

SOME REMARKS CONCERNING THE TURDAȘ AND TĂUĂLAȘ GROUPS

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Wellknown in the archaeological literature, even from the second half of the XIX century, the neolithic settlement from Turdaș was definitively admitted in the scientific field when both the results of the excavations made by Marton Roska in 1910 (ROSKA 1928; 1942, 287–290) and of the Sofia Torma collection (ROSKA 1941) were issued.

On the basis of these materials, Milutin Garašanin, in his monography on Vinča in order to name the early stage of this civilization (GARAŠANIN 1951; 1973; 1979).

This terminology was taken over by D. Berciu, N. Vlassa and other archaeologists. Perceiving the difference between the materials from Turdaș and those of Vinča area, I. Paul uses the term of Turdaș for whole evolution of the eponym settlement and of Transsylvania Vinča culture (PAUL 1965, 298; 1969, 43; 1981, fig. 18, 21 and 231, 233; 1992, 129 and tabel 2; 1995, 68).

Gh. Lazarovici distinguishes two phases in the evolution of the Vinča communities in Transsylvania: one of them called Vinča, that covers the phase A and, partially, the phase B, and a late stage, in which there are materials typical for Turdaș culture (LAZAROVICI 1997a, 223–277; 1997b, 1979, 123, 132, 135; 1981, 181–185; 1987, 34–40).

Z. Kalmar and myself, reinterpreting the discoveries from Turdaș, consider that the beginning of living here can't be earlier than Vinča C1 phase (KALMAR 1991, 5; DRAȘOVEAN 1993, 166) as well as all the other Turdaș settlements along the Mureș Valley (DRAȘOVEAN 1996, 93–100) On the basis of these arguments we consider the use of terms like Turdaș, Vinča-Turdaș and Turdaș-Vinča – when defining the early stage of Vinča culture – as being inappropriate (DRAȘOVEAN 1996, 93–94). We can talk about a Turdaș group only at the Vinča C1 chronological horizon.

Approximately at 20 km, westward of Turdaș, there is a settlement at Deva-Tăuălaș that was excavated in 1994 and 1947 by H. Dumitrescu and M. Macrea. The materials discovered here thanks to an important presence of the painted pottery represented a special art if compared to the materials from Turdaș culture area and they integrated in the new created Tăuălaș Group. This group was parallelized with Vinča B. (DUMITRESCU, 1996; 1984; LAZAROVICI-DUMITRESCU, 1986). At a more attentive analysis, all the materials from Tăuălaș from the inferior stratum can be synchronized towards the end of Vinča B2 stag and the beginning of Vinča C1 stage for that the supe-

rior stratum, which abounds in painted materials to be put in parallels with Vinča C1 (LAZAROVICI-DUMITRESCU, 1986, 15, 18, 19, 26).

From what we have already told, the two settlements from Turdaş and Tăuălaş, the first level, are partially contemporary. Also, the vessels processing technology, the shapes and the decorations are similar. Thus, the clay is mixed up with fine micaceous sand, then it is burnt to red-orange and to brick colour. In the case of the fine pottery, the vessels usually have a smooth surface, only a lesser quantity being burnished (ROSKA, 1928, 9; DUMITRESCU 1984, 11; 1986, 22–24; LAZAROVICI 1991, 115–120).

The shapes are common. Thus, the quadrilater vessel, decorated with dotted-incised bands – characteristic for Turdaş group – is also frequently met among the materials from Tăuălaş. (DUMITRESCU 1984, pl. V/2, 7, 9, 11, 12; 1986, fig. 1/1, 6, 8, 11, 13; 3/3, 7, 10). This situation can also be noticed in the case of the high pedestaled bowls (DUMITRESCU 1984, 13–14; 1986, fig. 4/10), of carinated and tronconic vessels (DUMITRESCU 1984, 14; 1986, 17).

The decorations of the pottery from the two settlements are similar. Thus, dotted-incised bands (DUMITRESCU 1984, pl. III; IV; V; VIII–XVII; XIX–XXI) the meandering and zig-zag patterns (DUMITRESCU 1984, pl. VII; XII/1, 7, 8, 11–14; XXV; 1986, fig. 3/1, 6, 15; 7/1–6) are a characteristic of the Turdaş group (ROSKA 1928, fig. 27/3–6, 11; 28/6–8, 10; 1941, pl. LXXXI/6, 15; LXXXII/5; XCII/6, 9, 14; XCIII/4–7, 10; CVI/6, 7; CVII/14, 17, 18; CVIII/9; LXXXII/13; LXXXV/1; CIV/2, 5; CIX/6, 10; CX/12, 15). This patterns have been noticed even for three decades ago, but the presence of the painted pottery with a black colour and, seldomer, a red one in the settlement of Tăuălaş determined the researchers to consider the discoveries from Tăuălaş as being a part of a special cultural group which was named Tăuălaş group.

After a more attentive analysis, we can also find that, among the materials of Sofia Torma's collection from Turdaş, there are some painted sherd (ROSKA 1941, pl., in a similar manner to that of those from Tăuălaş (DUMITRESCU, 1986, pl. I/1, 3–8; II/1, 2, 5, 6, 14, 15). Moreover, a series of settlements from the same region (Zlaşti, DRAŞOVEAN-MARIS 1997), Pianul de Jos (PAUL 1969, 50 and pl. 1) belonging to Turdaş group, contains all these elements. In conclusion, all those arguments show that between the materials from Turdaş and those of Tăuălaş there are not essentially cultural and chronological differences that could determine us to integrate them in different cultural groups. Consecvently, we should abandon one of these names, and the researches from Turdaş will have to define more precisely the cultural content of the Turdaş group.

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