

People dealing with founding rituals. A case study from south-western Romania

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Abstract—The present paper focuses over a large scale context (unit) excavated recently at the proto-historical site at Bâzdâna “La Cetate”, Dolj County, Romania. This context presents it self in an inextricable connection with the erection of the burnt brick wall which fortified the western part of the site, and was covered and “sealed” by the defensive structure. After the short description of the archaeological situation, characterized by a high stratigraphic clarity, and of the typological representative artefacts, follows an analysis referring to the human and zooarchaeological remains which were comprised in the unit at the foot of the brick wall. Dated towards the end of the 4th c. BC, the context constituted in a very short span of time (at most a few days) offers an excellent opportunity to refine the ceramics typology of that period. At the same time, the artefact and osteologic remains analysis contribute to outline of an enlightening image concerning the mentalities and behaviour of a revolute community. The conclusion must be that we are dealing with a foundation and consecration ceremony of the burnt brick fortification.

Keywords—Fortification with burnt adobe bricks, mentalities and behaviour, propitiatory founding / consecrating ritual ceremony, zooarchaeological and anthropological study.

I. IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM

FOUNDING and consecration rituals are part of the general human behaviour to such an extent that they become implicit for the majority of individuals and their significance may, therefore, even go almost unnoticed, in spite of people’s direct participation in them. But they remain topical though their sacred dimension is most noticeably overridden by the lay sense in societies of the Western type. On the other hand, it is obvious that the attempt to reconstruct with the support of archaeological data the conceptions and attitudes of long time ago disappeared societies, remains a challenging enterprise, subject to a permanent doubt.

Without aiming to discuss in depth about the sacred-profane binome [1], we shall present, in the following paragraphs, a series of factual observations made as a result of the archaeological research done on a proto-historical site of south-western Romania; these will be accompanied by an attempt to characterize the main directions followed in

performing the ceremony in question.

II. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

Systematic archaeological research began at Bâzdâna, com. Calopăr, Co. Dolj, in the location known as “La Cetate” in 1981 and continued, with insignificant breaks until 2005 (Fig. 1). In spite of its obviously great significance, the publications of this archaeological site have been sparse and partial so far [2]. For a more thorough interpretation of the research results it is necessary an extensive monographic publication, both of the archaeological excavation documentation and recovered materials.

We have to do with a Getian fortified settlement (Fig. 2) with two obvious main habitation phases (in addition to the sparse pre-historical occupation-phases of the Early Bronze Age, the Coțofeni culture): the first one spans from the latter half of the 4th century to the first half of the 3rd c. BC; the second one covers the first c. BC until the mid first c. AD, most probably; there is a hiatus between them, when the site was uninhabited. The initial, unfortified settlement was founded on an erosion plateau on the western terrace of the Jiu river; it stretched over an area of circa 1.5 ha, was triangular in shape and its northern and southern sides were delimited by very steep adjoining slopes [3]. The settlement was fortified on its western side by considerable joint efforts at a certain

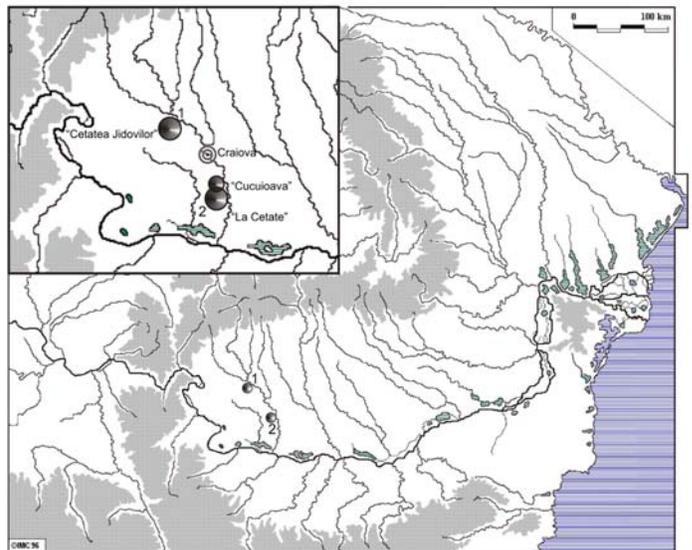


Fig. 1 Excavated settlements with burnt materials fortifications of south-western Romania.

