

# The end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, western Serbia and north-western Bulgaria. A short review

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Because of the complexity of the ethno-cultural and historical processes which it implies, the definition (as precise and correct as possible) of the transitional moments and periods from one epoch to another raises generally, many difficulties, indifferent of the temporal and geographical space in which these take place. They depend, on the one hand, on the stage of the concrete documentation which can be offered by the primary historical-archaeological investigations and, on the other hand, on the different methods of interpretation used for extant data, in the context of a more dynamic movement of historical events and processes.

This finding can be applied also to the subject which interests us in the context of this discussion, namely the transition from Bronze Age to Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria. Distinguished both by the number and the importance of the finds registered here so far, this area represents a real turning point between different European regions, presenting a special importance not only in the context of the Carpathian-Danubian space, but also for most of the neighbouring regions in Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

For that reason, starting from the present stage of investigations on the Late Bronze Age, I will try to discuss and to define here the fundamental features of the most important ethno-cultural entities assigned to the transitional period (end of the Bronze Age) and to the beginning of the Early Iron Age in this space<sup>1</sup>, trying to make also a more precise chronological framing.

The greatest difficulties in that sense are linked to the different opinions manifested in literature referring, on the one hand, to the circumstances of this transition from Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and, on the other hand, to the historical moment when this passage occurred.

As to the first aspect, the progress shown by the archaeological investigations (particularly in the last decades) enables most specialists to accept an important

contribution of the ethno-cultural elements from the Late Bronze Age to the genesis of the first entities "of Hallstatt type" specific to the area of south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria<sup>2</sup>. The beginnings of this process, relatively long, was marked in Europe by the continental preliminaries of the so-called "Great Aegean Migration", caused by that wide ethno-cultural movement which, starting from the North and Central Europe, crossed the continent in the NW-SE direction and – generating, among other things, the Dorian invasion from northern to southern Greece, destructions in the Mycenaean cities or in Troy and the fall of the Hittite Empire – reached Egypt<sup>3</sup>. In archaeological terms, for the space which is of interest for us here, this moment was illustrated by the penetration

of some cultural elements "of tumular type" (Hügelgräberkultur) at the Middle Danube and in the Tisa Plain, communities of this type arriving even in northern Vojvodina and the north-west of the Romanian Banat<sup>4</sup>. Although they did not produced radical changes in the ethno-cultural aspect, these events had enough influence on the specific cultural entities of the Late Bronze Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north western Bulgaria, accelerating the changes which produced the appearance of the first distinctive elements of the Early Iron Age.

Different opinions persist, however, on the historical moment after which we can speak of the beginning of this epoch, owing to the diverse criteria used in that sense (important changes of ethno-cultural, social-economic and spiritual order, in the technology and typology of the main objects or in the habitat type, the beginnings of the iron metallurgy or the generalization of the iron objects). In that sense, the investigation of the relations between the entities of the Late Bronze Age and the earliest elements of "Hallstatt type" from south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria is of great importance, this space representing one of the primary genetic area for the

Early Iron Age in the whole Carpathian-Danubian basin.

*The cultural entities of the Late Bronze Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria*

The most important cultural entities of this period in the mentioned space were the Cruceni-Belegiș culture (in the western part of the Romanian Banat, north-western Serbia and Vojvodina), the Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture (in southern parts of Oltenia and Romanian Banat, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria), and the cultural group of Balta Sărată type (in the higher regions from north-east, east and maybe even the center of the Romanian Banat). Their evolution until the beginning of the Ha.A phase can be demonstrated or presumed at least, since they had a specific influence on the different cultural groups which succeeded them in the same space for the transitional period to the Early Iron Age ("grosso modo" Ha.A phase).

The Cruceni-Belegiș Culture represents, for that moment, one of the most illustrative, (and best represented by finds) cultural entities of the Late Bronze Age in this area, especially in western parts of the Romanian Banat and in Vojvodina. In Yugoslavian literature it is particularly designated by the terms of "Belegiș group" or "Belegiș Culture"<sup>5</sup>, while in the Romanian one especially by the term of "Cruceni-Belegiș culture"<sup>6</sup>. Prior to these, the finds of this type was attributed to a late phase of the Vatin culture<sup>7</sup> or to the so-called "Pecica-Late Vatin group"<sup>8</sup>.

The terms "Surčin-Belegiș"<sup>9</sup>, "Belegiș-Bobda"<sup>10</sup> and "Pecška-Belegiș"<sup>11</sup> were also used. M. Garašanin continues to consider it, by the term of "Belegiș-Ilandža phase", as the latest stage of the Vatin culture<sup>12</sup>.

The most important sites of this culture are represented particularly by plane cremation cemeteries ("urnfields") and less by settlements<sup>13</sup>.

According to the opinions already expressed, this culture was born on an preponderant background of a Vatin type, to which there had been added elements of South-Pannonian and Transdanubian inlaid pottery, and – after that – some influences from the "Tumular Graves Culture" - *Hügelgräberkultur* (with which was contemporaneous in part)<sup>14</sup>. Generally, its division into two big stages (I-II) has been accepted. However, it must be mentioned here that Yugoslavian archaeologists mean by the Belegiș I phase what in Romania is regarded as the whole evolution of the Cruceni-Belegiș culture, with two phases (I-II), as they

integrate into the Belegiș II phase most finds with fluted and channelled pottery belonging to Ha.A (and even the beginning of Ha.B) phase from Danubian regions of Serbia and Vojvodina<sup>15</sup>.

The analysis of the finds which can be assigned to this culture shows that its existence covers especially the period of Reinecke Bz.C-D phases, although it is possible to date its beginnings as far back as Reinecke Bz.B (rather Bz.B<sub>2</sub>) phase. The archaeological documentation supports, however, the prolongation of its existence (namely the Belegiș IIa - Cruceni II - Karaburma II-III stage) until the beginning of the Ha.A phase, id est until the first half of the XII<sup>th</sup> century B.C.<sup>16</sup>. That is sustained both by the relation established between some elements of the Cruceni II phase (see pl.IA.1-12) and the earliest graves at Bobda<sup>17</sup>, or the "hoard" from Cornuțel (see pl.IV/B.16-22), in spite of the fact that the last one can be integrated in another cultural area, and also with the inventory of some graves from the late phase of Peciu Nou<sup>18</sup> and Timișoara-"Fratelia"<sup>19</sup> cemeteries, like the grave M.31 from the last one (see pl.I/B.13-15).

The fact that the biconical urn from Cornuțel, decorated by fluted and channelled ornaments, contained bronze objects typical for the hoards of Uriu-Domănești type, supports – at the same time – the dating of this series of hoards until the beginning of Ha.A phase.

Under that circumstances, it can be estimated that the existence of the second stage (II) of the Cruceni-Belegiș culture (respectively those of Cruceni II - Belegiș IIa type) took place in Vojvodina and the western parts of Romanian Banat between the end of Reinecke Bz.C phase and the beginning of Ha.A phase; it was "grosso modo" synchronous with the hoards of Uriu-Domănești type. Its final moment could be marked, for the Romanian Banat at least, by the chronological level of the final complexes (graves) of Timișoara-"Fratelia" and Peciu Nou, finds which can be dated in the first half or at the middle of the XII<sup>th</sup> B.C. Although it does not belong to the same cultural area, the "hoard" (rather a grave inventory) from Cornuțel can also be included here.

That does not mean, however, that the evolution of Cruceni-Belegiș culture also ends here, because a series of sites in its area continue to exist also at the next chronological level (Ha.A).

From a cultural point of view – the finds which can be attributed to the last one (for example the Karaburma III phase, I<sup>st</sup> cemetery at Pančevo/Vojlovica-Rafinerija or those at Ticvaniul Mare) are organically connected with the second phase (II) of the Cruceni-Belegiș culture (Belegiș IIa), as they represent practically a

final stage of this culture. However, from the point of view of the historical evolution and of the changes which can be observed in the whole material-culture elements, they can be integrated in another stage, namely in the transition period from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. Even if the chronological limit between the end of the second phase of the Cruci-Belegiš culture (Belegiš Ila) and the beginning of this transitional period (corresponding with the Belegiš IIB level) could show slight differences from region to region, or from site to site, we believe that it can be dated about 1150 B.C.

The Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare Culture is closely related to, and it had, to a great extent, a parallel evolution with those of the Cruci-Belegiš type, both belonging to the "urnfield" cultural complex with inlaid pottery of the Middle Danube.

Successively known by the terms of "Gîrla Mare culture"<sup>20</sup>, "Bjelo Brdo-Gîrla Mare"<sup>21</sup>, "Bjelo Brdo-Vatin-Vršac-Cîrna"<sup>22</sup>, "Gîrla Mare-Cîrna"<sup>23</sup>, "Dubovac-Žuto Brdo"<sup>24</sup>, "Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare" or "Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare-Cîrna"<sup>25</sup>, it was distributed on a narrow strip along the Danube, from south-western Romania (south parts of Banat and Oltenia)<sup>26</sup>, north-eastern Serbia<sup>27</sup> and north-western Bulgaria<sup>28</sup>. Until not so far back, the majority of the sites systematically investigated were represented especially by plane cemeteries of cremation ("urnfields"). Lately, there have been excavated also a series of settlements, both in north-eastern Serbia (Mala Vrbica, Korbovo, Velešnica, Vajuga), and in north-western Bulgaria (Balej), as well as in south-western Romania (Divici, Ostrovl Mare - "Km. 865", Orevița Mare, Izvoarele, Ostrovl Corbului, Ghidici).

The period of existence of the culture under discussion can be placed in the late stage of the Bronze Age (Reinecke Bz.C-D), although it is possible that the beginning of its evolution might date as far back as the Reinecke Bz.B (B<sub>2</sub>) phase. Generally, it can be considered that its appearance as a distinct ethno-cultural entity was the result of the penetration of communities with inlaid pottery from South-Pannonian regions, along the Danube, towards the regions adjacent to this river in south-western Romania, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria, in the former areas of the Vatin and Verbicioara cultures. This moment, which also marked the end of the Vatin settlements in southern Banat was placed somewhere in the second half of the Verbicioara III phase, probably in the Reinecke Bz.B, or B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub> stage<sup>29</sup>.

For its division into periods and for chronology, the opinions which have been expressed until now (D. Berciu and E. Comșa<sup>30</sup>, Vl. Dumitrescu<sup>31</sup>, B. Hänsel

and P. Roman<sup>32</sup>, R. Hachmann<sup>33</sup>, Al. Vulpe<sup>34</sup>, S. Morintz<sup>35</sup>, I. Chicideanu<sup>36</sup>, N. Tasić<sup>37</sup> and M. Garašanin<sup>38</sup>) chose different divisions into two, three or even four phases. A division into three phases is – in my opinion too – more plausible; it seems to be confirmed also by the stratigraphical data offered by the settlements of Ostrovl Corbului and Ghidici.

We do not have the intention to make here a detailed analysis of these different schemes of periodization<sup>39</sup>. However, it must be observed that the majority of scholars accept the prolongation of its existence until the end of the Bronze Age, emphasizing – in some cases – direct contacts between its final phase and the first elements of "Hallstatt type" occurring in its area. From this point of view, for its eastern regions (southern parts of Oltenia) of great importance are particularly those finds which have been integrated by S. Morintz in the fourth phase (IV) of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture<sup>40</sup>, by B. Hänsel in the "Ișalnița Group"<sup>41</sup> and by I. Chicideanu in the "Bistreț-Ișalnița Group"<sup>42</sup>, the mentioned authors placing this final stage of the evolution of the eastern variant (Gîrla Mare-Cîrna-Novo Selo) of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture in the Reinecke Bz.D. phase. Also, it must be mentioned that in the settlement of Ghidici three successive levels of this culture could be discerned; above them, another level with fluted pottery was superposed<sup>43</sup>. Important is the fact that in the ceramic inventory of some dwellings (as is the case of L<sub>2</sub> and L<sub>3</sub>) from the third level of Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare type of this settlement, there can be clearly observed the evolution towards the horizon with fluted pottery which succeeded this culture in southern parts of Oltenia.

The possibility to extend the existence of this final stage of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture until the beginning of the Ha.A phase seems to be supported also by other finds from the western regions of its distribution area (namely the southern part of Romanian Banat). One of these is the "hoard" attributed to the final phase of the cemetery at Liubcova-"Tiglarie"<sup>44</sup>. Representing in fact a bronze artisan's grave, this complex was composed of many bronze objects typical for the Bz.D-Ha.A<sub>1</sub> period, found in a fragmentary biconical urn (see pl. VIII/B.2-44), besides some cremated human bones. Its dating at the beginning of the Ha.A phase can be supported – among other things – by a bronze fibula of the Gemeinlebarn type, specific to this chronological horizon in western Romania<sup>45</sup>. A similar chronological position has also another urn from Svința (see pl. VIII/A.1), which can be probably attributed to the final stage of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare cemetery which has been localized in this point<sup>46</sup>. Both

finds can be considered as representative for the end of the mentioned cemeteries and, implicitly, of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture in the Iron Gates region (Clisura/Djerdap).

Otherwise, in a recent analysis made on the finds of "Dubovac-Žuto Brdo" type, M. Garašanin also agrees with a continuous evolution of this culture until the beginning of the Ha.A period<sup>47</sup>.

Undoubtedly, beyond the problems referring to the periodization and chronology of the different phases of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture, important is the fact that the appearance of fluted pottery was recorded as far back as in the late stage of this culture, thanks to an organical process similar to those traced in the second phase of the Cruceni-Belegiș culture (Belegiș IIa horizon). This fact confirms the inclusion of the cultural elements of Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare type in the genetic process which led to the first manifestations of fluted pottery of a "Hallstatt type", though the latter cannot be attributed yet to the Early Iron Age. The somewhat different aspect shown by the pottery of the late phase of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare culture, and which justifies, to some extent, its being referred to distinct groups (as is the Bistreț-Ișalnița group), is due to both some interferences with late elements of the Verbicioara culture (phases IV-V) in the eastern regions, and to some strong influences from the Cruceni-Belegiș II (Belegiș IIa) type in the western regions of its area. That means that the transition from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in north-eastern Serbia, north-western Bulgaria, southern parts of Banat and Oltenia took place more likely through by a synthesis of the late phases of these cultures (Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare, Cruceni-Belegiș, and Verbicioara, respectively), however on the preponderent background of the Žuto Brdo-Gîrla Mare type.

The cultural group of the Balta Sărată type was evidenced and defined rather recently as the most important cultural entity of the Late Bronze Age in the higher regions from north-eastern and, probably, central parts of the Romanian Banat<sup>48</sup>.

At the present stage of investigation, its presence was documented as sure only in north-eastern parts of the Romanian Banat, by a series of sites situated in the valleys of the Timiș River and its tributaries (Ilova, Valea Timișului, Buchin, Caransebeș, Păltiniș, Iaz, Ciuta, Var, Sacu, Ictar-Budinț, Susani). Materials of this type appeared also in the cave "Peștera cu Apă" at Românești, in addition with some elements of Cruceni-Belegiș II and Igrița types<sup>49</sup>, or in the east of the "Hațeg Country" (Peșteana, Gântaga and Subcetate), in addition to materials of the Wietenberg II-III type<sup>50</sup>.

Both its first general chronology (Reinecke Bz.B-C), and its initial periodization into three phases, is still uncertain and perfectible. At the moment of its definition (1979), the latest finds which had been attributed to it were those of the second level (II) of the settlement of Valea Timișului-"Rovină" (which also contained an "import" of a Gîrla Mare type). Those finds were dated in the Reinecke Bz.B<sub>2</sub>-C phases, like some potsherds found at Susani. The recent finds from the cave "Peștera cu Apă" at Românești seem to illustrate the final phase of the Balta Sărată group, and they were dated in the Reinecke Bz.D phase<sup>51</sup>. Therefore, both by the appearance of its late phase and by the elimination of its first phase it can be estimated that the evolution of the Balta Sărată group, also divided into three phases (I-III), cover the Reinecke Bz.B<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>1</sub>-D periods<sup>52</sup>.

At present, the prolongation of its existence until the Bz.D phase can be supported both by the appearance of the black-brown polished pottery, decorated with vertical and large flutes (already from the level Valea Timișului II), and by the association of this type of pottery with some elements of the Cruceni-Belegiș II and Igrița types in the cave of Românești. The dating of the Igrița group at latest in the Reinecke Bz.D (and even at the beginning of the Ha.A phase) is ensured by the association of its typical forms of pottery with bronze objects of the Uriu-Domănești and even Cincu-Suseni type<sup>53</sup>. A dating somewhat similar can be presumed also for the bronze dagger found in the settlement of Susani-"Deluț"<sup>54</sup>. This can be also attributed, probably, to the late phase of the Balta Sărată group.

On the other hand, the assemblage of the finds from Românești (and even those from Susani-"Deluț") shows also some differences comparable with those from the Valea Timișului II level. They can be due both to the fact that the first are a little later than of Valea Timișului, and also to the presence (in the cave of Românești or in the settlement of Susani) of some other elements of the Cruceni-Belegiș, the Igrița or even of the late "tumular" types. It is difficult to estimate if that means a penetration of some communities of this last type in the north-eastern part of Banat (able to stop the evolution of the Balta Sărată group somewhere in the Bz.D phase), or if they represent only cultural influences in this area (strong enough to confer a distinct aspect to the final stage of the Balta Sărată group). The penetration of elements or influences of the Igrița type in this region could also be recognized in the hoards from Cornuțel<sup>55</sup> and Zăgujeni<sup>56</sup>, both containing associations of bronze objects frequently found in the



area of the Igrița group (blue glass pearl, lunulae, tutuli, phalerae, pins and bracelets).

In any case, the clear connections (particularly types and ornamentation of pottery) which can be established between the late stage of the Balta Sărată group (namely the Valea Timișului II-Susani-"Deluș"-Românești horizon) and the finds of the tumulus from Susani show a certain participation of the Balta Sărată group (together with the other cited elements) to the genesis of the **Susani** group of the transitional period to the Early Iron Age. In that case, the find from Cornuțel (situated in the very epicentre of the Balta Sărată area) could be considered as the link between the final stage of the Balta Sărată group and the chronological horizon of the Susani group.

**The Late Bronze Age in northern Banat and western Vojvodina.** Much less clear is – at present – the cultural image at the end of the Bronze Age in northern Banat and western Vojvodina (the region between the Tisa and the Danube).

Referring to northern Banat, it must be noted first that the attempt of T. Soroceanu to extend the existence of the Mureș (Periam-Pecica) culture until the threshold of the Ha.A phase<sup>57</sup> is difficult to support in this stage of investigation. An argument in that sense could also be the accidental find from Felnac, representing the inventory of some graves assigned to a late aspect of "tumular" origin, dated especially in the Reinecke Bz.C-D phases<sup>58</sup>. At the same time, the presence of the above mentioned elements of the Igrița type in the cave of Românești, can be an indicator for a possible penetration of this type of communities in northern Banat, hypothesis which can be supported also by the penetration of the same elements, along the Mureș Valley, towards the south-eastern part of Transylvania; as it seems to indicate the typical materials found near Deva, which had been placed at the end of Bz.D and the beginning of Ha.A phases, and which succeeded here after the Wietenberg IV phase<sup>59</sup>.

In fact, the synthesis between the elements of a so-called late "tumular" type (in fact urnfields of the Csórva type), of the Crucești-Belegiš and Igrița types, on the one hand, and the Balta Sărată group, on the other hand, will lead – as shown also by the urn of the "hoard" from Cornuțel – to the appearance of the Susani group, specific to the transitional period (Ha.A) in north-eastern and, maybe, in central parts of the Romanian Banat.

The situation is not clear also for the northern part of Vojvodina. In any case, for the Late Bronze Age in this region it is accepted the prevalent presence of elements of communities of a so-called late "tumular"

type (Csórva type)<sup>60</sup> which, in the Bz.D and beginning of Ha.A phases, will be connected with elements of the late Crucești-Belegiš type, generating similar or very close cultural expressions with those of Bobda type for the transitional period to the Early Iron Age (Ha.A) in this region.

In the western part of Vojvodina, it seems that on the late Vatin elements were superposed those of Crucești-Belegiš<sup>61</sup> which, together with the influences received from the so-called "tumular" elements originating from the South-Pannonian regions, will generate here a somewhat different aspect of the finds from the transitional period to the Early Iron Age. Even if these ones continue to be designated under the generic term of "Belegiš II"<sup>62</sup>, they represent in my opinion a distinct cultural group for the Ha.A period in western Vojvodina and eastern Slavonia, which I named here by the term of Vučedol-Novi Begej group.

At least, at the eastern boundary of the Late Bronze Age Urnfield Complex, of the Žuto Brdo-Girle Mare culture, in southern Muntenia (Wallachia) and northern Bulgaria respectively, the ethno-cultural evolution in the Late Bronze Age seems to be very dynamic; here there existed successive communities of the Late Tei, Zimnicea-Plovdiv-Ĥerkovna and Coslogeni types, to which can be added some elements of the Late Verbicioara and Girle Mare types<sup>63</sup>. On this base, in the transition period to the Early Iron Age (Ha.A), there appeared here a special group, which I designated here as the Zimnicea-Novgrad group.

