



Back to the Eneolithic: Exploring the *Rudki*-type ornaments from Poland

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Abstract

For a long time, the Eneolithic attribution of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments was contested by a wide academic audience, and therefore, this new and extraordinary category of the copper metalwork seemed to have fallen into scientific oblivion. In this paper, we contribute to the debate about cultural attribution of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments considering their chemical and isotope characteristics (using ED XRF and MC-ICP-MS) and the manufacturing technology (OM, X-ray, CT). Noticeably, this study represents the first documented implementation of the lead isotope analysis (LIA) for the Eneolithic metalwork from Poland. The new scientific analyses give ground to the hypothesis that the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments were produced by the Baden culture metalworker(s) who practiced somewhere in the Carpathian Basin and who have used copper ore mined in the Slovak Ore Mountains (Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica mine complex). These ornaments were redistributed towards the northern ecumene of the Baden culture complex. The new owners, the Funnel Beaker (TRB) culture communities from the region of modern Poland, deposited the ornaments in hoards (Kałdus, Przeuszyn and Rudki) during the mid-4th millennium BC. The results, furthermore, indicate that the so-called Baden spiral metalwork package must be now complemented by the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments. Remarkably, this package also found an echo in pottery decoration, as documented by a narrative scene incised on an amphora from Kałdus, which could be also interpreted as one of the earliest known proofs for the wagon transport in Europe, alongside the famous ones reported from Bronocice or Flintbek.

Keywords Eneolithic · TRB · Baden · Spiral metalwork · Wagon · Archaeometallurgy · LIA

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Introduction

A new and extraordinary category of the copper metalwork, displaying a somewhat archaic technological pattern, appeared in a cultural landscape occupied by the communities of the Funnel Beaker (further: TRB) culture during the mid-4th millennium BC in the region of modern Poland (Fig. 1). Arranged in the form of two flat spirals joined in a tight cylindrical link at the centre, the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments (DSO) emerge as a phenomenon of the metalworking praxis shared by the communities of the Baden culture complex (Fig. 1).

In terms of the proposal made by Gedl (2004, pp. 159–61, Taf. 69), such a category of metalwork may be defined as the *Doppelspiralscheiben mit Spiraligem Verbindungstück*. Although Gedl has himself acknowledged that the ornaments from Przeuszyn and Rudki belong to the Eneolithic, it is clear now that the typological indicators proposed by Gedl were far too general. This overgeneralisation of the typology of double spiral ornaments led to a strong conviction about their non-Eneolithic chronology. This assumption was strengthened further by the fact that many very similar objects were made in the Late Bronze Age (further: LBA) and Early Iron Age (further: EIA) (see, e.g. Gedl 2004, p. 161 with further references therein; Seger 1907, p. 33, Fig. 48; Truhelka 1895, p. 510, Fig. 1) (Fig. 2). This is particularly true for the DSOs discovered in Poland, most of which are the legacy of the Lusatian culture (Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 205; Gedl 2004, pp. 159–61, Taf. 69; Suchy et al. 2016, p. 158).

It is important to stress that the *Rudki*-type DSOs have not so far been reported from any pan-European Eneolithic ecumene

other than those occupied by the TRB communities in the region of modern Poland (Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 215). When discussing the current state of knowledge about the TRB metalworking praxis, the absence of any conclusive evidence supporting the introduction of copper processing by the local Eneolithic communities from the Vistula and Oder Basins is of great importance (see, e.g. Kowalski et al. 2016, p. 196).

Archaeological background

At the time of writing, eight double spiral ornaments have been reported from Poland (Fig. 3 and Table 1). They come from the hoards deposited in the areas of intensive TRB settlements. Two DSOs were found in Kałdus and three in Przeuszyn, and finally, three DSOs were discovered in Rudki (Adamczak et al. 2015a; Gedl 2004, p. 160; Kasiński 1936; Koehler 1900, p. 10, Fig. XXV; Kostrzewski 1924, p. 164; 1953, p. 179; 1962, p. 56; Lissauer 1891, p. 75; Schwartz 1881, p. 2; Szpunar 1987, pp. 16–9).

The research results presented here for the Eneolithic hoards from Kałdus have contributed to the issue of a chronological placement of the *Rudki*-type DSO. The obtained radiocarbon results are consistent and indicate a 3502/3498–3363/3356 cal BC date range (see Table 1). Therefore, it allowed us to assign the DSOs deposited in Kałdus with the TRB-MES III phase (= 3500–3350 cal BC) which corresponds with the Boleráz period (Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 203; Müller 2012, p. 54, Abb. 8; Müller et al. 2012). The copper flat axes of *Bytyni* type accompanying the DSOs from Przeuszyn and



Fig. 1 The *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland. The ornaments belong to the hoards which are stored in the Institute of Archaeology, NCU in Toruń (Poland; Kałdus), Archaeological Museum

and Reserve “Krzemionki” Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski (Poland; Przeuszyn) and Archaeological Museum in Poznań (Poland; Rudki)



Fig. 2 The comparison of the double spiral ornaments linked to the Metal Age horizons (Gedl 2004, 160, Taf. 69: A6; Seger 1907, 33, Fig. 48; Truhelka 1895, 510, Fig. 1, adapted). There is a strong conviction about

Rudki are chronologically placed in the classical and late Wiórek phases of the TRB East Group and, thus, correspond to the Boleráz and classical Baden periods. For that reason, the DSOs from Przewszyn and Rudki can arbitrarily be placed between 3650 and 3100 cal BC (Adamczak et al. 2017, pp. 89–90; Łęczycki 2004, p. 70; Müller 2012, p. 54, Abb. 8; Müller et al. 2012; Szpunar 1987, p. 17).

Materials and methods

The main goal of this work was to deal with certain concerns about the cultural attribution and the chronological placement of the *Rudki*-type DSOs from Poland. For this purpose, the ornaments were examined in a thorough and comprehensive

chronological consistency (non-Eneolithic) of the double spiral ornaments due to the fact that the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age saw many objects fashioned in such a manner

manner. A particular aim of the analyses was to establish the origin of copper metal and the manufacturing technology of these artefacts. Therefore, the spiral ornaments were analysed for their elemental compositions using ED XRF and lead isotope analyses were made using MC-ICP-MC. The results of the analyses provided ground for the construction of an archaeological model proposing the distribution channels and cultural status of the discussed ornaments. Also, the absolute chronological placement of the *Rudki*-type DSO was taken into consideration in this research project.

Analyses of chemical compositions: ED XRF

The chemical compositions of the analysed objects were established by means of the energy-dispersive X-ray



Fig. 3 The distribution of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments in the region of modern Poland (Adamczak et al. 2015a; Kostrzewski 1962; map background: Yarr65/Shutterstock.com). The ornaments come from the hoards deposited in the areas of dense TRB settlements. The *Rudki*-

type DSOs have not so far been reported from any other European Eneolithic ecumene other than those occupied by the TRB communities in this region

Table 1 The structure of the hoards with the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland. The structure of the hoards shows that the ornaments were included with other copper metalwork. The hoards

from Przewyszyn and Rudki were arbitrarily placed in between 3650 and 3100 BC due to the chronology of the accompanying copper flat axes

Signature	Site	Accompanying findings	Chronology ^a	References
DSO_1	Kaldus, Chełmno dist., feature no. 470	2 ceramic vessels, polishing stone, animal bones ^b , potsherds	3498–3356 cal BC 3502–3363 cal BC	Adamczak et al. (2015a, pp. 205–6)
DSO_2	Kaldus, Chełmno dist., feature no. 1186	Copper hammer-axe, arsenical bronze dagger, bone awl ^b , amber disc, clay spindle whorl, flint retouched blade, 2 flint arrowheads, potsherds	3502–3363 cal BC	Adamczak et al. (2015a)
DSO_3 DSO_4 DSO_5	Przewyszyn, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist.	2 or more flat copper axes	3650–3100 BC	Gedl (2004, p. 160), Kasiński (1936), Kostrzewski (1962, p. 56), Szpunar (1987, p. 19)
DSO_6 DSO_7 DSO_8	Rudki, Szamotuły dist.	3 flat copper axes, 6 spiral copper armbands, silver band ornament, ceramic vessel	3650–3100 BC	Gedl (2004, p. 160), Koehler (1900, p. 10, Fig. XXV), Kostrzewski (1924, p. 164; 1953, p. 179; 1962, p. 56), Lissauer (1891, p. 75), Schwartz (1881, p. 2), Szpunar (1987, p. 16)

^a The calibrated dates are given as the ranges with 68.2% probability. A detailed procedure for modelling of the ¹⁴C dates obtained for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Kaldus (Poland) is given in the “Chronological placement” section and Table 5

^b The ¹⁴C sampled material. The dates obtained for the DSO_1 were from two different animal bone samples

fluorescence (ED XRF) in the Laboratory of Historical Layers Research Centre at AGH University of Science and Technology (Poland) using a Spectro Midex spectrometer equipped with a molybdenum X-ray tube and a Si Drift Detector (SDD) with 150 eV resolution at 5.9 keV. The analytical conditions used were 44.6 kV, 5.9 mA and 180 s of live time. The ED XRF quantifications were performed with the use of the fundamental parameters program FP+ for the elemental analysis of the alloys. The errors resulting purely from X-ray tube spectral distribution can be significant and exceed even above 10% relative, and the accuracy of fundamental parameter methods is hampered when undetectable low-Z elements (e.g. C, O) are present in the sample (Sitko 2007, p. 786; Sitko and Zawisza 2012, pp. 144–5; see De Boer et al. (1993), Elam et al. (2004), Mantler and Kawahara (2004) and Sitko (2007, 2008)).

Surfaces of the analysed artefacts were prepared by mechanical removal of the corrosion products (exposing the metallic core) and followed by degreasing with O=C(CH₃)₂ (acetone). The chemical compositions of the artefacts were determined on the basis of a series of 5 measurements taken from the metallic core. The analytical error of ED XRF for trace elements in copper is usually below 10% (Lutz and Pernicka 1996), and the detection limits for each element are given in Table 2. The ED XRF data are listed in Table 2 and plotted on Fig. 8.

