

STUDIES AND ARTICLES

ABOUT THE FIRST EARLY NEOLITHIC FINDS FROM BOROȘTENI-PEȘTERA CIOAREI (PEȘTIȘANI COMMUNE, GORJ COUNTY)

Ioan Alexandru Bărbat

Abstract. Through this archaeological note, we aim to present a small cache of Early Neolithic ceramic sherds (13 items) discovered in *Boroșteni-Peștera Cioarei* (Peștișani Commune, Gorj County), during the excavations conducted in 1954 and 1981. The *Peștera Cioarei* archaeological site is referenced in the bibliography for the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic discoveries, and to a lesser extent for the later chronological horizons, as well as for the Early Neolithic.

From a chronological viewpoint the ceramic materials described in the present paper, discovered during the archaeological exploration of the Cioarei cave, belong to an early phase of the Starčevo-Criș cultural complex and most likely date from the beginning of the 6th millennium BC.

The occurrence of a new early Starčevo-Criș site in the north-western part of the Oltenia region is significant as a likely result of the migration of certain Neolithic communities from the Danube Valley towards the south of the Southern Carpathians, an event that took place in the context of the neolithization of the Carpathian Basin and of the neighbouring areas.

SITES WITH STARČEVO-CRIȘ MATERIALS RECENTLY FOUND OUT IN TIMIȘ COUNTY

Dan-Leopold Ciobotaru, Octavian-Cristian Rogozea, Petru Ciocani

Abstract. The current study is meant to introduce eight archaeological sites into the scientific circuit. These sites belong to the Early Neolithic period, to be more precise, the third phase of the Starčevo-Criș culture. From a location standpoint, six of these sites are found in the Aranca's Plain (Câmpia Arancăi) and two sites in the Moșnița Plain (Câmpia Moșnița). On the one hand, this increases the still low number of known sites, on the other, it contributes to the reconstruction and better understanding of the Early Neolithic settlement network.

ANIMAL RESOURCES EXPLOITED IN THE GETO-DACIAN DAVA FROM CÂRLOMĂNEȘTI, VERNEȘTI COMMUNE, BUZĂU COUNTY

Georgeta El Susi

Abstract. The site is located about 13 km north-west from Buzău city, in the perimeter of Cârломănești village, on an oval-shaped plateau of about 7500 square meters, at an altitude of 200 m. The vegetation of the zone is an admixture of hill forest and steppe elements. Obviously, the favorable position was suitable for agriculture, animal breeding, and hunting as illustrated by faunal analysis. Since prehistory the area has enjoyed a proper natural protection, so an important Monteoru settlement and an impressive Geto-Dacian dava, dated in the 2nd-1st

centuries BC had developed over there. An impressive and diversified archaeological material has been recovered over time including a large amount of animal bones. The first faunal sample was collected during 1973-1975's campaigns counting for 2,818 bones. The second sample we are talking about was gathered during 2005-2012' campaigns and consists of 12,483 bones. The mammals account for 98.64%, birds 0.74% and fish 0.69%. Fish remains originate in freshwater species, as carp, pike, catfish etc. Of 12,313 mammal bones, 5,274 fragments (42.25 %) are not exactly assigned to species. Of 7,039 identified bones, 6,486 (98.64%) belong to domestic mammals and 553 bones (7.86%) to the wilds. The pig bones prevail among domesticates, its share is 32.6%. The small ruminants rank the second with 27.87% followed by cattle with 26.34% and equids with 4.66%. To note the presence of donkey and mule remains among domestic species. By compare with the former sample from Cârломănești, some changes in the share of the main domestic mammals occur. The cattle share keep unchanged, they are quoted by 26% in both samples. Variations occur only in the ovicaprids/pig report. The small ruminants prevail by 41.4% in the former sample against 27.8% in the second. Pig is quoted only by 24.7% against 32.6. The hunting percentage is around 7%.

The pig age-class distribution suggests a low percentage of individuals slaughtered below 6 months (11.92%), 15.6% between 6-12 months, 57.8% between 1-2 years, 10% between 2-5 years (especially between 2-2.5 years), and 0.9% over 5 years. The stock breeding (animals slaughtered over 2-3 years) is 11%. The report male/female is 17/5 on maxillary remainders and 19/6 on mandibles. However, this rate suggests the use of females for farrowing and the males, predominantly for meat. In case of cattle, of 47 individuals suggested by dentition, 14.9% were slaughtered below one year, 17.02% below two years, 29.79% below three years, and 38.29% over this limit. Of the specimens exceeding 3-4 years, about 23.4% were killed between 3(4)-6 years, 10.6% between 6-9 years, and 6.38% much later. Consequently, few slaughters of calves are registered, preserving an important stock to stimulate dairy production. A large proportion (40%) of specimens was kept to an advanced stage for by-products. Even if the rate of immature bovines is about 47 %, the beef consumption was not specific to Dacians' diet, rather the milk-based products.

