

**THE NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT RUGINOASA-DEALU
DRĂGHICI. PART I, ARCHITECTURE**

CORNELIA-MAGDA LAZAROVICI

(Archaeological Institut of Iași)

GHEORGHE LAZAROVICI

(National Historical Museum of Cluj-Napoca)

In the summer/autumn of 2001 rescue excavations have been started at *Dealul Drăghici*. These excavations have been determined by extended works for stone exploitation that have destroyed a part of the



Fig. 1. H. Dumitrescu's plan of the excavations.

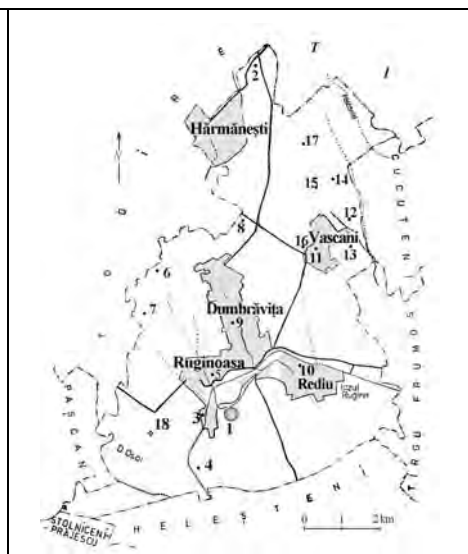


Fig. 2. Ruginoasa. The geographic and archeological area after Chirica-Tanasachi (1985, ...).

Dealul Drăghici (the Drăghici hill) dominates the Ruginoasa village, Iași district (fig. 1). This hill is situated in the southern part of the village and is bordered by a small creek that comes from Dumbrăvița village and flows in the Siret river; after Ruginoasa, the creek's valley becomes larger.

Years ago in the southwestern part of the *Dealul Drăghici* there was a pond, now the *Batogele* Lake. It represents a natural connection between Siret and Prut basins; the railway follows this old way.

By archaeological point of view the area is very rich (fig. 2 = 18 points). Ruginoasa is located on the road (from Siret river) to the Cucuteni eponym site. Several Cucutenian sites are located in this area too: between Ruginoasa and Todirești (fig. 2/6-7), on the hills which border Vașcani village and the wood called *Holm*, in the area named *Iezerul* (fig. 2/8,15,17); in Dumbrăvița village, on the *Bulhac* hill (fig. 2/2); in the central part of the Vașcani village and on a plateau called *Podiș* (fig. 2/11-13) as well as East from the village, in a clay deposit; in the same village, in the area called *Pușcăria* and northern from the village in *Grindu* area (CHIRICA, TANASACHI 1985, 350-354) (fig. 2/15,17).

The settlements from the Vașcani village area might be related with the Cucuteni eponym site and those from the Prut Valley. Until now we have not researched the Cucutenian sites from the area (fig. 3), but small stratigraphic trenches are necessary in the future.

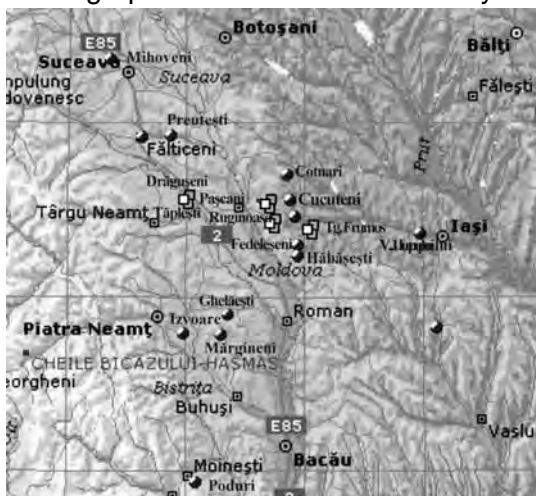
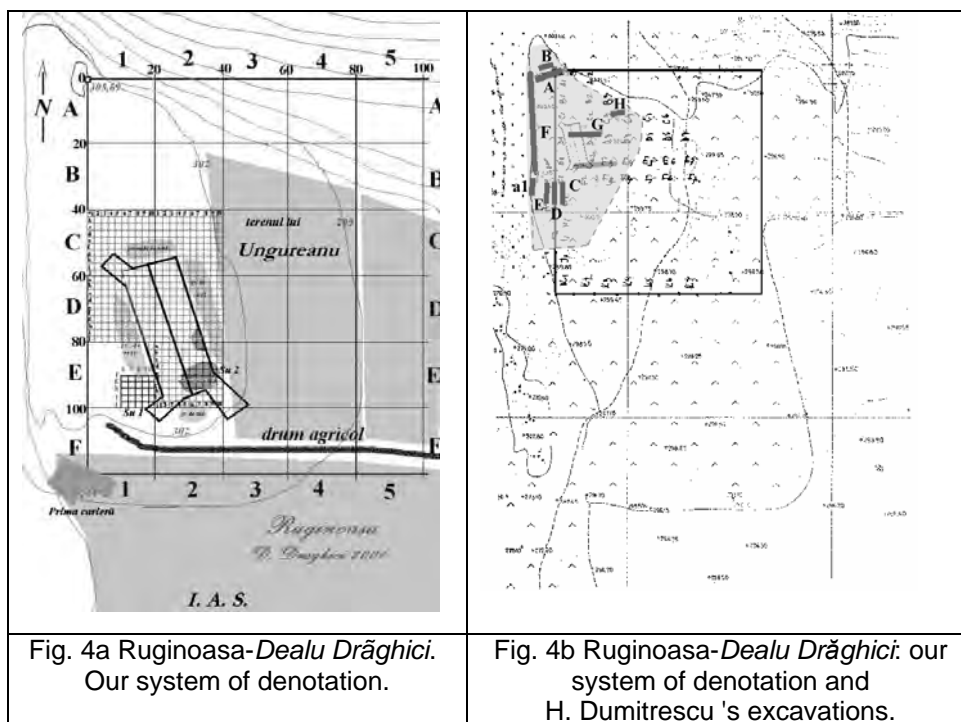


Fig. 3. The main Cucuteni sites in the Moldavian Plateau.

Over the years, *Dealul Drăghici* has been used as a source for the raw material used in constructions. At the hill base, in the Northeast there is a quarry (which contains also sand, small stones and clay; we will name it *Small stones quarry*). The Ruginoasa Mayoral started excavations to extract stone in the spring of 2001 (we will name this excavation a

Stone quarry). At the southern limit of this excavation we have opened Surface 1, of 8 x 10 m, North-South oriented (LAZAROVICI *et alii* 2001a).

The excavations of the City Hall have disturbed cca. 10.000 m², which represent about 20% of the site's area (fig. 4a). From the early beginning our intention was to enlarge Surface 1 in the area of the *Stone quarry* from 8 x 10 m to 20 x 8/10 m. Fig. 15 reflects the position of all the excavations made on the hill.



In the future we also have to reevaluate H. Dumitrescu's research and especially the archaeological material (DUMITRESCU 1933).

We have to specify that sections **C**, **D**, **E** are situated in the southern area of the hill, area that contains few archaeological material, maybe due to it's proximity to the periphery of the site; no complexes have been identified here.

Denotation system

We have used the geodesic landmark as a fix point. The village is situated at 47°14' 00" latitude and 26°52' 33" longitude. The 20 x 20 m blocks are North-South oriented and the geodesic landmark was used as a fix point, too. The east area is denoted A1...B1...C1...D1, and the west one with -A, -B, -C, -D, -E.

Latitude denotation. The 20 x 20 m blocks are divided in squares of 2 x 2 m, denoted a to j.

Longitude denotation. On longitude the blocks have 20 x 20 m and the square 2 x 2 m, denoted 1 to 10.

Altitude denotation. In the excavated area the grass level was at ▲ 302 m (fig. 4a).

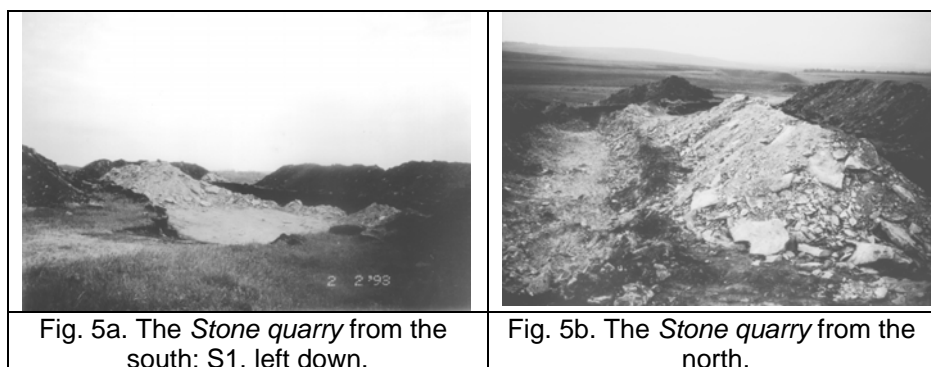
Surface denotation. We prefer the denotation system of 20 x 20 m and squares of 2 x 2 m. The *Stone quarry* is not larger than 46 m, situated in blocks D-E 1-2, with extremities in the blocks C 1, 2 and F 1, 2.

