

Archaeological research at Lipoveni II – La Nisipărie site (2013-2016)

Sergiu MATVEEV and Vlad VORNIC

Abstract

The archaeological rescue investigations carried out in the years 2013-2016 within the limits of the Lipoveni II-La Nisipărie site allowed identification of several cultural-chronological horizons: the Usatovo group from the late Eneolithic period (IV mil. BC), the Chişinău-Corlăteni culture from the early period of the Iron Age (XII-X centuries BC), the Thracian-Getic culture of the VI-III century BC, the Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov culture from the Gothic migration period (III-IV centuries AD) and remains of habitation from the medieval times (VIII-IX, XIII and XVI-XVIII centuries). The most intense habitation in the researched area corresponds to the archeological cultures of the early and late Iron Age and the Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov cultural complex from the Gothic migration period (III-IV centuries BC). Due to the perpetuation of the danger of unlawful sand excavation in the site zone, it is necessary to continue rescue research to recover remarkable vestiges for the archeology of the passing zone from the forest steppe to the steppe of the Republic of Moldova. Although the territory from the north of the Lipoveni village is of an increased interest, not only from the archaeological point of view, but also from the point of view of pedology (through sand layers and other geological deposits), being also a veritable natural monument, the micro zone is in high degree of degradation, as a result of continuous illegal sand excavation.

Keywords: eneolithic, Iron Age, Getic culture, Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov culture, the Middle Ages, Lipoveni.

In 1956 and 1959, the archaeologists Nicolae Chetraru and Emanuil Rikman identified two archaeological sites, called Lipoveni I and Lipoveni II (Кетрару, Рикман 1960, 3; Рикман 1975, 60), on the territory of the village of Lipoveni (Cimislia district). The first objective is located at the north-western edge of the locality and represents a settlement with the dimensions of about 200 × 400 m, attributed to the Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov culture (III-IV centuries AD). The second archaeological site, Lipoveni II, is located about 0.7 km north of the village (Fig. 1), comprising, according to the authors of the discovery, a Getic settlement from the V-III centuries BC and a necropolis of the Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov type.

Unfortunately, over the past six decades, the surface of the Lipoveni II site has been heavily affected by sand extractions from an unauthorized quarry,

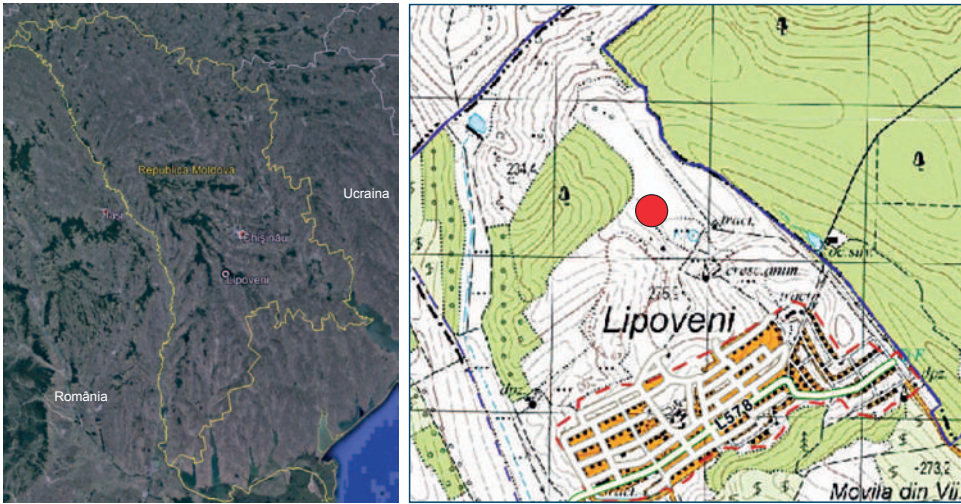


Fig. 1. Localization and topographical position of the Lipoveni II site.

which is still partly functioning (Fig. 2). Attempts to stop these illegal works have not been successful so far. It is noteworthy, however, the volunteer activity of the local biology professor, Mr. Ion Bivol, who, for several decades, has made strong efforts to recover the archaeological pieces, illegally removed from the ground. As a result, an impressive collection of objects, comprising about 30 whole vessels, including a Roman imported amphora, a few clay spindle whorls, a bone comb, two iron lance tips, a bronze coin and other, became part of the exhibition of the history museum, organized in the local public school by the



Fig. 2. General view from the west on the Lipoveni II site.



Fig. 3. Getic vase (1), Roman amphora (2) and Roman bronze coin (3) discovered in the Lipoveni II site (different ladders).

same teacher, passionate about the past of the native land. Examination of the materials, that are today in the collection of the local museum, allowed their preliminary assignment to two cultural-chronological horizons. The oldest level belongs to the Getic culture of the V-III centuries BC and is documented by a handmade fragmentary pot of gray-brown coarse paste, ornamented in the lower part with flattened protrusions (Fig. 3/1). This type of vessel is well documented in the Getic fortified settlements of Butuceni (Arnăut 2003, 330–331, fig. 8,1–2, fig. 9,2–3), Potârca (Niculiță, Matveev, Potângă 1999, 323, fig. 5), Saharna (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăut 2008, 319, fig. 101,5) and so on. The second chronological horizon is attributed to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture from the Gothic migration period (III-IV centuries AD) and is represented mainly by a large number of various types pots, made of fine and lumpy gray clay, which find numerous correspondences in the settlements and necropolis of this culture, which were more intensively researched by excavations (Budești, Danceni, Bârlad-Valea Seacă, Mihălășeni and so on). Among the ceramic containers, there is a Roman yellowish-albescent amphora with a pyriform body, narrow neck and tubular bottom (Fig. 3/2), which is included in the „Šelov D type” or „Tanaïs type” and dates back to the III century A.D. (Šelov 1978, 18–21). The ceramic material was analyzed in a study published in 2016 (Vornic



Fig. 4. Orth-photo plan of the Lipoveni II site with the location of the sections (2013-2016).

2006; Matveev, Vornic 2016, 39–55). We also mention a well-preserved bronze coin issued during Commodus Emperor (180-192) (Fig. 3/3).

The disease of the beginning of the 21st century for the archaeological heritage – „detectorism” or treasure hunt, did not bypass the sites from Lipoveni, there being certain information that a bronze repository would come from the respective locality. Composed of 6 well preserved different pieces (a dagger, a pusher, a chisel, a celt and two sickles), the repository was dated in the late Bronze Age and attributed to the Sabatinovka culture (XIV-XIII centuries BC) (Cerna, Topal 2013, 193–194). Although the complex is of particular importance for the old history of this region, the archaeological context of the repository can no longer be restored.

A surface prospecting of the Lipoveni II site, made in 2010 by Tudor Arnăuț, Sergiu Matveev and Ion Bivol, highlighted the intensification of the monument’s destruction by massive sand excavations, including the use of mechanized machinery: excavators, tractors and other. The eastern bank of the quarry had a depth of about 2.5 m, in which several closed complexes were observed, namely, hearths, cesspits, which still kept ceramic fragments and animal bones. Similar archaeological remains were also scattered in the ruined soil nearby, in some cases human bones from burial tombs were also identified.

In order to evaluate the state of the archaeological sites on the territory of Lipoveni, a Category D authorization was requested from the National Archae-

ological Commission in 2013. The visual examination of the Lipoveni II site in the summer of 2013 demonstrated the moving of the quarries limits to the north and east by 30–40 m, a large part of the complexes identified in 2010 being in the meantime destroyed irremediably. On the soil surface, many archaeological remains, including two knives of iron, a clay spindle whorl, many fragments of pottery, made on wheel of fine and coarse paste, Roman amphora crocks, as well as a fragment of human cranial cap and other osteological material were collected. Given the highly advanced destruction of the site and bearing in mind the danger of its further devastation, during the prospecting in summer of 2013 it was decided to start rescue research, carried out by a united effort of teams from the State University from Moldova and the National Archaeological Agency. In the years 2014-2016, due to the prescriptions and warnings submitted to the local public administration and locals, the kept eastern sector of the site with archaeological vestiges was significantly less affected. However, illegal excavations of sand continued in other sectors of the unauthorized quarry, persisting the danger of further damage of the area with archaeological heritage, and this required to continue the rescue operations.

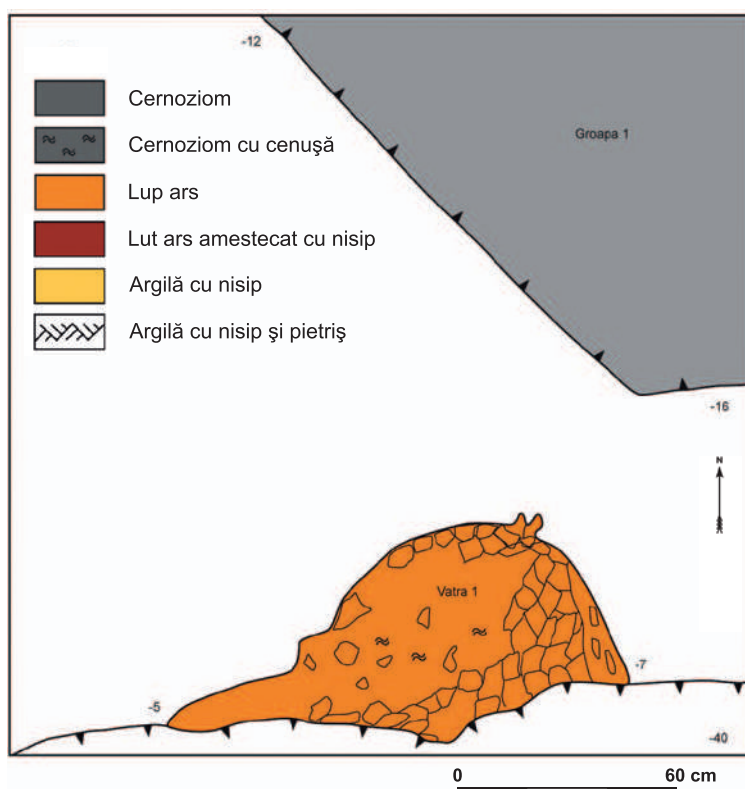


Fig. 5. Plan of Section I.

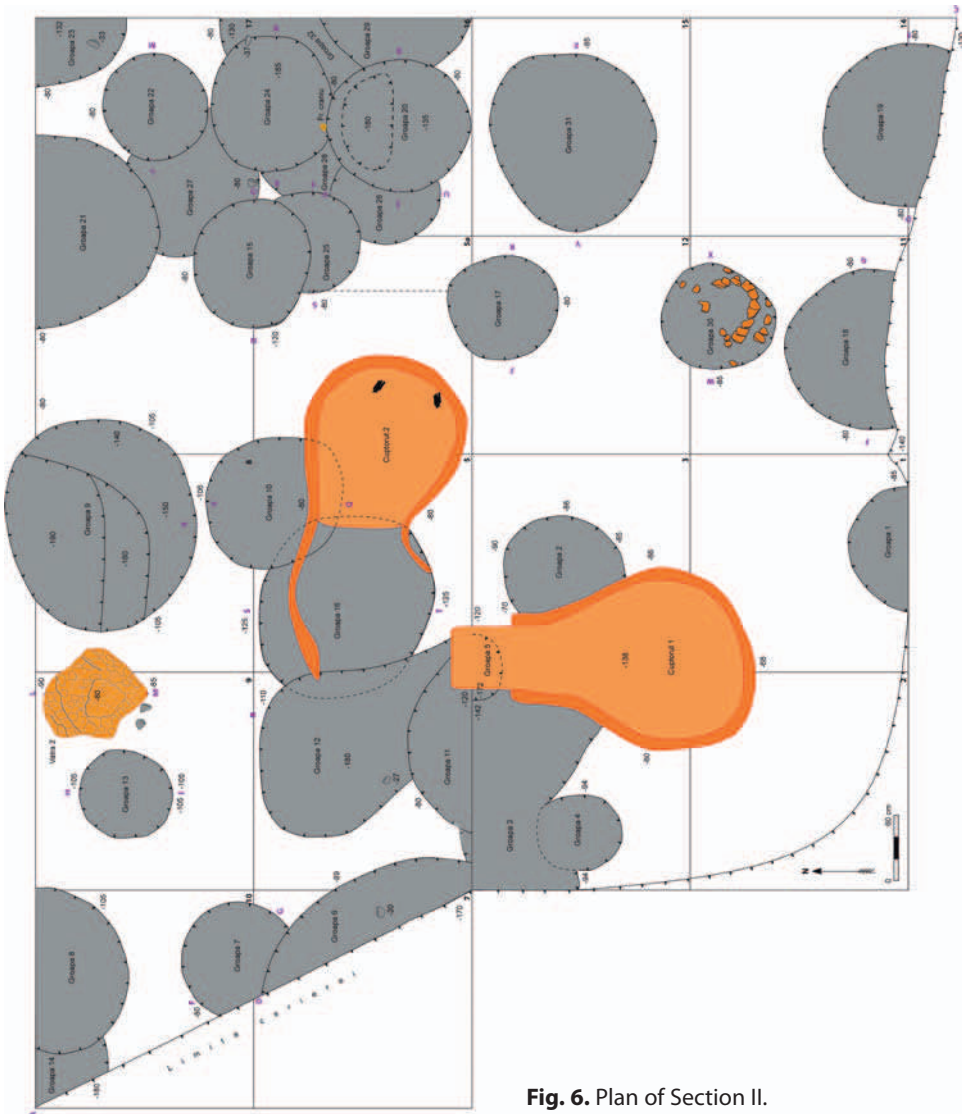


Fig. 6. Plan of Section II.

