 2,2). It was here that part of the slope was excavated to make it possible to climb the steep. The third gate (gate 3) on the side of the road to Kyiv could have been located in the place where the castle was built in the 16th century. Here, Rybalska Street now runs along the slope (fig. 4,2). It skirts the slope from the North-West and reaches the top of the moun-

tain in the area of Zamkova Street. Climbing this street, travelers would have faced the fortifications with their right side the entire distance, while the shield was forced on the left side. It is likely that the appearance of this entrance to the city can be linked to the era before the spread of firearms in the 15th-16th centuries. In the 16th century, this street already led to the castle moat.

Under 1176, the chronicle also mentions the “Water Gates”: “...And they moved to the city to Trepol, and Mstislav went to the Water Gates, pretending [that he would] fight, [for] he had made an agreement [with them] secretly from the city, hiding from Yaropolk [Romanovich], and betraying the Trepol people, and opened the city to them” [Litopis 322]. Several options can be proposed regarding their location. The main consideration is that the “Water Gates” are somehow connected with access to water, perhaps they are located next to water. “Water” in the case of Trepol was the

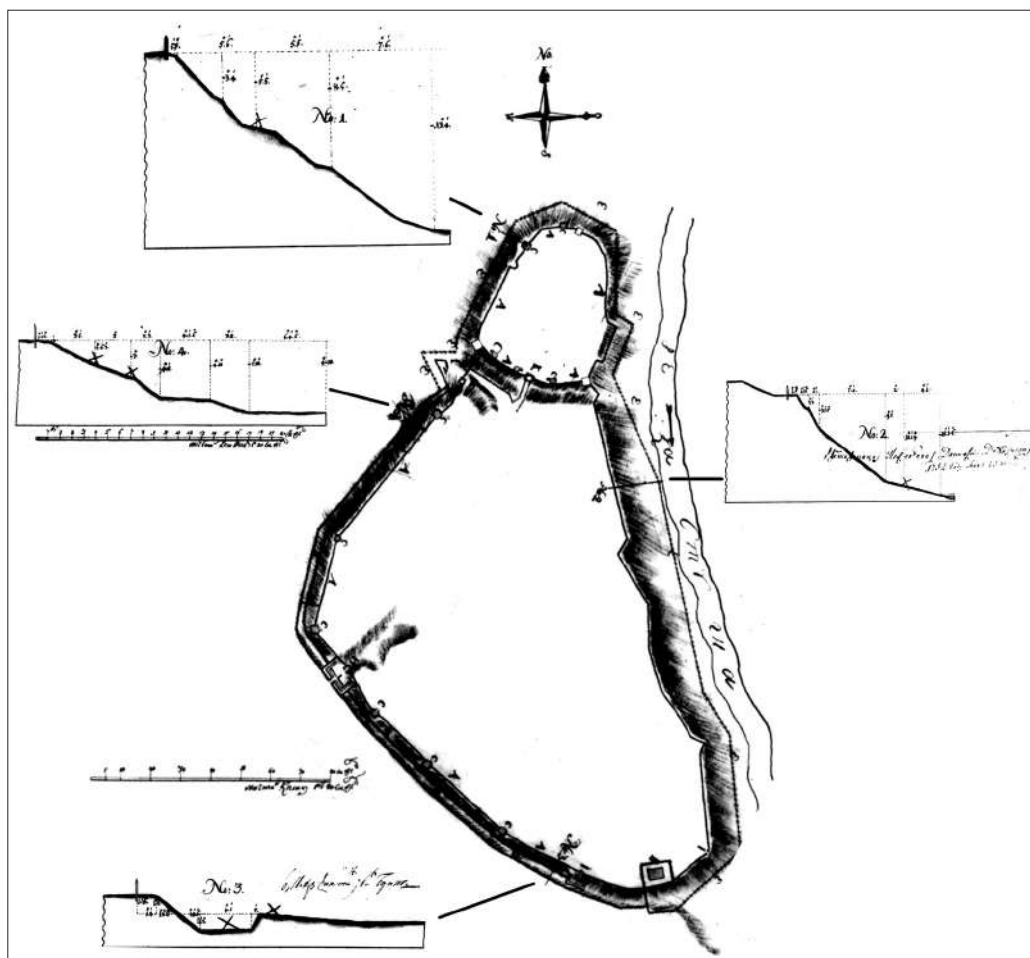


Fig. 3. The fortifications of the “Trypillia retranishment” on the plan of 1751 and their profiles.

