

# TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION

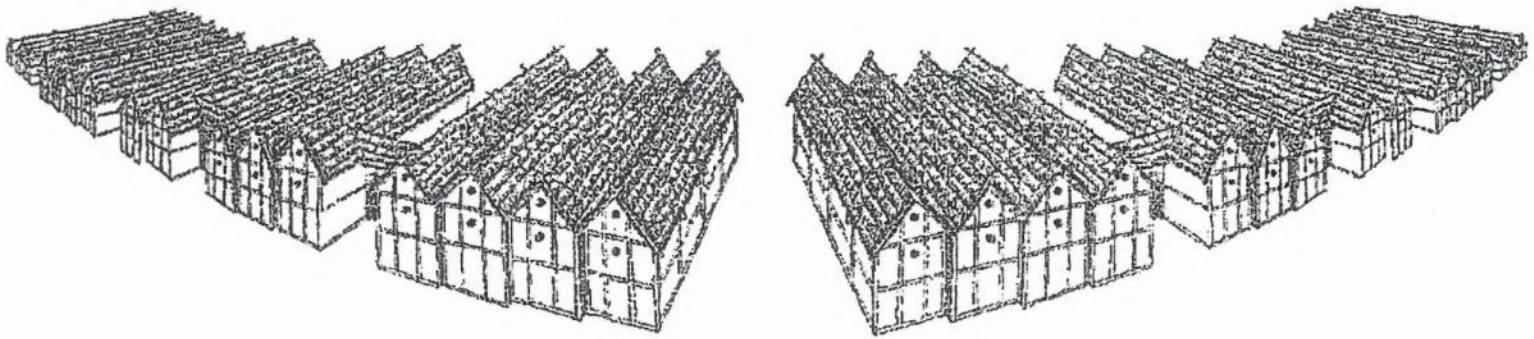
Andrew Gregorovich



# **Trypilian Civilization**

**in Ukraine from 5500 B.C. to 2500 B.C.**

**Europe's first Cities & first Major Culture**



**By Andrew Gregorovich**



**Toronto – Scranton  
FORUM**



## Trypilian Civilization

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Trypilian villages, towns and cities in Ukraine 7500-2500 BC. A map of some of the most important sites up to 1950 by Yaroslav Pasternak, Ukrainian Quarterly (New York), vol. 6, no. 2, Spring 1950, p. 122.



# TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION

**in Ukraine From 5500 B.C. to 2500 B.C.**

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**T**RYPILIA ESTABLISHED THE FIRST CITIES in Europe. These small cities in Ukraine of up to 20,000 population were larger than ancient Babylon or Rome. They have been called proto-cities or quasi-cities by some scholars because there is no written history surviving from that time. According to the *Oxford Concise Encyclopedia* the world's first civilization was established by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, with Babylon the capital, about 4000 B.C. This was about 1,500 years after Trypilia started its existence in 5500 BC.

The First Dynasty of Egypt began ancient Egyptian civilization about 3100 BC. China traces its ancient history from about 2000 BC. After the Mycenaean culture in Crete ended in 1200 B.C, the Greek city states established cities which became the foundation of ancient Greek civilization. Prof. Alexander Sydorenko of Arkansas State University in 1994 wrote that "in the opinion of some scholars; it [Trypilia] influenced the early Greek (pre-Mycenaean, pre-Minoan) and Aegean civilizations."

Trypilia is 3,000 years earlier than Abraham and the Jewish Old Testament of the Bible. Rome was founded 735 BC. This comparison of the more ancient Trypilian culture with the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Greece and Rome provides a clearer appreciation of the remarkable achievements of Trypilia. Of course, all civilizations have a pre-historical period preceding their origin.

England's famous megalith Stonehenge was mostly built after 2400 BC so it is more recent than the Trypilian Civilization. There are many dates attached to Trypilian archeology but most research in radiocarbon dating has established approximately the years 5500 to 2500 B.C., or a period of about 3,000 years. Some scholars say it was 2,650 years, (5400 BC to 2750 BC), that Trypilian Civilization existed in Ukraine. The Trypillians lived in harmony with nature. Relatively few weapons have been found which leads some scholars to suggest that there was a Pax Trypilia which meant that the culture was mainly a peaceful one. However, some Trypilian towns did have fortifications like moats or earth walls.

Over 50 museums in the world have Trypilian artifacts. The National History Museum of Ukraine has 70,000 Trypilian artifacts but only 300 are on

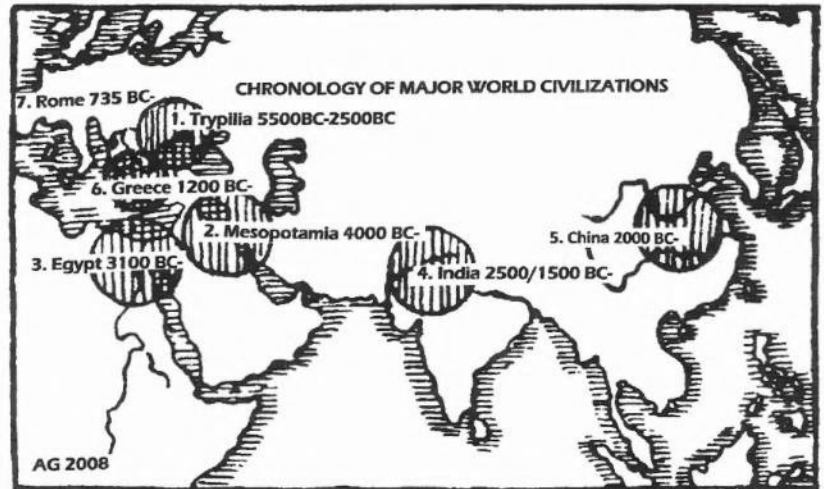


exhibit. In Ukraine over 250,000 artifacts have been found. In 1949 only 94 Trypilian sites were known, in 1966 over 960 were identified and today over 2,100 Trypilian sites, villages, towns and small cities have been located. It is expected that eventually 5,000 sites will be found. There have been over 300 scholars studying Trypilia who have published 3,000 works including 80 monographs. There are over 2 million archeological reports about Trypilia in the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences archives.

Burdo and Videiko mention that Prof. Subtelny's 1988 *History of Ukraine* used as a textbook in universities is now very out of date on Trypilia. The three volume *Arkheolohiya Ukrainy* (1971-74) is also out of date. In 1893, before Trypilia, archeologists near the village of Shypyntsi near Chernivtsi, made a Trypilian find that was called the "Bukovinian Troy." Shypyntsi artifacts are mostly in the Austrian museum in Vienna and others are in Prague, Cracow and Bucharest. During World War II (1941-44) the Germans looted 4,000 artifacts from the Cherkasy Museum.

## TRYPILIA: THE NAME

The word Trypilia comes from the Ukrainian *try poly* meaning "three fields" in English. Trypilia, (pronounced tre-peel-ya), is the name of a Ukrainian town, about 30 miles south of the Ukrainian capital Kiev, today named Trypillia. In medieval Rus-Ukraine a thousand years ago it was named Tropol (1032 AD).

