AN INCINERATION BURIAL IN METAL URN (2nd-3rd C. AD) DISCOVERED AT IAGORLÂC, DUBĂSARI

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Introduction. Systematic archaeological research and surveys carried out over the last decades in the eastern regions of the Oriental Carpathians have led to the accumulation of important vestiges of the last centuries of the old era and the first centuries of the new era. The inclusion of the materials discovered in settlements and necropoleis in the scientific circuit allowed the reconstruction of new aspects of the economic, social and political life of the local communities, of their relations with the populations that periodically penetrated the Northwestern Pontic space, coming from the west, north or east.

In this context, a special category of vestiges, which can be linked to the level of social-economic development, but also to the spiritual life of human communities, are precious metal vessels. This category of vestiges, rather rare in the settlements, is most often found in the funeral complexes where they were used both as a funerary urn, as cover for the funeral container and for the funeral banquet. The researchers mention the communities of Getae-Dacians (Ursachi 1995, 132; Rustoiu 2005, 53-117; Никулицэ, Рикман 1973, 116-123; Niculiţă 2004, 214-221), Carpo-Dacians (Sanie 1972, 427; Sanie 1981, 60), Bastarns (Babeş 1993, 87-88; Tentiuc, Bublici, Simalcsik 2015, 211-248; Tentiuc, Bublici, Simalcsik 2016, 39-74; Tentiuc, Bublici, Simalcsik 2017, 122-143), Sarmatians (Bârcă 2009, 85-124; Раев 1993, 160-171; Симоненко 2011), Goths (Рафалович 1986), and Roman legionaries (Шилов 1975; Надвирняк, Погорелец, Надвирняк 2014, 136-150) etc. as users of these categories of metal vessels in the Carpathian and Northwest Pontic space.

The details reflecting the penetration of these categories of materials into the north-western Pontic space and to the eastern regions of the Carpathians could be different, researchers invoking in particular the trade exchange route (Rustoiu 2005, 70-84). However, metal containers, along with other imported materials, could penetrate these regions as a result of population movements or warlike incursions in the Roman Empire's adjacent territories (Надвирняк, Погорелец, Надвирняк 2014, 136-150) during the periods of greatest displacement of populations during the waves of the great migration of the peoples.

Recently, the National Museum of History of Moldova from Chişinău came into possession of two copper alloy vessels, discovered by accident. According to the discoverers, the metal containers were recovered in a crumbled portion of the road on the territory of Iahorlîc natural reserve, the Dubasari district (fig. 1), situated at the mouth of the river with the same name, a left tributary of Nistru River[1]. Also, the discoverers pointed out that inside the "bucket" vessels were found *"burned bones"*.

1. Funerary bucket-urn, Hemmoor type (Eggers 63)

The vessel has a corroded body with traces of cracks (fig. 3). The surface of the container has strong traces of burning and soot, in some places it is covered with greenish patina. At the time of the discovery it was filled with *"earth and burned bones"*.

The container has a height of 14.9 cm (without the ring forming the base). The body diameter of the vessel is 19.5 cm. The total height of the vessel (together with the base) is 16.2 cm. The rim of the bowl is pulled out and has a diameter of 20.5 cm.

[1] Circumstances did not allow us to check the location of the incineration burial. The repertoire of archaeological sites for this region mentions two settlements belonging to the Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture near the villages of Ţâbuleuca and Harmaţcoe. They are located 2 and 3 km northwest of the discovery of metal vessels with calcined remnants (Рикман 1975, 82; Коваленко, Синика, Тельнов 2011, 30). These sites were discovered in 1952 by researcher M.A. Tihanova.

