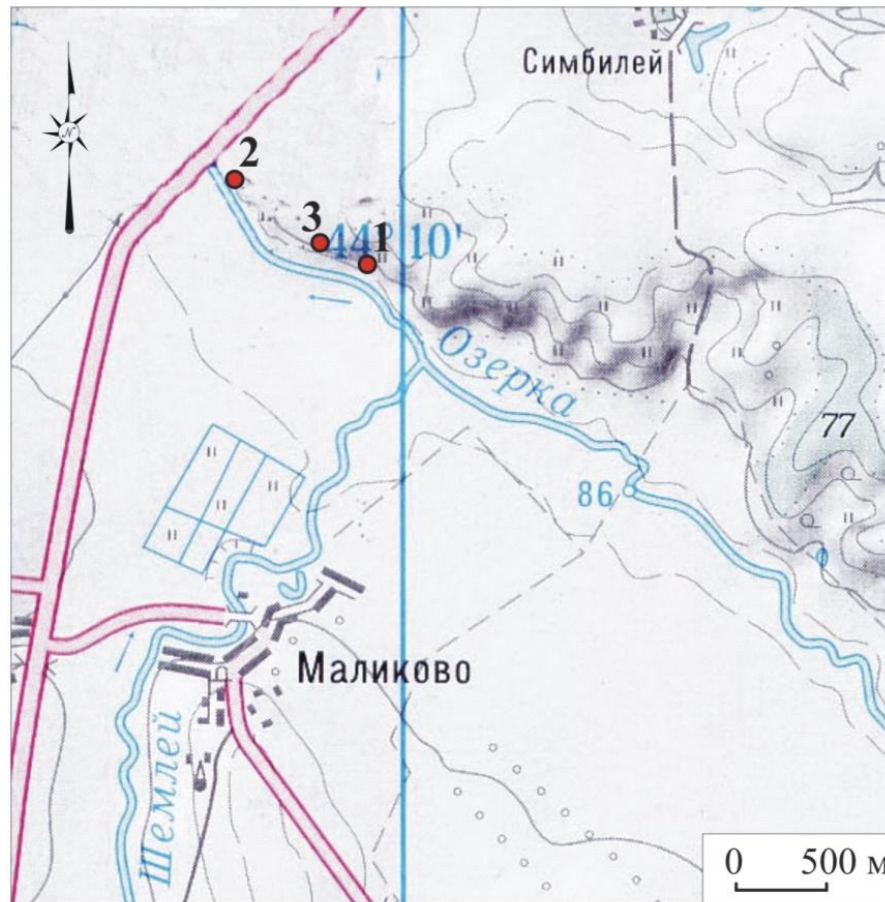


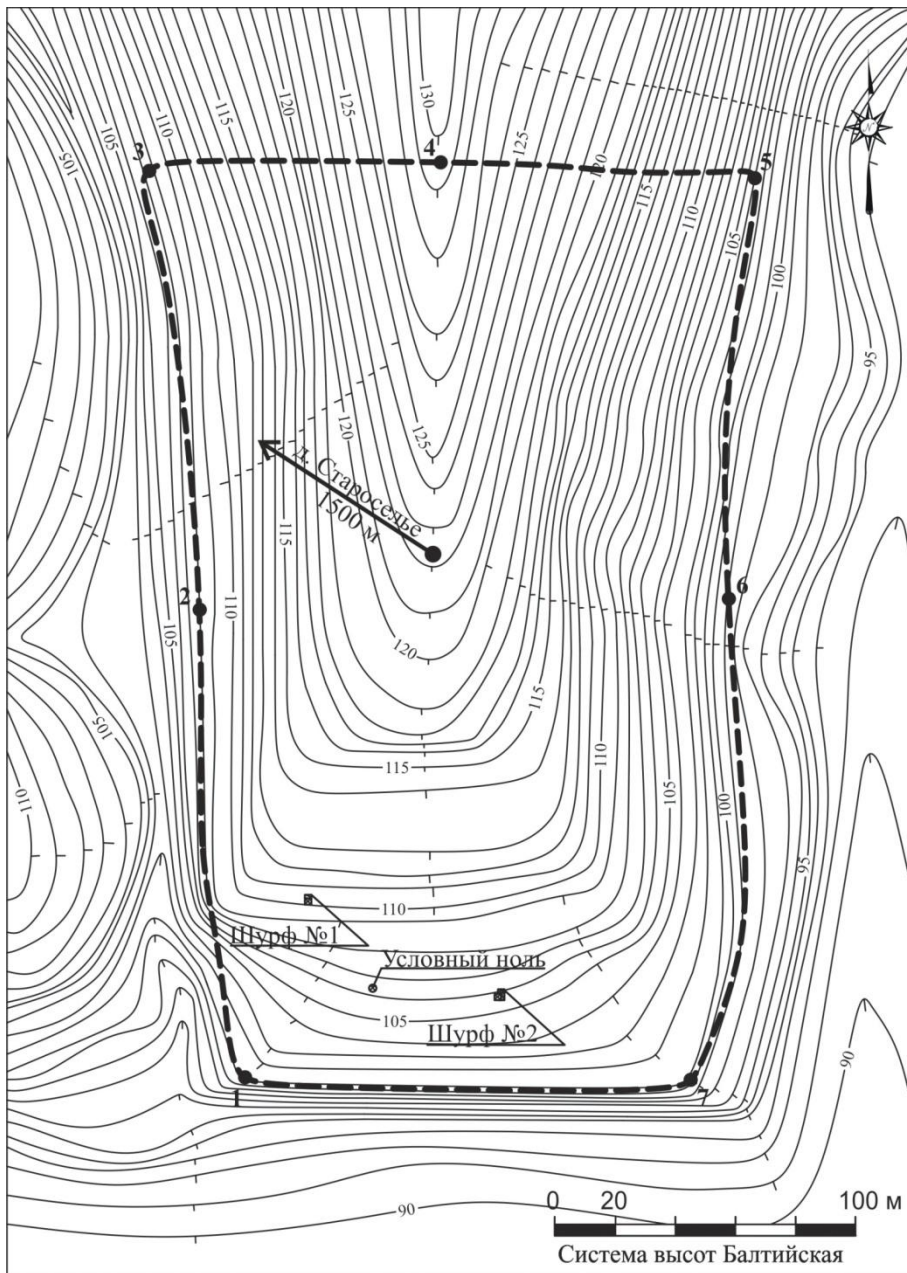
The Mordovian female grave of XIIIth century at the Staroselsky cemetery





1 - могильник Староселье 3; 2 - селище Староселье 1 (Флягин, 1988);
3 - поселение Староселье 2 (Флягин, 1988).

The Staroselsky cemetery is located at the cape of the Ozerka, tributary of the Kudma.



The total area was about 5 hectare. It was a cemetery for rural communities of Staroselye and Symbiley since 13th until 19th century.

A distinctive feature of this cemetery is that the pagan rituals of the Mordva-Terhykuanes was held here.



The general view
of the cemetery

Scientific studies of this archeological site started in 2016 by an expedition of the Dalnekonstantinovsky museum of E.V. Chetvertakov.