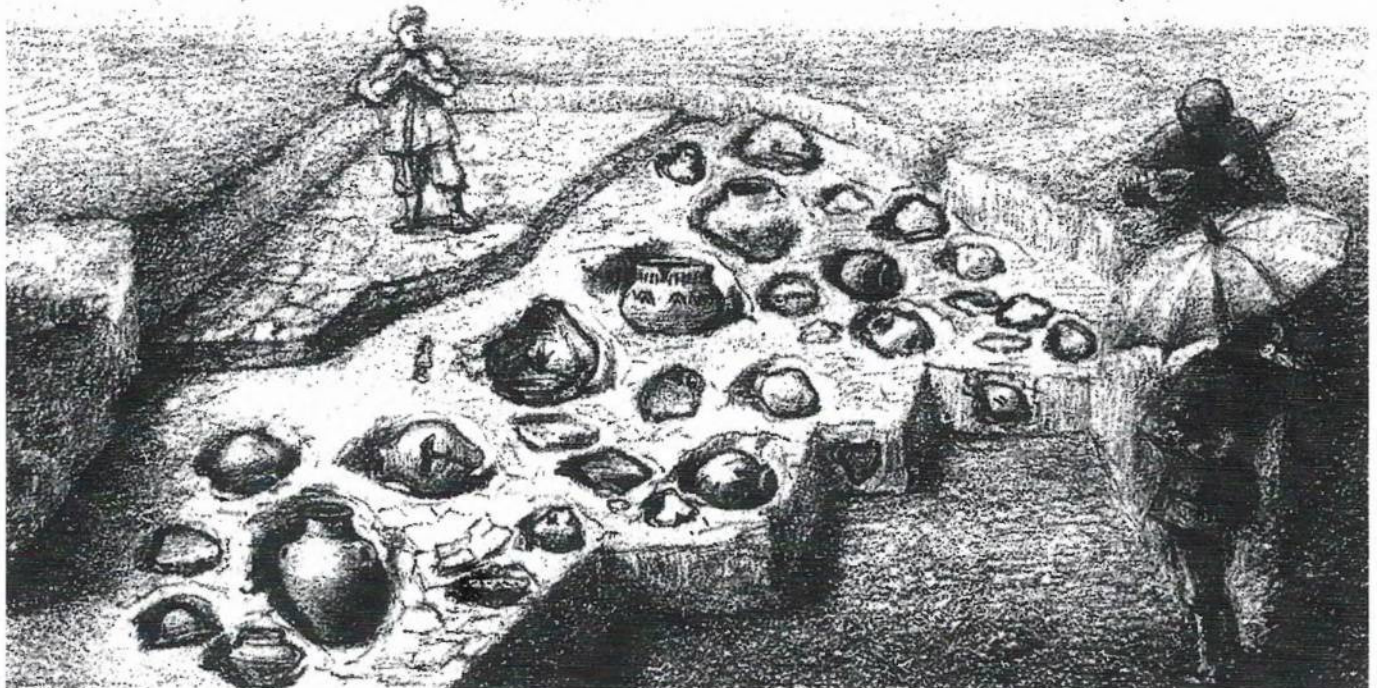




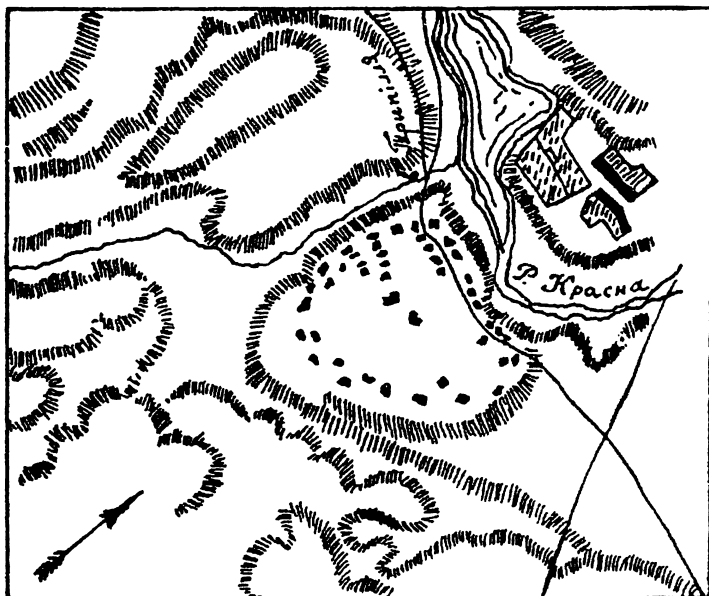
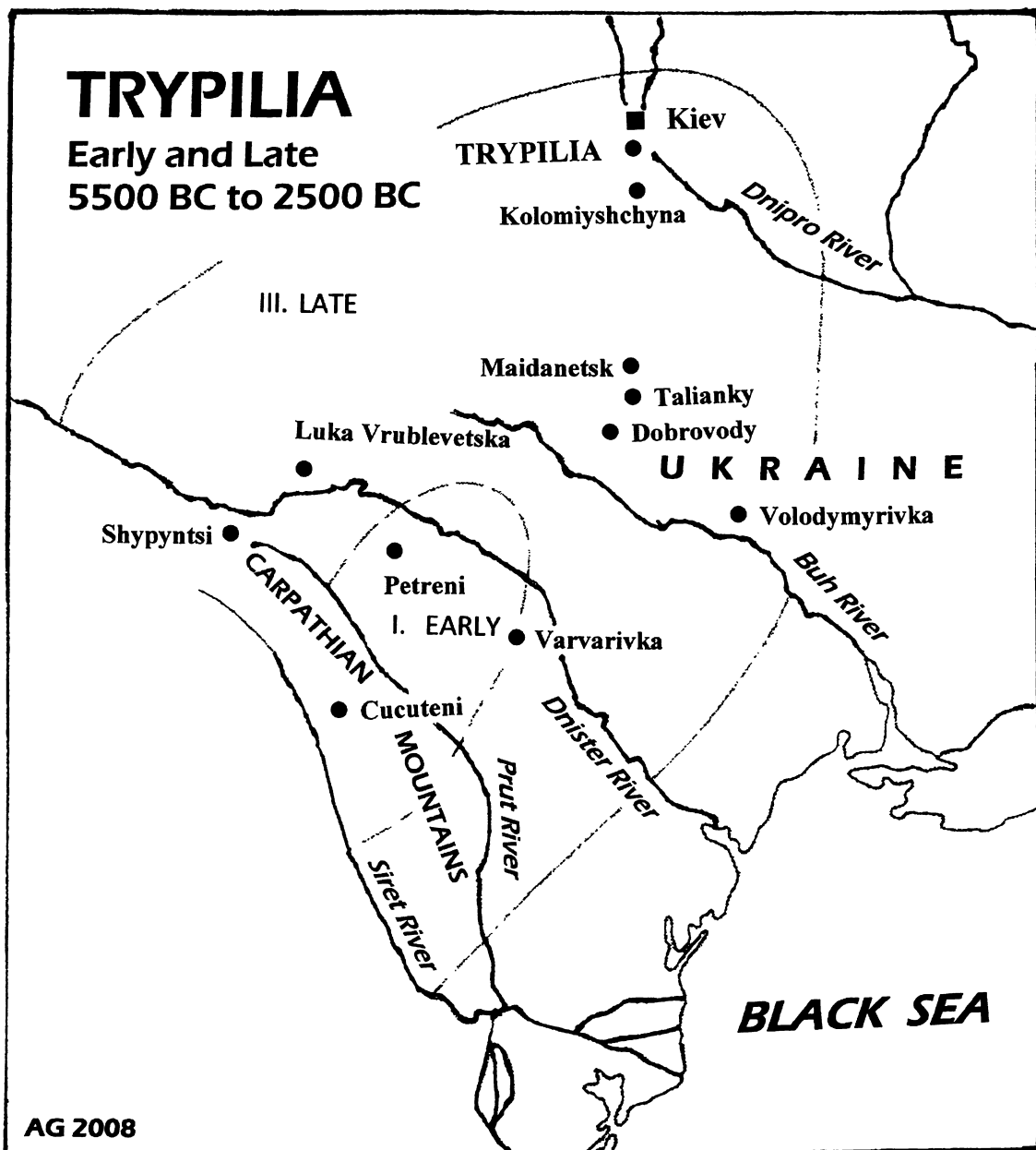
Maps by Homann, Danckerts, Ram, Jaillot and Sanson from 350 years ago spelled it Trypol. Russians use the spelling Tripolye. Some archeological finds from 1850-70 were Trypilian but it was only in 1896 that archeologist Vikenty Khvoika found the first significant artifacts near the Ukrainian town which gave its name to the new civilization: Trypilia. He originally planned to name the culture Slavic but the Russian Imperial officials objected so he named it Trypilian. A few years before, in 1884, at Cucuteni in Moldavia, Romania, a related culture was found so some scholars use the terms Trypilia-Cucuteni or Cucuteni-Trypilia. Cucuteni (4800BC to 2600 BC) covers 3,900 square miles (10,000 sq km) compared to Trypilia's 73,000 sq miles (190,000 sq km). Trypilia stretched from the Carpathian Mountains in the West just past the Dnipro River at Kiev. There are no Trypilian sites in Russia.

## VIKENTY KHVOIKA

Vikenty Khvoika (1850-1914) was a Ukrainian archeologist of Czech origin who moved to Kiev in 1876. In 1893 he became interested in archeology and in 1896, near the Ukrainian town of Trypilia; he discovered the first major examples of pottery which identified the pre-historic Trypilian Culture. He gave a report on his find in 1897 to the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress of Archeologists. In 1900 information about Trypilia was reported in Paris and became known to scholars around the world. Khvoika made other important archeological discoveries and served as Director of



A Trypilian excavation drawn by V. Khvoika 1890s.



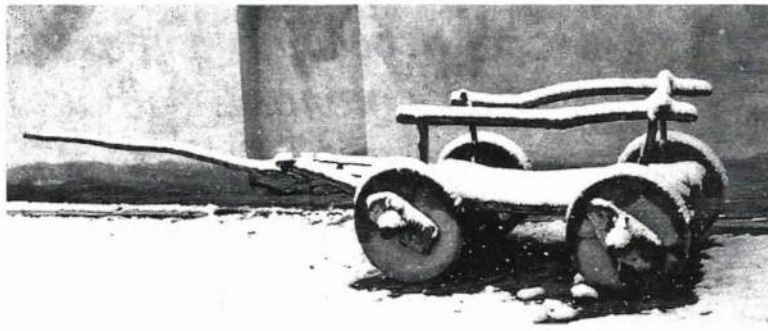
Plan of a Trypilian village by Shchebaivka, Ukraine, excavated by V. Khvoiko. From Kordysh, 1953.

Archeology at the Kiev City Museum of Antiquities which he had helped to found. He is honored with a statue in the town of Trypillia, a street in Kiev is named after him and independent Ukraine issued a coin in 2000 in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth and his discovery of the Trypilian Civilization.

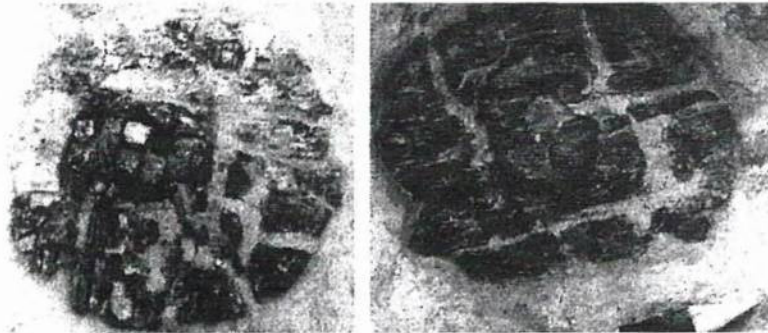
## ARCHEOLOGY

Archeology is the study of human prehistory and history by the excavation of sites and analysis of artifacts or structures that are found. Archeology as a scientific discipline only started in the late 1800s. It is the only method to discover human history before the advent of writing and written history after the first historian Herodotus in 450 BC. Ukraine has had considerable archeological research but the Trypilian Culture has produced the most extensive record with 2,108 sites, villages and cities investigated with tens of thousands of artifacts revealing slowly the secrets and mysteries of the Ukrainian past. According to





A reconstruction of a Trypillian wagon based on archeological finds early Bronze Age. Kamyanets-Podilsky Museum, Ukraine.



Archeological finds of wooden wheels in Ukraine 3000 B.C. in Odesa region. Found in the 1960s.

Mytsyk Europe's oldest pottery kiln was found in Veselokutsk, Ukraine.

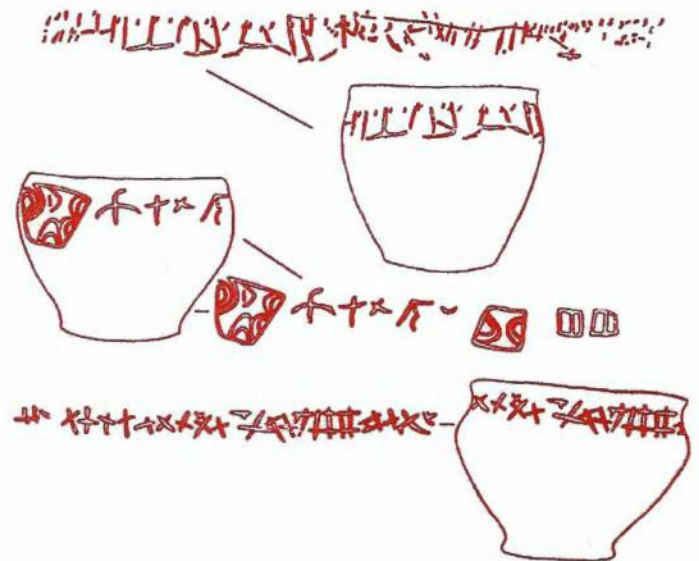
The Trypillian people probably invented the wheel which existed in Trypilia over 5,000 years ago. Prof. Victor Mair, of the University of Pennsylvania, in 1994 found ancient wooden remains of a wheel in China. He says "Wagons with nearly identical wheels were used on the grassy plains of Ukraine as far back as 3000 BC. (Hadingham, E. Did the Wheel Come to China from Ukraine 5,000 Years Ago? *Forum* no. 91, Fall 1994, p. 26). Archeologists usually give a range of two dates for radiocarbon dating but I have generally used only the oldest date.

### 3,000 YEARS OF THE TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION

Man has lived on the territory of Ukraine up to 300,000 years according to the *Ukrainian Encyclopedia* and 1,500,000 years according to more recent research. In the Ice Age mammoth hunters roamed the land. The Trypillian Civilization, according to radiocarbon dating, lasted in the Neolithic (New Stone Age) and Eneolithic eras from about 5500 B.C. to 2500 B.C. or 3,000 years which is why it was a civilization and not just a culture. Some scholars date it at 2,500 to 2,750 years in length. Trypilia was in the Neolithic Era a period starting about 6500

B.C. when the climate after the ice age in Ukraine was warmer than it is today. It extended into the Chalcolithic (Copper metal) or Eneolithic Age, starting about 4700 B.C. and the beginning of the prehistoric Bronze Age in the early third millennium B.C.