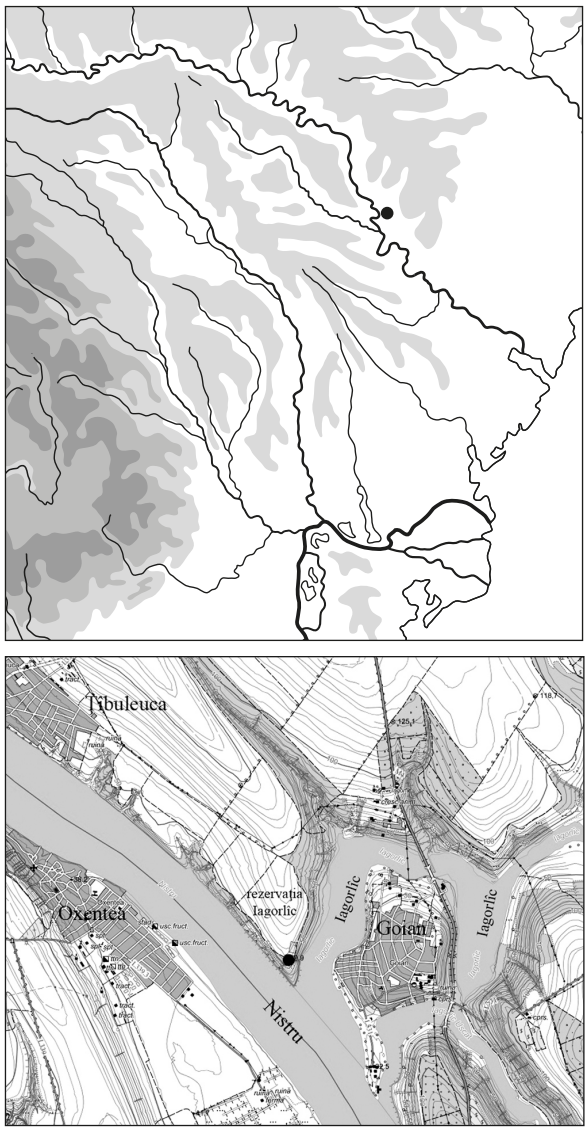

Fig. 1. Map with the location of the cremation burial at Iagorlâc.

The container is made of thin copper-alloy sheet, just 0.1 cm thick. The upper part of the vessel is modestly ornamented. In the middle of the rim, on the outside, there is a superficial horizontal incision. Also on the outside, the passage from the rim to the vessel's body is marked by a 0.3 cm wide groove. From the groove level, the rim of the bowl is thickened to 0.25 cm. On the upper part of the rim, on two symmetrically arranged sides, were modeled two semicircular earlobes with the base made in steps. The earlobes have a height of 2.2 cm and a width of 5.1 cm. Together with the "steps" at the base, the earlobes are 6.1 cm wide. In the middle of the earlobes was made the hole for the handle, an elongated circular shape with the dimensions of 1.2×1.5 cm.

The upper body ornament of the vessel is represented by two strips, consisting of two incised lines, arranged in parallel, with a line spacing of 0.2 and 0.4 cm. The distance between the two strips is 0.9 cm.

The semicircle shaped vessel's handle is mobile, quite thick, and rectangular in section (0.8×0.9 cm). It is made of a brass bar with rounded corners. It has narrowed ends up to 0.6 cm and widened to 0.9 cm, on a length of 2.6 cm, reminiscent of bird heads. On the median side, on three sides of the bar from which the handle was made, there were made incised marks, which remind the Roman numerals IX and XI. The bottom of the bowl was made of a separate sheet of metal. This was worked by pressing on the lathe. Proof of the use of this procedure serve the recess from the lathe attachment rod, which has been preserved on the central part of the bottom of the vessel. An ornament consisting of two bands of concentric lines with a diameter of 1.8 cm and 5.9 cm, respectively, was made around this recess. The lower part of the vessel is raised and placed on an annular support/base, formed by shaping the vessel walls and bending the workpiece that formed the bottom. It has a diameter of 8.7 cm at the bottom and 7.7 in the contact area with the vessel body. The height of the bottom base is 1.3 cm. The morphological particularities of the container fall into the Hemmoor type of buckets, according to J. Werner (Werner 1936, 401, 408) and can be assigned to Eggers 63 variation (Eggers 1951, 53-55, 57).

Chronological and cultural framework. For the period covering the last centuries BC and the first centuries AD, most of the metal vessels considered by the researchers to be Italic, Galo-Italic or Mediterranean and which were used as funerary urn or inventory, were discovered in complexes belonging to the Bastarns (Babeş 1993, 87-88, Iarmulschi 2013, 29-52; Tentiuc, Bubulici, Simalcsik 2015, 221-248, Tentiuc, Bubulici, Simalcsik 2016, 39-74). To the Sarmatian tribes were linked the discoveries of bronze vessels, especially situlas identified in some deposits considered "strange" (Simonenko 2011; Bârcă 2009, 85-124).

