

THE EARLY UPPER PALEOLITHIC OF THE BANAT AND RECENT RESEARCH AT THE PALEOLITHIC SITE OF TINCOVA

Wei Chu, Christian Zeeden, Sorin-Marius Petrescu

Abstract. As far as data concerning the modern human traces spreading in Europe, during the upper Paleolithic are gathering up, more and more complicated the scenarios become. The Banat has become a key region in the matter as it is integrated in the south-west Pannonia Basin where the multitude of fossils and the archaeological findings mark an early presence of the modern humans. One of the most important sites is the one at Tincova representing a rich Aurignacian place; its association with the upper eastern and western Paleolithic has been minutely debated. But the age and how the site was constituted still remain less understood facts. On the basis of the above ideas, we initiated in the spring of 2006 a small project concerning the diagnosis and a preliminary archaeological excavation (1), in order to identify the site dimensions and (2) to re-examine the sediments around it. Almost a half of the surveys there signaled at least some traces of an anthropic Paleolithic activity; the techno-typological observations certify the fact that the area was inhabited in the late Pleistocene. There weren't noticed post-deposit troubles of the archaeological layers. We didn't unfortunately succeed to recuperate enough artifacts to confirm Fl. Mogoşanu's archaeological stratigraphy, but all the artifacts were found at -80cm below the surface. It is not clear if it represents more layers, but is important to understand if the site contains one or more early Aurignacian occupations, in order to put Tincova site on the map of modern human migrations in Europe; it will be our further clear objective there. Sediments at Tincova, but also at Coşava and Româneşti, including the great quantity of clay with mineral specifications, are different from the last glacial sedimentary deposits in the Carpathians Basin, which consist mainly in loess and sometimes with a sand component. The sediment presentation remains a descriptive one here to avoid the sole scientific interpretation. More than this, we identified and discussed with a Tincova inhabitant who had worked together with 20 other fellows at Selişte I archaeological site in the 1970s. So, we could locate the former archaeological diggings. The man we discussed with told us about an erosion surface in the village commons and about the great quantity of silex pieces he had gathered there and donated to Lugoj Museum. Our research comes to certify the presence of a site belonging to the upper Paleolithic, in a similar stratigraphy with that one that Fl. Mogoşanu found in the context; the stratigraphy and sediment are similar also with the ones in other sites in the region, belonging to the early Aurignacian.

COMMENTARIA ARCHAEOLOGICA ET HISTORICA (II)

Aurel Rustoiu

Abstract. The present comments have been prompted by the recent publishing of two works that brought again into attention of both the scientific community and the general public the silver and gold objects of pre-Roman Dacia.

1. About the chronology and owners of the gold spiral bracelets from pre-Roman Dacia

This note analyses the opinions of E. Oberländer-Târnoveanu (2013) regarding the chronology and the owners of the gold spiral bracelets found at Sarmizegetusa Regia, which were looted between 1999 and 2001 from the aforementioned site and then partially recovered by the Romanian state from traffickers of antiquities.

Regarding the chronology of these bracelets, Oberländer-Târnoveanu considers that they could be dated to the first half of the 1st century BC because they were discovered together with local coins (of the Rădulești-Hunedoara type) and Greek coins of the same period. However, this dating is not justified due to a series of issues: first, the information provided by traffickers are not reliable, so the discovery of bracelets and coins in the same archaeological contexts is far from certain; second, the association of gold bracelets with local coins having a low silver content is less likely (this kind of association is also not encountered in the hoards of silver jewellery from pre-Roman Dacia); third, the archaeological site at Sarmizegetusa Regia was established after the middle of the 1st century BC and reached its maximum extension mostly in the second half of the 1st century AD.

The gold bracelets were copied using silver. Similar spiral bracelets whose ends were decorated with zoomorphic details and stamped palmettes were included in the inventory of some hoards of silver jewellery from pre-Roman Dacia. These hoards are dated to the second half of the 1st century BC and the first half of the 1st century AD. Accordingly, the same dating could also be suggested for the gold bracelets from Sarmizegetusa Regia.

Regarding the owners of these bracelets, Oberländer-Târnoveanu identifies them as some male individuals belonging to the royal family from the capital of pre-Roman Dacia. However, the analysis of archaeological contexts and inventories of the hoards of silver jewellery indicates that the owners of these sets of bodily ornamentation were women having a particular status associated with some religious practices. When these priestesses died, their individualised sets of ornaments, which were probably perceived as sacred, were destroyed and buried as votives in the vicinity of the settlements of the communities which they once served. A similar interpretation could also be suggested in the case of gold bracelets.

