

**Some details about the C₄₀₃ archaeological feature
from the site of Turdaș-Luncă, Hunedoara County (III).
Petrești culture I
Preventive excavations of the year 2011**

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Keywords: Petrești I Culture, Early Aeneolithic, Transylvania, Romania

Abstract: The preventive archaeological excavations from 2011 made possible the unveiling of a significant part of the archaeological site from Turdaș, Luncă point. There were researched thousands of archaeological features, the defensive system of the site, the habitation neighborhoods and some other results of the human works. With this article, we start the complex processing of the discoveries Petrești I culture, feature C₄₀₃.

C₄₀₃ archaeological feature is in the area called C (plan 1-2) (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, Fig. 2; 28-30). Some of this sector has been analyzed (ST 29) some time ago (Lazarovici *et al* 2014). In fact, in connection with this structure is also C₄₀₃ (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, p. 78, 79, 101-102). The feature is filled with black, granular soil (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, Fig. 28/b). This type of soil is formed, at Turdaș, during the Petrești inhabitation – especially in their surface dwellings – as we seen in several cases (Luca 2001, p. 40). Besides, the composition of the debris found (river stone, carvings, animal bones and pottery; photo 1-2) (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, p. 103) shows a difference detached from the mode of formation of the Turdaș deposits (Luca 2001, p. 37-40).

The detailed analysis of this feature (403) also shows a possible link with ST 28 (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, Fig. 4). Moreover, seeing the graphical representation of the features discussed in the article so often quoted, we see the possibility that the C₄₀₃ is – in fact – a rest from a new dwelling, which snapped ST 27 (this was set to the cut-off limit and was investigated more heavily, after successive dissections and the progressive widening of preventive archaeological research) (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, Fig. 7; 8b (C₄₀₃; ST 27)). It is obvious that C₄₀₃ is – in fact – the rest of a dwelling, which is very poorly preserved and represents a higher deposition level, covering the ruins kept from the Turdaș dwellings, dwellings with floor (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, p. 86). In a article that is under printing, affirm that two horizons with such dwellings can be distinguished in Turdaș-Luncă; in sector A there being a group of upstairs dwellings in close connection, but later on, to level II-inferior (Luca 2001).

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The pottery of the dwelling are – obviously – Petrești (photo 3-4) (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, fig. 28/a, c). Few preserved archaeological materials show a technique of accomplishing this as in the AB phase of culture, as defined by I. Paul (Paul 1992).

As far as the absolute chronology of Turdaș culture and its link – to the begin – with Vinča B₂ (Lazarovici *et al* 2014, p. 80) is more and more difficult to believe (Luca *et al* 2017; Luca *et al* 2017a; Luca *et al* 2017b).

We observe more details of absolute chronology that give importance to the relative chronology of the Turdaș culture.

Analyzing table 1 of this paper we see that the oldest data for Turdaș culture are 6.070±70 BP Orăștie-Dealul Pemilor, point X₂ – hut B₂/1994 (Luca 2001, p. 142, pl. VIII) and 5.947±35 BP (feature 33, Turdaș-Luncă) (Luca *et al* 2017a); 5.932±29 BP (feature 23, Turdaș-Luncă) (Luca *et al* 2017b). We have taken into account, in a recent article, that about 6.000 BP can speak of the genesis of Turdaș culture and the first phase of this culture.

This last conclusion is also supported by the observations made during the last preventive excavation from Tărtăria-Gura Luncii (Luca *et al* 2016a), the radiocarbon data for the end of the horizon III being obtained from a Vinča chronological and cultural horizon, perhaps from genesis for the Turdaș culture (Luca *et al* 2017; Luca *et al* 2017a; Luca *et al* 2017b). These were collected from two archaeological features: feature XIV (6.112±33 BP) and feature XLV (6.082±33 BP; 6.063±33 BP; 6.023±32 BP și 5.996±32). I have to say that at this level, no pottery fragment of Turdaș was discovered.

Here is also confirmed that – with Vinča C₁ can talk (Drașovean 2013, first table, the first section; Drașovean 2014, first anexe, p. 47 (Sînderei), p. 47-48 (Vinča de la 7,8 la 6,1 m), p. 48 (Uivar, Gomolava)) about the Turdaș culture corroborating the data above.

