



Hunedoara  
County Council

Museum of Dacian  
and Roman  
Civilization



THE 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SMALL FINDS  
AND  
THEIR SIGNIFICANCE**

Programme and Abstracts

Deva

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017

**THE 5<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SMALL FINDS AND THEIR  
SIGNIFICANCE**

**ORGANIZERS:**

Hunedoara County Council

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization

**THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

**Nicolae Cătălin Rîșcuța**, Senior researcher

**Oana Tutilă**, Archaeologist

**Cătălin Cristescu**, Scientific researcher

**Antoniu Marc**, Archaeologist

## Programme

**Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2017**

Venue: Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization, Deva

08:00-10:00 – Registration of the participants

10:00 – Official opening

11:30 – Departure for Geoagiu-Băi

12:30 – Hotel check-in

13:00 – Lunch

15:00-17:00 – Papers

Moderator: Paul Pupeză

- 1. Monica Mărgărit, Adina Boroneanț, Clive Bonsall**  
Wild Boar Tusk Small Finds in the Iron Gates: A Typological and Experimental Approach
- 2. Marius Ciută**  
The Small Clay Modelling Artefacts from the Early Vinča Settlements (A Phase) of Limba – Oarda de Jos (Alba County)
- 3. Cătălin Nicolae Rîșcuța, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat, Antoniu Marc**  
A Neolithic Clay “Spoon” from Șoimuș, Hunedoara County
- 4. Selena Vitezović**  
Handle with Care: Handles, Hafts and Sleeves from Osseous Materials in the Neolithic
- 5. Adela Kovács**  
Garments and Wearing Accessories Represented on Cucutenian Miniature Statuettes from Botoșani County Museum Collections
- 6. Mihaela Maria Barbu, Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat**  
Eneolithic Arrowheads Discovered at Rapolt, Hunedoara County

17:00-17:20 – Coffee break

17:20-19:20 – Papers

Moderator: Adina Boroneanț

- 7. Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat**  
An Eneolithic Stone Pendant from Tărtăria
- 8. Antoniu Marc, Ioana Barbu, Cristina Bodó**  
About a Fragment of a Casting Mould Discovered in the Middle Bronze Age Settlement from Uroi – *Sighet* (Hunedoara County)

**9. Tibor-Tamás Daróczi**

Of *Liquid Stones* and *Brilliant Suns*. Notes on the Wider Networking and Appropriations of Vitreous Materials and Amber During the Bronze Age in the Eastern Carpathian Basin

**10. Aurel Rustoiu, Iosif Vasile Ferencz**

Gates to the Otherworld. Jewellery and Garment Accessories of the La Tène B–C from Isolated Places in Transylvania

**11. Paul Pupeză, Horea Pop**

The (Almost) Unseen Decoration. A Dacian Iron Spur from Măgura Moigradului (Sălaj County)

**12. Adrian Cătălin Căsălean**

Glass Small Finds Discovered at Ardeu (Balșa Commune, Hunedoara County)

19: 45 – Dinner

## **Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017**

07:30-09:00 – Breakfast

09:00-11:00 – Papers

Moderator: Dorel Bondoc

**13. Cristian Dima, Cătălin Borangic**

Archaeological Approach of Miniature Chariots Discovered in Votive and Funerary Contexts

**14. Mariana Egri, Iosif Vasile Ferencz**

A Dionysian Bronze Relief from Piatra Roșie (Hunedoara County, Romania)

**15. Alin Henț, Gabriela Gheorghiu**

Small Finds in “Aristocratic” Context. Bronze Objects from the Orăștie Mountains

**16. Cătălin Cristescu, Paul Pupeză**

Small Finds, Great Men. Recent Excavations in the Fortification from Grădiștea de Munte – Sarmizegetusa Regia (2012-2013)

**17. Gabriel Andreica, Horia Furcovici, Marius Mîndruțău, Ștefan Vasilache**

Small Finds Discovered Bellow the Southern Gate of the Fortress from Sarmizegetusa Regia

**18. Adriana Antal, Gică Băeștean**

Colonia Dacica Sarmizegetusa Votive Offerings. Hands for the Gods

11:00-11:20 – Coffee break

11:20-13:20 – Papers

Moderator: Mariana Egri

**19. Cristina Mitar**

A Group of Roman Military Equipment Pieces Discovered with the Metal Detector on the Fort of Micia

**20. Silvia Mustață, Dorottya Nyulas**

Men in Chains: A New Iron Shackle from the Military Fort at Călugăreni (Mureș County, Romania)

**21. Dorottya Nyulas**

An Unusual Iron Lamp from the Eastern *Limes* of Dacia

**22. Katalin Sidó**

Gamble or Not to Gamble? Observations on the Functionality of Ceramic Discs from the Roman Fort of Brâncovenești

**23. Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Costin Daniel Țuțuianu, Ioana Barbu**

A Phallus Type Roman Pendant

**24. Dorel Bondoc**

A Grave with Military Equipment in Northern Necropolis of Romula

13:30 – Lunch

15:30-17:30 – Papers

Moderator: Emil Nankov

**25. Gabriela Filip**

Some *Tesserae* from Southern Dacia

**26. Morgane Andrieu**

The Roman Voices from the “Military School” of *Augustodunum* (Autun, France): For the Rediscovery of a Site *Via* the Study of Graffiti on Pottery

**27. Dan Aparaschivei**

Early Roman Small Finds of a Late Roman City in Scythia Province – Ibida (Slava Rusă, Tulcea County)

**28. Liana Oța**

Mirrors with Tamga Found in Sarmatian Graves from Wallachia and Moldavia

**29. Ana Hamat**

How to Steal the Past. Some Considerations Regarding the Reuse of Roman Gemstones and Cameos During The Middle Ages From Today's Territory of Romania