2. About a silver saddle-shaped ring of the La Tène type found in the Getic settlement at Chirnogi (Călărași County)

The book “The Dacian hoards. Precious metalwork in pre-Roman Dacia” by Daniel Spânu has recently been published. This work contains numerous bibliographic, archaeological, methodological and interpretative errors. The present note discusses a silver saddle-shaped ring of the La Tène type which was found in a Getic settlement to the south of the Carpathians; it was erroneously identified by Spânu as a pendant and was included among Dacian ornaments. The saddle-shaped rings are among the most widespread La Tène body ornaments, both temporally and spatially. They were used throughout the entire Late Iron Age, being encountered from south-western Germany, western Switzerland and northern Italy to the Carpathian Basin, sporadically reaching the Lower Danube. The ring from Chirnogi, found in a dwelling dated to the La Tène D1, belong to the Waldhauser 530 type (1998) having analogies in graves from the Carpathian Basin belonging to the La Tène B1–C1. Thus, it can be presumed that the ring in question reached the Lower Danube through the social connections established between the local communities and those from the Carpathian Basin and remained in use long after such pieces fell out of fashion in the area of origin. The saddle-shaped rings are specific to the La Tène cultural area and have nothing in common with the “precious metalwork in pre-Roman Dacia”, which is the topic of Spânu’s book.

LATE HELLENISTIC KILNS FOUND ON THE TERRITORY OF ROUSSE, BULGARIA

Varbin Varbanov, Nikola Rusev, Svetlana Todorova, Romyana Yordanova

Abstract. In 2015 on the territory of fortress Sexaginta Prista in Rousse were found two kilns and 26 pits from the late Hellenistic period. The upper chamber, about two thirds of

the grate, the stoking channel (*prefurnium*) and the working platform of the ceramic kiln are destroyed by digging dated to the 19th c. The combustion chamber is dug into the loess and is separated in two parts by the support for the grate. Only part of the west wall of the dome is preserved. Fragments of ceramic and fibula of Thracian type are found on the grate and inside the combustion chamber – coming from an intact layer of the filling of the kiln. Summing up the available data the kiln can be dated in the period of 2nd-1st c. BC.

The household kiln is unearthed about 7,00 m southwest of the ceramic one. It is dug into a layer of compact brown ground with no archaeological finds. It has an oval shape. The dome is completely preserved. It is filled densely with brownish-gray soil mixed with small particles of charcoal. The entrance of the kiln is to the north. The kiln has had a working platform destroyed by the later pit № 22. The bottom has a padding of small stones plastered with clay and is gray in color. Underneath the bottom the layer is with yellow-brown color – virgin soil. Inside the kiln are discovered few uncharacteristic small ceramic fragments, which belong to the Hellenistic period. Outside the structure, right next to its south wall is found highly oxidized bronze fibula. Date of the kiln is the period of 3rd-1st c. BC.

The two unearthed kilns cannot be more precisely dated. These two structures are of the few found and investigated late Hellenistic kilns on the territory of Bulgaria. They have been constructed after a time of initial habitation of the hill area. One of the kilns is dug into loess, the other - into a layer of the late Hellenistic period. Probably few of the pits in proximity have been dug precisely for extraction of clay. The location of the kilns on the hill area is not contrary to its interpretation as a sacral space. It is possible that the process of production of ceramic vessels itself is connected with the rituals practiced.

ROMAN LAW CONCERNING FUNERARY MONUMENTS. CASE STUDY BASED ON SOME FUNERARY EPIGRAPHS BELONGING TO MILITARY PERSONNEL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MIDDLE AND LOWER DANUBE

Lucian-Mircea Mureşan, Ioana Mureşan

Abstract. Regulation through the Roman law of any of the daily life aspects was a strongly representation in the collective mentality of the Roman world, including customary and legal juridical criteria to burials organizing, funerary proprieties possessing, or the right of burial and who had the right or obligation to erect a commemorative monument. Is it possible to note such juridical regulations concerning the funerary practice in the Middle and Lower Danube limes military life with its well set standards? Are there epigraphic formulas within the so-called “military epitaph” which could reflect the correspondent juridical frame at given time? The present work aims to bring into light such connections on the basis of a series of epitaphs from the lower Danubian borders, in correlation with the juridical works of that time.

