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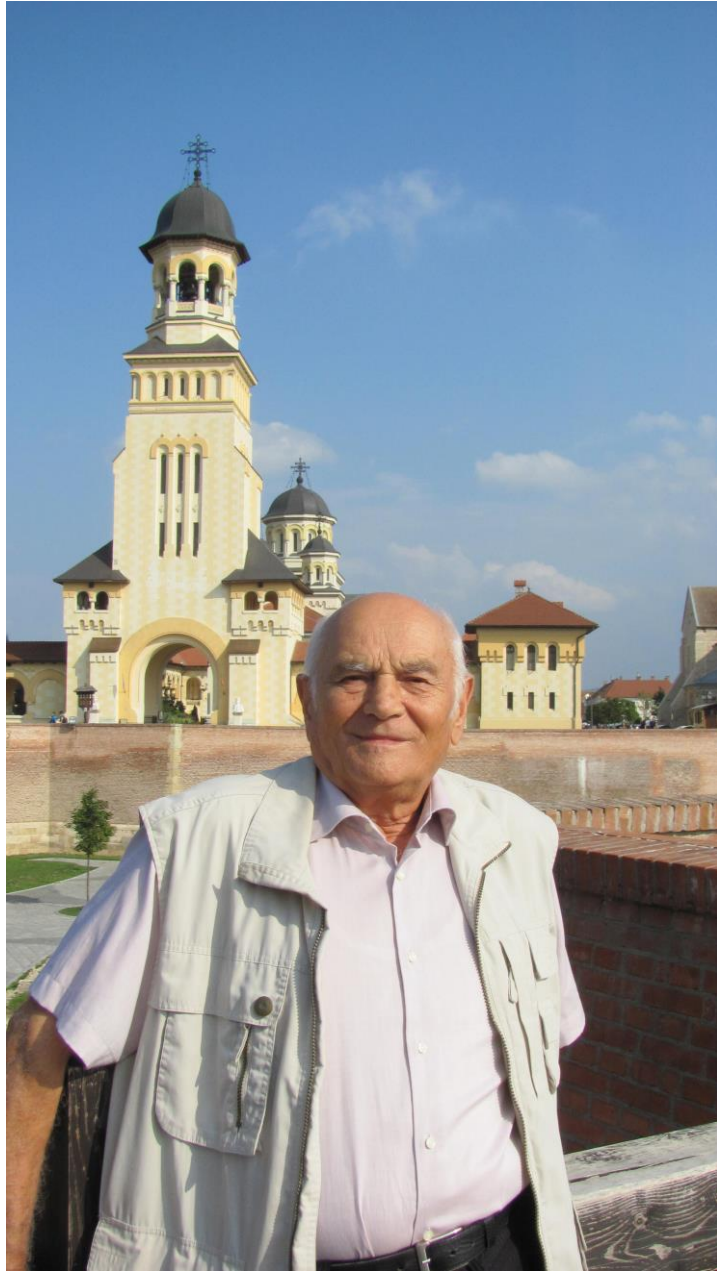
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**Gheorghe Anghel**



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## Gheorghe Anghel, maestru al muzeografiei românești

În cei peste 125 ani de existență a Muzeului din Alba Iulia s-au afirmat numeroase personalități ale istoriografiei, arheologiei, muzeografiei și științei restaurării din România, care și-au adus un însemnat aport la dezvoltarea acestor domenii. Printre acestea vom aminti câteva nume de referință care au intrat în istoria prestigioasei instituții de cultură: Adalbert Cserni – fondatorul muzeului, Ion Berciu – cel care a reorganizat muzeul începând cu finalul perioadei interbelice, Alexandru Popa, Nicolae Josan, Vasile Moga, Radu Ciobanu, Viorica Suciș și Horia Ciugudean.

Volumul de față este dedicat domnului Gheorghe Anghel cu ocazia împlinirii frumoasei vârste de 80 de ani. Un remarcabil portret al Domniei sale a fost realizat de distinsa sa colegă, doamna Viorica Suciș, cu ocazia împlinirii vârstei de 70 ani, în numărul XLII al anuarului nostru.

Gheorghe Anghel s-a născut în satul Șard, comuna Ighiu, județul Alba, la 7 aprilie 1935. Fiu al Mariei și al lui Petru Anghel, a cunoscut îndeaproape realitățile satului românesc. Părinții sărbătoritului nostru s-au ocupat îndeaproape de educația fiului lor, încurajându-l să urmeze cursurile Școlii elementare din Șard, apoi a Școlii Pedagogice din Deva. Studiile sale au fost încununate de absolvirea în anul 1958 a Facultății de Istorie-Filozofie, secția Istorie a Universității ”Victor Babeș” din Cluj-Napoca. Aici a avut șansa de a audia cursurile unor mari personalități ale istoriografiei naționale și europene, profesori de prestigiu precum acad. Constantin Daicoviciu, Mihail Macrea, Nicolae Lascu, acad. Virgil Vătășianu, acad. Ștefan Pascu și mulți alții.

Tânărul cercetător al Evului Mediu românesc a fost sfătuit de profesorii săi să elaboreze o teză de doctorat cu o tematică dificilă, prin care se dorea deschiderea de noi drumuri în cercetarea istoriei medievale românești. Eforturile sale au fost încununate prin susținerea tezei în anul 1978, intitulată *Fortificații medievale din sud-vestul Transilvaniei*, al cărei conducător științific a fost acad. Ștefan Pascu. În general o teză bună de doctorat trebuie să fie publicată! Cu ajutorul editurii Dacia, în anul 1986, a văzut lumina tiparului una din cele mai valoroase monografii ale Evului Mediu românesc, ”Fortificații medievale de piatră din secolele XIII-XVI”. Prin această lucrare Gheorghe Anghel și-a câștigat renumele de *fondator al castelologiei românești*.

Cercetările Domniei sale au atras atenția specialiștilor de peste hotare, care l-au invitat la opt congrese internaționale, printre care amintim cele de la Durham, Teheran, Basel și Roma. Recunoașterea profesională din partea lumii științifice s-a concretizat și prin acceptarea sa ca membru al unor prestigioase organizații științifice internaționale: Societatea Amicii Ceramicii Romane

(Elveția), Societatea de Numismatică (Belgia) și Societatea de Studii Mithraice (India).

