Sungir and Final Szeletian in the Eastern Europe

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Abstract

The presentation is devoted to the problem of correlation of Sungirian stone industry and Streletskian as well as Gorodtsovian. Typological features of Sungirian toolkit are associated with several indicators. First of all, it’s a thin bifaces, which are presented by leaf-shaped and triangular points. Second, Sungirian inventory differs among the streletskian by the following characteristics: a substantial proportion of piece ecailee, large number of burins and the presence of Aurignacian component. The latter include core burins and core scrapers, as well as the points on the micro-blades. Certain forms of bifacial points, numerous series of side-scrapers, and predominance of flakes in the manufacture of tools are the basis to include Sungir to the group of Streletskian sites. The characteristics of stone inventory, on the basis of which Sungir can be attributed to the Streletskian, at the same time, allow us to compare this site with final Szeletian of Central Europe.

Now this conclusion is not refuted by the presence of Aurignacian types, because the same pattern is seen in some Szeletian sites of Central Europe. Moreover, a few sites were excavated in Eastern Europe in the last decades, toolkit of which is similar to streletskian and at the same time contains Aurignacian types. It is primarily the site of Garchi I, located in the North-East of European part of Russia and the site of Vys, located in the Central part of Ukraine. The stone inventory of the Garchi I, excavated by P.Yu. Pavlov, includes bifacial triangular points with straight and concave base, as well as leaf-shaped bifaces. This combination of forms is similar to sungirian one. In addition, there are also core scrapers, end cores for microblades, and the microblades, piece ecailee made of massive flakes, side-scrapers in the inventory of the Garchi I site. This whole set is characteristic also for Sungir. Bifacial triangular points with a concave base, and leaf-shaped points, as well as Aurignacian types of scrapers were found during the excavation of the site of Vys. Another site, Biruchya Balka 2, was excavated by E. A. Matiukhin in the lower reaches of the Seversky Donets River. Stone tools of the third horizon of this site is characterized by thin triangular bifacial points with a concave base, on the one hand, and edge-faceted cores for micro-blades, and series of micro-blades – on the other. L. L. Zaliznyak with coauthors notes that the combination of thin bifaces and Aurignacian forms is characteristic of Szeletian techno-complexes only in Central Europe.

Comparative analysis of the sites of Sungir, Garchi I, Biruchya Balka 2, Vys, Streletskian and Gorodtsovian sites from Kostenki leads to the conclusion that the so-called Streletskaya culture is the regional manifestation of the Final Szeletian in the Eastern Europe.

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