

Udmurt State University  
Institute of history and culture of the Priuralye peoples  
Materials and researches of the Kama-Vyatka  
archaeological expedition

**Art and archaeological investigation  
of the woodland of East Europe**

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**Art and archaeological investigation of the woodland of East Europe**

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Materials, wich present in collection, demonstrate the great variety of scientific interests of the archaeologists of the Udmurt University. The authors of the collection hope that their researches, wich direct on comprehension of archaeological sources discovered by the Kama-Vyatka archaeological expedition during the 30 years, will be useful and actual for colleagues, who work in analogous problematic.

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## Leonid Makarov

# The ancient Russian town Vyatka (Khlynov) by archaeological data

The date of foundation of the town of Vyatka (Khlynov) is one of the most important problems for the history of Vyatka region. Its solution mostly depends on the authenticity and quality of sources used. Attempts to solve the problem basing only on written evidences cannot be considered as successful. The most authentic of the written sources - the Russian chronicles - mention Vyatka for the first time under 1374 concerning a campaign of the Novgorod *ushkujniks*. This year is considered by many scholars as the beginning of the Russian colonisation of the region; and the town's foundation date is ascribed to a later period: 1405 (A.A. Spitsyn) or 1428-1434 (A.S. Vereshchagin, P.N. Luppov, L.N. Makarova, D.M. Zakharov etc.) (Makarov L.D., 1992, p.46). However, other written sources do not prove any of these dates. For example, the Vladimir Chronicler calls Vyatka a town under 1393 (Vladimir Chronicler, 1965, p.129), and «The List of Russian Towns Remote and Near» refers Vyatka to the group of *Zalesje* towns of XIV-XV centuries (Tikhomirov M.N., 1952, p.218; Naumov E.P., 1974, p.157).

So, at the end of XIV century the town of Vyatka undoubtedly existed, that is why the year 1347 of the Russian Chronicles should be considered as the year of its first mention; for example, L.V. Cherepnin wrote about it (Cherepnin L.V., 1960, p.395). A.V. Emmausskij supposed that the town was founded in 1374 by the Novgorod *ushkujniks* (Emmausskij A.V., 1971). However, the latter could not be builders of the town as chronicles described their main activity as robbery, destruction and plunder of lands (Bernadskij V.N., 1961, h.47-51; Cherepnin L.V., 1960, p.392-395). That's why V.V. Nizov suggested that Khlynov was built in 1374 by Novgorod people, but not by the *ushkujniks*. In his opinion, Moscow editors of the chronicles just ascribed a robbery character to the these Novgorod group (Nizov V.V., 1999).

Another point of view regarding the foundation date of Vyatka is connected with «Tale of the Vyatka Land». According to its information, historians dated this event by 1181, 1199, or by the end of XII century in general (Makarov L.D., 1992a, p.84-85).

To clear up the question of the date of foundation it was necessary to arrange archaeological excavations on

the town's territory. Khlynov urban site (the kremlin of the town) is located on a headland 35-40 m high and 40,000 square metre area (fig. 1).

The history of archaeological exploration of Vyatka (Khlynov, Kirov) is more than a century and a half long (fig. 2). The local press described the first finds on ancient artifacts in Khlynov already in 1838. V.A. Korovaev (1859), P.V. Alabin (1865), A.A. Spitsyn (1881, 1893), M.L. Peskovskij (1901) and N.A. Prokoshev (1931) also mentioned the town antiquities (Makarov L.D., 1985, p.45-46). M.P. Gr'aznov, a famous Soviet archaeologist, who was in exile there in 1934-1937, made important observations of Vyatka. He registered log-pavements on the territory of trading quarter, drew and described the stratigraphy of beddings, made up a composite plan of fragments of the trading quarter bank, gathered a large number of human bones from five destroyed cemeteries of XVII-XVIII centuries, defined sex and age of buried persons, carried out pathological analysis of bones, and craniometrical measurements of 109 skulls. Besides, the scholar studied written sources concerning the history, architecture, cartography, genealogy and toponymy of the town (Makarov L.D., 1987, p.30-32; Makarov L.D., 1988, p.36-41).

In 1956-1958 L.P. Gusakovskij carried made preliminary (5 probe trenches of 67 sq. m area), and then full-scale excavations (115 sq. m) near the foundation base of the Epiphany Cathedral built in 1698 and destroyed in the 1930s. Under a thick (about 1 m) stratum of building debris there was an ancient 2 m deep archaeological layer. Its upper part was damaged by 13 grave pits of a Christian cemetery, but only some of them destroyed the layer of the more ancient building debris (fig. 11). Gusakovskij discovered remains of 7 log-pavements of an ancient street; the pavements were systematically newly paved with logs as soon as they were covered by cultural layer and thus became the basis for building layers. Their breadth varied from 2.5 m to 2.9 m. The upper layers of the pavements were made of thin logs 10-15 cm thick, while the lower layers were made of thick slightly trimmed logs 20-25 cm thick (fig. 3-9). Close to the pavement there stood dwellings and household buildings. During the excavations there were discovered lower rows of frames of dwellings (16-20 sq.

mare), inside the frames one could retrace a wooden floor made of trimmed boards, small frames of earthen stoves (170x110 cm), rather shallow underground cellars and remains of wooden sleeping platforms and benches.

Near the pavements there were excavated traces of palisades made of logs 15-20 cm thick, and lower parts of vertical posts of gates (160-180 cm breadth) and wicket-gates (not higher than 70 cm). According to some observations the dwellings had a double-slope roof, and were heated without a chimney (Russ. "*po-chornomu*"). Household buildings were made of thinner logs and sometimes had a log layer instead of a plank floor. Under the remains of buildings of the 7<sup>th</sup> layer Gusakovskij found structures which he referred to the 8<sup>th</sup> layer. He considered the 8<sup>th</sup> layer as remains of a rural settlement of XII-XIII centuries. But what belongs without any doubt to the 8<sup>th</sup> layer is a fence (more than 10 m long) made of thin stakes (3-5 cm diameter) and, probably, traces of separate buildings in the form of spots of white clay with remains of boards. As for pillar building 20 (remains of a cattle-shed), it is situated to the north from the above-laying street and it does not cover the street on the plan, that is, it passes to the layout of the town (fig. 10). Most probably, at that time there was no need for pavements, for the soil was dry enough. That period can be related to early defensive fortifications in the form of houses that were located with their backsides to a moat. The construction of a massive bank in front of the moat, increase of the population density and intensification of the settlement's life, the fall of temperature and high humidity resulted in accumulation of too much moisture. That caused the beginning of streets' being paved (Voronin N.N. and others, 1960, p.92).

The archaeological excavations brought back the trust in information of «Tale of the Vyatka Land», although they still didn't give the exact date of the town's foundation. There were no finds, which could exactly point to the date, and poor preservation of wood didn't allow Gusakovskij to use the dendrochronological method. Nevertheless, he suggested the chronology of the building layers of Klynov kremlin, which was based on two principles: interaction of finds with a wide dating period and finds with a narrower dating period and usage of analogies with archaeological monuments of the Ancient Rus (Russia). Therefore, he dated the most ancient layer of the town by the middle and late XIII century, and the periodicity of pavements' building in Klynov was estimated to once a 35-40 years.

