

ARDEU – CETĂȚUIE. TEN YEARS AFTER

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Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane Museum from Deva began in the Summer of 2001 the archaeological researches on the territory of the Ardeu village, Hunedoara county, Romania. The investigations were focused on the Cetățuie Hill and also to the meadow of the Valea Ardeului brook, on the southern side of the hill. Together with the Museum from Deva, some other institutions were involved: „1 Decembrie 1918” University from Alba Iulia, Muzeul Național de Istorie al Transilvaniei Museum, from Cluj Napoca, Corvin Castle Museum, from Hunedoara and The Sismic Archaeology Institute, from Alba Iulia.

More than ten years after, we can count some achievements and many new directions for researches are opened too.

About the Dacian fortress from Ardeu we published informations quite often in the last years¹. The village is placed in southwestern Transylvania, on one of the routs which connect the Mureș Valley to the area rich in precious metals².

The antiquities found on *Cetățuie* and *Judele*, first attested at the end of the 19th Century by Téglas Gabor³ are now almost a century later on the interest among researchers. On the last decades of the XXth century, starting with the beginning of the limestone exploitation in Ardeu, the specialists from the History Museum from Deva show a high interest. Two small campaigns were organized, in 1973⁴, and in 1999⁵, and some surface researches were done in the last decade of the XXth century⁶.

Most extensive investigations were started in 2001, and between 2001 and 2011, there were organized several research campaign in the field by the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization in the most of the cases in cooperation with some other institutions⁷.

In the 2001 campaign, the team had turn its attention on the evaluation of the potential of the site, especially on the „Cetățuie” Hill. There were investigated two

¹Ferencz, Roman 2010, p. 173-184; Ferencz 2012, p. 70-71, with the entire bibliography.

²Ferencz, Roman 2010.

³Téglas 1885, p.299-307; Téglas1888. See also Ferencz 2012.

⁴Nemoianu, Andrițoiu 1975.

⁵Pescaru et all. 2000.

⁶Specialists from Deva and Cluj Napoca like: I. Glodariu, A. Pescaru, E. Pescaru, I Andrițoiu, Daniel Țuțuianu, Angelica Bălos, Ferencz Iosif, Coralia Jianu, Dorin Cărăbeș were nvestigated on the surface the slopes and the upper plateau of the hill.

⁷Pescaru et all 2002; Ferencz et all. 2003; Ferencz et all. 2004; Ferencz et all. 2005; Ferencz et all. 2010; Ferencz et all. 2011.

trenches on the upper plateau, another on the Eastern basis of the hill. More than that, on the Southern slope, it was investigated an area (T III) partially destroyed by the stone quarry (Pl. I/8). The discoveries have topped expectations⁸. Some structures and archaeological pieces belonging to different times were discovered (Pl. I/1,5-7).

The archaeological campaign carried on 2002 was the longest: from August until October. The team investigated the upper plateau of *Cetățuie* Hill⁹. Together with Cristian Ioan Popa, from the „1 Decembrie 1918” University from Alba Iulia, we established a strategy for researching the site. More than 30 students participated to the excavations. In that campaign were excavated two trenches, to evaluate the top of the hill and we started to excavate the area systematically (Pl. II/8). We found the remains of some Dacian buildings: three houses, placed on the eastern part of the upper plateau, not far from the Dacian wall. We also founded the basis of the fortress wall, made of local limestone and clay¹⁰, which was build on the eastern edge of the plateau. On the northern part, on the highest place, were identified the remains of the nobles palace, a so called „Dwelling tower”¹¹. Many objects discovered in that campaign are particular for the Dacian civilization, but there are also Roman pieces and some others belonging to some other civilizations which they lived on that hill or just visited it during the time¹².

An interesting thing discovered in that Summer field campaign was a fragmentary woden pillar, placed in a cylindrical hole excavated in limestone¹³. We think that the pole belonged to a woden structure built inside the medieval fortress¹⁴.

Next year, in 2003, our intention was to investigate the place where we supposed to find the remains of the Dacian settlement. The place chosen for that is called „Gura Cheilor” and it is placed not far from the place where the stream is coming out from the „Ardeu Gorges” (Pl.III/8-9). We excavated two trenches and we found the remains of three Dacian houses, one from the Ist century BC, and the other two, from the Ist century AD¹⁵. The dwellings were rectangular and builded on the surface of the earth on some stone basis (Pl. III/3-4).

