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An Eastern type bronze needle discovered at Șimleu Silvaniei, Sălaj County

Ioan BEJINARIU¹

Abstract: The author publishes a bronze needle with a globular head and four conical knobs placed 3 cm below the head of the piece. The needle stem is made of round section. Dimensions: length - 18.60 cm; globular head diameter - 1.12 cm; the diameter of the bar between the head and the protuberances - 0.60 cm. The needle was accidentally discovered on the high plateaus of "Măgurii Șimleului", north of the "Observer" point, most likely in the area of the site found at this place. Long-term, systematic and preventive archaeological research has shown that the site has been inhabited for several periods of prehistory, including the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. V. Dergačev attributes these needles to the Văleni type, stating that they are found both in the composition of some deposits and in the archaeological inventory of some settlements east of the Carpathians area, including the Upper Dniester. In Transylvania, such needles appear in late Bronze Age contexts in areas where the presence of Noua culture communities is attested archaeologically. These contexts are attributed by Dergačev to the Bz D stage. As far as we are concerned, we relate this discovery to the Late Bronze Age settlement attributed to the cultural group Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos, well attested in this site after archaeological research.

In this context, the author resumes and completes with new discoveries the list of "Eastern type" artifacts that appeared in the contexts of the Late Bronze Age in the Upper Tisza area and presents the theories issued about the meaning and relationships through which they penetrate. A recent discovery, from the summer of 2021 in Sutor (Sălaj County) brings new data, important for this discussion. Preventive archaeological research has allowed the investigation of an archaeological site inhabited during several periods of prehistory and ancient history. A series of complexes with an inventory characteristic to the Noua Late Bronze Age ceramic style were researched. Among the archaeological complexes attributed to it, there is a structure (Cpx. 2) with an oval-elongated surface, of about 180 m², consisting of overlapping, randomly arranged, red-burnt earth, strongly pigmented layers with coal and layers of clay soil, gray-purple color, often with crushed limestone, with a maximum deposit thickness of about 0.45 m. the "structural frame" of the vault made of stone slabs, placed vertically or slightly inclined. We believe that this structure is an "ashmound". A very rich and varied archaeological inventory was collected from this ashmound: fragmentary pottery, animal bones, tools made of bones and horns, pieces of hearth splice, fragments of house walls, including pieces with embossed decoration. Quite a few pieces of metal have been discovered, all in the upper part of the deposition that make up the ashmound. The settlement from Sutor is so far the westernmost in Transylvania of a predominantly Noua culture community or formed on a predominantly Noua background, located in the immediate vicinity of the area inhabited by the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group west of the Meseș massif. The close proximity of the two Late Bronze Age cultural events favored contacts between the two populations and obviously the dissemination of Eastern elements in the area inhabited by the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos group and through them, further to the central area of the Upper Tisza region.

Rezumat: Autorul publică un ac de bronz cu capul globular și patru proeminente conice plasate cu 3 cm mai jos de capul piesei. Tijă acului este din bară cu secțiunea rotundă. Dimensiuni: lungimea - 18,60 cm; diametrul capului

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globular – 1,12 cm; diametrul barei între cap și protuberanțe – 0,60 cm. Acul a fost descoperit întâmplător pe platourile înalte ale "Măgurii Șimleului", la nord de punctul "Observator", cel mai probabil pe suprafața sitului arheologic din acest punct. Cercetările arheologice de durată, sistematice și preventive au precizat că situl a fost locuit pe parcursul mai multor perioade ale preistoriei, inclusiv în Bronzul târziu și prima epocă a fierului. V. Dergačev atribuie aceste ace tipului Văleni, precizând că se regăsesc atât în compunerea unor depozite cât și în inventarul arheologic al unor așezări din zona de la est de Carpați, inclusiv pe Nistrul superior. În Transilvania asemenea ace apar în contexte ale Bronzului târziu din zonele unde este atestată arheologic prezența unor comunități ale culturii Noua. Aceste contexte sunt atribuite de către Dergačev etapei Bz D. În ceea ce ne privește, punem în legătură această descoperire cu locuirea din Bronzul târziu atribuită grupului cultural Cehăluț – Hajdúbagos, bine atestată în acest sit în urma cercetărilor arheologice.

