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**THE TYPOLOGY OF THE CERAMIC POTS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION FROM  
THE EST OF MUNTENIA PLAIN BETWEEN THE 4th - 1st century BC**

Summary

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Catalog of discoveries

Illustration

The research paper is composed of two volumes: the first volume contains the actual text (171 pages), and the second consists of the Discovery Catalog and Illustration (298 pages of text, 66 sheets).

Over the last century, getic culture has prompted the interest of many generations of scholars. Their efforts to understand the evolution of these communities would not have been possible without a detailed analysis of the material culture, especially of the ceramic vessels discovered. These efforts have resulted in the publication of an impressive number of studies and articles, some of them using a typological approach.

Although a clear picture of the Geto-Dacian civilization has emerged from the perspective of the ceramic vessels analysis, a number of gaps remain, caused either by partial site research or failure to publish the results. The latter issue is addressed in the present project, whose aim is to bring to the attention of the researchers the results of the study of a large pottery lot, discovered at Crăsanii de Jos-*Piscul Cășășani*, an archaeological settlement researched with interruptions for over 100 years .

Therefore, in order to achieve this goal, a number of specific objectives, well established in the research methodology, were pursued.

One of these was to carry out a typological analysis of getic ceramics dated in 4th –1st century BC. From the archaeological sites located in the eastern area of the Romanian Plain, in counties of Călărași, Ialomita and Braila. Only local ceramic pots were included in the analysis, without imports or other ceramic objects such as anthropomorphic and zoomorphic statuettes, weights, chips and sanders.

Another objective was the inventory of modeling technologies and techniques. In order to highlight an overview, the discoveries belonging to some settlements were subjected of a detailed statistical and comparative analyzes, such as the comparative analysis of the geticvessels from the settlements of *PisculCrășani* and *Bordușani-Popina*, as well as in the necropolises of *Stelnica-Grădiștea Mare* and *Zimnicea-Câmpul Morților*.

The distribution of forms within the settlement was also pursued in order to identify the areas that could have been individualized by a series of specific features, based on the same model of analysis with which the chronological criteria was studied.

An important chapter is occupied by the methodology used in conducting the actual analysis. In a first step, the criteria used in the typological study were defined as well as:

frequency, shape, modeling technique, paste composition, combustion technology, secondary combustion, color, finishing and surface treatment techniques, ornamentation techniques, functionality, conservation state, dimensions, typology. The importance of the criteria in the analysis varies, although their integrated analysis has contributed to the desired typology.

The definition of the criteria was followed by a synthetic description of the tools used in the analysis, including cumulative sheets, individual sheets in physical and digital formats, digital databases. Also in the methodology was described and, in brief, the actual processing of the ceramic material.

The next chapter, *Synthetic presentation of the sites included in the study*, includes the geographic frame of the area of interest, as well as a brief description of the thirty settlements included in the study.

The boundaries of the studied area coincide with those of the Bărăgan Plain, being bordered to the south and east by the Danube meadow, north of the Siret and Buzau meadows, west of the Arges meadow, from the confluence with the Dâmbovița river, and Mostiștea and Sarata meadows.

In the third chapter, dedicated to the typological study of getic ceramic vessels, the local categories discovered in the studied area are defined. Their definition was carried out using the same criteria for each category, but was limited by the amount of information available, as well as rarity in some cases. At this level typological analysis was performed on types and variants, where it was considered necessary.

Group A - vessels used in the preparation of food under the action of fire, category in which the jar was included.

Group B - supply vessels, a group in which seven types of vessels were identified: the bitronconic vessel, the tronconic vessel, the chiup and the local imitations after pithos, krater, hydrie and local amphora.

Group C - pots for food consumption, group of five types of pots: straw, bowl, vessels with a tall cylindrical support and imitation after lekanai.

Group D - Containers for storage, transport and consumption of liquids, group consisting of eleven types of pots: jugs, cups, bowls, with or without relief etc and imitation of greek vessels, kantharos, lagynos, skyphos and rhyton.

Group E - containers used for lighting, namely bougie cups.

Group F - is represented by ceramic objects that are designed to cover containers (lids).

Group G - Containers used to squeeze or separate a liquid product - colander.

Group H - Miniature vessels.

Group I - containers used in metallurgy, crucibles.

The definition of the categories was conducted on the basis of the observations made on the getic shards discovered at *Piscul Crasani*, as well as the analysis of the materials published in the monographic studies elaborated by V. Sîrbu for Grădiştea-Movila Crestată, Sîrbu et alii for the settlements of Căscioarele-Greaca-Prundu area and G. Trohani for Borduşani-Popina settlement.

Also important was the ph.d. thesis of Sebastian Matei, *The Geto-Dacian Pottery in northeastern Muntenia (II nd - 1st century BC)*, which I was able to consult as part of understanding the typological approach.

Besides the above-mentioned materials, local pots from several sites in the proposed area were included, but their share in the study was limited by the amount of published information.

In terms of personal contribution, it consists, first of all, in processing and studying a huge volume of ceramic shards from *Piscul Crăsanis* settlement. This led to the creation of a database containing more than 40,000 ceramic shards from the Ialomita County Museum's collections, plus another 6,000 at Institute of Archeology V. Pârvan „Bucharest”. Following this analysis, 2109 identifiable vessels were selected, 730 of them being analyzed individually and 620 were selected to be introduced in Ialomita County Museum patrimony.