### *The cultural groups of the transition period from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria*

In the archaeological literature, the stock of finds of this type from the Romanian Banat (and, generally, from whole south-western region of Romania) was successively designated by the generic terms of "culture" or "group" of "Susani", "Susani-Bobda" and even "Susani-Hinova-Vîrtop" type<sup>64</sup>, while those from northern Serbia and from Vojvodina were integrated, in totality, in the Belegiš II or even in the Belegiš II-Gáva horizon<sup>65</sup>. I consider that, at present, it is possible for us to distinguish, in the transitional period from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age from this space, some cultural groups, each of them having well individualized features, relatively distinct distribution areas and specific heritages from different entities of the Late Bronze Age.

Thus, the groups of **Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III type** (in western parts of the Romanian Banat, center and south of Vojvodina, east of Srem region) and of **Vučedol-Novi Begej type** (eastern Slavonia and western Vojvodina) appeared on the base and in the area of the **Cruceni-Belegiš culture**, while the groups of the **Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea type** (in the south of the Romanian Banat and the corresponding region on the Serbian bank of the Danube) and of the **Hinova-Mala Vrbica type** (in south-western Oltenia, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria) appeared in the area and mainly on the heritages of **Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture**. Can be added here the groups of **Susani type** (in the higher regions from north-east and, maybe, the center of the Romanian Banat) and of **Bobda type** (in north-western Banat and, probably, northern Vojvodina). Also, in the central and southern parts of Oltenia appeared in the same period the group of **Vîrtop-Plopșor type**, based on that synthesis between the late phases of **Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare** and **Verbicioara** cultures, named **Bistreț-Ișalnița group**. At last, there will also be discussed here another group in southern Romania and northern Bulgaria, namely the **Zimnicea-Novgrad group**, which practised the funerary rite of inhumation.

Of course, a clearer and more complete definition is still difficult to achieve in the present stage of investigation and publication. Although it is possible that future researches may modify, to a certain extent, the image which I try to create here (implying the existence of some important differences between these groups of finds), I think is an incontestable reality. Their delimitation, even if insufficiently elaborated, for objective reasons, will offer us new instruments of work in the attempt to establish, as exactly as possible, the cultural evolution and the chronology of this period.

The **Susani Group** is represented especially by the finds from the tumulus excavated in the village with the same name in the northern part of the Romanian Banat and published already by I. Stratan and Al. Vulpe<sup>66</sup> (see pl. III). It is, for the moment, a peculiar find of this period in Romania, representing a funerary or ritual complex (maybe a sanctuary) with two successive levels, which contained also some pits with ritual deposits of pottery and grains and the remains of an inhumation grave associated with pottery of the same type (particularly biconical urns, cups with higher handles and bowls with incurved rim, included in group 7 of the finds).

Containing a various enough typology of pottery, but which is decorated almost exclusively by fluted and channelled ornaments, the tumulus of **Susani** shows

specific associations of forms and ornaments, which justify the term of "**Susani Group**". Because of the absence of metal objects capable to offer other chronological specifications, its initial dating in the **Ha.A** phase was based exclusively on the analogies which could be established with other neighbouring cultural entities, particularly with those of the second stage (II) of the **Bobda** cemetery. However, in spite of these chronological parallels, it was observed that the general image of these two groups of finds was different enough. As such, although both can be integrated among the earliest finds with fluted pottery from south-western Romania, they can be considered as two parallel phenomena synchronous to a great extent, but distinct from a cultural point of view, the **Bobda** group being specific to the plain regions from north-western Banat and the **Susani** group to the higher regions in the north-eastern and, maybe, central parts of Banat. In my opinion, the last one was born on **Late Balta Sărată** bases, to which some elements of so-called late "tumular" type, **Igrița** or **Cruceni-Belegiš II** types could also be added.

For the chronological position of this group, besides the parallels which could be established with the **Bobda II** phase, of a great importance is also the hoard from **Fizeș**<sup>67</sup>. The bronze objects from his composition, typical to the horizon of the hoards of the **Cincu-Suseni** type, were associated with a biconical pot decorated by fluted ornaments (pl. IV/A.1-15), having good parallels in similar types from **Susani**. By this, practically, the synchronisation between the **Susani** group and the hoards of **Cincu-Suseni (Ha.A<sub>1</sub>)** is ensured<sup>68</sup>. A similar relation can also be established between some types of pottery from **Susani** and the pot (urn) of the hoard from **Pecica (Pecica II)**<sup>69</sup>. With a view to the possibility of extending the dating of the hoards of the **Uriu-Domănești** type also in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C., it results that the horizon of the hoards of **Cincu-Suseni** type can be placed rather between the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> – the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C., which also represents the best interval of time in which the finds of the **Susani** type can be dated. This dating seems to be confirmed also by the fact that cups similar in form and ornamentation were found in the deposit of pottery near **Báttonya** (Hungary), dated in the middle of the **Ha.A** stage<sup>70</sup>, even if this last one seems to belong rather to the **Bobda** group.

A possible prolongation of the existence of the **Susani** group until the end of the **Ha.A** stage (**Ha.A<sub>2</sub>**), *id est* until the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C., could not be excluded in totality because this group preceded directly in the northern part of Banat the horizon of the

Gáva-Mediaş-type settlement from Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituţ" (Ha.B<sub>1</sub>, maybe even end of Ha.A).

Besides the tumulus at Susani, in the same group may also include the hoards from Cornuţel (pl. IV/B.16-27) and, probably, those from Fizeş (pl. IV/A.1-15) and Pecica (Pecica II). While the hoard from Cornuţel can be placed at the beginning of the evolution of this group, the references to the same group of the other two hoards is still relative, because of – for example – the fact that the pot of the hoard from Fizeş has also good parallels in the cemetery of Ticvaniul Mare, this find being situated at the boundary between the Susani group and the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group. The area of the Susani group also includes the grave of Caransebeş-"Balta Sărată" (pl. V)<sup>71</sup>, which – because of the twisted ornamentation ("turban" style) on the rim of the incurved bowl, and of the urn – can be somewhat later than the other finds assigned to the Susani group, being possibly dated even at the end of Ha.A – the beginning of Ha.B. That means it can be somewhat synchronous with the finds of Gáva type from the north-western plain of the Romanian Banat.

The Bobda (Bobda-Csórva) Group seems to be illustrative for the transitional period (Ha.A) in the north-western part of Banat and, maybe, in northern Vojvodina. For the moment, the plane cremation cemetery from Bobda still remains the most representative find of this group for the space discussed here. The excavations performed in this cemetery by M. Moga have not been published in detail yet<sup>72</sup>. Because of this circumstances, we can make now only some general remarks on the cultural peculiarities and the chronology of these finds. As a simple impression, they seems to be somewhat similar with those from the Csórva cemetery.

The pottery which found at Bobda is represented particularly by some specific types decorated especially by fluted and channelled ornaments: biconical urns, cups with higher handles, biconical pedestaled cups, carinated bowls with everted rims, globular pots with higher, cylindrical, neck (pl. II). In contrast with the finds of Susani type or with those of Cruceni-Belegiş II type, the pottery of Bobda is mainly of red or brown colour, without the black polished surface of many types from Susani and Cruceni II. Remarkable is also the appearance, in a grave at Bobda (M.10), of an iron object (ink?, bracelet?, pendant?), frequently mentioned in literature<sup>73</sup>, which is, for that moment, the earliest iron object from Banat found in an assured archaeological context.

If some types of pottery found in the earlier graves of this cemetery (Bobda I) presumed either a short

synchronism or a direct chronological contact with the Cruceni II phase, the majority of the graves of Bobda (Bobda II) seem to be somewhat later, and can be placed "grosso modo" in the Ha.A stage. The parallels which can be established with some type of pottery from Susani (particularly cups and bowls; compare pl. II with pl. III) seems to indicate for the graves of Bobda II phase a dating somewhat similar with those of the tumulus from Susani (Ha.A<sub>1</sub>; the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> – the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.). However, it is possible that – on the one hand – the beginning of the Bobda cemetery may be somewhat earlier (end of Bz.D; the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) and – on the other hand – the end of the Susani group may be somewhat later than of the Bobda cemetery (and of the Bobda II phase). Both groups of finds can be considered, however, synchronous to a great extent.

Besides these parallels, the differences which can be observed between the specific pottery of the mentioned groups are due, probably, to the different components from the Late Bronze Age which generated each of them, in Bobda those of late "tumular" type from the South Pannonian regions being stronger. In that sense, the Bobda group seems to be rather the result of an evolutive process of the "Csórva group"<sup>74</sup>, in addition with some influences of Cruceni-Belegiş II (Belegiş Ila) type. As we will see, the existence of this group was finished somewhere in the second half of the Ha.A phase, being succeeded in his area by the horizon of the finds with black polished fluted pottery of the Gáva-Mediaş type (end of Ha.A-Ha.B<sub>1</sub>), as is the case of the settlement at Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituţ" (see pl. XIV).

Certainly, the publishing "in extenso" of the finds from Bobda will also permit the reference of other finds to this group. At that moment, it will be possible to include in the same group the pottery deposit near Bátorfő<sup>75</sup>, even if the last find seems to have some affinities also with the pottery of the Susani group<sup>76</sup>. In any case, the dating "at the middle of the Ha.A phase" of the deposit of Bátorfő represents another argument for the chronological position of the Bobda group.

The Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III Group (pl. VII) is at present one of the best illustrated groups of the transitional period in the space discussed here. Together with the very illustrative inventories of some graves referred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the cemetery of Beograd-Karaburma (for example graves 2-3, 49, 108, 176, 177/2, 185, 226)<sup>77</sup>, of cemetery nr. 1 from Pančevo-"Rafinerija nafte"<sup>78</sup>, and of the cemetery of Ticvaniul Mare-"Ferna nr. 2"<sup>79</sup>, a series of settlements and cemeteries of the same type (Banatska Palanka,

Belegiș, Dubovac, Ilandža, Jakovo-Ekonomija Sava, Opovo, Perlez-Batka C, Vršac, Zemun, and others)<sup>80</sup>, usually integrated in the horizon of Belegiș II (Belegiș IIB) or Belegiș II-Gáva type<sup>81</sup> can be also attributed to this group. Some finds of this type (Opovo, Pančevo/Vojlovnic-Rafinerija, Kovačica) have recently been attributed inadequately, in my opinion, to the Gáva culture<sup>82</sup>.

The typology of the pottery and of the bronze objects is uniform and well individualized for all these finds, the characteristic element of this group being the association between the biconical urns of "Belegiș II type" (with horizontal fluted and channelled decoration on the neck, slanting facets and pairs of conical and flat prominences on the body), bowls with incurved and facetted rim, conical bowls and cups with higher "torsionated" handles, to which specific bronze objects can be added, especially pins with biconical head (Doppelkonischkopfnadeln) or with thickened head and incised ornamentation (Keulenkopfnadeln), knives or razors with slightly curved blades, bracelets, ear rings (Noppenringe), links and spiral rings, which can be placed particularly at the horizon of the hoard series of Cincu-Suseni type (Ha.A<sub>1</sub>), although some of these still appeared in the hoards of the Uriu-Domănești type (Bz.D) too.

The distribution area of these finds cover, for the moment, the south-western part of the Romanian Banat, the southern half of Vojvodina, including the eastern part of the Srem region (see the map from pl. XVII).

Referring to the chronological position of this group it must be mentioned, from the beginning, that J. Todorović initially dated the Karaburma III phase in the Ha.A<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>2</sub> phases<sup>83</sup>. Also, the cemetery of Ticvaniul Mare was placed (inclusively on the basis of the metal objects) in the Ha.A (A<sub>1</sub>) phase<sup>84</sup>, while cemetery nr.1 at Pančevo-"Rafinerija nafte" had been dated in the same stage (with the express specification "after 1150 B.C.")<sup>85</sup>. It can be added here that B. Hänsel and P. Medović placed the horizon of the Belegiș II-Gáva type particularly in SD II (Bz.D-Ha.A) stage<sup>86</sup>. At last, the finds included here in this group, were attributed by N. Tasić to the Belegiș IIB level, placing it between Ha.A<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>1,2</sub> phases (*id est* in the 11<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.)<sup>87</sup>, a dating that is, in my opinion, a little bit late.

For a more precise chronological placing of the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group, very important is the parallel which can be established between the urn from grave M.5 of the cemetery of Ticvaniul Mare (pl. VII/29) and those of the hoard from Fizeș (pl. IV/A.15), a relation which – besides the other bronze objects – is significant for the synchronization of the Ticvaniul

Mare cemetery with the hoards of the Cincu-Suseni type and, implicit, with Bobda (II) and Susani groups, supporting a preponderant dating in Ha.A stage (particularly in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> – the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C.) for the finds of Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III type (Belegiș IIB horizon)<sup>88</sup>. This dating can be supported also by the fact that many bronze objects present in the graves of Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group appeared both in the "hoard" from Cornuțel (tutuli and pins with thickened head and incised ornamentation) and in the find from Moldova Nouă-"Cariera de banatite" (bronze knife) or in the early phase (I) of the cemetery from Hinova (tutuli, pin with biconical head, knives)<sup>89</sup>.

Born on the base and in the area of the Cruceni-Belegiș culture (Belegiș IIA phase), the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group finished its evolution somewhere towards the end of Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase (the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.), at the threshold between the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> and Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phases (about 1000 B.C.) in his area there appearing already the earliest elements of the Gornea-Kalakača group (Kalakača I phase).

Such as it was already noted<sup>90</sup>, elements assigned to the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group – dislocated probably by the pression towards south of Gáva elements – appeared also in the East Carpathian regions, generating the early aspects (Vaslui-"Curțile domnești", Trifești, a.c.) of the Chișinău-Corlăteni group.

The Vučedol-Novi Begej Group (pl. VI) is closely kindred in fact with those of Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III type, both having, as a basis, the background of the Cruceni-Belegiș II (Belegiș IIA) type. In my opinion, to this group we can refer a series of finds (Aljmaš, Dalj, Erdut, Feudvar-Mošorin, Gomolava IVc level, Kalakača, Novi Begej, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Osijek, Privlaka, Šarvaš, Šotin, Trpinja, Vinkovci, Vučedol, maybe Zrenjanin and Idžos)<sup>91</sup> massed in western Vojvodina, eastern Slavonia and western Srem. These – probably because of some stronger heritages from the Late Vatin type and of some influences from the other Late Bronze Age entities from the South-Pannonian and Transdanubian regions, grafted on the Cruceni-Belegiș elements – present some peculiarities in comparison with those attributed to the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group. Even these finds continue to be designated by the generic term of "Belegiș II"<sup>92</sup> and, in spite of the fact that the type of urn with fluted ornaments is similar or almost identical with those from the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group (pl. VI/2, 14, 21, 24), the association of this type of urns with other types of pottery less represented or absent in the pottery

combinations of the Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III group (globular or piriform pots, conical and lobate bowls, shallow carinated bowls with everted rims, small pedestaled cups, some specific cups with higher handles and other forms with band like handles) can be a real argument for their assignation to a separate group.

Their dating (or, more correctly, the dating of the first phase of this group) in Ha.A, at an chronological level similar with those of the Ticvaniul Mare – Karaburma III group, can be supported – among other things – also by the pins with thickened head and incised ornamentation (Keulenkopfnadeln) and with globular head (Kugelkopfnadeln) from Feudvar-Mošorin<sup>93</sup> and Vučedol-"Streim's Vineyard" (pl. VI/23).

However, it must be mentioned here that, at least in eastern Slavonia (if not even in some parts of western Vojvodina), this group seems to have prolonged its evolution (by a later phase-II) until the end of Ha.A<sub>2</sub> or the beginning of Ha.B<sub>1</sub>. This later phase can be, in this way, synchronous with the earliest stage (Karaburma I) of the Gornea-Kalakača group and with the finds of the Gáva type from north-western Banat. An argument in that sense, can be the presence – among the earliest finds of the settlement from Kalakača – of some sherdpots belonging to lobate bowls and of some band-like handles (pl. XV/44,46), frequent in the area of the Vučedol-Novi Begej group.

Another element which can be used for the dating of the Vučedol-Novi Begej group (probably for its first stage) is also a radio-carbon date (C<sub>14</sub>) from Gomolava IVc level, dated about 1115 ± 55 B.C.<sup>94</sup>.

On the other hand, logically and in the absence of another cultural entity interposing between them, in eastern Slavonia and western Srem the Vučedol-Novi Begej group must evolve until the appearance in this regions of the first elements assigned to the Dalj group, whose evolution – so it is accepted at present – began somewhere at the middle of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (the 10th century B.C.), probably as a result of the movement towards south of some communities originating in the area of the Vâl (I) group<sup>95</sup>. Certainly, for the eastern region of its area, already occupied by the Kalakača I type elements (see Feudvar-Mošorin or Kalakača), its end cannot be later than the second half of the 11th century B.C.

The Moldova Nouă (Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea) Group is illustrative for the transitional period to the Early Iron Age in the southern part of the Romanian Banat and the corresponding region from the Serbian bank of the Danube (pl. IX). Born on the background of the western variant of the Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture, to which were added strong influences of the

Cruceni-Belegiš II (Belegiš Ila) type, to this group can be referred firstly the finds from Moldova Veche-"Cariera de Banatite" (pl. IX/A.1-11)<sup>96</sup>, Liborajdea (pl. IX/B. 12-23)<sup>97</sup> and Berzasca-"Stația de pompă IFET"<sup>98</sup>. To the same cultural and chronological context can be assigned, maybe, also the similar finds from Pesača, Male Livadice, Lepena near Boljetin, Vlasac and Veliki Gradac, on the Serbian bank of the Danube<sup>99</sup>.

Although it was an accidental find, representing probably the inventory of one or two graves, the materials from Moldova Nouă are of real importance for our discussion, they illustrating a first phase (I) of this group. Their dating at the chronological horizon of Ha.A phase (probably somewhere in the second half of 12th century or at the threshold between the 12th and the 11th centuries B.C. is the most acceptable<sup>100</sup>. As arguments in that sense there can be noted both the general aspect of the pottery found here (biconical urns, conical bowls with prominences on the rim, cups with higher and, in any case, twisted handles), and the bronze knife (pl. IX/A.4) having the best parallels in the grave M.10 from Ticvaniul Mare (pl. VII/12) or in the graves M.4 (pl. X/6) and M.28 (pl. X/8) from Hinova.

In spite of the fact that it were assigned first to the Gáva culture<sup>101</sup>, the finds from Liborajdea (pl. IX/B.12-23) and those from Berzasca can be considered for the moment illustrative for a later phase (II) of the same group of finds like those from Moldova Nouă. The association, in Liborajdea, of the black polished and fluted pottery (bowls, urns, jars) with bronze objects (particularly celts) typical from the hoards of Moigrad-Tăuteu type (Ha.B<sub>1</sub>), shows that this phase of the Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea group prolonged his existence at least in the first half and, maybe, until the middle of Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (id est the first half and, maybe, the middle of the 10th century B.C.). This conclusion shows, at the same time, that the first occurrences of Gornea-Kalakača type – which succeeded it in the same area – could not be very early, and they belonged rather to an advanced phase (II) of this cultural group at the beginning of the Early Iron Age. Thus, in the southern part of the Romanian Banat and the corresponding region on the Serbian bank of the Danube, the appearance of the first elements of Gornea-Kalakača type could not be earlier than the second half of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (id est the second half of the 10th century B.C.).

By its dating mainly between Ha.A<sub>2</sub> – the first half and, maybe, the middle of Ha.B<sub>1</sub>, the second phase (II) of the transitional group here discussed (represented particularly by the finds from Liborajdea and Berzasca),

is partially at least synchronous with the earliest phase of the Gornea-Kalakača type group in the south-western Romanian Banat and southern Vojvodina (Kalakača I, Feudvar-Mošorin, Vărădia) and also with the finds of the Gáva type in north-western Banat (the horizon of the settlement from Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pitu").

The Hinova-Mala Vrbica Group (pl. X) is closely connected with those of the Moldova Nouă (Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea) type, based on the eastern variant of the late phase of the Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture, to which a series of western influences or elements (in a first stage from the Late Cruci-Belegiš type and then even from those of the Gáva type) had been added.

The finds which can be referred to it (Gradešnica, Hinova, Korbovo, Lom, Mala Vrbica, Orsoja, Ostrovul Mare, Ušce Slatinske Reke, Vajuga, Balta Verde)<sup>103</sup> were situated on a narrow strip along the Danube, in south-western Oltenia, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria (pl. XVII).

Of a great importance for the cultural and chronological position of this group are the finds from the Hinova cemetery (in south-western Oltenia), not published yet, with the exception of a short notice<sup>103</sup> and of the well-known gold treasure found in a urn from the area of this plane cremation cemetery<sup>104</sup>. In spite of the lack of informations, I think it is possible to distinguish two phases in the evolution of this cemetery, which – together with other finds – practically illustrate the two stages of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group.