Trypilia is usually divided by archeologists into three periods: Early (I or A: 5500-4700 BC), Middle (II or B: 4700-3400 BC) and Late (III or C: 3400-2500 BC) but others divide it into more periods and other dates. It started in south west Ukraine near the Carpathian Mountains in the Early period and extended north-east past Kiev in the Late period covering much of Ukraine. Trypillian society was democratic and equalitarian said Childe because of the large communal houses in which many families lived. We don't know why the Trypillian Civilization ended but it was a gradual phenomenon not sudden. We also don't know what name they called themselves.



Examples of undecipherable writing on pottery 2000 B.C. which may be in Trypillian language. After V. Otroshchenko.

### TRYPILIAN LANGUAGE

In 1901 Khvoika raised the question of the Trypillian language. What language did the Trypillians speak? Did they have an alphabet or a written language? The Trypillian Civilization was prehistoric, before known written history; however there is evidence that the Trypillians had developed symbols or an alphabet for their language. Since the Indo-European languages originated on the territory of Western Ukraine and coincide with the expansion of Trypillian Civilization many scholars are convinced that the Trypillians spoke, or were the originators of, the Indo-European or Proto-Indo-European (PIE) or Aryan family of languages.

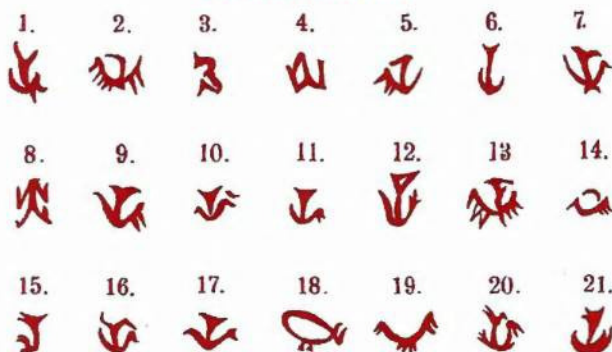




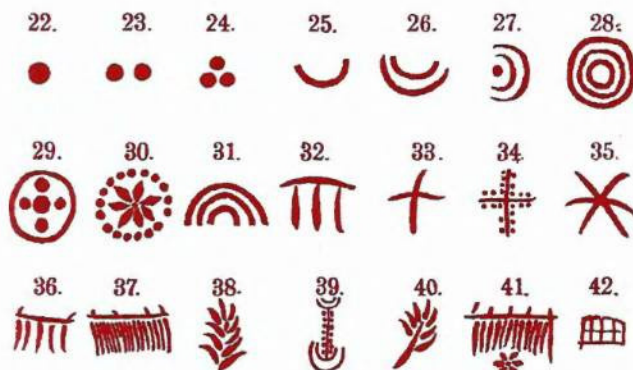
An example of Trypilian writing and marks on pottery used to illustrate an article by A. Linnychenko and V. Khvoiko.

In his 2002 linguistic dissertation at Shevchenko University in Kiev Yu. L. Mosenkis states that "the contemporary Ukrainian language preserves the Trypilian language heritage in three aspects." (Burdo & Videiko *Trypilska Kultura*, p. 359-60). According to K. Renfrew the Trypilians belonged to the Indo-European family of languages.

#### I. PALEOGRAPHIA.



#### II. SYMBOLICA.



Examples of Trypilian writing and marks on pottery found in Ukraine. From Burdo & Videiko, 2008, p. 325.

Because some pictograms on stone walls (12000 B.C. to 3000 B.C. in southern Ukraine and Trypilian pottery apparently have Sumerian script the theory of Anatoly Kyfishyn is that Sumerian writing originated in Trypilia and immigrants brought the oldest writing of mankind south to Sumer.

## FARMING: AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

**"A remarkable farming culture named after Tripolye a site near Kiev."**

**- V. Gordon Childe**

When the last ice age ended in Europe, over 15,000 years ago, the northern part of Ukraine down to Kiev was under ice so farming was not possible. European people on Ukrainian territory then lived in a primitive Hunter-gatherer society until farming started about 8000 B.C. When the Trypilian civilization developed over 7,500 years ago it was agricultural mainly using a hoe and then a simple plow. But they established large scale agricultural farms. Plows made of wood or antlers, hoes and sickles were used in farming.

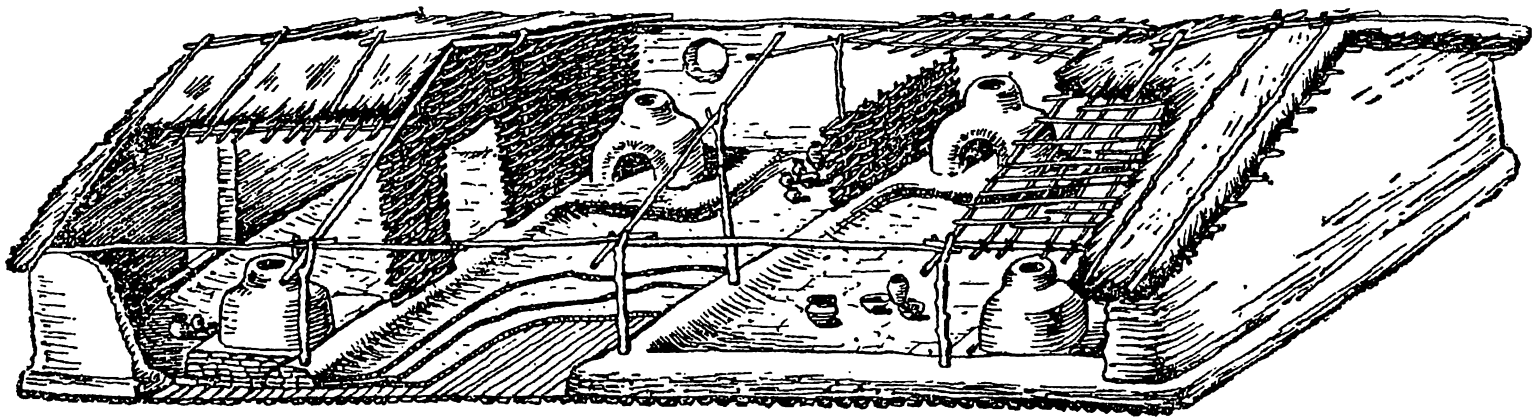
The Trypilians became farmers growing two varieties of wheat, barley, millet, rye, oats, lentils, hemp, poppy, peas, grapes, apples, apricots, plums, and pears. They developed a stone hand mill to grind the wheat which is known today as the zhorna and exists in present day Ukraine. An ancient Trypilian food was made of wheat, honey, and poppy seeds which is called kutia today. They used salt, milk and made cheese and beer. They also were pastoral and kept livestock herds of cattle or cows, pigs, horses, sheep and goats. They had dogs and cats as pets and some dogs were buried beside the grave of their master.

Hunting in Early Trypilia provided meat from elk, red deer, roe deer, bears, boar, aurochs, beaver, wild horses, wolves, foxes, rabbits and wild duck according to V.G. Childe, D. Telegin and others. Trypilians fished with copper fish hooks in the teeming Ukrainian rivers catching large fish over 4 feet long. According to archeologists the first horse in the world was domesticated about 4400 B.C. at Dereivka, Ukraine, on the south-east edge of Trypilia west of the Dniro River. The Trypilians were probably the first horse riders in the world. At Usatova Southern Ukraine the bones of horses are very numerous and this shows they were used for food as well as riding. Trypilia was the cradle of European agriculture.

## ARCHITECTURE

Trypilian architecture was the most advanced in Europe. However, because it was based on wood and clay (wattle and daub) it has mostly not survived except in over 50 clay models of houses. Researchers have found the imprint of twigs in clay bricks and the imprint in the earth which has allowed archeologists to reconstruct the floor plan of the buildings and to determine by aerial photography the

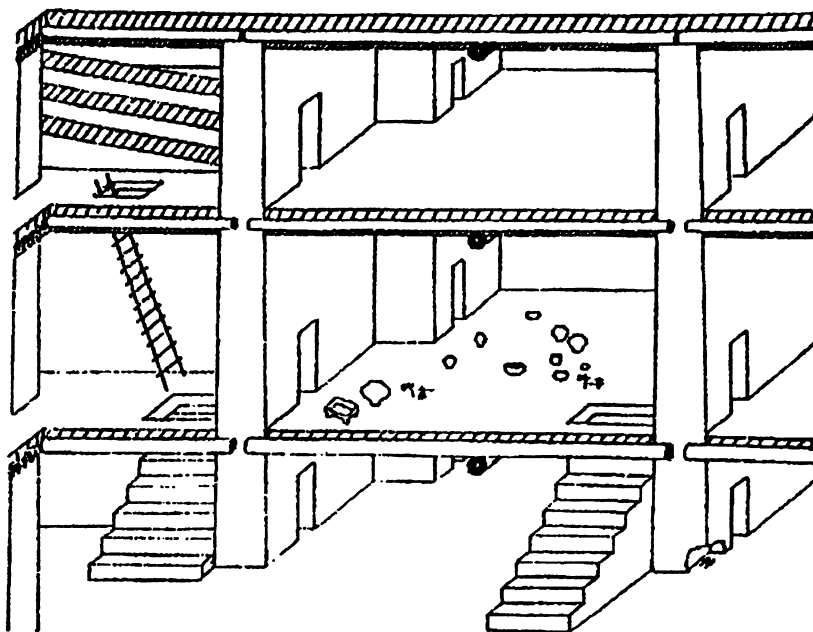




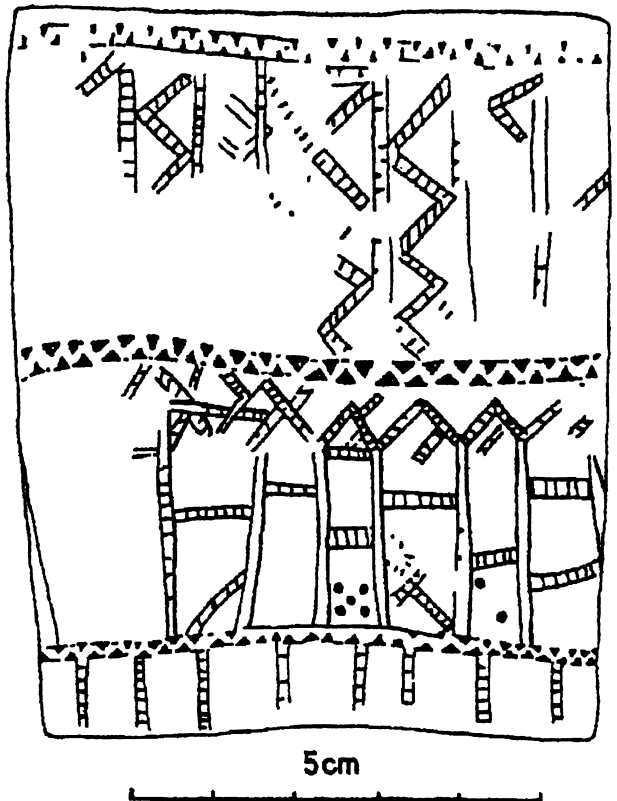
Trypilian Long House in Kolomyishchyna I in Ukraine by T. Passek.

layout design of Trypilian villages, towns and cities and their streets.

The floors were made of baked clay which prevented damp floors. It has been determined that Trypilian houses or buildings were mostly one and two stories. However, a three story structure had also existed in Trypilia so Trypilians were the inventors of 2 and 3 story buildings. Archeologists at first were puzzled why there were so many clay platforms discovered in Trypilian towns and finally it was realized that these were the remains of elaborate floor structures.



