

ROMAN PERIOD BARBARIAN SETTLEMENTS IN PARTIUM (NORTHWESTERN ROMANIA)

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The Upper Tisza region, in other words the area including present-day northwestern Romania, northeastern Hungary, Carpathian Ruthenia in Ukraine and eastern Slovakia, comprised a unified historical geographic region during the time of the Roman Empire. The material culture of this region developed in a uniform manner in the 2nd–5th centuries A.D. and belonged to the Przeworsk archaeological culture now linked by research to the Vandals, with numerous local characteristics. While in the Polish areas of the Przeworsk culture cremation cemeteries with large numbers of graves represent the most important source for archaeological materials, in the area we are examining we have up to this point relied primarily on excavations of settlements. In general it can be stated that archaeological research based on find materials from cemeteries is able to provide much more precise chronological conclusions and settlement excavations provide far less proof for the study of the development of particular types of objects. However, in our case there has been an opportunity to elaborate a certain pattern of development due to the large scale and rapid changes in the manufacture of pottery. In drawing this up we have built upon the last two decades of settlement excavations, on the basis of which numerous questions arise concerning the changes in the area's population and the functioning and hierarchy of the settlements.

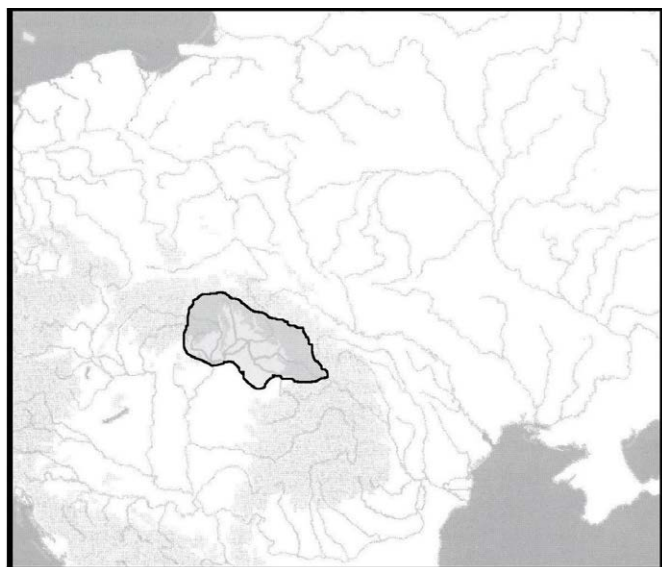


Fig. 1: The geographic extent of the Upper Tisza region

Fig. 2: The geographic location of the archaeological sites mentioned in the essay

A smaller unit of the Upper Tisza region, the Someș Plain, must have been densely populated during the period we are studying. As the location of the main road leading into the province of Dacia through the Meseș Pass and to the city of Porolissum, together with the Crasna region it linked the Roman Empire and the Germanic areas to the north. At the same time, the development of the region under discussion cannot be likened to the similarly densely populated Quadi territories in western Slovakia, where the Roman presence was far more significant and lasted much longer, it being a neighbor of Pannonia.

