
EARLY MEDIEVAL POTTERY

FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF ALBEȘTI – LA CETĂȚEA (MUREȘ COUNTY).

A SPECIAL DECORATIVE ELEMENT AND A PROBLEMATIC CHRONOLOGY

DAN BĂCUEȚ-CRIȘAN

ABSTRACT:

In the Romanian archaeological environment, the early medieval discoveries from Albești-La Cetățea (Mureș county) have long attracted attention, especially due to the particularities presented by the pottery, which have also determined the proposed chronological classification of the site. Starting from these characteristics/peculiarities, in the present approach we proposed to re-discuss the early medieval archaeological inventory (pottery) and, considering the formal and visual characteristics (related to the identified analogies), to propose another chronological framework for the stage of habitat *ante* year 1000. On several pots are present a series of decorative elements with special characteristics, described as “elongated impressions” or “narrow horizontal bands features made with the comb”. Gh. Baltag believed that this ornament “appears on the *Dridu* type ceramics, starting from the 10 century, extending in this way the dating of Albești pottery”. The respective dates were taken over in the Romanian archaeological literature without an additional analysis of the archaeological inventory (*recte*...the pottery!).

This decoration (the “elongated impressions/fork decoration”) is not characteristic of *Dridu* (A) type pottery, nor of the 9-10th centuries. According to examples of ceramic vessels (of the *Danube* type) decorated in this way come from earlier archaeological contexts (on the periphery of the Avar world, in various locations in the Carpathian Basin: northwest, southwest/Transdanubia, east/Transylvania), that cover chronologically almost the entire Avar Era (starting with the middle/second half of the 7th century and until the end of the 7th century). Referring to the chronology of the examples of pots decorated with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” presented (as analogies), we are of the opinion that the examples from Albești-La Cetățea (provided with this particular decorative element) cannot be dated in the 9-10th centuries. We also believe that, in Albești-La Cetățea, there was only one phase of habitation *ante* year 1000 (and not two, as was thought!), which can be placed in the chronological interval represented by the middle/second half of the 7-8th centuries (possibly also, the beginning of the 9th century). As for the archaeological features from the period of habitation *post* year 1000 (those from the 11-12th centuries) from Albești-La Cetățea, they are most likely part of another settlement.

REZUMAT: CERAMICA MEDIEVALĂ TIMPURIE DIN AȘEZAREA DE LA ALBEȘTI – LA CETĂȚEA (JUDEȚUL MUREȘ). UN ELEMENT DECORATIV SPECIAL ȘI O CRONOLOGIE PROBLEMATICĂ

În mediul arheologic românesc, descoperirile medievale timpurii de la Albești - La Cetățea (jud. Mureș) au atras atenția de multă vreme, mai ales prin particularitățile prezentate de vasele ceramice, particularități care au și determinat propunerea de încadrare cronologică a sitului. Pornind de la aceste caracteristici/particularități, în prezentul demers ne-am propus să rediscutăm inventarul arheologic medieval timpuriu (olăria) și, având în vedere caracteristicile formale și vizuale (raportate la analogiile identificate) să propunem o altă încadrare cronologică pentru etapa de locuirea *ante* anul 1000. Pe mai multe vase ceramice sunt prezente o serie de elemente decorative cu caracteristici aparte, descrise ca fiind „impresiuni alungite” sau „benzi înguste de trăsături orizontale realizate cu pieptenele”. Gh. Baltag considera că, acest ornament „apare pe ceramica de tip *Dridu*, începând din sec. al X-lea, prelungind în felul acesta datarea ceramicii de la Albești”. Datările respective au fost preluate în literatura arheologică românească fără o analiză suplimentară asupra inventarului arheologic (*recte* ceramica!). Acest decor („impresiunile alungite/decorul cu furculița”) nu este caracteristic olăriei de tip *Dridu* (A) și nici sec. IX-X. Din potrivă, exemplificările cu vase ceramice (de tip *Dunărean*) decorate în acest mod provin din contexte arheologice mai timpurii (aflate la periferia lumii avar, în diverse locații din Bazinul Carpatic: nord-vest, sud-vest/Transdanubia, est/Transilvania), care acoperă cronologic aproape toată *Epoca Avară* (începând cu mijlocul/a doua jumătate a sec. VII și până spre sfârșitul sec. VIII). Raportându-ne la cronologia exemplarelor de oale decorate cu „impresiuni alungite/decorul cu furculița” prezentate (ca analogii), suntem de părere că exemplarele de la Albești-La Cetățea (prevăzute cu acest element decorativ aparte) nu pot fi datate în sec. IX-X. De asemenea, opinăm că, la Albești - La Cetățea a existat o singură fază de locuire *ante* anul 1000 (și nu două cum s-a propus!),

plasabilă în intervalul cronologic reprezentat de mijlocul/a doua jumătate a sec. VII-sec. VIII (posibil și începutul sec. IX). În ceea ce privește complexele arheologice din etapa de locuire *post* anul 1000 (cea din sec. XI-XII) de la Albești-La Cetățea, cel mai probabil, ele fac parte dintr-o altă așezare.

KEYWORDS: pottery, special decorative element, chronology, settlement, stages of habitation.

CUVINTE CHEIE: ceramică, element decorativ aparte, cronologie, așezare, etape de locuire.

1. Motivations and objectives

The early medieval site of Albești-La Cetățea was investigated archaeologically through several excavation campaigns, we will not insist on them now because they are known to the scientific world. In the Romanian archaeological environment, early medieval finds from this site have attracted attention for a long time, especially through the peculiarities presented by the ceramic vessels, particularities that also determined the proposal of the site's chronological classification. Starting from these characteristics/particularities, we proposed in the present approach to re-discuss the early medieval archaeological inventory (pottery) and, taking into account the formal and visual characteristics (relative to the identified analogies) to propose another chronological classification for the habitation stage *ante* year 1000.

2. The proposed/assumed chronological classifications and the particularities of the pottery from Albești-La Cetățea

On the surface investigated archaeologically (1981 an initial survey, systematic research in 1987-1997)¹ traces of habitation from prehistory, antiquity and the early Middle Ages have been identified. From the very beginning, the chronological classification of the early medieval remains (72 archaeological features) from this site has presented difficulties, with several proposals and adjustments for temporal differentiation being formulated:

a. In 1994 it was stated that there are two stages of habitation: 7-8 centuries and 9-11 centuries (with two sub-phases: 9-10 centuries, 11 century and possibly the beginning of the 12 century).²

b. In 2000, the early medieval habitation was divided into three phases:³

- 7-9 centuries (45 archaeological complexes).
- 8-10 centuries (12 archaeological complexes).
- 11-12 centuries (15 archaeological complexes).

c. In 2004, the early medieval habitation also had three phases, but otherwise structured: 7-9 centuries 9 century and 11-12 centuries.⁴

Of course, what is of interest now are the stages before the year 1000, which, in our opinion, are proposals for forced/unrealistic chronological classifications, since they represent chronological intervals that partially overlap. Under these conditions, it would have been much more appropriate to define a single phase (prior to the year 1000), longer in duration. However, we will return to the issues of chronology during this process.

The early medieval pottery discovered in the archaeological complexes belonging to these phases (prior to the year 1000) consists of pots without handles (manufactured from sandy paste and rough paste) hand-thrown or at the slow wheel. It is also mentioned "an intermediate wheel of good quality", but we do not know if this wording referred to a fast wheel?! There are two vessels made from sandy paste, and seven vessels made from rough paste.⁵ The decoration is made by incisions in the soft paste before firing. In addition to the horizontal band of wave lines and the horizontal band of straight lines (made with the comb), a number of decorative elements with special features are present on several vessels, described as "elongated impressions" or "narrow bands of vertical features made with the comb"⁶ (Fig. 1). Gh. Baltag considered that this ornament "appears on Dridu-type ceramics, starting from the

¹ Baltag 2000, 170; Baltag 2004, 167.

