

TOILET AND COSMETIC OBJECTS DISCOVERED INSIDE THE BATHS OF LEGIO VII CLAUDIA OF CIOROIU NOU

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The baths of Legio VII Claudia of Cioroiu Nou were searched during the excavations from 2008-2010 (fig. 1-3). Simultaneously with the archaeological excavations, I made the operation of basic preservation of the ruins, so now this monument is visitable, being the first in this respect in Dolj County. I hope that the monograph of these baths will be published very soon.

From the beginning, it is necessary to bring some arguments because I considered that the baths of Cioroiu Nou, were raised by the soldiers of Legio VII Claudia¹. First of all, these baths are inside the fortification of Cioroiu Nou, more precisely in its north-western corner (fig. 4). Secondly, because from these baths there come some tens of stamped bricks with the stamp of this legio (fig. 5). And thirdly, all these are supported by an inscription made by A. Germanus, *speculator* of this Legio (fig. 6).

The archaeological inventory coming from the excavations of these baths is rich and consisting in pottery, tiles, bricks and gutter-tiles, coins, glass-vessels, fragments of window-glass, objects of bone, objects of iron, objects of bronze, of lead, etc. All these could be dated in the first half of the 3rd century.

The toilet and cosmetic objects from the baths of Legio VII Claudia of Cioroiu Nou consist in mirrors (in fact frames of these mirrors) and shaving razors. I did not include here the hair pins made of bone, which in my opinion represent objects belonging to another kind.

MIRRORS. From the mirrors discovered at Cioroiu Nou, there have been preserved only the frames (easy to understand), which were made of lead.

1. A frame of a mirror, made of lead (fig. 7). The surface of the piece was divided into four registers marked by four concentric circles. The first and the fourth registers were not decorated. The second register was adorned with a zigzag line rendered in relief. The third register was decorated with circular lines, rendered also in relief. Sizes: maximum diameter- 5.8cm; minimum diameter- 5.5cm; thickness- 0.2cm. Weight- 26g.

Excavations led by D. Tudor, section S VI / 1960, in the south-western corner of the fortification. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova².

2. A frame of a mirror, made of lead (fig. 8). It is round, with its surface adorned with little prominences and crosses in relief. There has been preserved the handle of the piece, like a rod, half-round in section. Sizes: height- 5.8cm; diameter of the frame - 3.5cm.

Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2008, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova³.

3. A frame of a mirror, made of lead (fig. 9). The piece is round, with four lateral buttons, symmetrically displayed, two in the upper part, two in the lower one. The surface

¹ Bondoc 2010, pp. 13-16

² Tudor, Diaconescu, Popilian 1967, p. 597 and 598, fig. 4/46. Bondoc 2010, p. 50, no. 87a.

³ Bondoc 2010, p. 51, no. 87b.

was adorned like two concentric circles, with their interior "hachured" in relief. The two circles are interrupted up-down and left-right by a circle with a little prominence in its middle. From its handle there has been preserved only the superior part, like three rods (two of them are laterally and curved and one is vertical, in the middle). Sizes: the preserved height- 5.5cm; diameter of the frame- 4cm⁴.

SHAVING RASORS. Six such pieces have been discovered inside the baths, fragmentary or well preserved, as it follows.

4. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 10); curved blade, triangular in section; the edge on the interior side; pointed thin spike; the inferior part is bent towards the interior like a ring; the end of the ring is in the shape of a little coil; sizes: the length- 11.1cm; maximum width- 2.5cm. A very similar piece comes from Belgium, Gallia Belgica province⁵.

5. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 11). The blade is short, with the sharp edge on the interior side, with a little cutting near the handle; at the inferior end there is a ring for its hanging. Sizes: length- 12cm; width- 2.4cm⁶.

6. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 12). The blade is short, with the sharp edge on the interior side; the handle is short and narrow, perforated in order to apply the knife handle. At its inferior end there is a ring for hanging. Sizes: length- 12cm; maximum width- 3cm; length of the handle- 4.5cm⁷.

7. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 13). Short description: the blade is short, with the sharp edge on the interior side, the point is broken, the handle is short and narrow, perforated in order to apply a knife handle. At its inferior end there was a ring for hanging. Sizes: the preserved length- 10cm; the maximum width- 2.3cm⁸.

8. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 14). It is well preserved, but it has been affected by the corrosion process. The blade has the sharp edge on the interior side, the pointed spike, and the case was made of two "jaws". The razor is open at 90⁰. Sizes: length of blade- 8cm; length of case- 9cm; width of blade- 2cm⁹.

9. A shaving razor made of iron (fig. 15). It is similar with the previous one (no. 8). It is well preserved; it has been discovered in a half-open position. At its inferior part there has been preserved a fragment from the ring for hanging. Sizes: length of blade- 8.5cm; length of case- 10cm¹⁰.

Being at least spectacular, the toilet and cosmetic pieces discovered inside the baths of Legio VII Claudia in Cioroiu Nou, represent however ordinary accessories of these Roman buildings. Their publishing in a monograph will bring much more information in this respect.

Translated by dr. Mihaela Pena

⁴ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, baths 2010, The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

⁵ Excavations Dorel Bondoc, 2002 (S 2, square 4, -0.50m). MOC.Bondoc 2006, p. 83, no. 1 and p. 85, fig. 3. Bondoc 2010, p. 48, no. 76; Künzl 1982, p. 72, abb. 46/2; see also Déchelette 1914, p. 1279, fig. 553/8.

⁶ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2009, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

⁷ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2010, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

⁸ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2010, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

⁹ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2010, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

¹⁰ Excavations by Dorel Bondoc, 2010, baths. The Museum of Oltenia, Craiova.

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Fig. 15. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron.

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OBIECTE DE TOALETĂ ȘI PRODUSE COSMETICE CE AU FOST DESCOPERITE ÎN INTERIORUL BĂII LEGIUNEA VII CLAUDIA DIN CIOROIU NOU

(Rezumat)

Băile Legiunii a VII-a Claudia din Cioroiu Nou au fost descoperite timpul săpăturilor din anii 2008-2010 (fig. 1-3). Concomitent cu săpăturile arheologice, s-au făcut și lucrările de bază, de conservare a ruinelor, așa că acum acest monument este vizitabil, fiind primul în acest sens, în județul Dolj. Sper că monografia acestor băi va fi publicată foarte curând.

Inventarul arheologic provenind din săpături a acestor băi este bogat și constă în ceramică, țigle, cărămizi și piatră de ascuțit, monede, vase de sticlă, fragmente de ferestre din sticlă, obiecte din os, obiecte din fier, obiecte de bronz, de plumb, etc. Toate acestea ar putea fi datate în prima jumătate a secolului al III-lea.

Obiectele de toaletă și cosmetice de la băile Legiunii a VII-a Claudia din Cioroiu Nou constau în oglinzi (în fapt rame a acestor oglinzi) și brice de ras. Nu am să includ aici ace de păr din os, care, în opinia mea, reprezintă obiecte care aparțin într-un alt fel.