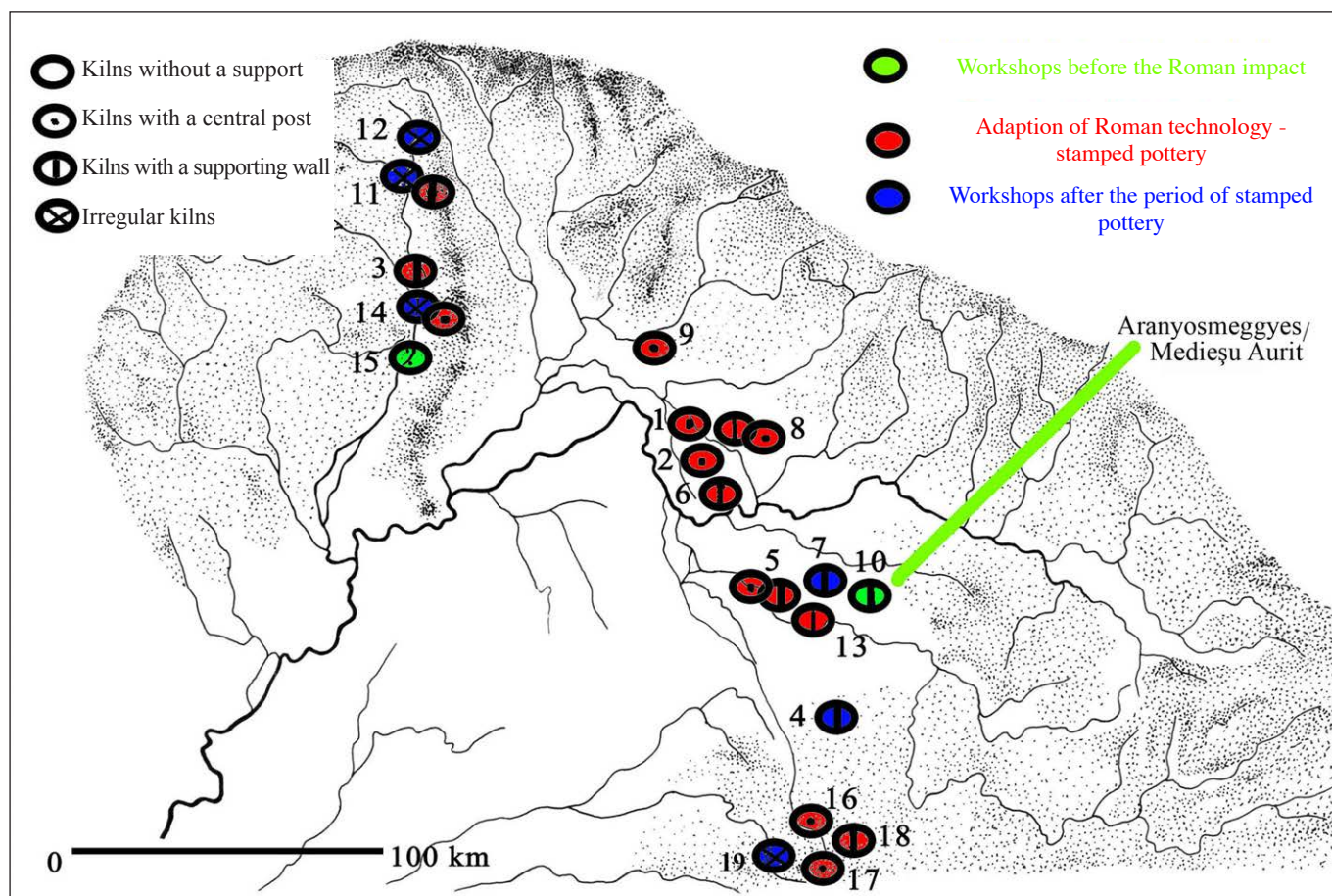


Fig. 3: Pottery kilns in the Upper Tisza region

1. Beregovo (Beregszász) VI. 2A. Beregsurany-Barátságkert. 2B. Lužanka (Luzánka)-Sad Drujby. 3. Blažice-Bohdanovce (Balogd)-Dorina. 4. Bolda (Felsőboldád)-La spini. 5. Čičarovce (Csicser)-Veľka Moľva. 6. Csengersima-Petea-Vám. 7. Csoma. 8. Lazuri (Lázári)-Ratul lui Bela. 9. Malýe Ratkovce (Kisráska). 10. Medieșu Aurit (Aranyosmeggyes)-Șuculeu. 11. Ostrovany (Osztrópatak)-Nad Imunou. 12. Prešov (Eperjes) III. 13. Satu Mare (Szatmárnémeti)-Ferule 2.-4. 14. Šebastovce-Barca (Bárca)-Zebes. 15. Trstene pri na Hornade (Abaujnádasd)-Hernád terasz. 16. Zalău (Zilah)-Valea Mații-Bazinele PECO. 17. Zalău (Zilah)-Bd. Mihai Viteazu 104-106. 18. Zalău (Aghireș) Zilah (Egrespatak)-Sub Pășune.

DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE SOMEȘ PLAIN IN LIGHT OF THE SETTLEMENT EXCAVATED AT THE CSENGERSIMA-PETEA SITE

Prior to the renovation of the Hungarian-Romanian border checkpoint at Csengersima-Petea in 1997–98 we uncovered a settlement from the imperial period, a small portion of which lay in the territory of present-day Romania, with the majority in present-day Hungary.¹ The development of the settlement as has been reconstructed on the basis of the results of the excavation is characteristic of this process in general on the Someș Plain. Up until the Marcomannic Wars, that is until the 160s–170s, the settlement showed a farmstead-type character, or in other words it was comprised of isolated units lying on areas of higher ground separated from one another by several tens of meters. The excavated houses and square pits with burnt walls recall structures from Germanic villages, with parallels from the area of the Lugi/Buri tribes and later the Przeworsk culture linked with the Vandals.² Included amongst the pottery found in the fill of the houses and pits were vessels of Germanic type, although made without a potter's wheel, reminiscent of the work of the Dacians. The majority of these fragments come from storage vessels. Amongst the wheel-turned pieces that made up

¹ The full scope of publications on the settlement: Gindele, Robert – Istvánovits, Eszter: *Die römische Siedlung von Csengersima-Petea* (Satu Mare: Editura Muzeului Sătmărean, 2009); Gindele, Robert – Istvánovits, Eszter: *Die römische Töpferöfen von Csengersima-Petea* (Satu Mare: Editura Muzeului Sătmărean, 2011).

² Michałowski, Andrzej: *Osady kultury przeworskiej z terenów ziem polskich* (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 2003).

about a half of the ceramic finds there are also those – the bowls – that show a Dacian influence. On the basis of all this it seems that up until the wars a more or less mixed Germanic-Dacian population lived on the Someș Plain. The Germanic inhabitants living here before the Marcomanic Wars can be linked to the Buri tribe mentioned in written sources. The tribe is mentioned in connection with Trajan's Dacian wars, fighting in alliance with the Dacians. The members of this tribe can be identified with the graves found in the immediate vicinity of the Dacian fort at Mala Kopanya, Ukraine (near Vynohradiv).³

The profile of the settlement changed during the time of the Marcomannic Wars. There were Germanic type semi-subterranean houses with 3 post holes on each of the shorter sides and surface structures outlined by rows of post holes organized like a street on the terraces of the stream running through the settlement, and these were surrounded by outbuildings. The ceramic vessels of the inhabitants were almost all produced without a potter's wheel and can be linked to the Przeworsk culture. The appearance of the new material culture in terms of pottery can be observed in general in the Upper Tisza region, and without any doubt reflects the large-scale migration of the bearers of the Przeworsk culture. The research identifies this population with the Vandals on the basis of written sources. The migration was certainly rapid, but at the same time may have been a complex process and did not occur in the exact same manner everywhere. For example, at the Csengersima-Petea settlement the new inhabitants built their houses next to those of the old residents. In contrast with this, the settlements along the Roman limes identified in the territories of the present-day Romanian towns of Hereclean and Panic were newly established, while at Moftinu Mic-Merli tag a Vandal farmstead settlement pattern was discovered with houses standing further from one another. However, among the material finds discovered at these settlements it was not possible to distinguish pieces dating from the time of the Marcomannic Wars from those dating from the following period.

