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FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PATRIMONY
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY AND VALORIFICATION OF THE TRANSYLVANIAN PATRIMONY IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT

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SEPTEMCASTRENSIS

X

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Sibiu, 2011

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TYPOLOGIC CATALOGUES AND DICTIONARIES FOR STARČEVO-CRIŞ POTTERY

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Abstract: *The present study shows an addition to the series of dictionaries and catalogues for Starčevo-Criş pottery, done in the first phase by Gheorghe Lazarovici and completed later by Zoia Kalmar Maxim. For this project the author has used materials discovered during the archeological researches in Miercurea Sibiului-Petriş (Romania, Sibiu County), from the campaigns between 2003 and 2009. Until present, there were analyzed Early Neolithic ceramics that consider various aspects of category, color, mixture, surface treatment, burning, ornamentation techniques and pottery shapes on more than 3000 fragments.*
Keywords: *pottery, Starčevo-Criş culture, early Neolithic, typology*
Rezumat: *Lucrarea de faţă reprezintă o completare a cataloagelor şi dicţionarelor pentru ceramica culturii Starčevo-Criş, elaborate într-o primă fază de către Gheorghe Lazarovici şi completate ulterior de Zoia Kalmar Maxim. Pentru acest proiect autorul a folosit materiale descoperite în cadrul cercetărilor arheologice de pe şantierul Miercurea Sibiului-Petriş (România, judeţul Sibiu), în campaniile dintre anii 2003 şi 2009. Până în prezent a fost analizate peste 3000 de fragmente ceramice ţinându-se cont de diferite aspecte: categorie, culoare, amestec, netezire, ardere, tehnica de ornamentaţie şi forme ceramice.*
Cuvinte cheie: *ceramică, cultura Starčevo-Criş, neolitic timpuriu, tipologie*

Researches made with POSDRU/88/1.5/S/60370 Project Integration of the Romanian Research in the context of European Research-doctoral scholarships co financed by the European Social Found by The Operation Sector for Human Researches Development Program 2007-2013 – coordinator prof.dr. Sabin Adrian LUCA.

Prehistoric sites are the provider of a great quantity of ceramics and its analysis represents the most important source of information about the way ancient communities used to live, but they are also an important reference point in establishing chronological details.

The highest number of archaeological ceramic objects is represented by pottery which could have been used for different porpoises: for keeping and/or transporting liquid and solid contains, for cooking, for serving food and water or for a cultic role. Each and every one of these situations determines the use of a different type of pottery and the way they were used is stated by observing the archaeological context of the discovery but also with etnoarcheological studies. It is also a fact that functionality of pottery can't be strictly set by the morphological point of view because it is quite possible that it could serve in different (multiple) situations.

Considering the permanent need to increase the efficiency in stocking the information about archaeological ceramics, for a better interpretation of results and correlations with situations from sites situated at the same chronological level, there were analysed Starčevo-Criș pottery resulted from Miercurea Sibiulu-*Petriș* site (Luca *et al.* 2003, 140; Luca 2004; Luca, Suciu 2004, 11-15; Luca, Suciu 2007, 78-79; Luca *et al.* 2004; Luca *et al.* 2005; Luca *et al.* 2006; Luca *et al.* 2007; Luca *et al.* 2007a; Luca *et al.* 2008; Luca *et al.* 2008a; Luca *et al.* 2008b; Luca *et al.* 2009; Luca *et al.* 2010), under the respect of category aspects, color, mixture, surface treatment, burning, ornamentation techniques and pottery shapes. There have been used catalogues and dictionaries authored by Gheorghe Lazarovici and completed by Zoia Kalmar Maxim (Kalmar-Maxim 1999, 30-61).

A significant number of fragments analyzed by this author were impossible to be described with the existing codes provided by Zoia Kalmar Maxim due to the fact that new situations occur. In consequence, there were updated the dictionaries and catalogues concerning the rim, base, handles and shape variants and typology for the unpainted ornaments (Nițu, Şeulean 2006, 33, 36-37).

There were no difficulties in completing the typologies for lips, bases, ears and shapes because the system was conceived with an open structure. In which concerns the establishing of certain types of ornaments, there were some problems. The catalogue for ornaments created by Zoia Kalmar Maxim does not include any kind of dictionaries, which made it very difficult to establish the exact technique that was used in ornament making. There is another study where a dictionary for this ornaments is presented (Lazarovici, Micle 2001, 214-216), but there some ornaments are failed to be described or there are two explanations for the same code. In the catalogue of ornaments presented in the present paper, all graphic representations have a description in order to exclude any possible confusion. For the catalogue included, the codification maintains, as possible, Zoia Kalmar Maxim's structure, and completes it. For example, codes starting with **A** represent plastic applications or excisions, those with **I** or **J** barbotine, and so one. There have been also added a typology for ornamentations on the pot's rim, which is completely missing in the study mentioned above.

