

An area rich in archaeological remains from all ages, mountainous region of Banat began to disclose lately more and more diverse information as a result of the research field.

In many places, hidden in vegetation or the heights alpine pastures, may perceive rocks or boulders with the strange signs that attract the attention of passengers and more, the reason some interesting legends known by locals.

In what follows, we propose to pass in review a series of such vestiges in the idea of their repertoire, but also to try to give - which is - a suggestion on their functionality (pl. I).

I. BORLOVA (commune Turnu - Ruieni, Caras-Severin County).

By the Sebeșel brook Valley at approx. 400 meters of asphalt road leading to Mic Mount, are three blocks from crystalline rocks, placed on the right bank of the stream on a length of approx. 80 m (fig. 1-3; Pl.I / 1) and two blocks on the left side (fig. 4-6).

1. The first block (fig. 1) flanked by the right the crossing water place, the dimensions are approximately 1.20 x 1.25 x 0.40 m and presents on the top three types of litho engraving: a channel for a wide groove of 2.5 - 3 cm deep and about 1 cm, three carefully disengagement completed a parallelepiped (5 x 2 x 3 cm) line at a distance of 2,5 - 3 cm compared with a another four troughs shorter section in the form of "V" and targeted at different angles at the corner of the block. Channel and the three escape are targeted approximately NV - SE and the four troughs are oriented E - SE.

In Romanian literature, specialists concerns about such vestiges are shy, but still allow reports to similar situations in other parts of the country¹. In our case, the five troughs would be functional traces that result in employment, especially in the production of the artifacts by rubbing and polishing, the flat surface of the block serving as bench work - support processing tools. Analogy can be identified in the Massive Preluca, near the Piciorul Măștii hamlet in the Maramureș County² (fig. 11-14).

Such blocks or flagstones with channels of these types have been identified as jokes and working in South Tyrol, are regarded as prehistoric³.

In the three rectangular liberation, they are not old at all; they are made by locals under a current practice, to break large blocks of stone in unwanted places. As they hitch feathers of wood and then wetting; wood ridge line and clearing rock burst into smaller pieces, then being transported from the area. This simple method was more effective in winter, when the freezing water became huge force. In this situation, breaking the block has not completed.

2. At about 60 meters NE of this block, between the old gravel road to the mountain and water line, among bushes, is a block buried in the soil surface with only a small portion sizes of 0.60 x 0.35 x 0.15 m (fig. 2). The SV side of the stone is the second

¹ I. Mârza, 1996.

² I. Mârza, 1996.

³ Hanspaul Menara, 1992.

liberation of the same type and appearance to those described in the case above. They have the dimensions of 5 x 2 x 3 cm and are located at a distance of 7.2 cm to one another.

And in this case, tried to break up rocks in the soil, but for reasons unknown to us, the process was abandoned.

3. The third bloc, large (fig. 3) is about. 20 m away from the building earlier, at about 10 m from young brook and presents on the front-oriented E - a perforation circular tubular diameter of 6 cm and 19 cm in length, being perpendicular to the bloc.

It is possible that the perforation may have been carried out to establish a par of wood, any piece of the stall next to water for animals, or was a local action to destroy the block by dynamiting, remaining at the stage of intent.

4. On the left side of the water, right to the crossing water, you can see several blocks of stone (fig. 4; pl. I / 2) the second of which attract attention (fig.5-6) by the fact that they were part originally from the same block as "divided" in length.

Here we are dealing with an action to chip a block of stone pieces inconvenient but results have remained in place.

II. MUNTELE MIC (*THE LITTLE MOUNTAIN*)

1. On the mountain plateau at approx. 250 m N-E of the Hermitage "St. Elijah" on the left edge of the road that leads to his "Scorillo's stones", is located a block of crystalline partly buried in the ground, while four channels of late about. 3 cm profile in the form of "U" (fig. 7; pl.I / 3).

Although the high altitude, we probably are dealing with traces functional results of the work, block being used as bench work in prehistory to achieve the artifacts of bone, stone, etc.