În acest context autorul reia și completează cu noi descoperiri lista pieselor de "tip răsăritean" apărute în contexte ale Bronzului târziu din zona Tisei superioare și prezintă teoriile emise în legătură cu semnificația și relațiile prin care pătrund acestea. O descoperire de dată recentă, din vara anului 2021 din localitatea Sutor (jud. Sălaj) aduce noi date, importante pentru această discuție. Cercetările arheologice preventive au permis investigarea unei stațiuni arheologice locuită pe parcursul mai multor perioade ale preistoriei și istoriei vechi. Au fost cercetate o serie de complexe cu inventar caracteristic stilului ceramic Noua din Bronzul târziu. Dintre complexele arheologice atribuite acestuia se remarcă o structură (Cpx. 2) cu o suprafață oval-alungită, de circa 180 m², constând din suprapuneri, dispuse aleatoriu, de pământ ars la roșu, straturi puternic pigmentate cu cărbune și straturi de sol argilos, de culoare gri-vinețiu, adesea cu sfărâmatură de calcar, cu o grosime maximă a depunerilor de circa 0,45 m. Toate acestea suprapun un nivel de bază pe care a fost amenajat un cuptor, a cărui boltă a fost dezafectată, păstrându-se doar structura "de rezistență" a bolții realizată din lespezi de piatră, așezate vertical sau ușor înclinat. Credem că această structură (Cpx.2) reprezintă un "cenușar". Un inventar arheologic foarte bogat și variat a fost recoltat din acest cenușar: ceramică fragmentară, oase de animale și unelte din os și corn, bucăți de lipitură de vatră, fragmente de pereți de la locuințe, inclusiv bucăți cu decor reliefat. Destul de numeroase piese de metal au fost descoperite, toate în partea superioară a depunerilor ce constituie cenușarul. Așezarea de la Sutor este până acum cea mai vestică din Transilvania a unei comunități a culturii Noua sau formată pe un fond Noua predominant, aflată în vecinătatea nemijlocită a arealului locuit de comunitățile grupului cultural Cehăluț – Hajdúbagos de la vest de masivul Meseș. Vecinătatea nemijlocită a celor două manifestări culturale din Bronzul târziu a favorizat contactele între cele două populații și evident difuzarea unor elemente de factură răsăriteană în zona locuită de comunitățile grupului Cehăluț – Hajdúbagos și prin intermediul lor, mai departe spre zona centrală a regiunii Tisei superioare.

Keywords: Late Bronze Age, Bronze artefacts, Upper Tisza region / Transilvania, cultural contacts, Noua culture.

In 2018, a bronze piece discovered at Șimleu Silvaniei (Pl. IV / no.1) entered the collection of the County Museum of History and Art from Zalău (MJIAZ). According to the discoverer's testimony, the piece was found by chance, on the surface, on the Măgura Șimleului hill near the place called Cabana vânătorilor². The area has been known for accidental archaeological

² The arrangement in 2015 of a forest road that crosses the "Măgura Șimleului" massif seems to be totally counterproductive, from the perspective of protecting the archaeological sites located on the high plateaus of Măguri. On the occasion of several field trips of MJIAZ archaeologists, evidence of "raids" of "amateur archaeologists, as many

discoveries since the second half of the 19th century³. Subsequently, after the Second World War, archaeological excavations and small-scale surface research are carried out⁴. Only in 1994 began a project of systematic research of the remains located in the point called "Observator" (Max.alt. 596 m) and on the high plateaus located especially north of this point. The last research, this time with a preventive character were those carried out in the spring and summer of 2015, while arranging a forest road⁵. Research has shown a large human habitation during the Middle (Wietenberg culture)⁶ and Late (Cehăluț - Hajdúbagós cultural group) Bronze Age⁷, the first Iron Age⁸, the Laténe D period⁹ and the early Middle Ages¹⁰. Ceramic materials from the Chalcolithic, Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age also appeared sporadically¹¹.

Description of the bronze piece

Bronze bar needle¹² with round section, globular head and four conical protrusions placed 3 cm below the head of the piece. The bar is thicker at the top, but thins towards the tip of the needle. The piece is in a very good state of preservation, with small exceptions, especially under the area of the four protuberances where the piece seems to have been hit and there are minor deficiencies of material. The rod is approximately straight. The piece has a dark green patina. Dimensions: length - 18.60 cm; globular head diameter - 1.12 cm; the diameter of the bar between the head and the protuberances - 0.60 cm (Pl. I).

For the cultural environment of the Late Bronze Age in the Upper Tisza region (which also includes the western part of Sălaj) such discoveries, although not missing, are unusual, as we are talking about "foreign" pieces, of Eastern origin. In the area mentioned, such needles, most often larger in size compared to our piece and usually with a disc on the rod, appear mainly as part of larger bronze deposits (Ópályi, Beltiug, Tiszabездéd, Chudl'ovo, etc.)¹³. Deposits consisting only of needles of this type (Petea¹⁴) are also recorded, although less frequently and in funerary contexts (Nyírkársz-Gyulaháza, Zemplinske Kopčany, etc.)¹⁵. Most of the

of the owners of metal detectors declare themselves, were identified. This is despite the fact that the site is one of the most important in Sălaj County (Cod RAN 139893.01 and Cod LMI SJ-I-s-A-04967).

³ FETZER 1896, 60-61.

⁴ MOGA 1950, 131-135. Al. V. Matei also carried out small-scale excavations and field walks (MJIAZ) – MATEI 1979, 17-18.

⁵ POP *et al.* 2016, 184-185.

⁶ BEJINARIU 2015, 20-21.

⁷ BEJINARIU 2022.

⁸ SANA 2010.

⁹ POP 2006, 39-43.

¹⁰ BĂCUEȚ-CRIȘAN 2006, 115-116.

¹¹ BEJINARIU 2015, 63-72.

¹² Colecția MJIAZ, no. inv. C.C. 287/2018.

¹³ MOZSOLICS 1973, 67; BADER 1978, 100, pl. LXXVII/15; KOBAL` 1998, 42; KOBAL` 2000, 65.

¹⁴ MARTA 2005, 75-94.

¹⁵ MOZSOLICS 1973, 67, pl. 67/7; DEMETEROVÁ 1984, pl. VI/1.

discoveries mentioned, if not all of them, come from the cultural environment of Suciul de Sus. The Belciug deposit appears in the area where the Cehăluț - Hajdúbágyos type discoveries were documented during the Late Bronze Age.

