

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS

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**“LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND PROMOTION OF THE
TRANSYLVANIAN PATRIMONY IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

**ACTA TERRAE
SEPTEMCASTRENSIS**

XIII

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Sibiu, 2014

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TURDAŞ, C SECTOR, RECONSTRUCTION OF FEATURE OR ST 29 BASED ON ETHNO-ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES

*We dedicate this study to the memory of Florian Dumitrescu Chioar who has gone
too early in the world of timeless*

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Abstract: The article concerns the discoveries from Turdaş-Luncă, campaign of 2011, sector C, structure C 29.

Keywords: Turdaş-Luncă, Neolithic, preventive archaeological researches, C 29 structure
Rezumat : Articolul prezintă descoperirile de la Turdaş-Luncă, campania anului 2011, sectorul C, structura C 29

Cuvinte cheie: Turdaş-Luncă, neolitic, cercetări arheologice preventive, C 29 structure

Generalities

Florian Dumitrescu Chioar, member of the research team from Turdaş, partner in C Sector, was in charge for a while with this sector (unearth of the first layer and

finalisation of the researches made on the pits created by the wooden structures), passed away prematurely, many of the unwritten observations were lost, the same our friendship is. From this area we have published a first feature Structure C28 in the monograph of the campaign, form 2012. Florian's researches continued in this sector, together with Cosmin Suciu, under the coordination of Sabin Adrian Luca at the research of Structure 29 and also of a hut¹. We also want to add that the surveillance on unearh of the first layer in this sector was made by Florian Dumitrescu-Chioar and Gheorghe Natea.



Fig. 1. Aerian photography with the localisation of structures S28 and S29.

In this sector there have been identified some features with adobe deposits – structures that are not that numerous inside Turdaş site².

We were repartee this sector from C zone due to the adobe deposits and our experience from Parța where we have researched several features with such structures, which was helping the research team. We also want to add that we have taken over the research of the features from the levels where the first clues regarding the existence of such structures existed (post holes, pottery agglomerations, groups of stoned), some of them located in B soil and others in the superior part of A soil, under a level of flash floods with different thicknesses³.

¹ The pit of hut C406, the oven with pit in front of 406A, of which research ended after our departure. We have only prepared the oven and the deposits from the hut's superior side. Our intention is to publish, in the future, this feature that we have partially studied also, as long as our colleagues agree.

² There have been also prepared such structures in C sector and another one in B sector.

³ See *** Turdaş 2012, Lazarovici et alii 2012b, p. 76, fig. 27. These structures were designed to deposit the residual waste, inside the dwellings being kept a great order.

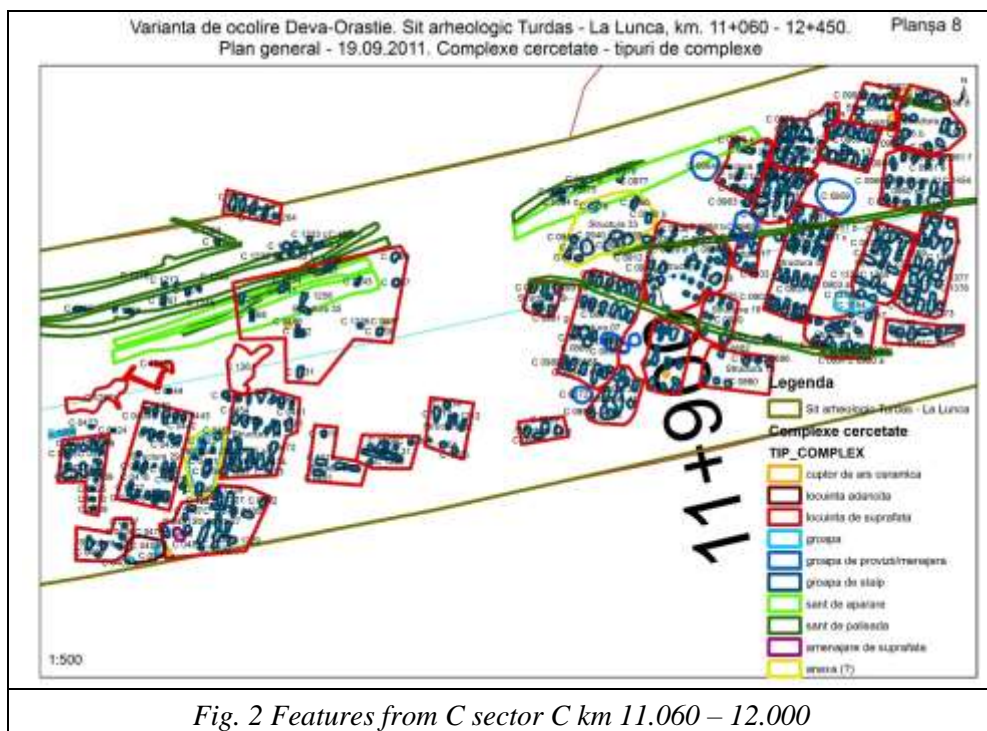


Fig. 2 Features from C sector C km 11.060 – 12.000

It is also necessary to make some remarks regarding unearthing of the first layer method, because there have been some not collegial comments regarding the research technique.

Before the unearthing of the first layer there were done some control spot checks by specialized teams from Bucharest, that have also made the prognosis, the sections remained opened and the ones that have unearthing the first layer and followed the stratigraphy and the deposits inside, but also the soils structure. There have been made disengagements on A-D sectors. Inside the sector, at 12.000 Km. there was a prognosis sector where the cultural layer, soil A, with sporadic remains started from 0.60/0.70 until 1.20 meters with weak pottery traces inside soil B1, belonging from sporadic habitation inside huts⁴.

The researchers from Turdaş started in sector A and C. In sector A, of which surface followed to be affected by the building of a bridge over the highway which connected the western entrance of Turdaş village – the prospections made by the

Such situations we have observed at Parţa and also colleagues from Hârşova had noticed them.

⁴ C406, C406a, C405 with the annexes C1224, C405a, = L6 in our remarks and markings on some of the markings made on note of the materials that appear on the analysis and classifications ***Turdaş 2012, p. 63-73.

German colleagues⁵ did not highlight any structures or features. After unearthing of the first layer there were discovered numerous structures (dwellings, ditches, stockades, pits, pottery agglomerations, published in the volume from 2012).

Sector B, which benefited of some information from the prospections made by Karsten Mischka and the colleagues from Timișoara on the tract of the northern lane of the highway after the humus was unearthed⁶. In the diagnosis checks it have been noticed the existence of some adobe structures (features with great anomalies, ditches, stockades), but also some erosions confirmed afterwards by surface surveys, sector of which researches was left behind because from the prospections also in some diagnosis profile the cultural and pedological layers had different thicknesses. On the other hand, in that area there have been made the systematic excavations of which results were published by Luca Sabin Adrian and his teams⁷.

A second feature that was designed for us to prepare, in sector C, from the rescue researches from Turdaș, from July 2012, is situated between Km. 11.925 and Km. 12.000, from sector C, near structure C28⁸ **is structure C29**.

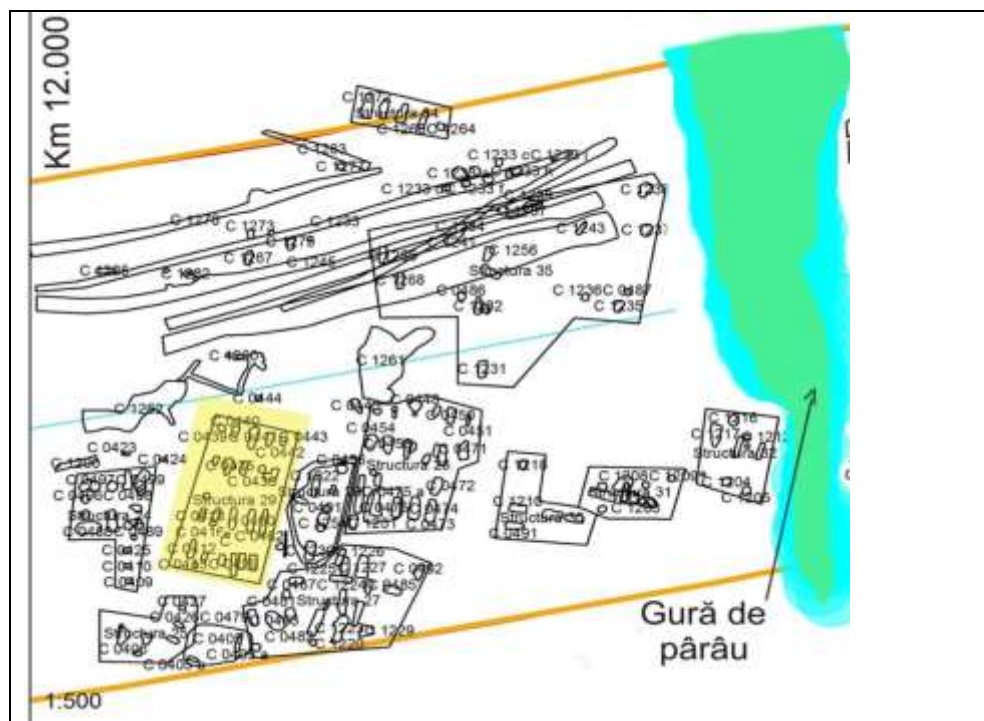
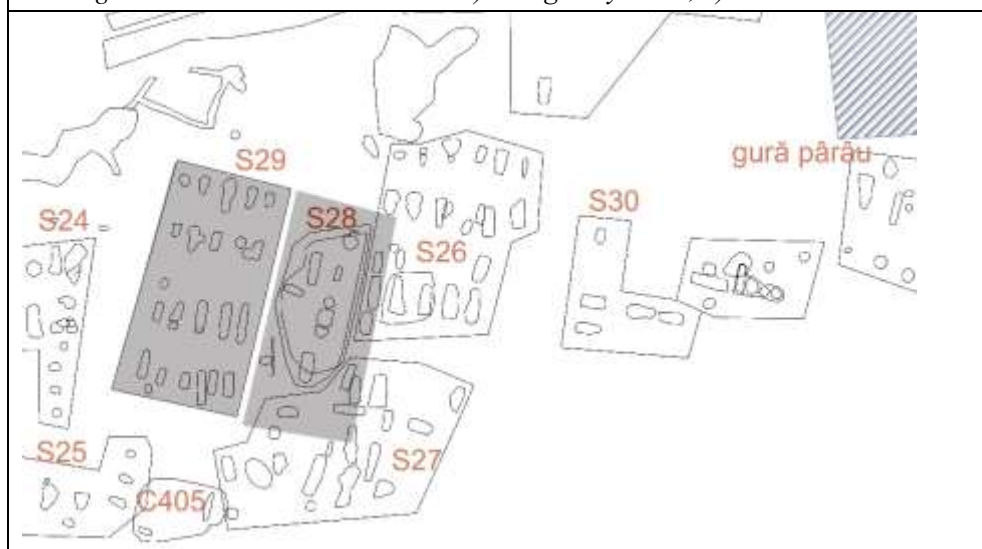


