

BRONZE VESSELS OF THE EARLY IRON AGE DISCOVERED AT BĂLATA (ROMANIA)

Abstract: Rescue archaeological excavations took place in the summer of 2014 at the multi-period site of Bălata – Schit, Șoimuș commune, Hunedoara County, adding to the existing information on one of the most important sites on the Mureș Valley. Amongst the numerous discoveries, fragments from at least two bronze cauldrons were uncovered. The morphological characteristics, especially the cross-shaped handles decorated with geometric patterns, indicate their dating in the final stage of Ha B2, as also suggested by other analogies in Transylvania. The vessels belong to the categories Merhardt B1 and B2a. The bronze recipients from Bălata reveal an unknown chapter in the archaeology of the Early Iron Age in south-western Transylvania, offering new data on the spirituality of the respective times.

Keywords: *Early Iron Age, Transylvania, Ha B, bronze vessel, Merhardt typology.*

THE SITE

The two bronze vessels discussed in this paper were discovered in 2014, during rescue archaeological excavations prior to the construction of a monastic complex in the area of Bălata, Șoimuș commune, Hunedoara County, Romania (Fig. 1/1). At the place known as *Teleghi*¹, the high terrace of the Mureș River is well known for abundant archaeological remains, recovered both as chance finds and during field surveys. Several artefacts² were found before 1974 but it was only then that Ioan Andrițoiu, archaeologist at the museum in Deva, carried out the first test sounding on the northern area of the site, thus indicating the presence of a prehistoric occupation³. A series of exceptional finds were uncovered on the southern part of the site during the 2011 extensive rescue excavations, undertaken ahead of the construction of the Deva – Orăștie motorway. The density of the features and the spatial distribution of the artefacts suggested the presence of vast and complex human occupations from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman period, Migration period and Early Middle Ages⁴.

THE VESSELS

The bronze recipients were found approximately 400 m north of the settlements documented along the motorway. Judging by the excavated features and the artefacts unearthed so far, the respective area was

Cătălin CRISTESCU

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
catalincristescu01@yahoo.com

Nicolae Cătălin RIȘCUȚA

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
criscuta@yahoo.com

Oana TUTILĂ

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
oanatulila@yahoo.com

Ioana Lucia BARBU

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
b_iona@yahoo.com

Antoni Tudor MARC

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
seiciperis_74@yahoo.com

Ioan Alexandru BĂRBAT

Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation, Deva
ioan_alexandru_barbat@yahoo.com

DOI: 10.14795/j.v7i2.534

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN–L 2360 – 266X

¹ LUCA 2008, 165; BĂRBAT 2015.

² ROSKA 1942, 165, no. 113; FLOCA 1969, 17; FLOCA 1972, 13–14; FERENCZ/FERENCZ 2001, 132.

³ ANDRIȚOIU 1979, 27; DRAȘOVEAN/ROTEA 1986.

⁴ SCHUSTER *et alii* 2012; ȘTEFAN/PETCU/PETCU 2013; RIȘCUȚA/MARC 2014; NIȚĂ *et alii* 2015; ȘTEFAN/PETCU 2015; ȘTEFAN/PETCU/PETCU 2015; DOBRESCU/ȘTEFAN/BONSALL 2016; MĂRGĂRIȚ/ȘTEFAN/DUMITRAȘCU 2016; ȘTEFAN 2016; DIMACHE/ȘTEFAN/PETCU 2017; ȘTEFAN *et alii* 2017.

occupied during the Early and Late Iron Age, the Migration period and the Early Middle Ages⁵. The containers were observed at a low depth during the mechanical removal of the topsoil. Our field observations did not indicate any archaeological layer or feature at that spot (Fig. 1/2)⁶. Both vessels lack important parts, while the ones preserved are heavily deformed (probably due to the previous intensive agricultural activities). A detailed typological description and chronological background of the two containers is offered below.

TYOLOGY

1. Merhart B1 cauldron. The vessel was made by cold hammering from a bronze sheet. The recipient has a truncated-cone shape, with a slightly incurved edge and an extremely profiled base (Fig. 2/3). The rim was thickened by hammering and bent towards the interior. On the maximum diameter area two twin cross-shaped handle attachments were fastened using five conical-head rivets each⁷. Only one of the arched handles survived (Fig. 2/1). It was made from a tightly twisted bronze bar with the ends bent upwards, tapered and faceted by hammering. One end of the handle preserved the loop of the attachment, triangular in section (Fig. 2/2). The incised ornamentation of the rim is organized in three registers, bordered by series of horizontal lines (five, two, four, and one). The upper register is decorated with fine oblique lines leaning left, while the second register displays oblique lines leaning right, thus creating a 'fir tree' pattern. The lower register is composed of a row of inverted hachured triangles (Fig. 3/1). The twin cross-shaped attachments were overlapping the whole decoration of the rim; both arms of the preserved part of the attachment are ornamented by stamping with concentric circles with a central dot (Fig. 3/2). The approximate dimensions of the cauldron are: height = 12.5 cm; rim diameter = 26 cm; max. diameter = 28 cm; base diameter = 26 cm.

2. Merhart B2a cauldron. The vessel was manufactured by cold hammering from a bronze sheet. The cauldron has a truncated-cone shape, a slightly incurved rim and a profiled base (Fig. 4/1). It has flaring walls, a shallow depth and a large opening at the mouth. On the maximum diameter area, two pairs of cross-shaped handle attachments were fastened with cap-shaped rivets. The preserved attachment was repaired in ancient times by means of a rivet heavily deformed by hammering; the latter pierced the rim of the vessel as indicated by the break of the loop with a triangular cross-section (Fig. 4/2). The body of the vessel does not bear any decoration, unlike the cross-shaped attachments which were ornamented by hammering. Along the horizontal arm of the preserved handle, the decoration consists of two rows

of oblique lines forming the 'fir tree' pattern. We must note that the motifs start from the middle of the attachment in opposite directions. The vertical segment is decorated with two rows of oblique lines and a central row of dots, forming the same 'fir tree' pattern. The approximate dimensions of the cauldron are: height = 10.5 cm; rim diameter = 28 cm; max. diameter = 30 cm; base diameter = 11 cm.

CHRONOLOGY

Although the twin cross-shaped handle attachments of the first vessel are specific to the Merhart B1 type cauldrons⁸ (Fig. 5/1), numerous elements such as the body decoration, the shape, the profile, the handle, and the ornaments on the attachments, point to a close connection with the B2a type containers⁹. Regarding their form and decoration, the best analogy from the Transylvanian space comes from Buru (Iara commune, Cluj County)¹⁰, but the respective container belongs to the Merhardt B2a type (Fig. 6/2, 7/1).

Other bronze basins with twin cross-shaped handle attachments were discovered in Transylvania at Alba-Iulia¹¹, Brăduț (Fig. 6/1)¹², Moigrad¹³, Sâncrăieni¹⁴, and Visuia¹⁵. Their decoration is simple, usually composed of parallel incised lines placed under the rim. Other ornaments include oblique and zigzag lines, semicircles (forming a 'wave'), and different size dots in the *au repoussé* technique. The aforementioned motifs are present on the body of the vessel, while the handle attachments bear no decoration.