Denotation of the archaeological material in the area of the Stone quarry. The quarry has a rectangular shape and two accesses for the excavator. The resulted earth was deposited on the margins of this quarry and named: *East lump*, *west lump*, *north lump*, and *South lump*. For the small finds we have used in this case also the number of the square. The error margins in the case of the place of discovery could be about 4 m (excavator hand). The archaeological material from the defensive ditch is better preserved compared to the surface material. The last one is covered with loam and has been affected by the activity of loam acids (painting especially). The material found closer to the surface also shows a retardation process, reflected by the balance between fine and usual pottery.

Denotation of the archaeological complexes. Archaeological complexes have received numbers in the order of their discovery. The first discovered complex was a pit house with 3 levels of construction (denoted as pit house 1 or B1) followed by the Neolithic ditches (ditch 1 and 2, the ditch 1a, 1b or 2 being the southern one) and houses 3 (L3) and 4 (L4). The surface house 3 (L3) has three main stages and probably another room (we have used the denotation L3-L4 or room B for that room). House 4 (L4) was identified in the southern part of house 3 (L3). A small interesting pit house (B 5) with a porch and a "vallum (bank) structure" has been discovered south from the defensive ditch. Another pit house, B6, was identified eastwards, close to B1 area. Between B5 and B6 there is another space, maybe another pit house or annex.

The archaeological complexes and installations

The archaeological complexes discovered in 2001-2002 are not related to the earliest level of the settlement. Till now, in the area that we have excavated, the oldest level seems to be the defensive ditch. This ditch is excavated in the geological stone stratum. After a while the ditch was filled up and on top of this houses (L3, L4) and pit houses (B1, B5, B6) have been build.



H. Dumitrescu did not make a large presentation regarding the archaeological complexes. The original documentation has been lost during the Second World War (kind information from S. Marinescu-Bîlcu). In these conditions it is difficult to conclude what type of houses she had discovered in the central part of the settlement. From the published results it seems that they belong to the pit house type or surface type houses, a little bit deeper (those from -0,50/60 m: DUMITRESCU 1933). The classic surface house with platform and adobe structure is not present. The only burnt clay is related to fireplaces (clay and sand) and plates from fireplaces (clay and chaff). The red traces in the *Stone quarry* are related to the iron oxide from the sand.

We have noticed that for building houses and pit houses, stones and fireplace plates have been reused. After the defensive ditch of the settlement has been abandoned, it was filled up with sherds. This operation might also be related to some normal practices. Even today, in the countryside, during springtime, after the snow melts, the garbage is collected in pits.

As a general feature, several pit houses have a reconstruction level (as in pit house 1- **B1**). The depth of the pit house is over 1 m from the walking level. Semi-subterranean houses have a 40-60 cm depth. The depth of the surface houses is related to the defensive ditch subsidence; in the area of the margins it can reach 30-40 cm and in the center 60 cm depth. A level with surface houses, a little bit deeper, follows the pit houses horizon; on top of these we have found a house with a stone base.

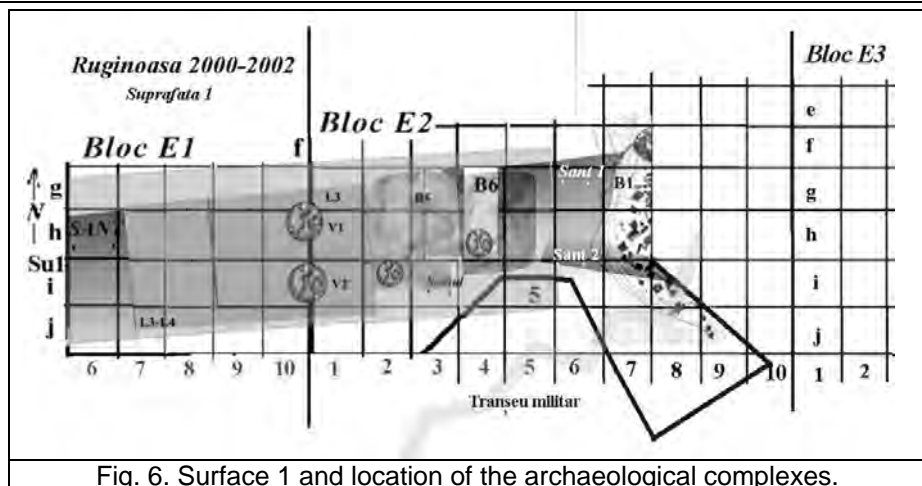


Fig. 6. Surface 1 and location of the archaeological complexes.

The defensive system

The settlement was fortified with at least one ditch (our excavation is not extended enough to the south, so that we do not know exactly what is the situation here).

The defensive ditch perforates the geological level with sarmathian limestone and reaches the sand stratum. In the South area of the site it is possible to observe a level difference that might be also related to the shape of the hill. The higher part of the hill consists in solid rock about 1 m thick. First we believed that it was just one defensive ditch with more phases of filling. After a partial excavation in the area of the pit house 1 (B1) we realized that the route of the borders of the two ditches was not parallel (an angle difference has been noticed). The situation will be clearer after new, more extended excavations in this area.

The first phase of the ditch (Ditch I). The ditch was paved with big slabs of stone, horizontally arranged. This pavement was observed under B1 level and westwards from it, in the destroyed area, up to the base of the ditch. Based on the data we have, the "pavement" was used up to – 2,50 m (the base of the ditch). In the area the excavator destroyed that we have researched the upper part of the defensive ditch. The ditch is edgewise in the profile of the Stone quarry and pit house 1 (B1) was situated on the southern part of the defensive ditch. The stone slabs used for paving the ditch are of local origin. The paving process was intentional, which suggest that the Cucutenians knew very well the local stratigraphy. Beaten yellow clay was placed between stones in order to reinforce the structure (stones and small broken stones have been also discovered as a result of this operation). We do not know exactly the source of this yellow

clay, but it might be south from the hill. In the area of the settlement the ditch borders seem to be steeper.

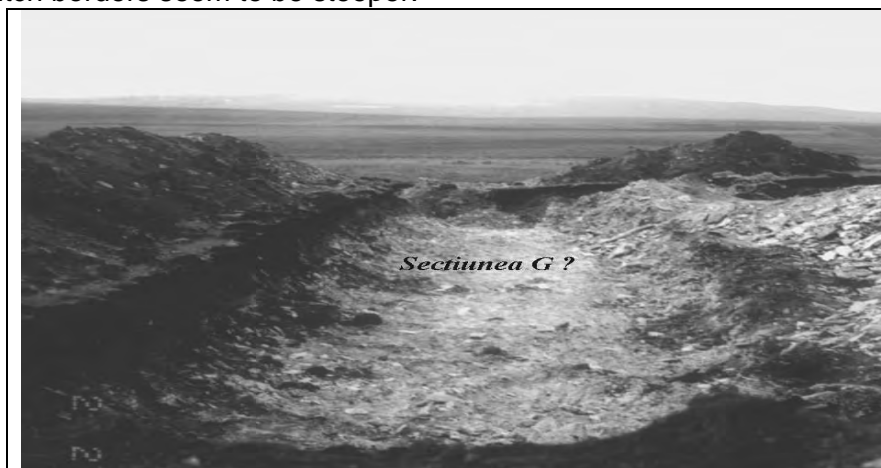


Fig. 7. The Stone quarry and the supposed place of section SG
Made by H. Dumitrescu.



Fig. 8a. The defensive ditch in S1
and house 1 (L1).

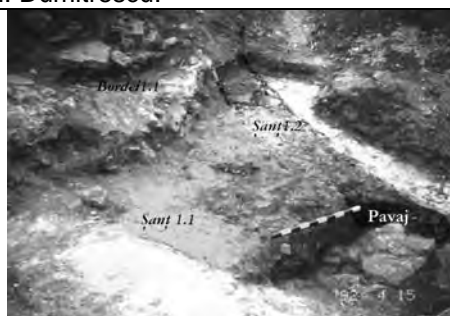


Fig. 8b. Ditches 1.1 and 1.2 (Ditch 2)
from the North.

In both ditches high quality painted pottery has been discovered. After the level of pit house 1, the pottery is very well preserved and of very good quality. We have to specify that these complexes are earlier than those that we have excavated.

The aim of the ditch pavement was to collect the eyewash for the reinforcement of the defensive system. Such use of the eyewash is met in other settlements too (together with traps in Parța settlement, see LAZAROVICI *et alii* 2001, 197).