**30. Costin Daniel Țuțuianu, Iosif Vasile Ferencz**

Two New Brooches from Ardeu

17:30-17:50 – Coffee break

17:50-19:30 – Papers

Moderator: Dan Aparaschivei

**31. Emil Nankov**

“Παντοτε Καλη Εστιν”: Inscribed Steelyard Counterweight from Late Antique Parthicopolis

**32. Mihai Gabriel Vasile**

About a Small Deposit of Agricultural Tools from the Early Middle Ages Discovered at Bacea, Hunedoara County

**33. Silviu Oța**

Byzantine Adornments and Their Imitations in Oltenia (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

**34. Andrei Măgureanu, Adina Boroneanț, Meda Toderaș, Raluca Iuliana Moței, Elena Gavrilă**

A Curious Category of Small Finds: The Late Medieval Engraved Bricks of Southern Romania

**35. Ionuț-Cosmin Codrea**

Tobacco Clay Pipes. Historiography and Research Methods. Case Study: Clay Pipes Discovered in the Stronghold of Deva

19: 45 – Dinner

**Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017**

07:30-08:30 – Breakfast

08:45 – Outing to the Dacian fortress from Ardeu, the Roman monuments from Germisara (the thermal baths' complex, the road, the Cigmău fort) and the Romanic rotunda from Geoagiu

13:30 – Lunch

15:00 – Departure to Deva

## ABSTRACTS

### WILD BOAR TUSK SMALL FINDS IN THE IRON GATES: A TYPOLOGICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH

**Monica Mărgărit, Adina Boroneanț, Clive Bonsall**

The Mesolithic settlements in the Iron Gates have yielded rich assemblages of modified *Sus scrofa* canines, exemplified here by the site of Icoana (Romania). The typological categories identified were scrapers, bevelled tools, combination tools and adornments. An experimental study was conducted, aimed both at the identification of transformational patterns of the tooth, and the presence of wear marks as possible functionality indicators. The results of our experimental programme suggest wood processing as the main activity performed with boar tusk tools.

### THE SMALL CLAY MODELLING ARTEFACTS FROM THE EARLY VINČA SETTLEMENTS (A PHASE) OF LIMBA – OARDA DE JOS (ALBA COUNTY)

**Marius Ciută**

Recent preventive research occurred on the highway project Sebeș-Turda, in conjunction with the oldest systematic ones within the site of Limba – Oarda de Jos, revealed an original side of the early Vinča communities from here in terms of representing the concrete, tangible universe by individuals who populated villages of Vinča, through objects modelled in clay and then burned in ovens.

An extremely diverse universe, complex, original, obscured, which reveals itself, although partially, only through the artefacts interpreted in this study.

Based on dozens of this kind of pieces modelled in various techniques and decorated with signs and specific ornamental designs, the author attempts to complete the general repertoire of symbols of the Vinča figurines and minor plastic with the original contribution of the communities mentioned from the researched site.

### A NEOLITHIC CLAY “SPOON” FROM ȘOIMUȘ, HUNEDOARA COUNTY

**Cătălin Nicolae Rîșcuța, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat, Antoniu Marc**

The subject of this presentation is a clay artefact found in a Neolithic feature (C 174) from the prehistoric site at Șoimuș – *Teleghi*. The item has the shape of a big spoon, with thick walls, shallow rectangular interior, being finished in a rather careless fashion. The handle is short and bulgy, modelled as ergonomic as possible. The piece suffered a strong secondary firing, which led to the deformation of its initial aspect.

No exact analogies are known for this type of object. We are proposing two hypotheses for its functionality. Firstly, the artefact could have been used as a portable lighting recipient. However, it could also have served as a crucible during incipient metallurgical activities.

## **HANDLE WITH CARE: HANDLES, HAFTS AND SLEEVES FROM OSSEOUS MATERIALS IN THE NEOLITHIC**

**Selena Vitezović**

Osseous raw materials are very convenient for a variety of purposes; they can be easily transformed into an efficient tool or a deadly weapon, they can be carved into objects of art or into ornaments. They can also be effectively used as handles or sleeves for tools made from diverse materials. However, it is not always easy to identify them if the inserted tool is not preserved. In this paper I will discuss some of the problems of identification. The examples from several Neolithic sites in Serbia show a variety of raw materials – antler, diverse segments of long bones, and in morphology – elongated, cylindrical, etc. Their dimensions suggest that most of them may have been used for slender pointed tools and for tools of relatively small width (stone chisels, for example).

## **GARMENTS AND WEARING ACCESSORIES REPRESENTED ON CUCUTENIAN MINIATURE STATUETTES FROM THE BOTOȘANI COUNTY MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS**

**Adela Kovács**

The Botoșani County Museum has a large collection of anthropomorphic statuettes, both feminine and masculine. Most of these statuettes are framed in the Cucuteni culture. Many of these objects have specific details, representing clothing, as well as various accessories (medallions, belts, buttons) applied in relief, painted or incised. Our presentation is analyzing the types of accessories that are widely represented on a group of statuettes belonging to a restricted area, all of them discovered on the territory of Botoșani County. So far, we noticed that there are specific decorations on female bodies, which are different from the ones represented on the masculine figurines. Details on the garments from cucutenian statuettes, from the Botoșani County Museum, can be correlated with similar discoveries from other cucutenian areas, and the analogies will be also presented.

## **ENEOLITHIC ARROWHEADS DISCOVERED AT RAPOLT, HUNEDOARA COUNTY**

**Mihaela Maria Barbu, Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat**

In the summer of 2014, the systematic research started on the archaeological site from Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie*. On this occasion, during a field survey of an ancient travertine quarry on *Jipiș* hill, a prehistoric settlement was identified. The feature Cx1, belonging to the final phase of the Tiszapolgár culture, offered a spectacular inventory, among the artefacts found there being three arrowheads specific to this chronological horizon. Two of them are made of stone, while the third is made of antler.

