

Tanged Point Technocomplex – Swiderian, but what else? New findings from Kraków region, southern Poland

Stielspitzen Technokomplexe – Swiderien, aber was noch? Neue Entdeckungen aus der Krakauer Region, Süd-Polen

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ABSTRACT - This paper aims to give an overview of the Tanged Point Technocomplex (TPT) settlement in the western part of the Northern Subcarpathian region and to put it in a broader perspective of the cultural processes in northern Europe during the very end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene. It intends to synthesize the available data focusing mostly on cultural differentiation and on the chronology of the TPT. The numerous remains of the TPT settlements were mostly discovered by antiquaries, although several assemblages were acquired during modern excavations, providing valuable data. The new data allows definition of several technologically and typologically distinct facies of TPT. Most of them represent an extremely consistent industry, which is paralleled with the Swiderian (Mazovian) and dated to the Younger Dryas/Holocene transition. However, according to these data, tanged points seem to have lasted from the end of Allerød until the Boreal period, which challenges the paradigmatic framing of them solely as a palaeolithic unit in the Kraków region. These chronologically late assemblages reflect the cultural processes of the early Holocene in eastern and northern Europe where post-Swiderian and post-Ahrensburgian settlements developed. Nevertheless, an independent local development of tanged point, linked with an Ahrensburgian tradition, could also be indicated. The attempt to construct a perspective for this local issue resulted in several maps and radiocarbon charts of TPT. On this basis a nomenclature for particular stages of TPT, as well as cultural events, was proposed.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG - Diese Arbeit soll einen Überblick über die Siedlung des Stielspitzen Technokomplexes (Tanged Point Technocomplex – TPT) im westlichen Teil des nördlichen Karpatenvorlandes geben und sie in eine breitere Perspektive der kulturellen Prozesse in Nordeuropa, während des Endes des Pleistozäns und des Beginns des Holozäns bringen. Sie beabsichtigt, verfügbare Daten zu synthetisieren, die sich hauptsächlich auf die kulturelle Differenzierung und die Chronologie des TPT konzentrieren. Die zahlreichen Überreste der TPT-Siedlungen wurden größtenteils von Antiquaren entdeckt, obwohl bei modernen Grabungen mehrere Sammlungen erworben wurden, die wertvolle Daten lieferten. Die neuen Daten erlauben die Definition verschiedener technologisch und typologisch getrennter Fazies von TPT. Die meisten von ihnen repräsentieren eine extrem einheitliche Industrie, die parallel zum Swiderien (Mazovien) verläuft und auf den Übergang von der Jüngerer Dryas zum Holozän datiert wird. Nach diesen Daten scheint es jedoch seit dem Ende des Allerød-Interstadials bis zum Boreal Stielspitzen gegeben zu haben, was die paradigmatische Gestaltung dieser Gebiete als eine lediglich paläolithische Einheit in der Krakauer Region herausfordert. Diese zeitlich späten Sammlungen spiegeln die kulturellen Prozesse des frühen Holozäns in Ost- und Nordeuropa wider, wo post-Swiderien und post-Ahrensburgien Siedlungen entstanden sind. Nichtsdestotrotz könnte auch eine eigenständige, lokale Entwicklung des TPT, verbunden mit einer ahrensburgischen Tradition, angedeutet werden. Der Versuch, eine Perspektive für dieses lokale Problem zu konstruieren, führte zu mehreren Karten und Radiokarbondiagrammen des TPT. Auf dieser Grundlage wurde eine Nomenklatur für bestimmte Phasen des TPT, sowie für kulturelle Ereignisse vorgeschlagen.

KEYWORDS - Late Palaeolithic, Early Mesolithic, Ahrensburgian, Bromme, Lyngby, Subcarpathia
Spätpaläolithikum, Frühmesolithikum, Ahrensburgien, Bromme, Lyngby, Subcarpathia

Introduction

Distinctive tanged points have been recognized and described since the second half of the XIXth century during the so-called "collector's period" (Szymczak 1992). Only a few decades later, at the beginning of

the XXth century, they were being acquired in a more methodical way in association with other lithics. This led to increasing interest in the subject matter among scientists but also enthusiasts who became professional archaeologists. Significant conclusions were drawn by G. Schwantes who defined the