On the basis of the material finds that show links in various directions, we can conclude that the population, which increased significantly as a result of the Vandal migration, may also have had a mixed ethnic composition. At certain settlements the finds are essentially exclusively Germanic, while elsewhere they are mixed with other types to a greater or lesser extent. There are instances where the fill of the same archaeological feature included both Germanic and Dacian archaic hand-made pottery. It seems that the Vandals adopted the use of wheel-thrown pottery from the local free Dacian inhabitants to a broad extent, and began to produce their own biconical bowls on a wheel.

The practices in the manufacture of pottery changed radically at the middle of the 3rd century in the area under study, demonstrably as a result of influences coming from the direction of Porolissum in Dacia. The most conspicuous new feature is that even here in barbarian lands they began to produce the so-called Porolissum-type gray stamped ware. Essentially the entire set of forms for ceramic wares changed. The number of workshops rocketed and Roman type pottery kilns with a central support post appeared. This phenomenon was connected in all likelihood with the economic crisis in the Roman Empire; the craftsmen from Porolissum sought out

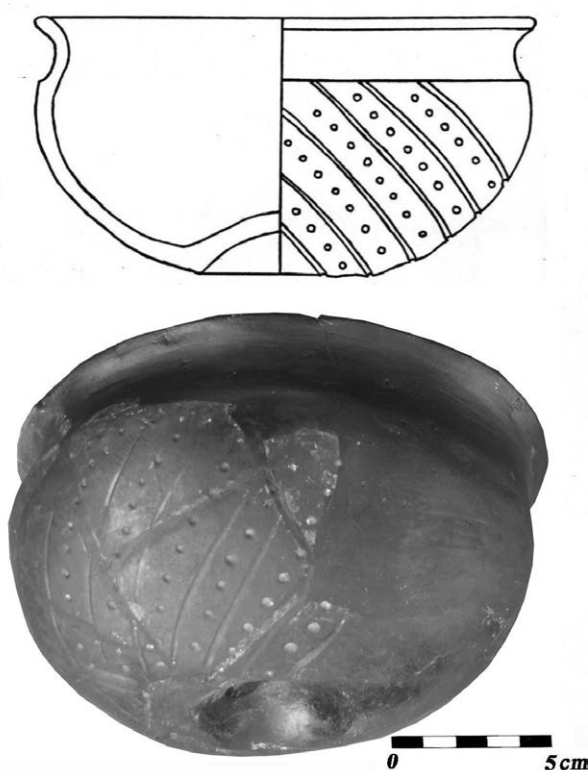


Fig. 4: German archaic, hand-made pottery (Przeworsk culture), Csengersima-Petea

³ Kotigorosko, Vjaceslav – Prohnenko, Igor – Ciubotă, Viorel – Gindele, Robert – Marta, Liviu: Necropola asezării fortificate de la Malaia Kopania / The Necropolis of Malaia Kopania Fortified Settlement. In: *Studii și Comunicări Satu Mare* 17–19/1, Seria Arheologie (2000–2004), 59–70.

