



STEFAN KAROL KOZŁOWSKI

THE JANISŁAWICE STANDARD AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT: In the territory of central and eastern Poland there are pottery assemblages with flint Janisławice tradition in the form of the "Janisławice culture standard", which means that the Niemen pottery assemblages are undoubtedly a continuation of the Janisławice tradition, in terms of flint industry. However, it is difficult to establish the chronology of transition from the pottery-free Janisławice culture to the pottery of a post-Janisławice character. We can only suppose that it could have happened in the 5th millennium BC.

KEY WORDS: Janisławician – Culture – Niemen culture – Mesolithic

An experienced researcher of the Polish Mesolithic flint industry would not find it difficult to identify Late Mesolithic Janisławice material, providing it contains the characteristic microliths. The material becomes far more difficult to assess if it is not found in large numbers, if it is devoid of microliths, with an uncertain homogeneity, has unrecorded spatial analysis consistency, and is additionally accompanied by Para-Neolithic and Neolithic pottery. In such cases it is hard to establish what kind of flint material we are dealing with, and whether it is culturally and chronologically identifiable.

In this study we tackle the problem of a possible co-occurrence of pottery (mainly of Niemen type) with the assumed Janisławice flint industry incompact cultural assemblages in the area of the central and eastern part of the Polish Lowland.

It seems likely that Para-Neolithic (and maybe Neolithic) pottery is accompanied by the Janisławice or post-Janisławice industry in this territory. This, however should be reassessed. In order to do this we need to describe the Janisławice technological-typological standard, which could then be used as a template for the assessment of flint material from excavations and surface research (including the AZP database – Archaeological Picture of Poland), and thus sort "the wheat from the chaff" (*Figure 1*).

A starting point is the classic Janisławice pottery-free inventories (Janisławice, Wistka Szlachecka III/60, Dąbrówka 3, Wieliszew XIII, Słochy Annopolskie I and II, Raniżów 1, Słochy Ogrodniki, Grzybowa Góra XI/60, Gwoździec, Dęby 29, Baraki Stare, etc.) and the artefacts obtained from the Polish sites of the Niemen culture

Received 19 November 2014; accepted 24 November 2015.

© 2016 Moravian Museum, Anthropos Institute, Brno. All rights reserved.

(Sośnia, Woźna Wieś, Stacze, Łykowe, Osjaków, Korzecznik) where Janisławice flint artefacts co-occurred with pottery (Kempisty, Sulgostowska 1991, Kempisty, Więckowska 1983, Cyrek *et al.* 1982).

As far as flint industry is concerned, all the assemblages are technologically and typologically alike. The possible differences are insignificant and refer to single types (triangular arrowheads with flat retouch, small truncated pieces and microliths of Wieliszew type).

In technological terms its appearance is as follows:

1. Good-quality, large-size, if possible, raw material was selected. Very rarely was erratic flint used, gathered from the surface. Even if the size of such raw material was appropriate, the micro-cracks within the flint substance made it practically unusable.

It should be noted that although the north-eastern regions of the Polish lowland were not equipped with chocolate flint, Jurassic or Świeciechów flint, it possessed

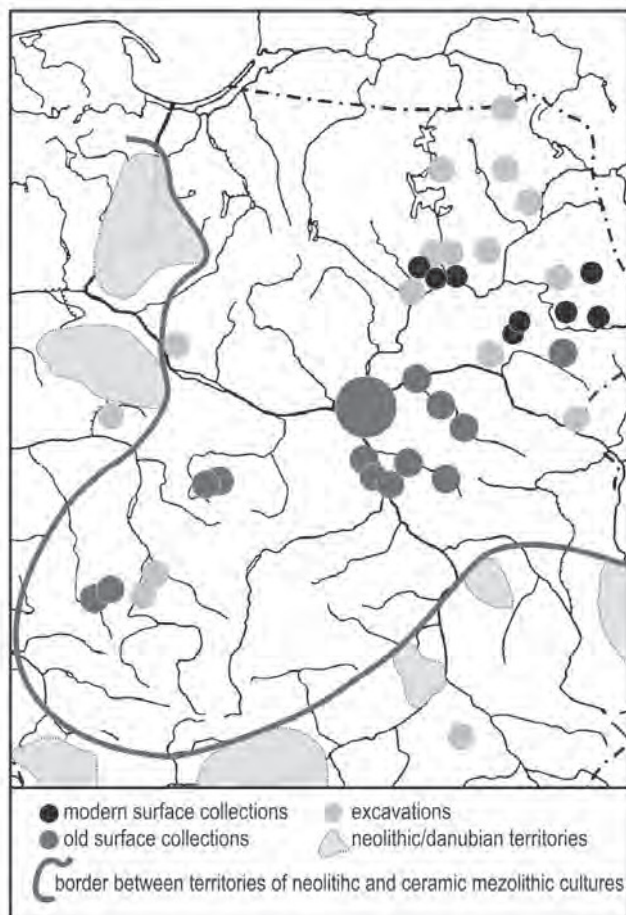


FIGURE 1. Map of Janisławice standard and Neman pottery findings.

