

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS XIV, 2015

**LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY, HERITAGE AND PROTESTANT TEOLOGY
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND VALORIFICATION OF THE
TRANSYLVANIAN PATRIMONY IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

ACTA TERRAE SEPTEMCASTRENSIS

XIV

Editor: Sabin Adrian LUCA

Sibiu, 2015

Editorial board:

Editor:

Sabin Adrian LUCA (*Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu; Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu; Romania*)

Members:

Ioan-Aurel POP (Member of the Romanian Academy)

Dumitru PROTASE (Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy)

Janusz K. KOZŁOWSKI (Member of Polish Academy)

Martin WHITE (Sussex University, Brighton, United Kingdom)

Krum BAKVAROV (Institute of Archaeology and Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria)

Zeno-Karl PINTER (*Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu*)

Marin CÂRCIUMARU (*Valahia University of Târgoviște*)

Nicolae URSULESCU (*Al. I. Cuza University of Iași*)

Gheorghe LAZAROVICI (*Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu*)

Secretary:

Anamaria TUDORIE (*Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania*)

Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis este is being included in the international data base: *Index Copernicus* - since 2009.

Starting with 2011 *Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis* is being included in the *SCIPPIO* editorial platform.

Since 2012 in *EBSCO* database.

Since 2014 in *European Reference Index for the Humanities and Social Sciences* - *ERIH PLUS*.

ISSN 1583-1817 (Print), ISSN 2392-6163 (Online), ISSN-L 1583-1817

Contact adress: *Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of History, Heritage and Protestant Theology, Institute for the Study and Valorification of the Transylvanian Patrimony in European Context, B-dul Victoriei nr. 5-7, 550024, Sibiu, Romania; tel./fax. +4 0268/214468, +40745360883; e-mail: sabinadrian.luca@ulbsibiu.ro; ins.arheologie@ulbsibiu.ro; web: <http://arheologie.ulbsibiu.ro>*

Content

Elena-Cristina NIȚU, Florentina MARTIȘ, Sabin Adrian LUCA , <i>Techno- typological and Functional Considerations Concerning the Chipped Stones Materials from Cristian I Settlement (Early Neolithic – Starčevo-Criș I)</i>	7
Gheorghe LAZAROVICI , <i>About the Symbolism of Fire in Neolithic</i>	29
Marius-Mihai CIUTĂ, Elena-Beatrice CIUTĂ , <i>New Considerations about Neolithic Development Habitation in the Archaeological Site Limba-Oarda de Jos (Alba County)</i>	49
Attila Nándor HÁGÓ, Zsolt MOLNÁR , <i>A Late Neolithic Pit from Carei- Bobald-Tumul (Bobald VII), Satu-Mare County, Romania</i>	85
Sabin Adrian LUCA, Adrian LUCA , <i>Prehistoric Signs and Symbols in Transylvania (3). "Prometheus" Before Prometheus. The Neolithic and Aeneolithic Settlement from Tărtăria-Gura Luncii (Alba County)</i>	107
Dan-Lucian BUZEA, Adela KOVÁCS , <i>Large-size Anthropomorphic Statuettes Discovered at Păuleni-Ciuc "Dâmbul Cetății" (Harghita County), Cucuteni- Ariusd Culture</i>	117
Corneliu BELDIMAN, Dan-Lucian BUZEA, Diana-Maria SZTANCS , Björn BRIEWIG, <i>Aeneolithic Beads Made of Fish Vertebra Discovered at Păuleni-Ciuc - "Dâmbul Cetății", Harghita County, Romania</i>	135
Diana-Maria SZTANCS, Corneliu BELDIMAN, Costel ILIE , <i>Symbolic Behavior and Artefacts in the Aeneolithic, Red Deer Antler Sceptre Discovered in South Moldova, Romania</i>	155
Victor SAVA , <i>The Coțofeni Settlement from Săvârșin "Cetățuia", Arad County</i>	163
Florentina MARTIȘ, Simion CÂMPEAN, Octavian POPESCU , <i>The Occurrence of the Raw Materials in the Transylvanian Prehistoric Lithic Industry</i>	237

Cristinel PLANTOS, Marius-Mihai CIUTĂ , <i>New Discovered Archeological Artifacts from Craiva "Piatra Craivii" Dacian Fortress (Cricău Commune, Alba County) I</i>	251
Cristian-Constantin ROMAN , <i>Observations Concerning a Roman Bronze Import Discovered in the Dacian Fortress from Piatra Neamț-"Bâtca Doamnei"</i>	265

NEW CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT NEOLITHIC DEVELOPMENT HABITATION IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE LIMBA - OARDA DE JOS (ALBA COUNTY)²

Marius-Mihai CIUTĂ

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

mariusciuta@yahoo.com

Elena-Beatrice CIUTĂ

1 Decembrie 1918 University Alba Iulia

beatriceciuta@yahoo.com

Keywords: *Neolithic, Starčevo-Criș culture, Vinča culture, complexes, artifacts*

Abstract: *The authors tries to bring a contribution regarding the knowledge of the evolution of succeeding Early and Developed Neolithic communities belonging to different cultures, starting with analysis of the stratigraphy from the different sectors of the site. In this manner were been presented Early Neolithic habitations (Precriș, Starcevo-Criș IIIB) and those of the Developed Neolithic (Vinca A2, A3-B1 and Vinca B1 (B1-B2?). The complex stratigraphy and the archaeological materiale revealed are very important in clarifying significant aspects of the Early and Developed Neolithic phenomenon in the intra-Carpathian area. The imminent construction of the Sebes-Turda highway - which will across the archaeological site in the richest area in prehistoric deposits - determined the authors to re-analyse the succession of Neolithic habitations from Limba-Oarda de Jos and illustrating the most representative complexes discovered.*

The archaeological systematic investigations carried out in prehistoric sites from Limba Oarda de Jos³ through time made it to became notorious within oldest archaeological literature (Berciu, Berciu 1947; Ciugudean 1976; 1978; RepAlba 1995; Aldea, Ciută *et al.* 1996; Paul, Ciută 1997; 1999; Paul, Ciută *et al.* 1998; 2000; 2001; 2002) and recently (Ciută 2000; 2002; 2004; 2005; 2005a; 2009; 2009a; 2010; 2010a; 2013; Ciută, Daisa 2000; 2002; Ciută, Florescu 2010), being pointed out with other occasions, too (Ciută 2009; 2009a; 2010; 2010a; 2013).

² We dedicate the present study to the twenty years from the beginnings of the systematical researches at Limba, under the coordination of the professor I. Paul (1995-2009).

³ Complete bibliography see at Ciută 2002; 2009; 2009a; 2010; 2013; Ciută, Florescu 2010. Also here an exhaustive presentation of the geo-morphological particularities of the area the sectors, the toponimics, a topographics, and stratigraphical particularities.

There are many elements which make us to consider it as a *key-site* very important in understanding the complexity of Neolithic processes from Transylvanian Intra Carpathian area. We are speaking about its large spatial development, considerable depth of layers and consistency of archaeological deposits belonging to the Neolithic Age (early and middle Neolithic), by its geographical location extremely advantageous in the middle Basin of the Mures River (which gives easy access to various resources and direct links with distinct geographical units) and its special type of archaeological artifacts.

This study aims to present in a synthetic manner the successions of Neolithic deposits, revealing the most important features or representative contexts, completed by specific materials, which are corresponding to architecture and inventory stuffs, followed by some cultural and chronological details⁴.

The presentation of the topographic sector (and topographic) of the set sites from Limba-Oarda de Jos with brief references regarding its distinct particularity of stratigraphic succession belonging to Neolithic settlements of the assembly sites, being previously carried out (Ciută 2009; 2009a, 2013; Ciută, Florescu 2010), make us to perform next steps in this study. In this direction we will emphasis to an accurate description of evolution of cultural chronological deposits by revealing the features of dwelling complexes, indicating the exact position of stratigraphic context and description of representative material elements, which were the basis of their definition⁵.

For a correct localization of archaeological contexts which we mentioned will make a brief overview of the history of systematic investigations. In campaign from 1995 we have made three units in order to get information and stratigraphical corroboration. Two of them were been performed in *Bordane* sector (SI and SII), having its dimensions of 10x2m, and a three one (SIII) in *Şesu Orzii* sector (fig.1)

In parallel was made a first cutting embankment of extremity *Vărărie* sector (L1). In archaeological campaign from 1997 was approached the limit area of *Bordane* sector (SVII = 6x2m, SVIII 6x2m, SIX = 8x2m). At the same time was carried out a new cutting embankment of the *Vărărie* edge (LII=12m). In campaign from 1998 were been carried out archaeological excavations in *Bordane* sector by making a new unit SX having dimension of 10x2m. Also was made another unit SX (10x2m and an adjacent cassette of 6x2m at the south limit) in *Vărărie* sector.

⁴ Until now where published 12 archaeological reports and 45 studies and articles regarding the researches results. All this, together with the present study, represent the basic structure of the monography of the *Limba-Oarda de Jos* archaeological researches.