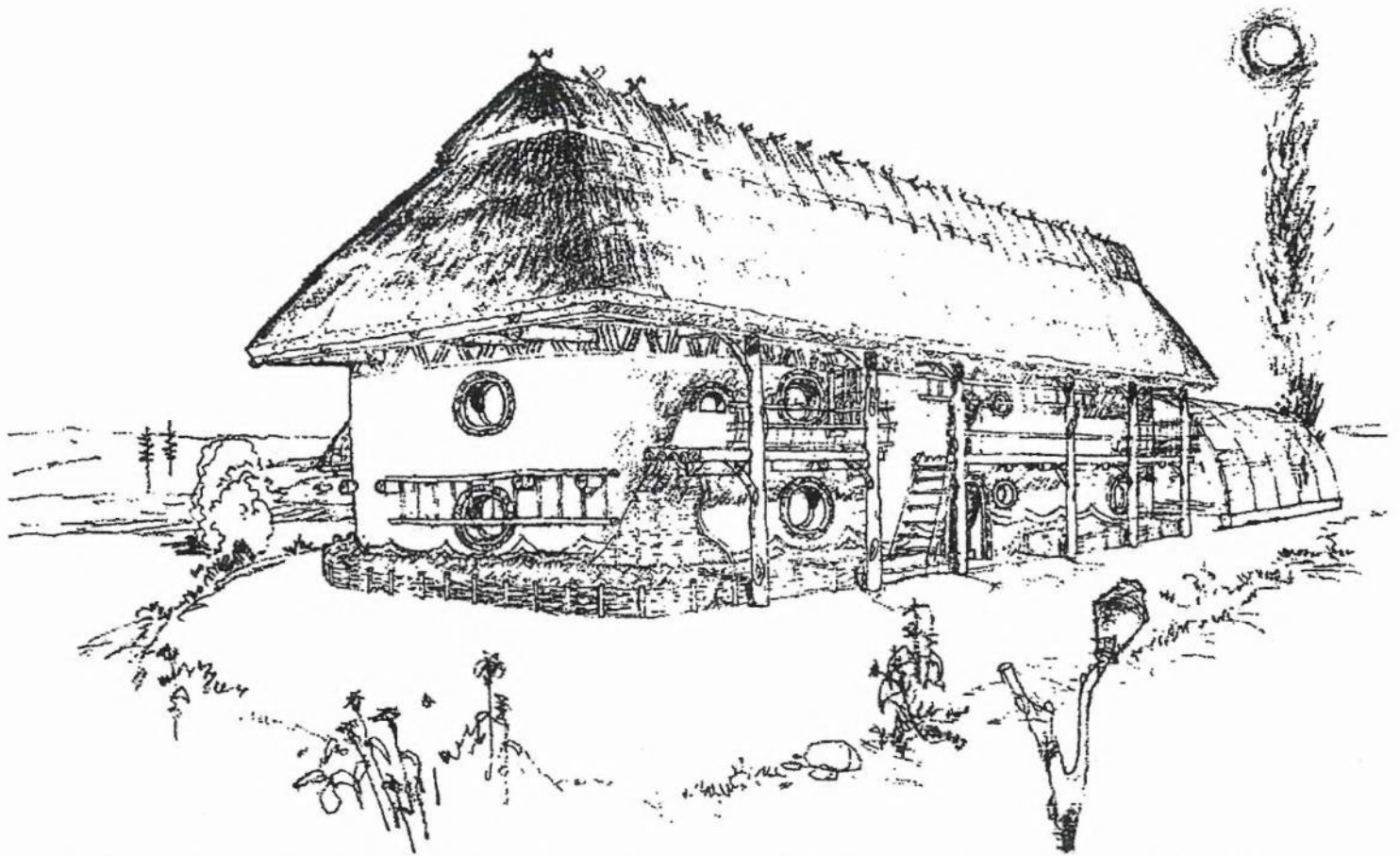
Three story Trypilian building in Oleksandrivka, Ukraine, is similar to ones built also in Maidanets, Dobrovody and Nebvelivka.



An incised design on a bone found at Zlota of Trypilian row housing showing on the bottom five two story and on the right a three story building. After Babel 1992.

tures.

Some buildings were very large. Prof. George Vernadsky of Yale University noted that one Trypilian building measured 100 feet by 28 feet. Most Trypilian buildings had a thatched two slope roof but apparently there were also four slope roofs similar to the architecture of Ukrainian houses. Trypilian houses, like Ukrainian houses to this day, were decorated with painting inside and on the exterior. Ukrainian houses were still built with Trypilian architectural features in the last century.



A drawing of a reconstructed Trypillian building with round windows in Ripnytsia, near Rzhyschiv which is very similar in appearance to Ukrainian houses built in the first half of the last century. From Videiko.

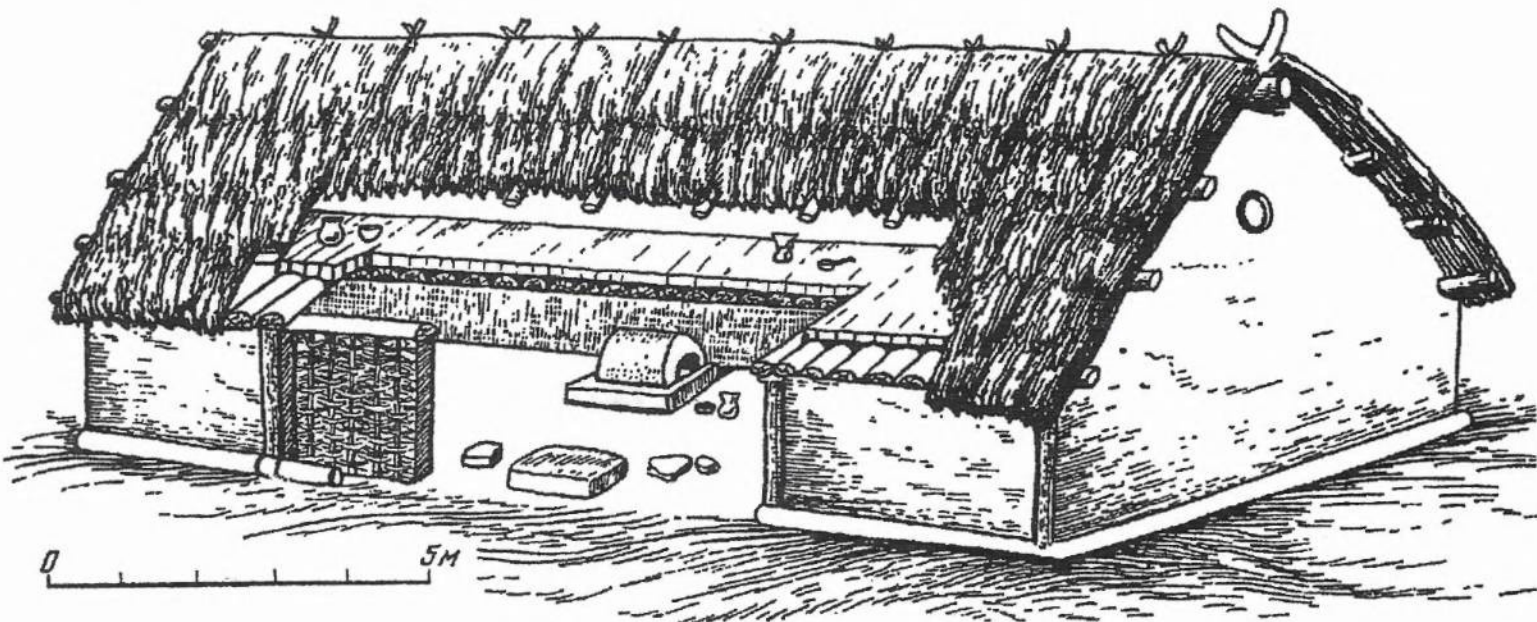


A typical Ukrainian pioneer house in western Canada 1892-1930s with a thatched roof and white plastered walls like Trypillian houses in Ukraine 7,000 years earlier. It took two families two months to build. National Archives of Canada PA 19823.



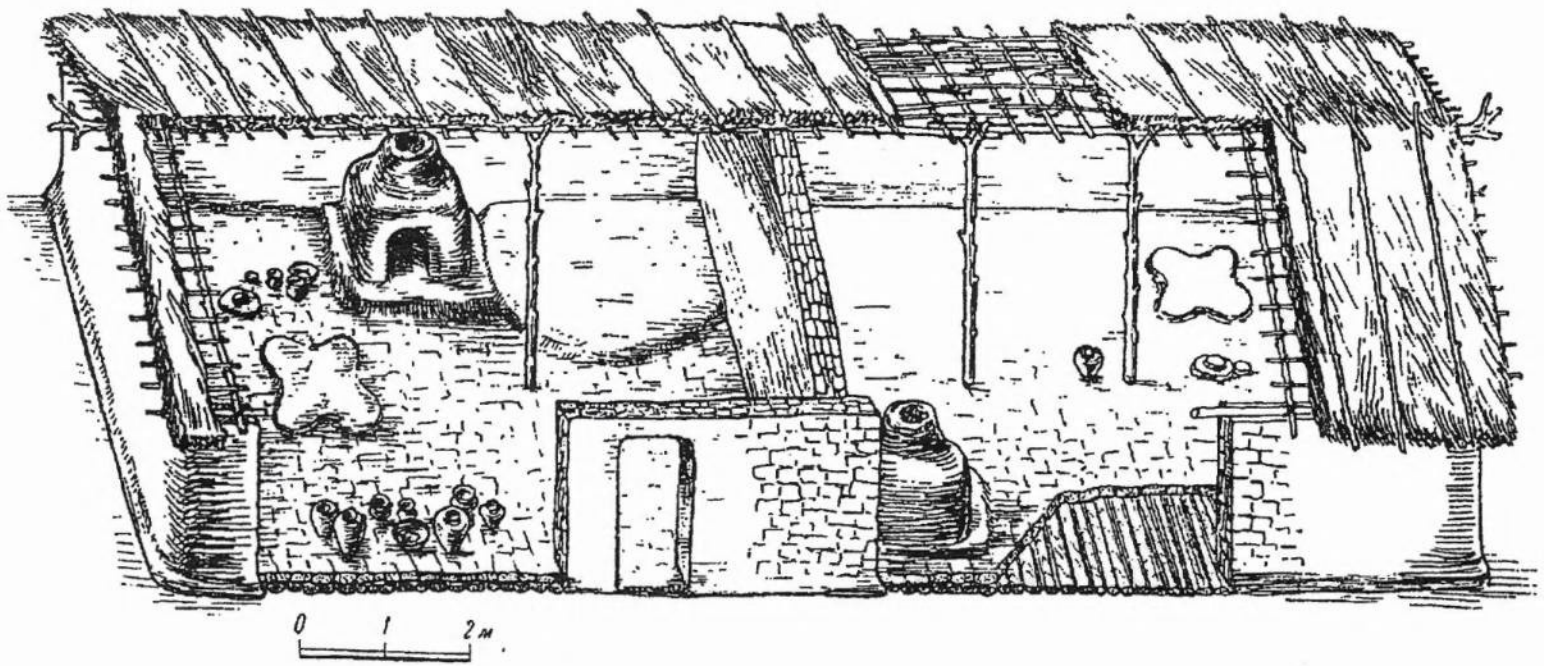


A Ukrainian pioneer in Canada and his wife plastering their khata (house) in a process identical to Trypilian houses in Ukraine 7,000 years ago. This family was in Vita, Manitoba in 1916.