flint concretions (from cretaceous sediments), well-protected against weathering. On the basis on oral information from Marek Zalewski, Adam Wawrusiewicz and Janusz Budziszewski, we know there were also mining sites of the raw material in the local moraines (2013).

The core was usually, or maybe always, made in the form of flat – plaquette pre-cores. The pre-cores had prepared (if necessary), or natural sides and crusted, rather than flat, back preparation. The core had a narrow, curved and protruding flaking surface with a bent lower side preceded by the crest. Single platform carinated cores for blades are characterised by a flaking surface with parallel blade scars.

Such pre-cores have been rarely preserved, but they can be found at the mining site at Tomaszów I, studied by Romuald Schild (Schild *et al.* 1985) and at Stanisławice, studied by Piotr Włodarczyk (2012). At dwelling sites, we usually come across cores at their final phase. We usually find single platform conical items with a flat flaking surface or lumps with changed orientation.

It is also worth mentioning pre-cores and cores from Janisławice (Kozłowski 1972, Cyrek, Cyrek 1980), as well as the not-fully-exploited high corinated core from Maksimonys IV in Lithuania (Kozłowski 1972).

2. The exploitation of pre-cores began with the knapping of a crested blade. Then a flake was struck off to create a striking platform (later core rejuvenation flakes were removed). Blades were produced by pressure technique or by indirect percussion involving the use of a punch (Migal personal information in 2012).

The wastes left after the formation of pre-core, at least the larger ones were semi-products of side-scrapers, although cores for flakes may also have existed, as it was suggested by J. K. Kozłowski with reference to the material from Grzybowa Góra (Kozłowski 1972).

3. The main aim of coring was obtaining blades and bladelets with regular but not completely straightened sides, a slight bending of the top area and characteristic narrowing at the proximal portion, which was described by K. Szymczak (1982, 1990) and M. Wąs (2005). The blades were made by pressure technique with clear bulbs of percussion (points of impact).

Blades and bladelets are between 7–15 mm wide. Wider forms are rare among Janisławice assemblages. They either result from brilliant flint making, e.g. artefacts from Gwoździec (Libera, Talar 1995) or come from a foreign cultural environment. Forms narrower than 7 mm are rare and may come from the final stages of the core exploitation, although this is difficult to confirm (characteristic proportions are as follows: 1:3/1:4).

Such blades and bladelets were also turned into retouched tools (microliths, truncated pieces, end-scrapers) or used without retouch (rarely was one side intentionally retouched), and formed e.g. by transverse breaking.

4. This way of forming has been well described by M. Wąs (2005). It involved a crosswise breaking (sectioning) in order to obtain a rectangular, mesial portion of the bladelet ("razor blade"), which could have been used as an insert of e.g. **bone point with two flint inserts** (21B), or a knife. Such an insert, with time, gained a use retouch. Artefacts like this would be worth examining by traseological methods.

Breaking as a technique of a specific substitute retouch was also applied for making some microliths (e.g. Janisławice microliths with a broken base, or the technique of the microliths production from Janisławice, interestingly reconstructed by K. Cyrek (1980).

5. The description of the technology could be culminated at this point, if not for the existence of the micro-burin technique in the Janisławice culture, which deserves a brief description. The technique includes micro-burin technique located on proximal portion (more often) and distal portion (less often). These micro-burin spalls were remains of Wieliszew type of microliths (first case) and triangles (second case).

6. The **Janisławice microliths** (Wieliszew type, after H. Więckowska (1964), or JA-C after S. K. Kozłowski (1972) and **scalene triangles** (TD and TI), as well as ordinary trapezes (AC) and regionally low (AA) or high (AC) trapezes have a half-steep retouch. Some of them are characterised by a steeper retouch.

7. The microliths described above as JA-C are the most characteristic Janisławician tools. They occasionally (rather rarely) have a natural base. The base may also be transversely or diagonally (JE) retouched and intentionally broken.

