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## Pars VIII

Dissertationes sectionum:  
Literatura, archeologica et historica

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Redegunt

Sándor Csúcs  
Nóra Falk  
Viktória Tóth  
Gábor Zaicz

Borító: Kemény Márton  
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**CONTACTS BETWEEN SCANDINAVIA AND THE KAMA REGION  
IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE I MILLENIUM AD  
BASED ON BEADS MATERIALS**

The second half of the I millennium AD is a key period in the history of European people. Cultural and trade links were highly developed, local and transcontinental trading routes were formed, early states were founded and getting stronger.

The scholars divide archeological monuments in the Kama region, second half of the I millenium AD on three cultures – the Lomovatovo (the Kama Region itself), the Polom Culture (Cheptsa river basin) and the Nevolino culture (Silva river basin) ( pic. 1).

The Nevolino culture includes archeological monuments from the end of the IV (fourth) century to the IX (ninth) century AD, located in the Silva-Iren basin. At that time this territory was highly settled by the Finno-Ugric population, which left more than 270 (two hundred and seventy) monuments: settlements, sites, cemeteries (burial grounds) with and without barrows, oblatory places (the places of sacrifice), treasures, single finds.

In this work we can see the results of examination of the beads and other materials from the four representative cemeteries (burial grounds) of the Nevolino culture: Brody (the end of IV–V c.), Verh-Saiy (VI–IX c.), Nevolino (VII–IX c.) and Suhoi Log (VIII–IX c.). The studied monuments include the whole period of culture's existence – from the end of the IV to the IX century. In whole more than 4 thousands beads from 226 burials were examined.

According to the professor U.L.Shchapova method, every bead was analyzed by 37 (thirty seven) characteristics including construction and form, color, decoration, manufacturing technology and so on (Shchapova U.L., 1989).

As a result the beads collection was divided into 15 groups in which the material and the manufacturing technology of glass beads were the basis of dividing.

The first group includes the beads made of the glass drawn tubes: one-colored, with the longitudinal pattern and metallic gasket (pic. 2, 3). Beads made of drawn tubes are the frequent find on the monuments of the Nevolino culture. According to professor Shchapova's suggestion, the beads made of tubes were produced in Mesopotamia or (and) Syria.

The fourth group – beads made of glass sticks (wand): one-colored, with the various eyes (ocelatta) decor, with the longitudinal and transversal stripes (pic. 4–7).

The fifth group includes the beads made of the multiply (multilayer) glass sticks of different colors and shapes (pic. 7, 8).

The sixth group includes the beads made with the stripe bending technique: one-colored, with the transversal stripes, with the eyes and mosaic decoration (pic. 9).

The seventh group includes the beads made with welding technique. In the literature this technique is called *millefiori* ("thousand of colours") (pic. 9, 10).

The multi-colored and one-colored beads made of drawn stick, with the stripe bending technique and welding technique, probably, came from Egypt. The production of multiply (multi-colored layered) glass was typical for Alexandria's workshops (Shchapova U. L. 1983).

Also on the Nevolino cemeteries there are wide range of beads made of different materials: amber, carnelian (including ones with decorations) (pic. 10), crystal, chalcedony, clay, shells and so on (pic. 11).

The chronological analysis of the beads was made by G.A.Fedorov-Davidov method, as a result of which were distinguished 5 groups of the short being and 10 of longer being (Goldina E.V., 2011).

The contacts between Scandinavia and the Kama region have a long history. According to some investigations they developed since the Bronze and even Eneolithic ages.

As for the reviewing period – the second half of the first millennium AD – there are irrefutable material proof of contacts between Scandinavia and the Kama region – the finds of a few types of beads and the Nevolino type belts.

The Nevolino type belt is a leather belt 2–2.5 cm wide and up to 70 cm long, decorated with a buckle, tip and various brackets. Such belts are typical for female burials. They are well known in the monuments of the *Sylva* basin. On the whole at least 72 *Nevolino*-type belts were found on upper and middle Kama. They are dated by the end of VII and VIII centuries AD. Their large number, variety and integrity allow to suppose them to have been produced exactly where they were found, in the *Sylva* basin. The same belts were also found on the neighbouring territories (pic. 12).