Lead isotope analyses: MC ICP MS

Five samples were collected from Kaldus (DSO_1 and 2) and Przewyszyn (DSO_3, 4 and 5) ornaments. The samples were first

weighed in Savillex beakers, after which 2.5 ml HNO₃ was added. The beakers were then covered with screw caps and kept closed on a hot plate at 90 °C overnight. The next day, the closed Savillex beakers were heated for 40 min at 140 °C. Then the beakers were opened and the temperature increased to 200 °C, until the liquid was evaporated to one large drop; 2 ml HClO₄ was added and the beakers were closed again and heated for 1 h at 200 °C. After 1 h, the caps were removed to let the liquid evaporate at 240 °C. The beakers were swirled occasionally during this process. When only a large drop remained, the beakers were taken from the hot plate and 3 ml HF was added after cooling. The beakers were placed on the hot plate again without caps to evaporate the liquid until near dryness. Then 2.5 ml of 2.5 M HCl was added and the beakers were closed to warm up for ca. 10 min to obtain a clear solution. This was again evaporated on a hot plate at 110 °C until near dryness, after which 5 ml 1 M HNO₃ was added to obtain a clear solution. This solution was used for lead isolation and isotopic analysis by MC-ICP-MS (multi-collector inductively coupled-plasma mass spectrometry). Lead isolation (procedure described by De Muynck et al. 2008) was carried out at a class 10 clean lab at Ghent University (Belgium). Pb concentrations of the solutions were determined using a Thermo Scientific Element XR sector field ICP-MS instrument (Ghent University), to calculate dilutions for MC-ICP-MS measurements; 30 µg/l Tl (NIST SRM 997) was added as an internal standard to both standards and samples for mass bias correction calculations (see, e.g. Ketterer et al. 1991; Walder et al. 1993). Pb isotope ratios were determined using a Thermo Scientific Neptune MC-ICP-MS (see De Muynck et al. (2008) for

Table 2 Results of the ED XRF analyses of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland presented as mean values of 5 measurements. ‘Imp.’ is a total sum of the impurities. Numbers in italics indicate results at, or below detection limits

Signature	Site	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	As	Ag	Sb	Pb	Bi	Imp.
DSO_1	Kałdus, Chełmno dist.	0.02	0.05	0.08	99	0.25	0.03	0.03	0.15	0.01	0.56
DSO_2		0.04	0.05	0.08	98	1.3	0.01	0.02	0.24	0.05	1.7
DSO_3	Przeuszyn, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist.	0.02	0.05	0.07	99	1.2	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.02	1.4
DSO_4		0.03	0.05	0.07	99	1.1	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	1.2
DSO_5		0.03	0.05	0.08	99	0.53	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.69
DSO_6	Rudki, Szamotuły dist.	0.02	0.05	0.09	99	1.2	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.03	1.4
DSO_7		0.02	0.05	0.09	99	1.2	0.01	0.02	0.07	0.03	1.4
DSO_8		0.02	0.05	0.08	99	1.3	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.02	1.5
Detection limit (ppm)		250	200	150	0.1	5	200	510	200	10	...

instrumental settings, procedure described by Rademakers et al. (2018a, b)). To calculate the LI ratios, a blank correction was carried out and the measured intensities for $^{202}\text{Hg}^+$ were used to correct for Hg contribution to the apparent intensity for the $^{204}\text{Pb}^+$ isotope. The raw sample ratios thus obtained were corrected for TI-based mass discrimination following Russel’s law, based on replicate measurements of the NIST SRM 981 common lead standard (commonly accepted ratio values from Galer and Abouchami (1998)); 2σ uncertainties were better than ca. 0.01% for the corrected ratios to ^{204}Pb and better than 0.005% for ratios to ^{206}Pb (with the exception of sample SHM004, for which lead concentrations were very low: 2σ uncertainties were still good at ca. 0.02% for the corrected ratios to ^{204}Pb and 0.006% for ratios to ^{206}Pb). The LIA data are listed in Table 3 and plotted on Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Macrostructure analysis

The examinations of the macrostructure of the DSOs were carried out in the Laboratory of Historical Layers Research Centre at AGH University of Science and Technology (Poland) using the Nikon SMZ 745Z stereoscopic microscope (OM) equipped with the Nikon Digital Sight DsFi1 microscope camera. The aim of these examinations was to determine the manufacturing technology of the analysed artefacts.

The macrostructure analysis results are listed in Table 4 and plotted on Figs. 9 and 10.

X-ray defectoscopy

The X-ray defectoscopy was conducted in the Laboratory of Foundry Research Institute in Kraków (Poland) using an industrial X-ray radioscopy system, Y.MU2000-D (YXLON), comprising an X-ray tube (160 kV) coupled with a digital panel detector with the active area of 200 mm × 200 mm at the frame rate of 15 fps and the pixel size of 200 μm. Data imaging was performed with the use of the YXLON Image 2500/3500 system. The X-ray defectoscopy results are plotted on Fig. 11.

CT

The computer tomography (CT) examination was employed to explore the manufacturing technology of the DSO_2 from Kałdus. The CT investigations were carried out in Nicolaus Copernicus Specialist City Hospital in Toruń (Poland) using a clinical Philips Brilliance 16 Slice CT Scanner equipped with the Philips 8.0 MHU MRC X-ray tube. The artefact was positioned perpendicularly to the bore of the CT and imaged at the following parameters: 120 kV, 50 mA, 3900 ms and 0.8 mm slice thickness. The CT scans were processed further

Table 3 Lead isotope data for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland

Signature	Site	208/206	207/206	206/204	Consistent with the ores from:
DSO_1	Kałdus, Chełmno dist.	2.07713	0.84194	18.59472	Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica, Slovakia
DSO_2		2.08440	0.84427	18.55239	Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica, Slovakia
DSO_3	Przeuszyn, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist.	2.08589	0.84752	18.43601	Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica, Slovakia
DSO_4		2.08789	0.84583	18.50796	Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica, Slovakia
DSO_5		2.09723	0.85396	18.26647	Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica, Slovakia

using the Philips DICOM Viewer R3.0-SP03 software. The CT results are plotted on Fig. 12.

Microstructure analysis

The microstructure analyses were performed in the Laboratory of Historical Layers Research Centre at AGH University of Science and Technology (Poland) using the Nikon Eclipse LV150 metallographic microscope (OM) equipped with a Nikon Digital Sight DsFi1 microscopic camera and the Nis-Elements system for a picture analysis. The OM observations were conducted in the cylindrical links exposed on the DSO_2 (Kaldus) and DSO_6 (Rudki). The microareas were polished with diamond paste (1 μm) and etched in HCl (30 ml) + FeCl₃

(30 g) in C₂H₅OH (120 ml) solution. The microstructure analyses results are plotted on Fig. 13.

¹⁴C dating

In order to narrow the probability ranges of the chronological placement of the Rudki-type DSO, radiocarbon dates were obtained for three individual bone samples collected from two features recovered from the TRB settlement in Kaldus (see Table 1). The samples were ¹⁴C-dated in the AMS ¹⁴C Laboratory of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań by routine laboratory procedures for bone samples described by Goslar (2018). Calibration of ¹⁴C age was modelled in OxCal v. 4.2.3 (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013) using IntCal13 calibration curve (Reimer et al. 2013).

Fig. 4 Comparisons of lead isotope ratios to the non-radiogenic ²⁰⁴Pb of the DSOs found in Poland with the data for ores that contain minerals marginally isotopically consistent with their lead isotope ratios. Lead isotope database for Spanish ores includes about 1000 datasets, here only the copper ores that are known to be exploited in the Chalcolithic period are plotted. The lead isotope ratios for the DSOs plot between the groups of these deposits

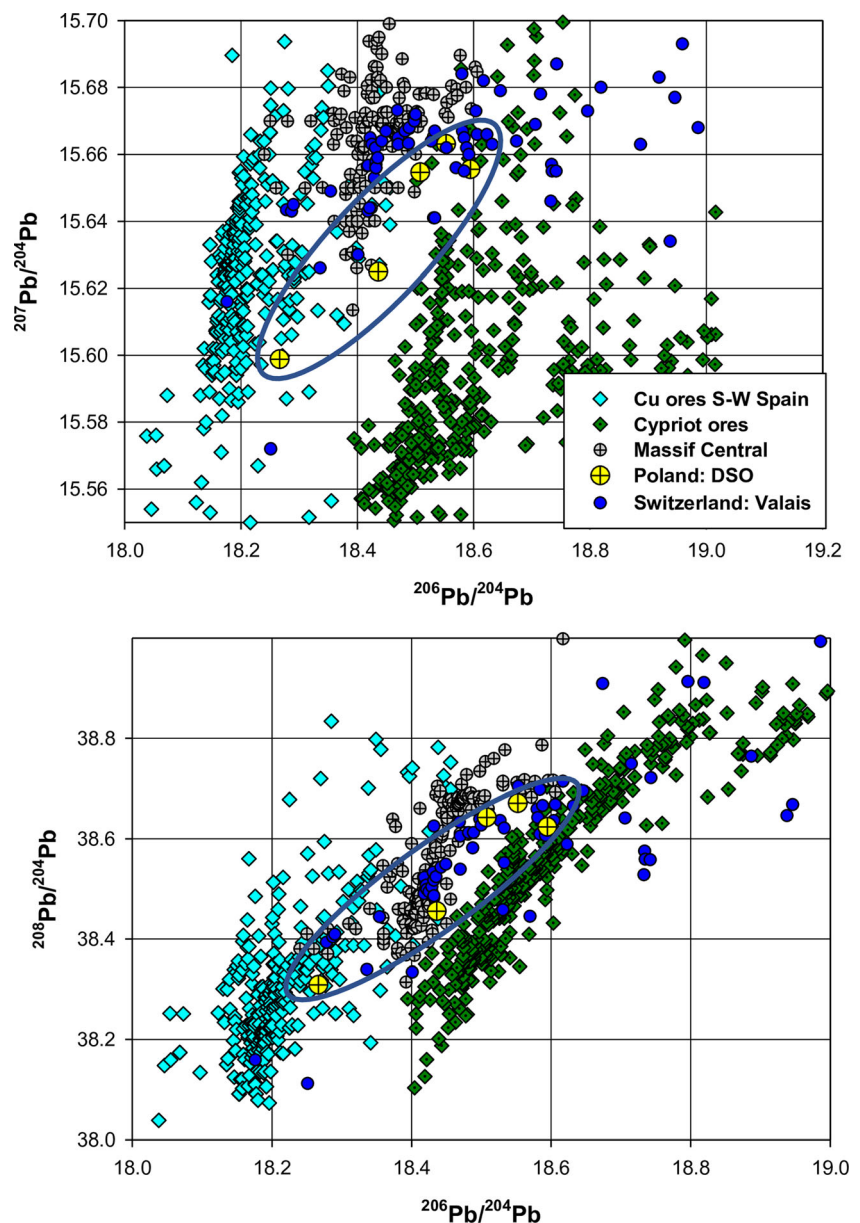
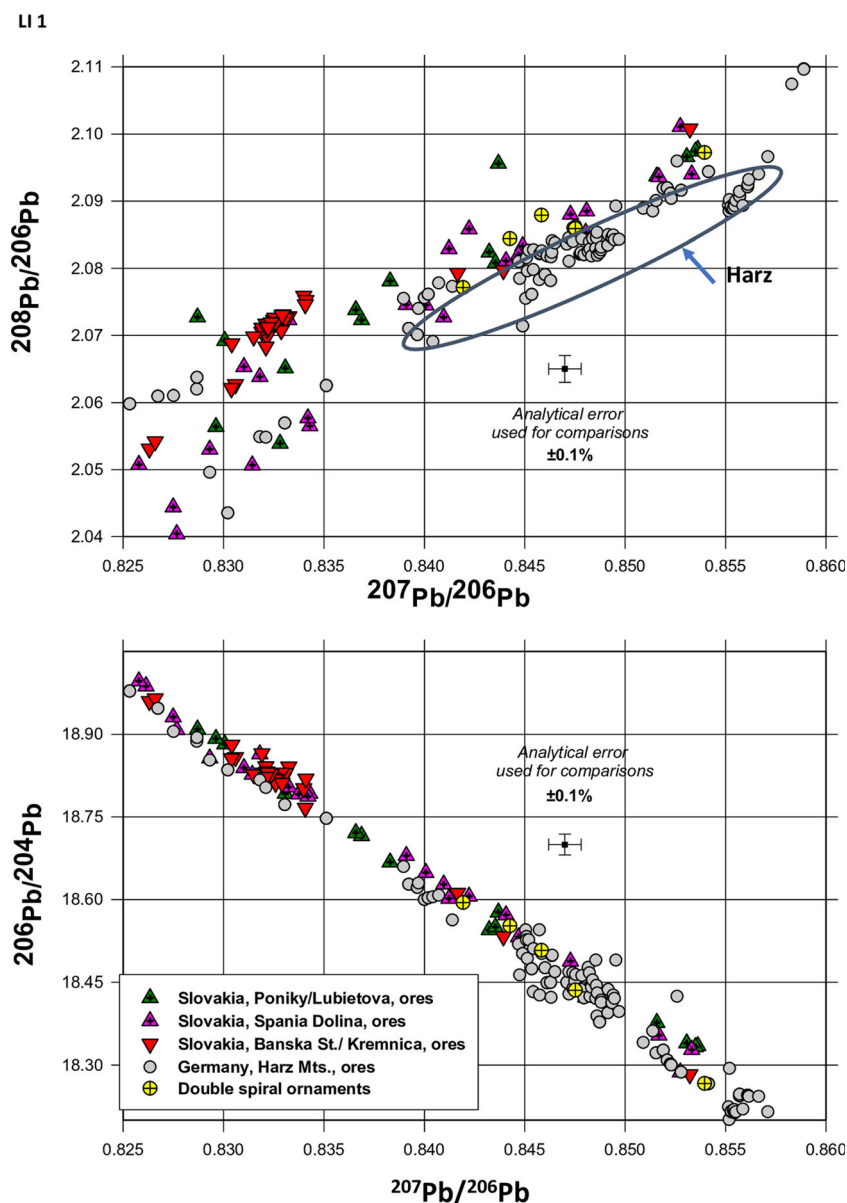