The second phase of culture does not seem to have a very long evolution and is represented – for this time – by the horizon II – inferior from Turdaș-Luncă. Perhaps the two horizons are just a specific evolution for the site from here, for now. And this is because it is the best researched so far (quantitative and qualitative). However, the data 5.825±60 BP (hut B₁/1994), 5.790±55 BP (hut B₂/1994) (Orăștie-Dealul Pemilor, point X₂), and 5.828±35 BP (Feature 2 – Hunedoara-Judecătorie) show genesis of the third phase of the Turdaș culture.

”Foeni culture” from Banat (and we have to put quotes because – after the last ”researches” it is stronger in Transylvania than in Banat) it develops, **only in Banat**, during this period (Drașovean 2013, first table – middle section; Drașovean 2014, anexa 1, partea de la p. 48 (Hodon; Foeni – up 5.800 BP)).

The third phase of the Turdaș culture is represented by data such as 5.760±40 BP (Cerișor-Peștera Cauce) or 5.730±35 BP (Dwelling 1) and 5.717±35 BP (Feature 4) (Hunedoara-Judecătorie).

The data from Banat shows a contemporaneity with the Foeni site (Draşovean 2013, first table – middle section; Draşovean 2014, first anexe, p. 48 (Foeni – up 5.700 BP)).

The data from Turdaş-*Luncă*, 5.686±28 BP (Feature 403) and 5.606±27 BP (Feature 1878) shows that around 5.700 BP Turdaş culture ceases to exist, at least on the middle Mureş.

In Banat, the data from the Foeni site continues even in the time of Petreşti culture (Draşovean 2013, first table – middle section; Draşovean 2014, first anexa p. 48 (Foeni – up 5.600 BP), even if some confuse the Petreşti culture (a culture defined as such (Paul 1992), with Foeni site (Draşovean 2013, table 1 – final section; M. Gligor dates; Draşovean 2014, first anexe, p. 49 (M. Gligor dates) for the analysis of the Foeni site, "group" or "culture": see below). Moreover, the main author of these ideas takes over the Petreşti A culture, from Daia (Mantu 1999-2000, p. 100; Draşovean 2013, first table; Draşovean 2014, first anexe). These data (5.900±100 BP; 5.835±1000 BP and 5.710±100 BP) bring back the idea that the painted side of the Foeni "culture" is – in fact – Petreşti A, as discussed in the 1980s, at least for the last date 5.710±100 BP (Paul 1995, p. 106 (II₁-II₄ level =Petreşti A; Paul 1992, p. 120, 122-123 – and III₁-III₂ level =Petreşti AB). For the other two (5.900±100 BP; 5.835±1000 BP) we find it to be Turdaş II (Paul 1995, p. 106 (first level = Turdaş and second level =Vinča B₂). Taking into account the fact that the archaeological materials that were taken for a long time and that the new data from Orăştie (Luca 1997) and Turdaş (Luca 2017) had not been published at the date of sampling could not draw the conclusions from now (see Luca *et al* 2017, table 1).

In the place called *Părăuți*, in the border of Daia Română (Paul 1981, p. 197 şi urm., pl. 54; Paul 1992, p. 95, 108-109, 110-116, 139-140; pl. IIa, IIIb; XVI/8, 10, 19, 21; XVII/16, 22; XX/1-7, 10, 12; XXII/1-9, 11-12, 17; XXIV/1, 4, 14; XXV/21; XXVIII/10, 12; XXX/1-11; XXXI/1-3, 5-12; XXXII/1-11; XXXIII/3-6, 8-9; XXXV/9-11; XXXVI/1_{a-c}; XXXVII/3_{a-b}; XXXVIII/1, 3, 5_{a-b}; XXXIX/1; XLI/5a-6b; XLII/9, 14; XLV/3-4; XLVI/1-2; L/2, 4; LIII/4, 6, 8, 11_{a-c}; LIV/1; Paul 1995, p. 106, 135-146; Luca *et al* 2003; *** 1996, p. 24), an eneolithic settlement belonging to the Turdaş and Petreşti cultures (Paul 1995, p. 106, 135-146). Problems raised by this are as interesting as those raised by the Turdaş-*Luncă* settlement and we will see why?

As for the analyzes made from the office, the rare ditches and splashes across a site, the possible mixtures of ancient archaeological materials (following architectural rebuilding stages or from our time) or from the moment of interpretation that is – subjectively – and affected by different selections (Gligor 2009; Draşovean 2013; Draşovean 2014; Diaconescu 2014; Suciu 2015 şi Tincu 2015), they can even lead to distortion of reality. And here we have to refer – we do not want to – to the site from Foeni, Timiş County, Banat.