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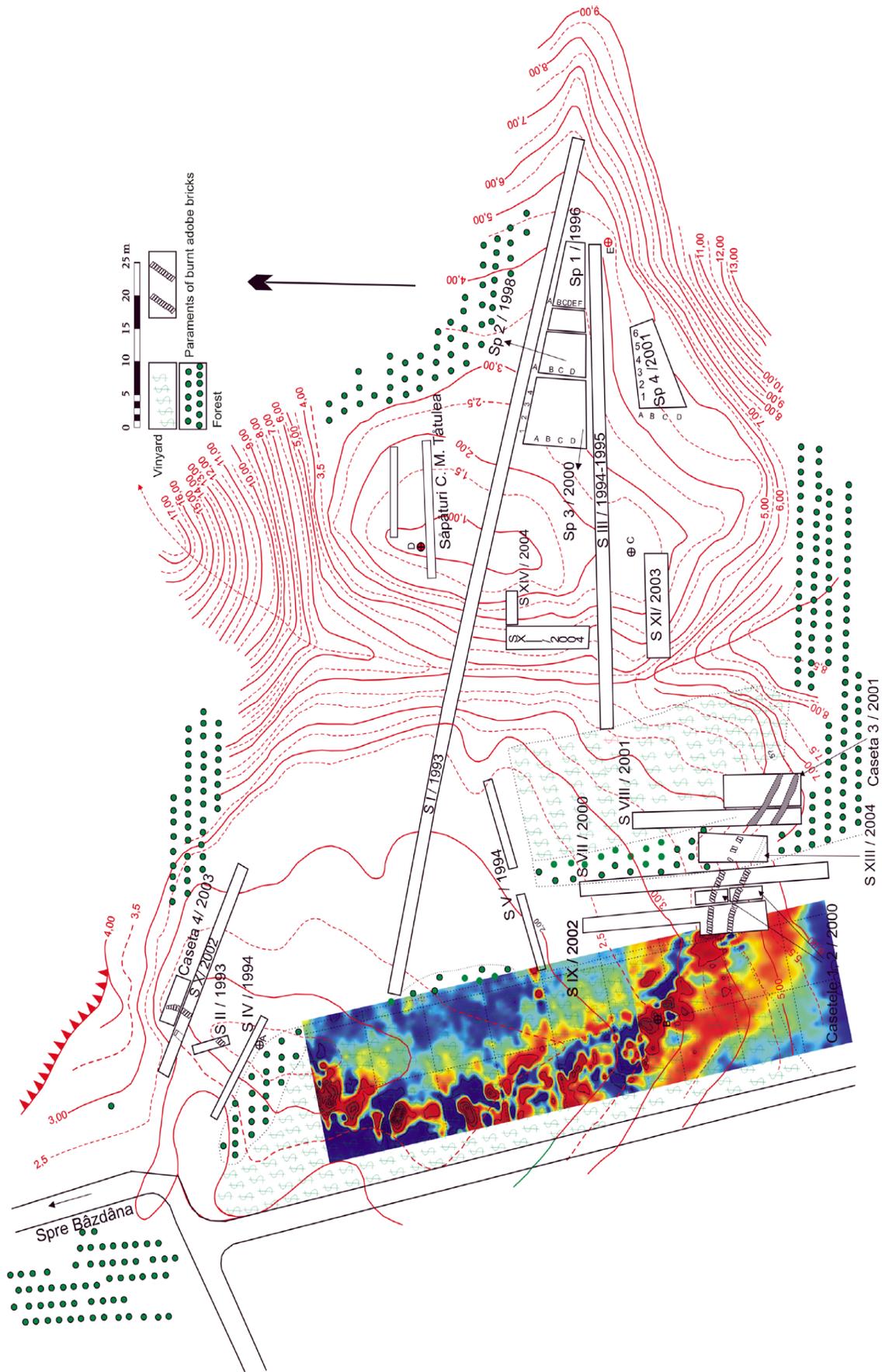


Fig. 2 Bâzdâna "La Cetate", com. Calopâr, Co. Dolj, 1993-2005 excavations and magnetometrical detection of the fortification path.



Fig. 3 View of the interior burnt brick parament, (trench IX/2002).

moment in time (very probably towards the end of the 4th c. BC, according to the testimony of the archaeological materials (Fig. 2). On the northern and southern sides of the site, following the archaeological excavations have not been observed any signs of fortification in the settlement. It is possible that, due to natural erosion or soil cultivation these remains have disappeared over the years. However, one fact can be considered safe: on the two sides, there was no fortification built of burnt bricks and *emplecton*. After investigating the adjacent valleys there were not detected minimum possible evidence from such decayed structures.

III. THE BRICK FORTIFICATION AND ITS STRUCTURE

The settlement at Bâzdâna „La Cetate” presents, at the same time as the Coțofenii din Dos (site „Cetatea Jidovilor”, Dolj County), Bâzdâna „Cucuiuava – Între Vii” ones - excavated until now - fortifications erected with such construction materials. There still are some more fortified settlements of the kind, such those from Voita and Botoșești Paia (also in Dolj County), not yet excavated. Probably the reason for which builders have recourse to the burnt adobe bricks is the lack of building stones in the area.

The structure in question was erected at the level of a slightly earlier habitation level, of which there are no extant traces of proper habitation features apart from some pretty substantial remains of mainly hand-made pottery. The fortification was shaped as an oblong crescent (of circa 125 m) and, to the north and south, it was delimited by the already mentioned steep ravines. It consisted of two paraments of burnt adobe bricks. The bricks, which were treated with vegetal remains to remove the clay grease, were placed transversely to the fortification axis, on either side of the two paraments and they had similar size modules: L. 35-40 cm, l. 20 cm, and 10-12 cm in depth, weighing an average of 6-8 kg (Fig. 3-4). The habit of using such materials is kept until now, both for building houses or household annexes. The difference is the fact that now they are no longer burned, but only dried in the open air (Fig. 7). Locals are using for this purpose moulds which they manufacture themselves (Fig. 8), or get them from the craftsmen in the area.

In their overwhelming majority, the adobe bricks from the proto-historical site were burnt on all sides as well as inside their body; they were deposited in the structure of the



Fig. 4 View of the interior burnt brick parament, (trench X/2002).

fortification after having been burnt in another location [4]. The bricks were laid in place as piles, on top of each other, without using any kind of binding and without splicing them (Fig. 3-4). A great amount of thoroughly burnt clayey earth (*emplecton*, of deep red colour) was deposited between the paraments, which made the resulting specific mass of the structure unusually light (Fig. 6).