Section I (Fig. 4, 5), in fact, a square-shaped survey with the 2 m side was executed in the central-northern part of the quarry from 2013 (lat. 46° 44,755' north, longitude 28° 45,004' east), where the extraction of sand has highlighted traces of burns and heavily burnt hearth crumbs. In the process of soil removing, two complexes were identified: a fireplace in the open air and a cesspit (?).

Section II (Fig. 4, 6) was drawn in the north-eastern part of the quarry in summer 2013 (lat. 46° 44.755' north, long. 28° 45.004' east), in an area where works of sand extraction have brought to light the contour of a pit, containing ceramic fragments and animal bones. Initially, a survey of about 1.7-2 × 4 m,

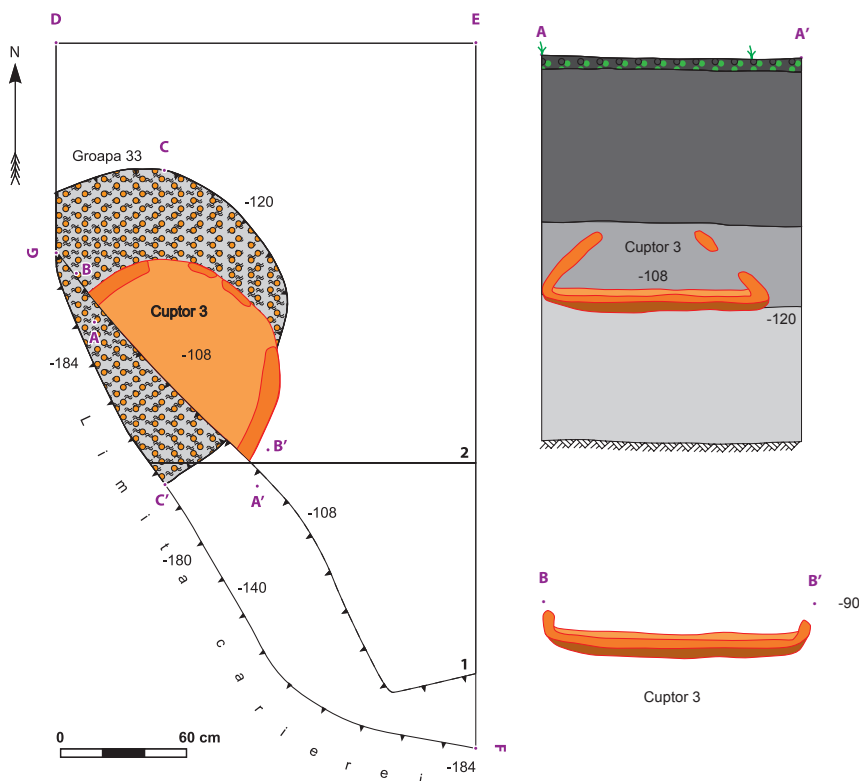


Fig. 7. Section III plan and Oven 3 profile.

consisting of two squares, with a west-east orientation was opened. Later, for the purpose of integral disclosure of a fire facility signaled in the north of the survey, two squares were added. As a result, Section II reached a surface of near 16 m.p., being approximately square, oriented on the direction of the cardinal points. In 2014, in the northern part of Section II, for completely stripping the oven 1, a complete rectangular, north-south axis survey of approximately 4×6 m was made. After the second fire facility was discovered, on the eastern side of the survey a box of 2×1.5 m was drawn. As a result, the digging of the year 2014 took a slightly irregular shape, with a total area of about 28 square meters. In 2015, seven more squares on the eastern side were attached to the section II (no. 11-17), and the research of the square 5A area was finalized, as it was largely investigated in 2014 by stripping the oven 2. Thereby, the sector from Section II, investigated in 2015, covered an area of approximately 30 square meters, having a roughly rectangular shape, oriented on the direction of the cardinal points.

Section III (Fig. 4, 7). The visual study of the banks of the sands in 2015 led to the identification of a partially destroyed fire facility (Fig. 8). The com-



Fig. 8. View from the south on Oven 3.

plex was about 55 m to the northwest of Section II. The danger of losing it definitely determined us to draw a rescue survey here, marked as Section III. The survey had sides facing the direction of the cardinal points and consisted of two incomplete squares, numbered from south to north, its surface exceeding 4 m². The north-western corner of the survey has the following geographical coordinates: N 46° 44.679', E 028° 45.159'.

Section IV (Fig. 4,9). In 2016, Section IV excavations began, the primary purpose of the research being to save a site sector from destruction, which was about 110 m northwest of Section II, and to specify the habitation levels in this area of the site. For this purpose, a box was drawn at the edge of the quarry, marked as section IV, with the dimensions of 5 × 8 m, oriented with the long side on the north-south axis. Section IV was divided into 12 squares, with the size of 2 × 2 m, the numbering of which was made from north to south and from east to west. The western half of □9-□12 corresponds to the boundary of the bank of the sandy career. After the identifying the Deep Complex 1, the boundaries of which continued in the northern and eastern wall, Section IV was extended by 2 m to east and north by adding □13-□20, continuously numbered from west to east and from north to south. Thus, the total area surveyed reached 72 m². The north-eastern corner of the section has the coordinates: N 46° 44.704', E 028° 45.142'.

Verification of the site by research executives in June 2016 confirmed the continuation of unauthorized sand excavations, particularly in the northern and western sectors. The sand extraction from the northern sector, at the point identified by coordinates: N 46° 44,760', E 028° 44,973' resulted in the destruction of a pit (?) with archaeological material. Given the imminence of loss of these vestiges, the complex debris were immediately investigated (noted Pit 34/_/2016).

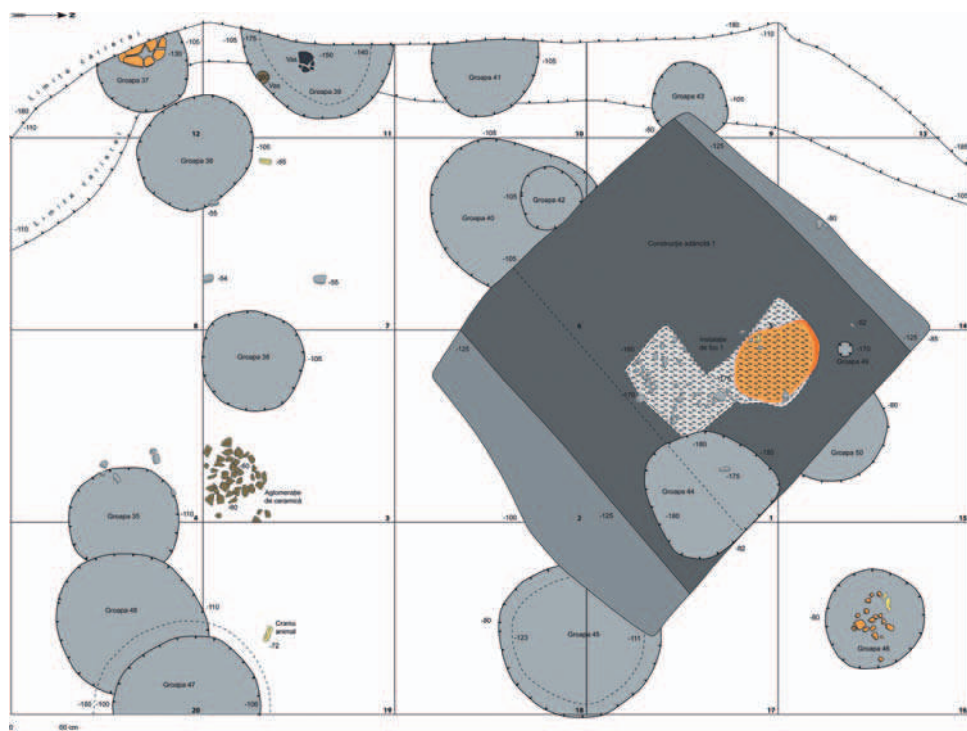


Fig. 9. Plan of Section IV.

Examination of the section profiles revealed five stratigraphic units, as follows: vegetal soil (0-0.20 m), chernozem and gray soil, often with limestone pigments (0.20-0.60/0.65 m), maroon color soil (0.65-0.9/1.0 m) and sterile yellow soil or white-yellowish sand (0.9/1.0 m down).

The layer of anthropogenic deposits, strongly affected by agricultural works up to a depth of about 0.6/0.65 m, corresponds broadly to the first four or five layers of excavation (0-0.85/1.00 m). Stratigraphic data and archaeological materials, especially ceramics, indicate that Christian-era habitation corresponds *grosso modo* to the first three layers of excavation (0-0.60/0.65 m). Then, at the depth of near 1 m, there follows a layer, corresponding to the two cultural horizons from the 1-st mil. BC, deepening in the area of some complexes up to more than 2 m.

Archaeological research in the years 2013-2016 highlighted several complexes: three ovens, two hearths, a dwelling deep into the ground and 51 pits. Thus, the most frequent complexes in the Lipoveni site are the pits. Most pits have been identified on the background of the living soil at a level of 0.8-1.0 m from the actual soil surface. In dimensions, shape and content, holes differ between them. However, most pits have medium and large dimensions. The

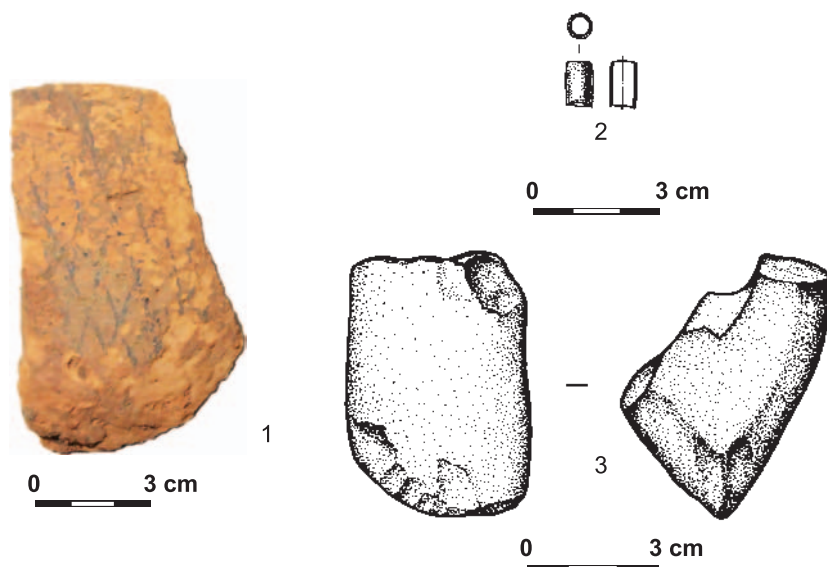


Fig. 10. Vestiges from the late Eneolithic.

depths of the pits range from 0.10 m to 2.25 m and their diameters oscillate between 0.8 and 1.8 m. As for the shape, we distinguish bell-shaped pits, holes with straight walls, pits with stairs and truncated-shaped pits, having a large diameter in the upper part. The filling of most of the complexes consisted of gray or gray-brown soil mixed with ceramic fragments and animal bones. Regarding the cultural-chronological identity of the pits, this could be established on the basis of ceramic and stratigraphic data. It is to be emphasized, that due to the interference and mixture of materials, for some complexes the assignment was done with a certain degree of probability, and some pits, due to the lack of inventory, remained undetermined in cultural and chronological terms. As for the destination of this type of complex, judging by its size, shape and content, the pits that have been researched so far have probably been used for the storage of household waste, with the exception of Pit 50, which was a pillar one.

