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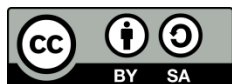
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Contumatz Pricske. A study of Historical Archaeology

Andrea DEMJÉN¹, Florin GOGÂLTAN²

Abstract. This article presents some theoretical aspects related to historical archaeology and mountain landscape archaeology research domains. There were noted various research projects from Transylvania that involved archaeological discoveries found at altitudes above 800 m. Regarding historical archaeology in Romania, the concept and methodology of approaching the recent past, is a field of research that includes only a few recent projects. That is why the Contumaz Pricske project was synthetically presented, for researching a quarantine that operated between 1732-1808 in eastern Transylvania, on the border between the Habsburg Empire and Moldova. This research involved the exploitation of documentary sources from various archives, the use of cartographic sources and conducting archaeological excavations.

Rezumat. În acest articol sunt prezentate câteva aspecte teoretice legate de câmpul de cercetare a arheologiei istorice și a arheologiei peisajului montan. Au fost făcute referiri la diversele proiecte de cercetare din Transilvania care au vizat descoperiri arheologice aflate la altitudini de peste 800. În ceea ce privește arheologia istorică în România, conceptul și metodologia de abordare a trecutului recent, este un domeniu de cercetare care numără doar câteva proiecte și acestea de dată recentă. De aceea a fost prezentat sintetic proiectul Contumaz Pricske, de cercetare a unei carantine care a funcționat între 1732-1808 în estul Transilvaniei la granița dintre Imperiul Habsburgic și Moldova. Această cercetare a presupus exploatarea surselor documentare din diverse arhive, utilizarea izvoarelor cartografice și efectuarea de săpături arheologice.

Keywords Transylvania, Contumatz Pricske, historical archaeology, quarantine institution, 18th -19th century.

In the autumn of 2008 we discovered, on the peak called Pricske (Prișca) in the Giurgeu Mountains, at an altitude of 1545 m, the traces of a fortification of which we had no knowledge about (Fig. 1). The first impression was that we were facing some arrangements belonging to First World War, when Giurgeu depression was occupied, in September 1916, by units from the 14th Infantry Division of the Romanian Royal Army. While checking the written sources³, we were surprised to find out that at the end of 1690, the Italian count Luigi

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³ DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015a, 369-370; DEMJÉN 2016b, 139.

Ferdinando Marsigli, the famous scientist and soldier of the Austrian army⁴, fortified two straits in the Gheorgheni Chair: Pelizka and Cheile Bicazului⁵.



Fig. 1. Aerial photo showing the fortification on the Pricske peak (foto: A. Sófalvi)

Later, in 1700, under the leadership of General Leiningen, at *Priske passus* was built a fortification, consisting of a ditch and a palisade⁶. These works were renewed in 1703. We also identified, 1 km northeast of Pricske peak, several building foundations made out of stone (Fig. 2). Using the written sources we had at hand, at the time, we learned about the existence of an Austrian quarantine⁷. None of our friends and fellow archaeologists knew anything about such a subject, so for us it became a challenge that gradually grew⁸ and finally ended, after years of research, with a doctoral thesis⁹.

We did not suspect, at the time, that future archaeological research would find us together in a common project, of the soul, with the one celebrated today. That's why we chose, at this anniversary moment, to talk again about the summers spent on, perhaps, the

⁴ STOYE 1994.

⁵ „Passi, i Muniti in Giorgio, che uono in Moldauia. Pelizka p: Bekas Loca” (SÁNDOR 1991, 23, 42-43).

⁶ SZOKI VII, 113.

⁷ BENKŐ 1853, 143.

⁸ DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2017.

⁹ DEMJÉN 2018a.

most beautiful archeological site we have participated in so far¹⁰. Normally, this site would have been the most difficult one to accomplish, if not impossible.



Fig. 2. Pricske quarantine. Traces of the quarantine buildings (2009)

Located 12 km north of the city of Gheorgheni, far and difficult to supply an archeological camp, with capricious mountain weather, with more than low interest of local authorities, except for the director of the museum, at that moment, and the current mayor Tibor Csörgő, the archaeological site Pricske would have had no chance at success. But this place has chosen us to make it relive its past moments of glory. Starting, in 2009¹¹, from a number of four archaeologists (Fl. Gogâltan, A. Demjén, A. Kosza, F. Puskás) and seven students (E.C. Cordoș, Al. Găvan, A.L. Ignat, J. Király, M.A. Lie, A. Mihai, C. Tiut), in the summer of 2012, more than 40 archaeologists and students from the universities of Austin, Bergen, Cluj Napoca, Cornell, Glasgow, Iași and Winnipeg, participated in the research of Pricske quarantine, along with professors and many students from „Fogarassy Mihály” General School of Gheorgheni¹² (Fig. 3).

¹⁰ DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b, 395-406; DEMJÉN 2016b; DEMJÉN 2020.

¹¹ GOGÂLTAN *et al.* 2010.

¹² GOGÂLTAN *et al.* 2013.



Fig. 3. Part of the research team from the 2012 campaign at Contumatz Pricske

In the summer of 2011, Professor Neculai Bolohan, together with students Tudor Mandache and Sebastian Drob, were joining the team from Gheorgheni and Cluj Napoca¹³. Since then, only less than four research campaigns (2011-2013, 2015-2016) have followed, which we have done together, both in the quarantine on the place called the Stone House - *Casa de piatră/Kőházak* by the locals and in the fortification from Pricske peak. There were difficult moments (Fig. 4) but also beautiful ones (Fig. 5), that remain in our memory as a proof of friendship and last but not least of the passion for our profession. Neculai Bolohan hardly broke away from this landscape, continuing without us the archeological researches at Ditrău-*Tászok-tető*, in search of clarity concerning the origin of the already famous petroglyphs here¹⁴.