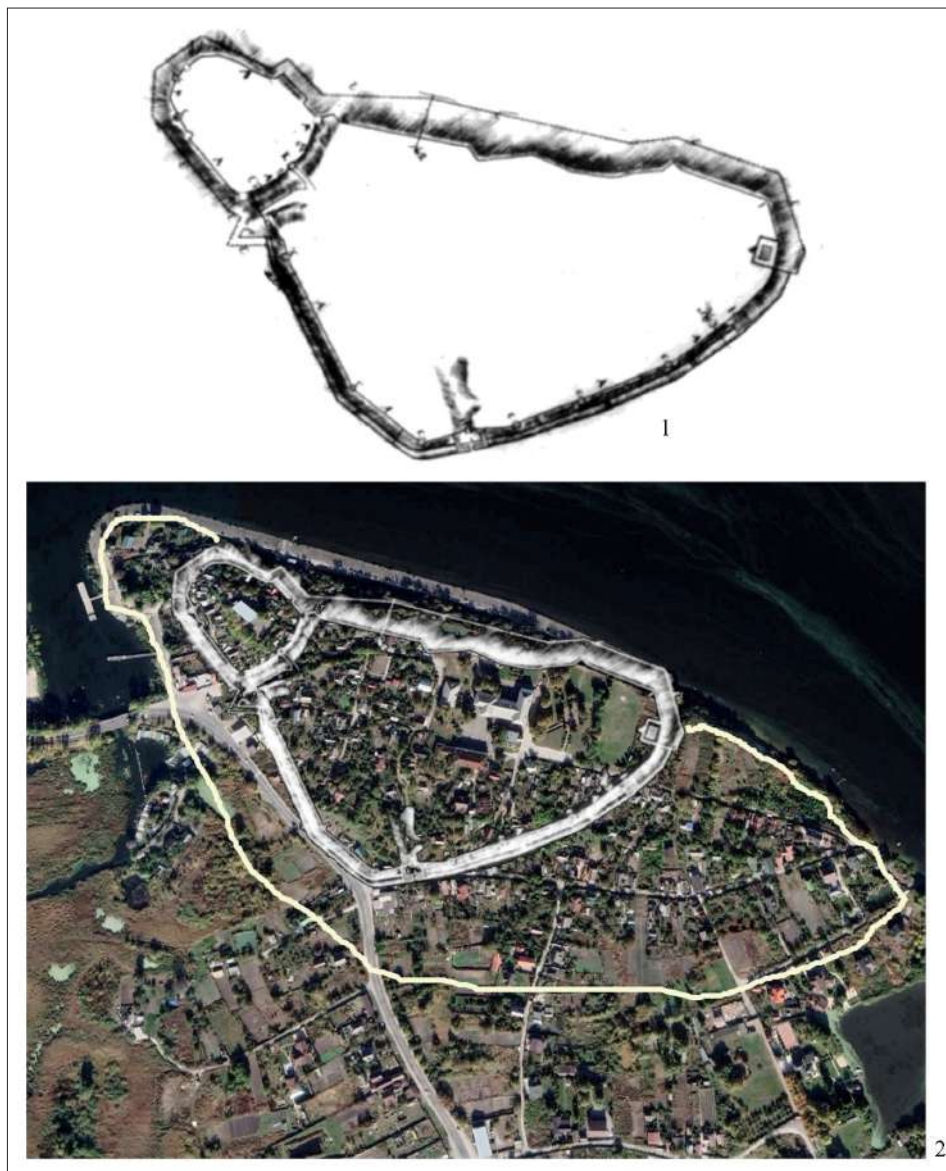


Fig. 4. Fortification of Trepol and reconstruction of the city's topography: 1 – fortifications from the 1751 plan; 2 – combination of the 1751 plan with a satellite image and archaeological evidence.

Dnieper and Krasna rivers. If there was an exit to the Dnieper bank from the moat on the Eastern side of the city (fig. 2,2), then the gates located on this side could have received a similar name.