## AN ENEOLITHIC STONE PENDANT FROM TĂRTĂRIA

**Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Ioan Alexandru Bărbat**

The artefact described here was discovered in the autumn of 2014, during the preventive archaeological excavations carried out near the village Tărtăria (Blandiana commune, Romania), in the *Pietroșița* archaeological site (named also 10 B), during the works at the project “Rehabilitation of railway section Brașov-Simeria”, in South and South-western of Transylvania.

The stone pendant was found on the bottom of the feature C 54. The complex is a pit-house dug by the prehistoric settlers from this part of the Mureș valley. In relative chronology, the feature C 54 belongs to the late Eneolithic, respectively to the earlier phase (I) of the Coțofeni culture.

A particularity of the find presented here is given by its shape, that of a small *phallus*. If we compare the artefact with others from the same period, we can observe that, until now, it's the only phallic stone pendant known in the Coțofeni culture.

In the context of other similar finds from prehistory to antiquity, a discussion on the artefact found at Tărtăria – *Pietroșița* could prove useful for understanding the evolution of phallic representations in prehistory and also it could help us to discover a less-known side of the Coțofeni communities' spirituality.

## ABOUT A FRAGMENT OF A CASTING MOULD DISCOVERED IN THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT FROM UROI – SIGHETI (HUNEDOARA COUNTY)

**Antoni Marc, Ioana Barbu, Cristina Bodó**

The site from Uroi – *Sighet* (Simeria, Hunedoara County) was discovered in 2011, during the archaeological preventive investigations on the construction of the highway segment Deva – Orăștie, and is located in the floodable area of the Mureș meadow. Most complexes (dwellings, pits with different destinations) belonged to the Middle Bronze Age (Wietenberg culture).

We will present a fragmentary casting sandstone mould, found in feature Cx 223 – a complex about 1 m deep from the ground level of the time, in which several overlapped hearths were discovered.

## OF LIQUID STONES AND BRILLIANT SUNS. NOTES ON THE WIDER NETWORKING AND APPROPRIATIONS OF VITREOUS MATERIALS AND AMBER DURING THE BRONZE AGE IN THE EASTERN CARPATHIAN BASIN

**Tibor-Tamás Daróczy**

Bronze Age glass is only documented being produced in the Near East, Nile and Po valleys, India and China, but vitreous materials, like glass-paste and faïence, are seen in significant amounts in other parts of Afro-Eurasia. These suggest local production of non-glass, vitreous materials, which presently are elusive, or at least different appropriations of either the material or technology. Nevertheless, the appearance of

glass in the later Bronze Age in the region does suggest a far reaching connectivity, while documented agencies in the production areas highlight their importance in the local social milieu, as well. Since the social engagement of vitreous beads shifts, two diachronic trends are noted, which are in tone with the wider intercontinental linkages.

Bronze Age amber originates in most cases in the Baltic region, though succinate is not the only known source in Europe, as others are exploited at this time. Their associations with gold and other bronze objects suggesting a relation to the Sun does compel a more meaningful interpretation. Their different appropriations during the earlier and later Bronze Age in the study region, indicates a change in consumption preferences of this commodity, which can only be viewed in a wider context. Moreover, the beads seen in the study area do differentiate in terms of shapes, which also bare chronological information, but also indicate a web, where finished goods and ideas are exchanged and adapted to local needs.

The recently coined term of bronzization, which is seen as the Bronze Age globalisation of Afro-Eurasia, allows for several glocalisations of goods and ideas. The Bronze Age Eastern Carpathian Basin represents a hub, where people, commodities and social practices meet and travel through, in a lot of ways at the very crossroads of worlds. Through the analysis of these, smallest, archaeological finds, the widest connections can be suggested, while specific local, social traits are underscored by their specific appropriation contexts.

## **GATES TO THE OTHERWORLD. JEWELLERY AND GARMENT ACCESSORIES OF THE LA TÈNE B–C FROM ISOLATED PLACES IN TRANSYLVANIA**

**Aurel Rustoiu, Iosif Vasile Ferencz**

Chronologically, the Celtic horizon from Transylvania covered the La Tène B1/B2–C1 sub-phases, which are dated more precisely between ca. 350 and 175 BC. Archaeologically, this horizon is represented by rural settlements and cemeteries located in their close vicinity. All of these archaeological sites produced many artefacts specific to the early and middle La Tène period. However, aside from these discoveries, some other artefacts have been found in a series of isolated places from Transylvania, far away from the areas inhabited by Celtic or indigenous communities. Among them are several jewellery and garment accessories, for example one silver bracelet found at Bănița or one silver brooch found in the Bordu Mare cave at Ohaba Ponor. The present paper is going to analyse this kind of small-finds in order to identify their significance in the general context of the Celtic horizon from Transylvania and also taking into consideration their particular contexts of discovery. Some of these small-finds could have been votive offerings associated with places which, according to the beliefs of the Late Iron Age communities, served as “gates” to the otherworld.

**THE (ALMOST) UNSEEN DECORATION.  
A DACIAN IRON SPUR FROM MĂGURA MOIGRADULUI (SĂLAJ COUNTY)**

**Paul Pupeză, Horea Pop**

Numerous Dacian features were discovered at Măgura Moigradului (Sălaj County), especially pits; why they were made is still uncertain. In such a pit, three iron spurs were found in 1958, alongside cremated human bones, two small iron blades and pottery. One of the spurs has cylindrical knobs incised at the ends with a cross inside a circle; within the incisions was red glass paste. This spur is unique among the discoveries from Dacia. When the spur is worn, the decoration is almost unseen, which raises some questions on the reasons for which it was produced.