*

Before presenting how the *Contumaz Pricske* project was approached, we would like to make some clarifications regarding a field of research that today bears the name of *historical archeology*. Our research could also be attached to what we call the *archaeology of the*

¹³ GOGÂLTAN *et al.* 2012.

¹⁴ PUSKÁS-KOLOZSVÁRI, BOLOHAN 2019.

mountainous landscape or the *archaeology of the Modern Age*¹⁵ but, as we will see, the investigation of the recent past is part of another paradigm.



Fig. 4. Difficult times during Contumatz Pricske archaeological excavation.

¹⁵ On the archaeological site Pricske we often joked about *imperial archaeology*, obviously referring to the research of archaeological traces dating from the Habsburg Empire.



Fig. 5. Lunch during Contumatz Pricke archaeological excavation (summer of 2012)

The mountainous area, with altitudes of over 800 m, found where the deciduous forest is replaced by the coniferous one, has been too little researched in Romania, from an archaeological point of view. The signaling of isolated discoveries, such as a fragmentary diorite ax, found at an altitude of 1954 m, or a small bronze deposit, found at 1315 m in the Cibin Mountains, were for Kurt Horedt clear evidence of the existence of summer grazing in the prehistory of the Southern Carpathians¹⁶. The Dacian fortresses and settlements from Orăștie Mountains (Șureanu Mountains / Sebeș Mountains) such as those from Piatra Roșie (832 m), Vârful lui Hulpe (902), Bolii (904), Grădiștea Muncelui (between 900-1100 m) etc., are fitting perfectly into the mountainous landscape¹⁷. Along with the archaeological investigation of these Dacian objectives¹⁸, small surveys¹⁹ and, more recently, non-invasive research²⁰ were conducted to study the Roman marching camps located on the peaks of Șurianu Mountains, at altitudes over 2000 m. Too little investigated was the Dacian fortress

¹⁶ HORED T 1947.

¹⁷ DAICOVICIU *et al.* 1989, 69-71.

¹⁸ GLODARIU *et al.* 1996.

¹⁹ GOSTAR, DAICOVICIU 1959; GLODARIU, MOGA 1988.

²⁰ MICLE *et al.* 2016; OLTEAN, HANSON 2017; TEODOR *et al.* 2018.

and, especially, the medieval fortification from Piatra Craivei, which dominates, at over 1000 m, the middle valley of Mureș²¹. Equally complex is the archeological site from Covasna-Cetatea Zânelor, located at an altitude of 960 m²². The research of some settlements such as Cuptoare-Piatra Ilișovei (1196 m)²³, the publication of some lithic pieces discovered at over 1100 m (Șugag, Oașa)²⁴ or of some possible places of worship at Zlatna-Jidovu (952 m)²⁵, attributed to the so-called Coțofeni culture, are arguments that these Copper Age communities also exploited the mountainous areas of Transylvania. Archaeological research was performed in 1995-1996 and 1998 at the medieval fortress of Tabla Buții, located in Siriu Mountains, at an altitude of over 1300 m²⁶. It joins other medieval fortresses and customs located on the peaks of the Southern Carpathians, at the border between Transylvania and Wallachia²⁷. In addition to our systematic research on the Giurgeu depression, which began in 1999²⁸, it is worth mentioning the project *An archaeology of the Maramureș Mountains*, initiated by Alexandru Dragoman, Dan Pop, Bogdan Bobîna and Ciprian Astaloș in 2012²⁹. Equally interesting is the interdisciplinary studying of the linear fortification from Cioclovina-Ponorici, developed over a total length of over 2400 m, outlined to the south by the Piatra Roșie fortress, respectively to the east by the Cioclovina cave and northwest by the Ponorici valley, surrounding on the southern side Chiciura Peak (1022 m altitude)³⁰. Ongoing is the *HiLands (Hidden Landscapes: Exploratory Remote-sensing for the Archaeology of the Lost Roads, Borders and Battlefields of South-Eastern Carpathians)* project, which has already obtained particularly interesting results³¹. However, not all the researched archaeological objectives are found at altitudes of over 800 m.

The use, by some Romanian archaeologists, of the english phrase „mountain archaeology”³² or the romanian one „arheologie montană”³³ is confusing and, also, inadequate. It is, in fact, an unfortunate translation, from romanian into english, of what was initially correctly defined as „An archaeology of the mountains”³⁴. A brief internet query of the concept „mountain archaeology” is instructive in this regard. C. Kacsó used the term

²¹ PLANTOS 2019, with bibliography.

²² PUPEZĂ 2020, with bibliography.

²³ MAXIM 1993.

²⁴ POPA 2012, 132-133.

²⁵ POPA 2020.

²⁶ CĂPĂȚÂNĂ *et al.* 2008; SÓFALVI 2017.

²⁷ SÓFALVI 2021.

²⁸ GOGÂLTAN *et al.* 2003; DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b; DEMJÉN 2016a; DEMJÉN, A. 2020c.

²⁹ DRAGOMAN *et al.* 2012; DRAGOMAN *et al.* 2015; DRAGOMAN *et al.* 2017; DRAGOMAN *et al.* 2018.

³⁰ CETEAN *et al.* 2016.

³¹ See <https://hilands.net4u.ro/> for details.

³² BOBÎNĂ 2015; BOBÎNĂ 2018; POPA 2020, 218. See also HiLands project (<https://hilands.net4u.ro/>).

³³ BOBÎNĂ, BOBÎNĂ 2020.

³⁴ See above.

