



Aleksandr Viktorovich NOVIKOV

**EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS WITH CERAMICS
WITH COMB-CORD AND CORD
ORNAMENT IN KOSTROMA POVOLZHYE**

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ABSTRACT

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Scientific adviser:

Boris Stepanovich Solov'yov, Candidate of Historical Sciences

Official opponents:

Oleg Dmitriyevich Mochalov, Doctor of Historical Sciences, rector, professor of Russian History and Archaeology Department of Federal state budget educational institution of higher education "The Povolzhye State Socio-Humanitarian Academy"

Andrey Alekseyevich Chizhevskiy, Candidate of Historical Sciences, senior staff scientist in Khalikov Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan

Lead agency: Federal state budget educational institution of higher education "Ogarev National Research Mordvinic State University"

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Doctor of Historical Sciences



R A Tsiunchuk

THE THESIS GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Research issue topicality. When considering and solving problematic issues of the early Iron Age (hereinafter the EIA), the area of Kostroma surroundings near the Volga River (Kostroma Povolzhye), in connection with complexity of cultural processes which have happened here, is traditionally considered by researchers (Yekaterina Goryunova¹; Nina Gurina²; Pyotr Tret'yakov³) to be a region with a great variety of archaeological monuments, one with the mixed cultural complexes. The special, on a joint of various cultural formations, geographical arrangement of Kostroma Volga region (a contact zone), undoubtedly, promotes consideration of issues of the population interaction in these territories in the EIA. The EIA monuments possessing a set of steady signs with wider territorial circulation; such as those reflecting cultural and historical processes which happened during the early era of iron in the Upper Volga region on the whole and on adjacent territories – in the watershed of the Vetluga River, on the Middle Volga, in the watershed of the Kama River in the northern areas of the East European Plain – are concentrated within the region.

The materials available at our disposal accurately indicate presence of one more cultural area which is different from the area with mesh ceramics which is widely presented here, in the western territories of Kostroma Povolzhye. Its active distribution since the mid-1st millennium BC has been recorded; and it is connected with tradition of production of ceramics with comb-cord and cord ornament which is peculiar to the world of Ananyino culture.

Ananyino cultural and historical area dated within the 8th to 3rd centuries BC is generally localised in the basins of the Kama, the Vyatka, the Vetluga, the Belaya rivers in the territory of the Middle Volga (Al'fred Khalikov⁴, Anna Zbruyeva⁵), further to the north of the areas of the European part of Russia – in the basins of the Northern Dvina,

¹ Ye.I. Goryunova. Ethnic history of the interfluvium of the Volga and the Oka // Data and investigations on the USSR archaeology (Data-and-Investigations). # 94. Moscow, 1961. 265 pp.

² N.N. Gurina. Monuments of the epoch of bronze and the early epoch of iron in Kostroma Povolzhye (in terms of Gorky expedition data) // Data-and-Investigations. # 110. Transaction of Gorky archaeological expedition : the Upper and the Middle Povolzhye archaeological monuments. Moscow; Leningrad, 1963. Pp. 85–203.

³ P.N. Tret'yakov. Finno-Ugric, Baltic and Slavic peoples on the Dnepr and on the Volga. Moscow; Leningrad, 1966. P. 144.

⁴ A.Kh. Khalikov. The interfluvium of the Volga and the Kama in the early epoch of iron (the 8th—the 6th centuries BC). Moscow, 1977. 262 pp.

⁵ A.V. Zbruyeva. History of population in the Kama River surroundings in Ananyino epoch // Data-and-Investigations. # 30. Data and investigations on archaeology of the Urals and surroundings. Moscow, 1952. Vol. 5. 326 pp.

the Pechora, the Vychegda and the Mezen rivers, (Lidiya Ashikhmina⁶, Irina Vereshchagina and Lidiya Ashikhmina⁷; Lidiya Ashikhmina and Igor' Vaskul⁸; Vladimir Markov⁹). Investigations of Ananyino culture monuments began in the mid-19th century. The culture's name is connected with the village of Ananyino in Yelabuga raion of the Republic of Tatarstan near which, a burial ground was discovered by Pyotr Alabin¹⁰ in 1858. It is obvious that the area of Ananyino materials' distribution is beyond territories designated above; however, distribution borders have not been designated accurately so far. Ananyino artefacts have been noted in the Southwest of the White Sea surroundings – in the basins of the Suma and the Tunguda rivers, in the lower reaches of the Vyga¹¹. Separate Ananyino elements are known in the area of Kargopol culture as well – on the lakes Lacha, Vozhe, Kubena and White, from where, in Pyotr Tret'yakov's opinion, those people have reached the Upper Volga's northern limits moving along the Sheksna River¹².

In the Upper Volga region on the whole and in Kostroma Povolzhye in particular, settlements with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes are also present. Obtaining answers to questions of distribution of Ananyino groups of population in the considered region, answering the questions of cultural interaction and contacts are possible only in the course of studying materials from the region's EIA settlement monuments. Burial grounds related to Ananyino world are not currently known in Kostroma Povolzhye.

