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JEWELRY FROM THE HILL-FORT OF ANCIENT BUZHSK

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The article depicts the jewelry found during the archaeological excavations on the hill-fort of ancient Buzhsk in 2000–2009. It includes the trinkets made both of colored metals (bracelets, temple ring-pendant, and ament) and of glass (necklaces, ring, and bracelets). Closest analogues are established as well as the chronological definition.

Key words: ancient Buzhsk, Ancient Rus jewelry, glass bead, glass ring, glass bracelet, woven bracelet, plate bracelet, temple ring-pendant of the Kievan type, ament.

For the whole period of studies of the ancient Buzhsk where were discovered relatively small amount of jewelry items. That collection contained no unique items neither it has any significant cultural value. Nevertheless the collection causes impression by its diversity. It contains glass beads, rings and bracelets as well as metal temple ring-pendants and bracelets. Since only the insignificant part of the hill-fort has been studied until now we expect rather significant increase of the collection in the following excavations.

There were found five beads (fig. 1). Two of them were discovered in 1970-s by the local ethnographer O. Danchak on the central square of the hill-fort. First of them is zoned one. It was made of the opaque glass of reddish brown color (comp. fig. 1, 1) and ornamented by circular bicolor orbs – green inside the yellow. The orbs are embossed on the surface. Herewith the form of bead itself is tending to triangular. Facets length amount 8 mm, its height – 5 mm, inner channel diameter – 2 mm.

Since there were no stratigraphic allocation of given artifact it is required to address the general studies on the typology and the chronologies of Ancient Rus' inventories [23–25] as well as the results of the excavations on the archaeological sites adjacent to Busk [12; 13; 19; 22]. Thus, the closest analogies to such a bead namely two similar finds were located on the settlement Hryhorivka in the Dnieper region near Kaniv. V. Petrashenko, the scientist who studied the settlement, claimed that such beads were widespread in 8th – 10th centuries [18. P. 102. Fig. 51, 7]. On the contrary, the renowned researcher of Ancient Rus' glass Y. Shchapova referred similar beads from Novgorod to the period of 10th – early 11th centuries [23. P. 178]. At Beloozere in the Northern Rus' region the triangular beads were spread in 11th – first half of 12th centuries according to S. Zakharov [10. P. 44, 149. Fig. 296].

Second bead from Buzhesk is zoned one as well made of brown colored dull glass. It's maximal diameter – 7 mm, height – 5 mm, diameter of inner channel – 2,5 mm. It was ornamented by three yellow orbs (comp. fig. 1, 3).

There are still no analogies of such beads from the studies on the Ancient Rus'

towns of Western Volyn. Once again the similar artifacts were discovered on the settlement Hryhorivka. Y. Shchapova dated them by 10th – early 11th centuries [18. P. 102. Fig. 51, 7; 23. P. 178].

Another glass bead was found by O. Danchak on the building ground of department store in the central square of hill-fort. The ethnographer assumed it was obtained from the destroyed burial as there were human bones found nearby (comp. fig. 1, 2). The bead appears as two-parted. Actually it consists of inseparable zoned beads linked by thin glass thread. It was made of green glass. There is a partly weathered layer of greyish hue. It's maximal diameter – 7,5 mm, diameter of inner channel – 3 mm, height of both parts reaches 3,5 and 4 mm.

Similar beads are dated mostly by 12th century [18. P. 100. Fig. 51, 2, 4; 23. P. 166–169].

Following our excavations in 2000 on the hill-fort in the suburb Volyany (the part of Busk archaeological complex) a bead was discovered in the inner fillings of the structure of 12th – 13th centuries. It has twisted structure of globular shape round in cross-section (comp. fig. 1, 4:1) [1. P. 7. Fig. 9, 7]. Originally it was achromatic and transparent. However, now it became partially turbid and whitened. It's maximal diameter – 8 mm, diameter of the inner channel – 1 mm.