ROMAN EARRINGS DISCOVERED IN APULUM (ALBA IULIA)

Ana Cristina Hamat, George Bounegru

Abstract. Over the time, in the two roman cities *Municipium Septimium Apulense* and *Colonia Aurelia Apulensis* located in roman province Dacia, researcher found many special

artifacts, among which they were counted also the jewelry and between these, earrings have a special place. In Apulum, a number of 20 artifacts, including six pairs, were found in both systematic and rescue research made in the territory of the two cities and in the necropolises around them. According to the form, type of decoration and the locking system, they were divided into two major types, earrings in a form of a hoop and earrings with the hoop shaped in S form. The chronology of the earrings found here covers the period of 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

MOULDS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF VRŠAC MUSEUM (SERBIA)

Dumitru Țeicu, Miodrag Aralica

Abstract. Our approach here aims to present some unpublished curios from the storehouses of the City Museum of Vršac. They were discovered within the Danubian River area, from Dubovac and Banatska Palanka nearby the town of Bela Crkva (Weiss Kirchen). Two of the curios proceed from private collections. The crosses mould belonged to Bem collection before 1947, the year it entered the collection of Vršac Museum (City Museum of Vršac, inv. Aa456. It proceeds from Bem collection; location of discovery not known – Fig. I/1). Another mould that was found in 1904, at Dubovac, on the Danube bank, proceeds from A. Soljmoši collection, City Museum of Vršac, inv. Aa1415). Two curios were discovered at Banatska Palanka (City Museum of Vršac, inv. Aa1413; Aa1414; found on the Danube bank at Banatska Palanka – Fig. I/2. 4).

1. *The crosses mould.* The mould in the shape of a parallelepiped measures: 30/22/10mm. It was made from a fine cake of gray clay (Fig. I/1). The design of a cross with triangular bars was cut up in the raw clay. The ornament of the crosses consisted in granulations in parallel rows that covered the whole surface of the jewel. To set the chronology of the valve for crosses moulding we may use the chronology of crosses typology. In this case, the cross belongs to Greek cross with equal arms. The beams are in the shape of a triangle and it means that it belongs to the so called *croix pattée* (cross pattée). The arms of the triangles that form the Greek cross knew various shapes in the course of time. They were represented as simple isosceles triangles joint at top or as convex and curved arms (*croix pattée*). This footed cross is represented on vessel in Constantinopol, the 7th century on ampullae of the 5th–6th centuries or on censers from the Coptic world of the same times. Crosses with triangular equal arms were also discovered in the Danubian area nearby the Banat, in Niš, for instance, or in farer area of the south east Europe, at Gračanica (Ulpjana), Sisak (Siscia), Kranj, and Novi Banovci. They were ascribed to the 6th century. Crosses moulds were also mapped in the south and east of the Carpathians, at Olteni, București-Străulești, at Botoșana, in the Bucovina, and at Izvorul Dulce They were made in clay or local stone and chronologically belong to the 6th century.

2. *Pattern.* The discovered pattern proceed from Banatska Palanka, in the south oft he Banat, a settlement within an important Danubian ford, a very known one for fortifications and archaeological objects discovered in times there. In the shape of a parallelepiped, it was made from burnt at red clay, of 47/77/10mm (Fig. I/2). The absence of data concerning the archaeological context of such a discovery make us use similitudes for the ornament in the mould as the unique way to suggest a chronology for this jewel pattern from Banatska Palanka on the Danube bank. It is to note from the very beginning the identity of the

decoration and the processing technology in the case of the pattern from Banatska Palanka and the crosses mould from Bem collection. The two moulds are also similar from the point of view of the material they were made: a cake of burnt brick, with similar dimensions and the thickness of each valve of 10mm. Such similitudes regarding the material, dimensions and especially the decoration offer the opportunity, in our opinion, to place the two curios in close times, within the 5th–6th centuries. The mould from Banatska Palanka was made from clay of a great quality, processed by oxidation burning so that the valve is of red color, well structured. A fragment of a brick that was accidentally discovered nearby Aquae has a similar cross with that one from Bem collection. The above elements allow us to propose a close dating, namely only the 6th century both for Banatsca Palanka curio and the crosses mould

3. *Jewel moulds.* That curio entered the museum storehouses in 1904 from the private collection A. Šoljmaši. It was accidentally discovered at Dubovac, a settlement within the Danubian corridor. It is in the shape of a rectangle with rounded sides. Its dimensions are: 58/32/13. The decoration area on the mould cake developed on three concentric registers. Five round impressions form a cross that is rounded by a double circle. Thirteen little stars border exteriorly the circle with the cross insight (Fig. I/3). The cake the mould was made of was a very fine gray and well burnt paste. From this point of view we might use analogies with a certain ceramics category from the 8th–9th centuries. Certainly, it is not a decisive reason to set or propose a relative chronology for that curio accidentally found at Dubovac. The model offers the possibility of molding a complete jewel. In our opinion, the mould from Dubovac was used for curios molding, if taken it from the technological point of view. They could eventually mold separate elements, as granules of precious metals, silver for instance, that were frequently used in the 7th–9th centuries and after for jewels granulating. Some relations with jewels moulds from the eastern Romania or Ukraine might be taken into consideration.