² Baltag 1994, 75-76.

³ Baltag 2000, 170-171.

⁴ Baltag 2004, 167.

⁵ Baltag 2000, 174-176.

⁶ Baltag 2000, 176.

X century, thus prolonging the dating of the pottery from Albești”.⁷ Instead, in 2004, the proposed chronology underwent some changes, the three stages of habitation from Albești-La Cetățea were placed in 7-9 centuries 9 century and 11-12 centuries.⁸

Interestingly, after 1989, the dates proposed by Gh. Baltag did not cause any perplexities, they were accepted *ad litteram* in the Romanian archaeological literature, without additional/comparative analysis of the archaeological inventory (*recte* pottery!). Thus, in 2019, A. N. Șovrea makes a presentation of the ceramics belonging to the “habitation level b (also attributed to the 9-10 centuries)”⁹ (Phase II) from Albești-La Cetățea. When describing the nine “jar vessels”¹⁰ (pots thrown at the slow wheel),¹¹ decorative elements with special features are referred to as “fork decoration”.¹² That pottery has been attributed (again) to the *Dridu culture* (a) and dated in the 9-10¹³ centuries. In 2020, A. N. Șovrea again makes references to the settlement of Albești-La Cetățea (dating the three phases of habitation in the 7-9 centuries 9-10/11 centuries and 11-12 centuries),¹⁴ stating that “the settlement from the 9-10 centuries is represented by housing and ceramics specific to the cultural environment Dridu, more precisely Dridu A”.¹⁵ By analyzing the discoveries from the 7/8-9 centuries from the Sighișoara area, E. Gáll and L. Daczó indicated (for the ornaments consisting of vertical lines and the “fork decoration” on the pottery at Albești-La Cetățea) the same connections with the *Dridu type* from Muntenia.¹⁶

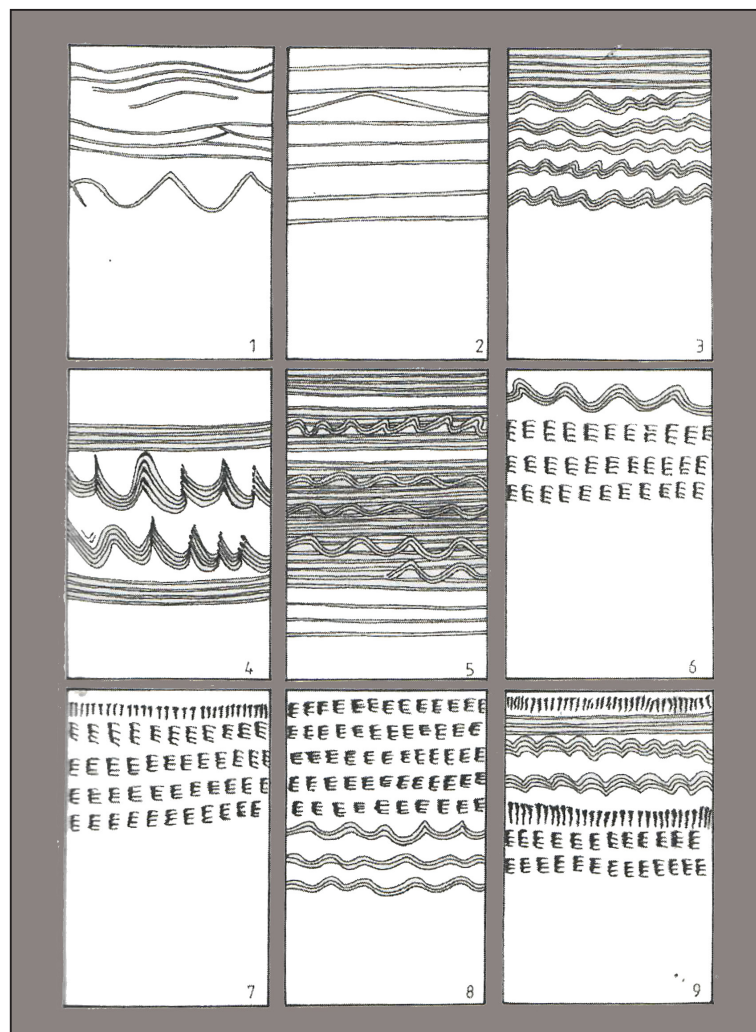


Fig. 1. Albești-La Cetățea. Decorative elements present on ceramic vessels, including “elongated impressions/fork decorations” (source Baltag 2020).

4. Difficulties concerning the formal and decorative features of the pottery in the settlement

Although, a small batch of vessels was analysed, there are uncertainties regarding their actual size, plus the different graphics rendering (version Gh. Baltag and version A. N. Șovrea) (Fig. 2-5) of formal features and decorative elements!¹⁷ Thus, in the list published by Gh. Baltag the vessels range in size from 13.00 cm (the

⁷ Baltag 2000, 176-177.

⁸ Baltag 2004, 167.

⁹ Șovrea 2019, 51.

¹⁰ Șovrea 2019, 52-54.

¹¹ Șovrea 2019, 55.

¹² Șovrea 2019, 52 et seq.

¹³ Șovrea 2019, 55.

¹⁴ Șovrea 2020, 17.

¹⁵ Șovrea 2020, 17.

¹⁶ Gáll, Daczó 2024, 178.

¹⁷ For these discrepancies, see comparative drawings of vessels published in Baltag 2000 (Pl. IV-V) and the drawings published in Șovrea 2019 (Imag. 3) and Șovrea 2020 (Fig. 1-2).