In spite of the fact that investigations of Kostroma Povolzhye multilayered monuments with the EIA cultural and chronological layers are available have continued for nearly a century, there are still many basic unsolved questions of archaeology of this period left. In particular, there is no general opinion among researchers on existence of

⁶L.I. Ashikhmina. Early Ananyino settlements on the upper reaches of the Mezen River // Data on archaeology of the European northeast (The DAENE). Syktyvkar, 1977. Issue 6. Pp. 37–47.

⁷I.B. Vereshchagina, L.I. Ashikhmina. Early Ananyino settlements in the basin of the Northern Dvina // The DAENE. Syktyvkar, 1980. Issue 8. Pp. 42–70.

⁸L.I. Ashikhmina, I.O. Vaskul. Monuments of the community of Ananyino culture // Komi Republic Archaeology. Moscow, 1997. Pp. 314–348.

⁹V.N. Markov. The Kama upper reaches in Ananyino epoch (on ethnocultural components of the community of Ananyino culture) // Archaeology of the Eurasian Steppes. Kazan : History Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, 2007. Issue 4. 136 pp.

¹⁰P.V. Alabin. Ananyino burial ground // Geographic Society Herald. 1860. # 6. Pp. 87–120.

¹¹A.M. Zhul'nikov. Settlements of the early epoch of metal in the surroundings of the White Sea Southwestern coast. Petrozavodsk, 2005. 310 pp.

¹²P.N. Tret'yakov. Finno-Ugric, Baltic and Slavic peoples on the Dnepr and on the Volga. Moscow; Leningrad, 1966. 308 pp.

any established cultural tradition in the EIA in Kostroma Povolzhye: complexes are classified as Dyakovo ones, local subtypes of this culture are allocated, materials are related to mesh ceramics of Dyakovo type or are identified with mesh ceramics on the whole. Presence of Ananyino features at the lump of findings (among the EIA mesh ceramics) is noted by researchers (however not by all) only in exceptional cases. Uncertainty in the solution of this question, certainly, defines the topicality of the problem statement and of need of conducting investigations in this field.

Acquaintance with museum materials, analysis of primary registration and passport documentation of the regional archaeological heritage objects as well as the analysis of scientific reports on archaeological investigations carried out in Kostroma Povolzhye territory allow us to say that currently, the considerable EIA actual material has been saved up. In particular, collections with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics which had however never been allocated in a complex on monuments previously and had neither been studied independently, were collected. In this regard, for studying historical and cultural processes which happened in Kostroma Povolzhye in the EIA, it is topical the appeal to a complex of problems connected with distribution of the comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics tradition in the region, that includes:

- allocation of an area of the EIA settlements with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics in Kostroma Povolzhye, attribution and systematisation of the saved-up material, definition of nature of settling of the territories by such tradition's carriers;

- differentiation of complexes with Ananyino and mesh ceramics, allocation of the comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics in syncretic archaeological complexes and their interpretation, revealing Ananyino-type ceramics distribution territory in the region and definition of sites of localisation of monuments with such ceramics in the region;

- answering the questions of interaction of different cultural areas, namely the carriers of Ananyino comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics tradition and the mesh ceramics population, and also the relationships' nature definition attempt.

Currently, the forty six EIA settlements are known in Kostroma Povolzhye territory. Among them, fourteen settlements identified with Ananyino artefacts and having comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes in the material structure are allocated. Mesh ceramics is available in all settlements as well. It is important to mention that in Kostroma Povolzhye, comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics production traditions' certain correction happened, separate specific lines were transformed, elements of initial shape were changed. As a result of cultural areas' interaction, the combined pottery with genetic sources of both Ananyino and mesh components was created. The of-

ferred work is, in its own way, the first systematic research devoted to the questions of distribution of Ananyino cultural and historical area in the region's territory.

The knowledge level of research issue. By consideration of materials from the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye monuments, most researchers often did not focus attention on the comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes, as a rule, without emitting such materials from the mass of mesh pottery, without systematising them, without taking them up from different points of view. The list of settlements with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics for the territory of Kostroma Povolzhye has been created neither. The perspective connected with Ananyino cultural and historical area was, generally, of conceptual character, only its most general questions – the ones of spatial distribution, of possible mixture of the alien Ananyino population with the local community and, first of all, of their interaction – were touched upon.

Current lack of publications of systematic character devoted to the EIA problems debar us from receiving the overall complete picture of cultural processes which happened in the territory of Kostroma Povolzhye at that time. Only a small part of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye materials has been published; in particular, these are the data of investigations in Kostroma Swale (Nina Gurina¹³) and information of archaeological investigations in the district of Galich Lake (Mariya Foss¹⁴).

The research is aimed at allocating settlements with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics from the circle of Kostroma Povolzhye early Iron Age monuments.