In the eastern Carpathian regions, the needles similar to the piece from Șimleu Silvaniei "Observator" are attributed to the Văleni type by V. Dergačev¹⁶. Such needles appear both in deposits¹⁷ and in settlements in the area east of the Carpathians, including the Upper Dniester, and in Transylvania they are found in areas where the presence of Noua-type communities¹⁸ is attested where we find them in deposits but also as isolated discoveries. Starting from the observation that they are missing from the deposits assigned to the Ha A1 stage, Dergačev considers that the Văleni type ones are characteristic only for the Bz D period¹⁹. The needle from Șimleu Silvaniei "Observator", although it is a random discovery, should be put, hypothetically, in connection with the Cehăluț - Hajdúbágyos culture and not that of the Gáva culture which, according to archaeological data, does not start earlier than the Ha A2 / Ha B1 period²⁰.

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We do not want to insist more on the Eastern type needle from Șimleu Silvaniei, especially since it is a random discovery, and the archaeological context from which it comes cannot be determined with certainty²¹. However, this discovery represented an opportunity to urge a resumption of the discussion on the significance and penetration paths of eastern Bronze Age-type pieces from the Upper Tisza region, especially in the light of new discoveries and archaeological research made especially in the Sălaj area. This problem has been repeatedly addressed in the past, especially by Hungarian archaeologists who have studied the discoveries of this period in North-Eastern Hungary. An important number of studies have been published on the "Eastern type" discoveries of the Late Bronze Age, and each of the authors has tried to explain, according to the data available, how these pieces arrived in the area. Of course, we will not summarize all these contributions, but only those that we consider more relevant. However, it is clear that in most cases the analysed base is represented by old discoveries from the "romantic" period of Hungarian archaeology, many from destroyed archaeological contexts, and an important number of pieces represent accidental discoveries.

Starting from the publication of a bronze dagger from Tiszakeszi (north-east of Hungary), I. Boná talks about the influences but also the important role of some populations of eastern

¹⁶ DERGAČEV 2002, 157-158.

¹⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, pl. 53/90, 63 C/1.

¹⁸ MARINESCU 1995, 119, pl. LI/6; FLORESCU 1991, 270-271, fig. 98-A/10, 99-A/2.

¹⁹ DERGAČEV 2002, 158.

²⁰ SANA 2010, 190-198.

²¹ From the area of the archaeological site from Șimleu Silvaniei "Observator" numerous discoveries of prehistoric bronze pieces, both deposits and isolated discoveries are known – BEJINARIU 2006, 31-44; BEJINARIU 2018, 11-17.

origin in the cultural restructuring that took place at the end of the Late Bronze Age in the Upper Tisza area²². T. Kovács considers that the appearance of the Berkesz-Demecser culture characteristic of the Late Bronze Age in north-eastern Hungary is due to an influx of eastern population. Among the arguments invoked in this regard is a percentage of about 40% of the ceramic forms that are foreign to the previous local environment, but which find analogies among the ceramic products of the Komarov and Noua culture. It also mentions a series of bronze pieces of a certain eastern origin, as well as the rite of incineration under mounds as documented in Nírkársz - Gyulaháza²³. Other subsequent contributions, in line with those already mentioned, explain in approximately the same way the presence of eastern Bronze Age pieces in the Late Bronze Age cultural environment in the upper Tisza Basin, as expressions of local environmental contacts with Transylvanian and eastern extra-Carpathian areas inhabited by the Noua – Sabatinovka communities²⁴. In essence, if in the past there was also talk of a potential contribution of populations of eastern origin who contributed to a significant extent even to the genesis of Late Bronze Age cultural events in the Upper Tisza region (discoveries gathered under the title of group or culture Berkesz - Demecser), lately this theory seems abandoned and the role of the Suci de Sus cultural communities in the transmission of these elements and pieces of Eastern type to the mentioned region is especially considered.

Returning to the current area of Sălaj, we must mention that it has all the characteristics of a unit of contact between Transylvania itself and the upper Tisza basin. This character is well defined despite the natural barrier represented by the gentle peak of Meseș, the northern extension of the Apuseni mountains. Sălaj is crossed from east to north-west by the Someș valley, a river tributary to the Tisza, but much more important in the east-west relationship at the macro-regional level must have been the Poarta Meseșană pass, which mediated the transit between the Someș corridor and the Crasna valley at north-west. The image of the evolution of the late period of the Bronze Age on the territory of Sălaj is relatively well outlined for certain areas. The Suci de Sus communities are archaeologically attested along the Someș Valley and in the north-west of Sălaj, and those of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbagos cultural group live in the south-west of Sălaj, in the Crasna - Barcău interfluve. On the other hand, the south-eastern part of the county is practically unknown, except for some accidental discoveries or those coming from surface research. However, the most extensive research in the last three decades has focused on the remains of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbagos cultural group in the south-west of Sălaj, a group whose evolution is part of the first two stages of the Late Bronze Age in Transylvania²⁵. It is mainly about settlements, a necropolis and numerous deposits of bronze pieces discovered on this area. But among the ceramic products discovered in the settlements

²² BONÁ 1963, 19-31.

²³ KOVÁCS 1966-1967, 27-58.

²⁴ MOZSOLICS 1973, 67; KEMENCZEI 1984, 33; KACSÓ 1993, 48; etc..