Considering the fact that Prince Mstislav's army was moving towards Trepol from the South, from the ford across the Dnieper: "...Svyatoslav then sent his brother Yaroslav and Oleg with the troops. And they, having crossed the Dnieper, sent [ambassadors] to Mstislav Volodymyrovych, to his son-in-law, ordering him to retreat from the Rostislavichs, and Mstislav promised them to do so. And they moved towards the city towards

Trepol..." [Litopis 322], the closest in this direction were gate 1 in the upper part of the city. It was possible to climb to them both from the bank of the Dnieper and through the territory of the city on the slope of the mountain. Another possibility is the location of the "Water Gates" on the canal that surrounded the city between the Dnieper and the Krasnaya. In this case, they should also be located to the East of the city.

The spread of the cultural layer of the 11th-13th centuries beyond the upper part of the mountain and the above-described system of fortifications raises the question of the existence of



Fig. 5. Archaeological sites of Trepol: 1-2 – excavation 1 of 2018, remains of a dwelling and a stove; 3-4 – traces of an ancient ditch in the profile of the trench of 2003.

fortifications in this part of the city, located on the slopes and at the foot. No traces of ramparts have been traced here on the ground. They were not marked on maps and plans of the 17th-19th centuries. However, in the Description of the Kyiv Governorate of 1787, we find information that in the town of Trypillia “...on the side where the mountain connects with the surface of the earth, a ditch was made with a depth of one to three fathoms” [Opisi 1989, 171]. The depth of the ditch according to this description was from two to six and a half meters. The depth of the city ditches described above was, according to the plans, up to six meters. Thus, the description may mention ancient fortifications.

Nowadays, along the place where Posadova Gora turns into a valley, a street skirts it, which then goes out to the bank of the Dnieper (fig. 2,2). It is quite old, because it is shown on topographic maps of the 19th century. Numerous finds of ceramic materials of the 11th-13th centuries come from the territory of the estates located along it. (fig. 1,2). The width of this strip of distribution of finds is from 30 to 50 meters. Further into the

valley, these finds do not extend. Thus, the ditch could pass at a distance of 30-50 m from it, repeating the bends of the street.

On the topographic map of the mid-19th century, where this street is shown, you can see a canal that goes several tens of meters into the valley at the foot of the mountain from the Dnieper side. Its width on this map is about 6-8 meters. On the plan of 1854, which shows the flooding zone of the valley under the mountain during floods, its outlines end with contours that resemble the outlines of the canal (fig. 2,2). We see that it, as well as the flooding zone, also go quite evenly at a distance of 30-50 meters from Heroiv Trypillia Street, bypassing it.

This location of the city has certain parallels. The peoples of the North with their high seafaring culture built ports both on the sea coast and on the banks of rivers, taking care to protect both bridges and piers. Some of them were arranged similarly to Trepol. In Denmark, on the Jutland peninsula, there is the city of Aarhus, founded at the end of the 8th century. on the seashore at the confluence of the river. An artificial canal was dug there, which turned



Fig. 6. Trepol, fragments of ceramics from the 11th-13th centuries from the collection of the Regional Archaeological Museum.

the settlement into an island. Its model, created on the basis of archaeological information, is exhibited in the Moesgard Museum. It shows that ships entered the canal, across which a bridge was thrown, and piers were arranged there under the walls of the city surrounded by ramparts (fig. 9,3-4).

One of the largest cities of Rus, Novgorod, located on a hill in the floodplain of the Volkhov River, had a topography similar to Trepol, which is clearly visible on satellite images (fig. 9,1). Similarly, on the island, at the division of the Volkhov River into branches, the so-called “Ruriks fort”

(fig. 9,2) was built, which is now considered the “first Novgorod” and dates back to the 9th-10th centuries of the chronicles [Nosov *et al.* 2017, 23]. The oldest fortification of a city Polotsk was located on the island (fig. 9,3). At the time of the formation of the city on the Kyiv Podil at the end of the 9th century, this territory also partially represented an island and during the 10th-12th centuries. Various hydraulic structures were quite actively created there [Taranenko 2017, 40-46].