⁵ All this studies are necessary especially because in e very near time the site where traversed by Sebeş-Turda autoway, from South to North exactly in the central area, right on the sectors researched by us (cf. Ciută *et al.* 2015).

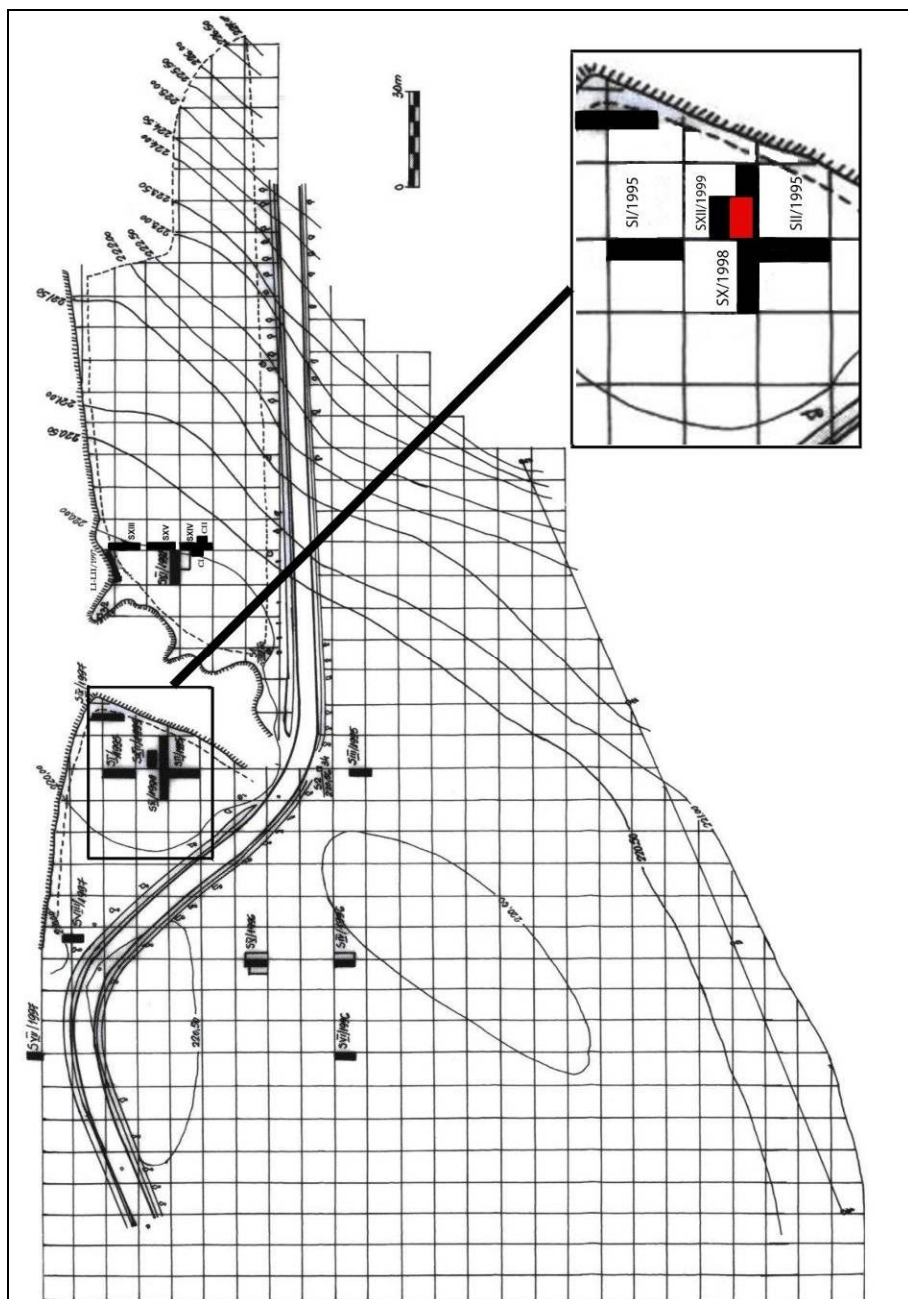


Fig. 1. Topographical map of the *sectors* of Limba-Oarda de Jos archaeological site (Bordane, Vărăria and Șesu Orzii), with the detail of the research units.

In order to investigate some dwellings incomplete revealed in last campaign (SX/1998) was made a new unit in Bordane sector during 1999, namely SXII with dimensions of 6x4m. During campaign from 2000 were been approached another sectors like *Şesu Orzii-La Balastieră* and *Vărar*, where were been performed archaeological researches in the 40s of last century.

Year 2001 marked the continuation of research in the Vărărie sector, where were been executed three units SXIII, SXIV and SV, each of them having 10x2m, oriented north-south, with 1m cassettes between them in order to obtain a thoroughfare in this direction. Discovery of a surface house and a hole that penetrated it has determined the opening of an adjacent cassettes (SXIII /2001); and finding of a dwelling and two funeral complexes (M1 and M2) has determined the opening of two adjacent cassettes (SXIV/2001) (fig. 1). Some research units are still unfinished, like SIV/1996, SXV/2001, and the eastern casette of SXIV⁶.

In presentation of cultural chronological evolutions will begin with the oldest, to the most recent, thus relating their chronological layout mode in the vertical stratigraphy sectors of the site and not respecting the order how were been excavated during archaeological campaigns.

Precriş Habitation

The earliest habitation from Limba-Oarda de Jos is belonging to first Neolithic horizons from north-Danube and intra Carpathian area (Ciută 2005, p. 22 with aferent references; Paul, Ciută 1999).

Whetever we call them *phase I* of *Starčevo-Criş* or *Precriş*⁷ specific deposits to this habitation consisted only of typical archaeological materials were been discovered only in *Bordane* sector yet, specifically in SII/1995 and exclusively in SX/1998⁸. The cheery-red pottery highly polished specific to *Precriş* (Ciută 2005, sqq, Pl. LXXXI) together with lithic materials (obsidian flints) and gods plastic representations were been revealed in the archaeological excavations units mentioned above at a depth of 3 m or 3,30 m. (fig. 2).

The archaeological materials fit into this *Precriş* horizon defined by previous discoveries from Transylvania in Gura Baciului and Ocna Sibiului, and recently from *Şeuşa-La Cărarea Morii*, Miercurea Sibiului and Cristian I sites. In this level was discovered an obsidian flint and a special silex blade, with analogies in the contemporary sites, which may suggest a possible mesolithic tradition (fig. 2/1) (Ciută 1995).

⁶ Paul, Ciută *et al.* 2002. Also SXVI/2010, SXVII/2012-2015 şi SXVIII/2015, from the recent excavations, are still unfinished!

⁷ See on the terminological issues: Ciută 2000, pp. 51-101; 2005, sqq.

⁸ A pedological particularity of the *Bordane* sector, consist in the situaţion that the yellow-loessoid level, considered innitialy to be the bed-rock, contain the *Precriş* materials (cf. Ciută 1995, p. 123).