„arheologie montană” for his investigations into the medieval and modern mines of Maramureș, starting from the german translation of „Montanarchäologie”³⁵. This term is also not correct since there are numerous studies of *mining archaeology* conducted in the Roman sites from Roșia Montană area³⁶.

These few highlights of the Transylvanian mountainous landscape archaeology show us the potential that we have and urge us to lean, in the future, towards this field of research. In the context of our discussion, the archaeology of the mountainous landscape aims to investigate all human traces from the oldest to the most recently discovered at altitudes exceeding 800 m. The Pricske project, as we will see, used a methodology that can not be applied before of the 1500s.

„*Historical archeology* - a phrase used by archaeologists to describe the archaeology of the period from ”around 1500 AD up to and including the present...” are the words with which Dan Hicks and Mary C. Beaudry begin their introductory study of *The Cambridge Companion to Historical Archeology*³⁷. The methodological concerns regarding this new field of archaeological research can be placed in the ’30s of the last century, being found mainly in the Anglo-American specialised literature³⁸. Neglecting the recent archaeological past is a reality that all schools of archaeology have faced. It is much more challenging for an archaeologist to decipher the origins of the human species, to identify the first heroes and their cities, or to complete the ancient writings with the stories of the ruins still standing. That is why there has been and is a certain reluctance to approach an objective about which there are more documentary sources.

Historical Archaeology or *Historische Archäologie* incorporated today what the United Kingdom called *post-medieval archaeology* (1450-1750) and *industrial archaeology*³⁹ and, what is known in the german space as *Archäologie der Neuzeit*⁴⁰. In order to remain on topic with continental Europe, at Kiel (*Prähistorische und Historische Archäologie*) or Vienna (*Urgeschichte und Historische Archäologie*) universities, these disciplines are studied together, in order to acquire a complex training as an archaeologist. Also, at the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut, exists a sector called *Historische Archäologie*. The popularization of this specialty is also done through an open-access journal entitled *Historische Archäologie*, which publishes archaeological investigations from the end of the Middle Ages to our recent past. If the rescue excavations require it, then the research of

³⁵ KACSÓ *et al.* 2010; KACSÓ *et al.* 2011; etc.

³⁶ CIUGUDEAN, THOMAS 2020, with bibliography.

³⁷ HICKS, BEAUDRY 2006, 1.

³⁸ HUME 1968; ORSER 1996; ANDRÉN 1998; BUCHLI, LUCAS 2001; HALL, SILLIMAN 2006; LITTLE 2007; etc.

³⁹ TARLOW, WEST 1999.

⁴⁰ FROMMER 2007.

the morgue (*Leichenhalle*) in Berlin offered us the story of a monument that is truly gloomy, but which marked the history of the city from 1886 until today⁴¹.

The lack of theoretical approaches, in the Romanian specialized literature, is a reality over which, even if some rightly claim it intensely⁴², we continue to pass easily. Strictly referring to historical archeology, those who had the courage to lean towards the study of a colony of forced labor during the communist period, remarked unequivocally: „A widely held opinion in the archaeological society of Romania is that the recent or contemporary past is not the object of analysis of archaeology, but of other disciplines, such as history or anthropology”⁴³. The category of historical archaeology studies must include the recent publication, by Eugen Teodor, of the results of his research from the customs control point, which operated, approximately, between 1850-1880 near the village Fundata in Bran pass. We can only be with him when he says that: „I would be pleased if the effort done within this research, as well as its publication in an archaeological periodical as this, would be a stimulus for Romanian archaeologists to look with more consideration to both mountain archaeology and modern archaeological sites which escaped till now to the radar of science, which are plenty”⁴⁴. For others, publishing a 19th century cemetery, found above the Bronze Age tell from Toboliu-Dâmbul Zănăcanului, was an act of professional deontology: „The way we approach these cases, specifically the seriousness with which we relate to our fellow men – whether they died four thousand years ago or whether they died a hundred years ago – primarily reflects the ethics with which we have been accustomed by teachers, during the early archeological campaigns”⁴⁵. Along with the exemplary archaeological excavation, we find the anthropological analysis, consultation of written and cartographic sources, the use of ethnographic analogies. Another historical archeology project in Romania, recently completed, is the one that aims to investigate water mills (18th and 19th century) in an area located south of the Timișoara city⁴⁶.

Preventive archaeological excavations conducted in Transylvanian cities mainly reveal their medieval, modern and contemporary past. They are part of the so-called urban archaeology⁴⁷, but also address the methodology of historical archaeology⁴⁸. But how many are really interested in the archaeology of these periods? Even if the current standards and procedures of archaeology in Romania provide for the realization of a rigorous

⁴¹ RICCI 2011.

⁴² ANGHELINU 2003; PALINCAȘ 2006; DRAGOMAN, OANȚĂ-MARGHITU 2006.

⁴³ DRAGOMAN et. al. 2018, 266.

⁴⁴ TEODOR 2021, 361..

⁴⁵ LIE et al. 2015, 272.

⁴⁶ FLOCA et al. 2021.

⁴⁷ PUPEZĂ 2010.

⁴⁸ URDUZIA 2016.

documentation, how many such researches have been published? Who publishes the archaeological material of the 16th-20th centuries?

A brief check of the *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice* from the last 5 years, the moment when the Pricke project was completed, shows us that at present, in Romania, there are no more systematically researched archaeological sites of modern era. In the case of several systematic archeological excavations, modern buildings or arrangements were conjuncturally investigated, as in the case of the Palace of the consular governor of the three Dacias from Alba Iulia⁴⁹, of Caransebeș - Potocului Street, no. 22⁵⁰, or Câmpulung - Negru Vodă street, no. 76⁵¹. The publication of materials from the modern era is very modest, being able to mention only the researches from Hârșova, Cetate, Cetății street – Carsium street. But let's move away from this sad note and see the results of our historical archaeology project.