The second vessel belongs without any doubt to the Merhart B2a type¹⁶ (Fig. 5/2). For the Transylvanian space, similar recipients are known from Buru¹⁷, Buza¹⁸, Dumbrăvița¹⁹, Fizeșul Gherlei²⁰, and Sângeorgiu de Pădure²¹. Horizontal, multiple oblique and zigzag incised lines, hachured triangles (with the sharp edge downwards), incised 'X' marks and concentric circles on the attachment, and incised lines on the rivets compose the rich ornamental repertoire of this category.

Concerning the relative chronology, the B1 containers

⁵ For a brief presentation of the archaeological excavations, see RIȘCUȚA *et alii* 2015.

⁶ At that particular spot, large amounts of soil have been deployed for agricultural purposes during the communist regime. There is a slight (improbable) possibility that the vessels were brought from another area of the same terrace.

⁷ It seemed at first that the cauldron had had two separate cross-shaped attachments, just like the other bronze container. At a closer look, the remaining part of one of the attachments was broken just near the central rivet, holding in place the longest arm of the twin-cross. Moreover, the placement and the distances between the surviving rivets support this observation.

⁸ v. MERHARDT 1952, 4; THEVENOT 1991, 71; KOÓS 2004; METZNER-NEBELSICK 2005, 322; SOROCEANU 2008, 124-126.

⁹ SOROCEANU 2008, 153.

¹⁰ SOROCEANU 2008, 135, Abb. 18, Taf. 98.

¹¹ PÂRVAN 1926, 309, Fig. 198; SOROCEANU 2008, 126-127, Taf. 16/90.

¹² PÂRVAN 1926, 308-309, 412, Fig. 195-196; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 127, Pl. 302/3-4; SOROCEANU 2005, 405; SOROCEANU 2008, 127-128, Taf. 17-18.

¹³ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 131, Pl. 311/1, 4, 7; LÁKO 1983, 81, Pl. VIII/3; SOROCEANU 2008, 128-130, Abb. 16.a-16.c, Taf. 20.

¹⁴ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 134, Pl. 321/13; SOROCEANU 2008, 130, Taf. 21/95.

¹⁵ DĂNILĂ 1976, 69-71, Fig. 1/1-2, 3/6, 7/1-7; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 138, Pl. 335/1-3; GOGĂLTAN 1993, 23; SOROCEANU 2008, 130-132, Abb. 17.a-17.c, Taf. 21/97, 22.

¹⁶ v. MERHARDT 1952, 4; THEVENOT 1991, 72; METZNER-NEBELSICK 2005, 322; SOROCEANU 2008, 132-135.

¹⁷ ROSKA 1942, 46, kép 43; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 141, Pl. 344/1; SOROCEANU 2008, 135, Abb 18, Taf. 23.

¹⁸ SOROCEANU/BUDA 1978, 99, Abb. 2/2-3, 3/1, 5, 4/2-3; SOROCEANU 2008, 135-138, Abb 19.a-19.b, Taf. 24-26.

¹⁹ SOROCEANU 2008, 138, Abb. 20.a-20.b, Taf. 27.

²⁰ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 142, Pl. 346/17-18, 347/4-5; SOROCEANU 2008, 143, Abb 22.a-22.b, Taf. 30/106.

²¹ ROSKA 1942, 76, kép 90/30; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977, 143, Pl. 352/10, 353/1-3; MICLEA/FLORESCU 1980, 125, Fig. 510; SOROCEANU 2008, 138-142, Abb. 21.a-21.e, Taf. 28-29; REZI 2017, 38-40, Fig. 6, 23.

last from the end of Ha A₂ to the beginning of Ha B₂²². The recipients assigned to the B2a type are specific for the following period, with early occurrences at the beginning of phase Ha B₃²³. Thus, the association of both types in the Bălata deposit reopens the discussion on the chronology of the Merhardt B1 cauldrons²⁴. In addition, we must take into account the fact that the B2a vessel from Bălata was repaired²⁵, so its lifespan would have been longer than usual.

FUNCTIONALITY

As the total number of known recipients is not very high and because the material used to produce them is of a special kind, we may presume that these bronze vessels were prestige goods, property of individuals with high status in their society²⁶. However, the data collected for the discovery contexts of other similar items points to their use in cultic or ritual contexts²⁷. There are cases when they were used as containers for offerings²⁸, but in other instances the cauldrons were discovered mouth down²⁹, placed in purposely dug pits and carefully arranged within them, one on top of the other or one inside the other³⁰ (Fig. 7/2). Their final function seems to have been that of carefully selected gifts for divinities or ancestors³¹, sometimes accumulated during a longer time span³². It should be noted that the vessels from Bălata do not bear marks of intentional damage³³.

We may assume that the bronze vessels could have served in various ceremonies and rituals, related to the manipulation, cooking and consumption of foodstuff. They could have collected blood during sacrifices or could have been used during libation processes. Also, cauldrons could have been present during religious or funerary feasts for serving food and liquids. It must be noted that their size suggests a limited role in ceremonies, perhaps linked to individual use. There might have been a personal touch as well, symbolized by the decoration of the body and of the attachments, or even the cross-shape of the handles, possibly linked to magic beliefs and close to apotropaic functions³⁴.

Finally, the presence of the deposit composed of the

aforementioned bronze vessels confers a special character to the deposition place, as that particular spot was suitable for the respective spiritual act³⁵. In the case of Bălata, the items have been buried on the high terrace of the Mureș River, a practice already noted in relation to the deposition patterns of the period³⁶.

CONCLUSIONS

The discovery from Bălata brings into discussion fresh and important data regarding the spiritual life of the communities living on the right bank of the Mureș River during the Early Iron Age. Their presence reinforces the position of the Transylvanian metallurgic centre in the Ha B period³⁷, but also re-questions the chronology of the Merhardt B1 cauldrons. Finally, this particular find sheds some light on our knowledge concerning the rituals performed in the respective time span.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our gratitude goes to Dr. Tudor Soroceanu (Germany) for his helpful comments on the topic of the Merhardt B1-B2a cauldrons and for bibliographical references. We would also like to thank Dr. Rezi Botond (Mureș County Museum, Târgu Mureș, Romania) for sending us some of his important papers on the subject. Dr. Adina Boroneanț (Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan", Bucharest, Romania) has kindly agreed to revise the English translation (yet all the flaws of the text are entirely our own responsibility). Last but not least, we would like to thank Marius Mîndruțu for taking the time to photograph the Bălata bronze vessels.