The fortification was circa 2,8 – 3 m wide and had a defence trench circa 3 m deep beyond the exterior parament and a berm of approximately 0,5 m. It is hard to estimate the height of the burnt brick wall, but the observations made during the on site research indicated that, especially at the northern extremity, there were sections where the maximum number of overlapping still standing bricks included as many as 11 or 12 (Fig. 4). One obvious question to raise is how stable such a large scale edifice might be, in the absence of mortar, of any signs of a systematic foundation layout or brick splicing [5].

The answer is to be found most probably in the design and construction of a wooden scaffolding to support the structure both horizontally under the paraments and vertically, between the paraments and at the back of the interior parament [6].

Numerous field observations, even if the wooden material (the poles) do not have been preserved over the years as such, revealed a lot of formations that can be explained to be wooden debris structure omnipresent in the fortification. Its density is obvious, although deprived of a clear regularity, specific to more elaborate or recent constructions (Fig. 5-6, 9). A very similar situation was revealed with the nearby site („Cucuiuava – Între Vii”, circa 1,5 km far away).

There also are traces of wooden structure related to the fortification, which unlike the one at „La Cetate” does not present burnt bricks paraments, but only a similar mass of burnt to red clayey soil, such the *emplecton* type already mentioned.

IV. THE UNIT AT THE FOOT OF THE BRICK WALL

The general layout drawing of the archaeological excavations (Fig. 2) shows that we only had access to the

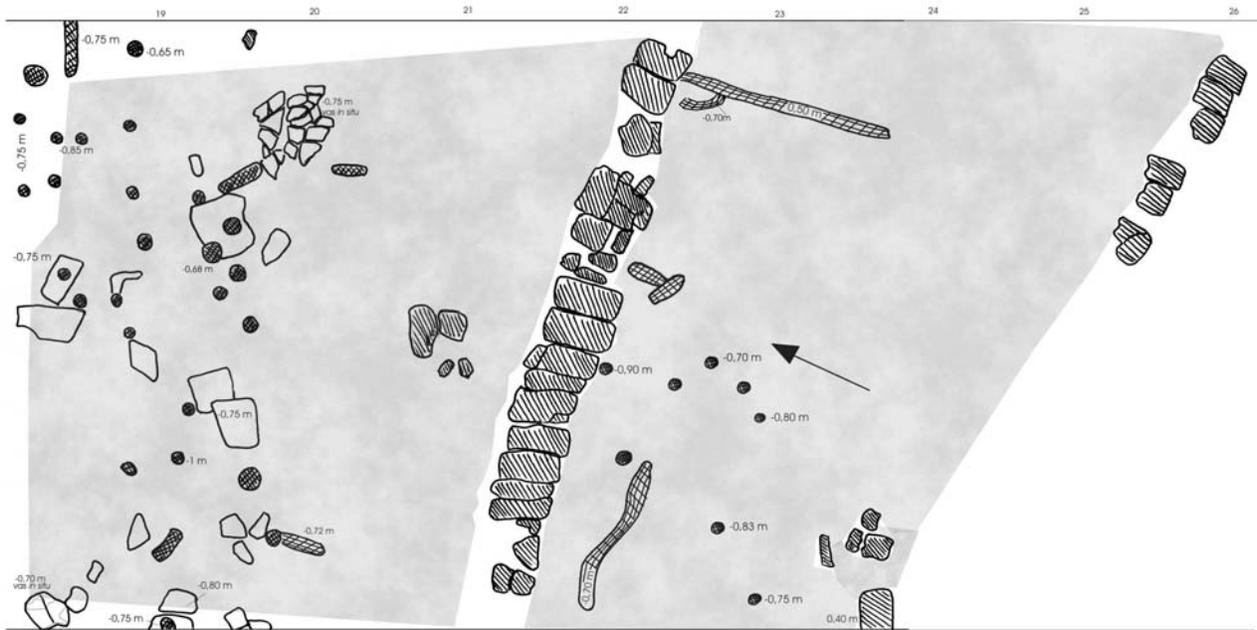


Fig. 5 Bâzdâna "La Cetate", trench IX, 2002; Excavation plan of the fortification area.