For achievement of the designated purpose, the following **tasks** were set:

- characteristics of the knowledge level of research issue;
- establishment of the region's settlements characteristic features, to allocate settlements in the material structure of which, comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes are present; to create the list of monuments with this ceramics in Kostroma Povolzhye territory;
- systematization of data on ceramic complexes basing on studying which, one can establish area of distribution of population groups with the comb-cord and cord orna-

¹³ N.N. Gurina. Monuments of the epoch of bronze and the early epoch of iron in Kostroma Povolzhye (in terms of Gorky expedition data) // Data-and-Investigations. # 110. Transaction of Gorky archaeological expedition : the Upper and the Middle Povolzhye archaeological monuments. Moscow; Leningrad, 1963. Pp. 85–203.

¹⁴ M.Ye. Foss. Newly discovered monuments in the area of Galich culture (Galich expedition excavations in 1945) // Brief Communications of the Material Culture History Institute (The BCMCHI). Moscow; Leningrad, 1947. Issue 17. Pp. 63–69; M.Ye. Foss. Return of Galich expedition of 1946 // The BCMCHI. Moscow; Leningrad, 1948. Issue 20. Pp. 58–66; M.Ye. Foss. Totals of Galich expedition // The BCMCHI. Moscow; Leningrad, 1949. Issue 26. Pp. 34–39.

mental ceramics production traditions in Kostroma Povolzhye and show sites of such monuments' concentration in the region;

– establishment of the region territories' cultural position.

What is the research subject, are the early Iron Age Kostroma Povolzhye settlement monuments with the comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes.

What is the research object, are cultural processes which happened in Kostroma Povolzhye territory during the EIA.

Novelty. The region's EIA settlement have been systematised in the work, information has been consolidated in the general database. During the research of Kostroma Povolzhye monuments' spatial distribution, the sites of their main concentration have been defined. The statistical analysis has allowed defining the resettlement system's peculiarities and regularities as well as the regional settlements' territorial specifics.

The materials of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics have been allocated, systematised and interpreted for the first time in the present research; studying technique questions, as well as those of distribution and development of these complexes, have been put forward; the cultural status of monuments containing ceramics of this kind, has been defined.

The thesis' theoretical and practical significance. The thesis' materials can be applied during creation and correction of the basic courses on archaeology, during development of lectures and special courses on the region's ancient history, development of generalising scientific archaeological works. The received results are no less of importance for promoting archaeological knowledge, for development of the local lore, they are an important source of information for experts who study the EIA cultural processes. The research materials can be used when studying the whole complex of problems concerning interaction and contacts of the population during era of the early Iron in Kostroma Povolzhye in particular and in the Upper Volga region on the whole, as well as in adjacent territories.

Methodical base and research techniques. The historical and genetic method has allowed tracking knowledge development and various approaches of researchers to this perspective; the comparative-historical method has been applied to the analysis of archaeological sources, to their comparison, to consideration through a prism of cultural and chronological development; the typological method was being used directly during the work with archaeological artefacts and that allowed to reveal similarities and distinctions of the findings; the mathematical method has been applied in the analysis of

sources; the cartographical method allowed to present spatial distribution of the monuments, to allocate microregions with their concentration.

During the work with Kostroma Povolzhye comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics which was dramatically fragmented, the mechanism of processing of such collections which had been developed and used by Inna Islanova in work with the EIA Dyakovo culture fragmentary ceramic collections from separate monuments of Tver Oblast territory (adjacent with Kostroma Povolzhye), was adapted and used.

The research chronological limits cover the early Iron era. The temporary position of the analysed material is established within the 6th to the 3rd centuries BC.

The research territorial boundary covers Kostroma Povolzhye. The main part of the territory is the left-bank area of the Volga River basin from the River Kostroma, a tributary of the latter, in the West, to the Unzha River, in the east, including Galich-Chukhloma morainic ridge with the region's largest lakes – Chukhloma Lake and Galich Lake, as well as Kostroma and Unzha swales.

The EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements are presented by three large groups and located: in Kostroma swale, in main current of the Volga River near the City of Kostroma; in Unzha river basin; in Galich and Chukhloma lakes' surroundings.

Sources. Materials of excavation of settlement monuments, often multilayered ones, but ones including the EIA complexes, obtained as a result of the field archaeological investigations in Kostroma Povolzhye in the period from the early 20th till the early 21st centuries, formed the investigations' source base. Collections of findings obtained from excavations, which had been performed by Nikolay Bekarevich, Vasiliy Smirnov, Leonid Kazarinov, Nina Gurina, Yekaterina Goryunova, I V Gavrilova, Valeriy Patrushev, were considered in the work. Also, materials of long-term prospecting investigations have were analysed. A certain part of sources are own archaeological investigations of the thesis' author.

Work with ware materials from museum funds' archaeological collections was conducted in the state budget institution of culture of Kostroma Oblast "Kostroma State Historico-Architectural and Artistic Museum-Reserve" (the City of Kostroma) and in its branches, in particular the one in Galich (the town of), Chukhloma (the town of) and Buy (the town of) local lore museums.