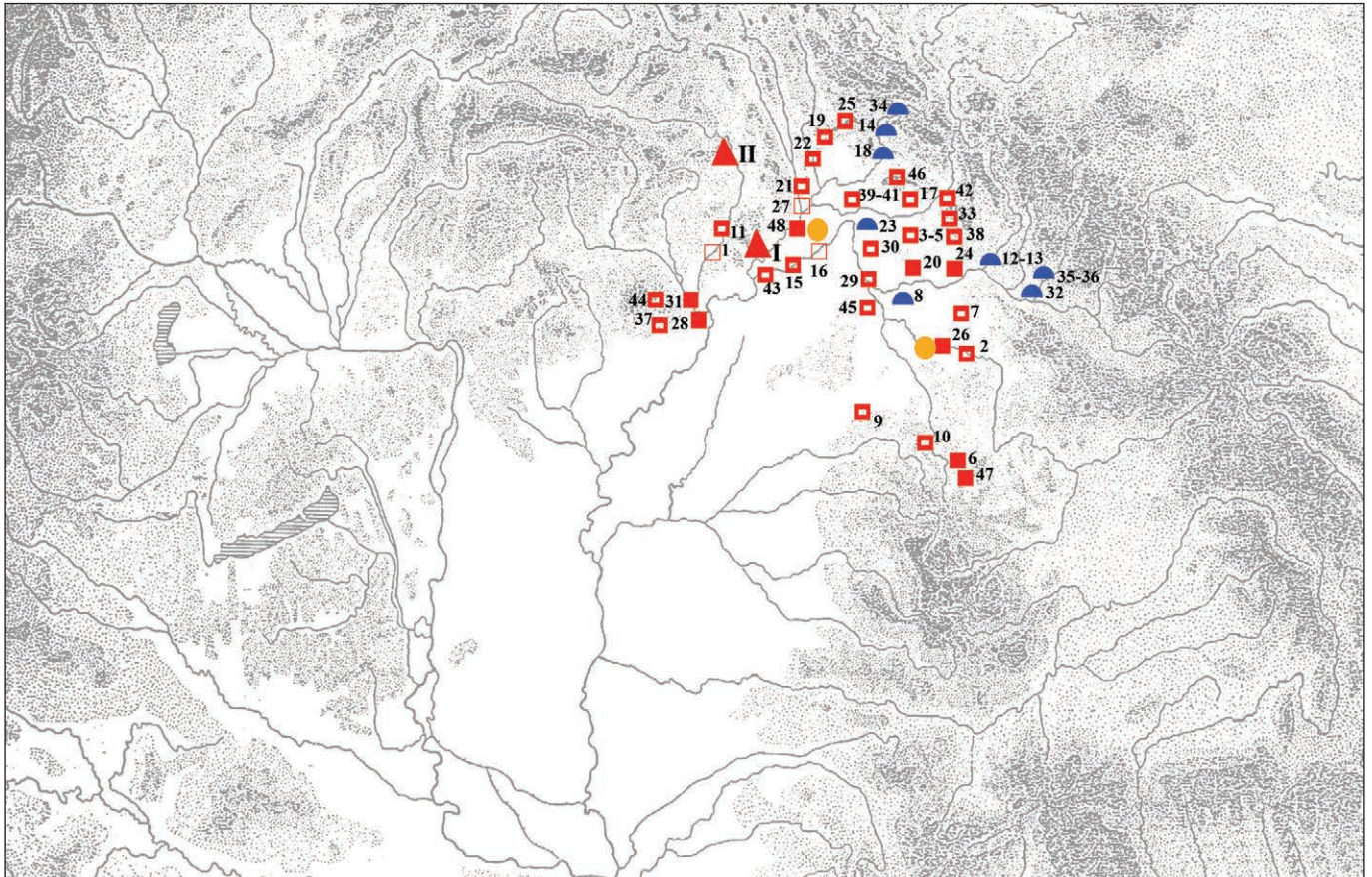


Fig. 5: Imperial period grave goods in the Upper Tisza region

Red squares: Przeworsk graves (filled in: uncovered during excavations, half filled in: grave goods uncovered by accident, empty: isolated finds presumably related to graves). Blue semicircles: Carpathian Kurgan culture Yellow circles: "free Dacian" graves

1. Abaújszántó-Sulyomdülő. 2. Apa-Kavicsbánya. 3. Ardanove (Ardánháza)-Rokutni. 4. Ardanove (Ardánháza)-Ternik.
5. Ardanove (Ardánháza)-Kosztici. 6. Badon (Bádon)-Doaște. 7. Boinești (Bujánháza)-Bélavárhegy. 8. Bratovo (Batár)-Halottdomb. 9. Cehăluț (Magyarcsaholy). 10. Crasna (Kraszna). 11. Gibárt. 12. Iza I. 13. Iza II. 14. Kal'nik (Beregsárrét).
15. Kékce. 16. Kisvárdá-TV-torony. 17. Klenovec (Frigyesfalva). 18. Ključarki (Várkulcsa). 19. Kvakovce (Nagykőpatak).
20. Kvasove (Kovászó)-Velikij Jarok. 21. Lastovce (Lasztóc). 22. Lesné (Leszna). 23. Liskove (Fornos). 24. Mala Kopanja (Kiskoppány)-Monasterice. 25. Mala Selmenci (Kisszelmenc). 26. Medieșu Aurit (Aranyosmeggyes). 27. Michal'any (Alsómihályi).
28. Muhi-Kocsmadomb. 29. Nagyvarsány-Hajnal utca. 30. Novoszelicja (Sósfalva)-Mocsár. 31. Nyékládháza-III. Kavicsbánya. 32. Novo Barovo (Újbárd). 33. Osij (Szajkófalva). 34. Packanyovo (Patakos). 35. Rus'ke Pole (Úrmező) I.
36. Rus'ke Pole (Úrmező) II. 37. Sirok (Ungarn). 38. Smolohovicja (Kisábránka). 39. Stanove (Szánfalva). 40. Stanove (Szánfalva)-Holoman. 41. Stanove (Szánfalva)-Kamennij Horb. 42. Svaljava (Szolyva). 43. Tizsakanyár. 44. Terpes.
45. Vásárosnamény. 46. Verhnja Viznicja (Felsőviznice). 47. Zaláu (Zilah)-Dealul Lupului. 48. Zemplen (Zemplén)-Szélmalomdomb

Graves of leaders: I. Cejkov. II. Ostrovany

new markets in the barbarian lands, and then they "relocated" the entire industry here. In earlier literature Dezső Csallány named this new set of forms the Bereg culture on the basis of the excavations at Beregsurány (Hungary).⁴ However, in my opinion we cannot talk about a new material culture that had functionally split from the previous one. The set of forms for pottery had indeed changed, as had burial customs, but this was true for the entire territory of the Przeworsk culture. Despite this, the characteristics of the structures and settlements were not transformed and in the settlements it cannot be demonstrated that the inhabitants had changed. The "new material culture" marked by the gray stamped ware only emerged on the level of pottery, and that quickly became independent of the Roman industry and followed its own development trajectory. Although more rarely, gray stamped ware could still be found in the Upper Tisza region at the end of the 4th

⁴ Csallány, Dezső: Die Bereg-Kultur. *Acta Antiqua et Archaeologica* 10 (1966), 87–88.



Fig 6: Porolissum-type stamped ware, Tășnad

century and beginning of the 5th century, when it had long been forgotten in Dacia.

The end of the 4th century and beginning of the 5th century brought changes in the character of the settlements. The settlement centers in the Someș Plain drew back from the main transportation routes, as they did in the western Slovakian areas. This can be clearly observed in the case of the pottery center excavated at the Lázári (Lazuri)-Béla-rét site, which was established 6 km to the north of the settlement on the main road on the banks of the Someș River known from the Csengersima-Petea site. Prior to this no industrial activities went on here, however after the Csengersima-Petea pottery center fell into disuse a new economic center developed at this remote location. The stamped ware faded away and a new form – faceted jugs – became the most characteristic type. These vessels that were articulated with vertical incisions on their shoulders appear in the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov culture, but they began to be produced on the Szamos Plain as well, in all likelihood as a result of elements from this culture drawing back to the west.