Fig. 3 Sector C Km 11.920 – 12: a) ▲ highway track, b) southern side ▼



In that area we have started the research of some features – dwelling and a hut, research continued by Florian Dumitrescu and Cosmin Suci, with partially published data⁹.

After the mechanical disengagement of the recent humus layers from sector C, made under the surveillance of Florian Dumitrescu and Gheorghe Natea, where I have participated only a few days in the eastern area on 28 structure, on this occasion being avoided the adobe structures, stones and remains of dwellings from soil A-B1 (which correspond to the cultural layer) was assigned for research by the coordinator of the works, Professor Luca Sabin Adrian – the one that has conducted the anterior reaches from Turdaş¹⁰ – the southern side of that sector.

After the period of coordinating the works in C sector that was assigned to me the research in the area was continued by Florian Chioar Dumitrescu, Mihai Căstăian and Cosmin Suci¹¹.

⁹ *** Turdaş 2012, p. 56 and following: one of the earliest huts defined by C. Suci as C405 (the hut), C405a (the hole from the ovens entrance), C1121 oven (sometimes it appears as C1224 probably a transcription error: compare from page 75 fig. 15b with fig. 16).

¹⁰ I want to thank my former student, Professor Luca Sabin Adrian, for the invite to participate at this researches, the help he provided, the daily dialogues regarding the details from the sector that was assigned to me. His papers regarding this researches: Luca S. A. et alii 1992; 1993; 1993b; 1994b; 1995; 1996; 1996b; 1996c; 1998.1999; 1998c; 2001 ş.a.; *** Turdaş 2012, p. 9-32.

¹¹ The fact that colleague Florian Dumitrescu passed away prematurely made some details and information kept by him during our departure to remain maybe inedited (the data from his computer and journal weren't totally recovered).

Because I have noticed the existence of several stratigraphic unities I have squared the area only for my journal and for the notes with the selective materials or the pottery deposits. Because the materials were uploaded in the data base after my notes¹² it is necessary to present some personal details.

In the southern and northern side of C track, limited toward east by a small slush valley (K. 11.925-11.949) of which course was affected in time over the western side of Sector B¹³ was traced a surface with the bulldozer (30 x 4m) in the superior part of B soil because in A soil didn't contour the features foundations, excepting the demolish of C28.

The localisation of the features from the area (fig. 3a-b).

In this area foundation pits contoured from other features but it was possible to obtain a stratigraphic profile for the structures that we were interested in St28 and St29. I have to add that on that profile I could notice that two from the pile holes form St28 had a depth of approximately 1.8 metres, the superior part being at the level of adobe deposits from upstairs (sometimes in the superior part of the holes there were remains of adobe, resulted from the burning of the features from the area). In the southern profile of this surface I have noticed the profile of the central pits from S29¹⁴. It has to be mentioned that adobe was found only a some features, the latest ones, in general the dwellings had only wood structures and some traced of agglutinations between girders.

Because while the features were prepared and included in the general reference system I have stated a micro-squaring of the area on the axis toward south, starting from Km 12.000 with A toward east until and from north to south from A1 at A4 with the purpose to locate the special inventory and the pottery agglomerations. The depths started from the superior side of C28 structure, which was located and at 0.7 m from a 0 level (actual surface). The excavation was done in 10 cm layers, the post holes received a code, only the pottery agglomerations were numbered with **a403** in c. B4, being a deposit area from domestic remains from the zone of **Structure 29** and **a402** in C4 belonging to **Structure 28** (following it will be abbreviated as St from structure).

¹² *** Turdaş 2012, p. 56-73 and tables 1-8. I want to add that what is defined as being Vinča culture in this tables represents, in my opinion Turdaş I level, as I have already defined it based on the analysis of the excavations made by M. Roska and the materials from MNIT: Lazarovici Gh., Maxim Z. 1996.

¹³ Cosmin Suci, Luca Sabin Adrian, Piatra Neamţ 2012

¹⁴ I have to mention that until my departure I believed that the pits were border ones, after they were cleared by Florian Dumintrescu and Cosmin Suci, during the visit made by the members of the Symposium "N. Vlăssă at 40 years from Tărtăria excavations, our colleagues convinced me that it was only one structure, with the pits I have assigned for feature L4.

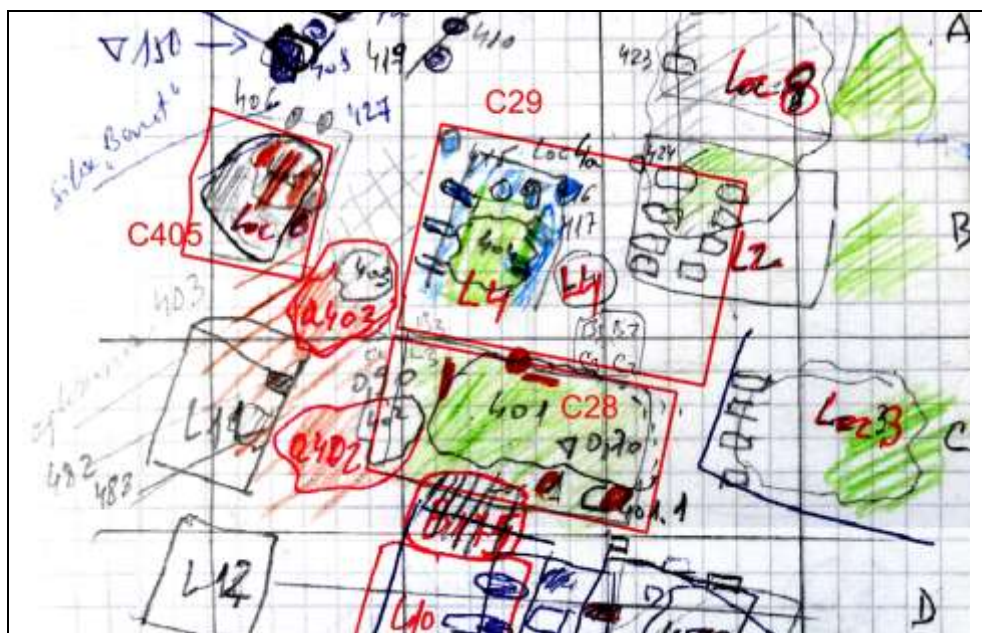


Fig. 4 Detail regarding the squaring made for the special inventories, **L**= **lot/lotus**;/ **loc**= **locus/supposed dwelling**, **a**=**agglomeration St=C structure or feature**

Connected with this agglomerations of pottery, bones and other artefacts we had to make an addition: they were deposited in the back of the structures, in this case at south from **St.28** and **St.29**. Also in the area of the squares we have marked lots = **L** (**lotus or platforms**) of materials which on preparation had an almost rectangular surface, the pottery fragments were disposed overlapped, with a few bones, stones mills, rubs, axes, all broken. So, we are taking about the depositing of the domestic remains in the back side of the dwelling, often between dwellings, probably in the opposite side of the entrance. To **St.28** it belonged **a402**, to **St.29** it belonged **a403**. For the special materials there have been the following lotus: **L4** in the southern area of **St. 29**; **L5** in the north of **St.29**; and **L6** for the hut with oven **C406**, in its rear being also a more recent feature (**L410** at us).

The details regarding the numbering of the structures, their order and belonging to a feature or another, also the general information or the detailed ones regarding the editing and finish of this study were provided by Cosmin Suciu¹⁵, together we have ordinated the documentation for this study.

Some data regarding the relative chronology

¹⁵ He continued with Florian Dumitrescu-Chioar the research of the sector and coordinated the activity of registration of the documentation on all sectors.

Until we have obtained the absolute chronology data we have to analyse the relative chronology ones. The old data, especially the one from Vinča – BB station, which by its stratigraphy remained one of reference¹⁶, the data from Banat¹⁷ and Transylvania¹⁸, completed with data of the contemporary civilisations (Banatului culture¹⁹, Turdaş culture²⁰, Foeni group²¹, Zau culture²²), with the analysis and recent comments²³, not without importance, but especially when they are corroborated with cluster analysis²⁴, doesn't change too much our information, but they bring a higher precision and clarifications.