According to professor Meinander K. and professor Kallmer Y., 19 the *Nevolino*-type belts are also found on the Finnish coast of the Baltic Sea (e.g. 19 belts were found in *Kaavontenkko*, *Pitkøsmøki*, *Julinpødø*, *Mynønummi*, *Kirmukarmu* and *Peppilanmøkki*). A similar belt was found in the king tumulus in Uppsala (Sweden) (Meinander K., 1979; Kallmer Y., 1989, p. 22). The finding of belts in Uppsala and in the male graves in Finland indicates that they were rather expensive and prestigious, maybe not only due to their originality but because they were brought from afar. The *Nevolino*-type belts are dated in Finland from the same period as in the Kama region, circa AD 700 (Meinander K., 1979, p. 36). Such a great amount of *Nevolino*-type belts in Scandinavia can be explained only by visits of the Permian merchants with their goods.

In this connection we can easily understand the origin of the Finnish word *permi* meaning “tradesman”, “merchant” (Meinander K., 1979, p.39). The Nevolino type belts demonstrate, that “*Permi*” might have appeared in the Baltic region in VII–VIII centuries. Their route to the Baltic Sea coast is marked by findings on the lower Oka river (*Khotiml'* and *Murom*). Probably, they moved down the Kama, Volga, Mologa, Msta, Volkhov or other rivers up to the Ladoga Lake and then to the Gulf of Finland (Dubov I.V., 1989).

Summing up the Kama-Scandinavian contacts, we ought to mention beads – a mass archaeological material widely spread all over the world.

Professor Kallmer from the University of Lund (Sweden) carried out a monographic research of the beads from monuments of the VIII–X centuries AD (AD 800–1000) from Sweden, Norway and northern Denmark (Kallmer J., 1977).

When analysing Scandinavian beads (of IX–X centuries), Kallmer was the first to connect the *Nevolino*-type belts and some variants of eastern beads (Kallmer J., 1989, p. 22). Deep knowledge of Eurasian special literature and Scandinavian materials let him single out beads typical for Eastern Europe and Scandinavia and on this basis, conclude that the beads came to the Baltic countries via eastern but not western Europe. This conclusion is proved by the finds of the same type of beads on the Kama region territory, particularly on the *Nevolino* culture territory.

Among the types of beads we should mention the one made with *millefiori* (“thousand of colours”) technique with a yellow-red eye and green rays. Kallmer regard them as the earliest that came to Scandinavia from the East (Kallmer J., 1989, p. 27–28). This very type was well known in Scandinavia as well as in Eastern Europe – on the Don, Volga, Kama Rivers and in the Caucasus. As for the *Nevolino* culture, *millefiori* yellow-red-green beads were found in 20 burials of VI – early IX centuries on *Verkh-Saja*, *Nevolino* and *Sukhoj Log* cemeteries. There are 44 items, which are divided into 5 types.

The same area refers also to round beads made of a pierced amethyst-coloured glass stick, though in Eastern Europe they were sometimes blue or orange. The ‘amethystine’ beads appeared in Scandinavia at the same period as the *millefiori* (Kallmer J., 1989, p. 29) but existed for a longer time having mixed with other types. On the territory of the *Nevolino* culture there are spherical beads made of stick mainly of blue color (357 items) were registered in 71 burials dated from VI–VIII centuries.

Within the same geographical limits there were spread cornelian spherical beads. In *Nevolino* burials there were found 105 cornelian spherical beads dated from VI – early IX centuries AD.

The cartographical research of different eastern beads let Kallmer single out 26 regions of their spread and mark the most typical bead sets. This research again proved the presence of a series of oriental beads well-known in the Middle East, Caucasus, on Volga and Kama, and in Scandinavia. Their absence in west European countries speaks for their coming through Eastern Europe (Kallmer J., 1991, fig.4).

In addition, all the types of early eastern beads found in Scandinavia are not only well-known in the burials of the *Nevolino* culture but appeared here much earlier than in the Baltic region.