Materials from archive of department of culture in Kostroma Oblast, namely, archaeological heritage objects' primary registration and passport documentation have been used in the work.

Scientific reports stored in Scientific-and-branch archive of the Federal state budget institution of science Archaeology Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, City of Moscow, in Kostroma Oblast museum state fund (the City of Kostroma) and in archive of department of culture (now – inspectorate for cultural heritage objects protection) in Kostroma Oblast (the City of Kostroma), have also been analysed during the research.

Provisions submitted for defence:

1. Participation of the groups of Ananyino population in cultural processes in the early era of Iron in Kostroma Povolzhye territory.
2. Significance of cultural layer of Ananyino-type comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics in formation of the regional population's material culture in the EIA, interpretation of materials.

The research results approbation. Basic provisions of the dissertation work were reported at scientific archaeological conferences and at scientific and methodical seminars with international participation "Tver land and adjacent territories in the ancient time" in the City of Tver in 2007, 2012—2016, "Ananyino world: cultural space, communications, traditions and innovations" in the town of Bolgar in 2016; they have been reflected by the author in 8 scientific articles.

The thesis' structure is determined by the research's purpose and problems. The thesis consists of the introduction, four chapters, the conclusion and appendices in which summary lists of the EIA archaeology monuments, statistical tables, maps, monuments plans drawings and pictures of ceramics are submitted.

DOMINANT BULK OF THE THESIS SUBJECT MATTER

In the **introduction**, the research aims and tasks are stated, the methodical base is designated, the knowledge level of research issue is characterised, the short characteristic of the used sources is given, the research chronological and territorial boundary is defined.

Chapter 1. History of research of Kostroma Povolzhye Early Iron Age settlements monuments. Source base formation, field research. Interpretation issues.

Field archaeological studying of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements, including of those containing comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics complexes, comprises more

than hundred years. The early field investigations were conducted in the late 19th century. The research history is presented in the form of consecutive chronological stages.

1.1. Source base formation from the late 19th—the early 20th centuries. The beginning of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements' archaeological investigations is connected with activity of Kostroma Governorate scientific archival commission in the late 19th—the early 20th centuries.

It was this period during which, archaeological studying of settlements, which would be subsequently correlated to a circle of the EIA monuments, began; the first archaeological collections were picked up. Investigations during this period were of local character, authors of those works not always attributed the found materials.

1.2. The EIA archaeological monuments field research in the 1920s. The 1920s are the next stage in studying the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements. It was the time of universal blossoming of the local lore study. Kostroma surroundings, where archaeological investigations of those years were inseparably linked with activity of Kostroma Scientific Society on Studying Local Area (the KSS), were not an exception. At least 10 monuments among which there are settlements which include Ananyino artefacts – Vatazhka, Boran', Stanok, Umilen'ye (Peski), Byki (Pup) – were revealed and surveyed by the society.

In 1925, the archaeological expedition to the area of the Vetluga and the Unzha rivers was organised by Moscow University Research Institute of Anthropology. Belonging of the Vetluga River coastal territory remainings to extensive area of distribution of Ananyino culture was established by Otto Bader as a result of the works carried-out by him; issues of Ananyino and Dyakovo cultures distribution areas territorial differentiation were mentioned for the first time.

Thus, it is possible to tell that by the late 19th century to the 1920s, a certain volume of materials correlated to the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye has been saved up. At that, neither Nikolay Bekarevich nor Vasiliy Smirnov distinguished the EIA comb-cord and cord ornamental Ananyino ceramics from mesh ceramics. Only the materials from the remaining from the Vetluga and the Unzha were systematised and attributed by Otto Bader; the EIA materials from Kostroma Povolzhye western part, including Kostroma Swale and Galich-Chukhloma morainic ridge, did not receive due highlighting at that time.

1.3. Archaeological monuments field investigations in the mid-20th century (1940s to 1960s). The EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements archaeological investigations

were continued subsequent to the World War II. It is possible to note that at that time, the obtained materials were interpreted by authors of the works rather accurately.

In Galich Lake surroundings, in the settlements of Umilen'ye (Peski) and Byki (Pup), in 1945 — 1947, works significant for the solution of our problem were carried out under the direction of Mariya Foss; that also was she who defined chronological position of monuments of the specified microregion.

A decade later, prospecting works in Galich Lake neighborhood and in Susanin bog surroundings were carried out by Matvey Matasov. Investigations were of the nature of the area's visual inspection, the obtained materials' systematisation was not carried out.

In 1954, field archaeological investigations in Kostroma Swale territory were carried out by Gorky archaeological expedition under the direction of Nina Gurina. As a result of the works, a large-scale volume of sources connected with Ananyino artefacts was received. Such settlements as Stanok I and II, Shunga, Boran', Vatazhka as well as Minskoye remainings, are necessary to distinguish from the studied monuments.