On the upper plateau we dismantled the Dacian fortress wall and we found that it was built on the edge of the upper plateau, in the place where the slope became suddenly arduous (Pl. III/1-2)¹⁶.

In 2004 Romanian Ministry of Culture financed the excavations and we continued to explore the western side of the upper plateau (Pl. IV/1,4,6)¹⁷. In that field campaign we found the remains of a building which we think that it was an workshop (Pl. IV/4), where a craftsman probably work in metal, but also into bone and antlers¹⁸.

In the Autumn of 2004, our collaboration with Maria Magdalena Duțescu and Dan Ștefan from the Domain Digital company from Bucharest made possible the first topographic survey of the site (Pl. IV/5).

⁸ Pescaru et al 2002

⁹ Ferencz et al 2003.

¹⁰ Ferencz et al 2003.

¹¹ Ferencz et al 2003.

¹² Ferencz 2012, p. 76

¹³ Ferencz et al 2003.

¹⁴ Ferencz et al 2003.

¹⁵ Ferencz et al 2004.

¹⁶ Ferencz et al 2004.

¹⁷ Ferencz et al 2005.

¹⁸ Ferencz 2010.

Another campaign of researches we started in 2009, when the attention was focused on the workshop identified in 2004¹⁹. The excavation of the same objective continued in 2010 and 2011. In those campaigns our supposition was proved: we found fire instalations and many objects which they show the presence of a workshop in that place (Pl. V/8-9).

Even if we didn't organized excavations since 2004 to 2009 a table containing the most important data describing the site was placed on the edge of the site in 2006²⁰.

Conclusions

In the last ten years, the researches and the practices concerning the site management chosen by us lead to a better acquaintance of the antiquities from Ardeu. Now we have a general view about the main buildings on the upper plateau. Besides the tower dwelling which dominates the whole fortification area, existed some other structures (dwellings) inside the walls, inhabited by the persons closed to nobles and/or members of garrison and their families. The remains of three of this kind of buildings were researched in those two archaeological units during the 2002²¹ campaigns. In order to lay out this kind of dwellings, the rock was leveled, a concentration of archaeological materials being found in the area.

The Dacian habitation had destroyed the other ancient traces (Copper Age, Bronze Age and First Iron Age) but we were still able to find some materials belonging to those historical periods. Materials that are more recent were discovered as well. A small number of them are belonging to the time of the Roman Province Dacia (2nd to 3rd century), several to the Migration Times (4th to 6th century) and others belonging to the Middle Ages (11th to 12th and 14th to 16th centuries).

We have also located the settlement on the Southern and Eastern slopes, on some natural (*Judele*) and artificial terraces and on the bank of the brook (the place named *Gura Cheilor*). The excavation between 2001 and 2003²² shows some frames of the habitation in Dacian times, as well as in the Prehistoric times (Copper Age, Bronze Age and First Iron Age)²³.

We had identified some dwellings²⁴ in those areas and the traces of a bronze processing workshop²⁵. The stratigraphy of the Dacian settlement shows two levels: the older belonging to the end of the 2nd to the first half of the 1st century B.C., and the other one is dated between the 2nd half of the 1st century B.C. to the time of Traian's wars in Dacia²⁶. For the time being, we do not have enough data in order to render a more accurate dating.

Valorization of the site and presented it to the great public was another objective for us. One of the consequences of gathering knowledge from the archaeological research should be the one to try to integrate the investigated monument in the touristic circuit.

As for promoting and the valorization of Ardeu the research group has set a series of short, medium and long time objectives. In a first phase our efforts went to

¹⁹ Ferencz et all 2010; Ferencz et all 2011.

²⁰ Roman, Ferencz 2010, Fig. 2.

²¹ Ferencz et all. 2003, p. 41.

²² Pescaru et all 2002, p. 41-43; Bodó, Ferencz 2003, p. 147-158; Ferencz Bodó 2003, p. 20-21; Ferencz et all. 2004, p. 43-45.

²³ Pescaru et all 2002, p. 41-43; Ferencz et all. 2004, p. 43-45.

²⁴ Pescaru et all 2002, p. 41-43; Ferencz et all. 2004, p. 43-45.

²⁵ Ferencz Bodó 2003, p. 20-21.