Fig. 5 Comparisons of lead isotope ratios to the radiogenic ^{206}Pb of the analysed DSOs with the ores from the Slovak Carpathians and the Harz Mountains indicate that these ornaments have compositions consistent with the Slovak ore deposits in Špania Dolina and Banská Štiavnica. The upper plot clearly shows that the ores from Harz plot below the ores from Slovakia and the analysed DSOs



The ^{14}C dates processing was performed with the use of the *Sum* and *R_Combine* commands, proposed by Bronk Ramsey (2009, 2017), and completed by testing in the environment of the OxCal v. 4.3 software with IntCal13 (Reimer et al. 2013). The resulting outcome was rounded to 10 years and presented with 68.2 and 95.4% confidence intervals. The ^{14}C data are listed in Tables 1 and 5 and plotted on Figs. 15, 16 and 17.

Results and discussion

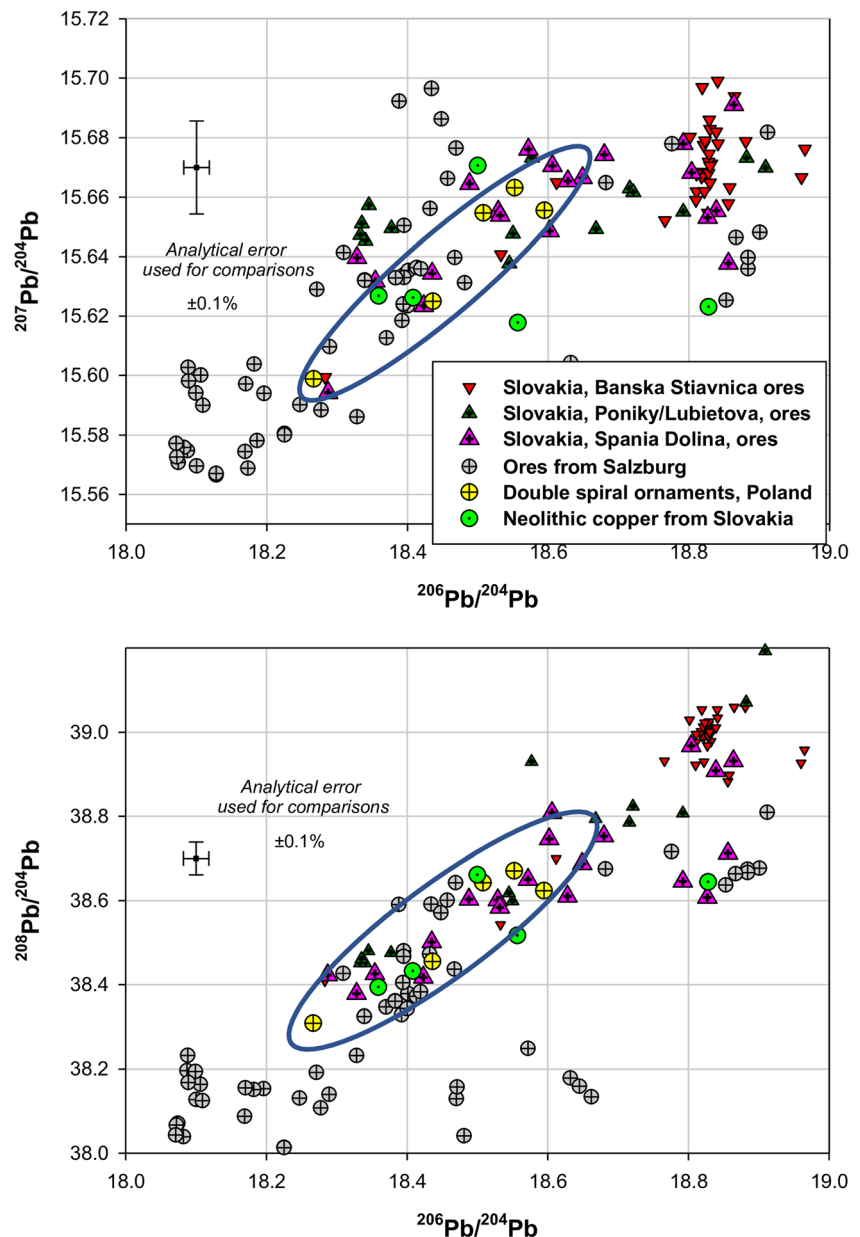
The results of the examinations of the *Rudki*-type DSOs were divided into two main parts. In the first part, there is a discussion of the trace elemental compositions of the ornaments

analysed using ED XRF (and comparisons with other artefacts of similar chronology) and the results of lead isotope analyses of five of double spiral ornaments. The second part is devoted to the study of the manufacturing technology (OM, X-ray, CT) of these ornaments.

Trace elemental characterisation

The ED XRF analyses show that *Rudki*-type DSOs are made of unrefined copper (98–99 wt% in all cases; Table 2). The iron contents measured in the ornaments are in all cases less than 0.1 wt%, which is in line with the chemical compositions reported by Junghans et al. (1974) for the Eneolithic metalwork, where the iron content is expected to remain below the

Fig. 6 Comparisons of lead isotope ratios of Neolithic/Eneolithic copper artefacts from Slovakia (Schreiner 2007) and double spiral ornaments from Polish sites show clearly that majority of artefacts in both groups are consistent with the lead isotope characteristics of ores from the Slovak Ore Mountains. In this plot, there are also included data for various ore samples from the region of Salzburg which have lead isotope ratios similar to some of the ornaments. However, these ores have to be rejected as source of copper for these artefacts, because there are lead ores and Fahlores, therefore chemically not consistent with the DSOs



value of 1 wt% (Cook and Aschenbrenner 1975, p. 253; Kadar 2002, p. 13). Cobalt, nickel, silver, antimony and bismuth are all below 0.1 wt%, while the arsenic content varies between 0.2 and 1.3 wt%.

Lead content is in all case below 0.25 wt%, which is quite typical for the earliest copper artefacts found in Europe. In the double spiral ornaments from the Kaldus hoard, the lead content is higher than in the other artefacts analysed for this project, but not unusual as a natural impurity of copper ores used in the Prehistoric times. On the whole, the level of impurities in the analysed DSOs is very low, indicating copper smelted from oxidised or sulphidic ores (not from Fahlerz). With a major contribution made by arsenic, the total content of impurities averages from 0.5 to 1.7 wt% (see Table 2).

The chemical compositions of the double spiral ornaments from Poland represent pure copper and correlate chemically well with clusters 1 and 2 defined by Krause (2003, pp. 90–1 and 322, Abb. 40 and 41) as ‘pure copper’ (= A:1) and ‘copper with low amounts of arsenic and nickel’ (= A:2). It can also be noted that a metal type that is characteristic of the Rudki-type DSOs closely resembles the so-called Mondsee copper (Frank and Pernicka 2012, pp. 120–4, Table 1, Figs. 5.4 and .5).

Interpretation of the lead isotope analyses

The lead isotope data obtained for the five double spiral ornaments from Poland is listed in Table 3.

LI 3

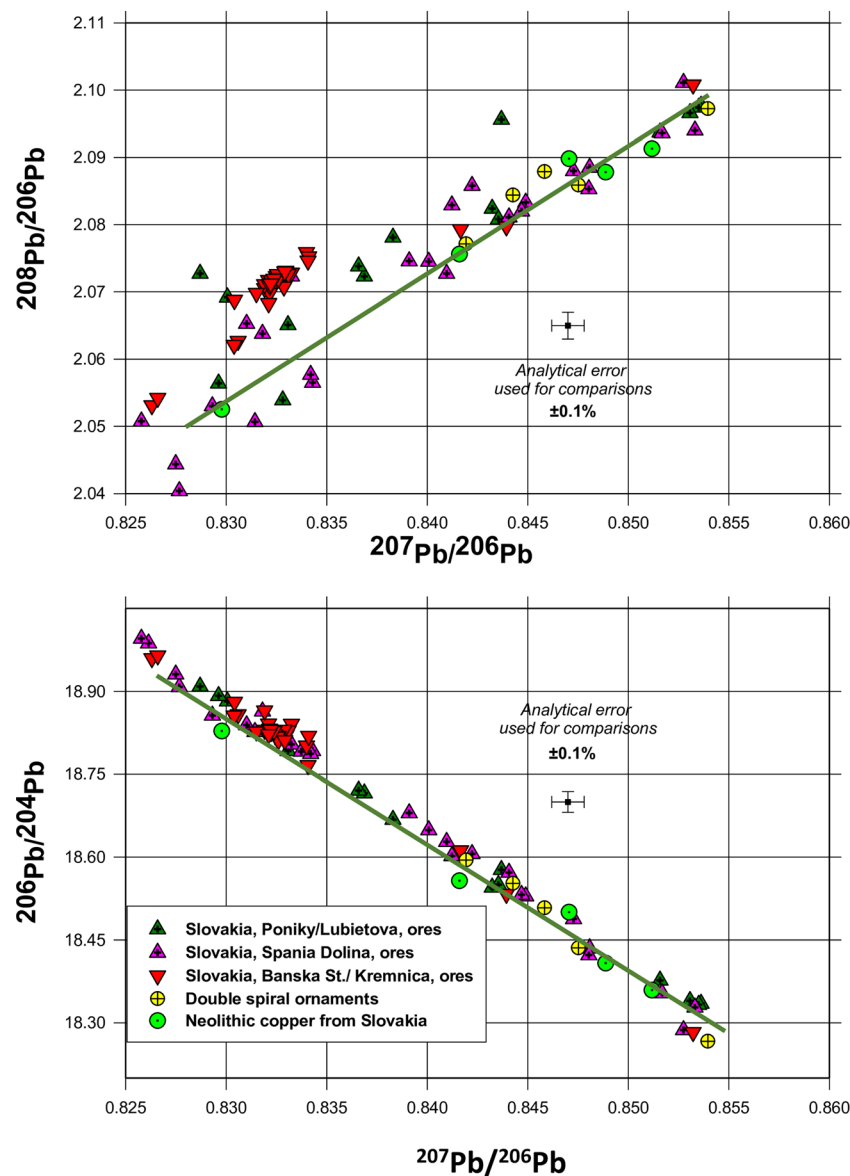


Fig. 7 Comparisons of lead isotope ratios to the radiogenic ^{206}Pb of the analysed DSOs, the Neolithic/Eneolithic copper artefacts from Slovakia and ores from the Slovak Ore Mountains show that all their lead isotope

ratios lie on a straight line within the analytical error, providing further evidence of their origin from the same ore deposit