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Ahrensburgian and Lyngby cultures and A. Nummerdal, an explorer of the Fosna and Komsa cultures on the west coast of the Scandinavian Peninsula. Dynamic, sometimes emotional, discussion took place particularly among Polish scientists who investigated the Swiderian culture (S. Krukowski, L. Sawicki, L. Kozłowski). These results were collected by G. Clark, who introduced the concept of Tanged-point Cultures (TPC) (Clark 1936). In the introductory chapter Clark synthesised environmental data concerning the Late Glacial and Holocene, which was the basis for the periodization of these cultures. Interestingly, according to the level of knowledge at that time, he dated them to post-glacial times associating them with the Preboreal. His TPC included Ahrensburg-Levenstadt, Remouchamps and Swiderian, but also Komsa and Fosna whereas the Lyngby group, because of flake axes, was linked with the forest environment and treated as a predecessor of mesolithic industries (Maglemose, Ertebølle). He considered the roots of TPC in the Upper Palaeolithic industries, i.e. the Gravettian (Font-Robert) or the Aurignacian, as well as in the latter Magdalenian (Hamburg culture). For the Komsa culture, he quoted A. Bjørn's hypothesis for its Asian connection. This substantial concept was reintroduced by W. Taute (1968) in his monumental book "*Die Stielspitzen-Gruppen im nördlichen Mitteleuropa*". In his view "The Tanged Groups" consist of several industries organized into groups (*Gruppe*) which form circles (*Kreis*). These circles are represented by Lyngby together with Federmesser (characterized by the presence of tanged points), Ahrensburg and Swidry. Tanged Point Culture or Technokomplex (TPT) as a general term for distinct industries characterized by tanged and related points was repeated in further publications (Kozłowski & Kozłowski 1975, 1977; Kozłowski S. K. 1999; Burdukiewicz 2011)

The tanged or shouldered points seem to have adhered to human culture especially during significant coolings and correlate mostly with the north margin of the European oecumene. One can mention upper palaeolithic examples of tanged points like Font-Robert or even some Jerzmanowice points which resemble Swiderian ones (comp. Sawicki 1935; Krukowski 1939-1948), but also shouldered points known from Gravettian and Solutrean context. During the postglacial period, these tools were crucial implements for the Hamburgian and Havelte societies. However, since the end of the Allerød an almost uninterrupted presence of a great variety of these tools can be observed. From that time, the variety of tanged points and some related geometric implements which seem to be derived from this tradition (margin-retouched points – transverse or oblique points – high trapezes – Luta type – heavy trapezes; single-edged points – shouldered points – *nakonečnik s bokovoj vyemkoj*; comp. Schild 1990; Więćkowska & Chmielewska 2007; Lozovskij et al. 2009; Manninen &

Knutsson 2011) continued in North and North-East Europe until the neolithisation of that territory (Petersen 2001; Sørensen 2017). This makes it difficult to determine sharp borders between cultural units. Additionally, the TPT crossed the border between the Pleistocene and Holocene – an important caesura in the research of the Stone Age. This boundary marked the beginning of warming, which finally returned after tens of thousands of years of cold climate domination triggering important transformations in the economic model of local societies adapting to new conditions. In European archaeology, this border separates the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic and in general opinion marks the beginning of a gathering-instead of hunting-based economy, which is traditionally perceived as determining palaeolithic societies, although available data may oppose such a conclusion (Eriksen 1996; Kabaciński & Sobkowiak-Tabaka 2010). This division, although seemingly trivial, had a significant impact on the research, often leaving a *terra incognita* on the border between the two research perspectives.

This investigation assumes that human culture was quite dynamic during the very end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene and seasonal relocations were an integral part. This claim is supported by ethnographic and palaeofaunal studies which underline the role of migrating reindeer as its main factor (comp. Baales 1999). In this paper, another example is quoted which is the annual migration route of the Nganasans – the "last reindeer hunters" from the Taimyr Peninsula. In this case a map published by Chard (1963) is vectorised (Fig. 1). It gives a striking example of such mobility when compared with the full geographic span of TPT during the Younger Dryas (YD). All these data suggest that a multi-perspective approach is needed as local studies by themselves produce only a partial picture. A more complete image may be obtained from a regional perspective (extra-local studies). Unfortunately, due to political and language barriers, these attempts often operate with their own definitions and notions. The best example of this is a discrepancy in the widely disputed range of the Bromme culture. Another example is the diversified nomenclature of Ienevo (Zhilin 2007), Pischny Riv (Zaliznyak 1999), Grensk (Kolosov 2013a, b) and Desna (Schild 1990; Kozłowski S. K. 2006) industries of Central and Eastern Europe which, basing on typology, seem to represent a similar tradition. If a basic background could be agreed upon it would provide a useful tool to frame local and extra-local data within the geographical and chronological distribution of TPT.

Since the beginning of XXth century the numerous finds of tanged points in the Oder and Vistula basins have usually been labelled as Swiderian. This term was proposed by S. Krukowski, who – after the exploration of the Górki site (Świdry Wielkie II) – outlined its definition in a short overview (Krukowski 1921). Since