In 1961, archaeological works on monuments located in Galich Lake surroundings — in the settlement of Byki (Pup) and in the remainings of Bryukhovovo (Kurgan) — were carried out by Kostroma (the Upper Volga) expedition team under the supervision of Yekaterina Goryunova.

In the 1960s — 1970s, archaeological excavations in Chukhloma raion (settlement of Fyodorovskoye), Galich raion (settlement of Umilen'ye) and Susanino raion (settlement of Medvedki) were carried out by I V Gavrilova.

On the whole, the considered period can be characterised as the most fruitful in the sense of materials accumulation and studying the settlement monuments of the early Iron era in Kostroma Povolzhye.

1.4. The Early Iron Age archaeological monuments field research from the late 1970s to our time. Subsequent to Mariya Foss', Nina Gurina's, Yekaterina Goryunova's, I V Gavrilova's field investigations, Kostroma Povolzhye territory remained unaddressed for a long time, only to become the platform for large-scale archaeological prospecting works of expeditions of the Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR under the direction and with the assistance of Konstantin Komarov, Yu N Urban, Vladimir Sidorov, Andrey Leont'yev, Mikhail Zhilin in the late 1970s—the early 1980s.

Investigations which were conducted by expeditions of Archaeology Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in the late 1970s—the early 1980s, and materi-

als obtained as a result of the works, undoubtedly were an important contribution to studying the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye monuments. A part of the found materials has been attributed as a result of the works; the territory of the materials' distribution in the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye has been defined; data serving for drawing up the list of settlements which correspond to the EIA, as well as for these monuments' systematisation and mapping, have been saved up. In later years, prospecting works in Kostroma Povolzhye territory were of local and scarce character, and the excavation of the EIA monuments, of incidental character.

All above-mentioned investigations have certainly promoted replenishment of the source base on the problem we are interested in, with the new archaeological materials.

Thus, a rather great circle of sources of the early era of Iron in Kostroma Povolzhye has been saved up by now, including, in particular, comb-cord and cord ornamental pottery. The circle of the outlined sources has never been completely allocated before and it has neither been concretised, only fragmentary outlined in the process of accumulating materials at different times. The greatest part of sources has failed to be published. During the work on the dissertation research hereto, we tried to eliminate this gap.

1.5. Issues of interpretation of artefacts of Kostroma Povolzhye Early Iron Age comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics. The historiographic analysis has been carried out by us in the course of the research work, scientific works devoted to studying the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlement monuments, their separate aspects have been systematised. Literature analysis shows that only a small layer of sources concerning Ananyino artefacts from settlement monuments of the region has been introduced for scientific use. The comprehensive characteristic of materials has been carried out by none of the researchers so far; the list of settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics of Ananyino type has not been created; complexes of such ceramics have not been reported on in details, and they have neither been allocated from the massif of mesh, smooth-wall and other ware. When carrying out field works, such materials were neither systematised, being often examined only totally, on separate signs, by consideration of single questions. Thus, the perspective, which is connected with these complexes and with the population which has left them behind, was mainly considered from the point of view of distribution of groups of cultures and tribes with such ceramics, from the point of view of their mixture with the local population (Dyakovo tribes), from the point of view of impact they exerted, from the point of view of communications, from the point of view of the analysis of boundary territories between the tribes and, to the greatest extent, from the point of view of their interaction; when doing that, only few of the set-

tlement of Kostroma surroundings and separate findings were designated. In particular, Mariya Foss, Nina Gurina, Yekaterina Goryunova, Anna Zbruyeva, Vladimir Markov, Vladimir Vishnevskiy pointed to characteristic Ananyino elements in separate monuments ware from Kostroma Povolzhye; first of all, it is about existence of "collar" and about rope ornament.

Conceptual assumptions of territorial borders between certain cultural areas classified, first of all, as Dyakovo and Ananyino population were put forward at different times by Otto Bader, Mariya Foss, Nina Gurina, Anna Zbruyeva, Yekaterina Goryunova, Irina Rozenfel'dt, Kirill Smirnov, Aleksey Smirnov, Valeriy Patrushev; at the same time, differentiation of territories and definition of the border between cultural areas was carried out on a watershed of the rivers the Unzha and the Vetluga by most of the researchers; the accurate geographical principle of division was designated.

It should be noted that many researchers, interpreting and mapping the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye materials on the whole, ignored problems of distribution of comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics in the territory; however, the issue of reference of Kostroma Povolzhye to Dyakovo culture was also considered ambiguously: either the region was completely associated with solely carriers of the mesh ceramics culture and was not classified as an area of distribution of Dyakovo community, or it was designated as the outskirts of the territory of the said community, or its options were allocated. Much more attention is paid by researchers to the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye mesh ceramics; its originality and heterogeneity are noted. Undoubtedly, the questions connected with development of mesh ceramics, with its peculiarities and with the ratio of the latter with ware belonging to Dyakovo population, demand future special deep study.