**GLASS SMALL FINDS DISCOVERED AT ARDEU (BALȘA COMMUNE,  
HUNEDOARA COUNTY)**

**Adrian Cătălin Cășălean**

The study analyses a main category of small finds represented by glassware. The archaeological material is formed by a series of 15 glass fragments discovered during the systematic excavations in the Dacian fortress from Ardeu and preserved in the collections of the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization from Deva. The analysed fragments were once part of imported Roman glass vessels crafted in different techniques: casting, mould-blowing and free blowing. Starting from this technological information, the artefacts will be divided in separate groups depending on the manufacturing technique used in their production. Furthermore, the identified shapes reveal a wide diversity of forms: bowls, jars, cups, and drinking containers that have also been identified typologically, and show the preference of the local community from Ardeu regarding glassware, together with their daily needs. Although the analysed lot of glass fragments is reduced, taking into account the production techniques, the contexts of discovery, the typological forms and the related historical events, one can assume that they can be dated between the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and the destruction of the Dacian fortress at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. From these artefacts, the study aims to explain the evolution of the trading routes, taking into account the historical events that utterly influenced the expansion of trading towards Dacia. Also, it will be of most importance the presumption of other means of acquiring such items, regarding that other discoveries and contextual research may point out to a Roman inhabitant in the fortress' workshop. Such view could reveal the travelling of glassware with their owner. But furthermore interpretations and analysis will be undertaken in the discussion section of this paper.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPROACH OF MINIATURE CHARIOTS DISCOVERED IN VOTIVE AND FUNERARY CONTEXTS

**Cristian Dima, Cătălin Borangic**

Miniature chariots made of iron or bronze, from Late Iron Age, are a special category of small-finds in the space occupied by the Dacians, Celts and Thracians. In the Greco-Roman territories, the metal chariots are also rare, with only few representations, whilst small terracotta chariots are wider-spread. This type of artefact was discovered in votive pits, *favissae*, and funerary contexts. In the Gallo-Roman territories, this phenomenon could be related through a large variety of miniature wheels, with symbolic character found in several votive pits, graves and cult spaces.

Considering the Late Iron Age, from the Intra-Carpathian area, only four small-finds related with miniature chariots, mostly fragmentary, were discovered. Two of them were discovered in the fortress from Lunca – *Piatra Roşie*. The first one, representing the main topic of this presentation, was found by metal detection, without an accurate discovery context. Our presentation aims to reassess the significance and symbols behind this artefact for the Late Iron Age community that lived here. The second object was found in the researches from Lunca – *Piatra Roşie* in 1949 and was published in the monograph related to the site, in 1954. It was discovered in the “natural cavity” near the access road to the fortress. This context, with many other artefacts, was considered to be a place where objects, no longer in use, were deposited. Other opinions suggested that this *dolina* was actually a sacred well or votive pit. A new research based on the reinterpretation of the context and the archaeological material, still in progress, is taking under discussion if this context could be a funerary one.

The chariot was an important means of transportation for many civilizations. For ancient times, the chariot symbolised the prestige of the owner and his richness, sometimes having a cultic significance. In many ancient societies, the chariot was often buried with the defunct. Some examples are related to prestigious graves discovered south of the Danube, dated in the 4<sup>th</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC. In the same area, after the territory was occupied by the Romans, the funerary custom to bury the chariots with the deceased reappeared. This custom is well known also for the territory where the Celtic population is attested. In the space where the Geto-Dacians lived, some graves with chariot or parts of chariot were discovered. The phenomenon of depositing chariots or pieces of them was known in other Roman provinces, like Germania and Pannonia. In Pannonia were discovered archaeological contexts where only the chariot and the horses were buried, without the owner; these discoveries were interpreted as votive features. Starting from this data, the presentation will try to approach the archaeological contexts, based on analogies, where the miniature chariots were discovered, their significance and symbolism.

## A DIONYSIAN BRONZE RELIEF FROM PIATRA ROȘIE (HUNEDOARA COUNTY, ROMANIA)

**Mariana Egri, Iosif Vasile Ferencz**

The paper is going to discuss a fragmentary Dionysian bronze relief that comes from Piatra Roșie (Hunedoara County, Romania) and is now preserved in the collections of the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization from Deva. The relief was illegally unearthed in 2001 together with other archaeological artefacts by a group of looters using metal detectors on a series of terraces from the vicinity of the Dacian fortress. Some of the artefacts, including weaponry and harness and chariot fittings, which could have come from one grave (or several?) have already been published by Ferencz and Bodó later in the same year.

The fragmentary bronze relief depicts a youthful Dionysus slightly turned to the right and having his head lowered on the right shoulder in a rather abandoned pose. The god is nude, with the fawn skin (*nebris*) hanging over his left arm. The right arm, whose hand is missing, is slightly raised above the waist, suggesting that the character once held something in his hand. Both the iconographic and the morphological details indicate that the relief in question belongs to the neo-Attic sculptural style which dominated artistic production between the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Its closest artistic “relatives” are a series of Dionysian marble reliefs which depicted the god and his followers and were widely replicated throughout the Roman world using various materials and artistic media. In keeping with the neo-Attic trends, the former reliefs systematically “cited” and combined artistic motifs and characters of the Classical style.

The relief in question was made of thin bronze sheet using repoussé and chasing techniques, with the cold hammering stage more likely carried out on a bronze matrix. Upon finishing, it was originally affixed on a bronze disk probably using some rivets, albeit the two parts were found detached. The disk was mould cast in one piece and then finished on the lathe to obtain a series of decorative concentric circles. Five small perforations were meant to help affixing the decorative relief on it. Some deformations and fissures indicate that the relief was torn of the disk using a blade or lever-like tool, but the reason for this action is difficult to ascertain.

All of these morphological and technological details suggest that the Dionysian relief and its disk-shaped base more likely belonged to an *oscillum*, more precisely to the *tondo* variant of this category of artefacts. Although they are mostly considered to be architectural decorations, their functionality and meanings in various settings are still debated.

Accordingly, the present paper is going to discuss the iconographic, technological and functional aspects of the Dionysian bronze relief from Piatra Roșie, as well as the possible means through which the artefact in question could have reached the area of the Dacian fortress.