FREE DACIAN POTTERS' COLONY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MEDIEȘU AURIT

In recent years we have performed several excavations on the Someș Plain in the area of Medieșu Aurit, on the basis of which we have formed a more detailed profile of the area's development and the period prior to the manufacture of stamped ware, in other words the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century A.D. This pottery center is perhaps the best known western Romanian imperial period site in Romanian and international literature. Research began here in

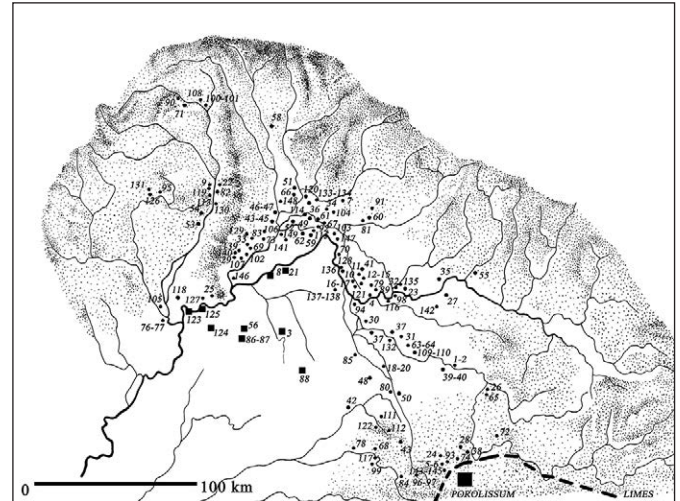


Fig. 7: Spread of the Porolissum- or Beregsurány-type stamped ware in the Upper Tisza region (black square: found in a Sarmatian context). For a list of the sites see: Gindele, Robert – Istvánovits, Eszter: *Die römzeitliche Töpferöfen von Csengersima-Petea* (Satu Mare: Editura Muzeului Sătmărean, 2011), 163–182.



Fig. 8: Faceted jug

1964 and in a few excavation seasons ten potter's kilns were unearthed. The excavations continued in the 1970s and in the 1990s. 74 graves from the cremation cemetery belonging to the settlement were also uncovered in the 1960s, although only four of these were published.⁵ The armaments of a Vandal warrior were discovered at a gravel pit on the outskirts of the neighboring town Apa in 1895 during railway construction, which may indicate a cemetery⁶

The systematic research into the Medieșu Aurit potters' settlement began again in 2008 with a geomagnetic survey. On the basis of the finds discovered on the surface it was surmised that there were several kilns hidden underground. At that time we were able to chart 25-30 extremely strong indications of these on 1.5 hectares. The surveys continued over the next two years and indications of about 200 of kilns turned up over an area of 18 hectares. Going by the saying "there's no archaeology without a shovel" the planned excavations began in 2011. Right in the first season we unearthed two pottery workshops with two kilns each, almost precisely to the centimeter where they were indicated from the surveys. On the basis of this it was confirmed that without a doubt we would be able to base our excavation strategy on the geophysical results. Naturally our work could not aim for the excavation of the entire area, since if we calculate a rate of 200 m² per season, the 20 hectares would take about 1,000 years to excavate without even considering the hundreds of tons of finds that would have filled several museums from the basement to the attic. Since we primarily wanted to study the internal chronology of the settlement, and on the basis of this the typological development of the pottery, we decided to excavate several workshops located at a certain distance from one another and compare their finds. In addition to this we opened excavation surfaces and trenches in the densest zone of the settlement, where we have documented numerous features superposed, on the basis of which we will be able to further refine the chronology.

Since 2011 we have been able to excavate at the Medieșu Aurit site every year and according to the present status of the research we are able to state the following:

The settlement was not established all at the same time, but continuously developed over the years from the south to the north. It definitely existed even in the period before the Marcomannic Wars, and a second phase of development can be isolated at the end of the 2nd century and beginning of the 3rd century (this latter period can be further refined on the basis of the superposed features). However, we have not been able to establish precisely when the settlement was established and when it was abandoned.

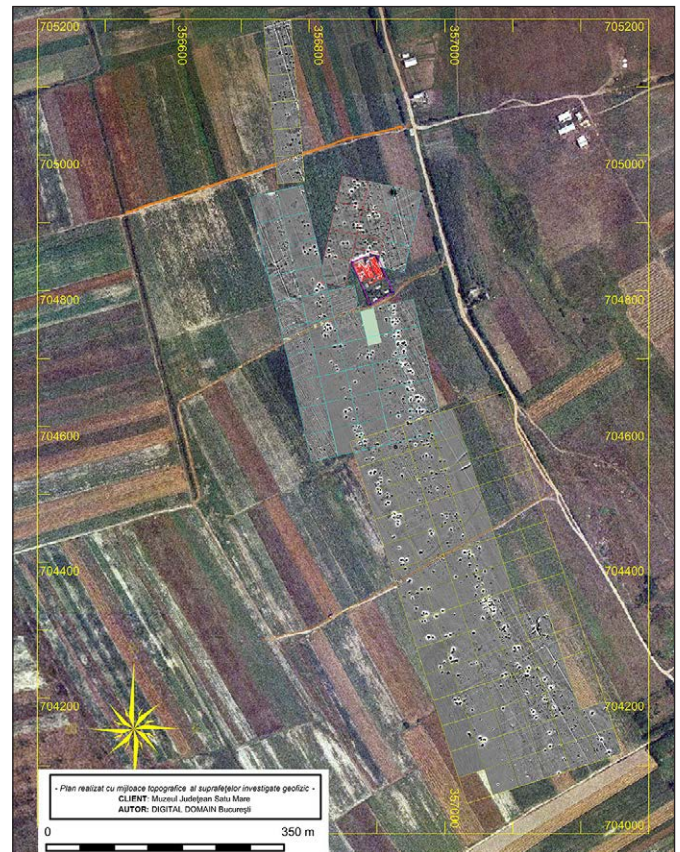


Fig. 9: Geomagnetic survey at the Medieșu Aurit potters' settlement. The black spots surrounded by a white "shadow" indicate pottery kilns. It can be observed that these are aligned in two rows with a street-like area between them. The site is bordered by the Racta Stream to the east and it borders a low area to the west. The extent of the site to the north and south has not yet been determined.