Gusakovskij's chronology is schematic, but several building layers, the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> in particular, included artifacts which existed during a rather limited period (fig. 12, 15). Thus, the 5<sup>th</sup> layer can be dated by the following artifacts: a bipyramidal ribbed polychrome bead of XIII-XIV centuries (fig. 12-7), a helical blue bead (known in Novgorod in the late XII century and middle of XIV century and in the Vyatka region in XIII-XIV centuries) (fig. 12-2), a fragment of a XIII-XIV centuries bone bush

for an arrow shaft (fig. 12-14), a bone plate with holes for making braid (fig. 12-22) similar to old Russian finds existed till the end of XIV century. Therefore, the layer is dated by the middle - the end of XIV century. The 6<sup>th</sup> layer contained: an eyeish bead with crimson «eyes» (fig. 12-5) similar to the finds of X-XIII centuries of the Ancient Rus and XIII-XV centuries finds of the Golden Horde, a copper plate-type finger-ring with a riffled surface (fig. 12-8) similar in decoration to the X-XIII centuries Russian objects and to the finger-rings of XIV-XV centuries; a bronze ear-ring in the «question mark»-form (fig. 12-10) (with a wide dating period but typical for Russia of XIV-XV centuries), a bone double-side plate comb of XII-XIV centuries (fig. 12-15). Those finds let the scholars date the layer to the end of XIII - middle of XIV centuries. The most ancient town layers (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) and the layer of pre-town settlement didn't have such finds, but ceramics found in them doesn't contradict the dating scheme of Gusakovskij (fig. 13, 14, 16). At other excavation sites he found: a copper plate-type bracelet with geometrical ornament typical for late XII - early XIV centuries (fig. 12-17) and a fragment of a «Transfiguration» stone icon of XIII century (fig. 12-20). Besides, among casual finds the following items should be mentioned: a bronze idol figure (fig. 12-18) similar to the one found in Novgorod in the layer of XII century, a glass ellipse-shaped bracelet with a yellow encrustation of the Byzantine production (XII-XIII centuries) (fig. 12-12), and a XIII-XIV centuries horse brass decorated with Arabic interwoven ornament (fig. 12-13) (Makarov L.D., 1989).

In 1983, in walls of water-supply trenches I succeeded in drawing a stratigraphy of cultural beddings of the trading quarter (1.7m thick) and the kremlin (2.2 m thick) along *Moskovskaja* and *Bolshevikov* Streets (355m); moreover, the cross section of the town fortifications was fixed for the first time. Remains of the most ancient fortifications include a board floor, fragments of logs and half-logs and building debris. The remains were located along the moat on the interlayer of buried turf with a forest underlying bed. This fact confirms the data of «Tale of the Vyatka Land» where it is said, that the fortress wall was made of dwelling frames. The remains were covered by a massive earthen bank 13 m thick, inside of which there were found frames filled with clay. Along the bank there was a street with log pavements (not less than 5-6 layers).

During the excavations of 1990 near the Bishop chambers (81 sq. m) we found archaeological layers 0.8-2.2 m thick, covered with a thick (about 3 m) layer of building debris. The archaeological layer located on subsoil contained early spin- and modelled Slavonic ceramics and XI - early XIII centuries and barrel-shaped black glass bead belonging to the pre-town settlement.

On the next stage the re-planning of the settlement took place; it was, probably, connected with the establishing of town: on the vacant site new frame buildings and small

cellars appeared. We managed to register up to 4-5 building levels divided by traces of fire; a flat-oval amber bead and ceramics date the most ancient of them to the end of XIII - to XIV cc. Later, near the buildings, storerooms for keeping white clay stocks, a cellar and a dust-hole were built. Then on the place of the storeroom dwelling building 11 was erected; it was destroyed by fire. Among artifacts found in that building there were 2 padlocks and an "E-type" key (the middle of XIV-XVI centuries) (fig. 12-26, 29), a "B-type" key to a padlock (late XII - early XV centuries) (fig. 12-25), a prismatic green glass bead (fig. 12-1) similar to those of XIII-XIV centuries from the Golden Horde and some other finds. The combination of the finds allows us to date this building to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of XIV - 1<sup>st</sup> half of XV centuries. Remains of buildings located higher contained artifacts dated from XVI-XVII centuries.

In the same year on the territory of the trading quarter there was discovered a stratigraphy of beddings 260 m long and up to 1.5m thick along *Svobody* Street (from *Drelevskij* Street to *ovrag Zasora*). There were found holes for various purposes, a drainage system with remains of a wooden chute and a profile of the trading quarter bank 5 m wide, which was made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of XVII century. Under the bank samples of XVI-XVII centuries ceramics were found.

On the territory of the *Uspenskij* (Assumption) *Trifonov* monastery (1580), where the most ancient town cemetery once existed, in 1990 we found sections of 31 pit graves in the walls of a trench dug along the *Bratskij* building (Makarov L.D., 1991, p.44-46). In the recent years the excavations on the territory of trading quarter have been supervised by archaeologists L.A. Sennikova, V.V. Vanchikov and E.A. Kosheleva (Kosheleva E.A., 1997, p.75-81).

Thus, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of XIII century and early XIV century on the former settlement territory there was built a town, its layout existed till the middle of XVI century. One of the streets was running along the fortress walls, another one - in the northern part of the kremlin territory from the east to the west (Gusakovskij came across it in his excavations). One more street could lie in the southern part of the town near the Bishop house towards the bridge tower. The foundation of the trading quarter may be dated to XV-XVI centuries, its west border ended at the cross of the modern streets *Svobody* and *Majakovskogo*; the quarter had arc shape stretching from *Razderikhinskij ovrag* to

*ovrag Zasora*, where a jail was built and a moat was made. In the year 1663 the building of fortification structures along the new borders of the trading quarter (as far as the modern Theatre Square is situated) began; these fortification had arc shape of 1476 *sazhen*'s (approximately 3143.88 m) long and consisted of a moat 2 *sazhen* (approx. 4.26 m) deep and 4 *sazhen* (8.52 m) wide and an earthen bank 4 *sazhen* (8.52 m) high; at the top of the bank a stockade and 7 towers were situated. Some fragments of the bank remain well preserved until nowadays (Tinskij A.G., 1976, p.30-36).

Townpeople were mostly occupied with agriculture: during the excavation works seeds of rye, wheat, oats, barley, spelt, buckwheat, pea, bean and hemp were found: in early layers - in dwellings, and in later layers - in 2 sheds and a granary. There is no information about gardening, but it existed undoubtedly. Fruits of wild plants (hazelnut and raspberry) were found. The townspeople were also cattle breeders; they reared cows and pigs, to a less degree - sheep, goats and horses. Remains of sheds with manure on floors, in holes and on pavements prove the fact of keeping cattle stalled in winter. Other occupations (e.g. hunting) were also popular among the people; the finds of hunting arrowheads and bones of wild fur animals tell about it. During the excavations there were also found fishing implements (hooks, fish-spears, floats and sinkers for nets, crams for boats), fish bones and scales (pike-perch, perch, pike, carp, bream, sturgeon etc.).

The traces of various handicrafts (metallurgical, blacksmith's, jeweller's, woodworking and pottery) were found in the town. There are a lot of things used by Vyatka inhabitants in their everyday life, among them: lighting devices (*svetets*, candlesticks and icon-lamps), household items (padlocks, keys, hasps, door-hinges, door-handles and door-hooks, nails, fragments of broken window glass, mica, tiles, bricks and fragments of wooden furniture), kitchen utensils (dishes, knives, wooden pestles and whisks), and other objects (flints, combs, *kopoushki*, scraps of shoes and parts of clothes, and decorations). Finno-Ugric and Slavonic pagan pendants, attributes of the Christian orthodox cult, some signs of literary culture and written language, music instruments, table games and children toys - these groups of finds let us understand the inner world of Vyatka people better. The echo of old festivals, dances, games, songs ceremonies reached our days in folklore works (Makarov L.D., 1994, p.27-34).