Through surveys, a large number of inventory whole pieces and fragments, often unattainable at certain historical eras, were recovered outside the excavated areas.

Habitation from the late Eneolithic

With some reservations, to the respective level of habitation two pits were assigned (P. 1/I/2013 and P. 34/_/2016), in the filling soil of which several handmade brown and brick corroded fragments of pots were found, one of which is evidenced by a painting decoration with the rhomboid network motif,

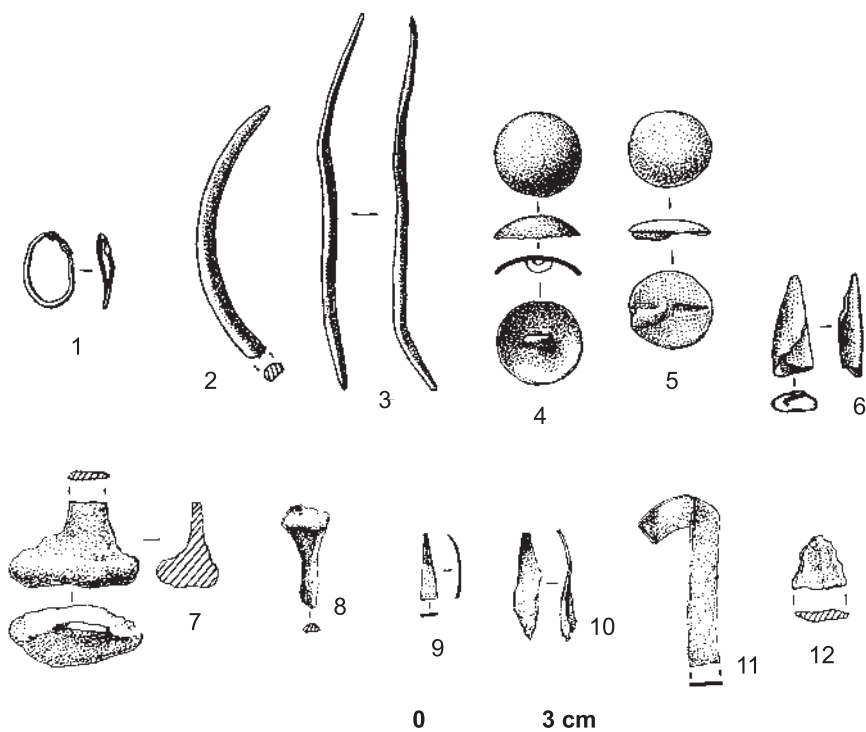


Fig. 11. Bronze pieces of the early Iron Age.

attributed to the Usatovo group, dated in the end of the IV mil. – beginning of the III mil. BC (Fig. 10/1). A bronze tube-shaped piece (Fig. 10/2) with similarities among the cylindrical pendants of the Cucuteni-Tripolie culture (Dergachev 2016, 36–51) was attributed to the same period. Among the discoveries in a pit (P. 3/II/2013), with Černjachov ceramic fragments, there is a fragment of an ax made of polished stone, with perforation (Fig. 10/3), which, according to the production technology, would belong to the Eneolithic level, possibly re-used in later periods. Spatially, the discoveries attributed to this era are concentrated in the north of the site.

Habitation from the early Iron Age

25 pits were referred to this period (P. 1/II/2013, P. 13/II/2013, P. 16/II/2013, P. 17/II/2015, P. 22-25/II/2015, P. 28/II/2015, P. 30/II/2015, P. 33/II/2015, P. 35-40/IV/2016, P. 42-49/IV/2016).

Inventory pieces. The vestiges of the early Iron Age are remarked by a variety of fabrication material: bronze, bone/horn, clay and stone.

Bronze pieces: a bronze link provided with two-nodal ends in the place of catching the heads (Fig. 11/1), the size and shape of the piece admit its use as a

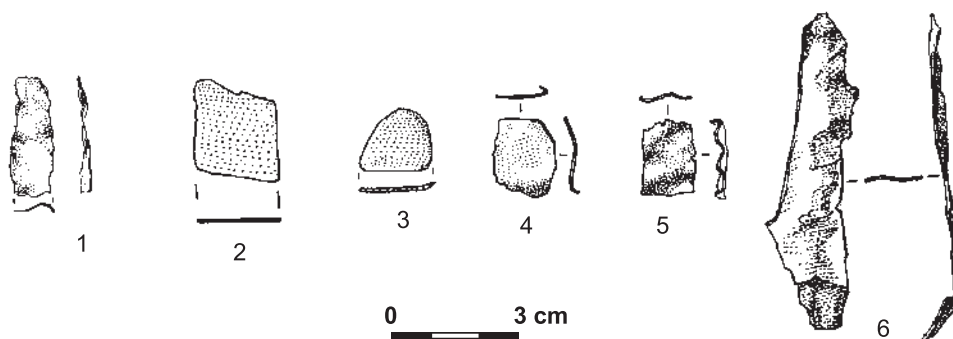


Fig. 12. Bronze pieces of the early Iron Age.

gripping element of a pendant or a ring for a child; a bronze bracelet shaped as a rounded rod, acute at one end, with oval section (Fig. 11/2); a bronze piece in the form of a bronze bent bar, sharpened at one end and flattened at another one (Fig. 11/3), was discovered in the site of Saharna-Dealul Mănăstirii, being interpreted by the authors as a needle from the early Iron Age (Niculiță, Nicic 2012, 169–184); two concave-convex round shape brackets/buttons (Fig. 11/4-5); a cone-shaped bronze piece, obtained by twisting a bronze plate (Fig. 11/6), with similarities in the conical pendants of the Cucuteni-Tripolie culture (Dergachev 2016, 36–51); pieces close by shape were also identified in the New culture warehouses (Sirbu 2013a, fig. 3/13); two nail-shaped pieces of bronze with a rectangular stem in section with a conical or pyramidal „flower” (Fig. 11/7-8), which, apparently, represents the metal part remained in the channel of the casting a bronze object form, from which it was detached, three similar debris from casting are listed in the deposit from Băleni (Galați county), attributed to the New culture (Petrescu-Dimbovița 1977, 74); ten fragments of bronze plates (Fig. 11/9-12; 12/1-6) found in the culture layer, in the complex filling and *passim*.

Horn/bone pieces: a horn/bone psalie (Fig. 13/1) made from the deer horn ray segment and poorly conserved; on its surface, traces of grinding, scraping and decortication could be identified as a result of cleaning of the raw material external surface; psalia has two orifices and a longitudinal decoration consisting of two lines of excised triangles; has common features with the discovery from Babadag-Cetățuie from the early Iron Age (Ailincăi, Mihail 2010, 189-200); a horn arrow (13/2) of an elongated pyramidal shape, and almost triangular, each of the three surfaces being provided with three transverse incisions; the gripping portion is rectangular in section; over its entire length the piece is provided with a transverse cut; analogies are found in the Bronze Age sites at Zoltan and Grbovăț (Nikulicje, Arnaut 2004, 62–68); a flattened

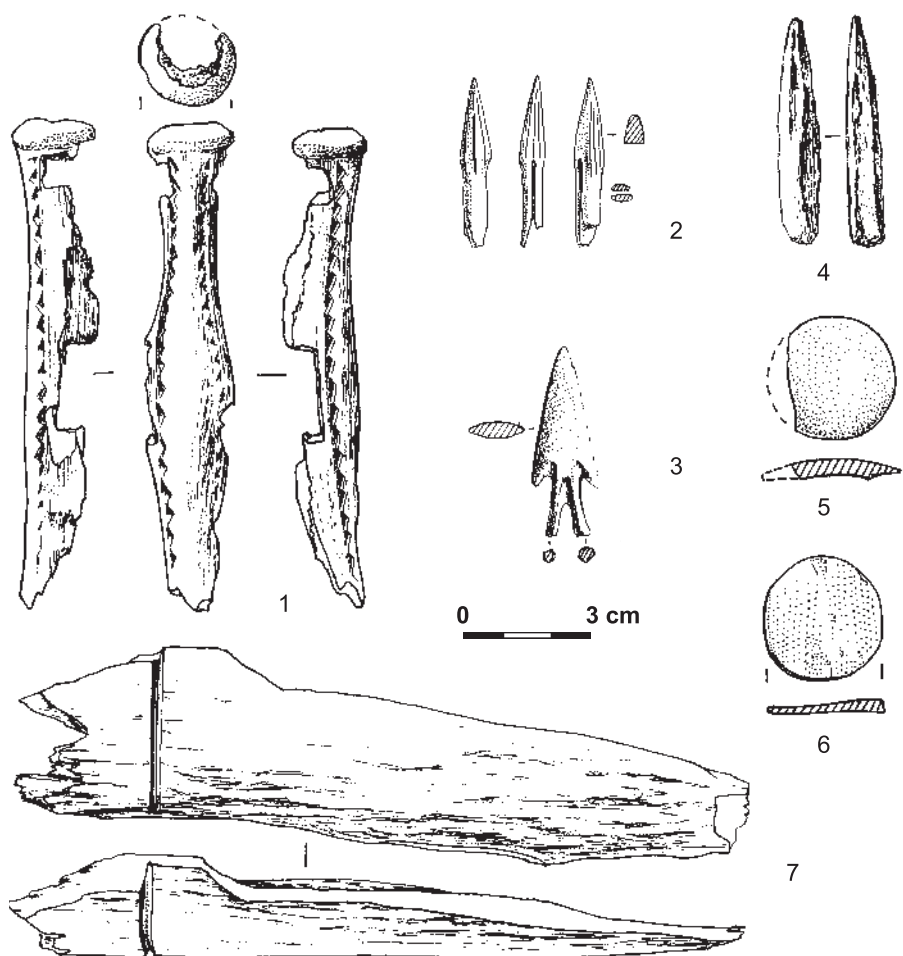


Fig. 13. Horn/bone items from the early Iron Age.

shaped horn arrow (Fig. 13/3), equipped with two fins, the edge of which were carefully processed; the fastening part is a bifurcation; each of the two teeth is round-shaped in section; the piece was made with such care, that it seems to have a bronze specimen as a model; direct analogies are not yet known, but similar pieces made of bronze were attributed by B. Grakov to the early Iron Age (Grakov 1977, 86–88); a piece of bone/horn (Fig. 13/4) presenting a semi product of a piercer or elongated-form arrowhead, pointed at one end, polygonal in section; a piece of bone (Fig. 13/5), which is a round button with polished outer surface; is part of the harbor or harness set from the end of the Bronze Age (Diaconu, Sîrbu 2014, 125–136); another bone piece (Fig. 13/6) is a round button that may be part of the same category of vestiges with the previ-

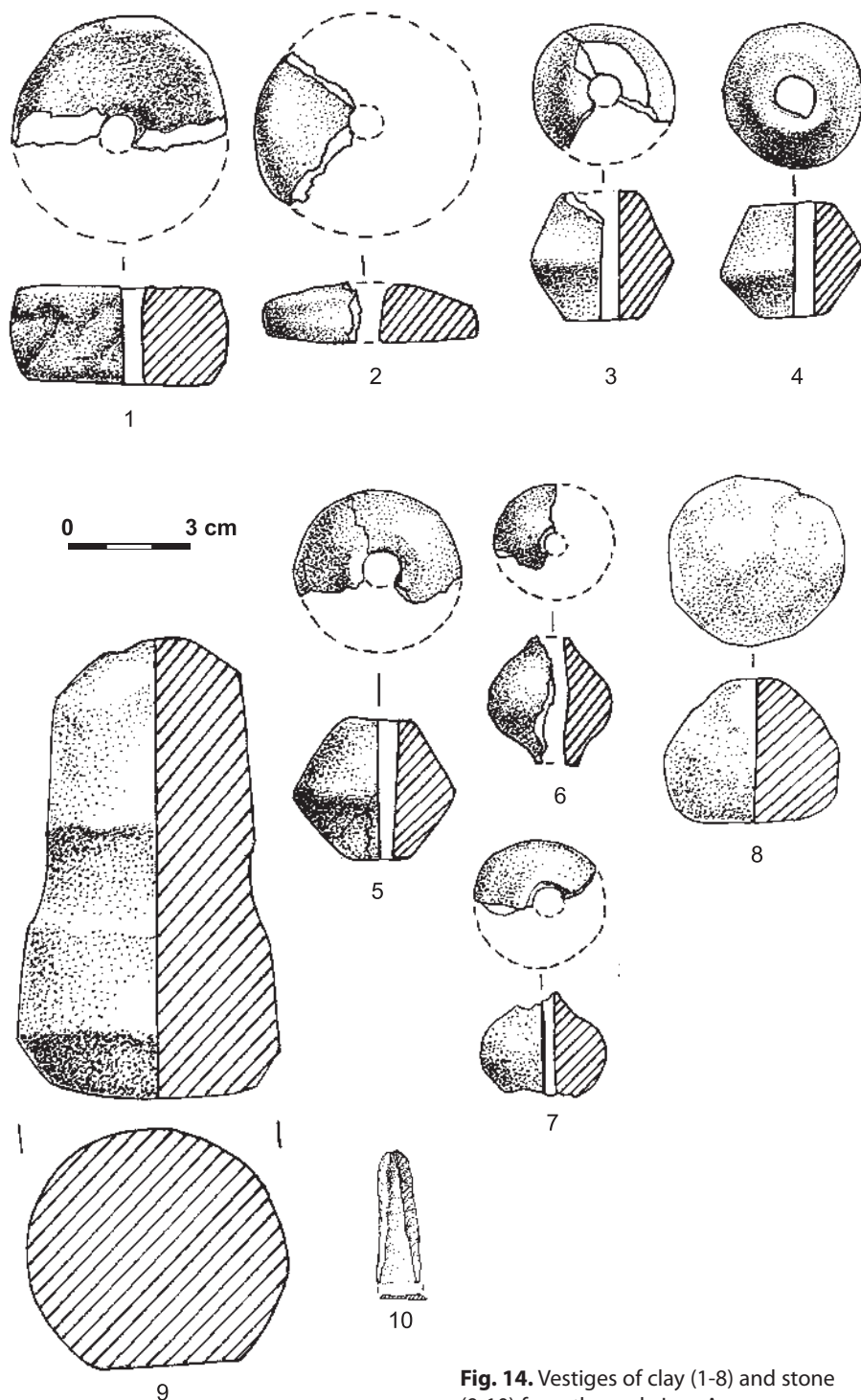


Fig. 14. Vestiges of clay (1-8) and stone (9-10) from the early Iron Age.