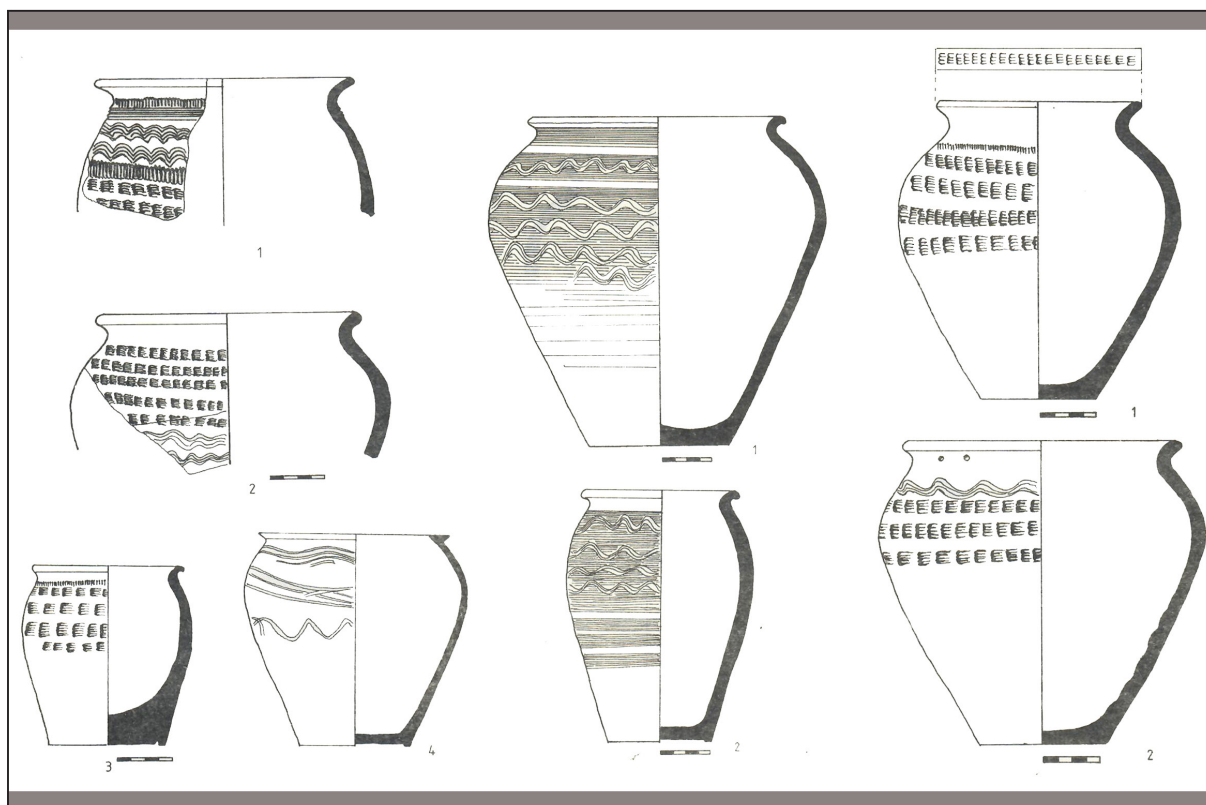


Fig. 2. Albești-La Cetățea. Drawings of vessels published by Gh. Baltag in 1994 (source Baltag 1994).



Fig. 3. Albești-La Cetățea. Drawings of vessels published by Gh. Baltag in 2000 (source Baltag 2000).

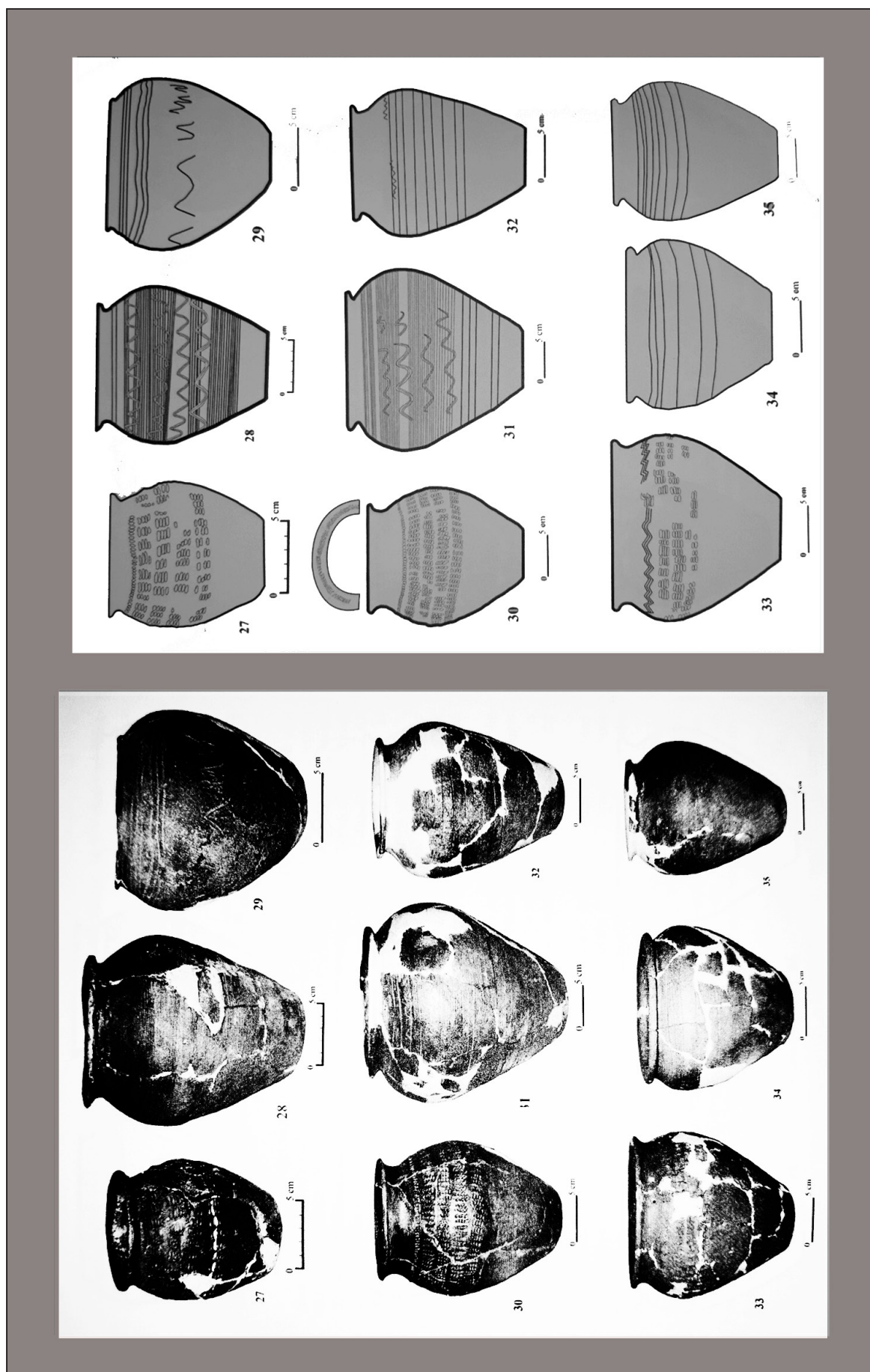


Fig. 4. Albești-La Cetățea. Photographs and drawings of vessels published by A. N. Șovrea in 2019 (source Șovrea 2019).

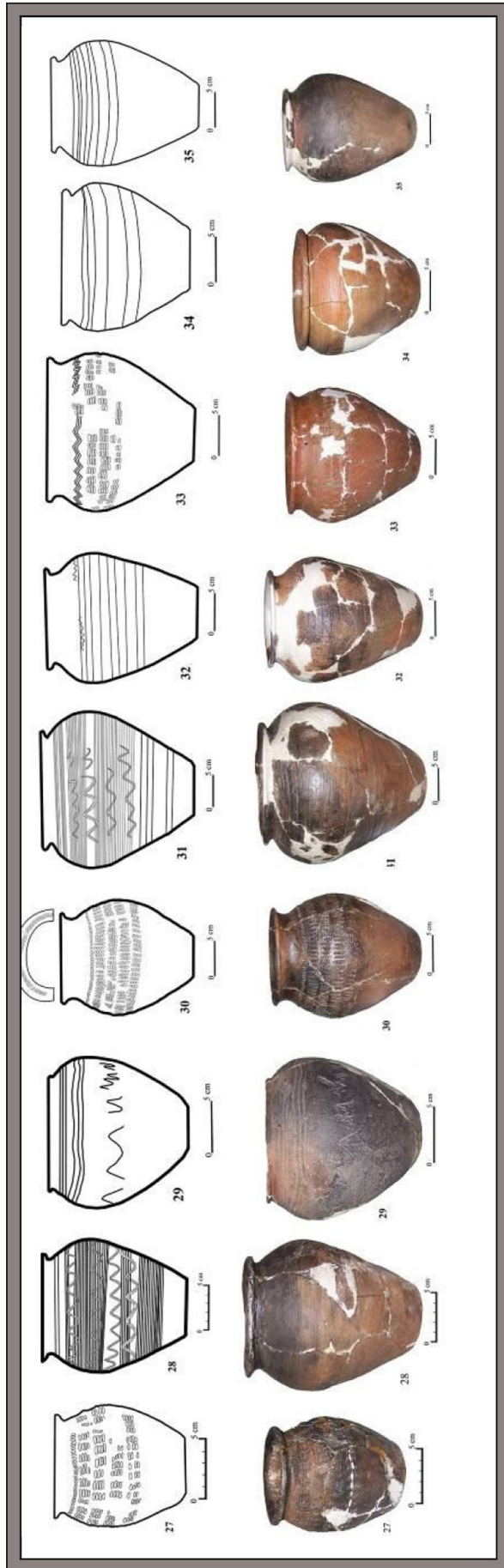


Fig. 5. Albești-La Cetățea. Photographs and drawings of vessels published by A. N. Șovrea in the year 2020 (source Șovrea 2020).