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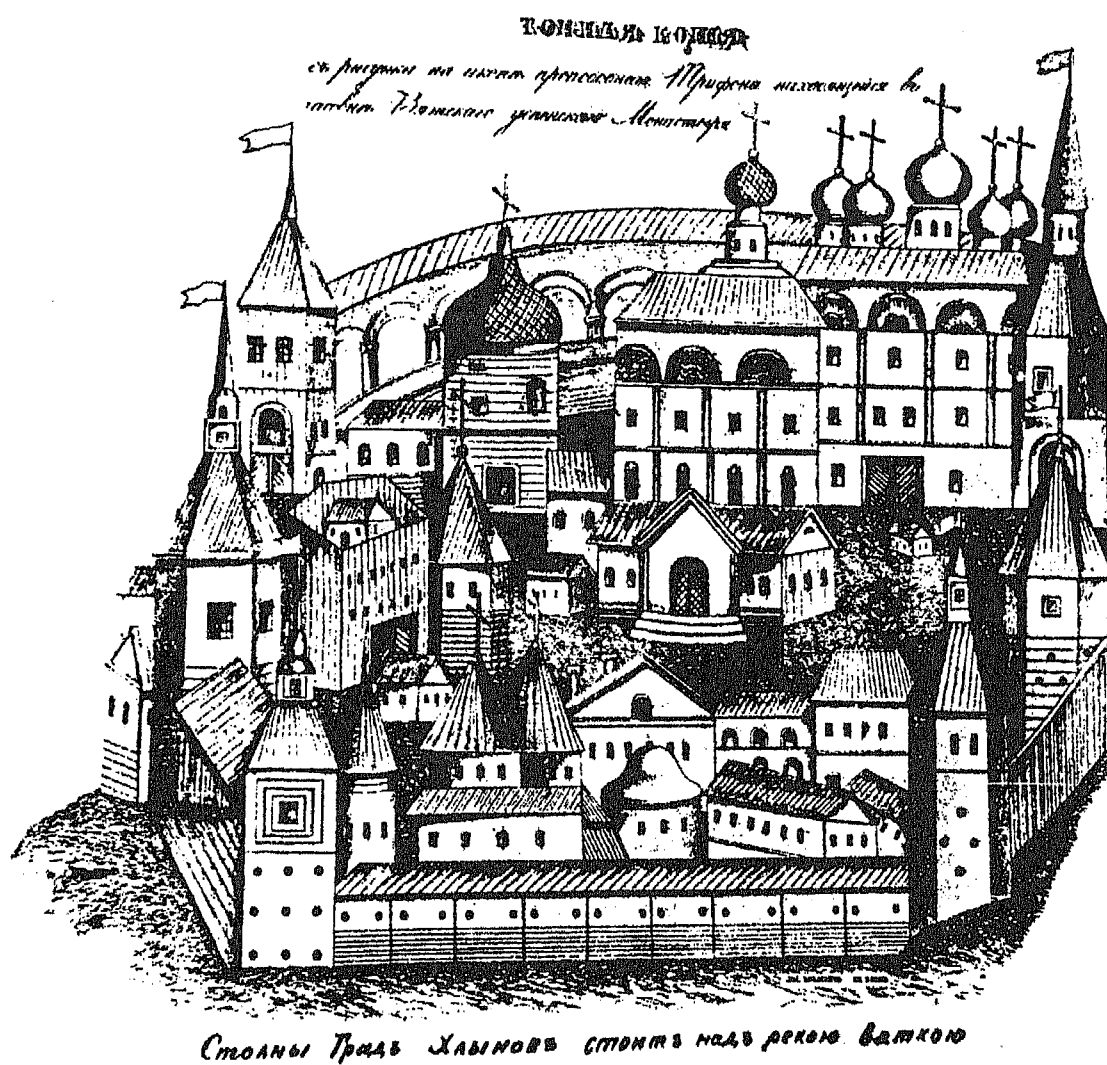


Fig.1. View of the Khlynov kremlin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of XVII century. From the icon stamp "Trifon Vyatsky"

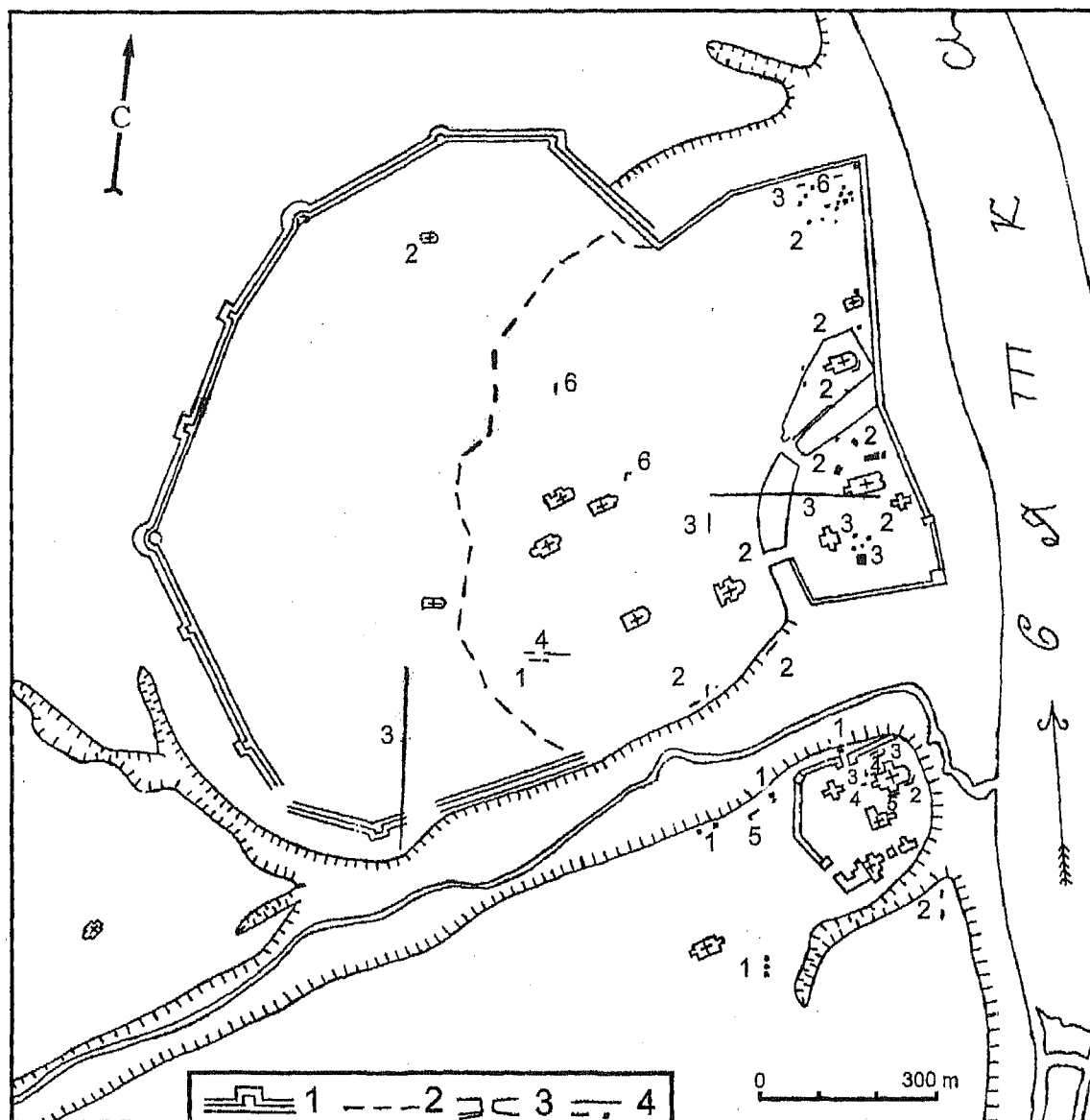


Fig.2. Plan of Khlynov (according to the 1759 plan).