The further age-class distribution was suggested in case of goat. No slaughters have done before 2 months, about 13.7 % between 2-6 months, and 10.34% between 6-12 months. One third of the specimens were cut off between 1-2 years and 20% between 2-4 years meaning slaughter for flesh and reducing the number of low output goats. 24% is the rate of animals killed between 4-6 years, suggesting milk, and wool exploitation. Senile specimens were not found. The age profiles of the sheep are something different than goat. There are no animals slaughtered below 2 months and only 4.76% between 2-6 months. The share increases at 23.8% between 6-12 months, meaning slaughters for a mutton of good quality. Only 19% were slaughtered between 1-2 years and 23% between 2-4 years; that means the using of the mutton of males, as well the reformation the flock, by cutting the barren ewes or with diminished output. A small percent was kept between 4-6 years, about 19% and 9.5% over 6 years, meaning milk and wool exploitation. The specific vegetation and rugged area were propitious mostly to goat breeding. His number overlaps the sheep so, of 71 ovicaprids, 29 are goats (40.8%) and 21 sheep (29.6%). Of the 12 equids identified, at least one-third or more were sub-adulte specimens. Excepting three of them, four individuals exceeded 10 years; the others were slaughtered at an adult stage. For sure horse was occasionally eaten; at least this is suggested by the bony sample.

A POINT OF VIEW ON THE CERAMIC EVOLUTION OF THE QUINTA DO
ROUXINOL WORKSHOP: QUINTA DE SÃO JOÃO DA ARRENTELA, PORTUGAL (70-
425 + AD)

José Carlos Quaresma, Cézer Santo

Abstract. This paper was written in the framework of the research undertaken by the authors, over the last two decades, with Jorge Raposo. It focuses on two main sites of the Lower Tagus basin: Quinta de São João (whose functionality has not been determined) and Quinta do Rouxinol (amphorae and coarse ware production site). Both sites are located close to each other, in front of the city of Olisipo (Lisbon), one of the most important harbours of Lusitania, and within one of the main areas concerning the production of amphorae for the exportation of salted-fish and wine. In this text we discuss the differences of the ceramic consumption patterns between Quinta de São João (whose stratigraphy runs between c.70 and c.425 AD) and Quinta do Rouxinol (whose stratigraphy runs between c.235 and 425+ AD).

THE QUESTION OF THREE JUGS – A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF
GRAVE GOODS IN THE CREMATION BURIAL RITUAL

Snežana Golubović, Angelina Raičković Savić, Nemanja Mrđić

Abstract. After the excavation of 14,000 graves at Viminacium, the researchers are trying to reconstruct both the funeral cult and life in the largest city of Moesia Superior by analyzing the grave goods. In this paper, the emphasis is on graves with cremation of the Mala Kopašnica-Sase type and the inventory found in them, in those cases when three jugs are present, i.e. which objects can be expected, to a greater or lesser extent, besides the three jugs. The review included all the cemeteries explored so far that form the unique Viminacium necropolis.

NOTES ON AN ALMOST FORGOTTEN ROMAN FRONTIER SECTOR FROM THE
MESEŞ MOUNTAINS (DACIA POROLISSENSIS)

Horăţiu Cociş

Abstract. The path of the Meseş Mountains crosses from South to north the administrative territory of Sălaj County, being a mountain group localized in the north-eastern extremity of the Apuseni Mountains, a low altitude step of relief relatively uniform and narrow (5-8 km). The territorial organization process of the Dacian province included this mountain segment in its territory, the physical elements of the Roman frontier organization being established on the top of the mountains, an area considered today to be the north-western *limes* of Dacia Porolissensis. The continuous ridge and the massif fragmentations generated a particular adjustment of the Roman frontier system, being composed of surveillance watchtowers located on the top of the predominant peaks or other strategic points, of fortlets that controlled the access in the province through the main crossing valleys, of auxiliary forts located several km behind this line respectively of extra security and control elements in the form of the linear fortifications. The present study is considering the reanalysis of a frontier sector relatively ignored; the sector is located in the area of *Vârful Păstaie-Sub Păstaie-La*

Șuvar, being composed of four surveillance watchtowers, a linear fortification of 1.5 km length respectively a possible secondary transit gateway.