ous piece; a piece of processed *Cervus elaphus* horn (Fig. 13/7), provided at one end with a transverse incision.

Pieces of clay: a cylindrical spindle whorl (Fig. 14/1), on the outer surface of the edge some notched oblique lines are observed; a discoidal spindle whorl (Fig. 14/2) which could also be part of the cart wheels category; three bi-truncated spindle whorls (Fig. 14/3-5) and two fragments of spindle whorls (Fig. 14/6-7) of quasi-spherical forms; a flattened spherical clay ball (Fig. 14/8).

Stone pieces: a stone pestle (Fig. 14/9) made of a rough gray stone; the piece has the shape of a cone trunk with rounded traces at both ends as a result of intense use, a grooving in the central part and a transversal strip obtained by the same method; the pieces of this type are considered by some specialists as scepters, being attributed to the late Bronze Age (Savva 1987, 62–71; Sîrbu 2013b, 163–188), but often they are reused. The attrition, resulting from the intense use of the piece as a pestle, makes it impossible to attribute it to one of the five types, identified by N. Boroffka and E. Sava (Boroffka, Sava 1998, 20), the closest similarities are found in the Parcheş piece (Mihail, Ailincăi 2014, 67-80); a flint chip (Fig. 14/10) of a trapezoidal form in plan.

The ceramic material specific to this period is represented by vessels made from a fine or coarse paste, with fireclay degreasers; burning is incomplete and uneven; the color varies from gray to black and the surface of the containers in most cases is polished; vestiges of this kind predominate in the soil layer starting at a depth of about 0.70-0.80 m; identified shapes are S-oidal shaped cups, some of which are ornamented with grooves, incised lines and oblique incisions, bowls with invasive and vertical lip, various types of pots, some ornamented with an alveolated streak and large vessels having bi-truncated body with or without cylindrical neck; the containers belonging to this habitation level have various ornaments, consisting of incisions, grooves, bold streaks, alveolated streaks, flattened protrusions (Fig. 15).

Habitation from the late Iron Age

Heath 2/II/2014 (Fig. 16) appeared in the central-northern part of the excavation at a depth of 0.85 m from the current treading level. It represented a burnt clay platform of oval-irregular form with dimensions of 0.66 x 0.90 m. In the upper part of the hearth there was a strongly burned clay crust, 0.04 m thick, partially preserved, followed by a burned clay layer with a thickness ranging between 0.07 and 0.11 m. In the northern part, the surface of the heath was arranged in the slope with a deviation to the southern one of 0.12 m. In the layer under the hearth 28 of bovine bones were discovered. The stratigraphic position and the direct analogs, known in the Saharna Mare fortified site (Ni-



Fig. 15. Pottery from the early Iron Age.



Fig. 16. Section II, hearth 2. View from the north.

culiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, 104–106) and the like ones allow attributing this fire facility to the Getic cultural horizon of the V-III century BC.

With some reservations, 11 pits were assigned to this period (P. 2/II/2013, P. 5/II/2013, P. 6/II/2014, P. 2014, P. 9/II/2014, P. 10/II/2014, P. 11/II/2014, P. 12/II/2014, P. 29/II/2015, P. 31/II/2015). In the filling of four pits (no 6-7, 9-10) the Getic ceramic material prevails numerically, but there are also pieces of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type vessels.

The inventory pieces attributed to this epoch consist of a batch of six pieces of bronze: a bronze bar-shaped nodule link (Fig. 17/1), circular in section, from the outside, on the surface of the link there are 16 groups of three knots, on one side one can see the imprint of a strike with a sharp blade, the respective pieces considered “celtic”, known under various types, are characteristic especially for the Latene age (Nefedova 1992, 21–34; Zhuravlev 2014, 59–85); five arrowheads with three bronze fins, of which two groups are distinguished: pyramidal (Fig. 17/2-4) and elongated pyramidal (Fig. 17/5-6); these pieces have analogies in the military equipment in the Thracian-Getic environment at the end of the VI–V centuries BC.

The ceramic material of the late Iron Age is characterized by fragments of vessels, modeled from coarse clay paste with fireclay degreasers. Burning of the

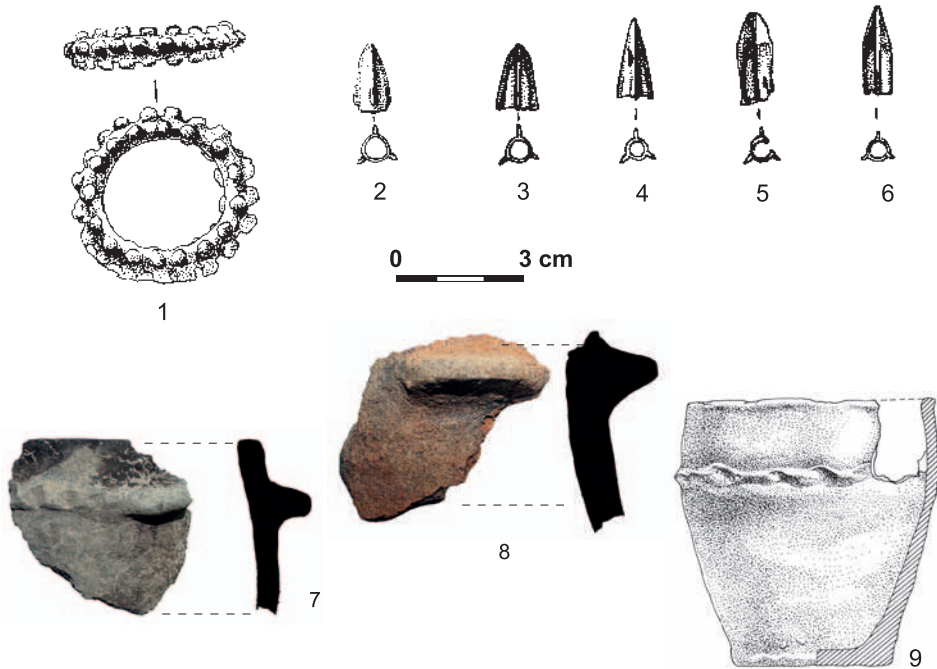


Fig. 17. Bronze (1-6) and clay (7-9) pieces from the late Iron Age.

vessels was incomplete and uneven, the color ranging from brown to dark-gray. The majority of pottery was found in the soil layer at a depth of 0.4-0.6 m. The ceramic assortment consists mainly of bowls and pots of various shapes and sizes, the characteristic ornament being the one applied in relief on the surface of the bowl: streaks, alveolated streaks, cylindrical and flattened protrusions (Fig. 17/7-9). Some fragments are difficult to separate by morphological characters from those of the earlier historical age.

Habitation from the beginning of the migration period (III-IV centuries BC)

The cultural horizon of that period is documented by fireplaces, cesspits and a variety of archaeological inventories.

The oven 1/II/2013 (Fig. 18) was signaled at a depth of 0.3-0.4 m in the central part of the section. It was oval in shape, with the dimensions of 1.45×1.78 m outside, presenting in the north a fire channel, 0.6 wide and long over 1 m. As it entered under the northern wall of the section, the fire channel end and the mouth of the oven could not be surprised. The hearth of the oven, at a depth of about 1.38 m, was covered with a hemispherical cap, whose height was about 0.5 m (the dome was found to have crashed). Both the hearth and



Fig. 18. View from the east on the oven 1.

the interior walls of the installation were clad with two or three layers, successively deposited and covered with slag, which indicates that the oven has been used for a longer period of time, and it was repaired. The intense use of the oven is also proven by the fact that, around the walls, the living clay was burned to red at a depth of about 0.10 m. The oven's filling consisted of gray ground mixed with many pieces of burnt clay, ceramic fragments and animal bones. In the western part of the filling there was also found a rough limestone with dimensions of $12 \times 12 \times 25$ cm. On the hearth there was a consistent layer of ash, with a thickness of 0,12-0,15 m, in which there were found some fragments and passed through fire fauna remnants.

Of the 51 ceramic fragments identified in the oven filling, 38 belong to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, 12 fragments (all with secondary burning traces) are attributed to the Getic or early Hallstatt culture, and a fragment of a vessel worked on the fast wheel (without secondary combustion signs) dates back to the late Middle Ages.

In the oven filling soil, besides ceramics, various fauna remains belonging to several species were found: cattle (38,46%), equines (3,85%), pigs (11,54%) and birds (11, 54%), a high percentage of bone fragments (34.61%) being undeterminable. This ratio finds similarities in the collection of bones recovered



Fig. 19. View from the west on the oven 2.

from the upper layers of the excavation, constituting together with ceramics an indication to attribute the oven to the habitat of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture (III-IV centuries BC) as well. Few ceramic fragments of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type, found in the red-brick burned earth under the fire facility, also plead for this chronological framing. Regarding the destination, we assume that the installation was not for crafts, but domestic, being especially used in the preparation of food.

The oven 2/II/2014 (Fig. 19) was signaled in the eastern edge of the section, at a depth of 0.80 m from the current surface of the soil. It had a circular shape, with a diameter of about 1.43 m, presenting in the western part a fire channel with mouth width of 0.76 m and long over 0.90 m. The lower part of the oven was arranged in the soil alive. The hearth of the installation, which was 1,04 m high, was covered with a layer of ash, 0,04 m thick. The oven was intensively used, the proof being that the living clay around the walls was burned to red at a depth of about 0.10 m. The dome was not preserved, being crashed from antiquity. After the abandonment, the complex was affected by agricultural work. Oven filling consisted of gray ground, mixed with pieces of burnt clay, in which some fauna remains passed through fire and a fragment of ceramic pot walls made on wheel of course paste were found. A fragment of lip also comes from a container worked on wheel of course paste, found under the

hearth of the oven. Another fragment of a flat bottomed pot, found in the oven filling, is worked by hand of coarse paste, being specific to the Getic cultural horizon. In the north and west, the oven overlapped the pits 10 and 16. The ceramic fragments characteristic of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, as well as clear similarity with the oven 1 discovered in 2013, allow this complex to be assigned to the level of habitation dated in the III-IV centuries AD.

The oven 3/III/2015 (Fig. 10; 11) was signaled in the southern edge of Section III, at a depth of 0.84 m, by identifying some pieces of soil, burned to brick-red. The upper part of the complex was destroyed by agricultural works, and more than half of the lower one – by the illicit excavation of sand. *In situ*, only a portion of the oven bottom was preserved, suggesting a quasi-circular shape in plane. The diameter of the fire facility was about 1.1 m and the thickness of the lateral soil layer, affected by high temperatures, reached 5 cm. The oven's heath was a 2-3 cm thick brick-yellow crust, followed by a layer of brick-colored burnt soil, 3-5 cm thick, and then a brown one, 3-5 cm thick. In the archaeological layer above the oven, affected by agricultural works, there were found a few fauna remains and 14 fragments of handmade pots of rough paste mixed with fireclay, which by morphology, burning, color and decoration can be attributed to the Thracian-Getic habitation horizon. However, given the bumpy condition of the culture layer, these materials cannot be used as dating elements of the fire facility. The resemblance with the first two ovens, discovered in the previous years, suggests the assigning of this complex, with probability, to Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov habitation level.