It should be noted that in the Eastern Carpathian area metal containers were discovered in the funerary complexes belonging to the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC, a period that preceded the development of the Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture in the north-western Pontic area.

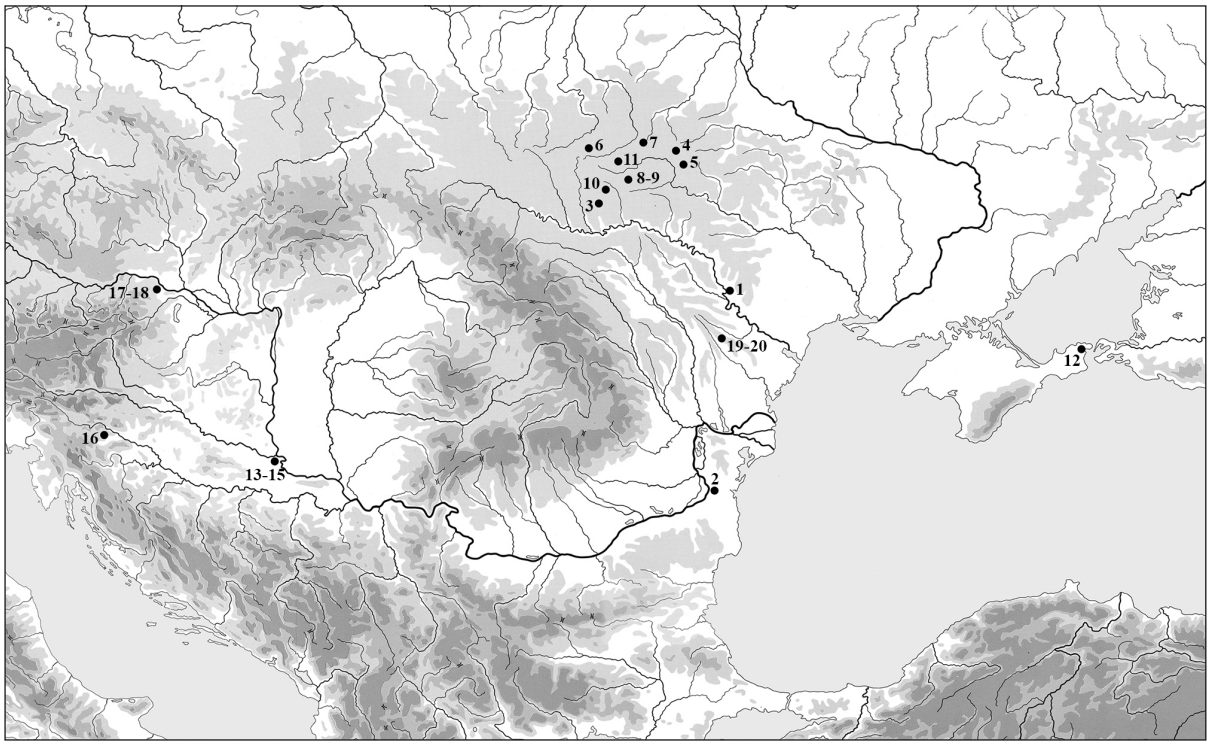

Fig. 2. Map of distribution of Hemmoor buckets.

For the north-west Pontic and east Carpathian areas we will mention some disparate sites or sites with fragments of metal vessels discoveries used as funeral inventory. These are the discoveries from the funerary complexes of some flat necropoleis, dated with the first centuries AD, located in the central part of the Prut and Nistru interfluves, at the sites of Hansca-Lutăria II and Dănceni-Ialoveni.