Lista publicațiilor științifice semnate de Gheorghe Anghel a fost întocmită de doamna Viorica Suci în materialul amintit anterior. Vom aminti selectiv câteva cărți și studii care au adus un însemnat aport la dezvoltarea cercetării Evului Mediu și epocii moderne: Gh. Anghel, *Cetăți medievale din Transilvania*, Ed. Meridiane, București, 1971; Gh. Anghel, *Fortificații medievale din piatră din sec. XIII-XVI*, Ed. Dacia, Cluj-Napoca, 1986; Gh. Anghel, *De la Mitropolia Ortodoxă a Transilvaniei la Episcopia de Alba Iulia*, Alba Iulia, 1993; Gh. Anghel, "Trei tezaure monetare din secolul al XVII-lea, descoperite la Alba Iulia", *Apulum*, V, 1964, p. 375-406; Gh. Anghel, "Săpăturile arheologice de la cetatea feudală de la Piatra Craivii", *Apulum*, V, 1964, p. 309-322; Gh. Anghel, "Date noi în legătură cu apeductele medievale de la Alba Iulia", *Sargetia*, V, 1968, p. 155-163; Gh. Anghel, "Mesures de capacité medievales employées en Transylvanie au Musée d'Histoire d'Alba Iulia", *Noesis*, II, 1974, p. 163-167; Gh. Anghel, "Castelul de la Hunedoara", *Sargetia*, XI, 1974-1975, p. 363-376; Gh. Anghel, "Les forteresses moldaves de l'époque de l'époque d'Etienne le Grand", *Château-Gaillard*, Caen, VII, 1975, p. 21-34; Gh. Anghel, "Despre apariția primelor donjoane de piatră din Transilvania", *Apulum*, XVIII, 1980, p. 195-220; Gh. Anghel, "Considerații generale privind tipologia cetăților medievale din România", *Apulum*, XIX, 1981, p. 151-163; Gh. Anghel, "Considérations sur l'architecture des fortifications romain du XIII au XVI siècles", *Château-Gaillard*, Caen, IX-X, p. 273-292; Gh. Anghel, H. Ciugudean, "Cimitirul feudal timpuriu de la Blandiana (jud. Alba)", *Apulum*, XXIV, 1987, p. 170-196; Gh. Anghel, "Despre evoluția teritorială a orașului antic, medieval și modern Alba Iulia", *Apulum*, XXXI, 1994, p. 283-302; Gh. Anghel, "Necropola birituală, prefeudală de la Ghirbom", *Apulum*, XXXIV, 1997, p. 255-271; Gh. Anghel, "Vauban și fortificațiile bastionare din Transilvania și Banat (sec. XVII-XVIII)", *Sargetia*, XXVII/1, 1998, p. 581-631; Gh. Anghel, V. Suci, "Mărturii ale plutăritului în Transilvania din antichitate, evul mediu și perioada modernă. Rolul orașului Alba Iulia în istoria plutăritului", *Apulum*, XLI, 2004, p. 367-386; Gh. Anghel, "Construcții de apărare executate de Giovanni Morando Visconti în cetatea medieval de la Alba Iulia la sfârșitul secolului al XVII-lea și începutul celui de al XVIII-lea", *Apulum*, L, 2013, p. 167-181.

Prin cercetările arheologice efectuate sub conducerea științifică a Domniei sale au fost aduse noi și valoroase informații privind epoca migrațiilor, evul mediu timpuriu și dezvoltat, perioada premodernă și cea modernă din istoria Transilvaniei. Amintim săpăturile arheologice de la Piatra Craivii, Tăuți, Cetatea de Baltă, Sânmiclăuș, Blandiana, Berghin, Ghirbom, Alba Iulia – Stația de Salvare, Alba Iulia – ravelinul Sf. Francisc de Paola și multe altele.

Gheorghe Anghel a fost un manager de mare valoare, conducând Muzeul din Alba Iulia 23 de ani, între 1971 și 1994, fiind cel mai longeviv din istoria instituției noastre. Meritele Domniei sale sunt indiscutabile, și au fost amintite în portretul redactat de Viorica Suciuc acum un deceniu. Vom reaminti că sub conducerea sa patrimoniul mobil al Muzeului s-a îmbogățit cu numeroase bunuri cu valoare arheologică (aici incluzând și pe cele numismatice), bibliofilă, etnografică, documente de arhivă etc. În perioada mandatului său patrimoniul Muzeului din Alba Iulia s-a îmbogățit cu peste 300.000 de asemenea bunuri. A fost inițiatorul organizării sesiunii științifice anuale a Muzeului încă din primul an în care a preluat funcția de director. A reorganizat de numeroase ori expoziția de bază, iar sub conducerea sa a fost restaurată clădirea Sălii Unirii în anul 1993. De asemenea a pus umărul la înființarea câtorva instituții muzeale: Muzeul Pavilionar al Mineritului din Roșia Montană, Muzeul "Avram Iancu" din Câmpeni și Muzeul din Blaj.

Domnul Gheorghe Anghel nu și-a uitat originile, și ca veritabil fiu al satului a contribuit substanțial la editarea monografiei localității în care s-a născut și copilărit. Astfel a văzut lumina tiparului lucrarea semnată alături de Gh. Măhăra și M. Munteanu, *Șard – un sat din "Țara Vinului"*, Ed. Altip, Alba Iulia, 2006.

A susținut în continuare apariția a 25 noi numere ale anuarului *Apulum*, în ale cărui pagini au continuat să publice nume grele ale istoriografiei românești și mondiale.

Domnul Gheorghe Anghel continuă să fie o persoană activă care participă la viața științifică a Muzeului din Alba Iulia, oferind sfaturi utile și pertinente colegilor mai tineri. Vor rămâne în amintirile mele fructuoasele discuții științifice despre diversele aspecte ale vieții romane de la Apulum, dar mai ales cele cu privire la problema "anului 1000" de la Alba Iulia, grupurile Mediaș și Blandiana A, existența unui voievodat la Bălgrad, problema episcopului Hyerotheos șamd. Domnul Gheorghe Anghel, prin personalitatea sa excepțională, se constituie drept o adevărată enciclopedie. N-am să uit discuțiile pe diverse tematici avute în biroul meu sau la bibliotecă, dar și în plimbările noastre din Cetatea Alba Carolina. Țin minte cum mi-a povestit în detaliu procesul de fabricare a vinului spumant, apoi soiurile de struguri care se cultivă în zona sa natală. Domnia sa are un umor debordant, fiind expert în a spune bancuri. Este un om care știe să-și trăiască viața, bucurându-se de tot ceea ce-i oferă mai frumos aceasta.

Cu prilejul lansării acestui număr al anuarului *Apulum* îi urăm sărbătoritului nostru viață lungă, multă sănătate și un sincer La mulți ani!

Radu OTA, Alba Iulia

**THE EARLY MEDIEVAL NECROPOLIS FROM ALBA IULIA -  
IZVORUL ÎMPĂRATULUI.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHES IN 2014**

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**Key words:** inhumation, necropolis, jewels, weapons, funeral display.

**Cuvinte cheie:** înmormântare, necropolă, podoabe, armament, amenajare funerară.

*History of researches.* The site *Izvorul Împăratului (Crăuța)* is located in the southern area of Alba Iulia, on the second terrace of the Mureș River. On the road leaving the town, on the right side of DJ 107 A (Alba Iulia-Pîclișa) is the northern slope, above which is the cemetery and the spring with the same name comes up (**Fig. 1**). The first evidence indicating existence of a necropolis (bones and ceramic shards) was recorded on the SW edge of the terrace in spring 1980, during the agricultural labours.

M. Blăjan conducted the first archaeological survey in 2001, excavating a Hallstatt dwelling, a provision pit (5<sup>th</sup> century) and 22 inhumation graves from the 10<sup>th</sup> century with quite diverse goods: knives, strike-a-lights, pincer, spindle whorls, strings of beads, earrings, pendants, necklaces, cross-shaped reliquary (M. 10) and ceramics<sup>1</sup>.