The leading elements of the earlier phase (I) are the grave goods from M.1 (pl. X/A.1), M.4 (pl. X/A.6), M.8 (pl. X/A.2-4), M.28 (pl. X/7-8) and M.45 (pl. X/5). The synchronization of this earlier phase from Hinova (and, implicit, of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group) with the chronological horizon of the Susani-Bobda II-Ticvaniu Mare-Moldova Nouă type, and its dating in the Ha.A<sub>1</sub> phase (the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century – the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) can be supported by the two bronze knives from graves M.4 and M.28 (pl. X/6, 8) respectively, with good parallels in Moldova Nouă-"Cariera de banatite" (pl. IX/A.4) or in the similar pieces from graves M.10 and M.13 from Ticvaniu Mare (pl. VII/11-12), by the tutulus from the grave M.8 (pl. X/A.3) similar to those from the grave M.8 in Ticvaniu Mare (pl. VII/8) and from the "hoard" from Cornuțel (pl. IV/B.17-18), and also by the pin with biconical head from grave M.45 (pl. X/A.5) with good parallels in similar pieces from cemetery nr. 1 at Pančevo-"Rafinerija nafte" (pl. VII/1, 15-16). A direct connection between the beginning of the Hinova cemetery and the late phase of the Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture is marked by the presence at Hinova of a

great lobated bowl with meander ornamentation used as a lid for the urn "of Hallstatt aspect" of grave M.1 (pl. X/A.1), and also by a fragmentary clay statuette of "*en cloche*" type – typical for the eastern variant of the Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture – placed in the urn of grave M.7. In the same context, there could be also observed here, parallels between the urns of graves M.1 or M.28 at Hinova (pl. X/A.1,7) and those almost identical from Gradešnica or from the final stage of Orsoja cemetery<sup>105</sup>.

For the second stage (II) of the Hinova cemetery (so that of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group), the most important elements with which we can operate at present are the gold treasure (pl. X/B.9-35) and grave M.25 (pl. X/B.36-37) of Hinova, to which could be added grave nr.2 from Korbovo-"Pesak" (p. X/B.54), grave nr.1 of Vajuga-"Pesak" (pl. X/B.41-42, 45-52) and the similar finds from Mala Vrbica-"Selište" (pl. X/B.38-40, 43-44).

The gold treasure from Hinova had been dated initially "at the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age" and wrongly assigned to the Insula (Ostrovul) Banului group<sup>106</sup>. A first remark on this problem is that the urn in which the gold treasure was placed has a different aspect, more evolved, in comparison with those of graves M.1 and M.28 assigned to the earlier phase of this cemetery; that is the reason for a later dating of this find. In fact, the possibility of a later dating (even in HaB) of this treasure was advanced also by B. Teržan, who referred it to the horizon of treasures of Mihalkow-Fokoru-Dalj type<sup>107</sup>.

On the other hand, the finds from Mala Vrbica and Vajuga-"Pesak" (for which important influences of the Gáva type were also presumed), had been dated (inclusively on the base of some Peschiea fibulae) particularly in the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C., with the specification "not earlier than Ha.A<sub>1</sub> phase – and not later than the threshold between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennia B.C."<sup>108</sup>.

For the end of the Hinova cemetery and, of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group respectively, the most important element is – for the moment – grave M.25 (pl. X/B.36-37), by the presence in his inventory of a bronze pin with "S"-shaped curved head (Hirtenstabnadel) with the best parallels in the Bologna I-II phases (Ha.B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>3</sub>!?)<sup>109</sup>. Even if we are forced to accept an earlier dating for the piece from Hinova, it is very difficult to date it before the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase.

Considering these arguments, I assume that – at present, at least – the second stage of the Hinova cemetery and, implicitly, of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica

group can be dated best in Ha.A<sub>2</sub> – the first half of Ha.B<sub>1</sub> period (id est in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century – the first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). Consequently, this group could be, in part at least, synchronous both with the finds of the Gáva type from north-western Banat or with the earliest phase of the Gornea-Kalakača group (Kalakača I), and with the final stages of the Vučedol-Novi Begej and Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea groups or with a certain stage in the evolution of the Vîrtop-Plopşor group.

Its area being occupied after that by communities belonging to the Gornea-Kalakača and, especially, to the Insula Banului groups, it results that the beginning of these two last groups in the riverside Danubian regions of south-western Oltenia, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria cannot be dated before the second half of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (id est the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century).

The similarities which can be established between the finds belonging to the second stage of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group, still named as "Belegiš IIb" type, and the later phase of the Chişinău (Kishinev)-Corlăteni group<sup>110</sup>, show either the existence of a new impulse from our regions towards the East Carpathian area, or a parallel – but very similar – evolution of these two groups. A possible movement towards east of some elements belonging to the second stage of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group can be, however, pointed out – among other things – also by the superposing of the cremation grave M.13 (with pottery of Hinova-Mala Vrbica type) over the inhumation grave M.9 in the cemetery of Zimnicea<sup>111</sup> or by the hoard from Dridu (Ha.B1), the latter containing many bronze objects of western origin<sup>112</sup>.

The Vîrtop-Plopşor Group (pl. XII) had been defined as such firstly by D. Berciu<sup>113</sup>, who attributed it to the second horizon with fluted pottery in Oltenia, placing this type of finds after those of the "urnfield" cemetery from Balta Verde. The finds of this type have been reanalysed, after that, particularly by B. Hänsel, being dated about in the Ha.A<sub>2</sub>-Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phases, between the end of Gîrla Mare culture and the beginning of Ostrov (Insula Banului) group, respectively<sup>114</sup>. A similar dating has been recently accepted also by Al. Vulpe, who synchronised these finds with those from "Susani-Hinova-Vîrtop" or as "Hinova-Vîrtop" type<sup>115</sup>.

Depending on the finds known so far (Călugăreni, Cîrna, Craiova, Ghidici, Plopşor, Segarcea, Vîrtop)<sup>116</sup>, this group seems to be spread over the most part of Oltenia, without its south-western corner (near the Danube) covered by the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group

and, maybe, those of the north-east where finds belonging to the Rîureni group<sup>117</sup> had been recorded.

The Vîrtop-Plopşor group was born on the background of the synthesis between the Late Gîrla Mare and Late Verbicioara elements designated by the term of Işalniţa or Bistreţ-Işalniţa group (pl. XI)<sup>118</sup>, to which also a series of others western elements not yet clarified must be added.

The typological similarities existing between the pottery specific to the Vîrtop-Plopşor group, on the one hand, and those of the Susani or the Hinova-Mala Vrbica groups, on the other hand, show the possibility to synchronize – partially at least – all these groups, and indicate as sure a dating in Ha.A<sub>1</sub>-Ha.B<sub>1</sub> (more precisely between the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) for the Vîrtop-Plopşor group. If in the southern part of Oltenia this group finished its evolution somewhere in the second half of the Ha.B1 phase, this region being occupied after that by communities belonging to the Insula Banului (Ostrov) group<sup>119</sup>, the Vîrtop-Plopşor group may have continued its existence in the central and northern parts of Oltenia almost in the whole Ha.B period, although we have no conclusive finds in this sense yet.

The Zimnicea-Novgrad Group (pl. XII). This group, specific to the transitional period to the Early Iron Age in southern Muntenia (Wallachia) and northern Bulgaria, represents a totally different ethno-cultural entity in comparison with the other groups presented here. So, if most of them practically represent a final stage of the "urnfields" of south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria, the Zimnicea Novgrad group is characterized by inhumation graves.

The genetic background of this group was the entities of the Zimnicea-Plovdiv-řerkovna type from the Late Bronze Age in the same area, to which some contributions of Late Tei or Coslogeni type and even influences of Late Gîrla Mare type must also be added<sup>120</sup>.

One of the most important finds which can belong to this group is the cemetery of Zimnicea<sup>121</sup>. Besides this, some similar finds from northern Bulgaria (Bukjovci, Gigen, Novgrad, Novae, Orjahovo, Ruse)<sup>122</sup> could also belong here. I consider this group also includes the well-known treasure from Vălcitrăn.

Besides the burial rite, the defining elements of this group are also its specific pottery (particularly the cups with higher and flat handles, decorated with incised and fluted or channelled ornamentations) and even its bronze objects (particularly the knives with curved pointed



end), which offer also the most important clues to the chronological position of the Zimnicea-Novgrad group.

So, the cups with higher and flat handles decorated by longitudinal flutes are similar with those from Vajuga (pl. X/42, 46, 53) representing the second stage of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group. The same chronological horizon is also indicated by the parallel which can be observed between the flat bronze bracelet of grave M.9 of Zimnicea (pl. XIII/7) and the similar gold piece from the Hinova treasure (pl. X/33). These remarks permit us to date the cemetery of Zimnicea at least in the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase and in the first half of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century - first half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.).

Together with the pieces found in the grave from Radovanu<sup>123</sup> or in some graves belonging to the first phase of the cemetery from Rîureni<sup>124</sup>, the bronze knives with curved pointed end from Zimnicea (pl. XIII/1-5) have the best parallels both in the settlement from Tămăoani<sup>125</sup>, at the chronological horizon of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.<sup>126</sup> and in some hoards dated in the Bz.D-Ha.B<sub>1</sub> period<sup>127</sup>.

The similarity which exists between the gold cups of the Vălcitrăn treasure<sup>128</sup> and the other clay pieces representing the Zimnicea-Novgrad group, seems to be significant for the reference of this gold treasure to the same cultural entity. Although, for its dating (and also for that of the similar finds from Rădeni and Kryžovlin) it is possible for us to take into account the large interval of the 15<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C., so it was already noted, a date between the 12<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. is more acceptable<sup>129</sup>.

All these speak for a dating of the Zimnicea-Novgrad group "grosso modo" in Ha.A-Ha.B<sub>1</sub> (id est between the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century-10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.).

Synchronous to a great extent with the other groups of the transitional period of south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria, but connected rather with other similar groups of the Lower Danube and the East Carpathian regions (of the Tămăoani, Holercani-Hanska and Babadag I types), the Zimnicea-Novgrad group is practically situated at the boundary between the eastern cultural complex, represented by these last groups, and the western one illustrated by the latest "urnfield" entities (the Bobda, Vučedol-Novi Begej, Ticvaniul Mare-Karaburma III, Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea and Hinova-Mala Vrbica groups) of the regions here discussed.

For the end of the Zimnicea cemetery, significant seems to be the moment illustrated by the superposing of the cremation grave M.13 (with good parallels in the

second stage of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group) on the inhumation grave M.9, fact which can suggest dating this moment in the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of the movement towards east of some elements of Hinova-Mala Vrbica II type, the end of the Zimnicea-Novgrad group can be placed probably in the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, by the appearance in his area of the Insula Banului group. Another argument in that sense can also be the appearance of a pot with stamped ornamentation of this last type in the area of the Zimnicea cemetery (pl. XIII/25).

So, it is evident that – in spite of those common element represented by the polished and fluted pottery and particularly by the wide-spread distribution of the biconical urn of so-called "villanovian" type – the cultural image of the transitional period (Ha.A and, in some cases, the begin of Ha.B) from south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria is sufficiently diverse, by some regional peculiarities, generated both by the different heritages from the Late Bronze Age and also by the subsequent impulses received from other cultural areas. This image is one of a very complex and dynamic world, in which the former vast and compact cultural unities of the Late Bronze Age was broken in many regional groups which were followed by the first cultural entities of the beginning of the Early Iron Age.

Thus, we cannot speak of a real beginning of the Early Iron Age in these regions before the end of the Ha.A phase or the beginning of the Ha.B phase.

### *The cultural entities at the beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria*

Depending on the chronology of the cultural groups belonging to the transitional period, it can be estimated that the beginning of the Early Iron Age in these regions should be placed – with some little differences – about 1000 B.C.

At that moment, for the region discussed here, there can be observed important ethno-cultural changes, another types of habitation, the abandonment of the former sites from the Late Bronze Age and the transitional period to the Early Iron Age, major changes in mentalities and ritual practice, in social-economical structures, in the typology and even the technology of the most important categories of objects, also implying the beginning of the iron metalurgy.

The beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria was marked by the presence of some groups



belonging to three vast cultural complexes whose boundaries it intersects in this area: the finds of *Gáva-Mediaș* type (belonging to the cultural complex with black polished and fluted pottery), the *Gornea-Kalakača* group (belonging to another cultural complex with incised pottery from the West-Balkan and South-East-Alpine regions) and the *Insula Banului/ Ostrov* group (belonging to the cultural complex with stamped pottery of the *Pšenicevo II-Babadag II-Cozia-Brad-Saharna-Solonceni* type).

The finds with fluted pottery of *Gáva* or *Gáva-Mediaș* type, belongs to a vast cultural complex widespread in eastern Hungary, eastern Slovakia, western and north-eastern Romania (Transylvania, north-western Banat and northern Moldavia), eastern Ukraine. The finds of this type had been designated initially particularly by the generic terms of *Gáva* culture<sup>130</sup> or *Gáva-Holihrad* complex<sup>131</sup>.

The earliest manifestations of this entity, going back to the Ha.A phase, are massed especially in the Upper Tisa Plain region (inclusively in north-western Romania)<sup>132</sup>, reaching Transcarpathian Ukraine and northern Moldavia (the *Grănicești* group)<sup>133</sup>, the use of the term "*Gáva* culture" being justified especially for these earliest finds. From here, in the advanced stages, the communities with black polished and fluted pottery of *Gáva* type extended to eastern Slovakia, southern Hungary, western and central Romania (Transylvania and north-western Banat), generating a great cultural synthesis based on the almost exclusive use of fluted pottery, a phenomenon which can be designated for the moment by the generic term of *Gáva-Mediaș* complex.

Generally, his evolution had been divided into two or even three phases, there existing some differences of opinion both about their chronological position and about their contents<sup>134</sup>. A later dating of this type of finds, at least for the inner Carpathian area, had been proposed by V. Vasiliev<sup>135</sup>.

A clearer distinction of this horizon of finds in the area which we are interested in here could be made only very recently<sup>136</sup>. For that reason, its specific problems are far from being clarified at present, the more so as the investigations made in the most representative sites of this area are unpublished, or they are not finished yet.

Although, very recently it has been considered that the elements of this type occupied almost all the Romanian Banat<sup>137</sup>, in the same context also including some finds of the *Ticvaniu Mare-Karaburma III* (*Belegiš IIb*) type of southern Vojvodina<sup>138</sup>, I consider – for the moment at least – that there exist clear arguments for the presence of communities of this type,

to the south of the Lower Moris river, only in the north-western part of the Romanian Banat and, maybe, in the northern part of the Serbian one.

The most illustrative finds of this type have come, until now, from the settlement of *Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț"* (pl. XIV/1-26) and in the cemetery from *Bocșa Română-"Dealul Mare"*<sup>139</sup>, situated in the Romanian Banat. Also here, I can also mention some other finds from the Serbian Banat, mentioned in literature (*Idžos, Perlez-Batka C*)<sup>140</sup>. Before an extensive publication of the finds registered here, the cultural belonging of the settlement of *Vărădia-"Chili"* still remains a difficult problem. Although in this settlement these are present finds of the *Gáva* type too, the strong connections between the pottery found in this settlement and those of the early *Kalakača* type (*Kalakača I*) seems to be conclusive for its inclusion in an early stage of the *Gornea-Kalakača* group or, maybe, in a mixed aspect, between this group and the finds of the *Gáva* (*Gáva-Mediaș*) type<sup>141</sup>.

Besides the specific pottery, decorated by flutes and prominences, to this horizon from Banat also belong two bronze vessels. The first is the situla of *Hajdúböszörmény* type from *Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț"* (pl. XIV/7)<sup>142</sup>. The second, an isolated find from "the western plain of Banat", but which can be attributed to the same chronological and cultural horizon, is a cup of the *Fuchsstadt* type (pl. XIV/27)<sup>143</sup>. Both types of pieces are typical for the hoards of the *Moigrad-Tăuteu* type in Romania (Ha.B<sub>1</sub>).

For the chronology of the finds of the *Gáva* (*Gáva-Mediaș*) type from south-western Romania I can mention, first, the parallels between the pottery found in the settlement of *Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț"* and those of the first two phases of the settlement of *Mediaș*<sup>144</sup> or of *Tășad*<sup>145</sup>. As an important guide-mark, the "kidney-shaped" cup can be used, well represented in *Remetea Mare* (pl. XIV/4), and considered typical for the horizon of the *Mahala IV-Somator II-Mediaș* type of the *Gáva-Holihrad* complex<sup>146</sup> and very frequent in the second level (II) of the fortified settlement of *Teleac*<sup>147</sup>. Taking into account that the horizon of *Mahala III-Somator I-Reci I* is considered to correspond to the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase (the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.), those of *Mahala IV-Somator II-Mediaș* can be placed particularly in Ha.B. That also means that for the similar finds from *Remetea mare-"Gomila lui Pituț"* a dating before the beginning of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase cannot be accepted, possibly the end of the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase (id est not earlier than the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). The more so as also the end of the *Susani* group cannot be placed – in the same area – earlier than

the middle or the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. In that sense, I can also mention the absence at Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț" of some earliest types of pottery typical for the initial area of the Gáva culture from the Upper Tisa basin. In fact, a dating particularly in the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase of the settlement of Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț" is sustained also by the bronze of situla Hajdúböszörmény type found in his area.

More difficult problems are raised by the materials found in the cremation cemetery of Bocșa Română-"Dealul Mare", which seems to belong to the same complex with fluted pottery of the Gáva type. They come from some graves excavated as early as 1962 in the area of a fortified settlement, the inventories of these graves being dated mixed<sup>148</sup>. However, there exist some indications which show that their chronological position cannot be more different in comparison with those from Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț". So, both a "storeged urn" and other types of pottery from Bocșa Română have good parallels in the pottery from Reci<sup>149</sup>, generally in the horizon of Mahala III-Somotor I-Reci I<sup>150</sup>, some analogies being made also with other types, typical for the earliest phase of the Gáva culture of the Upper Tisa basin. From all these, there results the possibility they could be somewhat earlier than the horizon of the settlement of Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Pituț" and can be dated still in the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase (but not before the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.).

I must mention, however, that a "storeyed urns" similar to those found in Reci and Bocșa Română appeared also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> level and even in the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of the settlement of Teleac, levels dated in Ha.B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>3</sub> and in Ha.C<sup>151</sup>, respectively. But, to accept such a dating for the cemetery of Bocșa Română would contradict the cultural evolution in north-western Banat, where already exists in Ha.B<sub>2</sub> (even a little earlier) the group of Gornea-Kalakača type, followed in Ha.B<sub>3</sub>-C by the Basarabi culture. Also, that means to contest in totality also the stratigraphical situation established for the settlement of Mahala (id est the succession of the Mahala III and IV levels).

As such, even the accurate chronological position of the cemetery of Bocșa Română can raise discussions, their dating in the horizon of the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase (the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) is the most acceptable for the moment.

So, it can be estimated that the finds with fluted pottery of the Gáva-Mediaș type from north-western Banat (particularly Bocșa Română and Remetea Mare), can be dated between the end of Ha.A<sub>2</sub>-Ha.B<sub>1</sub> (the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century - the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). Thus, they must be somewhat synchronous with the first

stage of the Gornea-Kalakača group in the south-western part of the Romanian Banat and the southern half of Vojvodina (Kalakača I, Feudvar-Mošorin and, maybe, Vărădia), being placed between the horizon of the transitional groups (Susani-Bobda II) and the more advanced finds of Gornea-Kalakača type (the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase) from north-western Banat.

The cultural group of Gornea-Kalakača (Bosut IIIa) type. His defining as distinct ethno-cultural entity is of a relative recent date and is due especially to Yugoslavian archaeologists; some new contributions of the Romanian archaeology<sup>152</sup> can be added.

Characterized – besides the fluted decoration – by the preponderant using of the incised ornamentation on a series of specific types of pottery (pl. XV), this group has a distribution area which includes northern Serbia (particularly the Great Morava Valley and the Danubian regions), the Srem region, Vojvodina and the most part of the Romanian Banat, with some penetrations up to south-western Oltenia (see the distribution map in pl. XVIII). It belongs to a vast cultural complex with incised pottery in West Balkans and South-East Alps regions. The finds of this type are designated in Yugoslavian literature especially by the term of "Bosut IIIa horizon" or those of "Kalakača group", "Kalakača horizon" respectively. They were successively dated between 850/800-600 B.C.<sup>153</sup>, 900-750 B.C.<sup>154</sup>, 950-750 B.C.<sup>155</sup> and, recent, between 1000-800 B.C.<sup>156</sup>.

Based on the results of the excavations at Gornea (in the southern part of the Romanian Banat)<sup>157</sup>, and also on other finds from Banat, the present author distinguished for the first time the presence of this type of finds also in south-western Romania, considering it as the expression of a distinct ethno-cultural entity at the beginning of the Early Iron Age, which was named "Gornea-Kalakača group" and dated in the Ha.B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>3</sub> phases<sup>158</sup>.