*

As we saw at the beginning, in order to find out more about the dating of the fortification from Pricke peak and the ruins visible 1 km northeast, we consulted the historical sources available at the time. This is the first step to take for someone who is leaning toward monuments that are suitable for a study of historical archaeology⁵².

From the beginning we found that the research of quarantines raised in the eastern passes of the Eastern Carpathians was little treated in historiography, usually preferring more attractive topics such as the military border⁵³ or the organization of border regiments⁵⁴. The establishment of quarantines by the Habsburgs was a much more complex phenomenon than the strictly epidemic one. Systematization of quarantine stations involved not only the construction of buildings that served sanitary purposes, but also the organization of border guarding, border „tricesime”, establishing the status of border communities, etc. The quarantine stations, established in 1732⁵⁵, as well as the sanitary regulations elaborated during the 18th century⁵⁶, had an importance not to be neglected for the further development of this province from an economic, social and political point of view.

The research and study of the Pricke quarantine required, first of all, an exploitation of the archive sources⁵⁷. Because there was no special bibliography dedicated to the issue of quarantines, we tried to reconstruct the moment of their establishment and later their

⁴⁹ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ *et al.* 2017, 14-17; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ *et al.* 2018, 13-15; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ *et al.* 2019, 14-17.; RUSU-BOLINDEȚ *et al.* 2020, 20-26.

⁵⁰ OȚA *et al.* 2018, 23-24; OȚA *et al.* 2019, 69.

⁵¹ RĂDULESCU *et al.* 2018, 40-44.

⁵² HUME 1968, 24.

⁵³ VANÍČEK 1875, II, 76-111; GÖLLNER 1974.

⁵⁴ SZÁDECZKY 1908; WESSELY 1975, 278-293; WOLF 2010, 83-113; EGYED 2016, 388-399; LÁZÁR 2017, 403-429.

⁵⁵ SJHAN F 27, IV/37, 1-2.

⁵⁶ BALÁZS 2007; SPIELMANN 1972, 115-121.

⁵⁷ DEMJÉN 2020a, 42-43.

evolution, using original sources. They provide us with information on current constructions / repairs, non-compliance and violation of imperial regulations (quarantine period, sanitation, smuggling, etc.), but partially cover other issues such as guarding and managing border crossings, transhumance, emigration, etc.

The most important and most numerous archive sources that we used for this research come from the funds of the Harghita County Service of the National Archives from Miercurea-Ciuc. The complex research in the Pricske quarantine archives has revealed numerous data about its establishment in 1732⁵⁸, the state of the road at Pricske Pass, the sanitary cordon installed in 1759, the many cases of violation of the quarantine provisions, or on the construction / reconstruction of buildings in 1762⁵⁹ (Fig. 6).

An *inventory of documents for the period 1650-1840*⁶⁰ was kept in the archive of the Chair of Giurgiu. Some of the documents reported in the register are no longer in the archives, but brief information about the contents of the documents is still important and useful in the history of the Pricske quarantine. The register recorded data on the construction of a tavern, the reconstruction of the buildings in Pricske, the construction of a bread oven in Gheorgheni for the supply of soldiers and the repair of the road⁶¹.

In addition to the National Archives of Romania in Miercurea-Ciuc, we had the opportunity to do research at the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopate of Gheorgheni⁶². Among the parish and episcopal documents of St. Nicholas Parish, we found numerous documents on the lack of the chapel and on the way in which the religious services were held at the Gheorgheni-Pricske quarantine between 1779–1786⁶³. These informations were supplemented by several documents from the National Archives of Hungary in Budapest⁶⁴. Among the documents of the tricesima in Gheorgheni from 1770, we found numerous references to the quarantine from Pricske: regarding the salary of the quarantine director, about smuggling and other contraventions, the elaboration of false passports⁶⁵.

At the National Archives of Austria in Vienna (in the 1778 report of the commission of representatives of the Government, the Treasury and the General Command) we found informations regarding minor repairs to the Pricske quarantine and the decision to later turn

⁵⁸ SJHAN F 27, IV/37.

⁵⁹ SJHAN F 26, 43, 1–2; SJHAN F 26, 48; SJHAN F 26, 55, 1–2; SJHAN F 26, 56; SJHAN F 26, 59, 1; SJHAN F 26, 110, 1–3; SJHAN F 26, 149, 1–2.

⁶⁰ SJHAN F 26. *Protocoale*, 4.

⁶¹ SJHAN F 26. *Protocoale*, 4, 3–10.

⁶² AARCAI ACG.

⁶³ AARCAI ACG, 1779, 1780, 1784, 1786.

⁶⁴ MOL F 58; MOL F 500.

⁶⁵ MOL F 500, 13b; MOL F 500, 71–76.

it into a „rastel”⁶⁶. The heyday of the Pricske quarantine, based on written sources and archaeological discoveries, was in the second half of the 18th century. After its decline, the institution was moved to Tulgheș in 1808⁶⁷. We also identified some special works such as micromonographs about certain quarantines (Bran⁶⁸, Ghimeș⁶⁹) or studies on the medical aspects of the 18th century⁷⁰.