Expert studies positioned such bead in an extensive chronological range from the late 11th until the early 14th centuries. However, they are mostly typical in 12th – 13th centuries [10. P. 54, 145. Fig. 273, 6–10; 23. P. 165]. Most of globular beads from other towns of Western Volyn were dated by this period [12. P. 111. Fig. 33, 1–2; 19. P. 160. Fig. 156, 15].

During the excavations in 2002 on the Grand hill-fort another bead was discovered in the cultural layer of 12th – 13th centuries. It has also twisted structure but bitrapezoidal shape (comp. fig. 1, 4:2) [3. P. 21. Fig. 14, 9]. As the majority of similar type beads it is achromatic and transparent [10. P. 146]. This find's maximal diameter reaches 14 mm, diameter of the inner channel – 3 mm, height – 8 mm. Thus, this bead belongs to the type with the proportion 1:2 between the height and the maximal diameter [10. P. 145; 23. P. 168].

According to Y. Shchapova bitrapezoidal shaped beads of first type (proportion 1:2) are the chronological sign of 10th – 11th centuries [23. P. 170].

Among the glass garnishes of Ancient Busk special interest should be turned towards the upper part of a ring. It was found in 2005 on the Grand hill-fort in the upper fillings of the structure of late 10th – early 11th centuries (fig. 2, 1) [5. P. 29. Fig. 21, 3. Foto 63–64]. The ring was yellow colored and semitransparent. Its form was flat and convex in cross-section while its surface was smooth. Maximal diameter – 25 mm, inner diameter – 19 mm, ring guard shield of ellipsoid shape – 10×13 mm. Flat-convex smooth glass rings has a subtype with a guard shield in three shapes: flat (received by pressing the glowing glass ring to a flat surface), convex (molten in that shape) and upright (guard shield made with a pinch) [10. P. 155]. The ring from Busk belongs to the subtype of convex (molten). Expert scientists made it obvious that the glass rings of such form are very rare [17. P. 87; 23. P. 98]. Y. Shchapova explained that as a major difference in the technology of glass ring melting and excludes them

from the number of Ancient Rus' products. She assumed such rings could be produced in Kiev by Byzantine craftsmen [24. P. 98]. Chronology of molten glass rings is restricted to the first three quarters of 11th century.

Through the excavations of the Busk hill-fort there were found 18 pieces of glass bracelets (comp. fig. 2, 2), [2. P. 16. Fig. 15, 4, 16, 2; 5; 6. P. 20. Fig. 14, 9; 7. P. 35. Fig. 25, 5, 8, 22, 6, 9, 27, 3, 31, 1, Foto 91; 8. P. 19, Foto 16]. Thirteen of them were discovered in 2008 at the north-western corner of the hill-fort in the excavation site of 32 m². One small piece was added from the collection of O. Danchak. Majority of finds were obtained from the cultural layers of 13th century – three – from the early 12th century, and one – from the layer of 10th – 11th centuries. In such a manner the materials from Busk supported once more the opinion of active use of glass bracelets in the Ancient Rus' towns from the second half of 12th century [24. P. 246].

Fragments of the bracelets demonstrate rather well preserved condition of the garnishes. Only eight of them are covered by a thin silvery patina.

By 16 fragments it was possible to establish the original diameters of the bracelets. Half of them had a diameter of 6 cm, five – 7 cm, two – 5 cm, and one – 4 cm. Thus, it is visible the majority of bracelets were worn on the wrist, rest of them – a little higher.

By their shape 15 of 19 artifacts are of twisted structure. Eight of them finely twisted another seven – widely twisted. Remaining three fragments of glass bracelets are smooth shaped and one – flat-convex.

According to analysis of the bracelets diameters it is obvious that the twisted bracelets are thicker than the smooth ones. Diameters of the twisted rods spans from 4,5 mm to 9 mm (five fragments have diameter of 8 mm, three – 5,5 mm, two – 7 mm, two – 6,5 mm, remaining – 9, 6, and 4,5 mm). Three smooth bracelets rods have diameters 3, 5, and 5,5 mm.