Thus, judging by the situation of the eastern beads and the *Nevolino* type belts, the first tradesmen to start contacts with Scandinavia at the end of VII and VIII centuries probably were the merchants from the *Sylva* River. They are likely to develop the Volga-Baltic trade route, which at the end of VIII and IX centuries became the most significant Trans-European artery.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the connection with Scandinavia is just one of many areas of contact Kama region had in the Middle Ages. According to the research of beads, there were trade relations even with the far-away regions such as Iran, India, Byzantium. Researching this connections will be the next step in my work.

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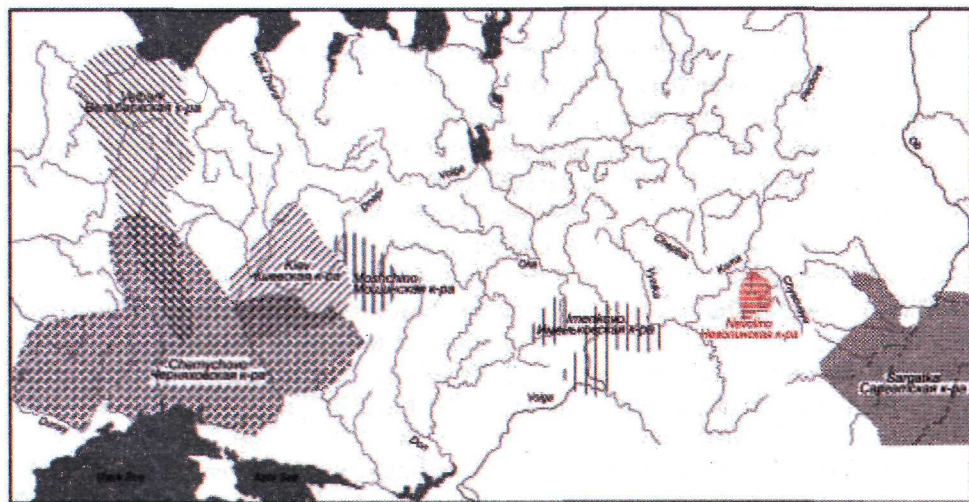


Fig. 1. Chart of placing of the Nevolino and synchronous cultures



Pic. 2. IA, IB - beads, made from glass tubes





Pic. 3. IB - beads, made from glass tubes, with metallic gasket  
 IIA - beads, made from glass tubes, done by the method of winding



