

# Contributions regarding the Knowledge of the Burial Rituals of the Early Thracians in the Light of the Ștefănești-Botoșani Researches

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Since 1992 the Archaeology Institute of Iași has initiated a program of archaeological research of the princely court in the precincts of the Ștefănești village, in the Ștefănești commune, Botoșani district. Excavations, which began in 1992 under the direction of the archaeologist Costică Asăvoaie, continued in the following years until 1995, and, because of the importance of the objective, they will also continue in the future.

Except for older or more recent medieval monuments, which belong to the princely court, there had been discovered Neolithic remains of a settlement of the Cucuteni type, and, in 1993, three cremation graves of the cultural group of Corlăteni-Chișinău.

In the campaign from the summer of 1993 in Ștefănești, there was also included the digging of a trench 117 m long and 1.5 m large, oriented on the direction southeast - northwest, situated south of the Cuvioasa Paraschiva's church, monument built by Vasile Lupu.

From a stratigraphic viewpoint, both in the trench marked S1/1993, and in the others excavated afterwards, it was noticed that, under the vegetable soil, 30 cm thick, there was a layer of 50 cm of dense black earth, after which there was another layer of brown soil which became yellow with the growing depth and the appearance of the live soil. In the second layer, together with complexes and materials dating from the Middle Ages, there came to light three cremation graves, which belong to the cultural group of Corlăteni-Chișinău. On the length of the trench S1/1993, these are situated between the 40 and 44 meters, the distance between graves being of approximately 1 meter.

Due to the importance of this discovery, the excavation in the sector where the other three graves had been previously discovered was resumed in 1995. Thus, parallel to the trench 1 from 1993, a section 20 m long and 2 m large marked S1/1995 was initially dug between the 40 and the 60 meters. Aiming at the discovery of other graves, the trench has been extended with another 10 m towards northwest, until the 70<sup>th</sup> m of S1/1993. Thus it sums up a total length of 30.5 m. Parallel to the first two trenches, other two sections have been done: one of 20/2 m, marked S2/1995, and the other of 10 m marked S3/1995, corresponding to the meters 50 - 60 of the S1/1993. Besides, there has been archaeologically investigated, through four squares, an area of 15 m<sup>2</sup>, situated in the northwest side of the trench, where there have not

been discovered incineration graves of the type Corlăteni, which either did not exist, or were destroyed by the medieval settlement found there (fig. 1). Also in this context, in order to locate the diggings, we mention that the distance from the southeast end of the trench 1/1995 to the buttress of the altar of the St. Paraschiva's church is of 58 m, while from the 20<sup>th</sup> meter of the same trench to the entrance from the south façade of the church there are 42 m.

In the three sections carried out in 1995, there came to light other 5 cremation burials and the remains of other two, so that the number of the finds of this kind, resulting from the two digging campaigns, is of 8 intact graves and other two disturbed.

The cremation grave marked with no. 1 appeared at a depth of 50 cm, the funeral inventory being formed of a small bowl, which contained very broken calcined human bones, covered by a big bowl placed with the lip downwards. The small bowl, used as an urn, of a brown brick-red paste, found broken and later reconstructed, does not show any kind of ornaments or prominences. The piece, in a truncated cone-shaped form, with the lip slightly rounded inwards, is made of a rough paste, the burning, good enough, giving the vessel chromatic unity (fig. 2/1). The second piece, which served as a lid, is a big bowl, in a cone-shaped form, with the lip curved inward. The base is detached from the wall of the vessel because of the accentuated convection of the oblique walls. Under the maximum diameter, symmetrically placed, there are two prominences in the shape of a tongue, with the tip downwards. The paste of the vessel has the same aspect and brown brick-red colour as that of the previous piece (fig. 2/5).

Grave no. 2, found at a depth of 40 cm, contained also two fragmentary vessels, of which only one could be reconstructed: a cup almost entirely preserved, except for the handle, which seems to have been over-raised. The cup, which contained calcined human bones, covered with a bowl placed with the mouth downwards, is in the shape of a bi-truncated cone, has the lip slightly rounded towards the inside, an oval mouth and a small circular and curved base, which creates an *umbo* inside. The piece is a hybrid, which gathers the peculiarities of the cups with over-raised handle, oval mouth and *umbo* at the bottom, and of the cups with round mouth, the lip curved inwards and *umbo* at the bottom. Comparatively to the previous vessels, the paste is rougher, with a degreasing substance among its components, and has the same brown brick-red colour of the other pieces, but with grey spots inside (fig. 2/2).

Grave no. 3, discovered at the depth of 65 cm, also consists of two bowls, of which only one could be reconstructed, the one that constituted the lid placed over the bowl containing the cremated human bones. In the funeral inventory a bronze ring has been discovered, with superposed ends. The lid-bowl has the same truncated-cone shape, with the lip curved towards the inside. Unlike the preceding

bowls, the bottom is cut right, without a protruding base, and there are four little prominences, symmetrically placed on the maximum diameter. Also, there is a little perforated vertical ear under the maximum diameter, on the convexity. The paste, rough at the touch, has a uniform grey colour (fig. 3). As for the bronze ring, lenticular in section, this has the diameter of 1.9 / 1.5 cm (fig. 2/4).