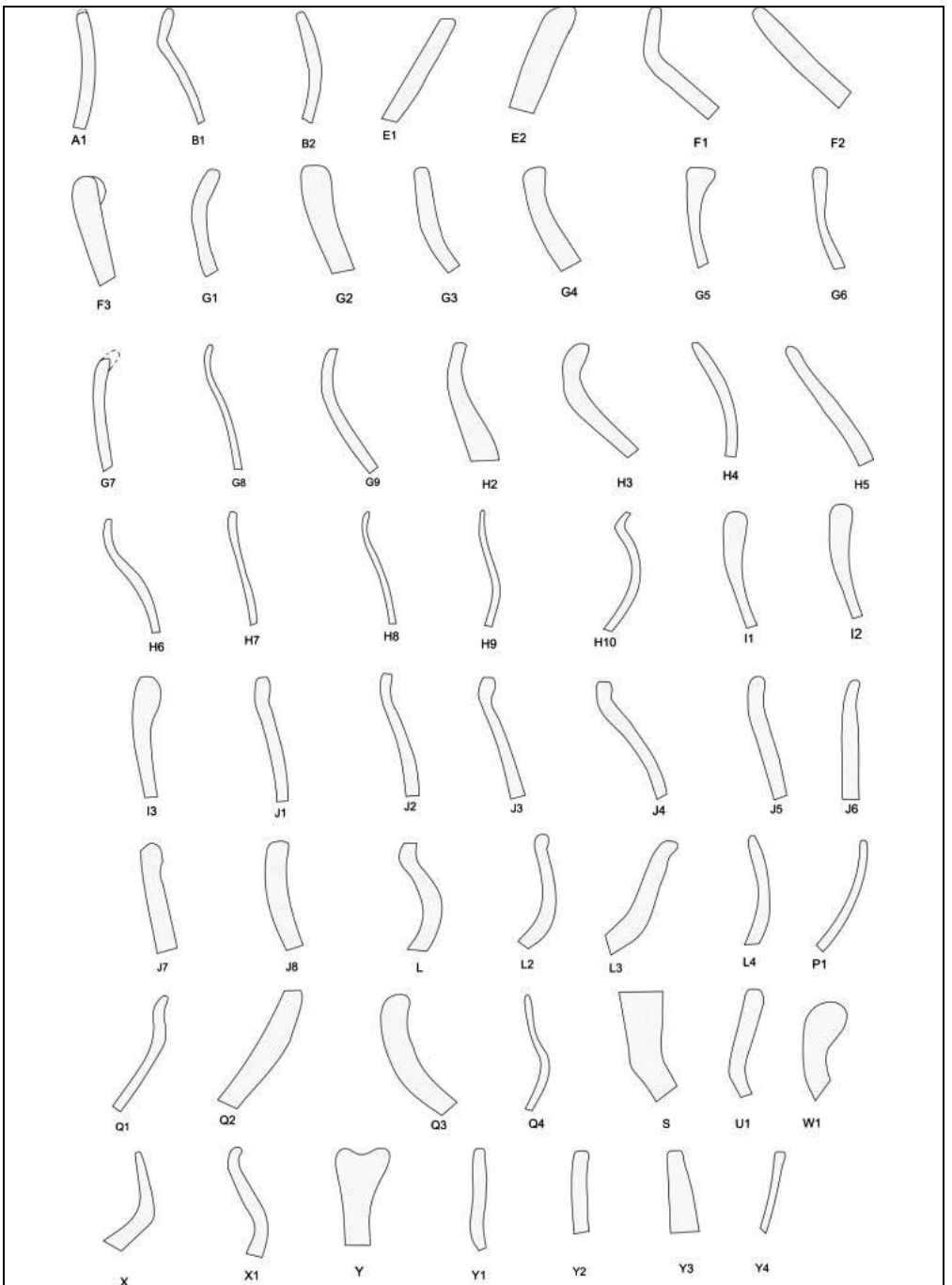


Fig. 1: Typological catalogue for rims.