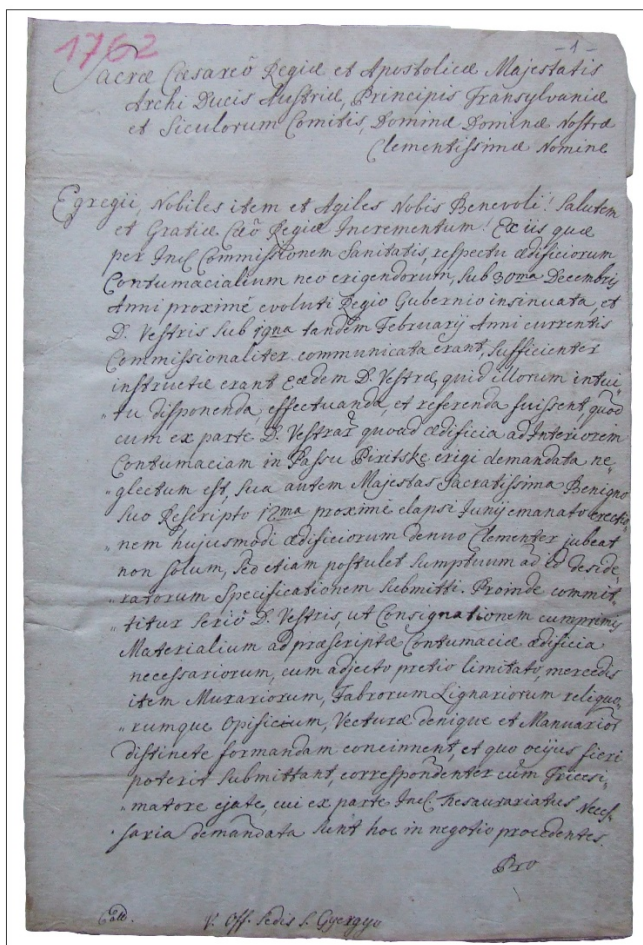


Fig. 6. Detail of the imperial decree dated July 12, 1762 regarding the construction of interior buildings at the Pirtske quarantine (source: SJHAN F 26, 59, 1).

⁶⁶ ÖSTA SA 251/6, 330–373. The latin term *rastellum* was used by austrian officials with the sense of „fence”. Based on the consulted literature, it results that the rakes were also crossing/exchange points within the sanitary cordon, for different social cathegories with special status (area inhabitants, shepherds). POPOVICI, STOIAN 2002, 25.

⁶⁷ The document states that in 1808 the Pricske quarantine had already been moved, making the place completely useless. SJHAN F 26, 264, 1.

⁶⁸ POPOVICI, STOIAN 2002.

⁶⁹ BIRÓ 2010.

⁷⁰ HUTTMANN 1972, 51–54; JIGA 1972, 71–73; LESKY 1972, 95–114; SECHL 2008; SECHL 2014, 58–76.

Quarantines in eastern Transylvania are represented on numerous maps from the first half of the 18th century until the end of the 19th century. These sources are found in various archives in Austria and Hungary, such as the Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv, Vienna, the National Archives of Hungary and the Institute and Museum of Military History in Budapest. Cartographic sources can be divided on the basis of representations into several categories: maps, general plans and profiles attached to different plans. We specify that the cartographic sources do not refer exclusively to quarantines, but rather to the fortification system near the border. Quarantine institutions appear in detail in plans only in the last decades of the 18th century and at the beginning of the next.

In recent years, numerous funds with maps / drawings from the archives of Hungary and Vienna have been digitized, so we were able to consult some of them online and download them from the website <https://hungaricana.hu/en/> with the consent of the holding institution. About the quarantines in the eastern part of Transylvania, some maps, plans, profiles and ink drawings from the 18th-19th centuries have been preserved. It is about the numerous cartographic representations of the quarantine from Oituz, Ciuc-Ghimeş and Tulgheş⁷¹. They are very diverse, presenting the evolution and the different stages of construction / reconstruction of each objective. Regarding the quarantine at Pricske, the situation is totally different, because so far we have not discovered any plan. Recently, a map made by the military architect Johannes Conradi de Weiss was digitized, showing six buildings of Piritske Contumatz, which confirm the existence of quarantine buildings (Fig. 7/1). Later, on the first Austrian military map (1763-1787), both the fortification on the Pricske peak and the quarantine are marked (Fig. 7/2).



Fig. 7. 1. Pricske quarantine on a map from 1735 (source: <https://maps.hungaricana.hu/en/OSZKTerkeptar/1632/view/?pg=1&bbox=-8954%2C-14966%2C17093%2C397>; Accessed: 2 Octobre 2020). 2. Pricske fortification and quarantine on the first austrian military map (source: <https://mapire.eu/hu/map/firstsurveytransylvania/?layers=142&bbox=2813824.3391270177%2C5894388.405085696%2C2916937.89028372%2C5924963.2163997665>; Accessed: 1 October 2020).

⁷¹ BIRÓ 2010; DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2017, 304-305; DEMJÉN 2018a, 22-24, 70-74, 90-108, 291-295.

Due to the lack of plans, the field research, interdisciplinary investigations along with systematic archaeological excavations, but also the comparison conducted with the plans of other quarantines, have contributed to the reconstruction of the quarantine buildings at Pricske. The quarantine covers several hectares. Although traces of some buildings are still visible on the surface (Fig. 2), we considered it necessary to conduct georadar research⁷². After georadar research, 12-13 buildings could be identified, which were aligned in two rows on the east and west side. A large anomaly appeared between the buildings on the southern side of the site, which probably represents the traces of the road between the buildings. In the middle of the quarantine, between the two rows of buildings, the georadar device did not signal traces of construction, here being probably a kind of inner courtyard (Fig. 8).