In the trench 1 dug in 1995, at meter 14 and the depth of 60 cm, there appeared a cremation grave marked with no. 4, which contained fragments of two bowls, a handle from an over-raised cup, a fragmentary deformed bronze ear-ring and few remains of burnt human bones. The bottom of the burial pit was at 75 cm in depth. Because of the structure of the soil, there could not be established the mouth of the burial pit or its profile form. As well as in the other graves discovered in 1993, a bowl, having as lid another one placed with the mouth downwards, was used to deposit the cremation remains. The fragmentary bowls could hardly be reconstructed. The first represents the truncated-cone shape in profile, with the lip slightly rounded inwards, having as decoration the strip of horizontal grooves slightly stamped. The rough porous paste, has a black-grey colour on both sides (fig. 4/1). The second bowl, of which few fragments were preserved, had probably the same form as the first one. The paste on the exterior is black-grey and inside brick red. A rest of a bottom of bowl indicates the tendency of profiling the bowls at their bases. A fragment of a stripped handle, from a cup with over-raised handle, could represent a third vessel, deposited in the tomb as an offering or with offerings (fig. 2/3). Among the human bones there has been found a fragment of a bronze ring, deformed, with a rhomboidal section. The small number of bones and the deformation of the bronze earring demonstrate a process of intense burning of the corpse on the pyre.

Another cremation burial, marked number 5, was discovered in trench 2, at meter 14.5. The mouth of the grave pit, with the diameter of 40 cm, appeared at 60 cm depth and its base at 1 m. In this case too, the profile form of the pit could not be established. The inventory was composed of a fragment of wide lip from an incineration bi-truncated cone-shaped urn, the other pieces of the vessel being completely absent. Because of the small quantities of ceramic fragments, the dimensions of the cremation urn could not be reconstructed. From the preserved remains of a lip there can be seen the common peculiarities of the bi-truncated cone-shaped urns of the type Corlăteni, worked in well tempered clay, with relatively thin walls, brick-red colour inside and black outside. The fragments of the lip are well smoothed, without polish, while the edge presents a slightly oblique bevel cant. On top of the lip fragments from the bi-truncated cone-shaped urn and of the burnt human bones, there had been placed a bowl with the mouth downwards. The bowl, of big size, is the type currently met in the cemetery of Ștefănești, having the section of a truncated cone, with the lip curved inwards and

without any kind of decoration. Symmetrically, under the maximum diameter, there are placed four little prominent horizontally prolonged grabs, with a saddle in the middle. The round base is slightly profiled. The walls of the bowl are thick, of rough paste, with the maximum diameter of 31.7 cm, height 11.5 cm (fig. 4/3). The third piece, of which only a fragment has been discovered, is a cup of the type of those with over-raised handle and *umbo* at the bottom, with thick walls of brick-red paste. The cup was deposited as an offering or with offerings near the rests of the cremation urn and of the human bones, all covered with the lid-bowl.

In the space between S1/1993 and S2/1995, at the meter 5.2, there appeared another cremation burial, marked with no. 6. The mouth of the pit, with the diameter of 50 cm, appeared at a depth of 70 cm, the base of the grave being at 90 cm. In this case the profile shape of the grave could not be established either. As inventory objects, the tomb contained a bowl in a very bad shape, represented by ceramic fragments of a rough paste of a brown brick-red colour outside and reddish inside. In this bowl there were deposited the cremation remains over which a bowl with the mouth downwards was placed, serving as a lid. This last piece is similar in shape with the others discovered in Ștefănești, having a truncated-cone profile and a lip curved towards the inside. The bottom of the vessel is broken and missing since original times. As decoration, under the maximum diameter there can be noticed the strip of horizontal grooves, interrupted by at least two plate short grabs, with the tip slightly falling. On the outside, the walls have a brown brick-red colour and a black-grey one inside. The porous and poorly burnt paste determined the precarious conservation of the bowl and its deterioration during its lying underground (fig. 4/2). Near the *umbo* cup there have been discovered few small fragments from a second cup, similar in shape with the first one. Due to the very fragmented condition of this piece, we cannot specify if it had an *umbo* or a handle. From the fragments that were preserved we may conclude that this piece was hemispherical in profile, with the lip slightly rounded inwards. The thin walls have a brown colour outside and a grey-black one inside.

In the space between trenches 1 and 2/1995, at meter 2.7, the fragments of a bowl placed with the mouth downwards appeared at a depth of 70 cm. Also, there have been discovered fragments of wide lip, which belong to a bi-truncated cone-shaped urn. The basement of the grave was at the depth of 90 cm. There could not be established the shape of the pit in plan or in profile. The small number of bowl fragments and especially of urn fragments, the absence of the calcined human bones make us consider that this grave, marked with no. 7, represents a new variant of burial ritual. The lid bowl with a truncated cone profile has its lip curved towards the inside and ornaments of little deepened grooves, in a strip placed under the maximum diameter. For the two existing big fragments of bowl, the handles and the base are missing. The paste is the usual one: rough, poorly burnt, con-

taining a degreasing substance. The walls of the vessel are thick, with black spots on the outside and of black-grey colour inside (fig. 5/6). From the cremation urn the most characteristic fragment comes from the wide lip of the vessel, of black colour without polish outside, and brick-red inside. Although the inventory is very fragmentary, these two pieces can be considered as belonging to a cremation grave.

Another tomb, marked with no. 8, appeared in the space between trenches 2 and 3 (1995), between meters 18 and 19, at a depth of 50 to 60 cm. The diameter of the pit with a rounded mouth was of 50 cm. All the inventory pieces, only bowls, have been found broken and proved to be incomplete when their reconstruction was tried. From the bowl containing few calcined human bones there have been preserved two fragments made of rough paste with a degreasing substance, with the lip curved towards the inside. The walls poorly burnt have a clear brown-grey colour on both sides. The second piece, better preserved, represents a part of the conic walls and the lip strongly curved towards the inside. The paste is better tempered, with a fine degreasing substance. The thin walls have a grey brick-red colour, and inside it is brown-grey (fig. 5/7). The bad quality of the burning, and probably the later destructions, provoked, in this case too, the precarious conservation of the inventory pieces which belong to this grave.

In trench 1/1995, at meter 15, at a depth of 70 cm, there has come to light a fragmentary cup with *umbo*, from a disturbed grave marked with no. 9. The cup, of a hemispheric shape, has an oval mouth and the common *umbo* at the bottom, characteristic to this form. The walls of brick-red colour are of thick paste, smoothed by hand. The handle is missing (fig 5/5).