Six pits were also attributed to this period (P. 3/II/2013, P. 4/II/2013, P. 15/II/2014, P. 19/II/2015, P. 21/II/2015 and P. 27/II/2015).

Inventory pieces

The vestiges belonging to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture are the most numerous in the upper part of the archaeological layer, up to a depth of 0.5 m. Among the inventory pieces that are certainly assigned to this cultural-chronological horizon, we mention:

Pieces of iron: a fragment of the arc of an iron fibula (Fig. 20/1) which, with certain reservations, can be attributed to the type of fibulae with the wrapped foot, dated in the IV century AD; an iron buckle in the form of a circular -section iron bar, pointed at the end (Fig. 20/2); a round-section iron bar, sharp at one end and broken at another (Fig. 20/3); it could also be used as a hook; a fragment of iron piece with unidentified utility (Fig. 20/4).

Bronze/brass pieces: a bronze coin (Fig. 20/5) discovered *passim* on the surface of the soil in the southeast area from Section II, *averse*: Gordian III's

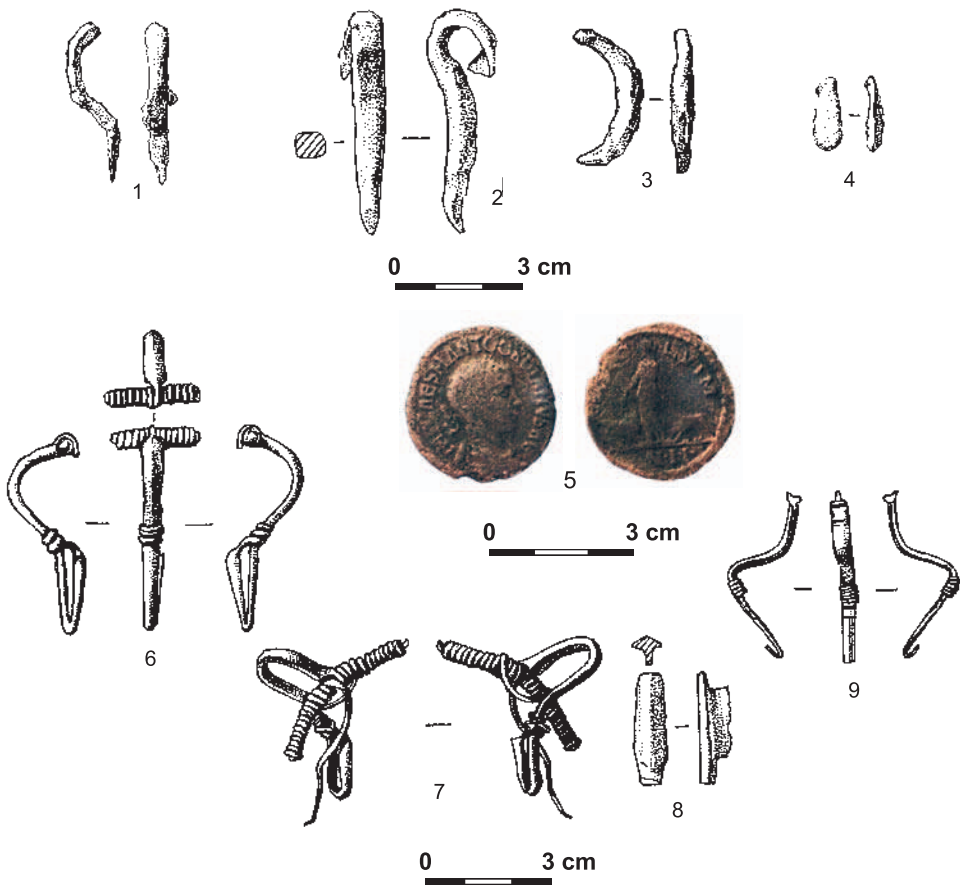


Fig. 20. Pieces of iron (1-4), bronze (5-8) and silver (9) from the beginning of the migration period.

bust oriented to the right, legend: IMP CAES M ANT GORDIANVS AVG, reverse: Moesia flanked by a bull and a lion, legend: PMS COL VIM, in exergy: AN · I · I ·, diameter: 30 mm; the coin was issued under the authority of Gordianus III at the workshop from Viminacium between 240-241 years BC (Moushmov 33) (Găzdac, Alföldy-Găzdac 2008, 93–130); the piece has a special value for money circulation in the Prut-Dniester space, being the first bronze coin issued by Gordian III in Viminacium, known on the territory of the Republic of Moldova; a bronze fibula (frg.) (Fig. 20/6) of the type with the foot turned underneath and wrapped; the resort is worked of one piece and twisted around the stem by 2 cm in six turns on one side and seven on the other, the needle lasting from the last one, the fibula bow is curved, semi oval in section, slightly faceted in the external part, the leg is narrowed and wrapped on the bow twice, the needle and the rope are missing, this shape of fibula has the highest frequency in the area of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture; regarding the dating,

most archaeologists refer them to the second half of the IV century (Diaconu 1965, 64; Ambroz 1966, 64; Magomedov 2001, 67); in the opinion of I. Ioniță, the fibulae of this kind (included in category I) belong to the III-rd stage of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, dating back in the period C_{3b} (Ioniță 1992, 82); another bronze fibula (Fig. 20/7) is part of the fibula category with the wrapped foot, with long resort, worked from three pieces of wire; the piece is deformed, and in the place of winding the foot the wire is torn; the fibula body is arched, being worked from a rectangular-section strip, slightly faceted, the leg is narrowed and wrapped on the arc twice; this type of fibula is widespread in the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture complexes; concerning chronological classification, A. Ambroz places the type 4b fibulae (after A. Ambroz variant 2) at the end of the III-rd century and in the first half of the IV-th century (Ambroz 1966, 63); according to I. Ioniță, the fibulae with wrapped leg and prolonged resort belong to the second stage of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture, dated to late C₂ and C_{3a} (Ioniță 1992, 82); a third bronze fibula (Fig. 20/8) presents a faceted foot and a part of the fastener of a bronze piece of the fixed-type fastener; such fibulae occur relatively rarely in the area of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture; among the analogues we quote those from Târgșor (Diaconu 1965, pl. CXIII, 2), Lețcani (Bloșiu 1975, fig. 26, 3), Dănceni (Rafalovich 1986, pl. LV, 5) and Barlad-Valea Seacă (Palade 2004, 216, 217, fig. 203, 1; 214, 6), we do not have more exact data for the chronological framing of the fibula with fixed fastener, they being generally dated during the IV-th century (Schulze 1977, 92, Taf. 12; Shhukin, Shherbakova 1986, 181).

Silver piece: a fibula (Fig. 20/9) presenting the bent body of a fibula with the leg bent underneath and wrapped; is worked from a narrow strip, rectangular in section, with the bow and leg faceted; the foot is wrapped five times; the resort with the needle and brooch are missing, on the upper side of the bow, near the place where the resort is attached and on the both sides of the foot, wrapping on arc place, there is a decoration, consisting of two parallel incised lines and in the space between them, at the edge, a semi-oval was polished.

Clay pieces: a colander fragment (Fig. 21/1), representing a rarely encountered in this culture type of pot; a truncated spindle whorl with a trough on a base (Fig. 21/2); three whole or fragmentary bi-truncated spindle whorls (Fig. 21/3-5).

Stone piece: two large sides fragments of creases (Fig. 21/6-7) made of sandstone, with traces of use by grinding, when sharpening various utensils; a piece has a full length gutter; even if it does not have very clear features of belonging to a certain level of habitation, this category of pieces is present in great numbers in the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture sites.

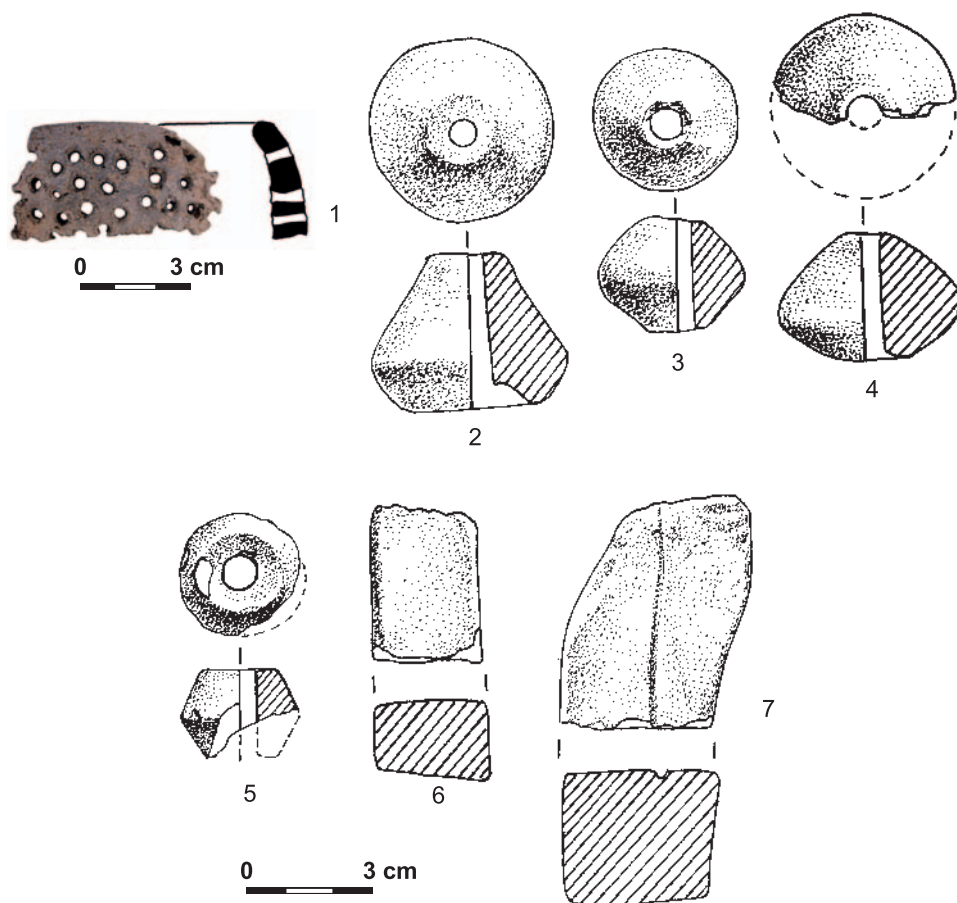


Fig. 21. Pieces of clay (1-5) and stone (6-7) of the early period of migration.

Ceramic material

The ceramics belonging to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type settlement are present in varying proportions throughout the depth of the culture layer, which confirms the hypothesis of an increased intensity of habitation during that period. By origin, paste and working technique, it is divided into four main groups, in different proportions: a) fine-grained ceramic made on wheel, b) ceramic made on wheel of coarse paste, c) hand-made ceramics of coarse paste and d) Roman import ceramics.

The fine-grained wheeled vessels were burned to gray, the outer surface being most often polished. As shapes they represent a large variety of bowls, some of which are marked having three handles, and jugs. As ornaments there are documented straight lines and/or lines in zigzags, executed by polishing, and ribs that delimit certain parts of the containers body. Vessels from this group

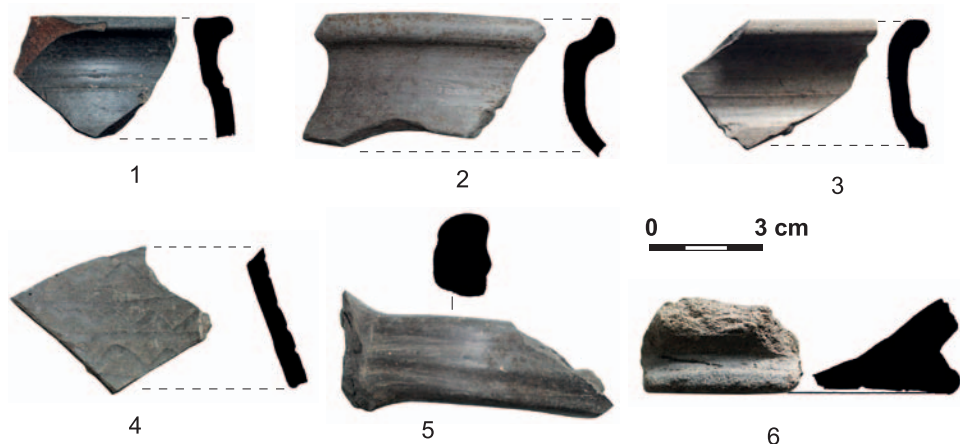


Fig. 22. Fine ceramics (1-5) and crisp (6) of Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type.

have annular bottoms (Fig. 22/1-5). Another ceramic group is represented by fragments of vessels worked on wheel of coarse paste, whose combustion is complete and uniform, and the color is gray. The repertoire of forms is poorer, comprising only large pots and supply vessels, whose bases are flat or profiled (Fig. 22/6). The ceramic assortment of the respective culture is complemented by four vessels fragments and a lid, which were hand-made of coarse paste, with fireclay in the texture. Among crocks, one is highlighted from a large pot with the flared edge and pyriform body, having the maximum diameter in the upper part (Fig. 23/1).

