

RESTITUTIO. OLD DISCOVERIES OF PREHISTORIC BRONZE ITEMS IN BLANDIANA

Abstract: The discovery of a site journal written by archaeologist Ion Berciu (1904-1986) from 1948 facilitated the recovery of certain important data regarding the prehistoric bronze items from the Blandiana village. The information supports the presentation and the localisation of at least two hoards of bronze items: *Blandiana I*, found in the location named *Fârcaș*, sometime around 1875, and *Blandiana II*, found in the location named *La Vii*. Other bronze discoveries could belong to a different hoard (*Blandiana III?*), as well as other isolated discoveries. The items from Blandiana, held by the museum in Deva have been taken into consideration. Some of the items belong to the *Blandiana I* hoard, but most of them have a chronology (BZ D – Ha A) that clearly shows that they cannot be associated with this discovery, as it has been suggested throughout the years. The artefacts under scrutiny indicate the importance of the area for the Bronze Age and the first Iron Age, documented through the settlements, and the importance of including Blandiana among the areas with rich Vințu de Jos – Bălvănești-type hoards.

Keywords: *Bronze Age, Iron Age, bronze hoards, Vințu de Jos – Bălvănești-type hoards, Basarabi culture.*

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INTRODUCTION

The recent discovery, made by accident, of one of the site journals that belonged to archaeologist Ion Berciu (1904-1986)¹, put us in the possession of certain precious archaeological information regarding the research conducted in the area of the Alba County. The journal was filled out throughout 1948 and it notes several digs and field surveys carried out that year².

From the multitude of data the journal contains, we have chosen to present those that refer to certain discoveries made in the boundaries of the Blandiana Commune. Systematic research was conducted in the village throughout the years 1948, 1962-1963 and 1981-1982, on both banks of the Mureș River. The results are generally known, since several sites and materials dated to the Eneolithic Epoch to the Early Middle Ages were discovered³.

A special category, from the artefacts found in the Blandiana boundaries, is represented by the bronze items. However, many of the items remained unique, and much uncertainty hovers over the ones that have been

¹ Regarding the archaeological activities of Ion Berciu, see especially WOLLMANN 2004, 1-60.

² BERCIOU 1948. The journal was, until recently, kept in archaeologist Ioan Al. Aldea's archive.

³ See REPARHALBA 1995, 60-62.

published, mostly regarding their discovery in this village. We hope that, through this contribution, correlate with field surveys that aimed to localise some of the old discoveries, we can at least partly remove these minuses and confusions.

THE DISCOVERIES OF BRONZE ITEMS RECORDED IN 1948

The information that Ion Berciu recorded in his journal proved to that much more important that none had been included in repertoires or works, compiled after their recording in 1948.

Below, we must reproduce the complete information regarding Blandiana, as the Alba Iulia-based archaeologist noted, on 1 November 1948:

"IV. Long ago, in Fărcaș, a hill in front of the Pleșii Valley, - before the world war - the first - great bronze cache was discovered - "a knapsack" - around 1888 - They were found by villager Homorodean Anania, who is now 73 years old! - but at that time he was 13 years old!"

"VI. A second bronze cache, in Irimie Răcătăuan's vineyard, compiled of sickles etc.

VII. Another (Șerbea ?) allegedly // found spears etc.

VIII. Visalon allegedly found, on Pleșii Peak, a cutlass from the time of the Dacians - "I used to cut skids with it!"

IX. A cache from teacher I. Henția - compiled of:

a) A bronze sickle, - from the cache found by Irimie - and

b) A small axe with an à douille ear.

(Horedt will take the photograph and the respective notes).

For the respective study." (Fig. 4).

Within the same journal, on an A4 page, he drew in crayon, scale 1:1, two of the bronze items mentioned in the note above, namely a socketed axe and a sickle, both accompanied by data regarding their dimensions. Attached to the paper, in the lower right corner, a small photograph of the two prehistoric bronze items was glued (Fig. 5-6).

DISCUSSIONS AROUND THE DISCOVERIES

The Blandiana I Hoard

The discovery of several prehistoric bronze items in the Blandiana village (which, until 1944, bore the name, in Romanian, of Cârna / Cârna Mureșană, and Maroskarna, in Hungarian) was known as early as the end of the 19th century. Until the present day, in Blandiana, a single discovery of prehistoric metallic items is known, namely a cache of both bronze and iron items. We do not know the circumstances of the discovery, or how many objects were present in the cache, but six spectacle fibulae were recovered, out of which five were whole, two whole bracelets, out of which one had been decorated, a fragment of a spiral bracelet, three semilunar pendants and a socketed axe⁴. Since we have already mentioned another unique cache, which we shall analyse below, we must call the one already known in a conventional manner, namely Blandiana I.

The conditions or how many objects the cache contained remains unknown. The first news was provided by Gábor Téglás, who informed us that the discovery had been made by accident sometime at the beginning of the 70s of the 19th century, on the land of a poor man⁵. However, it is possible that the information included by Ion Berciu in his journal could shed some light on this matter. Thus, the archaeologist noted that a large bronze item cache, one that could fit into a "knapsack", was found "around 1888", on Fărcaș, a hill located in front of the Pleșii Peak. The discoverer was named Anania Homorodean, who was 13 years old back then. Since Berciu wrote this information in 1948, mentioning that, at that time, the villager was 73 years old, the calculation of the year of the discovery (1888) is obviously wrong, since it is 1875⁶. Thus, the hypothesis according to which the information regarding the (apparently) two caches actually refers to one and the same discovery is plausible, since the year 1878 corresponds to the information provided by Gábor Téglás, with respect to the period in which the bronze items had been found: "the beginning of the 70s".

Fortunately, the Fărcaș toponym was kept in the memory of the older locals and we could localise it⁷ on the peak between the Blandiana and the Stănișoara Valleys. The place presents itself as a long and wide plateau of approx. 300 m and wide of approx. 250 m, a meadow used as a hayfield from days of old, between Vârful Ion and Drumul Bratii (Fig. 9, 12).

In time, the cache attracted attention only due to the spectacle fibulae, mentioned in different contexts by Ion Nestor⁸ and Dumitru Berciu⁹, both of whom inked them together with similar items discovered in Boș (Hunedoara County), which, in reality, also originated from Blandiana. However, there were often confusions created by the wrong assignment of the items from the Blandiana I cache to the cache from Alba Iulia-Partoș¹⁰.