smallest, reckoned to be a jug) to 27.00 cm (the largest).¹⁸ Instead, from the description provided by A. N. Șovrea¹⁹ it turns out that the smallest vessel is 13.2 cm high and the largest 26.5 cm. The vessels (with varying mouth and base sizes) were separated into four groups (based on height),²⁰ we mention that, in our opinion, given the small differences in height existing between some specimens, the grouping of vessels could have been achieved thusly:

- 13.2 cm (one pot)
- 16 and 16.5 cm (two pots)
- 19.8 cm (one pot)
- 21 and 21.3 cm (two pots)
- 23 and 23.3 cm (two pots)
- 26.5 cm (one pot)

5. The formal and stylistic reassessment of the pottery from Albești-La Cetățea Comparison with the pottery *Dridu* (A) type (Balkan-Danube ceramics/ Danube-type ceramics) and that of other neighbouring cultural backgrounds

We have also addressed on another occasion the issue of destination and usage of the early medieval pottery, issues less addressed in the Romanian literature.²¹ Even if all the vessels have the shape of a pot without handles, their dimensions suggest a diversity of their roles; the smallest ones can be used as glasses for drinking liquids (jugs, according to Gh. Baltag's formulation)²² and larger ones like pots for cooking, transporting or storing food.

Beyond the varied sizes (height, mouth, base) variations in the conformation of the rims, neck and shoulder of the vessels can also be observed. And regarding the general appearance (but especially the middle/belly), it should be noted the existence of two categories: supple vessels (with slightly arched walls) and bulging ones (with strongly arched walls, almost bitronconic). Formal features and decorative elements (except those of the type "elongated impressions/fork decoration") also have some correspondence in the pottery found in cremation and bi-ritual cemeteries (*Mediaș Group*) from Transylvania, a fact already mentioned in the Romanian archaeological literature.²³

¹⁸ Baltag 2000, 175-176, Pl. IV-V.

¹⁹ Șovrea 2019, 52-55.

²⁰ Șovrea 2019, 55.

²¹ Băcuet-Crișan 2024, 559-574.

²² Baltag 2000, 175.

²³ Țiplic 2005, 64.

It has been argued that the decorative element “elongated impressions/fork decoration” is characteristic of the *Dridu* (A) ceramics. In reality, in the *Dridu* settlement there is only one vessel decorated with a band of wavy lines placed between two bands of lines (straight and horizontal) drawn interrupted/ in segments, somewhat similar to the “elongated impressions/fork decoration”²⁴ (Fig. 6).

As is known, on the pots *Dridu* type A (*Balkan-Danube ceramics/Danube-type ceramics*) or the type *Saltovo-Majaki*²⁵ the short bands of lines made with the comb are present, but they are arranged

vertically or obliquely, being different from the “elongated impressions/fork decorations”. Also, the impressions (also made with the comb) are present in the form of rows of points arranged vertically, obliquely or in the “wheat spike” version, again different from the “elongated impressions/fork decoration” (Fig. 7).²⁶ The archaeological realities show very clearly that this special decorative element (“elongated impressions/fork decoration”, present on the ceramics from Albeşti-La Cetăţea) is not characteristic of the ornamental repertoire on the *Dridu* (A) ceramics therefore, answers/analogies should be sought in other cultural environments and other chronological stages.

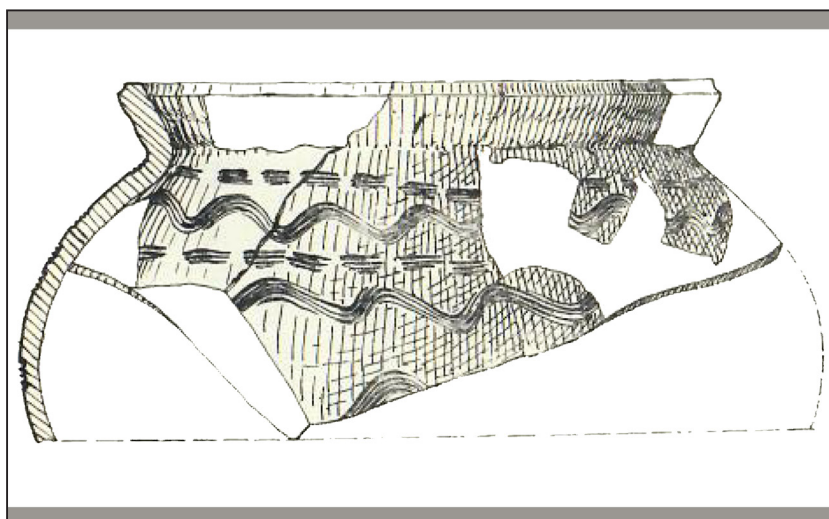


Fig. 6. *Dridu*. A possible example of an “elongated impressions/fork decoration” ornament (source Zaharia 1967).

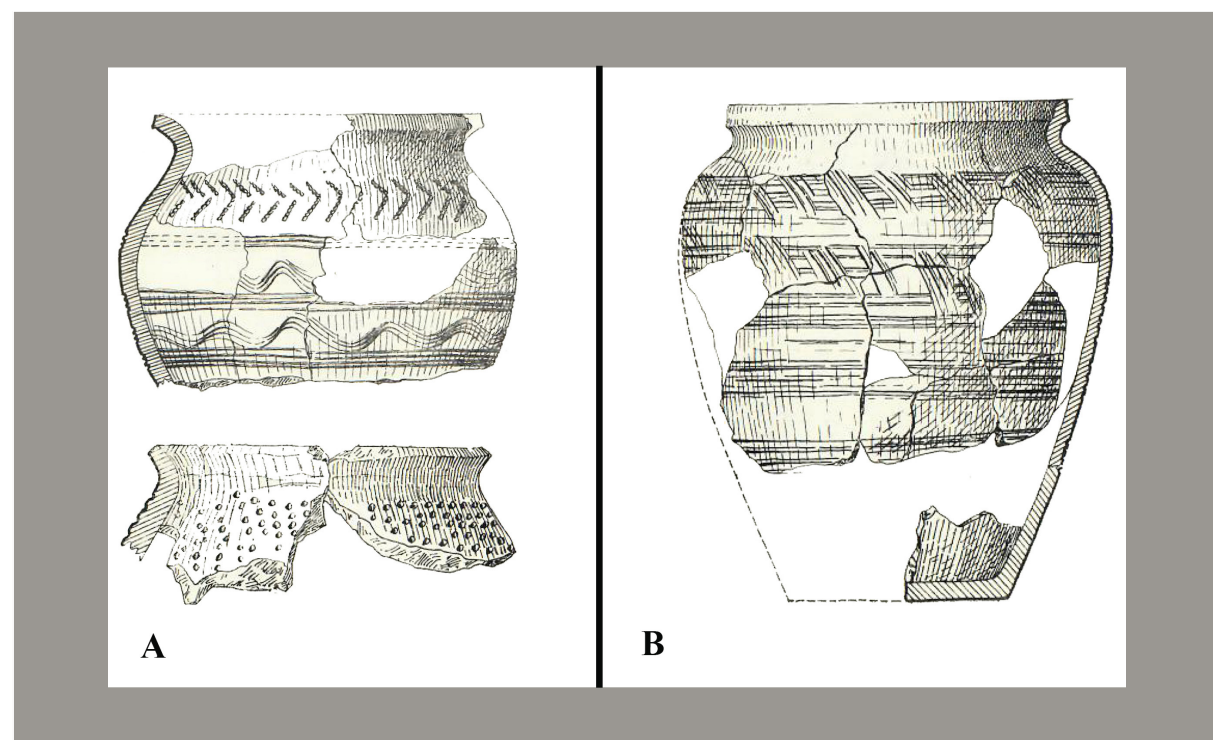


Fig. 7. *Dridu*. Examples of impressions (A) and short strips (B) made with the comb (source Zaharia 1967).