Trepol can be attributed to the type of “complex fortifications” according to the classification

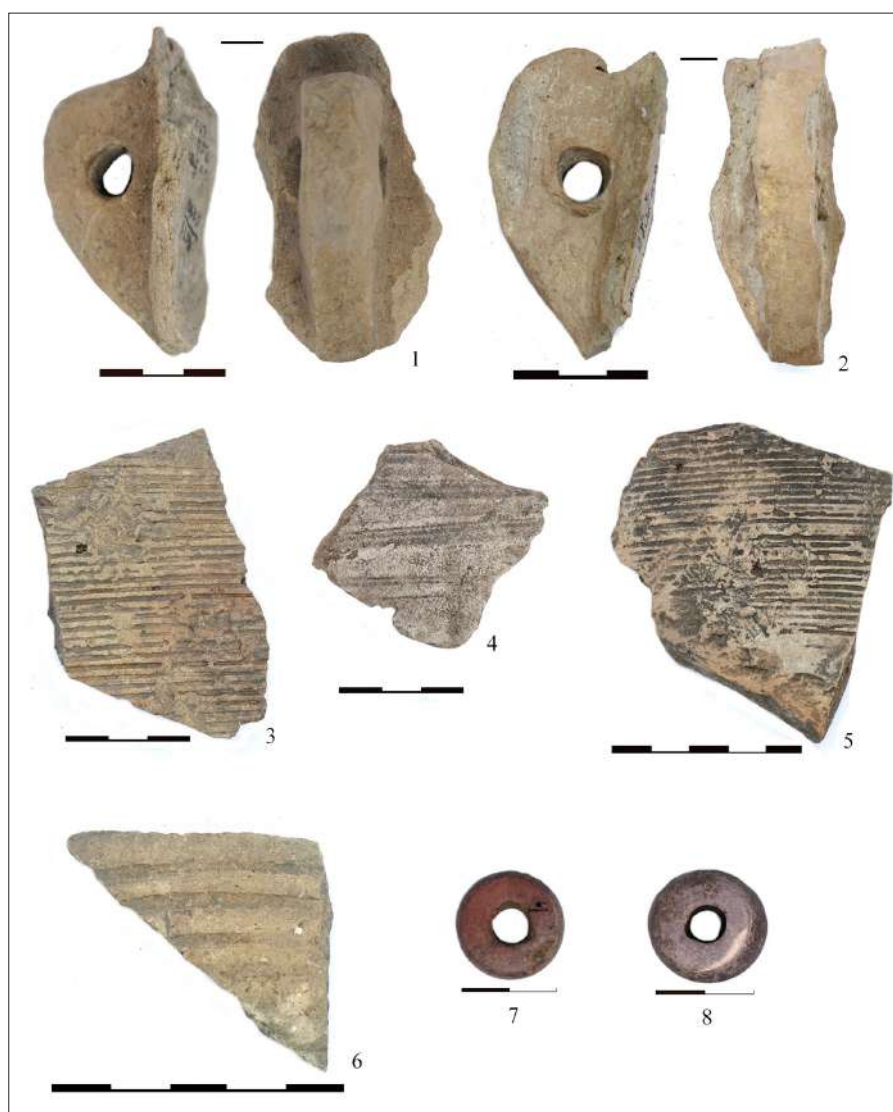


Fig. 7. Tropol, finds from the 11th-13th centuries from the collection of the Regional Archaeological Museum: 1-2 – fragments of “Kyiv-type” amphorae; 3-6 – fragments of Byzantine amphorae; 7-7 – pyrophyllite spinning wheel.

of M. Kuchera. This planning type of fortifications is typical for ancient Rus [Kuchera 1999, 33-39; fig. 9-11; table 3, 47]. Such fortifications were located on natural elevations and consisted of several parts, and sometimes had several lines of defense. In a similar way, both large cities as Kyiv, Pereyaslav, Chernihiv and smaller ones were protected.

City development, market place, temples

There is little information about the city's development. During the survey of Trypillia in 1960, remains of house were discovered in a section of the street that leads along the foot of the mountain to the building of the Regional Archaeological Museum. Its length is 4.5 m and its depth is 0.5

m. Fragments of pottery, animal bones and a fragment of a millstone were found in the fill [Shmaglii, Petrovskaia 1960, 2]. The description indicates that planning work was carried out on this site (filling the pit), during which the remains of the building were dismantled. During reconnaissance work in 2018, an excavation was laid in the central part of Posadova Gora (fig. 5,1-2). The remains of a stove carved from clay were discovered here. This structure was buried in an older cultural layer and loess. The stove was usually located in the basement of the building, and the dwelling itself was built of wood.