The lead isotope research into provenance of ancient metals relies on the identification of ore deposits that were used for production of metals in antiquity via direct comparisons of available lead isotope data for minerals from different mines and the data obtained from samples of ancient artefacts. The interpretation of the data is based on several steps (Stos-Gale and Gale 2009; Ling et al. 2014):

The initial stage of identifying the possible sources of archaeological artefacts includes:

- Finding for each artefact the ore samples that have identical (within $\pm 0.1\%$ of the error) all three lead isotope ratios. This is done using the TestEuclid procedure (Stos 2009, p. 168) searching through the database covering all ore data.
- Plotting the lead isotope ratios of the artefacts on 2-D lead isotope diagrams for at least three independent lead isotope ratios (most often they are three ratios to ^{204}Pb , or two to ^{206}Pb and one to ^{204}Pb) together with the data for all ore deposits that appeared to show matching lead isotope

Table 4 The dimensions of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland. The length is expressed as a value calculated after hypothetical stretching the ornament. The units of length and weight are centimetres and grams, respectively

Signature	Site	Number of turns			Length				Weight
		Coil 1	Coil 2	Linkage	Coil 1	Coil 2	Linkage	Total	
DSO_1	Kaldus, Chełmno dist.	7	7	4	51	50	17	118	53
DSO_2		9	9	6	136	127	31	293	352
DSO_3	Przeuszyń, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski dist.	8	8	5	67	65	18	150	133
DSO_4		9	9	4	80	78	16	174	162
DSO_5		7	7	4	52	49	16	117	124
DSO_6	Rudki, Szamotuły dist.	9	9	5	114	116	16	246	172
DSO_7		9	9	> 3	> 97	> 108	> 12	> 217	> 132
DSO_8		7	> 5	> 3	79	> 46	> 12	> 137	> 55

ratios in the TestEuclid procedure. The plots allow consideration of the mutual position of groups of analysed ores from various ore deposits relative to the groups formed by LI ratios representing the archaeological artefacts.

The second stage of the process of interpretation of the analytical data considers a broader picture of the possible origin of metals including:

- i. Rejection of the ore deposits that on geochemical or chronological ground could not have supplied copper for these artefacts.
- ii. Comparisons with the lead isotope and elemental data for contemporary artefacts from the same region.

In this case, the TestEuclid comparisons were made with the database of about 8000 sets of lead isotope data from the deposits of copper and lead/silver ores in Europe and the Near/Middle East. This test indicated that for each of the spiral ornaments analysed there are many *single* ore samples from various localities, for example Cyprus, Southern Spain, Massif Central in southern France, the Austrian Alps or Valais in Switzerland, that have very similar lead isotope compositions. However, the ores from these locations either do not have chemistry matching the DSOs or are from localities that are not likely to have been exploited in the 4th millennium BC.¹ Further, the lead isotope plots show that the lead isotope data obtained for the DSOs from Poland plot between and on the edges of the *groups* of data for these ores as shown on Fig. 4. Also, the group of copper ores from the Harz Mountains in SE Germany has lead isotope ratios

that are very close to the whole group of these ornaments. However, the only group of copper ores chemically and isotopically fully consistent with the analysed DSOs is found in the Slovak Ore Mountains (Fig. 5). All five analysed DSOs have lead isotope ratios fully consistent with the ores from the Hron Valley mining region (= Hrontal), including Špania Dolina, Banská Štiavnica and Kremnica published by Schreiner (2007, pp. 245–51). It needs to be emphasised that these published data are obtained by two different methods of isotope analyses: data marked 'Bri' were taken in Bristol University using a quadrupole ICP-MS, this instrument does not allow for measurements of lead isotope ratios with overall better accuracy than 1% and the ion beams of the isotope ²⁰⁴Pb are too weak to be measured (The University of Texas in Austin 2017). Therefore, from the tables of data included in the Schreiner's publication, only the MC-ICP-MS data from Mannheim marked (MA) can be used for comparisons.

The comparative plots of the ores from the Slovak Ore Mountains and the Harz demonstrate clearly that lead isotope ratios to ²⁰⁶Pb for the samples of ores from the Harz Mountains plot in line below the ores from the Slovak deposits (Fig. 5). This is not surprising, because the chronology of exploitation of the copper ores in the Harz Mountains does not include the Eneolithic mining, but Schreiner (2007) indicates very early copper mining in the Slovak Hrontal mines. This statement is reasserted by O'Brien (2015, pp. 186–7).

Schreiner analysed for their lead isotope compositions six copper-based artefacts from Slovakia dated to the Neolithic period (= Ludanice horizon²). They include two spirals and a

¹ Further proof for rejecting the copper ore deposits in Cyprus, Southern Spain and Massif Central in southern France as a possible origin for copper metal used for making the DSO from Poland comes from a general archaeological overview of the exchange network in the Eneolithic Europe. There is currently no conclusive archaeological evidence supporting any forms of cultural contact between the Eneolithic communities from Cyprus and Southern Spain with the dominium of the Baden culture complex (see, e.g. Furholt 2009; Sochacki 1981).

² The beginnings of copper mining in Central Slovakia are placed in the Ludanice group (= TRB-MES I; 4100–3800 cal BC) in Slovenské Pravno and the Špania Dolina mine located 35 km east of this site and several late Eneolithic settlements from the Zvolen basin (Modarressi-Tehrani and Garner 2015, p. 46; Müller 2012, p. 54, Abb. 8; Müller et al. 2012; O'Brien 2015, pp. 186–7; Schreiner et al. 2012, p. 357; Točík and Žebrák 1989, p. 72; Žebrák 1995, pp. 14–5). The results of our study provide another indirect proof for the copper mining at the Slovak Ore Mountains (Špania Dolina–Banská Bystrica–Kremnica mine complex) during the Boleráz period (= TRB-MES III; 3500–3350 cal BC).

Table 5 The modelling procedure of the ^{14}C dates obtained for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Kaldus (Poland). The resulting model indicates a 3510–3350 cal BC date range (with a 95.4% probability)

Signature	Lab. no.	Procedure	Age BP	Calibrated age		Modelled age cal BC	
				68.2%	95.4%	68.2%	95.4%
DSO_1	Poz-97720	R_Combine	4620, 40	3510–3360	3620–3350	3500–3360	3520–3350
DSO_1	Poz-97721		4640, 40	3500–3350	3520–3130		
DSO_2	Poz-95657	Sum	4640, 40	3510–3360	3620–3350	3660–3000	
DSO_1	(Combined)		...	3500–3360	3520–3350		
DSO_1	Poz-97720	R_Combine	...	3510–3360	3620–3350	3500–3360	3510–3350
DSO_1	Poz-97721		...	3500–3350	3520–3130		
DSO_2	Poz-95657		...	3510–3360	3620–3350		

four-sided awl from Čertova cave near Radošina (SAM 17677, 78 and 9), an armband from Komjatice (SAM 22326) and a casting piece from Nitriansky Hrádok (SAM 10980) (Schreiner 2007, pp. 221 and 251). The lead isotope ratios to ^{204}Pb published for these artefacts are compared on Fig. 6 (presenting sets of lead isotope ratios to non-radiogenic ^{204}Pb), together with the data for the ores from the Slovak Ore Mountains in Hron Valley and the double spiral ornaments from Poland. This plot demonstrates total consistency of all these Neolithic/Eneolithic artefacts with the ores from Špania Dolina and Poniky/L'ubietová. On the same plot, included are some ores from the Austrian Alps in the region of Salzburg, that also have similar lead isotope ratios. However, these ores are either lead ores (galenas) or Fahlores with high concentrations of silver and antimony. Neither of these minerals could have provided raw material for smelting copper ores of high purity as found in the analysed DSOs, or the copper artefacts from Slovakia. Further comparisons of the lead isotope ratios for these copper artefacts and the ores from Slovakia using the ratios to the radiogenic isotope ^{206}Pb (Fig. 7) show very good linearity (within the analytical error) of all these data which is a further argument towards the conclusion that copper used for these early ornaments originated in the Slovak Ore Mountains.

The chemistry of the analysed double spiral ornaments is broadly similar to the Slovak copper spirals. Their analyses indicate that they were made from very pure copper (Schreiner 2007, p. 232). The double spiral ornaments found in Poland have higher contents of arsenic, which means that the Slovak and Polish artefacts were not made from the same batch of minerals. Schreiner (2007, p. 40) describes the mineralogy of the ores in Hron Valley as a mixture of sulphides and oxidised ores. It is possible that the earliest copper metallurgy in this region was utilising the rich oxidised ores with varied contents of arsenic. Smelting of such ores does not require roasting; therefore, the amount of arsenic in the smelted metal can vary depending on its content in the ore, as explained by Frank and Pernicka (2012, pp. 122–4). In his publication, Schreiner (2007, pp. 230–1) divided the ores into eight clusters according to their chemistry. The Neolithic/Eneolithic copper

artefacts from Slovakia in his study correlate chemically very well with cluster 5 (Fig. 8), which represents very pure copper ores from Kremnica, L'ubietová, Špania Dolina and others. Clusters 2 and 7, which include ores higher in arsenic, but comparatively low in other elements, also consist of ore samples from Špania Dolina, L'ubietová and Poniky (amongst others). It is clear from this clustering, that in each of the sites in Hron Valley, there are ores of different chemistry. Consequently, depending on the batch of ores collected for smelting, the chemical compositions of the smelted ores can vary. The lead isotope ratios of the Polish and Slovak copper artefacts indicate that both sets are consistent with copper ores from Hron Valley but their chemistry indicates that the copper for each of these two groups was obtained from different batches of oxides, not tetrahedrites (non-Fahlerz), possibly originating not from one mine, but collected widely from the region. On the lead isotope plot of the ores from Hron Valley and the Neolithic/Eneolithic artefacts from Poland and Slovakia, the green line indicates such mixing between the ores from Špania Dolina and Poniky/L'ubietová.

Manufacturing technology

The analysed artefacts were designed to have very similar shape and dimensions which is clearly visible in the number of turns forming the flat spirals and a type of cylindrical linkage (Table 4). The number of turnings ranges from 7 to 9 and from 4 to 6, and it seems that this is a standard for the analysed artefacts. It is important to mention that neither a pin, nor any remains of a spring, or a catch plate was found on the surfaces of these ornaments.