Bartłomiej Szmoniewski has concerned himself with the jewels processing centers in Central and East Europe during the first Middle Age and also with the relations between the Byzantine arts centers and the Slavic world. He ascribed the jewel moulds from eastern Carpathian area, and also from the Romanian Plain to the Slavic world. On the other side, M. Comşa thinks that part of the jewel moulds that circulated in the south of the Carpathians in the 6th–7th centuries belonged directly to the Byzantine artisans; up to us, it is a hypothesis that is hard to be accepted and more to be proved. Certainly, the analogies for those jewels moulds are to be searched for in south east European centers, in that Slavic world and in its contacts with the Byzantine centers.

4. The curios that was accidentally discovered at Banatska Palanka is in a shape of an irregular cylindrical trunk (Fig. I/4). It was made in fine brown-grey paste of clay. The decoration of this jewels mould was realized on three register before the clay burning. Small globular prints are placed in a circle, along its outline. Prints in the shape of small sticks circularly placed make the other register nearby (Fig. I/4). The decoration is ended in a deeply printed circle. This last register might be used to mould rings for instances, on which they could stick granules or elongated pendants as in the other registers. It is a model that we might find on rings of the 6th–7th centuries. That fashion of rings formed from a circular link on which granules or other decorative shapes of various models were stuck spread within the Slav world beginning with the second half of the 6th century up to the 8th century, under the Byzantine goldsmith's trade centers. It is a tradition also spread from the same Byzantine centers that the Mediterranean world of Western Europe knew during the same centuries.

NOTES ON THE ECONOMY STRUCTURE IN CRIȘANA, SĂTMAR AND MARAMUREȘ DURING THE 8th–10th CENTURIES AD

Călin Cosma

Abstract. The present work aims to bring into relief the economy structure in the Romanian western and north-western area, during the 8th–10th c. A.D. (Fig. 1), on the basis of the archaeological reality (settlements and archaeological findings in there). The archaeological investigations have shown that more than 80 settlements existed during the 8th–10th c. A. D., in the Romanian western and north-western territory (Map 1-3). The human presence is completed by the necropolises and detached graves they found there (Map 4–6). Raising and breeding were the main economy of the communities in the west and north-west of Romania, raising primarily in the planes area, breeding in hill and mountainous areas. Some occupations as pottery art, metals extracting and processing, wood or stone and bone processing, as well as weaving and textures processing or leather processing complete this economy frame. The same frame is completed in the 8th–10th c. A. D., by exchange within these communities in the west and north-west of Romania, and also between them and the neighbor geographic territories.

LIMITING OF THE EXTERNAL SPACE IN THE MEDIEVAL PICTURE IN SOUTHERN TRANSYLVANIA (15th–16th CENTURIES)

Adrian Stoia

Abstract. Fencing in the ground with a yard of wood, stone or brick resulted from the community or the individual person's need of security. It was generated by the idea of an obstacle in front of the unknown, of the imminent danger. The materials used today or in during the medieval age might be identified not only through archaeological investigations, but also in the medieval churches reference-images of the mural or panel picture. The present study focuses on the 15th–16th centuries in the southern Transylvania.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT PECIU NOU-BOCIAR, TIMIȘ COUNTY

Alexandru Szentmiklosi

Abstract. Archeological investigations at Peciu Nou-*Bociar*, that took place in 1997, 1999 and 2002, identified a seasonal settlement from the end of the Bronze Age that belonged to Cruceni-Belegiș community as the archaeological material in the investigated complexes show up. The semi-buried dwellings from Peciu Nou-*Bociar* know analogies in other Cruceni-Belegiș settlements (as: *Foeni-Gomila Lupului II*, *Timișoara-Fratelia*, *Deta-Dudărie*). We might not exclude also the existence of certain dwellings on the plane, with ground walls, the traces of which should be identified only through magnetometric prospecting or on larger surfaces within certain systematic diggings. The archaeological findings from the layer of culture and the archaeological complexes date most likely between the 15th and the 12th c. B. Ch. (sessions Bz. C-Ha. A1, respectively), being specific to