At Hansca-Lutăria II was excavated a necropolis where were discovered 15 incineration tombs. The authors of the research attributed the necropolis from Hansca-Lutăria to the period of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The two tombs (M12 and M14), represented by a rich funeral inventory, revealed fragments of bronze walls, rims and handles from bronze with strong secondary burning traces. The extremity of these vessel's handles was modeled in the shape of a swan head (Никулицэ, Рикман 1973, 116-123; Никулицэ, Рикман 2004, 214). Here, on one of the metal pieces found in M14, was also identified an inscription, made by incision, showing the Roman numerals IX and XI. The presence of weapons, arrow heads and spear heads, a dagger and iron plates that appears to be from a *umbo*, golden bracelet fragments, beads, etc. made this tomb to be included in the category of the rich, being assigned to an elite member of the community. According to the authors of the research, ceramic vessels discovered in funerary contexts find their closest analogies to Carpi-Dacian sites from the east of Carpathians (Никулицэ, Рикман 1973, 118). E.A. Rikman points out that the vessels shapes made using the potter's wheel discovered in the graves from Hansca-Lutăria are similar to the ceramics found in the complexes of Carpi culture and Lipitza culture in the period preceding the emergence of the Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture (Рикман 1975, 293).

Another important discovery is the incineration tomb no. 203, studied at the Dănceni-Ialoveni necropolis. Among the materials representing the funeral inventory was found a metal handle, rectangular in section, with the ends made in the shape of a swan head (Рафалович 1986, 72). The researchers, M. Shchukin and T. Shcherbakova, who studied the discovered remains with the aim of further publication, consider that the bronze vessel from tomb 203 belongs to the category of Stara Zagora type containers. The presence of this vessel allowed the chronological framing of the funeral complex and, together with it, the establishment of the beginning of the necropolis from Dănceni – at the end of the 2nd century - the

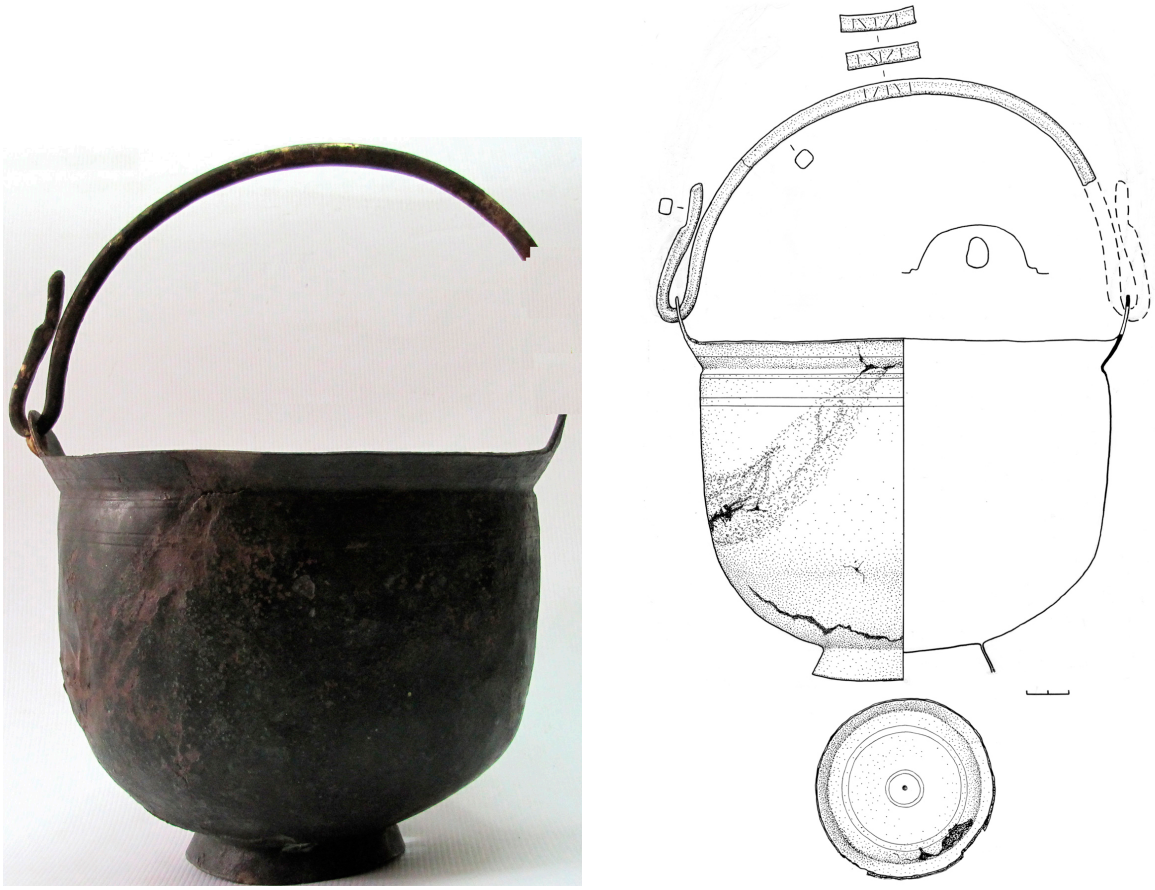

Fig. 3. Iagorlâc. The Hemmoor bucket – a funerary urn (photo and drawing).