A second archaeological campaign was carried out in 2005, when four archaeological sections of 36 x 4 m were excavated along the E-W axis, on the length of the terrace. Beside the 10 complexes with Hallstatt and Roman materials, 27 inhumation graves were found, W (skull) - E oriented with depths between 0,20-0,80 m. Grave pits were simple or lined (bordered at the edges or laterals) covered with stone, lime and reused Roman bricks. Christian finds were discovered in two graves (M. 24, M. 30): a pectoral cross and a double cross-

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<sup>1</sup> Blăjan 2002, p. 33; Blăjan 2006 b, p. 53-56; Blăjan 2006 c, p. 427-433; Blăjan 2007 a, p. 243-249; Blăjan 2010, p. 272-278.

shaped reliquary incised with the Mother of God on one side and Jesus Christ crucified on the reverse (M. 24). The funerary inventory retrieved from the graves comprised beads, earrings, twisted necklace, buttons, knife blades, whorls and ceramic vessels deposited near the skull or lower limbs<sup>2</sup>.

Eight research units were excavated in 2006: S. V (36 x 2 m), S. VI (37,90 x 2 m), S. VII, S. VIII (41,50 m), S. X (36,50 m), S. XI and S. XII (39 m), laid off on E-W axis. Within this context, 30 garbage pits from the Bronze Age (Wietenberg), Hallstatt, Roman/post-Roman age and 80 inhumation graves (children and adults), E-W oriented were identified. Position of the forearms was varied: one above another, laid on abdomen, pelvis, thorax, both near the body or one over the pelvis. There were cases of destruction/disturbance, owed to agricultural labours in some graves (M. 49, M. 50, M. 59), wood lining (M. 65), or deposition of lying on the stomach (M. 124) and in crouched position (M. 69, M. 125). Beside the simple sepulchral pits, there were recorded linings with tiles, blocks of sandstone, river stone and up-edge bricks. Funeral inventory was extremely diverse: rhombic, circular appliqués, *Cypraea moneta*, spindle whorls, strike-a-lights, earrings, strings of beads, three twisted wire necklaces, a double cross-shaped reliquary (M. 81), a small pectoral cross (M. 89), ceramics, animal offering (the skull and limbs), bird eggs and a hen skeleton<sup>3</sup>.

**Researches in 2014.** The absence of documents concerning previous researches hindered investigations from 2014, which focused on two directions: connecting with old researches carried out on the private field of AISTEDA University Foundation and establishing some definite elements of funeral rite and ritual<sup>4</sup>. For this purpose, eight research units (S. 1-S. 8; **Fig. 2-3**) with different dimensions and afferent grid cells were excavated between 11 July - 29 July 2014. Probes examining the base of the terrace, showed traces of some prehistoric complexes which were sketchily visible due to previous mechanical works.

S 1 = 6 m x 1 m, orientation = N-S, ▼ = 0,33-0,73 m. We did not identify archaeological evidence in this research unit.

S 2 = 3 m x 1 m, orientation = E-W, ▼ = 0,51-0,56 m. In the middle of the probe, we noticed a layer of sand and gravel, located on the canal of the well.

<sup>2</sup> Blăjan 2006 a, p. 70-72. The cross-shaped reliquary had legends incised on both sides: the upper side of Mother of God had the legend **ΜΡΘΥ**, and the reverse had on one of the arms **IC**, and on the other one **XC**.

<sup>3</sup> Blăjan 2007 b, p. 54-57. As for animal offering (the skull and limbs) we are tempted to believe that the bones belongs to a horse. From a different perspective it is difficult to admit that the presence of horse offering is singular, without involving weapons and harness pieces. All materials published by Mihai Blăjan do not record existence/discovery of some artefacts or customs specific to Hungarian cultural environment!

<sup>4</sup> We would like to express our sincere thanks to Aisteda University Foundation for understanding the importance of our approach!

S 3 = 5 m x 3,50 m x 2 m x 1 m x 1,50 m x 1 m, orientation = SW-NE, ▼ = 0,35-0,61 m.

S4 = 10 x 1,16 m, orientation = N-S with a range pole of 0,55 m up against S. 6.

M. 1. Skeleton length = 0,93 m, pit length = 2 m, pit breadth = 0,45 m, orientation = W-E (skull), ▼ = 0,17-0,24 m. The skeleton extended on back was partially preserved (the pelvis and lower limbs) (**Pl. I**). For complete unearthing of lower limbs a grid cell was produced C1 = 0,34 x 0,68 x 0,34 m in the E contour.

Good state of conservation.

*Without funeral goods.*

M. 2. Skeleton length = 1,49 m, pit length = 2,09 m, pit breadth = 0,58-0,74 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,51-0,61 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull turned right. The right forearm was on the abdomen and the left was straight (**Pl. I**). The skeleton was in a good state of conservation. An offering of an ox was noticed to the left of the pelvis. For complete unearthing of the deceased a grid cell was produced C2 = 0,40 x 0,85 x 0,40 m in the E contour.

*Grave goods:* finger ring made of band/bronze disc decorated with two parallel incisions (**Pl. I/1**; MNUAI F. 10.075; width of band = 4,66 mm, thickness = 1,47 mm, dimensions = 20,25 x 20,27 mm) /discovered on the upper part of the body/right humerus).

M. 3. Skeleton length = 1,65 m, pit length = 2,26 m, pit breadth = 0,58-0,74 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,60-0,76 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull turned right. The right forearm was on the pelvis and the left was missing (**Pl. I**). The skeleton was in a good state of conservation. For complete unearthing of the deceased a grid cell was produced C3 = 1,36 x 0,80 x 1,36 m in the W contour.

*Grave goods:* rhombic arrow point (MNUAI F. 10. 078; total Length = 98,47 mm, conserved Length = 62,38 mm, max width = 22,94 mm, thickness of shaft-hole = 4,66 mm), identified by the lower limb.

S. 5 = 2 x 7 m, orientation = SW-NE, ▼ = 0,39-0,40 m.

S. 6 was unearthed on the western side of S. 4 with a ranging pole of 0,50 m. orientation = N-S.

M. 4. skeleton length = 1,70 m, pit length = 1,97 m, pit breadth = 0,97 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,45-0,54 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull turned right, with the right forearm on the pelvis and the left straight (**Pl. III**). The skeleton was in a good state of conservation. For complete unearthing of the deceased a grid cell was produced C4 = 1,07 x 1,36 x 1,07 m in the W contour.

*Grave goods:* ox offering was deposited between shanks.

M. 5. Skeleton length = 1,75 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,27-0,55 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull tilted left. Hands at sides (**Pl. II**). The skeleton was in a good state of conservation. On the left edge of the pit was a reused Roman brick. For complete unearthing of the deceased an excavation section was produced C4 = 1,56 x 1,76 x 1,56 m in the W contour.

*Grave goods:* fragmentary ceramic vessel decorated with distanced incisions (**Pl. II/1**; diameter = 15 cm, height = 10,2 cm) /deposited on the right side of the abdomen; fragmentary lock-ring, made of circular wire (**Pl. II/3**; MNUAI F. 10. 094, dimension = 18,16 x 19,77 mm, thickness = 1,27 mm)/on the frontal area; lock-ring made of circular wire /at right temple (**Pl. II/2**; MNUAI F. 10.076; thickness = 1,36 mm, dimension = 17,94 x 21,12 mm); iron fragment with rectangular section, identified in the area of left forearm (**Pl. II/4**; MNUAI F. 10.077; Length = 23,10 mm, thickness = 3,11 mm).

S. 7 = 11,80 x 1 m, orientation = W-E; perpendicularly unearthed on the W side of S. 6. On the W side of the section we recorded a research unit, previously realised by M. Blăjan.

M. 6. skeleton length = 1,67 m, pit length = 1,85 m, pit breadth = 0,42-0,54 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,44-0,54 m. Skeleton extended on back with both forearms on the pelvis (**Pl. III**). Except for left humerus, the rest of the skeleton was in a good state of conservation.