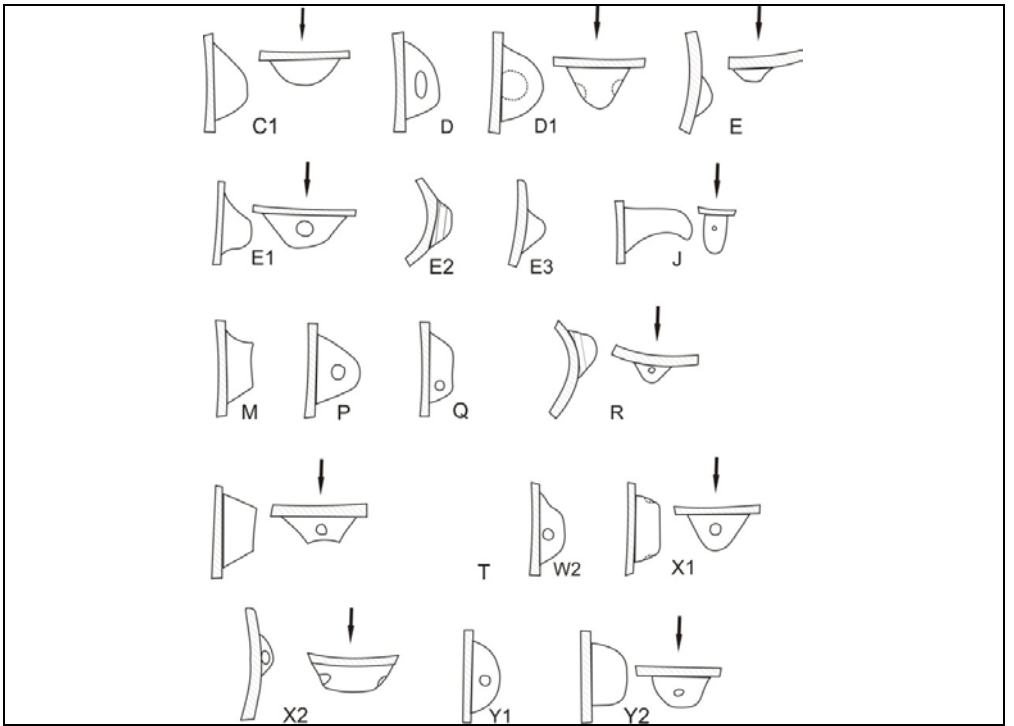


Fig. 2: Typological catalogue for handles.

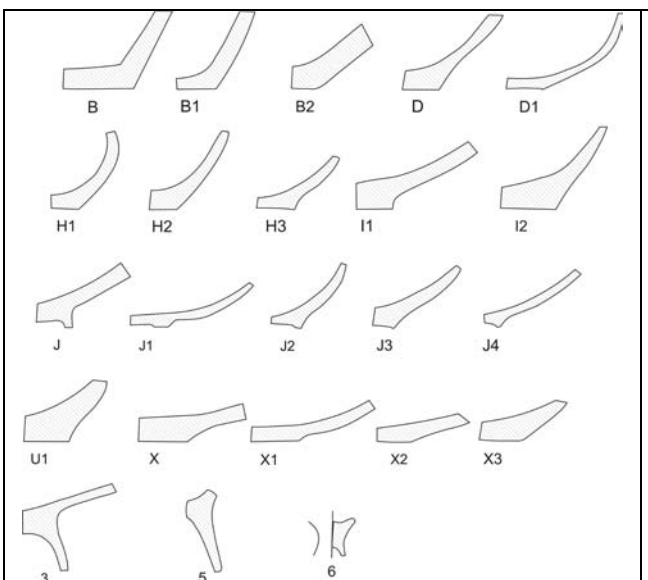


Fig. 3: Typological catalogue for bases.

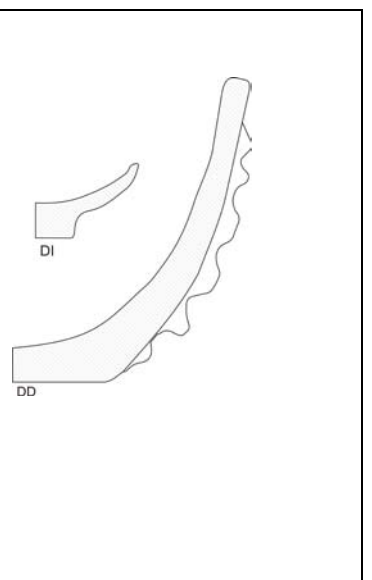
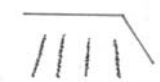
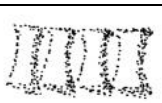
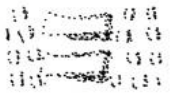
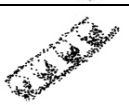
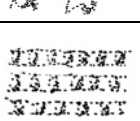
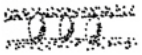
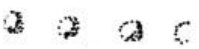
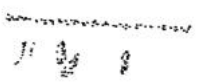
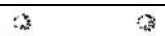
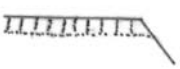
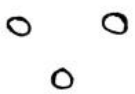
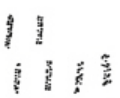


Fig. 4: Typological catalogue for shapes.