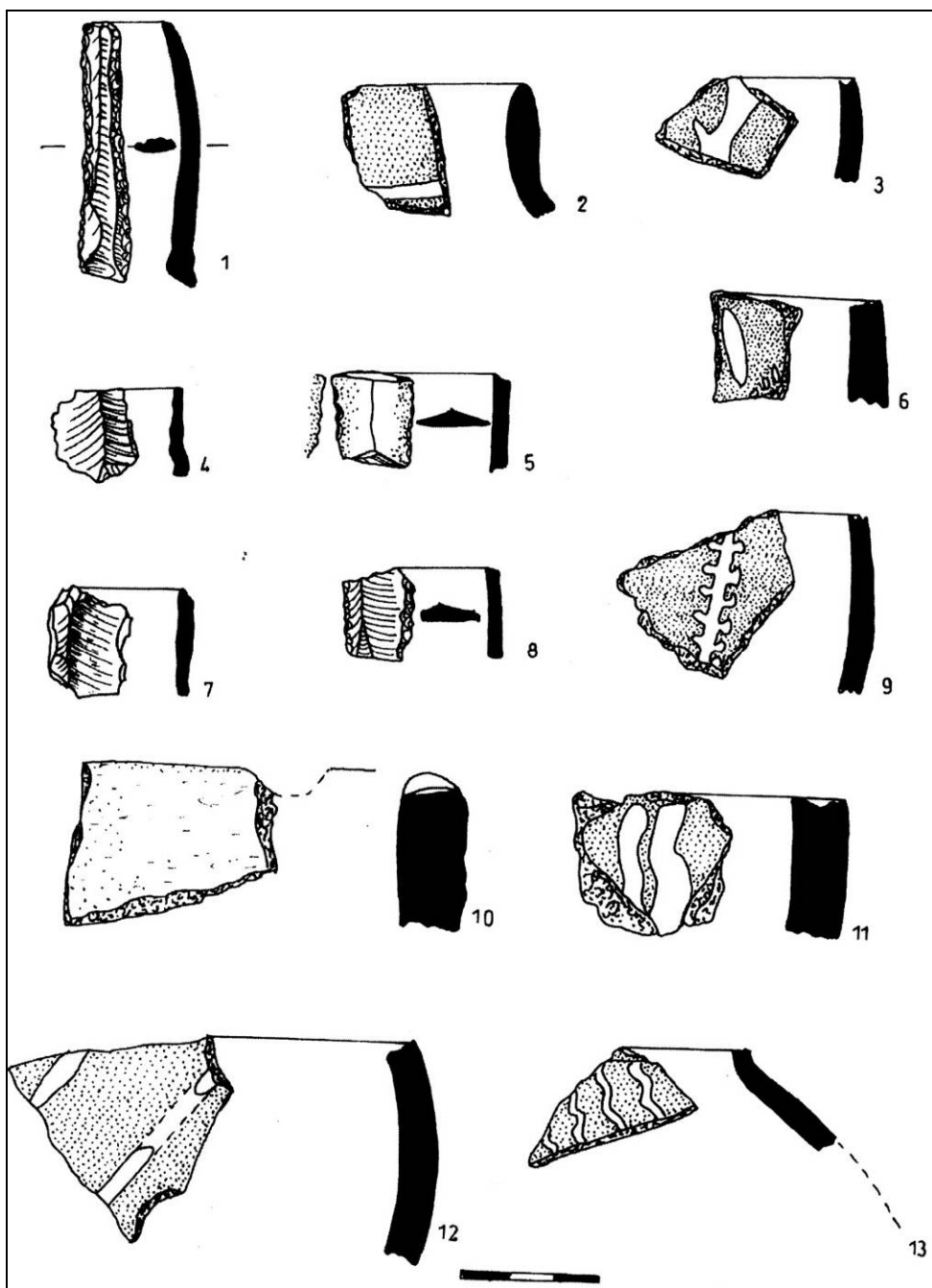


Fig. 2. Artifacts discovered in the first early Neolithic level (Preciș) from SX/1998 (after Ciută 1995).

In the unit SX/1998It were been revealed some possible alveolar anthropogenic features belonging to this horizon, with an average thickness of 25-30 cm (Ciută 1995).

Starčevo-Criș IIIB Habitation

Above the level which comprises remnants belonging to *Precriș* I habitation from Limba Bordane it was revealed the next level of dwellings, also belonging to the early Neolithic respectively to the developed phase of Starčevo-Criș cultural complex - much better outlined, including habitation structures, namely by discovered in the same housing area SX/1998 *Bordane* sector. This cultural complex was much better outlined including dwelling structures such a surface house revealed in unit SX/1998 from *Bordane* sector. Because this complex with its specific elements of construction (fig. 3) and also the characteristics of the pottery (fig. 4, 6-7), including painted pottery (fig. 4b) plastic representations elements (fig. 5 ac) and IMDA (Prehistoric Bone and Antler Industry) was the subject of several previously published studies (Ciută 2002 Ciută, Ciută 2013), we shall not insist particularly on it.

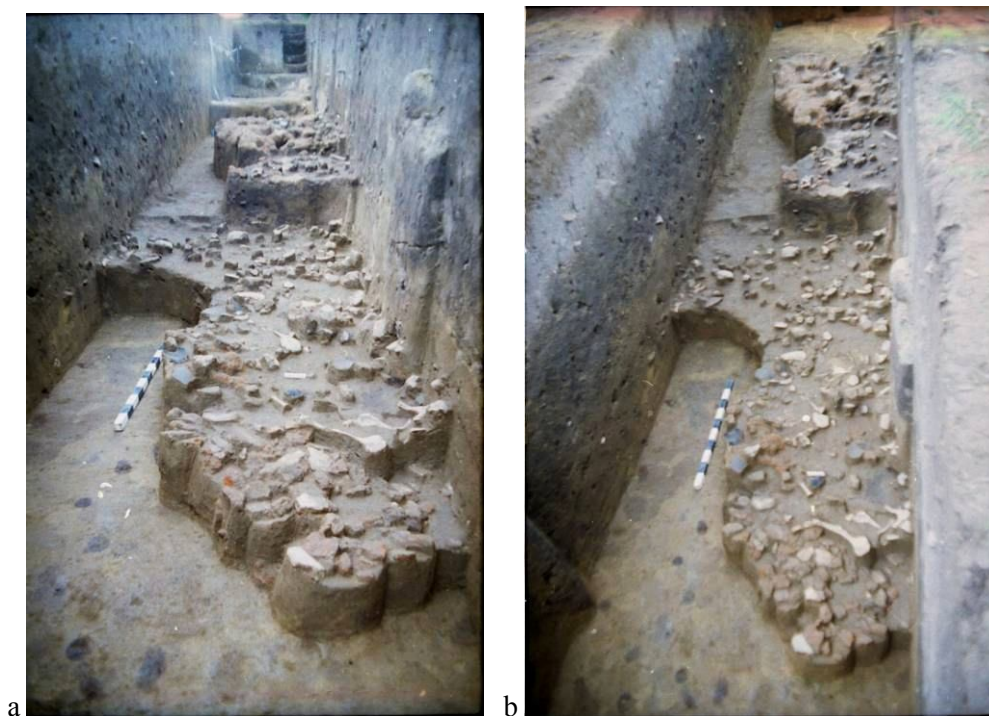


Fig. 3. Details of the Starčevo-Criș IIIB surface dwelling from SX/1998. View from East.

We will only specify that the classification of habitation, respectively the level to which belongs was attributed to developed stage (classes) of evolution of

Starčevo-Cris, more precisely, according to evolutionary system proposed by Gh. Lazarovici (Lazarovici, 1977, 37-42; 1979 64-69; 1984, 66-68; 1993, 245), it fit into the second step (b) of the third phase (III) of evolution.

The invoked arguments support the affiliation of this habitation to the cultural synthesis part which arise from contacts that have had with Starcevo-Cris culture itself, with the first elements of migration phenomenon nominated with the generic term "Balkano-Anatolian Chalcolithic", seen as an southern origination (Lazarovici 1984 66; 1988, 17-28; 1993, 244-245). Basically, at this level we are witnessing with the first impulse of "Vinca type" in the north of the Danube areas, when it occurs the neolithisation of southern Transylvania and Moldova (Lazarovici 1984, 66-70; Ursulescu et al. 2001; Cotiugă 2000, 131 -156), when some communities were even exceeding the boundary of the Prut River. Based on the study of polychrome pottery were made analogies with areas from south Balkan, Greek and even Middle East (Lazarovici, 1977, 37-40; 1979; 1984 68; cf. Nica 1977, 36-39.) The Vinca elements are strong, clear (especially for fine ceramics), with strong ties with the early stages of Vinca (A1, A2), that evolves in the same period in the Banat area (Lazarovici 1984, 65-73; 1988 17- 28; 1993 245; Drasovean 1989, 9-47; Luca 1991, 1-14).

Starčevo-Criș Habitation was certainly revealed at the *Bordane* and *Vărărie* sectors though it is possible to be present in *Șesu Orzii* sector too, where specific pottery have emerged, but without clear stratigraphic markers.



Fig. 4. Ceramic pot from Starčevo-Criș IIIB dwelling.



Fig. 5. Altars fragments (legs) from Starčevo-Criș IIIB dwelling.



a



b

Fig. 6. Ceramic pot (a) and painted fragment from Starčevo-Criș IIIB dwelling.