²⁶ Pescaru et all 2002, p. 41-43; Ferencz et all. 2004, p. 44-45.

presenting the site to the press, signalizing the monument and presenting the results of the research to the scientific community in communications, studies and articles. We have also initiated a collaboration with the illustrator Radu Roșian, who made possible the realization of some idealized sketches representing the ensemble of the monument and some of its buildings. This project is based on the knowledge of the monument at the moment and it tries to present an image of the Dacian fortress to the public.

We have organized activities for the locals in order to make them understand the importance of the monument for their village and we have launched a website dedicated to the fortress²⁷, its volume and value are conditioned by further research. The event is a first, Ardeu being the first of the Dacian fortresses to benefit such a promotion. The website will be able to be connected to other specialized sites, of museums, research institutes and private associations with concerns on cultural mobile and immobile patrimony. We have also initiated the idea to mount up presentation panels of the site in three places on the road (DN7) and also to include Ardeu in an ideal tourist circuit for the most important Dacian “hot spots” (Grădiștea Muncelului, Costești, Blidaru, Piatra Roșie, Bănița, Hunedoara, Căpâlna, Piatra Craivii, Tilișca).

For the next decade we will organize itinerary theme exhibitions that will present the discoveries from Ardeu. Also we would like to create virtual reconstructions of the site, which will be used as part of the future exhibitions dedicated to this site.

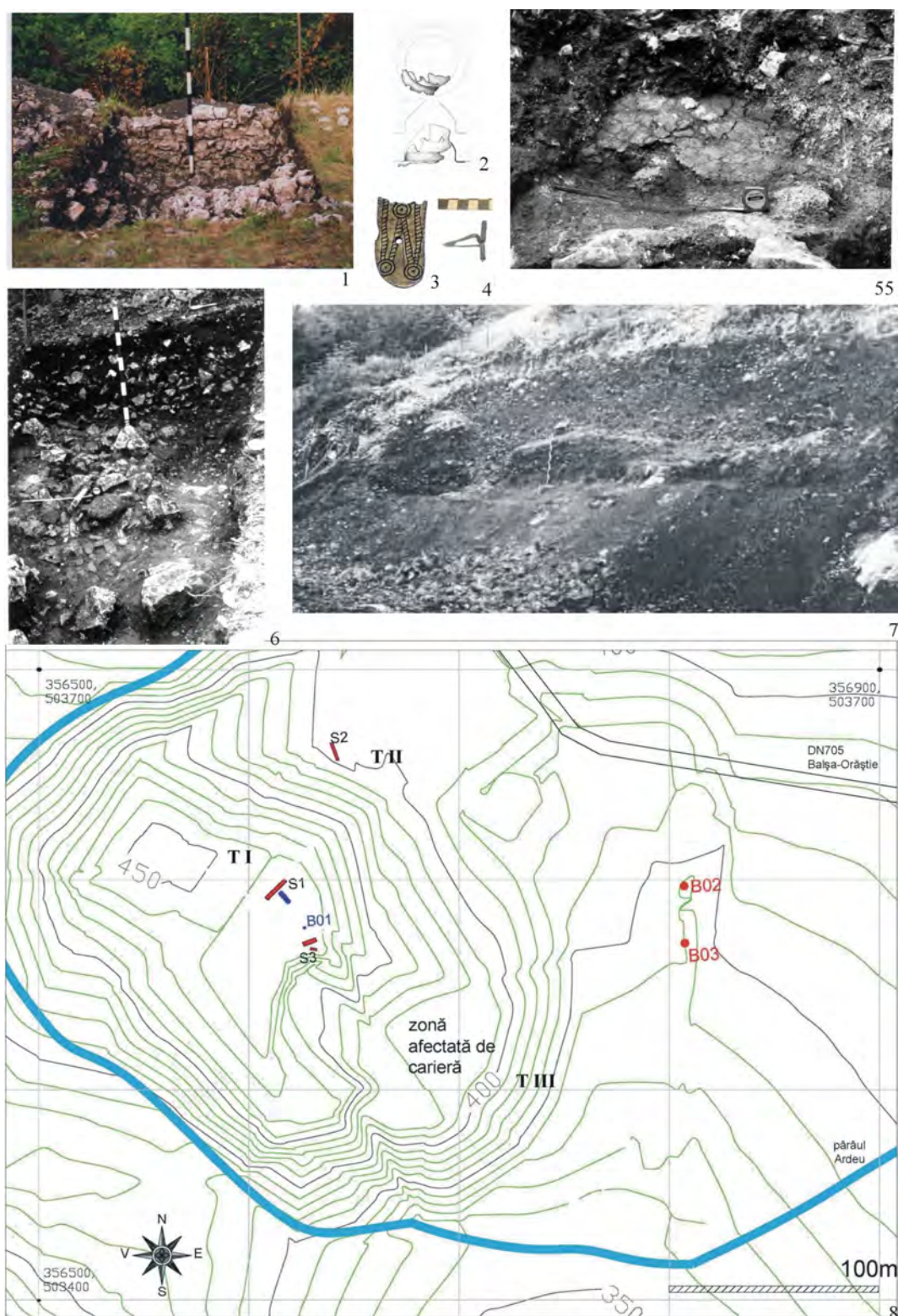
We foresee a finance project that will result in paths up to the upper plateau of the hill, information and explanations for the entire ensemble and its components. As the research will advance we will extend our work with architects and illustrators, hoping these collaborations will result in a project that will be able to offer the visitors at least part of the glory of this erstwhile fortress.