The data presented by Mircea Petrescu-Dîmbovița resumes the cache to merely six spectacle fibulae (five whole and one fragmented), two whole bracelets, one decorated, with a round section, and another bearing no decorations, with an oval section, a fragment of a spiral bracelet, three semilunar pendants and a socketed axe¹¹ (Fig. 1). All in spite of the fact that G. Téglás mentioned that the cache also included a sword, fragments of a knife, chisels and spearheads made of iron¹², as well as a bronze vessel¹³. The presence of certain iron objects is natural for the Vințu de Jos-Bălvănești type of caches, therefore the information

⁵ TÉGLÁS 1889, 60, no. 14.

⁶ We cannot exclude the idea that the year 1888 may have been connected by Berciu with the year in which Gábor Téglás conducted research in Blandiana, in Țeligrad (see REPARHALBA 1995, 61). It is likely that, with this opportunity, Téglás also recovered the cache from the discoverer, which later became part of the museum collections from Deva and Alba Iulia.

⁷ We are grateful to Mr. Toma Goronea and Maxim Mara, for their guidance in localizing the respective place.

⁸ NESTOR 1933, 141, note 570.

⁹ BERCIOU 1939-1942, 93.

¹⁰ See POPA, BERCIOU 1965, 60; HOREDIT 1966, 261; REPARHALBA 1995, 61, no. 6a.

¹¹ REPARHALBA 1995, 61, no. 6a.

¹² PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 34, 162.

¹³ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 93.

⁴ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 162.

is credible, but there is no way to verify the variety of the aforementioned artefacts.

Among the items illustrated in the old registry of the Deva museum, the bronze socketed axe (entry no. 5201) is also present, as having been part of the hoard from *Blandiana I*, but it was not illustrated. The drawing shows that the item is small and that it is not decorated. Its blade is slightly widened and rounded (Fig. 3/7).

The Blandiana II Hoard

Ion Berciu mentions, in his journal, the discovery of a second cache of bronze items in Blandiana. Even if the information is telegraphic, we can find out that it was found “in Irime Răcătăuan’s vineyard” and it compiled three sickles. The addition of “etc.” that follows the sickles suggests a possibly more diverse composition of metal accumulations, but one regarding which whoever gave Berciu the information and Berciu himself were unsure (Fig. 4).

However, what is important is that, attached to the journal, the drawing and the photograph of one of the discovered sickles were kept. According to the notes made on the paper of the sickle drawing, the items had the following dimensions: length = 22,5 cm; blade width = 6,3 cm, above which there were the following notes: “Blandiana held by Headm. I. Henția / Cache of bronze items found in the commune” (Fig. 5-6; 7/2). Therefore, at the time of the recovery of the information, one of the sickles was being kept in the collection of the headmaster of the school from Blandiana, Ioan Henția¹⁴.

The sickle belongs to the category *Hackensicheln*, with a simple blade, the outer edge strongly thickened and rounded. The item is missing its blade tip and hook tip. The great width of blade stands out, as well as the arch, specific to the items defined by M. Petrescu-Dîmbovița as Mociu types¹⁵. A finer dating, in the absence of other associations of items, is difficult to make, since such sickles emerged beginning with the series from the Uriu-Domănești (Bz D) caches and end with the Moigrad-Tăuteu (Ha B₁) caches. However, the most frequently encountered are from the Ruginoasa-Cara series¹⁶.

Seen in the context of the area of the distribution of the Mociu type sickles, the item from Blandiana represents the most western item found in Transylvania. Together with the Blandiana II cache, we could add the cache from Vurpăr, which contained three identical sickles of the same type¹⁷. If we were to admit that the cache was discovered in the Vurpăr village from the Vințu de Jos commune, as Horia Ciugudean¹⁸ recently considered, we must note that the village is located immediately upstream from Blandiana, at the foot of the same hills. The discovery dates back to 1877, and, as such, we cannot know for certain which Vurpăr village was mentioned,

because there were two villages bearing this name, in the Alba and in the Sibiu Counties; we must, however, most likely refer to the commune from Sibiu¹⁹.

Therefore, the “Blandiana II” cache must be understood as a distinctive cache of bronze items, compiled of sickles (as well as other unknown items), datable to the Early Bronze Age. The place of the discovery (“Irime Răcătăuan’s vineyard”) localizes it in the Blandiana vineyards, more precisely in the *În Vii* area, known for the systematic digs and the discoveries made there²⁰. The place is located at the foot of the hill whose slope leans towards the Mureș River (Fig. 10, 12) and above which there is a peak road that passes through the *Fărcaș* location.

The Blandiana III Presumptive Hoard

The existence of a third presumptive cache in Blandiana is also based on Ion Berciu’s notes, which noted that a certain Șerbea (?) had found “spears etc.” (“VII. Another (Șerbea ?) allegedly // found spears etc.”²¹) (Fig. 4). The extremely concise information is incomplete. The name of the discoverer is uncertain, as is the fact that the items could have formed a cache. However, the fact that the note mentions several spears (the only ones recognizable and kept in the individual and collective memory), together with which one can also deduce the existence of other items, determines us to repertoire them as a possible cache of prehistoric bronze items.

Other Prehistoric Bronze Items

Besides the items that formed caches, other isolated prehistoric bronze items were found in the Blandiana boundaries.

The old collection held by the museum from Deva contains several bronze items which, in the inventory registry, are localized in Blandiana.

The inventory registry of the museum from Deva shows that a bronze pendant (MCDR Deva, entry no. 5213) also originated from Blandiana. Since Petrescu-Dîmbovița merely mentions the presence of the three items²² in the hoard from Blandiana I, we cannot compare them with the item under scrutiny. However, it is certain that the item illustrated by us belongs to the category of lunar pendants with a central ornament, with the apophysis in the shape of

¹⁴ A member of the Henția family of priests and teachers from the Sebeș Valley, the one that also gave the well-known painter Sava Henția (1848-1904).

¹⁵ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, 62-63.

¹⁶ VEZI ȘI RUSTOIU 1996, p. 86; CIUGUDEAN/LUCA/GEORGESCU 2010, 27.

¹⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 138, Pl. 336/1-3; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1978, 63, no. 1754-1754A; CIUGUDEAN/LUCA/GEORGESCU 2010, 26-27, Pl. XIII/2.

¹⁸ CIUGUDEAN 2015, 8, 14, nr. 31.