It is necessary to make here a general observation regarding the relative chronology used by the archaeological school from Belgrad regarding the term "*Vinča Tordoş*" introduced by M. Garašanin as an alternative to Vl. Milojević's chronology and maintained by some colleagues from Belgrad. All the C14 recent data, stratigraphic and chronologic observations show that, Turdaş culture it is dated at level Vinča B2C (partially contemporary to Gradac group). If back then, when M. Garašanin synchronized Vinča – Tordoş I with Vinča A and Vinča – Tordoş II with Vinča B, it was possible to use such term, and at one moment I have associated some materials with Vinča A, later for my analysis I have showed that those shapes were Vinča C and colleagues Fl. Draşovean and Luca Sabin Adrian proved that those "Vinča A shapes" belong to Foeni group (Fl. Draşovean) or Foeni Mintia (S.A. Luca)²⁵.

Early Turdaş materials (fig. 5-6)

I didn't had the possibility to see the processing of the materials between St. 29 and St. 401, but by studying some materials from Vrşac – At²⁶ and their way

¹⁶ Schier W. 1995, 322; 1996, Tasić Ne. 1989, 46 apud IPTCE 2309-2311; see also IPTCE s.v. Vinča - BB

¹⁷ Vinča C: Lazarovici 2013; Schier et al. 2004, 202, IPTCE nr. 2943-2954.

¹⁸ Luca et al. 2006, 17; IPTCE nr. 2270-2271, 3137, 3139.

¹⁹ Mantu 2000, 98; and for others: 1998; 1998a, 1998b, 1998c, 2000; IPTCE nr. 2519-2532.

²⁰ Luca 2003, IPTCE nr. 2500-2502, 2942 Cauce Cave.

²¹ Draşovean 2005, 20, IPTCE nr. 2395-2398, 3309-3310, Gligor 2007, 230, IPTCE nr. 2394- 3301.

²² Maxim Z. 1999, 133, IPTCE nr. 3305-3308.

²³ László A. ** Mantul C.-M. **; Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. et alii 2013, p. 52-58; Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2006; Maxim Z. Lazarovici Gh. 2013, Draşovean Fl. 2013; Diaconescu D. 2013a, 2013b.

²⁴ The model applied by Diaconescu D. 2013a; 2013b.

²⁵ Lazarovici Gh. 1977b; 1981; 1994 and others; Lazarovici Gh., Kalmar/Maxim Z., 1991; Lazarovici Gh., Maxim Z. 1996; Lazarovici Gh. et alii 2009a; Draşovean Fl. 1996; 1996a; 1996b; 1997; 1997a; Lazarovici Gh. et alii 2012b= ***Turdaş; Luca S. A. 1993; Luca S. A. 1995; Luca S. A. 1996 Luca S. A. 1996b; synthesis and bibliography Luca S. A. 1997; 2001; *** Turdaş 2012; Draşovean Fl., Luca S. A. 1990.

²⁶ Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2006, p. 496, fig. VI a.25, fig. A25.3 is Foeni with analogies at Gligor M. 2009, pl. LXXXV.4-6, CII-CVI.

through Banat marked by discoveries with early Vinča C materials from Jabăr, Sălbăgel, Cornești, Zorlenț²⁷, but also some of the my researches

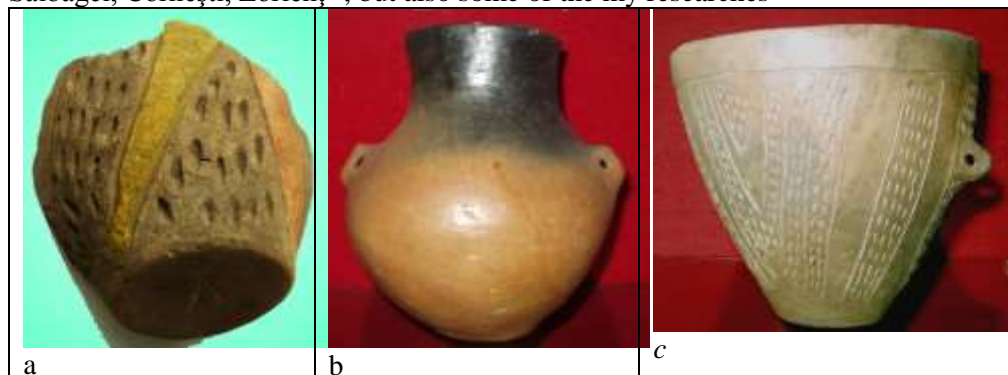
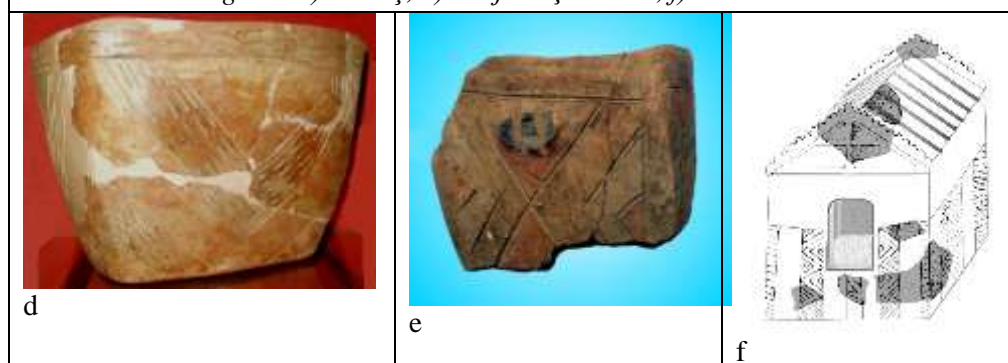


Fig. 5 a-d) Turdaș; e) Cluj-Piața Unirii, f) Vrșac – At.

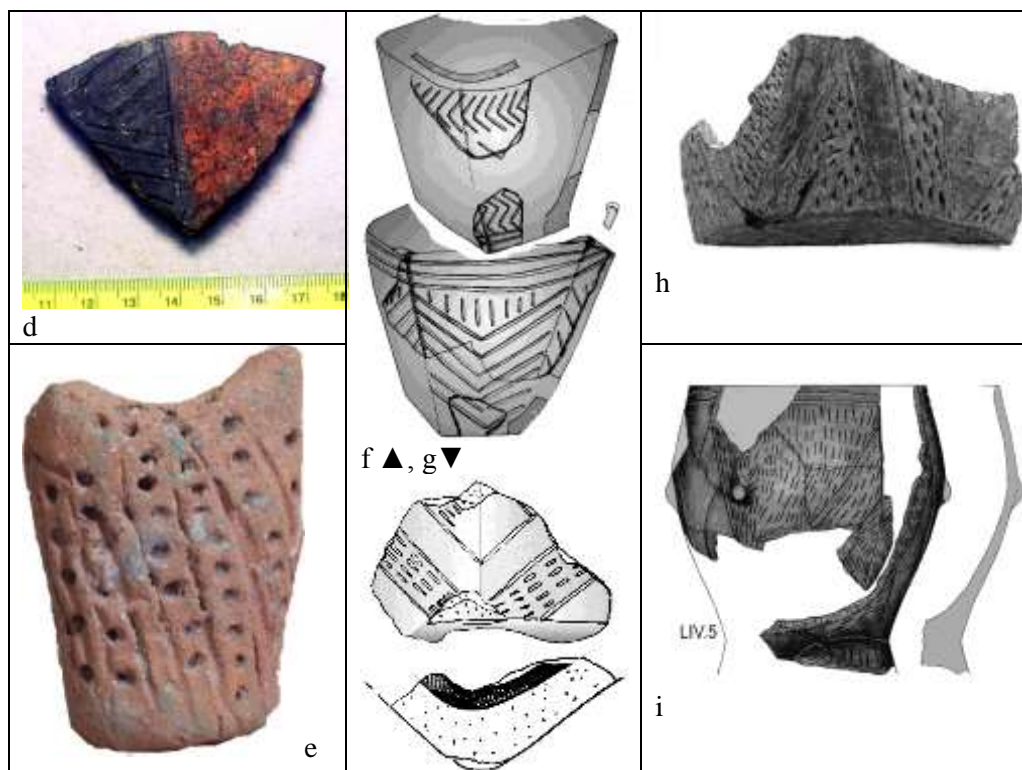


from Zau and also the materials from Zofia Torma's collection from Cluj, it can be presented some materials from the first habitation period from Turdaș (fig. 5-6).



Fig. 6 a) Zau – Huts 6 and B5; b-e Vrșac-At f) Jabăr = photo, drawings Lazarovici; g) Zorlenț III, h) Tărtăria (after Paul), i) Alba Iulia - LN (after Gligor M.)

²⁷ Lazarovici Gh. 1994, Abb. 3. 2,4; 5.7-8,12; 21.16, 22.2,9.



The characteristic elements for phase I are the quadrangle vases with good paste, painted in crusted technique (red, brown, yellow, black), little houses models, good quality pottery that still has Vinča B2 characteristics (for the fine black pottery or brown as the skin, red pottery, sometimes greenish slip). I have found some of this characteristic in the Banat sites that have already mentioned. There are also others mentioned on the occasion of the publication of the analysis on the pottery excavated by M. Roska²⁸.

From C area that I was assigned to coordinate, remained some structures to be in detail analysed, I am referring to a hut (C405, C405a; C 1291) and C475 features with the earliest materials from this sector (fig. 7). For some of these the plan and statistic data with the pottery inventory have been already published, together with important cluster analysis²⁹.

²⁸ Lazarovici Gh., Maxim Z. 1996

²⁹ *** Turdaş 2012, p. 57-73 and fig. 15B-16: for other details Niţu Fl. 2012, p. 243 and following.