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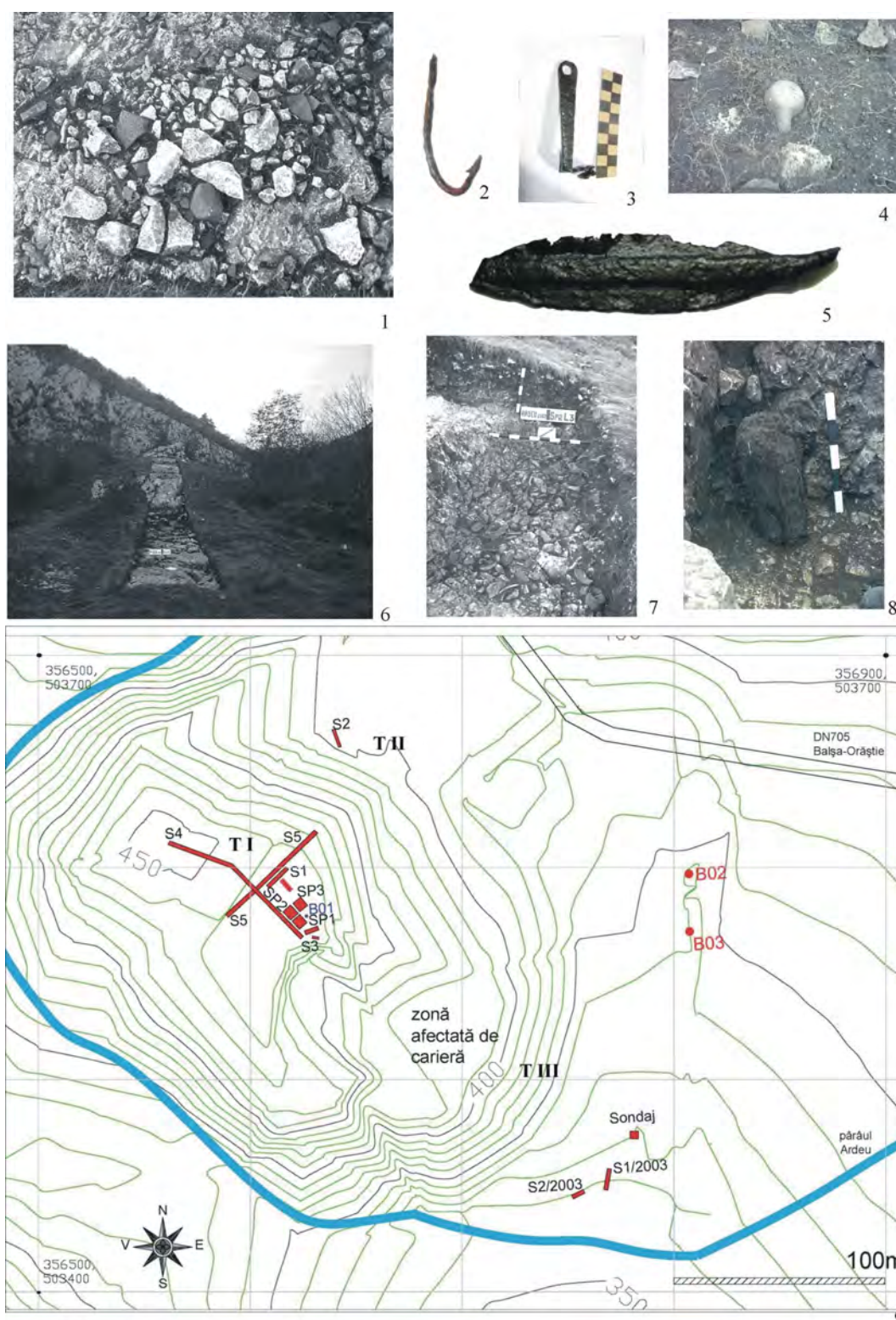
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²⁷ www.ardeu.ro