At present, there can be noted a number of 75 sites belonging to the Gornea-Kalakača group (Aradac, Ažanja, Bagrdar, Banatska Palanka, Banatska Topola, Banatski Dvor, Bela Crkva, Beograd-Karaburma, Boljetin, Budinț, Caransebeș, Centa, Ćuprija, Dejani, Dobra Voda, Dobrica, Dorcol, Dragocvec, Drenovac, Duboka, Duleu, Farkaždin, Feudvar-Mošorin, Gomolava-Hrtkovci, Gospodinci-Ada, Gradina na Bosutu-Vasiče, Gătaia, Greoni, Gornea, Giroc, Hajdukovo-Peres, Idžos, Iaz, Izvorul Frumos, Jabăr, Jakovo-Ekonomija Sava, Jarak-Strmoglavica, Jasenovozidovar, Kalakača, Kostolac, Kovin, Kupinovo-Slavinovac, Lanište-Gradac, Majur, Milcoveni, Mislogin, Novi Begej, Novi Sad, Novi Slankamen, Novo Miloševo, Odžaci, Pančevo, Pădureni, Perlez-

Batka, Pečinci, Popov Salaš, Potporanj, Prahovo, Remetea Mare-"Gomila lui Gabor", Românești, Sefkerin, Sekurić, Senta, Šot, Starčevo, Svetozarevo, Svojnovo, Tekija, Titel, Vatin, Veliko Gradište, Vrani, Vrdnik, Vršac, Zemun)<sup>159</sup>. Most of them are settlements.

The documentation about the burial practice of this group still remains generally poor. Only the inhumation tomb of Vrnik-"Pečine"<sup>160</sup> was referred to them, and the two collective tombs of Gomolava<sup>161</sup>, for the last ones there existing, however, the possibility of interpretation as ritual sacrifices.

Besides the fluted and faceted ornamentation or the "turban-shaped" torsions, of the conical prominences or the vertical crests, the specific elements of the fine pottery of Gornea-Kalakača type are the incised ornamentations (pl. XV/1-4, 6-26, 28-30, 34, 39, 41-48). In its final stage, there begin to appear also some stamped ornamentations, due to the connections with the group of the Insula Banului type and, maybe, with the earliest elements of the Basarabi type.

Although not so numerous, the metal objects are important clues to the chronological position of this group. Besides some bronze objects (fibula, bracelets, phalerae, pendants, buttons, hear rings muffs) found in the settlement of Kalakača (pl. XV/27, 40) and in the collective tomb nr. II from Gomolava (pl. XV/31-33, 35-38), I can mention also the flat iron axe with little wings (*Ärmchenbeil*) from the Bosut IIIa level of the settlement of "Gradina na Bosutu" (pl. XV/6)<sup>162</sup>.

The chronological position and the cultural connections of the Gornea-Kalakača (Bosut IIIa) group could be established clearly enough at this moment. Its initial dating (Ha.B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>3</sub>) was based particularly on the "harp-shaped" fibula (*Harfenfibel*) from Kalakača (pl. XV/27) and on the metal objects of the so-called "Thraco-Cimmerian" type belonging to the inventory of the collective tomb nr. 2 from Gomolava (pl. XV/31-33, 35-38). Publishing, more recently the monography of the settlement of Kalakača, P. Medović divided their evolution into two stages (A-C)<sup>163</sup>.

The earliest stage (A) was dated – inclusively on the base of their connections with the Gáva type finds and with those of the Kastanas VI phase – towards the end of the Ha.A<sub>2</sub> phase and in the first half of the Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (id est at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). Besides the similar finds from Feudvar-Mošorin and, probably, Vărădia, this phase of the settlement of Kalakača represents a first stage (I) of the Gornea-Kalakača group, when its distribution area – corresponding somewhat with those of the Ticvaniu Mare-Karaburma III group, which

succeeded directly in the same space – seems to include only the southern half of Vojvodina and the south-western corner of the Romanian Banat. Thus, this first stage of the Gornea-Kalakača group seems to be synchronous with the finds of the Gáva-Mediaș type in north-western Banat (as is indicated also by the interferences from Vărădia) and even with the later phases of the Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea and Hinova-Mala Vrbica groups.

The second stage (B) of the same settlement was dated between the second half of Ha.B<sub>1</sub> phase (the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) and the end of Ha.B<sub>2</sub> phase (of the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. respectively), the leading element of this horizon being the "harp-shaped" fibula from complex nr. 87, which belongs to the Ruše type<sup>164</sup> and can be dated particularly in Ha.B<sub>2</sub> and, maybe, also at the beginning of Ha.B<sub>3</sub><sup>165</sup>. That second phase (II) of the Gornea-Kalakača group illustrates its greatest spatial extension, the finds of this type being present in most of Vojvodina and the Romanian Banat, in the Great Morava Valley and in the Danubian regions in north-eastern Serbia (see the distribution map in pl. XVIII). This phase seems to be, partially at least, synchronous with the early phase of the Dalj group and with the Insula Banului group. This conclusion can be sustained also by mutual influences or interferences which exist in both types of finds. At the level of this phase exerted a somewhat pression both towards Transylvania (illustrated by the appearance of some typical elements up to Tărtăria or the second level from Teleac<sup>166</sup>) and also towards south-western Oltenia (as shown by the typical materials from ostrovul Mare and Izvorul Frumos)<sup>167</sup>. At the same time, it is possible that the end of the Gornea-Kalakača horizon in the southern part of Romanian Banat and the corresponding region on the Serbian bank of the Danube was caused by a pression towards east of the Insula Banului group, exerted at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C., when typical elements of this last group arrived near Kostolac<sup>168</sup>.

The third and last stage of the settlement from Kalakača (C) was placed in the first half of Ha.B<sub>3</sub> phase of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. respectively, being synchron with the horizon of the "Thraco-Cimmerian" bronzes from Gomolava (the collective tomb nr. II), one of these (the spectacle fibulae with "eight-shaped" middle, the phalera, a.c.) having good parallels in Romania as far as the hoards of Vințu-Coldău-Bîlvănești type<sup>169</sup>. So, it is very probable that the end of the Gornea-Kalakača group was later in Srem than in Banat and in north-eastern Serbia, its last phase (III) being – partially at least – synchronous with the beginning of the Basarabi culture in south-western Romania and north-eastern

Serbia (the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.). This conclusion seems to be supported also by the appearance of some imports or influences of the early Basarabi type in the settlement at Kalakača (pl. XV/45)<sup>170</sup> or by the appearance, in the same settlement, of some hair rings with "eight-shaped" end (pl. XV/40), particularly typical for the grave goods belonging to the earlier (I) and even the middle (II) phases of the Basarabi culture in south-western Romania and north-eastern Serbia.

In these conditions, the evolution of the Gornea-Kalakača group finished somewhere in the first half, latest in the middle of the 8th century B.C., when the whole area of this group was occupied already by Basarabi-culture elements.

The cultural group of the Insula Banului type (pl. XVI) was defined (by correlation also with some similar others finds from south-eastern Banat, south-western Oltenia, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria) at the same time with the publication of the investigations made in the Danube isle with the same name in south-western Oltenia. At that moment it was considered illustrative, in the mentioned area, for the chronological interval between the end of Žuto Brdo-Girila Mare culture and the beginning of the Basarabi culture, being dated in the Ha.A-B period<sup>171</sup>.

After that, B. Hänsel designated this type of finds by the term of "Ostrov group" (Ostrov Gruppe), considering that its evolution in southern Oltenia and the Iron Gates region developed between the horizon of the Vîrtop (Vîrtop-Plopşor) type, of the Işalniţa group respectively, and those of the Basarabi culture, dating it particularly in Ha.B (maybe also the end of Ha.A)<sup>172</sup>.

In the present stage of investigations we registered a number of 24 finds which can be referred with somewhat certitude to the Insula Banului group, in south-western Romania, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria (Dolni Lom, Dubova, Drmno-Kostolac, Insula Banului, Izvorul Frumos, Korbovo, Kostol-Kurvingrad, Krivelj, Magura, Mala Vrbica, Mihajlovac, Novo Selo, Ostrovul Corbului, Ostrovul Mare, Petrovo, Porečka reka, Prahovo, Ruženka, Ušce Slatinske Reke, Vajuga, Valea Rea, Velešnica, Zajecar and Zimnicea)<sup>173</sup>. All these show that the distribution area of this group was concentrated particularly in north-eastern Serbia, north-western Bulgaria, the south-eastern corner of the Romanian Banat and the southern half of Oltenia, with some penetrations up to the southern part of Muntenia (pl. XVIII). In these conditions, it appeared as a group of the western periphery of the vast Thracian complex with stamped

pottery of the Pšenicevo II-Babadag II-Cozia-Saharna-Solonceni type.

Characterised by a specific typology of pottery decorated mainly with stamped ornaments, and less by those incised or fluted, the Insula Banului group is well individualised in comparison with the other entities at the beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, north-western Bulgaria and north-eastern Serbia (particularly with those of the Gáva-Mediaş and Gornea-Kalakača type), although the mutual connections between these are frequently evident. The rows of little stamped circles with a cross in the middle represents one of the leading elements which individualized the pottery of this group in comparison with the other groups in the area of the cultural complex with stamped pottery (Pšenicevo II-Babadag II, Cozia-Brad, Saharna-Solonceni). The incised ornamentation which is also present in the pottery of this group represents, probably, influences and even imports from the Gornea-Kalakača group. The association, in the B sector of the settlement from Insula Banului, of the two pits which contained only fluted pottery with the others complex in which this type of pottery was mixed with stamped pottery, can be a sign for the fact that the finds from this sector represent the initial moment of penetration of the Insula Banului type elements in the milieu or over the local background with fluted pottery.

Besides some others bronze objects found in the settlement of Insula Banului (pl. XVI/32-36), in the B sector of those, there also appeared (in a pit containing only fluted pottery) a flat iron axe with little wings-Ärmchenbeil (pl. XVI/26). It is one of the most important guide-marks for the chronological position of the Insula Banului group. Although, in general, this is a type of piece with a longer existence, it is considered that its earliest appearance in the Romanian territory cannot be placed before the Ha.B<sup>174</sup>, maybe even the Ha.B<sub>2</sub> period<sup>175</sup>. In consequence, the piece from Insula Banului, representing one of the earliest appearance of the Wesse II<sub>1</sub> variant<sup>176</sup>, cannot be earlier than Ha.B, being a first indication for the restriction of the dating of the Insula Banului group at the level of Ha.B<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>2</sub>. On the other hand, the mutual connections between this group and those of the Gornea-Kalakača type are evident only from the second stage of the last one, a fact which seems to indicate a more restrictive dating, for the Insula Banului group, in the Ha.B<sub>2</sub> phase (the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) respectively, maybe also the second half of Ha.B<sub>1</sub>. An earlier beginning than the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century for the Insula Banului group seems to be contradicted both by the possibility that the existence of the late phase of the Hinova-Mala Vrbica group might

cover also the first half of Ha.B<sub>1</sub>, and of the placing the middle or in the second half of the same phase of those elements of the Gornea-Kalakača type, which penetrate into south-eastern Oltenia (Ostrovul Mare, Izvorul Frumos) probably immediately before of the first appearances of the Insula Banului group in the same region. At the same time, we cannot take into account a possible prolongation of the existence of the Insula Banului group after the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Such a possibility is contradicted by the fact that his area was included in the genetic space of the Basarabi culture, for its beginning is impossible to be accepted a date after the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C.<sup>177</sup>.

In consequence, for the moment, I can estimate that the horizon of the Insula Banului group in south-western Romania, north-eastern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria can be placed better at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century and in the 9<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

This group, and those of Gornea-Kalakača type, mixed with the background of fluted pottery in these regions, will produce the synthesis which generated the specific style of the Basarabi culture, the characteristic cultural entity of the middle stage of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria.

## NOTES

1. For the Carpathian-Danubian space and the neighbouring regions, the use of terms like Hallstatt (or Hallstatt Epoch) and Hallstatt Culture (or civilisation) do not agree with either the chronological limits generally accepted for this period by the most of the scholars from eastern Europe (inclusively by the present author), or with its specific cultural evolution; therefore, I tried to avoid the use of these terms with reference to the historical-archaeological realities from this area, by using constantly here terms like Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age. Also, the author accepts the existence of a transitional period from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age (placing it between the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> – the middle or the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) and a tripartite scheme of periodisation of the Early Iron Age in this area (respectively, the early, middle and late periods). See, also, M. Gumă, *Civilizația primei epoci a fierului în sud-vestul României*, 1993, p. 110 ff.

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4. A. Mozsolics, *ActaArchHung*, 8, 1957, p. 119-156; B. Brukner - B. Jovanovic - N. Tasić, *Praistorija Vojvodine*, 1974, p. 234-240, 461-462; C. Kacsó, *SympThrac*, 9, 1992, p. 97-98.

5. B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, op. cit., p. 240 f.; J. Todorović, *Praistorijska Karaburma II. Nekropola bronzanog doba*, 1977, p. 145 ff.

6. S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 40-45, 187.

7. K. Horedt, *StComSibiu*, 13, 1967, p. 147 ff.; B. Hänsel, *Beiträge zur Chronologie der Mittleren Bronzezeit im Karpatenbecken*, 1968, I, p. 134 ff.

8. St. Foltiny, *Apulum*, VI, 1967, p. 49-71; idem, *Origini*, 2, 1968, p. 348-353.

9. K. Vinski-Gasparini, *Kultura polja sa zarama u sjevernoj Hrvatskoj*, 1973.

10. St. Foltiny, *Festschrift Alois-J. Ohrenberger*, 1985, p. 111-120.

11. T. Kemenczei, *Die Spätbronzezeit Nordostungarns*, 1984.

12. M. Garašanin, *Praistoria na tlu SR Srbije*, 1973, p. 473; idem, *PJZ*, IV, 1983, p. 504-519, 668 ff.

13. See M. Gumă, op. cit., p. 150-151, with lit.

14. K. Horedt, *StComSibiu*, 13, 1967, p. 147-148; O. Radu, *SCIV*, 24, 1973, 3, p. 506-507; B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, op. cit., p. 462; J. Todorović, op. cit., p. 155; S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 45.

15. It must be mentioned that, recently, N. Tasić divided the Belegiš II phase into Belegiš IIa and Belegiš IIb levels (see N. Tasić, *Balcenica*, XV, 1984, p. 33-44). Although the finds belonging to the Belegiš IIa level, corresponding practically with those of the Cruceni II phase, was placed in Ha.A<sub>1</sub> (the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) and those of the Belegiš IIb type particularly in Ha.A<sub>2</sub>-Ha.B<sub>1,2</sub> (Ibidem, p. 36), in my opinion the Cruceni II phase can be placed rather in Bz.D and only at the beginning of Ha.A period (latest in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century B.C.), a fact which makes us date Belegiš IIb level in full Ha.A period.

16. B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, op. cit., p. 240; J. Todorović, op. cit., p. 153-158; S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 40 ff.

17. M. Gumă, op. cit., p. 155-156, pl. X/2, 5.

18. Not published. Excavations FI. Medeț.

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21. I. Nestor, *IstRom*, I, 1960, p. 109.

22. Vl. Dumitrescu, *Necropola de incinerare din epoca bronzului de la Cîrma*, 1961, p. 301-302.

23. Idem, *Arta preistorică în România*, 1974, p. 317 ff.

24. B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, op. cit., p. 464-465; M. Garašanin, op. cit.; idem, *PJZ*, IV, 1983, p. 520-535.

25. S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 28-31.

26. Ibidem, p. 28 ff, fig. 11; B. Hänsel - P. Roman, *PZ*, 59, 1984, 2, p. 188-229; G. Crăciunescu, *Drobeta*, IV, 1980, p. 43; idem, *SympThrac*, 7, 1989, p. 253-254; idem, *Thrac-Dacia*, XIII, 1992, 1-2, p. 43-47; M. Nica, *Thrac-Dacia*, VIII, 1987, 1-2, p. 16-38; idem, *SympThrac*, 8, 1990, p. 127-128; idem, *Relations Thrac-Illyro-Hellénique*, 1994, p. 178-206; M. Gumă, op. cit., p. 157 ff; C. Săcărin, *Banatica*, XII/1, 1993, p. 75-83.

27. S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 28 ff, fig. 11; M. Garašanin, op. cit., p. 336 ff; idem, *PJZ*, IV, p. 507/K.14, 520-535; M. Vukmanović - P. Popović, *Djerdapske aveske*, II, 1984, p. 89-91; idem, *Djerdapske aveske*, III, 1986, p. 7 ff; Lj. Babović, *Djerdapske aveske*, II, 1984, p.

- 97 ff; idem, *Djerdapske veske*, III, 1986, p. 116 ff; D. Krstić, *Djerdapske veske*, II, 1984, p. 104 ff; idem, *Djerdapske veske*, III, 1986, p. 148 ff; A. Premk - P. Popović - Lj. Bjelajac, *Djerdapske veske*, II, 1984, p. 118 ff; N. Radojčić, *Djerdapske veske*, III, 1986, p. 133 ff; R. Vasić, *Djerdapske veske*, III, 1986, p. 264 ff.
28. T. Filipov, *Nekropol ot kasnata bronzova epoha pri s. Orsoja, Lomsko*, 1976; S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 28 ff; G.I. Georgiev, *Südosteuropa zwischen 1600 und 1000 v.Chr.*, 1982, p. 187-202, with lit.
29. S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 37; Gh. Lazarovici - C. Săcărin, *Banatica*, V, 1979, p. 81-82; B. Hänsel - P. Roman, *PZ*, 59, 1984, 2, p. 197 ff; VI. Dumitrescu - Al. Vulpe, op. cit., p. 69.
30. D. Berciu - E. Comşa, loc. cit.
31. VI. Dumitrescu, *Necropola de incinerare din epoca bronzului de la Cima*, 1961; VI. Dumitrescu - Al. Vulpe, op. cit., p. 69.
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33. R. Hachmann, *Germania*, 46, 1968, p. 368 ff.
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37. B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, op. cit., p. 460.
38. M. Garašanin, *PJZ*, IV, 1983, p. 520-535.
39. See, also, M. Gumă, op. cit., p. 157-163.
40. S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 39/fig. 19; 40.
41. B. Hänsel, *Beiträge zur regionalen und chronologischen Gliederung der Älteren Hallstattzeit an den Unteren Donau*, 1976, I, p. 62-63, 105, 240; II, Taf. 18/1-2; Taf. 40.
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43. M. Nica, *Thracico-Dacica*, VIII, 1987, 1-2, p. 16-38; idem, *SympThrac*, 8, 1990, p. 127-128; idem, *Relations Thracico-Ilyro-Helléniques*, 1994, p. 178-206.
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45. T. Bader, *Die Fibeln in Rumänien*, PBF, XIV/6, 1983, p. 32 ff.
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74. O. Trogmayer, *ActaArchHung*, 1963; idem, *Balkanica*, XXIII, p. 351-355.
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110. G.I. Smimova, *Thrac-Dacica*, XIV, 1993, 1-2, p. 91-99; Abb. 3/II; A. László, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, 1994, p. 159 with lit.

111. A.D. Alexandrescu, *Dacia*, N.S., XXII, 1978, p. 117/fig. 3, 120, 122/fig. 9.

112. V. Enăchiuc, *Thrac-Dacica*, VIII, 1987, 1-2, p. 72-91.

113. D. Berciu, *Arheologia preistorică a Olteniei*, 1939, p. 155 ff., fig. 199-200; idem, *Zorile istoriei în Carpați și la Dunăre*, 1966, p. 232, pl. XVII.

114. B. Hänsel, *Beiträge zur regionalen und chronologischen Gliederung der Älteren Hallstattzeit an den Unteren Donau*, 1976, I, p. 101-105; II, Beilage.

115. Al. Vulpe, op. cit., PBF VI/9, p. 104-105, Taf. 62.

116. See, supra, notes 112-113. Also, I. Chicideanu, *SCIVA*, 43, 1992, 1, p. 49-54; I. Chicideanu - P. Gheorghe, *Materiale*, XV, 1981, (1983), p. 103-107.

117. E. Moscalu, *Oltenia*, III, 1981, p. 21-22; S. Purice - M. Iosifaru, *SympThrac* 6, 1988, p. 56-57.

118. See, supra, notes 41-42.

119. The most northern find of *Insula Banului* type, known until now in Oltenia, is the settlement from Valea Rea, about 26 km. north from Craiova. See, M. Nica, *SympThrac*, 8, 1990, p. 129-130.

120. For these, see particularly: B. Hänsel, *Beiträge zur regionalen und chronologischen Gliederung der Älteren Hallstattzeit an den Unteren Donau*, 1976, I, p. 73-87; S. Morintz, op. cit., p. 55-61, 121 ff.