Pic. 4. IVA - beads, made from glass sticks



Fig. 5. IVB - beads, made from glass sticks, with eyes decor



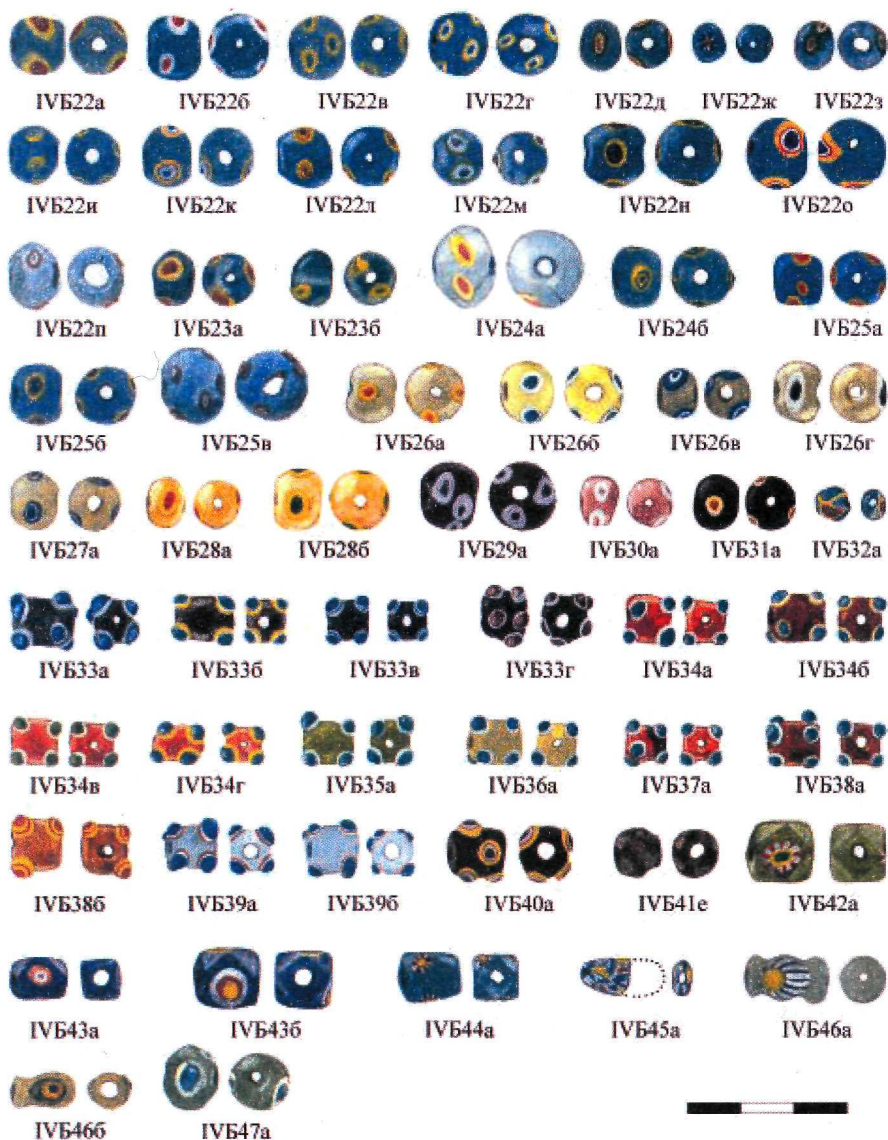


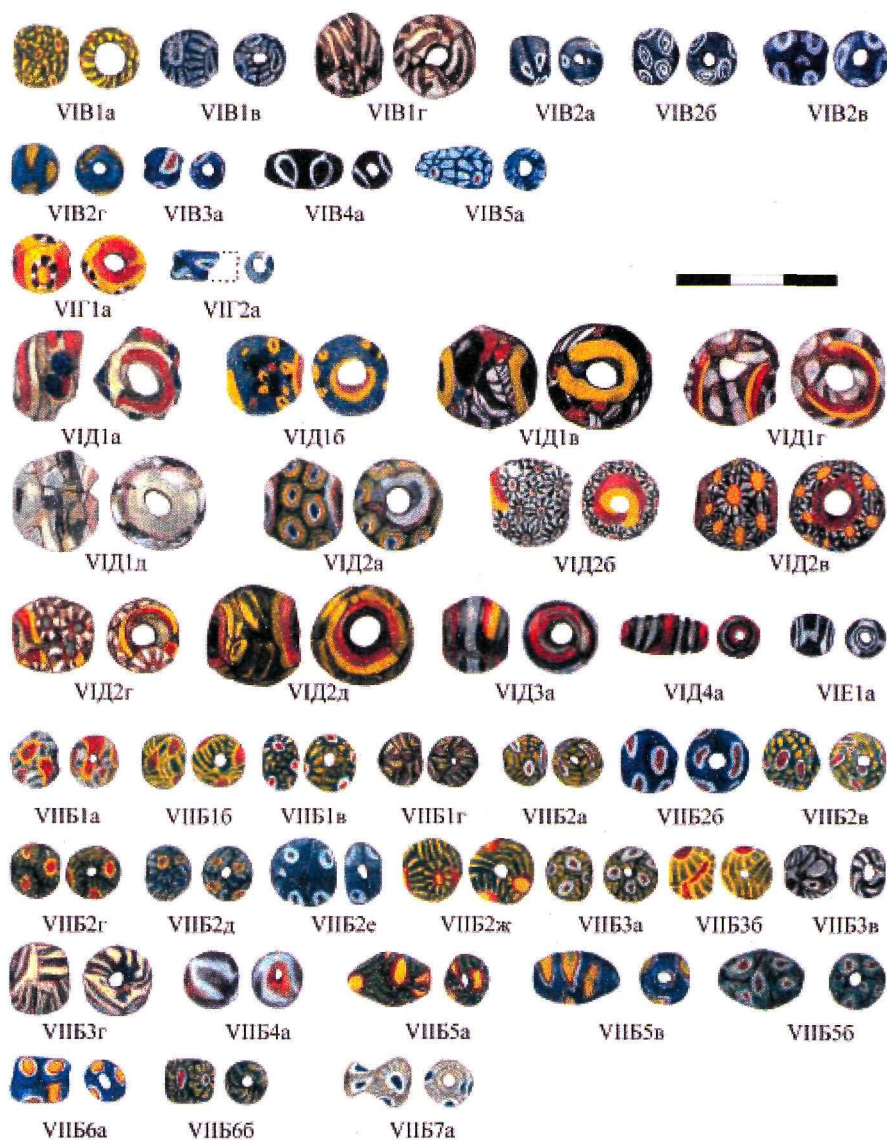
Fig. 6. IVБ - beads, made from glass sticks, with eyes decor