Symbols: 1 - fortification of the trading quarter according to the borders of 1663-1665; 2 - presumed borders of the trading quarter in XVI - middle of XVII centuries (after A.G.Tinsky); 3 - the kremlin's fortification; 4 - cleaning of trenches, excavations and probe trenches made by archaeologists (1 - M.P.Gryaznov, 1935; 2 - L.P.Goussakovsky, 1956-1959; 3 - L.D.Makarov, 1981,1983,1990; 4 - V.V.Vanchikov, 1986,1989; 5 - L.A.Sennikova, 1991 and earlier; 6 - E.A.Kosheleva, 1992,1994 and later)



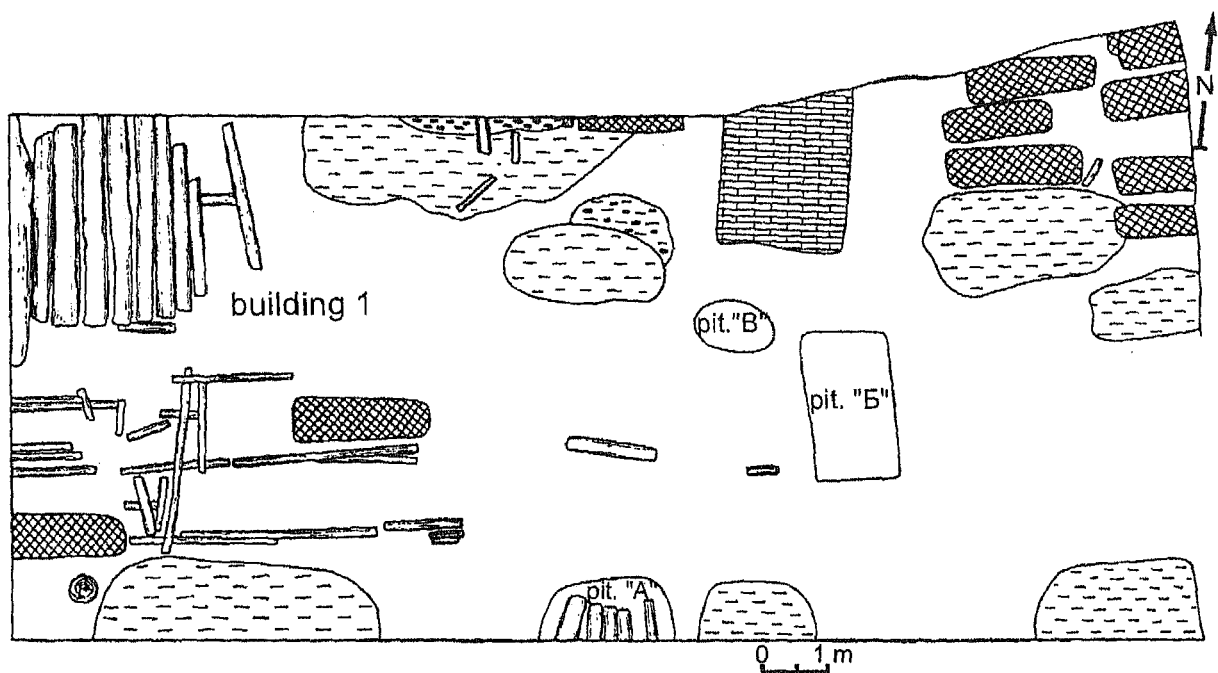


Fig.3. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 1<sup>st</sup> building layer; depth 180-195.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

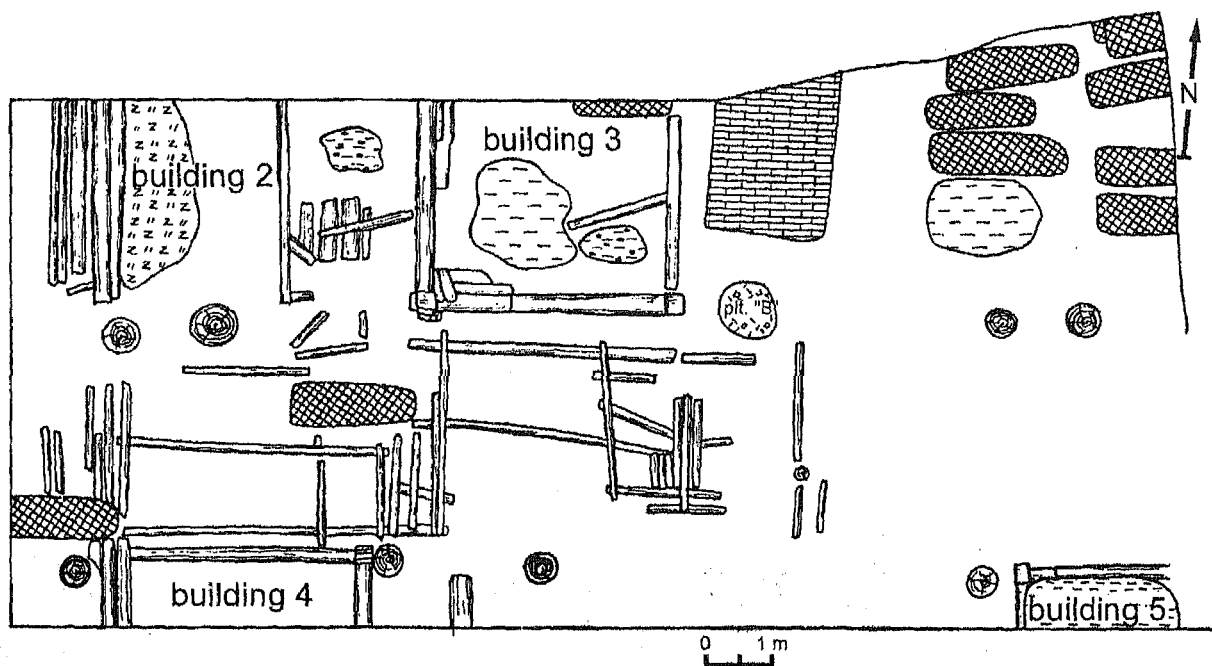


Fig.4. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 2<sup>nd</sup> building layer; depth 195-215.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

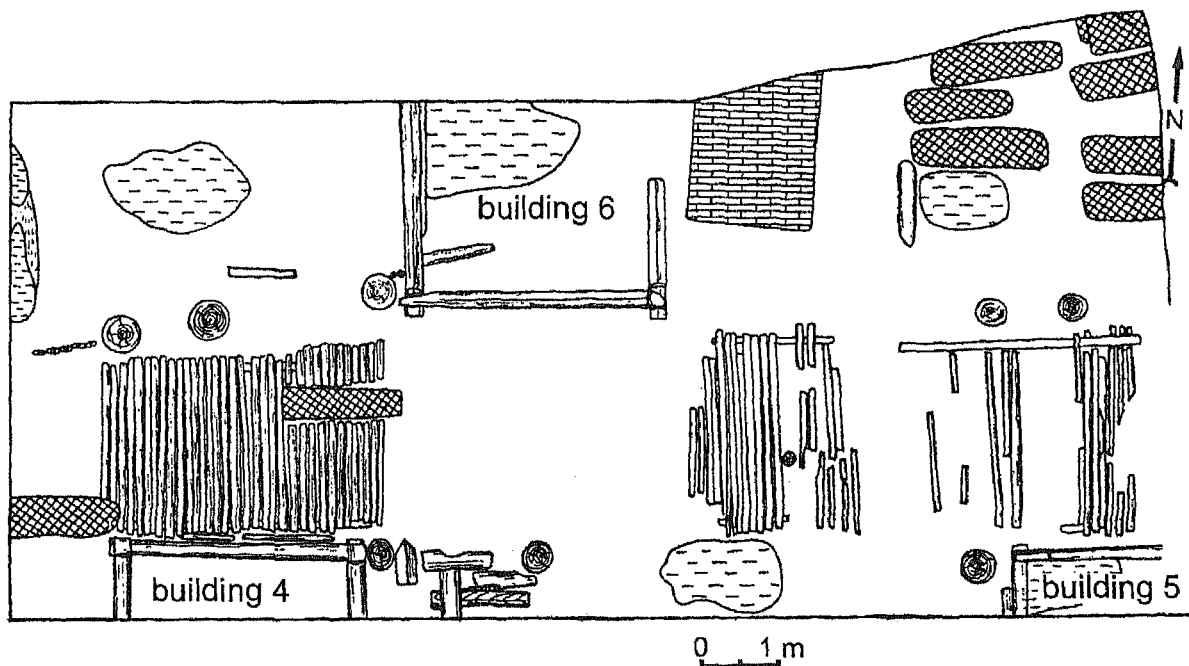


Fig.5. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 3<sup>rd</sup> building layer; depth 215-230.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