Chapter 2. Kostroma Povolzhye Early Iron Age settlements monuments.

Complex analysis of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlement has been conducted in the chapter: their spatial distribution in the region has been defined, places with their concentration have been allocated, landscape and topographical features have been established, sites of localisation of settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics have been outlined.

The list of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye known settlement monuments has been created during the work. Settlements with the materials of Ananyino shape have been presented separately. By consideration of the question of formation of platforms of settlements relative to river arteries, variants of arrangement of monuments have defined

that allowed determining features of the choice of sites for their settling by comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental Ananyino tradition carriers.

46 settlements with typologically emitted materials of the EIA are currently known in Kostroma Povolzhye. The majority of settlements are multilayered, containing complexes of the Late Stone and Bronze Age as well as later time (Middle Ages) along with the materials of the EIA. Three sites of localisation of the EIA settlement with mesh, hatched, smooth-wall, cord, comb-cord and combined ceramics have been allocated in the course of the research: within Kostroma Swale, Galich-Chukhloma morainic ridge, Unzha Swale.

The settlements of the first group are located within Kostroma Swale and the basin of the Volga River next to the City of Kostroma. In total 16 settlements are included in the group, of which 8 complexes have cord-ornamental and comb-cord ornamental ceramic.

The settlements of the second group are concentrated within Galich-Chukhloma morainic ridge and coincide with the district of Galich and Chukhloma lakes, Susanin bog, to the mid basin of the Kostroma River and to its headwaters as well as its inflows. 23 settlements with the EIA materials are situated here; comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics is available in the material composition of six of them.

Settlements concentrated in the Unzha River basin – Unzha Swale and the Nyomda River which is situated close to it, – are classified as the third group. Settlements of an early era of iron are few in this area, there are only 6 monuments.

Out of the 46 EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements, in total 14 monuments with comb-cord ornamental, cord-ornamental and combined ceramics are allocated (remainings in the City of Kostroma and next to the village of Minskoye, settlements of Vatazhka, Boran', Stanok I and II, Khrenovo, Shunga, Bryukhovo (Kurgan), Byki (Pup), Unorozh, Chyolsma, Umilen'ye, Medvedki II). It is also worth to remember about monuments on which only prospecting works were carried out and belonging to the EIA of which was determined by finding mesh ceramics which often was dramatically fragmented. Undoubtedly, such settlements may too contain other complexes that makes need of their field studying of even more topical.

Settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental Ananyino ceramics are localised in the basin of Galich Lake and within Kostroma Swale, forming two large groups of resettlement. They are known also in the neighbourhood of Susanin bog. One and all noted settlements were characterised by mesh ceramics as well.

The tendency of arranging settlements with Ananyino materials on high, expressed on the area, sites at a wide flood plain is noted. Arrangement of numerous settlements (Bryukhovo, Unorozh, Stanok I and II, Chyolsma, Vatazhka, Khrenovo, Umilen'ye) near small creeks, streams, on the place of flowing of the latter ones in a larger water object – a river or a lake – can be considered to be a feature, too.

In the area of Chukhloma Lake as well as in the Unzha River basin, settlements with the EIA comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental complexes are currently not known, only settlements with mesh ceramics were recorded.

Thus, it is possible to claim that Kostroma Povolzhye territory, being situated in the cultural area of mesh ceramics owners, joined the range of Ananyino cultural and historical area as well. The beginning of change of cultural situation in the 6th century BC in Kostroma Povolzhye stimulated development of settlements with the combined Ananyino and mesh traditions.

Chapter 3. Comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramic complexes

3.1. Ceramics working technique. Questions of the ceramics study technique arising and being considered in this chapter, analyse difficulties of the typological definition. The research scheme of dramatically fragmented Kostroma Povolzhye comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics is developed. It is noted that at allocation of comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics from the lump of the early Iron Age ceramics which more often than not is considered to be the mesh one, problems of typological definition and further interpretation of a fragmentary part of complexes arise. The lower part of vessels and their walls (torso) containing zones with mesh structure, smoothed-down and other sites often remain unavailable to cultural identification. The combined ceramics has been allocated.

3.2. Ceramics from the surroundings of Galich Lake and Susanin bog. Full characteristic of comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics obtained from settlements of this group is presented. Its complete description has been conducted for each monument separately.

3.3. Ceramics from Kostroma swale. Comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics from monuments localised in this area has been characterised in details.