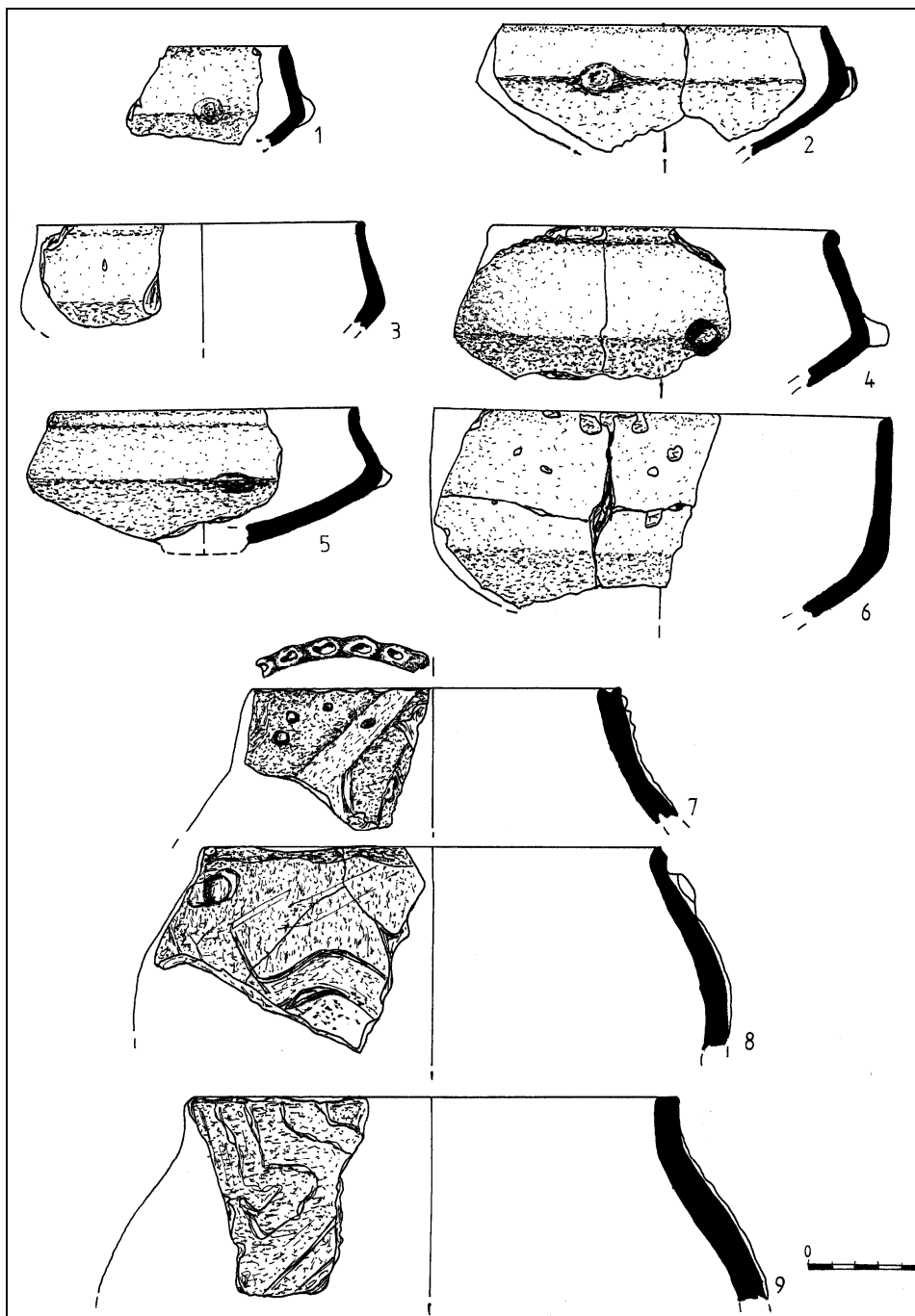


Fig. 7. Ceramic materials from Starčevo-Criș IIIB dwelling (after Ciută 2002).

Vinča A2 Habitation

Since the campaign of 1995 were been discovered archaeological contexts and materials belonging to the first Vinča settlements, namely to the second stage of phase I of culture.

At the beginning of systematic research in Limba in 1995, were relatively little known about the early stages of the Vinča culture in Transylvania⁹, but thereafter, during excavations were been publishes a series of studies which have clarified the issues regarding the genesis and evolution of the first phases of the culture in this area¹⁰ (Luca 1999; 2001; Luca *et al.* 2000; 2000a; Suciu 2009). These hypotheses were based on extensive studies on materials recovered from different archaeological sites, located mainly in Mureş Basin and Oarda de Jos site being one of them.

In the light of these researches the Vinča culture from Transylvania has revealed as an distinct cultural entity who raised from a strong inflow of early Vinča populations from Banat (Phase A), which goes up, following the course of the Mures River, to the southwest and central Transylvania (Luca 1997; 1998; 1999; 2001; Luca *et al.* 2000; 2000a, 2001; 2002 etc.; Paul, Ciută 1998; 1999; 2000; Suciu 2009). Thus it was revealed a distinct evolution regard the starting with the second stage of the first phase of the culture (Vinča A2) to the end of intermediate stages of the second phase (Vinča B1-B2), while the Turdaş culture isn't arise earlier then Vinča B2 phase as it is demonstrated by stratigraphic correlations and current cultural realities from the Middle Mureş Valley (Luca 1997, 73; Luca *et al.* 2000; 2000a; Suciu 2009).

On the general view we find common similarities, especially particularly elements for older Vinča phase (phases A2 and A3), but also individualization of some features that appear only in Transylvania (during phase B1) such as vessels covers.

The closest analogies regarding the authenticity of early Vinča in the site from Limba-Oarda de Jos, are found in the middle basin of Mures and in Secaşelor Plateau like: Miercurea Sibiului-*Petriş* (Luca *et al.* 2000; 2000; 2001; 2002; Suciu 2009), Sebeş-*Podu Pripocului* (Popa, Totoianu 2001), Tărtăria-*Gura Luncii* (Vlassa 1963; 1967; 1976; Lazarovici *et al.* 2011), but also in Banat (Lazarovici 1977, 1979, p. 85-107; Luca 1985; 1991) at Zorlenţu Mare, Liubcova, Parţa, Gornea, Balta Sărată, Fratelia, Chişoda Veche) and in the Serbian Banat, within the early deposits from Vinča eponymous site (Vasic 1936 vol. III, *Plastica – ПЛАСТИКА*).

The most representative complex belonging to Vinča A2 phase from Limba - Oarda de Jos was the surface dwelling partially unearthed in SX/1998 unit and SXI/1999 unit. Its characteristics as the architectural and inventory features are

⁹ Comparising with Banat region, much beter researched on that moment: Lazarovici 1970; 1977; 1977a; 1979; 1981; Lazarovici *et al.* 2001; Luca 1985; 1991.

¹⁰ With special attention for the sites: Romos, Balomir, Miercurea Sibiului, Tartăria and Limba-Oarda de Jos.

specific for this phase. The house has a rectangular shape with its dimensions of approx. 3.5 x 4 m. It occurs as a cluster of pottery, heavy ash and carbonized lens and wood (from the timber of the walls), river stones, while it still retaining the surface elements of the arrangement that composed the floor (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Vinča A2 dwelling from SXI/1999. View from East (a). View from South (b).

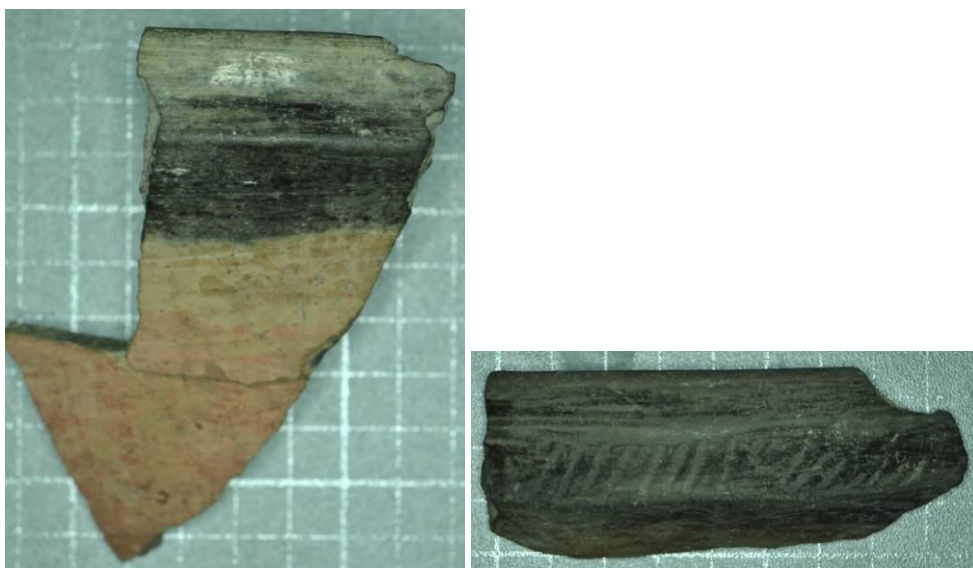


Fig. 9. Blacktopped fragment with polished decoration from Vinča A2 dwelling

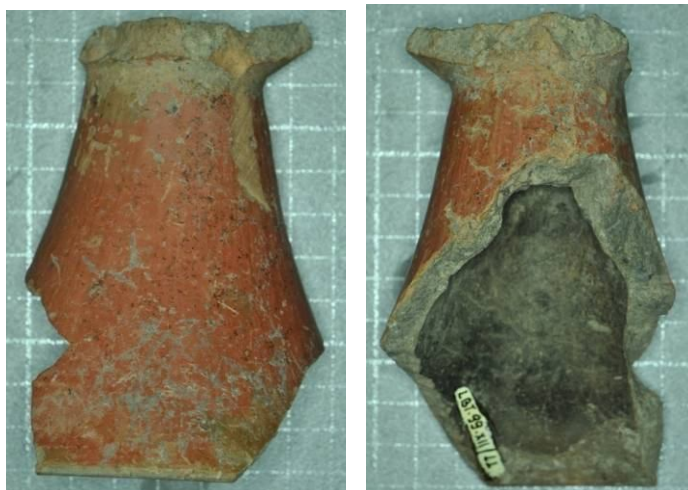


Fig. 10. Empty cup leg, with red paint, polished, from Vinča A2 dwelling.