²⁵ BEJINARIU 2022.

of this group (over 75 points identified only in the southwest of Sălaj) we could hardly find indications of contacts with Noua-type communities documented archaeologically on large areas of the Transylvanian space. We mention the discovery in a settlement from Doh (Măierişte commune), respectively in the settlement from Şimleu Silvaniei "Observer"²⁶ of one, respectively two vessels with two handles, similar to the specimens called "*kantharos*" very common in the repertoire of Noua - Sabatinovka - Coslogeni pottery²⁷. At the same time, in the incineration necropolis from Zalău - Dealul lupului, from the inventory of the tomb of M. 14 comes a fragment from a cup or maybe a *kantharos* type container with a button on the handle with an approximately triangular section. However, there are more metal objects of the "Eastern type" that appeared in the inventory of some deposits of bronze pieces. On the western slope of the Meseş Mountains, in Aghireş (Pl. IV / 2), at the eastern limit of the area where the presence of the communities of the Cehăluţ - Hajdúbajos group was documented, a Ruginoasa - Cara type deposit was discovered²⁸ composed of four sickles with hooks and several fragments of raw bronze (Pl. II / 1-4 and III / 1-14)²⁹. The old collection of the museum from Zalău includes a sickle with a hook of the Micăsasa - Drajna 1 type (Pl. III / 15) which M. Rusu assumed would have come from a deposit discovered in Crasna (Pl. IV / 3)³⁰. In the former school collection of archaeological objects owned by the "Simion Bărnuţiu" High School (currently the National College) from Şimleu Silvaniei, S. Dumitraşcu mentioned that a sickle with a hook was kept, which he claims to have come from Marca³¹. In the bronze deposit from Crasna (Sălaj county) there is also an "Eastern" spearhead. The piece, unfortunately lost today, has a relatively short handle fixing tube, after which the long and narrow blade begins to the top where it suddenly becomes wider, approximately in the shape of the Greek letter "delta". The piece has a well-emphasized central rib³². The spearhead is attributed to the Krasnyj Majak type, and the area of maximum concentration of discoveries can be located in central and southern Ukraine, with appearances in Moldova region (Romania) and the Republic of Moldova, as well as in Russia and western Ukraine³³. Those who have studied spearheads of this

²⁶ New in the collection of the Zalău museum. Inventory number C.C. 7/2015.

²⁷ FLORESCU 1991, 239, fig. 67/37-39, etc.

²⁸ KACSÓ 2007, 73, nt. 409 şi 412.

²⁹ BEJINARIU 2018, 37-43; BEJINARIU 2019, 257-271.

³⁰ RUSU 1972, 151-153, catalog number 21. A series of uncertainties hover over this discovery, starting with J. Hampel, who speaks at the end of the 19th century about three sickles with hooks that are part of this deposit. Later in M. Roska's repertoire (ROSKA 1942, 142) three bronze sickles are mentioned without specifying the type, but other pieces are also mentioned in the inventory of the deposit: MOZSOLICS 1973, 152.

³¹ DUMITRAŞCU, CĂBUZ, 1971, 28, note 12. We assume that the piece no longer existed in 1983 when É. Lakó published an archeological repertoire of the discoveries of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the first Iron Age in Sălaj, where he also mentioned a series of pieces from the collection of this school unit: LAKÓ 1983, 86-87.

³² MOZSOLICS 1973, 152; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIŢA 1977, 90, pl. 134/1-4; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIŢA 1978, 118, no. 131, pl. 92A/4.

³³ BADER 2015, 24-30, fig. 5; КЛОЧКО, КОСЫМЕНКО 2017, 158-159, pl.33-35.

type generally attribute them to the Bronze D - Hallstatt A stages³⁴. Other "Eastern" type metal pieces also appear in the inventory of bronze deposits that appeared in the western areas of the area inhabited by the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group³⁵. The dating of these deposits is uncertain, and some probably belong to the period following the evolution of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group, but their role remains significant in illustrating the relationship between the Late Bronze Age communities in the Upper Tisza area and the Eastern Carpathian and Transylvanian regions inhabited by the communities of Noua culture. At the same time, these findings emphasize that the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group must have played an important role in receiving and transmitting the elements of the eastern influence to the Upper Tisza area, especially in the context in which they controlled a number of important points in the exchange network found regionally between Transylvania and the Upper Tisza area. All these "Eastern type" metal pieces from either deposits or isolated finds in the Upper Tisza area belong to the Late Bronze Age, more precisely to the period before the emergence and spread of the Gáva culture. With the expansion of the Gáva culture over large areas, including the eastern Carpathians, seen as a "reaction" of the western cultural current to the eastern one (represented by the cultural complex Noua-Sabatinovka-Coslogeni)³⁶ this phenomenon becomes more difficult to detect, but it manifests itself again with the appearance of Mezöcsat type manifestations (prescitic period in Alföld) starting with IX - VIII BC.³⁷

The mapping of the findings attributed to the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos group suggests that the eastern boundary of the area inhabited by these communities seems to have been the Meseș massif³⁸. The area east of Meseș, south-east of Sălaj was very little known from an archaeological point of view, and this aspect is also true for the Late Bronze Age. That is why the project of arranging, in a first stage, two sections of the Transylvania Highway represented a special opportunity for the archaeological research of this area. Regarding the subject of our

³⁴ KLOČHO 1993, 43, pl. 2/1-8; KLOČHO 1995, 94-100, pl. 8/5-7, pl. 9; BADER 2015, 30; UȘURELU 2016, 51,57, fig. 4/18.