On the basis of studying ceramics, it is possible to note that the considered region was generally occupied by the mesh ceramics population which came under considerable influence of Ananyino cultural and historical area at a certain stage, that was shown in distribution of comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics tradition. Un-

doubtedly, integration on local medium with mesh ceramics promoted leveling of many classical, peculiar to Ananyino cultural and historical area, traditions in ceramic production, their adaptation to new conditions. For instance, changing technology of the external surface pottery processing occurred (the smoothed-down surface would be often replaced by the mesh one); there was also change of impurity composition (mineral impurity (sand) prevailed then). Among morphological features, change of profiling can be named, i.e. under-profiled forms, characteristic of mesh ceramics of the said district on the whole, began to prevail. Flat-bottomed vessels prevail. Figuration is supplemented with such elements as figured superficial impressions and punches, i.e. the elements peculiar to media of Dyakovo and mesh ceramics in general. Also, the combination of the mentioned elements on ware – say, for example, string squeezes on a neck and downwards along a cheek, superficial figured impressions – is used. The edge is made out by mesh imprints or is imparted corrugatedness. Mesh imprints are mostly characteristic of the external surface of pots' torsos, go beyond vessels' cheeks and necks less often; one case of going beyond the cord ornament has been noted. Cases when the ornament is imposed on a surface with mesh prints and when the smoothed-down sites are minimum, are frequent.

In total, 181 vessels of Ananyino shape are allocated by the top part. Slightly profiled ware – 40.8% – make the greatest percent, under-profiled pots – 22.1% (without taking into account under-profiled pots with "collar" on the edge, with the ratio of the former ones making 12.2%, with the 34.3% ratio of such ware, in total), – follow further. The ratio of accurately profiled ware is a little less – 21.6%, the group of cup-shaped vessels is the smallest – 3.3%.

It is important to note that these are generally mineral impurity, namely, sand which is a part of forming weight that is characteristic of the conservative mesh ceramics medium rather than of ceramics of the Kama and the Middle Povolzhye.

Ornament elements which are made from the cord prints prevail and make 68.8% of total number of elements. The ratio of patching ornament is 25.8%. Impressions are most often superficial. Deep accurate impressions are generally noted in groups of continuously profiled ceramics and ceramics with "collar". Ornament elements make 5.9% of prints of a comb punch. The retraced and threaded technique can be met very seldom; its ratio makes only 0.3%. Let us note that the ratio of an ornament made by means of prints of comb punch increased in the district of Galich Lake, decreased southward along the Volga River, and within Kostroma Swale; the ratio of cord prints in combination with pits is greater; and the greatest quantity of ware with "collar" on edge is found.

A lot of similarities in Kostroma Ananyino ceramics type with Ananyino ware of the other territories are observed; it however should be noted that the common steady features peculiar to Ananyino ceramics are present in parallel with individual, specific signs here. Both remoteness from a historical kernel of Ananyino cultural and historical area and influence of other mesh ceramics cultural areas can be considered as the reason of certain changes in material culture. Kostroma Povolzhye territory is a zone of active culture genesis in the EIA. Separate steady signs of Ananyino ceramics would be corrected, supplemented with elements of mesh ceramics. On the whole, it is necessary to recognise that traditions of production of mesh ware strongly influenced process of formation of the shape of comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics in Kostroma Povolzhye. Some combined pottery does occur.

Chapter 4. Settlements of Kostroma Povolzhye and Ananyino cultural and historical area in the EIA. Chronology of monuments with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics.

4.1. Problems of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements research. Before going to determination of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye monuments' status and chronological position, it is necessary to focus attention on a number of problematic issues. In general, numerous unsolved questions of the EIA in the region are still left. First of all, these include need of differentiation of complexes with mesh ceramics proper (era of bronze, the EIA), determination of its narrow chronology, definition of the accurate cultural status of the majority of monuments.

4.2. The settlements' chronology. Peculiarities of settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics in Kostroma Povolzhye and their similarity to Ananyino cultural and historical area monuments.

Time frames of Ananyino type settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics in Kostroma Povolzhye have been determined as a result of the research hereto (the 6th—the 3rd centuries BC); comparison of the settlements with other regions' Ananyino cultural and historical area monuments has been carried out, the internal chronological position of Ananyino materials in the region has been developed. It is established that in a ware complex of certain settlements of Kostroma Povolzhye in the 6th century BC, ceramics (belonging to the carriers of comb-cord and cord ornamental tradition) and scarce individual possessions, which came from east territories and corresponded to Ananyino cultural and historical area, appeared. Exactly from that moment, changes of cultural situation in the region where settlements with mesh ceramics used to dominate, have been occurred. Settlements from the combined Ananyino and

mesh traditions have appeared. Two interconnected stages in the development of the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements with comb-cord and cord-ornamental ceramics are allocated.

Areas of distribution of carriers of Ananyino traditions in Kostroma Povolzhye have been established and sites of concentration of such settlements in the region have been shown on the basis of examining ceramics.

Initial ways of migration of the carriers of Ananyino comb-cord and cord ornamental pottery tradition to Kostroma Povolzhye – from territories of the Middle and the Upper Vetluga – have been defined; when doing it, the very noticeable trace of the Vyatka River should be noted as well. Characteristic features of the regional settlements have been established. All settlements of Ananyino cultural and historical area with comb-cord and cord ornamental ceramics are multilayered; and they would be founded on the place of the previous times' settlements – those of the late era of the bronze, the EIA, those with mesh ceramics. Platforms of settlements were often used in the subsequent time (the EIA, the early Middle Ages) as well. Originally only high places would be cultivated; at the second stage, lower platforms drawn to a creek would be populated as well.

