

ABSTRACTS

JOHN CHAPMAN, **Pottery fragmentation in archaeology: Picking up the pieces**

Abstract: One important aspect of the material culture covered in fragmentation research is pottery. The very ubiquity of pottery in most periods of archaeology has meant that previous researchers have considered certain aspects of ceramic breakage and re-fitting, in particular the chronological aspects of sherd re-fits. However, in the absence of fragmentation theory to explain the implications of sherd re-fits, it was all too easy to reach flawed conclusions in respect of the stratigraphic implications of sherd re-fits. This question will be re-visited here, as well as a number of recent studies dealing with pottery fragmentation and its implications for our understanding of the past.

Keywords: pottery, fragmentation, sherd re-fits, stratigraphic research, archaeology.

PAULA MAZĂRE, **Functional interpretations of fired clay „weights”**

Abstract: Among the most common findings of prehistoric archaeological sites as well as ancient and medieval ones are those artefacts made up mostly of fired clay and usually called by the Romanian archaeologists with the generic name of “weights”. So far, the Romanian archaeological literature lacks studies devoted exclusively to the function of these artefacts. This is the reasons why we considered appropriate to study this topic. Moreover, the current paper is grounded by our previous work. We investigated over 500 such objects found in various Neolithic and Copper Age sites in Transylvania and interpreted them as potential loom weights in our doctoral thesis (“The craft of textile production at the Neolithic and Copper Age communities in Transylvania (Romania)”, 2012). Ethnographic data and experimental studies have shown that almost any “weight” could be used for tensioning threads in the warp-weighted loom and in this case the artefacts represent an indirect proof of weaving. Besides this interpretation, specialists consider that artefacts could also have had other functions. Therefore, we believe that the name of “weight” should be defined in accordance to a set of criteria representative for the functional role of the artefacts, such as the context of discovery, the frequency or clusters of similar artefacts, the wear traces, etc.

Starting from these premises, the paper is structured in two parts. First part presents the main functional interpretations found in the archaeological literature in relation to these artefacts: “firedogs” (“andiron”) or other functions related to fire, “link-stones” (“loop-stones”) used for fixing the thatched roofs, counter-weights, door-stoppers, net sinkers, weapons or prestige items; tools for twisting fibres/yarns and loom weights. Second part is devoted to verifying the presumed role of loom-weights for several artefacts found in the Neolithic and Copper Age sites in Transylvania (Starčevo-Criș culture, Linear Pottery Culture and Vinča, Turdaș, Petrești and Ariușd cultures). For this purpose, we employed the model of calculations and the functional assessment proposed by Linda Mårtensson and her collaborators from Centre for Textile Research (CTR), University of Copenhagen. As well, we brought some innovative additions to this model. One of the most important innovation was to define the warp density coefficient (WDC = the ratio of the thickness to the width of the loom-weight).

Moreover, we expanded our innovation by applying the calculations on sets of objects found together which probably functioned as loom-weights in the same loom.

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- Fig. 1. Different morphological types of fired clay „weights”, separated into categories depending on the position of the attaching holes: A. with the hole in the upper part; B. with central hole.
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- Fig. 7. Comparison between weight and diameter of the central perforated “weights” showing no wear traces and with wear traces of specific hanging usage.
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Table 6. Guidelines for estimating the amount (length) of yarn/m² in a woven cloth and the time consumption for spinning the yarn (after Mårtensson *et alii*, Shape of Things).

Keywords: loom-weights, net sinkers, thatched roofs “link-stones”, “firedogs”, twisting tools, weapons, prestige artefacts.

MIHAI GLIGOR, **Neolithic plastic art from Transylvania. Tradition and innovation**

Abstract: We include under this category anthropomorphic statues (Pl. I/2-3; Pl. II/1-2, 4-6), anthropomorphic protomes (Pl. I/1, 4) and anthropomorphic lids (Pl. I/5; Pl. II/3) from Alba Iulia-*Lumea Nouă* (Alba County) and Petrești-*Groapa Galbenă* (Alba County), belonging to Vinča (Pl. I) and Foeni (Pl. II) cultures. The fragmentary state of the artefacts does not allow us to always precisely identify the gender of statues (Pl. I/1, 3, 5; Pl. II/1-3, 5). In some cases, the fragmentary state of the statues can be intentional (Pl. I/2; Pl. II/6). Usually, the decoration motifs which adorn the piece consist of sets parallel incised lines (Pl. I/3-4; Pl. II/6). A special category is represented by the so-called thessalic statues or by the statues with a mobile head (Pl. II/1-2).

Keywords: plastic art, Neolithic, Transylvania, anthropomorphic statues, Alba Iulia-*Lumea Nouă*, Petrești-*Groapa Galbenă*.

SANDA BĂCUEȚ CRIȘAN, **Miniature art from Porț-Corău: anthropomorphic statuettes. Preliminary study**

Abstract: The last three research campaigns (2010-2012) from the Porț site known as *Corău* have brought to an increased number of miniature pieces, pointing out in particular the nearly 100 anthropomorphic statues or fragments of anthropomorphic pottery. Although most of the statuettes belong to the types already known in the literature, we note the emergence of new types which complete the repertoire of pieces and sometimes give clues about the cultural influences that have made their place in the community / communities established in this area.

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Keywords: antropomorphic statuettes, Neolithic, Suplac, small finds.

ILEANA BURNICHIOIU, **The *lavatorium* of Bizere abbey – from archaeology to reconstruction**

Abstract: The abbey of Bizere was one of the numerous medieval monasteries active in the valley of the Lower Mureș (Western Romania) at various times, attested in several