Also in trench 1/1995, at meter 17, at 60 cm depth, there has been discovered a fragment of bi-truncated cone-shaped urn, from a destroyed cremation grave, marked with no. 10. The fragment is a part of the upper half of the urn, which preserves a rest of the inferior part and the vertical neck, delimited from the shoulder by a threshold. On both sides the fragment has a brick-red colour. The paste is rough, containing little stones and fragments of crocks as degreasing (fig. 5/1). Dimensions: the maximum diameter reconstructed of the urn is of 21 cm.

The graves of Ștefănești - Botoșani belong to a plane cemetery, placed on a low terrace in the grassland along the Bașeu and the Prut rivers, in which the burial ritual practised consists only in cremation. Though the cemetery has not been completely excavated, so far there are no proofs that inhumation was practised too. Concerning the burial rituals, because the pits are dug in chernozem, the profile of the graves could not be established, but they could have had a trapezoidal shape, as at Cotu Morii<sup>1</sup> or a cylindrical one. Also, by observing the way in which the vessels and the cremation remains had been laid in the pit, two variants of ritual can be established. The first one, to which graves 1 - 3 belong, is characterised by the

practice of depositing the remains of burnt human bones in a vessel, usually a bowl, only in one case in a cup with an over-raised handle, all covered with a lid-bowl. For the second burial variant, noticed in graves 4 - 5, 7 - 8, the custom specific is that of laying broken vessels and remains of burnt human bones taken from the pile or deposited in the pit where they were covered with a lid-bowl. At the same time, it can be noticed that in 5 out of the 8 intact graves (Gr. 4 - 8), the lid-bowl lacks its bottom completely or partially, a fact which is not necessarily due to posterior devastations, but it could constitute a peculiarity of the burial ritual. Only in one grave (Gr. 6) there is the offering of a cup with the lip downwards, and in other two (Gr. 3 and Gr. 4) among the cremation remains there is a complete or fragmentary earring.

Regarding the funeral inventory, the most important piece, most often found, is the bowl in the shape of a truncated cone in profile, with the lip curved towards the interior. In the 8 intact graves of Ștefănești, the bowl appears in 13 samples, all of them fragmentary, from which only a few could be reconstructed. The paste and burning are of low quality, this situation partially explaining the fragmentary character of the pieces discovered. As a matter of fact, the precarious quality of all ceramic vessels is a characteristic of the catalogue objects discovered in the Ștefănești cemetery, a peculiarity which can be explained through the usage in the process of baking of soft essence wood, with a reduced caloric power, obtained from the greenlands along the Prut and the Bașeu rivers, but also through the intentional usage of low quality vessels for the funeral ritual. This aspect is not unique, similar situations being recorded in the cemeteries of Cucorăni and Lăpuș<sup>2</sup>. In Gr. 1, the small bowl was used to deposit the burned human bones and in Gr. 1, 3, 6-8, the bowl with the mouth downwards served as a lid, while in Gr. 4-5, 7-8 there were discovered samples in a very bad shape because of the practice of baking the vessels at the pyre or at the funeral feast and then laying them in the grave.

As for size, the bowls vary between small pieces of maximum 17 cm in diameter, big bowls of 29 cm, and very big ones, reaching 40 cm in diameter. Regarding the ornaments, there are pieces with the usual decoration of fluting horizontal strips placed on the superior part of the vessel, for the bowls of Gr. 4, 6-7 (fig. 1; 4/1-2, 5/6), but there are also samples which lack this motif completely (Gr. 1 - 6,8; fig. 2/1,5; 3; 4/3; 5/7). Generally, for what could be observed, the pieces better preserved have prominences, either in groups of two, tongue-shaped, curved with the lip downwards (Gr. 1, fig. 2/5), or in groups of four, in a triangular shape, placed on the maximum diameter and associated with a vertical handle (Gr. 5, fig. 4/3) or without it (Gr. 6, fig. 4/2). The bowls of the Ștefănești cemetery have a large variety of grabs in number, shape and way of placing, which means that the usage and decoration of grabs had not become so uniformed as in late Hallstatt.

Another frequently found type of vessel is the cup with over-raised handle and umbo at the base. This form has not been attested in any complete piece so far, that is why it is difficult to identify this type at Ștefănești, especially because there are also cups with an umbo at the bottom but with a rounded inward lip (Gr. 6, fig. 5/2). In grave 2, as container for the cremation remains, such a cup was used (fig. 2/2). On the one hand it has, by its oval lip, the *umbo* on the bottom and the over-raised handle, the peculiarities of the cups largely spread in the settlements and the cemeteries of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture, and on the other hand, by its inward rounding of the lip, it shows the influence of the cups and the small bowls which appear in the list of specific forms of the same culture. Though fragmentary, in grave 4 there appeared a ribbon-shaped handle, with an ornament of deep parallel incisions (fig. 2/3) and occasionally, in a disturbed grave, another fragment from a prominent handle (fig. 5/3). In grave 6, the funeral inventory has also a cup with *umbo*, and from grave 5 and other destroyed graves there came to light fragments which could belong either to the type of cup with over-raised handle, or to the cup with *umbo* and the lip curved inwards. (fig. 5/4).

The last type of vessel recorded in the cremation cemetery of Ștefănești is the bi-truncated cone-shaped urn with a large lip. But only the lip fragments discovered in Gr. 5 and 7 belong to this form, which demonstrate the presence of this type of vessel, largely spread in the cremation graves of the Corlăteni type in the Ștefănești cemetery too<sup>3</sup>.