first half or the middle of the 3rd century (Щукин, Щербакова 1986, 209).

So, geographically, the closest analogies for the Hemmoor type bucket from Iahorlîc can be considered fragments of metal containers discovered in early tombs from the flat necropoleis that belong to the period before the appearance of the Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture in the east Carpathian space. These vessels, as a rule, carry strong burning traces, are fragmented and deformed in fire. For the ceramic fragments discovered in funerary complexes, researchers found analogies in the sites and remains of the Carpi-Dacians (Никулицэ, Рикман 1973, 118), chronologically anchored in the period between the end of the 2nd century and the 1st half of the 3rd century.

Among the Hemmoor type vessels, we will mention the quasi-identical vessels discovered in the point Dervent-Păcuiul lui Soare (Constanta County) (Bucovală 1972, 117-127) and Skovoridki (Khmelnytskyi region) (Надвирняк, Погорелец 2014, 151-155, рис. 4). These vessels have many affinities with the urn from Iahorlîc, both in shape and in size. It is important to note that the container of Skovoridki has a similar inscription as the one from the vessel discovered at Iahorlîc.

In the last decades, Hemmoor type vessels were found in several sites in western Podolia and southern Volynia, in the regions Ternopil, Vinnytsia and Khmelnytsky of west Ukraine (Магомедов 2010, 174-182; Надвирняк, Погорелец 2014, 151-155), in the area of Wielbark culture. Central European discoveries of Hemmoor type vessels were made in Poland (Wielowiejski 1985, 132-320, no. 66 and no. 67), Hungary (Radnoti 1938, pl. 118), Slovenia (Brescak 1982), Bulgaria (Raev 1977, 605-642, no. 78 and no. 91.), Croatia, Austria (Radnoti 1957, 173-224; no. 14, pl. 39/7, no. 40, pl. 37/2, no. 41, pl 39/5, no. 73, pl. 38/1; Radnoti 1966, 199-221, Taf. II, Ia and B) etc. Containers of this type have been discovered in sites researched along the Danube. Some were part of the former Roman province of Pannonia and Noricum. Thus, for example, three vessels almost identical to that from our territory have been found at Osijek, on Drava (anti-

Fig. 4. Iagorlâc. The shell-shaped vessel – the lid of the funerary urn (photo and drawing).

ent Mursa), in Croatia (Pinterovič 1962, 118, T. I/5 and pl. III/1-3.), two vessels were identified at Vindobona (Austria) and another one in a tomb at Sentjernej, in Slovenia (Breščak 1982, no. 1, c. 17-43, Tabl. 7/62.) (fig. 2). A Hemmoor vessel type was found in the famous tomb with gold mask from Kerch-Panticapaeum (Шаров 2009, 41, kat. no. 44; Трейстер 2009, 56-57.).

Other analogies, the most numerous, are the discoveries of similar metal vessels in France (Notte 1989, 27), in northern Germany (Kunow 1983; Berke 1990; Bienert 2007) or in Denmark (Ekholm 1962, 152). This category of vessels is also known on the territory of Norway and Sweden, where they are chronologically included in the 2nd - 3rd centuries AD (Eggers 1951, 55-57; Hansen 1987).

According to J. Werner, Hemmoor type buckets have been produced since the middle of the 2nd century AD, and are found throughout the 3rd century (Werner 1936, 401, 408). The opinion of J. Werner was embraced by H.J. Eggers. The latter, included the category of containers (types 55-66, according to the classification proposed by him) in the period C1-C2, or the time interval between 150 AD and the end of the 3rd century (Eggers 1951, 53-55, 57). It is necessary to mention that this dating of Hemmoor type recipients, middle of the 2nd century and the 3rd century AD, met the opinion of most scholars (Шаров 2009, 41; Трейстер 2009, 56-57). Ludovic Notte believes that the Hemmoor type vessels do not exceed the limits of the 3rd century BC, and, of all Eggers 63 type would be the earliest (Notte 1989, 27).