²⁴ Zaharia 1967, Pl. XVI/2.

²⁵ Concerning the Saltovo-Majaki pottery and its variants (formal features and decorative elements made by incisions in the soft paste, before firing), see: Bálint 1990.

²⁶ For the *Dridu* ceramics, see: Zaharia 1967; for *Balkan-Danube ceramics/Danube-type ceramics*, see Comşa 1957 (Pl. II, IV), Comşa 1963, 107-121 and Fiedler 1992 (incised decoration pots from the necropolis of the Lower Danube).

5. “Elongated impressions/fork decoration”: a decorative element that suggests another chronological framing

Geographically, the closest (possible) analogy we have identified is in the settlement of MiercureaBăi- Cunța, a site where several levels of habitation were observed, the most striking being from the 12²⁷ century. On the other hand, the published archaeological inventories (in the archaeological monograph) indicate the existence of an earlier level of habitation (datable in the 7-8 centuries/possibly beginning of the 9 century),²⁸ not observed (unfortunately) by the authors of the research. In complex C. 351 (which belongs to this earlier level!), along with other ceramic fragments was also discovered the upper part of a pot which is decorated with a band of wave lines associated with what appear to be (rather) two bands of wave lines interrupted/drawn in segments, similar as a pattern to the “elongated impressions/fork decoration”²⁹ (Fig. 8).

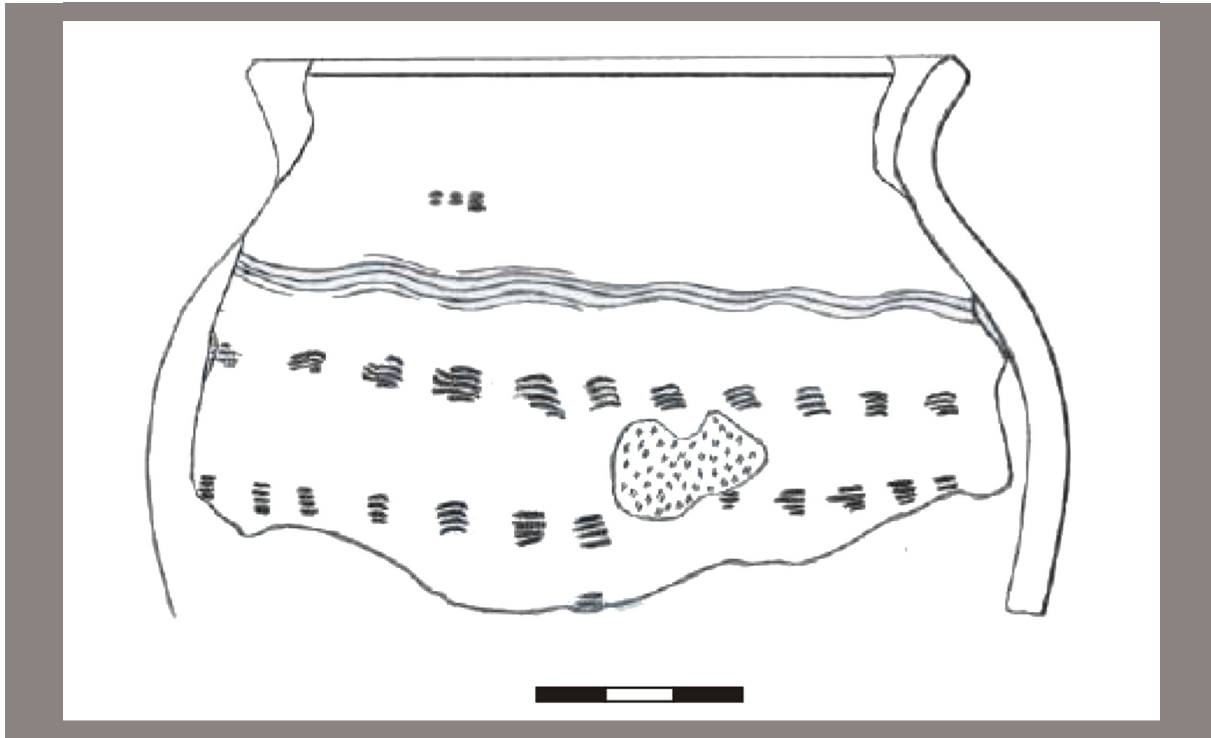


Fig. 8. Miercurea Băi – Cunța. A possible example of an “elongated impressions / fork decoration” ornament (source Pinter and Urduzia 2015).

Expanding the comparison areas, we note that clear ornaments of the type “elongated impressions/fork decoration” are present on a series of vessels deposited in (some) graves in Slavo-Avar cemeteries at Zahorska Bystrica³⁰ (Fig. 9) and Nové Zámky³¹ (Fig. 10). In the Slavic-Avar environment, we also have an artefact in the bi-ritual necropolis at Pókaszeptk.³² Also from the Avar era, we recall here the artefacts discovered in the Szekszárd³³ and Vác cemeteries.³⁴ Also, an analysis of the ceramic vessels deposited in the graves of some cemeteries in the northwest of the Carpathian Basin showed that the ornamental repertoire found on the pots of the Late Avar era also includes “elongated impressions/fork decoration”³⁵ (Fig. 11).

²⁷ Pinter and Urduzia 2015, 24.

²⁸ Examples of early medieval archaeological material suggesting the existence of a habitation at Miercurea Băi-Cunța *ante* the 12 century: Pinter and Urduzia 2015, Pl. 37/Cx. 096, Pl. 61/Cx. 119-126, Pl. 74/Cx. 137, Pl. 76/Cx. 151c, Pl. 77/Cx. 152, Pl. 94/Cx. 351, Pl. 95/Cx. 354, Pl. 105/Cx. 400.

²⁹ Pinter and Urduzia 2015, Pl. 94/1.

³⁰ Kraskovská 1972, 108. Pots with this type of decoration: Obr. 20/4, 21/4, 27/5, 10, 32/4, 39/2, 40/9, 41/8, 52, 53.

³¹ Čilinská 1966, 201-205. Examples of vases with this type of decoration: Taf. XXI/29/1, XXXI/29/10, XXXIII/146/1, XXXVII/182/4, XLI/223/5, XLIX/273/2, LIII/317/5, LXVII / 447 / 6.

³² Sós and Salamon 1995, 87-115 and 181. Example of a pot with this type of decoration: Pl. XXXVII / 4.

³³ Rosner 1999, Taf. 35/515/6.

³⁴ Tettamanti 2000, Taf. 12/231/1, 18/337/1, 19/356/1.

³⁵ Fiedler, Passlick and Richter 1993, Taf. I, Abb. 39-40.

