

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 *SCIPIO* 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

SYMBOLIC BEHAVIOR AND ARTEFACTS IN THE AENEOLITHIC. RED DEER ANTLER SCEPTRE DISCOVERED IN SOUTH MOLDOVA, ROMANIA

Diana-Maria SZTANCS

Central High School, Bucharest, Romania

beldiana22@yahoo.com

Corneliu BELDIMAN

“Dimitrie Cantemir” Christian University of Bucharest, Faculty of History, Romania

cbeldiman58@yahoo.com

Costel ILIE

“Paul Păltănea” History Museum of Galați, Romania

ilie_cstl@yahoo.com

Abstract: *A unique piece made of red deer antler was discovered at Suceveni-“Stoborâni” site during excavations carried out in 1971 by Ion T. Dragomir, ex-Director of History Museum of Galați. The artefact is preserved in very good conditions. It could be included in the category of symbolic artefacts with ceremonial role, generally called sceptres or sleeves, drum sticks. On this occasion a detailed approach where a standardised methodology was applied: microscopic analyses and palaeo-technological reconstructions were done. The data regarding the archaeological contexts, the extensive description related to manufacture issues (raw material, procedures and techniques used in order to transform the raw material, use-wear traces and hypotheses regarding the usage etc.), imagistic materials (schemes, drawings, macro- and microphotographs etc.) are presented in this context.*

Keywords: *DanubiOs, Moldova, osseous materials artefacts, paleo-technology, “Paul Păltănea” History Museum of Galați, red deer antler, spiritual life, sceptre, sleeve, Stoicani-Aldeni Cultural Aspect, Suceveni-“Stoborâni”, symbolic artefacts.*

The Aeneolithic cultures attested in the region of South Moldova offers various data regarding the complex use of osseous materials resources that the natural or the man-made environment abundantly offered to the human communities.

On this occasion, we present a special object from an assemblage of pieces stored in the collection of the “Paul Păltănea” History Museum of Galați, resulted from the systematic research carried out during the 5th and 8th decades of the past century by Prof. PhD Ion T. Dragomir, former Director of the museum at Suceveni-“Stoborâni” site.

This site dated from Stoicani-Aldeni cultural horizon (cca 3800-3600 BC) was almost entirely excavated, being the most important site dated from the above mentioned cultural horizon up to the present.

We have to underline the fact that the study of osseous materials industry dated from the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural horizon has never been studied in detail until recently, using the present methodology.

In this way, the data that were made accessible by the project financed by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, “Digitisation of the cultural portable heritage of History Museum of Galați. Collection of Aeneolithic osseous materials artefacts”, 2012 (“DanubiOs”) whose editorial product is a catalogue (Beldiman *et al.* 2012; <http://www.migl.ro/DanubiOs/eneolithic/index.html>), brings notable contributions regarding the knowledge of these Aeneolithic manifestations of the communities that lived in the actual space of Romania and in the surrounding areas.

The detailed study of the assemblage comprising osseous materials artefacts stored at the History Museum of Galați, coming from important Aeneolithic sites from the South of Moldova, a study that was realised for the first time during the above-mentioned project, brings new contributions to the knowledge of the technical manifestations characteristic for the Stoicani-Aldeni communities.

The data allows the development of the repertory and of the various analytic approaches through the sets of information that are systematised and made available for the following research that will be done with an identical or at least compatible methodology.

The spiritual manifestations represent an important issue related to Aeneolithic cultures which has not been approached in detail from the perspective of cataloguing and studying extensively the large amount of artefacts made of various raw materials.

At Suceveni-“Stoborăni” site, the symbolic behaviour is illustrated by a series of artefacts which are very complex from a typological point of view (pendants, perforated plates and beads). These are made of skeletal materials (bone, red deer antler, teeth, shells etc.), are manufactured *intra-site* or achieved by exchanges.

Among these, a unique piece made of red deer antler is preserved in very good conditions. It could be included in the category of symbolic artefacts with ceremonial role, generally called sceptres or sleeves, drum sticks (catalogue code SCS_11).

The artefact was summary published by Ion T. Dragomir (Dragomir 1983). With this occasion, it is the object of a detailed approach where a standardised methodology was applied: microscopic analyses and palaeo-technological reconstructions were done.

Their results have not been included in “DanubiOs” Project and subsequently being valorised in various contexts.

The data regarding the archaeological contexts, the extensive description related to manufacture issues (raw material, procedures and techniques used in order to transform the raw material, use-wear traces and hypotheses regarding the usage etc.), imagistic materials (schemes, drawings, macro- and microphotographs etc.) are presented in this context.

SCS_11

Perforated piece (“sceptre” or sleeve) Varia – symbolic artefact “Paul Păltănea”
History Museum of Galați Inventory number 21351 Context Year of discovery 1971
Section 5 Meter 73 Depth -1.30 m Stoicani-Aldeni Cultural Horizon.

Raw material

Shed red deer antler, segment of a right beam.

Conservation

Piece entirely preserved. Good status of conservation.

Description. Manufacturing. Use-wear traces

Perforated piece (sleeve or “sceptre”?) made of a basal segment of beam.

The antler probably coming from a hunted animal (trophy). Right beam.

Debitage by direct percussion/precise chopping and fracture applied at the distal end in order to detach the pedicle and the brow tine.

The entire shaping of the piece was made by direct percussion/chopping and intense abrasion. All surfaces are smooth. Few traces are preserved. The surface of the piece is superficially corroded.

Proximal end is convex, oblique and made of the burr shaped by chopping and abrasion. The burr was partially shaped by abrasion on outline in order to remove the anatomic aspect; square-shaped with rounded corners at the proximal end, with a convex cross-section.

