

SZEGHALOM-DIÓÉR IN EASTERN HUNGARY: CERNAVODĂ III TRADITIONS, COȚOFENI CONNECTIONS AND KURGAN CHRONOLOGY. A REVIEW

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The cultural and chronological position of the already known site Szeghalom-Dióér has not been entirely published so far. Its conspicuously archaic elements suggest that the region itself must have been strongly influenced by Cernavodă III or related groups immediately after the Sălcuța IV-Hunyadi halom period. Strong eastern-southeastern impact can be visualized during the Early Coțofeni period.

All these features together with the appearance of some corded ware sherds suggest the possibility of an intrusion of pit-grave groups, as early as the earliest phase of the Baden period. This view seems to be strongly supported by the Cernavodă III material found in the territory of the kurgan cemetery at Kétegháza.

The prehistoric reconstruction of the continuous infiltration of the steppe-pastoralists from the early Bodrogkeresztúr period onwards seemed reasonable within the framework of the short chronology. Stratigraphic evidence does not support this reconstruction. On the other hand, the role of the Aegean EBA in the formation of the Baden culture cannot be taken into account either. Nevertheless the specific features of the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin certainly suggest a natural possibility of connections with the west-steppe - northeast Balkan regions and the prehistoric reconstruction must not leave this structural feature of the region out of consideration.