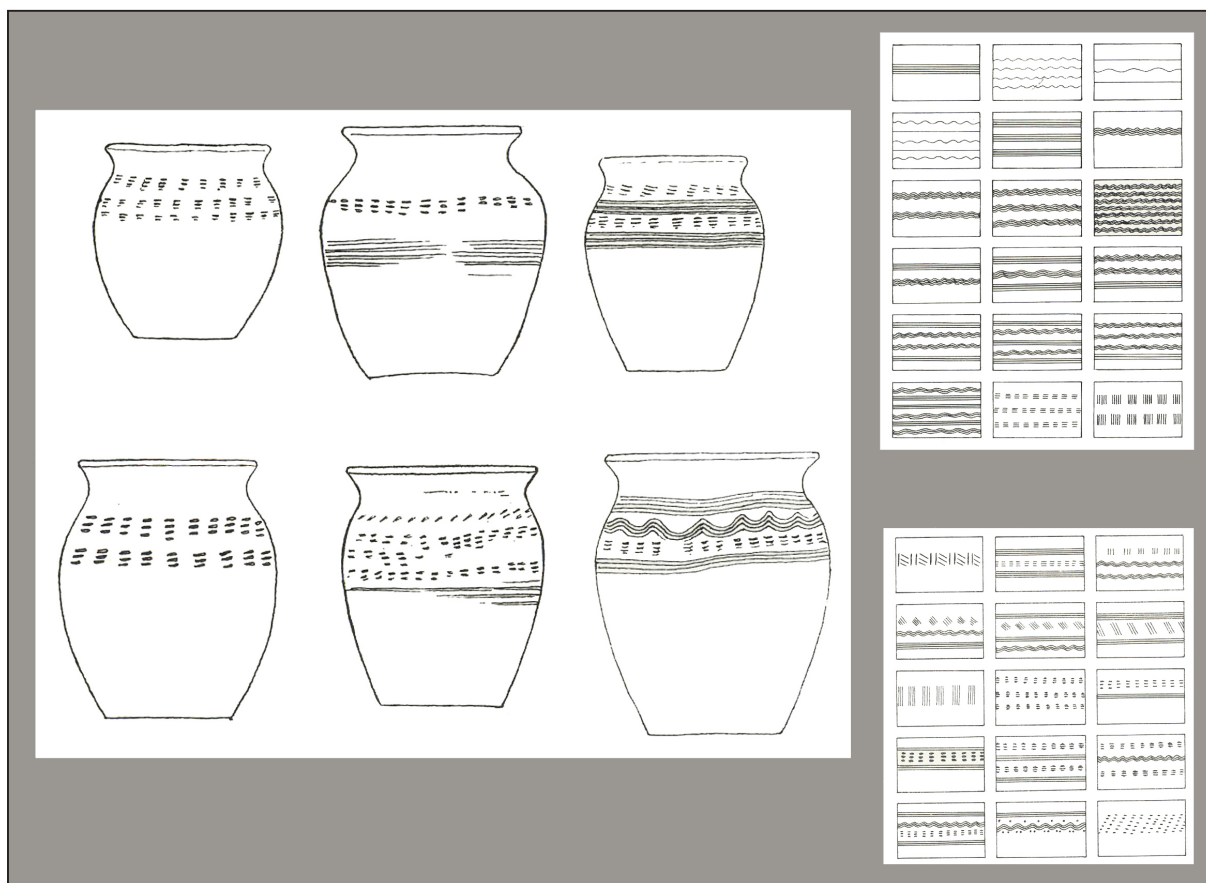


Fig. 9. Záhorská Bystrica. The repertoire of ornaments and examples of vessels with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” (source Kraskovská 1972).

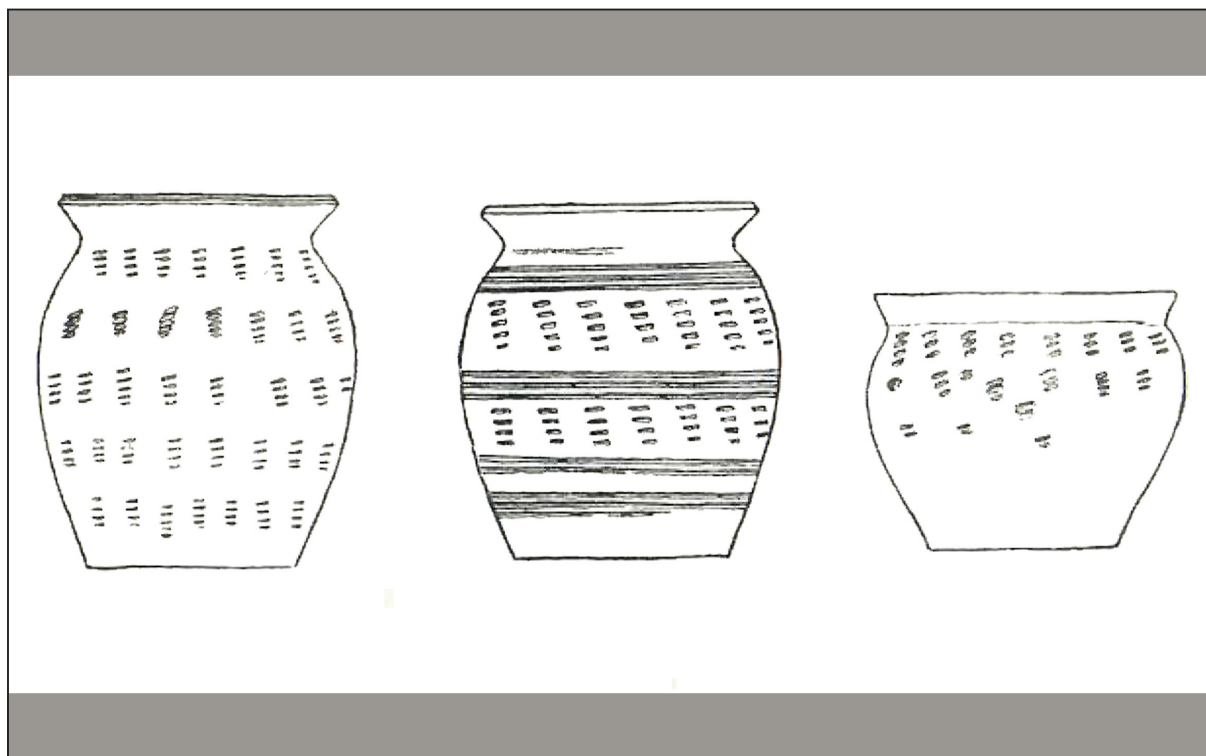


Fig. 10. Nové Zámky. Examples of vessels with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” (source: Čilinská 1966).