¹⁹ Another typical case of topographic confusion in the Romanian archaeology. It is hard to understand how Horia Ciugudean included, in 2015, the village in the Alba County, given that in 2010 he made a demonstration in favour of localizing the cache from Vurpăr in the Sibiu County (“it is most likely the Vurpăr from Sibiu”) CIUGUDEAN/LUCA/GEORGESCU 2010, 26-27), but, on the map present in his paper (CIUGUDEAN/LUCA/GEORGESCU 2010, Pl. I, nr. 5), the Vurpăr from Alba is marked. However, G. T. Rustoiu went the opposite way and repertoire the village, for the Mociu type sickles, in the Alba County, but, on his map, he marked the point in Sibiu (RUSTOIU 1996, 87, Pl. IV). M. Petrescu-Dîmbovița (PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 138) and M. Rusu (RUSU 1963, 209, nr. 39; RUSU 1994, 169) also localized the discovery in Vurpăr (Sibiu County). For a localization in southern Transylvania, the fact that one of the Vurpăr sickles ended up, in 1914, in the Brașov Museum could also be an argument.

²⁰ REPARHALBA 1995, 62, nr. 9.

²¹ BERCIOU 1948, 12-13.

²² PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 34, 162.

an anchor (Fig. 3/4a). It was illustrated by Carol Kacsó (Fig. 3/4b); such items generally date to the Middle Bronze Age and they are rarely attested as far as Ha A²³.

The socketed chisel that is present in the same registry as having originated from Blandiana (Fig. 3/8) was published as having belonged to a hoard from Dumești, from the Cincu-Suseni²⁴ series, a hoard whose existence is contested²⁵.

The sickle fragment preserved at the museum from Deva, registered under no. 5212 and noted as having originated from Blandiana (Fig. 3/5), was added to a hoard from Mărtinești, which was contested by Mircea Rusu²⁶.

A spear tube (Fig. 3/9), a decorated socketed axe fragment (Fig. 3/6), as well as a decorated bracelet (Fig. 3/3) established as having originated from Blandiana were later assessed, through the collections of Ion Nestor and Octavian Floca, as having been discovered in Deva. Both the old notations, and the aforementioned corrections remain uncertain; however, at least the bracelet was illustrated by M. Petrescu-Dîmbovița in the hoard from Blandiana²⁷.

A spearhead with a cut-out blade (MCDR Deva, entry no. 5207), illustrated in the old inventory registry of the museum from Deva as having originated from Blandiana (Fig. 2 = 3/10), was later “transferred” to the village of Dumești (Vorța Commune, Hunedoara County), based on the research conducted by Ion Nestor and Octavian Floca; however, the association with the supposed hoard of bronze items localised there is unsure²⁸. What is certain is that the spearhead dates to the Ha A period and that it represents a type that is very rarely encountered in the Transylvanian space – a unique item that is somewhat similar was found in hoard of bronze items from Copșa Mică.

The aspects above clearly show that the prehistoric bronze items preserved in Deva, grouped here, localised in Blandiana, even if they did originate from there, cannot be connected to the *Blandiana I* hoard, with the exception of those analysed within this discovery. The items that have chronological value can be dated to the Middle and Late Bronze Age and could be connected to the *Blandiana II* hoard, or other discoveries, as is the case of the presumptive *Blandiana III* hoard. Other items can represent isolated discoveries.

A unique bronze socketed axe was also noted by Ion Berciu. The item is part of the Transylvanian type socketed axes, with a sturdy body and a straight socket and blade. The end of the socket hole is thickened, containing a grip loop. Two lateral facets start from the lower part and unite at the edge. Dimensions: length = 10,3 cm; blade width = 3,9cm; “opening width” = 3,2 cm, 4,4 cm (Fig. 5-6 = 7/1). The socketed axe can be dated to Bz D.

The published series of prehistoric bronze items from Blandiana ends with two other bronze socketed axes, found by accident and published by Ioan Al. Aldea and Horia

Ciugudean. One of the items was found in the place called *La Poieni* (Fig. 6/2), while in the case of the other, the location and date of the discovery is not mentioned (Fig. 6/1). The items were included, based on their analogies, in Ha B²⁹ and, therefore, can be attributed to the Gáva communities in the area. The attempt to identify the location called *La Poieni*, in order to chart it in the context of the bronze discoveries, has proven to be a failure. The primary inconvenient is given by the fact that many locations bear this name and, moreover, there is still a hamlet in Blandiana names Poieni (om 2011, it had 6 inhabitants), in the upper area of the Blandiana valley, near the Ibru hamlet.

CONCLUSIONS

As he mentions in the final two rows of the note, Ion Berciu had prepared a photograph and several notes that would be sent to archaeologist Kurt Horedt for a study. Most likely, they never came into the possession of Horedt, for two reasons: the first is that the respective paper, with the aforementioned photograph, was still annexed to Ion Berciu’s journal, and the second reason is that these bronze discoveries have remained unknown until today, therefore they never reached a recipient who would exploit them from a scientific viewpoint³⁰.

We must note the large number of metallic bronze items found throughout the Blandiana commune. This aspect should not come as a surprise, for at least two explanations that could represent the basis of this observation. First of all, the fact that the area is located at the foot of the Apuseni Mountains, known for their metalliferous resources. Second of all, the peaks of the hills that descend towards the Mureș Valley are ideal for the votive deposit / hiding of certain caches of metallic items, named by the archaeologists by the conventional term of “hoard”.

The abundance of the metallic discoveries, not only prehistoric, from Blandiana, generated an intense phenomenon of treasure hunting. Ion Berciu also informs of its state in the middle of the 20th century, in his journal, in 1948:

“We are thus faced with the fiercest treasure hunter, Visalon Păclișanu, who was deaf, who knew verses from the story of Gruia of Novac and who knew many fantastic things: for years, in these places, he dug for treasure, gold, barrels of wine, “riches”, “ecerime” and other mischiefs!!”³¹.

A cache formed of prehistoric bronze items was found in the 19th century in Ac mariu as well, a village belonging to Blandiana, located more downhill. From this cache, several bronze items were discovered, most of which, due to István Jeney, the Alba Iulia Police chief, ended up at the Museum of Cluj. In 1886, Jeney’s daughter still kept three bracelets, out of which one was simple, decorated with engraved spirals, and another decorated with protuberances, a fragment of a fibula and a “cocolaș”. Her move to Oradea led to the loss of

²³ KACSÓ 1998, 15, Taf. VIII/1.

