

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN VINČA C AND TISA, HERPÁLY, PETREȘTI AND BUCOVĂȚ CULTURES IN NORTHERN BANAT

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Archaeological research undertaken in northern Banat during the recent years provides an account of a series of cultural relations and synchronisms between the Vinča culture, phase C and other civilisations of the neighbouring areas.

Vinča C — Tisa Relations

A series of finds, mentioning here those of Hodoni, Cenad, Zorlențu Mare, Chișoda and Parța II, serve to provide the evidence for the relationships between Vinča C — Tisa in Banat. At Hodoni, in the pit 4 — assigned to Vinča C₁ — the investigation has revealed a pottery fragment composed of a mixture of paste and pounded potsherds, which has a black colour caused by the fire. It is ornamented with wide incisions arranged in meanders, around finger-impressions which fill the interval between the meanders and the rim, are notched. In our opinion, it probably belongs to the early phase of Tisa culture (fig. 3).

From Cenad sites comes pottery — unfortunately without a certain stratigraphic assigning — decorated with specific motives for the early Tisa culture. The firing technology and glazeing, however, establish links with Vinča C technology.

From Zorlențu Mare, level III — assigned to Vinča C — comes a pot with a foot, whose ornaments have analogies with Veszto-Mágor, in early Tisa (fig. 1).

At Chișoda Veche and Parța II, imported Tisa pottery has been revealed, but apparently at least with reference to Chișoda, the pot framing to this culture belongs to the classical phase.

In any case, for Banat the above statement entitles to us to infer the synchronism between early Tisa — Vinča C₁. This parallelism also applies to south-west Transilvania, where, in the layer II of Mintia, an

early Tisa imported sherd has been revealed in association with Vinča C pottery and Precucuteni I materials.

Vinča C — Herpály Relations

From the pit 5 of the Vinča C₁ site at Hodoni comes a brown-orange pottery fragment, ornamented with narrow lines, painted in black after firing, (fig. 2) that has analogies with the early phase (levels 10—9) of the Herpály site. This discovery confirms the parallels between Vinča C — early Herpály, but it contradicts the received opinion concerning the priority of early Tisa culture as related to the beginnings of the Herpály group.

Vinča C — Petrești Relations

The relationship between Vinča C — Petrești is revealed by a series of discoveries made in Banat, in the last fifteen years at Foieni (the Orthodox Cemetery), Parța II, Chișoda, Unip, Parța I and Folea. Unfortunately, except Parța I and Chișoda, Petrești pottery has not been found in a stratigraphic position. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that in Banat Petrești materials always appear where Vinča C sites are found.

At Chișoda Veche, a Petrești import has been discovered in layer II and the dating of layer II, as well as of the lower layer it was determined as being Vinča C. A similar situation has been recorded at Parța I, where in the research from 1984 brought out two painted fragments in the ruins of houses 35, 36, beneath the Tiszapolgár level. These pieces belong to the same pot that is typical for Petrești culture. All these materials are consistent with the phase AB of this civilization.

From a typological viewpoint, the great majority show biconical forms and ornaments painted in black and cherry-red. In addition there are vessels which show the beginnings of carination, ornamented in cherry-red on a chalky-white engobe background, and monochromatic cherry coloured potsherds. These elements may provide evidence for a link with early Petrești culture alone — exactly like the biconical forms. It is clear that differences can be identified between the materials from Banat and those of Transilvania in the sense that the former do not cover the whole range of Transilvanian Petrești pottery ornaments, yet the above-mentioned ornaments imply a convergence, particularly in the characteristics of the early phase. On the other hand, however, the drawing of parallels between phase A and Vinča C is supported by the stratigraphic evidence at Mintia. This represents the basis for our integration hypothesis especially in the phase A of Petrești pottery discovered in Banat until the present time. This hypothesis is also based on the discovery of early Petrești imported sherds in the Tisa area-geographically closed to Banat than to southern Transilvania, where Petrești A sites merge. For Banat, the future research is needed to validate this assumption, although the synchronism Petrești-Vinča C is already evident.

Vinča C — Bucovăț group Relations

In the latest research undertaken at Hodoni and Chișoda, carried out in layers and complexes assigned to Vinča C₁, several pottery fragments of Bucovăț group have been revealed. According to the criteria established by Gh. Lazarovici they fit into the phase II and II/III. Consequently, Bucovăț IIb — Vinča B₂ synchronism cannot be sustained any further, as the end of phase II and the beginning of the phase III are contemporary with Vinča C₁.