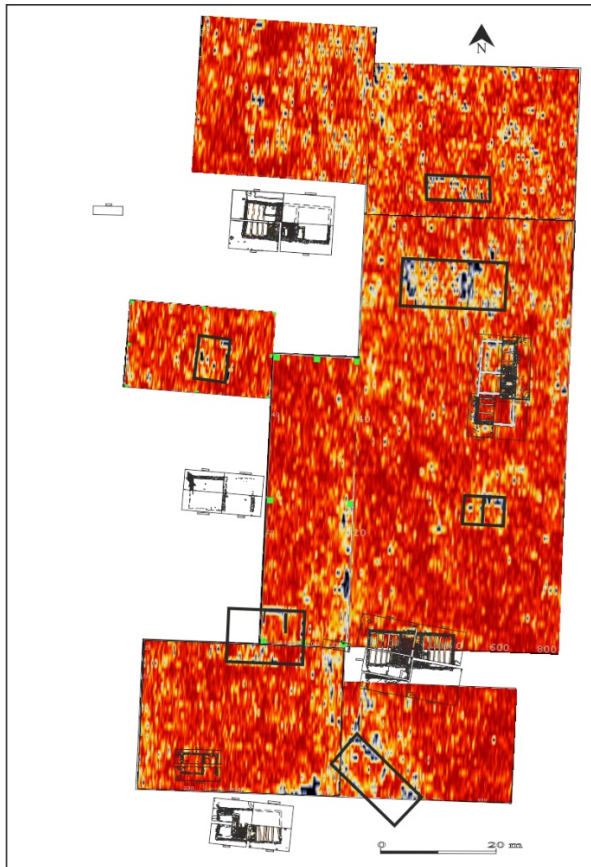


Fig. 8. Pricske quarantine. The results of georadar results (after DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b, Fig. 22/2).

⁷² DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b, 397-398; DEMJÉN 2016b, 152-153. The georadar research was funded by the Harghita County Council and the Communitas Foundation (MUV – 12 / 1–0875). Geophysical research and 3D reconstruction of buildings were funded by the Bethlen Gábor Alap Foundation in Hungary as part of the project *Cercetări interdisciplinare la carantina de la Pricske - Interdisciplinár kutatások a pricskei vesztegintézetnél* (2545/2013). We thank everyone for their support.

This was confirmed in the summer of 2016 by the overall photos taken with the help of the drone (buildings can be captured in dry summers by the paler color of the grass on the foundation duct)⁷³.

During the archaeological research carried out between 2009-2013 and 2015, a total of six buildings were uncovered: four residential buildings and two outbuildings (stables)⁷⁴. The residential buildings had two or three rooms, being built according to the same plan and having an identical orientation. In the case of the stables, we found that they were also built according to the same plan, the only difference being their variable dimensions. Given that the traces of the stone foundations of the buildings can still be seen today, the sections were placed according to their size. Thus, each building was divided into two or four quadrants, with a control of 0.30 or 0.50 m between them.

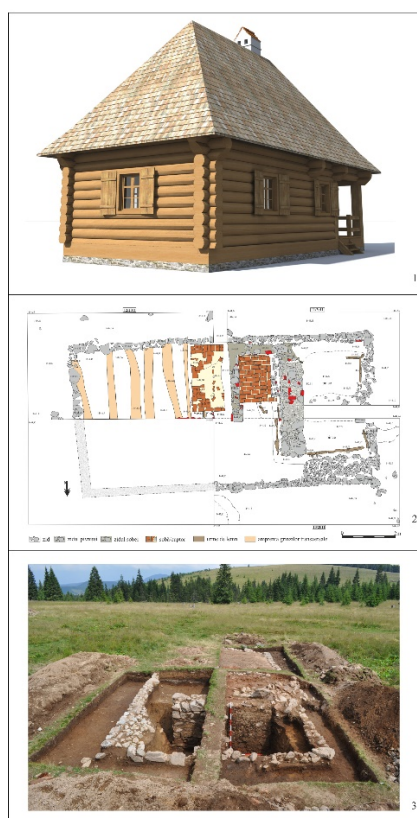


Fig. 9. 1. Pricske quarantine. Virtual reconstruction of building no. 4 (Larix Stúdió – Györfy László); 2. Plan of building no. 4; 3. Photo of building no. 4 during excavations.

⁷³ DEMJÉN 2016b, Fig. 17.

⁷⁴ DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015a, 372-373; DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b, 399-406; DEMJÉN 2016b, 154-176; DEMJÉN 2020a, 43-49.

