Jan Szymkiewicz

Poznań

TROJAN ANTIQUITIES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN POZNAŃ

There has been an increasing interest in a fuller presentation of Heinrich Schliemann, one that would include critical evaluation of the biographical facts presented by him. Such a critical approach would by no means diminish the importance of Schliemann’s archaeological discoveries, among which the most remarkable one was locating the Homeric Troy in the hill of Hissarlik in Troas.

Schliemann’s archaeological finds have also attracted attention and attempts should be made to determine their age more exactly.

Yet another problem connected with Schliemann’s excavations is the war history of his Berlin collection. As is well known, Schliemann, encouraged by Rudolf Virchow, the president of “Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie,

---


3 As for the Trojan antiquities, which are what we are most interested in, apart from works by Schliemann himself, the fundamental work is H. Schmidt’s, Heinrich Schliemann’s Sammlung trojanischer Altertümer, Berlin 1902. Another attempt at making the dating and classification of ceramic vessels more exact is undoubtedly Ch. Podzuweit’s, Trojanische Gefäßformen der Frühbronzezeit in Anatolien, der Ägäis und angrenzenden Gebieten. Ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Stratigraphie, Mainz 1979.
Ethnologie und Vorgeschichte", presented his archaeological collection to the State in 1881. His further excavations enlarged the collection. Until the outbreak of the Second World War, its main part was stored in "Staatliches Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte" in Berlin. Towards the end of the war the collection was secured and placed in different locations in and out Berlin. A part of the objects was found. What happened to the others has not been determined. This question has aroused interest also in Poland, as it was here that one of the hiding places was located. Quite unexpectedly, earlier conjectures turned out partly right. In the end of 1986, in the palace grounds in Pierusza in Wroclaw province (German Peruscher) a place was found where a part of German archaeological finds, including some from Schliemann's collection, was supposed to be hidden towards the end of the war. So far, no Trojan vessels have been identified among the ceramic fragments discovered. Excavation works in Pierusza are carried out by "Ośrodek Archeologiczno-Konservatorski" (Center for Archaeology and Conservation) in Wroclaw. In March 1987 Polish TV broadcast a special program Z Troi do Wroclawia (From Troy to Wroclaw), devoted to the research works in Pierusza.

Presently, three large groups of antiquities from Troy are known. They are in "Museum für Ur- und Frühgeschichte der Staatlichen Museen" in East Berlin, in "Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte" in West Berlin and in Archaeological Museum in Istanbul, where the collected objects come from American excavations made in the thirties (1932—1938). A small group of finds was presented by Schliemann to the National Museum in Copenhagen in 1885. The remaining small collections take their beginning from Schliemann's Berlin collection. At the turn of the nineteenth century it was arranged and a considerable number of doubles was separated from the Trojan antiquities. They were divided between two museums in Athens and fifteen museums and twenty universities and academies in the "Reich", including the institutions located in the Polish territories then under Prussian occupation. Groups of these antiquities were to be sent to Branicowo in Elbląg province (German Braunsberg) — "Königliches Lyceum Hosianum"; Gdańsk (German Danzig) — "Westpreussisches Provinzialmuseum"; Poznań (German Posen) — "Provinzialmuseum"; and to Wroclaw (German Bre-

---

4 H. Schmidt, op. cit., pp. III—IV.
4 H. Kawka, Czarny blask złota, 1974; articles in the newspaper "Kurier Polski".
2 Znalézisko z Pieruszy rekonstruowane w Krakowie, "Echo Krakowa", 1987, No. 61.
slau) — "Archäologisches Universitäts-Museum". Here, again we can note close relation between Schliemann's collection and Polish territories.

At the present moment we are in possession of materials which make it possible to reconstruct the history of the Poznań collection. In the preserved inventory book of the "Provinzialmuseum" 10 there is a short note, dated October 25, 1902, acknowledging the receipt of two crates of doubles from Schliemann's collection sent as a gift by the Management of the Royal Museums in Berlin 11. In the German Museum antiquities were not separated from other collected objects and the only genuine antiquities exhibited were a few items from ancient Egypt 12.

In 1919, after Poland had regained independence, "Muzeum Wielkopolskie" (Museum of Great Poland) was founded in Poznań, basing on Polish collections and collections from the German museum, which were taken over. Along with other antiquities, objects from Schliemann's collections came into the Museum's possession, and until 1939 the University of Poznań had the run of the collection using it as a teaching aid for specialist archaeology classes. During German occupation (1939–1945) the Polish museum was replaced by the reactivated "Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum". On February 28, 1941 the Poznań group of Trojan antiquities was sent to "Landesamt für Vorgeschichte" 13 where there was a collection of archaeological finds from local excavations. Military operations in 1945 brought about considerable devastation of the museum exhibits. Most of the objects from the Poznań collection of antiquities was either scattered or destroyed, including the Trojan antiquities. In 1945, when the war ended and "Muzeum Wielkopolskie" 14 was reestablished, antiquities were separated from the archaeological collection and Department of Antiquities was founded. It is in this Department that the remaining part of the Poznań collection of Trojan antiquities is kept.