## **SMALL FINDS IN “ARISTOCRATIC” CONTEXT. BRONZE OBJECTS FROM THE ORĂȘTIE MOUNTAINS**

**Alin Henț, Gabriela Gheorghiu**

Present day archaeology has shown disapproval with archaeologies that focus on larger social entities or long-term processes and turned its attention to individuals, small scale social formation, matters of domestic or daily life. But the most important fact is that archaeology has returned to its traditional strength, the material culture. Archaeologists had developed new approaches to interpret the material record, including also the marginal categories of the material culture, the “small finds”. These stuffs of everyday life offer to archaeologists a fascinating foray into the material lives of past people. Aspects of ethnicity, gender, age or status can be inferred by analyzing these small finds.

This paper wants to present the bronze bed fittings discovered in the area of the Orăștie Mountains, the focal point of the Dacian world. Given the uniqueness and their place of discovery, we presume that a link could be made between these objects and a social segment of the Dacian world, the aristocracy. Moreover, we try to analyze these discoveries in the light of the new social theories, very popular in the present archaeological literature.

## **SMALL FINDS, GREAT MEN. RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN THE FORTIFICATION FROM GRĂDIȘTEA DE MUNTE – SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA (2012-2013)**

**Cătălin Cristescu, Paul Pupeză**

This paper deals with some of the objects unearthed during the 2012-2013 excavations inside the stone fortification from Sarmizegetusa Regia, on the 4<sup>th</sup> terrace. Although this research is in progress, the archaeological data gathered so far points to the conclusion that we have come across a wooden structure, with many compartments, similar to the soldiers’ barrack from the Roman forts: the *contubernium*.

The remains of this building, uncharacteristic for the Dacian habitat of the Orăștie Mountains, were partially deranged by a large pit. This feature contained the majority of the discoveries, spanning from pottery to andesite architectural elements. We must make a particular note of the silver and bronze Roman coins, both republican and imperial, dated between 90 BC to 106-107 AD.

The small finds we have selected for this presentation belong to different categories of artefacts, but they seem to share the same chronology. Almost all of them were discovered in the above mentioned pit and represent objects used in everyday activities: fragments of glass vessels, a glass eye, a bronze strongly profiled brooch, a bronze ring with oval chaton, parts of several bronze objects, a cordiform lead weight, a stone spindle whirl, a clay counter, and fragments of ceramic lamps.

## **SMALL FINDS DISCOVERED BELLOW THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE FORTRESS FROM SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA**

**Gabriel Andreica, Horia Furcovici, Marius Mîndruțău, Ștefan Vasilache**

The purpose of this presentation is to interpret all the small finds excavated at Sarmizegetusa Regia in the area located bellow the southern gate of the fortress. Extensive research in this location has begun in the year 2013, after the discovery, following a series of fortunate events, of a bronze matrix.

During these excavations, a series of different artefacts were discovered: military equipment, garment and toiletry objects, as well as glass, iron and bronze items.

This presentation will include the general archaeological context, the specific characteristics of the artefacts, their chronology, distribution and typology, as well as their significance.

## **COLONIA DACICA SARMIZEGETUSA VOTIVE OFFERINGS. HANDS FOR THE GODS**

**Adriana Antal, Gică Băeștean**

The purpose of this study is to highlight some old discoveries from Colonia Dacica Sarmizegetusa (CDS), more precisely a terracotta arm and a few terracotta fingers which, most likely, could be associated with a ritual healing process within the local temples. For a complete analysis, this study approaches the topic of the anatomical votive terracotta phenomenon by examining the contextual relationship between all the votive objects and the cult structures which may be connected to these. Even if one of the objects of study has an uncertain discovery context, most of these kinds of artefacts are related to the temple of Aesculapius and Hygeia, all of them being anatomical offerings used as a symbol of the suppliant's gratitude for divine healing. This may be evidence of an organised medical practice within these sanctuaries, for the average person to receive health, *sanatio*, the relative cost of anatomical votive terracotta being low compared to the consultant's fee of the physicians. Most of the terracotta anatomical body parts have been made in a technique of mass-production, with the possibility of personalising the votive offering very cheaply with paint, representing in this way the kind of the disease. Therefore, this anatomical *ex-voto* represents the diseased parts of the body, being an act of bargain between the individual and the deity, after healing was achieved, *do ut des* (I give, so you may give). All of these kinds of *ex-voto* were part of a practice which started to decline by the end of the second century AD, which could be associated with the rise of the medical technology and to the presence and accessibility of physicians. Even if it just catches the end of a great phenomenon, these are the only evidence of this kind of offerings from the whole province and could be considered a proof that the local Roman populations are perfectly integrated in the religious life of the Roman Empire.

## **A GROUP OF ROMAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT PIECES DISCOVERED WITH THE METAL DETECTOR ON THE FORT FROM MICIA**

**Cristina Mitar**

During the Roman times, soon after the Dacian wars, a fort emerged on the Mureş valley. Since the beginning of its existence, the auxiliary unit *Cohors II Flavia Commagenorum* was quartered here. Shortly after, a brand new *vicus* occupied the space near the fort, as a natural result of the Roman-type administrative organization. The entire complex was called *Micia*. Military *vici* are defined as civilian settlements located near legionary fortresses – also called *canabae* – and auxiliary forts. Although placed under the control of the garrison commander, these settlements have a certain autonomy. In Roman Dacia, as in other border provinces, most cities were the result of the development of military or civilian *vici*. It is not the case of *Micia*, a locality that has never received an official urban status.

In 1997 a team of researchers, using a metal detector, performed a survey on the fort and the settlement. The majority of the artefacts discovered date after the Marcomannic wars. The military equipment items are remarkably numerous and diverse, and also include regional distributed fittings besides common types. Although this lot is only a small part of the total items discovered here, it is representative in the discussion regarding the spread of the military equipment in the imperial provinces.

