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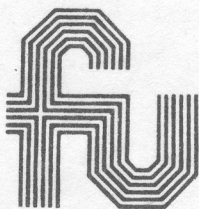
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FINNO-UGRIC CERAMICS IN THE VOLGA AREA AT YAROSLAVL

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In the 9th-12th centuries the Yaroslavl Volga area was a place of formation of the statehood and Old Russian people in the north of Ancient Russia. According to the chronicle the territories neighbouring with the Yaroslavl reaches of the Volga river were populated by the tribes of the Krivichi (Upper Volga), Ves (the White Lake), and Meryu (in the vicinity of the lakes Nero and Plescheevo).

An analysis of the ceramic materials from the proto-urban centers of the Yaroslavl Volga area and, in the first place, of those from Timerevo, has provided a distinct indication to the existence of two large ethnic layers, i.e. of an alien component (the population that came from the North-West, however these were newcomers not from the central aboriginal territories of the Novgorod Slovens but from the outlying northern and north-eastern areas, i.e. from Ladoga, before all, with its strong Finnish component and also from the land of the Smolensk-Polotsk Krivichi and from Scandinavia) and of the local Finno-Ugric one, the latter took part in all the historical-cultural processes of the territory starting from the 9th century.

The fact of the appearance of some vessels with the round-flattened bottoms and rich ornamentations should be seen as indicative of an inflow of small groups of the Finno-Ugric population from the areas of the Upper Kama. This population's movement should probably be explained by its inclusion into the sphere of the trans-European trade and by the usage of the 'Kama sector' of the way that opened up to the Sukhona-Vycheгда road that led to the Ladoga area and further westwards during the periods of military-political instability in the northern part of the Volga path.