The presence of microliths JA-C and JE in an assemblage in the area of Poland and further east, is decisive in establishing its Janisławice cultural character. However, these microliths in border zones may occur in the non-Janisławice cultural assemblages. In the territory of Poland, in the classic phase of the Janisławice culture, the microliths are accompanied by slender, non-scalene triangles, with a short crosswise base, referred to as **Janisławice triangles** (big – TD and small – TI). There are also **trapezes** although R. Rimantiene did not find them at Maksimonys IV, and J. Boroń (2003) at Nieborowa; ordinary ones (AZ), high (AC-more common in the east) and short ones (AA-more common in the west). In the north-eastern Janisławice culture,

assemblages are supplemented by **retouched inserts** (WA-C), as it has been proved by Szymczak (1995), as well as **backed bladelets**. Trapezes and inserts are typical not only for the Janisławice culture. If the former co-occur with other Janisławice culture indicators, they should also be treated as such. Regarding arrowheads, we should mention late (5th millennium BC) triangular arrowheads with flat, bifacial retouch. The microliths described above are chronologically diversified. That is that it refers to triangles, which seem to be connected with pre-ceramic archaeological culture and arrowheads with flat retouch, which are evidently connected with archaeological cultures in which pottery was used. It is not certain how long the Janisławice microliths lasted for. In the archives of Białystok AZP they are rarely found in the company of Niemen pottery. However in Sośnia, Stacze and Woźna Wieś (Kempisty, Sulgostowska 1991) they seem to co-occur, likewise in Belarus, at the site of Lysaia Gora (Isaenko 1987).

8. The Janisławice culture model also includes slender, crosswise truncated pieces made on blades (since the beginning of the culture). We should also add end-scrapers made on selected, retouched blade and rectangular and side-scrapers made on flakes.

9. The described Janisławice culture standard (except triangular arrowheads) may be used for taxonomic analysis of flint artefacts found in archaeological surface collections. The diagnostic value of particular elements may be higher or lower.

A list of the Janisławician features for the analysed area, both more and less reliable data are as follows:

- Single platform cores, "flat" cewenoid pre-cores and a preserved, narrow, bent flaking face.
- Blades and bladelets with convex bulb of percussion, narrow butt of striking platform, convergent edges in the distal portion; straightened, parallel negatives on dorsal face; the blades can reach the width of 7–15 mm, they are slightly bent and slender.
- The same kind of blades shortened / sectioned at cross-sections (broken); "razor-blade" variant (mesial portion – ready-made insert) and proximal portion or distal portion (wastes).
- From the typological group of microliths: the Janisławice/Wieliszew microliths.
- Trapezes AA, AZ and AC (with reservation, as the specimens are known from other cultural contexts of our territory, e.g. the Neolithic culture of Zedmar – research by Witold Gumiński at Dudka and Szczepanski sites (Gumiński 2003).

The features of a lower taxonomic rank (distinctive) are as follows:

- Scalene triangles TD and TI – usually early ones.
 - Small blade truncated pieces, known from the stratified Zedmar complex – later ones (e.g. Utinoie Bołoto and Dudka) (Cyrek *et al.* 1982, Gumiński 2003).
 - Triangular arrowheads, known from the research by Gumiński (2003) and Sventoiia – also later ones (Figure 2).
- Regarding our analysis of central Poland, Mazovia, Podlachia, Kielce region, Sandomierz Basin, Nida