REFERENCES

- ANDRIȚOIU 1979
Andrițoiu, I., Contribuții la repertoriul arheologic al județului Hunedoara, *Sargetia* 14, 15-34.
- BĂRBAT 2015
Bărbat, I. A., Interacțiunea comunităților neoliticului timpuriu cu mediul înconjurător. Așezările Starčevo-Criș de la Șoimuș (jud. Hunedoara) (I), *Sargetia* S.N. 6, 9-40.
- BRATU 2009
Bratu, O., *Depuneri de bronzuri între Dunărea Mijlocie și Nistru în secolele XIII-VII a.Chr.* (București: Renaissance).
- DĂNILĂ 1976
Dănilă, Ș., Depozitul de bronzuri de la Visuia (com. Ariceștii de Câmpie, jud. Bistrița-Năsăud), *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie* 27 (1), 61-75.
- DIMACHE/ȘTEFAN/PETCU 2017
Dimache, M./Ștefan, C. E./Petcu, R. 2017, Loom Weights from Șoimuș - Ferma La Avicola 2, Hunedoara County, *Revista de Cercetări Arheologice și Numismatice* 3, 13-30.
- DOBRESCU/ȘTEFAN/BONSALL 2016
Dobrescu, R./Ștefan, C. E./Bonsall, C., Observations sur l'industrie en obsidienne découverte à Șoimuș - La Avicola (Ferma 2), *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* S.N. 12, 45-56.
- DRAȘOVEAN/ROTEA 1986
Drașovean, F./Rotea, M., Așezarea neolitică de la Șoimuș. Contribuții la problemele neoliticului târziu din sud-vestul Transilvaniei, *Apulum* 23, 9-24.
- FERENCZ/FERENCZ 2001

²² THEVENOT 1991, 74, Fig. 72; SOROCEANU 2008, 132; SCHMIDT/SEGSCHNEIDER 2014, 473.

²³ THEVENOT 1991, 74, Fig. 72; SOROCEANU 2008, 144-145; SCHMIDT/SEGSCHNEIDER 2014, 473.

²⁴ As previously noted (SOROCEANU 2008, 155), only two B2a cauldrons in Transylvania, those from Buru and Buza, could be dated during the Ha B₃ stage. If our assumption regarding the correspondence between the B1 vessel from Bălata and the recipient from Buru is correct, it would become a notable argument to consider that B1 vessels could have been used even during the Ha B₃ phase.

²⁵ One of the attachments of the B2a cauldron found in 2009 at Sângeorgiu de Pădure was repaired as well: REZI 2017, 38.

²⁶ THEVENOT 1991, 104-105; HANSEN 1992, 382-383; BRATU 2009, 104.

²⁷ THEVENOT 1991, 105; SOROCEANU 2005, 400-404.

²⁸ DĂNILĂ 61, 1976, note 3; PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 127, 1977; THEVENOT 18-16, 1991; SOROCEANU 42, 1995, Abb. 11/k; SOROCEANU 392, 2005, Abb. 3/d; BRATU 135, 2009.

²⁹ SOROCEANU 2005, 393, Abb. 3/h; REZI 2017, 38.

³⁰ SCHMIDT/SEGSCHNEIDER 2014, 464-466.

³¹ HANSEN 1992, 383; OSBORNE 2004, 4, 7.

³² THEVENOT 1991, 102.

³³ It was recently observed that during the Ha A phase, all metal vessels discovered in Transylvania show marks of premeditated destruction, contrary to those from the next stage (Ha B) when containers were no longer fragmented: REZI 2011, 314.

³⁴ SOROCEANU 2008, 154.

³⁵ OSBORNE 2004, 7; SOROCEANU 2012, 247; REZI 2017, 61.

³⁶ BRATU 2009, 132; SOROCEANU 2012, 239-240, Abb. 9/d.

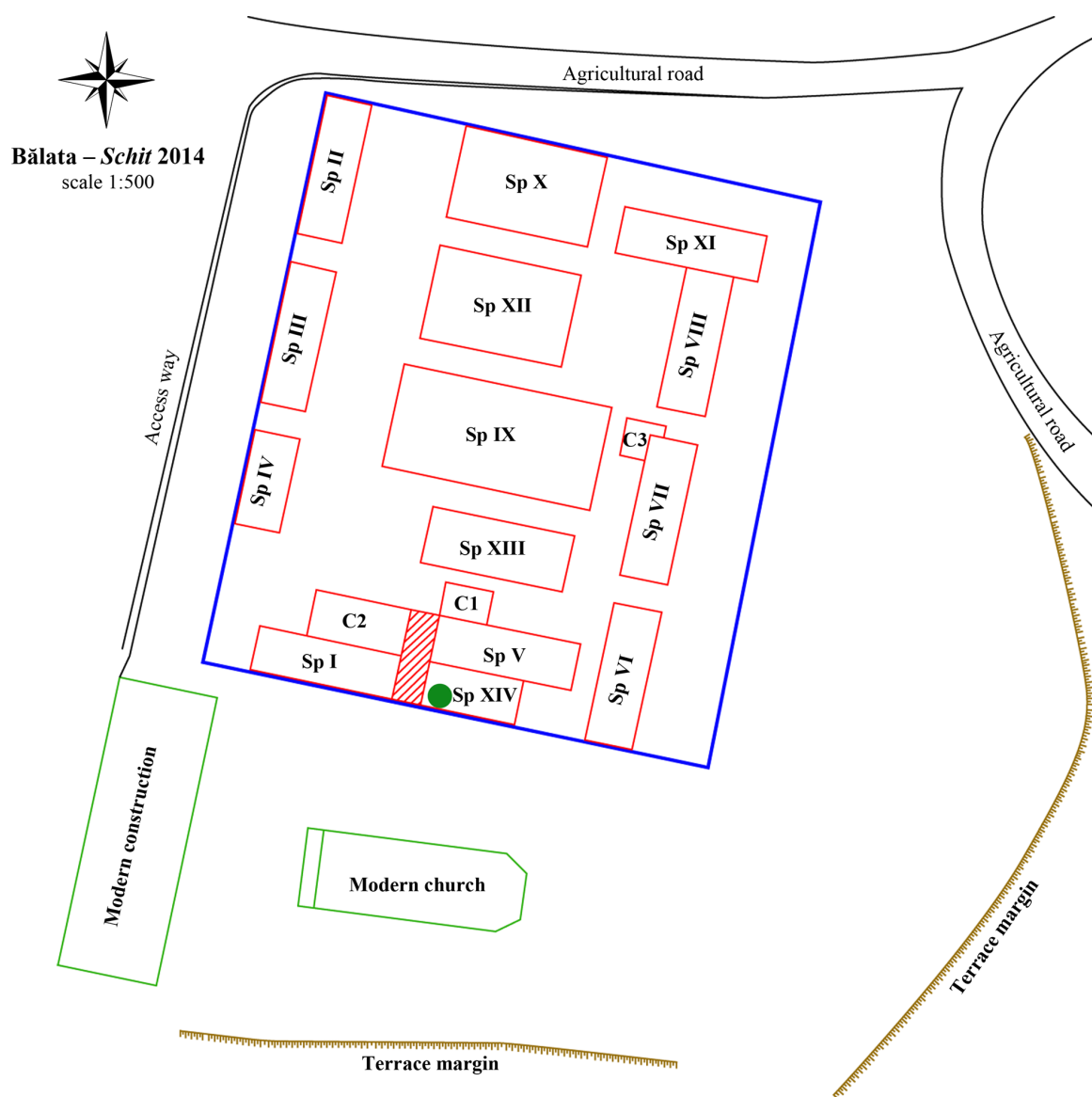
³⁷ Soroceanu 2008, 157-158.