Concluding, for northern Banat we can demonstrate the synchronism Vinča C₁ — Bucovăț II, II/III — early Herpály — early Tisa, Petrești A.

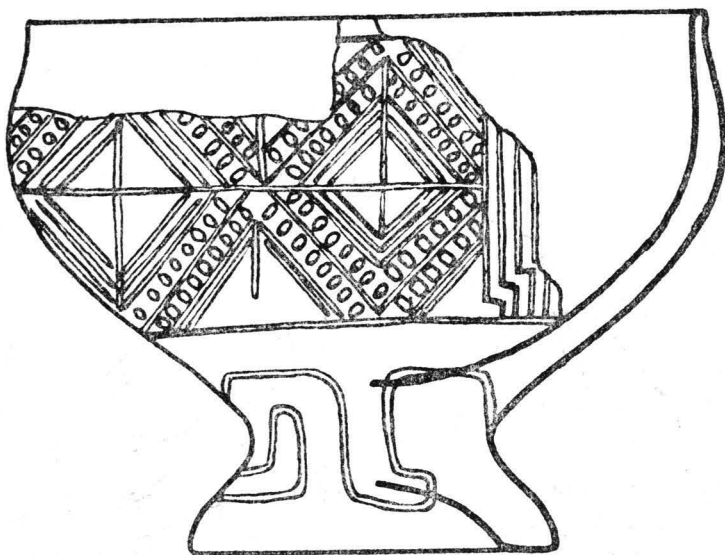


Fig. 1. Zorlențu Mare. Pot with a foot. Import early Tisa (?).

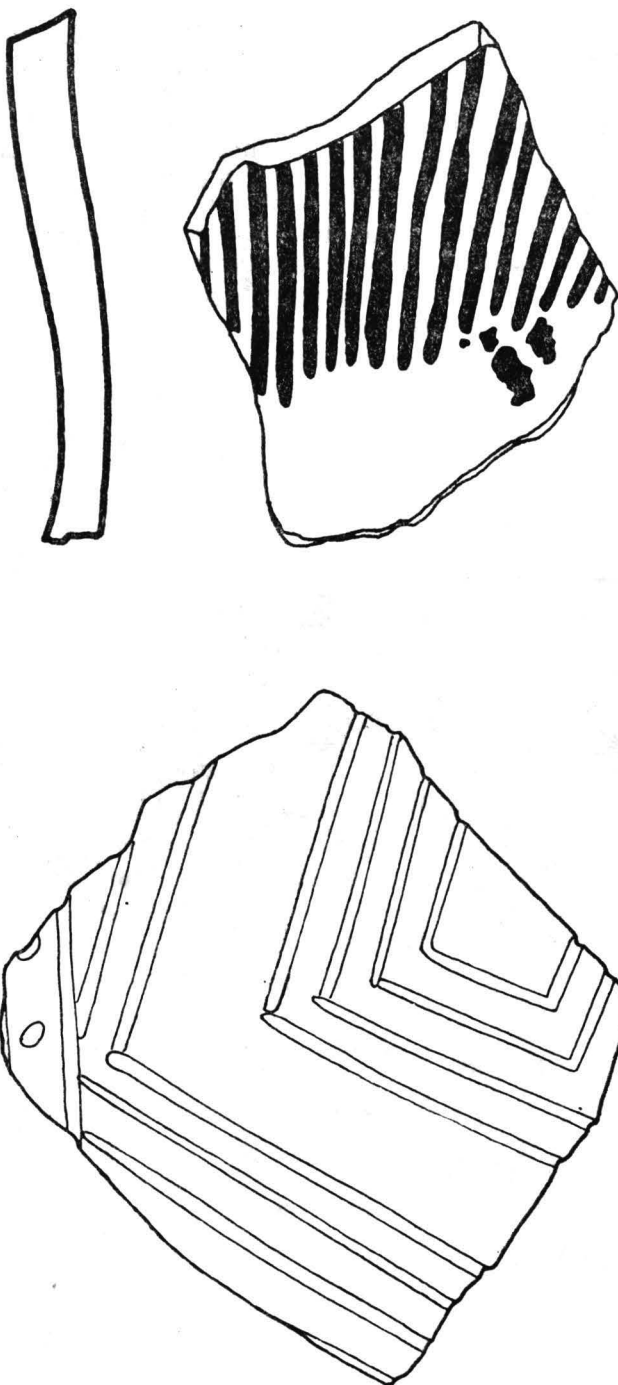


Fig. 2. Hodoni-Pit 5, import Herpály; 3. Hodoni-Pit 4, import early Tisa.