121. A.D. Alexandrescu, *Dacia*, N.S., XXII, 1978, p. 115-124.

122. G. Tončeva, *Chronologie du Hallstatt ancien dans la Bulgarie de nord-est*, 1980, p. 39, pl. X.

123. E. Comşa, *SCIV*, XV, 1964, 1, p. 128.

124. E. Moscalu, *Oltenia*, III, 1981, p. 21.

125. M. Petrescu-Dîmbovița, *SCIV*, IV, 1953, 3-4, p. 776, fig. 8/6.

126. A. László, *MemAntic*, XII-XIV, 1986, p. 70-72.

127. Ibidem, p. 72, note 81-82; idem, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, 1994, p. 148, note 60.

128. V. Mikov, *Zlatnoto sâkrovište ot Vălcitrân*, 1958, p. 8 ff., fig. 2, pl. 3-5; G. Tončeva, op. cit., p. 39; Al. Vulpe, *MemAntica*, XII-XIV, 1980-1982, (1986), p. 48-49.

129. Al. Vulpe, *MemAntiq*, XII-XIV, 1980-1982, (1986), p. 53. For a dating somewhat later (IX<sup>th</sup>-VIII<sup>th</sup> century B.C.) see, recently, D. Gergova, *SympAlbaulua*, 1993, (1994), p. 69-80.

130. A. Mozsolics, *ActaArchHung*, 8, 1957, p. 119-156; K. Horedt, *StComSibiu*, 13, 1967, p. 137-156; J. Paulik, *ZSNM*, 8, 1968, p. 3-43; T. Kemenczei, *HOME*, 10, 1978, p. 31-86; idem, op. cit., 1984, p. 58 ff.; A. László, *CMO*, 1972, p. 173-224; idem, *SCIV*, 24, 1973, 4, p. 575-609; idem, *Aluta*, VIII-IX, 1976-1977, p. 25-51; idem, *Hallstatt Kolloquium Veszprem*, 1984, (1986), p. 149-163; idem, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, 1994, p. 48-104; C. Kacsó, *Dacia*, N.S. XIX, 1975, p. 45-68; V. Vasiliev, *Sargetia*, XX, 1986-1987, p. 65 ff.; a.o.

131. G.I. Smimova, *Actes du VIII<sup>e</sup> CISPP*, 1971; idem, *SCIV*, 25, 1974, 3, p. 259-380; idem, *ASGE*, 17, 1976, p. 1-34; A. László, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, 1994, p. 48 ff.

132. T. Kemenczei, op. cit., 1984, p. 58 ff.; I. Nemeti, *StComSatuMare*, V-VI, 1981-1982, p. 45-58.

133. A. László, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, 1994, p. 48 ff. with lit.

134. See, particularly, J. Paulik, *ZSNM*, 8, 1968, p. 3-43; G.I. Smimova, *SCIV*, 25, 1974, 3, p. 259-380; S. Morintz, *RevIst*, 30, 1977, 8, p. 1465-1488; T. Kemenczei, op. cit., p. 58 ff.; A. László, *Începuturile epocii fierului la est de Carpați*, p. 48 ff.; V. Vasiliev - I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, *Civilizația dacică timpurie în aria intracarpatică a României. Contribuții arheologice: așezarea fortificată de la Teleac*, 1991, p. 105-129.

135. V. Vasiliev - I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, op. cit., p. 105 ff.

136. M. Gumă, op. cit., p. 180 ff.

137. Ibidem, p. 184-194.

138. Lj. Bukvić, *SympSombor*, 1993, (1994), p. 39-44.

139. M. Gumă, op. cit., pl. XXXIV-XXXVI, XXXIX.

140. P. Medović, *PVM*, 31, 1988-1989, p. 48; M. Ginić, *SympSombor*, 1993, (1994), p. 27, nr. 28.

141. M. Gumă, op. cit., pl. XXXII-XXXIII.

142. Fl. Medeleț, *Dacia*, N.S., XVIII, 1974, p. 95-102; idem, *Banatica*, III, 1975, p. 49-60.

143. Fl. Gogăltan, *Banatica*, 10, 1990, p. 89-91, fig. 1.

144. E. Zaharia, *Dacia*, N.S., IX, 1965, p. 83-104.

145. N. Chidioșan, *Materiale*, XV, 1981, (1983), p. 138-142.

146. G.I. Smimova, *SCIV*, 25, 1974, 3, p. 367, fig. 3.

147. V. Vasiliev - I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, op. cit., p. 88-89, 242/fig. 46.

148. See, supra, note 139.

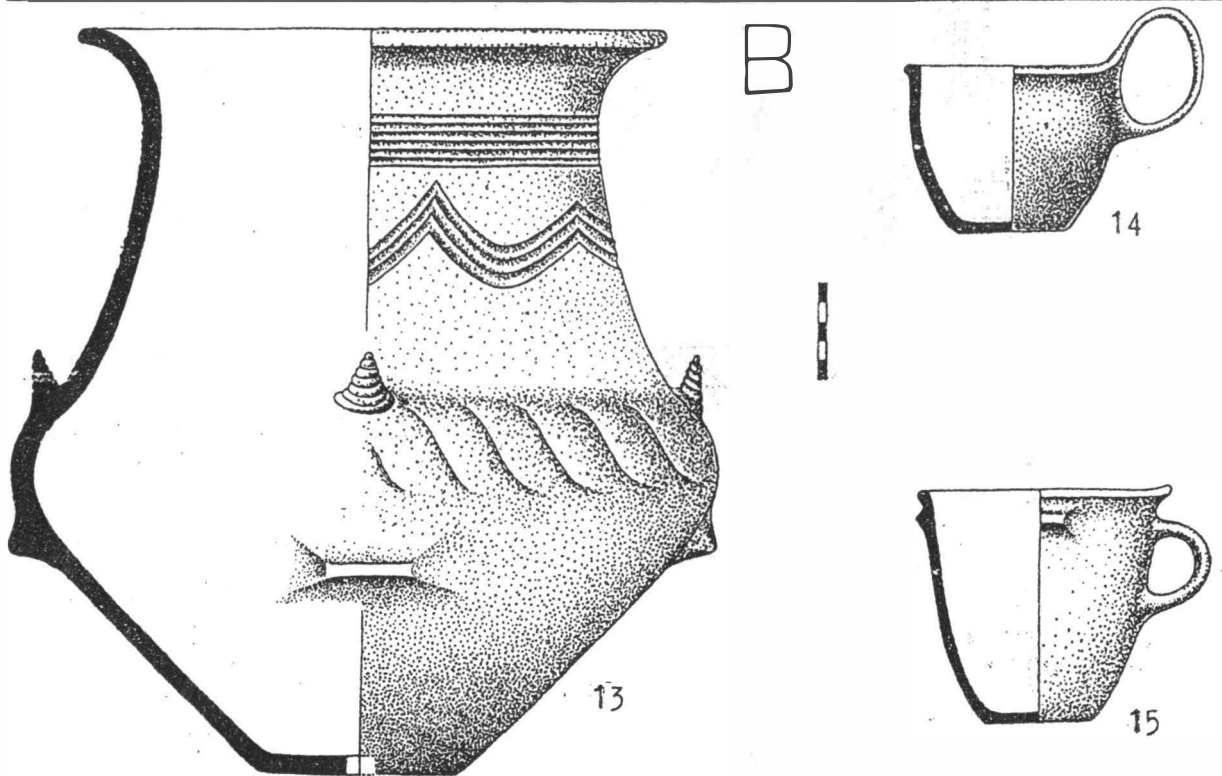
149. Z. Székely, *Așezări din prima vârstă a fierului în sud-estul Transilvaniei*, 1966, p. 10-16; 47/pl. III; 51/pl. IV, 1-3, 8-10.

150. G.I. Smimova, *SCIV*, 25, 1974, 3, p. 363, fig. 2; 369, fig. 4/8, 13.

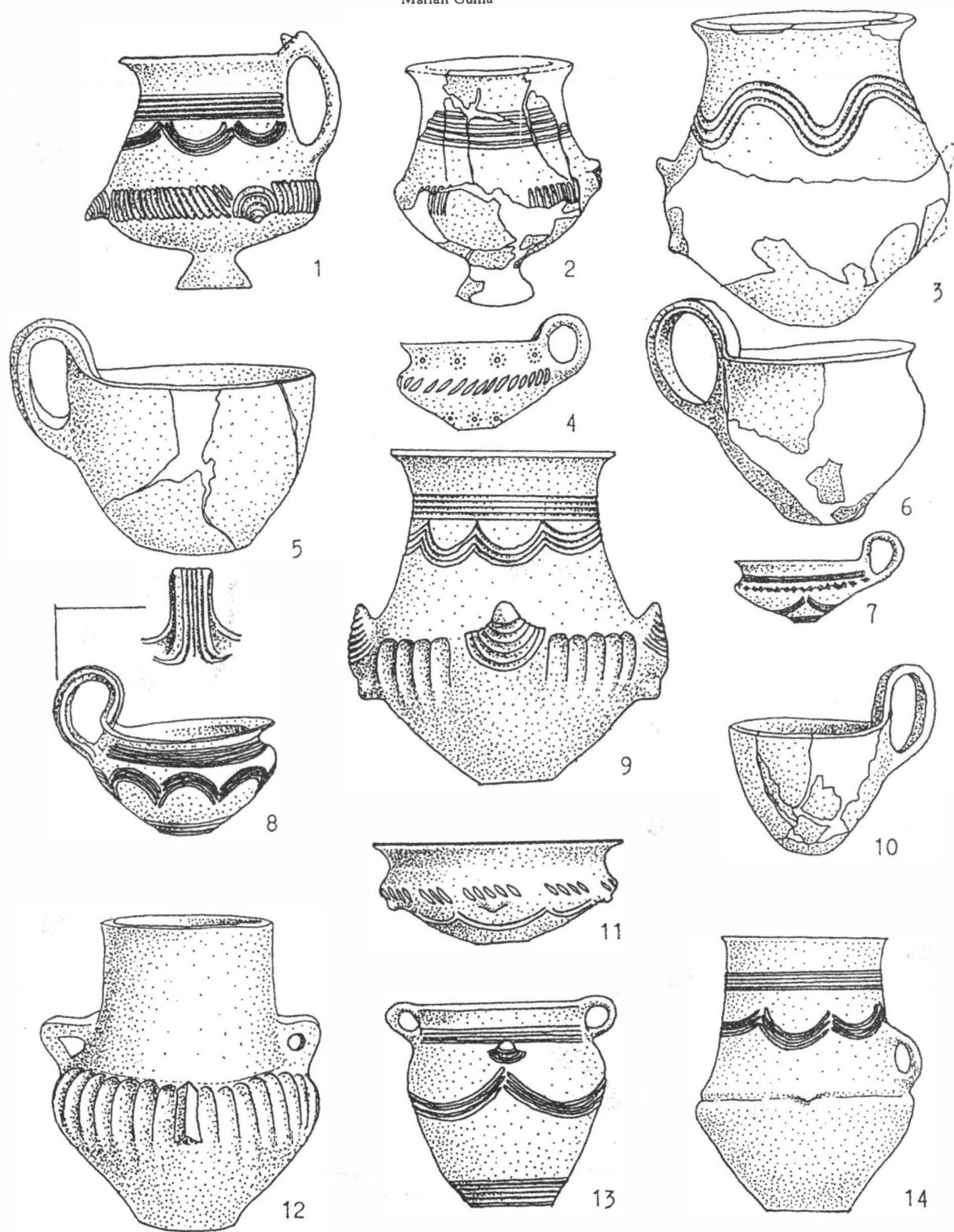
151. V. Vasiliev - I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, *op. cit.*, fig. 31/13; 41/5, 7; 46/2.
152. N. Tasić, *Materijali SADJ*, VII, 1970, (1971), p. 61-83; *idem*, *Balkanica*, II, 1971, p. 26-67; *idem*, *ArchJug*, XIII, 1972, p. 27-37; B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, *op. cit.*, p. 246-276, 375-376; P. Medović, *Naselja starijeg gvozdenog doba u jugoslovenskom Podunavlju*, 1978, p. 40 ff.; *idem*, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 13-42; *idem*, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 63-80; D. Popović, *Keramika starijeg gvozdenog doba u Sremu*, p. 44, Br. 2; M. Jevtić, *Keramika starijeg gvozdenog doba na centralno-balkanskom području*, 1983, p. 54, K.1; R. Vasić, *PJZ*, V, 1987, p. 537, K.4; M. Gumă, *SCIIVA*, 32, 1981, 1, p. 43-66; *idem*, *op. cit.*, p. 194-203.
153. N. Tasić, *ArchJug*, XIII, 1972, p. 33 ff.; B. Brukner - B. Jovanović - N. Tasić, *op. cit.*, p. 246-276, 375-376.
154. P. Medović, *Naselja...*, 1978, p. 40 ff.; *idem*, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 13-42; *idem*, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 63-80.
155. *Idem*, *Kalakača*, 1988, p. 419 ff., sl. 324; *idem*, *Gospodari srebra*, 1990, p. 75-84; N. Tasić, *Gomolava Symposium*, 1988, p. 53 ff.
156. B. Hänsel - P. Medović, *72 BerRGK*, 1991, (1992), Abb. 4.
157. M. Gumă, *Banatica*, V, 1979, p. 115-180.
158. *Idem*, *SCIIVA*, 32, 1981, 1, p. 43-66.
159. *See, supra*, note 152. Also, R. Vasić, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 121-140; M. Stojić, *Gvozdeno doba u basenu Velike Morave*, 1986, *passim*; M. Girić, *SympSombor*, 1993, (1994), p. 21-30.
160. P. Medović, *RVM*, 29, 1984-1985, (1985).
161. N. Tasić, *ArchJug*, XIII, 1972, p. 27-37; M. Gumă, *SCIIVA*, 32, 1981, 1, p. 49-52.
162. P. Medović, *RVM*, 30, 1987, p. 93-96, fig. 1.
163. *Idem*, *Kalakača*, 1988, *passim*.
164. M. Budja, *ArhVest*, 33, 1982, (1983), p. 59-67.
165. P. Medović, *Kalakača*, 1988, p. 450-451.
166. H. Ciugudean, *Apulum*, XIV, 1976, p. 9-22, fig. 6; V. Vasiliev - I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, *op. cit.*, p. 95, fig. 44/16-17.
167. Not published. Pottery finds in Drobeta-Tumu Severin Muz.
168. *See, in that sense*, also, M. Jevtić, *SympAlbaIulia*, 1993, (1994), p. 129-142.
169. M. Petrescu-Dimbovița, *op. cit.*, pl. 380/1-3; 385; 386/1-2; 391/1; 392/6; 394/1-2; I. Al. Aldea - H. Ciugudean, *Apulum*, XXIV, 1987, pl. I, II/6-7.
170. P. Medović, *Kalakača*, 1988, p. 30, sl. 14/3; 104, sl. 87/11 (complex 33); p. 188, sl. 170/3 (complex 73).
171. S. Morintz - P. Roman, *SCIIV*, 20, 1969, 3, 393-423.
172. B. Hänsel, *Beiträge zur regionalen und chronologischen Gliederung der Älteren Hallstattzeit an den Unteren Donau*, 1976, I, p. 151 ff.; II, Taf. XI.
173. *See notes* 171-172. Also, A. D. Alexandrescu, *Dacia*, N.S., XXII, 1978, fig. 13; R. Vasić, *Materijali SADJ*, XIX, 1981, p. 121-140; M. Nica, *SympThrac*, 8, 1990, p. 129-130; M. Gumă, *op. cit.*, p. 203 ff.; M. Jevtić, *SympAlbaIulia*, 1993, (1994), p. 129-142.
174. A. László, *SCIIVA*, 26, 1975, 1, p. 29.
175. N. Vlăssă, *Apulum*, 20, 1982, p. 65-73; V. Vasiliev, *ActaMN*, XX, 1983, p. 46-49, 51.
176. A. Wesse, *Die Ärmchenbeile der Alten Welt*, 1990, p. 166 ff.; Abb. 55.
177. M. Gumă, *op. cit.*, p. 208 ff. A date somewhat earlier for the beginning of this culture (end of the 9th century B.C.) was advanced, recently, by Al. Vulpe, *op. cit.*, p. 106 ff.; Taf. 63.

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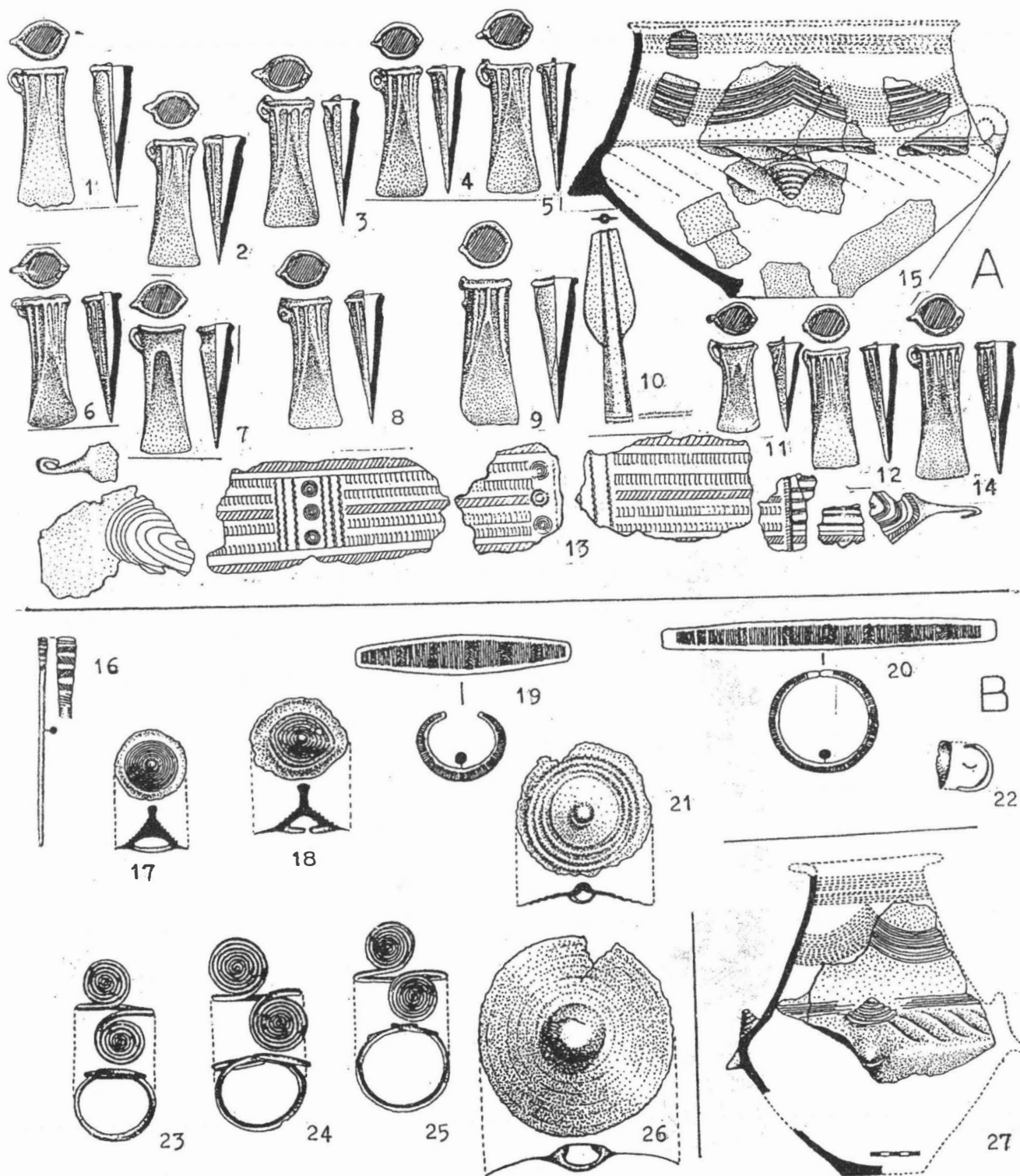
**Plate I.** A. 1-12.- Grave goods from the second stage of Cruceni umfield cemetery (1,4-10,12 - pottery; 2-3,11 - bronze); B. 13-15.- grave goods from the final stage (grave M.31) of Timișoara - "Fratelia" umfield cemetery (13-15, pottery). According to O. Radu (A. 1-12) and Fl. Medeșeș (B. 13-15). Different scale.