- Ferencz, I. V./Ferencz, D. 2001, Materiale celtice inedite păstrate în colecțiile Muzeului din Deva, *Apulum* 38/1, 129-136.
- FLOCA 1969
Floca, O, Harta arheologică a municipiului Deva, *Sargetia* 6, 7-36.
- FLOCA 1972
Floca, O., Activitatea de cercetare istorică a Muzeului județului Hunedoara din Deva (1939-1972), *Sargetia* 9, 11-28.
- GOGĂLTAN 1993
Gogăltan, F., Vases de bronze réparés, *Ephemeris Napocensis* 3, 8-23.
- HANSEN 1992
Hansen, S., Depozite ca ofrandă: o contribuție la interpretarea descoperirilor de depozite din perioada timpurie UFZ, *Studii și cercetări de istorie veche și arheologie* 43, 4, 371-392.
- KOÓS 2004
Koós, J., Újabb késő bronzkori bogrács Kelet-Magyarországról (Neueres Bronzebecken von Ostungarn), *A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve* 43, 83-102.
- LÁKO 1983
Láko, É., Repertoriul epocii bronzului în Sălaj, *Acta Musei Porolissensis* 7, 69-100.
- LUCA et alii 2008
Luca, S. A. (ed.), *Repertoriul arheologic al județului Hunedoara – ediția a doua* (Sibiu: Altip).
- MĂRGĂRIT/ȘTEFAN/DUMITRAȘCU 2016
Mărgărit, M./Ștefan, C. E./Dumitrașcu, V. 2016, The exploitation of animal resources in Șoimuș-La Avicola (Ferma 2) settlement (Romania), *Documenta Praehistorica* 43, 363-397.
- v. MERHARDT 1952
von Merhardt, G., Studien über einige Gattungen von Bronzegefäßen, *Festschrift des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums in Mainz zue Feier seines hunderjährigen Bestehens* Bd. 2, 1-71.
- METZNER-NEBELSICK 2005
Metzner-Nebelsick, C., Despre importanța cronologică și cultural-istorică a depozitelor de bronzuri din România în epoca târzie a bronzului și în epoca timpurie a fierului. In: T. Soroceanu (ed.), *Bronzefunde aus Rumänien II. Beiträge zur Veröffentlichung und Deutung bronze- und älterhallstattzeitlicher Metallfunde in europäischem Zusammenhang* (Bistrița - Cluj-Napoca: Accent), 317-342.
- MICLEA/FLORESCU 1980
Miclea, I./Florescu, R., *Preistoria Daciei* (București: Meridiane).
- NIȚĂ et alii 2015
Niță, L., Ștefan, C. E., Dimache, M., Hila, T., Petcu, R., Considerații privind industria litică de la șoimuș 'La Avicola (Ferma 2)', jud. Hunedoara, *Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman. Seria Arheologie* 7, 97-116.
- OSBORNE 2004
Osborne, R., Hoards, votives, offerings: the archaeology of the dedicated object, *World Archaeology* 36 (1), 1-10.
- PÂRVAN 1926
Pârvan, V., *Getica. O protoistorie a Daciei* (București: Cultura Națională).
- PETRESCU-DÎMBOVIȚA 1977
Petrescu-Dîmbovița, M., *Depozitele de bronzuri din România* (București: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România).
- REZI 2011
Rezi, B., Voluntary Destruction and Fragmentation in Late Bronze Age Hoards from Central Transylvania. In: Berecki, S./Németh, R. E./Rezi, B. (eds), *Bronze Age Rites and Rituals in the Carpathian Basin. Proceedings of the International Colloquium from Târgu Mureș, 8-10 October 2010* (Cluj-Napoca: Mega), 303-334.
- REZI 2017
Rezi, B., Újabb bográcslelet Erdőszentgyörgyről (Sângeorgiu de Pădure, RO), *Archaeologiai Értesítő* 142, 35-73.
- RIȘCUȚA/MARC 2014
Rișcuța, N. C./Marc, A. T., Cultic Discoveries from Late Bronze Settlement from Șoimuș – Teleghi (Hunedoara County). In: Rișcuța, N. C./Ferencz, I. V./Tutilă Bărbat O. (eds), *Representations, Signs and Symbols. Proceedings of the Symposium on Religion and Magic* (Cluj-Napoca: Mega), 139-170.
- RIȘCUȚA et alii 2015
Rișcuța, N. C./Barbu, I. L./Bărbat, I. A./Bărbat, O. C./Cristescu, C./Marc A. T., Sat Bălata, com. Șoimuș, jud. Hunedoara. Punct: Bălata – Pe Teleci/Teleghi. In: Mihai, D./Iosipescu, R./Șerban R. (eds), *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2014* (București: Institutul Național al Patrimoniului), 189-190.
- ROSKA 1942
Roska, M., *Erdély régészeti repertoriuma I. Őskor* (Kolozsvar: Nagy Jenő és Fia Könyvnyomdája).
- SCHMIDT/SEGSCHEIDER 2014
Schmidt, P./Segschneider, M., Der jungbronzezeitliche Bechendorf von Norserstapel (Kr. Schleswig-Flensburg), *Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt* 44, 463-482.
- SCHUSTER et alii 2012
Schuster, C./Petcu, R./Petcu, R./Heroiu, A./Rumega, V./Crețu, A. P./Dimache, M./Irimuş, L./Dobrotă, S./Vasilescu, D./Mandanache, T./Prisecaru, D./Neagu, G./Ștefănescu, A./Dumitrașcu, E. (sector A), Rișcuța, N. C./Băeștean, G./Bărbat, I. A./Marc, A. T. (sector B), Șoimuș, com. Șoimuș, jud. Hunedoara (Varianta de ocolire Deva-Orăștie). Punct: Șoimuș 1 (Avicola) km. 29+750-30+300. In: Angelescu M. V. (ed.), *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România. Campania 2011* (București: Institutul Național al Patrimoniului), 291-292.
- SOROCEANU 1995
Soroceanu, T., Die Fundumstände bronzezeitlicher Deponierungen – Ein Beitrag zur Hortdeutung beiderseits der Karpaten. In: T. Soroceanu (ed.), *Bronzefunde aus Rumänien, Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa* 10 (Berlin: Wissenschaftsverlag Volker Spiess), 15-80.
- SOROCEANU 2005
Soroceanu, T., Zu den Fundumständen der europäischen Metallgefäße bis in das 8. Jh. v. Chr. Ein Beitrag zu deren religionsgeschichtlicher Deutung. In: T. Soroceanu (ed.), *Bronzefunde aus Rumänien II. Beiträge zur Veröffentlichung und Deutung bronze- und älterhallstattzeitlicher Metallfunde in europäischem Zusammenhang* (Bistrița - Cluj-Napoca: Accent), 387-428.
- SOROCEANU 2008
Soroceanu, T., *Bronzefunde aus Rumänien III. Die vorskythenzeitlichen Metallgefäße im Gebiet des heutigen Rumäniens* (Bistrița - Cluj-Napoca: Accent).
- SOROCEANU 2012
Soroceanu, T., Die Fundplätze bronzezeitlicher Horte im heutigen Rumänien. In: Hansen, S./Neumann, D./Vachta T. (eds), *Aktuelle Forschungen zu bronzezeitlichen Deponierungen in Mitteleuropa, Topoi. Berlin Studies of the Ancient World* 10 (Berlin – Boston: De Gruyter), 227-254.
- SOROCEANU/BUDA 1978
Soroceanu, T./Buda V, Der Bronzegefäßhort von Buza (Kr.