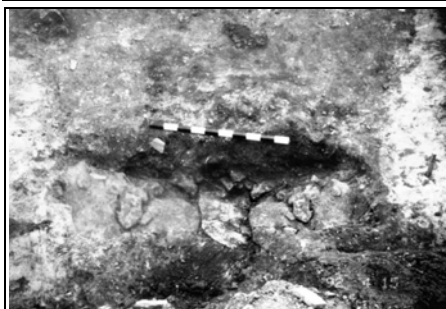


Fig. 9a. Stone pavement in the first fase of the defensive ditch.



Fig. 9b. Stone pavement in the first fase of the defensive ditch.

Ditch 1.2 or Ditch 2. First we supposed that a second ditch was located southwards, but we have discovered only a military ditch. Here the situation is not very clear and therefore we have to enlarge our excavation in the future.



Fig. 10a. The ditch 1 and 2.



Fig. 10b. Pit house 1 with phases B1.1, B1.2, B1.3 and the ditches, from S1▲.

In this moment it is possible to observe that this ditch has not been paved with stone slabs: such an operation was difficult in this area, because it seems that the geological stratum with sarmathian limestone seems to be missing.

Defensive ditches with stone slabs have also been discovered at Cucuteni "Cetățuia", level A (2,5 - 4 m large and 2 m deep) and B (5 - 8,5 m large and 3 m deep), (SCHMIDT 1932; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1966, 31; FLORESCU 1966, 25; MONAH-CUCOȘ 1985, 84; LÁSZLÓ 1993).

Houses and pit houses

In Ruginoasa we have excavated 2 houses, L3 (surface type) and L4 (surface type too, but a little bit deeper, or semi-subterranean type)

and 3 pit houses, B1, B5, B6 (fig. 10).

Pit houses

The presence of this type of houses causes open discussions between archaeologists. Some of them, more conservative believe that such kind of structures were not used in the classical area of the Cucuteni culture. Till now we have discovered 3 such structures in the Ruginoasa-Dealul Drăghici settlement and their number might increase in the next years of research.

Pit house 1 (B1) was partially researched in the southern open profile of the *Stone quarry*, on an area of 30-80 cm large (lower profile at – 1,30 m). In this open profile it was possible to observe the soil structure, the strata inclination and a strong subsidence, unusually for a pit house. Under the pit house was a defensive ditch (with at least one reconstruction level).

The pit house has 3 habitation horizons, 2 in connection with the pit house and the last one with a semi-subterranean house type.

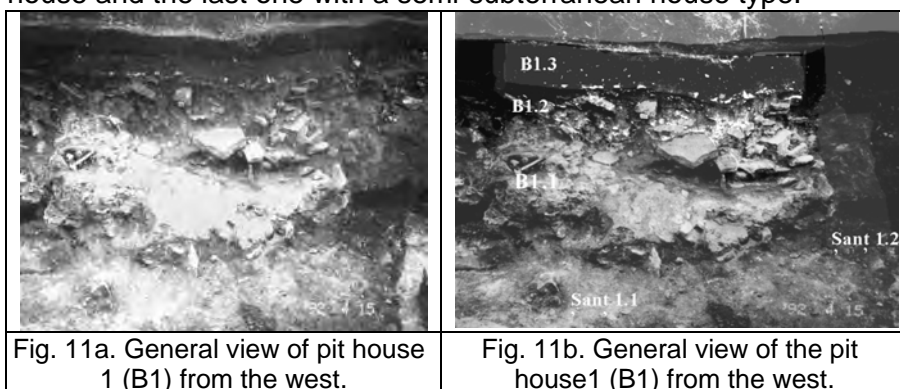


Fig. 11a. General view of pit house 1 (B1) from the west.

Fig. 11b. General view of the pit house1 (B1) from the west.

This last level was later than the other levels and the pottery reflects a retardation process. The pit house (after the only data we have until now) was 2,5/3 x 2,40 m large. This pit house was carved in the rock in the area of the defensive ditch; the builders knew at least the southern area of the defensive ditch that they used. When the pit house was build the defensive ditch was filled up. The first pit house reconstruction is related to the subsidence of the ditch: it was necessary to level the pit house base.

The first phase of habitation (fig. 11 and those named **B1.1**). At this level it seems that the northern part of the defensive ditch was used as a wall for the pit house. In the southern part large stones were used as borders; some of them were also used for leveling the base of the pit

house in the second habitation stage (B1.2). In the first habitation stage the base of the pit house was paved with big stone slabs and clay. In the central part of the structure was a fireplace built on some fireplace plates (in the archaeological literature such pieces are wrong designated as “kiln plates”) and on a very well fired clay fragment (mixed with sand).

As we have mentioned before the northern part of the pit house uses a part of the northern part of the defensive ditch. In the profile it was possible to observe some stairs. Some of them might have supported the walls made of wood or stones. Other ones could be related to some reconstructions.

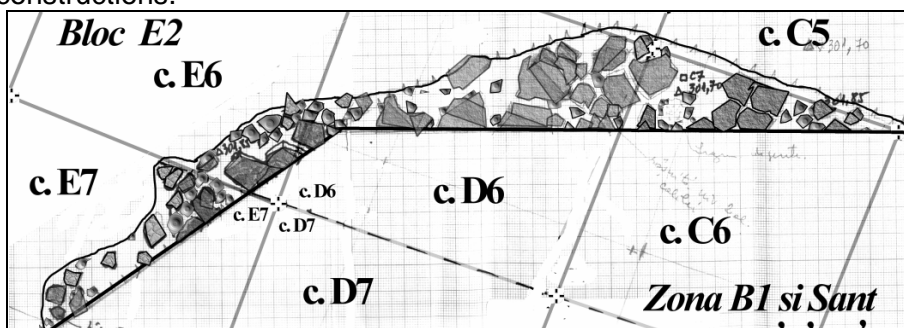


Fig. 12a. Plan of pit house 1.3 (B 1.3), ▲+ 301,70 m altitude.

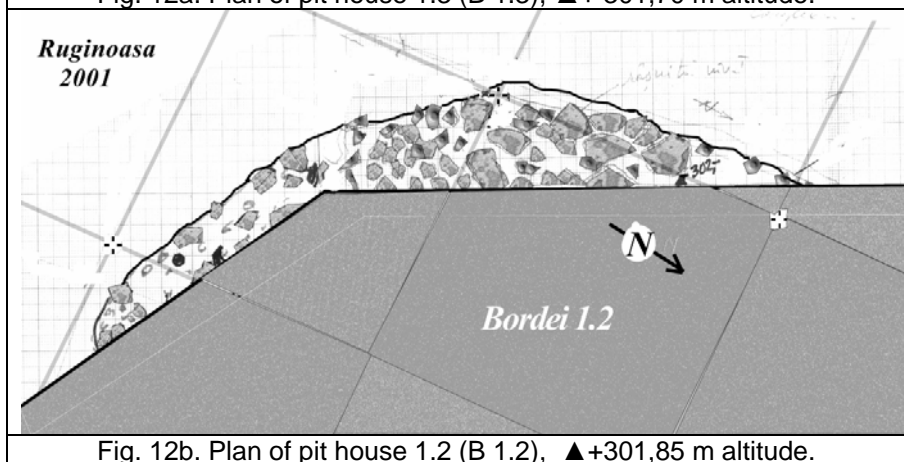


Fig. 12b. Plan of pit house 1.2 (B 1.2), ▲+301,85 m altitude.

On the southern margin of the pit house it is possible to observe the base of a wall stone (fig. 8-14), which bordered the pit house. The stones fallen from the pit house (fig. 10-14) seem to indicate a stonewall at least at this stage of the research. We believe that the above-mentioned big fragment of fired clay (cca. 80 cm large) was fired from its base to the upper part. Therefore we believe that it might also belong to an altar built

on a suspended floor (or a little bit risen up from the soil surface). The fragment has a face with alveolus (the face was down); on its back a soldering was applied. Such a soldering was also applied on other undetermined architectonic fragments. The fired fragment has a structure similar to a fireplace surface. A painted fruit stand (fig. 8- 14) and other sherds have been discovered on the margins of the fireplace. The inventory of the pit house was situated on the floor; several thrown fragments have also been found.



Fig. 13. Pit house 1.1 (B 1.1) and the cup; over it stones from the floor of phase 1.2.

The second phase of habitation in pit house 1 (B1. 2). The base of the pit house was leveled. Here we have discovered broken pots and stones. This material seems to be thrown here. Some material from this phase was discovered on the floor, having the same inclination as the pit house's base (2-3 broken pots and some big stones). Several big stones and other stones from the borders indicate a rebuilding stage; this hypothesis will be confirmed by the next research. In this phase it was possible to observe a subsidence. This process took place during the complex's existence and reflects some leveling operations. Because of the leveling and filling processes the height of the pit house diminished; the walls and the roof might have been modified during that time and therefore the dwelling has a semi-deepened aspect.