## **MEN IN CHAINS: A NEW IRON SHACKLE FROM THE MILITARY FORT AT CĂLUGĂRENI (MUREŞ COUNTY, ROMANIA)**

**Silvia Mustață, Dorottya Nyulas**

The Roman iron finds identified as shackles have been recently explored by scholars from multiple perspectives: starting with iconographical analyses of images depicting prisoners (most of them representing barbarians) to detailed typologies of the elements which composed these complex finds. The discussions have been carried out around issues related to the imprisonment and enslavement of war-captives, the presence of these finds in the European *barbaricum* as possible proof for slave trade, their significance as part of funerary contexts, as well as their utility as sources in researching crime inside the Roman Empire.

The current presentation will focus on an iron shackle discovered in the area of the *principia* belonging to the military fort at Călugăreni, on the eastern *limes* of Roman Dacia. Alongside a discussion regarding the precise typology of this group of finds and the specificity of the closing mechanism, the authors will integrate the discovery in the general context of Roman Dacia and the Roman military environment. The analysis will follow similar discoveries from other forts or civil sites of the province, published usually without a proper identification of the functionality, and will approach issues related to military jurisdiction and the presence of prisoners inside Roman forts.

## **AN UNUSUAL IRON LAMP FROM THE EASTERN *LIMES* OF DACIA**

**Dorottya Nyulas**

In the summer of 2015, together with colleagues from the Mureş County Museum, we were able to recover more than 50 fragments of a possible iron lamp near the *principia* of the military fort from Călugăreni (Mureş County). Iron lamps in the Roman period, though quite rare, are not unprecedented, just from Dacia there are 15 such objects known up until today (even one more from Călugăreni), all being open lamps, with a more or less similar form. However, this new find seemed special from the beginning and the restoration processes undertaken in the summer of 2016 proved us right: the recent iron lamp is of the extremely rare covered type. The form, highly resembling the usual ceramic and copper-alloy oil-lamps is truly uncommon within iron lamps, only several are being known from the whole Roman Empire. Their scarcity, raising in itself lots of questions, can be explained most probably by the technological difficulties that are met during their production. The proposed paper will present this exceptional small find alongside with some general notes regarding the Roman covered iron lamps, their production difficulties, and all-in-all significance.

## **GAMBLE OR NOT TO GAMBLE? OBSERVATIONS ON THE FUNCTIONALITY OF CERAMIC DISCS FROM THE ROMAN FORT AT BRÂNCOVENEȘTI**

**Katalin Sidó**

During older and more recent excavations, several ceramic discs were discovered in the Roman fort from Brâncovenеști. These traditionally were considered to be gaming counters, but lately the idea that they were in fact used as “toilet paper” rose, according to some representations, written texts and analogies from ancient Greek sources, also. In the course of older excavations, a tile with squares on it was recovered, most probably used as a board for games. Analysing this object also helps in understanding the function of the possible components of board games.

The present paper treats this topic from different points of view, trying to classify the ceramic discs, in order to result to their possible functionality. There were taken in consideration the characteristics of the ceramic fabric, the markings on the surfaces, perforated and half-cut pieces, and also the discs cut from special category vessels, such as terra sigillata and glazed pottery.

## **A GRAVE WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NORTHERN NECROPOLIS OF ROMULA**

**Dorel Bondoc**

Between 1965-1970, extensive excavations were conducted in the northern necropolis of Romula, under the leadership of Professor Mircea Babeş. There were investigated over 200 graves, most of cremation. The findings were published partially, in an extensive specialized article. Since 2012, we work together in drafting and

publication of the excavations monograph, which we hope will see the light of print in the shortest time.

One of those tombs (an inhumation one) draws special attention due to its inventory, which consists in a series of pieces of military equipment.

### **SOME *TESSERAE* FROM SOUTHERN DACIA**

**Gabriela Filip**

The archaeological excavations from the Roman camp of Răcari and the Roman fortification from Cioroiu Nou have highlighted a rich archaeological material. Among the small discoveries made in these locations, stand out a few bone artefacts, the *tessera* type.

Their presence in an environment eminently military should not surprise us (at Răcari stationed *Numerus Maurorum*, and at Cioroiu Nou, a detachment of *Legio VII Claudia*), but their appearance is still unusual in southern Dacia.

### **A PHALLUS TYPE ROMAN PENDANT**

**Marius Gheorghe Barbu, Costin Daniel Țuțuianu, Ioana Barbu**

The piece in question, donated to MCDR Deva in 2011, was discovered by chance on a forest road in the Turdaș locality (Hunedoara County), an access road that seems to superimpose a Roman road. The bronze cast artefact represents a pendant in the form of two diametrically opposed phalluses. The central part of the piece is a link that allowed the hanging of the pendant. Breaking of the link most likely caused the loss since antiquity.

Its association with multiple harness pieces discovered in the same area may indicate a function in this direction, this type of material being lost frequently along the communication lines.

### **THE ROMAN VOICES FROM THE “MILITARY SCHOOL” OF *AUGUSTODUNUM* (AUTUN, FRANCE): FOR THE REDISCOVERY OF A SITE VIA THE STUDY OF GRAFFITI ON POTTERY**

**Morgane Andrieu**

The site of the modern “Military School” of Autun, Roman *Augustodunum*, was excavated more than 20 years ago (from 1992 to 1993). The discoveries led to a detailed monograph published in 1999. This large site led by P. Chardron-Picault over an area of 9500 m<sup>2</sup> has been very well recorded. Only few details were unnoticed: the graffiti on the Roman Pottery.

The work I undertook during my PhD, for which I scanned all the pottery shards from Autun (amongst other cities), led to the discovery of 418 graffiti in Autun. The site of the “Military School” is mainly associated with an area of metallurgical production, an environment which at first glance doesn't seem favourable to graffiti on pottery. Yet this site provided the majority of the graffiti found in Autun, a total of 174 inscriptions.