2. At a distance of approx. 400 m N-W of the former building of the Police, the remains of an ancient circular stone sheepfold (fig. 8), and at approx. 250 m N-W of this is located right at the edge of a steep rape of a block of crystalline rocks that are on the plane about three artificial and semispherical line hollows, the middle with a bigger diameter⁴ (fig. 9; pl.I / 4).

Given the precarious research of this kind to us, we do not have for Romania analogues, to the use of some of South Tyrol, which are more⁵ and best known, are prehistoric (fig. 11-17).

Some of them, smalls (fig. 12-13), are considered to be "singing stones" ("*Schalensteine*"), cavities thus completed and under a certain angle that beat the wind when they get a sound (ping) what is heard at a distance. For the others states that belong only time prehistoric⁶.

In our case we tend to be outrageous situation and believe that is a prehistoric altar piece (or Dacian?) In height, the semispherical cavities have been used for various oblations according to a specific ritual.

In the absence of additional clues clear, we can only consider that these cavities were made and used since prehistory, or even shepherds nearby - obvious that for centuries! - punished for salt or other vegetable products.

⁴ Primary information about this block has given us a professor Ion Munteanu, to whom and appreciates this way. In June 2003, together with Dr. Gh Lazarovici, S. Ion, D. Negrei, S. H. Petrescu, I. Petrescu made a research on the mountain and we were able to identify field goal

⁵ Menara 1992, p. 24.

⁶ Menara 1992, p. 24

III. OILOR CAVE (2144 / 63), (Cornereva commune. Caraș-Severin County)

Immediately on leaving the cave on the wall of V, at a height of 1.50 m to the floor is a circular perforation with the diameter of 3 cm and 12 cm deep. (fig. 10; pl.I 5). This cave is known recently as having serious traces of habitation since Neolithic until dry. XVIII-XIX⁷. The presence of this perforation on the vertical wall immediately on leaving the cave can be made about the old arrangement of a high wall of sound, which prevent sheep and goats to move freely or to protect the cave from possible attacks. Is simple lack of allegations in other vestiges discovered?

IV. OSLEA ROMÂNEASCĂ, (Cornereva commune. Caraș-Severin County) At about 200 m N from the Oslea peak, near a landfill (fig. 18), is a fragmented weak of limestone on care hardly distinguish some letters, some made ligature (fig.19-20)⁸. Knowing that the ridge is an ancient path used for crossing over Oslea Valley (fig.21), fragmentary slab could be a landmark piece of medieval. However, the piece must be seen and examined carefully.

All those first rupestral traces of the mountainous Banat presented here are just a small part of the many events that waiting and putting into question.

Plates:

I - Map of the Caraș-Severin county with the localization of some rupestral traces.

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Fig. 6. Muntele Mic, on the plateau.

Fig. 7. Muntele Mic, on the plateau, the stone with three semispheric hollows.

Fig. 8. Peștera Oilor, Cerna Valley.

Fig. 9. Stone with rupestral traces from the South Tirol, Austria.

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Fig. 17. Oslea peak, landscape.

Fig. 18. Oslea peak, fragmented slab of limestone on care hardly distinguish some letters

⁷ Petrescu 2000, pp. 30-31, Petrescu 2004.

⁸ Thank you and by this means Mr. prof. Vlad Bălu from Deta who noticed that stone piece and made photographs entrusted to us for study.

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URME RUPESTRE ÎN BANATUL MONTAN (I)

(Rezumat)

Sunt prezentate câteva urme rupestre pe suprafețele de eroziune ale unor blocuri de șist, gresie și calcar din zonele Borlova , Muntele Mic și Peștera Oilor din Valea Cernei precum și un monolit din calcar cu un text greu lizibil de la Oslea Românească. În opinia autorului, unele din acestea sunt probabil din sec. XVIII – XX, iar altele pot fi de vârstă preistorică (cele de la Muntele Mic și Peștera Oilor).



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.



Fig. 15.



Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.



Fig. 18.