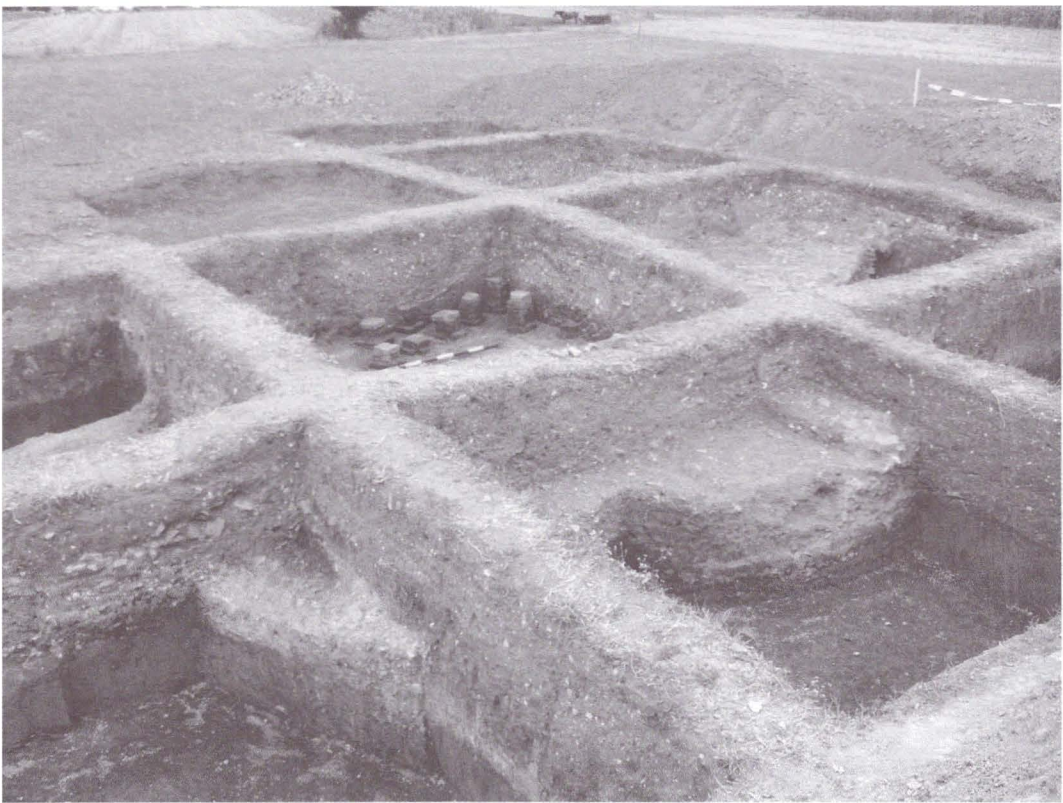


Fig. 1. The baths of Legio VII Claudia of Cioroiu Nou. Excavation from 2008



Fig. 2. The baths of Legio VII Claudia of Cioroiu Nou. Excavation from 2009



Fig. 3. The baths of Legio VII Claudia of Cioroiu Nou. Excavations from 2010

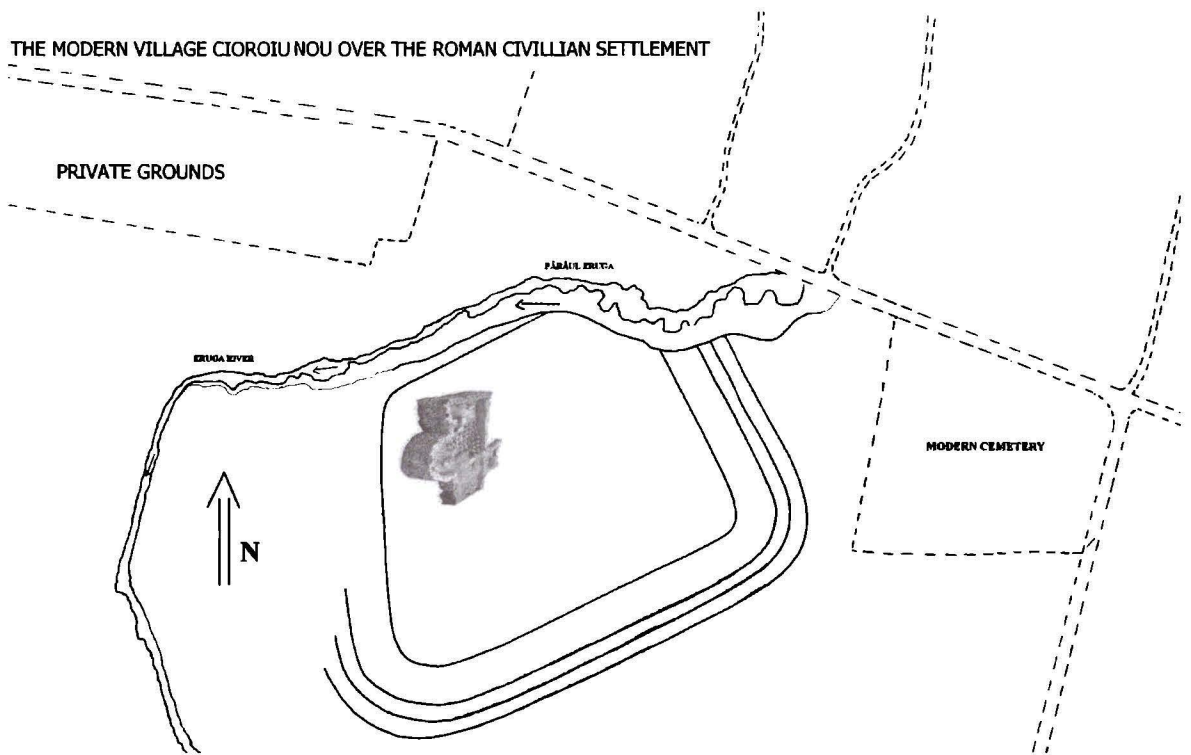


Fig. 4. The placement of baths of Legio VII Claudia inside the fortifications of Cioroiu Nou, acc. to Bondoc 2010, p. 77, fig. 24