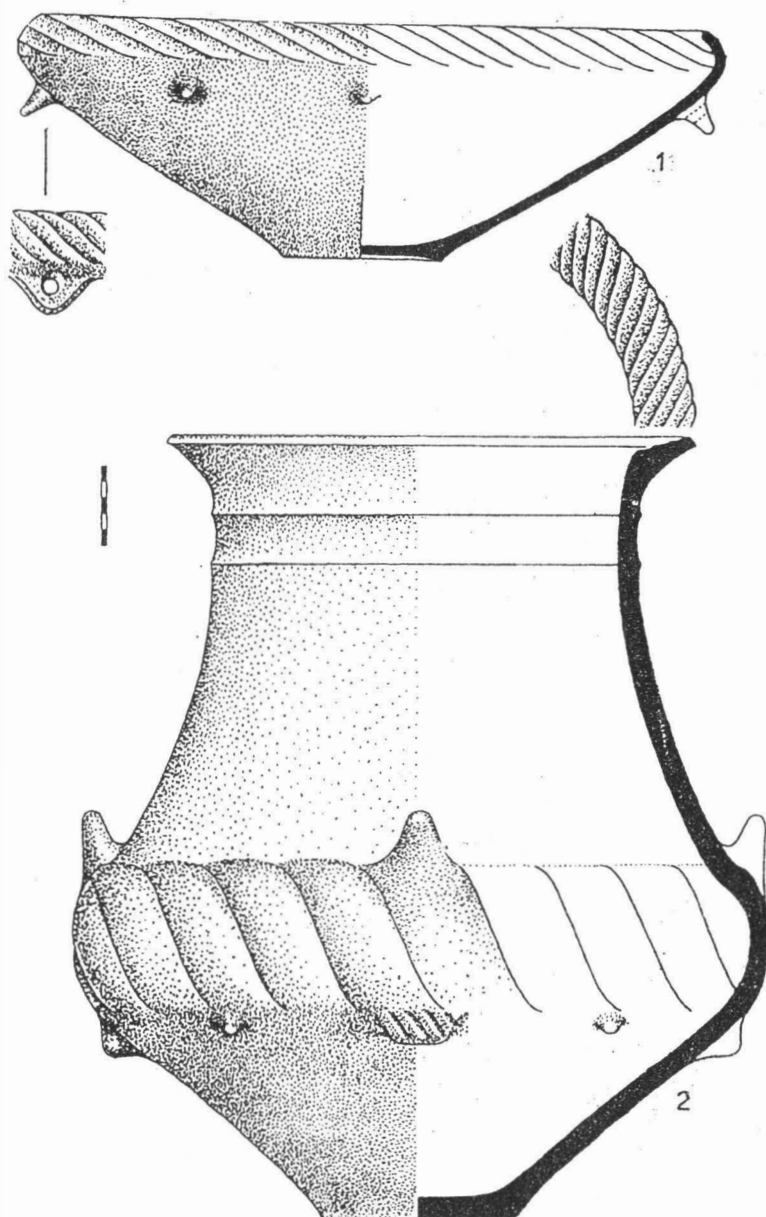
**Plate II.** Types of pottery from Bobda umfield cemetery (Bobda Group). According to N. Boroffka (1,4,7,9,11,13-14) and Fl. Medeț (2-3,5-6,8-10,12). Different scale.



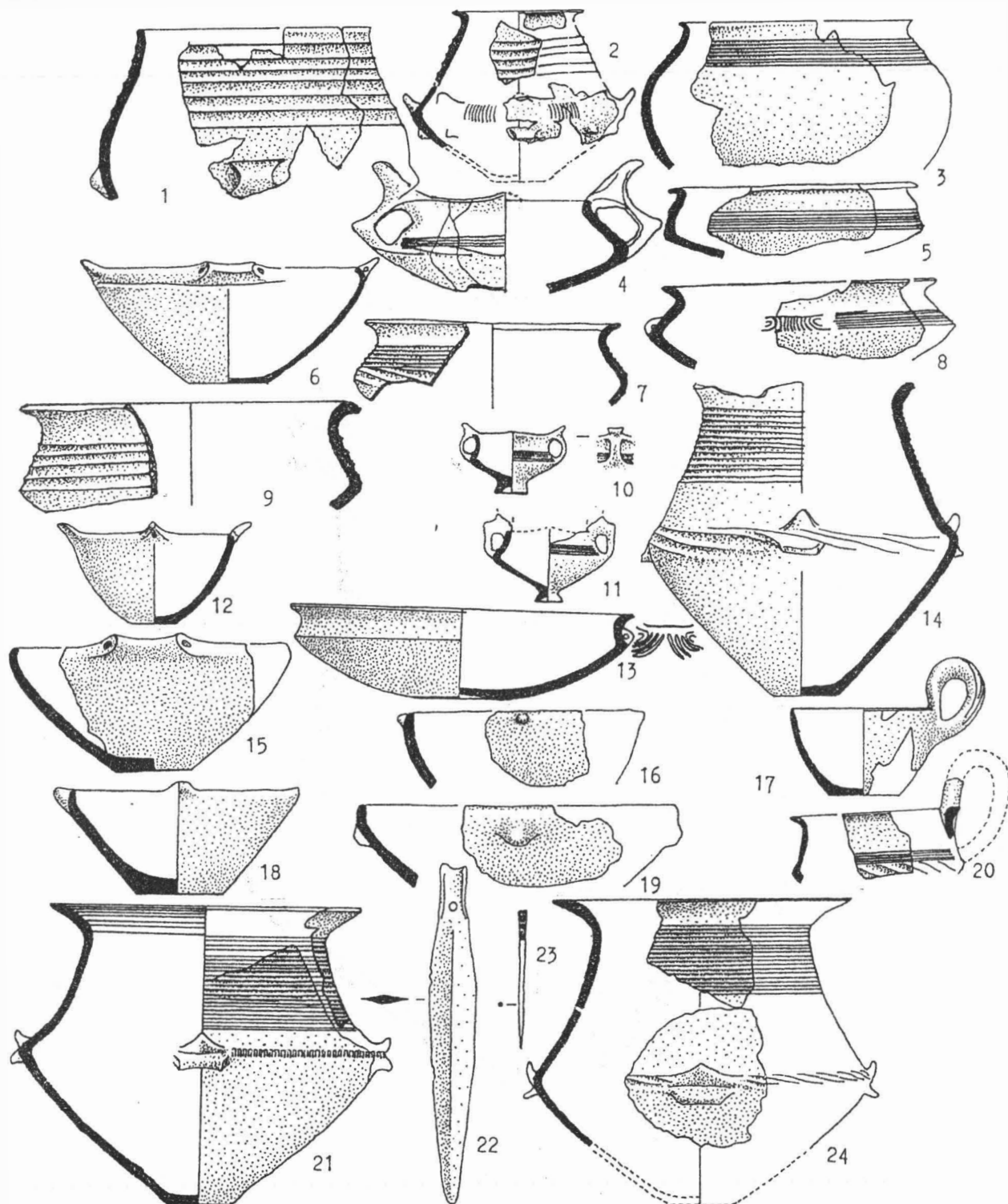
**Plate III.** Types of pottery found in the tumulus from Susani (Susani Group) According to I. Stratan and Al. Vulpe (1-52). Different scale.



**Plate IV.** The hoards from Fizeș (A. 1-15) and Comușel (B. 16-27). According to O. Bozu (A. 1-15) and I. Stratan (B. 16-27): bronze (1-14, 16-20) and pottery (15, 27). Different scale.

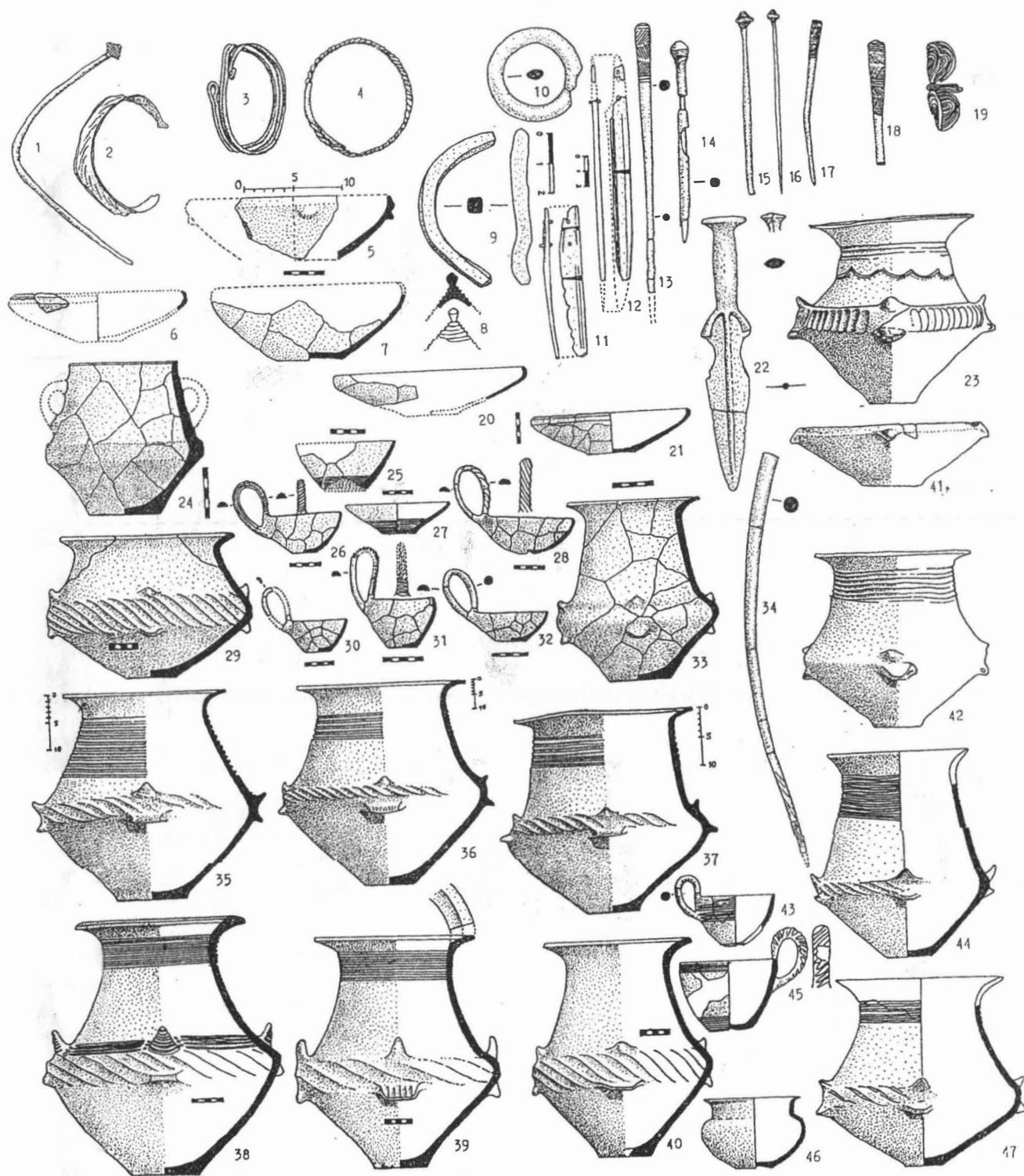


**Plate V.** Cremation grave from Caransebeș - "Balta Sărată". All pottery.

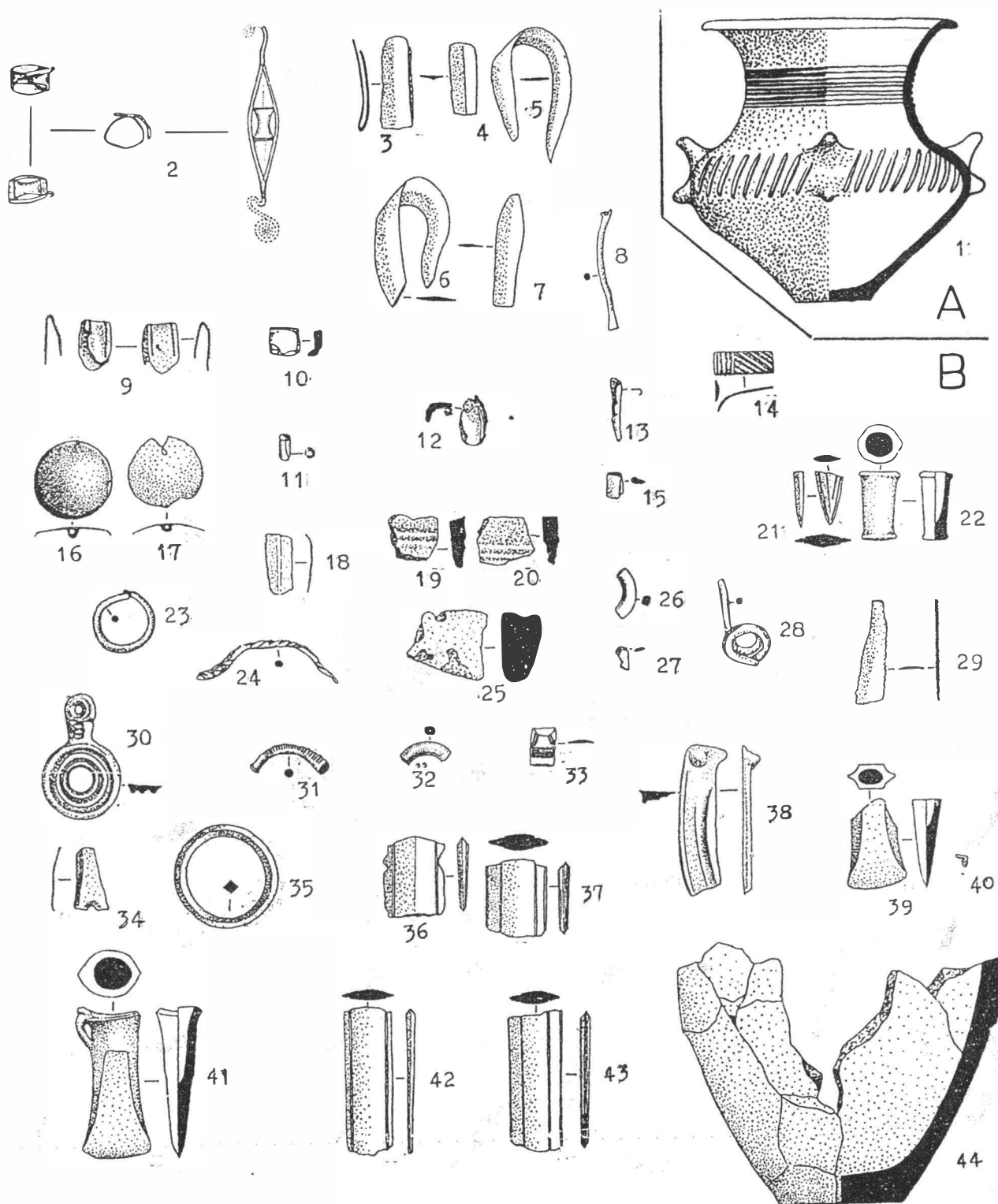


**Plate VI.** Finds from Ha. A period in eastern Slavonia and Western Vojvodina (Vučedol-*Novi Begej* Group): Privlaka-Gradina (1-3); Idžos (4); Šarvaš-Gradac (5); Hrtkovici-Gomolova (6,12); Novi Begej-Bordžos (7,9); Osijek-Retfala (8); Trpinja (10); Zrenjanin - "Fabrika kože" (13); Erdut (14); Vučedol = "Streim's Vineyard" (11,15-24). According to S. Forenbacher (1-3,5,8,10-11,15-24) and P. Medović (4,6,7,9,12-14). Pottery (1-21,24) and bronze (22-23). Different scale.



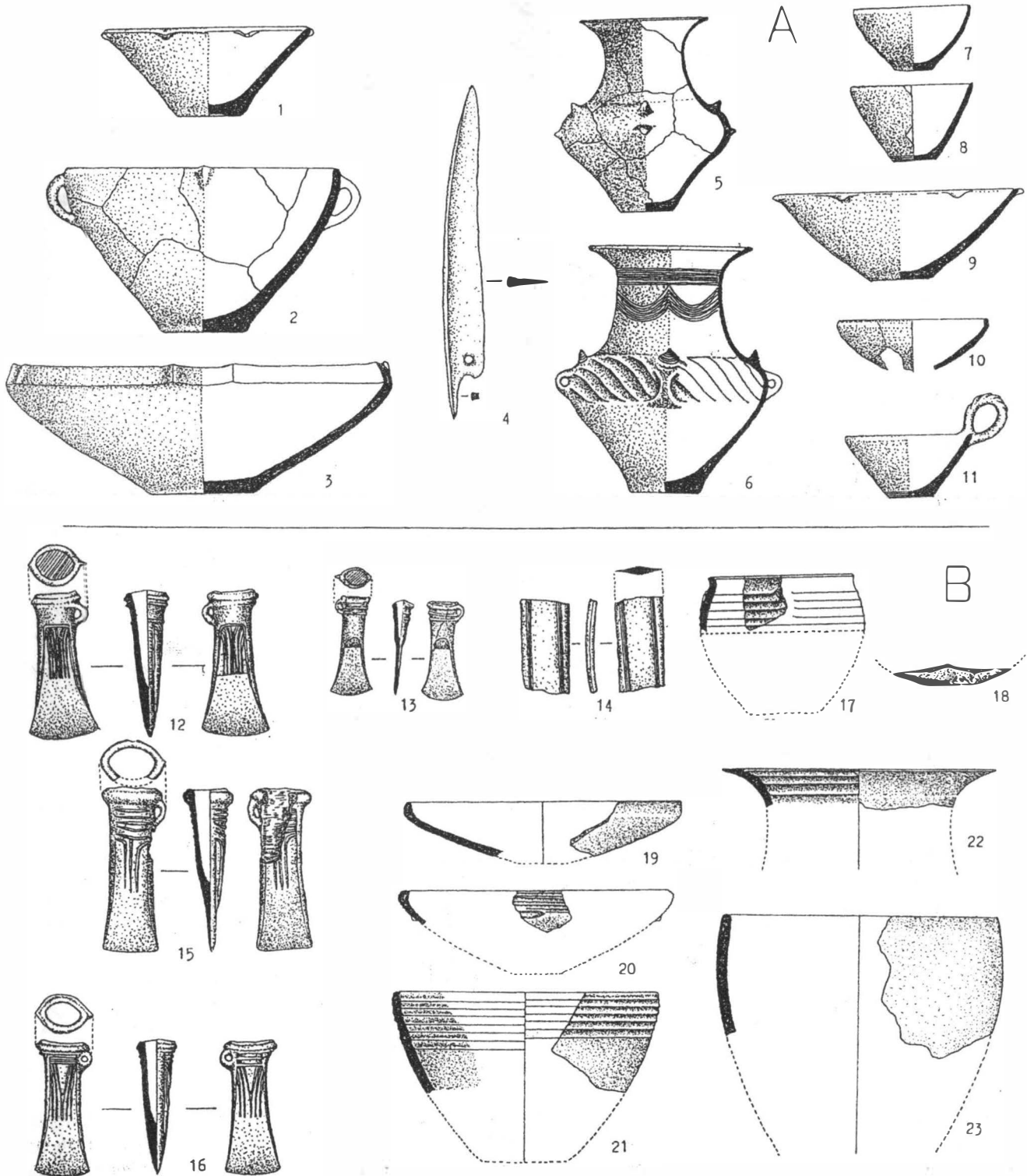


**Plate VII.** Pins belonging to the Ticvaniu Mare-Karaburma III Group: Pančevo (1-4, 15-19, 22-23, 41, 44, 47); Beograd-Karaburma (5, 35-37); Ticvaniu Mare (6-14, 20-34, 38-40); Opovo-Beli breg (42); kovačica (43-46). According to P. Medović (22-23, 41), J. Todorović (5, 35-37) and Lj. Bukvić (42-47). Bronze (1-4, 8-19, 22), bone (34) and pottery (5-7, 20-21, 23-33, 35-47). Different scale.