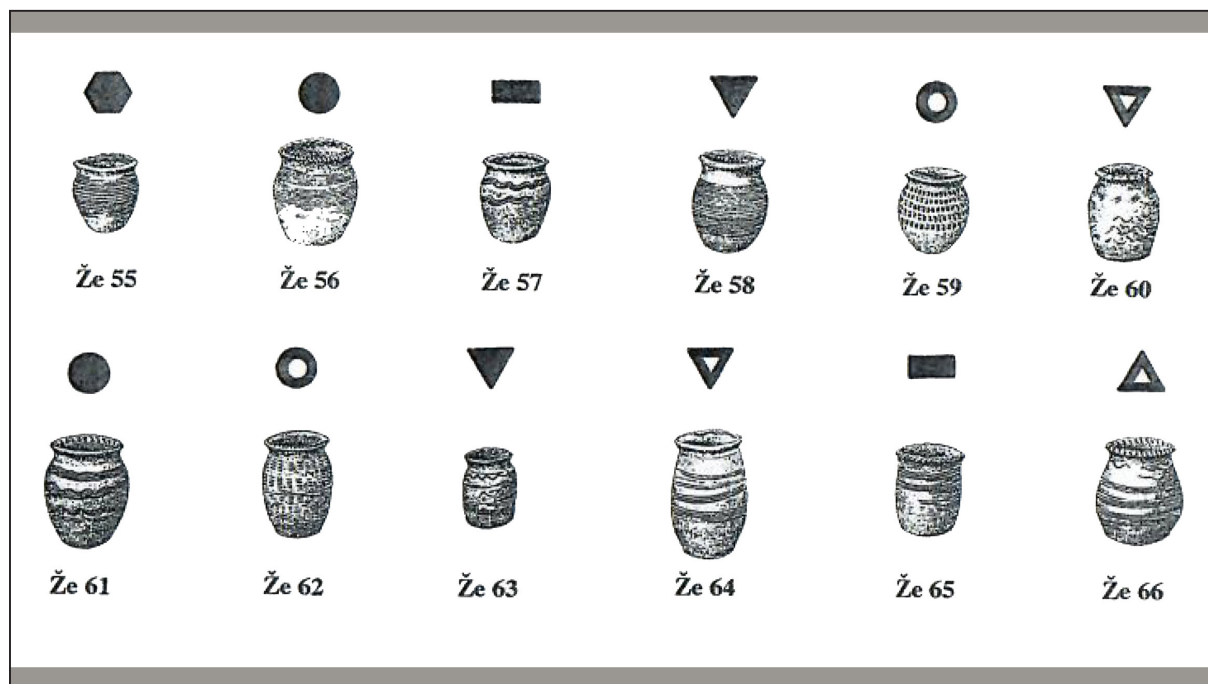


Fig. 11. Želovce. Examples of vessels with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” (categories 59 and 62) (source Fiedler, Passlick and Richter 1993).

6. Considerations on the chronology of vessels decorated with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” and early medieval habitation stages from Albești-La Cetățea

As already seen, there are a number of problems/inconsistencies regarding the transmission of archaeological data resulting from the archaeological research conducted this site, including those regarding the formal and visual features of the archaeological inventory (*recte* the pottery from the horizon assumed to be from the 9-10 centuries). It was stated that the vessels in this horizon are hand-thrown, at the slow wheel and at an intermediary wheel,³⁶ which, in view of those rings/grooves present on the inner surface would indicate the use of a fast-speed wheel.³⁷

As can be ascertained from the published graphic documentation, “elongated impressions/fork decoration” are most often used on the vessels (three complete and two fragmentary vessels) from this stage of habitation from Albești. It is also worth noting that the decoration was used on pots with various sizes and destinations (glasses, pots), suggesting a visual appetite for this manner of ornamentation (or a tradition of the local community).³⁸ All these aspects lead us to consider the possibility that these vessels were produced in a workshop that operated in the Albești-La Cetățea settlement. Even if no potter’s furnace was discovered, this hypothesis could be verified by comparative analysis between the clay used in the manufacturing of the vessels and the local soil.³⁹

As mentioned above, the “elongated impressions/fork decoration” type ornament is not characteristic of the Dridu (A) pottery nor the 9-10 centuries. On the contrary, the examples / analogies with ceramic vessels (*Danube type*) decorated in this manner come from earlier archaeological contexts (located on the periphery of the Avar world, in various locations in the Carpathian Basin: north-west, south-west/Transdanubia, east/Transylvania), which chronologically cover almost all the *Avar period* (beginning in the middle/second half of the 7 century until the end of the 8 century).

Concerning the pottery from the early habitation stage from Albești-La Cetățea it was stated that it was comprised of hand or wheel-thrown pots (“jars”). Hand-thrown pots are decorated (on the rim) with alveoli or notches, and those at the wheel with (strips) of wave lines and straight lines.⁴⁰ Referring to the chronology of the examples of pots decorated with “elongated impressions/fork decoration” presented above (as analogies), we believe that the

³⁶ Baltag 2000, 175-176.

³⁷ Baltag 1994, Pl. III / 2; Baltag 2000, Pl. IV / 9.

³⁸ This was noticed from the very beginning by Gh. Baltag (Baltag 1994, 77).

³⁹ For example, in the Sylvanian Basin, analyses of this kind carried out on ceramic fragments from the settlement of Nușfalău-Țigoiul lui Benedek confirmed that the respective vessels were moulded from the local clay (Băcucț-Crișan and Bejinariu 2020, 82, note 153).

⁴⁰ Baltag 1994, 76.

specimens from Albești-La Cetățea (provided with this special decorative element) cannot be dated in the 9-10 centuries.

Finally, we believe that at Albești-La Cetățea, there was only one habitation phase *prior* to the year 1000 (and not two, as stated!), placed in the chronological range represented by the middle/second half of the 7 century-8 century (possibly the beginning of the 9 century). Moreover, an association between pots modelled by hand (decorated on the lip with alveoli/notches) and pots modelled at the wheel (decorated with “elongated impressions/fork decoration”) is not surprising (for this site) considering the fact that associations of this kind were also found in the sites cited above, as analogies (Fig. 12).

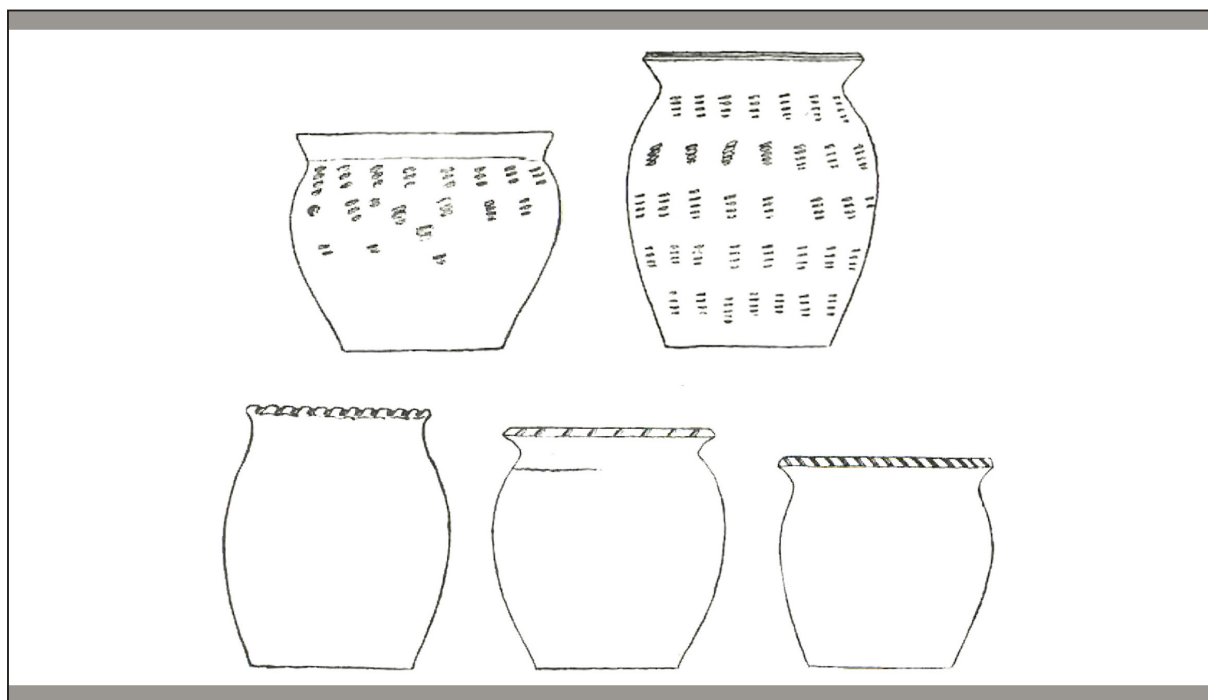


Fig. 12. Nové Zámky. Example of association of wheel-thrown vessels (ornamented with “elongated impressions/fork decoration”) and hand-thrown vessels (ornamented on the rim with incisions/notches/alveoli/impressions) (source Čilinská 1966).