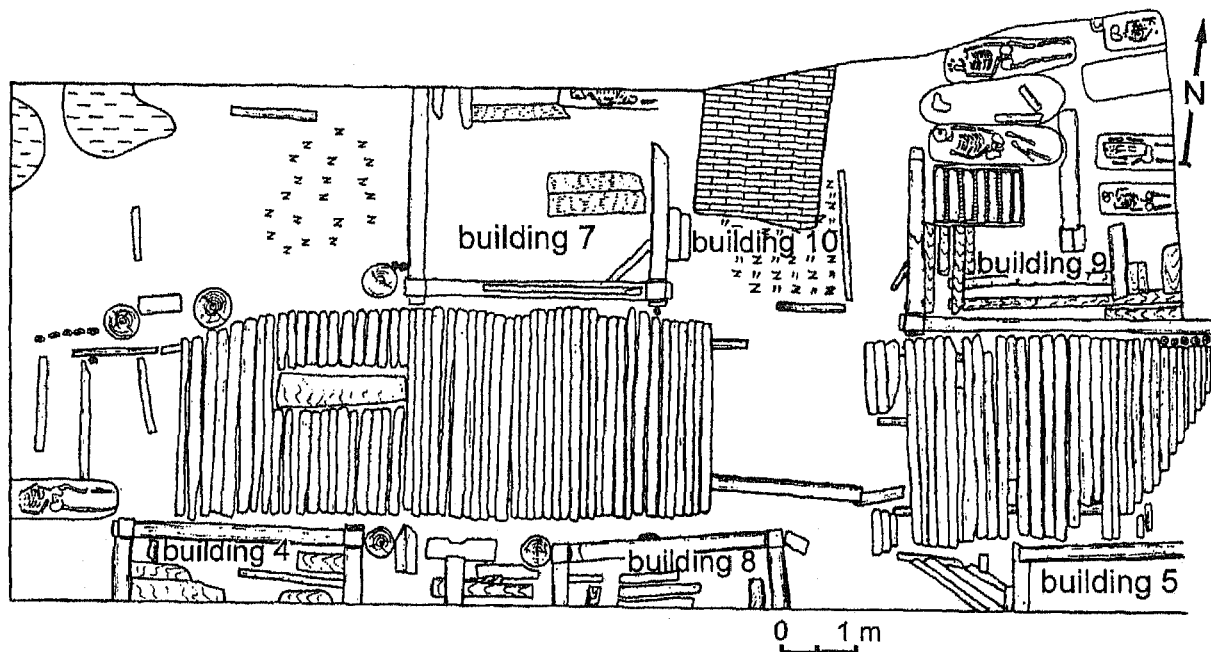


Fig.6. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 4<sup>th</sup> building layer; depth 230-245.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

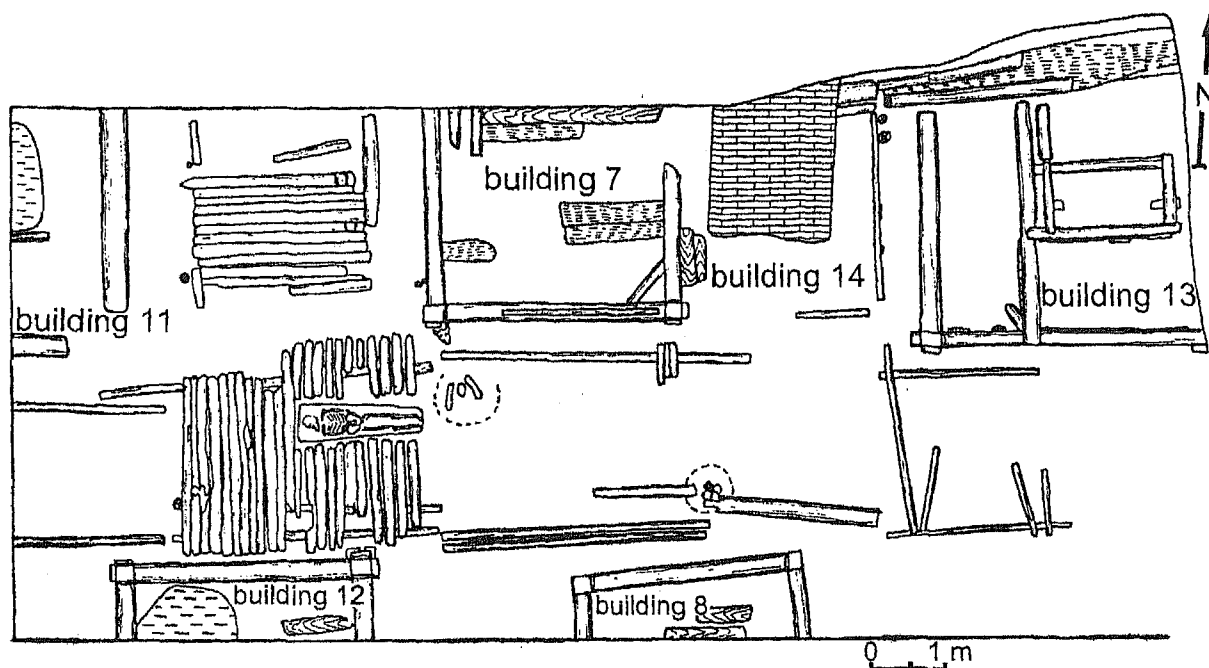


Fig.7. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 5<sup>th</sup> building layer; depth 245-260.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

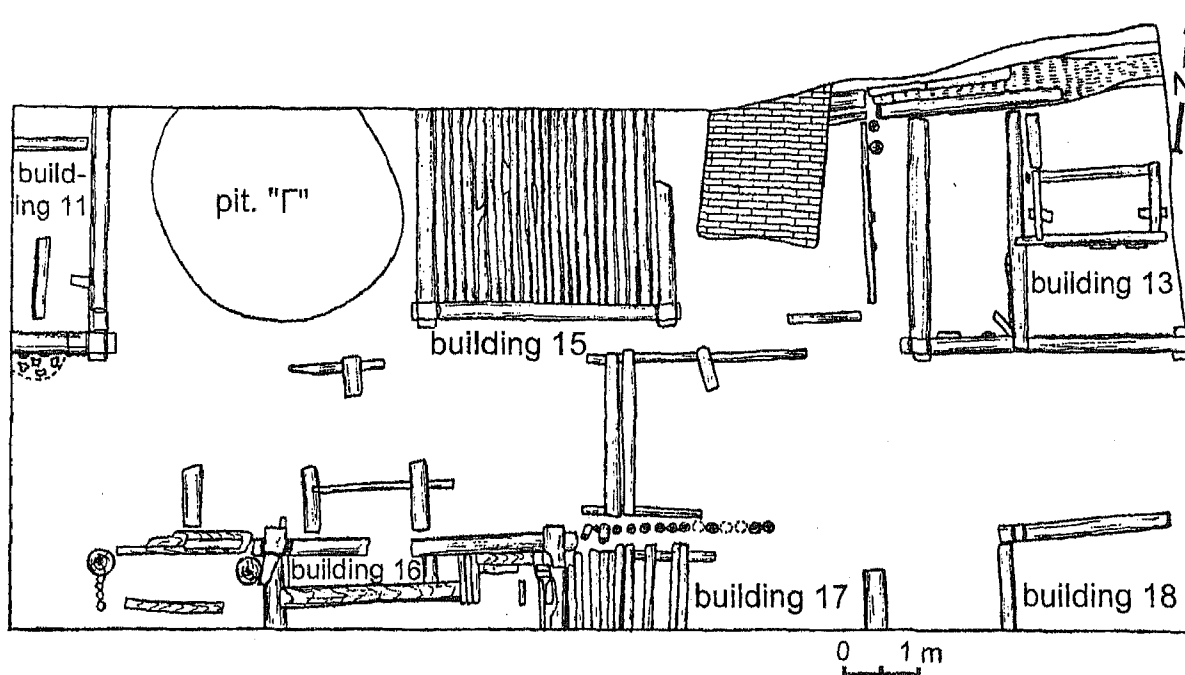


Fig.8. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 6<sup>th</sup> building layer; depth 260-280.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