Groups of antiquities from the four places in Poland can now be partly reconstructed on the basis of information in H. Schmidt's book 15. The Ve-

---

10 During partitions, in 1857, „Muzeum starożytności polskich i słowiańskich" (Museum of Polish and Slavic Antiquities), attached to „Poznański Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk" (Poznań Society of the Friends of Sciences), was founded in Poznań (later, its name was changed to the Międzyrzyski's Museum) and in 1894, basing on the collections of „Historische Gesellschaft für die Provinz Posen", German „Provinzialmuseum" was established (later to become „Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum"). In addition to the leading collections antiquities were collected too in these museums. Antiquities from both these institutions are presently in the National Museum in Poznań.

11 Zugangs buch 1894— Historische Gesellschaft für die Provinz Posen, 1502, No. 441. In the Archives of the National Museum in Poznań.


13 Zugangs buch 1894—. No. 441.

14 In 1950 „Muzeum Wielkopolskie" changed its name to „Muzeum Narodowe" (National Museum).

15 Cf. note 9.
rzeichnis ... included there lists the doubles in Schliemann's collection along
with names of places to which they were sent and the catalogue designation
of the corresponding objects in the model Berlin collection. For those en-
tries where the number of doubles is considerably bigger than the number
of places listed there is no information how many items were sent to a given
collection and the state of preservation of the doubles is not individually
specified. Hence, the list of doubles which were sent to Polish territories
made on the basis of Schmidt's Verzeichnis ... cannot be exact. The com-
plete list comprises ninety items from the groups in Schmidt's catalogue;
it must be noted, however, that many items were the same in each group sent
to Polish territories. Sixty-two items were chosen for Braniewo, one for
Gdańsk, twenty-seven for Poznań and sixty-four for Wroclaw.

Following the arrangement of Schmidt's catalogue we will name the most
important groups of which same objects came to Polish territories. Ceramic
vessels as well as some other groups of objects were arranged stratigraphi-
cally in the catalogue. The vessels sent comprised those from the settlement
layers II—V, including vessels representing all three stages of development
of pottery techniques in Troy (distinguished by Schmidt), containers and
ordinary vessels as well as vessels from the layers VI—VII, though the form
of these imitated earlier ones. There were no imported vessels, Mycenaeans
or others, or their local imitations. Out of the huge amount of whorls the
ones chosen were ceramic whorls representing the basic types: unornamented
and ornamented ones as well as those made from fragments of vessels. The
other objects (excluding the treasures) were listed in the last part of the ca-
talogue as "Einzelfunde". From the collection of metal objects were chosen
decorative objects in the form of pins with rounded heads. From the group
of objects connected with religion the ones chosen as doubles were idols and
those sent to Polish territories were made of stone. The varied group of house-
hold utensils and tools in the Polish list consists of as many twenty-seven
tems. These include, among others, loom weights and sinkers, stone knives,

16 The list of types of objects sent to Poznań according to Verzeichnis ...: Keramik. Stülpdeckel
(Cat. No. 460), Tasse (Cat. Nos. 677—678, 1626—1634), Teller (Cat. Nos. 891—900), Becher
(Cat. Nos. 958—997), Geschätzvase (Cat. Nos. 1033—1040), Vorratsgefäss (Cat. Nos. 2485—2488),
Schnurösegefäss (Cat. Nos. 2569—2572), Spinnwirtel. Thönerne Spinnwirtel (Cat. Nos. 4103—
4495), Durchlochte Gefäßserben (Cat. Nos. 5619—5637); Einzelfunde. Gegenstände aus Metall.
Nadel aus Bronze (Cat. Nos. 6262—6271), Idol (Cat. Nos. 7438—7512); Hausgeräte und Werkzeug.
Webstuhlge wicht aus Thon (Cat. Nos. 8071—8090), Lisenförmige [...] Thongeräte (Cat. Nos.
8245—8257), Netzsenker aus Stein (Cat. Nos. 8374—8379), Steingeräte [...] eiförmig [...] (Cat.
Nos. 8384—8397), Messer aus Obsidian (Cat. Nos. 8464—8476), einschneidige Säge (Cat. Nos.
8497—8498), zweischneidige Säge (Cat. Nos. 8490—8512), halbmondformige [...] Sägen (Cat.
Nos. 8570—8599), minderwerte Säge, Messer, Schaber oder Abfallspliter (Cat. Nos. 8616—9619),
Schleifstein (Cat. Nos. 8624—8655), Polierstein (Cat. Nos. 8684—8764), Reibstein [or] Glättstein
(Cat. No. 8786), Mahlsteine [three types] (Cat. Nos. 9097—9111, 9130—9149, 9162—9202).