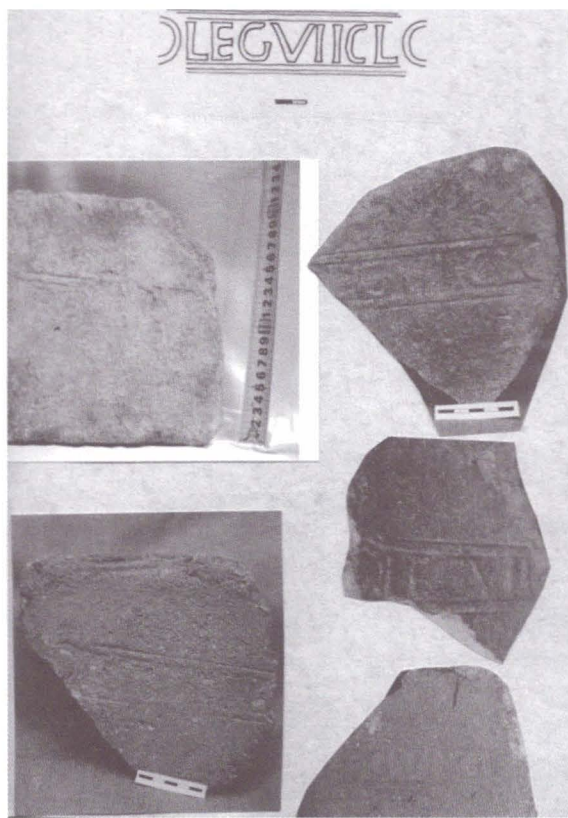


Fig. 5. Bricks with the stamp of Legio VII Claudia, acc. to Bondoc 2006a, p. 37, fig. 2.1.



Fig. 6. The inscription of Germanus, a speculator of Legio VII Claudia Maximiniana, acc. to IDR, 11, 141, Bondoc 2010, p. 77, fig. 2.4.

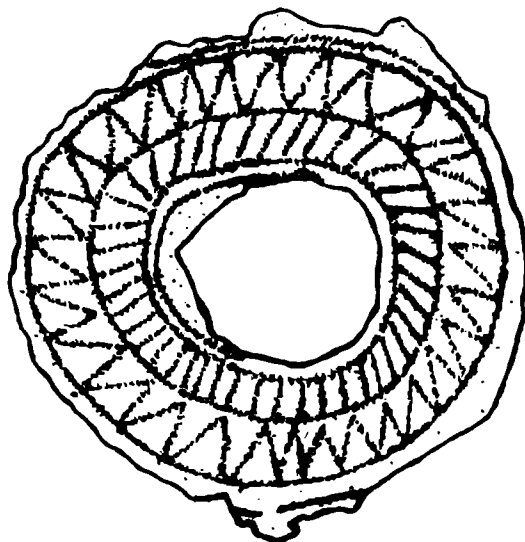


Fig. 7. Cioroiu Nou. A frame of a mirror, made of lead.