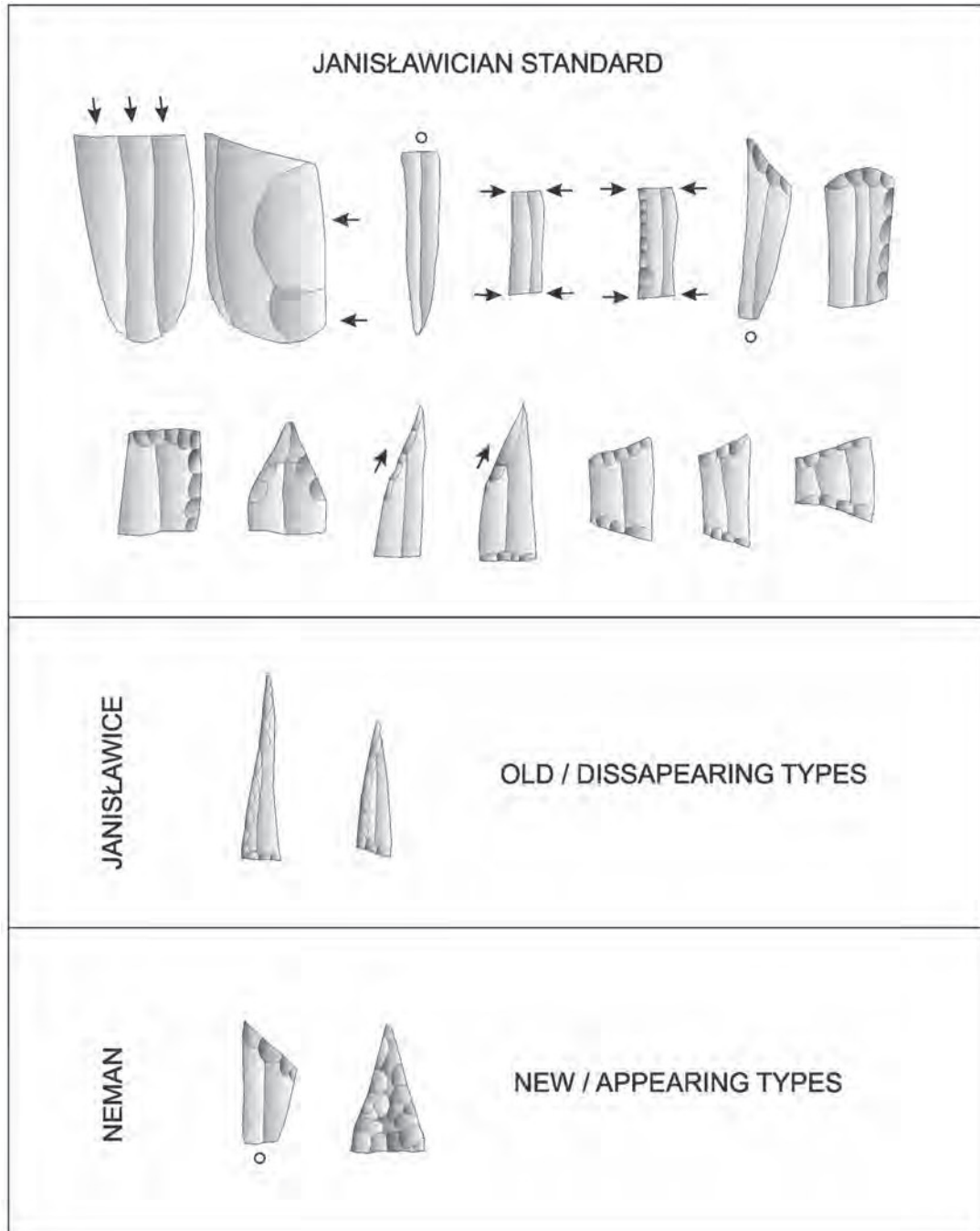


FIGURE 2. Supposed Janisławician evolution.

Basin and eastern part of Greater Poland, it was possible to include the previously mentioned classic, pottery-free assemblages to the Janisławice culture, thanks to the presented Janisławice culture features. Besides, most flint artefacts from the Polish sites of the Niemen culture (Sośnia, Korzecznik, Osjaków, Łykowe, Wola Ranizowska) and Zedmar culture (Dudka, Szczepanki) may be included to this tradition. Moreover, artefacts from several dozen sites from the pre-war surface research may be interpreted as Janisławice (flint artefacts) and Niemen ones (pottery) (collection of E. Majewski at PMA, collection of Z. Gloger at the Museum of Archaeology in Kraków and the collection at the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography in Łódź).

Almost in all cases the list of diagnostic features was sufficient to draw the following conclusions. However, in the case of very old collections relevant spatial analysis data was missing, which made it impossible to observe a link between Niemen pottery and flint Janisławice artefacts. That is why author made an attempt to reassess the connection between Janisławice and Niemen, on the basis of the methodically gathered and spatially recorded source material from AZP. I have chosen the classic Janisławice and Niemen region, i.e. Podlachia. Thanks to Adam Wawrusiewicz from the Podlachia Museum in Białystok, I had the opportunity to examine in 2013, 30 collections of flint artefacts with Niemen pottery and Janisławice flint. It turned out that the assumption concerning the post-Janisławice character of the Niemen collection from Białystok region has been confirmed. Only in 2/3 of cases there were also traces of flint industry of late-Lengiel or Sąspów character (after Balcer 1983).

To sum up, it is very likely that the Niemen flint industry was almost exclusively of the Janisławician, or rather post-Janisławician character.

In the summary of the current article we can formulate the following conclusions:

On the territory of central and eastern Poland there are pottery assemblages with flint Janisławice tradition in the form of the "Janisławice culture standard", which means that the Niemen pottery assemblages are undoubtedly a continuation of the Janisławice tradition, as regards flint industry. However, it is difficult to establish the chronology of transition from the pottery-free Janisławice culture to the ceramics post-Janisławician. We can only suppose that it could happen in the 5th millennium BC.