²⁴ See PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 93, Pl. 142/4; BĂLAN 2009, 5, 13, 34, Pl. VI/28.

²⁵ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 93, with Mircea Rusu’s opinion.

²⁶ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 99.

²⁷ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 162, Pl. 386/4.

²⁸ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 93.

²⁹ ALDEA/CIUGUDEAN 1988, 73-74, Pl. II/3; III/2; ALDEA/CIUGUDEAN 1995, 219-220, Abb. 3/6, 11.

³⁰ Kurt Horedt’s desire to publish the hoard of bronze items from Blandiana is clearly shown by the note from the study published by POPA/BERCIU 1965, 60, note 7.

³¹ BERCIU 1948, 16.

the bronze objects³². M. Roska, in an attempt to trace the items that had ended up in Cluj, considers that they could no longer be found in the museum of the association, since the entire lot had been completely lost³³. However, the final list of his Transylvanian repertoire included the village on the list of discoveries from the Bronze Age and from the “Villanova-Hallstatt”³⁴ Period. Iuliu Marțian mentioned, from Acmaru, three bracelets and one shield fragment³⁵, but Roska corrected the information regarding the shield umbo-s from Acmaru as erroneous³⁶. In the archaeological repertoire of the Alba County, only described objects are mentioned (three bracelets, the fragment of a fibula and a “curved object”) and that are considered to possibly be part of the inventory of a Celtic grave (“they are more likely Celtic?”)³⁷. The same hypothesis was also embraced by I. V. Ferencz, who has some reservations and admits that the discovery is uncertain, or even perhaps belongs to a different era³⁸. However, in the final cited works, the entire information was not considered, which indicates the discovery of a large number of items (which do not mention other categories of an inventory specific to a Celtic grave), out of which only those kept by Jeney’s daughter were presented.

In our opinion, there are insufficient arguments that would allow for their attribution to a funerary Celtic inventory. A connection of the items under scrutiny to the Celtic population has few possibilities of documentary support. Based on Typological criteria and depending on the raw materials used in their manufacturing, the items could have belonged to a cache of bronze items from the end of the Bronze Age, or from the first part of the Iron Age. „Cocoloșul”, or the “curved” item could have been a ingot, for instance.

However, we cannot exclude the idea that the cache noted at Acmaru could be the same as the one from Blandiana. The argument can be that of the situation of the *Fărcaș* location, where the *Blandiana I* cache was found, whose western sector belong to the Acmaru village. As such, it is possible that there was a confusion, if the cache were found on a border between the two villages.

The bronze items from the Ha B-Ha C periods can be associated with the discoveries from the Blandiana boundaries, identified in the centre of the village, on the right terrace of the Mureș River, during the erection of the police headquarters building, in *Țeligrad*, or in different points on the riverbank³⁹. Other unique Gáva-type items originated from the northern slope of a hill located at the entrance of the *Valea Bisericii*, as well as from the neighbouring areas, in Acmaru-*Școală*⁴⁰. The local cultural realities end in the area together with the Ha D period, with a characteristic inventory (clay vessel, knife, arrowheads)⁴¹.

The Blandiana – Vințu de Jos – Tărtăria area was clearly marked by the existence of numerous hoards that belong to this epoch: *Vințu de Jos II*⁴², *Vințu de Jos III*⁴³, *Tărtăria I* și *Tărtăria II*⁴⁴, and they can be connected to the dynamics of the Basarabi-type communities entering the Mureș Valley.

The bronze items held by the museum in Deva, dated to the Middle and Late Bronze Age, that could have originated from Blandiana, must be associated with other cultural realities. Within the boundaries of the village, Wietenberg discoveries were made in the location called *Țeligrad*⁴⁵, with the extension to the west, to *La Vii* (the village vineyards)⁴⁶, as well as on the Mureș riverbank, *La Brod*⁴⁷. Other Wietenberg discoveries were made in the immediate vicinity and in Acmaru, on *Pârâul lui Barb*, a tributary of the Feneș Valley⁴⁸, as well as in *Școală*⁴⁹.

The hills with southern exposure on the Mureș Valley could have represented a preferred place for the burial of such a cache⁵⁰. A similar situation can be found downstream, at Rapoltu Mare, on the same right bank of the Mureș River, where a cache had been buried on the wester side of a lateral valley⁵¹, as well as on *Măgura Uroiului*⁵².

Naturally, we must note the high number of prehistoric bronze items discovered throughout the years in the Blandiana village. The number of hoards of bronze items increased to two (with the possibility of the existence of a third hoard) and other items possibly discovered as isolated. From the viewpoint of their dating, there is a wide chronological bearing that debuts with the Bz D period and ends with the Ha C period. The metallic inventory of the Scythian incineration grave ends with a rich series of discoveries. It is certain that an important role in the outlining of this reality was played by the key position of the area, with rich resources nearby, at the intersection of certain commercial routes, either on the roads or on the Mureș River.

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- ⁴⁴ BORȘ 2015.
- ⁴⁵ ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 17, 27, 45, 120, no. 13, Pl. 36/2; BOROFFKA 1994, 23, no. 62; REPARHALBA 1995, 20, no. 8a.
- ⁴⁶ Unique material. Periegesis by Cristian I. Popa, from 2004.
- ⁴⁷ REPARHALBA 1995, 20, no. 1b.
- ⁴⁸ A site discovered by Cristian I. Popa, Nicolae M. Simina in 2001, when a Wietenberg pit was also partially surveyed. The settlement was rediscovered and the materials were published by BĂLAN *et alii* 2014, 217-218, 222-223, Pl. 4-5, 11/9-10, 12-14; 12/1-3.
- ⁴⁹ BĂLAN *et alii* 2014, 215-217, Pl. 2-3; 11/1-8, 11; 12/1-3.
- ⁵⁰ See SOROCEANU 2012.
- ⁵¹ BASSA 1968, 31-47.
- ⁵² ARDEU/BĂLOS 2013, 175-182, Fig. 2.

³² TÉGLÁS 1887, 62-63, no. 27.

³³ ROSKA 1942, 163.

³⁴ ROSKA 1942, 344, nr. 292; 350, nr. 101.

³⁵ MARȚIAN 1920, 6.

³⁶ ROSKA 1942, 12, no. 12.