For complete unearthing of the deceased a grid cell was produced on the eastern side C = 1 x 0,40 m. A Roman complex out of which were retrieved ceramics, bones and bricks was identified between 4,50 and 5,60 meters.

S. 8 = 10 x 2 m, orientation = E-W, perpendicularly unearthed on the E side of S. 4.

M. 7 (girl). Skeleton length = 1,36 m, pit length = 1,80 m, pit breadth = 0,66-0,70 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,26-0,54 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull tilted left. Hands at sides. Shanks crossed (**Pl. IV**). Precarious state of conservation.

*Grave goods:* five lock-rings (**Pl. IV/3-7**; MNUAI F. 10. 081; dimension 1 = 15,30 x 16,97 mm, dimension 2 = 15,68 x 16,17 mm, thickness 1 = 1,05 mm, thickness 2 = 1,07 mm; MNUAI F. 10. 089-10. 091, dimension 1 = 15,54 x 15,58 mm, thickness 1 = 1,22 mm, dimension 2 = 14,75 x 14,88 mm, thickness 2 = 1,04 mm, dimension 3 = 18,46 x 19,78 mm, thickness 3 = 1,35 mm)/ identified beneath the skull during removing, to the right temporal, forehead and upper part of the body under mandible; two twisted bracelets of which one is fragmentary (**Pl. IV/1-2**; MNUAI F. 10. 092. form 5 G, dimension = 71,22 mm, thickness = 2,87 mm, thickness of wire = 1,49 mm, diameter of loop = 5,89 x 10,66 mm; MNUAI F. 10. 093: bracelet with loops – diameter = 62,17 mm, diameter of loops = 7,65 x 8,34 mm, thickness = 3,36 mm, thickness of wire = 1,26 mm)/on each forearm. C = 1,10 x 0,50 x 0,90 m.

M. 8. Skeleton length = 1,66 m, orientation = W-E (legs), pit length = 2,10 m, pit breadth = 0,70 -1 m, ▼ = 0,35-0,55 m. Skeleton extended on back with the skull turned right. Both forearms were on the pelvis (**Pl. V**). Good state of conservation.

In the upper part of the grave, there was a boulder of lime on the left. We identified stone and lime to the interior of the pit, to the right of the shank. The Roman/post Roman pit within which M. 8 was deposited had ▼ = 0,37-0,85 m and was approximately circular. Beside the ceramic material there were also retrieved coal, egg remains, bones and blocks of adobe with straws<sup>5</sup>.

*Grave goods:* Kecel-type buckle (**Pl. V/4**; MNUAI F. 10. 087; Length = 31,21 mm, width of the buckle = 19,73 x 22,29 mm, thickness = 2,81 x 3,22 mm, exterior ovoid frame = 18,04 mm, frame 2 = 10,98 mm)/by the right leg; two strap distributors (**Pl. VI/6-7**; MNUAI F. 10. 082, F. 10. 088; diameter 1 = 28,11 mm, interior diameter 1/central setting terminating with spokes = 9,76 x 10,41 mm, thickness 1 = 3,21 mm, diameter 2 = 27,58 x 28,12 mm, thickness 2 = 4,03 mm, diameter of the centre 2 = 9,62 x 10,97 mm, interior diameter 2 = 21,64 mm) /on the inside of left femur and in the area of right shank; two spear points (**Pl. V/1-2**; MNUAI F. 10. 085; Length 1 = 52,98 mm, thickness 1 = 6,22 mm, width 1 = 23,52 mm, Length 2 = 42,46 mm, width 2 = 20,33 mm, thickness 2 = 6,16 mm); knife (MNUAI F. 10. 083; Length = 83,57 mm, Length of the blade = 60,35 mm, Length hilt = 20,54 mm, width blade = 10,69 mm, thickness = 4,48 mm; **Pl. VI/5**), fragmentary bead (**Pl. V/3**; MNUAI F. 10. 084; diameter = 12,85 mm, thickness = 5,11 x 8,47 mm) and quiver fitting (MNUAI F. 10.086).

C = 0,58 x 0,50 x 0,50 x 1 x 0,50 x 1,56 x 0,55 m.

M. 9 (girl). Skeleton length = 1,02 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,32-0,38 m. Skeleton extended on back with hands at sides. The left arm was slightly bent from the elbow (**Pl. III**). In the area of the skull there was a fragment of Roman brick. Good state of conservation.

*Grave goods:* clay vessel without decoration with broad rim without exceeding the area of maximum diameter (**Pl. III/1**; maximum diameter = 14 cm, diameter of the base = 6 cm, diameter of mouth = 13,4 cm, height = 12,2 cm)/behind the skull to left; egg offering/left of humerus, nearby the pottery vessel.

C = 0,49 x 0,80 x 0,24 x 0,67 x 0,58 m in N contour.

M. 10. Skeleton length = 1,70 m, pit length = 1,80 m, pit breadth = 0,65-0,70 m, orientation = W-E (legs), ▼ = 0,35-0,60 m.

Skeleton extended on back with the skull tilted right. Left forearm on the pelvis and the right one was straight (**Pl. VI**).

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<sup>5</sup> Material of this complex follows to be restored and processed separately in view of publication.

*Without funeral goods.*

S 9 = 4 x 1 m, orientation = SW-NE, ▼ = 0,58 m. Distance between S. 3 and S. 9 was of 5,3 m.

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With one exception (M. 1), all graves were oriented E-W (skull). The deceased (adults and children) were deposited in simple pits or lined with tile material, stone and lime (M. 5, M. 8, M. 9).

As for forearms, several variants are known: right on the abdomen or pelvis and left straight (M. 2, M. 4), both straight (M. 5, M. 7, M. 9) on the pelvis (M. 8) or on the abdomen (M. 6).

Lining pits with lithic material were recorded in the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries also in other necropolis, like Gradešnica<sup>6</sup>, Hitovo<sup>7</sup>, Kragulevo<sup>8</sup>, Tuchovište<sup>9</sup>, Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare* /phase II<sup>10</sup> and Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei*<sup>11</sup>. The habit of lining sepulchral pits with stone was frequently encountered to pre-Christian/ongoing Christianization communities, likely being a reminiscence of Romanic world that enters by Byzantine line into the Slavic cultural circle. At the origin of this funerary arrangement, might be the Roman tile delimited graves used in the IInd-IIIrd centuries. In necropolises from Alba Iulia, this type of arrangements appears in the period in which is renounced/start disappearing the up brick delimited graves.

Egg offering was deposited to the left of the pelvis (M. 2), between shanks (M. 4) and to left of humerus (M. 9). This custom is encountered to different chronological horizons and cultural environments, in the Germanic, Slav, Avar and Hungarian world. Deposition of the egg offering between shanks is noticed in Radvaň nad Dunajom/M. 29<sup>12</sup>, M. 99<sup>13</sup> in the VIIth-VIIIth centuries but also in necropolises from 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries from Malé Kosihy/M. 200<sup>14</sup>, Majs/M. 11<sup>15</sup> and Ptuj/M. 385<sup>16</sup>. The other anatomical positions of deposition have analogies in necropolises from Majs/M. 224<sup>17</sup>, M. 33, M. 53<sup>18</sup> and Szeged-*Kiskundorozsma*/M. 701<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Mašov 1979, p. 35.