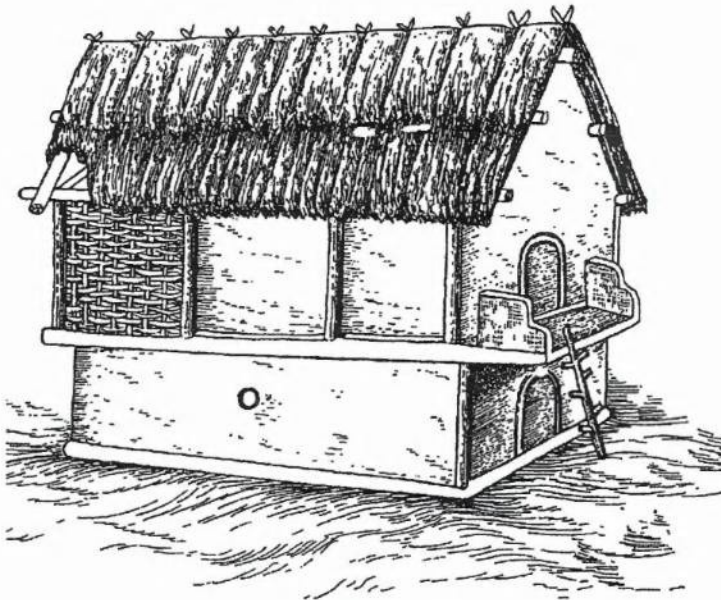


A drawing of a reconstruction of an early Trypilian era house at Lenkivtsi, Ukraine. It illustrates the wattle and daub system. After K. Chernysh in Videiko 2005 and *Davnia Istoriya Ukrainy*.





A Trypilian house in Volodymyrivka. After T. Passek, 1949, Pasternak 1961 and Videiko 2005. Note the two flat X shaped items which were very smooth and probably served as tables.



Left: A small Trypilian two story house with a balcony in Rakovets 4000 B.C. Gimbutas 1991, p. 107 and Videiko 2005.

Below: Trypilian Row Housing in Maidanetsk. Excavated by Videiko in 1995, published 2005.





According to V.G. Childe the floors were made of baked clay on top of split logs. There were small houses 24 feet by 12 feet and larger ones. The larger houses measured 70 feet by 16 feet (22m x 5m) or 52 x 25 feet (17m x 8M). These houses, with round windows, contained four or five ovens, five querns (zhornas or grindstones) and thirty or more vases. Some had a porch, a stove and clay benches along one side. The model houses in clay were either toys for children or a religious object. They show an interior design which survived in Ukrainian architecture up to the present day with a clay oven, and a bench along a wall. Sometimes a double oven was made of stones and a hole in the roof allowed smoke to escape.

There is a small raised flat very smooth object in the center of the main room which probably served as a table or had a religious purpose. One inside corner in the main room of the house had a special sig-



nificance much like the special corner in Ukrainian homes today which is decorated with a Christian icon and framed by an embroidered religious cloth.

Wheat had a special importance as the main food of the Trypilians 75 centuries ago and today many Ukrainian homes have a sheaf of wheat, usually in a vase, called a *didukh*. This means literally in Ukrainian "the ancestors spirit." *Did* (pronounced deed) means 'grandfather' and *dukh* (doooh) is 'spirit' in Ukrainian.

"It is an interesting fact that today [1950], as five thousand years ago, the Ukrainian peasant builds his house after the same general [Trypilian] plan, with the stove, its attached sleeping place and the bench in the same positions." – Archeologist Y. Pasternak.

Professor Yuzyk, a historian, says "These very ancient people lived in houses built of logs and plastered with clay mixed with straw similar to those of



**DIDUKH** (pronounced dee-doooh) is a traditional sheaf of wheat in Ukrainian homes representing the "spirit of the ancestors" of the family from the Trypilian era in Ukraine 7,000 years ago.

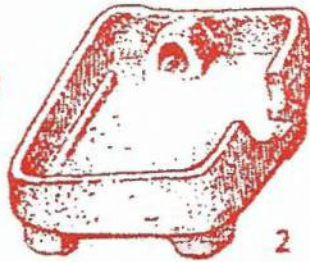
the Ukrainian pioneer farmers on the Canadian prairies who settled in the 1890s." Ukrainian houses have been decorated with designs in the same way that Trypilian houses were painted.

The Trypilians had tools made from polished stone, flint and bone like adzes or hoe blades, hammers, daggers, axes and battle axes with a perfect round hole, (a remarkable achievement), made for the handle.

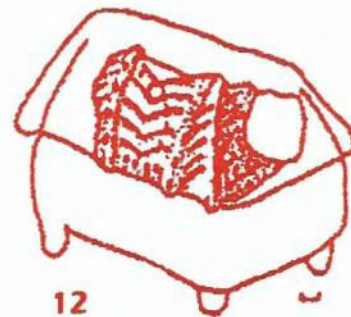




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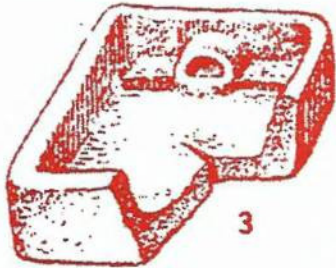


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## TRYPILIAN MODEL HOMES & BUILDINGS

Made from clay  
as toys or for other  
purposes.

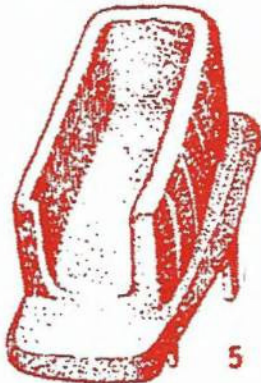
Over 50 of these models have been  
found by archeologists.  
Note that Trypilian buildings were not  
on posts. Notice that no. 7 and 12 are  
four slope roofs like Ukrainian houses.



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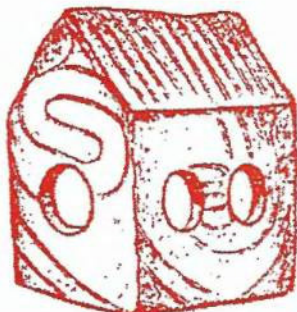
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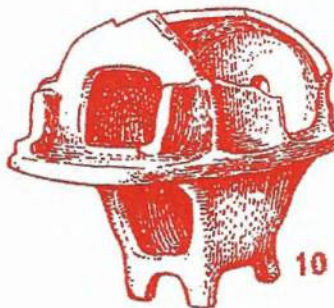
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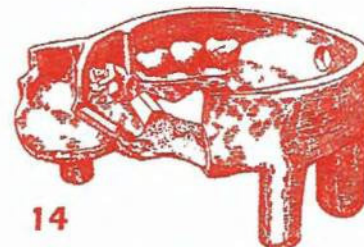
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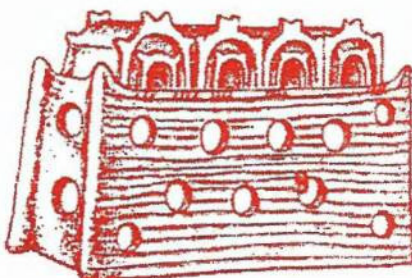
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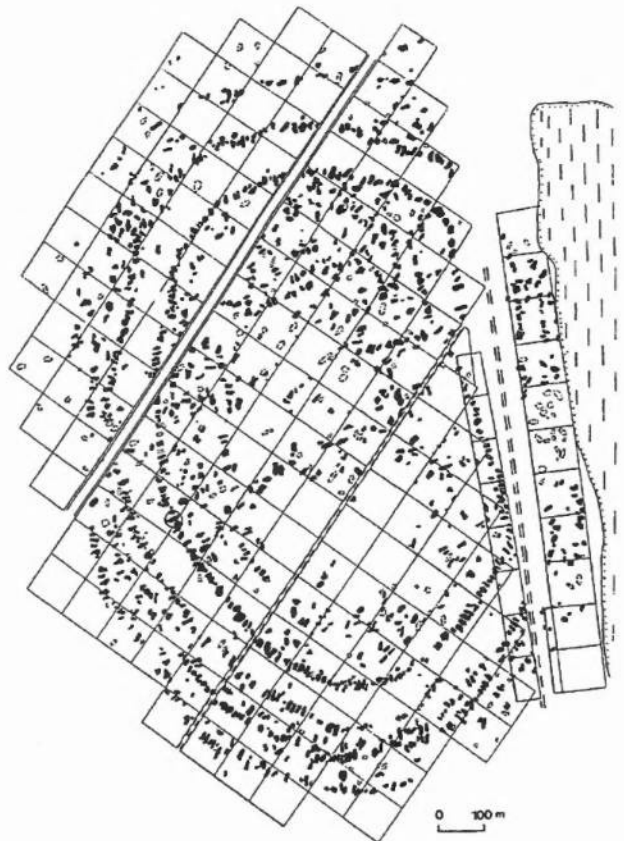
View of Maidanetskyi city in Trypilia and a map of its design.

## OLDEST CITIES IN EUROPE

The oldest house in the world was created 15,000 years ago at the end of the ice age in Mezhyrich, Cherkasy province, central Ukraine, during the Paleolithic (Old Stone) Age. It was made of mammoth tusks and bones covered with animal hides. Trypilia, with population centers of up to 20,000 people, according to some scholars, established the oldest cities in Europe. They were planned cities established according to an urban plan usually in a concentric oval design with designated roads. One writer says that Trypilian cities were larger and established much earlier than Babylon and Rome. Trypilia had cities, towns and villages.

Maidanetskyi in Cherkasy Province was a city of 20,000 population according to Artemenko. It had suburbs, a core area, squares, communal houses and work areas. The streets follow a circular and radial system. The houses were mostly two stories. A burial mound was found. N. Kordysh offered a theory that Trypilian settlements usually were located on plateau ledges, near woods and away from big rivers but close to streams and brooks. More recently archeologists reject the plateau theory and we now know Trypilians also lived by big rivers.

Trypilian Volodymyrivka (4000 BC, Uman area) had over 200 houses. Kolomyishchyna village in Kiev region uncovered in 1934 had 39 large Trypilian dwellings. G. Clarke estimates Volodymyrivka, with 5 concentric rings of





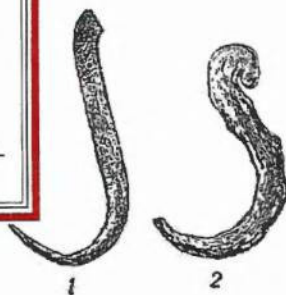
buildings had 4,000 people and Kolomyishchyna had 1,000 people. O.G. Korvin-Piotrovskij says Trypilian Talyanki (3600 BC) covered 450 hectares (1,112 acres), that some giant settlements had 1,500 to 2,700 buildings and up to 25,000 people. It had 2,800 cattle, 2,000 sheep/goats and 2,000 pigs. Talyanki probably had an army of 4,500 men. Other giant settlements found through aerial photography by K.V. Shyshkin in the 1960s are Maidanetsk, Vesely Kut, Dobrovody, Chycherkozivka and Nebelivka.