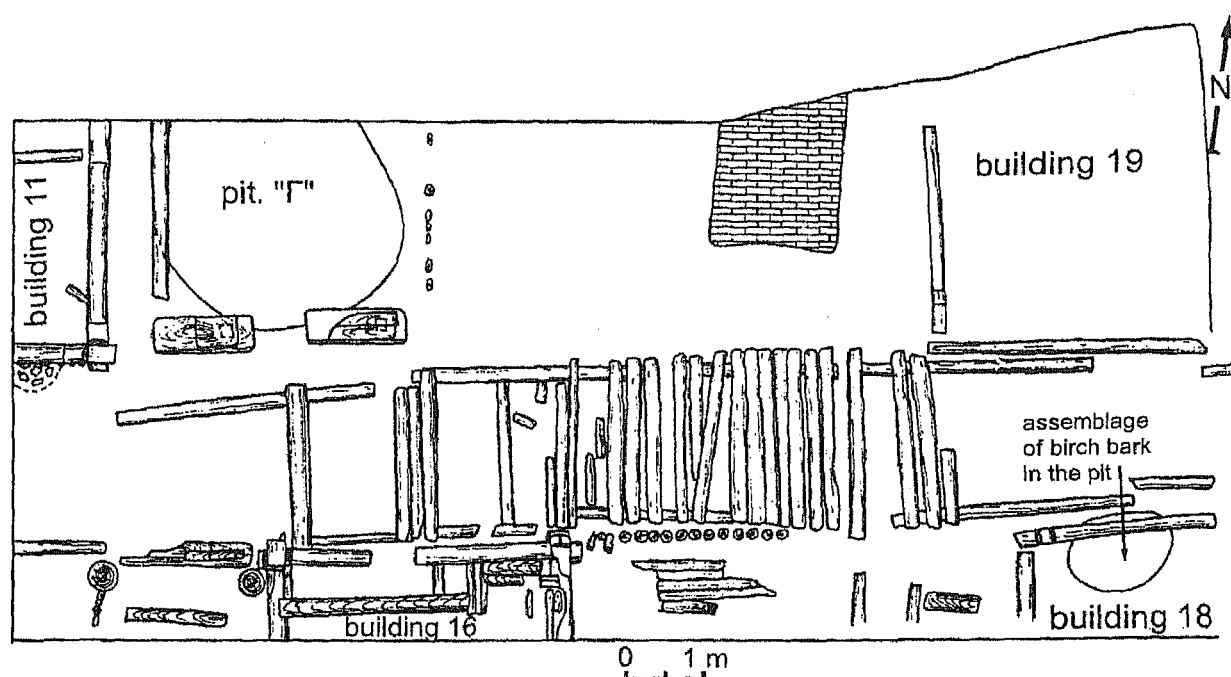


Fig.9. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 7<sup>th</sup> building layer; depth 280-295.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

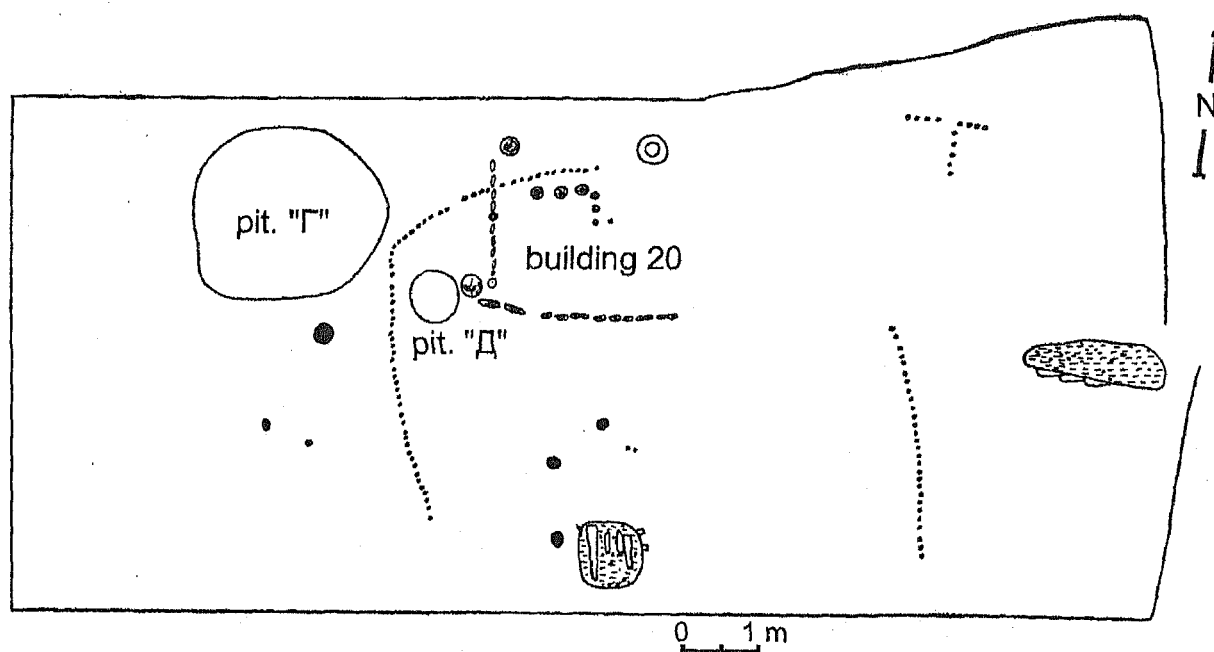
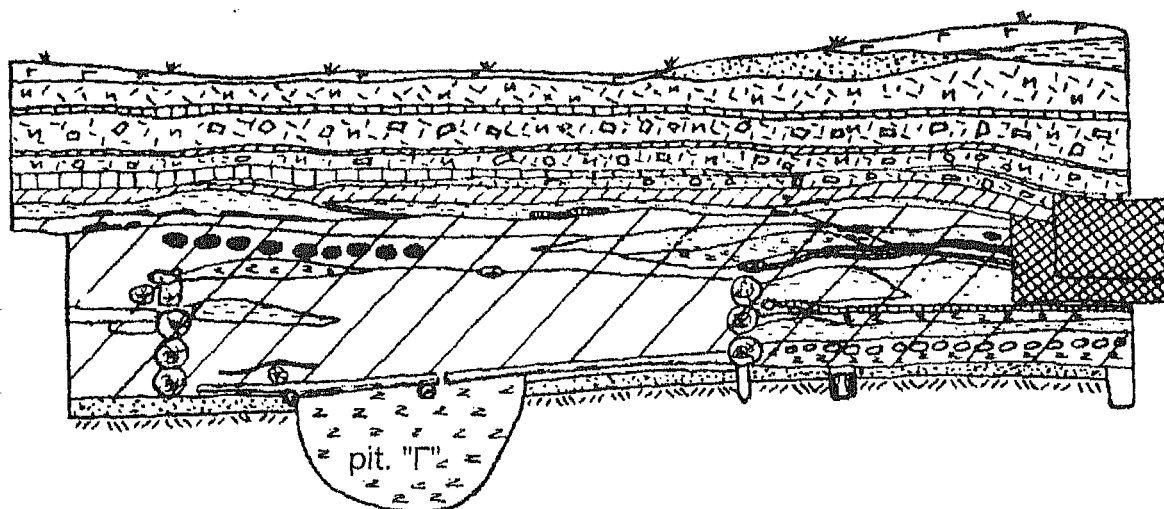


Fig.10. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation IV-I, 1956-1957. The 8<sup>th</sup> building layer; depth 295-310.  
(After L.P.Goussakovsky)