⁵ Dumitrașcu, Sever – Bader, Tiberius: *Așezarea dacilor liberi de la Medieșu Aurit / Die Siedlung der freien Daker von Medieșul Aurit* (Satu Mare: Muzeul de Istorie Satu Mare, 1967).

⁶ Unpublished. The finds can be seen in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest.



Fig. 10: Characteristic products of the Medieșu Aurit potters' settlement

The potters were specialized in the production of large wheel-turned storage vessels, but numerous other forms also appeared. In the second developmental phase of the settlement Roman type wheel-turned gritty pots also appeared in very small numbers, but we found no Porolissum-type gray stamped ware at all.

Two or three large – often more than 2 m in diameter – kilns with central support posts were related to the workpits. Next to the workshops we documented semi-subterranean outbuildings and wells and rows of post holes indicating surface structures. The semi-subterranean houses, whose roofs were supported by a post on each of the shorter sides, and the bell-shaped storage pits, in other words the settlement itself, were also located in the industrial section. The Medieșu Aurit settlement does not follow the pattern of the houses and storage pits being located separately from the workshops.⁷ Here these functions are intertwined in space, so we can speak of an industrial settlement.⁸

Without any doubt the population of the settlement can be connected to the so-called free Dacians, however in the second phase of development Germanic type pottery also appear, although only in small numbers. Today a library's worth of literature deals with the connection between ethnicity and archaeological finds or material culture, so perhaps the possibility of determining ethnicity from certain finds and types of vessels may seem strange. However, there are archaic, hand-formed types of pottery that were manufactured over many generations whose forms only slightly changed, and their occurrence can be well defined geographically. The "free Dacian" forms are primarily the vessels with finger-pressed ribbon decorations or plastic decorations, or the so-called Dacian cups that were also used for lighting; while black fine pottery and biconical vessels with a sharp break at the belly are characteristic of the Germanic people.



Fig. 11: Two pottery kilns fired from the same workpit at the Medieșu Aurit potters' settlement

⁷ For example, Zofipole and Kraków-Pleszów from the Przeworsk area in Poland, see Dobrzańska, Halina: Roman Period Grey Pottery Production near Cracow: Geographical, Technological and Social Dimensions. In: *Drehscheibentöpferei im Barbaricum. Technologietransfer und Professionalisierung eines Handwerks am Rande des Römischen Imperiums. Akten der Internationalen Tagung in Bonn vom 11. bis 14. Juni 2009*, hrsg. Jan Bemmann – Morten Hegewisch – Michael Meyer (Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 2011), 277. From the Upper Tisza region we can mention the Csengersima-Petea settlement as an example.

⁸ We know of a similar situation from the potters' colony excavated on the outskirts of Üllő (Hungary), see Istvánovits, Eszter – Kulcsár, Valéria – Mérai, Dóra: Roman Age Barbarian Pottery Workshops in the Great Hungarian Plain. In: *Drehscheibentöpferei im Barbaricum. Technologietransfer und Professionalisierung eines Handwerks am Rande des Römischen Imperiums. Akten der Internationalen Tagung in Bonn vom 11. bis 14. Juni 2009*, hrsg. Jan Bemmann – Morten Hegewisch – Michael Meyer (Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 2011), 357.



Fig. 12: Dacian cup, Medieșu Aurit

At Medieșu Aurit the former appear in quite large numbers, while at other settlements the latter can be detected almost exclusively. There are even settlements where both types of pottery are present in the fill of the same house. I interpret the intermingling of the two material cultures as the intermingling of the two ethnic groups, although in no way would I like to oversimplify the issues of the relationship of ethnicity and material culture. However, in the area I have examined I consider the indicator value of archaic hand-made pottery to be indisputable, and this set of issues will be the topic of a separate essay in the future.

According to the current status of research into barbarian lands in Europe the Medieșu Aurit site is the largest pottery center in terms of the number of kilns⁹ This can be explained by several factors. The shaping and firing of large storage vessels required a higher level of expertise than the production of smaller vessels, and therefore certainly not every potter was familiar with the technology, making the prices for these vessels quite a bit higher. Perhaps the local raw materials may have factored into the development of a large center. The second reason can be found in the extensive and rapid growth of the market, since the population increased significantly through the large scale immigration of Germanic peoples around the Marcomannic Wars.

Here we must mention the possible connections between the potters' colonies of Medieșu Aurit and southern Poland. The latter began to operate following the Marcomannic Wars, and while their kilns were smaller in size they had central support posts almost without exception. I believe that the southern Polish pottery centers began to operate as a result of a technological transfer initiated from Medieșu Aurit, or in other words the technology of wheel-turned pottery came from here. Similar to the process at the middle of the 3rd century when the stamped pottery spread from Porolissum to the barbarian lands, here also it is difficult to determine whether the craftsmen from Medieșu Aurit resettled to the Vandal territories in present-day southern Poland or whether the people there simply learned the technology.

The surveying of the Medieșu Aurit settlement is still underway and we do not know its precise extent. Therefore, we cannot know whether kilns from later dates will also be found, in which they may have made Porolissum-type gray stamped ware. Nor can we rule out, however, that it may have been precisely



Fig. 13: "Free Dacian" archaic, hand-made pot with plastic decoration, Medieșu Aurit

⁹ Comprehensive literature: Bemann, Jan – Hegewisch, Morten – Meyer, Michael (Hrsg.): *Drehscheibentöpferei im Barbaricum. Technologietransfer und Professionalisierung eines Handwerks am Rande des Römischen Imperiums. Akten der Internationalen Tagung in Bonn vom 11. bis 14. Juni 2009* (Bonn: Vor- und Frühgeschichtliche Archäologie Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 2011).