Cruceni-Belegiș culture (phases I and II). The archaeological complexes that were investigated during the three campaigns may be dated in the 14th–12th c. B. Ch. (Bz. D–Ha. A). According to Fl. Gogâltan's division into periods, this period corresponds to the late Bronze Age II–III (Bz. D–Ha. A). Fragments of pottery specific to phase I of Cruceni-Belegiș culture associated to those ones specific to phase II of the same culture suggest a repeated dwelling in that hill at Bociar. This dwelling might be connected with the incineration necropolis from Peciu Nou-*În Irigat*. In this necropolis pottery specific to phase II of Cruceni-Belegiș culture were found together with archaeological findings specific to phase I of this culture. The seasonal settlement at Peciu Nou-*Bociar* stands in contrast with the incineration necropolis from the place called *În Irigat*; the fact that the necropolis was the main center around which seasonal settlements developed might explain such a contrast. Resuming the archaeological diggings there, with modern researching and dating methods would certainly bring substantial data on the Cruceni-Belegiș community and on its connections with the nearby incineration necropolis.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE BRONZE SETTLEMENT AT VOITEG-GROAPA CU VULPI

Alexandru Szentmiklosi, Florin Medelet

Abstract. The Bronze Age settlement at Voiteg-*Groapa cu vulpi* is located on one meter higher terrace comparing to the around plot of land, and about 4 m comparing to the Lunca Birda channel thalweg, which was probably running during the Bronze Age. The archaeological survey in October 1986 in the pre-historic settlement adjacent area of the incineration necropolis made evident a seasonal dwelling ascribed to a Cruceni-Belegiș community up to the archaeological findings. On the basis of ceramics shapes and ornaments (incisions, dots, alveoli, grooves) analyzing, the artifacts might be dated down to phases I and II of Cruceni-Belegiș culture, in the Late Bronze I and II, respectively (the 15th–13th c., B. Ch). A fragment of a human arm of small dimensions, kindly bended, with a stylized representation of fingers, is one of the interesting findings there. This clay fragment of arm might be dated down to the end of the Bronze Age, namely the Late Bronze I–II (the 15th–13th c. B. Ch.), in the less manifest delimited archaeological context so far. No clear dwelling layers were noted during the archaeological survey, but the findings in the layer of culture dating might suggest a succession of dwelling, covering the phases I and II of this culture evolution. Most likely, such using of the land there through seasonal successive dwellings followed both the higher location of the terrace and pasturing needs, which called the habitat adapting to. The archaeological variety and the presence of imports of Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare type, from the Banat Danubian area, plead for systematic archaeological research, using modern instruments, to understand the habitat organization and its correlation with the incineration necropolis.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS OF VATINA TYPE IN THE PRECINCTS II AT CORNEȘTI-IARCURI (TIMIȘ COUNTY). A PRELIMINARY REPORT

Andrei Bălărie, Alexandru Szentmiklosi

Abstract. In the fall of 2011, at the same time with the archaeological diggings on the ground wall of Precincts IV of the Bronze Age fortification at Cornești-Iarcuri, an archaeological survey (section T. V/2011) was made on the southern side of Precincts II (the southern terrace of the Lac Stream) (Pl. I/1). Those archaeological investigations on the basis of magnetic survey put in light a Vatina type settlement, belonging to the middle Bronze Age. Through that magnetic prospecting, a circular structure was signed down (AU.01), limited by a wall, with the inner space of about 26. (Pl. I/2), limited by a wall. The survey section T.V/2011 aimed to identify the circular structure (AU.01) within the area with Vatina archaeological findings and to date it. The section toward north-south cut the wall of that circular precincts AU.01, in the southern part of it. TV/2011 dimensions: 6.0 m length, 2.00m in breadth, with a final depth of -0.30m in the northern side and -0.60m in the southern one (Pl. ½, II/a). In the investigated area, the limiting wall of AU.01 was of 2.70m in breadth and 1.30m depth. Archaeological artifacts were found in the wall padding; these ones belong to Vatina Culture, group Cornești-Crvenka, respectively, from the middle Bronze Age (Pl. IV-VII). According to P. Reinecke's modified chronological system, these archaeological findings date back in phase Bz. B₁–Bz. B₂ partly. The small diameter of the precincts (AU.01) and the circular wall small depth rule out the hypothesis of a defensive part for a certain human community. To protect or fence in animals might have been the precincts usage. Certain satellite photos plead for as in the same area two other circular precincts of about 20.00 m, and 21.00 m diameter (Pl. III/2) are visible. Google Earth satellite images (2006) point out that this structure is not a singular one, two other circular precincts of the same dimension about being visible in the east of the wall, outside Precincts II. There were no traces of pits for wooden pillars that would plead for a woody fence, but we cannot forgo the hypothesis of a fence there. A fence of brambles, which let no archaeological traces, might have been the solution at that time. New information will be brought through future archaeological investigations in the Precincts II within Cornești-Iarcuri fortification, concerning both the inner organization and the length of time of Vatina settlement there that went before the fortification of the late Bronze Age.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT RAPOLTU MARE–*LA VIE*, CAMPAIGNS 2013-2015. PRELIMINARY REPORT