The macroscopic observations (OM) showed that joint areas are present on the turns forming the flat spirals. The joints are in the form of thin-shaped edges overlapping the central part of the rod (see, e.g. Figs. 9a, 1 and 10a, k, l), indicating that the Eneolithic metalworker could have employed the cramped joint for combining the individual copper rods into one part, before he or she proceeded to coil the resulting rod. The results provided by the X-ray defectoscopy

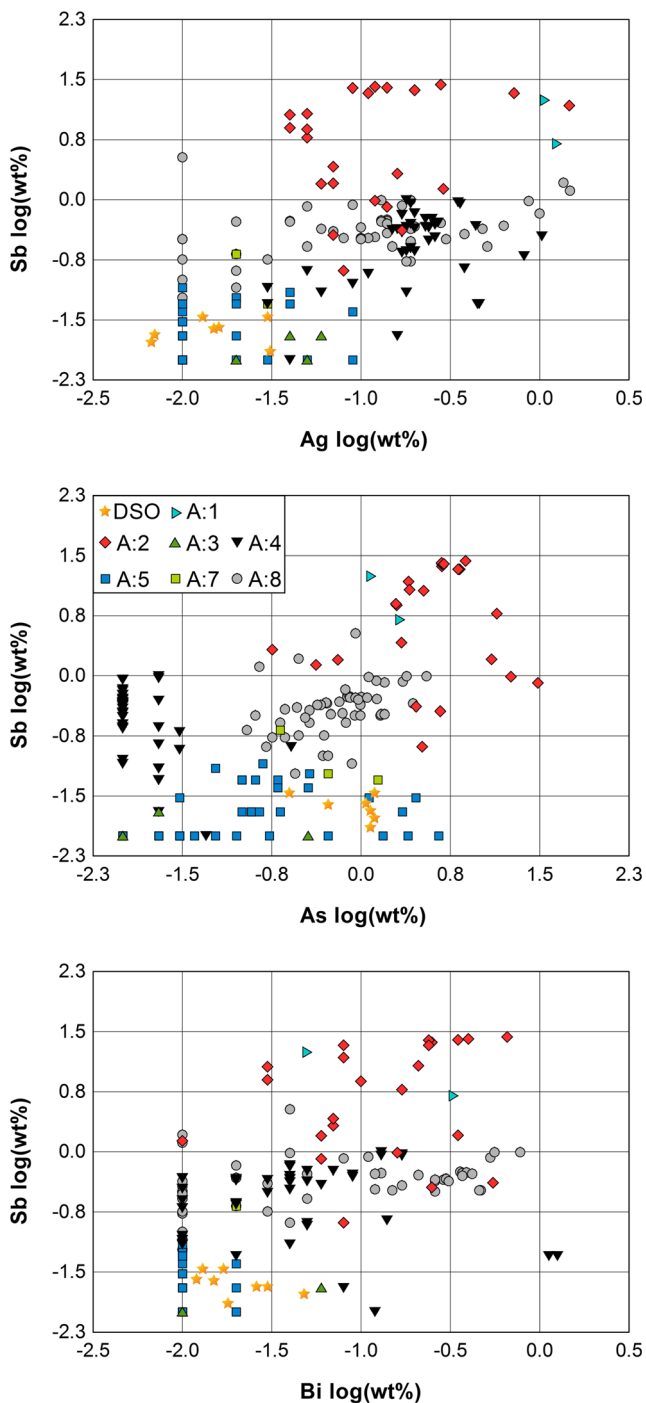


Fig. 8 Chemical characteristics of the copper used in Neolithic/Eneolithic copper artefacts from Slovakia and the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland. The two-element diagrams Ag vs. Sb, As vs. Sb and Bi vs. Sb each show chemical correlation between the double spiral ornaments and cluster 5 (Schreiner 2007, adapted)

(Fig. 11) and CT imaging (Fig. 12) lend unequivocal support to this conclusion.

The *Rudki*-type DSOs are technologically coherent, and indicative of a five-step *chaîne opératoire* implementation, which involved:

- i. Plastic working of the starting material, i.e. shaping and elongating the individual copper rods (possibly rod-shaped copper ingots).
- ii. Mechanical combining of the individual rods into a long rod with the use of a cramped joint.
- iii. Forming the cylindrical linkage and the flat spirals respectively by coiling the long rod.
- iv. Hammering the spirals into place to tighten the coils. This procedure affected also the shape of the rod making its cross-section nearly hexagonal (see, e.g. Figs. 9c, g and 10j). It is likely that stabilising (wooden?) blocks needed to be employed during this stage to keep the spirals in place.
- v. Rubbing with a polishing stone, to obtain a smooth and shiny surface of the final product (see, e.g. Figs. 9c, d and 10i, k).

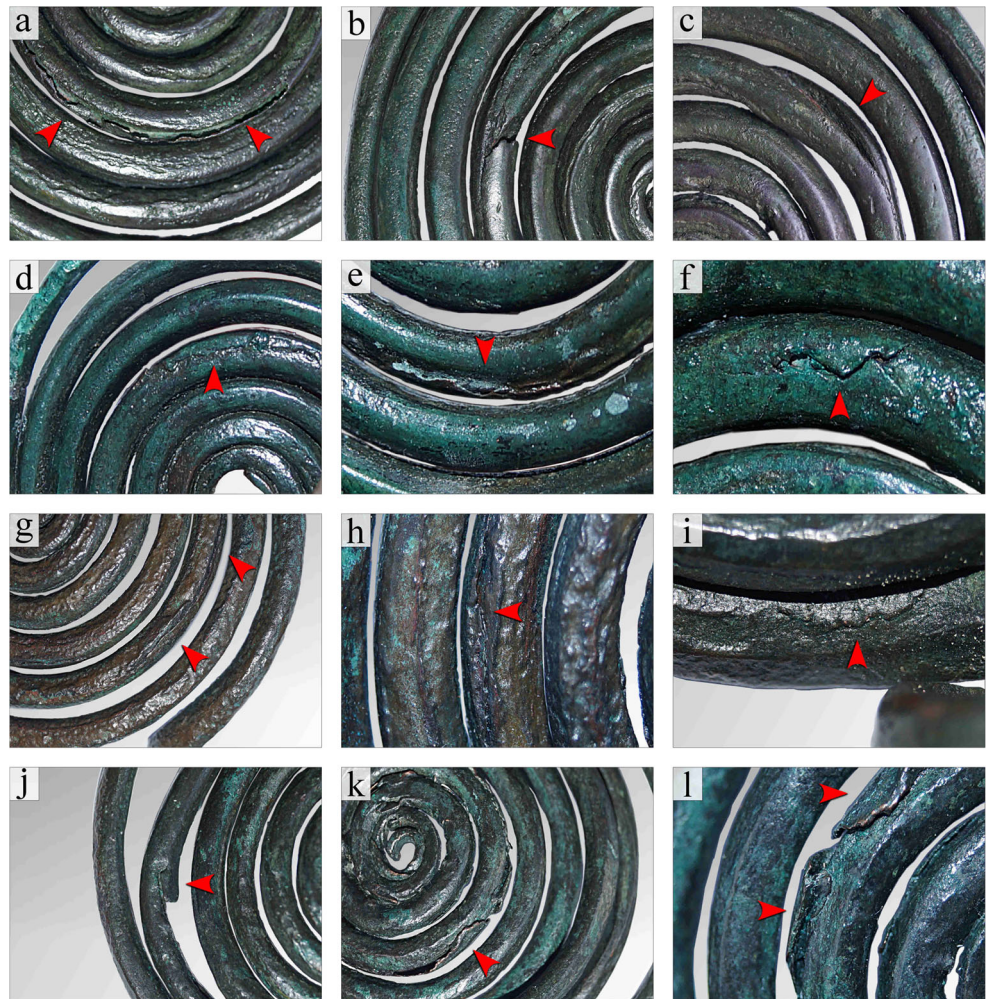
The results of the microstructure analysis (OM) made a significant contribution to the above conclusions. In the microstructure of the DSO_2 and DSO_6, recrystallised and twinned grains with strain lines are absent and straight twin lines locked in the grains are noticeable (Fig. 13). The presence of the twinned grains (Fig. 13c) suggests that the copper rod might have been re-forged hot, or, which is more probable, was cold-worked and annealed (Kienlin 2011, p. 134; Scott 1991, pp. 7–8). Further proof of this process comes from the step-like microstructures which are evident in the microarea of the DSO_6 (Fig. 13f). Particularly, this technological scenario is relevant to the stage of forming a cramped joint because the metalworker had to find a way of mechanical combining individual copper ingots into one part and to ensure durability and strength of such connection.

The general morphological characteristics do not allow a clear technological distinction between the Eneolithic and the LBA/EIA double spiral ornaments (see, e.g. the Lusatian ornaments from Karmin and Lubiąż (Gedl 2004, pp. 159–61, Taf. 69; Suchy et al. 2016, p. 158, Fig. 13)). It is clear from this study that a technique of preparing the starting material (i.e. rod) for production of a double spiral ornament is a decisive factor in defining technological differences between the *Rudki*-type and the later spiral metalwork. While the metalworkers practicing during the LBA and EIA applied a long hammered (round) rod for coiling a double spiral ornament (see, e.g. Gedl 2004), the Eneolithic specimens were made of mechanically combined short rods.³

It is not certain whether a cramped joint is the hallmark of the Eneolithic spiral metalwork, though there are many copper findings that provide such justification: for example, the spiral armbands deposited in the Rudki hoard also show the cramped joints (Fig. 14).

³ So far, there is no conclusive evidence that could support mastering the soldering technique (e.g. brazing alloy) by the Eneolithic metalworkers from Central Europe.

Fig. 9 The macrostructures of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland: DSO_1 (a–c; Kaldus), DSO_2 (d–f; Kaldus), DSO_3 (g–i; Przewusyn) and DSO_4 (j–l; Przewusyn). The cramped joints (indicated by red arrows) preserved in the form of thin-shaped edges overlapping the central part of the rod



Chronological placement

Three radiocarbon dates collected from Kaldus are quite consistent (see Table 1). A time-frame for the DSO_1 deposition was established by narrowing the probability ranges of two bone samples with the use of the *R_Combine* procedure (Fig. 15 and Table 5). Due to a significant consistency between the dates and a slight plateau on the calibration curve, this procedure has not made a significant contribution (and the same applies to the sum of probability density model (Fig. 16 and Table 5)). However, because the results of the metallographic and archaeological investigations suggest that the DSOs could have been hoarded in Kaldus at or about the same time (see Table 1), the *R_Combine* procedure was re-applied for all three available radiocarbon dates (see, e.g. Bronk Ramsey et al. (2010) for opinion about an archaeological approach).⁴