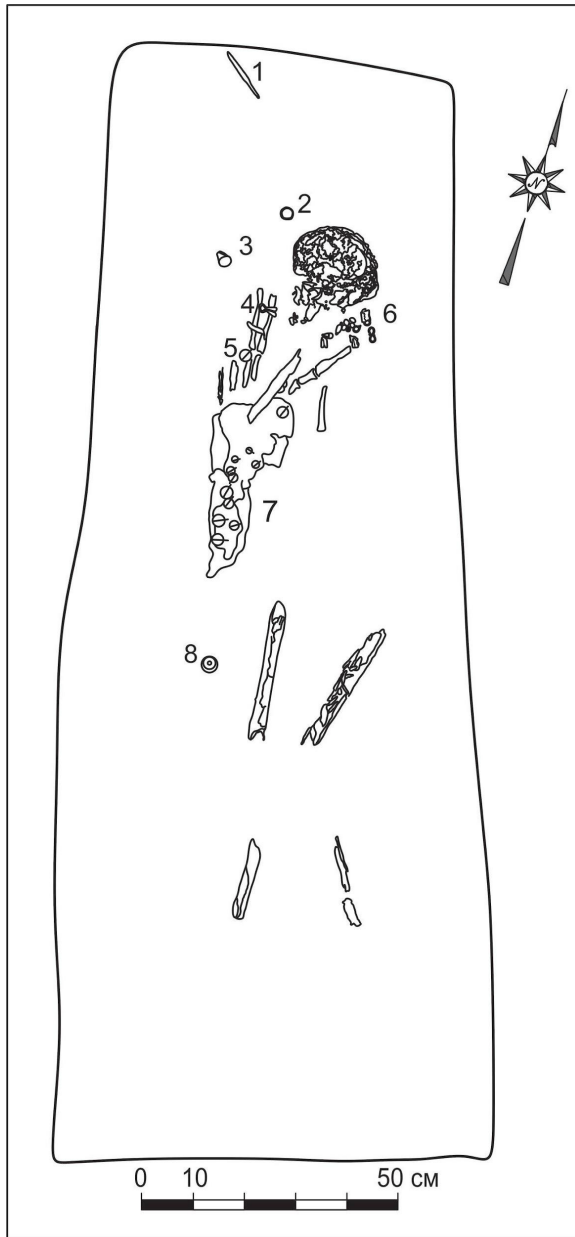
The burial does not have any external characteristics of the embankment or pits. It was exhumed 90 cm below daylight surface. The burial was made ritually by inhumation. Poor preservation quality did not let us to reconstruct the height of this woman.



This Mordovian female grave was found as a result of archaeological research at the Staroselsky cemetery in 2017. It was dated 13th century by the presence of objects there.



Because of poor integrity, this cranium was assumed to be a monolith, fixed and cleared. The preliminary exam of teeth indicates that she was for about 50 years old.

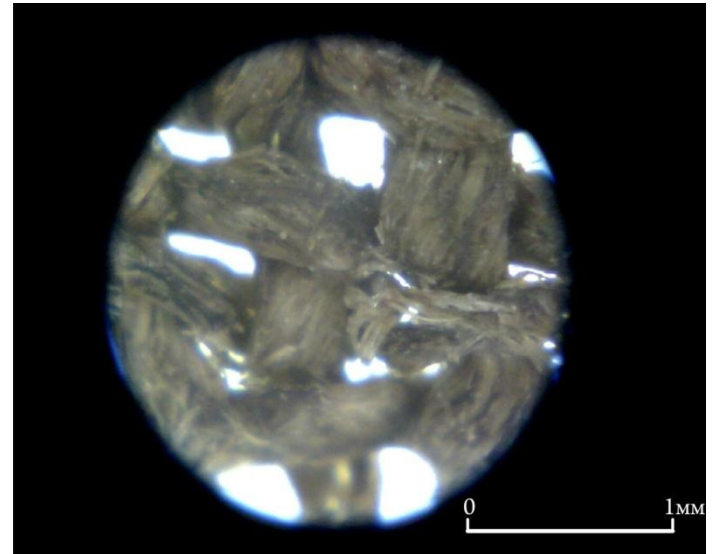


The features (body position, ritual implements and the orientation of the head to the north- west) of the burial shown us that it was a woman. The buried woman lies on the right side in a crooked position with bent knees and hands tied to the face so that her wrists were at the level of the orbits.