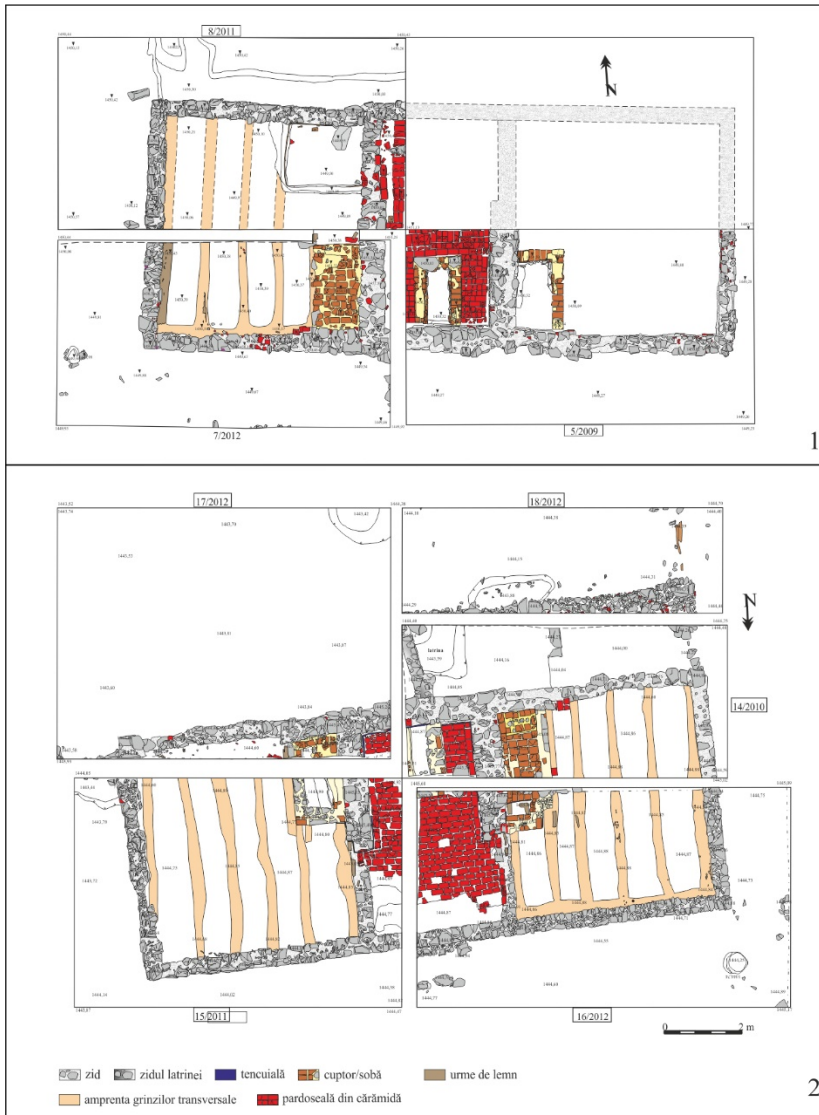
A single building had two rooms (building no. 4; size: 11.5 m × 5.40 m) (Fig. 9). The foundation of the building was built of flat stones placed on top of each other, and the elevation was made of wooden beams. In the western room of the building we identified a rectangular cellar (3.60 × 2.20 m) deep below the contemporary stepping level of 1.83 m, which was arranged with overlapping horizontal planks and one meter each with a vertical beam, and a thick stone wall was built on the east side. The stepping level was made of wood (we only noticed the traces or the imprint of the transverse beams that supported the wooden floor). In this building, in the eastern room, the foundation of a stove made of bricks was discovered, and in the western one, the bottom of an „oven” with an open hearth was unveiled. Regarding the archaeological material found in the cellar, it is different from the one found in the rest of the researched buildings. According to the archaeological material, the building functioned at the end of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th century.

The other three residential buildings (building no. 2, no. 5 and no. 6) (Fig. 10) had three rooms each, being built according to the same plan. In the case of building no. 5, a latrine annex was constructed on the southern side of the building (Fig. 11/2), and in building no. 2, under the western room, a supply pit was dug with a wooden frame (Fig. 11/1).



Fig. 10. 1. Pricske quarantine. Detail with the western room of building no. 2 after removing the vegetal layer; 2. Detail with the western room of building no. 2 after the completion of the research; 3. Detail with the eastern room of building no. 5; 4. Photograph from the research of building no. 5

The buildings had an almost identical orientation (building no. 6 was oriented north-south). They had variable dimensions: the length was between 15.2-15.6 m and the width between 6.3-6.6 m. The eastern and western rooms usually had the same interior dimensions, and the one in the middle, the kitchen, was smaller and narrower. The foundations of the buildings were made of mortar-bound stones. The elevation of the wall near the heating systems (to support the chimney and prevent the building from catching fire) was entirely made of stone, and the rest of the walls were built of wooden beams. A stove foundation came to the surface in each room.



Regarding the interior design of the buildings, it could be established that in the side rooms the floor was made of wood (without exception, traces of crossbeams were found under the wooden floor), and in the middle room the stepping level was made of a brick floor.

Near each residential building there was a stable with a shed for animals and the things of those who spent the quarantine period or lived there permanently. The Pricske quarantine stables (building no. 1 and no. 3) were built according to the same plan (composed of two rooms: one closed room for animals and the other was a kind of shed), the only difference being their variable dimensions. We uncovered two such constructions, at the quarantine, one of which (building no. 3) (Fig. 12) was near building no. 4, thus belonging to it. In the case of stable no. 1, we did not dig the residential building to which it belonged. In addition to the residential buildings and the researched stables, we could not identify the traces of the wooden fences, which separate the buildings from each other, about which we have numerous archival sources and period plans. Let's hope that future research will bring news in this regard as well.

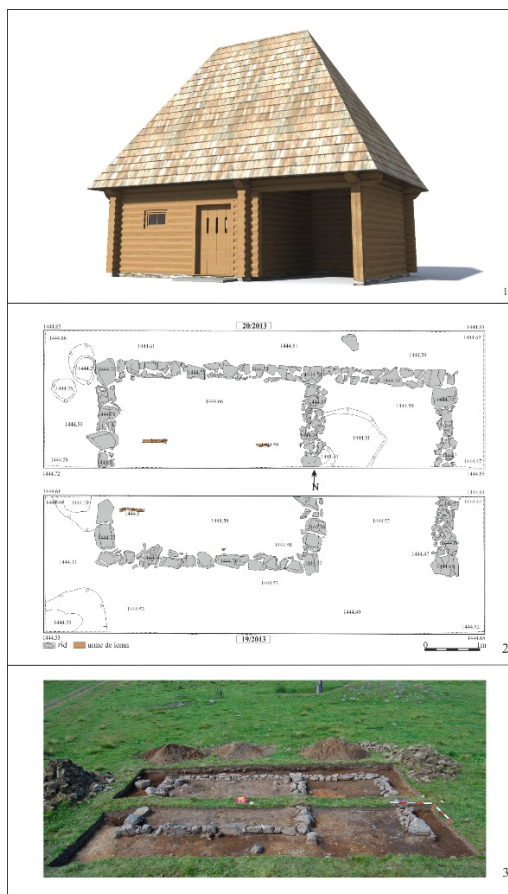


Fig. 12. 1. Pricske quarantine. The virtual reconstruction of the stable no. 3 (Larix Stúdió - Györfy László); 2. Stable plan no. 3; 3. Photo with the building no. 3 during the excavations.