In the fourth chapter, *The comparative typological analysis of the ceramic inventory from the settlements of Crăsanii de Jos-Piscul Căşăşani and Borduşani-Popină*, a comparative typological analysis of the local vessels from the mentioned settlements was carried out. The analysis was performed both typologically and technologically. After the comparative analysis, a series of features specific to each of the two sites were noticed.

The fifth chapter includes an analysis of the distribution of ceramic forms in the *Piscul Crăsanis* settlement.

Its main purpose was to identify certain particularities for each area, peculiarities that could mark a number of different activities. The second purpose was to establish the intensity of the of the 4th–3th century BC habitat, as well as its delimitation within the site.

The first stage of the study was the topographical delimitation of distinct areas, as follows: the plateau area, the eastern promontory, the western promontory, the central promontory and the north-western zone.

Following the statistical analysis of local ceramic distribution in the five areas we found, with some exceptions, a relative uniformity both in the types of uncovered vessels and in their density.

In the sixth chapter, *getic ceramics used in necropolis*, the ceramic vessels discovered in the Stelnica-Grădișteea Mare and Zimnicea-Câmpul Morților necropolis were analyzed. I mention that the inclusion in the study of the Zimnicea-Câmpul Morților necropole, although located outside the studied area, was made out of desire of offering an element of comparison to the necropolis from Stelnica-Grădișteea Mare.

The unity of this comparative analysis results from the chronological correspondence between the two necropolises, the approximate dimensions, the similar publication level, and the number of analyzed vessels: 315 for Stelnica necropolis and 363 for Zimnicea. Moreover, if we exclude the inhumation tombs, whose ceramic inventory is very low, we find that we are dealing with an almost equal number of tombs: 214 for Stelnica and 210 for Zimnicea.

Thus, the study was conducted separately for the urns, lids and vases for the offerings, the differences in the ritual between the Stelnica-Grădișteea Mare burial necropolis and the Zimnicea-Câmpul Morților incineration being at the base of this approach.

At the end of this chapter a comparative analysis was carried out on the types of vessels used in the two necropolises, as well as on some technological aspects.

The seventh chapter, the comparative typological study of ceramic inventories from necropolis and settlements, comprises the comparative typological study of the ceramic vessels discovered here.

Ideally, such an analysis should be made on the settlement and necropolis of the same community. Unfortunately, there is no such situation in the area of interest; moreover, there is a major chronological difference between the two categories of sites, the periods in which they are being dated are marked by a series of changes in the ceramic inventory.

However, I believe that a comparative statistical analysis remains necessary, both to confirm the differences already known and to highlight common points between the two categories of sites.

As expected, the comparative analysis revealed a number of major differences between the two categories of sites. The differences are primarily motivated by the distinct usage of the sites and, in some cases, their chronological deviation.

The conclusions, respectively the eighth chapter, ends the first volume. It is summarizing the conclusions within each chapter, adding also a series of observations.

Examination of the features of ceramic vessels led to the display of some forms of pots that can be grouped chronologically, some of them being specific to the period of the 4th-3th centuries BC. others in the 2nd centuries BC., while most of them are found throughout the entire study period.

For the 4th-3rd centuries BC in the order of frequency, the jars, the mugs, the bowls, the bitronconic vessels, the trunks, the bowls, the cups and the imitation of hellenistic vessels. During the 2nd century BC, The following types of pots were discovered: the jar, vessels with a tall cylindrical support, the mug, the bitronconic vessel, the cup, bougiecup, the tronconic vessel, etc.

As a general reference to the clay processing techniques, at the current level of research, one can say that local hand-made ceramics prevail, with the mention that starting from 2nd century BC. the vessels modeled on the wheel begins to exponentially grow in numbers.

The same uniformity can be observed in the decoration of the vessels, both in the specific types of 4th-3rd centuries BC. As well as those of the 2nd-1st centuries BC., bowl decorated in relief, usually the alveolar grid being the majority. It is worth mentioning here that in the second period the vessels are less ornamented or not at all.

At the level of the combustion technique of the vessels, the use of oxidized burning, with the main exception being the settlement from *Bordușani-Popina*, by the predominance of reducing burning.

The necropole included in the study - *Stelnica-Grădișteea Mare* and *Zimnicea-Câmpul Morților* - generally present the same types of vessels discovered in the settlements, with significant differences in their occurrence. Thus, as large and medium sized vessels, as the bitronconic vessel, the truncated vessel, the jar and the mug, were used as urns. As a cover, medium-sized pots were preferred, most often bowls, and the amphorae representing the only type of vessel used, both as a funeral urn or cap, and as a bowl for offerings.

The second volume consists of the catalog of discoveries and the illustration of the paper. The Discovery Catalog contains 790 records of some of the vessels studied, these are described in detail using all of the criteria proposed in the analysis.

The picture includes photographs and drawings of the profiles of 752 ceramic pots studied, most of them original, they come from the settlement of *PisculCrăsani*. They are accompanied by the accompanying illustration, consisting of the pictures and drawings of the dish profiles. In this way, the data can be consulted by those interested or used as a comparative element for carrying out similar studies.

That is why I consider that their publication will bring more insight into the getic communities in southeastern Romania.

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