But let's see how it came to this situation. As mentioned above in the 1980s, there was reference, in Banat, to the existence of painted pottery imports from the Petrești world from Transylvania (Lazarovici 1979, p. 166-168). But let's see what is said in the quoted paper. First of all we find – as is the case in the field, at *Pața-tell II* – that a lot of pottery fragments painted in this style are found on the surface *in combination with pottery Vinča C* (Lazarovici 1979, p. 166-167). It also claimed that the excavations from tell II led to the discovery of two meters of stratigraphy and that *only the upper layer part of the culture layer* revealed similar pottery materials (it is not known whether they were painted) (Lazarovici 1979, p. 168;).

Also on the surface, on the site from Diniăș (Luca and Urian 2012, p. 8-9), Sânmihaiu Român (Luca și Urian 2012, p. 9-10, fig. 1-2) or Timișoara (Luca și Urian 2012, p. 10-12), we find many painted Petrești materials that we publish – at least those from Sânmihaiu Român (Luca și Urian 2012, fig. 1-2) – to Fl. Drașovean's disappointment (Drașovean 2013) – showing that together with them, pottery materials Vinča C were discovered (Lazarovici 1979, p. 166-168; Luca and Urian 2012). Finally, the *Pața-tell II* excavation had revealed the existence of two Vinča C horizons, but Mr. Fl. Drașovean says that from a "confusion" it has not been seen that one of the horizons, the superior one, does not belong – in the observations of Gh. Lazarovici (or of Fl. Drașovean, for his reign has archaeologically researched the site) – the culture mentioned above, but to the one called at that writing time Petrești/Foeni group (Drașovean 1996, p. 32-33). All of this, without arguing by plans or illustration. We were more convinced of publishing stratigraphy, dwellings, other enclosed features and everything that resulted from a reasonable archaeological excavation (at least 1992).

As far as the Foeni site, is concerned, it is said to have painted Petrești materials in the 1980s. These are related to pottery materials Vinča C and others on Vinča C-D horizon (Lazarovici 1979, p. 167). Subsequently, Fl. Drașovean resumed the 1979 research at Foeni (Drașovean 1996, p. 85). In the following articles he develops the idea that – even from the title – the Petrești culture is present in Banat as imports (Drașovean 1993 (?); Drașovean 1994a; Drașovean 1997). After a while, Fl. Drașovean "nuances" this relationship – Vinča C-Petrești – adding the Foeni group under the formula "Petrești/Foeni group" (Drașovean 1996, p. 84-86). We find out, however, that Foeni are not elements Vinča C! (Drașovean 1994, p. 411; Drașovean 1996, p. 85; Gh. Lazarovici option: Lazarovici 1979, p. 166-167) For everything to be "clear", no stratigraphy, dwellings, space layout, general architecture, pottery associated with features, tools, weapons or other defining elements of any archaeological culture are ever published. Rare assertions about such elements are thrown here-there (Drașovean 2013, p. 14: simple personal options). Numerous pits or sections are in vain to be named if their plan has never been published, in correlation with the observations made on all of the observations on an archaeological feature or another. Perhaps then, it would be noticed that the

unpainted materials are Vinča C most often, so the painted pottery materials are imports, the shapes and ornaments being specific to another culture (Petrești A) and not representing, as a percentage, something specific to Banat. But mathematical statistics on pottery have not been made and published, general analysis of pottery – even beyond mathematical analysis – not, but statements – many.

Then we see, that with the passage of the time it goes to the idea that the "group", which become Foeni "culture", does not *receive* Petrești imports from Transylvania and *go* there and *forms* at least part of the Turdaș culture and the Petrești culture (and this "only" in 10 years of office research). Interestingly, the followers of these ideas have not published *anything*, independently and following their own excavations related to the two cultures. I expressed my opinion in writing about the uselessness of these ideas (Luca 2016, p. 246-249, 251-254) and i will soon do it very directly. In the last articles (Luca *et al* 2017; Luca *et al* 2017a), both the beginning of the Turdaș culture and the evolution of the Petrești culture in the Turdaș-Luncă site began to appear. We will continue the series of these articles and studies.