Objects similar to those investigated in 1960 and 2018 were for a long time treated as “dugouts”

or “semi-dugouts”, even excavated in the territory of Kyiv [Karger 1958, 295-300]. After archaeological research of the Kyiv Podil in the 1970s-1980s, as well as new excavations in the Dnieper region, these reconstructions were radically revised by archaeologists. In recent decades, such structures have been reconstructed in a different way, namely as a buried part of wooden structures “on the basement” and they are well known from excavations of ancient Rus times cities and villages of the Dnieper region [Kozuba 1998, 28-46; Kozuba 2016, 54-55]. Excavations of ancient Rus’ cities of

the Dnieper region (Kyiv, Vyshgorod, etc.) showed that such residential buildings were part of estates, which included various farm buildings and huts surrounded by fences [for example: Kozuba 2016, figs. 6-8, 23, 32].

Outside the city fortifications, on the slope of the mountain in 2023, the remains of a pottery workshop were discovered. A bank collapse revealed half of a two-tiered pottery kiln with ceramics from the 12th-13th centuries [Videiko 2024]. In addition to pottery, there were probably forges in the city. This is evidenced by metal finds

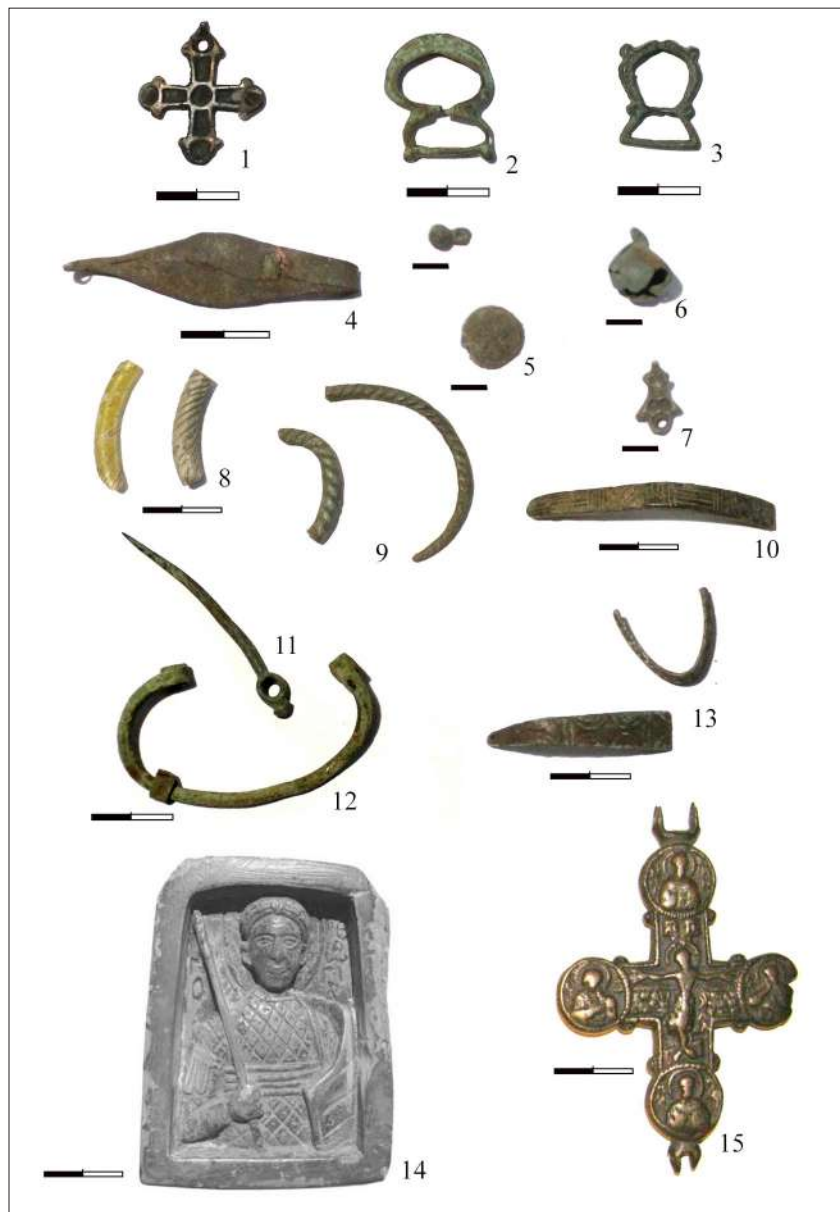


Fig. 8. Trepol, metal products (1-7, 9-16), glass (8) and stone (14). 1-14, 16 Collection of the Regional Archaeological Museum; 15 – National Museum of History of Ukraine (after E. Arkhipova).