Kostroma Povolzhye territory was in "boundary" cultural situation in the 6th—the 3rd centuries BC. Undoubtedly, Ananyino population has left a noticeable mark in the regional history, has exerted impact on formation and development of new cultural components in Kostroma Povolzhye; the mesh tradition underwent noticeable changes, and in the 5th century BC, the combined ceramics with mesh and comb-cord basis appeared. In the 3rd century BC, the cord tradition broke off; at that, all the settlements where the cord tradition used to be common, continued to exist.

The main results of the research are summed up in the thesis **conclusion**. Undoubtedly, the EIA Kostroma Povolzhye settlements with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics take the important place in the system of monuments of Ananyino cultural and historical area, defining the western vector of its distribution along the Volga basin. It is necessary to emphasise that it is still necessary to conduct search, allocation and analysis of Ananyino materials in the Upper Volga area on the whole. It is also expedient to examine the materials from the EIA settlements of the Sheksna River basin and the district of the lakes Kubena and White.

Problems of allocation and interpretation of Ananyino cultural and historical area materials in the western part of its distribution are necessary for decision, exclusively taking into account interaction of the two large cultural historical areas – Ananyino and

mesh ceramics. At the same time, the archaeological situation in the field of distribution of settlements with mesh ceramics in contact areas is necessary for consideration exclusively taking into account Ananyino traditions carriers' influence. Continuation of investigations in this direction is perspective and necessary.

**The thesis' fundamentals and conclusions have been reflected in
thefollowing publications**

The articles published in the magazines included into the List of the leading reviewed scientific magazines and editions which are recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation:

1. A.V. Novikov. Field Archaeological Study of the Early Iron Age Monuments in the Kostroma Volga Region at the end of XIX—the first quarter of the XX century / A.V. Novikov // Yaroslavl Pedagogic Herald. – 2014. – Vol. 1 : The Humanities. – # 4. – Pp. 41–46.

2. A.V. Novikov. Historical interpretation of materials with comb-corded and corded ceramics of the early iron age in the Kostroma Volga region / A.V. Novikov // Lobachevsky Nizhny Novgorod State University. – 2015. – # 1. – Pp. 87–94.

3. A.V. Novikov. The history of archaeological study of monuments of Kostroma lowlands with crested-corded and corded ceramics of the early Iron Age/ A.V. Novikov // Vestnik of Nekrasov Kostroma State University. – 2015. – Vol. 21. – # 1. – Pp. 8–12.

4. A.V. Novikov. The Unorozh hillfort: preliminary results of archaeological activities in 2014 / A.V. Novikov, V.S. Baranov // The Povolzhye Archaeology. – 2016. – # 1 (15). – Pp. 143–168.

The articles published in scientific anthologies:

1. A.V. Novikov. Archaeological investigations of the settlement of ???Fyodorovo??? in Chukhloma raion of Kostroma Oblast in 2004–2005 / A.V. Novikov // The miscellany of the III interregional conference "Archaeology: the Past and the Future". – Yaroslavl, 2007. – Pp. 159–169.

2. A.V. Novikov. Archaeological investigations of the settlement of ???Fyodorovo??? in Chukhloma raion of Kostroma Oblast in 2005–2006 / A.V. Novikov // Tver archaeological anthology. – Tver : Triad, 2011. – Issue 8. – Vol. 1. – Pp. 102–114.

3. A.V. Novikov. The Early Iron Age comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics of the settlement of Vatazhka / A.V. Novikov // Archaeology of the Eurasian

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4. A.V. Novikov. The early iron age monuments with comb-cord ornamental and cord-ornamental ceramics in the basin of Galich lake / A.V. Novikov // Tver archaeological anthology. – Tver : Triad, 2015. – Issue 10. – Vol. 2. – Pp. 50–68.

5. A.V. Novikov. Ceramic complex of the settlement of Vatazhka (in terms of archaeological excavations held by Vasiliy Smirnov in 1925–1927) / A.V. Novikov // Tver archaeological anthology. – Tver : Triad, 2015. – Issue 10. – Vol. 2. – Pp. 69–86.

6. A.V. Novikov. History of research of the early iron age epoch monuments of the Unzha River basin which is in Kostroma Povolzhye / A.V. Novikov, O.V. Novikova // Ancient, medieval and modern ethnocultural interactions in the Upper Povolzhye territory and in territories contiguous to it: a miscellany / The state budget institution of culture of Kostroma Oblast "Kostroma Museum-Reserve". – Kostroma: Kostroma-Publish, 2016. – Pp. 49–57.

Aleksandr Viktorovich NOVIKOV

**EARLY IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS
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