

Late Neolithic Site at Drenovitsa, near Petrich

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Two trenches were made: 6 x 3 m and 4 x 2 m respectively. The thickness of the cultural layer varied from 0.90 to 1.40 m. The stratigraphic situation was similar in both trenches: two main levels, one of them containing fire debris. The fired level was better registered in Trench № 1. Black layers attesting to a fired horizon were recorded at the bottom of both trenches. The pottery assemblage was homogeneous and attested to one Neolithic phase.

The classification of the pottery assemblage is based on relatively uniform criteria. The entire assemblage does not find exact parallels in the neighboring regions. It has at least three main typical features: the technological groups are relatively similar in color and surface treatment; there is no gray-black slipped and burnished ware; there are few decorated sherds. Though highly fragmented the pottery displays however a wide range of shapes. The main shapes are defined according to the diameters of the mouth and the body: plates, bowls, and jars. The types are defined according to the profile (conical, rounded, cylindrical-conical, biconical, semi-

spherical, almost completely spherical). The variants of the main types are defined according to the profile, the shape of the neck and the rim.

The anthropomorphs are quite instructive finds. The clay figurines, at least a couple of which are male, belong to the group of the column-shaped, highly schematized anthropomorphs, typical for the end of the late Neolithic in the Struma and Vardar valleys. Close parallels of Drenovitsa figurines are known from sites in the middle and lower Struma: Kurilo (near Sofia), Balgarchevo (near Blagoevgrad), Damyanitsa (near Sandanski), and Topolnitsa-Promachon.

Except for the Akropotamos style of painted ware and black-topped ware with channeling and burnished decoration, Drenovitsa pottery assemblage finds its closest parallels in Damyanitsa III and Topolnitsa-Promachon pottery assemblages. This fact as well as the great similarity of the anthropomorphs indicate that the site was related to the Topolnitsa-Akropotamos group and was probably a peripheral highland variant of the same group.