Marius Gh. Barbu, Ioan Al. Bărbat, Gică Băeștean, Angelica Bălos, Andrei Gonciar,
Alexander Brown

Abstract. The archaeological research on the terrace at Rapoltu Mare-*La Vie*, in 2013–2015 brought into relief dwelling complexes and artifacts belonging to more historical periods, beginning with the Early Neolithic, going away through the Eneolithic period, the Bronze Age, the First Iron Age, Roman and Post-Roman periods, the Middle Ages, and the modern age.

The most intensive anthropic activity developed during the 2nd and the 3rd c. A.D., with the existence of a pile limited by a precincts wall; the results of the archaeological invasive and non-invasive research show so far the presence of a *villa* with two great functioning phases.

The excavated archeological sections or the ones in process have detected a precincts wall and buildings belonging to the entrance on the southern part of the whole complex; at the same time they found a series of archaeological pieces, some of them being chronologically important to date the phases of the Roman *villa* building.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE ROMAN CAMP AT VĂRĂDIA-PUȘTĂ (CARAȘ-SEVERIN COUNTY)

Eduard Nemeth, Ovidiu Bozu

Abstract. From the very beginning the present work focuses both on the diggings the two archaeologists made up to 2011 in the Roman camp at Vărădia-Puștă (county of Caraș-Severin) and the parts of that camp they investigated during that year (fig. 1). The preliminary results follow in the text, on the basis of a section of 26/ 2m, on the north-south direction, at the eastern portal of the camp (*porta principalis dextra*). There they found the foundations of the portal two towers, which were 3m broad and made the portal aperture also of 3m (fig. 2). Marks of a woody wall and of a circular pillar pit were found at about 1m in depth, both of them belonging to the initial woody phase of the portal and precincts. In what concerns the artifacts, the authors speak about three bronze coins dating down from the time of Emperor Trajan; the coins are in the process of being cleaned at the specialized lab; there were other findings too: a fragment of a rectangular rushlight (fig. 3), a complete rushlight with volutes and the probable representation of Mercurius (Hermes) and his caduceus (fig. 4a and b), and a pendant from the top of one of the straps that had been part of a military “apron”, or of a horse harness (fig. 5 a and b).

EARLY MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT AT SĂLIȘTE, VILLAGE OF SUSANI, COMMUNE OF TRAIAN VUIA, TIMIȘ COUNTY

Ovidiu Bozu, Daniela Tănase, Ana Cristina Hamat, Dimitrie Negrei

Abstract. The rescue archeological research within the Site 2, km 21+050 – 21+250 on the future arterial highway Lugoj-Deva put in light an early medieval settlement of the 7th/8th-9th centuries, at Săliște point, village of Susani, commune of Traian Vuia. The western side of the settlement was investigated, namely deep dwellings (14), domestic pits (13), pits for clay extraction (14), and a well. Fragments of pottery from large and small pots and also from little clay trays made the findings in the investigated archaeological complexes there. They also found some extremely rusty iron objects, spindle whorls, and fragments of whetstone. Given the context, we might use only the ceramics to set the chronology of Susani-Săliște site; unfortunately, it also could be dated within a large period: the 7th/8th-9th centuries. In spite of this fact, an early medieval settlement certainly existed there, belonging to the Banat archaeological frame of settlements from the 7th/8th-9th centuries. Following the ceramics researching, we might conclude on the existence of two dwelling horizons there; the first one in the end of the 7th century- the 8th one, represented by a dwelling (No. 2/ complex 112) and two domestic pits (No. 8/ complex 88 and No. 14/ complex 115) where fragments of handmade pots were found, with a rough paste mixed with small broken stones and pounded fragments; some of them are decorated with cuts on rims, and clay trays dating back in the 7th-8thc. The later dwelling horizon to which the great majority of Susani-Săliște archaeological complexes belong, dates back in the 8th-9th c. as there the slow wheeled pottery is dominant, made from a fine and semi-fine paste, usually with fragments of mica, decorated with successive rows of straight lines, of undulated lines with a row of oblique little lines. Handmade pots with a rough paste mixed with small broken stones and pounded