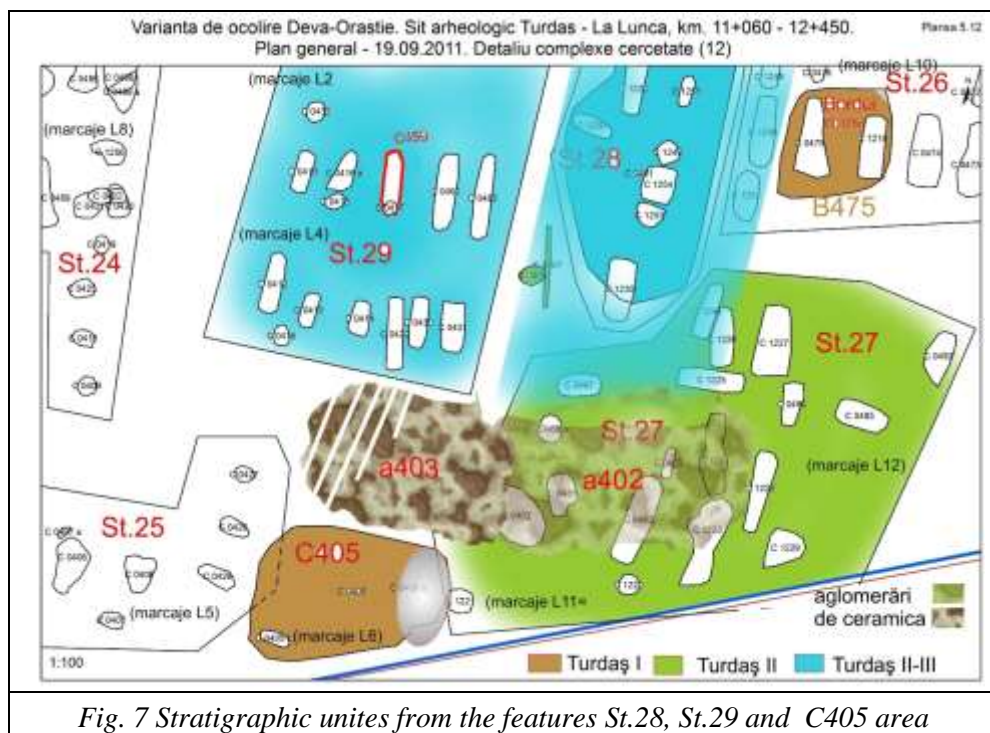


Fig. 7 Stratigraphic unites from the features St.28, St.29 and C405 area

From the colour series, from what it has been published, it can be noticed that it groups in the left down side of the series, so later than the ones from Miercurea Sibiului after the following series of attributes: colour, burning, temper, pot bases and ornaments³⁰. Considering the rim shape, the ones from Turdaș are placed in the centre of the series³¹. Considering the ornaments it can be noticed that they correlate after the ones from L1 from Miercurea Sibiului. The conclusion is that the features from Turdaș are later than the ones from Miercurea Sibiului. Florina Nițu, in her Ph.D. thesis, defined a series of specific shapes for Turdaș culture, different from the ones of Vinča culture³², which should be taken into consideration for the following statistical analysis.

Compared to the materials of M. Roska excavations from 1912³³, which I have discussed on other occasion³⁴, the ones from M. Roska's inferior level grouped in the early period.

³⁰ See study from *** Turdaș 2012, p. 63 tab. 1-4, 6-7.

³¹ *** Turdaș 2012, p. 63 tab. 5

³² Nițu Fl. 2012, p. 243- 268, fig. II.4. 5-6, 16-18, 26- 30 and others.

³³ Roska M. 1928, 1941. Lazarovici Gh., Maxim Z., 1996

³⁴ Lazarovici Gh., Maxim Z., 1996; should be re-examined the materials from the inferior levels and published with coloured pictures.

Regarding the dating of the latest features from the ones studied by me in the C zone, the southern side, the materials collected from the superior side of St. 28, from the demolitions from the superior part of the complex, I have noticed a large pot stand of late Turdaş facture and considering the shape is characteristic for Petreşti culture, some early phases, as they appear in the discoveries from Lumea Nouă³⁵. Actually, Dragoş Diaconescu, based on his analysis, corroborated with the baesien data synchronized middle and late Turdaş periods with the discoveries from Iclod and Suplac³⁶, situations that I have also mentioned³⁷.

Until the delimitation of the structures I have defined some stratigraphic units for which there are notes for the inventories from the features, lots or pottery platforms marked with "L", loc. agl. and others Fig. 7) written on the notes with materials or special inventory, observations made on the field.

The lots of special materials and the surfaces studied by M. Roska were small compared with the new discoveries. From a quantitative point of view the features St. 405 (hut, oven, pits), after my knowledge it is an early period, at late Vinča B2 level: the idol, the brown pottery with burning spots (810 fr.), the light brown (537 fr.), black-greyish pottery (529 fr.), brown-reddish (313 fr.), orange (259 fr.). These indicate a late Vinča B2 horizon (after Vl. Milojević), B2/C after me, phase 6 from Vinča – BB, at Schier³⁸ while the elements of Turdaş type appear in Banat, associated with Vinča C1 materials³⁹.

The research of the infrastructure at St. 29 started in the western and southern zone, the feature area being left for research at the level of the demolitions observed during unearthing of the first layer. The feature outstand through pottery fragments, stones and traces of longue that I shall name proper for fixing minimum 2-3 piles as I have already mentioned at St. 28⁴⁰.

After cleaning the area from the southern side of the highway, I have started to prepare the features from Km, 12 towards the first stream mouth, in Sector C. I have prepared a part of St.2, respectively L5 and St. 24, afterwards I have worked in parallel at St. 28 and St. 29 (see fig. 8).

³⁵ Gligor M. 2009, the large one types from Foeni – Petreşti level, with similar profile pl. LXXXV.4-6. CXIII.4 but larger.

³⁶ Diaconescu 2013 communication at Pilzen and Zalău.

³⁷ Lazarovici Gh. 2009a; 2010;

³⁸ Schier W. 1995, Abb. 149.

³⁹ Lazarovici Gh. 1987; 1994; especially at Vrşac At.

⁴⁰ Lazarovici et alii *** Turdaş 2012, p. 78 and following.

Structure 29. Superior level II



a

Fig. 8a-b Image after taking over the research in C zone and St. 29 highway, southern track, Km11.950- 12.



b



Fig. 9 View of St. 29 towards south, down is the southern wall.

Towards St 28 the walking levels were almost at the same level, but the powerful demolishing from St. 28 were higher because of the burned deposits of the upper floor. The structure of the two rows of piles from inside, from the southern zone, burned (as it can be seen from the images: fig. 9-11, burning that it can be related, most probably, with the burning of the two features, being nearby, with the plan and similar orientation (see fig. 3b). And at the agglomeration from C403, there have been noticed some traces of burned soil (fig. 8a, 26, 28-29) from the agglutination between the walls girder (see the reconstruction fig. 22-23). At only one pit the pile was burned (C431 fig. 11b), being near St.28, from which probably it fired. At the topographic reconstruction C459 was missed, not being prepared then.

Inside the structure it had been noticed, in the yellow clay from the bottom of the elongated pits the points of the piles (round, oval, unregulated: fig. 11b, 15b, 17a) filled with ground from soil B and soil C, from which they were dogged. In the western side, two of the pits from the central row weren't very clearly to be seen (probably not as deep as fig. 10 near C417 and C414⁴¹). Some of the pits were dogged in steps, this being the reason why at the unearthing of the first layer from the northern area it remained sometimes, for the pits, only the bottoms (the case with C417, C437, C 439, C 440).

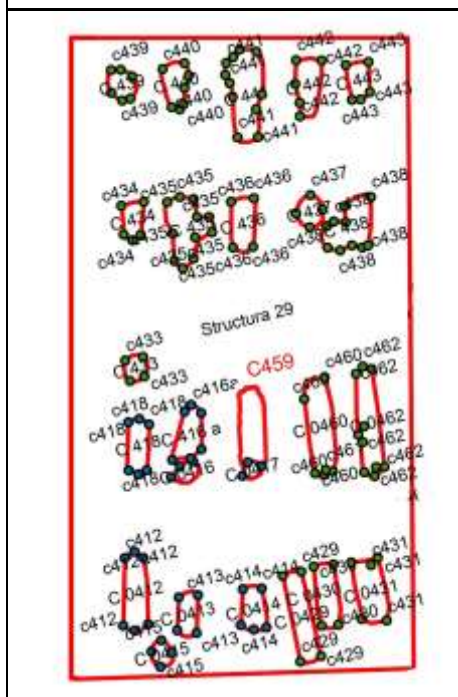


Fig. 11 a) ▲ Row I C430, C431; b ▼ reconstruction

⁴¹ I have noticed that at several pits that some weren't so deep, deepens varied with 10-12 centimetres.



Usually, the pits that were connected with the crest of the roof were the deepest ones, but at the edge of the feature, at row 1 and 4, the ones from the inner structure served for the support of the loft used as space for preserving the stores and sometimes as a sleeping space. Calculating the depth of the pit C429 (fig. 12a)



we believe that it was near 2 meters high from the waking level of the dwelling. At such foundation the pile had the dimensions of an old wooden telegraph pile (over 8 meters). The loft could have been 2-3 meters high from the ground allowing the existence of a suspended wooden floor. The fact that on the walking level we didn't find any charcoal suggest the fact that for a long period the zone over the features wasn't inhabited. The fortification system constructed towards north indicates that this features are sometimes outside (fig. 1). In the burned pit of that pile (C429) was found a fragment of a scraper that have fallen into the pit probably after burning (I don't believe that it was intentionality deposited there), from one of the levels of wooden floors (fig. 12b). Because I didn't found a fold or glued floor neither pottery

fragments in the walking level (as at St.28), kept in the exterior in zone of the south-eastern corner, I believe that the purpose of the 2-3 piles found in the rectangular pits of the construction was to sustain a suspended wooden floor, and the loft was without agglutination, as it was the case for St.28.

