

Researches and contributions on the knowledge regarding the Neolithic, Eneolithic and Bronze Age in the East-Carpathian area

This abstract are a brief presentation of our main lines of research and the results achieved, until today, to acquire the title of habilitation PhD in the field of reference. Given the specifics of archaeological research, the habilitation thesis is organized on the main themes of our activity and, where appropriate, culturally and chronologically. Although we have presented, in the first section, our researches/contributions thematically, by chapters, they must be seen and understood as a whole, in accordance with the logic of historic existence and scientific research. In the second section, we present our future directions of research, and the bibliography, at the end of thesis.

Thus, after *Introduction (Chapter I)*, in *Chapter II (Field researches and contributions on completing the archaeological database of the east-Carpathian Eneolithic and Bronze Age)* we present our participation in field surveys and archaeological excavations conducted, in various forms and with different collectives and teams. We designed the integrated field investigations, regardless of their nature (preliminary/field surveys, archaeological diagnosis and systematic excavations), both for inventorying sites in various East-Carpathian micro-areas (SE of the Suceava Plateau, Ruginoasa-Strunga Saddle and the Bahlui Basin, the central part of the Middle Prut Depression, N side of the Central Moldavian Plateau), for knowledge about the archaeological-historical and heritage potential and completion of the repertoires, checking and detailing previous alerts, in order to extend the database, as well as to conduct interdisciplinary investigations of new archaeological sites (Fetești, Costâna, Ripiceni, Târgu Frumos, Costești, Giurgești, Tăcuta), focusing on the results obtained in the latter.

In *Chapter III (Integrated, geographical and archaeological microareal investigations and reconstructions)* we detail our contributions to understanding/configuring some models of foundation, functioning and abandonment of the Precucuteni-Cucuteni, Horodiștea-Erbiceni, Bilyi Potik-Komariv and Noua habitats, their extent in regional and/or superregional contexts (Suceava Plateau, the basins of Bahlui and Bahluiet, the Middle Prut Depression, Iași Cuesta). Based on the association and integrated interpretation of pluri- and interdisciplinary data, especially from the *DEM/GIS* (digital cartographic materials – geomorphometry, hypsometry, the slope and exposure of the terrain, visibilities and

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computerized spatial analysis), coupled with paleo-geographic information (paleo-environmental, soil, archaeobotanical and archaeozoological) and the spectacular results of magnetometric prospecting, some verified archaeologically, we realized reconstructions of the *landscape archaeology*-type and of the dynamics of the protohistorical human habitat.

Chapter IV (*Research and contributions related to the natural resources used in pre- and protohistory*) highlights our concerns to identify and inventory natural resources (underground – minerals/ores, rocks; ground level – land and soils, water, forests, etc.), used by protohistoric human communities, and to present the ways in which, as biogeography, human geography and history show, they had a special importance in generating the conditions and favourabilities of founding and functioning of the human settlements, determining, by association with human, societal and cultural factors, complex rapports/interdependences and economic and cultural processes, expressed micro- and macrosocially.

In **Chapter V (*Pluri- and interdisciplinary research regarding the Eneolithic and Bronze Age east of the Carpathians*)**, one of the most consistent, we present our contributions to the development of pluri- and interdisciplinary knowledge and reconstructions regarding both the archaeological sites investigated (Târgu Frumos, Fetești, Costești, Giurgești, Ripiceni, Tăcuta, Costâna) and the micro-areas related (**subchapter *Magnetometric (non-intrusive) archaeological researches***) and about different categories of artefacts: stone and flint, pottery and mineral pigments, copper and bronze, and cultural ecofacts – archaeobotanical materials, osseous animal materials, human bone material, etc. (**subchapter *Archaeometric investigations (ceramographic, petrological, traceological, metallographic, archaeobotanical, archaeozoological and anthropological)***).

Chapter VI (*Attempts of cultural-historical reconstructions referring to Neolithic, Eneolithic and Bronze Age in the East-Carpathian area*) includes the achievements in shaping patterns of historical development of the protohistorical communities in the space to which we refer, designed from the perspective of cultural anthropology, of continuous interference and acculturation, and of reconsideration/reinterpreted and integrated approach to old and new scientific data: the regional aspects of the Precucuteni-Cucuteni-Tripyllia/Tripolye cultural complex, integrated reconstructions of the development of the microzonal and regional/interregional human habitat, the ethno-cultural and historical developments of the Eneolithic and Bronze Age communities in the context of east central, eastern and south-eastern Europe, highlighting the synchronicities and interferences.

In the last **Chapter, VII (*Contributions on knowledge of the spirituality of the Eneolithic and Bronze Age communities in the East-Carpathian area*)**, based on our own

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discoveries, we underline our contribution to the study of issues related to: the interpretation/reinterpretation of foundation rites/rituals of settlements, dwellings, household installations; the features and functionality of ceramic artefacts, considered cultic *paraphernalia*: anthropomorphic/anthropomorphized vessels, the message of the anthropomorphic and zoomorphic painted decoration, the vessels with multiple openings, the *kernos/pseudo-kernos* type vessels, vessels with double protomes); the Eneolithic anthropomorphic and zoomorphic statuettes and the miniature furniture, individual or associated in worship complexes (cultic); highlighting the characteristics, role and importance of the pre- and protohistoric postures, gestures and body markings as a means of non-verbal communication complex of cultural imaging codes, within that Oriental/East-Mediterranean *koiné* (the civilizations of the East Mediterranean and the Middle East), in which the east Carpathian area was, contextually speaking, its northern extension. We also presented the contributions to the knowledge of components of the funeral rites/rituals of the Bilyi Potik-Komariv communities (East-Carpathian Middle Bronze Age).