The third phase of habitation in pit house 1 (B1. 3). This phase seems to have two stages. Now the dwelling can be classified as a

surface house, a little bit deeper (it might belong to a hut type as well). It has a stone base. The base of the dwelling was leveled with a stratum of beaten small stones, horizontally arranged (which was not affected by the subsidence process). Over this stratum fragments of pots have been discovered. The fact that this dwelling was built in the same location might indicate the same owner or family.

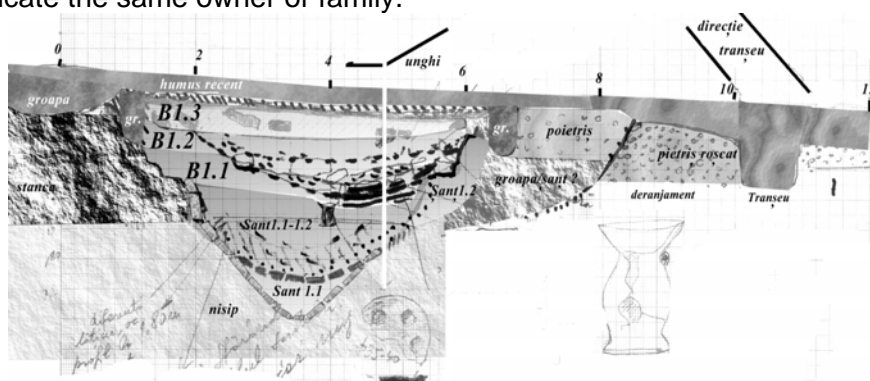


Fig. 14. Profile of the pit house 1 (B 1).

Pit houses 1 several profile stones from the margins (the northern part) were arranged in 1-2 rows. These stones have been buried with the occasion of the last reconstruction of the dwelling, when a floor with small beaten stones has been built (this was obvious in the plan as well as in the profile). The last reconstruction of the house was only 10 cm under the walking level. This level is now in the upper part of the strata and it is possible to have been disturbed by the agricultural fieldwork (we believe that from this area the earth was going down towards the second ditch).

Two pits situated on the southern border of the pit house seem to indicate places for pillars of a wooden wall. They were not very deep, which in our opinion indicates horizontal pillars. The pottery from this area has a strong loam deposit on the surface. In the same time it shows an obvious retardation process, related to the last habitation stages in this part of the settlement.

In the first stage it seems that some big stones have been used as a base for the wooden wall structure identically as in House 3 (L3). One of the small stairs situated in the south mark the base of that wall. The upper part of the profile shows that (fig.14) the pit house's subsidence is stronger in the southern part (on the right hand). **B1.1** and **B1.2** represent stages of the rebuilding of a pit house; **B1.3** reflects the structure of a house a little bit deeper. As we have already mentioned we believe that **B1.3** is a house

a little bit deeper, or a hut type dwelling (with a seasonal character, few inventory and less resistant architecture).

House 3 (L3).

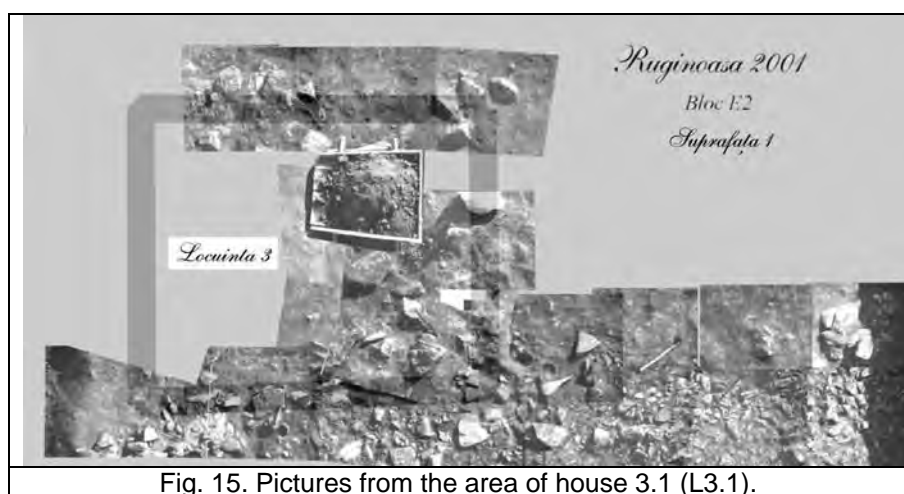


Fig. 15. Pictures from the area of house 3.1 (L3.1).

The research of this house is not yet completed, because of the many rebuilding levels and inner arrangements belonging to the stonewalls, floor and fireplaces and we have to excavate very carefully. The rebuilding stages of the walls are more difficult to establish because the same stones and perimeter as in the last stages have been used. The horizons were designated after their excavation moment and not using their chronological order as in the case of pit house 1 (**B1**). House 3 has three rebuilding stages for the floor and two for the walls, corresponding to two renewals of the fireplaces (fireplace 1 in the North and fireplace 2 in the South). These rebuilding are related to the subsidence of the ditch filling, which means that people were forced to repair the floor and fireplaces.

We have identified the margins of the natural geological deposits over the rock (these strata contain small stones at the base and smaller stones at the surface, fig. 15, down) and the main defensive ditch. In the same time, we have noticed big stones indicating a kind of line. Some stones belong to the base of some wooden walls; other bigger ones were used as a doorstep or a support for the internal walls or postholes. In fig. 15 there is the northern part of the ditch 1, on which there are superposed

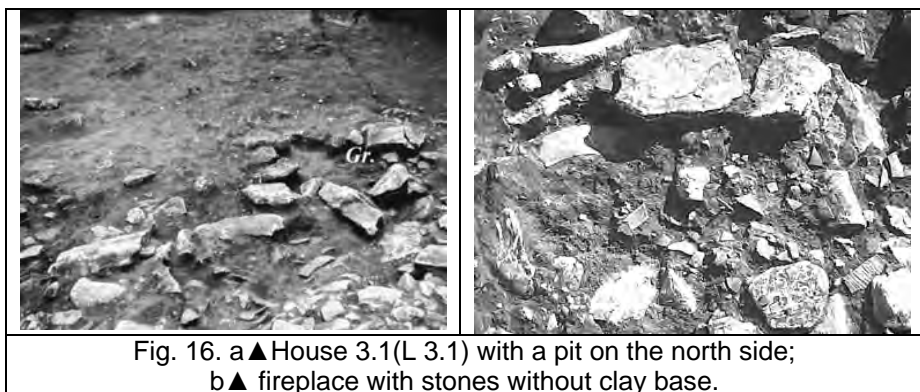
rests of the house and big stones, or pot fragments from the annexes of the house.



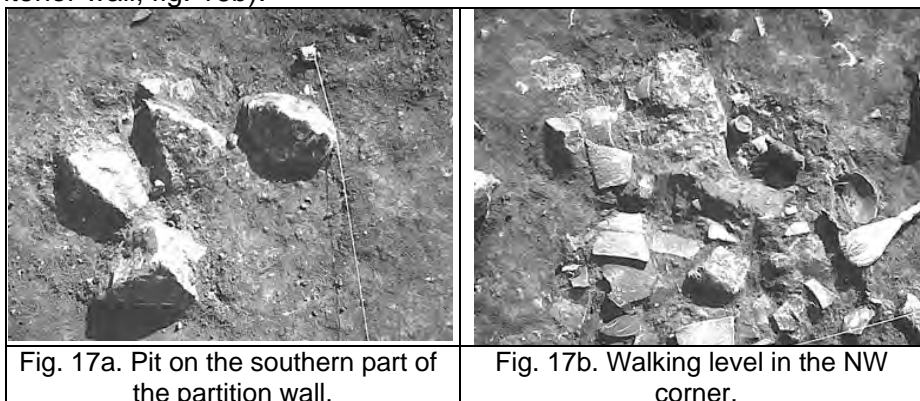
Fig. 15. House 3(L 3), level 3.1 left and 3.2 right.
General view from W, NW.

Stage 3.1 (L3.1). The southern part and the south wall have been excavated in 2001. With this occasion here have been identified a paved area with stones and pottery horizontally dispersed. Postholes related to the wall have been discovered inside and outside of the house. Two such postholes are deeper and they might belong to the last habitation stages. Under the walking level (which contains stones and small stones belonging maybe to the floor) we have found fragments of big pots. These fragments have been discovered in the area of room **B** (the room from the East side, which contains fireplaces made of stones, with ought clay), together with charcoal traces, but no ashes. This proves that the house was abandoned for a while and therefore at this level, fragments of pots and other objects from later horizons, could have penetrated it.

In the area of room **A** (we have used **L3-L4** to denote the objects) we have found only horizontally dispersed sherds and small stones. We did not find traces of fireplaces or of the walking level. In the North - West corner of the house and on the north wall we have found traces from three postholes. These pits are 15-25 cm deep and they have been fixed with stones in the level. The pillars do not have a very sharp point (the pit from the north west corner).



In the opposite part of the image in fig. 15 it is possible to observe the geological structure and the very thin cultural level outside the ditch. The stone base of a wooden wall is located in the center. In the North part of the house we have found a posthole (fig. 16a, 17a) connected with the north -western corner and a fireplace (situated on the North part of the interior wall, fig. 16b).