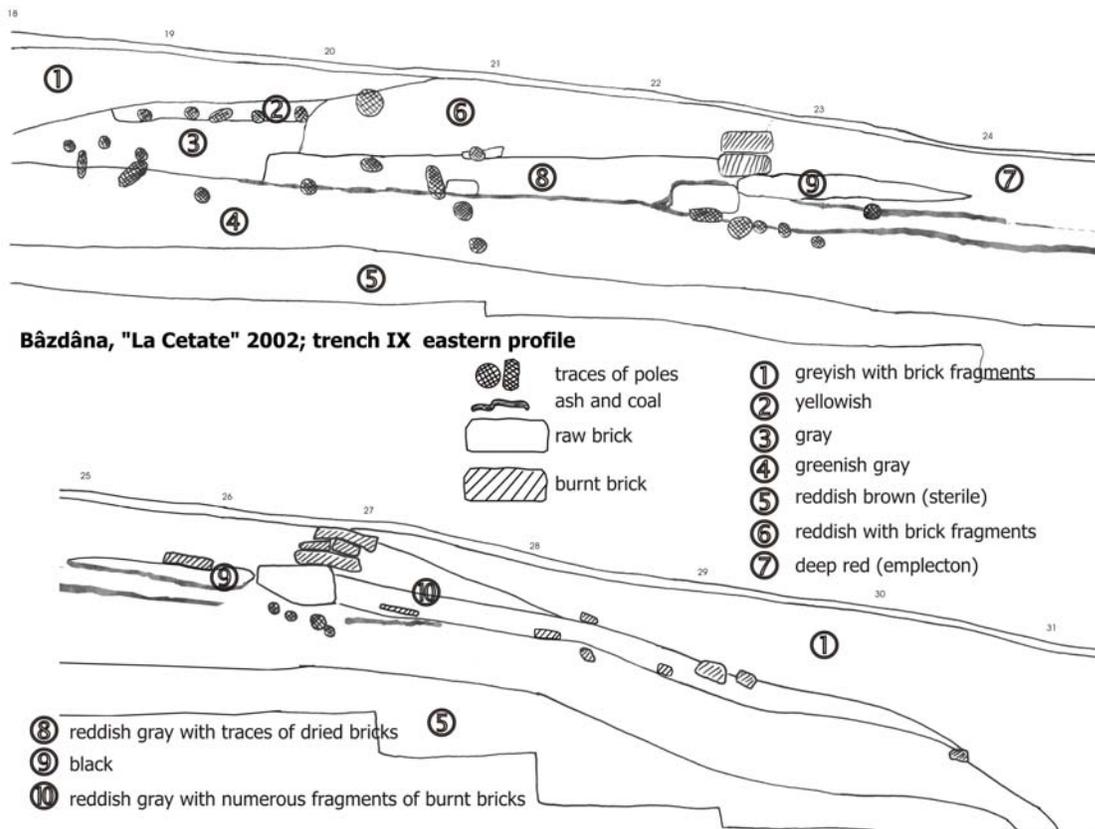


Fig. 6 Bâzdâna "La Cetate", profile of trench X/2002 in the fortification area (two segments that continue).

northern and southern ends of the fortification (owing to the present-day situation of the land ownership); here were excavated several trenches. The rest of the central body of the fortification was only investigated by non-destructive methods [7] (magnetometry and GPR), which is why we have no certainties about the existence of the context to be discussed in what follows, although the hypothetical fortification path was conveniently confirmed through these modern procedures (Fig. 2). Nevertheless, the direct observations obtained by on-site research are valid for an area of over 100 square meters. Practically in every trench that aimed the fortification remains, there was ascertained a very similar situation, so that it can be concluded that we are dealing with a single large context which was constituted at once or in a very short time (no more than a few days). Under the entire fortification (for about 3-4 metres in length) and at the back of the interior parament could be noticed a continuous stretch of ash and charcoal, the result of strong combustion, which formed a consistent layer, with an average thickness of circa 5-8 cm.

This is the place to recall that the inner parament which faced the settlement was supported by a kind of stabilization earthwork or backfill structure, which also probably facilitated access to the top of the wall. In the layer in question excavations brought to light significant amounts of ceramic material. This included both vessels intentionally broken on site and several items of pottery that the on-site inspection revealed to have been deliberately deposited at the foot of the defense structure and became slumped under the pressure of the construction erected on top of them. Open-shaped ceramic vessels (such as the bowl type, Fig. 11) were seen to predominate at the northern end of the unit, especially, whereas the more narrow-shaped vessels (of the jar or cup type) were seen to be more numerous towards the southern end of the unit (Fig. 10).

On this basis, it might be inferred as hypothesis (up to processing and the extensive analysis of the recovered pottery) the existence of customizations in the ritual that took place before raising the fortification. The large amount of reconstructible pottery coming from this extended context provides a very good opportunity to refine the typology and chronology of this category of materials from the end of the 4th and the beginning of the 3rd centuries BC.

In addition to the substantial amount of pottery, there were tens of vessels of varying dimensions, some of them being restorable in their entirety, others only in part; they were found together with some spindle whorls and three hearths (Fig. 10-11) in the same layer [8] of ash and charcoal. In addition to the goods and installations mentioned, this layer also allowed us to document numerous animal remains, some of them with retraceable anatomical connections, but never whole skeletons [9]. In addition, slightly higher than the layer in question, in the mass of the embankment at the back of the inner parament was found part of a child's skeleton, which, as indicated by the on-site observations, was not given the regular funerary

treatment. Part of the skull, spine and ribs were in anatomical connection (slightly disturbed), while the upper and lower limbs were practically absent. It is likely to have been deposited there at the same time as the construction work of the fortification began, after it suffered the described amputations.

V. THE FORTIFICATION AND THE CONTEXT CHRONOLOGY

The elements of the fortification dating are based on the following situations.

The structure is overlapping a previous occupation level from which it was preserved a similar fragmentary pottery in comparison with the above described unit (Fig. 6); in other words, for a short time the settlements was not fortified.



Fig. 7 Contemporary adobe bricks exposed for drying in open air in the yard of a local.



Fig. 8 Contemporary wooden mold for formatting adobe bricks. Utensil used by the same local.



Fig. 9 Traces of decayed wooden poles under the emplecton area.



Fig. 10 Intentionally abandoned bag-shape pot on fireplace, (trench IX/2002).



Fig. 11 Intentionally abandoned bowls and spindle whorl, (trench X/2002).



Fig. 12 Bronze Thracian type fibula.



Fig. 13 Fragment of Attic red figures skyphos.

Ceramics from the discussed feature, by analogies to other sites, can be framed in the 4th and until mid 3rd c. BC.