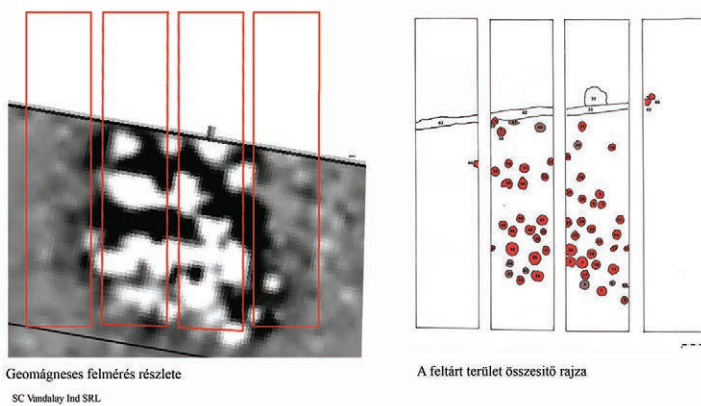


Fig. 14: Comparison of the geomagnetic survey and the excavation results at Ioşib



Fig. 15: Unearthing of the remains of the sod iron smelting furnaces



Fig. 16: Reconstruction of the functioning of the uncovered sod iron smelting furnaces

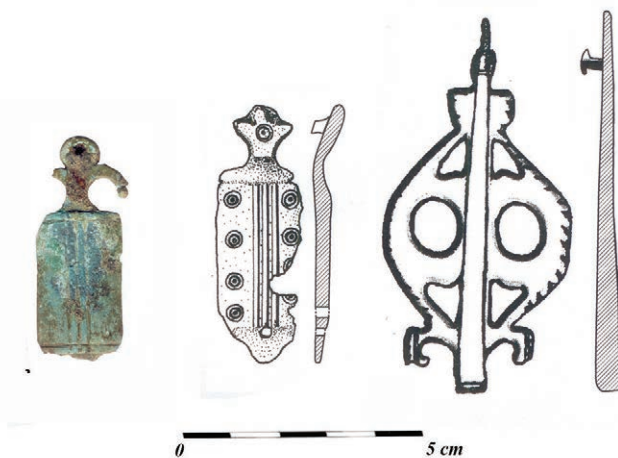


Fig. 17: Roman military type items of apparel from the potters' settlement (1, 2: decorative bronze belt fittings; 3: Beneficarius emblem, which a soldier with a *principalis* rank acting on behalf of the proconsul would wear on their clothing)

the appearance of the new technology from Porolissum that brought about the end of the Medieşu Aurit center.

INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND SATELLITE SETTLEMENTS ON THE SOMEŞ PLAIN

About 10 km from the potters' colony, at the site of Ioşib-Colonia Ioşibului, another industrial center was discovered in 2014. This time the archaeologists uncovered 52 sod iron smelting furnaces in a 15x15 meter area. On the basis of the surface traces it can be hypothesized that this group of furnaces comprised a part of a heretofore completely unknown, much larger industrial area of tens of hectares. We are presently working out what strategy to use to investigate the newly discovered site. The recent excavations will in all certainty significantly expand our knowledge related to the development of the iron industry in barbarian lands.

In connection with other Central European iron smelting centers the idea has arisen that perhaps these produced crude iron for the Roman Empire. We do not consider it out of the question that the aforementioned pottery firing and iron smelting centers that existed and operated at the same time in close proximity also produced goods for the province of Dacia. Naturally, a more reliable answer to this question can only be provided by scientific examinations combined with archaeological typologies. The military-style