Its presence in the town (*intra-muros*) is noteworthy as handicraft activities were generally relegated to outside the walls (examples: at Sens and Jublains, France). Observations made from the site have led to the conclusion that metal work was an economic asset for *Augustodunum*. Thanks to the quality of the archaeological records, it was possible to place most of the 174 graffiti on site into their chronological contexts. This led me to wonder which type of inscriptions existed on a site of which the handicraft production was visibly important for the city. Although most of the premises on site are likened to workshop areas, the excavations also revealed the presence of domestic dwellings. Which leads to the question, do those areas provide more graffiti than the areas dedicated to handicrafts? The simultaneous presence on site of these two different environments (one industrial, one domestic) allows for a comparison between the epigraphic materials found in each environment. It will also allow an examination of the influences of environment on writing practices. The site also has the particularity to mix pottery production and consumption, which allows us to investigate the practice of writing on vessels before and after the firing. This allows us to try to understand the evolution of the writing practice on the site and if this evolution is related to an enrichment of the population. Finally, all the observations must be nuanced as they are based on the archaeological data which has its limits. For example, only a few remains have been related to domestic life and the research did not determine if the inhabitants of the “Military School” were the artisans themselves.

## **MIRRORS WITH TAMGA FOUND IN SARMATIAN GRAVES FROM WALLACHIA AND MOLDAVIA**

**Liana Oța**

Mirrors are conventionally considered to be a female item, at least in the Sarmatian world. A simple impression at first sight, the equivalence between mirrors and female grave-goods turns out to be a fact, based on the association of mirrors with adornments or dress accessories. The number of Sarmatian graves from Wallachia and Moldavia containing mirrors is not very high, but the conclusions based on their analysis are significant. The majority of the mirrors were decorated with tamga signs. The deposition of mirrors in Sarmatian graves in Wallachia and Moldavia is connected with two chronological moments – end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century/first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

No matter of their early or late chronology, the inventory of the Sarmatian graves containing mirrors is a rich one, in comparison with grave-goods found in male or children graves. Not only adornments, especially beads, or dress accessories, especially brooches were found associated with mirrors, but ceramic vessels, too. The number of graves with more than one vessel is higher than in the case of graves of men or children and their shape is diverse. The reason for that might be not so much in a closer connection between women and wealth, but also due to different rules of the funerary rite, characterized by the deposition of less standardized vessels in female graves.

Mirrors with tamga were discovered in Dacian cultural milieu, too, but not deposited as grave-goods. Some mirrors and a mould were found in Dacian settlements, but their presence there requires a different explanation.

## **EARLY ROMAN SMALL FINDS OF A LATE ROMAN CITY IN SCYTHIA PROVINCE – IBIDA (SLAVA RUSĂ, TULCEA COUNTY)**

**Dan Aparaschivei**

Ibida city (Slava Rusă, Tulcea County) is known in the archaeological literature as one of the largest late Roman complexes in the province of Scythia. With a fortified area of about 27 hectares, we are able to identify on the field three defence structures: the great city, a hill fort and an observation point. However, some surveys and small excavations from about 30 years ago, but especially the systematic researches started in 2001 have confirmed some oldest opinions according to which the areal was inhabited before the development of this complex, sometime in the first part of 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD. As testimonies there are several inscriptions that have been found in the area, and especially the archaeological levels with some interesting architectural elements which have been dated based on the numismatic material. We add to these some small finds that can reinforce the idea of the existence in the area of a *civitas* or at least of a *vicus* which precedes the imposing fortification from later, scheduled probably in the time of Constantine the Great. In this paper we shall focus to several brooches that can be dated in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD and to other pieces that can be included in this early Roman horizon of the settlement. These artefacts, some of them found in obvious archaeological contexts, other fortuitously, are able to restore important issues of daily life from Ibida in a period about which we know almost nothing.

## **HOW TO STEAL THE PAST. SOME CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE REUSE OF ROMAN GEMS AND CAMEOS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES FROM TODAY'S TERRITORY OF ROMANIA**

**Ana Hamat**

Roman gems and cameos were some of the most popular ancient artefacts in the Middle Ages among the noble families from the territory of the modern day Romania. These kinds of artefacts have been looted from many Roman archaeological sites, among which the most well known are the cases of Tibiscum and Romula. In both cases, the medieval people especially searched for such objects and, after their discovery, they gave or sold them to the local elite. The majority of these gems and cameos were fitted in medieval rings and survived in private collection or in the collections of specialized institutions from Romania. The most significant conclusion regarding this kind of artefacts may relate to the importance of the ancient archaeological site for the medieval people and their respect for the Roman antiquity.

## **TWO NEW BROOCHES FROM ARDEU**

**Costin Daniel Țuțuianu, Ferencz Iosif Vasile**

The Ardeu village is known in the archaeological literature especially for the Dacian finds discovered on the *Cetățuie* hill. Located in south-western Transylvania, north of the river Mureș, in the Metaliferi Mountains, the archaeological site was inhabited in several historical periods (Neolithic, Eneolithic, Bronze Age, First Iron

Age, Dacian Kingdom, during the Roman province of Dacia, migration period and the Middle Ages).

Especially in the last decade, several objects belonging to the Dacian Kingdom or the Roman province of Dacia were presented to the public. These include weaponry items, pottery, building materials, tools, garments and adornments etc.

On this occasion, we want to approach a time interval that was developed later, by presenting two brooches that were in fashion over of the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries of the Christian era.

### **“ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕ ΚΑΛΗ ΕΣΤΙΝ”: INSCRIBED STEELYARD COUNTERWEIGHT FROM LATE ANTIQUE PARTHICOPOLIS**

**Emil Nankov**

This paper presents a unique inscribed steelyard counterweight from Parthicopolis (present-day Sandanski) in southwestern Bulgaria. Although the find was excavated in 1967 on the premises of an Early Christian basilica and an adjoining complex frequently identified as a bishop's residence, it had remained unpublished and was never recognized as significant because of the erroneous identification as a “lead canon ball”. The object is in fact a spherical counterweight, made of lead, coated in two bronze hemispherical cups of which some fragments are still attached. An iron rod was inserted into the lead ball on the top for the loop, now missing, which would slide along the scaled beam. Its weight of 2254 g or ca. 7 Roman *librae* of 2292 g indicates that the steelyard for which it was intended could measure loads up to at least 23 kg or 70 Roman *librae*. Such globular, non-figural lead counterweights, often coated in bronze or copper sheathing are associated with steelyards of the so-called Osterburken type according to the typology of N. Franken.