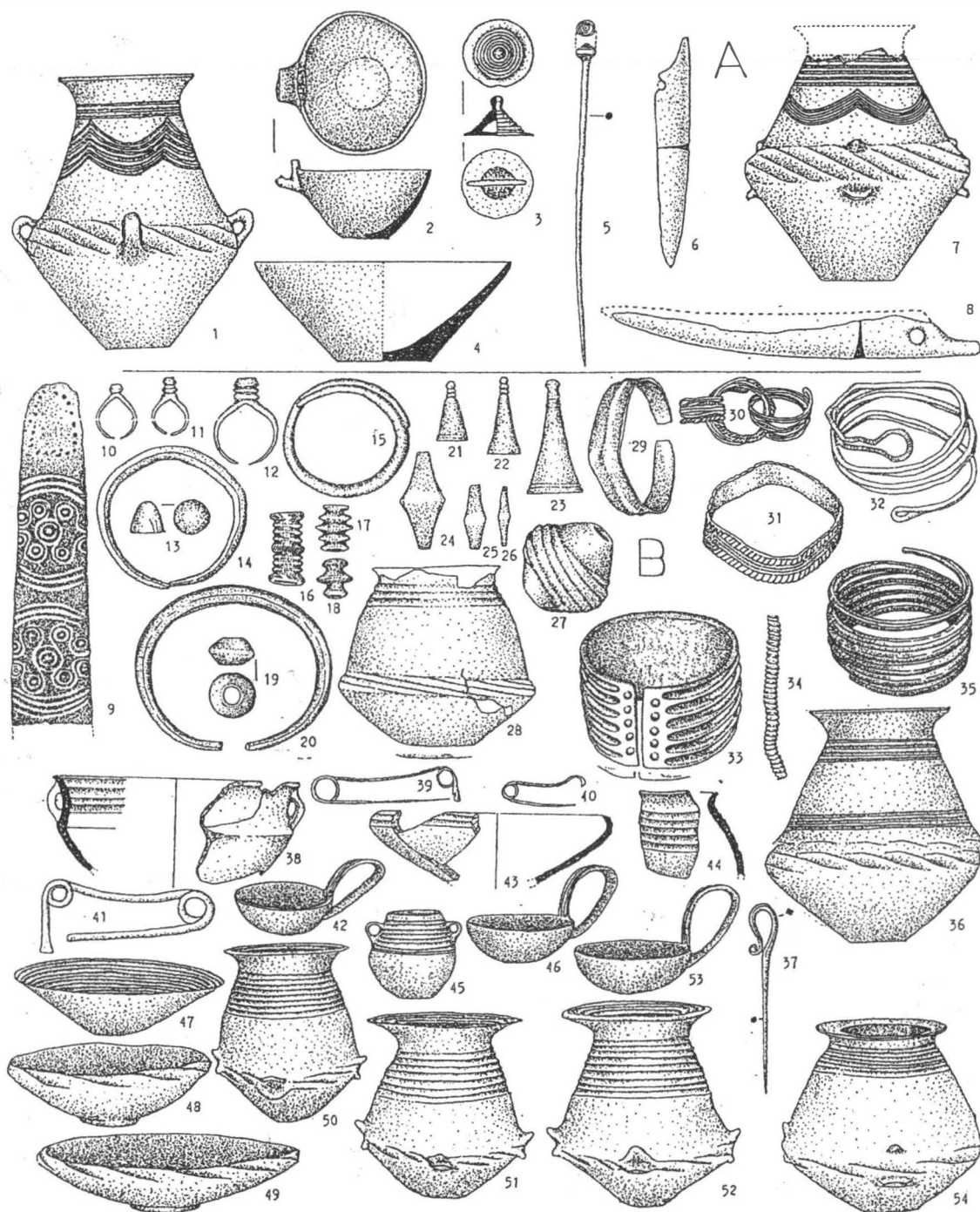


**Plate VIII.** Finds from the final stage of the Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare Culture in southern Banat: Svinjša - "Piatra Elişovei" (A.1); Liubcova - "Tiglarie" (B.2-44). According to C. Săcărin (B.2-24). Bronze (2-43 and pottery (1,44). Different scale.

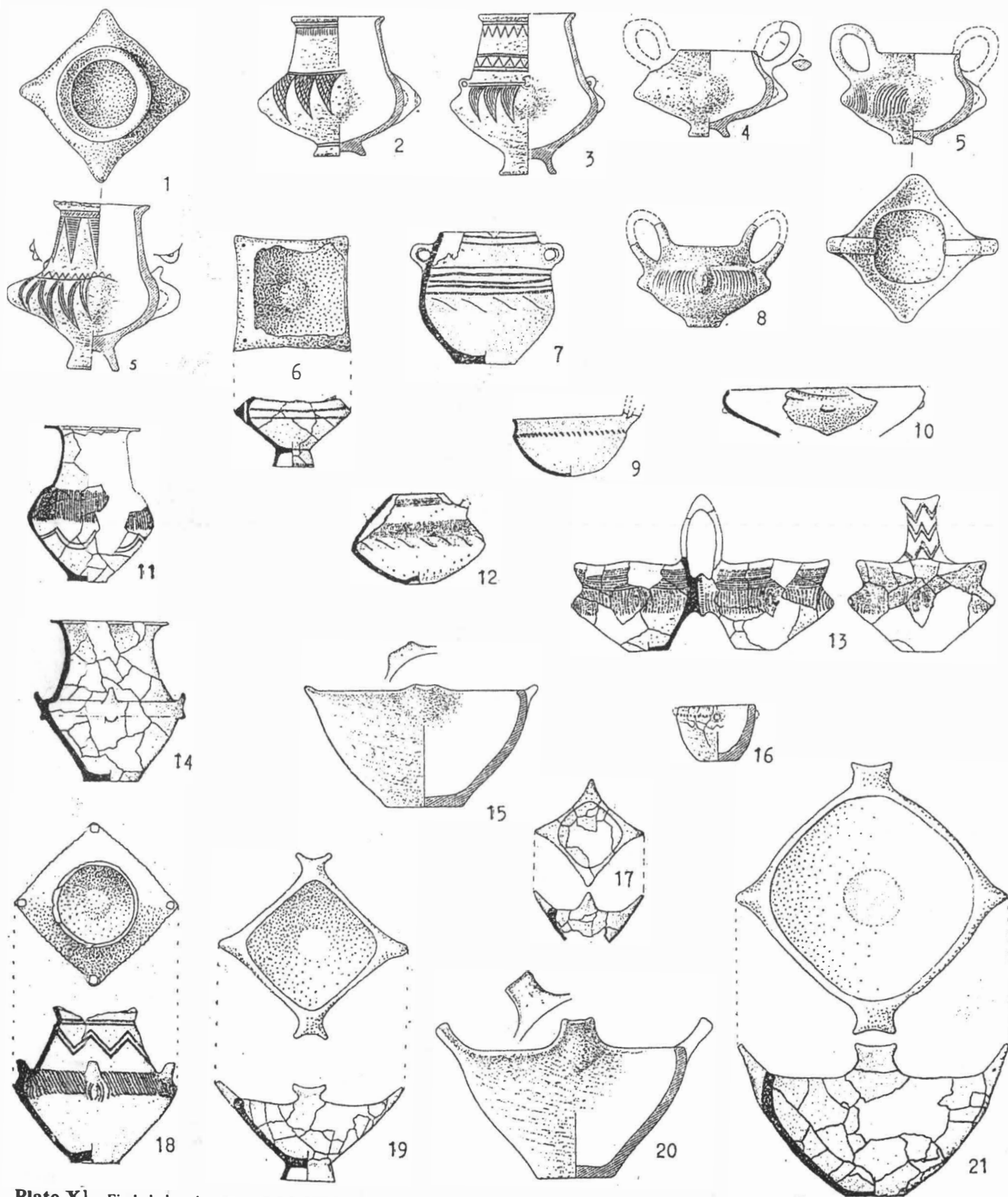




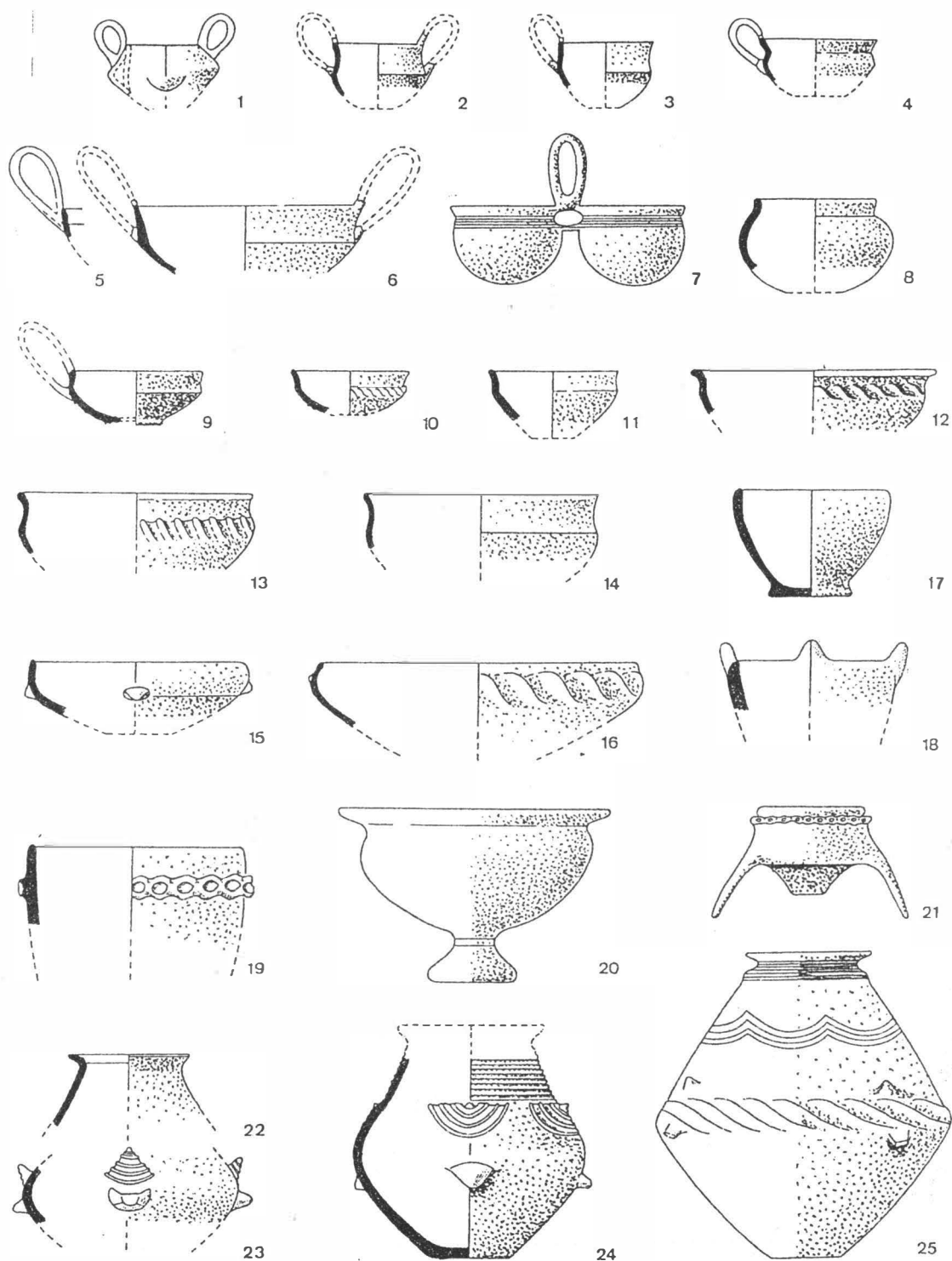
**Plate IX.** Finds belonging to the Moldova Nouă (Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea) Group. A.- First stage (Ha.A<sub>1</sub>): Moldova Nouă - "Cariera de banatite" (A.1-11). B.- Second stage (Ha.A<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>1</sub>): Liborajdea (B.12-23). Bronze (4,12-16) and pottery (1-3,5-11,17-23). Different scale.



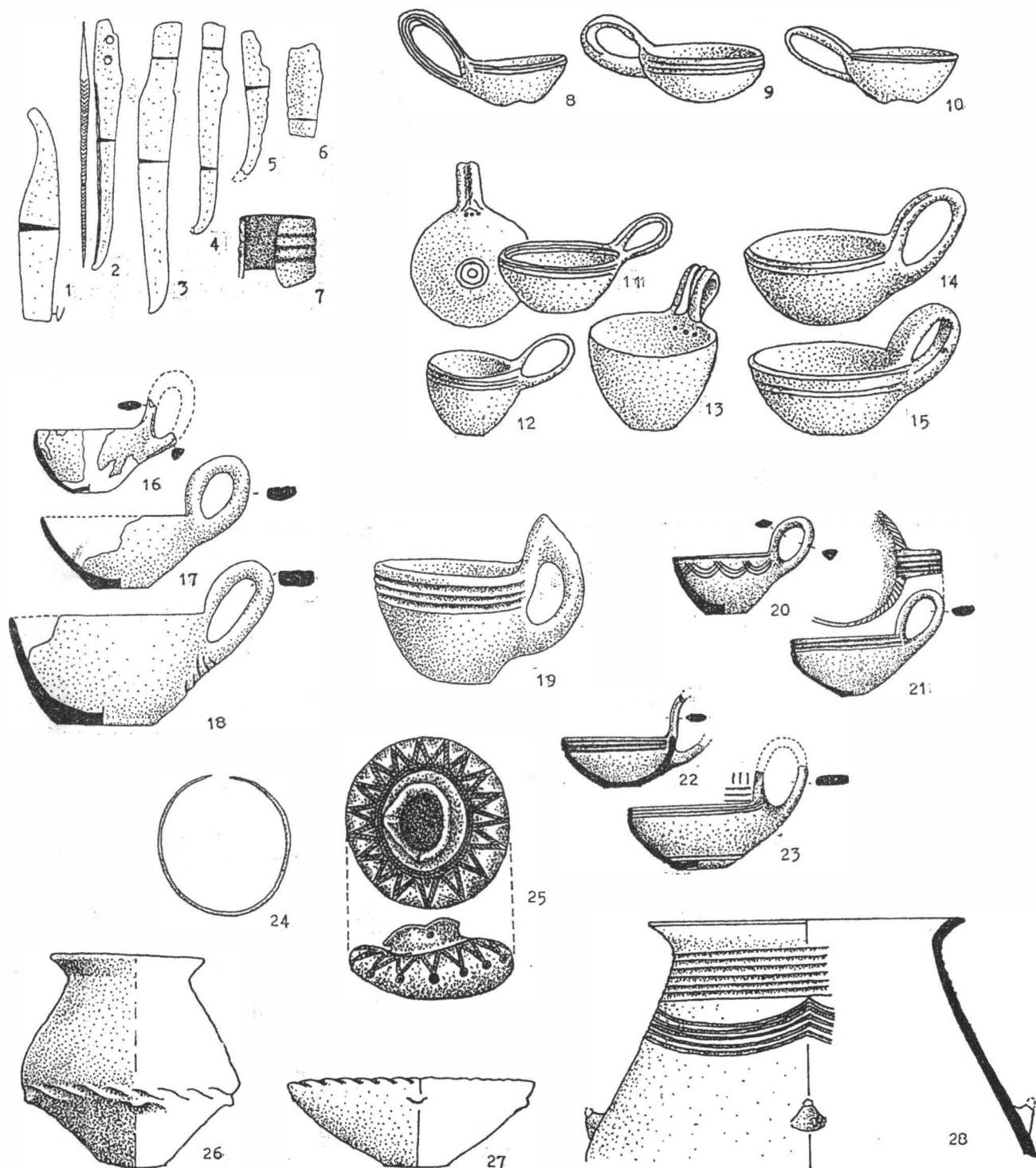
**Plate X.** Finds belonging to the Hinova-Mala Vrbica Group. A.-First stage (Ha.A<sub>1</sub>): Hinova (1.-from the grave M.1; 2-4.- from the grave M.8; 5.- from the grave M.45; 6. from the grave M.4; 7-8.- from the grave M.28). B.- Second stage: Hinova (9-37; 36-37.- from the grave M.25); Mala Vrbica (38-40, 43-44); Vajuga-Pesak (41-42, 45-53); Korbovo-Pesak (54). According to M. Davidescu (9-35), M. Vukmanović - P. Popović (389, 43-44), M. Vukmanović (39-40), A. Premk-P. Popović-Lj. Bjelajać (41-42, 45-53) and N. Radojčić (54). Pottery (1-2, 4, 7, 28, 36, 38, 42-54), bronze (3, 5, 6, 8, 37, 39-41) and gold (9-27, 29-35). Different scale.



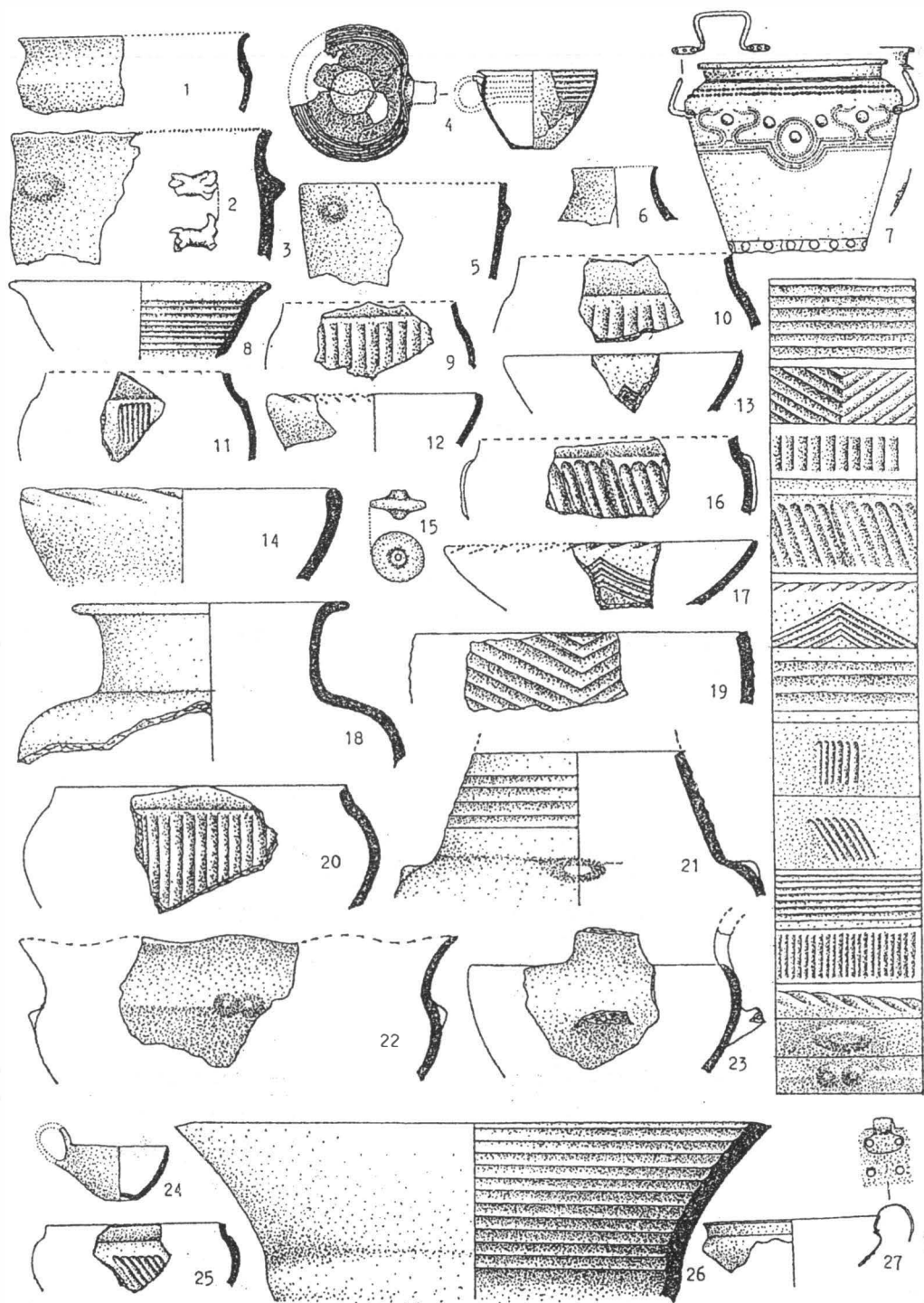
**Plate XI** Finds belonging to the Bistreț-Ișalnița Group: Craiova-Ișalnița (1-5,15-16,20); Coșoveni (8); Bistreț (6-7,9-14,17-19,21). According to B. Hănsel (1-5,8,15-16,20) and I. Chicideanu (6-7,9-14,17-19,21). All Pottery. Different scale.



**Plate XII.** Types of pottery belonging to the Vîrtop-Ploșor Group (1-25). According to B. Hänsel. Different scale.



**Plate XIII.** Finds belonging to the Zimnicea-Novgrad Group: Zimnicea (1-7,16-28); Novae (8); Ruse region (9); Orjahovo (10)Vălcitrân (11,13); Bıkjovici (12); Novgrad (14); Gigen (15). According to A.D. Alexandrescu (1-7,16-28) and G. Tončeva (8-15). Bronze (1-7,24), gold (11,13) and pottery (8-10,12,14-23,25-28). Different scale.