ON WRITING AND LEARNING AT TIBISCUM

Mariana Balaci Crînguș

Abstract. By writing, humans might express their feelings, opinions and property, or even the desire to progress. The spontaneous writing might be seen as the activity that puts in light the individual intelligence and the way to adapt to the social position of an individual. Direct proves of the importance of writing in daily life and wish to progress in learning were found at Tibiscum; both *graffiti*, writing on raw paste on tegular materials or other ceramic products, and writing on epigraphic monuments are among these proves. The inscriptions from Tibiscum are in Latin language in the largest part, but there are also ones in the language of the Palmyrenes, and in Greek. Certainly the population at Tibiscum left also informal and mainly formal writings for proving of her presence there, no matter the language of writings on various materials. These writings clearly and tangibly show the people there can speak Latin and Aramaic some of them at least. These writings analyze help us to round the image of a community sitting on the Timiș banks since the first years of the Roman province, and keeping to live there after the official retreat of the Roman army and administration; the Latin language was used up from the ones resting there during the next years.

ON THE AFRICAN CREEDS AND THE ROMAN ARMY IN DACIA. SOME POINTS OF VIEW

Atalia Onițiu

Abstract. The studies on the African creeds published during the last decade remind us the question of the presence of those cults in the invocations performed by the Roman army in Dacia. Even if archeological research did not come with new discoveries and evidences, the new points of view have made me resume the subject and reconsider somehow the previous opinions and hypotheses. I will focus below on the North-Africans deities (Saturnus, Caelestis) and especially the Egyptian ones (Isis, Serapis), the last ones being the object of attention of Romanian and foreign researchers in the same way.

ROMAN GEMS FROM THE COLLECTION OF GORJ COUNTY MUSEUM „ALEXANDRU ȘTEFULESCU”, TÂRGU JIU

Vasile Marinoiu, Ana Cristina Hamat

Abstract. This article brings into question the gems collection of the Gorj County Museum „Alexandru Ștefulescu”, from Târgu Jiu, consisting from eight Roman intaglios. This collection is relatively recent, the gems being purchased through archaeological research since 1997, as well as from donations from the metal detectors discoveries. Some of them were published in 2012, then again in 2018, but with fewer details. The gems coming from

archeological research were discovered on the territory of the county, on the occasion of preventive or systematic research, in sites from the Roman era, or even from the medieval era like Bumbești Jiu, Căpreni. The gems were made of carnelian and were engraved with simple subjects like the man with ship rudder, deities like Minerva Pacifera, Faunus, Diana, mythological subjects like Omphale, animals like deer, fantastic beings as Medusa or the motif *dextrarum iunctio*.

ROMAN ENGAGEMENT RING FROM VIMINACIUM

Snežana Nikolić, Milica Marjanović

Abstract. During the rescue investigation of the northwestern part of the legionary fort at Viminacium, a silver ring with a cameo was discovered. It was an engagement ring, with an inserted cameo with a specific representation of the so-called *dextrarum iunctio* motif, accompanied with an inscription - *OMONI(A)*. The ring is peculiar because of the motif and the inscription on it, as well as because of the context of the find. Namely, it was found in the defensive ditch of the legionary fort of the *VII Claudia* legion. The find is dated to the second half of the III century, using coins and pottery from the same horizon.

FUNERAL BANQUET, PROCESSION OR AN OFFERING SCENE – A FEW REMARKS ON ROMAN PROVINCIAL PAINTING

Dragana Gavrilović, Jelena Anđelković Grašar

Abstract. The article discusses various types of the scenes that contain servants and deceased depicted in late Roman wall painting, especially in the territory of today's Serbia, and makes comparisons with analogous examples known throughout the Mediterranean world. These types represent servants in the procession as well as reduced versions, when two or only one servant figures are painted. Well known interpretations of the reminiscences of the prestigious life status of the deceased and their wish for wellbeing in the afterlife are discussed together and in regard to the testified funeral rites, which include a funeral banquet and funeral procession, with special attention to the position and role of servants/slaves in them. A new possibility for the reduced scenes with servants depicted in Viminacium graves G-160 and G-2624 introduces an interpretation of this motif as a reference to the custom of offerings at the grave after the funeral or during some of the commemorations which followed the funeral.