A relatively large number of import vessels belong to the same settlement from the late Roman era. They form two distinct groups: Roman vessels of common use and amphorae. The first group consists of a small dish lip fragment (Fig. 23/2) and a wall fragment decorated with horizontal grooves (Fig. 23/3) from a pit (?), both vessels being made from fine reddish-brown paste. The amphorae are of different types, difficult to determine based on the recovered fragments. We mention that some have been made from red-brick paste and others from white-yellowish sandy paste, having the outer surface of the body covered with grooves (Fig. 23/4-10).

Dwelling from the Middle Ages

The deep construction 1/IV/2016 (Fig. 12; 24) was found in the northern part of the section, at a depth of about 0.80 m. The construction is almost square with the dimensions of 3.20/3.45 × 3.20/3.65 m, deepening into the soil up to 1.80 m from the current treading level. The construction walls were oriented on the NV-SE and NE-SV directions. On the NV and SE sides,



Fig. 23. Handmade Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov ceramics (1) and imported one (2-10).

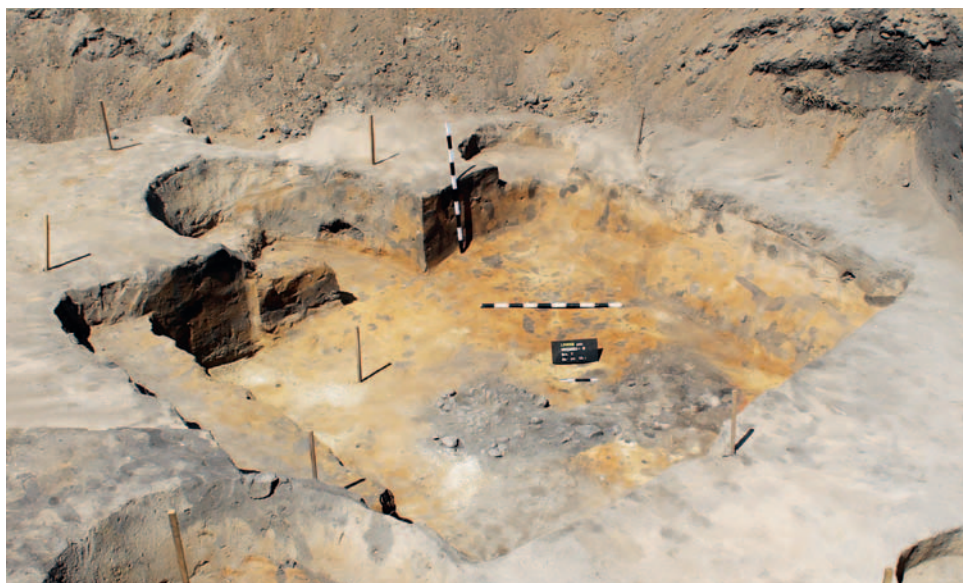


Fig. 24. View from the east on the deepened in the ground Construction.

the complex is equipped with thresholds. That from the NV had a width of 0,12/0,32 m and a depth of 0,45 m, and the one from SE had a width of 0,52/0,80 and a depth of 0,45 m. Thus, the dimensions of the complex, including the thresholds, were about 3.60×4.45 m. The pit fill consisted of black-sandy soil. In the north-eastern half of the complex at a depth of 1.65/1.70 m a fire installation was found, consisting of a hearth, rather a place for the rug, and an adjacent rectangular platform, consisting of small size stones and ash, on the surface of which ceramic and bone fragments were discovered. The hearth was irregular oval-shaped, with diameters of 0.72-1.0 m; in the profile, it had a 0.15-m deep trough, formed of two layers, one of ash, thick up to 0.12 m, followed by a strong burnt-to-orange layer with a thickness of 0.3-0.4 cm. The ash layer partially extended to south and west outside the heath, on a distance up to 0.25 cm. The stone and ash platform has a rectangular shape, with dimensions of about 0.68×1.08 m and a thickness of 0.07/0.08 m. In connection with this complex, there is the pit 49, at a distance of about 0,18 m north of the hearth, its utility being for a support pillar. The pit 44, discovered in the eastern corner of the Deep Construction, corresponds most likely to an earlier horizon site habitation.

As a result of the archaeological researches, seven pieces of inventory and 391 ceramic fragments were discovered in the Deep Construction 1, of which 367 were from hand-shaped vessels and 24 from vessels made at the potter's wheel.

The category of hand-made ceramics comprises 336 pieces of pottery, modeled from a fine or coarse clay paste. The burning is incomplete and uneven; the color varies from brown to gray and brown to black. The surface is polished. The mentioned containers, by all peculiarities, can be attributed to the early Hallstatt vessels assortment.

The second group of hand-made vessels was made from a paste with a lot of fireclay in texture, badly processed and with incomplete and uneven burning, the color ranging from light gray to brown and dark gray. The majority of shards were found near the fire facility. These types of containers, according to their morphological characteristics, belong to the early Middle Ages (VIII-IX centuries) (Fig. 25/5-6).

Among the pottery made on wheel, we distinguish three groups- by paste, morphology, color and decoration. The first group consists of 12 vessels frag-

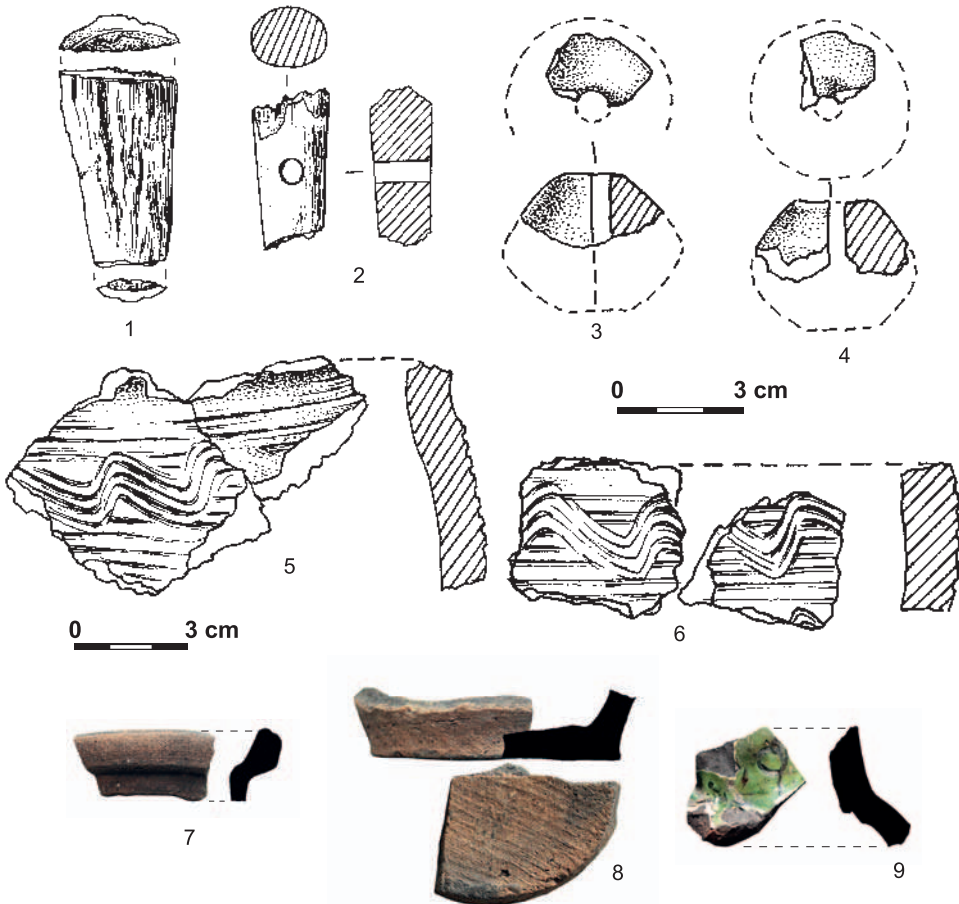


Fig. 25. Horn/bone (1-2) and clay (3-9) objects from the Middle Ages.

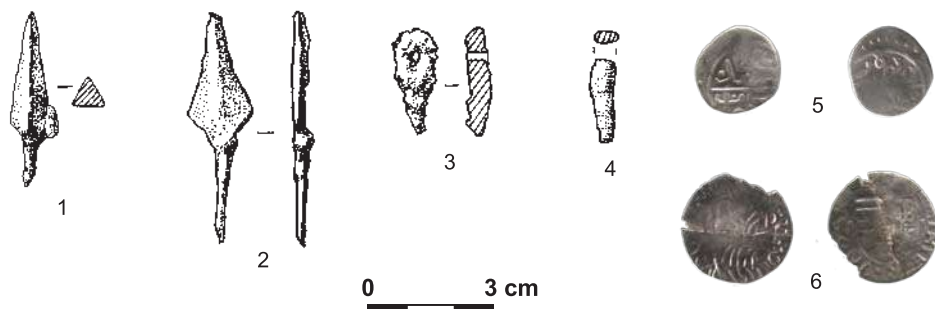


Fig. 26. Artefacts of iron (1-4) and silver (5-6) from the Middle Ages.

ments, modeled of fine paste, combustion is complete and uniform, gray color, the surface smoothed and polished. The second group consists of nine fragments of vessels, made from sandy paste, with full and uniform burning, gray color and crisp surface. Described vessels, by morphology, burning, color and decoration, can be attributed to Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov ceramics assortment. Three fragments of Roman amphorae, two of which come from vessels made of fine reddish paste, and a fragment from a vessel made of white-yellowish sandy paste have been discovered.

In the same complex a piece of burned clay and 101 bones of animals were discovered.

Thus, ceramic fragments of various eras were discovered in the complex filling. We emphasize, however, the identification in the lower part of the dwelling and near the fire installation of ceramic fragments of hand-made vessels, typical of the early Middle Ages (VIII-IX), which determines us to date the Deep Construction 1 to this period.

Inventory pieces

Iron pieces: an arrowhead with a peduncle (Fig. 26/1) of pyramidal shape, triangular in section, having the peduncle in the form of a round-section rod, sharp at the end; this piece finds analogies in the medieval fortress of Echimauti, which is dated in the X century – the beginning of the XI century AD, and is part of type 76, variant 2, according to the typology of A. Medvedev (Medvedev 1966, Табл. 17/39); another arrowhead (Fig. 26/2) with two fins and a flat rhomboid peduncle, at the beginning of which there is a slight thickening; the piece could have a wide dating in the Middle Ages, between the VIII and the XIV centuries, although the overcoming of these centuries is not excluded (Medvedev 1966); an iron bar (Fig. 26/3) with a hole at one end; a slightly curved iron plate (Fig. 26/4).

Silver pieces: a silver coin, the Ottoman Empire, Bayezid II (1481-1512), akce (Fig. 26/5) beaten in the Konstantiniye workshop, type: Nicholae BC; another silver coin, the Kingdom of Hungary, Matei Corvin (1458-1490), denar, issued in 1489-1490 (Fig. 26/6), Kremnitz monetary workshop. Type: Unger 567a, the legend includes on the *avers*: + MONETA • MATHIE • R • VNGARIE, on the *reverse*: PATRONA VNGARIE / K P. Both coins were discovered *passim*.

Horn/bone pices: a deer horn plate (Fig. 25/1), half-finished, trapezoidal shape; a processed deer horn (Fig. 25/2), broken at both ends, one carrying burning traces.

Pieces of clay: two spindle whorls kept fragmentary (Fig. 25/3-4).