³⁵ A fragment from a sickle with a hook at Valea lui Mihai (BH county) – MOZSOLICS 1973, 132; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, 67, no. 1844; another sickle of this type in the Căpleni II deposit (SM county) – BADER 1978, 88, pl. LXXIX/9; another fragment of a sickle with a hook in a deposit in Ciumești (SM county) – BEJINARIU 2018, 40, note 206; a spearhead in the deposit of Domănești (SM county) – PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, 101, pl. 28/23; BADER 2015, 26, pl. 1/3. Other pieces appear in the Nagykálló and Apagy deposits in north-eastern Hungary – KEMENCZEI 1984, 373, pl. CLXIIIa/4; MOZSOLICS 1985, 46, pl. 172/12-15, 180/20, etc.

³⁶ LÁSZLÓ 2018, 279.

³⁷ METZNER-NEBELSICK 2010, 121-151.

³⁸ Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos ceramic materials also appear in the western part of Transylvania itself, but in contexts usually attributed to the Wietenberg IV phase.: GOGĂLTAN *et al.* 1992, 12-13; CIUGUDEAN 1997, 65-97 or in the context of some discoveries from the south-west of Bistrița-Năsăud county in which certain elements are found (within an insufficiently known and analyzed mixing phenomenon) late Wietenberg, Suciu de Sus – Lăpuș, Noua and Cehăluț-Hajdúbajos – MARINESCU 1995, 79, pl. XI/2-3; pl. L/9; etc; MARINESCU 2003, 328, pl. XI/2-4, etc; KACSÓ 2007a, 54; VALEA 2021, 9.

paper, the most fruitful results came from the preventive archaeological research, recently carried out on lot 3B1, in the area of Sutoru (Zimbor commune, Sălaj, Pl. IV / 4), in the point called *Borșovei*. This archaeological site was identified at the end of 2020 on the occasion of the archaeological diagnosis carried out on the mentioned lot of the highway and was researched in May-June 2021. The research, subject to contractual constraints, focused only on a peripheral area of the site, according to the project, but as far as we are concerned it provided discoveries from the middle period of the Bronze Age (Wietenberg culture, phase III), as well as from the Late Bronze Age, with a ceramic inventory in which the forms characteristic of the Noua culture predominate. The most important archaeological complex belonging to the Late Bronze Age settlement is undoubtedly an identified structure at the lower limit of the upper terrace of the Valea Sâncraului brook, which in all aspects seems to represent an "ashmound" type structure (Cpx. 2). It was captured in the southeast corner of the S1 surface and has an oval-elongated shape with an area of about 180 m². The research of this structure with the preserving of some reference stratigraphic profiles allowed us to capture the moments of its formation and accumulation. Originally here was the bed of a small stream whose traces were captured in the stratigraphic profiles. After the establishment of this Late Bronze Age community, a rapid filling and levelling of the valley was carried out with earth brought from the previous settlement (Wietenberg III) resulting in a surface with a reduced inclination towards the Sâncraului valley. At the base of the "ashmound" formation level, a coal lens with a thickness of 2-4 cm is observed in some places. A kiln has been built on this level (Cpx. 23). The kiln is the only "in situ" archaeological complex discovered in the "ashmound" type arrangement. At one point the kiln is disaffected, but the remains of the vault were not found, but only its hearth, respectively the structure of stone slabs, probably originally used as grinders, on which the hearth was built. Later, the accumulation of the "ashmound" began. It consists of overlapping, randomly arranged, red-burnt earth, strongly pigmented layers of coal, and layers of gray-purple clay soil, often with crushed limestone. An impressive amount of fragmentary pottery and bones appeared in the accumulation of the "ashmound". This is at least 90% of the entire amount of Late Bronze Age pottery discovered in the researched part of the site. Very common are fragments from *khantaroï* and cups with raised handles, whether or not adorned with cylindrical or conical protomes, fragments from medium-sized supply vessels, with straight or hollow belts in the upper third part, etc. Numerous bronze pieces (needles, arrowhead, piercing tools, indeterminate pieces, etc.) appeared especially in the upper level of accumulation of the "ashmound" and probably in this case, it is about deposits³⁹. There are also many pieces of bone and processed horn: notched shoulder blades, piercings, spatulas, etc. We also mention the numerous fragments of sandstone, including a pattern, river stone and large pieces from hearths that appear in a secondary position in various levels of

³⁹ O. DIETRICH 2009, 97-107.

accumulation of the "ashmound". They are not missing, although there are a small number of pieces from the walls of some constructions, including fragments of walls decorated with embossed spirals. Very interesting is the fact that many of the bones gathered from the "ashmound" structure had a greenish appearance. The maximum thickness of the deposits in the "ashmound" structure is 0.45 m.

The analysis of the ceramic material coming from the Late Bronze Age complexes of this settlement is just beginning⁴⁰. The Noua type pottery is obviously predominant. There are also some fragments that refer to the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos environment, which is natural, as the Sutoru settlement is located in the immediate vicinity of the area where the settlements of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group are attested. There were also ceramic fragments with streaks arranged disorderly on the body of the containers, as we frequently find on ceramic products attributed to the Suciul de Sus culture. However, elements characteristic of the Wietenberg IV phase are missing, which together with the Noua type discoveries constitute the "substance" of the cultural synthesis called the Gligorești group⁴¹. It is for the first time when in the Sălaj area is attested a settlement with Noua type ceramics and especially with an "ashmound" structure, characteristic of these eastern populations. Until now, settlements or necropolises of the Noua culture (or perhaps of the Gligorești type synthesis) were documented as far as the eastern half of Cluj County⁴², and the most north-western discovery was the necropolis from Florești - Polus⁴³. Ashmound structures are attested in several settlements of the Noua culture in Transylvania⁴⁴. Recently, the discovery of ceramic fragments attributed to the Noua - Sabatinovka culture in Late Bronze Age archaeological sites in South-Eastern Maramureș (eg Copalnic - Mănăștur - Poiana) has been reported⁴⁵, although the materials do not come from enclosed complexes, but appeared in the culture layer together with Suciul de Sus II type pottery.