fragments is not combined with the last mentioned one in the complexes we investigated, with the exception of pits No 8/ complex 88 and No. 14/ complex 15 with findings belonging to the end of the 7th c. – beginning of the 8th c.; it might direct us to date them around the year 700. The first dwelling phase at Susani-*Săliște* is in fact contemporary with other relative near settlements: Jabăr-*Cotun*, the 7th–8th c.; Lugoș-*Știuca Veche*, the 8th c.; Sacoșu-Mare-*Burău*, the 7th-8th c. The second dwelling phase dates back in the 8th- 9th c., but we do not believe it to last up to the 10th century, as it is an earlier and a different yet cultural horizon from the settlements found at Remetea Mare-*Gomila lui Pituș* (Timiș County), Sânanđrei-*Oxenbrickel* (Timiș County), and Dumbrăvița (Timiș County) which are dated back in the second half of the 9th – the first one of the 10th c. The partly investigated settlement (2012) at Susani-*Săliște* enlarges the archaeological repertoire of early medieval settlements in the Banat and proves an intense dwelling in the high plane of Lugoș during the last third of the 1st millennium A.D.

ICONOGRAPHIC HYPOSTASES OF EROS/ AMOR ON THE DISC OF THE RUSHLIGHTS FOUND IN TOMIS (1st–3rd CENTURIES AD)

Ștefan Viorel Georgescu

Abstract. Within the rescue excavations in the course of time, thousands rushlights or fragments of rushlights were found in Tomis; six of them bear Eros/ Amor's representation on their disc. The god is represented either riding on the dolphin, together with the dolphin and his trident, or staying nearby a hare, but also in pair, playing in an ornamental well. All these six lights result from the investigated necropolises in the antique town and their importance is connected with their finding context. They have been dated down to the 1st–3rd c. AD.

A NEW FRAGMENTARY MARBLE STONE WITH INSCRIPTION ACCIDENTALLY FOUND BY *TIBISCUM*–JUPA

Călin Timoc

Abstract. Tibiscum has always been rich in archaeological and epigraphic findings. This reality can be explained because the civil settlement during Severi emperors reached the rank of *municipium* and the garrison was increased by 3 auxiliary units, which means close to 2,000 soldiers. A new piece of epigraphic monument, having marked a few letters, completes the data we currently know. Stone seems to have been re-used and keeps data on three lines of text inscription with the middle row hammer-wrought. After a very careful analysis we are able to remark that it is an inscription which contains the name of the emperor Geta, the little brother of Caracalla. It is very probably that the fragmentary marble stone was a part of a big statue-based dedicated to the imperial family of Septimius Severus. The chronology of the monument can be established between: 198 and 211 A. D.

A RING WITH GEMSTONE UNEARTHED IN CIOROIU NOU

Gabriela Filip

Abstract. The adornment artifacts from the Roman Empire have always reflected the preferences, options, aesthetic taste, social status as well as different artistic influences encountered in that period of time. The same situation can be found also in the Roman provinces, where the colonists (who have come from all over the Roman world) have imposed their own artistic styles. Roman jewellery, worn by both men and women include a wide variety of forms (tiaras, necklaces, earrings, rings, bracelets, medallions, pins, brooches, hairpins) being made of different materials such as metal (gold, silver, bronze, iron), bone or glass. Must not be excluded from this category the precious and semiprecious stones destined to decorate these pieces of adornment. In this article, I have decided to bring into discussion a ring made of iron, decorated with a gemstone, discovered during the archaeological excavations campaign carried out in 2014, at Cioroiu Nou, Dolj county. The iron ring has been well preserved. It has an ellipsoid hoop made of a band with rectangular and slightly rounded cross section, widening towards the upper part, with rounded and not very prominent shoulders on the curvature. The ellipsoid horizontal plaque in which the bezel is shaped, is without a setting for the gemstone. Actually, the gemstone is placed at the level of the plaque. The gemstone has engraved on its surface the representation of a male character with military attributes, most probably the god Mars. The relatively small size of the ring might suggest the fact that it belonged to a teenager or a woman. In terms of dating the gemstone ring, the archaeological context of the discovery may suggest a direction in this regard. The ring was found beneath the stratigraphic level of a building that dates back to the first half of the 3th century AD, so the archaeological level to which it belonged may fit chronologically between the end of the 2nd century and the beginning of the following. The decoration of an iron ring with a gemstone may seem a bizarre fact. But adorning jewellery made from inferior quality metals with semiprecious stones, represents a 3th century custom.

