

**PRELIMINARY REPORT CONCERNING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS  
FROM GLIGOREȘTI-„HOLOAME”, CLUJ DISTRICT (1994-1996)**

SUMMARY

The archaeological excavations from Gligorești debuted in 1990 and the first results were published in 1994 (*Gogâltan, Florea 1994*). In the same year, systematic researches begun and the excavations are still continuing. Taking this into consideration and also the fact that the rich archaeological material has not been entirely analysed (approximately 10 000 objects have been inventoried, drawn and statistically counted) the present report will deal only with the problems, which have been solved until now. Therefore, we will present the site's stratigraphy trying to explain the sequence of living from Gligorești-„Holoame”. The report will also contain the special literature dealing with the problem, the geographical location of the site, methodological considerations about the archaeological investigation of the site, the ways of analysing the archaeological material and some ideas about the chronology and the culture to which this site belongs.

In order to understand the site's stratigraphy, three sections **S1/1994**, **S2/1995** and **S3/1996** have been dug. The entire excavated surface covers 497,25 square meters.

It is important to underline that the first communities, which lived on, the island situated on the junction zone between the rivers Arieș and Mureș belonged to the Late Neolithic period. The dating has been based on the imported materials such as: the painted ceramic fragments of the Lumea Nouă type and on the two vessels decorated with heads of musical notes. The utilization of the decoration with bitumen applied after burning characterizes the Late Neolithic material from Gligorești. From a cultural point of view it is more than probable that all these indicate a new group of population, which penetrated the centre of Transylvania. Iuliu Paul questioned the cultural and the chronological positioning of the discovered material and considered that these problems will be solved in the future. However, the using of the decoration with bitumen connects the above-mentioned population to those from the northwest Romania.

After more than one millennium and the half, other communities have been attracted by this place. It is referring to a number of families belonging to the Coțofeni culture, which occupied a small zone on the hillock. The ceramic finds are numerous and Petre Roman has related representative and them to the Coțofeni Ib and IIIa phases. It would be fruitful to analyse in a separate research the regional phenomena of the Coțofeni culture in Transylvania. The discoveries from Gligorești seem to cover, together with those from Sebeș-„Râpa Roșie” a horizon before Călnic.

We can suppose that the early Bronze Age village has been bigger and more important than the previous ones. The thick level of archaeological finds of that cultural horizon has proved this fact. The best analogies for the ceramic material can be considered the newly found „Copăceni type” discoveries, which belong to the second stage of the early Bronze Age.

Approximately 1000 years have passed until the following village has been founded. During the middle Bronze Age, the bearers of the Wietenberg culture have chosen to live on the high terrace of the river Arieș. This fact was proved by the discoveries in the place called „Dosul Morii = După Moară”. Around 1300 B. C., the zone „Holoame” flourished and the great number of huts and houses, provision pits or dirt pits, ceramic materials, one bronze dagger etc shows this fact. From a cultural point of view this stage has to be included in the late phase of the Wietenberg culture and Noua culture, phenomenon which characterizes the second stage of the late Bronze Age II in the centre of Transylvania.

Five hundred years later, other communities lived temporarily on this hillock but they were just passing by. Therefore, their traces are rare. Maybe the call salt took them farther, these bearers of Basarabi Culture (Ha B3-Ha C), who had here only a short pastime.

It seems strange, in this stage of researching, the discovery of a complex belonging to the second Iron Age (III-II century B. C.). As there aren't any corresponding cultural strata, we can think only to an isolate shelter. Maybe the well-known bronze wild boar, which is supposed to be discovered at Lunca, if it doesn't come from Gligorești, it should at least be connected with our materials. The whole pot ceramics, ashes, suggest a violent end of this attempt of establishing here at „Holoame”.

A series of problems are raised by the motivation of using this place in Roman period. In the area of the village Gligorești, we now more places with Roman discoveries: probably a *villa rustica* in the place „După Sat”, a Roman road at the entrance of the village. The remains of some buildings, the archaeological materials, make us think of the using of „Holoame” as a *statio*, a place of depositing the salt, as well as of other goods, which later took the way of water to *Apulum*. With the dawn of the Roman civilization, the history of this place can't be reconstructed. „Holoame” will be used only as an agrarian area, or as a place of stone mining.

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