- Cluj), *Dacia* N. S. 22, 99-106.
- ȘTEFAN 2016
 Ștefan, C. E., Playing with Clay: The Anthropomorphic Figurines from Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2), Hunedoara County, *Dacia* N. S. 60, 31-66.
- ȘTEFAN/PETCU/PETCU 2013
 Ștefan, C. E./Petcu, R./Petcu/R., Reprezentări antropomorfe de la Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2), jud. Hunedoara, *Studii de Preistorie* 10, 49-66.
- ȘTEFAN/PETCU 2015
 Ștefan, C. E./Petcu, R., Notă asupra unor capace de lut cu trăsături umane de la Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2), jud. Hunedoara, *Studii de Preistorie* 12, 117-126.
- ȘTEFAN/PETCU/PETCU 2015
 • Ștefan, C. E./Petcu, R./Petcu, R., Vase cu picioare Șoimuș –
 • La Avicola (Ferma 2), jud. Hunedoara, *Studii și cercetări de*
 • *istorie veche și arheologie* 66, 3-4, 183-209.
- ȘTEFAN et alii 2017
 • Ștefan, C. E./Dimache, M./Petcu, R./Palcu, P., The Polished
 • Stone Industry from Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2),
 • Hunedoara County, *Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice* S. N.
 • 13, 171-189.
- THEVENOT 1991
 • Thevenot, J.-P., *L'Âge du Bronze en Bourgogne. Le depot de*
 • *Blanot (Côte-d'Or)*, *Revue Archéologique de l'Est et du Centre-*
 • *Est* suppl. 11 (Dijon: Université de Bourgogne).



1



2

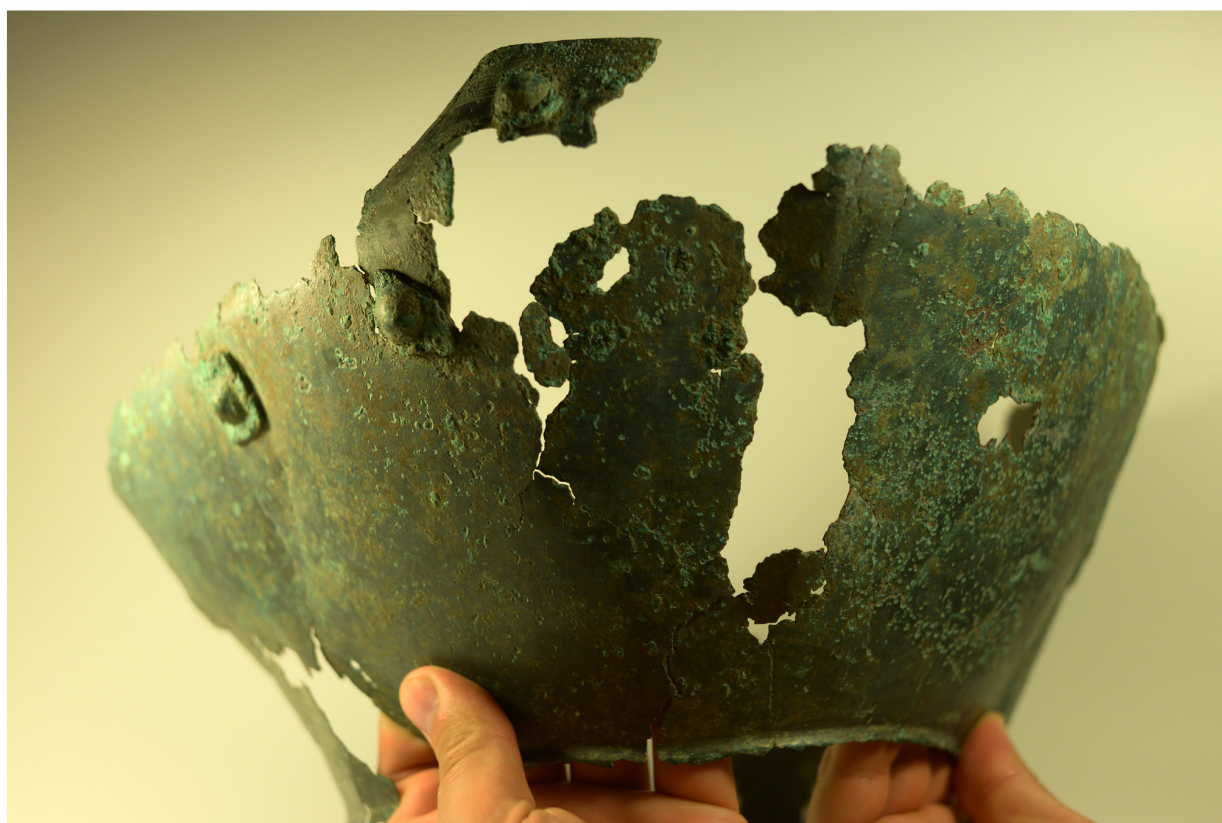
Fig. 1. (1) Location of the site Şoimuş – Teleghi with the find spot of the bronze cauldrons (processed after Google Earth); **(2)** Position of the bronze vessels (green dot) on the excavations plan of the site Bălata – Schit (drawn after the topographic survey provided by the beneficiary of the archaeological project).



1



2



3

Fig. 2. Merhardt B1 type cauldron. (1) Preserved handle; (2) Detail of the handle end with the attachment loop; (3) Body of the vessel with the position of one handle attachment.