They were in fact small cities but some writers say they were quasi-cities, proto-cities or giant settlements. There is a theory that the Trypilian cities and villages existed for only a period of up to 80 years and then they were abandoned and burned. The reason for this suggested by these archeologists is that the earth became exhausted because the Trypilians did not use a plow that would turn the soil over deep enough. But these archeologists were not farmers. The latest American research apparently indicates that shallow digging maintains fertility and deep plowing can be more destructive.

Ukraine's black earth is the richest agricultural soil in the world which allowed the Trypilians to flourish. Another problem why they are considered by some writers as proto-cities is that the Trypilian cities were not built of stone and none have survived to the present day. However, aerial radio surveying has clearly revealed the large size and plan of Trypilian "giant settlements" which, I think, deserve the designation of small cities.



A book on fishing in Trypilian Culture and copper fish hooks used by the Trypilians to catch fish 4 to 6 feet long in Ukrainian rivers.



Trypilian earthenware grain container 4000 B.C. 61 cm or over 2 feet high. In the Ukrainian Academy of Science from the collection of Victor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

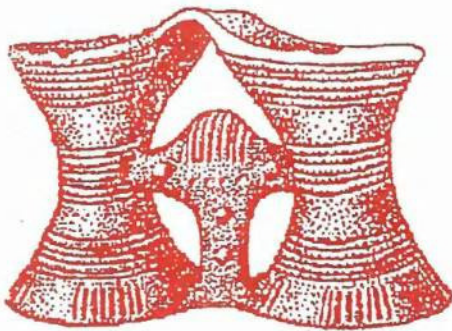
## POTTERY: EXQUISITE DESIGN & DECORATION

Archeologists have found tremendous numbers of Trypilian pottery with exquisite designs and decorations. Eight pottery production centers, or factories, have been found which had potters and artists to decorate the products. The Trypilians had an exceptional esthetic sense beautifying both their pottery and their homes with painted designs. Pottery as thin as porcelain made from excellent terracotta or red brick colored clay has provided a window on the fascinating culture of Trypilia and is our main resource in researching the culture. There was a great variety of Trypilian vases, jugs, cauldrons, pots, bowls, saucers, plates, spherical vessels, cups (beakers), ladles (large spoons), binoculars, amphoras and craters. Clay beads or copper necklaces, bracelets and jewelry have been found. One necklace found had 1,400 beads. Large vases were made to store wheat, grain or water.

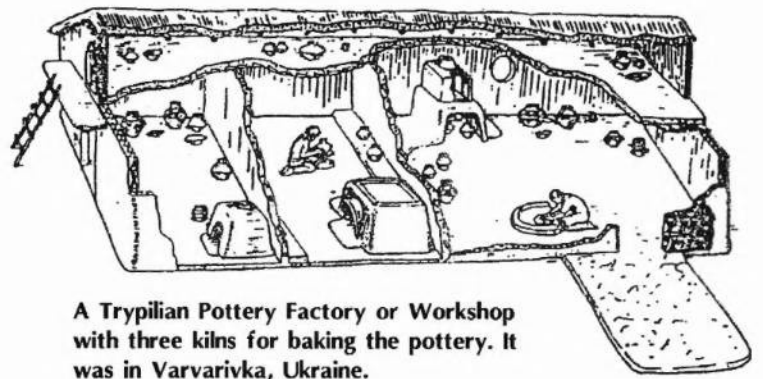
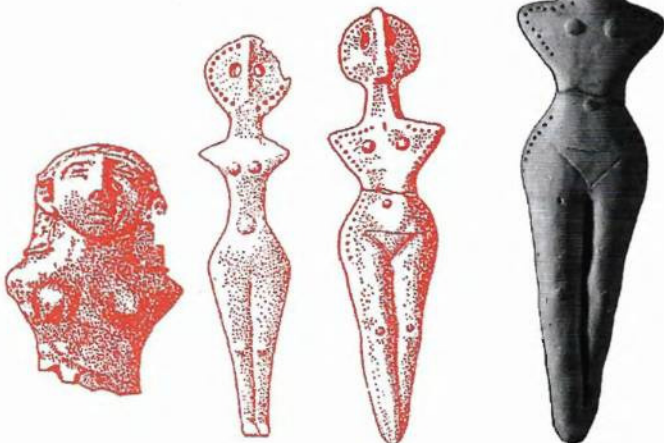
Trichrome pottery was painted with three colors, black, red and white during the Trypilia II era. The Trypilia III era had monochrome pottery. Other pottery, sometimes made from grey clay, was incised with designs during Trypilia I. One great Trypilian mystery is the binocular which is a clay object with two circular connected parts which have no bottoms. Scholars have not yet figured out what was their purpose.

The decorative motifs include S spiral, the negative S spiral, the running spiral and the closed spiral as major

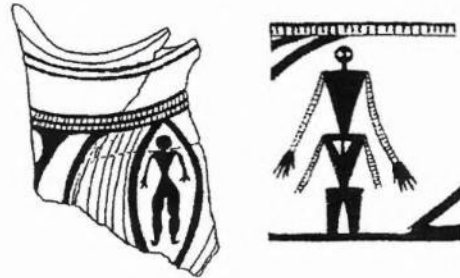




Binocular mystery.



A Trypillian Pottery Factory or Workshop with three kilns for baking the pottery. It was in Varvarivka, Ukraine.



design features of Trypillian pottery as well as the meander, straight lines, rows of triangles, volutes (spiral scrolls) and stylized men or animals. According to the prominent archeologist Yaroslav Pasternak: "Among all the ceramic groups of the Neolithic era in Europe the Trypillian holds the first place, for its technique of preparing clay, its wealth of forms and painted ornamentation." On some pottery deer, goats, bulls, dogs and horses are motifs. The human figure, mostly female, is also pictured on rare pottery. Trypillia had pottery kilns and some kind of potters wheel.

Pottery has even given us information about the making of cloth by the Trypillians by spinning and weaving. Spindles have been found. None of the cloth has survived to the present day but some potters put their wet pots on cloth and the linen cloth left its imprint on the bottom. So we know how they wove or made cloth. Kordysh says: "These imprints make it possible for us to become acquainted with the character of the weave, the compactness of the fabric, the fineness and even quality of the thread...."

## THE GREAT GODDESS & STATUES OF WOMEN

Numbers of small statues of women standing or sitting have been found with an unusual stylized head. Some of these indicate the decoration of the dresses worn by Trypillian women and have been recreated today. They have necklaces and hair dresses and may be fertility objects. It is generally thought by scholars that there was worship of a great goddess by Trypillians and that they lived in a matriarchal society. Very few statues of men have been found. There are significant numbers of clay models of bulls found which seems to indicate they may have been inspired by a religious belief or cult. There was also a Trypillian cult of the sun which is common in many other cultures.





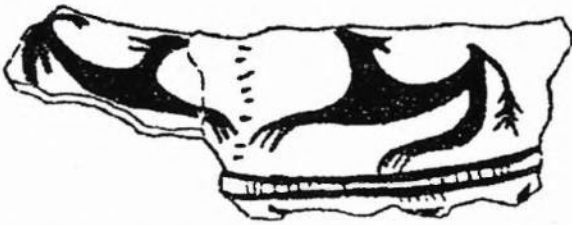
Trypilian man wearing Pants (above) and Trypilian women wearing Dresses below.



Trypilian village of Kolomiyschyna in Kiev region.



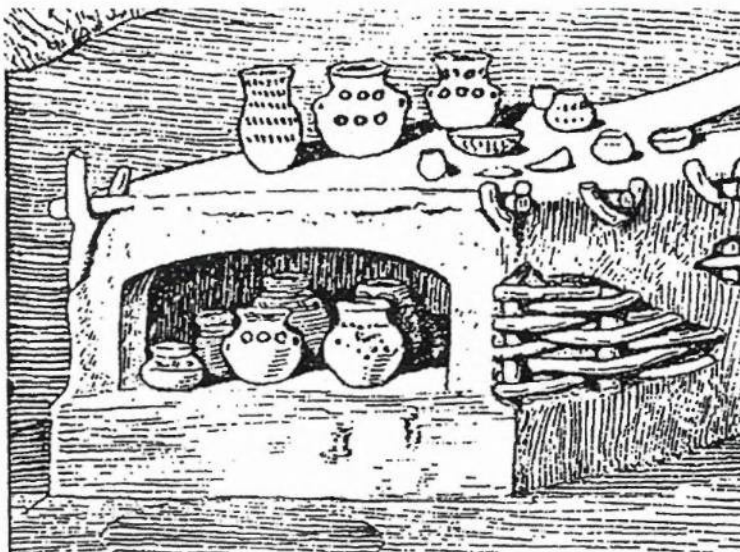
Pottery with a trident of wheat design. The Tree of Life also was Trypilian.



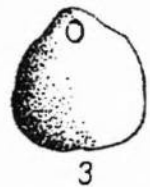
Dogs on Trypilian pottery above and right.



Trypilian burial with pottery.



Trypilian pottery kiln.



Late Trypilian jewelry made of copper, found in Chernynsky.





Trypilian people reconstructed from remains.



A reconstruction of a Trypilian woman by M. Gerasimov in the National Museum of History of Ukraine.

Below: Women's Trypilian dresses from Designs on statuettes.



## DNA LINKS ANCIENT TRYPILIANS WITH UKRAINIANS TODAY

DNA research indicates that many Ukrainians today trace their genetic origin in Ukraine back more than 7,500 years even before Trypilia. DNA research in 2007 has provided scientific confirmation that there are Ukrainian people today in Ukraine who trace their genetic origin back before and after the Trypilian Era 5500 to 2500 B.C. This would indicate that the Ukrainians were not immigrants into the territory of Ukraine as some scholars have suggested.

The ancestors of the Ukrainian nation lived through the 3,000 years of Trypilian Civilization according to DNA research. (Videiko, *Ukraina Vid Trypillia do Antiv*, 2008, p. 41-2). Because of this the Trypilians are both genetically and culturally the ancestors of the Ukrainian people today and formed the oldest culture and civilization on the territory of the continent of Europe. It is accurate to state that the Ukrainians are an autochthonous nation and not an immigrant nation as some historians have thought. Pasternak states that "The most probable opinion seems to be that the Trypilian people were native in the Dnieper region, their art of painting pottery was not imported from Asia Minor but local, their dead were buried as well as burned [cremated].... the Trypilian tribes belonged to the most civilized nations of the ancient world."

Danish scholars studying DNA in 2007-08 discovered that all blue eyed people in the world come from one ancestor about 6000 or 4000 B.C northwest of the Black Sea which would be in Ukraine. So it might be a Trypilian who was the very first person with blue eyes.

"In the opinion of scholars, the Trypilians were the oldest ethnic base from which the Ukrainian people grew." (*Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*, University of Toronto Press, vol. 1, p 585). Prof. Paul Yuzk states that: "...the great authority on prehistorical Europe, V. Gordon Childe, in his book *The*



*Dawn of European Civilization* (1973) regards the Trypillians and their heritage as the forerunners of European civilization."