<sup>7</sup> Botov 1977, p. 177-183, Pl. III-IV.

<sup>8</sup> Bobčeva 1984, p. 54sq, T. I-II.

<sup>9</sup> Stojanova-Serafimova 1979, p. 789, Fig. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Ciugudean 1996, p. 8sq; Ciugudean, Dragotă 2002, p. 11; Ciugudean 2006, p. 14; Ciugudean 2007, p. 248.

<sup>11</sup> Dragotă *et alii* 2009.

<sup>12</sup> Točik 1992, p. 32.

<sup>13</sup> Točik 1992, p. 47.

<sup>14</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 127, Pl. XLII-C.

<sup>15</sup> Kiss 1983, p. 77.

<sup>16</sup> Korošec 1999, p. 27, 131, Pl. 39/13.

<sup>17</sup> Kiss 1983, p. 91.

The situation noticed to *Izvorul Împăratului*, both from the perspective of number of eggs and anatomical position of deposition has analogies also with other necropolises: Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei*, Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare* and *Pîclișa-La Izvoare*. In the necropolis from Alba Iulia, egg offering was placed in the following anatomical positions:

- a. between shanks;
- b. in the area of the armpit, on the left or right;
- c. in the area of the skull (more rarely);
- d. above the pelvis, on the left/right side, inside;
- e. in the area of the left shank, near a ceramic vessel;
- f. by the lower left limb/on the outside and near the articulation of the femur and shank bones;
- g. near the phalanges of the left lower limb;
- h. by the left lower limb/articulation area between shank and foot, on the outside, or in the area of the metatarsus bones;
- i. on the left knee cap and above the pelvis, on the right side;

According to number of deposited eggs and position, the habit may take on a double significance: a new life/rebirth but also food offering<sup>20</sup>.

Ceramic vessels were deposited in one piece, by the right of the abdomen (M. 5) and left of the skull (M. 9). One of the vessels, discovered fragmentary, have spaced incisions and the other one is not decorated. Position of deposition, dimension and ornamentation of the vessel has analogies in the latter part of 10<sup>th</sup> century, necropolis from Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei*<sup>21</sup> and *Stația de Salvare/phase II*<sup>22</sup>. According to anatomical position of deposition of 10<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, C. Cosma recorded two groups of cemeteries: group I in which the ceramic vessel was deposited near skull, pelvis, shanks, irrespective of the sex of the deceased (particular feature only for necropolises from Alba Iulia); group II, in which deposition near the skull is predominant<sup>23</sup>.

With some exceptions (*Stația de Salvare*), ceramics from 10<sup>th</sup> century necropolises from Alba Iulia was always deposited in one piece, in the following anatomic positions:

- a.) to the right heel/articulation of the shank with the foot;
- b.) near the left foot;
- c.) left of the skull, above humerus;
- d.) right of the skull;

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<sup>18</sup> Kiss 1983, p. 80.

<sup>19</sup> Lőrinczy, Türk 2011, p. 425sq, Fig. 29/7.

<sup>20</sup> Dragotă 2014, p. 183-192.

<sup>21</sup> Dragotă *et alii* 2009, p. 51, 70, Pl. 45, 76.

<sup>22</sup> Ciugudean 2007, p. 256, Pl. X/5-6.

<sup>23</sup> Cosma 2011, p. 46.

- e.) between shanks;
- f.) right of pelvis;
- g.) left of abdomen;
- h.) near left femur;
- i.) to left shank;

Ceramics was frequently decorated with the following motifs:

- a.) close/distanced linear incisions, made in the area of the shoulders towards the lower part;
- b.) two waved lines on the shoulders, overlapping linear incisions;
- c.) waved lines, made in the upper part;
- d.) canted decorations in the upper part, overlapping distanced linear incisions;

Height of these vessels is between 7,4 cm and 11,5 cm, diameter of the mouth 9-10,8 cm and base between 4 and 7 cm.

In some cases, the tombs with ceramic were partially lined with lime and reused Roman tiles. Ceramics was deposited both in child graves and adult graves (women and men/warriors) in association also with other offering (egg, horse remains).

Quite frequently, the egg offering is also deposited several centimetres from the vessel or inside it. From the perspective of low quality of ceramic paste and firing, may be admitted some hypotheses put forward by specialised literature, concerning a species of funeral character.

Within specialised literature, was considered the hypothesis according which, to west and north of the Danube, ceramic vessels appear frequently in the area of the deceased's legs, while, in the upper basin of the Tisza, northern Alföld and basin of the Danube-Tisza, by the shoulder or head. Furthermore, from the total of discoveries (189), number of graves with men in which appears the ceramic vessel (41) is much smaller than that of women (79) and children (63)<sup>24</sup>. Deposition of ceramics in the area of the skull has analogies in cemeteries from Tankeevka or Bolsie Tigani. For example, analysis from Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei* offered 69% of depositing the ceramic vessel in the area of lower limbs, 23% by right humerus and skull and 8% in the area of the pelvis, by the left and right side.

Rapport between tombs lined with stone (53%) and those simple (47%) by which appears ceramic offering is relatively close. From the perspective of combinations, the most numerous are rings 13 Giesler (63%), followed by finger rings (13%), Kecel-type buckles (6%), bracelets (6%), knives (6%) and „onion head” (6%)<sup>25</sup> pendant. By comparison with the situation

<sup>24</sup> Tettamanti 1975, p. 104.

<sup>25</sup> Dragotă *et alii* 2009, p. 108sq.

recorded for the other anatomical positions, we noticed that ceramics from the area of the pelvis and abdomen is usually broken (ritualistically?). This observation, checked also to *Izvorul Împăratului*, supports this work hypothesis.

Rings 13 Giesler that appear between one and five specimens/grave were made of silver or bronze wire. These have analogies in the 10<sup>th</sup> century horizon from cemeteries from Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare, Str. Brîndușei* and *Pîclișa-La Izvoare*. The lock rings were identified in the area of the skull and have dimensions between 1,6-2,4 cm.

The finger ring (M.2) of bronze band with two channels on edges has analogies in discoveries from Dvorníky/M. 8<sup>26</sup>, Trnovec nad Vahom/M. 101<sup>27</sup> and Ikervár-*Vírág utca*/M. 137<sup>28</sup>.

The fragmentary bead from M. 8, identified to the right of the pelvis, belongs to discoid form and has analogies in the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century in *Pîclișa-La Izvoare*/M. 25, Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei*/ M. 3<sup>29</sup>, *Hodoni-Pocioroane*/M. 6<sup>30</sup>, *Nădlac-Lutărie*<sup>31</sup> and *Orăștie-Dealul Pemilor X2*<sup>32</sup>.

Twisted wire bracelet (form 5 Giesler) is combined with a twisted specimen with loops (M. 7) and rings 13 Giesler. Form 5 Giesler appears in this chronological time limit in cemeteries from Bánov/M. 18<sup>33</sup>, Malé Kosihy/M. 18<sup>34</sup>, *Nădlac-Lutărie*/M. 8<sup>35</sup>, Trnovec nad Vahom/M. 34<sup>36</sup> and *Vozokany*<sup>37</sup>. Association of the bracelet with loops with form 5 was also noticed in necropolises from *Galanta-Papföld*/M. 13<sup>38</sup>, *Nitra-Zobor*/M. 38<sup>39</sup> and Malé Kosihy/M. 489<sup>40</sup>.