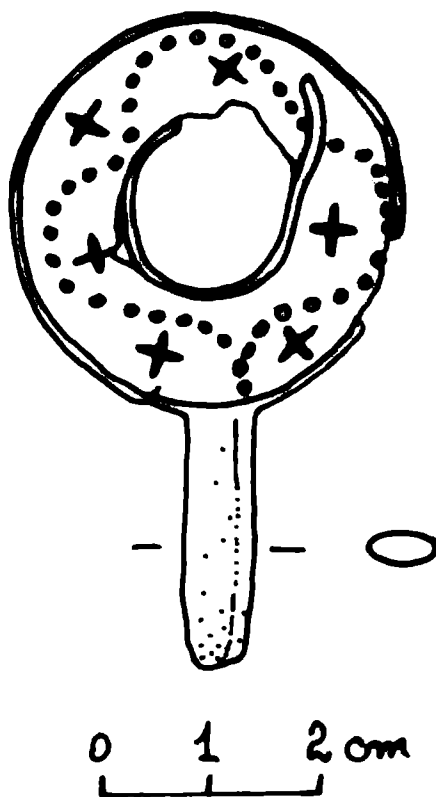


Fig. 8. Cioroiu Nou. A frame of a mirror, made of lead.

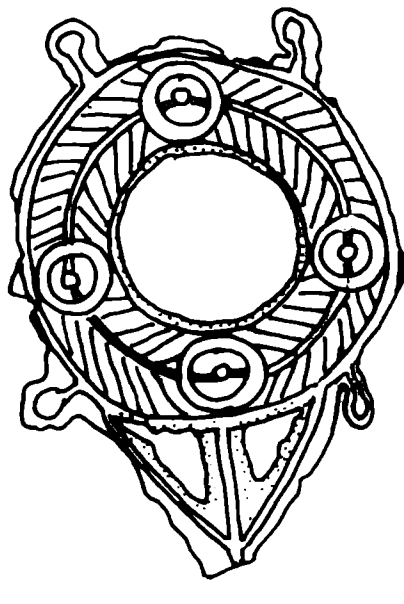


Fig. 9. Cioroiu Nou. A frame of a mirror, made of led.

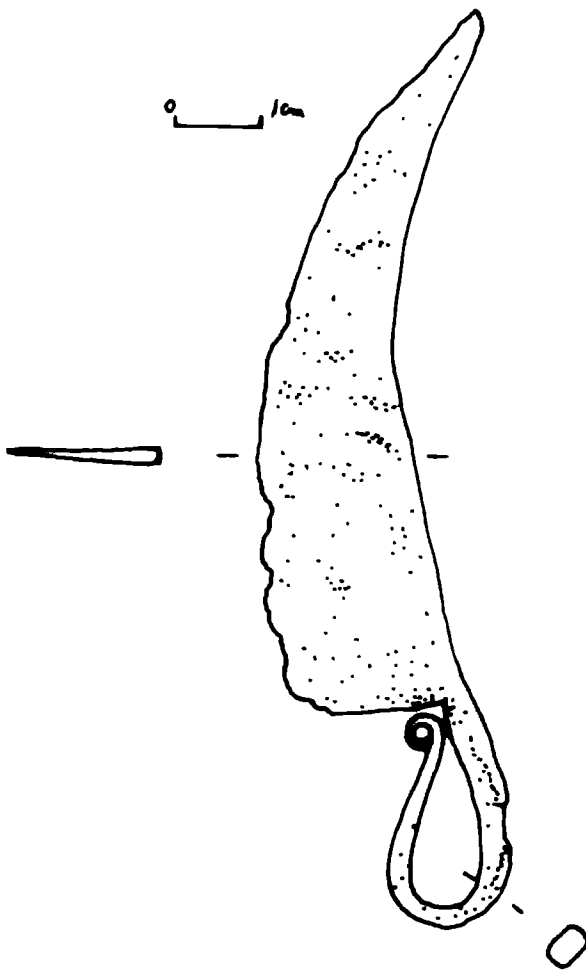


Fig. 10. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron.