In order to make further argumentation, there is also call for possible Turdaș pottery imports to the Uivar site – a provocative hypothesis (Schier and Drașovean 2004, p. 174, Abb. 20/1-2). The authors of the article do not even take into account the already published Turdaș discoveries, but also those that come out of the newer research. It looks – for exemple – that the settlement from Lipova-Hodaie was published, from where archaeological materials were published showing a cultural synthesis between the worlds of the Tisa Plain and Transylvania (Luca 1986; Luca 1987). But the pot from Abb. 20/1 (Schier and Drașovean 2004) why can not be Tisa culture, like the pot from Abb. 15/12 (Schier și Drașovean 2004, p. 179)? And then, the pot from Abb. 20/2 (Schier și Drașovean 2004), does not even have any attributes Turdaș! What makes this article interesting is that here is spoken about the Turdaș culture in Banat, by imports, not by other things, as the archaeological material published by the authors demands (Schier și Drașovean 2004, p. 174, 179).

At the end of the 1980s, under the direction of I. Andrițoiu and with Fl. Drașovean, we investigated the site of Mintia-Gerhat (Drașoveanu și Luca 1990). Even if at some point I had begun to believe in the existence of a Mintia-Foeni cultural group (Luca și Urian 2012), this idea is less attractive since I started studying directly the Petrești sites on the basis of which I. Paul created the idea of Petrești culture. Reading his book (I. Paul) found that the pottery material was *selectively processed* (Paul 1992, p. 46-96). Seeing Petrești archaeological materials from museums such as the Brukenthal National Museum, National Museum of the Union from Alba Iulia, National History Museum of Transylvania from Cluj-Napoca or the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation from Deva, we find that the pottery of this culture is much more diversified than the one published by I. Paul. Some seem to rely on this observation to deviate even the term Petrești culture in

favor of another. But, in order not to continue this discussion, I will reprocess all Petrești places where I will have acces and we will see – undoubtedly – the fact that it can not be replaced by another name, be it Foeni.

Taking a general analysis (relative and absolute chronology) of the C₄₀₃ feature it is easy to see that is related to the Petrești culture, and the end of the Turdaș culture, phase III, is – already – obvious at least in this site at that time.

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- Plan 2.** Turdaș-*Luncă*. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature (with red, in the middle of the plan)/Turdaș-*Luncă*. Campania de cercetări preventive 2011. Complexul arheologic C₄₀₃ (cu roșu, în mijlocul planului).

Photos

- Photo 1.** Turdaș-*Luncă*. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature/Turdaș-*Luncă*. Campania de cercetări preventive 2011. Complexul arheologic C₄₀₃.
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List of abbreviations

- | | |
|---------|---|
| ActaTS | - <i>Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis</i> , Universitatea „Lucian Blaga”, Sibiu |
| AnB(SN) | - <i>Analele Banatului. Serie Nouă</i> , Muzeul Național a Banatului, Timișoara |

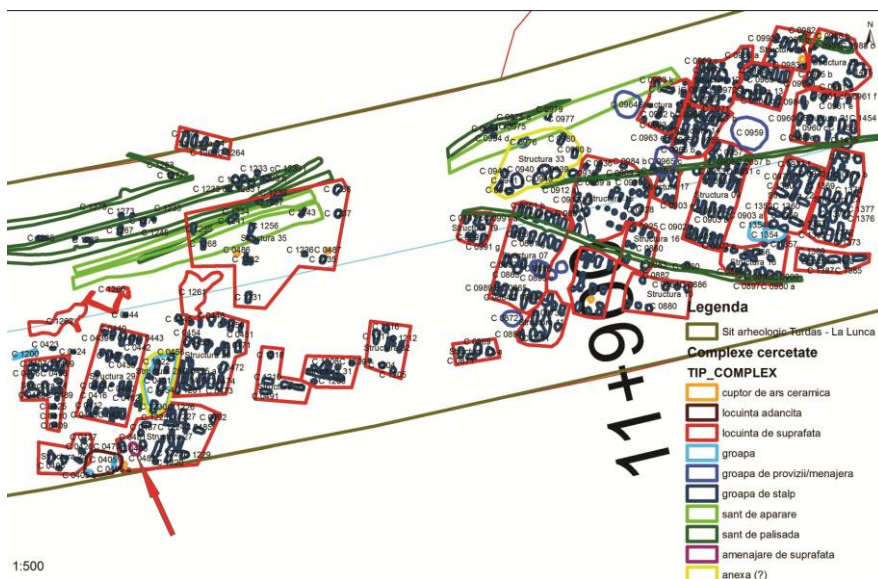
Antaeus	- <i>Antaeus</i> , Budapesta
Apulum	- <i>Apulum, Acta Musei Apulensis</i> , Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
BB	- <i>Bibliotheca Brukenthal</i> , Muzeul Național Brukenthal, Sibiu
BMA	- <i>Bibliotheca Musei Apulensis</i> , Muzeul Național al Unirii, Alba Iulia
BMN	- <i>Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis</i> , Cluj-Napoca
BruckAM	- <i>Brukenthal. Acta Musei</i> , Muzeul Național Brukenthal, Sibiu
ForVL	- <i>Forschungen zur Volks- und Landeskunde</i> , Sibiu
Germania	- <i>Germania</i> , Frankfurt am Main
PZ	- <i>Prähistorische Zeitschrift</i> , Berlin-Leipzig
SCIVA	- <i>Studii și Comunicări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie</i> , București
StComB	- <i>Studii și Comunicări Brukenthal</i> , Sibiu
StudIB	- <i>Studii de Istorie a Banatului</i> , Timișoara