From the disturbed grave 10 there comes also a bigger fragment of a bi-truncated cone-shaped urn with a neck, belonging to a variant not yet attested among the bi-truncated cone shaped urns of the area of the cultural group of Corlăteni (fig. 5/1). Unfortunately, the fragmentary character of this piece makes impossible the complete reconstruction of the neck and of the lip. The traditional and relatively fixed elements of the funeral ritual of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture have imposed the usage of a limited number and a specific form of vessels during the burial. The main piece is the vessel in which the remains of burned human bones are deposited and which can be: a bi-truncated cone-shaped urn, a bowl or even a cup; then there is a lid, that is usually a bowl placed with the mouth downwards, and offering vessels or vessels with offerings, usually represented by cups with over-raised handle, small cups and bowls<sup>4</sup>, elements of ritual which can also be found in the Ștefănești cemetery. Finally in two graves, 3 and 4, there appears a bronze earring or link, complete or fragmentary, used as adornment and probably without any connection with the funeral ritual.

The plane cremation cemetery of Ștefănești, through the peculiarities of its inventory objects as well as through its place in the area of spreading of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture can be attributed beyond any doubt to that culture. As regards the chronological aspect it can be noticed that the pieces found as almost complete, so that their shape and decoration can be recognized, are not very typical

for one of the three known stages of the Corlăteni - Chişinău culture of Ha A and B<sup>5</sup>. Thus, of the list of typical ceramic types, the bi-truncated cone-shaped urn with a high neck is attested only by rests of large lips and a piece of urn which cannot be considered in establishing a chronology. Therefore only the fragmentary cups with over-raised handle, the cups with *umbo* and the bowls can be analyzed.

In the older stage of Ha A of the cultural group Corlăteni, represented by the graves of Vaslui and Trifeşti<sup>6</sup> and the settlements of Ilişeni and Căndeşti, there can be noticed the rarity or the absence of the cup with over-raised handle and *umbo* as well as the bowls or cups with *umbo*<sup>7</sup>. In exchange, in the next period, Ha B, the cup with over-raised handle is never absent from the settlements and the cemeteries of the Corlăteni-Chişinău culture<sup>8</sup>. In cremation graves, it almost always appears as offering vessel or with offerings, associated with the urn vessel and the lid-bowl. As far as the small bowl and the cup with a curved lip and *umbo* are concerned, they have analogies only in the graves on Cotu Morii, dated in Ha B<sup>9</sup>.

The most frequent piece at Ştefăneşti is the bowl of various sizes, which, through its bigger samples, gets closer to the tureen. These forms belong to the type C in A. László's classification<sup>10</sup>. Found in the settlements and the cemeteries of the Corlăteni-Chişinău culture in a large number of pieces, types and variants and in all the stages of its spreading it cannot be used in establishing a more restrictive chronology. Yet, in the earlier graves of the Corlăteni group of Vaslui and Trifeşti, the bowls either do not have the strip of horizontal grooves, or they have a decoration only with two horizontal parallel grooves<sup>11</sup>. Thus it is possible that the strip with more numerous and more elaborate grooves, as it is at Ştefăneşti, belonged to the stage of maximum spreading of this decoration which occurred in the stage of Ha B of the cultural group of Corlăteni.

Another element that should be considered are the earrings or the links in bronze. The first one, with overlapping ends, was discovered in Ştefăneşti, in Gr. 3, while the second one, from Gr. 4, is fragmentary and deformed so it is typical only because of the rhomboidal shape of the section. The bronze earrings appear in complexes only in the grave of Iaşi, attributed to the Ha B period<sup>12</sup>, and in grave 1 of the Măndreşti cemetery<sup>13</sup>.

In conclusion, as regards chronology, the cemetery of Ştefăneşti is closest to the cemetery of Cotu Morii<sup>14</sup>, through the variety of bowls, cups with over-raised handle, and cups, and it is similar to the grave of Iaşi<sup>15</sup> through the discoveries of bronze earrings, both attributed to Ha B, a dating which we consider the most acceptable for the cemetery archaeologically examined by us.

The plane cremation cemetery of Ştefăneşti is similar in the peculiarities of funeral ritual to the other cemeteries and isolated graves in the area of the Corlăteni-Chişinău culture: Trifeşti<sup>16</sup>, Vaslui<sup>17</sup>, Cotu Morii<sup>18</sup>, Iaşi<sup>19</sup>, Măndreşti<sup>20</sup> and eventually Cucorăni, in which the specific element is represented by the burial



of the urns with the cremation remains together with vessels with or for offerings. According to the peculiarities of the funeral practices, the ten graves archaeologically examined at Ștefănești are unitary only in the prevalence of cremation as a funeral ritual and, when analyzed in detail, there are some differences. Thus, in graves 1, 3, 6 and probably 4, a bowl is used as cremation urn; only in one case, in grave 2, the urn was represented by a cup with an over-raised handle. Among the eight intact graves, only three have vessels with or for offerings: in grave 5 there is a similar situation while in grave 6 there is the cup with *umbo* and the second cup. Also, as a peculiarity of the ritual, there may be recorded the existence, in grave 6, of a cup with *umbo* placed with the mouth downwards and, in five graves (Gr. 4 - 8) lid-bowls of which the bottom is missing completely or partially.

From the previous analysis there may be noticed an essential peculiarity which makes it different from the cemeteries and the graves of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture, namely the preference for using bowls as cremation urn in almost all the graves discovered at Ștefănești. The practice of depositing fragments of vessels and human bones covered with a lid-bowl as in Ștefănești was also found in grave 2 of Măndrești, belonging to the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture<sup>22</sup>, in the Gava culture, in the cultural group of Igrîța and in the cemetery of Lăpuș<sup>23</sup>. At the same time, little cups placed with the mouth downwards appear only in the cemetery of Volovăț, attributed to the cultural group of Grănicești<sup>24</sup>.