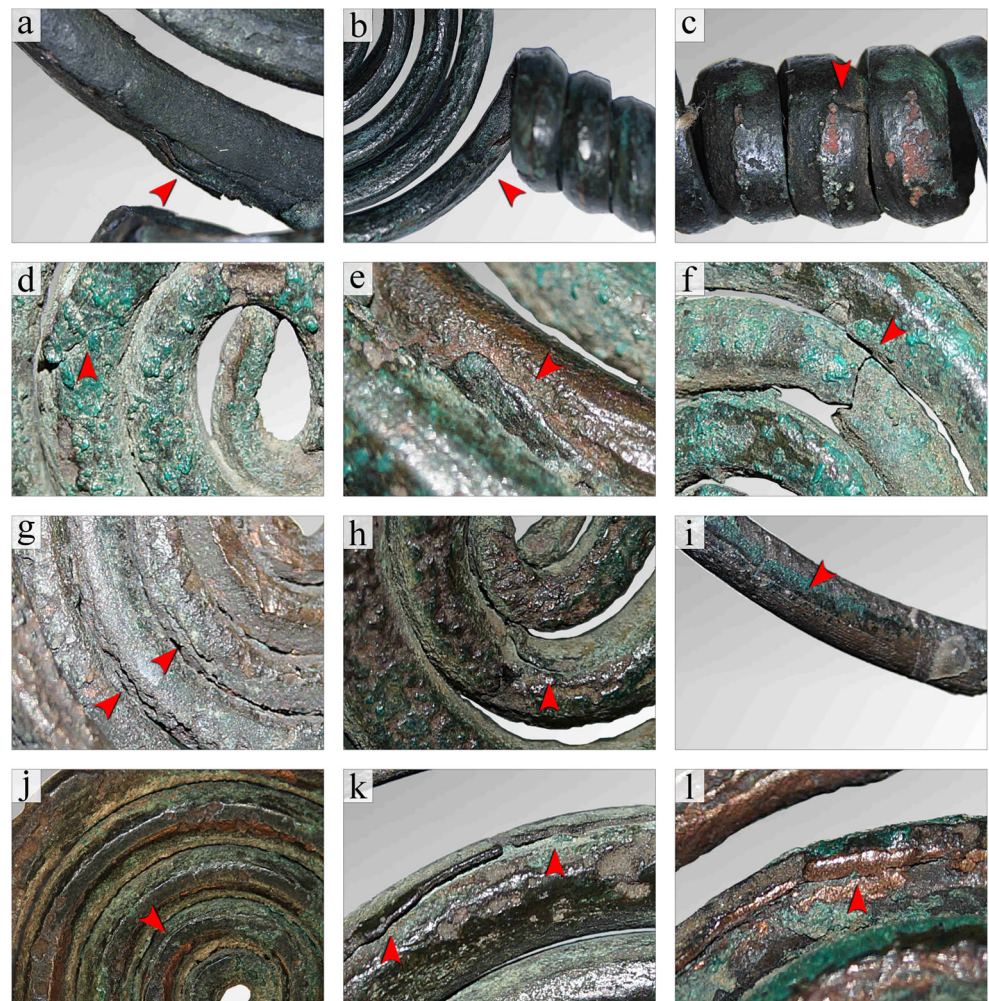
A 74.9% likelihood scenario provided by the results of the 95.4% probability distributions shows two possible dates for

the depositions of the DSOs in Kaldus: one that the DSOs have been deposited in Kaldus between 3510 and 3420 cal BC (Fig. 17); the other also possible is 3390–3350 cal BC date range (see Fig. 17). Nonetheless, a radiocarbon result of 3510–3350 cal BC from Kaldus is still a very precise result for the chronological placement of the *Rudki*-type DSO (see Scott et al. (2007) for ‘accurate’ vs. ‘precise’). However, a different model, involving a long-term metal(work) circulation, and thus extending social life of a metal(work) is also possible (see, e.g. Kowalski et al. 2016, 2017), but rather not applicable to the analysed ornaments, because in the pre-Baden there was no double spiral ornament tradition and no double spiral ornament images incised on the ceramic vessel. Also, the *Rudki*-type DSOs are technologically coherent and it is likely that a cramped joint is the hallmark of the Baden spiral metalwork. Why, then, a cramped joint has not been recognised in the earlier (pre-Baden) metalwork?

The results of metallographic investigations (see “Trace elemental characterisation”, “Interpretation of the lead isotope analyses” and “Manufacturing technology” sections) may be used to indicate that the inflow of the

⁴ The *R_Combine* procedure is routinely applied for the radiocarbon dates collected from the same material or stratigraphic context (see, e.g. Bronk Ramsey 2009, 2017).

Fig. 10 The macrostructures of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland: DSO_5 (a–c; Przewyszyn), DSO_6 (d–f; Rudki), DSO_7 (g–i; Rudki) and DSO_8 (j–l; Rudki). The cramped joints (indicated by red arrows) preserved in the form of thin-shaped edges overlapping the central part of the rod



double spiral ornaments into the TRB milieu in the region of modern Poland bears the hallmark of a metallurgical horizon, and this conclusion is also supported by the settlement pattern and style of pottery. A wide range of 3650–3100 BC is commonly used by an archaeologist in Poland to date the Baden copper metalwork (linked to the TRB) which cannot be ^{14}C dated (see, e.g. Adamczak et al. 2015a; see “[Archaeological background](#)” section), but in the case of DSOs from Przewyszyn and Rudki hoards, it seems now justified to change their chronological placement to 3510–3350 cal BC, as defined by the metal finds from Kałdus.

Back to the Eneolithic

Provenance and possible (re-)distribution channels

The spatial distribution of the double spiral ornaments discussed in this paper can support the hypothesis that perhaps they could have been made in a workshop(s) inside the Vistula and Oder

basins. However, this stands in sharp contrast with the fact that there is little, if any, archaeological evidence proving that copper working was indeed introduced by the local TRB communities in this region in the 4th millennium BC (see, e.g. Kowalski et al. 2016). Also, the apparent contradiction between the distribution pattern and the absence of the *Rudki*-type DSOs in the Carpathian Basin should not be used here as an *argumentum ex silentio* providing direct evidence supporting their local TRB origin. From these assumptions emerges a most convincing scenario that the analysed ornaments were made in the Baden culture workshop(s) somewhere in the Carpathian Basin, from which they were later redistributed towards the northern peripheries of the Baden complex (Fig. 18).

It seems plausible that circulation of the Eneolithic metalwork which overlapped the TRB ecumenes in the region of modern Poland was strongly allied with exchange routes established already during the TRB-MES I (= 4100–3800 cal BC; Adamczak et al. 2015b; Kowalski et al. 2016). Most likely, this was done via the routes maintained during the Hunyadihalom–Lažňany horizon (Wilk 2016, p. 20, Fig. 10). This trading route linking the areas of eastern Slovakia with

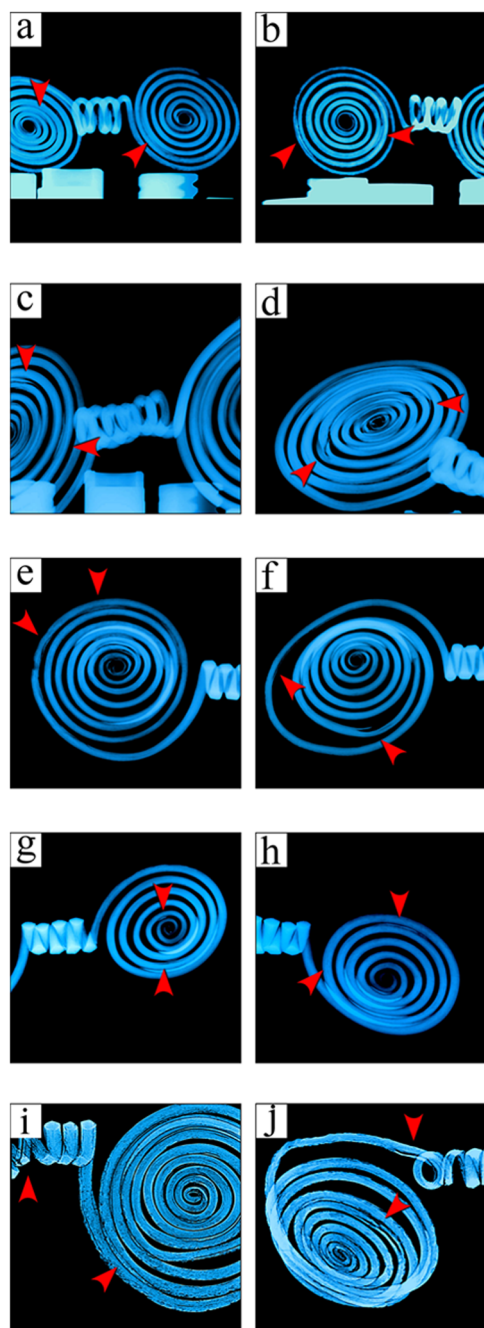


Fig. 11 The X-ray images of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland: DSO_1 (a, b; Kaldus), DSO_2 (c, d; Kaldus), DSO_4 (e, f; Przeuszyn), DSO_5 (g, h; Przeuszyn) and DSO_6 (i, j; Rudki). The cramped joints are indicated by red arrows

western parts of Lesser Poland along the Hornád–Poprad–Dunajec–Vistula axis⁵ (Zastawny and Horváthová 2017, p. 251), and running through Vistula Basin towards the northern

⁵ The recent studies in both Northern and Central Slovakia (Horváthová and Zastawny 2016, Obr. 2; Struhár et al. 2015, p. 294, Fig. 7, Table 1; Zastawny and Horváthová 2017, p. 250, Ryc. 1) have confirmed the settlement activity of the communities sharing the Proto- and Boleráz tradition (= 3650–3350 cal BC).

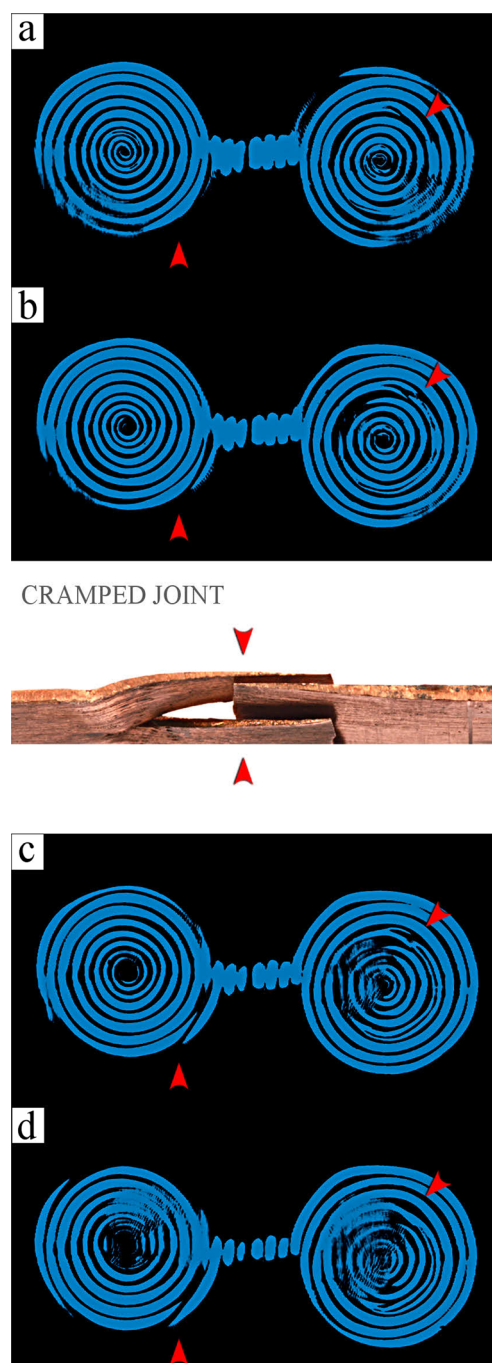
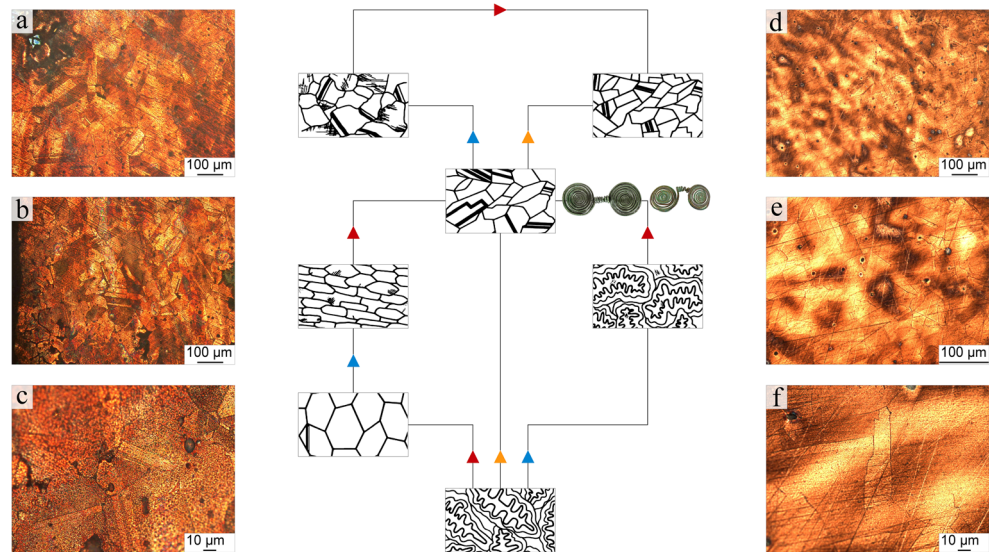