Ceramic material

The discoveries of the Middle Ages, identified in the layer of culture outside the Construction 1, consist of a few fragments of vessels lips, made on wheel of sandy paste and burned to gray, chronologically appreciated with the XIII century, and to gray-brown with a later dating (Fig. 25/7). The latter ones, by composition of the paste, technique, morphology, burning, color and decor, are assigned to the XVI-XVIII centuries. The same technical and morphological characteristics also include a flat bottom of the vessel, on the surface of which traces of separation with rope from potter's wheel are kept (Fig. 25/8). A fragment of a vessel wall, made on wheel and covered with green glaze, belongs to the late Middle Ages as well (Fig. 25/9).

Complexes and discoveries with uncertain cultural-chronological identification

The high degree of destruction of the archaeological site on certain sectors, but also the impact of the use of the planting plow with a depth of the furrow up to 0.6-0.65 m, the fragmentary conservation degree of some pieces contributed to the formation of a category of vestiges, that cannot be attributed chronologically to the levels of habitation identified on the site. Pieces with similar features were used in different historical eras.

Hearth 1/I/2013 (Fig. 5; 27) appeared at a depth of 5-7 cm from the current treading level, being partially destroyed by the sand extraction works. Only the northern half of the installation, oval-shaped, with the size of 0.58 × 0.83 m and an extension to the west of 0.36 m, was preserved. The hearth was built of clay, directly on the earth. The crumbly clay, partially preserved, was 2-3 cm thick, with traces of ash visible on its surface. The soil beneath the hearth, at a depth of 6-7 cm, was burned to red-brick, indicating the intensity of use of the

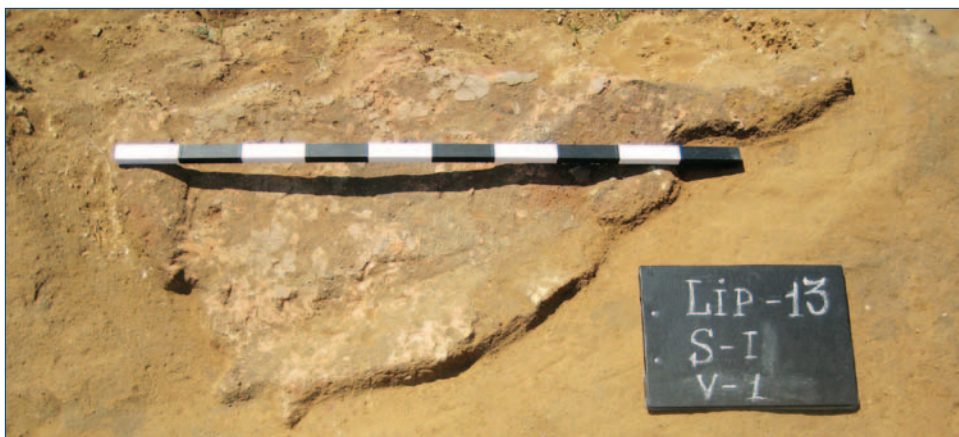


Fig. 27. View from the north on the Heath 1.

fire facility. There was no archaeological material found near the heath, which makes its cultural and chronological framing impossible.

The lack of inventory and the impact of agricultural works made it impossible to determine the cultural-chronological appurtenance of five pits (P. 14/II/2013, P. 18/II/2015, P. 27/II/2015, P. 32/II/2015, P. 50/IV/2016).

Inventory pieces

Iron pieces: a triangular flattened pendant (?) (Fig. 28/1) with the rounded grab bar, a severely damaged medieval arrowhead could also be; a circular shaped brooch, from two opposing sides of which rectangular grip bars start (Fig. 28/2); a piece which possibly represents a round, concave-convex in section brooch fragment (Fig. 28/3); an iron knife with arched blade (hook?) (Fig. 28/4), the twisted handle, which makes a whole with the blade of the knife, was twisted four times around its axis, the extremity of the handle ends with a ring-shaped twisting, this type was used both during the migration period and in the Middle Ages, almost identical pieces being known at Orheiul Vechi; iron knife (Fig. 28/5); an iron knife blade with a peduncle (Fig. 28/6), the blade of the knife has a triangular shape, the peduncle handle is of trapezoidal shape; five pieces of knife blades (Fig. 28/7-10; 29/1); two iron plates (Fig. 29/2-3), possibly representing fragments of knife blades, sharp at one edge; a piece (Fig. 29/4), possibly representing a knife fragment, the peduncle kept; an iron sickle (Fig. 29/5), the part bent at 90° has a rectangular section, the blade has a curved shape; an iron nail (Fig. 29/6) rectangular in section and the flower is irregularly rectangular; an iron nail has a pyramidal shape flower, the rod is rectangular in section; an iron nail rod (?) (Fig. 29/7), the preserved part of the rod has a square sec-

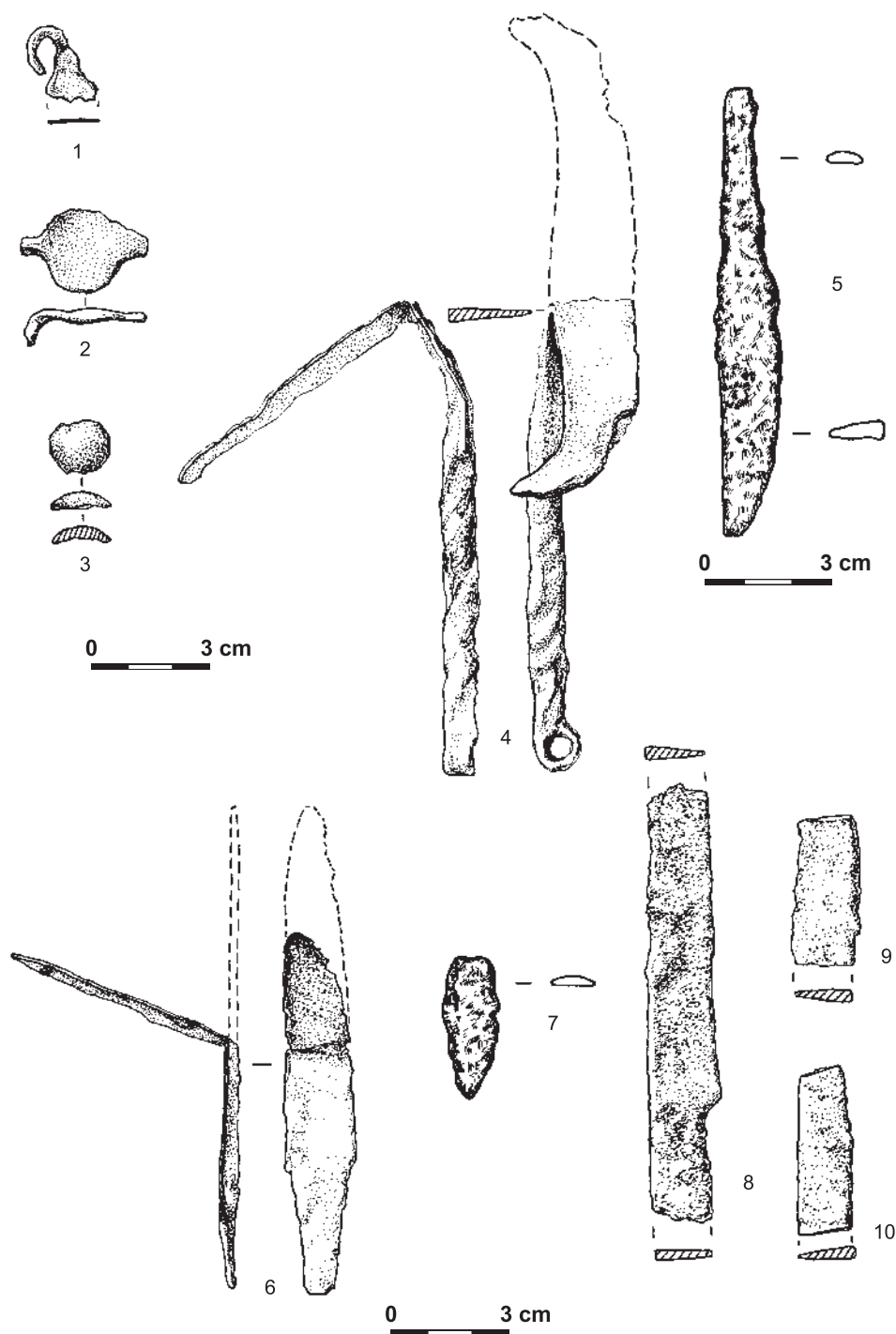


Fig. 28. Pieces of iron with cultural-chronological uncertain identity.



tion; a piece of iron (Fig. 29/8), which is a fragment of a nail or a part of a buckle, having a semi-round shaped head; two needles (Fig. 29/9-10), confectioned of a round-section bar, one of the ends endowed with an orifice has a flattened form; a piece (Fig. 29/11), which is a twisted iron bar, triangular in section; an iron tool (Fig. 29/12), which is a piercer or a chisel made of a rectangular in section iron bar, sharpened at both ends; an iron piercer (Fig. 29/13), rectangular in section, with one of the ends sharp and the other flattened and bent; five piercers (Fig. 29/14-18) in the form of an iron bar, rectangular in section, one of the ends is sharp; an iron bar (Fig. 29/19), is a fragment of an utensil, broken in antiquity, the preserved part is rectangular in section, the conserved end of rounded form gradually widens; another iron bar (Fig. 29/20) in the form of letter „T” with the rod rectangular in section, at the ends, could have been used as nail; three pieces of wire (Fig. 29/21-23), some of them could be from modern times, at the moment vineyard being planted on the surface of the site; an iron plate (Fig. 29/24), representing a utensil fragment broken in antiquity, the kept part being rectangular in section, the wider end being possibly provided with an orifice, the second end having a slight bending; an iron plate (Fig. 29/25), represent a fragment of a larger piece, broken in antiquity, the preserved part having an elongated and narrowed shape at the ends; an iron plate (Fig. 29/26), is a fragment of an utensil, rectangular in section; a piece of iron (Fig. 29/27) of undetermined utility, has the shape of a squared in section pyramid trunk; an inform fragment of iron piece (Fig. 29/28); a piece of iron slag (Fig. 29/29).

Bronze piece: an indeterminate piece of bronze (Fig. 30/1); has oval shape in plane and concave-convex in section.

Leaded piece: A lead piece (Fig. 30/2), from the Deep Construction 1 filling, has the shape of a deformed cone trunk with a transverse aperture, it could have been used both as an ornament and weight.

Horn/bone piece: a bone pendant (Fig. 30/3); confectioned of a small carnivore animal bone (dog/fox?); at one end has an orifice.

Clay pieces: a vessel lid (Fig. 30/4) made of paste with fireclay in composition, the burning being incomplete and uneven, the color variable, from brown to gray. It is conical, in the upper part is continued by a cylindrical button provided with an *umbo*, according to the morphological traits, can be attributed to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov or the Getic level of habitation; two discoidal spheres (Fig. 30/5-6), the first part could be included in the category of car wheels; a be-truncated spindle wheel (Fig. 30/7) and another spheroidal-flattened (Fig. 30/8); a spheroidal ball (Fig. 30/9); a wheel-weight (?) (Fig. 30/10).