Even though there are some differences, they are not essential and they do not prevent us from attributing the Ștefănești cemetery to the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture, especially if we take into account the ceramic material discovered. At the same time, as in other cases, there could not be identified the *ustrina* - the place of burning of the dead - nor the corresponding settlement. Though in the area of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture inhumation graves are also attested, such as those of Aldești<sup>25</sup>, Hânsaca<sup>26</sup> and some others, only hypothetically attributed to this culture in Trifești and Vaslui<sup>27</sup>, the cemetery of Ștefănești, together with the other similar discoveries proves once more that the predominant funeral ritual of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture is represented by cremation graves in plane cemeteries<sup>28</sup>.

In conclusion, with all its peculiarities, the cemetery of Ștefănești, with eight intact graves and two more disturbed, can be considered typical and, for the moment, the largest of the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture archaeologically examined so far.

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1. C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *Descoperirile arheologice din necropola timpurie de la Cotu Morii-Iași*, ArhMold, XV, 1992, p.41.
2. Oleg Levițki, *Cultura Hallstattului canelat la răsărit de Carpați*, București, 1994, p.60; idem, *Culturi din epoca Hallstattului timpuriu și mijlociu*, Thraco-Dacica, XV, 1-2, 1994, p.159-167.
3. A. László, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, București, p. 117-121; Oleg Levițki, *Cultura Hallstattului canelat la răsărit de Carpați*, tip II-III, p. 87-88.
4. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 108-110; Oleg Levițchi, *op. cit.*, p. 64-69.
5. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 129-130, 159; C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *op. cit.*, p. 40.
6. Al. Andronic, *Descoperirile traco-geto-dacice de la Vaslui*, Cercetări istorice, 12-13, 1981-1982, Iași, p. 117-126; I. Ioniță, *Săpăturile de salvare de la Trifești*, Materiale, VIII, 1962, p. 733-739.
7. Marilena Florescu, A. C. Florescu, *Cercetările arheologice de la Cîndești-Coasta Banului, comuna Dumbrăveni (Jud. Vrancea), în perioada 1976-1980*, Materiale (Brașov, 1981), București, 1983, p. 122, fig. 8/2; A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 106, 128-130.
8. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 121-122; Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 106, 128-130.
9. C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *op. cit.*, p. 24-26, fig. 2/2-3.
10. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 114-115, pl. X/37-62.
11. Al. Andronic, *op. cit.*, p. 120-121, fig. 6/2; I. Ioniță, *op. cit.*, p. 734-735, fig. 3.
12. C. Ionomu and Cătălin Piu, *Un mormânt din prima epocă a fierului descoperit la Iași*, ArhMold, XV, 1992, p. 177, fig. 1/5-6; 2/6-7; A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 150.
13. Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 68, fig. 26/2. The earrings appeared also in the settlement of Prăjești (C. Buzdugan, *Descoperirile arheologice de la Prăjești (Județul Bacău)*, Carpica, II, 1969, p. 84).
14. C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *op. cit.*, p. 40.
15. C. Ionomu and C. Piu, *op. cit.*, p. 180.
16. I. Ioniță, *op. cit.*, p. 733-739.
17. Al. Andronic, *op. cit.*, p. 117-126
18. C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *op. cit.*, p. 23-44.
19. C. Ionomu and C. Piu, *op. cit.*, p. 177-180.
20. Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 64.
21. The graves in Cucorâni are attributed by A. László to the cultural group of Grănicești (A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 57-58) and by Oleg Levițki to the cultural group of Corlăteni (Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 64-67). In our opinion the Cucorâni tombs are in the contact zone between the areas of the cultural groups of Corlăteni and Grănicești, and, as such, they gather elements specific to both cultural groups. Thus are: the vessel from Cucorâni, with analogies with the Taktabay cemetery of the type Gáva-Holihady (A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 58) and the cup from the same cemetery, similar to identification with a piece discovered at Cotu Morii (C. Ionomu, M. Tanasachi, *op. cit.*, p. 33, fig. 4/1; 12/9).
22. Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 68.
23. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 60-61.

24. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 59; M. Ignat, *Necropola tumulară hallstattiană de la Volăvăș-Dealul Burlei, Suceava*, Anuarul Muzeului județean, V, 1978, p. 114.

25. V. Ursachi, *Cercetări arheologice efectuate de Muzeul de istorie din Roman*, Carpica, I, 1968, p.134, 139; Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 65.

26. Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 66.

27. A. László, *op. cit.*, p. 108-109; Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 66.

28. At Braniște and Frunzeni, in the Republic of Moldavia, there are also funeral tumuli with graves of the Corlăteni-Chișinău type, whose ritual peculiarities could not be mentioned (Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 65). Also there can be added the grave from Prăjești, considered as belonging to the cultural group of Corlăteni (C. Buzdugan, *op. cit.*, p. 82, fig. 3/13; Oleg Levițki, *op. cit.*, p. 65).