Fig. 9. Analogies of the location and planning of cities: 1 – Novgorod; 2 – Rurik settlement; 3 – Polotsk (number 1 indicates the oldest fort on the island) (1-3 Google Earths satellite images); 4-5 Aarhus (Denmark) (by: Aarhus <https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/professions/education/viking-knowledge/the-viking-age-geography/vikingetiden-i-skandinavien/aarhus>).

in the form of ingots, which are in the museum's collections.

An indicator of the possible location of the trading area may be the finds from the cultural layer on Posadova Gora. Most of the finds of fragments of Byzantine amphorae are associated with the locations of the “bazaar square” or “boarding school” (fig. 7,3-6). In the same place in 1934, part of an amphora was found [Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999]. The listed locations are located in the Eastern part of the city.

Excavation was carried out on this site in 2018 [Videiko *et al.* 2018]. It showed that the cultural

layer near the place where the fragment of the Byzantine amphora was found is saturated with fragments of 12th-13th century pots. In trench 2, located further to the East, the cultural layer contained very few finds of this time. No thick layers were found there, as in the area of urban development. These layers of the 12th-13th century begin further, a few dozen meters along Heroiv Trypillia Street, where they were discovered during excavations.

The place where excavation 2 was laid in 2018 is located about 40-50 m from the ditch that bounded the fortified territory of the city from the East. Thus, the place free from buildings and the

corresponding cultural layer was located near the fortifications, in the place of the probable location of the city gates (Gates 1). These gates led to the post and the road leading to the Dnieper. The arrangement of a trading square in this place looks like a completely acceptable option. This is where the market square of the town of Trypillia was located in the 19th – early 20th centuries. Fragments of amphorae from the city territory, which are in the collection of the Kyiv Regional Archaeological Museum (fig. 7) can be dated from the second half of the 11th century (fig. 7,6) and to the 12th-13th centuries. (fig. 7,3,5) [Bulgakov 2005]. Pyrophyllite spindle whorls (fig. 7,7-8), which were the subject of trade, also come from the Trepol territory.

Among the finds from Trepol, some metal products attract attention (fig. 8). There are several items that indicate the presence or stay in the city of guests from the North. These products are associated with the costume. These are a pennacular brioche (fig. 12), a fibula needle (fig. 8,11) and a hook for socks (fig. 8,7). The mentioned finds can be dated to the 10th-11th centuries. In the context of trade relations, it is also worth mentioning the find in Trypillia of a bronze coin of the city of Kherson (probably 10th century), made in the 19th century [Beliashivskii 1889, 55].

There is no doubt that Trepol had Christian temples. The city was founded in the 11th century, at a time when Christianity became the state

religion in Rus. The status of the city implied the existence of religious buildings in it. The area of the upper city was about 14 hectares. According to these indicators, Trepol was not much inferior to the “city of Vladimir” of the late 10th – early 11th centuries in Kyiv. It is quite likely that there was more than one church on this territory. In the description of the city of Trepol by Pavlo Khalebskiy of the mid-17th century, there is information about the presence of three churches here [Khalebskiy 2009, 112-113].

The location of one of them, Vvedenskaya, is well known – it is the market square in the Eastern part of the city. On the 1854 plan, it is marked along with another temple on the square closer to the castle territory in the Western part of the city (fig. 2,2). Taking into account the tradition of erecting religious buildings on the site of older ones, we can assume that in the 11th-13th centuries there were at least two churches in the upper city in the places we mentioned. Built of wood, they left no distinct traces.

The existence of a separate fortress inside the city can be linked to the existence of a princely residence here. According to chronicle reports, in Trepol in the 12th century princes, including the Grand Duke of Kiev, repeatedly stayed. According to a mention from 1161, “... the Grand Duke of Kiev Rostislav, having gathered many warriors, set out for Izyaslav and stayed in [the city] Trepol...”