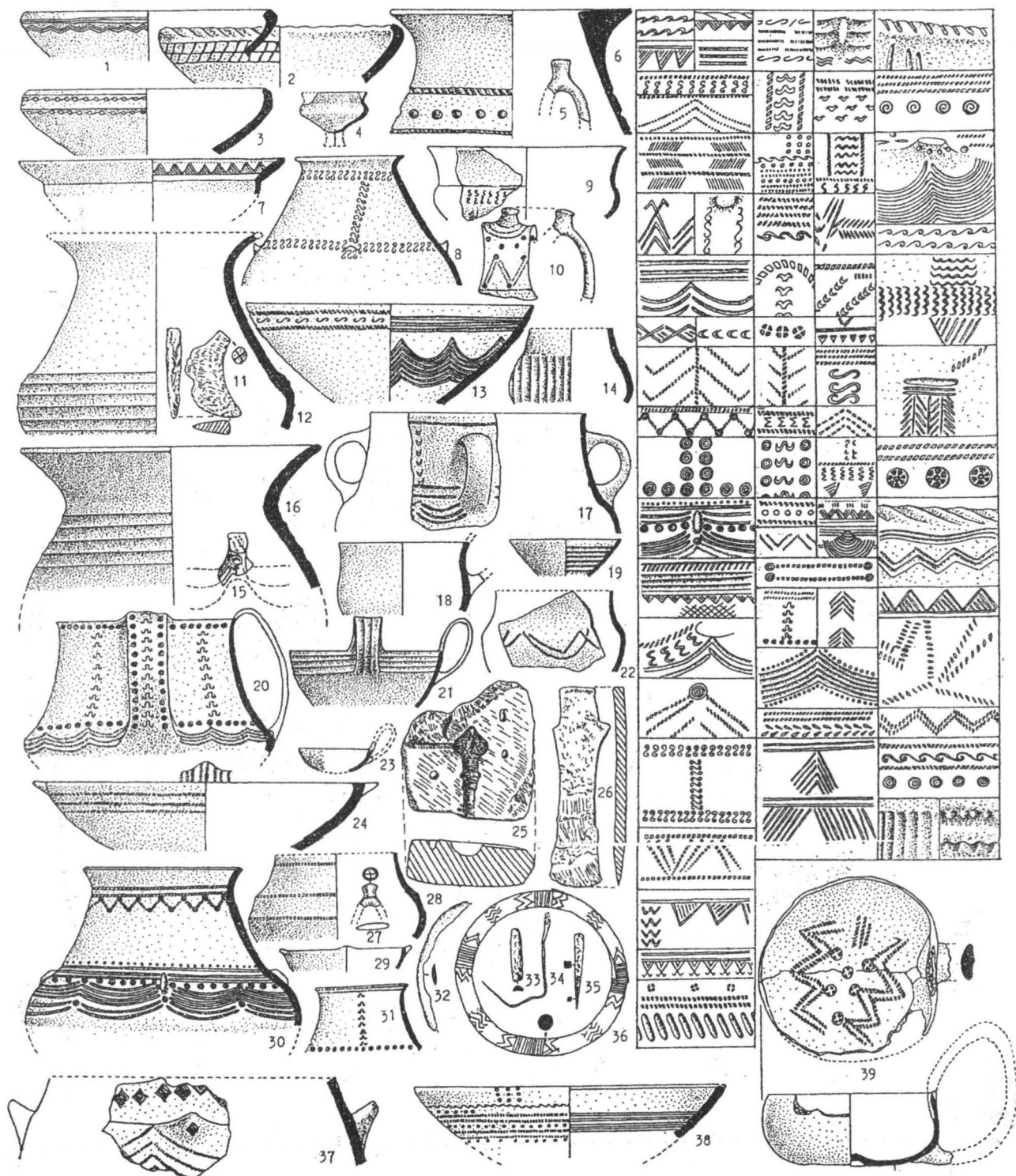


**Plate XIV.** Finds of Gáva type in Romanian Banat: Remetea Mare - "Gomila lui Pituș" (1-26); "Banat" (27). According to Fl. Medeleș (1-26) and Fl. Gogâltan (27). Pottery (1-6, 8-26) and bronze (7,27). Different scale.



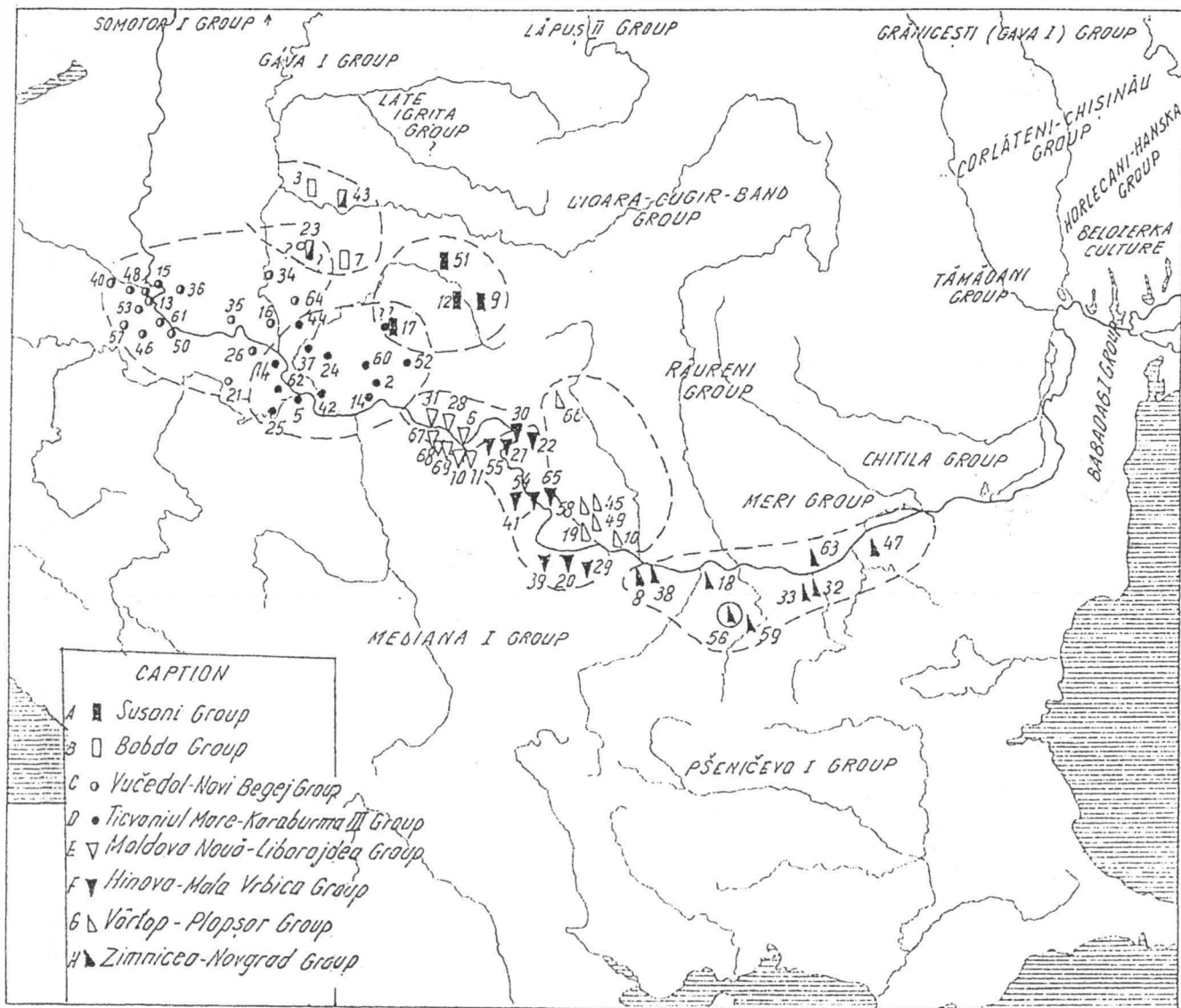


**Plate XV.** Finds belonging to the Gornea-Kalakača Group: Beška-Kalakača (1-5, 7-8, 10-13, 15, 39-42, 44-48); Vasiča-Gradina na Bosutu (6); Gornea (9, 16, 18-25); Satchinez (17, 43); Hrtkovci-Gomolava (14, 26-38). According to P. Medović (1-8, 10-13, 15, 39-42, 44-48) and N. Tasić (14, 26-38). Pottery (1-4, 7-26, 39-48), bone (5), bronze (27-38) and iron (6). Different scale.

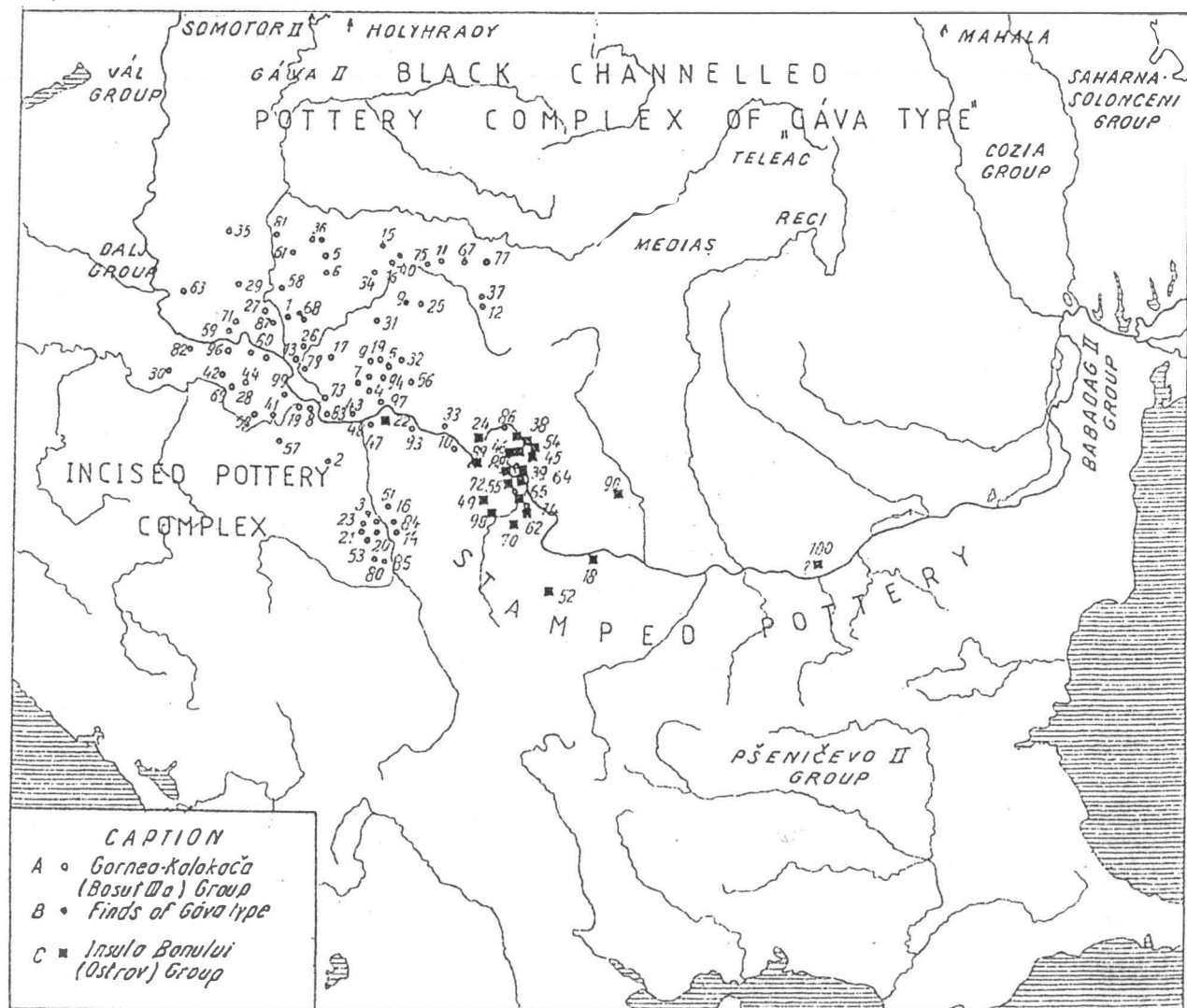


**Plate XVI.** Typical finds for Insula Banului Group: Insula (Ostrovl) Banului (1-38); Mala Vrbića-Konopište (39). According to S. Morintz-P. Roman (1-38) and M. Jevtić (39). Pottery (1-24,27-39), bronze (32-36), stone mould (25) and iron (26). Different scale.

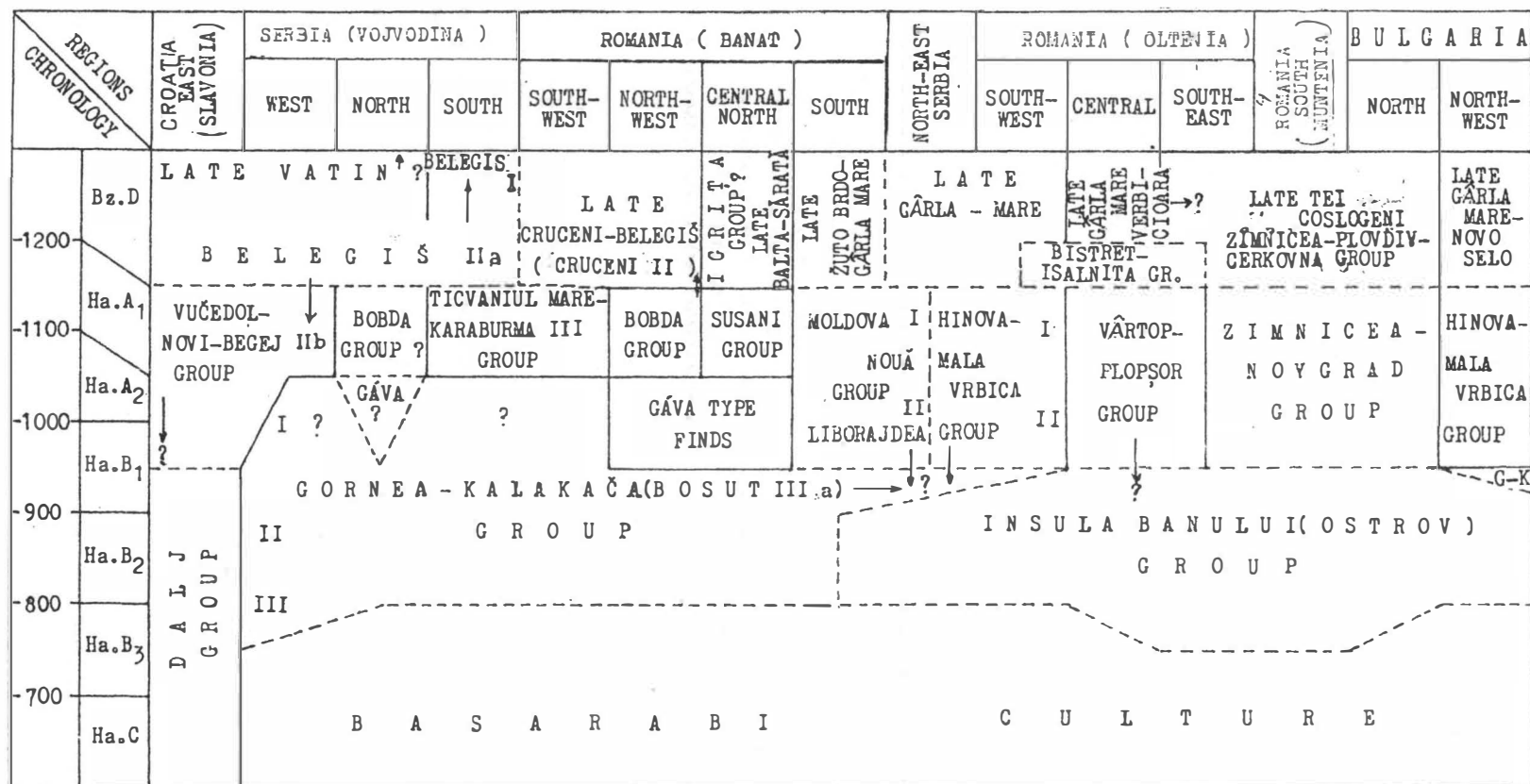




**Plate XVII.** Distribution map of the transitional groups from the Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, belonging to the Late Umfield Complex, in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria (Ha.A period): A. Susani Group; B. Bobda Group; C. Vučedol-Novi Begej Group; D.- Tievaniul Mare-Karaburma III Group; E.- Moldova Nouă (Moldova Nouă-Liborajdea) Group; F.- Hinova-Mala Vrbica Group; G.- Vîrtop-Ploșor Group H.- Zimnicea-Novgrad Group. 1.- Aljmaš; 2.- Banatska Palanka; 3.- Bottonya; 4.- Belegiš; 5.- Belgrad-Karaburma; 6.- Berzasca- "Stația de pompare IFET"; 7.- Bobda; 8.- Bukjovoci; 9.- Caransebeș; 10.- Cîma; 11.- Craiova; 12.- Comuleț; 13.- Dalj; 14.- Dubovac; 15.- Erdnut; 16.- Feudvar-Mošorin; 17.- Fizeș; 18.- Gigen; 19.- Ghidici; 20.- Gradeșnica; 21.- Gomolava; 22.- Hinova; 23.- Idžos; 24.- Ilandža; 25.- Jakovo-Ekonomija Sava; 26.- Kalakača; 27.- Korbovo; 28.- Liborajdea; 29.- Lom; 30.- Mala Vrbica; 31.- Moldova Nouă - "Căriera de banatite"; 32.- Novae; 33.- Novgrad; 34.- Novi Begej; 35.- Novi Sad; 36.- Odžaci; 37.- Opovo; 38.- Orjahovo; 39.- Orsoja; 40.- Osijek; 41.- Ostrovul Mare; 42.- Pančevo; 43.- Pecica; 44.- Perlez-Batka C; 45.- Ploșor; 46.- Privlaka; 47.- Ruse; 48.- Šarvaš; 49.- Segarcea; 50.- Šotin; 51.- Susani; 52.- Tievaniul Mare; 53.- Trpinja; 54.- Ušće Slatiske Reke; 55.- Vajuga; 56.- Valcitră; 57.- Vinkovici; 58.- Vîrtop; 59.- Vraca; 60.- Vrșac; 61.- Vučedol; 62.- Zemun; 63.- Zimnicea; 64.- Zrenjanin; 65.- Balta Verde; 66.- Călugăreni; 67.- Pesača; 68.- Male Livadice; 69.- Lepena, near Boljetin; 70.- Vlasac; 71.- Veliki Gradac.



**Plate XVIII.** Distribution map of the cultural groups from the beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria (Ha.B period): A.- Gornea-Kalakača Group (Bosut IIIa level); B. Gáva type finds; C. Insula Banului (Ostrov) Group. 1.- Aradac; 2.- Ažanja; 3.- Bagrdar; 4.- Banatska-Palanka; 5.- Banatska Topola; 6.- Banatski Dvor; 7.- Bela Crkva; 8.- Beograd-Karabunna; 9.- Boča Română-Dealul Mare; 10.- Boljetin; 11.- Budin; 12.- Caransebeș; 13.- Centa; 14.- Čuprija; 15.- Dejan; 16.- Dobra Voda; 17.- Dobrica; 18.- Dolni Lom; 19.- Dorčol; 20.- Dragocveac; 21.- Drenovac; 22.- Dmno-Kostolac; 23.- Duboka; 24.- Dubova; 25.- Duleu; 26.- Farkaždin; 27.- Feudvar-Mošorin; 28.- Gomolova-Hrtkovci; 29.- Gospodinči-Ada; 30.- Gradina na Bosutu-Vasiče; 31.- Gătaia; 32.- Greoni; 33.- Gornea; 34.- Giroc; 35.- Hajdukovo-Peres; 36.- Idžos; 37.- Iaz; 38.- Insula Banului; 39.- Izvorul Frumos; 40.- Jabăr; 41.- Jakovo-Ekonomija Sava; 42.- Jarak-Stnognlavica; 43.- Jasenov-Zidovar; 44.- Kalakača; 45.- Korbovo; 46.- Kostol-Kurvingrad; 47.- Kostolac; 48.- Kovin-Grad; 49.- Krivelj; 50.- Kupinovo-Slavinovac; 51.- Lanište-Gradac; 52.- Magura; 53.- Majur; 54.- Mala Vrbica; 55.- Mihajlovac-Kula; 56.- Milcoveni; 57.- Mislogin; 58.- Novi Begej; 59.- Novi Sad; 60.- Novi Slankamen; 61.- Novo Miloševo; 62.- Novo Selo; 63.- Odžaci; 64.- Ostrovl Corbului; 65.- Ostrovl Mare; 66.- Pančevo; 67.- Păduren; 68.- Perlez-Batka; 69.- Pecinči; 70.- Petrovo; 71.- Popov Salaš; 72.- Porečka reka; 73.- Potporanj; 74.- Prahovo; 75.- Remetea Mare - "Gomila lui Pitui"; 76.- Remetea Mare - "Gomila lui Gabor"; 77.- Românești; 78.- Ruženka; 79.- Seferin; 80.- Sekurić; 81.- Senta; 82.- Šot; 83.- Starčevo; 84.- Svetozarevo; 85.- Svojnovo; 86.- Tekija; 87.- Titel; 88.- Ušće Slatinske Reke; 89.- Vajuga; 90.- Valea Rea; 91.- Vatın; 92.- Velešnica; 93.- Veliko Gradište; 94.- Veliko Središte; 95.- Vrani; 96.- Vrdnik; 97.- Vršac; 98.- Zajecar; 99.- Zemun; 100.- Zimnicea.



The End of the Bronze Age

**Plate XIX.** The chronology and the synchronisation of the different cultural groups from the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the Early Iron Age in south-western Romania, northern Serbia and north-western Bulgaria (Ha.A-B periods).