17 Except for group Nos 8, 16—18 and 20 as well as in part II: a group of ornamented vessels.
Pl. I. Face pot. Height 0.297 m. Inv. No. MNP 40771. Phot. B. Okupny
Pl. II. Amphora. Height 0.452. Inv. No. MNP A 270. Phot. Z. Ratajczak
Pl. III. *A*: Lid of a container. Height 0.12 m. Inv. No. MNP A 272. *B*: Kantharos. Height 0.07 m (with handles 0.095 m). Inv. No. MNP A 271. Phot. Z. Ratajczak
Pl. IV. A: Lenticular object. Diam. 0.052 m. Inv. No. MNP A 282. B: Whorls (decorated and undecorated). Diam. 0.035—0.042 m. Inv. Nos. A 273, 275, 276, 278 and 280. Phot. Z. Ratajczak
saws, whetstones, tools for polishing and grinding as well as quern stones. The last items on the Polish list are unburnt bricks from the settlement layer II.

Presently, of all the items on this list only twenty-nine ceramic objects from the Poznań collection can be identified with absolute certainty. These are: 1. a face pot 18 (Fig. 1) with bulbous body and two flattened handles on its arms, flat bottom, no foot. On the neck a schematic representation of a human face, lower, in the central part of the body three full-dimensional nodules forming a triangle. The vessel is glued of many fragments, the rim is broken and many missing fragments of body and handle have been replaced. 2. A container in the shape of amphora 19 (Fig. 2) with ovoid body, two ring-shaped handles and smooth straight neck, flat bottom, no foot. A break on the lip of the rim has been mended as well as handle and a break on the body. 3. A lid of a container (?) 20 (Fig. 3), cylindrical with a bow-shaped handle. A small break in the cylinder has been mended and the handle reconstructed. 4. A kantharos 21 (Fig. 4) with two ring-shaped handles, rim with molding and concave foot. Under the handle there is an incised decoration of two lines running radially. The breaks on the rim and handle have been mended. The above-mentioned four objects were made by hand and their surface was faced and polished. 5. A lenticular object 22 (Fig. 5) with two holes by the edge. One side of the object is more flattened than the other. 6. Seventeen undecorated whorls of different shapes 23 (Fig. 6). 7. Two whorls made of a vessel, in which a hole was bored through the central part 24; one from a hand-molded vessel, the other from a vessel formed on a wheel. 8. There are five more whorls 25 (Fig. 6) which were not included in Schmidt’s Verzeichnis ... Undoubtedly, they come from the collection sent to Poznań since they have the same inventory designation of the “Provinzialmuseum” as the other preserved Trojan objects. The whorls are decorated on one side only with an incised ornament filled with white or yellowish substance. The decoration consists of numerous lines, curved and bending at 90°, which form starlike and crosslike arrangements (in one of the whorls dots were added to the cross decoration).

\[\text{18 Cf. note 11 (Cat. Nos. 1033–1040).}\]
\[\text{19 Cf. note 11 (Cat. Nos. 2485–2488); National Museum in Poznań Inv. No. MNP A 270.}\]
\[\text{20 Cf. note 11 (Cat. No. 460); National Museum in Poznań Inv. No. MNP A 272.}\]
\[\text{21 Cf. note 11 (Cat. Nos. 1626–1634); National Museum in Poznań Inv. No. A 271.}\]
\[\text{22 Cf. note 11 (Cat. Nos. 8245–8257); National Museum in Poznań Inv. No. MNP A 282.}\]
\[\text{23 Discussion about purposes of such objects is summarized by M. J. Chavane, Solamme de Chypre, VI. Les petits objets, Paris 1975, pp. 76–77.}\]
\[\text{24 Cf. note 11 (Cat. Nos. 4103–4495); classification of forms of whorls according to Schmidt’s (op. cit.); 4 hemispherical (MNP A 279, 280, 286, 289); 1 spherical (MNP A 292); 1 conical (MNP A 277); 10 biconical (MNP A 281, 283–285, 287, 288, 290, 293–295); 1 lenticular (MNP A 291).}\]
\[\text{26 Classification of forms cf. note 24: 1 conical (MNP A 276); 4 biconical (MNP A 273–275, 278).}\]
Of course, lack of more detailed inventory of objects discovered during Schliemann’s excavations in Hissarlik made it impossible to date them more accurately, as was reflected in Schmidt’s catalogue. In the present article, whose character is informative, only in reference to the preserved objects from the Poznań collection we will not go beyond relative dating taken from Schmidt’s catalogue. The face pot, amphora, lid and kantharos are classified within a group of objects from the layers II—V. The other objects fall into the category of separate finds, with no stratigraphic data available.

After the war, in 1947—1948 the Trojan finds from the Poznań collection were shown in an exhibition of ancient art in Poznań, and in 1983—1984, again in Poznań, in a large exhibition “Antiquities in the collections of the National Museum in Poznań” \(^{26}\). In the permanent exhibition of antiquities, being prepared now, the whole Trojan collection will be presented. Until the presentation is ready, for some length of time a selected group of Trojan objects have been displayed in the Gołęchów castle, in exhibition of the antiquities from the collections of the Poznań National Museum.


\(^{27}\) The catalogue of the exhibition: J. Kubczak (ed.), Zbory starożytności Muzeum Narodowego w Poznaniu. Katalog wystawy, Muzeum Narodowe w Poznaniu, Poznań 1983, p. 107, Cat. Nos. 62—64, 325—329, Figs. 24—25; also, the group has been recently mentioned by J. Szymkiewicz, op. cit., p. 39.