In addition, it remains to comment an interesting circumstance. Within the „La Cetate” site there is an other fortification, at the limit of its eastern terrace. It is made of earth brought from the moat next to it. Between the two fortifications could not be established a stratigraphic relation, just due to defense ditch that delimit the eastern terrace. In contrast, in the core of the earth fortification (culmination zone), in each trench that crossed it were found large amounts of debris burned bricks, but never complete. This situation strongly suggests that these construction materials were taken from the brick wall, which was closing the western terrace, become dysfunctional, probably after a quite short period of functioning.

At its turn, to the basis of the earth fortification on the eastern terrace was investigated a feature containing ceramics, animal remnants, some items with “magic” functionality, a Thracian bronze fibula (Fig. 12), dated to the end of the 4th or beginning of the 3rd c. BC [10], and an Attic red figures skyphos fragment, second half of the 4th c. BC (Fig. 13). Based on these reasons, the most likely dating of the brick wall erection, respectively for the context at its foot, which is ultimately part of the fortification, lies somewhere towards the end of the 4th c. BC.

VI. OSTEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Almost of the bones were hand collected from a feature located behind and below the interior brick parament. The surface of the context is about 32 square meters, at 1,10-1,40 m depth, in the trench XIII/2004.

A. 6.1 The human skeleton

The incomplete skeleton belongs to a young individual. The fragile remains were carefully recovered, washed in fine-mesh sieves (1 - 0,5 mm) and restored as far as possible (Fig. 14).

A great part of the skull is missing, but several important elements have been recovered. Of the temporal bones only the right petrous pyramid was preserved. During sieving we have identified also the hammer (*malleus*). The occipital is represented by a fragment of the basilar part and also a fragment of the right lateral part. The maxillae are represented by the alveolar process, fragmented in the region of the right medial incisive. The ethmoid is represented by pieces of the cribriform plate and the lateral masses. The sphenoid is almost complete, lacking the pterygoid processes and parts of the greater and lesser wings.

From the mandible, there were preserved the right ramus and part of the right body, with the first permanent molar in the alveolus, and a small piece of the left body, with the deciduous first and second premolars in their alveoli. The rest of the teeth are also present, but loose.

The vertebral column is well preserved; we have identified a minimum number of four cervical vertebrae, including the atlas, and eight vertebrae from the thoracic and/or lumbar regions (vertebral bodies and arches).

The ribs, being more fragile, are highly fragmented. We have recognised six left ribs (including the first and the second), five right ribs and twelve fragments with uncertain symmetry.

The clavicles are present in a fragmented stage. The left one lacks its extremities and the right one has only the acromial extremity. Parts of both scapulae were identified, containing the glenoid cavity. Only the left proximal humerus was preserved.

From the pelvis we have recovered the left ischium. The femur is represented by a proximal left epiphysis.

We believe that the incompleteness of the skeleton was caused by the action of fire. There are evident burning traces located on the maxillae, the mandible, the left humerus and two vertebral bodies (Fig. 14). The levels of burning vary from half carbonised to fully carbonised (completely black) [11]. It is obvious that part of the missing elements were destroyed by cremation and not by differential preservation or during recovery. In the immediate vicinity of the human skeleton, and most probably deposited in the same time, there is a sheep or goat distal rear leg (metatarsus and phalanges) that exhibits the same burning pattern (Fig. 17). Only a part of the child's body was exposed to fire, the unexposed area being intact, and the same thing happened to the animal limb. Therefore, it seems that the complete incineration of the human body was not intentionally.

Meanwhile, we can assume that the almost complete absence of limbs (both upper and lower) depended on a kind of «selection» on the child's body, performed previously its burial.

The age at death was estimated based on the eruption of the first permanent molar. According to Ubelaker [12], the degree of teeth eruption and development indicates an age at death of 6 ± 2 years. According to Sjøvold [13], the individual is placed in the boundary of *infans I* / *infans II* age classes.

Due to the young age, we could not estimate the sex of the child. However, on the remains of the skeleton there are no indicators of pathology or traces of violence.

B. 6.2 The animal bones

The assemblage is dominated by three species: pig, cattle and sheep/goat. This prevailing group represents 92% as number of fragments and 69% as individuals. The other animals (horse, dog, red deer, roe deer and mussel) are present with very few remnants (Table I).

1) 6.2.1 Minimum number of individuals and their age at death

The minimum number of elements (MNE) was calculated from the most frequently occurring region of each skeletal element. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) equates to the highest MNE value (Table II). Ages at death were calculated on the basis of tooth eruption and wear, as well as the stage of epiphyses fusion [14].

The pig is represented by four individuals (based on the mandibles), one less than a year, two about two years old and one about three years old (Fig. 15).