Such pits have also been identified in the southern part of the house, on the margin of the partition wall (fig. 16a). These pits are only 30 cm deep; their role was to fix the structure. Pillars ensured the stiffness of the wall.

In the house, on the walking level, there were three areas with broken *in situ* pots. The northern wall was raised up after a period of habitation in that phase of the house. Some big stones cover the walking level. This level is on top of the fireplace fragments (stage **L3.2**). In the northern area, in the South room we have identified a walking level with sherds, idols and some tools (fig. 18). There are no traces of fireplaces in

this phase of the house (nor in the two stages). Therefore we suppose that the base of some big pots could have been used for heating the interior of the dwelling.

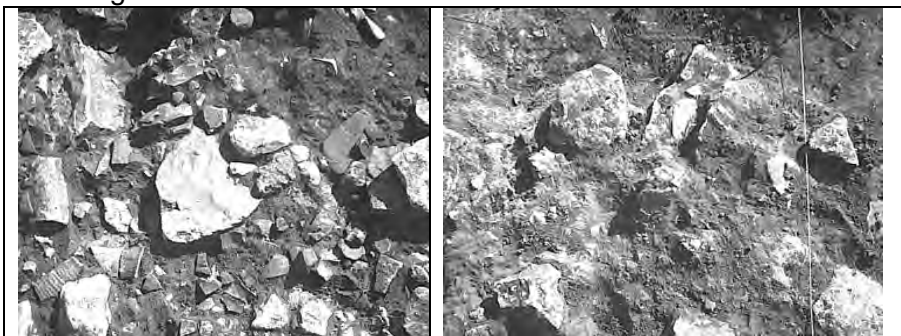


Fig. 18. Partition wall and the fireplace in the walking level of house 3.1 (L3.1).

The household area of this stage and the storing place for vessels was located in the North part of the house. The entrance was in the South part.

We have tried to interpret the building technique of this kind of houses. In this case the house has a stone base (in which stones were arranged in 1-2 rows) for the wooden walls (made of horizontal girders or embed in vertical girders from the corners, or in the middle of the walls). Small quantities of charcoal show that the house was abandoned. The clay is missing from the building system here. This shows very high skills regarding the wooden technique. Stones from the base of the girders are meant to protect the wood against decay. Such a technique is used even today in the area of the mountains and the hills, where people build a similar type of houses.

Room **B** (**L3-L4 = L3.1a**). We have used this term to designate the first habitation stage of the house. The excavation shows that the display of the household activities does not have the same location. This different location might be related to natural factors as well as to the people living here. Household activity areas concern places for fireplaces, vessels and spaces for sleeping.

At the level of this older horizon of the house's surface, between the fireplace and the wall we have discovered fireplace plates (see down!), in connection with the functionality of the fireplace.



Fig. 19. House phase 3.1(L3.1) and room B (back), the doorstep (center), room A and phase 3.2 (L3.2 right).

Stage 3.2 (L3.2, fig. 19). The complex has now two fireplaces (fireplace 2 and 3), which were used in different stages. In both phases the complex has the same perimeter but the fireplaces and household areas have a different arrangement. In the more recent stage **L3a**, the fireplace has a rectangular shape, with rounded corners. The long axe of the fireplace was North-South. The fireplace was located in the eastern room (room **B**). A household area with broken vessels was near the interior wall, in the same room. A partition wall (with only one row of stone at the base), located eastwards from those belonging to stage **L3.1** was discovered on 2/3 of the complex's width; the entrance was on the southern wall. A part of the north - western corner with the south wall contains stones. The north - western wall of both stages has 1-2 stone rows. The South wall has 2-3 rows of stones, because the southern part is a little bit lower (this part is built over the ditch and it is not as resistant as the northern part built directly over the border of the defensive ditch). The western corner was destroyed by *Stone quarry*. Only one part of the south - eastern corner is still undisturbed. In this stage the house has a maximum of evolution and period of usage. The cooking area is outside the house (there are no traces of fireplace inside).



Fig. 20. Stone kerb under fireplaces 1(V1) and 2 (V2).

Fireplace 2, built over fireplace 1, was larger (1,30 - 1,40 m). In the new extended area 2 rows of stones have been used (fig. 20). This installation was disturbed in the same time with the base of the house and has undergone some local repairs. After we have cut the fireplace 1 and 2 we have found a stone kerb under fireplace 1. It is possible for fireplace 1 during its first phase to have had a stone kerb in the area close to the wall, covered with clay. This data show that the fireplace was carefully built and enlarged. This enlargement could have been necessary for heating a larger space, both rooms, or related to a cooler climate. We suppose that the family was bigger in this phase. On the fireplace we have found fragments from many pots (14-17), showing a more intensive cooking process. The repairs and the division of the space in two rooms are related to the heating system and economy (based on our ethno-archaeological experience and on historical analogies with the Roman houses from the second half of the III century – Cluj-*Piața Muzeului*).



Fig. 21. House phase 3.2 and 3.3 (L3.2 and 3.3) ▲ view from NE and SV
▲ foundation stones glided in the interior.

If we look at **L 3.2** from South to North (fig. 21-22), we observe that in the southern area there is no stone foundation meaning that in this area was probably an entrance or a little porch. The base of a partition wall (made of stones) divided the house in two rooms. The east one (**A**) was closed. The walls have a stone base and here were the fireplaces and not too much pottery. The entrance of the West room (**B**) was in the South.

The house (photo and plan, fig. 22) has two reconstruction levels in the same plan; the same type of fireplace, differently oriented. Both levels have the same walls and the same western area was used for household activities. They also had the same entrance in the south, a kind of porch, maybe closed during wintertime. A fragment of a fireplace plate was found between the south wall and the fireplace.

Fireplace 3 (fig. 23) is better preserved. Beneath its level was a fireplace plate, contemporary with fireplace 2. Traces of a black stratum 6-8 cm thick go under fireplace 2, indicating a floor. The same system as in fireplace 1 and 2 was used for fireplace arrangement.

Some parts of the fireplace were callous (fig. 22-23). In both stages the part close to the wall has been upraised (fig. 23b).

This slope of the fireplace could have been used during the cooking process (on the right side of the fireplace were arrange the vessels for cooking).

The main fire was in the upper part of the fireplace. While the wood burned, the charcoal was getting closer to the ashes from the upper part. If the pot broke and the food leaked, this would not affect the fire. This solution shows the inventiveness of the people from this house.



Fig. 22. House 3.2 (L3.2) View from N▲, plan ▼.





Fig. 23a, 23b. Fireplace 3 (V3).



Fig. 23c. Profile through fireplace 3.

In the stage **L 3.2b** while fireplace 3 was used in room **B**, in room **A** was a different situation. Near the partition wall was a stone pavement (fig. 24) covering the north - east quarter of the room. The north - west quarter was made of beaten clay. A similar stone pavement was found also in level **L 3.3**, in the opposite corner, at a lower level. In the first habitation stage was used fireplace 1 (fig. 26). Some objects have been found on the floor. Most of the pots can be reconstructed. We have also found here a lot of small finds, covered by the floor of the stage **L 3.2**.

In the first habitation stage of the house fireplace 1 was used (fig. 26). Some objects have been found on the floor. Most of the pots can be reconstructed. Here we also found a lot of small finds covered by the floor of the stage **L 3.2**.

Looking at Surface 1 from West to East we can see the two stone rows on the west side, for the stages 3.2 and 3.3 of house 3 (**L 3**). On the

south side both walls are parallels. Left from the entrance the wall is missing meaning that here was a wooden wall or a porch.

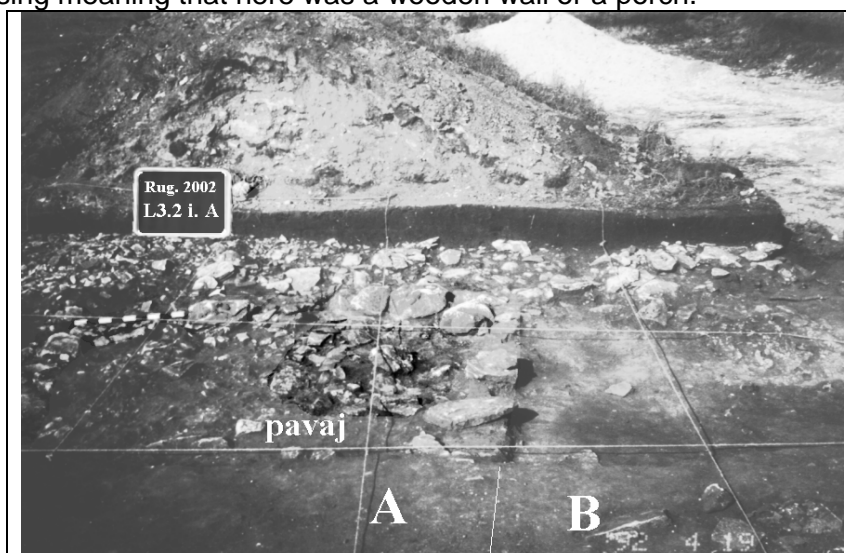


Fig. 24. House phase 3.3 (L 3.3) with partitioned wall and pavement
▲ a household activity area.