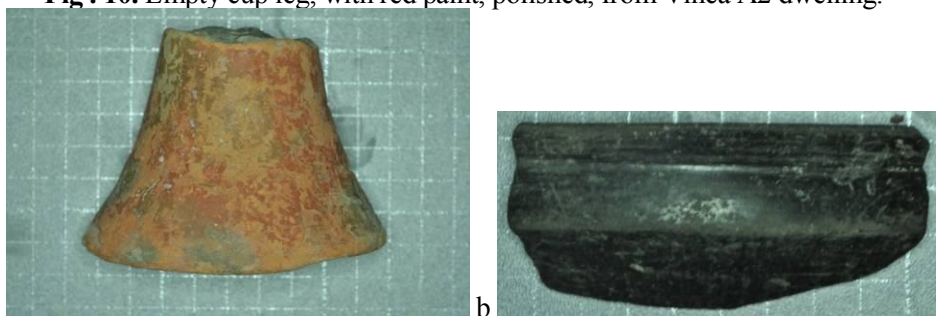


Fig. 11. Empty cup leg, with red paint, polished (a), Black polished ceramic (b) from Vinča A2 dwelling.



Fig. 12. Anthropomorphic idols from Vinča A2 level.



Fig. 13. Bitronconic blacktopped ceramic pot, from Vinča A2 level.

Typically ceramic materials, especially those belonging to fine category, like high and empty foot cups (fig. 10, 11a), the *blacktopped* pottery, bitronconic vessels with short neck and sharp shoulder, polished decoration with striations, anthropomorphic plastic representations with strong Starčevo traditions are just a few of the most obvious features for our cultural proposed classification.

Specific artifacts belonging to this phase were been revealed in other complexes discovered in *Bordane* sector such as two disposed hearths from SI and SII / 1995 (Aldea, Ciută *et al.* 1996), but also within a distinct level in the Vărărie sector from where it was unearthed the *Venus* statue (Ciută 2010a, 2010b Ciută) (fig. 12a), as well as *Şesu-Orzii* sector, too.

The dwelling architecture with its floor made from a *river stone bed* has its closest analogy in Miercurea Sibiului (Luca *et al.* 2000; 2001; 2002; Suciu 2009) and in Tărtăria sites (Vlassa 1963; 1967; 1976; Lazarovici *et al.*, 2011).

At the moment we do not exclude the possibility that the general stratigraphy of the site, particularly in the *Bordane* sector, to present sublevels dwelling belonging the Vinca A2 level.

Vinča A3-B1 Habitation

Surface dwellings

This cultural level is best revealed by surface dwellings, of various sizes, with rectangular shape, made in technique of so called floor with *river stones bed*, which were discovered in all mentioned sectors. These types of complexes were been unearthed in a series of excavated units SIV/1996, SV/1996, SX/1998, SXI/1998, SXIII/2001, SXIII/2001 and SXIV/2001. Generally this cultural layer appear under the level disturbed by agricultural works, approx. 40-50 cm deeply so that, at present, does not mean that this habitation haven't several sub-phases.

Most well represented in specialty literature are those of SIV/1996 (Paul, Ciută 1997; Ciută 2013) and that of SXI/1998 (Paul, Ciută 1999; Ciută Daisa 2000; 2002)¹¹. The dwelling SIV/1996, revealed at average depth of approx. 60-70 cm, appeared as a massive cluster of river stones, burned adobe, mills and grinders fragments, pottery fragments, faunal remains, partially delimited, in the direction of south, east and north, and continuing beyond the boundaries of the excavated surface (Paul, Ciută 1997, p. 2-3; Ciută 2013). The dwelling had a rectangular shape, probably rectangle, and oriented east-west, with an extension annex (improperly called *apse*) which was located at its westernmost (Fig. 14). In the *apse* area, the archaeological material has registered the most concentrated part. In this place was unearthed a large vessel amphora with lid decorated with incisions (fig. 15 / a). The amphora specific for early Vinča phase was smashed in situ, together with its prosopomorphic lid (fig. 15/b) decorated with perforations on the top, both pieces being part of a set (fig. 16) (Daisa 2000, p. 21-30). The amphora was identified as making part from the vessels category with religious connotations with apotropaic role, probably to store special plots of cereal grains (Daisa 2000, p. 24-25). Other special artifacts which were unearthed from this unusual dwelling were a pot with drainage tube so called *blacktopped* fine vessel (fig. 19) (Daisa 2000, p. 24-25), a bowl decorated with spiky so called *vessel hedgehog* (fig. 19), a cvadrilobat pot decorated with painting of so called *Lumea Nouă* category (fig. 18)¹², a *Spondylus* bracelet fragment (Fig. 20 a, b) as well as three anthropomorphic idols (fig. 21/a-c).

The typological and stylistically classification of the ceramic material discovered in dwelling L1/1996 pleads for her classification in Vinča B1 phase (Lazarovici 1977; 1977a; 1979, 1980; 1981; 1993; Lazarovici *et al.* 2001), but there are many elements (traditions) which connect her with the previous organic phase, Vinča A3.

A major aspect, which draw our attention is regarding the domesticity of plastic anthropomorphic representations from this level from Limba-Oarda de Jos (Ciută, Florescu 2010; Florescu 2000; Ciută 2010), most of the artifacts belonging to this category being found in contexts interpreted, as surface dwellings, most of them, but also as pit houses, too.

As we pointed out in certain previous studies (Ciută 2010; Ciută, Florescu 2010; Florescu 2000), the closest analogies on morphological features of early Vinča plastic representations from Limba-Oarda de Jos are found in Banat area (Lazarovici 1977; 1979, p. 85-107; Bălănescu 1979; 1982, Bălănescu, Lazarovici 1979), and in the Serbian Banat, in the early deposits from the eponymous site of Vinča (Vasic 1936, vol. III, *Plastica – ПЛАСТИКА*). The morphology analysis of lid vessels pleads for its classification in the early stages of Vinča culture (Lazarovici 1979, p. 103 sqq; Luca 1998, p. 54-58.)

¹¹ Another similar surface dwelling SXVII/2012-2014: Ciută *et al.* 2013; 2014.

¹² Similar with another one, discovered in *Vărar* sector: Berciu, Berciu 1947, p. 20-30, fig. 18.



Fig. 14. Detail of the surface dwelling L1/1996. View from South-West.



Fig. 15. Amphora with incised-banded decoration, restored (a), the lid of the amphora with prosopomorphic décor (b)

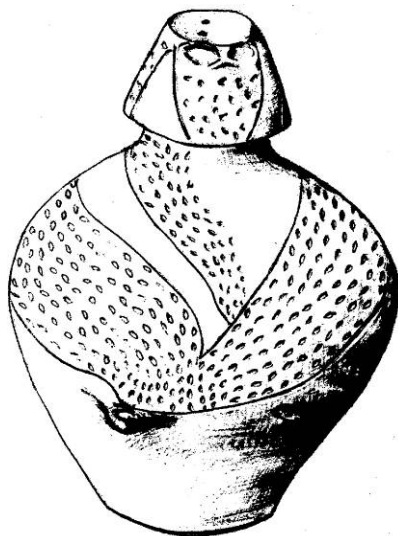


Fig. 16. Graphical reconstitution of the amphora - lead ensemble (after Daisa 2000)



Fig. 17. The bitronconic pot, discovered in the annex-absida area.



Fig. 18. *Lumea Nouă* type painted pot, discovered in the annex-absida area of L1/1996.



Fig. 19. Fragmentary pot, decorated in the *blacktopped* and polished techniques.



Fig. 20. Fragmentary *Spondyllus* brachetlet discovered in L1/1996.



Fig. 21. Anthropomorphic *idols* discovered in L1/1996.

Finally, there are hypotheses that bring a new perspective in interpreting of the dwelling complexes, or at least of some of them, as a special function related to spiritual manifestations, combined with maternal cult rituals associated with agricultural practices. The presences of mills in large numbers (over 25 from L1/1996!) are supporting this hypothesis (Daisa 2000, p. 28).

A special case is that of surface dwelling discovered in SV/1996 (Paul, Ciută 1997) (fig. 22). After its unearthing after trowel operation was revealed its unusual shape for a dwelling complex which appeared like a remnant of a dwelling.

The ulterior excavations, under the houses has revealed three pits that match the surface footprint of the surface dwelling, but at that time, although archaeological material should have drawn our attention regarding the connection between those two levels we misinterpreted the situation, considering that as pit houses (Paul, Ciută 1997).



Fig. 22. Surface dwelling (L2) from SV/1996. View from west.

Later, after the analyses of archaeological materials and of planmetric situations, methodical study of the photo and also after the discussions with other researchers¹³ we concluded that those three pit houses were actually distinct cellars under each of the three rooms (fig. 23, 24/a-b).

¹³ It was Professor S.A. Luca, the archaeologist that drew our attention for the first time that in the case of some large surface dwellings discovered by him in Tărtăria site, there were some distinct elements of construction situated under the house floors and what he defined it as cellars.



Fig. 23. The cellars of the rooms of the surface dwelling from SV/1996. View from North



Fig. 24. Details with the floor elements, demarcating the cellars.