The fact that in the other pits from row 1 I didn't found traces of burned piles indicates that the construction burns entirely only in the central area where is gathered a large quantity of wood (roof, loft, floor), and the ember remained there

for a long time which facilitated the profound burning of the piles⁴². Of course, there can be also other explications and observations from rows 2 and 3 confirms or offers an explanation for my hypothesis.

Rows 2 and 3

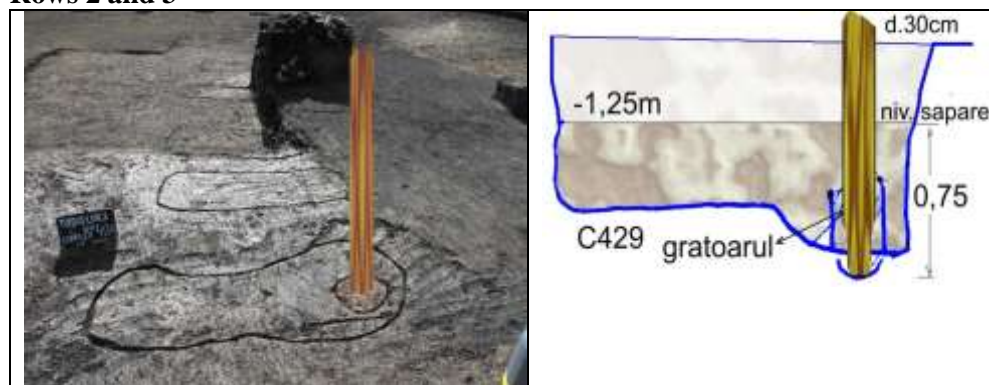


Fig. 12 a) St. 29 C429 row 1, level II, burned pile; b) profile from the pit



Fig. 13. Rows of pits 1 and 2: view from east, b) reconstruction from the south; for the features that presented shades of pits from the new period.

These are the rows from the central area and in all of them the piles from the centres of the pits are burned down to the foundation. The explanation to this situation I have already presented. In row 2 one of the pits was a singular one, having a high dimension, the pile burns powerful. Being situated in the centre of the feature it could have been the central pile from the roof.

⁴² There are such observations in dozen of cases at Parța, but there existed also clay structures.

The fact that at the reconstruction the pit wasn't used, it wasn't excavated one nearby, indicates the fact that the support system was changed and maybe the roof's shape.

More clear answers we could have had if we had studied more in detail the dwellings. As we didn't had this respite we were obliged for some situations to have no confirmations.



Fig. 14. Rows 2 and 3 reconstruction of the piles structure.

From the general study of the plan (fig. 10), from the pits C416, C437, C435, the inner pit from C441, all of them step out of the line of row 4 and they are large, we believe that in this cases the piles were extracted and re planted. It was noticed that the dwellings from area A weren't reconstructed, the pits are very regular considering the shape and dimensions, fact that it was noticed in other stations also: Gomolava, Foeni⁴³ and Turdaş⁴⁴.

The reconstructions we have made were from west to east because we believe that in west side there is the entrance. At the northern side there were the stockades, so it was not a proper place for the entrance, but also due to the winds. At St.28 the

⁴³ Colleague Fl. Draşovean, to whom I want to thank, was very kind and offered me an unpublished plan of a feature that we have reconstructed (Lazarovici Gh., Lazarovici C.-M. 2002; 2003; 2007, fig. Va.16 and others). After the publishing of the monograph we shall have the possibility to study other features also.

⁴⁴ ***Turdaş 2012, Luca S. a. p. 25 and following fig. 1, 4, 6-7, 10.

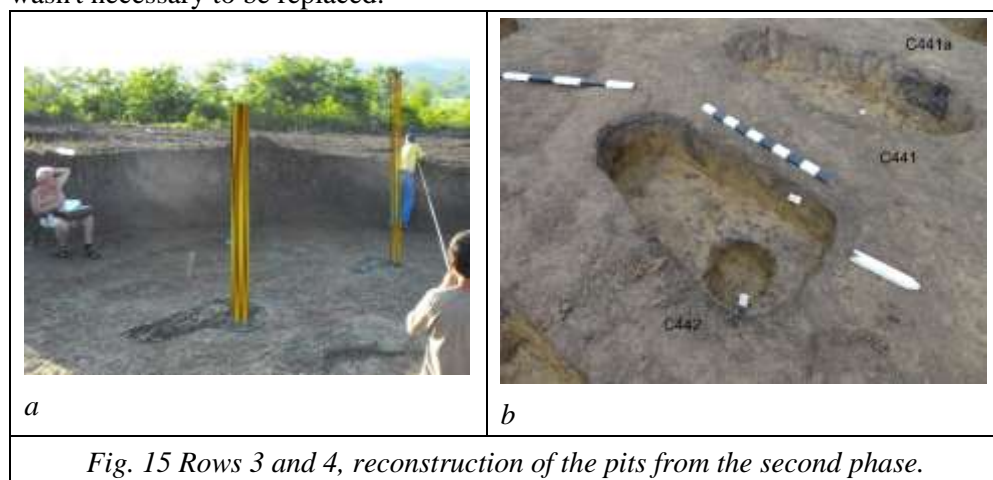
entrance was towards east, because in the southern side there were deposited the domestic remains.

In the image towards south in could have been noticed that pit 459 doesn't unite with the central pile C417. In the pile's pit, in the superior side, it was filled with yellow soil for stiffing it, a fact that it couldn't be noticed at other similar piles. It is possible that this one to have been replaced.

Rows 3 and 4

For the second period, as we have already mentioned some of the burned piles were replaced by making larger the pit or introducing a more thin pile in the place the first pile burned and in the foundation. For this replaced piles, very rarely beside the yellow soil I have noticed the remains of adobe.

In the recent phase piles C442 were replaced and the pit was made larger, very probably at the extraction of a burned pile, at pit C441 it was practiced another pile without the old one being totally extracted. Other data regarding the second period we don't possess considering that the remained piles were well preserved so it wasn't necessary to be replaced.



The pit with stones (fig. 16)

In the superior side of St.29 were discovered several pottery fragments on the level, without being recorded shades on the arranged floor. Immediately after the pottery fragments level it was discovered the remains of a pit with the bottom in "U" letter shape, full with rolled stones. We don't know precisely their role, but they were gathered and deposited under the floor, in that pit. Some of the stones present burning spots (this being a proof that they were used for domestic purposes at

heating, burning, purification etc.⁴⁵). Among the stones there weren't found any pottery fragments, stone or flint tools. Being in the inner part of the room we believe that the access was made through a wooden top from the level of the suspended floor, otherwise the stones would have disturbed the ones that lived there, or in the pit would have infiltrated pottery fragments.

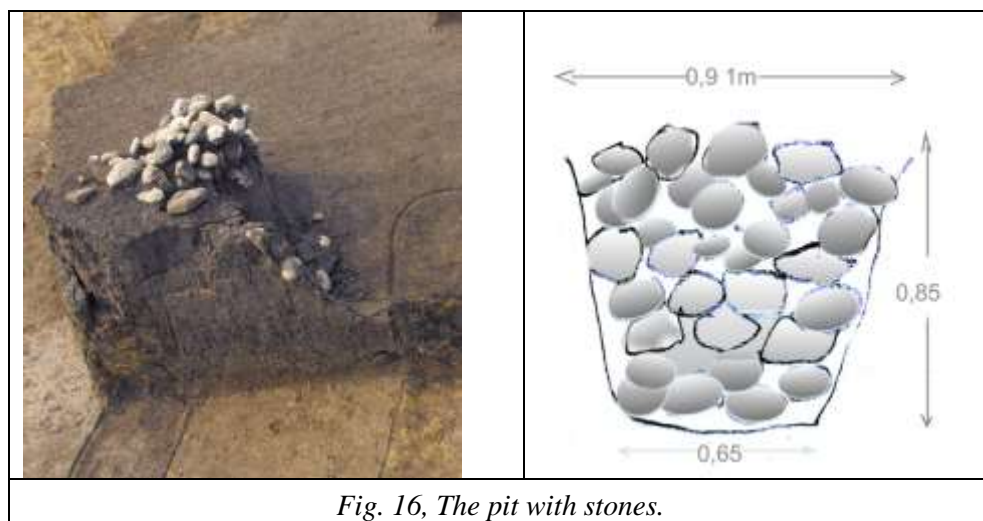


Fig. 16, The pit with stones.

Usually, the materials from the pits under the dwellings are considered to be ritual foundation deposits, myself and other already pointed out some situations⁴⁶. But in this case, we have a similar situation with the one from Păuleni, from Cucuteni-Ariuşd culture, in dwelling 5, where in the suspended floor remained an opening where it was placed a big provisions pot⁴⁷. In a nearby dwelling, also in the floor was excavated in soil C until the rock, native rock, a pit in which it was displayed a pot with broken bottom inside a grey clay having the role to purify the water that was leaking from between the rocks inside the pot. Over that large painted pot it was displayed as a lid a big dish. This installation served as a little spring⁴⁸.

⁴⁵ From my ethno-archaeological researches with John Nandriş we have met before such situations: the disinfection with heathen rocks made in Maramureş; the heating of the bed with rocks at Filea Morară at Maica Ana and others; the boiling with heathen stones it is present in several cases at different people.