Fig. 7. IVB, IVГ - beads, made from glass sticks, with longitudinal and transversal stripes  
 VB-VГ - beads, made from multiply glass sticks



Fig. 8. VD-VЖ - beads, made from multiply glass sticks  
VIA-VIB - beads, made way bending band



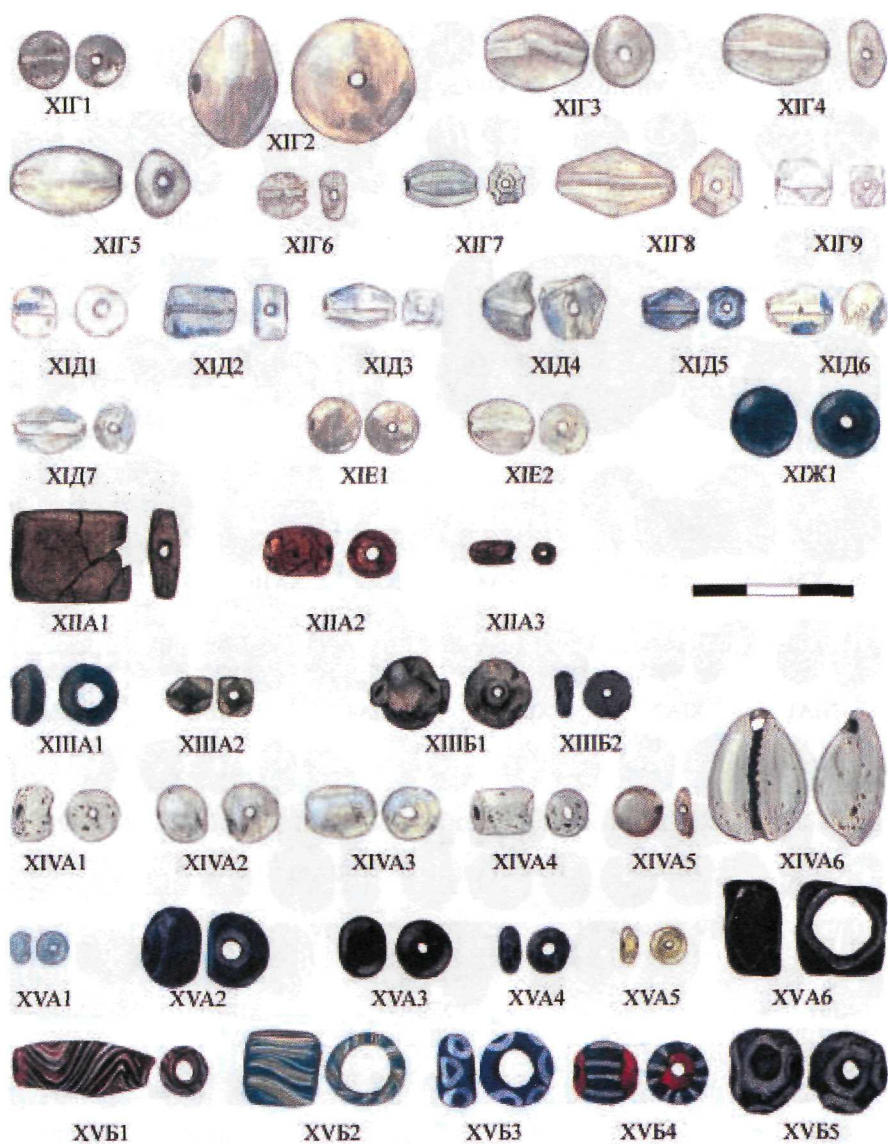
Pic. 9. VIB-VIE - beads, made way bending band  
VIIIB – beads, made of welding