Vinča B1 (?) Habitation

The last habitation level belonging to Vinča culture from Limba-Oarda de Jos is the most difficult to establish it because in most of the cases it has been affected by agricultural work done in the past three centuries.

But there are some complexes, most often going deeply and overlapping the surface layer of Vinča A3-B1 which may be thereafter both culturally and chronologically.

Pit no 1 from SXIII/2001

A first complex which is subsequently to Vinča phase A3-B1, respectively of those surface dwelling with large dimensions is a pit which penetrate such a dwelling and is getting deeper until to archeological sterile from *Vărărie* sector (Paul, Ciută *et al.* 2002) (fig. fig 25/a-c). When we proceed to empty the pit we noticed the presence of specific materials belonging to later phases (B1, or even B1-B2) (fig. 29-30), so

that as we get closer to the bottom of pit we find artifacts belonging to earlier phases. On the bottom of the pit (fig. 26-27) we discover a pottery vessel, kind of cup-shaped foot (fig. 28), an antler and a group of human bones that appear to come from a human hand (phalanges), which helped us to classify the complex into the Vinča B1. The artifacts from the upper levels are proving the existence of a habitation belonging to later phase B1 or *post* Vinča B1.



Fig. 25. SXIII/2001. Detail with the pit nr. 1 who penetrate the Vinca B surface dwelling.



Fig. 26. Details during emptying the pit nr. 1 from SXIII/2001.



Fig. 27. Detail with the materials from the bottom of the pit nr. 1/2001.



Fig. 28. Cup with leg, recovered from the bottom of the pit nr. 1/2001.

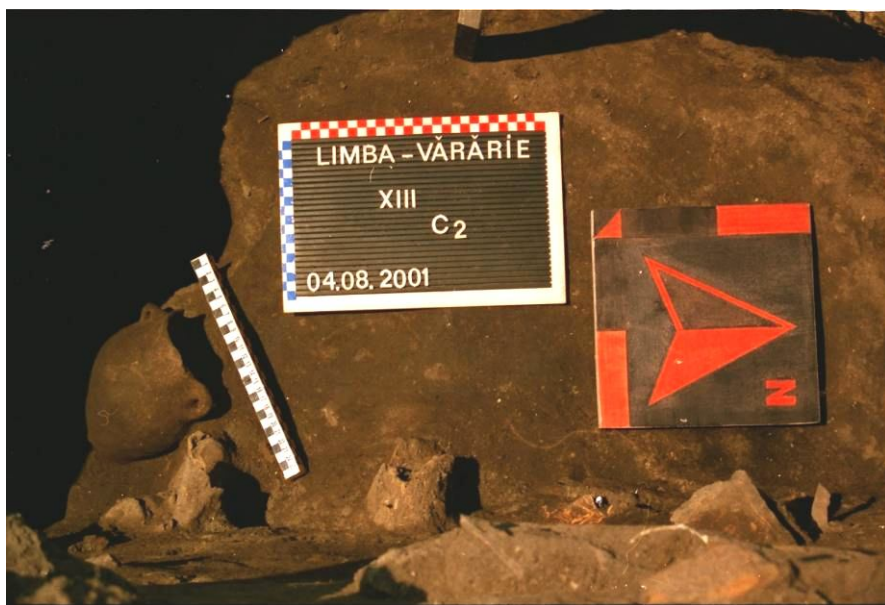


Fig 29. Detail with the superior level of the pit nr. 1/2001. It can be observed the full pot.



Fig. 30. The full pot from the superior levels of the pit nr. 1/2001.

The Pit House

Discovered in the northern end of SIX / 1997 the pit house has appeared right under the level disturbed by agricultural work (fig. 31). The archaeological materials recovered from the Pit House are typical for phase B of Vinča culture. Among materials were remarking a complete globular ceramic pot with painting of *Lumea Nouă* type (fig. 32) being different in terms of ornamentation by those from complexes belonging to previous phases.



Fig. 31. Detail with the complex (pit house?) from SIX/1997.



Fig. 32. Lumea Nouă type painted pot from the complex (pit house?) from SIX/1997.

The ditches

In Section VI/1996 in the southern end, oriented northwest - southeast, has emerged a ditch, of V-shaped (fig. 33). Its dimensions not appear to be of large dimensions, its surface opening being of approx. 1.5 - 2 m and about 1.20 m height. Both slopes seem to have been dugged in steps.



Fig. 33. Detail with the ditch discovered în SVI/1996

Parallel to this ditch, but larger, appears another one (fig. 34), surprised partly in the southwestern corner of the section. The ditches position seems to indicate a limit of a phase of Vinča habitation, either of the A3-B1 or a subsequent phase: B1.



Fig. 34. The ditch of demarcating one of the phases of Vinča B habitation

The graves

At the depth of 0.45-0.50 m, on throughout northern half of the section XIV / 2001, were been discovered remains of the dwelling L1 / 1998 belonging to phase Vinča A3 -B1.

The recovered materials consist of pottery (all categories, complete pots), bone and horn tools, chipped lithic, like silex and obsidian. Worth mentioning again the presence of stake hole and twigs imprinted on the relics of mud and adobe walls.

Under dwelling in close proximity of the southeast corner has profiled a cluster of mills and stone slabs; in its vicinity was discovered a human skeleton (-0,80m) (fig. 35). The grave, oriented southwest - northeast, has an oval-shaped pit where the skeleton was deposited in a crouched position, lying on its right side¹⁴.

The inventory is composed by shells and snails and of a coarser pot category, placed upside down under defunct tibia. In CI/2001, in the vicinity of the tomb, at the depth of 0.70 m was discovered a hearth, with at least two phases of restoration directly related with the dead grave and with the group of mills (fig. 35).

In the northeast corner of CII / 2001 at the depth of -0.50 m was profiled a cluster of adobe compact fragments (fig. 36/a).

¹⁴ In the original report (Paul *et al.* 2002) the position of the skeleton *on the left side* is wrong précised.

After the adobe discloser has appeared the skull of a human skeleton (M2 / 2001). Once with the removal of adobe we noticed that it was about an adult placed crouched on the right. The inventory consist from a pot was put at his head and the bone tools scattered around him. The dead was deposited on a platform made of remnants of walls, pieces of adobe put on both sides which gave the impression of a "cist". Due to lack of time this "cist" has gone into preserving until future excavations (Fig. 36 b c).

The leave imprints that have been the subject of a special study (Ciută, Ciută 2002) were found in XIV unit - cassette II in the context of the grave inhumation (M2 / 2001). The grave was discovered under the floor of the large surface house (L1 / 1998-2001).

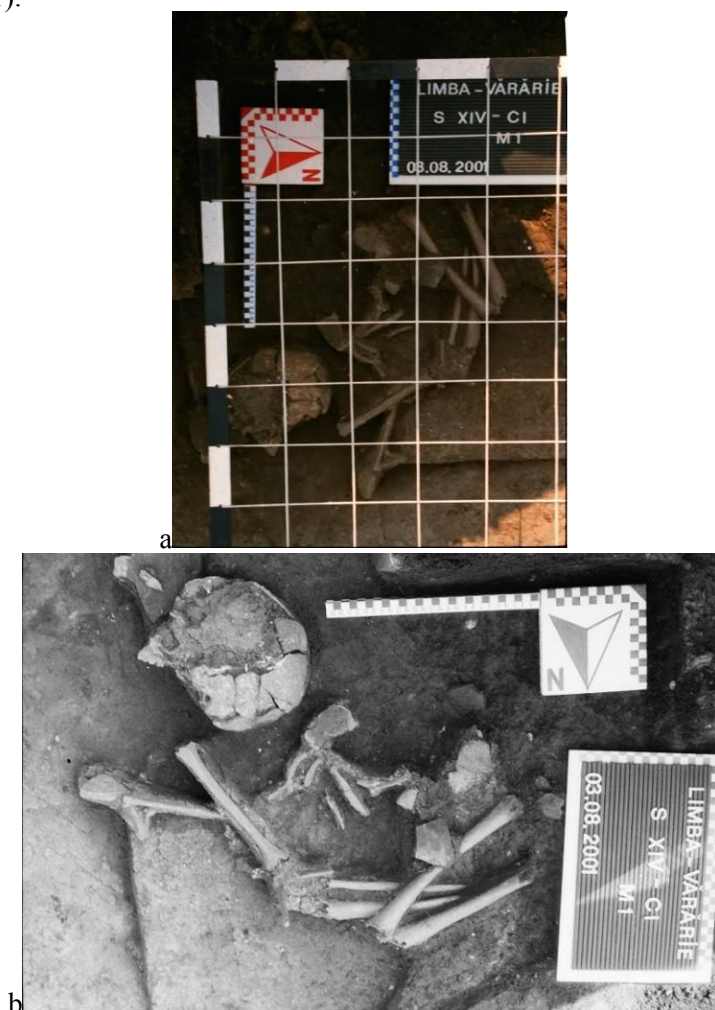


Fig 35. Tomb nr. 1/2001, with the deceased on the fire place.



Fig. 36. Tomb nr. 2/2001, with the deceased put in a burned clay cist. Different phases of the excavation (a-b).