Fig. 12 a–d The CT images of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornament DSO_2 (Kaldus, Poland) (<http://oldcopper.org>, adapted). The cramped joints are indicated by red arrows

ecumene of the TRB possibly became an important part of metal trading network during the Baden period in Poland.

It is puzzling why the Silesian and Kuyavian centres are missing from the *Rudki*-type DSO distribution network, since these regions had a leading role in spreading the Baden culture towards the northern ecumene of the TRB (Bukowska-Gedigowa 1975; Zastawny 2015a, b; Przybył 2009, pp. 123–29; Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 215). The absence of these

Fig. 13 The *chaîne opératoire* implemented during plastic working of the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Poland: DSO_2 (a–c; Kałdus) and DSO_7 (d–f; Rudki) (Kowalski et al. 2017, 565, Fig. 10; Scott 1991, 7–8, Figs. 11 and 12, adapted); **a, b, d** $\times 100$; **e** $\times 200$; **c, f** $500\times$. Blue arrowhead, cold forging; orange arrowhead, hot forging; red arrowhead, annealing



artefacts can partly be understood in terms of promoting by the southern Baden communities the Vistula route and the Carpathian passes (alongside the Oder route and Moravian Gate route) as distributive channels for metal flow (including the DSOs). Perhaps, it would be reasonable to expect that the double spiral ornaments first appeared in the TRB communities from the Sandomierz Upland (Przeuszyń) and from there were further redistributed (and perhaps also socially reinterpreted) to their northern kinsmen from the region of Chełmno (Kałdus) and Greater Poland (Rudki). This hypothesis may be supported by the flint trading route (in particular the axes and retouched blades made from Świeciechów and striped flint) running from the mines in the eastern part of

Lesser Poland towards the northern ecumene of the TRB (see, e.g. Balcer 1988; Sulimirski 1960).

Deposition context and hoarding pattern

It needs to be stressed that the hoards from Kałdus, Przeuszyń and Rudki were incorporated in the cultural landscape established by the TRB communities near the local leading settlement centres. This is supported also by the famous Eneolithic hoard from Bytyń (with two copper yoked-ox figures) and a flat copper axe from Pamiątkowo that were found near Rudki (Pieczyński 1985; Wierzbicki 2013, pp. 196 and 242).

Fig. 14 The spiral armband from the Rudki hoard (Poland) (by courtesy of the Archaeological Museum in Poznań, Poland). The rod used for coiling the armband was combined with the cramped joints



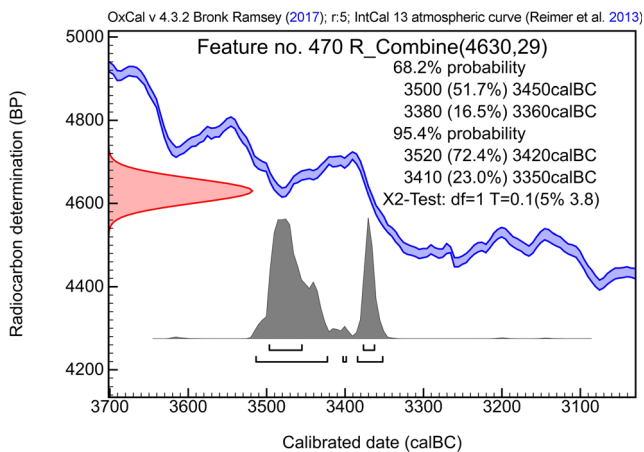


Fig. 15 The combined ^{14}C dates obtained for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornament DSO_1 (Kałdus, Poland) (OxCal v. 4.3)

The configuration of the votive offerings found in the Kałdus hoards adds essential information to the insights into the hoarding pattern of the *Rudki*-type DSO. The DSO_2 was recovered from the ceremonial pit no. 1186 near the northern corner of a pole construction (Adamczak et al. 2015a, pp. 201–3 and 213–4, Fig. 3), and it is important to recall that the TRB copper hoard found in Kietrz (southern Poland) was deposited in the corner of a domestic building (Łęczycki 1982, p. 215; 2004, pp. 60–2). There are, therefore, some indications that pit no. 1186 could be intended to serve as a foundation deposit for a ceremonial house. The supporting evidence comes from the arrangement of the remaining features found within the remains of the pole construction and the range of the offerings deposited there. If the concept of a ceremonial house is accepted, a conclusion that the place where DSOs were found could have had a significant impact on stimulating the cooperative ideology within the TRB community in Kałdus seems credible. Also, this might reflect an institutional role of the copper metalwork in the TRB social praxis (see Müller (2012, 2013) for opinion about

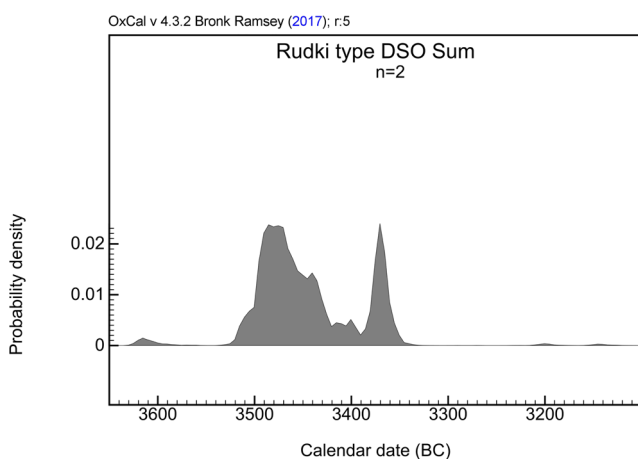


Fig. 16 The sum of probability density estimated for the ^{14}C dates obtained for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Kałdus (Poland) (OxCal v. 4.3)

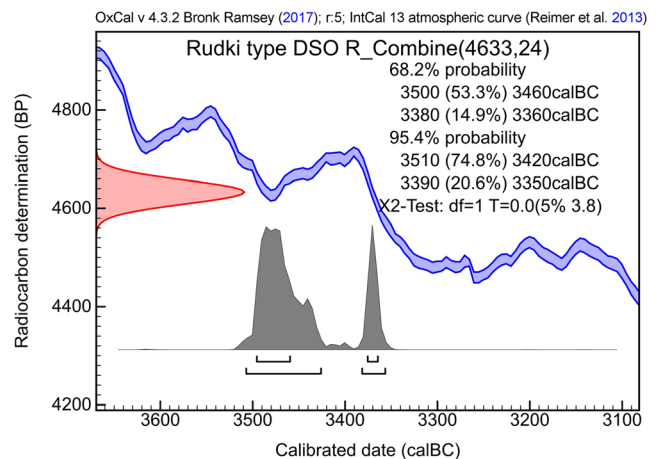


Fig. 17 The combined ^{14}C dates obtained for the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments from Kałdus (Poland) (OxCal v. 4.3)

the impact of copper metalwork on a cooperative mode of organisation in the northern TRB).

One of the distinctive features of the Eneolithic hoards from Kałdus is the votive offering package indicating a hoarding pattern which involved depositing the *Rudki*-type DSOs together with a neck fragment of the beheaded amphora and a small comb-band-decorated beaker (Fig. 19).

Contextual significance

The neck fragment of the beheaded amphora from pit no. 1186 in Kałdus may be of importance in the discussion about the contextual significance of the *Rudki*-type DSO. The basic premise here is the presence of the narrative scene incised on a shoulder of the discussed potsherd, which appears to be decorated with a motif in which two spirals are joined together with a cylindrical link at the centre and suspended by two strings (?) to the base of the neck. Such a motif is repeated four times in the reverse manner. Remarkably, the narrative scene from Kałdus may, in fact, represent a model of a wagon (Fig. 20), referring to, e.g. the ceramic four-wheel wagons from Szigetszentmárton or Budakalász (Hungary) which are dated to the classical Baden period (= 3300–3100 cal BC; Anthony 2007, pp. 68–9, Fig. 4.3; Bondár and Raczky 2009, pp. 98–9, Pl. 79).

Interestingly, the majority of the wagon models linked to the Boleráz tradition (= 3500–3350 cal BC) have a wagon box with a straight floor without any indication of axles or wheels, such as the one discovered in Radošina (Slovakia). In this context, the similarity of the representation of a wagon from Kałdus to a classic Baden ceramic wagon model may appear as a contradiction between the resulting radiocarbon date (= 3502–3363 cal BC) and the manner in which the axles and the wheels could possibly be portrayed on the amphora from Kałdus (Bondár 2012a, p. 78; 2012b, pp. 43–8).

