A Silver Bowl from the New Excavations of the Early Sarmatian Burial-Ground Near the Village of Prokhorovka

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Abstract
During excavations of the necropolis consisting of burial-mounds near the village of Prokhorovka in the so-called ‘fortified site’ three burials were found. In one of them (Burial 3) a skeleton of a young woman was discovered accompanied by rich and diverse grave goods. These included a silver bowl decorated with an engraved gilded frieze with a plant pattern in the form of a winding branch of ivy and a decorative band of three-strand plaiting. The shape and decoration of the Prokhorovka bowl make it possible to conclude that it dates from the middle or third quarter of the 4th century BC.

Keywords
Archaeology, Early Nomads, South Ural, Silver Bowl, Chronology, Achaemenid Iran, Prokhorovka burial ground

In a report submitted by a part-time lecturer of St. Petersburg University (later to become a well-known archaeologist, who discovered, among other things, the Altai mummies dating from the Early Iron Age), S.I. Rudenko, about the completion in 1916 of his investigation of the burial-mounds near the village of Prokhorovka (Orenburg District: now the northern part of the Orenburg Region of Russia), which had previously been looted by local peasants, there is a plan of the burial-ground which he had drawn (Fig. 1). This plan, together with other materials from the report, were published by M.I. Rostovtsev.1 In that plan the letter “B” marked a structure which Rudenko had not regarded as one of funerary significance. In the publication of the internationally

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1 Rostovtsev 1918, 4, fig. 2.
Fig. 1. Plan of the Burial-ground near the village of Prokhorovka from the report by S.I. Rudenko.