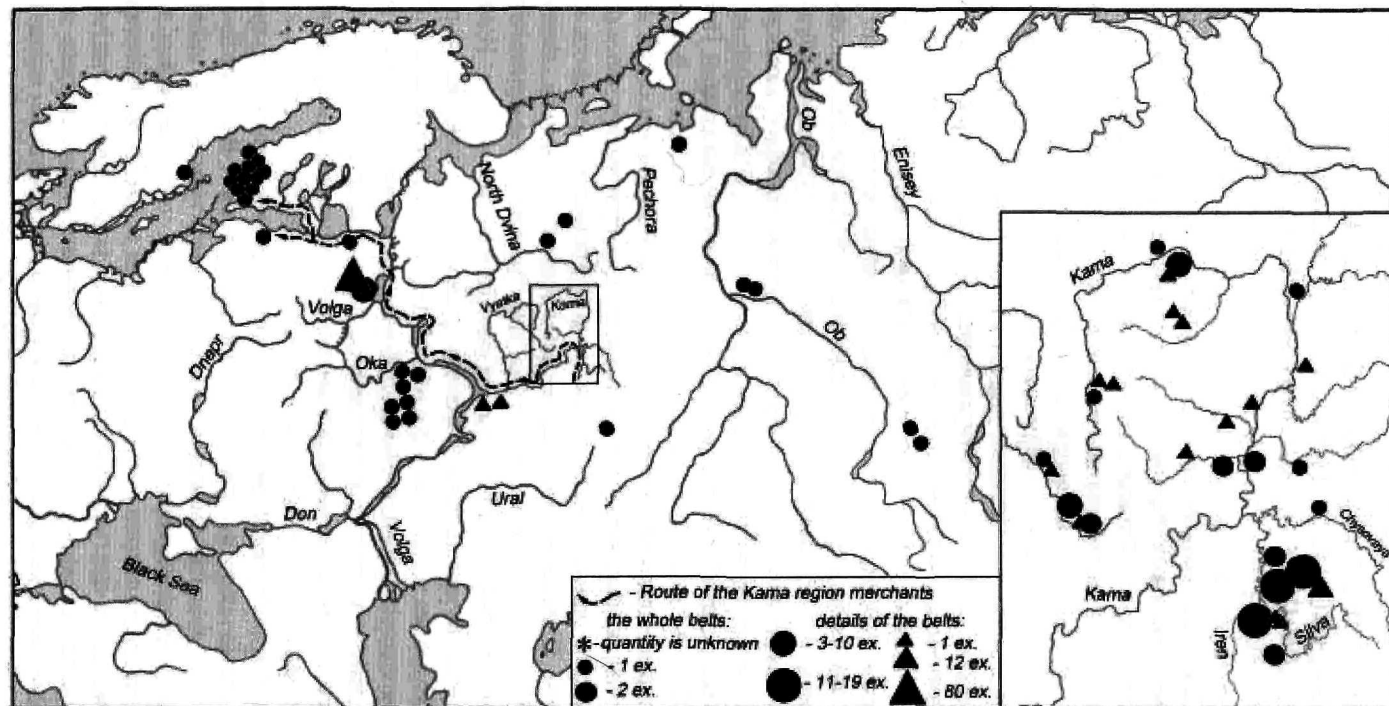


Pic. 10. VIIIB - VIIIG – beads, made of welding  
 XA - amber beads  
 XIA, XI B, XII B - cornelian beads





Pic. 11. XIG, XID – crystal beads; XIE – chalcedony beads; XIK – greenstone bead;  
 XII – clay beads; XIII – metal beads; XIV – shell beads  
 XVA, XVB- the technique of making is not certain



Pic. 12. Chart of distribution of the Nevolino type belts