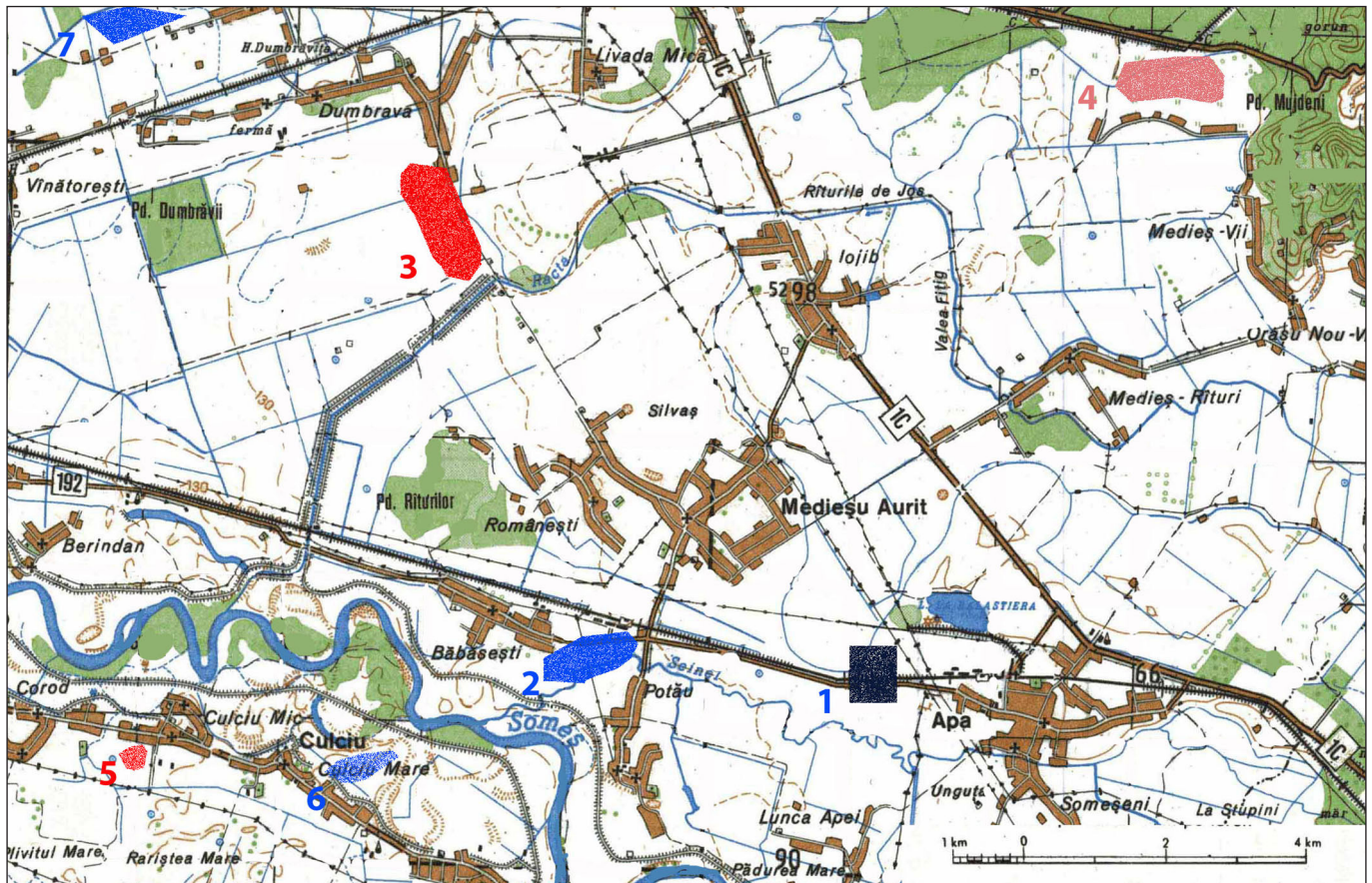


Fig. 18: Map of the micro-region with the excavation sites

1. Apa-Kavicsbánya. The presumed site of the Vandal warrior's grave goods now in the collection of the Hungarian National Museum
2. Aranyosmeggyes (Medieșu Aurit)-Schweitzer-tag. Vandal settlement containing square pits with burnt walls and rows of post holes suggesting surface structures
3. Aranyosmeggyes (Medieșu Aurit)-Șuculeu. "Free Dacian" pottery center
4. Józsefháza (Iojib)-Colonia Iojibului. Sod iron smelting center
5. Kiskolcs (Culciu Mic)-Völgyhát. "Free Dacian" type settlement
6. Nagykolcs (Culciu Mare)-Bagiláz. Vandal settlement. Site of the Straže-Sakrau type silver brooch
7. Sárköz (Livada)-Photovoltaic park. Vandal settlement containing square pits with burnt walls

belt fittings and elements of apparel (including a beneficiarius emblem) found at the Medieșu Aurit potters' settlement suggests close connections to the Roman Empire. These types of finds are extremely rare in the Upper Tisza region in a non-Sarmatian context and southern Polish barbarian territories, while five examples have already been discovered just at the potters' settlement. Therefore, the presence of Roman soldiers at a barbarian industrial settlement 100 kilometers from the limes cannot be ruled out at all, or even that the settlement was for a time under Roman military control.

Rescue excavations in recent years have also made it possible to examine the so-called satellite settlements, inhabited areas in the vicinity that at first glance are smaller and less significant, but are related to the industrial centers. A section of a settlement next to former trade route running along the northern terrace of the Someș River floodplain was excavated in 2003 prior to the laying of gas lines. This consisted of the remains of a structure in the form of a few rows of post holes and square pits with burnt walls (Medieșu Aurit-Schweitzer tag site). We also found pits of this type with burnt walls in 2013 on the territory of the Livada Photovoltaic Park, and they are familiar in general from the Upper Tisza region in Hungary.¹⁰ Their forms and their fill are surprisingly uniform; they are rectangular with rounded corners, their dimensions vary between 70–100 and

¹⁰ Most recently Eszter Soós reported on these. Soós, Eszter: Császárkori ipari (?) tevékenység nyomai a Hernád völgyében / The Signs of Roman Age Industry in the Hernád-Valley. *Archeometriai Műhely* 2011/4 (2011), 329–336.



Fig. 19: Silver brooch from Culciu Mare



Fig. 20: Gold pendant from Suplacu de Barcău

100–150 cm, their walls are burnt to a depth of 1-3 cm and their bottoms are not burnt but are covered in a thick layer of charcoal and ash. They are oriented in a north-south direction. They can be linked to a Germanic cultural context, but their function has not yet been determined with certainty. Outside the Upper Tisza region in general they appear at the Polish settlements of the Przeworsk culture and rarely in the border areas of the culture as well, in the areas of western Slovakia and Moravia.¹¹ Their large numbers suggests that they served a purpose for some everyday industrial activity related to some kind of burning or smoking. At the same time, due to their regular north-south orientation unrelated to the local prevailing winds they most likely may have had some ritual role as well. These settlements, which without any doubt can be linked exclusively to the Germanic peoples, were a few kilometers from the “free Dacian” pottery center, and existed at the same time. This is also shown by the wheel-turned pottery that has been found, which completely conforms to the forms produced at the potters’ settlement and faithfully reflects the process by which the Germanic people who were flooding in adopted the use of the local free Dacian wheel-turned pottery.

During the study of the relationship between the industrial centers and the satellite settlements, in addition to the identification of ethnicity, the question may also arise as to which of these may have been the actual centers of power. Did the inhabitants of these industrial settlements located slightly away from the main commercial routes represent the upper strata of barbarian society, who in all likelihood organized, supervised and directed the production and sale of the goods on the market? Or might the residents of the smaller, farmstead-style settlements that were located on the main road have been in control? The answer and the complex nature of this question is suggested by the prestige objects found at seemingly simple settlements, such as a Straže-Sakrau-type brooch with filigree decoration from Culcius Mare and a gold bucket pendant from Suplacu de Barcău.

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