

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EARLIEST HORIZON
OF THE ROMANIAN EARLY NEOLITHIC PERIOD:
- THE PRECRIȘ CULTURE -**

The present paper tries to present in an exhaustive and comparative manner the archaeological materials found during the excavations at the *Șeușa-La cărarea morii* site, nearby Alba Iulia (Alba county).

After series of important findings illustrating the earliest neolithic horizon north of Danube - we are reminding here the sites from Cluj-*Gura Baciului* (Vlassa 1972; 1972a), *Cârcea-La Hamuri* (Nica 1976; 1977) and *Oena Sibiului-Triguri* (Paul 1980; 1989) - that made possible for us to present, in large lines, the main characteristics of the neolithisation process in these territories.

In 1996 we added to these sites the one from *Șeușa-La cărarea morii*, for a better understanding of this cultural horizon, known, unfortunately, under different terms according to each author: *the cultural horizon Gura Baciului-Cârcea*, *the Cârcea culture*, *the Gura Baciului cultural group*, etc.

The typological and stylistical analysis of the archaeological materials, mostly pottery, did offered us enough reasons to situate the findings to the cultural phenomenon designated by the author as the Precriș culture. This archaeological culture corresponds in the southern territories of the Balcan Peninsula to the Protosesklo culture in Thessaly (Argissa Magoula, Otzaki Magoula) (Milojčić), the cultural groups of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia (Pavuk 1988), what M. Garasanin called „The Balcan and Danube Early Neolithic Complex” (Garasanin 1980).

We are trying to make - for now based on the main characteristics offered by the materials found in this surface house (I./1997) related to their analogies and similarities in materials (pottery, lithics, idols) from contemporary sites - a better, more accurate relation between the findings from *Șeușa* and the others with the Precriș culture.

We used for this the chronological and cultural systems available to us, mainly the more accepted ones, one proposed by Gh. Lazarovici (1979; 1984) and the other by I. Paul. The Early Neolithic settlement from *Șeușa-La cărarea morii* is situated in the first phase (IC-IIA) of the Starčevo-Criș culture according to Gh. Lazarovici and the second phase of the Precriș culture according to I. Paul.

The excavations in this site will be continued and the results will provide informations that will make the subject of scientific articles in some well known, international magazines.

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

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