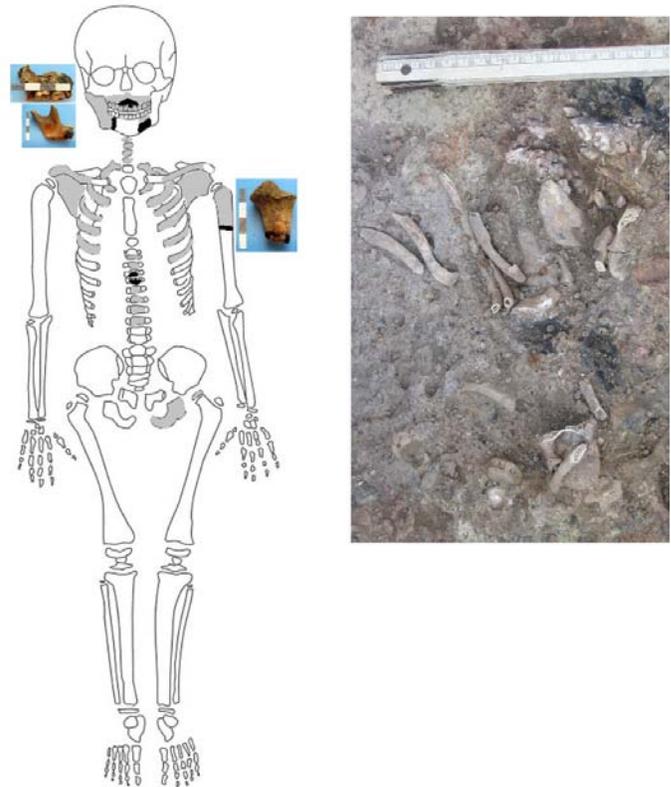


Fig. 14 In situ child skeletal remains (right) and reconstruction (left). The preserved bones are shown in grey; black spots illustrate the burned elements, also detailed in pictures.

Table I Animal species representation (NISP – number of identified specimens, MNI – minimum number of individuals).

TAXON	NISP	% NISP	MNI	% MNI
Pig (<i>Sus domesticus</i>)	31	32	4	25
Cattle (<i>Bos taurus</i>)	30	31	3	18,8
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i>)	28	29	4	25
Horse (<i>Equus caballus</i>)	3	3	1	6,3
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	2	2	1	6,3
Red deer (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	1	1	1	6,3
Roe deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>)	1	1	1	6,3
Mussel (<i>Unio</i> sp.)	1	1	1	6,3
TOTAL	97	100	16	100

Cattle are present with three individuals (based on the astragals), two of them more than four years old and the third most likely younger (Fig. 16).

It was difficult to separate sheep and goat bones, so we will consider them as a single category. A minimum number of four individuals were estimated on the basis of tibiae. One of them is younger than 15 months, two are older than 20 months and one is older than four years (Fig. 17).

Table II Skeletal element representation for the main species (NISP – number of identified specimens, MNE – minimum number of elements).

Skeletal elements	<i>Sus domesticus</i>		<i>Bos taurus</i>		<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	
	NISP	MNE	NISP	MNE	NISP	MNE
Horncore/Antler					1	1
Cranium	2	2	1	1	1	1
Mandible	8	4	1	1		
Loose teeth	1	1	1	1	1	1
Vertebra	1	1	5	4	3	3
Ribs	5	3	2	2	3	2
Scapula	2	2				
Radius			2	2		
Ulna			1	1	1	1
Metacarpus						
Pelvis	2	2			6	2
Femur	2	2	4	2	2	2
Tibia	3	3	2	2	4	4
Fibula	2	2				
Tarsal bones	2	2	6	6	1	1
Metatarsus			1	1	1	1
Phalanges I-III			2	2	4	4
Long bone shaft	1	1	2	1	1	1
TOTAL	31	25	30	26	29	24

The other species are represented only by an individual: a horse older than a year and a half, a dog aged less than a year and a half, an adult red deer and an adult roe deer.

In addition to these species, there is a mussel shell with abrasion on one of the extremities, thus a possibly artefact made from animal hard tissue.

2) 6.2.2 Body part representation and butchery patterns

The animal remains shows evidence of typical fresh bone breakage or green fractures (36%), butchery marks (7,21%) and part of them are burned in different degrees (6,18%). A significant amount (22,68%) are gnawed by carnivores, most of them probably dogs. There are also parts of animals in anatomical connection, and some of the elements, found at distance from each other, could be refitted.

The pig remnants consist mostly in head elements (two cranial and eight mandible fragments) and few parts of the axial skeleton (a piece of atlas, five ribs). The front leg is practically absent, except for two scapulae. In exchange, rear leg elements from at least three individuals are present (two hip bones, two femora, three tibiae, two fibulae and two calcanei). An anatomical refitting was possible, between a lower and an upper jaw from an adult pig (Fig. 15).

In the case of cattle (Fig. 16), the only head elements are a

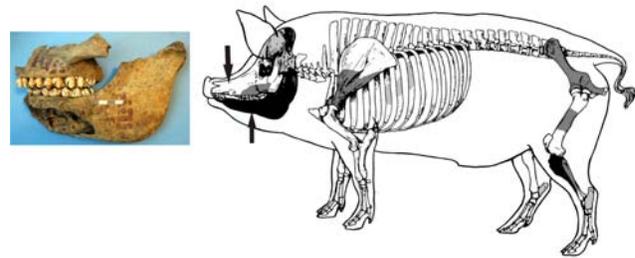


Fig. 15 Representation of skeletal elements for pig. The number of elements increases with darkness, from light grey to black. The arrows indicate butchery marks. The picture shows refitted elements.