Twisted bracelets with loop ends were identified in the area of Slovakia in Bešeňov/M. 79<sup>41</sup>, Bánov/M. 25<sup>42</sup>, Čakajovce/M. 124<sup>43</sup>, M. 258<sup>44</sup>, M. 475<sup>45</sup>, M.

<sup>26</sup> Točík 1968, p. 24, Pl. XV/12.

<sup>27</sup> Točík 1971, p. 146, Pl. XXVI/5.

<sup>28</sup> Kiss 2000, p. 65, Pl. 54/12.

<sup>29</sup> Dragotă *et alii* 2009, p. 93, Pl. 15/6.

<sup>30</sup> Bejan, Moga 1979, p. 159, Fig. 4/19.

<sup>31</sup> Mărginean, Huszarik 2008, p. 33, Pl. VIII/7-11.

<sup>32</sup> Pinter, Luca 1998, p. 25, Pl. XIII/1-7.

<sup>33</sup> Točík 1968, p. 12, Pl. III/16.

<sup>34</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 117, Pl. II B/3.

<sup>35</sup> Mărginean, Huszarik 2008, p. 32, Pl. VII/4.

<sup>36</sup> Točík 1971, p. 140, Pl. XXI/3, 5.

<sup>37</sup> Točík 1968, p. 62, Pl. LIV/17.

<sup>38</sup> Točík 1992, p. 147, Fig. 97/1.

<sup>39</sup> Čaplovič 1954, p. 12, Pl. IX/4; Kiss 1985, p. 316.

<sup>40</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 137, Pl. XC/2.

<sup>41</sup> Nevizánsky 1979, p. 382, 392, Pl. VII/2, 4.

<sup>42</sup> Točík 1968, p. 14, Pl. V/14; Kiss 1985, p. 316; Točík 1987, p. 211, Fig. 14/17.

<sup>43</sup> Rejholcová 1995, p. 14sq, 79, Pl. XXIX/6-7.

<sup>44</sup> Rejholcová 1995, p. 28, Pl. XLV/5.

<sup>45</sup> Rejholcová 1995, p. 52, Pl. LXXVI/5.

651<sup>46</sup>, Malé Kosihy/M. 231<sup>47</sup>, M. 269<sup>48</sup>, M. 272<sup>49</sup>, Nitra-Šindolka F/M. 58<sup>50</sup>, Pol'ný Kesov<sup>51</sup> and Skačany<sup>52</sup>. In the area of Vojvodina, are noticed several specimens in discoveries from Bočar<sup>53</sup> and Banatsko Arandelovo<sup>54</sup>. The most numerous discoveries are known from the area of Hungary, both from the perspective of the number of pieces and necropolises within which they were identified: Aldebrő-Mocsáros/M. 7<sup>55</sup>, *Dunaszekcső*<sup>56</sup>, Eperjes M. 4<sup>57</sup>, Kistokaj-Homokbánya/M. 45<sup>58</sup>, Kál-Legelő/M. 35<sup>59</sup>, Homokmégy-Halom /M. 8<sup>60</sup>, Letkés II/M. 89<sup>61</sup>, Pilin-Sirmánhyegy/M. 75<sup>62</sup>, Szentes- Szentlászló/ M. 48<sup>63</sup> and Szob-Kiserdő/M. 37<sup>64</sup>.

In funerary inventories, loop bracelets are combined with varied artefacts: Saltovo earrings, hair medallions, pentagram rings, ceramic, rhombic appliqué, beads and kauri shells, bits, stirrups, western-European coin and forms 1, 2, I-II, 4, 10, 11 a-b, 13, 17 a, 19, 36 and 37 Giesler<sup>65</sup>.

This type of bracelets were made by twisting three bronze wires and were dated to the last three decades of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. They disappear from funeral inventories at the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century the latest.

The knife discovered in M. 8 has analogies also in other 10<sup>th</sup> century necropolis from Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare* and *str. Brîndușei*, where is frequently encountered with fire steel and flint. In necropolises from Transylvania, knives were deposited in different anatomic positions:

- a.) above the right shoulder (more rarely);
- b.) by the left hip joint;
- c.) on the left side of the abdomen;

<sup>46</sup> Rejholcová 1995, p. 73, 79, Pl. CIV/14.

<sup>47</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 128, Pl. XLVIII A/3.

<sup>48</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 130, Pl. LV A/ 4.

<sup>49</sup> Hanuliak 1994, p. 130, Pl. LVI C/2.

<sup>50</sup> Fusek 2012, p. 808, Fig. 7/9.

<sup>51</sup> Točík 1992, p. 157, Fig. 99/1.

<sup>52</sup> Nevizánsky 2011, p. 165, Fig. 12/2.

<sup>53</sup> Kiss 1985, p. 316; Stanojev 1989, p. 33, Fig. 83.

<sup>54</sup> Tömörkény 1904, p. 266, Fig. C/6; Kiss 1985, p. 316; Stanojev 1989, p. 15, Fig. 35; Kovács 1991-92, p. 45, 48, Fig. 8/99, 10/130, 11/142.

<sup>55</sup> Révész 2008, p. 20, Pl. 1/3-4.

<sup>56</sup> Hampel 1905, p. 113sq, Pl. 53/1; Kiss 1983, Fig. 22/4; Kiss 1985, p. 316.

<sup>57</sup> Kiss 1985, p. 316; Bálint 1991, p. 59, Pl. XV/27-28.

<sup>58</sup> Végh 1993, p. 57, Fig. 18/7.

<sup>59</sup> Füredi 2003, p. 337, Fig. 5; Révész 2008, Pl. 54/17.

<sup>60</sup> Fodor 1996, p. 314, Fig. 5.

<sup>61</sup> Bakay 1978, p. 118, Pl. LV/2.

<sup>62</sup> Hampel 1907, p. 184, Pl. 71/1; Kiss 1985, p. 317.

<sup>63</sup> Széll 1941, p. 235, Pl. IV/24; Kiss 1985, p. 318.

<sup>64</sup> Bakay 1978, p. 27, Pl. X/7.

<sup>65</sup> Dragotă 2015, mss.

- d.) area of pelvis;
- e.) between shanks;
- f.) in the area of right femur;

Pieces of weapons and accessories (arrow points, strap distributors, Kecel buckle) were recuperated from M. 3 and M. 8.

Accessories/components from quivers (quiver lids, iron plaques/metallic reinforcements) are known from 10<sup>th</sup> century necropolises from Alba Iulia- *Stația de Salvare* (S. XII/M. 21)<sup>66</sup>, Biharia-*Dealul Șumuleu*/M. 6, M. 7, M. 8<sup>67</sup>, Cluj-Napoca-*Str. Zăpolya*/M. 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11, Nădlac-*Lutărie*/M. 01, M. 04, M. 09, M. 13<sup>68</sup>, Șiclău<sup>69</sup> and Vârșand-*Movila dintre vii*/M. 7<sup>70</sup>.

Metallic quiver reinforcements, combined with strap distributors, swords, arrows, belt appliqués, belt end, ceramic knife, fire steels and bone fragments from the bow were recorded/sampled from necropolises from Cluj-Napoca-*Str. Plugariilor*/M. 4, M. 22<sup>71</sup> and *Str. Kalevala/Semenicului* (Situl I) in M. 3 (?)<sup>72</sup>. In Voiteni/M. 3, funeral inventory comprised spear points, fragments of bone from the bow, stirrups, bit, two buckles and metallic rests of quiver, deposited to the left of the lower limb until close to the pelvis<sup>73</sup>. Quiver reinforcements may also be remembered in 10<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries from Timișoara-*Cioreni*/M. B, M. G<sup>74</sup>, Dudeștii Vechi and Orăștie-*Dealul Pemilor X2*/M. 13, M. 18, M. 26, M. 29, M. 48 and M. 59<sup>75</sup>.