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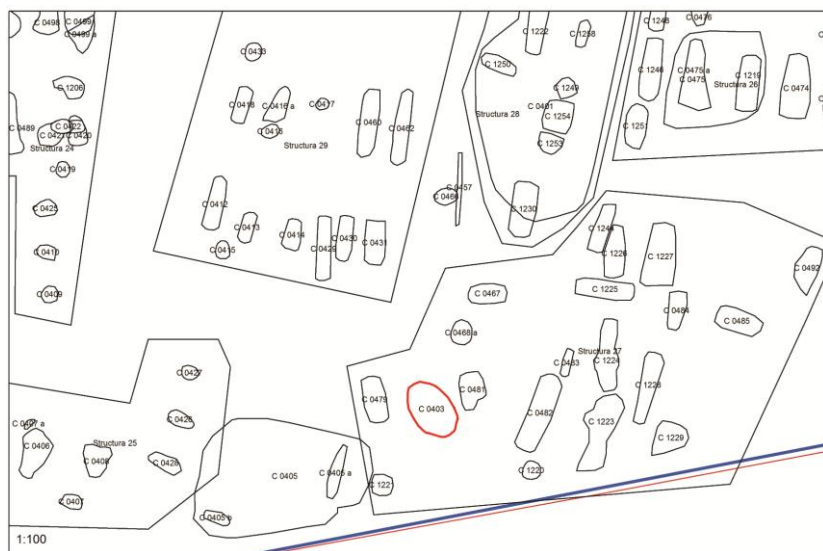
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Plan 1. Turdaş-Luncă. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature (marked with red arrow – left/down).



Plan 2 Turdaş-Luncă. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature (with red, in the middle of the plan).



Photo 1. Turdaș-Luncă. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature.



Photo 2. Turdaș-Luncă. The 2011 preventive research campaign. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature.

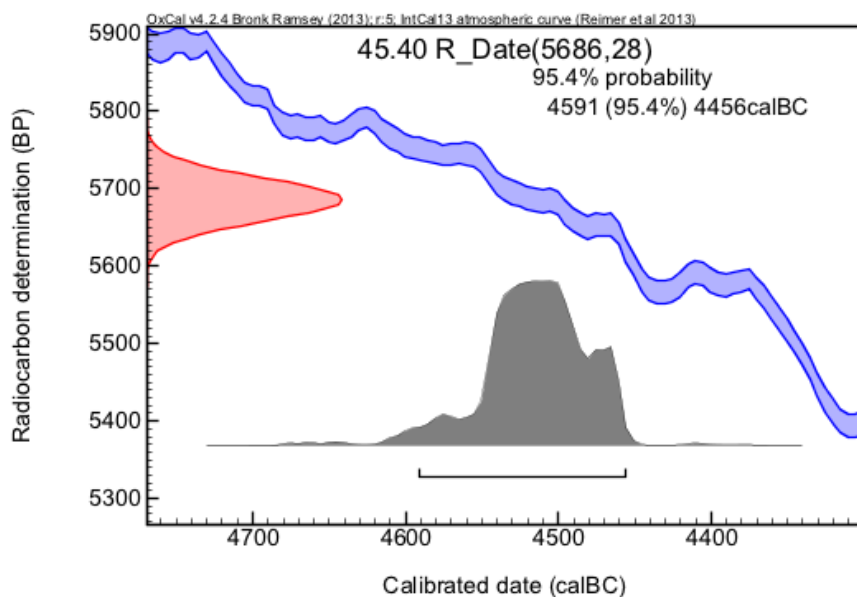


Fig. 1. Turdaș-Luncă. The 2011 preventive research campaign. Sample calibration RoAMS-45.40: 5686±28 BP. The C₄₀₃ archaeological feature.