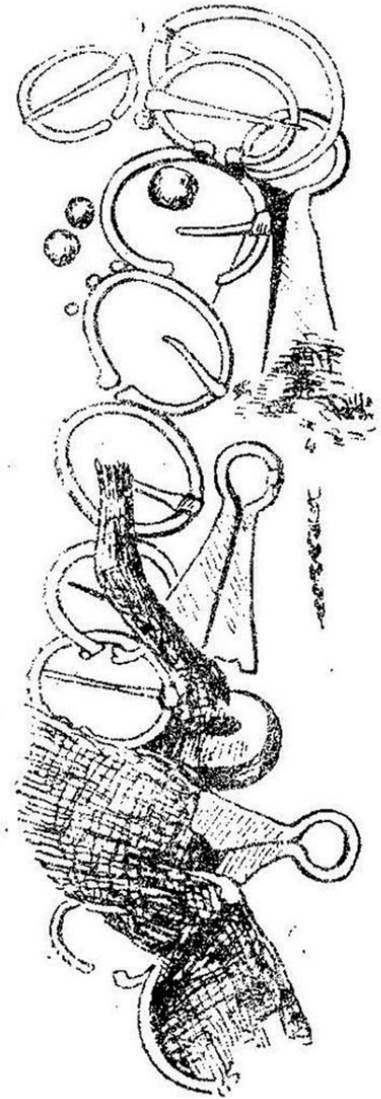
In the described grave there was fabric used as a band with successive bronze and silver fibulas.

Color of fiber fabrics is light brown, the thickness of the threads are 0,5 – 0,6 mm, fibers are smooth, twist of thread - type ZZ.





Analogies in form of such concentration of fibulas can be found in other Mordovian cemeteries, for example, Korinsky cemetery – Schatkovsky district, Nizhegorodskiy region.