⁴⁶ Generaly: Lazarovici Gh. 2009b; Luca S. A. 1996e; Lazarovici C.-M. 2009°.

⁴⁷ Lazarovici Gh. et alii 2001, p. 104, pl. IX, L5 the pit had 1.4 x 1 m;

⁴⁸ Buzea D. L., Lazarovici Gh. 2005, p. 71, pl. XIII, XXVIII 6-7, XXIX.11; Buzea D. L. 2006

There are some evidences that in the dwellings floor there was practiced some pits that served as cooling pits or for preserving some products. A similar situation was at Uivar, where Professor W. Schier was kind enough to let me prepare such a pit⁴⁹, only that there I have discovered also a lied made of piles stoked together and glued in the superior side. There it was possible to prepare it because the floor was smoothed with clay, but during the firing the construction burned out, and the lid was baked. At Parța, in Casa Cerbului (Deer House), room D, under the floor of a big bad, made of thick piles, there was a mantle through which it were displayed, under the floor, the burned and unburned sling balls⁵⁰.

We have insisted on this details because often this pits have with a functional role aren't noticed. Their filling was nappy or with a black soil that drains off in time, being excavated in the yellow clay so they weren't occluded immediately.

Of course, their purpose may be multiple, but is for the first time we found them buried such a big number of stones buried in a dwelling floor. I have found in other excavations stones under the floors but they were associated with mills⁵¹, but all of them were connected with foundation and abandonment rituals⁵².

A problem that we had debated considering the partial burning of the walls of the construction was why not all the piles burn. This fact depended on lots of factors: the placement of the firing, the wind, the state of the roofs, walls and other factors. A problem that we discus is the structure of the walls. The massive structure of wood piles show – as in the case of St.28 and other dwelling but also of fortification systems (reconstructions in the first volume published about Turdaș) – the existence of some massive structures (stockades, dwelling walls, floors etc.⁵³). At Turdaș there is a community that knows perfectly the wood technology (drying, cutting, cleaving, interweaving). In A zone it was found a large oven of 20-30 centimetres length and long of 3-4 meters, which allowed for the woods to be cut by firing, in the same time burning the ends for to piles in the same time, the end being buried, in order not to go rotten. The lack of some adobe structures indicates the fact that in mostly the walls were made by wood.

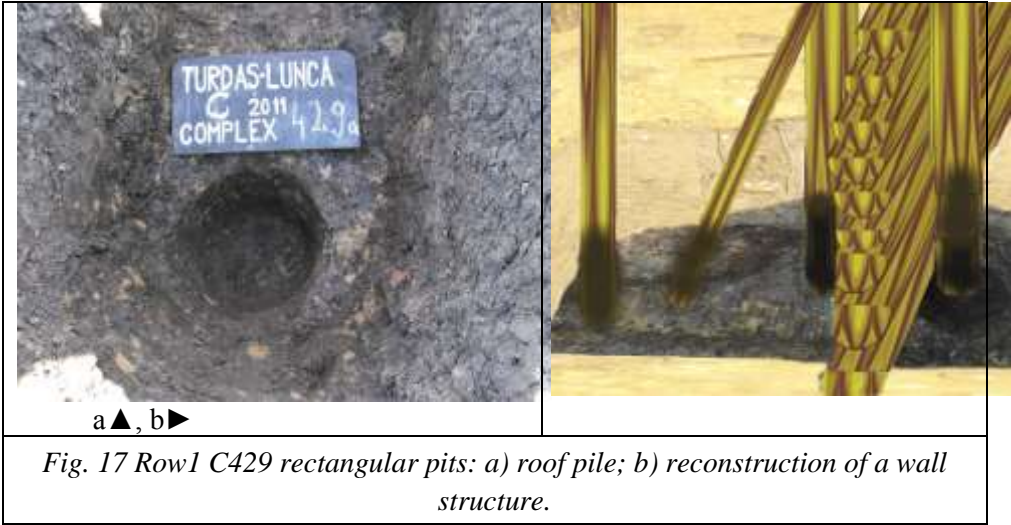
⁴⁹ Schier W. Et alii 2004, p. 165, Abb9, feature 191, in SII.

⁵⁰ Lazarovici et alii http://www.prehistory.it/ftp/parta_archaeological_excavations01.htm fig 37b, 47,

⁵¹ My researches from Zau, in level 14 Dwelling 2 c. C3 ▼ 2,15 m.

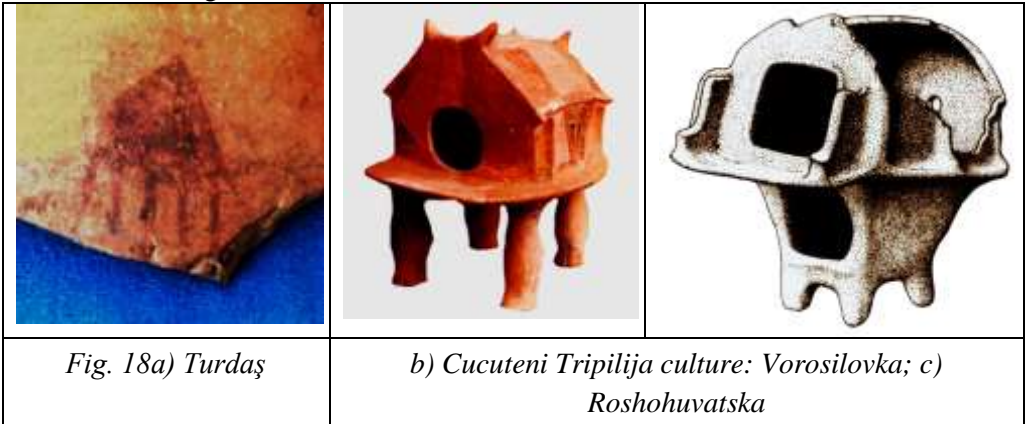
⁵² Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2006, p. 3, 21, 22, 41, 42, 112, 132, 146, 170, 1760, 350, 357, 438, 561, 594 and other. ; 2007 p. 60, 91, 115, 124, 132, 133, 158. 161 and other and bibliography; Lazarovici Gh. 2009b and bibliography.

⁵³ ***Turdaș, p. 2012, 33-44 and other.



Rectangular pits

This rectangular pits allow the excavation at a higher deepen, the making of a massive wooden structure, but in the same time the installation of more piles: the inner ones for the roof, the middle one for fixing the wall, for supporting or for the suspended floor. In this way there can be made massive wood structures of considerable heights, capable to sustain the suspended floors, level or loft/garret. From Copper Age from Ariuşd-Cucuteni-Tripolie complex we have sanctuary lay-outs built up on piles (fig. 18): from which some with floor and complicated structures⁵⁴. From Turdaş there is a painting on a pot from a pile construction, like the lake dwellings⁵⁵.



⁵⁴ Gusev S.A. 1995,p. 222, .72/1-4; C-M. Lazarovici 2004, fig. 7; Monah D. 2012, 205.2 and others.

⁵⁵ Roska M. 1941, pl. 123/17p. 150, Maxim et alii 2009, cat. 82

Structure 29. Level I.

Southern side comprises two rows of massive pile pits: the southern row and the central-southern row. Also in the southern side there is a corner pit (C415) that emerged a little from the row of piles having a correspondent in the second row towards east, at C429. Being more outside of the row this one could have served as the eaves beside that would allow the shelter of some things that weren't used currently, the eaves being oriented towards the south of the dwelling.

The ethnographic analysis or ethno-archaeological reconstructions in such places could have been sheltering objects used for domestic purposes or different plants hanged out for drying⁵⁶.

On the southern side traces of the burned piles can be noticed only at (G431b) and pit C413 is deformed due to the extracted pile C413a (fig. 20a). In the pit were preserved tree steps that were higher only with 10-15 cm (fig. 20b). We believe that the steps served for the inner piles for sustaining the suspended floor or for the loft. The same steps can be noticed at piles C429 and C430.

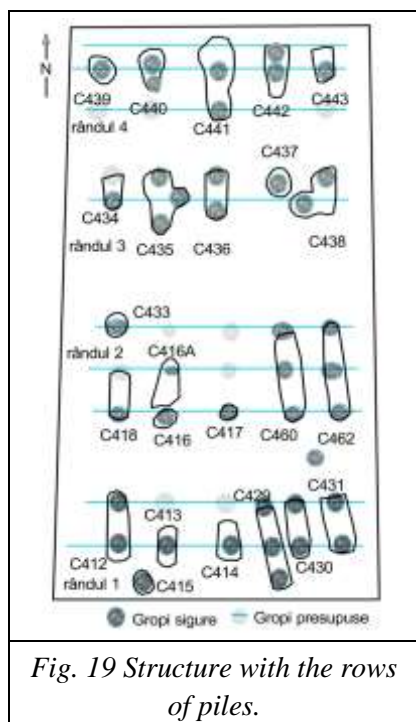


Fig. 19 Structure with the rows of piles.

⁵⁶ Currently encountered situations and country household and seldom reconstructed in the archaeological parks from Taşa, Polgár and others.