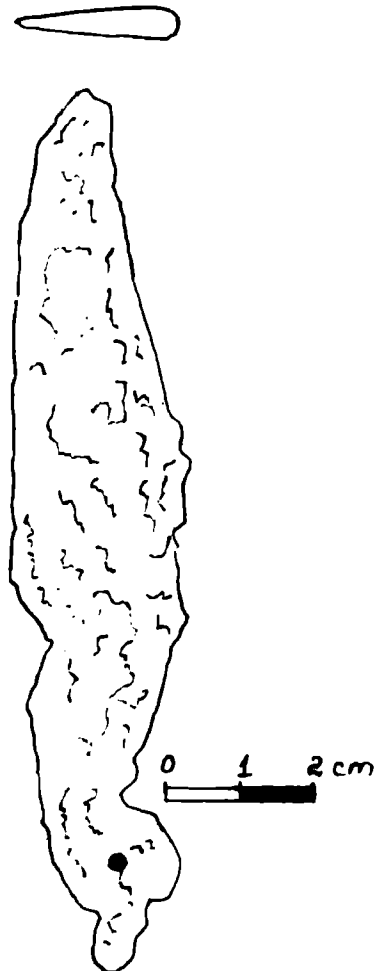


Fig. 11. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron.

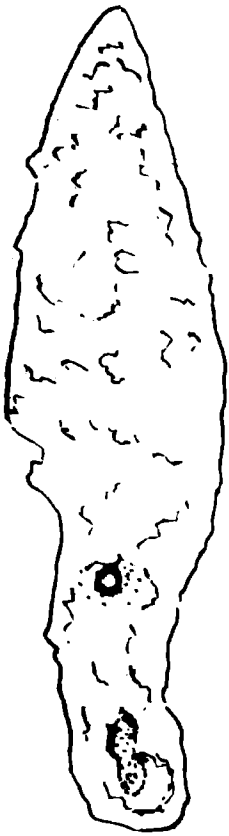
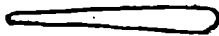


Fig. 12. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron.



Fig. 13. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron.

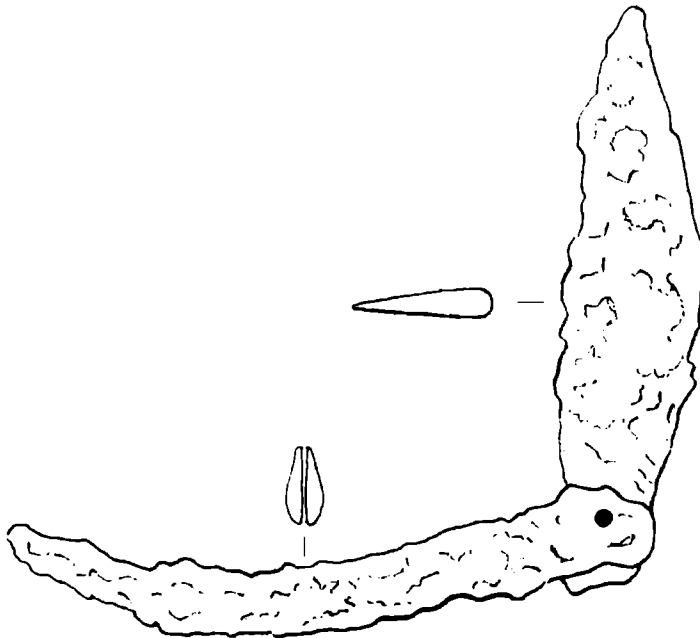


Fig. 14. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron

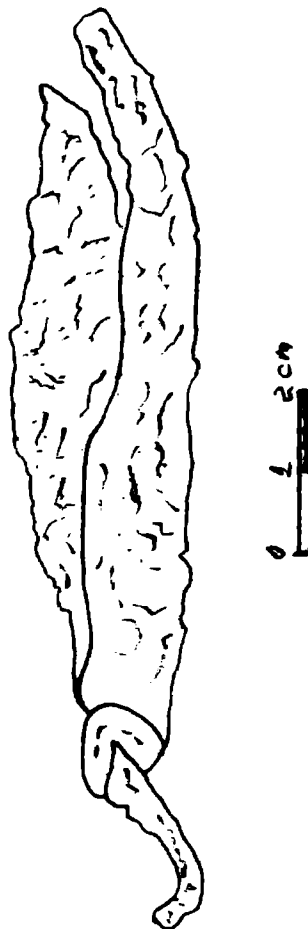


Fig. 15. Cioroiu Nou. A shaving razor made of iron