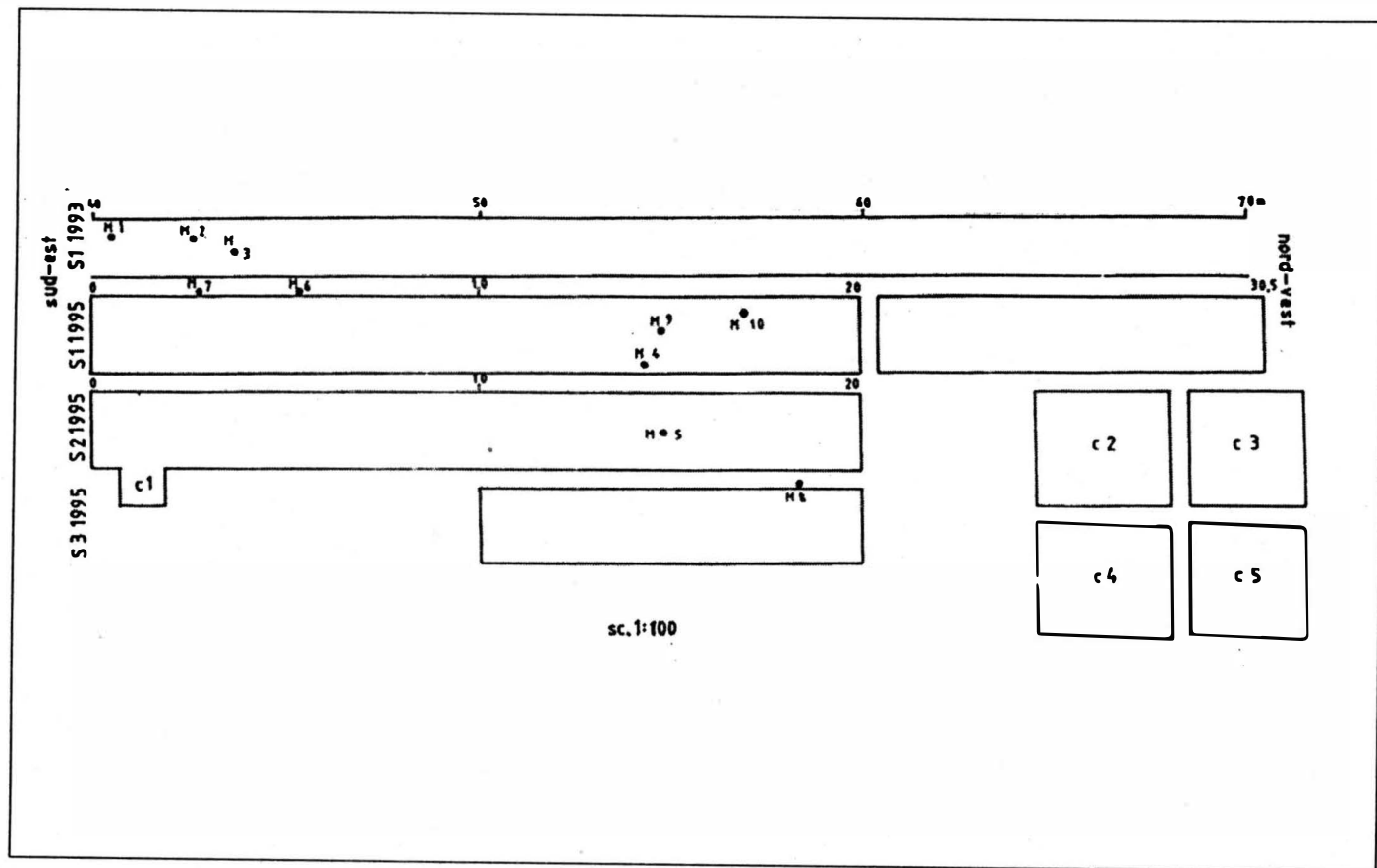


Fig. 1. The plan of the sections from the campaigns between 1993 and 1995, with the location of the graves belonging to the Corlăteni-Chișinău culture.

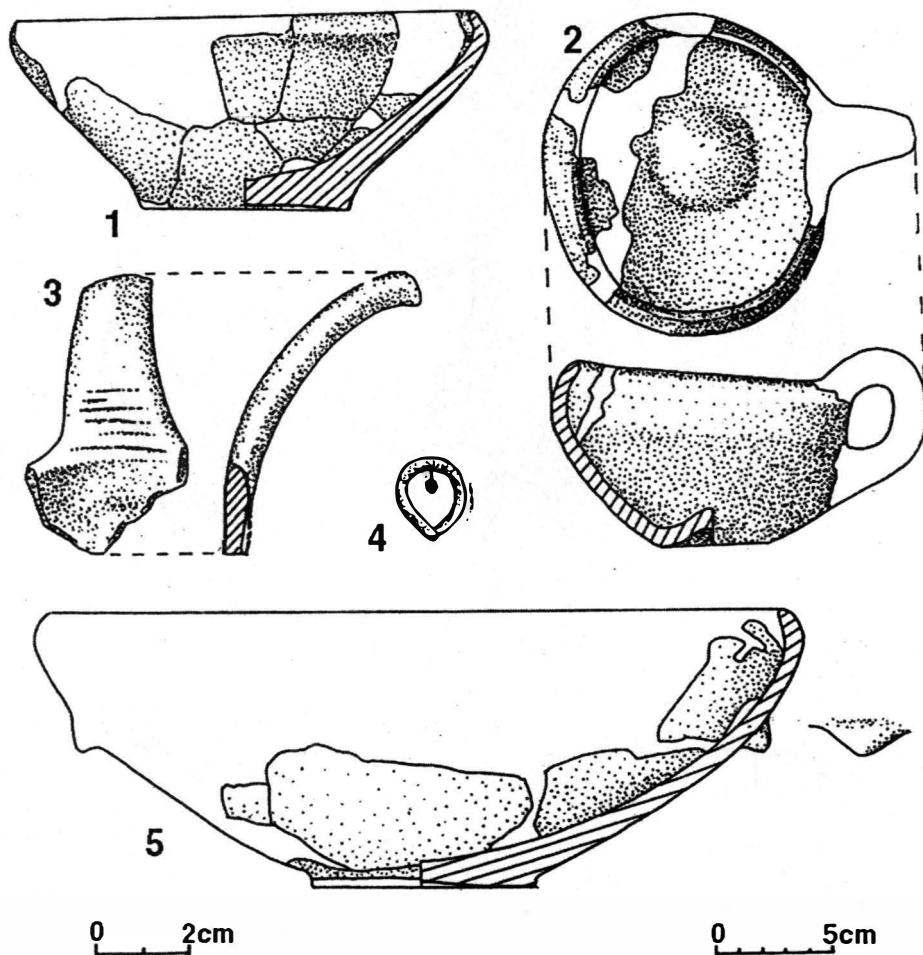


Fig. 2. 1 Bowl from Gr. 1; 2 Cup with *umbo* from Gr. 2; 3 Fragment of a cup handle from Gr. 4; 4 Bronze earring from Gr. 3; 5 Bowl from Gr. 1.