It is worth to recall that one of the earliest known wagon images preserved on the famous TRB vessel from



Fig. 18 Distribution of the Rudki-type double spiral ornaments (★) and the Bytyń A axes from Poland (●) against the backdrop of the possible distribution channels for the copper ore mine complex in the Slovak Ore Mountains (→) and the copper metalwork (re-)distribution network overlapping the TRB ecumene (○) during the TRB-MES III (Adamczak et al. 2015a, 2017; Kostrzewski 1962; Szpunar 1987; map

background: Yarr65/Shutterstock.com). It is possible that the ornaments first appeared in the TRB communities from the Sandomierz Upland (Przewyszyn) and from there were further redistributed (and perhaps also socially reinterpreted) to their northern kinsmen from the region of Chełmno (Kaldus) and Greater Poland (Rudki)

Bronocice (Poland) is dated to 3635–3370 cal BC (with a 68.2% probability) (Bakker et al. 1999). Relying on a radiocarbon result of 3420–3385 cal BC (with a 68.2% probability) from the wagon track remains discovered in Flintbek (Germany) (Mischka 2011, 2013), a 3502–3363 cal BC date range (with a 68.2% probability) obtained for the ceremonial pit no. 1186 (see Tables 1 and 5) may justify placing the narrative scene from Kaldus amongst

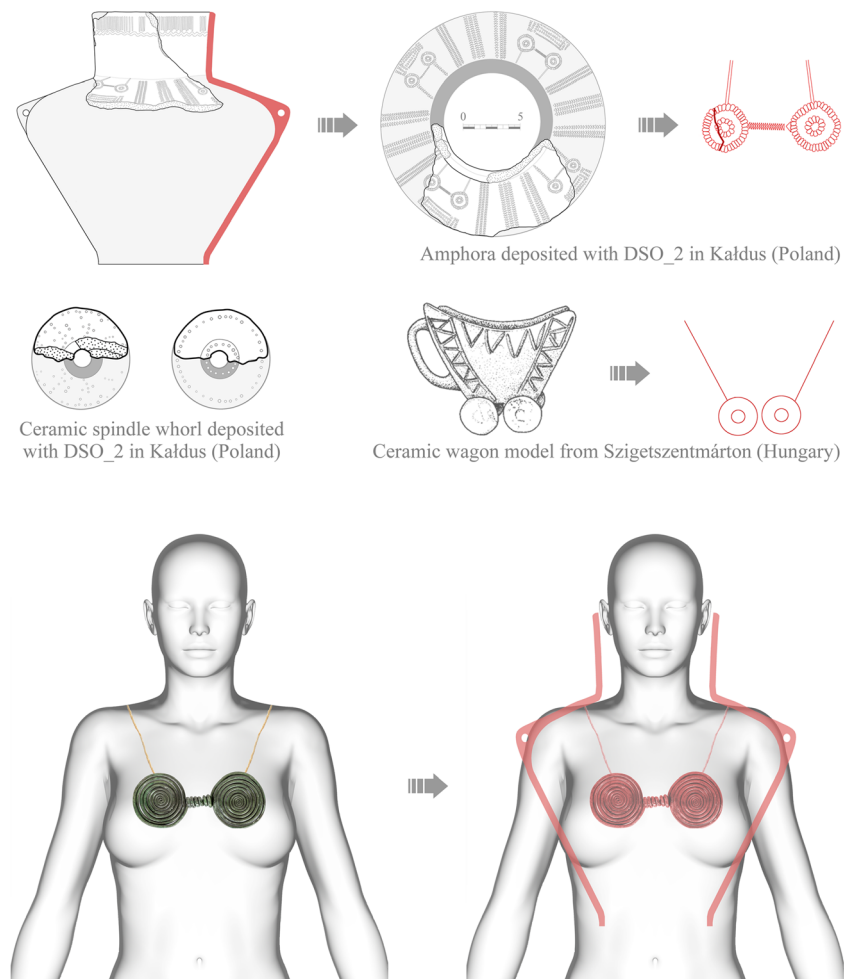
the earliest proofs for wheeled transport in the Eneolithic Europe (c.f. Anthony 2007, pp. 65–72; Bondár 2012b).

The importance of the motif incised on the amphora from Kaldus relies not only in the fact that it may represent a model of a wagon, but also in a possibility that it could have been inspired by the shape of the double spiral ornament. This, in turn, may offer a hint about the possible wearing style of the Rudki-type DSO, suggesting the use as a pectoral ornament.

Fig. 19 The hoarding assemblage typical for the Rudki-type double spiral ornaments deposited in the TRB ceremonial pits from Kaldus (Poland). The votive offering package involved (i) the Rudki-type DSO, (ii) neck fragment of the beheaded amphora and (iii) a small comb-band-decorated beaker



Fig. 20 The contextual significance of the offerings deposited in the TRB ceremonial pit no. 1186 from Kaldus (Poland). The motif incised on the amphora can reflect a symbolic triad where (i) the wagon model and (ii) the double spiral ornament are bonded to each other by (iii) the ‘sun archetype’ (Anthony 2007, 68–9, Fig. 4.3; Bondár 2012b, 41, Fig. 15; Bondár and Raczky 2009, 98–9, Pl. 79; CLIPAREA I Custom media/Shutterstock.com, adapted)



Such a scenario becomes more reliable if one accepts that an amphora was meant to imitate the shape of a female body (Adamczak 2013; see Fig. 20). This is in good correspondence with the cultural phenomenon outlined by Matuschik (2011, pp. 230–4, Abb. 159–61) who claims that a trend of attributing human characteristics to pottery is evident in Central Europe during the Neolithic and Eneolithic periods.

The Baden spiral metalwork package

Considering the full spectrum of the Baden metalwork over its entire spatial distribution from the TRB-MES III (= 3500–3350 cal BC) onwards, it can be noticed that in the Baden culture complex there was a certain tradition of spiral ornaments. This makes possible to outline the Baden spiral package⁶ which includes the armbands, like those ones found in the hoards from Bygholm (Denmark) or Rudki and Skarbienice (Poland) (Kowalski et al. 2016, p. 196; Pieczyński 1986), and also the so-called *Hakenspiralen* and

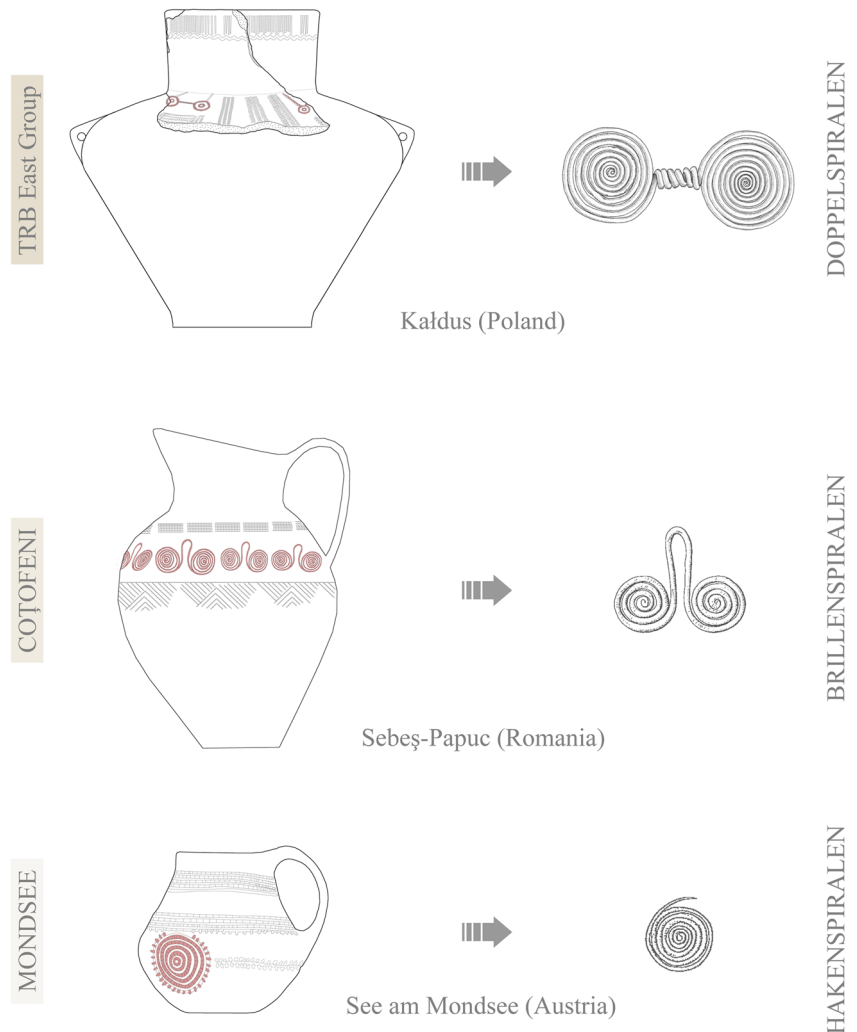
Brillenspiralen (Matuschik 1996). The results of this research indicate that such a package must be now complemented by the *Rudki*-type double spiral ornaments (= *Doppelspiralen*). It needs to be emphasised that the Baden spiral metalwork package found an echo in pottery decoration. The evidence comes from the images incised on the ceramic vessels recovered from Kaldus (= *Doppelspiralen*; the TRB East Group), Sebeş-Papuc (= *Brillenspiralen*; Coţofeni culture) and See am Mondsee (= *Hakenspiralen*; Mondsee culture) (Ciugudean 2000, p. 267, Pl. 141; Matuschik 1996, pp. 9, 12–3, Abb. 3–6; Mayer 1977, Taf. 115 and 116; Popa 2013, pp. 98, 103, Pl. 2 and 7; Roman 1976, p. 143, Pl. 43; Fig. 21).

Final remarks

The *Secondary Products Revolution*, a model proposed by Sherratt (1981, 1983, 1986, 2006), can be used to illustrate how the TRB communities from the region of modern Poland entered the Baden complex orbit. The mechanism and dynamics of the cultural processes leading to the closer cooperation and integration between the TRB communities and the Baden

⁶ The Baden spiral package also includes more fragile jewellery, commonly known as the *salta leone* (see, e.g. Pieczyński 1986).

Fig. 21 The images of the Baden spiral metalwork package incised on pottery (Matuschik 1996, 9, 12, Abb. 3 and 4; Mayer 1977, Taf. 115 and 116; Popa 2013, 103, Pl. 7, adapted)



culture milieu were most probably generated by the strong demand for metal goods by the communities from the North European Plain. Indeed, the archaeological data confirm that the emergence of the Baden cultural package over almost the entire TRB ecumene is contemporary with a remarkable consumption of arsenical copper (Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 215; Garbacz-Klempka et al. 2015; Kienlin 2014, p. 453; Novotná 1977, p. 628). Contrary to confusing opinions expressed recently about the scale (Nowak 2017, p. 155) or culture-based creativity of the copper metalwork (Przybył 2017), the dynamics of this process appear quite significant. Good examples of these processes are represented by the *Bytyni*-type flat axes and the copper daggers found in Poland that are reflecting a stable supply of metal to the territory occupied by the TRB (Adamczak et al. 2015a, 2017; see Fig. 18). The wealth of the copper metalwork hoarded in Bytyn, Kietrz or Rudki strongly supports Sherratt's model.

One widely held belief is that the process of expanding the Baden cultural patterns to the TRB milieu was accompanied by the introduction of wheeled transport (Przybył 2015, p. 484, Fig. 9; 2017, Fig. 30A). The evidence comes from the

wagon images which were incised on the ceramic vessels from Bronocice, Dopiewo and Kałdus. The radiocarbon dating results make it possible to conclude that the very first indications of such an integration appeared about 3650 cal BC, but it was already at the beginning of 3500 cal BC when this process started to accelerate (c.f. Sochacki 1981).

It is essential to mention that together with the introduction of the Baden metalwork package by the TRB communities in Poland, some foreign religious practices were also absorbed including a new funeral rite allowing cremation of the deceased (recently confirmed also in Kałdus) (Adamczak et al. 2015a, p. 215; Przybył 2015, 2017). Apparently, the inflow of the copper metalwork to the northern peripheries of the Eneolithic Europe was more than merely an entry of metal, but it could also have been a catalyst facilitating the introduction of some new cultural elements to the TRB communities inhabiting the region of modern Poland and leading to the important changes in their identities.

We believe that the results presented here contribute to the breakdown of the stereotypes about the consumption pattern

of the copper metalwork during the mid-4th millennium BC in this region and thus stimulate further research and discussion.

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