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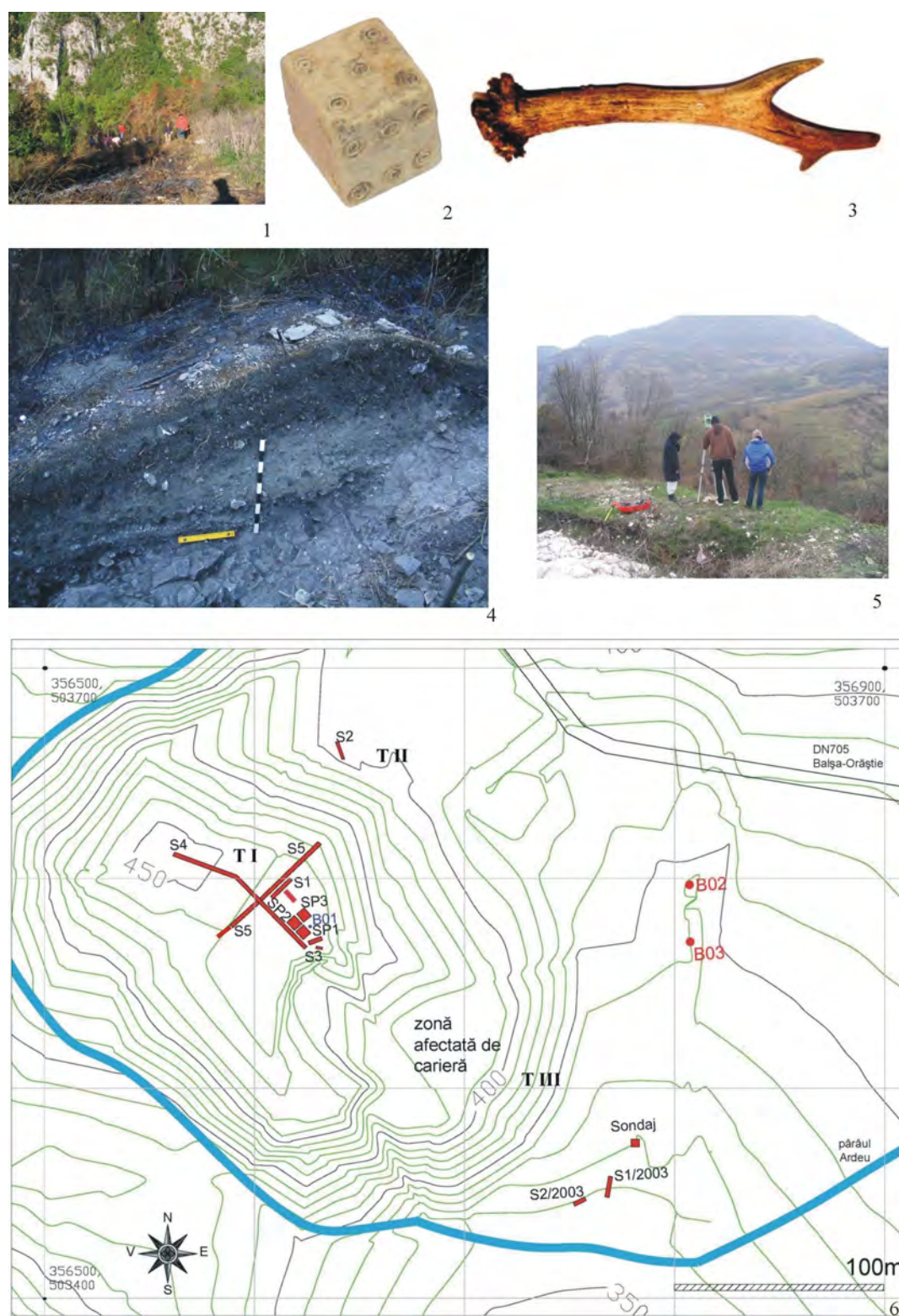
Pl. I. Ardeu-Cetățuie, 2001 campaign. 1. The remains of the Medieval wall (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Shield umbones (sketch by Mugurel Manea); 3. Antler piece (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. Bronze fibula (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Fire place – Coțofeni culture (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. S2/2001, detail with a funerary complex; 7. Topographic plan (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).