Stage 3.3. (L 3.3). There are not many information regarding this stage. A partition wooden wall, built over a stone base (fig. 25) was dividing the house. Part of room **B** was paved with stones (the north-western corner, fig. 25). On this pavement we have discovered broken pots. On the south side of the wall, some stones have been moved and placed a little bit higher, because of the subsidence process.

We believe that the partial stone pavement was very useful during raining seasons. Similar stone pavements have been found from Epipaleolithic up to the end of Aeneolithic period and later.

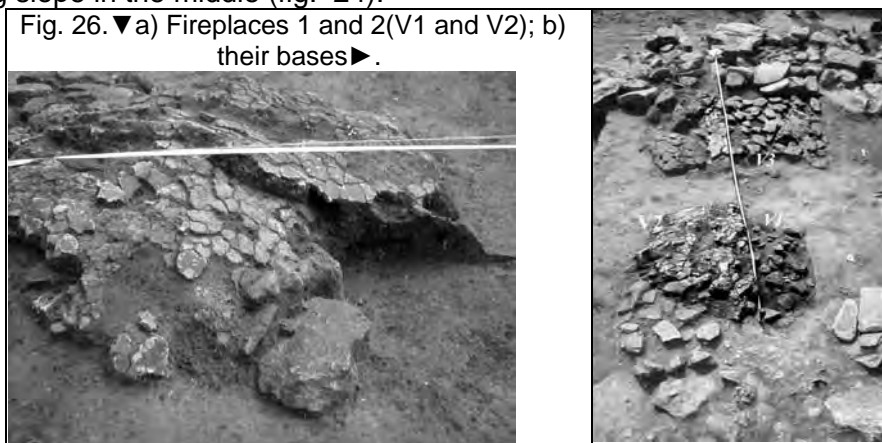


Fig. 25. House phases 3.2b-3.3 (L 3.2b-3.3) view from W.

We mention Lepenski Vir culture (SREJOVIĆ 1968; SREJOVIĆ, LETICA 1978, fig.17, 33-34, 45, 50-52 a.s.o.), Starčevo-Criș culture at Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2000), Ostrovu Golu, Schela Cladovei, Leț (ROMAN, BORONEANȚ 1968; LAZAROVICI 1979, 28).

In the Precucuteni culture, in the geographical area of Ruginoasa, at Târgu Frumos-*Pătule*, entrance in House 12, was paved with stones (URSULESCU, COTIUGĂ, BOGHIAN 1999). This pavement was used for household activities (URSULESCU 2000, 23; URSULESCU *et alii* 2002, 315; LAZAROVICI Gh. & M. 2002). Such a stone pavement, close to an open fireplace and a cult complex (4 bull skulls arranged in cross) was also discovered at Poduri-*Dealul Ghindaru*, Cucuteni culture phase B (MONAH *et alii* 1982, 9). Fireplaces built on stones or pavements made of stones are also known from the Suplac cultural group (IGNAT 1998; LAZAROVICI *et alii* 2002). In Bessarabia many ovens and kilns have nearby small stone pavements (SOROCHIN 1997; LAZAROVICI Gh. & M., 2002).

Fireplace 1. In the beginning it was just a small round fireplace situated in the north - east corner. One-two flat row stones with spaces in between for clay were arranged. Afterwards was beaten clay in the empty spaces to reinforce the structure. This system was used for all the fireplaces we have discovered until now in Ruginoasa. The resulted surface was of higher quality with few broken areas. The fireplace has a big slope in the middle (fig. 24).



The house floor was not very well prepared. In the south - eastern corner the floor was made of fireplace fragments belonging to another level. After this period of usage fireplace 3 was built.



Fig. 27. House phase 3.3 (L 3.3) and house 4 (L 4), the southern wall.

House 4 (L 4, fig. 24), semi-deep. The structure, dimensions, orientation of house 4 (L4) is identical with those of house 3 (L3): maybe the same family lived here. In the area of the common walls, on the margins of the house it is possible to observe a lobe. Near the exterior of the house, towards North - West a posthole was identified (maybe for an annex). House 4 is larger with 60 cm than L3.3. The Mayoral excavations cut the East wall. The northern wall is common and situated on the border of the defensive wall. The West wall seems also to be in common with L3. For the moment we have partially discovered only the South wall. The base of the house in that part had 2-3 and 4 stone rows. The stone base is not continuous. Near the South wall, close to the fragments of a big fireplace build on the floor we have found some big fireplace plates, with round corners (fig. 28, 31-32).

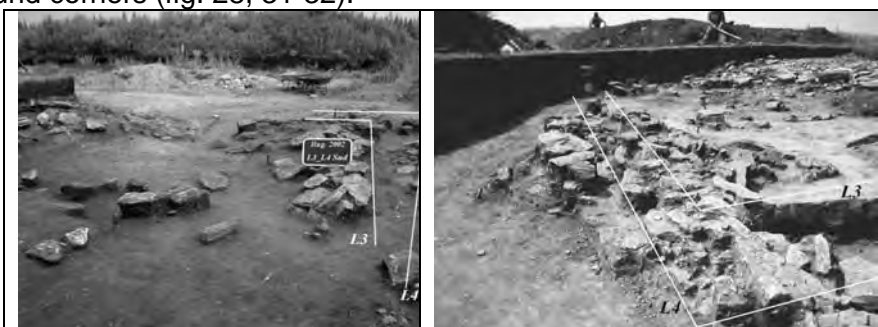


Fig. 28. Houses 3 and 4 (L 3 and 4), the SE corner.

The floor. In the floor we have found many fragments of fireplaces, burned stones and burned clay from fireplaces. Until now we have investigated only an area of 6 m² in the South - East corner.

The perimeters of **L3** and **L4** are not quite parallel and therefore we believe that in fact there are two different complexes.

Pit house 5 (B5). The upper part of this pit house was destroyed by excavation made for *Stone quarry*. The pit house was close to house 3 and 4, beneath their walking level. The pit house including the porch has 3, 8 x 3, 4 m. The entrance was in the South part, after a semi-circle porch (for protection against rain and wind). We believe that the porch was covered using the same system as in pit house 6. Pit house 6 was close to pit house 5 and the common roof could have ensured the water drainage. A walking area could have existed at the exterior of these complexes.

In the north - western side was a fireplace made of fired clay plates and clay. The entrance was on the West wall. The North wall has used the border of the defensive ditch, in which 2 stairs have been dug. Some slabs paving the ditch were taken off (see Ditch 1). To the East was another pit house (**B6**). The East, South and West walls were made of wood and had a stone base.

On the South wall there were still some flat stones, which could have supported some girders. The base of the east wall is better preserved and the stones were carefully arranged. Some stones are missing at about 1, 3 – 1, 5 m from the corner. We believe that this indicates a vertical pillar, because sometimes it was possible to observe small stones arranged in a circle or triangle (as in the phase **L3.1**).

The northern wall of the pit house and the porch are situated on the margin of the defensive ditch. In this area there are still some stone slabs from the pavement of the ditch.

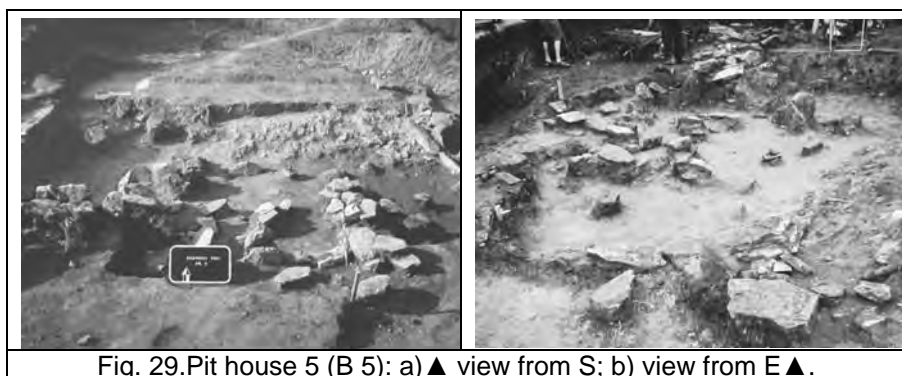


Fig. 29. Pit house 5 (B 5): a) ▲ view from S; b) view from E ▲.



Fig. 30. Pit house 5 (B 5) view from N

Pit house 6 (B 6). Only the exterior part of the eastside wall has been researched. In the south - western part was a fireplace, as in **B5** and maybe **B1**. It was very well arranged and preserved.