Strap distributors identified in M. 8 were components of a quiver, deposited in the area of lower right limb. In the 10<sup>th</sup> century, such pieces were used to horse harness but also quiver straps.

Diameter of strap distributors is between 1,9- 4 cm, and their number in a grave is of 1 to 5 finds, according to funeral inventory and functionality. Usually, if it combines only with weapon pieces, their number is of maximum three.

This form is characterized by a circular frame, and differences are noticed in the motif/central element and the connection area of the three spokes

<sup>66</sup> Anghel 1999, p. 599-604; Ciugudean 1996, p. 10.

<sup>67</sup> Cosma 2001, p. 518, Fig. 9/6-7, 9, 11-13, 17; Cosma 2002, p. 151, Pl. 58/6-7, 9, 11-13, 17, 59/21, 60/4, 62/16-18.

<sup>68</sup> Mărginean, Huszarik 2007, p. 19sq, 22sq, Pl. XIV/1-8.

<sup>69</sup> Cosma 2002, p. 151, Pl. 249/2, 252/10.

<sup>70</sup> Popescu 1956, p. 90, Fig. 81/5-6. Metallic fragments were discovered by the right shoulder and hip joint, in association with two bone bow plates, having ends decorated with uneven incisions.

<sup>71</sup> Gáll *et alii* 2010, p. 126.

<sup>72</sup> Gáll *et alii* 2010, p. 127.

<sup>73</sup> Medeleț *et alii* 2001, p. 99.

<sup>74</sup> Rădulescu, Gáll 2001, p. 164, 180, Fig. 9/13.

<sup>75</sup> Țiplic *et alii* 2007, p. 252-256.

with the frame. From this perspective, we succeeded to identify within specialised literature the following variants: a.) T shaped central motif with slightly upwards arched arms, with rounded ends shaped like pendilias/tear in the contact area with the interior of circular frame; a 1.) variant with identical central motif, yet having the T shaped like a globe and the connection area of the three baguettes, slightly exceeds the frame; a 2.) T motif is decorated in the central area with three petals or in pseudo-granulation technique, and contact with interior of the frame is like a „claw/lily flower”; b.) undecorated triangle as central setting whose corners end in the interior pattern; b. 1.) similar variant that has in the middle of the triangle a circular bulb out of which start three petals (each petal corresponds to one corner, and on the frame is one small bulb); b. 2) variant with the triangular central setting out of which start three baguettes that widen in the interference area with the frame („claws” system); c.) variant with simple circular area out of which three baguettes start whose contact with the interior frame looks like „claws”; c. 1.) circular central area decorated on the edge using the pseudo-granulation system, having at the centre a larger bulb, and contact area of baguettes with the frame, holds a smaller bulb; d.) variant with the central setting being heart-shaped medallion, decorated on the edge using the pseudo-granulation system. We did not study thoroughly this issue, so that we cannot support existence of some possible chronological differences.

Strap distributors sometimes are combined in graves with horse offering, deposited by the left lower limb (Karos/M. 16, Tiszavasvári-*Aranykerti tábla*/M. 7, Vărşand-*Movila dintre vii*/M. 33) and with different artefacts: strike-a-lights, flint, knives, appliqué belt, Kecel-type buckle, swords, arrow heads, quivers, bone plates from the bow, bits, stirrups, beads, 13 rings and 38 a Giesler earrings.

Findings similar as shape yet different as for central element appear in the collections of the Museum from Belgrade<sup>76</sup> or in discoveries from Vărşand-*Movila dintre vii*/M. 33<sup>77</sup>, Csanytelek-*Dilitor*/M. 10<sup>78</sup>, Dolný Peter II/M. 61<sup>79</sup>, M. 64<sup>80</sup>, Karos, Kiskunfélegyháza-*Izsáki út-Határdomb*<sup>81</sup>, Komárno<sup>82</sup>, Košúty<sup>83</sup>, Nagykőrü<sup>84</sup>, Sárrétudvari-*Hízó föld*/M. 258<sup>85</sup>, Sárrétudvari-*Poroshalom*/M. 2<sup>86</sup> and Szécsény-*Pórpást*<sup>87</sup>.

<sup>76</sup> Bálint 1991, Pl. XXXIII a/23-24.

<sup>77</sup> Popescu 1956, p. 92, Fig. 84/3.

<sup>78</sup> Széll 1941, p. 246, Pl. IX B/25.

<sup>79</sup> Točík 1968, p. 22sq, Pl. XIII/17, 23-24.

<sup>80</sup> Točík 1968, p. 23, Pl. XX/23-24.

<sup>81</sup> Fodor 1996, p. 329sq, Fig. 2.

<sup>82</sup> Točík 1968, p. 32, Pl. XX/41.

<sup>83</sup> Točík 1968, p. 32, Pl. XXI/13; Chropovský 1955, p. 264-275.

<sup>84</sup> Fodor 1996, p. 244, Fig. 2; Hampel 1905, p. 556sq, Pl. 385/6.

In the Transylvanian area, this type of strap distributors was identified only in the necropolises from Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare*<sup>88</sup> and *Izvorul Împăratului*.

An example from the latter half of 10<sup>th</sup> century is offered by the necropolis from Szabolcs-*Vontatópart*/M. 9, that had deposited by the right side of shoulder a quiver with two arrows pointed upwards. A third arrow was pointed downwards, probably during the funeral ceremony. Inventory goods also comprised a rectangular buckle (by the right of the pelvis) and two strap distributors (one was on the quiver, and the second by exterior of right femur, nearby knees)<sup>89</sup>.

In this context, there may also be mentioned other discoveries, such as the grave of a Hungarian military leader from Budaörs-*Tűzkőhegyről*, from the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Inventory goods comprised five strap distributors, an appliqué belt, fire steels, flints, two lyre shaped buckles, sword with wooden sheath and five arrow heads, of different types. Three samples from the bronze distributors were accessories of the quiver. The findings have a triangular central setting out of which three „spokes” start being leaf shaped (diameter = 3 cm)<sup>90</sup>.

Among the 34 graves from the 10<sup>th</sup> century unearthed in Vörs-*Papkert-B*, worth noticing are several that had weapons amongst the inventory goods. A particular case is M. 561 that had as goods an iron buckle, a flint, a knife, three strap distributors, a bone plate that decorated a quiver with six arrows, deposited by the right arm. Strap distributors (diameter = 4 cm) have the central, decorative setting shaped like a „small wreath, that closes on the round frame shaped like triangle/lily (?), slightly exceeding the exterior ring<sup>91</sup>.

A similar situation from the point of view of functionality is known in Sárrétudvari-*Hízófold*/M. 106, where three distributors appear (diameter = 3,2 cm) with the central area out of which three „spokes” terminated on the „claw” shaped frame<sup>92</sup>. In Tiszavasvári-*Aranykerti tábla*/M. 7, funeral goods comprised a belt end, a „lyre” shaped buckle, a pair of stirrups, a jointed mouth, five arrow heads, rests of quiver and bow, two strap distributors (diameter = 3,4 cm) and horse offering by the left side of lower limbs<sup>93</sup>.