Pl. II. Ardeu-Cetățuie, 2002 campaign. 1. S4M' trench - detail from the time of excavations (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Fishing hook (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. Roman Iron key (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. Detail with a Roman lamp (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Iron spearhead (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. S4M' trench – general view (foto I. V. Ferencz); 7. L3/2002 dwelling – detail (foto I. V. Ferencz); 8. Wooden pillar, probably Medieval (foto I. V. Ferencz); 9. Topographic plan (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).



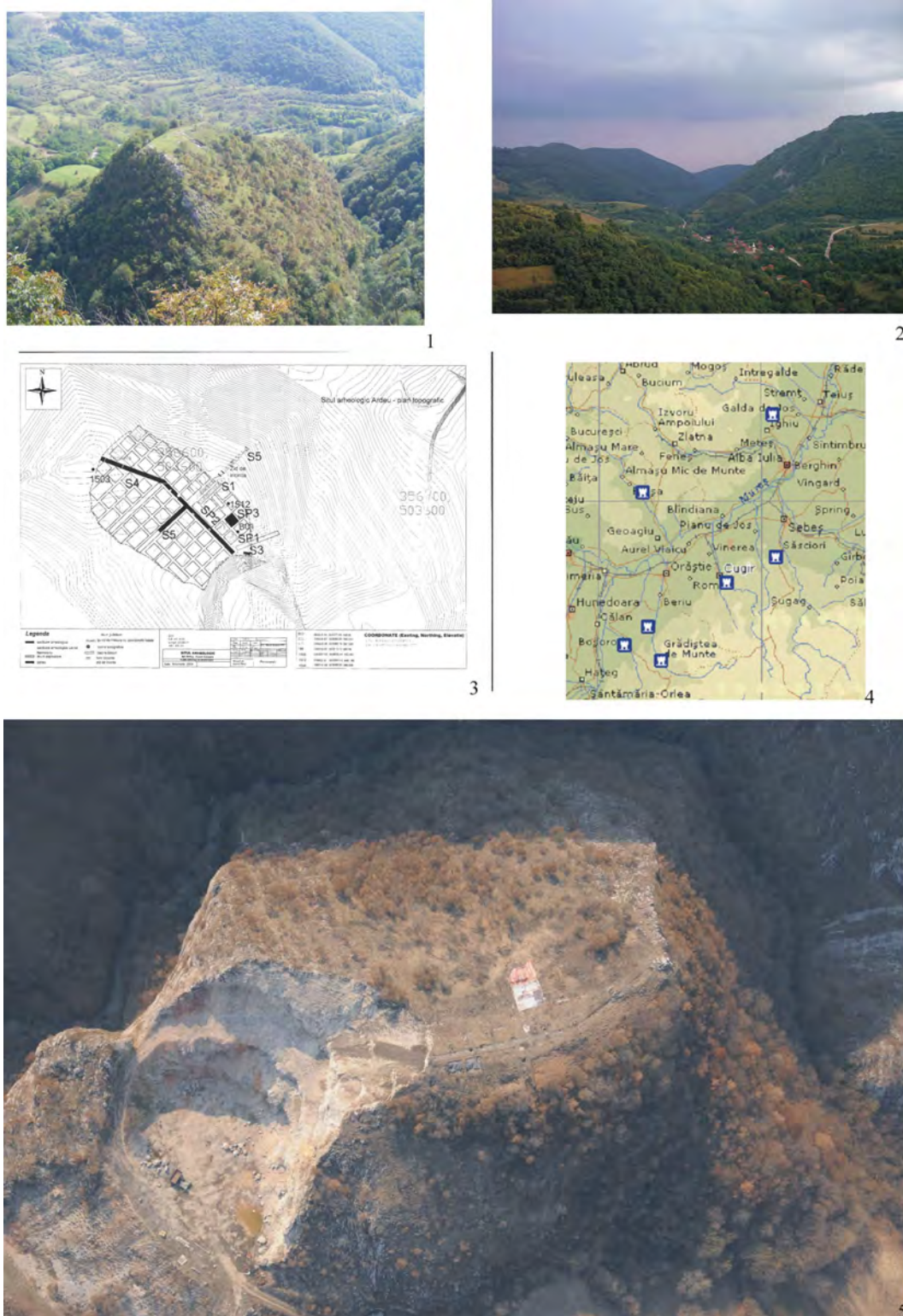
Pl. III. Ardeu-Cetățuie, 2003 campaign. 1. The Dacian wall (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Profile of the Dacian Wall (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. S2/2003 - detail of a Dacian dwelling (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. S1/2003 - detail of a Dacian dwelling (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Bronze ring (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. Rădulești Hunedoara Type coin (foto I. V. Ferencz); 7. Bronze fibula (foto I. V. Ferencz); 8. Ardeu – „Gura Cheilor” – general view (foto I. V. Ferencz); 9. Topographic plan (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).