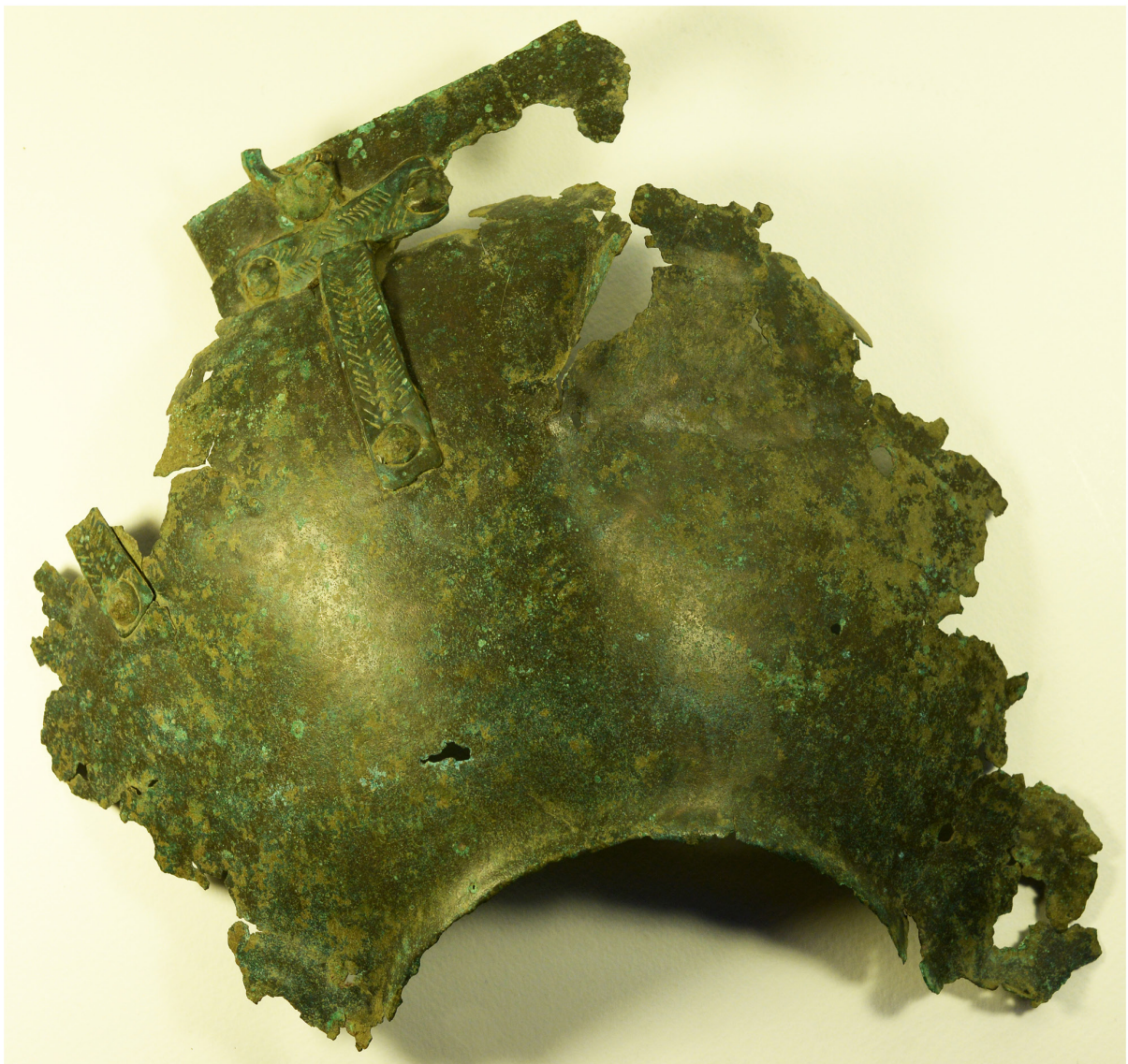


1

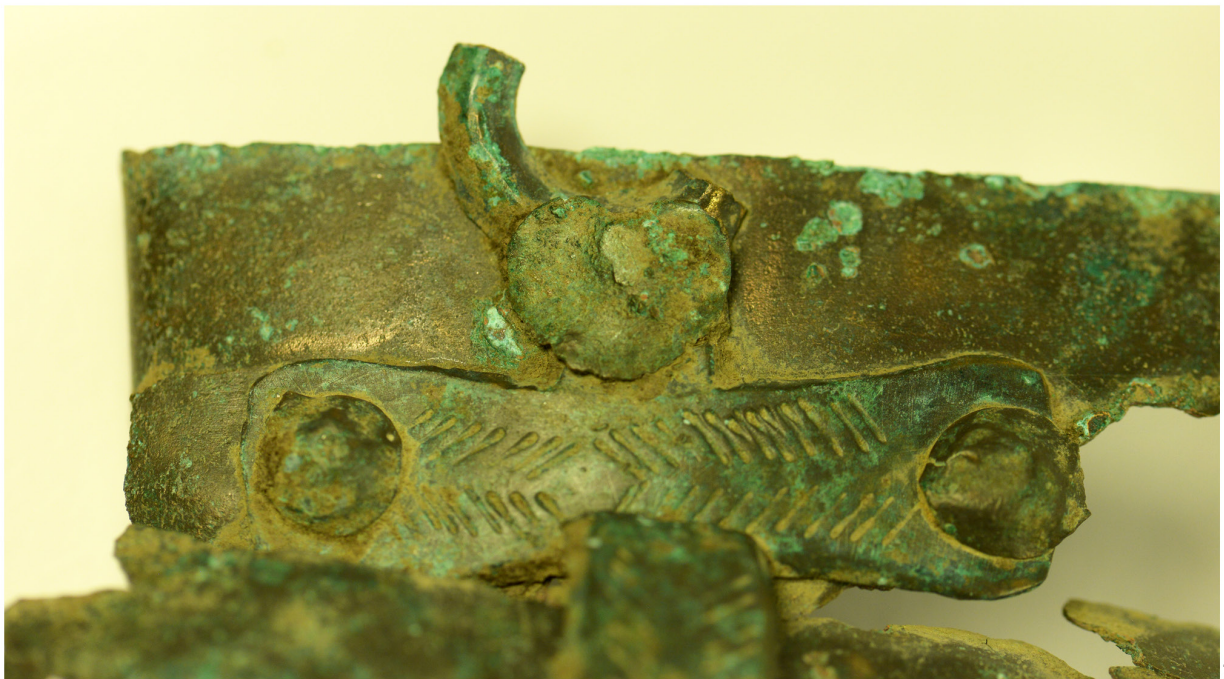


2

Fig. 3. Merhardt B1 type cauldron. (1) Decorated rim and twin cross-shaped attachment rivet; (2) Fragmentary twin cross-shaped attachment ornamented with stamped circles.



1



2

Fig. 4. Merhardt B2a type cauldron. **(1)** Body of the vessel with the position of the decorated handle attachments; **(2)** Detail of the repaired cross-shaped attachment.