The fireplace plates. As we have mentioned before in the archaeological literature such pieces are known as “kiln plates”. We believe that the more correct denomination is fireplace plates. Such pieces have an individual identity and they are mobile. These plates (fig. 31-32) have been molded separately and their margin is carefully finished. They

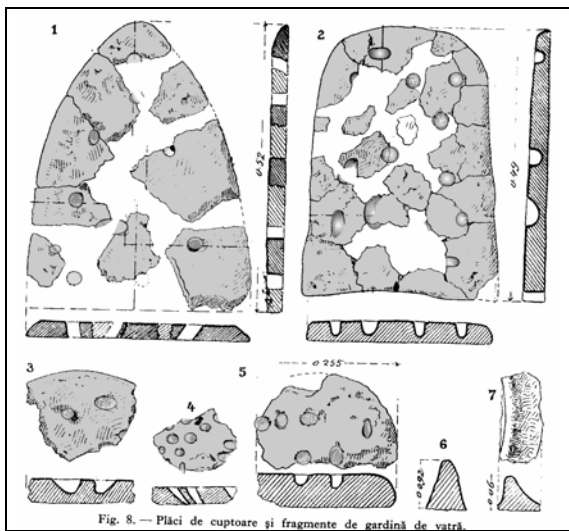


Fig. 31. Kiln plates, after VI. Dumitrescu.

have partial perforations with a certain slope.

These perforations might be related to their functionality. It is possible for these pieces to have been used for cooking muffins (or today tortillas) made of wheat flour. This hypothesis might be correct because we have not found plates for bread or griddles, as in the early Neolithic at Schela Cladovei, Pojejena etc. (LAZAROVICI 1979, VI/A26). Such pieces are made of clay and chaff. Some of them have been “baked” and not fired and they are brushed. In the kilns for firing pottery the temperature reached over 700° C. These plates seem to be fired at only 500-600° C. Most of them have been found close to the fireplace areas. Even the triangular shaped plates are not related to the kilns (fig. 31/1). For all these reasons we believe that a reconsideration of such pieces is necessary (shape, dimensions, construction and functionality).

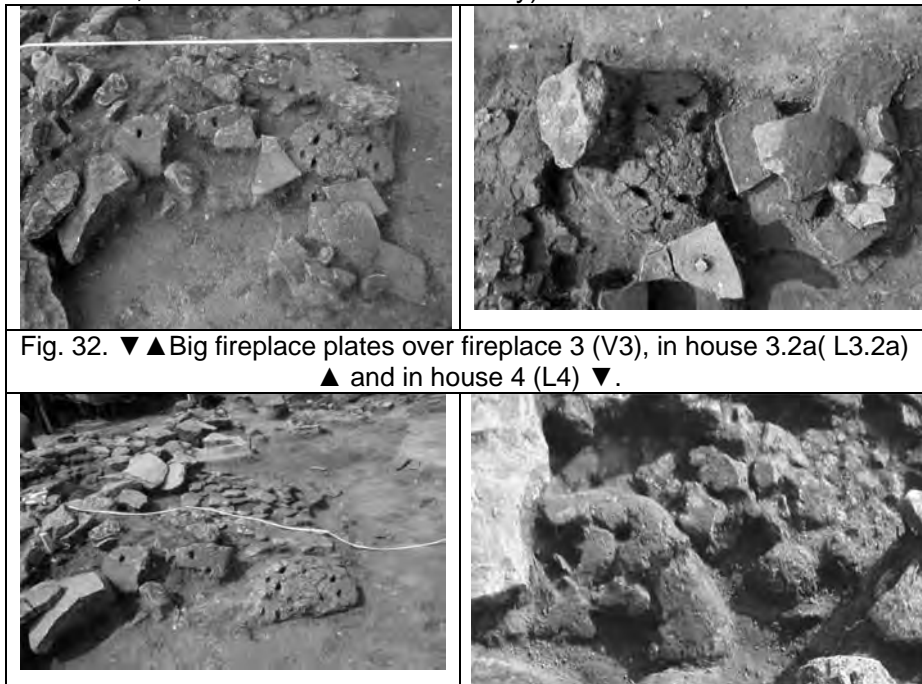


Fig. 32. ▼▲ Big fireplace plates over fireplace 3 (V3), in house 3.2a(L3.2a) ▲ and in house 4 (L4) ▼.

In Ruginoasa the shape of such pieces is rectangular or oval. The plate from house 4/L4 (fig. 32, down) is similar with the one discovered at Hăbășești (fig. 31/2). Such pieces are known from other Cucuteni and Stoicani-Aldeni settlements, Berești-Dealul Băzanu, Drăgușeni, Dumești, Chetrești, Trușești, Suceveni etc. (PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1953, 13; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA, RĂDULESCU 1953; DRAGOMIR 1967, 43-44; 1983, 48; ALAIBA 1998, 65; MARINESCU-BÎLCU, BOLOMEY 2000, fig. 14, 181/2;

LAZAROVICI Gh.& M. 2002). In Hăbășești the shape of such pieces was rectangular and triangular, with an arch side (DUMITRESCU 1967a, 17).

Conclusions

It is too early for the final conclusions. We believe that till now the Ruginoasa discoveries bring up very interesting problems connected especially with the Aeneolithic architecture. Only after a more extended excavations the specific features we observed here and the related problems that rise up will be solved. For the moment we do not know too many things about the habitation system (houses) of the people in the early phases of the settlement.



Fig. 33 Pit house 5 (B 5) ▲ its reconstruction ▼.

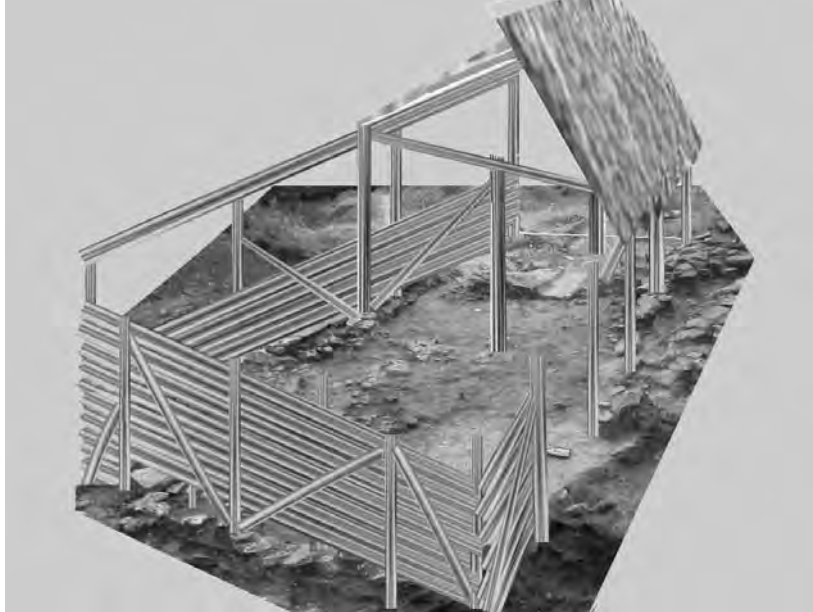


Reconstruction of complexes and installations

Because of the small team that worked at Ruginoasa and scarce money we had for the excavation, our research has focused on the small



Fig. 34 House 3 (L3), plan and reconstruction.



area of the defensive ditch. Now we have to finish the research in this area because the mentioned complexes rise up very interesting features, unknown in other Cucuteni settlements. In the same time the Ruginoasa discoveries are in danger, because the farmers are looking for stone for construction purposes. In the next period we have to enlarge the prospecting research, because this will bring new data regarding the dynamic and planimetry of the settlement.

The historical background of the Ruginoasa village, the Palace and Al. I. Cuza's Museum could open new perspectives for the archaeological and historical tourism in the area.

We believe that it is very important to analyze the house functionality and not just to present the archaeological discoveries.

Houses. House 3 with 3 reparations stages, a subsidence process, the fireplaces area and their movement, the households activities areas are features that underline the life of a dynamic community. This community has changed its house building system, from the pit house type to the surface house type. For the reconstruction of the walls we have no or very scarce data. Our reconstruction is connected with the ethnographic field and with today realities from the countryside area. It seems that in the area we have made excavations the architecture is mainly based on wood (e.g. stone foundation, the absence of the adobe structures, few charcoal and ashes, yellow unburned clay). Even today houses made of wood have a long life, are very resistant and keep the heat. The wood used for building is without bark, processed or not, with some fix structure for the joining. We have tried to make some reconstructions for pit house 5 (B5) (fig. 33) or for the surface house 3 (L3) (fig. 34). Our reconstructions have been made using the computer and a special programmed.