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2. Basin with curved walls, used as lid for the funerary urn (Becken mit gewellten Kanneluren)

At the time of discovery, the container, heavily deformed by burning on the funeral pyre, was deposited over the Hemmoor vessel. It is made of brass sheet[2]. The basin has a hemispherical shape

[2] The analysis carried out in the specialized laboratory at the Hermitage Museum from Sankt Peterburg, showed that the metal used to make the vessel with the wavy walls, shell type, contains the following components: copper - 92%; zinc - 7%; iron - 0.2%; arsenic - less than 0.1%; lead - less than 0.1%. It is made of brass.

in section and circular in plan. It has, on the inside, an ornament formed by two incised, concentric lines that mimic the bottom of the bowl. Its diameter is 3.9 cm and the distance between the two lines is 0.25 cm. The vessel was made by pressing the lathe. It has a slightly inclined towards the exterior and thick rim (fig. 4). On some portions of the vessel's rim which were less affected by the action of the funeral pyre, were preserved gilded traces.

The height of the vessel is 7.5 cm and the maximum diameter at the rim level is 27.7-28.0 cm. The walls made of brass sheet are only 0.1 cm thick. The rim is thickened up to 0.35 cm.

On the inside and the outside of the bottom of the vessel can be observed the place where it was attached to the lathe. On the inside, around the stem attachment recess, were made by incision concentric circles arranged in pairs. From a technological point of view, the casting was followed by lathe pressing, made in a special matrix. The vessel walls are wavy, just like the top of the rim. Only a portion of the surface of the walls, from the rim, is not wavy. Here, the waves are arranged radially, in the form of arches, symmetrically organized by three forming a loop, which makes us assume that the shape of a shell was intended to be imitated[3].

The vessel has strong secondary burning traces, which led to the destruction of a significant part of the body (about a fifth of the surface) by melting.

The basin is a very rare discovery. We have not been able to identify close analogies as shape, ornamentation and dimensions for the Iahorlîc vessel. The closest analogies for this category of metal vessels with wavy walls surface are found on the Danube line, in the Danubian provinces of Noricum and Panonnia. For Noricum, are published fragments of pots, close to ours by the method of making the surface of the walls, discovered in the Ovilava-Weis deposit (Sedlmayer 1999, 159, Abb.20). These were dated to the 2nd century AD. Another vessel, with wavy walls surface discovered at Albertfalva and dated to the 2nd century, was published in 1999 by Klara Szabo (Szabo 1999, 242-263, fig. 14).

For Central Europe and the Danube, Aladar Radnoti published in 1938 a fragment of a vessel, similar to the one presented by us, discovered in the Roman colony at Brigetio, Komárom-Esztergom County (Hungary). The difference lies in the fact that Brigetio is endowed with ring-shaped support for the bottom (Radnoti 1938, Table XXIX/2). The vessel of Brigetio, as well as the Roman camp here, was dated between the 1st and 3rd centuries, or even the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

We have to mention that the closest analogy for the vessel with wavy walls used as lid for the funerary urn from Iahorlîc was noticed by the authors in the exhibition of the Hermitage Museum. The vessel from the exhibition is almost identical in shape to the one discussed in this article. It comes from the excavations of Pompeii.

Instead of conclusions. In the eastern Carpathian space, several incineration burials were discovered in bronze vessels (situla or buckets): Sipoteni (Călăraşi), Mana (Orhei), Poieneşti (Vaslui), Răcătău (Bacău), Bădeni (Iaşi). These belong to the period of the 2nd and 1st centuries BC, and may be related to the penetration and establishment of the Bastarn tribes in these regions.