The recent discoveries from Sutoru (com. Zimbor, jud. Sălaj), point "Borșovei" represent so far⁴⁶ the most north-western point in Transylvania with discoveries attributed to the Noua culture. The new research demonstrates the extension of the area inhabited by the Noua communities or communities formed on a predominantly Noua background far to the west, up to the Meseș Mountains, near the area inhabited by the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos cultural group. The immediate vicinity of the two Late Bronze Age cultural

⁴⁰ A monographic volume of the preventive archeological research carried out in 2021 in the archeological site from Sutor, Zimbor commune, "Borșovei" point is underway.

⁴¹ GOGĂLTAN *et al.* 2004, 74; GOGĂLTAN 2009, 119-120; GOGĂLTAN, POPA 2016, 53-60.

⁴² BĂDĂU-WITTENBERGER 1994, 151-172; WITTENBERGER 2010, 265-281.

⁴³ ROTEA *et al.* 2008, 52-55.

⁴⁴ CAVRUC, CAVRUC 1997, 157-172; WITTENBERGER 2010, 266-268; L. DIETRICH 2012, 207-217.

⁴⁵ KACSÓ 2020, 133-135, fig. 10 - 11.

⁴⁶ Until the publication of the archeological materials discovered at Sutoru *La cetate* we do not comment on the archeological material attributed to the late Bronze Age and the beginning of the first Iron Age: ILIEȘ *et al.* 2002, 303.

complexes favoured contacts between the two populations and obviously the dissemination of eastern elements in the area inhabited by the communities of the Cehăluț - Hajdúbajos group and through them, further to the central area of the Upper Tisza region.

However, the contacts of the communities that lived in the Upper Tisza area with the populations from the eastern extra-Carpathian areas begin before the Late Bronze Age, as a series of discoveries suggest. From the well-known Wietenberg settlement of Derșida, Balota Hill, comes a piece less known to specialists, despite the fact that it was published over three decades ago. It is a mould made of sandstone, discovered in the systematic research campaign in 1964⁴⁷. The piece was erroneously considered a mould for casting spearheads, but it is obvious that a rhomboidal, flat, thin piece is represented in the negative, representing a needle with a rhombic plate, similar to those that appear in the Noua-Sabatinovka-Coslogeni environment⁴⁸. From Satu Mare county, from the Otomani settlement from Carei - Bobald (L3 / 1989, attributed to the Otomani phase III) and from the one from Tiream *Holmul cănepii* (pluri-stratigraphic settlement, probably Otomani II context⁴⁹) comes an oriental bronze dagger⁵⁰.

⁴⁷ DUMITRAȘCU 1989, 131, pl. XXII/3, XXIV/2. Unfortunately, the context or the archaeological level from which this piece comes is not specified.

⁴⁸ FLORESCU 1991, fig 98/4,6 and 107/5; NEAGU 1993, 174-175, pl. VIII.

⁴⁹ BADER 1978, 94, pl. LXXXVIII/11.

⁵⁰ POPA 2000, 71-72, pl. II/7, 12; MOLNÁR 2014, 104, pl. 168/4, 170/2; GĂVAN 2015, 103, pl. 3/2, 69/5.