³⁷ REPARHALBA 1995, 20, no. 2.

³⁸ FERENCZ 2007, 48.

³⁹ BERCIOU 1948, page 1; REPARHALBA 1995, 60, no. 1b; 61, no. 5; JOSAN 2003, p. 419.

⁴⁰ BĂLAN *et alii* 2014, 216, 222.

⁴¹ HOREDT 1966, 261, 282, 285, Abb. 20/1; 22; REPARHALBA 1995, 61, no. 9a.

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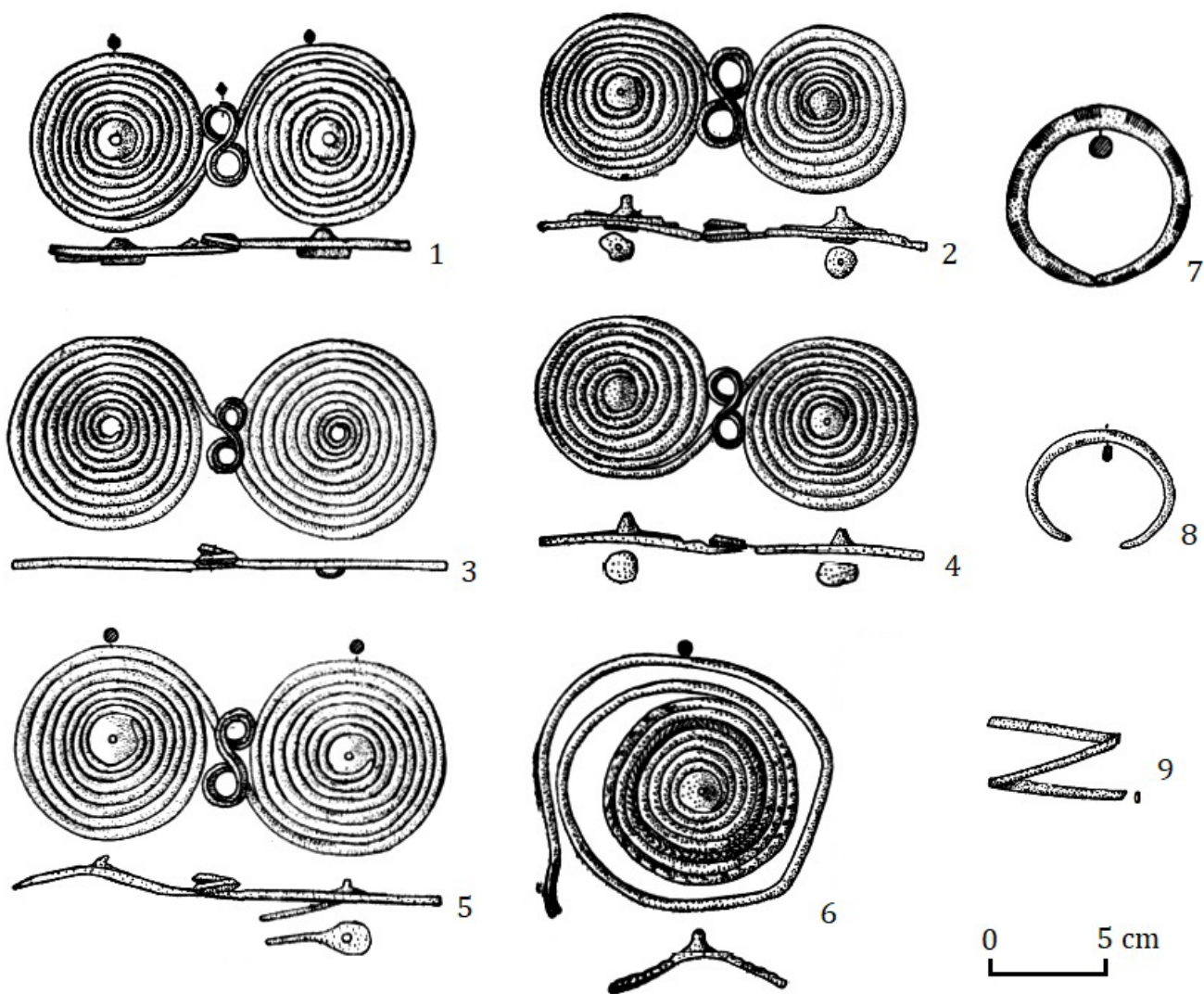


Fig. 1. The "Blandiana I" hoard of bronze items (after PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977).

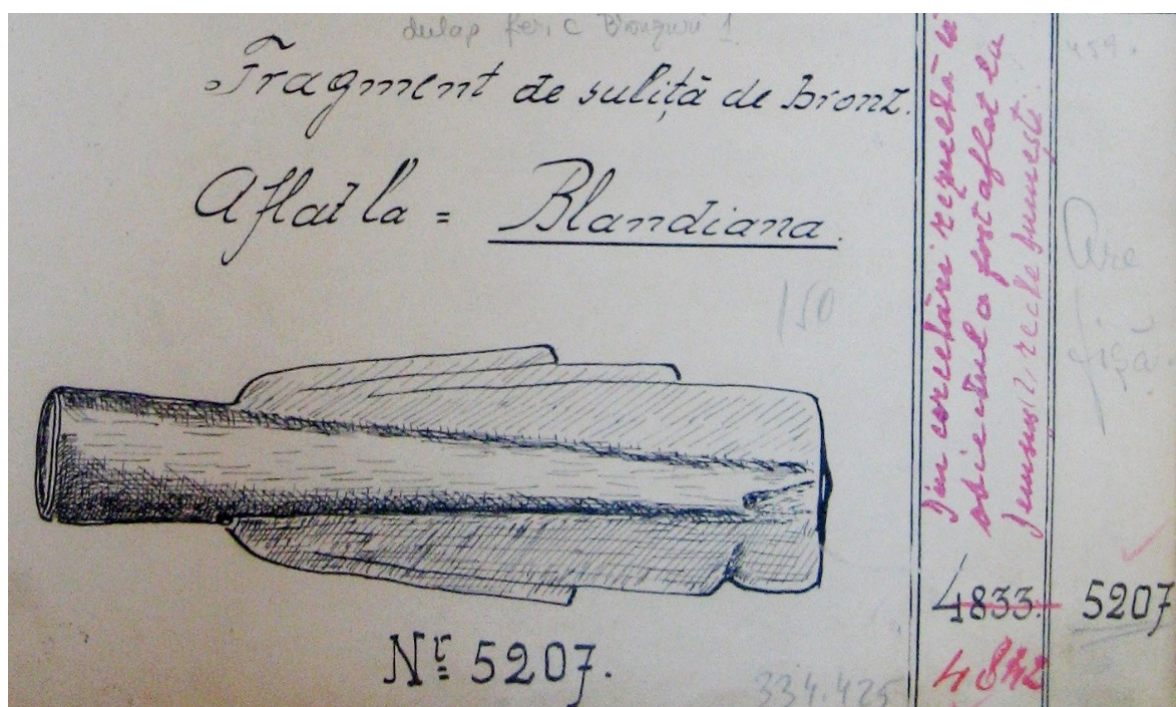


Fig. 2. Bronze spearhead from Blandiana – a page from the old inventory registry of the museum from Deva.