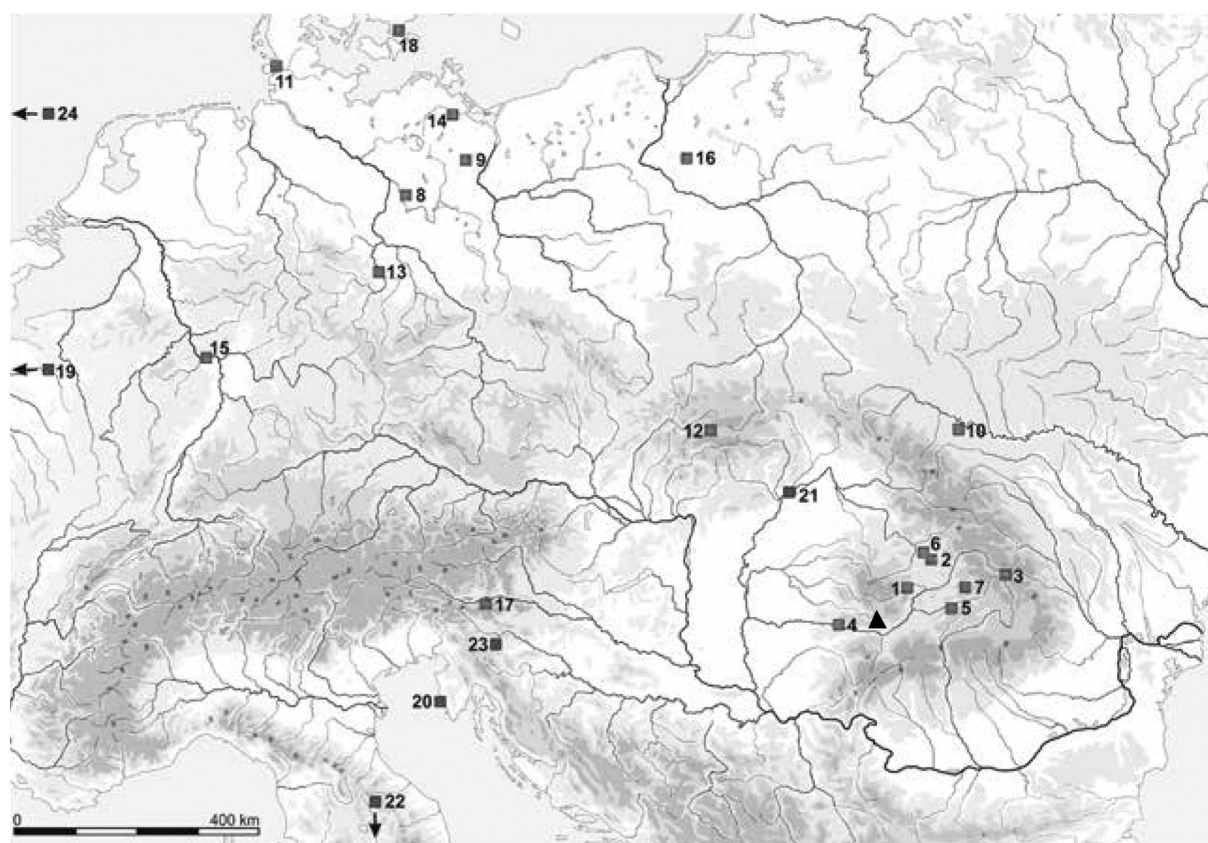
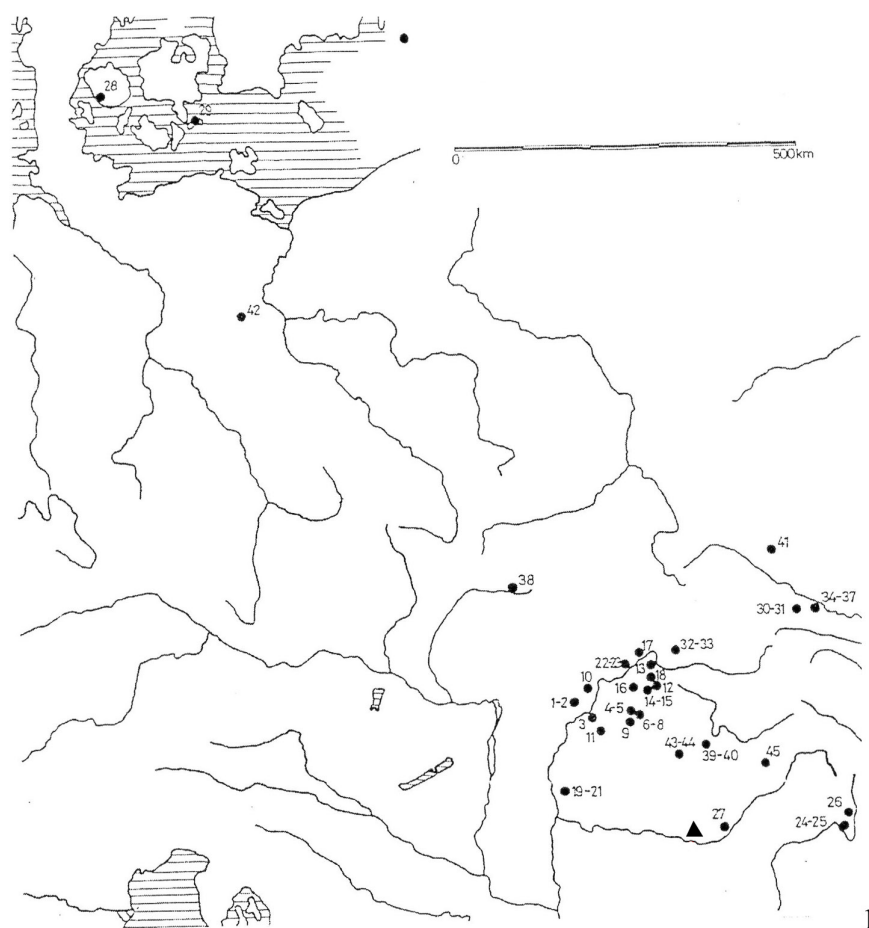


Fig. 5. The bronze cauldron from Bălata (triangle) on (1) the distribution map of Merhardt B1 type bronze vessels and (2) the distribution map of Merhardt B2a type bronze vessels (1 – after KOÓS 2004, Fig. 8; 2 – after REZI 2017, Fig. 7).