Fig. 10. Location of archaeological sites of the 10th-13th centuries in the Trepol region. Legend: 1 – cities; 2 – fortresses; 3 – traces of settlements. Numbers indicate: 1 – Trepol; 2 – Halep; 3 – Vytychiv; 4 – Svyatopolch and hillforts; 5 – Protsivske; 6 – Voronkiv; 7 – Holovuriv; 8 – Stare. Basis of military topographic map of 1953, USA.

[Litopis 280]. Prince Volodymyr Mstislavich and his family were in Trepol that same year: "...Volodymyr Mstislavich left Trepol for Vyshgorod with his wife and children" [Litopis 289-291]. As material evidence of the existence of a princely residence, it is possible to consider the find of a seal [Beliashivskii 1880, 65-66], as well as a stone icon of St. Demetrius (fig. 8,15) [Pekarska 1988, 304-307]. To these finds it is possible to add a large bronze cross-encolpion, found on the territory of the city, which is in the exposition of the Regional Archaeological Museum (fig. 8,16).

Trepol and the area around it. Trepol was one of four cities on this section of the right bank of the Dnieper mentioned in the chronicles. The following cities located downstream of the Dnieper are Khalep, Vytachiv and Svyatopolch (fig. 10). According to archaeological data, there were two more sites between Trypillia and Halep and Halep and Vytachiv [Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999]. Perhaps they served as observation posts.

The importance of the Trypillia crossing is evidenced by the presence on the left bank opposite four small fortresses and six open settlements (fig. 10) that existed between the 11th and 14th centuries [Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999, 208-222; Shendrik 1977, 37-40]. The fortresses on the left bank covered the crossing. They also controlled all the roads along the Dnieper and deep into the left bank (fig. 10). This information indicates the key role of the city of Trepol in a powerful system of fortifications.

Conclusions

Archaeological finds confirm the existence of a large city in Trypillia on Posadova Gora and around it since the 11th century. At the same time, there is a possibility that a settlement arose here on the Dnieper trade route as early as the 10th century, as evidenced by a small number of archaeological finds (ceramics, metal products, a Kherson coin). As shown by the mapping of finds of ceramic fragments, in the 11th-13th centuries the city occupied the mountain itself, its slopes and the heights in the valley.

Our generalization of the available information regarding the finds of ceramics made it pos-

sible to clarify both the outlines and the area of ancient Trepol, which previous researchers determined to be between 16 (Rybakov 1965, 128) and 12 hectares (Petrashenko, Kozuba 1999). According to our calculations, the territory of the city was in the 11th-13th centuries from 24 to 29 hectares.

Ancient Trepol had powerful fortifications that complemented the natural boundaries - high cliffs above the Dnipro, the Krasna and Dnipro rivers. There were several lines of fortifications: the external one, which used the bypass canal that surrounded the mountain and the posad below it, fortifications along the edge and slopes of the mountain, it is probable that there was a citadel, a princely residence(?) in the Western part of the city. There were at least three gates for communication with the surrounding territory.

The massive construction of the city, both at the base and in its upper part, consisted of estates, which included wooden dwellings and outbuildings. The dwellings were on the basement, typical of Rus cities of the 11th-13th centuries. Artisans worked in the city, in particular in the Eastern part of the mountain, the remains of a pottery workshop were discovered behind the line of fortifications.

Within the fortifications near Gates 1, there was probably a trading square. Next to it, there may have been a cult building and a cemetery near it. Another temple and the necropolis associated with it could have been in the Western part of the upper city. The ancient city of Trepol was founded on an important trade route in a place well protected by natural boundaries, rich in natural resources. The roads from Trepol led both to Kyiv and to the South and West. Near Trepol there was a crossing over the Dnieper, which was a ford for part of the year, which made it easier to cross the river. Near Trepol in the 11th century a fortified border passed, as evidenced by the presence of two "snake" ramparts South of the city. Due to this circumstance and the crossing, Trepol repeatedly found itself in the epicenter of war campaigns against Cumans and numerous conflicts between princes. Here, at the crossroads of important land and waterways, it was possible to deploy and provide necessary military contingents.

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