As for the archaeological complexes *post* the year 1000 stage of habitation (that of the 11-12 centuries) from Albești-La Cetățea, most likely, they are part of another settlement. Beyond the debates about chronology, the altitude (400 m) at which this early medieval settlement was founded also draws attention, which suggests a community adapted to the specificity/characteristics of the respective habitat,⁴¹ a habitat (of the highlands) that (for now) has not been sufficiently tracked, analysed and explained in the Romanian archaeological environment.

⁴¹ Gh. Baltag formulated (on various occasions) a series of observations/hypotheses regarding the particularities of the habitat where the early medieval Albești-La Cetățea settlement was founded (see, for example, Baltag 1994, 77; Baltag 2000, 178).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bálint, Cs. 1990. Die Keramik der Saltovo-Majaki Kultur und ihrer Varianten. Budapest: Magyar Tudományos Akadémia.
- Baltag, Gh. 1994. Așezarea de la Albești-Sighișoara. Elemente inedite în cultura materială din sec. IX-X. Revista Bistriței VIII: 75-78.
- Baltag, Gh. 2000. Considerații generale privind așezarea de la Sighișoara-Albești . Noi elemente inedite în cultura materială din sec. VIII-X. D. Hr. Marisia XXVI: 169-186.
- Baltag, Gh. 2004. Așezări și tipuri de locuințe din bazinul Târnavei Mari între sec. III-X d. Hr.. Revista Bistriței XVIII: 139-193.
- Băcucț-Crișan, D. 2024. Aspecte mai puțin tratate în cercetarea olăriei medievale timpurii din România: destinație, utilizare, reutilizare și reciclare. Interpretări teoretice și realități arheologice. Cercetări Arheologice 31, 2: 559-574.
- Băcucț-Crișan, D și Bejinariu, I. 2020. Așezarea medievală timpurie de la Marca Sfărâuaș I (jud. Sălaj). Contribuții arheologice la cunoașterea olăriei modelate la roata rapidă din Depresiunea Silvaniei. Cluj-Napoca: Mega/ Porolissum.
- Comșa, M. 1957. Unele concluzii istorice pe baza ceramicii din sec. VI-XII. Studii de Istorie Veche și Arheologie VIII, 1-4: 267-294.
- Comșa, M. 1963. Cu privire la evoluția culturii balcano-dunărene în sec. IX-XI (studio preliminar). Studii de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, 14,1: 107-121.
- Čilinská, Z. 1966. Slawisch-Awarisches gräberfeld in Nové Zámky. Bratislava: Academiae Scientiarum Slovaca.
- Fiedler, U. 1992. Studien zu Gräberfeldern des 6. bis 9. Jahrhunderts an der unteren Donau. Bonn: Verlag dr. Rudolf Habelt GMBH.
- Fiedler, U. Passlic, M. și Richter, A. 1993. Beiträge zur Formenentwicklung der awarenzeitlichen Grabkeramik. Archaeologia Austriaca 77: 243-275.
- Gáll, E. și Daczó, L. 2024. Asymmetrical relationship between a peripheral region and the late Avar Khaganate: The Sighișoara microregion in the Early Middle Ages (7th/8th-9th centuries) and the importance of the microregional research. Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae: 161-192.
- Kraskovská, L. 1972. Slovanso-Avarské pohrebisko pri Záhorskej Bystrici. Bratislava: Inštitut Archaeologického Musei Nationalis Slovaci.
- Pinter, Z. K. și Urdúzia, Cl. 2015. ...*Custodes confinium, vulgo ewrii*... . Cercetări arheologice în așezarea medievală timpurie de la Miercurea Băi-Cunța. București: Editura Academiei Române.
- Rosner, Gy. 1999. Das awarenzeitliche Gräberfeld in Szekszárd-Bogyiszlói StraÙe. Budapest: Druckerei des Ungarischen Nationalmuseums.
- Sós, Á. Cs. și Salamon, Á. 1995. Cemeteries od the Early Middle Ages (6th-9th c.) at Pókaszeptk. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó.
- Șovrea, A. N. 2019. Aspecte privind habitatul în bazinul Târnavei Mari în secolele IX-XI. Date tehnice asupra ceramicii de la Albești, jud. Mureș, in I. M. Țiplic, M. C. Țiplic, N. Teșculă (eds.). Relații interetnice în Transilvania. Interferențe istorice, culturale și religioase: 47-62. Sibiu: Editura Universității Lucian Blaga.
- Șovrea, A. N. 2020. Aspecte arheologice și istorice privind valea Târnavei Mari în secolele IX-X. Cultura Medieșană IX: 13-21.
- Tettamanti, S. 2000. Das awarenzeitliche Gräberfeld in Vác-Kavicsbánya. Budapest: Druckerei des Ungarischen Nationalmuseums.
- Țiplic, I. M. 2005. Contribuții la istoria spațiului românesc în perioada migrațiilor și evul mediu timpuriu (secolele IV-XIII). Iași: Institutul European.
- Zaharia, E. 1967. Săpăturile de la Dridu. Contribuți la arheologia și istoria perioadei de formare a poporului român. București: Editura Academiei.

Lista ilustrațiilor:

Fig. 1. Albești – La Cetățea. Elemente decorative prezente pe vasele ceramice, inclusiv „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (sursa Baltag 2020).

Fig. 2. Albești – La Cetățea. Desenele vaselor publicate de Gh. Baltag în anul 1994 (sursa Baltag 1994).

Fig. 3. Albești – La Cetățea. Desenele vaselor publicate de Gh. Baltag în anul 2000 (sursa Baltag 2000).

Fig. 4. Albești – La Cetățea. Fotografii și desenele vaselor publicate de A. N. Șovrea în anul 2019 (sursa Șovrea 2019).

Fig. 5. Albești – La Cetățea. Fotografii și desenele vaselor publicate de A. N. Șovrea în anul 2020 (sursa Șovrea 2020).

Fig. 6. Dridu. Un posibil exemplu de ornament de tip „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (sursa Zaharia 1967).

Fig. 7. Dridu. Exemple de impresiuni (A) și benzi scurte (B) realizate cu pieptenele (sursa Zaharia 1967).

Fig. 8. Miercurea Băi – Cunța. Un posibil exemplu de ornament de tip „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (sursa Pinter și Urduzia 2015).

Fig. 9. Záhorská Bystrica. Repertoriul ornamentelor și exemple de vase cu „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (sursa Kraskovská 1972).

Fig. 10. Nové Zámky. Exemple de vase cu „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (sursa Čilinská 1966).

Fig. 11. Želovce. Exemple de vase cu „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița” (categoriile 59 și 62) (sursa Fiedler, Passlick și Richter 1993).

Fig. 12. Nové Zámky. Exemplu de asociere de vase modelate la roată (ornamentate cu „impresiuni alungite/decor cu furculița”) și vase modelate cu mâna (ornamentate pe buză cu incizii/crestături/alveole/impresiuni) (sursa Čilinská 1966).

DAN BĂCUȚ-CRIȘAN
Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă Zalău
bacuetz@yahoo.com