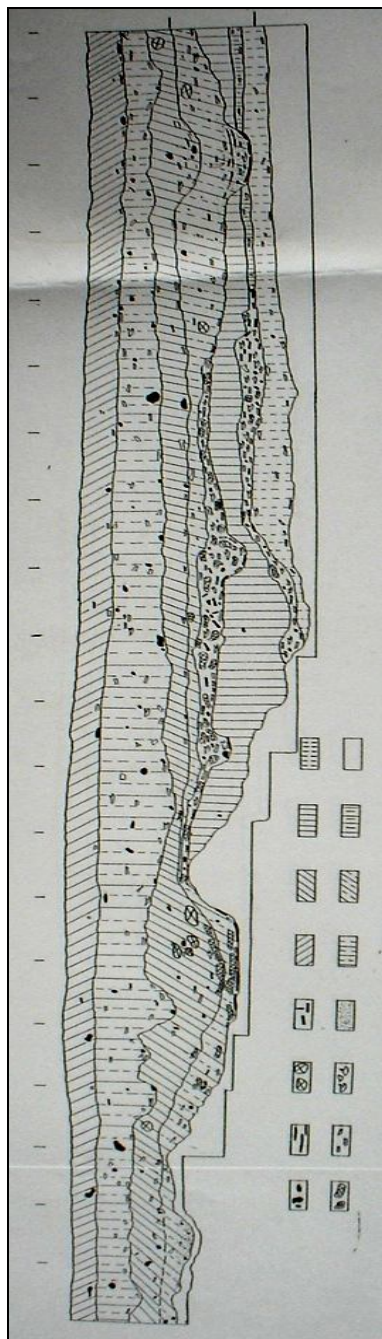


Fig. 37. Stratigraphical sequence of the north profile of SX/2010 from Bordane sector.

From whole data presented above it results that in the site from Limba-Oarda de Jos was developed a settlement what played a major role in the general evolution of the entire area probably as a *metropolis* in which the manifestations of spiritual life have taken many and varied forms. This *metropolis* which has evolved over many generations, has focused the traditions and experiences of an entire cultural phenomenon characterized by an astonishing dynamism- an expression of this being the representations related to the spiritual life presented above - comes to shed new light regard our knowledge of the complex phenomena which is the Middle Neolithic from Transylvania.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aldea, Ciută <i>et al.</i> 1996	I. Al. Aldea, M. Ciută, studenți Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” Alba Iulia, <i>Limba-„Bordane</i> , în <i>Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice (C.C.A.) Campania 1995</i> , Brăila, 1996, p. 5.
Bălănescu 1979	D. Bălănescu, <i>Plastica vinciană de la Gornea</i> , în <i>StComCar</i> , 1979, p. 33-52.
Bălănescu 1982	D. Bălănescu, <i>Plastica antropomorfă din așezarea neolitică de la Caransebeș-Balta Sărată</i> , în <i>StComCar</i> , IV, 1982, p. 113-120.
Bălănescu, Lazarovici 1979	D. Bălănescu, Gh.Lazarovici, <i>Considerații privind tipologia și evoluția vaselor capac din cultura Vinca</i> , în <i>Banatica</i> , V, 1979, p. 17-25.
Berciu, Berciu 1949	D. Berciu, I. Berciu, <i>Săpături și cercetări arheologice în anii 1944-1947</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , III, 1949, p. 1-43.
Ciugudean 1976	H. Ciugudean, <i>Noi descoperiri arheologice pe teritoriul județului Alba</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , XIV, 1976, p. 14.
Ciugudean 1978	H. Ciugudean, <i>Noi descoperiri arheologice pe teritoriul județului Alba</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , XVI, 1978, p. 39-53.
Ciută 2000	M-M. Ciută, <i>Contribuții la cunoașterea celui mai timpuriu orizont neolitic timpuriu din România: cultura Preciș</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , XXXVIII, 2000, p. 51-101.
Ciută 2002	M-M. Ciută, <i>O locuință neolitică timpurie descoperită în situl de la Limba-Bordane</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , XXXIX, 2002, p. 3-33.
Ciută 2004	M-M. Ciută, <i>Contribuții la repertoriul descoperirilor aparținând fazelor timpurii ale culturii Vinča în Transilvania</i> , în <i>Patrimonium Apulense</i> , IV, 2004, p. 29-35.
Ciută 2005	M-M. Ciută, <i>Începuturile neoliticului timpuriu în spațiul intracarpatic transilvănean</i> , Alba Iulia, 2005.
Ciută 2005a	M-M. Ciută, <i>Contributions to the archaeological repertory of discoveries belonging to the Early Vinča phases from south-western Transylvania</i> , în <i>Festschrift für Ioan Andrițoiu nach 65 Jahr</i> , Alba Iulia, 2005, p. 229-235.
Ciută 2009	M-M. Ciută, <i>Precizări cu privire la topografia, toponimia și sectoarele complexului de așezări</i>

	<i>preistorice de la Limba-Oarda de jos (jud. Alba), în Apulum, XLVI, 2009, p. 337-363.</i>
Ciută 2009a	M-M. Ciută, <i>References regarding the topography, toponimy and the sectors of the archaeological complex of settlements from Limba-Oarda de Jos (Alba county)</i> , in <i>Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis</i> , Sibiu, 2009.
Ciută 2010	M-M Ciută, <i>Considerații preliminare asupra plasticii antropomorfe vinčiene descoperite în situl arheologic de la Limba - Oarda de Jos (jud. Alba). I</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , XLVII, 2010, p. 219-233.
Ciută 2010a	M-M. Ciută, <i>Venus de la Limba-Oarda de Jos (jud. Alba)</i> , în <i>Corviniana</i> , XIII, 2010, Hunedoara, p. 29-40.
Ciută 2010b	M-M. Ciută, <i>Venus from Limba</i> , în <i>Forschungen zur Volks- und Landeskunde</i> , Sibiu, 2010,
Ciută 2013	M-M. Ciută, <i>O locuință vinčiană timpurie descoperită la Limba-Oarda de Jos – Șesu Orzii (jud. Alba)</i> , în <i>Apulum</i> , L, 2013, p. 23-45.
Ciută, Daisa 2000	M-M. Ciută, B. Daisa, <i>Considerații asupra unor amprente de frunze descoperite într-o locuință neolitică din situl de la Limba-Vărăria</i> , în <i>Sargetia</i> , XXVIII-XXIX, 1999-2000, p. 25-37.
Ciută, Daisa 2002	M-M. Ciută, B. Daisa, <i>Contribuții la reconstituirea paleomediului comunităților Vinča din Bazinul mijlociu al Mureșului. Considerații asupra unor noi amprente vegetale descoperite în situl de la Limba-Vărăria</i> , în <i>Sargetia</i> , XXX, 2001- 2002, p. 51-59.
Ciută, Ciută 2012	M-M. Ciută, B. Daisa, <i>Sceptrul neolitic timpuriu de la Limba-Bordane. Între șaman și preot</i> , în <i>Terra Sebus, Acta Terrae Sabesiensis</i> , nr. 5, 2013, p. 11-30.
Ciută, Florescu 2010	M-M. Ciută, C. Florescu, <i>Preliminary considerations regarding Vinča anthropomorphic figurines discovered in archaeological site Limba-Oarda de Jos, Sectors: Bordane, Sesu Orzii and Vărăria (Alba County)</i> , in <i>Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis</i> , IX, Sibiu, 2010, p. 85-112.
Ciută et al. 2010	M-M. Ciută, Cosmin Suciu, Sabin Adrian Luca, Gabriel Rustoiu, Horia Ciugudean, Cristinel Fântâneau, Beatrice Daisa-Ciută, Cristian Florescu, <i>"Limba-Oarda de Jos"</i> , in <i>CCA</i> , 2010.
Ciută et al. 2013	M-M. Ciută, S.A. Luca, C. Suciu, T. Borșan, B. Ciută, R. Totoianu, C. Anghel, P. Poienaru, <i>Limba-Oarda de</i>

