

THE TOMB OF INCINERATION FOUND AT IZVORU DULCE - MEREI, BUZĂU COUNTY

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The tomb from Izvoru Dulce - Meri was fortuitously discovered in the spring of 1972. It is one of the few Hallstattian funeral complexes known in Buzău area. The inventory of the tomb was recovered at a few days after the discovery. In September 1974 we made an investigation digging on the place of the finding, in the purpose of establishing the conditions of discovery; with this occasion we recovered the archaeological material from the part of the pit not yet investigated. The bell-shaped pit was put into disorder as deep as 0.30 m; the diameter at this point was of 0.70 m; the undisturbed part was as deep as 0.29 / 0.35 m, having the maximum diameter of 0.87 m; the bottom was arranged in treads, the eastern half being 6 cm deeper. Several burnt bones were laid over a fragment of a vase found *in situ*. Accordingly to the discoverer's assessment, in the bi-truncated-shaped vase there were "about a hand-full burnt bones, some of them yellow" (?).

The inventory of the tomb contained: a bi-truncated-shaped vase, with a twisted belt at the basis of the neck, marked with four prominences, and having below the maximum diameter four grey oblique handles; a globular vase with wide grooves which are horizontal on the neck and slanted to the right on the upper side of the body, with four oblique handles placed above the basis, the whole piece having a black colour; a fragment of a big sack-shaped vase, with thick walls, vertical edge, and with two circular grooves below the rim, with four handles above the basis, black colour at the exterior and brick-brown at the interior, metallic glaze; bi-truncated-shaped vase (fragment, partially recovered through the investigation), flared out rim, black colour at the exterior and brick at the interior side; fragment of a dish with flared in rim, decorated with a triangle stamped with a cord; half of a mandible of a sheep or a goat; a burnt stone.

In Buzău County we also found Hallstattian funeral complexes at Bozioru, Costești, Fântânele (Năeni commune), Gherăseni, Gura Câlnăului (Vadu Pații commune), Pietroasa Mică (Pietroasele commune), Potârnichești (Poșta Câlnăului commune), Smeeni. The tombs from Pietroasa Mică and Smeeni belong to the inhumation type, the tomb from Gherăseni is not relevant as rite, the others belong to the incineration type. Leaving aside the two tombs of inhumation from Pietroasa Mică (probably Ha A) and that from Smeeni (irrelevant), among the tombs of incineration this one taken into discussion is probably the earliest one.

The tomb from Izvoru Dulce - Mereni is a flat individual one. Accordingly to the findings, it belongs to the Middle Hallstatt. From the cultural point of view, it is quite difficult to be assigned: placed in the perimeter of Basarabi Culture, the ceramics material rather has Babadag elements. Its placement on the first slopes of Istri/Ea Hill can be a valuable point in the knowledge of Basarabi Culture area development and of the relations with Babadag Culture.