We do not know the language the Trypillians spoke but by the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. the population on the territory of Ukraine spoke the Slavic language which today is Ukrainian. Many scholars place the origin of all the Indo-European languages in western Ukraine, so the Ukrainian language is related to English, French, Italian and German. However, it is the only European language which has not immigrated out of its home territory which is the cradle of PIE or Proto-Indo-European. From Europe the language went south to India becoming Sanskrit.

Trypilia, which was at the dawn of world civilization, is an integral part of the history of Ukraine. For centuries Ukrainian women unknowingly used Trypillian designs in their folk art although Trypilia ended over 4,500 years ago. But the Trypillian era still has its imprint on Ukrainian culture. Kiev has a restaurant Kerma-Moma decorated in Trypillian style. In the 1950s in Toronto there were Trypillian style ceramics being created and they still are being created in the United States and in Ukraine. There are enthusiasts in Ukraine who recreate Trypillian pottery, designs and clothing.

**There are four bus tours of Trypillian sites available. They are organized by Kolo-Ra 0340, Kyiv, Ukraine, Vul. Demiyivska bud. 45A, kv. 78: Telephone/fax 257-0147. Email: kolo-ra@i.com.ua and www.trypillya.kiev.ua**

Some scholars and others support the theory that the Trypillians were not only Proto-Slavs but actually Proto-Ukrainians. Among these distinguished names are: V. Shcherbakivsky, Ya. Pasternak, P. Kurinny, V. Danylenko, B. Rybakov, M. Braichevsky, V. Vasylenko, O. Bratko-Kotynsky, S. Plachynda and Yuri Lypa.

## WHEAT AND UKRAINE

Wheat has been grown in Ukraine for at least 10,000 years. Wheat from the territory of Ukraine was shipped to ancient Greece 700 to 200 B.C. Probably Aristotle, Plato and Socrates ate flatbread made from Ukrainian wheat. Because of its huge wheat production Ukraine became known as the "Bread Basket of Europe." The French writer Honore de Balzac lived in Ukraine for a while and he was

amazed at the 77 varieties of Ukrainian bread.

For Ukrainians bread is not just a food it is also an art. The wedding korovai is an intricate work of art made from bread. There is even a Bread Museum in Ukraine. The popular interpretation of the horizontal double striped light blue and yellow national flag of Ukraine is that the blue on top is the Ukrainian sky and the yellow represents the golden wheat fields of Ukraine. All the bread in the USA and Canada today is made from wheat which has a Ukrainian ancestry. Many Ukrainian American and Canadian homes have a *didukh* sheaf of wheat in the living room to represent the



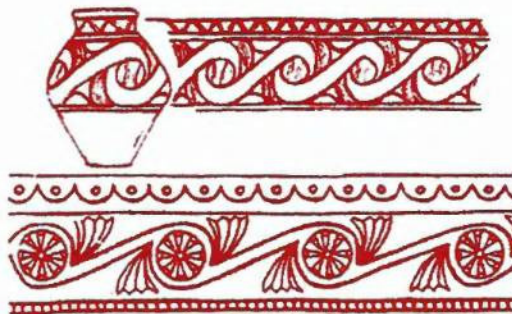
Ukrainian folk art designs from Podolia region of Ukraine which are identical or similar to Trypillian designs 6,000 years ago.

spirit of their ancestors in their home which links them to ancient Trypilia. Every Ukrainian Christmas Eve on *Sviaty Vechir* (Holy Evening Supper) January 6 it is traditional that Ukrainian families must start dinner with the ancient Trypillian *Kutia* made from wheat, honey and poppy seed.

## TRYPILIA AND UKRAINE

Trypilia and Ukraine are both virtually unknown in the world today. Independent Ukraine is very slowly entering the consciousness of the world but there is a need to promote greater awareness among historians and others.

"Trypillian cultural traditions have been preserved to some extent in Ukrainian folk customs, as manifested in the dwellings of the steppe regions, the decoration of homes and pottery, designs of embroideries and Easter Eggs, and the like." – *Historical Dictionary of Ukraine*. The distinctive Trypillian designs and patterns live today in Ukrainian Easter eggs (*pysanky*), embroidery on table cloths, cloth runners, and blouses as well as ceramics. Ukrainians today, as already mentioned, are both the cultural and the genetic heirs of the Trypillian Civilization and Trypilia is an integral part of the history of Ukraine. ■



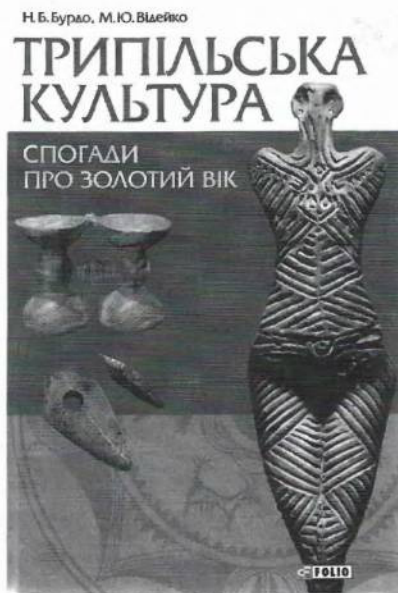


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# MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT UKRAINE Trypillian Culture

**T**HIS MAY BE ONE of the most important books ever published about the Trypillian Civilization. It is the catalog of the Trypillian Exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto Nov. 29, 2008 to March 22, 2009. Most books on Trypillia in the past were inaccessible to most of the world because they were not in English. This volume is not only valuable because it is in English it is also important for its magnificent color photos of Trypillian pottery.

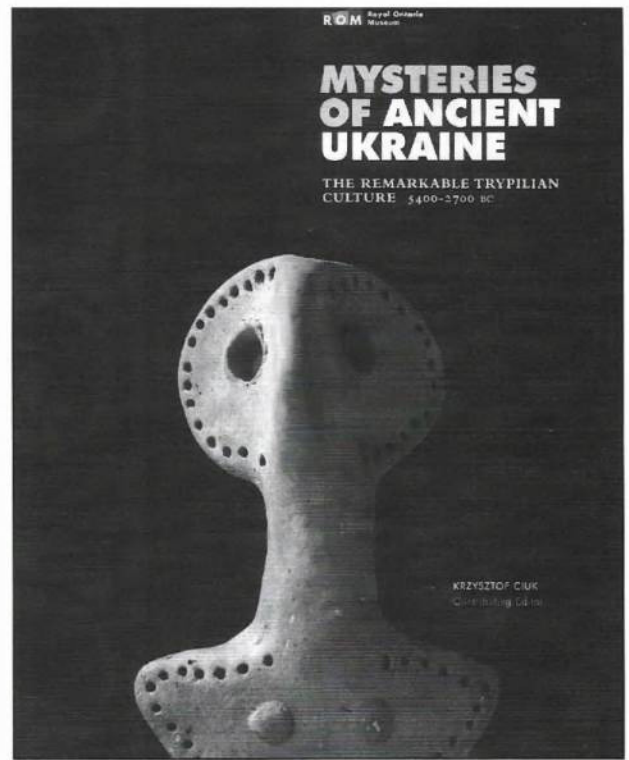
The book opens with four Forewords. The first two are by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna who is the Honorary Exhibition Patron of the exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. William Thorsell the Director and CEO of ROM contributed a Foreword. The last Foreword is by James C. Temerty, Chairman of Northland Power the company which is the Presenting Sponsor. Mr. Temerty deserves great credit as the promoter and sponsor of this excellent exhibit which is a milestone exhibit in archeology and history.

With two exceptions the text is mainly the work of eight academics who are members of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences which is the main research center in the world on Trypillian Civilization. It forms a valuable addition to the scholarly literature on Trypillia in English. Among the articles are contributions by Malcolm Lillie of the University of Hull in England and Krzysztof Ciuk of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Some of the articles are: Trypillian Culture in Ukraine, by O. H. Korvin-Piotrovskiy; Anthropological Composition of the Trypillian Population, by S. Kruts; Giant Trypillian Settlements, by V.O. Kruts; Iconography of Painted Trypillian Ornamentation, by Taras Tkachuk; and Magic & Symbolism, by Natalia Burdo. Other contributors include Vladyslav Petrenko, Yu Ya Rassamakin, H.O. Pashkevych, and O.V. Markova.

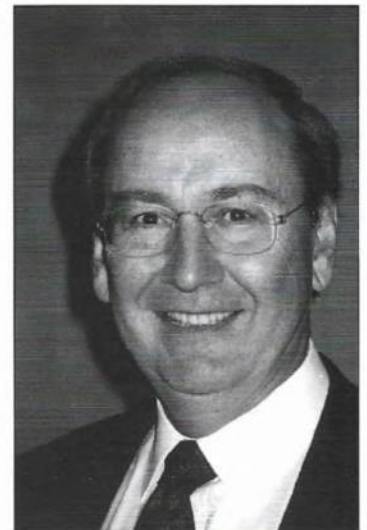
The academic portion is complemented by superb color photos of the Trypillian artifacts from Ukraine. The artifacts are carefully labeled with all relevant information. The photos will give the reader a good introduction to Trypillian culture. It should be noted that the photos include non-Trypillian artifacts (p. 128-36, 140-41 and 149) which may confuse some people. They are not that relevant to the subject but provide comparisons.

The book has a few shortcomings. Each artifact is not numbered which would have made it a more useful reference source. The page numbers are missing on many pages. There are several maps but they are not very useful. A general map shows Ukraine in the context of Europe but it has almost no detail. A map on p. 12 inaccurately shows Moldova over Ukrainian territory west of Odessa. Another map on p. 24 shows the Eneolithic Era of Trypillian area not reaching Kiev and left bank Ukraine and should have a date.



Some visitors mentioned there was a need for a map of Trypillia superimposed on a map of Ukraine which would provide a clear picture of the relationship of Ukrainian cities today with the ancient Trypillian cities. There is no map in the book showing the major Trypillian cities mentioned in the scholarly text or the artifact photos. On pages 63 and 71 there are maps which have many numbered sites but no explanation or names.

The dates in the book are not clear. The title dates Trypillia 5400 to 2700 BC but on p. 11 the dates are 5500-2300 BC according to Lillie with no explanation of the difference. These faults are minor and detract little from this excellent book.