Profile of the northern wall



Profile of the western wall

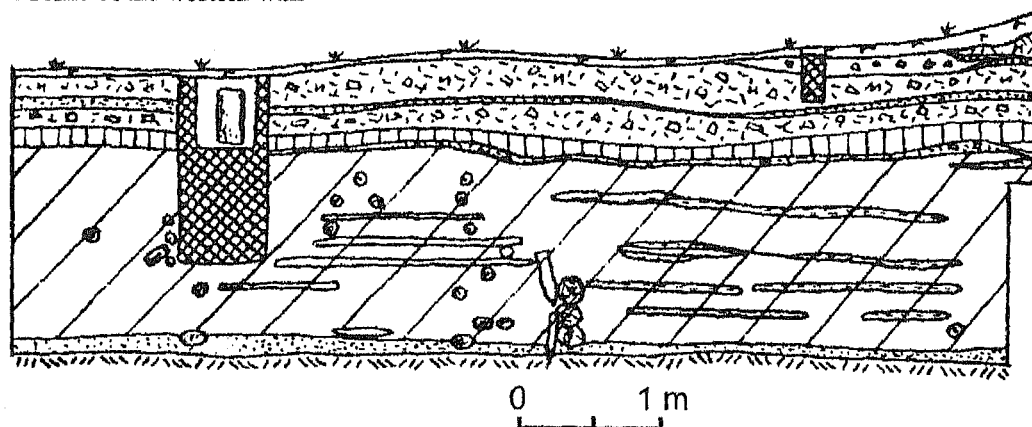


Fig.11. The Khlynov kremlin. Excavation I, 1956-1957. Profiles of the northern and western parts of the excavation's walls. (After L.P.Goussakovsky)

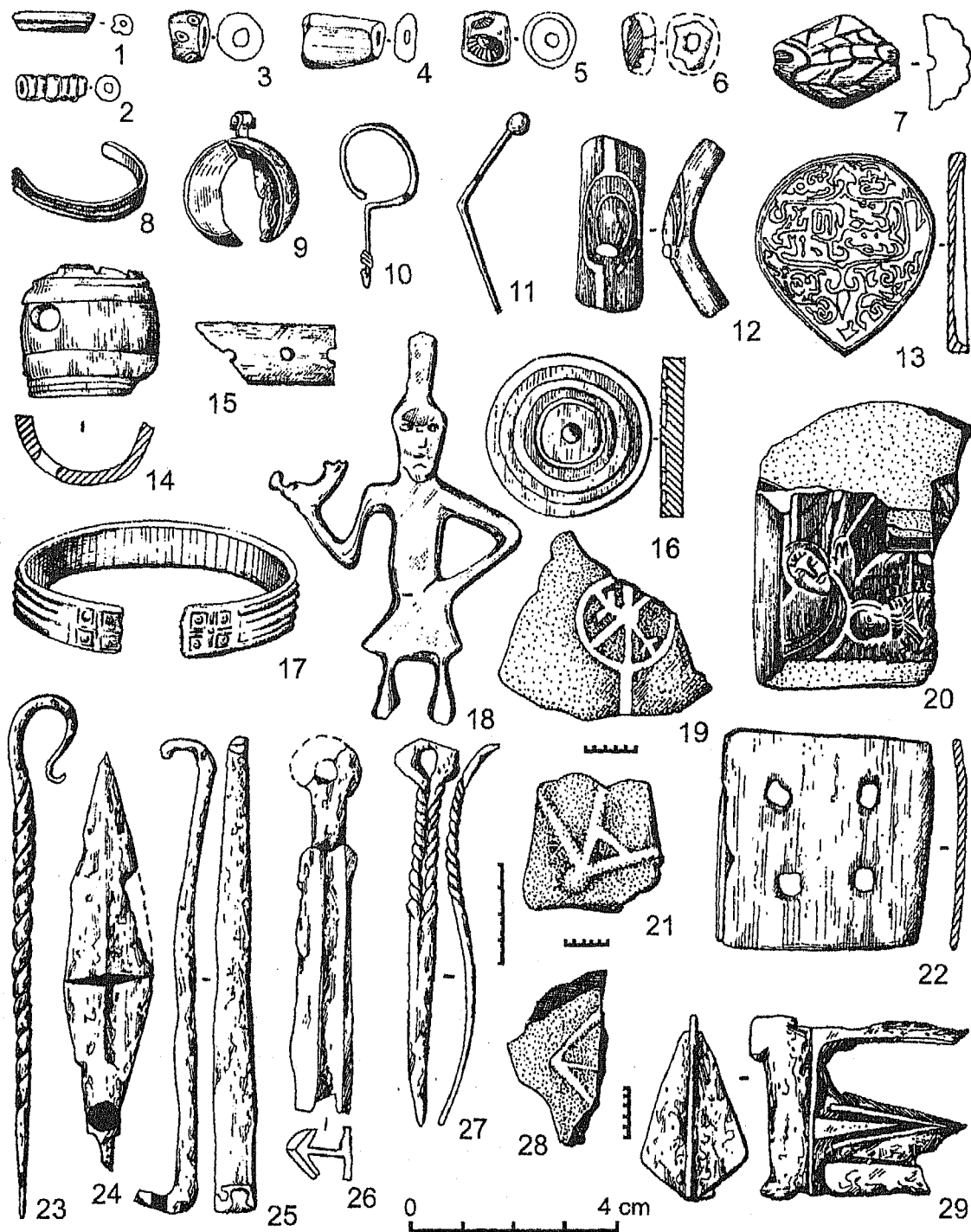


Fig. 12. Artifacts from the Khlynov site.

Index: 1-7 - beads; 8 - finger-ring; 9 - little bell; 10 - ear-ring; 11 - pin; 12, 17 - bracelets; 13 - horse brass; 14 - bush; 15 - comb plate; 16 - draught; 18 - idol pendant; 19, 21, 28 - bottom stamps; 20 - icon fragment; 22 - braiding plate; 23 - pin-needle; 24 - arrowhead; 25, 26 - keys; 27 - kochedyck; 29 - padlock (1-3, 5-7, 12 - glass; 4 - amber; 8, 13, 17 - copper; 9, 18 - bronze; 10 - silver, 11, 23-27, 29 - iron; 14, 16, 22 - bone; 19, 21, 28 - clay; 20 - stone)

