

ABOUT THE SÂNTANA DE MUREȘ CULTURE ON THE LOWER ARGEȘ RIVER

Abstract: The authors make a synthetic review of the last find concerning the Sântana de Mureș Culture on the Argeș route in the Giurgiu County. There are small settlements, with above ground, or deepened shelters, as well installations for burning pottery. Most of the sites are located on the high terrace from the right side of the river, others, and few on the lower one or on the banks of some valleys that „flow” into the river.

Keywords: Giurgiu County, Argeș River, Sântana de Mureș discoveries.

The Giurgiu County is bordered south and north by two running waters of the southern Romania. In the first case, we refer to the Danube, while, when referring to part of the northern border of the county, to the Argeș river. This running water crosses obliquely from the north to the south and from northwest to the northeast.

The archaeological investigations, being either survey, rescue or systematic ones, had enabled the identification, in several ranges on the banks of the Argeș River of some spots with archaeological vestiges. The first of them, rendered from west to the east, are those two sites identified on the territory of the locality, in the commune Vânătorii Mici. One of the spots with Sântana de Mureș pottery had been found on the north border of the village, while the second in the perimeter called *La Cazan* (Schuster 2007: 43 with lit. and pl. I/32-33).

Downstream, on the Argeș, in the extravilan Bolintin Vale town, in the area situated upon the higher terrace of the river, some surveys had resulted in the identification of sporadically ceramic fragments (Schuster 2007: 43 and pl. I/1). The same category of archaeological material, but richer in quantity, was also documented at Drăgănescu, Mihăilești town, more precisely on a height on the right bank of the Argeș (Schuster 2007: 43 and pl. I/2).

In the range of the same village, on the bank of the artificial lake from Mihăilești-Cornetu, in the area of the church and the modern cemetery (Schuster 2007: 43 and pl. I/35), some Sântana de Mureș fragments had been also recovered. We should mention here that rescue investigations, carried out by Bogdan Tănăsescu around the church had not confirmed the existence on that spot of an archaeological layer that could have belonged to the mentioned culture.

South-east from Mihăilești, on the territory of the Adunații-Copăcenii commune, several spots with Sântana de Mureș vestiges had been identified. Even in the residential village of the commune, bearing the same name, such ceramics

* Institutul de Arheologie Vasile Pârvan București, cristianshuster@yahoo.com.

** Muzeul Județean Teohari Antonescu, Giurgiu, muzeuljudeteangiurgiu@gmail.com.

had been identified in five locations. Five of them were situated on the higher right terrace of the Argeş. From west to east, the first spot of interest was found in the area known under the local denomination of „*La Vie*”-*Punctul 2* (Schuster 2007: 43 and pl. I/3). There, could have been investigated the remains of two above ground dwellings.

About 200 m east from the mentioned complexes, right on the edge of the terrace, traces of an oven could be detected (Schuster 2007: 45 and pl. I/7). It is hard to establish if it was one for pottery burning or was a domestic one. Unfortunately, the objective conditions did not allow us to study them.

On the spot „*La Porcărie*” had been documented the third site of Sântana de Mureş type (Schuster 2007: 43-44 with lit. and pl. I/4). This was also placed on the high terrace of the river, approximately 150 m east from the previous one. Here could be investigated an oven for pottery burning, as well as an above ground construction. The latter one must have been a shed and not a dwelling. The oven comprised a burning room, with a perforated platform, that was sustained by a central pillar, the fire place, the „mouth” of the installation and the ditch for the fire feeding.

On the spot „*La fostul C.A.P.*”, situated west from the car bridge that crosses the Argeş, the diggings had resulted in rare Sântana de Mureş ceramic fragments (Schuster 2007: 45 and pl. I/5). Also in small amount was the pottery identified on the spots „*La Pod*” (Schuster 2007: 45 and pl. I/6) and „*În Vale*”, this last location being about 400 m south from the spot „*La fostul C.A.P.*”, on both banks of a small valley that obliquely „flows” into the Argeş river.

In the Varlaam village, also belonging to the Adunații-Copăcenii commune, on its eastern side, on the left bank of the valley that merge into the same river, on the spot „*La Bazin-Pe Terasă*”, another Sântana de Mureş site was investigated (Schuster 2007: 45 with lit. and pl. I/8). It was dug a semi-deepened dwelling, rather rich in pottery and other objects specific to this cultural manifestation (fibulae, link, and knife).

Another interesting Sântana de Mureş site was studied at Mironești, com. Gostinari. This was also an installation for pottery burning, discovered on the spot „*În Vale*”, east of the village, in a valley that perpendicularly merges with the Argeş river (Schuster 2007: 47 and pl. I/9; Schuster, Popa 2008: 29-32 with lit. and pl. 34-35). This one, partly destroyed by water, was of the same kind like the one from Adunații-Copăcenii-*La Porcărie*, namely with a central pillar and platform.

Also in the outskirts of the Mironești locality, 500 m south-east from the previous spot, on a hill foot called „*Malul Roșu*”, also placed on the high terrace from the right side of the Argeş, as a result of the excavations carried out there for more than two decades, also Sântana de Mureş pottery had been found (Schuster 2007: 47-48 and pl. I/10; Schuster, Popa 2008: 35).

South-east from Mironești, on the territory of the Izvoarele village, Hotarele commune, on another hill foot, but, this time this time belonging to a valley that merge with the Argeş on the spot „*Valea Coșcovei*”, another settlement of the Sântana de Mureş communities had been investigated (Schuster 2007: 48 and pl.