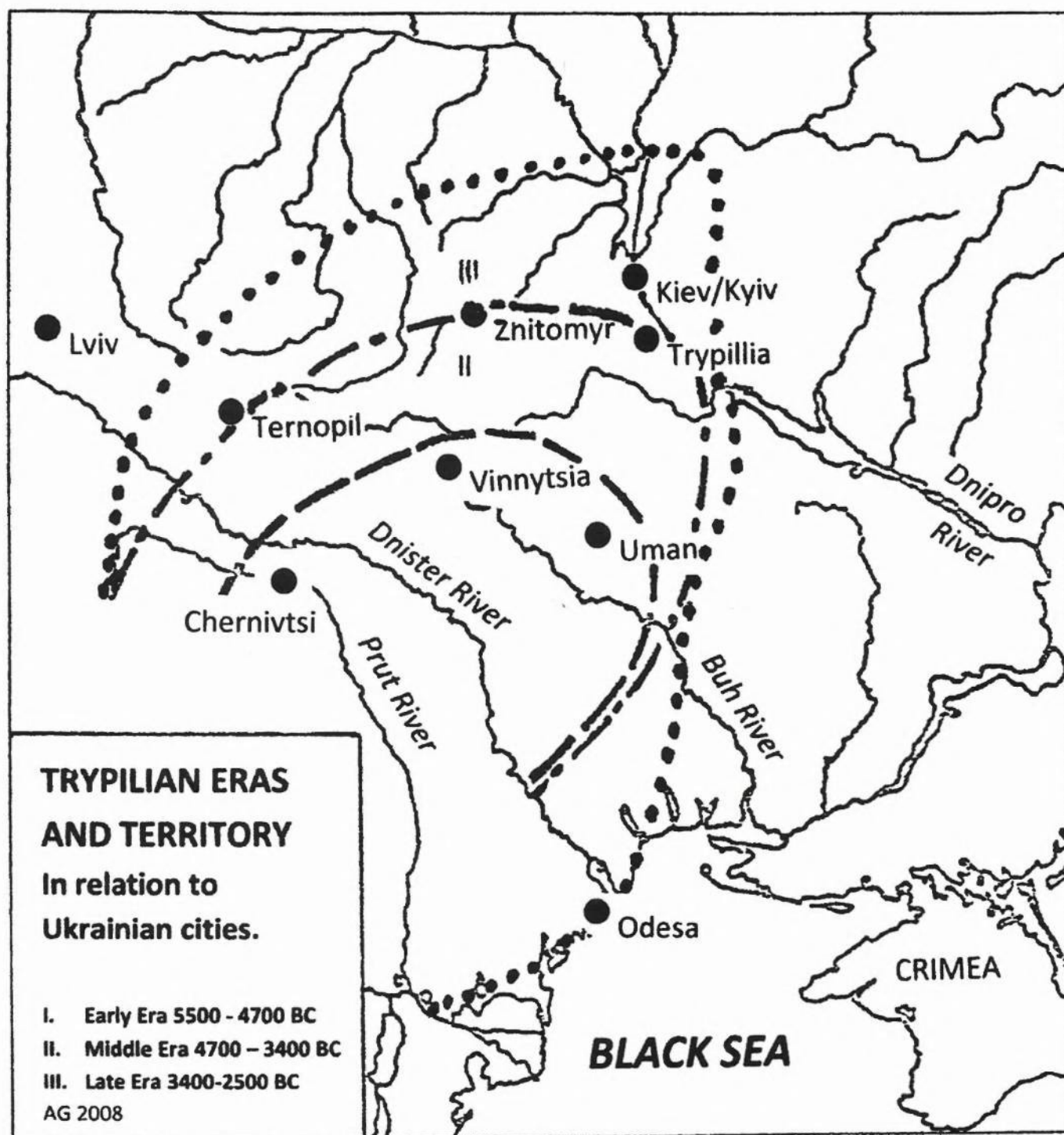
James C. Temerty  
Photo: AG Forum

*Mysteries of Ancient Ukraine: The Remarkable Trypillian Culture 5400-2700 BC*, Krzysztof Ciuk, Contributing Editor. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 2008. 238 p. col. Illus., maps. \$60.00 Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. Canada M5S 2C6





# TRYPILIAN UKRAINE





# ACHIEVEMENTS OF TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION

**T**he remarkable Trypilian Civilization lasted on the territory of Ukraine for 3,000 years from 5500 BC to 2500 BC. It was the oldest prehistoric European culture, establishing the first European cities of up to 25,000 population. Trypilia had a population from 500,000 to 2,000,000 according to archeologists and historians who have found many facts about it and established many Trypilian theories. Scholars and archeologists say that the Trypilian Civilization at Dereivka, Ukraine, domesticated the first horse in the world 6,400 years ago and were the first horse riders. Since pants are the natural clothing of horse riders probably the Trypilians, or perhaps the Scythians, invented pants.

The Trypilians are credited with the invention of the wheel which eventually reached China. Their huge buildings 75 feet by 30 feet and two and three story buildings, apparently the first in the world, were built with an architectural system known as wattle and daub which lasted in Ukraine to the 20th century. It was used in England to build the cottage of Shakespeare's wife Anne Hathaway in the 16th century. The Trypilians used copper and bronze for tools and jewelry. They were Europe's first farming society growing two varieties of wheat and today the finest wheats in the world have a Ukrainian ancestry. They had herds of cattle, sheep and other animals including pet dogs and cats. They probably used oxen to pull their plows, carts and winter sleds.

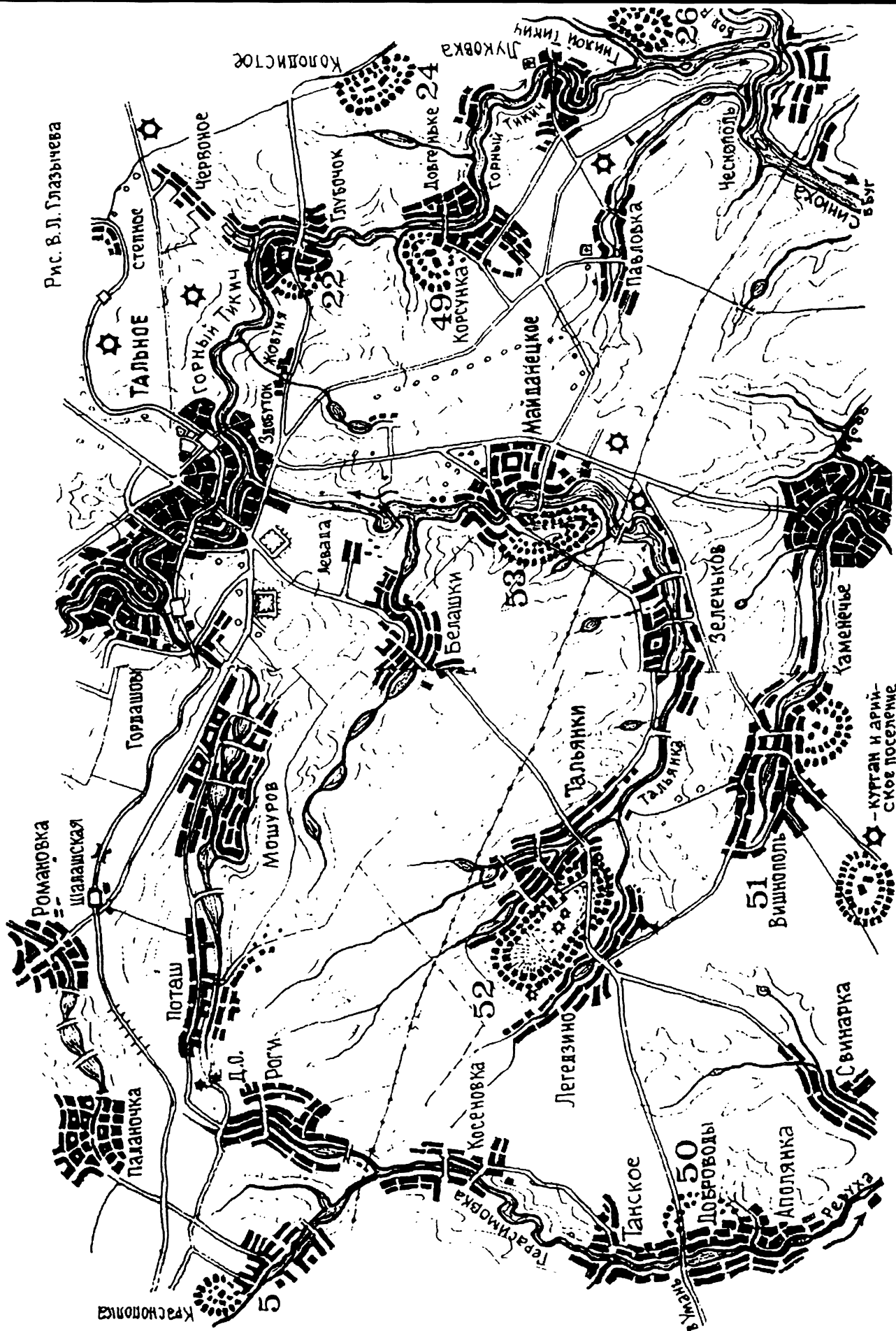
Trypilian society had a very strong artistic sense which created an amazing variety of beautiful ceramics and designs on pottery many of which have survived today in Ukrainian folk art. The Trypilians had factories producing pottery. On the bottom of some of their pottery archeologists have found the impression of patterns of fine linen cloth and woolen cloth from which they made their clothes. We even know how some of the women decorated their clothing from clay statuettes of women. The purpose of the binocular clay objects is still a mystery to academics.

We don't know what name they called themselves, we don't know their language, which some say was proto-Slavic or proto-Ukrainian, and scholars still have not deciphered their alphabet. We do not know their history or the names of any kings, chiefs or rulers. The world's leading expert on the Trypilian Civilization, Michael Videiko, has reported that a 2007 research study has revealed that the Ukrainian people today can trace their ancestry through DNA back even before and after the Trypilian era. My theory is that Kutia and the Didukh (spirit of the ancestors) sheaf of wheat in Ukrainian homes originated 7,000 years ago in the Trypilian Civilization. ■

Andrew Gregorovich



Рис. В. Л. Глазычева





■ The important inventions in Europe of the city, two & three story buildings, row housing, wattle & daub building architecture, the wheel, pottery from clay, fine linen cloth, the Proto-Indo-European language and horseback riding perhaps may all be credited to the genius of the Trypilians (5500 to 2500 BC) who were both the cultural and DNA genetic ancestors of the Ukrainian people.

## TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION

■ THE TRYPILIAN CIVILIZATION was a remarkable ancient culture which flourished on the territory of Ukraine for 3,000 years from 5500 BC to 2500 BC. The Trypilians had a wonderful artistic sense which was expressed in their pottery. They have been credited with inventing the wheel 5,000 years ago and building huge buildings 75 feet X 28 feet. Apparently they invented two and three story buildings and their architecture system was the prototype for Ukrainian houses for 7,000 years. It was used in the prairies of Canada in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Trypilian designs such as the *bezkonechnyk* survived on Ukrainian folk art such as Ukrainian Easter Eggs (Pysankas) created by people who had no idea about their ancient origin. The first horse rider in the world was in Trypilia (Dereyivka, Ukraine) almost 6,400 years ago. It is thought the Trypilians invented pants since they are the most suitable clothing for horse riders. This concise survey provides a fascinating introduction to an ancient culture which has been unknown around the world.

## AUTHOR

■ Andrew Gregorovich was a Department Head in the University of Toronto Library System for over 30 years. He is the author of many articles and bibliographies. Among his works are the *Cossack Bibliography* (2008), the *Scythian Bibliography* (2002), the *Jewish-Ukrainian Bibliography* (1999), *Scythia & Scythian Gold*, (2001), *The Origin of Ukraine* (2004, 2009) and the Shevchenko Bibliography on the Internet. He was the Chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, President of the Ontario Library Association, President of the Canadian Multilingual Press Federation and a member of the Academic Board of the University of Toronto. He is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ukrainian Canadian Research Foundation and is a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Order of Saint Andrew and Vice-President of the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. He was awarded the Toronto Medal and the prestigious Shevchenko Medal. The Government of Ukraine awarded the Honorary Cross Medal to Mr. Gregorovich on January 25, 2009. He has been Editor of *Forum Ukrainian Review* since 1967.

■ Front cover: Trypilian women decorating pottery. Artist: Z. Vasin.