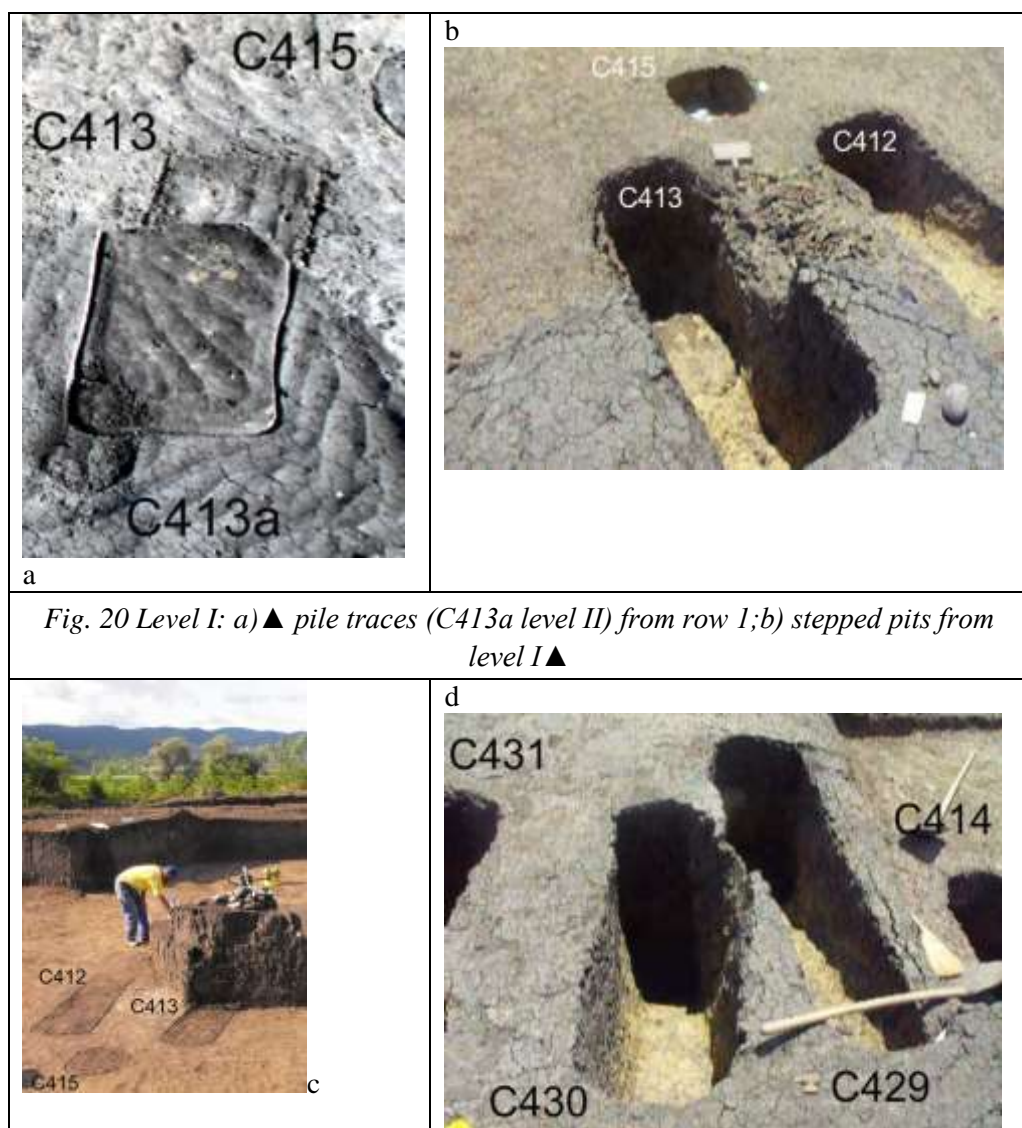


Fig. 20 Level I: a) ▲ pile traces (C413a level II) from row I; b) stepped pits from level I ▲

All the piles from the central area, from the big elongated pits, a common feature from all the piles from the big dwellings from Turdaş⁵⁷, but in the central and southern area there are no traces from the removed piles and no traces of massive firing only at some smaller feature. It can be noticed that pit C413 is being enlarged on the corner (fig. 20a⁵⁸).

⁵⁷ *** Turdaş 2012 plan 9, 11, 15b, p. 111, plan 12.

⁵⁸ From our experience from Parța and Țaga when the piles are extracted the pit is being enlarged, the margins are being unregulated: Lazarovici Gh. et alii 1996c.

Most of the pits from this areas are built in steps. Also, such pile pits, seldom in steps, are known from the end of Developed Neolithic (at Zau in level II and III⁵⁹), but especially in the Developed Neolithic from the Danube region at Gomolava, Foeni, Uiva, Parța - *Tell 2* and others.⁶⁰



Fig. 21 The piles from the southern wall.

In the plan presented at fig. 19 the pit C413 seems to be smaller being measured at a different depth, excavating more deep with approximately 35-40 cm we notice that the pit had higher dimensions (fig. 20a), from this reasons it didn't appear in the plan pit C423b. The tree steps same as at pit C413 could be also noticed in C429, C430 (fig. 20). Based on this observations it has been reconstructed a variant of the southern wall (fig. 17b). The

horizontal beams of the wall could have been connected after a country (peasant) model – see figures 22-24.

The pits excavated in steps are being made considering a few reasons: it is difficult to extract the soil from a pit over 2 meter deep, especially that some of them reach - 1,8m (at St.28); on the other hand at steps piles allow the introduction of piles for the roof, in order to sustain the roof (in some situations) or the suspended floors; or as support piles for the stiffening of construction as we thought it was the case for the elongated piles C412, C462, C414. Also an elongated pit is C429 but in this one there was an inner pile used to sustain a larger eaves. In some situation at St. 28 we had the possibility to reconstruct the floor of the upstairs which had a massive wooden structure over which deposited a thick layer of clay with several successive agglutination in order to cover the cracks that appear in time. Such suspended floors which are not agglutinated with clay if they don't burn they won't leave any archaeological traces.

Dwellings with suspended floor (with or without another floor) are being accepted by many researchers but there are also some with reserves. Such floors appear in our regions in stations from Developed Neolithic from the cultures: Banatului⁶¹, Zau⁶², Vinča and in Copper Age in Cucuteni culture⁶³ and others.

⁵⁹ In our excavations al Zau level II – III in dwellings P1, P1 P1c, P8a P8b, P11, P9, P10.

⁶⁰ Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2006, p. 482, fig. IVa.6, a8, apud Schier, Drașovean.

⁶¹ Lazarovici Gh. et alii 2001, levels 7c-6, p. 105 and following and bibliography.

Reconstruction of the southern wall (fig. 22)



Fig. 22 Reconstruction of the southern wall

Benefiting of the remained profiles from unearthing of first layer (fig. 9, 14, 20c) we could study some pits in plan and profile of the southern wall. The southern wall's structure it is formed by elongated pits displayed in a row, at the south-western and south south-eastern corners there is a round pit, about which we believe that it had the purpose to sustain a larger eaves. Such pits had been noticed also at other large

dwelling from Turdaş in the eastern side of the station⁶⁴. From this piles only in one case the pile burns remaining the burning trace in the pit. Based on a suitable angle for photographing the pits of the dwelling we could reconstruct on this image the settlement and the track of the piles. We have to mention that for reconstructions, of great use were the ethno-archaeological expeditions from the high areas made between 1982-1986 with Professor John Nadriş from London University but also the studies from the Ethno-Archaeological Seminary from Cluj and Iclod, and were I hade interesting dialogues with the ethnographers. For this reasons I had photographed different structures of country dwellings (fig. 23-24⁶⁵). In our case it were a point of interest the massive wooden structures (pits, walls, suspended floors).

⁶² Zauan L3 -2.30m S6 1996 my researches.

⁶³ Lazarovici Gh., Lazarovici C.-M., 2003, p. 461 and following and bibliography: Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2006, p. 489, fig. IVa.15, a16; Lazarovici et alii, 1991a; plan 7c-6, fig. 109; Lichter 1993; kat. 80, p. 130-131; pl. 54; Lazarovici 1972; 1987; Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2007, 18, 19, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40; Lazarovici et alii 1985; Lazarovici - Rus 1991 and others.

⁶⁴ *** Turdaş 2012, p. 57, fig. 15b, p. 79 fig. 29p. 111, plan 12b; see documentation pl. 5, **zone B**, St.09, St.13, St.14b, St.23 and others. See the features position C0941, C0957, C0967, C0919, C0989 and others.

⁶⁵ Butură V. 1978; Godea I. 2007; Vlăduţiu I. 1973:



Fig. 23 Râmeți village, Alba county, country side houses.



Fig. 24 Sighet Country Museum, country side houses.

The images presented above (fig. 23-24) were from a mountain area where there were rocks and the peasants made the construction with rocks, while at Turdaș or at Parța there are no rocks the floors being built on piles in order to protect them of floods⁶⁶ or humidity that leads to rottenest of piles, the appearance of mouldiness and diseases. Actually, some of my studies made on the constructions of Cucuteni culture, where they had stones nearby, they used them at the base of the wooden wall (at Rugionoasa⁶⁷), and at Scânteia, where they didn't had stones it was used a suspended floor, but there it was agglutinated with clay. There I have studied the floor belonging to dwelling 10 that was suspended⁶⁸.

⁶⁶ The flooding are frequent when there is a large quantity of rain or when the snow suddenly melts down in the stations from the meadows of Mureș River (Turdaș) or at Parța, in Timiș's River meadow.

⁶⁷ Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2007, p. 186 and following.

⁶⁸ Lazarovici C.-M., Lazarovici Gh. 2007, p. 190, fig. Vd.37.

The suspended floors, when they are not agglutinated, they don't leave any



Fig. 25 the piles structure from St. 29 seen from the western side and reconstruction of the western wall after a countryside technology.



archaeological traces.

The ones that have tried to prove, at the experiment made at Cucuteni, that the floors were made of girders displayed on the floor, covered with clay and intentionality burned once with the firing of the house, they were forced to bring carts with wood displayed inside the houses, near the walls, in order for the floor to burn better and to "look" like the ones found in the excavations⁶⁹.