Color gamma of the finds is distributed as follows: sky-blue – 5 pieces, black – 4, olive – 3, blue – 2, green – 1, yellow – 1, brown – 1, violet – 1, reddish-brown – 1.

Two pieces of black bracelets (twisted and smooth) were ornamented by circumflexed yellow thread. Similar adornment was due on the fragment of semi-transparent yellow smooth bracelet.

Characteristics of the color gamma and the shape of glass bracelets are usually the most informative in the attempt to establish the place of their origins. In a case of Busk bracelets, however, it would be too early to make any assumptions given the lack of statistical volumes and of the chemical analysis as well. It is worthy to indicate that majority of glass bracelets finds from the Ancient Rus' towns of Western Volyn are usually associated with the Kiev craftsmen workshops [12. P. 109; 13. P. 191; 19. P. 159]. They are dated from late 10th – until the early 14th century, but the mass influx of such products in Volyn appears in 12th – 13th centuries [12. P. 109].

Another category of garnished is the jewelry from color metals found during the archeological excavations on the hill-fort of ancient Buzhesk.

One of artifacts – part of a bracelet made of copper alloy – was discovered in 2003 in the cultural layer of 13th century (fig. 3, 1), [4. P. 10, 23. Fig. 19, 4]. The length of preserved part – 7,5 cm, diameter of the rod – 3 mm. It belongs to the type of

twisted ones [15. P. 216; 20. P. 94–97]. It was made of wire, combined in three layers and intertwined. One of the edges contained broken loop-shaped ending.

In Volyn region similar pieces of jewelry were found only in Dorogobuzh [19. P. 139–140]. They, however, are wide spread in many other Ancient Rus' regions [18. P. 95; 26. P. 247]. It considered distinctive garnish of Northern Rus' population [21. P. 75]. Chronological existence of such triplex twisted bracelets extends from early 11th – until late 14th centuries [20. P. 94].

Another copper bracelet was found during the excavations of 2005 in the cultural layer of 12th – 13th centuries (comp. fig. 3, 2), [5. P. 27–28. Fig. 21, 1]. It belongs to the type of plated [15. P. 230; 20. P. 103–115] as it was made of the plate 0,5 mm thick which is narrowed on the endings. The artifact was produced in the technology of forging and ornamented by the means of stamping and cutting.

The ornament is entirely original as there are no close analogues so far. The surface of bracelet is covered by the pattern made of circles (“suns”), lines and squares. Totally there are 12 squares. Of them four large are in the middle with two sun circles inside. On the undamaged ending there are four lesser squares with one sun circle. On the damaged side there are five similar squares. All patterns and small deep lines on the edges of the bracelet were made by the means of engraving (comp. fig. 3, 2)

The artifact has width 1,2 cm in the most and 0,35 cm at the least. Its length – 16,5 cm.

One of the endings was straight cut and fold out in a small tube, another was also fold out however broken. By that feature the plated bracelet from Busk could be included in the type with folded endings [20. P. 113]. M. Sedov noticed that the largest expansion of the plated bracelets with folded endings falls on the late 12th – late 13th centuries [20. P. 113].

On the excavation site on Grand hill-fort in 2006 a silver ring of so-called “Kiev type” was found in the cultural layer of 12th – 13th centuries (comp. fig. 3, 3), [6. P. 13, 20. Fig. 14, 9. Foto 42, 43]. It consists of three beads strung on wired ring. According to V. Levashova's classification it belongs to the group of bead-composed, sub-group with three beads [14. P. 18]. The beads were fastened on the ring in the certain position using thin wrapped wire. The wire wrapping around the ring creates certain intervals between the beads thus fixing them.