I/11). Within the range of another village of the commune, namely Herăști few burials had been discovered by hazard, thus being recovered four vessels (Schuster 2007: 48 and pl. 34).

As a result of the intensive works for what was desired to be the București-Dunăre Channel, between 1987-1989 some intense rescue archaeological excavations had been done in northern Giurgiu County, on the lower course of the Argeșului river. Amongst these finds could be also observed those belonging to the Sântana de Mureș. In fact, these finds had offered the opportunity to notice that traces of this cultural manifestation had been detected on 21 spots, comprising 17 settlements and 4 necropolises (Barbu 1998: 155; Petrescu 2002). This image had been completed with several new spots, their total number reaching today to more than 34 (Schuster 2007).

Even if the investigations had been predominantly surveys, some other being rescue ones, they emphasized interesting aspects. Firstly, the sites uncovered in the past few years, are all settlements. The places chosen for their establishing were especially the high terrace on the right side of the river and just in a single case, Mironești-În Vale, on the lower terrace of the Argeș.

The shelters, being either dwellings or annexes, were either above ground, or deepened ones. Anyway, they were generally small sized ones. More solid was proven the semi-deepened dwelling from Varlaam-La Bazin-Pe Terasă.

Regarding the installations for pottery burning, they were of deepened type, with compartment for burning and space for the pottery deposition for burning. Between those two rooms there was a portent perforated plaque, supported by a central pillar and lateral edges. Both ovens had a *praefurnium*. If at Mironești-În Vale in the oven was found a small quantity of pottery, in the one from Adunații-Copăcenii-La Porcărie it was discovered an entire charge vessels put out of shape due to the heat (fig. 1-4).

REFERENCES

- Barbu V. 1998: Așezări de tip Sântana de Mureș în județul Giurgiu. *Buletinul Muzeului Județean „Teohari Antonescu” Giurgiu*, II-IV, 2-4 (1996-1998): 155-164.
- Petrescu F. 2002: *Repertoriul monumentelor arheologice de tip Sântana de Mureș-Cerneahov de pe teritoriul României*, București.
- Schuster C. 2007: Date noi cu privire la cultura Sântana de Mureș în centrul Munteniei (jud. Giurgiu). *Buridava*, 5: 42-54.
- Schuster C., Popa T. 2008: *Mironești. I. Locuri, cercetări arheologice, monumente și personaje istorice*, Bibliotheca Musei Giurgiuvensis III, Giurgiu.

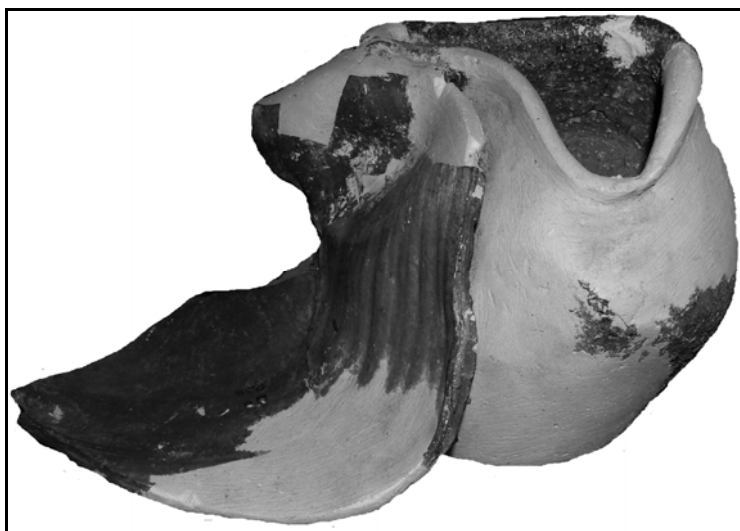


Fig. 1. Adunații-Copăcenii-La Porcărie. Vessel from the kiln. Foto Gheorghe Chelmeș.



Fig. 2. Adunații-Copăcenii-La Porcărie. Vessel from the kiln. Foto Gheorghe Chelmeș.

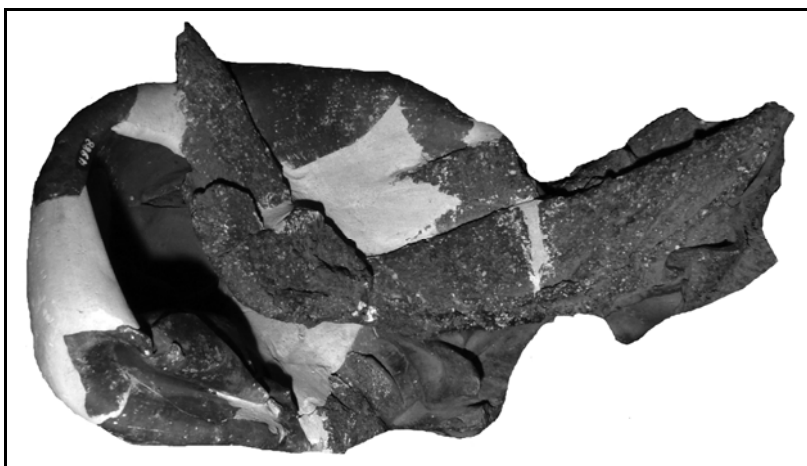


Fig. 3. Adunații-Copăceni-*La Porcărie*. Vessel from the kiln. Foto Gheorghe Chelmeș.



Fig. 4. Adunații-Copăceni-*La Porcărie*. Vessel from the kiln. Foto Gheorghe Chelmeș.