THE ANALYSIS OF A FAUNAL SAMPLE FROM MILITARI-CÂMPUL BOJA (3rd, 5-6th CENTURIES AD). CAMPAIGN 2015

Georgeta El Susi

Abstract. The site is located in the western sector of the Bucharest city, south of Dâmbovița Lake, on both sides of the Câmpul Boja street. About 95 mammal bones collected from several dwellings, during the 2015' campaign. 49 of them were gathered from the house no. 5 and are dating in the 3rd century AD (Militari-Chilia Culture). 46 fragments belong to the 5-6th centuries AD habitation (Ipotestii-Cândești Culture), originating in some houses (no. 8, 9, 10 and 12). Overall, the distribution of bones according to skeletal parts (Table 3, 4, Fig. 4, 5) does not emphasise special things. The bonny remainders originate mostly in the skull and to some extent in the limbs. In the habitation area accumulated mainly bones from small species (pig, ovicaprids), or small splinters from large species (cattle). According to statistics of the dwelling no. 5, cattle dominate with 42.43%, followed by ovicaprids (33.33%), pig (18.18%), horse and dog (each one with 3.03%). Bones from wild species have not been identified in this campaign. Analogies with previous samples from the same site highlight some disparities,

in terms of species frequencies (Table 2). Primarily, they are due to the small samples size and to contexts where they come from (pits or houses). At present, it is hard to say what mattered most in the animal management. What one can assume is that, cattle and small ruminants were mainly slaughtered as adult and mature specimens, targeting by-products (dairy, labour); pig was a constant source of supply and easier to feed. Livestock economy was not too flourishing; we have few bones and few sub-adult slaughtered cattle. Hunting was insignificant in terms of food, rather counting as source of raw materials. Horse, apparently was used in the diet. In the habitation from the 5-6th centuries cattle prevail with 64.86%, followed by small ruminants (13.51%), pig (8.11%), horse (5.41%), dog and cat (2.7%). A mandible and a calcaneus from cattle bear cutting-marks (Fig. 1). A horse metapodial, with processing traces, possibly to get a skate is worth mentioning (Fig. 2).

LIGHTING ARTIFACTS FOUND DURING THE RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE CENTER OF TIMIȘOARA

Ana Cristina Hamat, Alexandru Szentmiklosi, Andrei Bălărie

Abstract. The rescue archaeological research in Timișoara, campaign 2013–2014, developed in the old center of the town – Cetate Ward that superposes the medieval Turkish fortification and the bastionary fortress built by Austrians in the first half of the 18th century. Streets Lucian Blaga, Piața Libertății, Unirii and the adjacent streets were investigated there; the defensive system of the ground Ottoman fortification, destroyed during the siege of 1716, was so for the first time investigated by the archeologists; also various complexes dating beginning with the prehistoric age up to the modern time were examined. Concurrently with woody structures belonging to the Ottoman times, various archeological materials were found, among which six artifacts might be noticed as they are connected with the history of the town lightening. So, five candlesticks and a pair of scissors for candle cutting were found on Lucian Blaga Street and in Piața Unirii. They date back in the second half of the 16th century–the beginning of the 18th one, with analogues both in the Ottoman world and Central Europe.

DAM OF THE 18th CENTURY FORTIFICATION IN TIMIȘOARA – PIAȚA 700AN OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Alexandru Szentmiklosi

Abstract. A rescue archaeological survey was developed in 2013–2014 by the Banat National Museum, on 4,423.16 m², a perimeter where the building E of City Business Center has been built after. During the first researching stage, foundations of counterguard I, of the counterscarp of XXVII redan, and of the counterscarp that marks the *glacis* starting were uncovered. One of the four dams on the southern side of Timișoara fortress was found in the structure of the counterscarp. Given the importance of those archaeological vestiges, the researching team proposed to National Commission for Archaeology to preserve that hydro-technical unit and to expose it for public visits. On the basis of notification No.195/2013 of

the Cultural Heritage Direction – Ministry of Culture, the dam has been disassembled and removed in the proximity of the initial location, toward east, in a public area that facilitates the vestige visiting; the whole above procedure has been made during the second researching stage. Having been reconstructed, there were developed debates on the dam researching publicly valorization within the open air museum. There are four explanatory panels around the historic monument. Today, the 18th century hydro-technical unit in Piața Timișoara 700 has become part of the visiting circuit of historical vestiges in Timișoara.v The rescue survey in the area of City Bussines Center-Building E made by the team of the Banat National Museum in 2013-2014 is so far one of the most important rescue actions related to the archaeological heritage, together with the one (2013–2015) in Timișoara historic center.