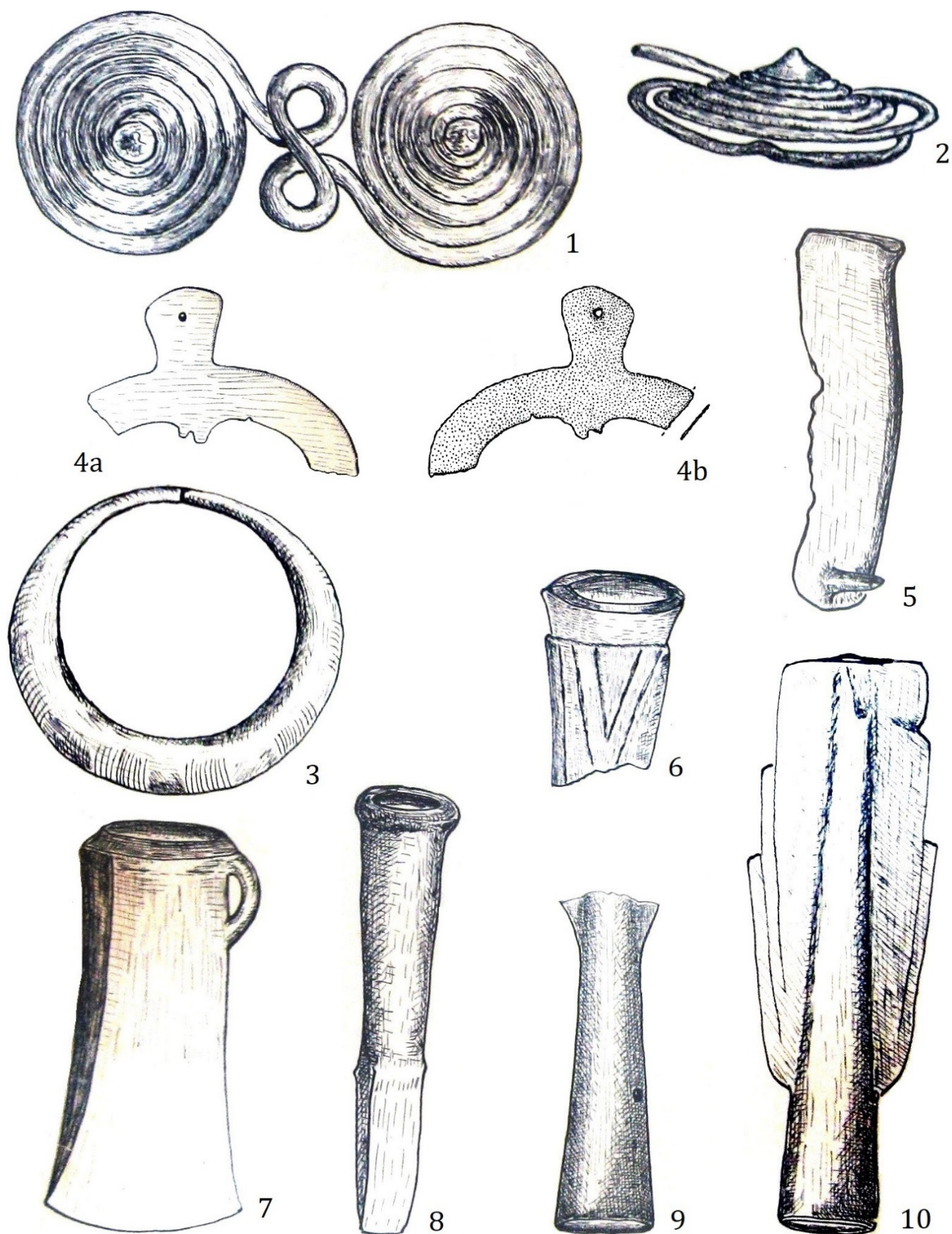


Fig. 3. Bronze items inventoried by the museum from Deva as having been discovered in Blandiana (images processed in accordance with the pages from the old inventory registry) (4b – after KACSÓ 1998).



Fig. 5. Socketed axe found isolated (?) and a bronze sickle from the Blandiana II hoard (photo by Ion Berciu 1948).