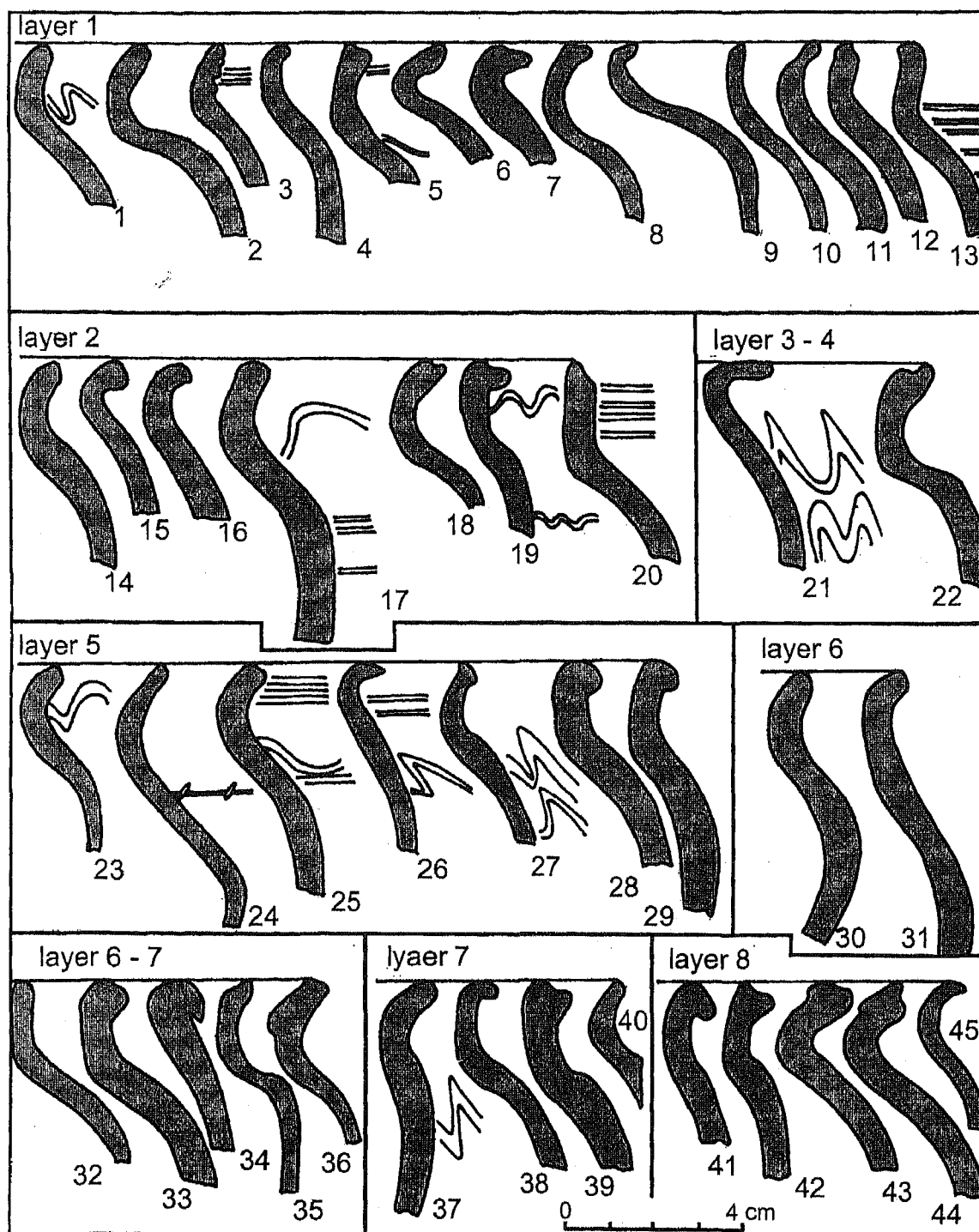


Fig.13. Location of spin ceramics in layers of the Khlynov kremlin (1956-1957 excavations).  
 Type IA - 1, 2, 17, 25, 30, 31, 37, 45; IB - 4, 16, 26; IC - 14, 23, 24, 40; type IIA - 32; IIB - 3; IIC - 5; type IIIA - 6, 15; IIIB - 21; IIIC - 7; IIID - 34; type IV - 12, 13, 27; type VA - 9; VB - 10; VC - 11; type VIA - 8, 18; VIB - 22, 35; type VII - 20; type VIIIA - 33; VIIIB - 28, 29, 38, 41; VIIC - 19, 39, 42; type IXA - 36; IXB - 43, 44

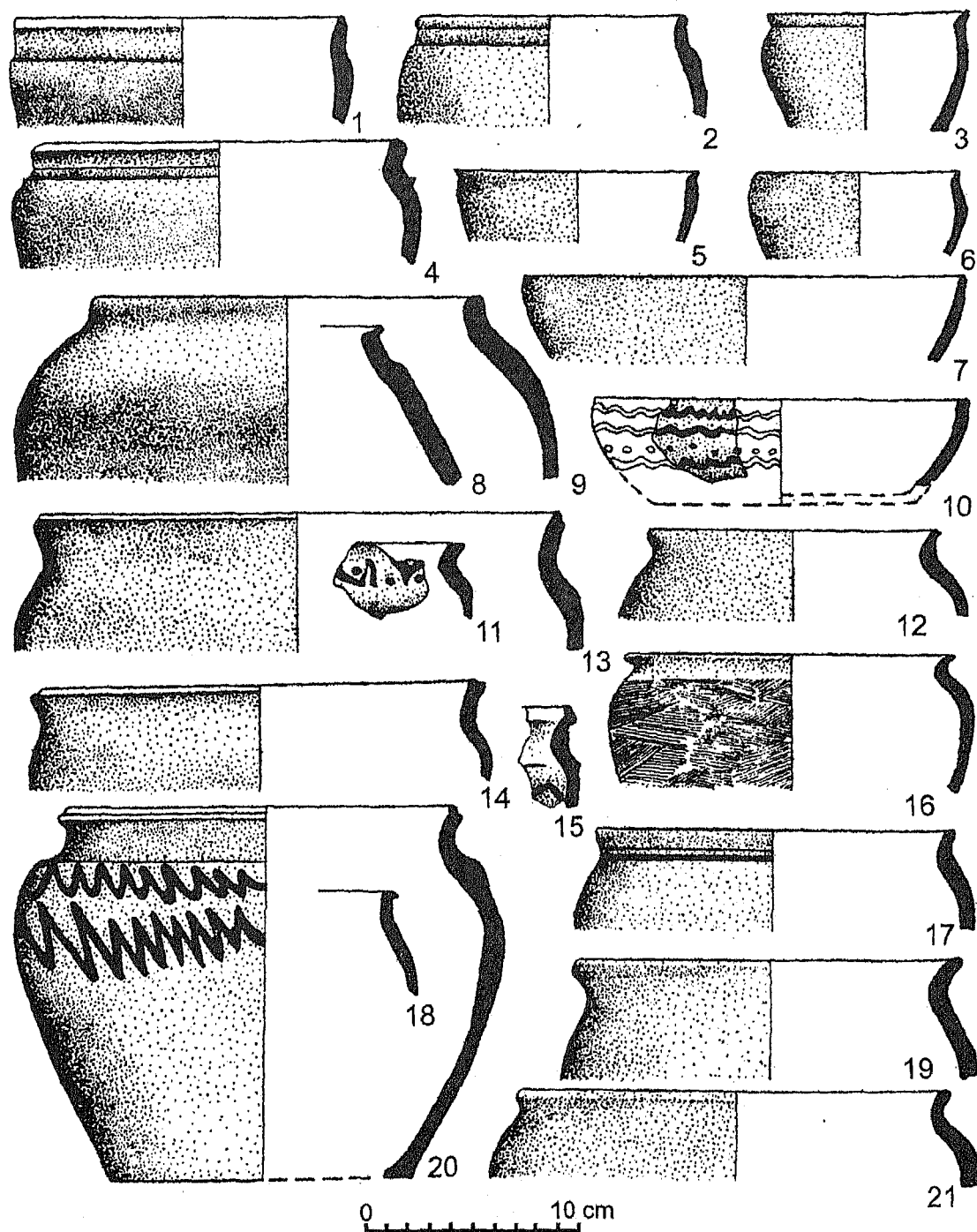


Fig.14. Modelled (1-9, 11-14, 16-19, 21), corrected on a spin (15, 20) and spin (10) crockery from ancient layers of the Khlynov site. Type 1 - 12, 16, 17, 19, 21; type 2 - 11; type 3 - 4; type 4 - 13, 14; type 5 - 15, 20; type 6 - 8, 9, 18; type 7 - 1, 2; type 8 - 3, 5, 6; bowls - 7, 10





A. MOULDED CERAMICS		CENTURIES				
TYPE	INDEX TO PECTYRE 14	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI
1	12; 16; 17; 19; 21	////	////	---	----	----
2	11	////	////	---		
3	4	////	----			
4	13; 14	////	////	----		
5	15; 20	////	////			
6	8; 9; 18	////	+	----		
7	1; 2	----		////		
8	3; 5; 6	////			////	
9	7 / A BOWL /	////	----			
B. CIRKLE CERAMICS						
TYPE	INDEX TO PICTYRE 13					
IA	1; 2; 17; 25; 30; 31; 37; 45	////	////	////	////	////
IB	4; 16; 26			////	----	----
IB	14; 23; 24; 40		////	----	////	----
IIA	32		////			
IIB	3				////	////
IIB	5				////	////
IIIA	6; 15			----	----	----
IIIB	21			////		
IIIB	7				////	----
IIIG	34		////	----		
IV	12; 13; 27		----	----	////	----
V	9; 10; 11				----	----
VI A	8; 18				----	----
VI B	22; 35		////	////	////	----
VII	20			----	----	----
VIII AB	33; 28; 29; 38; 41	----	////	////	----	----
VIII B	19; 39; 42			----	////	
IX	36; 43; 44	----	////	----		
-	JUGS	////	----			
		----	ANALOGUES			
		////	STRATIGRAPHY			

Fig.16. Chronology of the ceramics of the Khlynov ancient settlement