We have to add the colleagues that made verification sections, didn't try to disassemble those floors, otherwise they would have noticed that the burning wasn't powerful enough to disassemble those floors. If there is no oxygen the wood doesn't burn and it doesn't transform in charcoal.

From my ethno-archaeological researches or the ethnographic analogies or the studies regarding the Romanian architecture⁷⁰ (fig. 23-24) we can have an answer regarding the way the wooden walls were reconstructed. Benefiting of the wooden structures where there are only junction made by cutting and cleaving I have reconstructed the two walls: the western one (fig. 25) and the southern one (fig. 26) for which we have clear data for the piles structure that we have prepared during the excavations.



Fig. 26 the excavation, the piles ▲ and reconstruction of the southern wall with a large eaves ▼

⁶⁹ Monah D., et alii 2005; László A., Cotiugă V. 2005: see also the experiments from Cucuteni ** Dumitrescu R.**

⁷⁰ Godea I. 2007, fig. 18-19, 28, 101-110, 120-130, 175-180 and others.



For the northern side of the construction we had only the base of the pits of which shape and structure couldn't be distinguished. It has been studied after my departure, without having all the information it is not the case to insist now. I don't want to insist on all the details regarding the middle piles

from the older phase, the difference weren't big from the ones of the early phase.

Based on the observations I have reconstructed a general pile structure, without insisting on the details from the roof, where the construction rules are determined by objective factors (the clarions, the frame from the transversal baulks and the structure of the roof's slope depending on the used materials (straws, canes and others).

We have some models of reconstruction in the archaeological parks from Polgár⁷¹ or in the reconstructions made by colleague Cosmin Suciu in WEB⁷², but also in other parts (Drăgănești Olt, Cucuteni, Țaga and others)⁷³.



Fig. 27 C416 and 416a, details regarding the piles.

⁷¹ Rexzky P. Anders et alii 2009.

⁷² Suciu, Luca WEB.

⁷³ ***Olt County, WEB: http://www.gdo.ro/Actualitate/2009-10-01/Arheoparcul_de_la_Dragănești, Gheorghiu Dragoș 2008, 2008a.



Fig. 28a1-a3

The construction piles, as it results from the bottom of the holes excavated in steps (fig. 27), especially the deep ones from the base structure, are sometime curved carved, other times sharpened or the top has an ovoid shape, other times was burned at the end in order not to rotten, some small remains of charcoal remaining in the pit (fig. 27b). Inside the pit was noticed some stuck off piles, displayed on a step which they came from the floors structure, we believe from the inner of the construction. The piles implanted (in the bottom of the piles are the deepest ones) have a higher stability and we believe that they were for the roof's structure, as we have seldom encountered in the features from Parța.

Agglomeration C403 (fig. 28-30a)

At south from St29 there is a hut from the first phase of habitation (B6 or C405, 405a). The deposits from St29 covered also the deposits from the hut. The oldest materials from the dwelling were different from the deposits of the hut by colour, finesse and pottery categories (see below).

From a square of 2 x 2 m resulted at each excavation layer (8 cm thick) approximately 25-30 kg. of pottery fragments, only on a breadth of 2.5 x 2.5m. The material over lapses soil A (a layer of black colour from which it can be delimit the structure pits).

Unearthing of the first layer kept an agglomeration of pottery fragments that came from a large store pot displayed with the bottom down (fig. 28). This superior

mark of C403 formed of pottery fragments, idols, tools, bones and stones. At the preparation it could be noticed that the materials were thrown away, their broadcast starting from the limits of the feature and the pits belonging to the next feature (fig. 29).



Fig. 29 Agglomeration 403 B1 b2



C1

C2

About the agglomeration Florian Dumitrescu wrote in 4.04. in the journal: *"The agglomeration contours as a ag. of pottery fragments and bones towards east B6(C405) having an elongated shape on the dir[ection] SN. In the end it was prepared an entire pot (picture) [fig. a]. Under the pot it appears also other entire pots and bones...adobe. The soil from the pot was collected for analysis. The agglomeration is constructed from pottery frg[ments], river stones, bones, horns and adobe frag[ments] ..."*

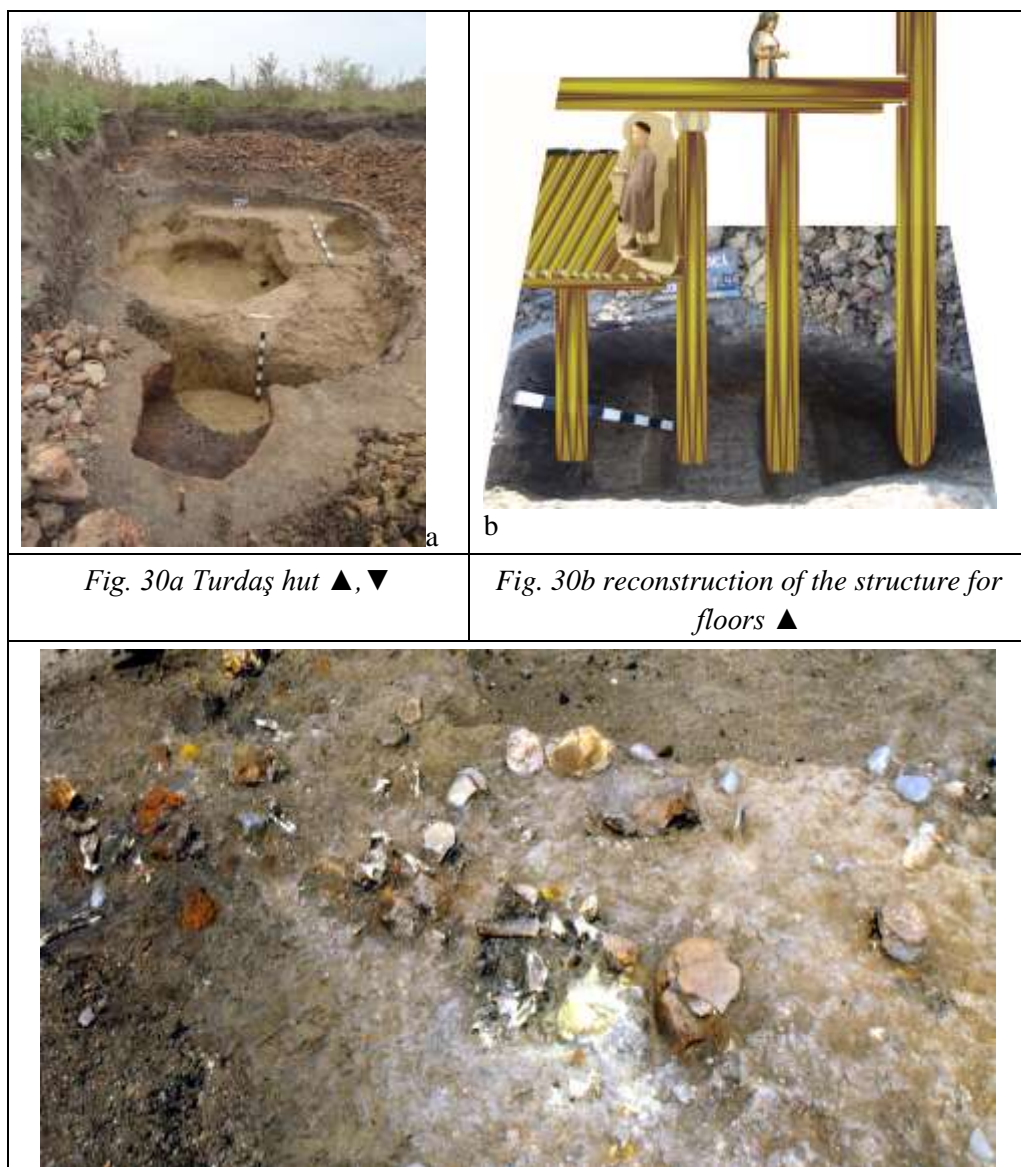


Fig. 30a Turdaș hut ▲, ▼

Fig. 30b reconstruction of the structure for floors ▲

The material from the agglomeration presented above it is a later one, black pottery is lacking, black-greyish, brown, the decor with frills, characteristic for the early stage. The temper is sandy. The semi-fine pottery prevails⁷⁴.

⁷⁴ *** Turdaș 2011, p. 57, 61, fig 23-25, and series from p. 66-72.



Fig. 31 Copper axe with traces of intense use.

The teams that are working for the data bases with the materials had processed only some of the features, this is why we apologize for not being able to present now also the materials from St.29. As it could have been noticed at St.28 the entire materials from the features didn't remain, the inhabitants cleaned the area all the time (especially if the floors were made of wood the remains of

pottery, bones etc. bothered them) and the materials were thrown in the back side or lateral of the features, in those "agglomerations" of materials. From the two agglomerations from back of St. 28 and St. 29 were gathered over 350 kg. of materials (pottery, broken tools, grinders, a few cult objects and very few bones⁷⁵).

In the pits appeared only a few pottery fragments and those had small dimensions. These came from the prehistoric humus, in the superior side of soil A coming from the older features (B6 and C405, 405a and C475 or B475: see fig. 7 and others).

The reconstruction of other features could offer new data regarding the massive wood structures. The community from Turdaş, after the military and civil architecture demonstrates the knowledge of some superior technologies of wood processing a prove being the copper axes used for cutting and for mining, the copper areas being near by⁷⁶.

⁷⁵ The acid soil lead to the destruction of bones, less the ones coming from the ash layer, case of C405.

⁷⁶ Lazarovici Gh. 1995, p. 135 and following. Beilage 2-3.

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