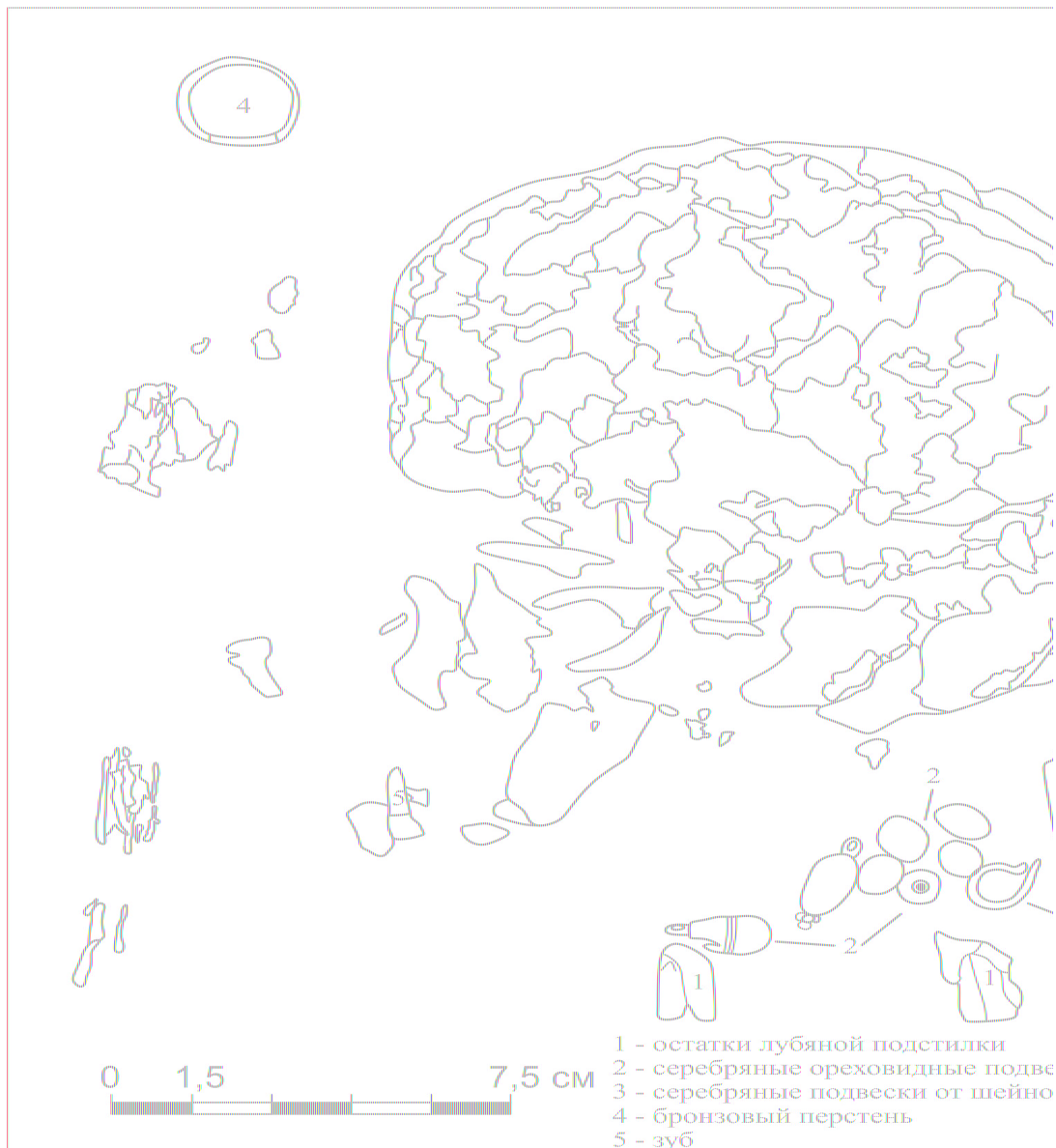


Interpretation of band can be proved by the presence of this element in this 19th century Teryukhan' female dress, in which instead of fibulas there were coins.



One of the fabric fragments with bronze and silver fibulas.





This is the image of cranium and jewelry, which were found near the head of the buried.

- 1- remains of bast bedding
- 2- silver nutlike pendants of necklace
- 3- silver pendants of necklace
- 4- bronze finger-ring



1 - It's important to point out nutlike silver pendants among detected artifacts, decorated with granulation, filigree. Analogies of such pendants could be found in Volga Bulgar in 12th-13th centuries. 2 – bronze pendant in the shape eight is with remains of the threads, on which it was attached.



Quadrifolium silver finger-ring with blackened engraving,
decorated by floral-geometric ornament.



On the back of this finger-ring there are remains of a scratched inscription, which is unreadable and hence not understood.



On the back of the second silver finger-ring with solar ornament there is a Tamga engraving.







The word «tamga» is polysemantic. On the one hand, it means tax to the owner of tamga. On the other hand, tamga is a mark of ownership.

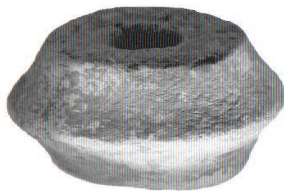
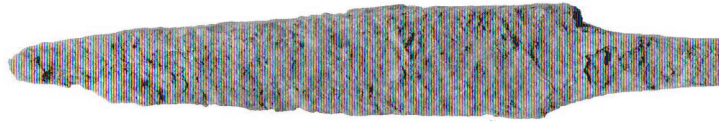


The tamga was widespread in 13th-15th. It could be used for collecting taxes from the local population.

But on the coins of Bulgar it is also found in combination « the main tamga». The time of coinage of these coins is the first years of Mengu- Timur's rule- Khan ulus Juchi (Golden Hord)1266-1282. During his reign, the collection of tribute went to the local sovereigns including Mordovian.

It is interesting that a gold pendant with a tamga image was found in a female grave 58 in the Saratov region of a Mordovian cemetery dated 13th-14th century on the southern edge of Atkarsk.





Besides the named artifacts in the grave, other things were found, such as:

1. Iron knife
2. Sharply-costal ceramic spindle whorl
3. Bronze sulgama clasp



Thank you for
your
attention