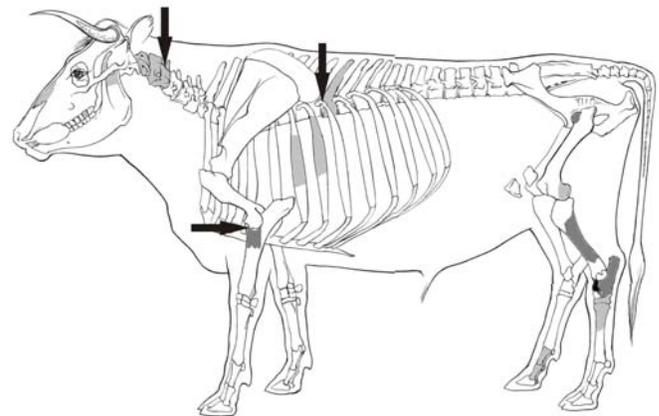


Fig. 16 Representation of skeletal elements for cattle. The number of elements increases with darkness, from light grey to black. The arrows indicate butchery marks.

loose upper molar, a nasal bone and a mandible fragment. The axial skeleton is represented by minimum three cervical vertebrae, a thoracic vertebra and two ribs. From the front leg we have identified two radii. There are rear leg elements from three individuals (two femora, two tibiae, three astragali, a naviculo-cuboid, a metatarsal and two phalanges).

For the sheep/goat group, we have identified three head elements, a small horncore fragment, part of the left upper jaw and a loose inferior molar. The axial skeleton consists in three cervical vertebrae and two ribs. The front leg is represented solely by an ulna. The rear leg, as in the case of pig and cattle, is better represented. We have identified two hip bones, two femora, four tibiae and one metatarsal with its phalanges, the last unit being placed in the proximity of the child's remains (Fig. 17).

The skeletal fragments from the other species are extremely scarce, and it is possible to have no connection with the presumed ritual feast. Horse is present with only one metatarsal, broken in three pieces and gnawed by carnivores. Two bones from a dog were identified, an unfused tibia and a complete metacarpal. One red deer fragment of metatarsal was recovered, burned and showing a high degree of weathering, not traceable on any other bone from the assemblage. Therefore, it could be anterior to the situation discussed here.

The roe deer is present only with a burned piece of antler that exhibits no human activity.

Even though numerous skeletal elements are absent, and butchery marks are scarce, if we sum the traces observed for each species, we can presume a pattern in which people partitioned the three main domesticates. First, the head was separated from the neck (pig and cattle cervical vertebrae bear chop marks). There are no elements with marks, but it is clear that the front leg was detached from the vertebral column. Then, the leg was separated into two parts at the level of the humeroradial joint, as in the case of cattle, where there are chop marks on the proximal radius (Fig. 18). In the same manner, the rear leg was detached from the axial skeleton, and separated in two pieces at the level of the femorotibial articulation, as in the case of sheep/goat, where there is a distal femur with a clean cut. Other butchery marks were observed for pig, where the mandible was chopped transversely in the area between the premolars and the molars and it seems that the snout was also cut. Marks were also observed on cattle vertebrae. A cervical vertebra chopped transversely (Fig. 19), and a thoracic vertebra with the transverse processes severed, in order to separate the spine from the ribs.

The chop marks visible on bones indicate that all these operations were made with heavy metal cutting tools, like axes or cleavers. Carefully dismembering or filleting knife cut marks are missing. From these observations emerges the fact that the animals were butchered in a rough, not so attentive mode. The presence of waste elements, such as distal limbs and some cranial elements suggests that at least some of the animals were slaughtered and partitioned at place and not brought in pieces from elsewhere.

VII. CONCLUSIONS. AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER DATA ABOUT THE FORTIFICATION CONSECRATION RITUAL

Undoubtedly, the archaeological situation, that we have just briefly outlined, of the area surrounding the cremated brick wall erected in the “La Cetate” fortified settlement cannot be the result of ordinary inhabitation patterns (if we except the depositions which predated the erection of the wall and underlay it) and this is shown by numerous occasions and examples. There is, at the same time, a clear difference from the „normal” levels of the archaeological depositions inside the settlement in question, which resulted from the place being inhabited for about 80-100 years in the period of this site’s early occupation. The unit found at the foot of the fortification is a constitutive part of it, and actually marks the beginning of these construction works. The archaeological material, which was found and collected in perfectly clear stratigraphical conditions, were deposited or left there in a short, precisely delimited period of time (a few hours, perhaps even a few days); the fortification structure acted as a kind of seal in respect to the context described. Chronologically and typologically, this is an excellent opportunity for making associations in order to establish the set of ceramic forms at the end of the 4th or beginning of the 3rd century BC.

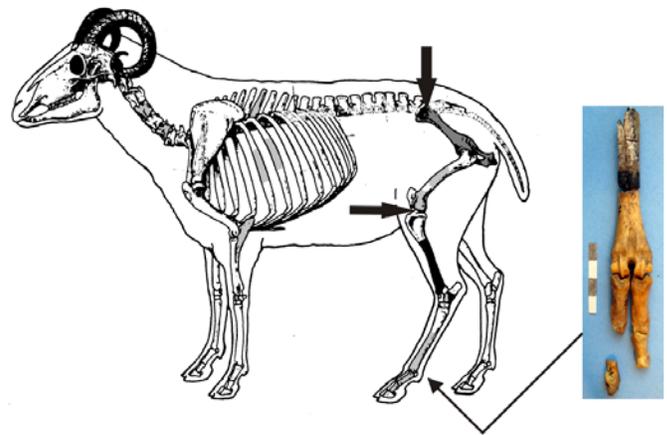


Fig. 17 Representation of skeletal elements for sheep/goat. The number of elements increases with darkness, from light grey to black. The arrows indicate butchery marks. The picture shows refitted elements.