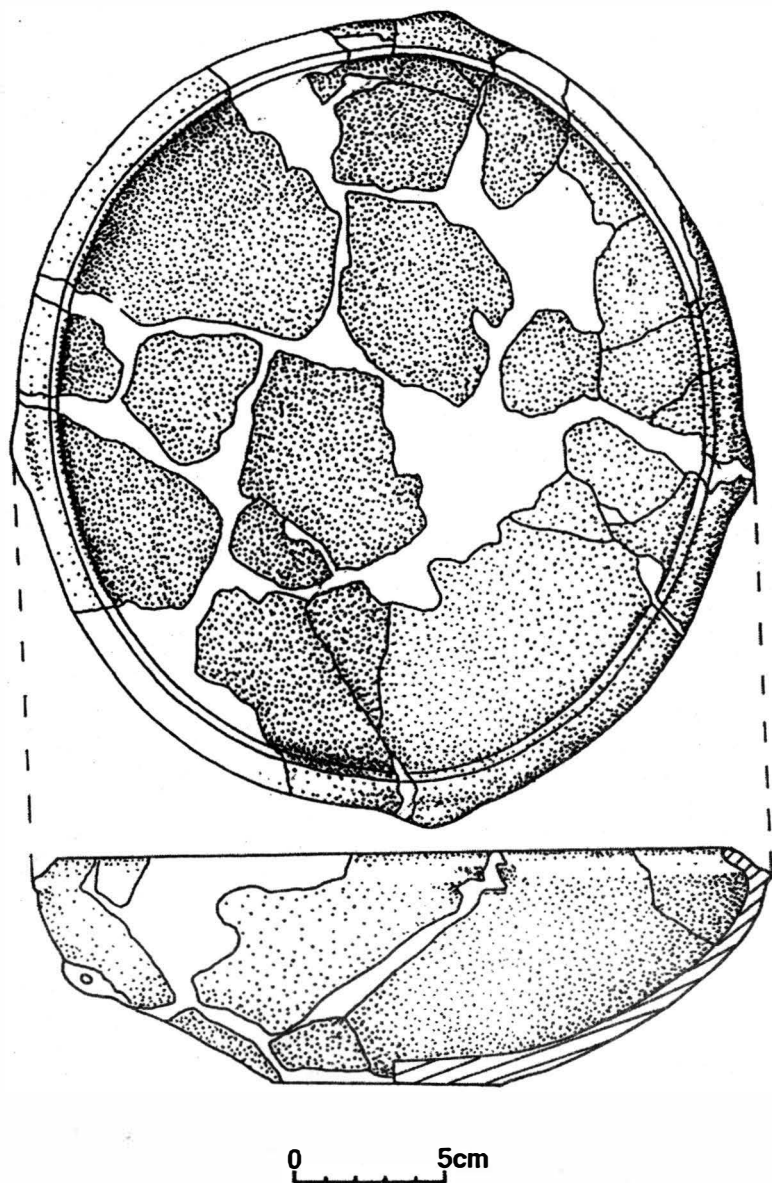


Fig. 3. Lid bowl with prominences from Gr. 3.