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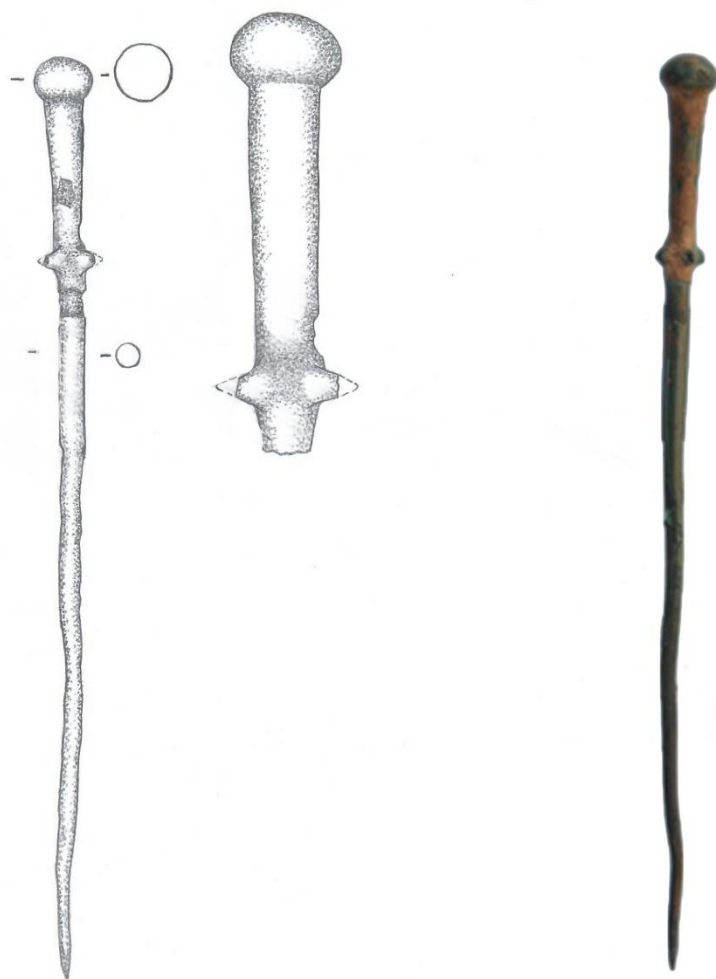
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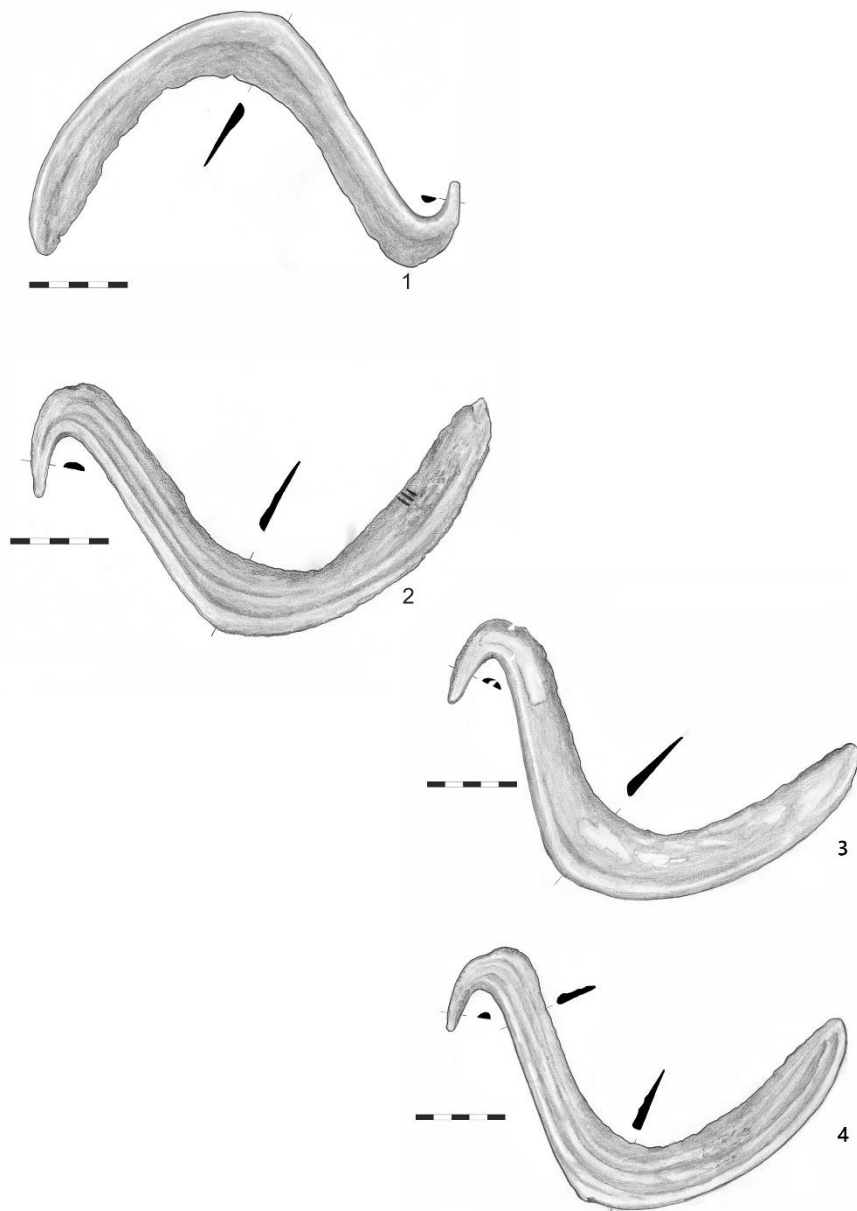
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Plansa I

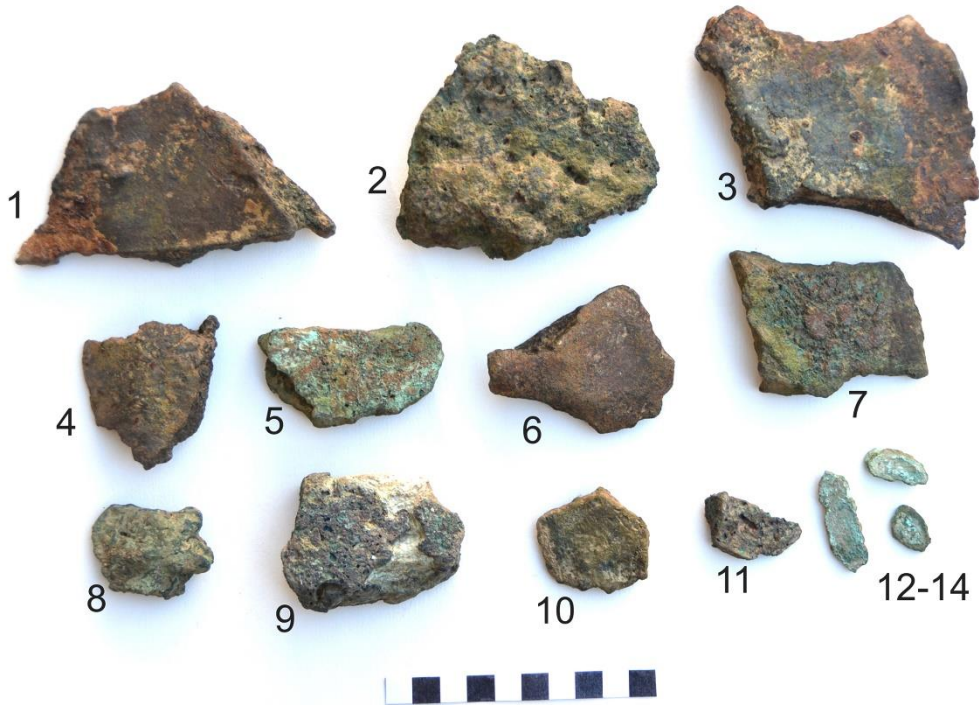
Pl. 1: The bronze neddle from Șimleu Silvaniei (Sălaj county), "Observator".