SARMATIAN GRAVES DISCOVERED WITHIN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MOȘNIȚA VECHE – „DEALUL SĂLAȘ” (TIMIȘ COUNTY, ROMANIA)

Andrei Staviță, Bogdan Alin Craiovan

Abstract. The four graves were identified during a rescue research determined by a ditch digging in the area of the archaeological site of Moșnița Veche – „Dealul Sălaș” (Timiș County) for underground utility. The unauthorized interventions there deranged some of the described graves. We might note that they had intervened since olden times on the grave N° 3. Only the inferior part of the skeleton remained in the anatomical connection, the skull was

identified on pelvis and the bones of the upper part, in the grave padding. We take this intervention after inhumation for graves plundering, a practice of the Sarmatians in the area of the Romanian Banat, northern Serbia, and eastern Hungary, largely documented since now. S-N is the general orientation of the graves; the funerary furniture consists in ceramic vessels and metallic findings. Vessels consist in truncated cone-shaped bowls and pitchers in a fine and well worked paste, burnt by reduction, specific to that age. The pitcher with a trickling tube from Grave N° 1 is the one to attract our attention and dates the grave to a period between the last third part of the 4th century AD and the first half of the 5th century AD. Grave N° 3 might be dated to the same age as the fragment of an iron fibula certifies, belonging to the type of fibulae with the spring behind the body. The funeral furniture from Grave 2 and Grave 4 certify a largest dating of the two archaeological complexes, to the 3rd – 4th c. AD.

ON THE PRESENCE OF THE AVARS IN TRANSYLVANIA. CHRONOLOGY. MOTIVATION. TERRITORIAL LIMITS

Călin Cosma

Abstract. The presence of Avar warriors in Transylvania during the 7th–8th centuries is a reality that cannot be contested, as it is proven by the cemeteries and graves that belong, beyond doubt, to warriors of Avar origin. The first Avar incursions in the Transylvanian Plateau took place after 630 and aimed at occupying/conquering the salt-rich areas in the center of Transylvania. This was only possible after they established their direct control over the Gepid communities in the center of the Transylvanian Plateau. I do not believe we can speak of a conquest of Transylvania, but rather of an act of taking control over a territory that the Avars were interested in due to its salt resources. They did not decimate the Gepid communities, but lived alongside them and used them to extract salt. According to the archaeological data that can be attributed with certainty to the Avar warriors (cemeteries and graves), one can note the fact that the entrance of the Avars in the Transylvanian Plateau was not a large-scale phenomenon and the territory they actually dominated was much smaller than some specialists have estimated. This territory was restricted to the area between Câmpia Turzii and Teiuș, where the Mureș turns south, on both sides of the river. Current data do not allow one to form a general picture of the way in which the Avar domination in Transylvania ended. The history of the central province of Romania during the first half of the 9th century still holds many uncertainties that only future archaeological researches might decipher. Based on everything presented so far, I believe one cannot speak at all of an „Avarization” of Transylvania, but rather of a „Slavization” of the region, as Slavic settlements and cemeteries from the 7th–8th/9th centuries have been documented throughout the territory of the Transylvanian Plateau. The Avars made a place for themselves in this Slavic world, in a relatively small geographic area.

SOUTH-DANUBIAN BURIAL HORIZON, TYPE 2, WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF OLTENIA, PHASE I (11TH-13TH CENTURIES)

Silviu Oța

Abstract. The same funeral horizon of Byzantine origin is known, except for the Banat, in the northern area of the Danube, between the Southern Carpathians, the Danube and the Olt River, in the 11th–12th century up to the third quarter of the 13th century. This is the alone one

which was identified all along the studied area and within the noted chronologic interval. It makes the 1st phase of a larger horizon, from the end of the 13th century up to the 15th century (2nd phase) southward of the Carpathians. It could be noticeable in certain places, in the Banat, the Dobruđja, Moldavia, and southern and eastern Transylvania.

Some sites with necropolises or isolated findings were analyzed within the article, especially along the Danube (Drobeta-Turnu Severin–Roman Thermal Baths, Hinova-C. Trocan's property, Izâmbaşa-Dealul Fântânilor, Izvoarele-Unknown site, Celeiu, Orlea-Unknown site, Ostrovul Mare-Km. Fluvial 875), in the area of the Olt, (Ferigele) and the Jiu (Craiova-Făcăi). All the data referring to the funeral ritual we had at our disposal were taken into account. The findings consist mainly in female ornaments (tings, tiaras, shells necklaces, bracelets), but also in coins and buttons.