Recent studies show that the Janisławician Standard goes also with central and east Polish Funnel Beaker Culture (FBC) pottery (addition in correction).

REFERENCES

- BALCER B., 1983: *Wytwórczość narzędzi krzemianych w neolicie ziem Polski*. Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, Wrocław.
- BOROŃ T., 2003: Zespoły beztrapezowe kultury janisławickiej na przykładzie wykopów 4,7,8 ze stan. Nieborowa I, gm. Sawin, woj. lubelskie. In: E. Kawałkowska (Ed.): *Kultura janisławicka w Polsce północno-wschodniej i na terenach sąsiednich*. Pp. 113–132. Ostrołęka.
- CYREK K., 1978: Nieznane zabytki z grobu w Janisławicach, woj. skierniewickie, i nowe obserwacje nad tym zespołem. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 43, 2: 213–226.
- CYREK K., 1980: Eine bisher unbekannte Methode der Mikrolithen-Produktion. *Veröffentlichungen des Museums für Ur- und Frühgeschichte Potsdam* 14/15, 285–288.
- CYREK K., GRYGIEL R., NOWAK K., 1982: Mezolit ceramiczny w środkowej i północno-wschodniej Polsce i jego związki z neolitycznymi kulturami niżowymi. *Prace i Materiały Muzeum Archeologicznego i Etnograficznego w Łodzi, Seria Archeologiczna* 29, 5–70.
- CYREK M., CYREK K., 1980: La sépulture mésolithique de Janisławice. *Inventaria Archeologia* 44, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa–Łódź.
- GUMIŃSKI W., 2003: Szczepanki 8: nowe stanowisko torfowe kultury Zedmar na Mazurach. *Światowit: rocznik poświęcony archeologii przeddziewowej i badaniom pierwotnej kultury polskiej i słowiańskiej*, 5.B: 53–104.
- ISAENKO V. F., 1987: *Pervobytnye kultury Polesya. Belorusskaja archeologija*. Dostizhenija archeologov za gody sovejskoj vlasti. Mińsk.
- KEMPISTY E., SULGOSTOWSKA Z., 1991: *Osadnictwo paleolityczne, mezolityczne i paraneolityczne w rejonie Woźnej Wsi, woj. łomżyńskie. Polskie badania archeologiczne* 30. Instytut Historii Kultury Materialnej Polskiej Akademii Nauk. Warszawa.
- KEMPISTY H., WIĘCKOWSKA H., 1983: Osadnictwo z epoki kamienia i wczesnej epoki brązu na stanowisku 1 w Sośni, woj. łomżyńskie. *Polskie badania archeologiczne* 22. Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich. Wrocław.
- KOZŁOWSKI S. K., 1972: *Pradzieje ziem polskich od IX do V tysiąclecia p.n.e.* Warszawa.
- LIBERA J., TALAR A., 1990: Obozowisko kultury janisławickiej w Gwoźdźcu, stan. 9, gm. Bojanów, woj. Tarnobrzeg, w świetle badań 1966–1967. *Sprawozdania Archeologiczne* 42: 9–67.
- SCHILD R., KRÓLIK H., MARCZAK M., 1985: *Kopalnia krzemienia czekoladowego w Tomaszowie*. Wrocław.
- SZYMCZAK K., 1982: Styl technologiczny wiórów krzemianych. Badania na przykładzie późnomezolitycznych zespołów kultur janisławickiej i chojnicko-pieńkowskiej. *Wiadomości Archeologiczne* 47, 2: 131–141.
- SZYMCZAK K., 1995: *Epoka kamienia Polski północno-wschodniej na tle środkowoeuropejskim*. Wydawnictwa Fundacji "Historia pro futuro". Warszawa.
- WAŚ M., 2005: *Technologia krzemieniarstwa kultury janisławickiej*. Monografie Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego 3. Instytut Archeologii Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, Łódź.

WŁODARCZAK E., WŁODARCZAK P., 2012: *Stanisławice, gm. Bochnia, woj. małopolskie, stanowisko 13. Ratownicze badania autostradowe w dolinie Raby* (maszynopis w archiwum Krakowskiego Zespołu do Badań Autostrad, Kraków). Kraków.

WIĘCKOWSKA H., 1964: Mezolit. In: W. Chmielewski (Ed.): *Materiały do prehistorii ziem polskich, cz. I. Paleolit i mezolit*. Pp. 240–271. Warszawa.

Stefan Karol Kozłowski
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in
Warsaw
Institute of Archaeology
1/3, Wójcickiego Street, bud. 23
01-938 Warszawa
Poland
E-mail: skkozłowski@op.pl