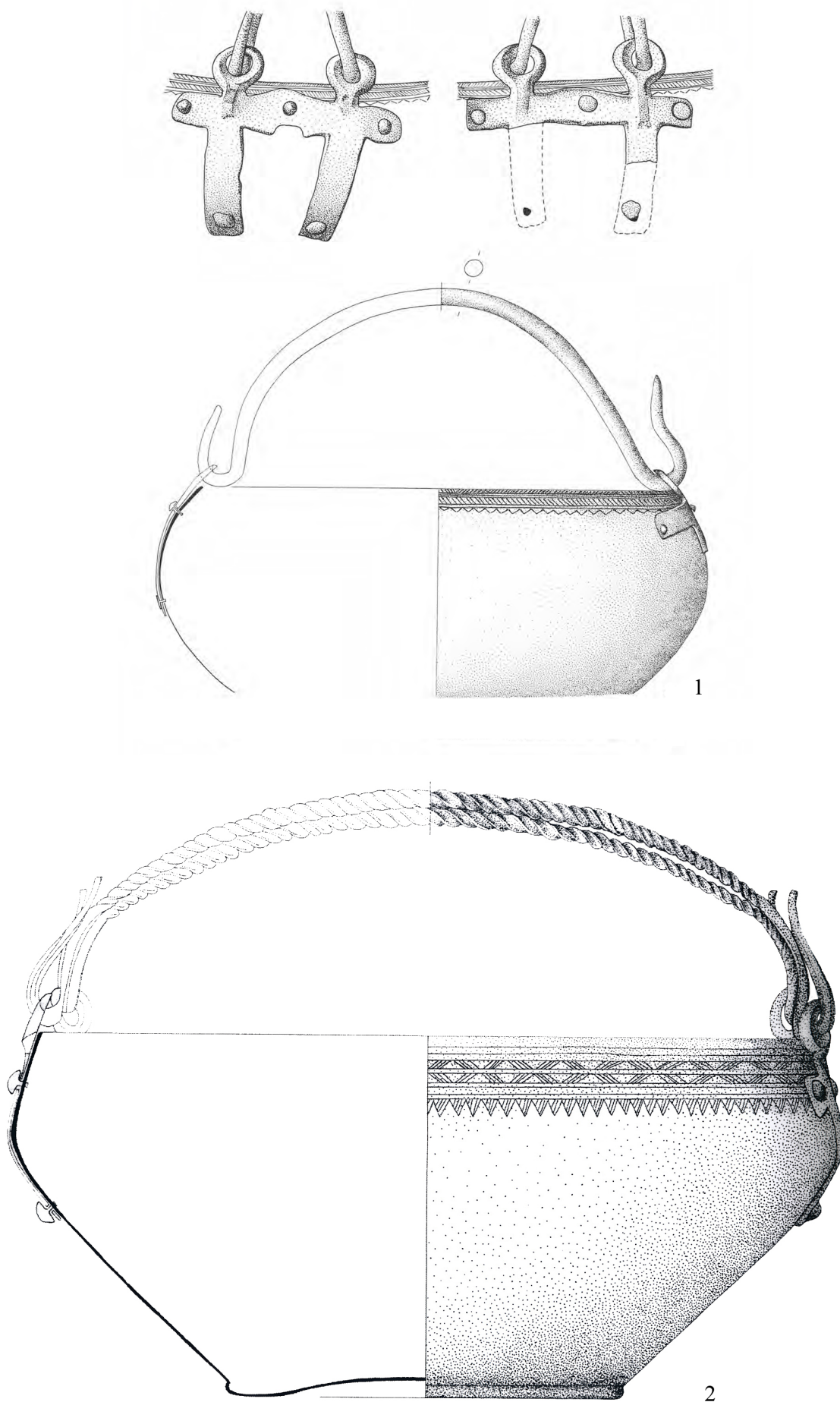
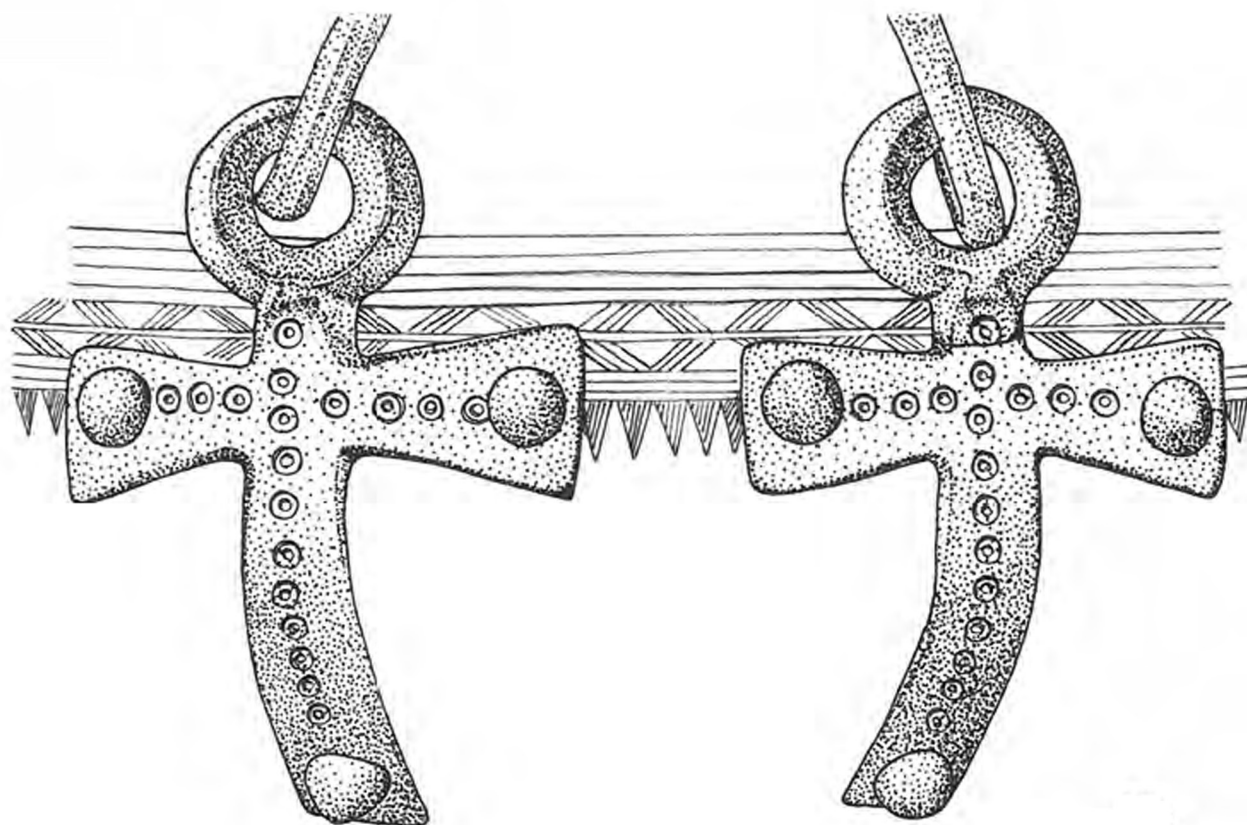


Fig. 6. (1) Merhardt B1 type cauldron from Brăduț; **(2)** Merhardt B2a type cauldron from Buru (**1** – after SOROCEANU 2008, Taf. 17/91; **2** – after SOROCEANU 2008, Taf. 23/98).



1



2

Fig. 7. (1) Detail of the decorated rim and cross-shaped attachments of the Buru vessel; (2) Deposit of Merhardt B2a type cauldrons from Nordelstapel (1 – after SOROCEANU 2008, Taf. 23/98a; 2 – after SCHMIDT/SEGSCHNEIDER 2014, Abb. 3).