	<i>Jos – Vărărie (com. Ciugud, jud. Alba) campania 2012, in CCA, 2013.</i>
Ciută et al. 2014	M-M. Ciută, S.A. Luca, C. Suciu, T. Borșan, B. Ciută, R. Totoianu, C. Anghel, P. Poienaru, <i>Limba-Oarda de Jos – Vărărie (com. Ciugud, jud. Alba) campania 2013, in CCA, 2014.</i>
Ciută et al. 2015	M-M. Ciută, S.A. Luca, C. Suciu, T. Borșan, B. Ciută, R. Totoianu, C. Anghel, P. Poienaru, <i>Limba-Oarda de Jos – Vărărie (com. Ciugud, jud. Alba) campania 2014, în CCA, 2015.</i>
Daisa 2000	B. Daisa, <i>Un vas cu destinație cultică, descoperit în situl de la Limba-Șesu'Orzii</i> , în BCȘS, 6, 2000, p. 21-30.
Florescu 2000	C. Florescu, <i>Particularități ale plasticii antropomorfe vinciene din sud-vestul Transilvaniei – Plastica antropomorfă descoperită în situl arheologic de la Limba (com Ciugud, jud. Alba)</i> , Lucrare de disertație, mss, Alba Iulia, 2000.
Gimbutas 1973	M. Gimbutas, <i>The Gods and the Goddesses of the Old Europe, 7000-3500 B.C.</i> , London, 1973.
Hansen 2007	S. Hansen, <i>Bilder vom Menschen der Steinzeit</i> , Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut, Eurasien Abteilung, Mainz, 2007 (Teil I-II).
Lazarovici 1970	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Cultura Vinča A în Banat</i> , în ActaMN, VII, 1970, p. 473-487.
Lazarovici 1977	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Gornea-Preistorie</i> . CB, V, Reșița, 1977.
Lazarovici 1977a	Gh. Lazarovici, "Periodizarea culturii Vinča în România", <i>Banatica</i> , 4, 1977, p. 19-44.
Lazarovici 1979	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Neoliticul Banatului</i> . BMN, IV, Cluj-Napoca, 1979.
Lazarovici 1980	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Câteva probleme privind sfârșitul neoliticului timpuriu în nord-vestul României</i> , în ActaMN, XVII, 1980, p. 13-30.
Lazarovici 1981	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Die Periodisierung der Vinča-Kultur in Rumänien</i> , PZ, 56, 2, 1981, p. 169-196.
Lazarovici 1988	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Venus de Zăuan. Despre credințele și practicile magico-religioase</i> , în ActaMP, XII, 1988, p. 23-70.
Lazarovici 1991	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Venus de Zăuan. Despre credințele și practicile magico-religioase (II)</i> , în ActaMP, XIV-XV, 1991, p. 11-35.
Lazarovici 1993	Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Les Carpates Méridionales et la</i>

	<i>Transylvanie, în Atlas du Néolithique européen. L'Europe orientale, E.R.A.U.L., Liège, 1993, p. 243-284.</i>
Lazarovici <i>et al.</i> 2001	Gh. Lazarovici, Z. Maxim, Fl. Drașovean, <i>Parța</i> , Timișoara, 2001.
Lazarovici <i>et al.</i> 2011	Gh. Lazarovici, C-M. Lazarovici, M. Merlini, <i>Tărtăria and the sacred tablets</i> , Cluj-Napoca, 2011.
Luca 1985	S. A. Luca, <i>Săpăturile arheologice de la Liubcova-Ornița. Raport preliminar pe anul 1985</i> , in <i>Banatica</i> , 7, 1985, p. 465-468.
Luca 1990	S. A. Luca, <i>Contribuții la istoria artei neolitice. Plastica așezării de la Liubcova-Ornița (jud. Caraș-Severin)</i> , in <i>Banatica</i> , 10, 1990, p. 6-44.
Luca 1991	S. A. Luca, <i>Stratigrafie și cronologie. Cel mai timpuriu raport stratigrafic dintre culturile Starčevo-Criș și Vinča. Corelația dintre nivelurile V și IV de la Liubcova-Ornița</i> , in <i>Sargetia</i> , XXI-XXIV, 1988-1991, p. 1-13.
Luca 1997	S. A. Luca, <i>Așezări neolitice pe Valea Mureșului (I). Habitatul turdășean de la Orăștie-Dealul Pemilor (punct X2)</i> , Alba Iulia, 1997.
Luca 1998	S. A. Luca, <i>Liubcova-Ornița, Monografie arheologică</i> , Târgoviște, 1998.
Luca 1999	S. A. Luca, <i>Aspecte ale neoliticului și eneoliticului din sudul și sud-vestul Transilvaniei</i> , in <i>Apulum</i> , XXXVI, 1999, p. 5-33.
Luca 2001	S. A. Luca, <i>Așezări neolitice pe Valea Mureșului (II). Noi cercetări arheologice la Turdaș-Luncă. Campaniile anilor 1992-1995</i> , Biblioteca Musei Apulensis, XVII, Alba Iulia, 2001.
Luca, Dragomir 1987	S. A. Luca, I. Dragomir, <i>Date cu privire la o statueta inedită de la Liubcova-Ornița (jud. Caraș Severin)</i> , in <i>Banatica</i> , IX, 1987, p. 31-42.
Luca <i>et al.</i> 2000	S. A. Luca, H. Ciugudean, A. Dragotă, C. Roman, <i>Fazele timpurii ale culturii Vinča în Transilvania</i> , in <i>Angustia</i> , 5, 2000, p. 37-72.
Luca <i>et al.</i> 2000a	S. A. Luca, H. Ciugudean, C. Roman, <i>Die Frühphase der Vinča-Kultur in Siebenbürgen. Anhaltspunkte des chronologischen und ethnokulturellen Horizontes</i> , in <i>Apulum</i> , XXXVII, 1, 2000.
Luca <i>et al.</i> 2001	S. A. Luca, S. Purice, A. Georgescu, A. Gonciar, C. Suciu, <i>Raport preliminar, Miercurea Sibiului-Petriș, Miercurea Sibiului, jud. Sibiu</i> , in <i>CCA</i> , 2001, p. 143-144.

Luca <i>et al.</i> 2002	S. A. Luca, A. Gonciar, S. Batiuk, A. Georgescu, <i>Raport preliminar, Miercurea Sibiului-Petriș, com. Miercurea Sibiului, jud. Sibiu</i> , in <i>CCA</i> , 2002, p. 204-205.
Monah 1997	D. Monah, <i>Plastica antropomorfă a culturii Cucuteni Tripolje</i> , Piatra Neamț, 1997.
Mazăre 1997	P. Mazăre, <i>Industria osului și cornului în așezările neolitice de la Alba Iulia-Lumea Nouă, Limba-Bordane și Limba-Șesu Orzii</i> , in <i>BCȘS</i> , 3, 1997, p. 5-18.
Paul, Ciută 1997	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, <i>Limba-Șesul Orzii, Campania 1996</i> , in <i>C.C.A. (București)</i> , 1997, p. 2-3.
Paul, Ciută 1999	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, <i>Limba-Bordane, jud. Alba</i> , in <i>C.C.A., Campania 1998</i> , (Vaslui), 1999, p. 66-67.
Paul, Ciută <i>et al.</i> 1998	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, <i>Limba-Bordane, Limba-În coastă, jud. Alba</i> , in <i>C.C.A. Campania 1997</i> , (Călărași), 1998, p. 41-42.
Paul, Ciută <i>et al.</i> 2000	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, P. Mazăre, C. Florescu, B. Daisa, <i>Limba, com. Ciugud, jud. Alba. Punct Bordane</i> , in <i>C.C.A., Campania 1999</i> , CIMEC, București, (Deva), 2000, p. 56-58.
Paul, Ciută <i>et al.</i> 2001	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, M. Căstăian, A. Gligor, G. Rustoiu, <i>Limba, com. Ciugud; Oarda de Jos, com. suburb. Oarda, mun. Alba Iulia, jud. Alba</i> , in <i>C.C.A., Campania 2000</i> , CIMEC, București, (Suceava), 2001, p. 133-136, http://archweb.cimec.ro .
Paul, Ciută <i>et al.</i> 2002	I. Paul, M-M. Ciută, C. Florescu, P. Mazăre, M. Gligor, B. Daisa, M. Breazu, C. Șuteu, <i>Limba, com. Ciugud, jud. Alba, Punct: Vărbăria</i> , in <i>C.C.A. campania 2001</i> , CIMEC, București, (Timișoara), 2002, p. 517-518, http://archweb.cimec.ro .
Popa, Totoianu 2001	C. I. Popa, R. Totoianu, <i>Date noi asupra locuirilor umane de la Sebeș-Podul Pripocului (jud. Alba)</i> , in <i>Patrimonium Apulense</i> , I, 2001, p. 33-54.
Radu, Resch, German 1974	O. Radu, E. Resch, C. German, <i>Plastica antropomorfă și zoomorfă de cultură Turdaș-Vinča de la Parța</i> , in <i>Tibiscus</i> , III, 1974, 65-69.
RepAlba 1995	Ed. V. Moga, H. Ciugudean, <i>Repertoriul arheologic al județului Alba</i> , Alba Iulia, 1995.
Suciu 2009	C. I. Suciu, <i>Cultura Vinča în Transilvania</i> , Alba Iulia, 2009.
Vasić 1932-1936	M. M. Vasić, <i>Preistoriska Vinča</i> , vol. I-IV, Beograd, 1932-1936.

Vlassa 1963	N. Vlassa, <i>Chronology of the neolithic in Transilvania in the light of the Tărtăria settlement's stratigraphy</i> , in <i>Dacia NS</i> , VII, 1963, p. 485-494.
Vlassa 1967	N. Vlassa, <i>Unele probleme ale neoliticului din Transilvania</i> , in <i>ActaMN</i> , IV, 1967, p. 403-423.
Vlassa 1976	N. Vlassa, <i>Neoliticul Transilvaniei</i> , Cluj-Napoca, 1976.