For the Neo-Aeneolithic period archaeologists made some reconstructions for houses with platforms, wood and adobe structures, which prevail. Such reconstructions have been made for Petrești culture (I. Paul), Banat culture (LAZAROVICI, KALMAR, 1986-1987; LAZAROVICI, MAXIM, 1995b, LAZAROVICI *et alii* 2001), Vinča culture, Precucuteni-Cucuteni/Tripolie cultures (PASSEK 1949; MARINESCU-BÎLCU 1981; MARCHEVICI 1981; MARINESCU-BÎLCU, BOLOMEY 2000) and other civilizations. Houses and sanctuary patterns have been recently reanalyzed (LAZAROVICI Gh. & M. 2002). In the adobe structures from all these civilizations there are obvious traces concerning the wood interweaving. All these data represent a set of knowledge transmitted from one generation to another, by the members of the prehistoric

communities. New information from the neighboring cultures, as the Greek-Balkan world, is related to the exchange and trade system of the prehistoric time. Cucuteni communities were strongly involved in the trade on large areas of salt and other raw materials as flint also. In the Greek world there it is a strong tradition for houses made of stone, as in Sesklo and Dimini cultures (ASLANIS 1995; STRAHM 1995, analogies from LAZAROVICI *et alii* 2002 and LAZAROVICI Gh. & M. 2002). Such a building system is also met in Durankulak, in the Gumelnița-Karanovo VI - Kodžadermen area (TODOROVA, DIMOV 1984, 53).

After we finish to research Surface I area we intent to adopt a new strategy for next excavations in the settlement *Dealul Drăghici* from Ruginoasa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALAIBA Ruxandra

- 1998 *Cultura Cucuteni în Podișul Bârladului*, Iași University, PhD summary.

ALEXIANU Marius, DUMITROAIA Gh., MONAH Dan

- 1993 *L'exploitation des sources salées dans l'est de la Roumanie: Une démarche ethnoarchéologique*, in: *Actes du XII CISPP*, Bratislava, p.88-92.

ASLANIS Ioannis

- 1995 *Die Siedlung von Dimini: eines neues Rekonstruktionsbild*, *Simp. Settlement patterns*, Verona/Lazise, Mem Museo Civ.St.Nat. Verona, Sez. Scienze Uomo, 4, p.37-43.

CHIRICA Vasile, TANASACHI Marcel

- 1985 *Repertoriul arheologic al județului Iași*, vol. 2.

CIUTA Marius, PAUL Iuliu

- 2000 *Cronica 1999*, s.v. Șeușa.

DRAGOMIR Ion T.

- 1967 *Săpături arheologice la Tg. Berești (r. Bujor, reg. Galați)*; *Danubius*, 1, 1967, p. 41-59.

DUMITRESCU Vladimir

- 1967 *Quelques remarques au sujet de la culture néolithique Precucuteni et de la station de Traian -Dealul Viei*, *Dacia*, N.S., XI, București, p. 39-46.

DUMITRESCU Vladimir, DUMITRESCU Hortensia, PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA Mircea, GOSTAR Nicolae

- 1954 *Hăbășești, monografie arheologică*, București.

DUMITRESCU Hortensia

- 1933 *La station préhistorique de Ruginoasa*, *Dacia*, III-IV (1927-1929), p. 56-87.

DUMITRESCU Hortensia, MATEESCU Corneliu, DRAGOMIR Ion

- 1953 *Șantierul Traian*, *SCIV*, IV, 1953, 1-2, p. 45-66.

FLORESCU Adrian C.

- 1966 *Observații asupra sistemului de fortificare al așezărilor cucuteniene din Moldova*, *ArhMold*, IV, p. 23-37.

IGNAT Doina

- 1998 *Grupul cultural neolitic Suplacu de Barcău*, Timișoara.

LÁSZLÓ Attila

- 1993 *Așezări întărite ale culturii Ariușd-Cucuteni în sud-estul Transilvaniei. Fortificarea așezării de la Malnaș-Băi*, *ArhMold*, XVI, p. 33-50.

- LAZAROVICI-MANTU Cornelia-Magda
2002a *The Sanctuaries of the Precucuteni-Cucuteni cultures* (in press), Interacademica VIII, Kiev.
- LAZAROVICI Gheorghe et alii,
2000 *Descoperirile Cucuteni-Ariușd de la Păuleni*, Angustia, 5, p. 103-130.
- LAZAROVICI Gh, DRAȘOVEAN FI., MAXIM Zoia
2001 *Pața. Monografie arheologică*, 1.1 341p; 1.2, 115 pl, 137 fig., Timișoara.
- LAZAROVICI Cornelia-Magda, LAZAROVICI Gheorghe, HRIBAN Cătălin, UNGUREANU Carmen
2002 *Șantierul arheologic Ruginoasa, campania 2001*, Cronica, p. 272-273.
- LAZAROVICI Gheorghe, LAZAROVICI Cornelia Magda
2002a *Contribuții privind arhitectura neolitică timpurie*, PB, I, 2002, p. 9-38.
- LAZAROVICI Gheorghe
1979 *Neolitul Banatului*, BMN, III-IV, Cluj, 1979.
- LAZAROVICI Gh., IGNAT Doina, MAXIM Zoia, VRÎNCEAN Paul, TATAR Arpad
2002 *Șantierul arheologic Suplacu de Barcău*, ms.
- LAZAROVICI Gheorghe, KALMAR Zoia
1986-1987 *Tipuri de locuințe din așezarea neolitică de la Pața*, Sargetia, XX, p. 18-34.
- LAZAROVICI Gheorghe, MAXIM Zoia
1995b *Pața und die Architektur der Banater - Kultur*, in: *Symp. Verona-Lazisse 1992 (1995)*, Mem Museo Civ., 4, 1995, p. 55-66.
- MANTU Cornelia Magda
1998 *Cultura Cucuteni. Evoluție, cronologie, legături*, Piatra Neamț.
- MARCHEVICI Vsevolod Ivanovici
1981 *Pozdnetripol'skie plemena Severnoj Moldavii*, Kisinev.
- MARINESCU-BÎLCU Silvia, BOLOMEY Alexandra,
2000 *Drăgușeni. A Cucuteni Community*, București -Tübingen.
- MONAH Dan
1991 *L'exploitation du sel dans les Carpathes Orientales et ses rapports avec la culture Cucuteni-Tripolie*, in: *Le Paléolithique et le Néolithique de la Roumanie en contexte européen*, Iași, p. 387-400.
- MONAH Dan, POPOVICI Dragomir Nicolae, DUMITROAIA Gheorghe, CUCOȘ Ștefan, BUJOR Alexei
1987 *Raport preliminar asupra săpăturilor arheologice de la Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru*, MemAnt, XV-XVII (1983-1985), p. 9-20.

MONAH Dan, CUCOȘ Ștefan

1985 Așezările culturii Cucuteni din România, Iași.

PASSEK Tatjana S.

1949 *Periodizacija tripol'skich poselenij*, Moskva-Leningrad.

PETRESCU-DIMBOVIȚA Mircea

1953 *Cetățuia de la Stoicani*, Materiale, I, p. 13-155.

1966 *Importance des nouvelles fouilles archéologiques de Cucuteni-Băiceni*, Acta Musei, Praga, 20, 1-2, p. 55-61.

PETRESCU-DIMBOVIȚA Mircea, RĂDULESCU M.

1953 *Șantierul Trușești*, SCIV, IV, 1-2, p. 7-22.

ROMAN Petre, BORONEANT Vasile

1974 *Locuirea neolitică de la Ostrovu Banului*, Drobeta, I, p. 117-128.

SCHMIDT Hubert

1932 *Cucuteni in der oberen Moldau*, Berlin u. Leipzig.

SOROKIN Victor

1997 *Considerații referitoare la așezările fazei Cucuteni A-Tripolie B1 din Ucraina și Republica Moldova*, MemAnt, XXI, Piatra Neamț, p. 7-83.

SREJOVIČ Dragoslav

1968 *Lepenski Vir*, Belgrad.

SREJOVIČ Dragoslav, LETICA Zagorka

1978 *Vlasac. Mezolitsko naselje u Đerdapy*, Beograd.

STRAHM Christian

1995 *Einführung: prähistorische Siedlungsmuster in Europa, Simp. Settlement patterns, Verona/Lazise*, Mem Museo Civ.St.Nat. Verona, Sez. Scienze Uomo, 4, p. 17-34.

TODOROVA Henrieta, DIMOV Todor

1984 *Istoriia na Dobrudja*, t. 1, Sofia.

URSULESCU Nicolae

1977 *Exploatarea sării din saramură în neoliticul timpuriu în lumina descoperirilor de la Solca (jud. Suceava)*, SCIVA, 28, 3, p. 307-317.

2000 *Contribuții privind neoliticul și eneoliticul din regiunile est-carpătice ale României*, Iași.

2000a *Tipologia și organizarea internă a așezărilor primelor culturi neolitice din Moldova*, in: *Contribuții privind neoliticul și eneoliticul din regiunile est-carpătice ale României*, vol. 1, Iași, p. 106-114.

URSULESCU Nicolae, COTIUGĂ Vasile, BOGHIAN Dumitru

1999 *Târgu Frumos - Baza Pătule*, Cronica 1998, p. 120-121.