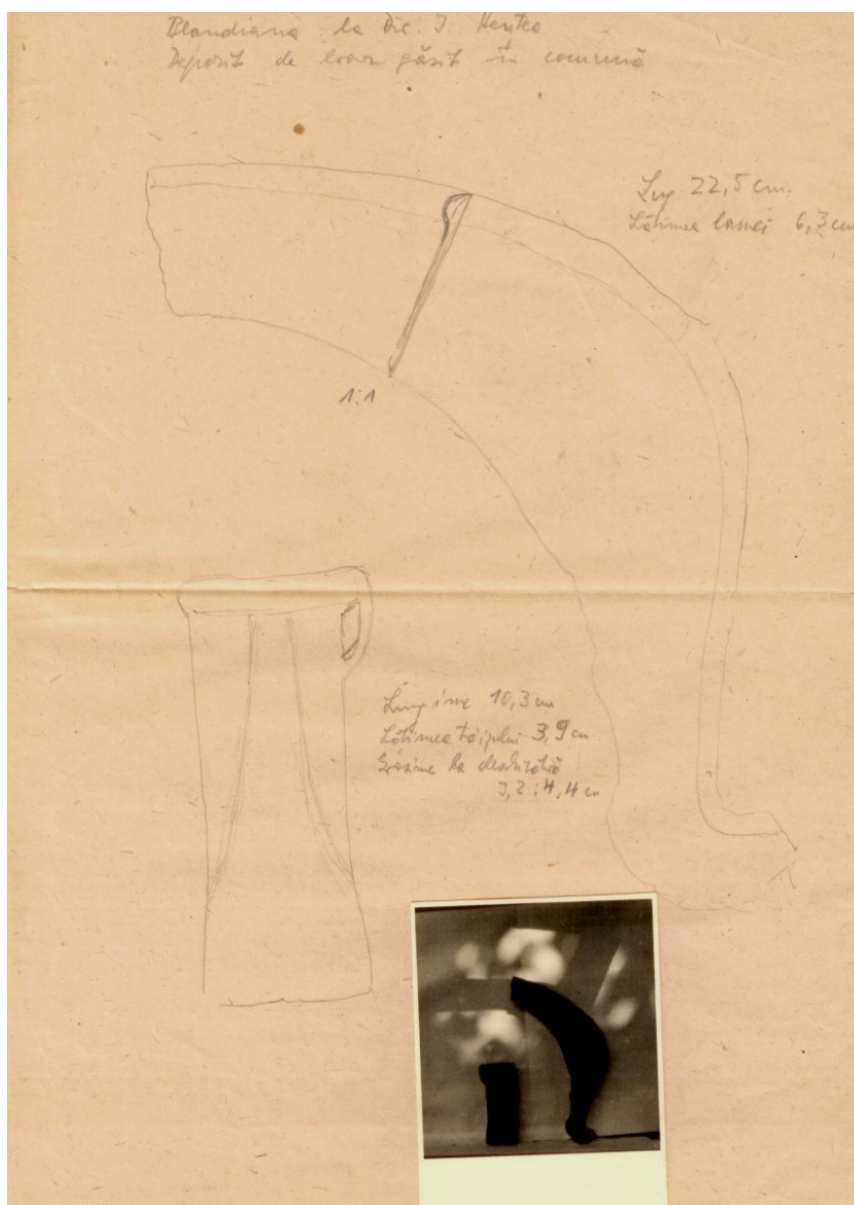


Fig. 6. Socketed axe found isolated (?) and a bronze sickle from the Blandiana II hoard (drawing and photo by Ion Berciu 1948).

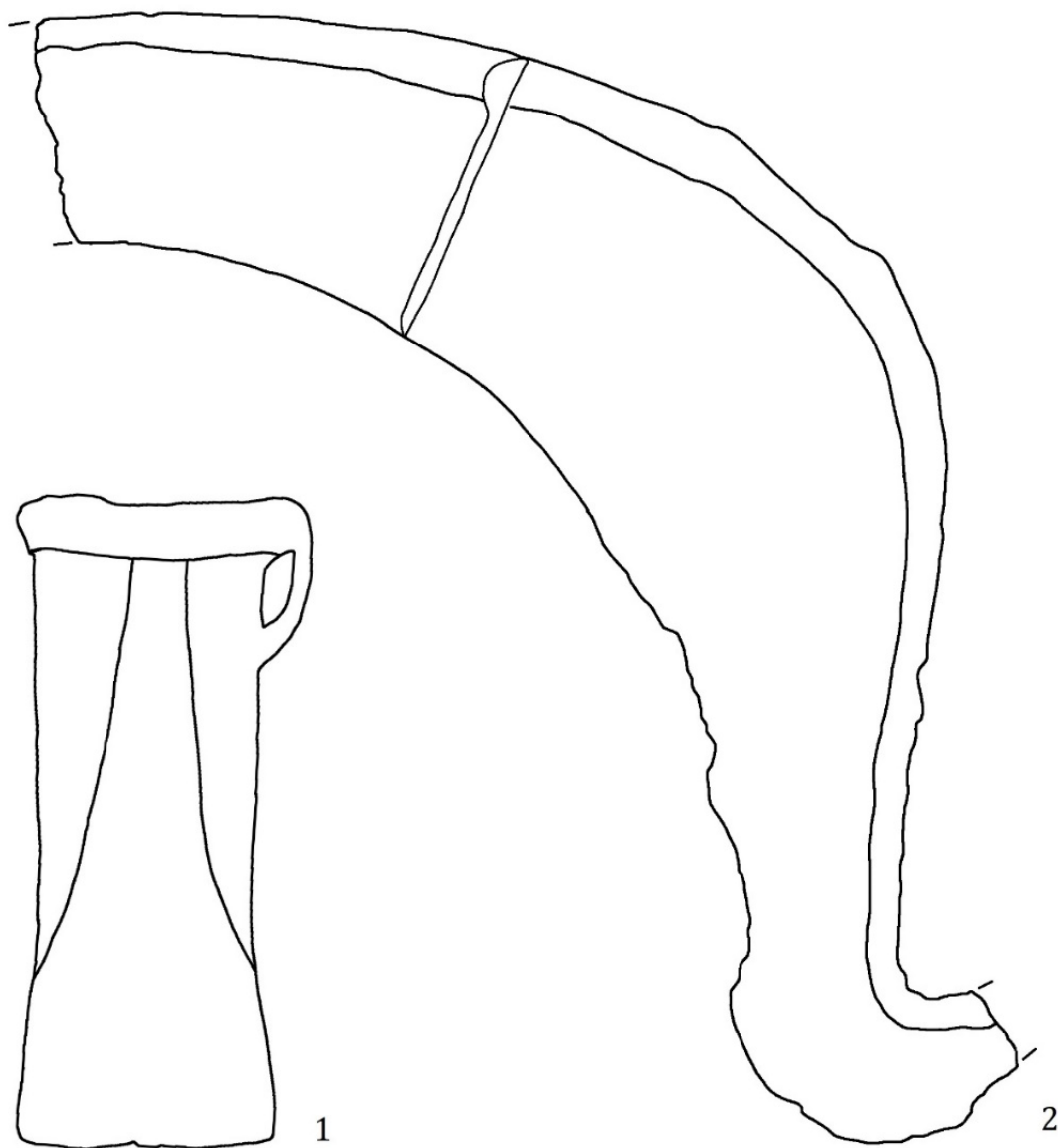


Fig. 7. Socketed axe found isolated (?) (1) and a bronze sickle (2) from the Blandiana II hoard (drawing) (processed after the drawings made by Ion Berciu 1948).