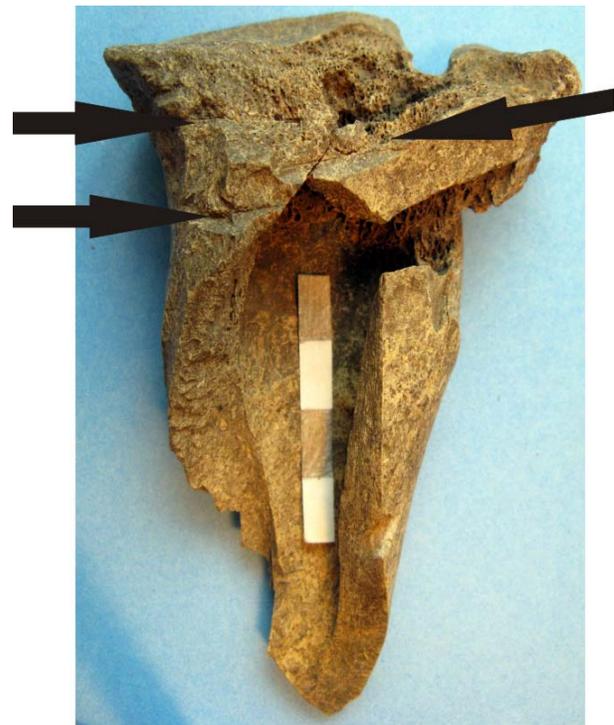


Fig. 18 Proximal cattle radius with disarticulation chop marks.

On the other hand, the unit or context provides us with arguments, which are hard to refute, in favour of a ritual or ceremony destined to inaugurate the construction of a monumental defence structure which, in all probability, had, besides its functionality, a prestige value for the community that put in place such a project.

The way the pottery (which came in large amounts and had various forms, being hand-made or wheel turned) was found / abandoned is very enlightening, in addition to the fact that vessels with large, open forms, especially bowls meant for solid or liquid edibles, predominate at the wall’s northern end and, at the southern end of the fortification predominate



Fig. 19 Cattle cervical vertebra chopped transversely.

narrow-shape vessels, pitcher or cups, meant for keeping or consuming beverages, suggests the practice of a founding / consecration ritual with a differentiated and diverse ceremonial, supported by an ethos [15] about we still know too little through its archaeological expression.

On the other hand, the osteological analysis performed on the animal's remains contributes significantly to complete a clearer image of the founding / consecration ceremony. It is very likely that the animals were sacrificed on the spot and by the community members.

We need only imagine further that the "feast", which the local community organized, with large amounts of goods, edibles, physical and emotional energy was part of the fortification itself, just as the oblation-goods, meant for gaining the goodwill of the deities for a safely enduring building, which could legitimate a prominent position among other settlements merged with the mass of fortification materials. Thus, the human sacrifice (a child in this case) is part and parcel of the founding and consecration ritual. From this perspective, the consistent cremation level at the foot of the fortification can be interpreted as a purification before beginning the construction of the defensive structure. It is possible, though, for the cremation in question to have been aimed at making water-proof the soil on which the wall was to be erected.

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- [3] C. M. Tătulea, "Așezarea geto-dacică fortificată de la Bâzdâna, județul Dolj. Considerații preliminare", *Thraco-Dacica* 5, 1984, pp. 92-110; idem, "Preocupări în domeniul metalurgiei bronzului în așezarea geto-dacă de la Bâzdâna, jud. Dolj", *Oltenia* 7-8, 1988-1989, pp. 15-28; V. V. Zirra, D. Pop, "Săpăturile de la Bâzdâna-Calopăr „La Cetate”, jud. Dolj – Campania 1993", *Arhivele Olteniei, S.N.* 10, 1995, pp. 13-27; V. V. Zirra, D. Pop, S. Oanță, "Șantierul Bâzdâna, comuna Calopăr, punctul „La Cetate”, județul Dolj. Campania 1994", *Arhivele Olteniei, S.N.* 11, 1996, pp. 5-20.
- [4] For a contrary opinion, which supports the idea that the bricks which make up the paraments were burned after they were put in place in the masonry structure, see M. Babeș, "Despre fortificațiile „Cetății Jidovilor” de la Coțofenii din Dos", *SCIVA* 48, 1997, 3, pp. 199-236. He mentions a constructively similar fortification, dated to the same age and also situated in the Dolj Co., at Coțofenii din Dos (Vl. Zirra et alii, „La station gétique fortifiée de «Cetatea Jidovilor» (Coțofenii din Dos, dép. de Dolj)", *Dacia N.S.* XXXVII, București 1993, pp. 79-157. In several occasions M. Babeș orally stated the same conception, referring to the fortification structure from Bâzdâna "La Cetate".
- [5] Attempts at leveling the ground on which the paraments were placed by bringing earth from other locations and compacting the ground levels were identified only in random places.
- [6] Because the wooden mass has been consumed during the long years, it is hard to identify the wooden scaffolding, which probably consisted of thin tree-trunks and (perhaps) of large branches.
- [7] O. Domșa, "Theoretical research and software implementation of Virtual Map in systemic archaeology heritage", in (Eds V. Mladenov, Z. Bojković) *Latest Trends on Cultural Heritage and Tourism, 3rd WSEAS International Conference on Cultural Heritage and Tourism (CUHT'10)*, Corfu Island, Greece, July 22-24, 2010, pp. 211-226.
- [8] Two of them were easily observable, while the third was largely damaged.
- [9] The palaeofauna material unfortunately comes almost exclusively from a single trench (S XIII/2004); the most of it coming from other trenches has been lost at present.
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