The temple pendant ring was also found on the territory of Buzhsk and it belongs following the classification of V. Levashova to the type of filigree with granulation [14. P. 21]. Hollow beads of cylindrical shape were formed by thin wires and fastened in the middle to narrow plate. On the outer side they are ornamented by granulation (comp. fig. 3, 3:2). Diameter of each bead – 9 mm, diameter of the wire they are composed of – 2 mm. The junction of the temple ring has endings bent inside.

Temple ring-pendants with three beads are often found in the layers of mid. 12th – mid. 13th centuries on many sites of Western Volyn [9. P. 85–87, 103–106, 112, 116; 12. P. 91; 13. P. 99; 26. P. 239–240].

The last piece of jewelry from the Ancient Buzhsk at least up to this day is the earring in a moon shape. It was discovered in 2007 on the Grand hill-fort in the cultural layer of 10th – 11th centuries. The bronze earring was crafted in the matrix and

ornamented by the pattern of pseudo-granulation. On one side it has floral ornament in a shape of the bunch of grapes; on the other the ornament is geometrical in a shape of zigzag lines. The earring preserved a part of its eyehole 3 mm long.

The clear analogues of the mention jewelry from Busk are found on several figures of the collective monographic study "Culture of Volyn and of Volobymyr Polissya region in the Age of Principalities" [13. P. 38. Fig. 2, 1. Tab. XXII, 3, 9, 10]. Here this jewelry was pictured in upside down position. So was depicted similar moon shaped pendant in the article of M. Yagodynska [26. P. 243. Fig. 9, 14].

Also the photography of similar by the shape earring was published by V. Petrasenko without any regards in the text concerning the artifact [18. P. 261].

In the monographic study of R. Chayka two other moon shaped pendants are described from the Lystvyn hill-fort. The researcher dated them by 10th – 11th centuries and indicated several analogues from Plisnesko, Zvenyhorod and Torgovytsya [22. P. 70. Fig. 62, 6, 8].

R. Kisilevych and S. Orlov mention certain earring of "Nitra type" from Manastyrok [11. P. 71. Fig. 9, 2]. Revising the article of Y. Maksymov and V. Petrasenko on the Monastyrok hill-fort we have found following: "among the jewelry masterpieces it is worth to notice the bronze moon-shaped earring with the cast pendant which is ornamented on both sides by pseudo-granulation (fig. 12). Its length 3 cm and the largest width – 2,5 cm. Analogical jewelry is found in the Grate Moravia there they are dated by 9th century. Similar earring was discovered in the grave N 30 in Nitra-Lupca together with three earrings of simple shape and with two ceramic pots" [16. P. 14. Fig. 12].

Presented sources indicate that such jewelry piece as the moon-shaped earring was rather common but still they need more specific studies.

Jewelry from the archaeological excavations of ancient Buzhsk decently represent the variety of all types of Ancient Rus' garnishes from glass and from color metals. Their stratigraphic positioning is generally matching with the chronological indications from the expert's studies. Much harder it appears to find close analogues and establish places of jewelry origins since until now there are no indications or attributes of craftsmanship on the territory of Ancient Byzhsk. There are as well no expert study based on the materials from the archaeological sites of South-Western Rus'.

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Fig. 1. Beads from the hill-fort of the annalystic Buzhsk.



1



2

Fig. 2. A part of the glass ring (1) and fragments of the glass bracelets (2) from the hill-fort of the annalystic Buzhsk.