It is important to note that at a distance of about 25 km north-northeast of the site with the discoveries from Iagorlâc, at the site of Mocra (Dubăsari) an incineration burial was deposited in a ceramic urn-bowl in association with a lid-bowl. As funerary urn in the tomb of Mocra was used a bowl with preserved polishing traces in the upper part and barbotine the lower part (Кашуба, Курчатов, Щербакова 2001-2002, 200-201, рис. 10). The authors assigned the funeral complex, made in the mantle of a Sarmatian tumulus, to the Wielbark culture. The graves of the Sarmatian aristocracy discovered in the mounds near Mocra were, according to the authors, made in the first quarter of the 2nd century AD (Кашуба, Курчатов, Щербакова 2001-2002, 242). In turn, the ceramic incineration tomb with a ceramic lid-bowl, inside of which, among the calcined bones was discovered a rectangular iron buckle, classified by R. Madyga-Legutka (Madyga-Legutka 1986, 233, Taf. 23, Tab. 9) with group G, type 8, was dated to the end of the 2nd or the beginning of the 3rd century (Кашуба, Курчатов, Щербакова 2001-2002, 243).

[3] In the present vessels of this kind, or imitating the shape of a shell, are used for anaphora and are called "St. Jacob's Shell".

Therefore, the two incineration complexes, from Iahorlic and Mocra, were made approximately during the same period. It is possible that they belong to the first waves of Gothic population which arrived in the east-Carpathian space and in the north-western Pontic regions. Also, to the same chronological period, 2nd-3rd centuries, belong the necropolis of Hansca-Lutăria II (Никулицэ, Рикман 2004, 218) and some incineration tombs in the necropolis of Dănceni-Ialoveni. At Hansca-Limbari II there were fragments of bronze vessels with metal handles similar to the Iahorlîc vessel. The fact that in the complexes of Hansca-Lutăria II were discovered ceramic categories similar to those of the Carpi culture or the Lipitza culture, does not contradict with the cultural processes carried out in the first centuries of the Christian era to the east of the Oriental Carpathians. It is possible that during the southward movement of the Goths, groups of Carpi and Costoboci joined in. We can also assume that the free Dacians which were overlapped by Goth tribes, was the local Thracian population who later participated in the formation of the Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture.

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Un mormânt de incineraţie în recipient de metal (sec. II-III p. Chr.), descoperit la Iagorlâc, Dubăsari

Cuvinte-cheie: urnă funerară, vase din metal, epoca romană, vas de tip Hemmoor, vas de tip scoică.

Rezumat: În anul 2017 Muzeul Naţional de Istorie a Moldovei, de la Chişinău, a intrat în posesia a două vase de metal descoperite întâmplător. Conform informaţiei descoperitorilor, acestea au fost găsite în surpătura unui drum pe teritoriul rezervaţiei naturale Iagorlâc, raionul Dubăsari (fig. 1), situată la gura râului omonim, afluent de stânga al fluviului Nistru.

Setul alcătuieşte inventarul unui mormânt de incineraţie în urnă funerară. Este reprezentat de un vas de tip „căldăruşă", aparţinând variantei Eggers 63, a găleţilor de tip Hemmoor. Acest vas, conform informaţiei, era plin cu „pământ şi oase arse" şi reprezintă o urnă funerară. Pe partea mediană toarta are incizate semne care amintesc cifrele romane IX şi XI, iar extremităţile torţii imaginează capete de pasăre (fig. 3). Cel de-al doilea recipient, un bazin de formă semisferică în secţiune şi circulară în plan, cu pereţii ondulaţi şi buza cu urme de aurire, în momentul descoperirii era puternic deformat şi depus peste vasul cu oase calcinate. Bazinul reprezintă capacul pentru urna funerară. Ambele vase păstrează urme puternice de funingine şi de ardere secundară. În urma arderii pe rugul funerar, bazinul cu pereţii ondulaţi şi-a pierdut, prin topire, a cincea parte din suprafaţă (fig. 4).

Vasele sunt confecţionate din tablă subţire de alamă, fiind realizate cu ajutorul strungului, în matrice speciale. Cele mai apropiate analogii pentru aceste vase le găsim în necropola de incineraţie de la Hansca-Lutărie II unde, în două morminte (M12 şi M14), au fost descoperite fragmente de pereţi, buze de la vase din bronz şi torţi cu extremităţile în formă de cap de lebădă, care aveau puternice urme de ardere. Fragmentele de vase ceramice din aceste complexe funerare găsesc analogii în vestigiile culturii carpice şi a culturii Lipiţa. În necropola de la Dănceni-Ialoveni, în M203, realizat prin incinerare, au fost găsite, pe lângă alte materiale, o toartă cu extremităţile în formă de cap de lebădă şi urechiuşa unui vas din bronz. Aceste morminte, cu inventar bogat, au fost atribuite secolelor II-III p. Chr. Ele aparţineau unor membri de elită ai comunităţilor goţilor care au pătruns în regiune până la formarea culturii Sântana de Mureş-Černjachov.