The archaeological material discovered in or around the three rooms buildings is relatively unitary. It dates from the middle, but especially, the second half of the 18th century. We are thus certain that these buildings were built and used at the same time, as evidenced by their regular distribution in the general quarantine plan. The buildings unveiled during the archaeological research belonged both to the personnel serving the quarantine (director, surgeon, soldiers and servants), and to those who were hospitalized here. Given that the walls do not usually tell stories, and the archaeological material from around them, as we mentioned is relatively unitary, identifying the occupants of these buildings is problematic. The attempt to distribute the buildings of some of the tenants, compared to the quarantine plan in Ghimeş Pass, was unsuccessful. We know from written sources that a chapel and a dungeon were not built here, so the houses belonging to their staff are also missing.

Systematic archaeological research at Pricske's quarantine has shown that it enjoyed its peak of development in the second half of the 18th century. The excavations also proved that we are dealing with a unitary and complex system of constructions (housing for quarantine staff, stables, buildings for those in quarantine, etc.) mandatory for the development of sanitary activities.

The archeological material discovered also reflects certain sequences from the daily life of the quarantine staff and of those in transit. In the six years of quarantined archaeological research (2009–2013, 2015), approx. 13,400 objects were revealed.

Thus, stove tiles (Fig. 14/1, 2), pots (Fig. 13/5), plates (Fig. 13/2), bowls, jugs (Fig. 13/4), cups, glasses and glass bottles, pipes, knives (Fig. 15/4), clothing ornaments (Fig. 15/1, 2) or firearm components such as flint (Fig. 15/3) and bayonet fragments (Fig. 15/5)⁷⁵ were discovered. These archeological pieces prove to be particularly important for the reconstruction of the material culture of the 18th-19th centuries in Transylvania. The research here changes the chronology of certain types of objects, because the pieces from Pricske date precisely between the years 1732-1808, i.e. the period of operation of the quarantine. Given that the vast majority of the material collected dates to the second half of the 18th century, we did not find many analogies in Transylvania. The lack of archaeological research on the modern era has made their processing more difficult, because specialists in Romania have not published materials from this century, considered by archaeologists too „modern” and ethnographers too „young”. That is why we turned to contemporary discoveries in Austria and Hungary.

For the modern period archeology, Pricske's archaeological research project is a first. Archaeological excavations, together with original documentary sources and

⁷⁵ DEMJÉN, GOGÂLTAN 2015b, Fig. 32; DEMJÉN 2018a; DEMJÉN 2018b; DEMJÉN 2019; DEMJÉN, A. 2020b.

archaeozoological analyzes of kitchen remains⁷⁶, have contributed to the reconstruction of everyday life in an Austrian quarantine of the 18th century.



Fig. 13. Priske quarantine. Pottery material from the second half of the 18th century.

⁷⁶ TUGYA 2016, 195–210.



Fig. 14. Pricske quarantine. Stove tiles from the second half of the 18th century

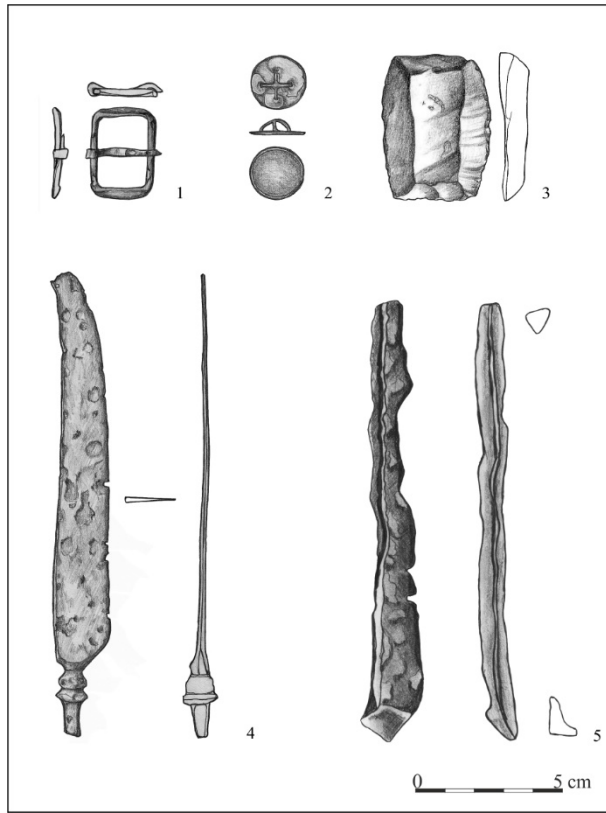


Fig. 15. Pricske quarantine. Special finds: 1. Belt buckle; 2. Button; 3. Flint; 4. Knife; 5. Bayonet.

They also represent an important contribution to the knowledge of the archaeological material characteristic of this period in eastern Transylvania. At the same time, we hope that we have opened another perspective on a subject in which the archaeological discoveries could be connected to the written sources or to the graphic images of the time. We believe that historical archeology has a chance in Romania as well, and the objectives and materiality of the recent past will become subjects of study for more and more archaeologists.

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