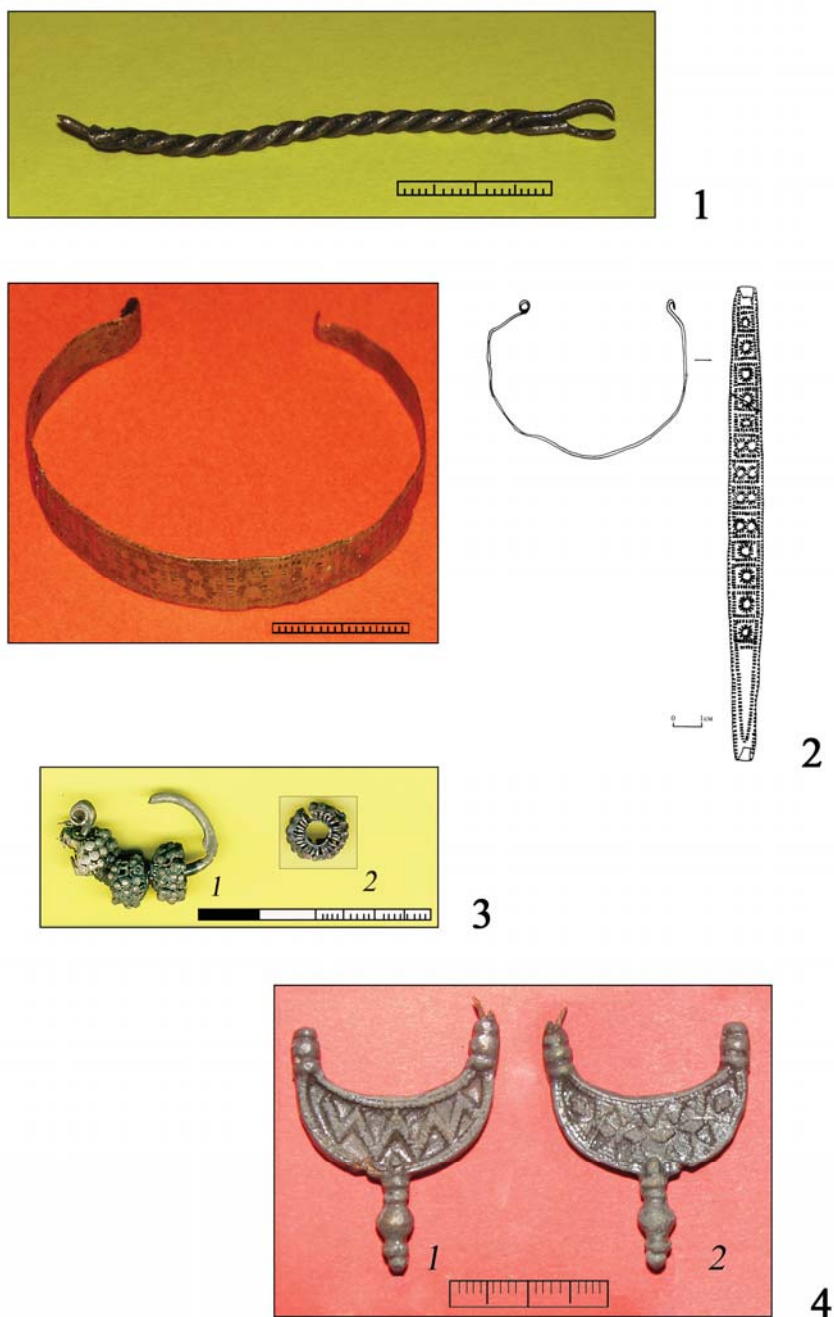


Fig. 3. Jewelry made of colour metals from the hill-fort of the annalytic Buzhsk: 1, 2 – bracelets; 3 – temporal ring “Kiyivan type”; 4 – earring in a moon shape.

ПРИКРАСИ З ГОРОДИЩА ЛІТОПИСНОГО БУЖСЬКА

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Описано прикраси із скла (намистини, перстень, браслети) і кольорових металів (браслети, скроневе кільце, сережка), знайдені під час археологічних розкопок на городищі літописного Бужська протягом 2000–2009 рр. Наведено аналогії, встановлено хронологічний діапазон їх побутування.

Ключові слова: літописний Бужськ, давньоруські прикраси, скляні намистини, скляний перстень, скляні браслети, виті браслети, пластинчасті браслети, скроневе кільце київського типу, сережка.

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