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Pl. V. Antler piece (foto C. Roman); 2. Ceramic mould (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. Bronze arrowhead (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. General view of the Hill (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Painted pottery (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. Ceramic vessel (foto C. Roman); 7. All the soil is sifted with a sieve (foto I. V. Ferencz); 8. Dacian Oven (foto I. V. Ferencz); 9. Topographic plan (Bogdan Tomuş 2010).



Pl. VI. 1. North-Western View of the „Cetățuie Hill” (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Northern view of the Ardeu village (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. The plan showing our excavations expectations (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2005); 4. The amplacment of the site in comparison with the Dacian fortresses from the South-Western Transylvania; 5. Aerial view of the site (foto Zoltán Czajlik, mai 2012).

Ardeu – Cetățuie. După zece ani

Rezumat

Începând cu vara anului 2001, Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane din Deva, a întreprins cercetări arheologice pe teritoriul satului Ardeu, județul Hunedoara. Investigațiile au vizat deopotrivă dealul Cetățuie, cât și lunca Văii Ardeului, în partea sudică a dealului. Alături de muzeul deven au fost implicate mai multe instituții: Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia, Muzeul Național de Istorie al Transilvaniei, Muzeul Castelul Corvinilor și Institutul de arheologie Sistemică din Alba Iulia.

După mai mult de zece ani de cercetări, pot fi enumerate realizări și în același timp se deschid noi perspective.

Explicația planșelor

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- Pl. II.** Ardeu-Cetățuie, campania 2002. 1. Secțiunea S4M' – detaliu din timpul săpăturilor (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Cârlig pentru pescuit (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. Cheie din fier romană (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. Detaliu al unui opaiț roman (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Vârf de lance din fier (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. Secțiunea S4M' – vedere generală (foto I. V. Ferencz); 7. Locuința L3/2002 – detail (foto I. V. Ferencz); 8. Stâlp din lemn, probabil Medieval (foto I. V. Ferencz); 9. Plan topografic (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).
- Pl. III.** Ardeu-Cetățuie, campania 2003. 1. Zidul dacic (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Profilul zidului dacic (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. S2/2003 – detaliu al unei locuințe dacice (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. S1/2003 – detaliu al unei locuințe dacice (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Inel din bronz (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. Monedă de tip Rădulești Hunedoara (foto I. V. Ferencz); 7. Fibulă din bronz (foto I. V. Ferencz); 8. Ardeu – „Gura Cheilor” – general view (foto I. V. Ferencz); 9. Plan topografic (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).
- Pl. IV.** Ardeu-Cetățuie, campania 2004. 1. Imagine din timpul cercetărilor (foto I. V. Ferencz); 2. Zar din corn de cerb (foto I. V. Ferencz); 3. Corn de căprior (foto I. V. Ferencz); 4. S5B/2004 – profilul nordic (foto I. V. Ferencz); 5. Imagine din timpul măsurătorilor topografice – toamna 2004 (foto I. V. Ferencz); 6. Plan topografic (Digital Domain S.R.L. 2004).
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