AGHIREȘ - "Pădurea Aghireșului"



Plansa II

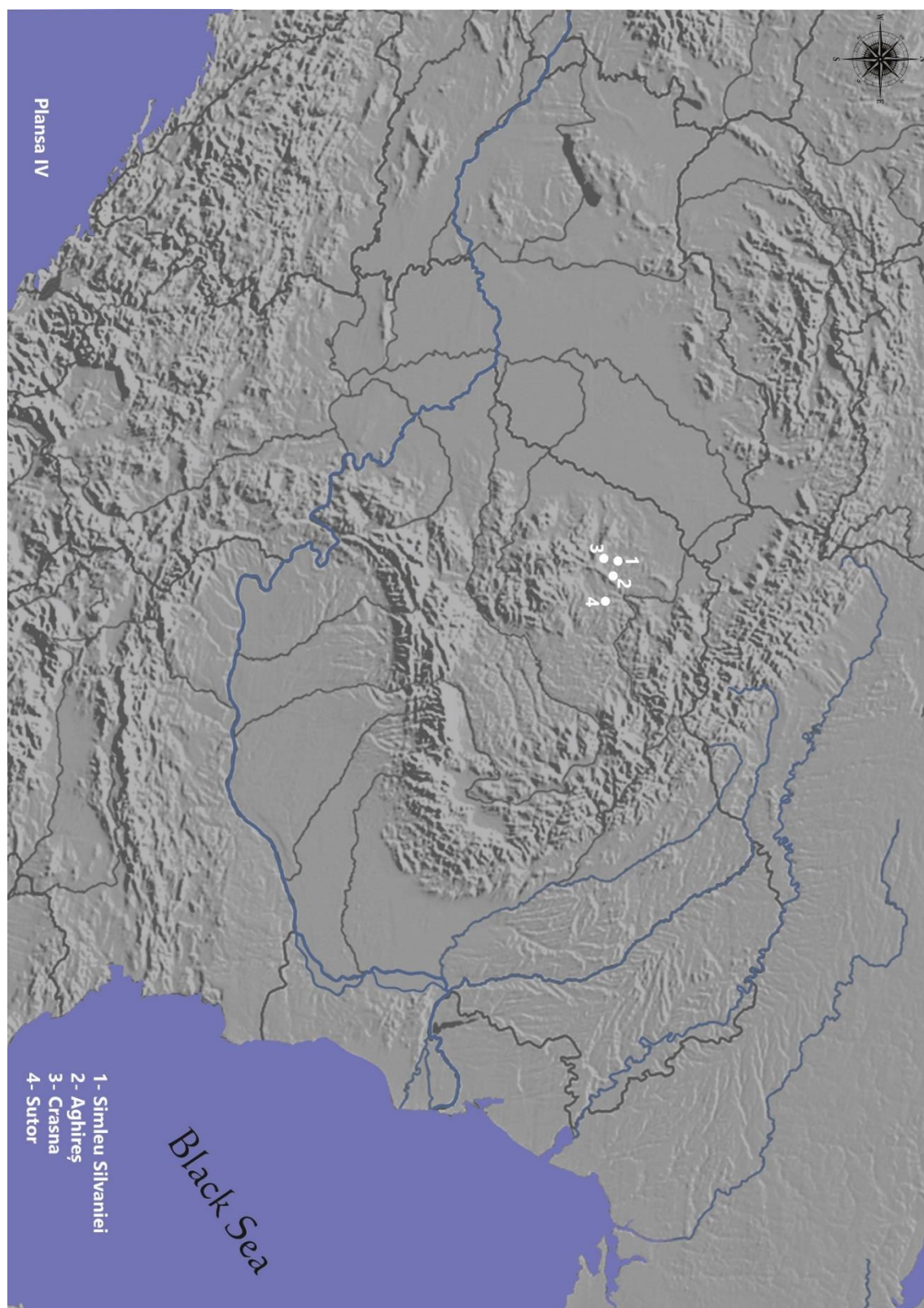
Pl. 2: The Bronze Hoard from Aghireș (Sălaj county).



Plansa III

Pl. 3: The bronze hoard from Aghireș (Sălaj county),
The Eastern type bronze sickle from the Crasna bronze hoard.

An Eastern type bronze needle discovered at Șimleu Silvaniei, Sălaj County



Pl. 4: Discovery map.