What makes this small find quite exceptional, however, are the discernible traces of two short Greek inscriptions punched upon the bronze sheathing. The first inscription reads: +ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕΚΑ, which was superseded by a second: +ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕΚΑΛΗΕΣΤΙΝ, positioned rather awkwardly immediately above it. Overall, the letters are carefully executed by dots left from a sharp instrument, so that they can be clearly seen not only on the bronze sheathing, but also on the surface of the lead counterweight underneath. It appears that first the incomplete phrase +ΠΑΝΤΟΤΕΚΑ[ΛΗΕΣΤΙΝ] was punched all around its circumference. In the process, however, it was realized that space would not be enough to complete it, and strangely remained unfinished. Then a second inscription was attempted immediately above the first, circling clock-wise along a narrower space. Although this time ΚΑΛΗ was squeezed in successfully, there was still no space left for ΕΣΤΙΝ to be inserted. The only solution was to squeeze it in-between the crosses causing the letters to be smaller.

Although the phrase is short and clear, its meaning and significance in the context of a weighing implement remain shrouded in mystery. Perhaps it can be interpreted as an invocation that the counterweight would be good enough for the purpose intended, i.e. its weight was certified to be accurate. Usually, Late Antique steelyards receive punched inscriptions on the scale beams, always preceded by a cross, signifying exclusively personal ownership of clergy officials, as illustrated by several examples from Greece, Slovenia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria. Although

counterweights are never inscribed, yet our specimen employs a similar formula by using the cross in the beginning.

On account of the counterweight morphology, as well as the paleography of the inscriptions, the inscribed steelyard counterweight from Parthicopolis should be dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> c. AD, but not later than 578 AD, when the whole complex was burned down during the Slavic invasions in the Middle Strymon valley.

## **ABOUT A SMALL DEPOSIT OF AGRICULTURAL TOOLS FROM THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES DISCOVERED AT BACEA, HUNEDOARA COUNTY**

**Mihai Gabriel Vasile**

The paper aims to present a small deposit of agricultural tools from the Middle Ages site discovered at Bacea – *La Sărături*, Hunedoara County, which was investigated before the construction of the Lugoj – Deva motorway, Lot 4. The deposit consists of ten artefacts, three plough coulter, a plough knife, a hoe, an axe, two fragments of knife, a washer and an undefined iron piece. The deposit is located at the edge of the unfortified settlement researched on the flat area of the Mureş Valley terrace, in the area of the Bacea village. The archaeological context is specific to the rural early medieval habitat dated during the second Avar Khaganate (8<sup>th</sup>-9th centuries). Agricultural tools and weapons storage phenomenon is widespread in the north Danube region during this period and is documented by analogies and discoveries from Dragosloveni, Radovanu, Bârlogu. The accumulation and storage of agricultural tools is attributed to the economic restrictions imposed by the legislation of the time by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI namely *Basilika*, *The Book of the Eparch* and the old body of law *Codex Justinianus* that forbids arms exports (finished or semi-finished) or iron in general. The discovery is highly important, it marks a point in establishing economic and diplomatic relations between the Avar Khaganate and the Byzantine Empire; on the other hand, it marks a point of collective social life in the small communities known at Bacea through the gathering and storage of agricultural tools.

## **BYZANTINE ADORNMENTS AND THEIR IMITATIONS IN OLTENIA (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES)**

**Silviu Oța**

The Byzantine civilization influenced not only the Banat, but the area of the present-day Oltenia, too. The adornments taken into discussion come from graves, settlements or stray finds. Their use continued during the Second Bulgarian Czarism, in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The presence of such adornments in Oltenia proves the existence of trade relations with the south-Danubian area and, on the other hand, the existence of a population who was inclined to adopt this fashion, different from the fashion of Turkic nomads arrived in the lower Danube area.

The territorial distribution of Balkan tradition adornments gives us a clue about the commercial ways in use during the 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Danube area up until the southern Transylvania, along the rivers Jiu and Olt.

## **A CURIOUS CATEGORY OF SMALL FINDS: THE LATE MEDIEVAL ENGRAVED BRICKS OF SOUTHERN ROMANIA**

**Andrei Măgureanu, Adina Boroneanț, Meda Toderaș, Raluca Iuliana Moței, Elena  
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The presentation provides an insight on the archaeological and architectural contexts, and the significance of a rather surprising and rare category of small finds, namely the Late Medieval engraved bricks. Several recent examples are presented, with the discussion focusing on two main such items, depicting a saint (București) and a church (Târgșorul Vechi), respectively.

## **TOBACCO CLAY PIPES. HISTORIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS. CASE STUDY: CLAY PIPES DISCOVERED IN THE STRONGHOLD OF DEVA**

**Ionuț-Cosmin Codrea**

The tobacco plant originated in South America, being originally used as a remedy. The habit of smoking was introduced by the British in the last quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and in the Ottoman Empire it becomes a common habit in the first years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Beginning with the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, pipe smoking became a habit widely practiced, traces of which can be found both in rural areas and especially in urban areas, being used in all backgrounds.

Research of clay smoking pipes is one of the major themes of post-modern archaeology, but at the same time one of the least theorized. Because of disregarding this type of artefact, their archaeological discovery was overlooked resulting in more precarious field documentation.

This paper aims to present the historiography on the subject and the research methods: archaeological and historical, that can take us closer to the main objectives – to achieve an accurate chronology of the clay pipes used in the 17<sup>th</sup> until 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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