Stone pieces: A fragment of a stone grinder (Fig. 30/11) made of hard rock, a surface of which is strongly polished, could also be used to sharpen metal

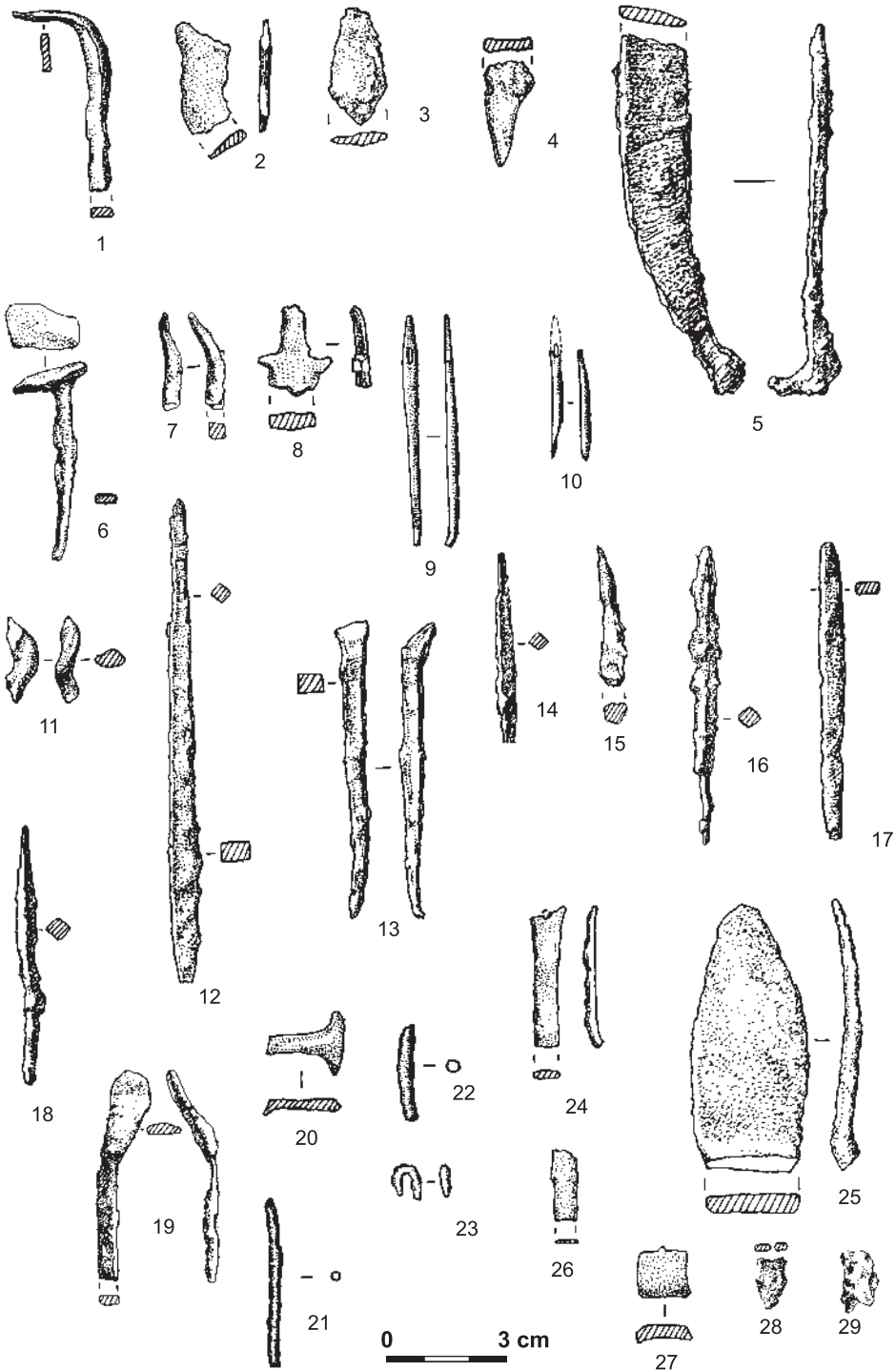


Fig. 29. Pieces of iron with uncertain cultural-chronological assumption.



tools; another fragment of the grinder (Fig. 30/12), was made of hard rock; the preserved fragment has a relatively prismatic shape, showing traces of processing.

Osteological material

A rich collection of fauna scraps was collected from the culture layer (Table 1). It is interesting to note that most of the bones come from the excavations III-V, which generally correspond to the Iron Age habitation. The archaic-zoological analysis proves the net preponderance of big horned cattle bones. The presence of the dog has also been documented through horses' bones with dog tooth traces. Dog bones were discovered, one in the pit 27 and one in the pit 31, attributed to the early Iron Age habitation level and, respectively, to the Getic culture from the V-III century BC. There are also traces of application of tools kept on some cattle bones. According to Dr. Roman Croitor, the big horned cattle identified at Lipoveni are similar to the bovine species, characteristic of the I-st mil. BC cultures and those of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov type culture, and the horses, as in the case of other monuments of the Iron Age in Eastern Europe, account for less than 10% of the total bone number of domestic animals. Bone discoveries within the complexes do not differ by species and percentage from those in the layer.

Species Layer	Bos taurus	Capra hircus/ Ovis aries	Equus caballus	Sus scrofa	Gallus domesticus	Aves (gen. et sp. indet.)	Canis familiaris	Cervus elaphus	Sus scrofa ferus	Lepus europaeus	Pisces	~
I (0-0,2 m)	52	3	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
II (0,2-0,4 m)	182	48	19	9	1	–	2	1	–	–	1	24
III (0,4-0,6 m)	335	53	22	45	–	–	–	–	–	34	–	–
IV (0,6-0,8 m)	381	98	32	32	–	–	10	2	7	–	–	30
V (0,8-1,0 m)	247	26	31	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	51

Conclusions

The archaeological rescue investigations carried out in the years 2013-2016 allowed for the identification of several cultural horizons within the limits of the Lipoveni II-La Nisipărie site:

1. The oldest reported material vestiges belong to the late period of the Eneolithic Age (mil. IV BC).

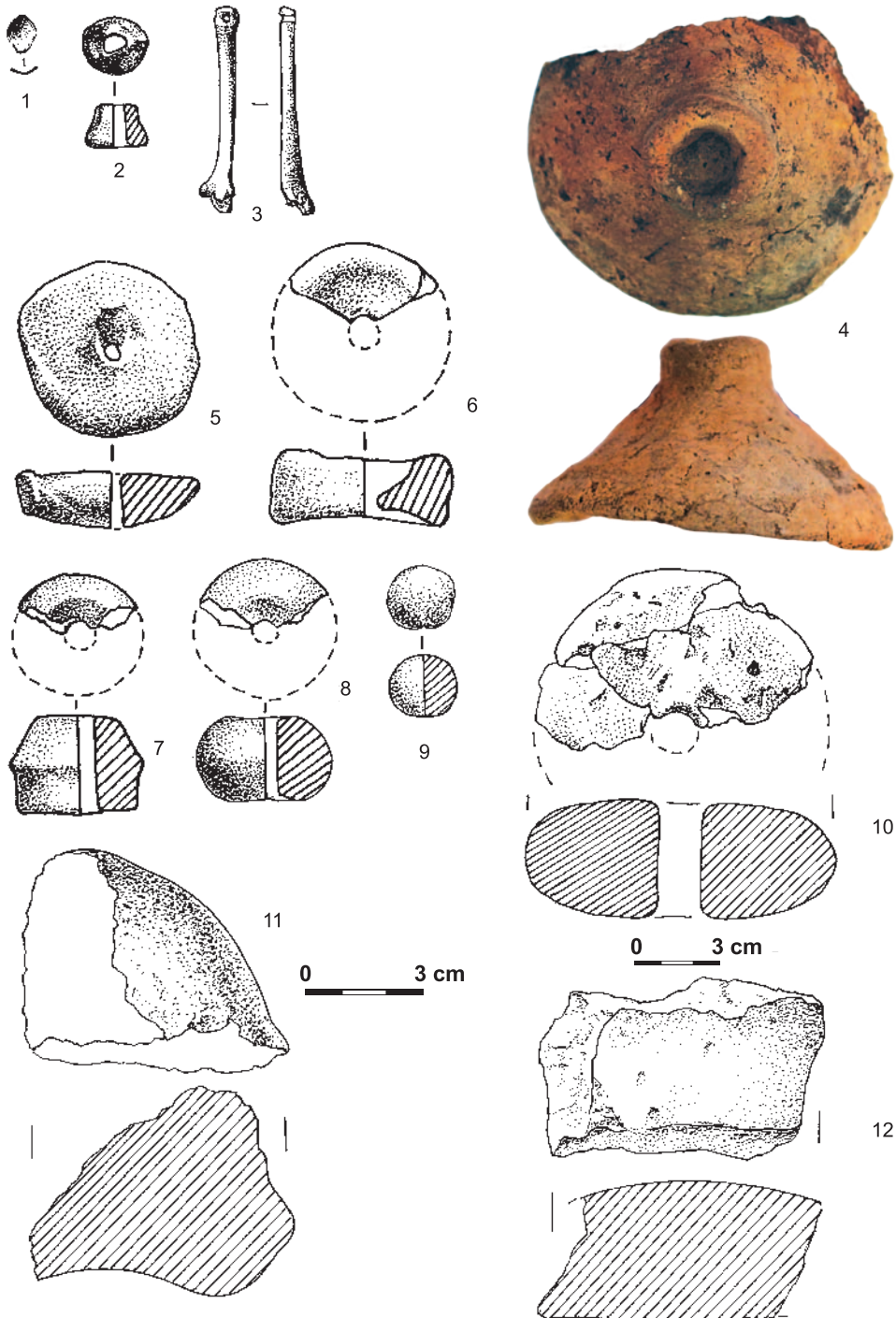


Fig. 30. Pieces of bronze (1), lead (2), horn/bone (3), clay (4-10) and stone (11-12) with uncertain cultural-chronological identity.

2. The early period of the first Iron Age dwelling, attributing it to the Chișinău-Corlăteni group (XII-XIII centuries BC).

3. The third chronologically identified horizon is the one corresponding to the Getic culture of the V-III century BC. Although it could not be delimited from the stratigraphic point of view, the inhabitation of this period is clearly documented, being represented both by complexes and various archaeological materials. The lack of Greek ceramics and some inventory pieces suggest dating the habitation in an early stage of the named period, perhaps from the end of the VI century BC.

4. Christian era is present through important discoveries related to the horizon of the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture from the Gothic migration period (III-IV centuries AD).

5. Several collected artifacts date back to medieval times. In the case of the Deep Construction 1, the shape and structure of the complex itself and its components (a fire facility with an adjacent stone platform) and some ceramic fragments with resemblance in similar vestiges of the VIII-IX centuries AD, determines us to attribute the complex to this medieval period. On the other hand, certain reservations to this assignment are caused by the great correlation of ceramic fragments in favor of those from the beginning of the Iron Age. Some rare discoveries belong to the XIII and XVI-XVII centuries.

A chronological reference still to be clarified relates to the lower limit of the Thracian-Getic residence, on the descent of which certain pieces of inventory (arrowheads of bronze) would indicate. Certain clarifications are also imposed by the certification of ceramic material from the period until the formation of the Country of Moldova, namely from the XIII century, as the posterior ones, and the two numismatic pieces give us a *terminus post quem* dating, from the end of the XV – beginning of the XVI centuries.

The most intense habitation corresponds to the end of the mil. II – the beginning of the mil. I BC, by domination of the vestiges, characteristic of early Hallstatt and those, corresponding to Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov culture (III-IV centuries AD).

Given the perpetuation of the danger of illicit sand excavation in the site, it is necessary to continue the rescue research to recover the remarkable vestiges for the archeology of the transition zone from the forest steppe to the steppe of the Republic of Moldova.

Regretfully, the archaeological site of Lipoveni II-La Nisipărieie is in a state of continuous degradation and, due to the aggressive anthropogenic factors, in the near future it can be completely lost. According to our preliminary data, the necropolis, corresponding to the Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov settlement, is already almost completely destroyed by extraction works in the unauthorized sand quarry. Although the territory at the north of the Lipoveni village presents an increased interest, not

only from the archaeological point of view, but also pedologically (through sand layers and other geological deposits), being also a natural monument, the micro zone is in an extremely high degree of degradation due to continuous illegal sand excavation.

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Cercetări arheologice la situl Lipoveni II – La Nisipărie (2013-2016)

Rezumat

Investigațiile arheologice de salvare desfășurate în anii 2013-2016 în limitele sitului Lipoveni II-La Nisipărie au permis identificarea mai multor orizonturi cultural-cronologice: grupul Usatovo din perioada târzie a eneoliticului (mil. IV a. Chr.), cultura Chișinău-Corlăteni din perioada timpurie a primei epoci a fierului (sec. XII –X a.Chr.), cultura traco-getică din sec. VI-III a. Chr., cultura Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov din perioada migrației goților (sec. III-IV p. Chr.) și resturi de locuire din epoca medievală (sec. VIII-IX, XIII și XVI-XVIII). Locuirea cea mai intensă în zona cercetată corespunde culturilor arheologice din prima și a doua epocă a fierului și complexului cultural Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov din perioada migrației goților (sec. III-IV p. Chr.). Dată fiind perpetuarea pericolului de excavări ilicite a nisipului în zona sitului, este obligatorie continuarea cercetărilor de salvare pentru a recupera vestigii deosebit de importante pentru arheologia zonei de trecere de la silvostepă la stepă a Republicii Moldova. Deși teritoriul de la nord de satul Lipoveni prezintă un interes sporit nu doar din punct de vedere arheologic, ci și pedologic (prin straturile de nisip și alte depuneri geologice), fiind și un veritabil monument natural, microzona respectivă se află într-un grad de degradare ridicat, ca urmare a intervențiilor continue ilegale de excavare a nisipului.

Cuvinte-cheie: eneolitic, epoca fierului, cultura geților, cultura Sântana de Mureș-Černjachov, evul mediu, Lipoveni.

MATVEEV, Sergiu. State University of Moldova. E-mail: sssmatveev@yahoo.com

VORNIC, Vlad. National Archaeological Agency of Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. E-mail: vornic.vlad@yahoo.com