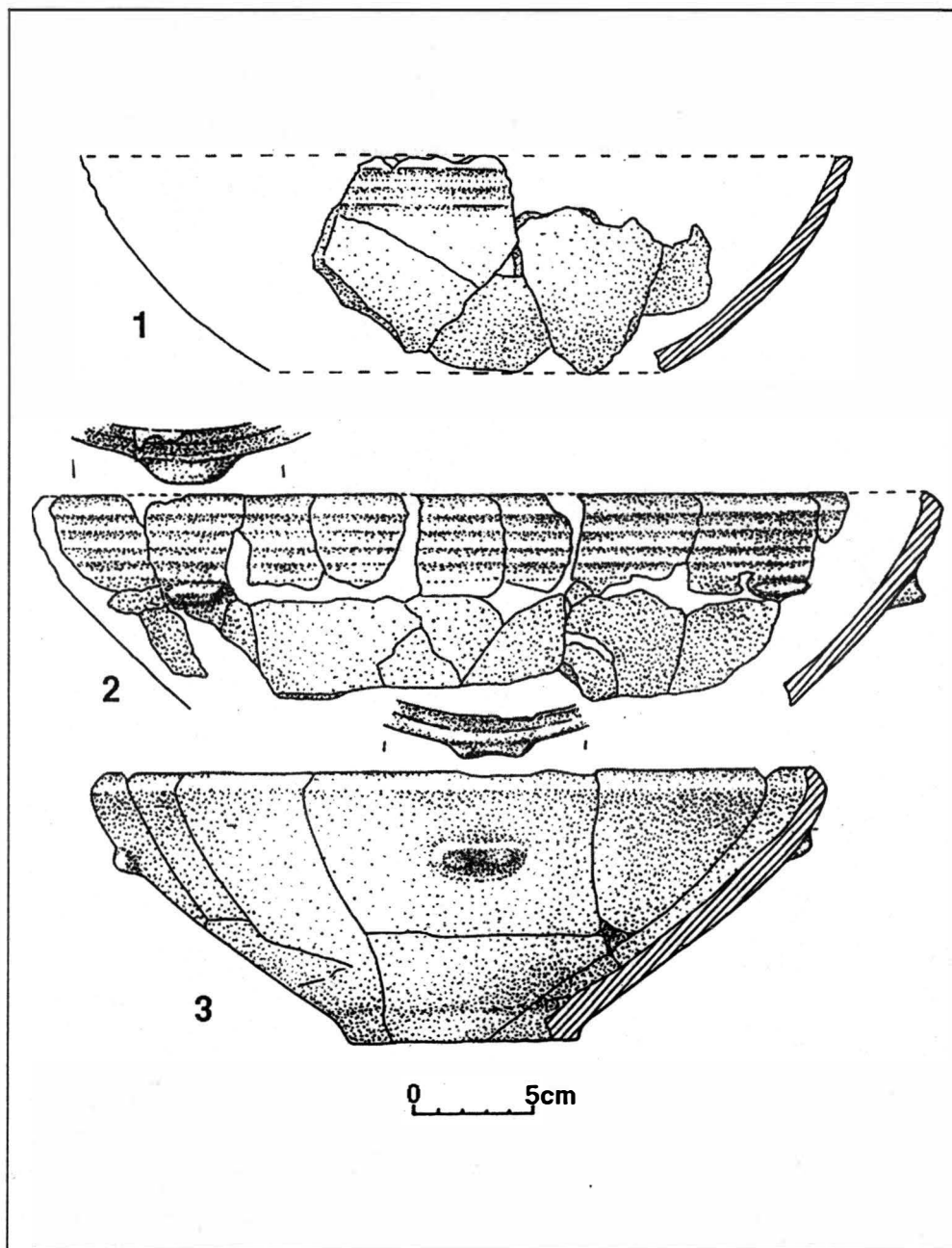


Fig. 4. 1 Bowl fragment from Gr. 4; 2 Fragmentary lid bowl from Gr. 6;  
3 Lid bowl from Gr. 5.

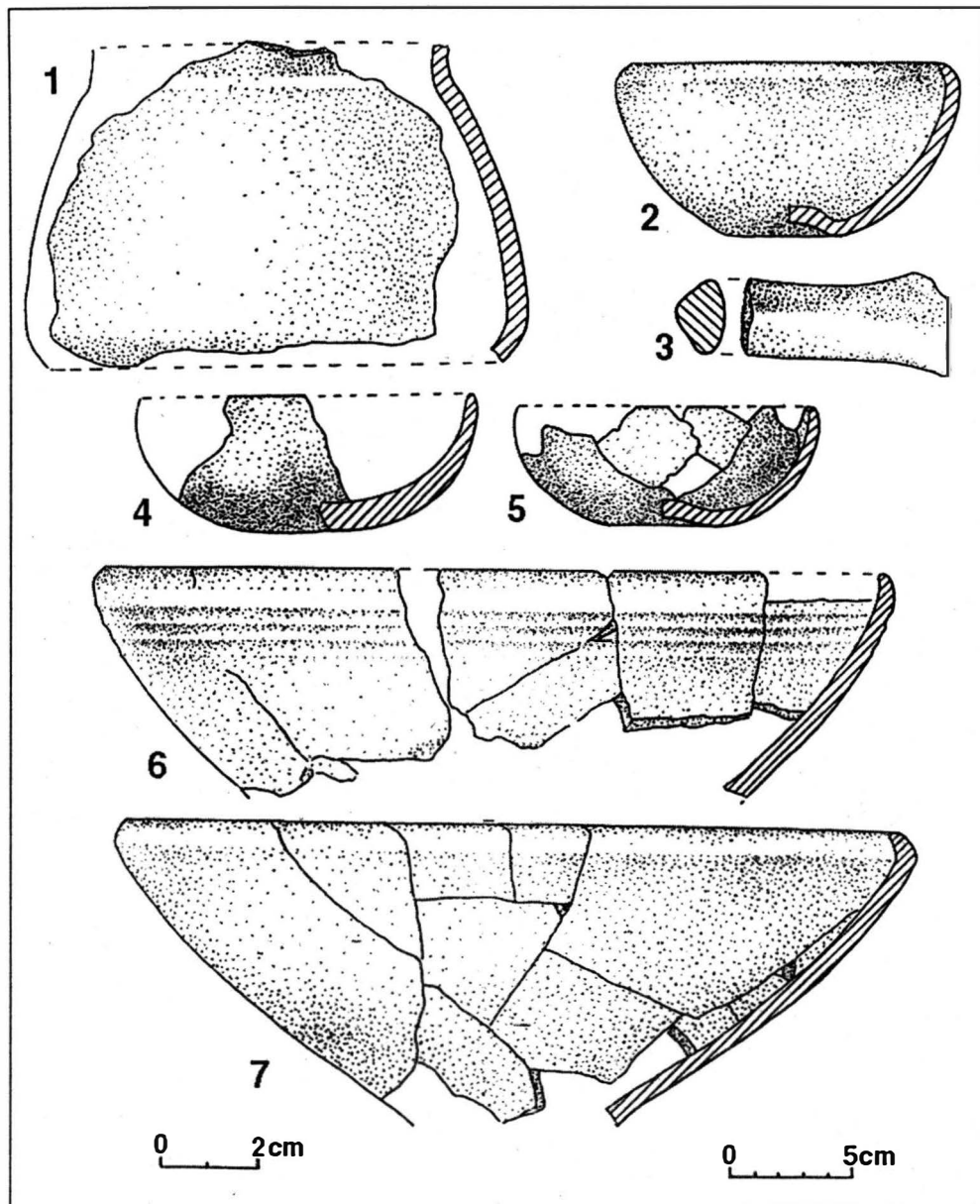


Fig. 5. 1 Fragment of bi-truncated cone-shaped urn from the disturbed Gr. 10; 2 Cup with umbo from Gr. 6; 3 Fragment of grooved handle discovered casually in S1/1995; 4 Cup fragment from S1/1995; 5 Fragmentary cup with umbo from Gr. 9; 6 Bowl from Gr. 7; 7 Lid bowl from Gr. 8.