Analogii pentru vasele din metal de la Iagorlâc găsim în diferite regiuni din Europa Centrală şi de Nord-Vest, dar şi în Ucraina de Vest, unde sunt datate în intervalul de timp cuprins între anii 150 şi 250 p. Chr. (fig. 2).

Lista ilustraţiilor:

Fig. 1. Harta cu locul descoperirii mormântului de incineraţie de la Iagorlâc.

Fig. 2. Harta răspândirii căldărilor de tip Hemmoor.

Fig. 3. Iagorlâc. Căldare de tip Hemmoor – urnă funerară (foto şi desen).

Fig. 4. Iagorlâc. Vas de tip scoică – capac pentru urna funerară (foto şi desen).

Кремационное захоронение в металлическом сосуде (II-III в. н.э.), обнаруженное в Ягорлыке (Дубоссарский р-н)

Ключевые слова: погребальная урна, металлические сосуды, римское время, сосуд типа Хеммор, сосуд в форме раковины.

Резюме: В 2017 году в фонды Национального музея истории Молдовы в Кишиневе поступили два металлических сосуда, которые были обнаружены случайно. По информации находчиков, они были найдены на дороге, на территории природного заповедника Ягорлык в Дубоссарском районе (рис. 1), расположенного в устье одноименной реки, левого притока реки Днестр.

Набор составляет инвентарь кремационного захоронения в погребальной урне. Он представлен сосудом в форме ведра варианта 63 Эггерса, типа Хеммор. Этот сосуд, согласно полученной информации, был заполнен «землей и сожженными костями» и является погребальной урной. На средней части ручки сосуда вырезаны знаки, напоминающие римские цифры IX и XI, а ее концы выполнены в виде птичьих голов (рис. 3). Второй сосуд, полусферический в разрезе и круглый в плане, с ребристыми стенками и остатками позолоты по краю, на момент обнаружения был сильно деформирован и лежал на сосуде с кальцинированными костями. Он является крышкой погребальной урны. На обоих сосудах сохранились сильные следы копоти и вторичного горения. В результате сжигания на погребальном костре сосуд с ребристыми стенками утратил пятую часть своей поверхности, которая расплавилась (рис. 4).

Сосуды были изготовлены из тонкого листа меди с помощью токарного станка и специальных матриц. Ближайшие аналогии этим контейнерам можно найти в кремационном некрополе Ханска-Лутэрие II, где в двух погребениях (M12 и M14) были обнаружены фрагменты стенок, края бронзовых сосудов и ручки с концами в виде головы лебедя, с сильными следами горения. Фрагменты керамических сосудов из этих погребальных комплексов находят аналогии в памятниках культуры карпов и липицкой культуры. В некрополе Дэнчень-Яловень, в погребении M203, совершенном по обряду кремации, были найдены, наряду

с другими материалами, ручка с концами в форме головы лебедя и ручка-ушко бронзового сосуда. Эти захоронения с богатым инвентарем были отнесены к II-III векам н.э. Они принадлежали знатным членам общин готов, которые проникли в этот регион до образования культуры Сынтана-де-Муреш - Черняхов.

Аналогии металлическим сосудам из Ягорлыка встречаются в разных регионах Центральной и Северо-Западной Европы, а также в Западной Украине, где они датируются периодом времени между 150 и 250 годами нашей эры (рис. 2).

Список иллюстраций:

Рис. 1. Карта с местом обнаружения кремационного захоронения в Ягорлыке.

Рис. 2. Карта распространения ведер типа Хеммор.

Рис. 3. Ягорлык. Ведро типа Хеммор – погребальная урна (фотография и рисунок).

Рис. 4. Ягорлык. Сосуд в форме раковины – крышка погребальной урны (фотография и рисунок).

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