The surface of the beam and distal end were shaped by chopping and abrasion which eliminated the specific anatomic aspect.

The perforation is placed central; it was bilaterally shaped by carving and cutting; the shape is squared; at the proximal end the edges are parallels with the edges of the ones’ of the respective end; at the distal end, it is oblique shaped, in rhombus. About a half of in its depth is shaped like it is mentioned above, then the walls are oriented parallels with the edges as it is at the proximal end.

There are no observable use-wear traces.

Probable prestige piece, sceptre-like, sleeve; another hypothesis is related to the use as end piece of a drum stick?

Dimensions (in mm)

Length 54.84; proximal end 58.92/57.84; mesial end 51.53/47.20; Distal end 49.23/47.28; perforation at proximal end 17.49/16.27; perforation at distal end 18.40/18.37.

Analogies

There were no analogies identified within the literature. The prestige goods named sceptres have been known since the Upper Palaeolithic in the Western parts of Europe. They were also identified in our country from the Early Neolithic up to the First Iron Age. These were made of various materials, red deer antler among them and some of them were engraved with geometrical motifs (Alba Iulia-„Dealul Furcilor-Monolit”, Alba County – Lascu, Gheorghiu 2009; Boarta, Sibiu County – Popa, Ștefu 2009; Lancrăm, Alba County – Aldea, 1973; Popa, Simina, 2005; Limba, Alba County – Ciută, Ciută 2013).

Conclusion

The present paper represents a contribution to the enrichment of the catalogue containing special Aeneolithic artefacts made of red deer antler with a symbolic value.

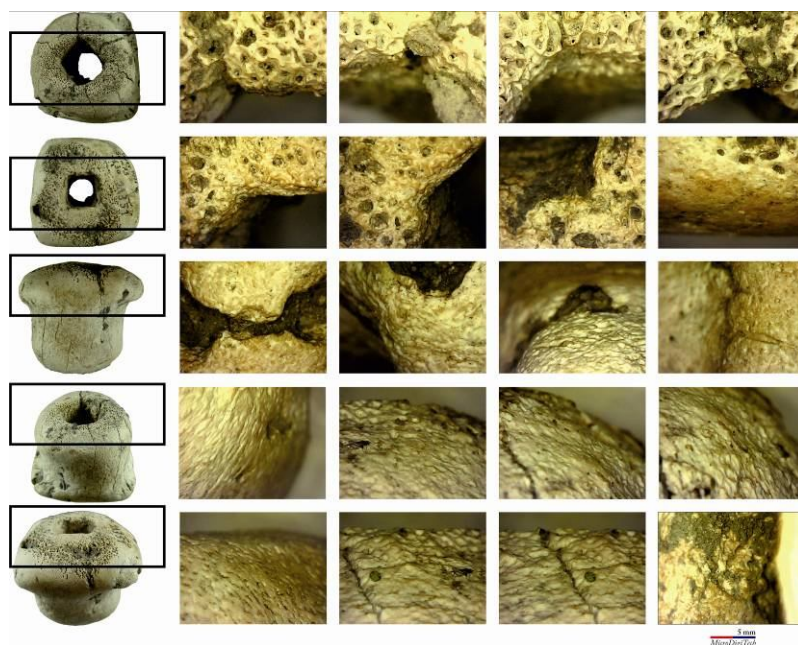
Its importance resides in being a *unicum* among the Aeneolithic discoveries from Romania.

REFERENCES

Aldea 1973	Aldea, Ion Al., <i>Un sceptru de os din aşezarea Wietenberg de la Lancrăm, jud. Alba</i> . In <i>Apulum</i> 11 (1973), p. 25-35.
Beldiman et al. 2012	Corneliu Beldiman, Diana Maria Sztancs, Costel Ilie, <i>Artefacte din materii dure animale în colecția Muzeului de Istorie Galați. Eneolitic. Catalog/Osseous materials artefacts in the collection of History Museum of Galați. Aeneolithic</i> , Traducere în limba engleză Sztancs, D.-M. și Hompoth A.-D., Muzeul de Istorie Galați, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca (2012); http://www.migl.ro/DanubiOs/eneolitic/index.html .
Ciută, Ciută 2013	Marius-Mihai Ciută, Beatrice Elena Ciută, <i>Sceptrul neolitic timpuriu de la Limba-Bordane. Între șaman și preot</i> . In <i>Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis</i> 5 (2013), p. 11-30.
Dragomir 1983	Ion T. Dragomir, <i>Eneoliticul din sud-estul României. Aspectul cultural Stoicani-Aldeni</i> , Editura Academiei, București (1983).
Lascu, Gheorghiu 2009	Ion Lascu, Radu Gheorghiu, <i>Un sceptru de corn din aşezarea din prima epocă a fierului de la Alba Iulia-„Dealul Furcilor-Monolit”</i> . In <i>Apulum</i> 46 (2009), p. 593-599.
Popa, Simina 2004	Cristian Ioan Popa, Marcel Simina, <i>Cercetări arheologice la Lancrăm-„Glod”</i> , Editura Ulise, Alba Iulia (2004).
Popa, Ștefu 2009	Cristian Ioan Popa, Vasile Ștefu, <i>The Antler Sceptre from Coțofeni Settlement of Boarta (Sibiu County)</i> . In <i>Crisia</i> 39 (2009), p. 7-16.



Fig. 1. Suceveni-Stoborăni, Galați County. Stoicani-Aldeni Cultural Aspect. Red deer antler object: 1 General views; 2 Origin of raw material.



1



2

Fig. 2. Suceveni-Stoborăni, Galați County. Stoicani-Aldeni Cultural Aspect. Red deer antler object: 1 Microscopic views; 2 Hafting – hypothetical reconstitution.