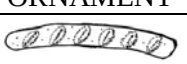
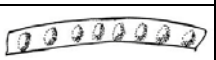
CATAOGUE AND DICTIONARY FOR ORNAMENTS

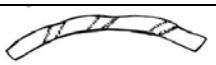
ORNAMENT	CODE	DESCRIPTION
	AO	Alveolar plastic belt shaped application, presenting oblique position and a circular application above the belt.
	AP	Button-type circular excision.
	AR	Plastic applications placed beneath the rim, with a distance between them of approximately 1 cm.
	CO	Horizontal row of marks left side oriented, impressed with finger tip (nail?).
	EC	Two deep incisions of oblique positioned.
	FD	Series of two vertical incisions, initiating under rim towards pot's shoulder.
	FE	Ornament of a geometric shape done through the means of incisions forming angles when joined.
	HB	Two plastic vertical applications, positioned one beneath the other, presenting the shape of elongated buttons.
	HC	Two plastic applications presenting the shape of small sized buttons, oblique positioned.
	HG	Plastic application presenting a quasi-circular shape and a center alveolation.
	HI	Three plastic applications presenting a quasi-rectangular shape, horizontally positioned one beneath the other.
	HJ	Row of for plastic applications presenting a quasi-rectangular shape, vertically positioned.

	HO	Plastic V-shaped application, down-oriented having the opening towards pottery's rim.
	HP	Two types of ornament combination presenting two plastic applications of rectangular shape, horizontally positioned one beneath the other; on both sides of applications there are pinches made by finger nails, presenting four horizontal rows placed one beneath the other.
	HR	Two plastic vertical applications, presenting the shape of elongated buttons, horizontally positioned one beneath the other in the close proximity of pottery's rim.
	HS	Two button-shaped plastic vertical applications, positioned one beneath the other.
	JO	Wavy vertical rows of barbotine.
	JP	Three oblique rows barbotine, adjacent two vertical rows initiating from the last oblique row.
	KG	Barbotine draw with the finger to the pottery vessel's base.
	MB	Belt shaped plastic alveolar application presenting oblique position.
	MC	Belt-shaped plastic alveolar application presenting horizontal position.
	MD	Belt-shaped plastic alveolar application presenting U-shape.
	ME	Two rows of plastic alveolar applications of rhombus shape, presenting vertical position.
	MF	Three rows of plastic small sized alveolar applications, presenting horizontal position.
	MG	Belt shaped plastic application presenting horizontal position, a triangle profile shape and rhombus dints.

	MH	Belt-shaped plastic application presenting horizontal position and three oval alveolations.
	MI	Belt-shaped plastic application presenting horizontal position slightly ascending to pot's rim on the right side; it presents rectangular dints.
	ML	Plastic application formed of two alveolar rows, horizonaly positioned.
	PC	Round-shaped stitch row made by a pointy object, presenting horizontal position, relatively closed one to each other.
	SC	Two types of ornaments combination presenting a horizontal incision of pot's surface under which there are stitches probably made by finger nail.
	TB	Two round-shaped stitches presenting successive horizontal position, made by a pointy object.
	TC	Row of relatively closed notches placed in the proximity of pottery's rim.
	TD	Three perforations positioned in a triangle shape, down oriented.
	TE	Two rows of horizontal impressions made by an object.
	TF	Finger top made impressions placed beneath pottery's rim**.**

Ornaments placed on the rim

ORNAMENT	CODE	DESCRIPTION
	C1	Stitches made by finger top and nail on the pottery's rim.
	C2	Deep oblique incisions, right oriented on pottery's rim.
	C3	Stitches made by finger top (no nail) on the pottery's rim.

	C4	Spaced alveolations on pottery's rim.
	C5	Two deep oblique incisions right oriented and adjacent a deep oblique one, left oriented, on pottery's rim.
	D1	Stitches made by finger nail on pottery's rim.
	D2	Series of incisions right orientated and placed in group of two, on pottery's rim.

The first data base for Starčevo-Criş ceramics in Romania was the one from Gura Baciului (Cluj County) and it contained more de 19.000 objects to which further information was added about contemporary ceramics from Serbia, Bulgaria and Hungary as well as from other sites in Romania (Maxim, Lazarovici 1995, 67-82).

The typological catalogues for rims, handles, bases, shapes and ornaments presented here represent only a phase of work, after analyzing 3000 fragments, other materials being still in process to be described, so that the catalogues should be enlarged if necessary (starting from 2004 the team in charge with the statistical analysis of the ceramic material from Miercurea Sibiului-*Petriş* is formed by this author and Florina Maria Nițu). Statistical results for the pottery from Miercurea Sibiului-*Petriş* site have been already published (Luca *et al.* 2008; Luca *et al.* 2008b). The information was also correlated and compared with the one from other Early Neolithic sites, like Gura Baciului and Şeuşa.

As a conclusion, interpretive errors of the results following archeological researches have been considerably reduced (as shown above) through the means of statistical analysis in archeology, through quantitatively study of a great phenomenon, and with the help of data bases.

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