Part of those cemeteries functioned also during the next age (Drobeta-Turnu Severin-Roman Thermal Baths), others were probably abandoned.

ARHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

ON THREE PREHISTORIC AXES FOUND OUT IN OLT COUNTY

Iulia Răbâncă, Sabin Popovici

Abstract. Archaeological research carried out over time in the reference sites of the Neo-Eneolithic in Olt County has led to the discovery, along with an impressive amount of pottery, and an appreciable number of polished stone tools.

Unfortunately, their publication was summarized in studies where they were not the main object. The subject of our article is the presentation of three prehistoric axes, probably Neo-Eneolithic, unfortunately, accidental discoveries, without a clear stratigraphic context. From this point of view, we propose the composition of some synthesis works regarding the polished stone tools from Oltenia, works in which to be presented both from a typological and cultural aspect the evolution of the polished stone tools from the mentioned space.

LIMES IN UPPER MOESIA AND SOUTHWESTERN DACIA: THE CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE MAJOR COMMUNICATION LINE

Vladimir P. Petrović

Abstract. The fortifications and civilian settlements of the limes in Upper Moesia were linked by a road that ran along the right bank of the Danube. They were quite different from each other due to their size and role in the common defense system and they were not entirely connected with the major communication axis. It seems very important here to outline one particular group of *castella* that served as the major crossing points from the right to the left bank of Danube, such as *Lederata* (Ram).

A COLUMN BASE FROM MICIA

Marius Barbu

Abstract. This article aims to bring to your attention a new column attic base. The piece was reported in the courtyard of a family from Veșel, Hunedoara County and is part of a series of monuments recently identified, due to a local community awareness program, initiated by the research team of the Micia site.

The architectural element made of soft oolitic limestone, in which many shells of marine molluscs can be observed, is kept in a relatively good condition. Analyzing the appearance and proportions of this column base we can deduce that it was made in accordance with the canons of the time and in accordance with the principles issued by Vitruvius. Even if we do not know the location and nature of the building of which it was part, its characteristics indicate the presence of an elegant building, of appreciable dimensions made according to the canons specific to classical architecture. The numerous colonnade elements discovered at Micia attest here the development of an architecture specific to the urban centers of Dacia, the Attic column base exposed on this occasion being an additional argument regarding the increased level of development of the *pagus* on the Mureș Valley.

A ROMAN CAMEO WITH THE REPRESENTATION OF GORGO MEDUSA FROM THE COLLECTION OF BOTOȘANI COUNTY MUSEUM

Ana Cristina Hamat, Adela Kovacs

Abstract. The current article brings back into discussion a special artifact discovered over 25 years ago and currently located in the deposits of the Botoșani County Museum. It is a cameo with the representation of Gorgo Medusa, which so far has not benefited from an adequate presentation, being brought to the attention of the general public through a short note in a local publication.

The cameo was discovered in 1994 (Pl. II, Fig. 1, 2), with the occasion of archaeological research carried out in the village of Coșușca (Botoșani County). It appeared in a survey conducted 1 km away from the necropolis of the 4th-5th centuries from Nichiteni. The item is a cameo made of onyx in two layers, being dated in II-III centuries AD. The depiction of Gorgo Medusa on cameos is one of the most popular subjects for such artifacts and therefore it became the pretext for one of the most famous glyptic series, with a popularity that predates the Empire era and lasts until late Antiquity, being also, one of the favorite symbols in the art of the Middle Ages and even in the modern times.

A CASTING MOULD OF A PILGRIM FLASK WITH THE DEPICTION OF ST. SYMEON STYLITES THE YOUNGER

Ergün Laflı, Maurizio Buora

Abstract. In this short paper a formerly unpublished casting valve for a metal eulogy ampulla from the museum of Gaziantep in southern Turkey will be presented. This casting mould by soap stone has an inscription as *Εὐλογία [Κ]υρίου καί τοῦ Ἁγίου [θαυματουργοῦ] γού* (eulogia of *the Lord and saintly thaumaturgist*- a performer of miracles). It also bears the depiction of St. Symeon Stylites the Younger from the sixth century A.D. and two knights riding mounts in a heraldic position on below. The mould at Gaziantep can be dated to the middle Byzantine period, more precisely to the period between A.D. 969 and 1074. For its size and the unusual scene of the two pilgrims (?) on horseback our matrix appears to be a unique one.