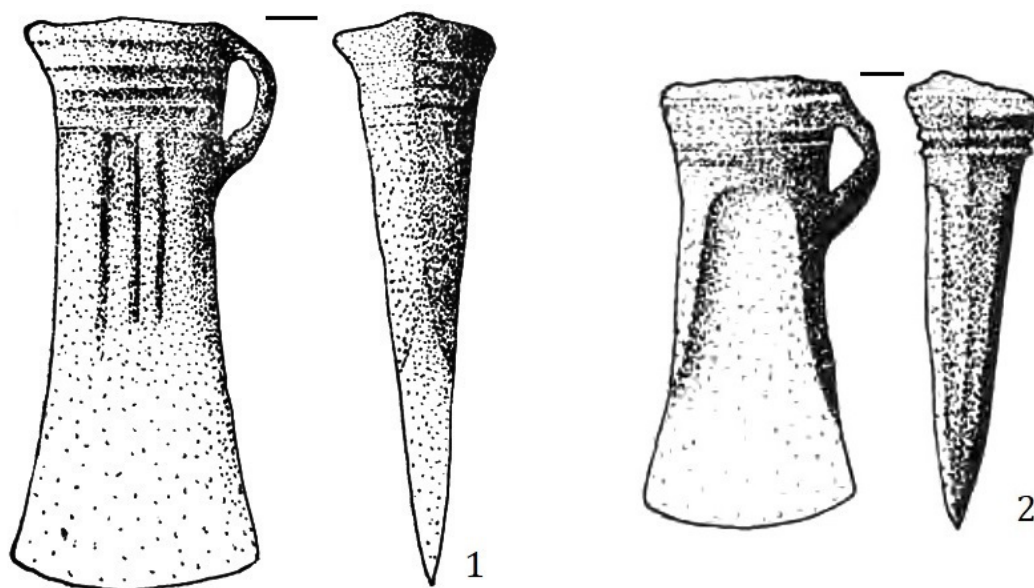


Fig. 8. Bronze socketed axes from Blandiana (after ALDEA/CIUGUDEAN 1995).



Fig. 9. Overview on the *Fărcaș* plateau from the Blandiana valley (photo 2020).



Fig. 10. Partial view on the Blandiana vineyards, towards *Jeligrad* (photo 2020).



Fig. 11. The schoolmaster-teacher Ioan Henția, keeper of the prehistoric bronze items from Blandiana (photo from 1935, at the inauguration of the Blandiana Hero's Monument) (after JOSAN 2004).

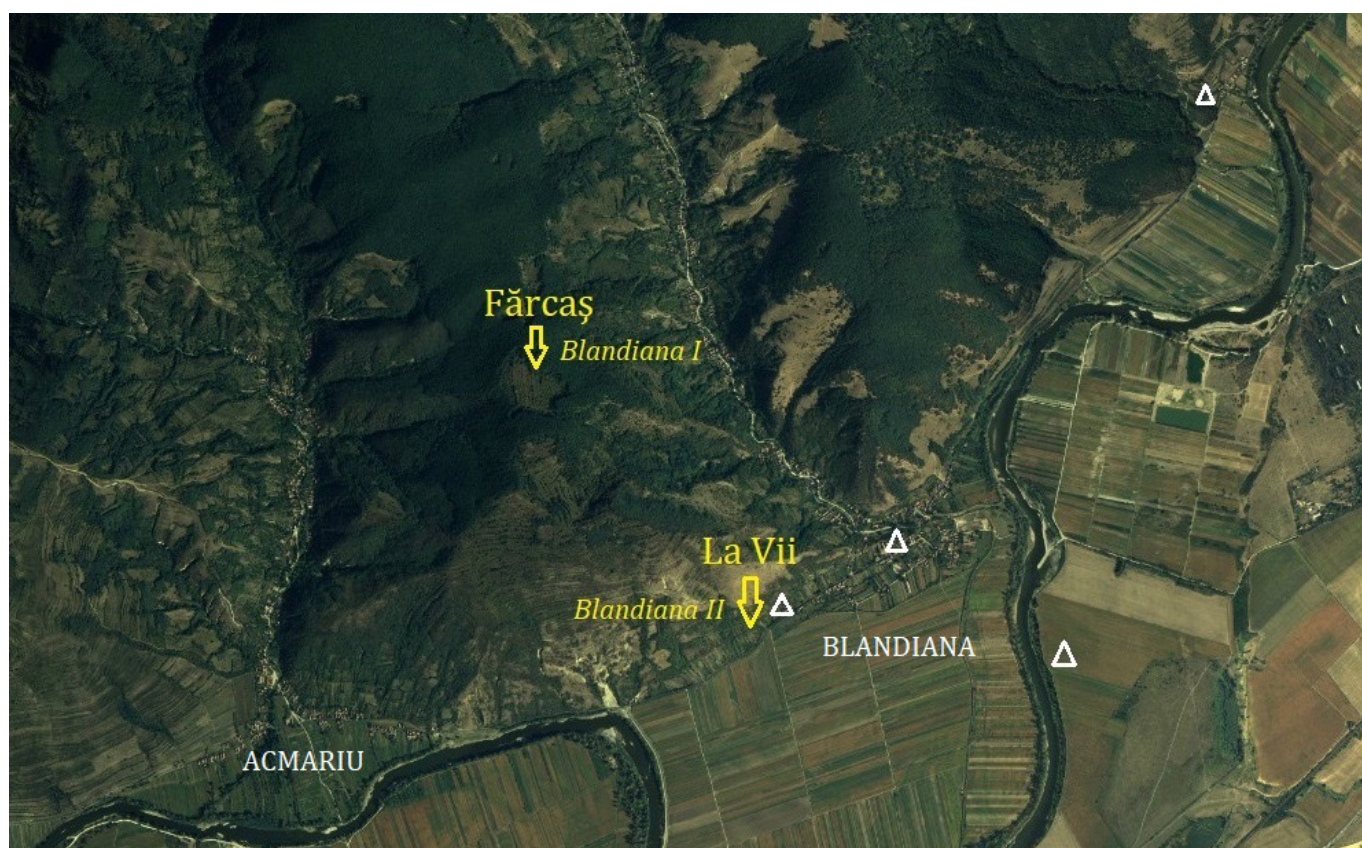


Fig. 12. The localization of the *Blandiana I* and *Blandiana II* hoards of bronze items. The triangles marks the points of the discoveries from the Bronze Age and the first Iron Age.