Kecel-type buckle (M. 8) was discovered by the right shank of the deceased, fact which allows us to consider it to be an accessory of the quiver.

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<sup>85</sup> Fodor 1996, p. 273, Fig. 40; Nepper 2002, p. 350, Pl. 331/1.

<sup>86</sup> Nepper 2002, p. 395-398, Pl. 352/8.

<sup>87</sup> Patay 1957, p. 64, Fig. 6.

<sup>88</sup> Ciugudean 1996, p. 14, Fig. 56; Ciugudean, Pinter, Rustoiu 2006, p. 31, Fig. 62.

<sup>89</sup> Fodor 1976, p. 371-382, Fig. 2; 3/2-3.

<sup>90</sup> Irásné 1992, p. 96, 100, Fig. 2/16-20; 7.

<sup>91</sup> Költő 1993; Fodor 1996, p. 378, Fig. 1.

<sup>92</sup> Fodor 1996, p. 264, Fig. 12; Nepper 2002, p. 315, Pl. 265/1-3.

<sup>93</sup> Tóth 2014, p. 138, Pl. 97/4-5.

According to the flat shape, linear ornamentation and indentation from the top of the spina, it may be subsumed under I C Révész type, present at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of 11<sup>th</sup> century in graves of middle classes. Finds with such characteristics were discovered in Hódmezővásárhely-*Gorzsa*/M. 65 and Letkés-*Tégláégető I/M*. 76<sup>94</sup>.

Elements of funeral rite and ritual date these discoveries to the latter half of 10<sup>th</sup> century. Inhumations within this necropolis start at a horizon similar to that from *Str. Brîndușei*, Pîclișă and **post Stația de Salvare/beginning of phase II**. Certain common habits (lining of pits, depositing of animal offering and ceramics) mirror cultural intertwinements between ethnic communities (Romanic population, Bulgarians, Hungarians), existent in this area at the turn of millennia. At this stage of researches, we may definitely assert that the extremely complex image of the turn of the millennia in Transylvania will never be fully understood without the *base key*, represented by the necropolis from Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare*.

A comparative analysis of funeral goods from these necropolises demonstrates that the site from Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* holds the greatest quantity of artefacts whose connection with the cultural Byzantine circle is indubitable. From another perspective, the spot *Izvorul Împăratului* represents an authentic „*key*” for political and religious history of Transylvania but also relations with Hungary and Byzantine Empire.

Older and more recent researches from this site determine us take into consideration the following two working hypotheses: a. functionality of the necropolis would have been in connection with one of the ethnical communities from the area which divides into two, one continuing pagan traditions and the other one that accepts Christianity; b. the first and the only necropolis from Transylvania, used irrespective of ethnicity that had as common denominator Christianity, or more exactly its *revival* by Byzantine mission led by Hierotheus. Towards a second hypothesis, hint a series of elements of funeral rite and ritual, that we rather debate on other occasion. In this context, we wish to underline existence of some percentages quite similar, as for deposition of ceramics in the three anatomical positions (skull, pelvis/abdomen, limbs) and presence of some artefacts and customs that are still easterly influenced. More or less fantasy theories, sketched by specialised literature that obstinately minimalise the political and religious centre from Alba Iulia, are omitting an essential detail, represented by the **archaeological source**, the only one capable of offering an authentic image!

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<sup>94</sup> Révész 1987, p. 272, Fig. 1/3; 6/3; Bakay 1978, p. 89, Pl. XLI/12.

## ABSTRACT

The article presents the archaeological researches carried out in the necropolis from Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului*, a landmark site for the history of Christianity and interferences between local population and allogeneous ones from the area of 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> century Transylvania.

With one exception (M. 1), all eight graves were oriented E-W (skull). The deceased (adults and children) were deposited in simple pits or lined with tile material, stone and lime (M. 5, M. 8, M. 9).

As for forearms, several variants are known: right on the abdomen or pelvis and left straight (M. 2, M. 4), both straight (M. 5, M. 7, M. 9) on the pelvis (M. 8) or on the abdomen (M. 6).

Egg offering was deposited to the left of the pelvis (M. 2), between shanks (M. 4) and to left of humerus (M. 9). Ceramic vessels were deposited in one piece, by the right of the abdomen (M. 5) and left of the skull (M. 9). One of the vessels, discovered fragmentary, was decorated with distanced incisions and the other one is not decorated. Pieces of weapons and accessories (arrow points, strap distributors, Kecel buckle) were recuperated from M. 3 and M. 8. The funeral picture is completed by a ring with channels (M. 2), 13 Giesler rings, fragmentary bead and twisted bracelets.

Elements of funeral rite and ritual date these discoveries to the latter half of 10<sup>th</sup> century. Inhumations within this necropolis start at a synchronous horizon or similar to that from Alba Iulia-*Str. Brîndușei*, *Pîclișa* and post Alba Iulia-*Stația de Salvare*/beginning of phase II. Certain common habits (lining of pits, depositing of animal offering and ceramics) mirror cultural intertwinements between ethnic communities existent in this area at the turn of millennia.

Older and more recent researches from this site determine us take into consideration the following two working hypotheses: a. functionality of the necropolis would have been in connection with one of the ethnical communities from the area which is divided in two, one continuing pagan traditions and the other one that accepts Christianity; b. the first and the sole necropolis from Transylvania, used irrespective of ethnicity that had as common denominator Christianity, or more exactly its *revival* by Byzantine mission led by Hierotheus.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATES AND FIGURES

Fig. 1. Orthophotomap with the site from *Izvorul Împăratului* and location of research units from 2014.

Fig. 2. Topographic survey Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. S. 1- S. 2.

Fig. 3. Topographic survey Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. S. 3- S. 7.

Plate I. Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. Graves M. 1-M. 3.

Plate II. Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. Graves M. 4, M. 6, M. 9.

Plate III. Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. Grave M. 5.

Plate IV. Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. Grave M. 7.

Plate V. Alba Iulia-*Izvorul Împăratului* 2014. Grave M. 8.

Plate VI. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. Graves M. 8, M. 10.

#### Bibliographical abbreviations:

- ArchÉrt* - *Archeologiai Értesítő*, Budapest.  
*ArhMed* - *Arheologia Medievală*.  
*AAASH* - *Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, Budapest.  
*BMMK* - *A Békés Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei*.  
*CCA* - *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice*.  
*Discobolul* - *Discobolul*, Alba Iulia.  
*FolArch* - *Folia Archaeologica*, Budapest.  
*FVL* - *Forschungen zur Volks-und Landeskunde*, Hermannstadt/Sibiu.  
*HOMÉ* - *A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve*, Miskolc.  
*Izvestia* - *Bulletin du Musée National de Varna*, Varna.  
*MFME* - *StudArch* - *Mora Ferencz Múzeum Évkönyve. Studia Archaeologica*, Szeged.  
*SlovArch* - *Slovenská Archeológia*, Nitra.  
*StudCom* - *Studia Comitatus. Tanulmányok Pest megye múzeumaiból*, Szentendre.  
*ŠtudZvesti* - *Študijne Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akademie Vied*, Nitra.  
*Tibiscus* - *Tibiscus. Muzeul Banatului*, Timișoara.  
*Ziridava* - *Complexul Muzeal Arad*, Arad.

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Fig. 1. Ortofotoplan cu situl de la *Izvorul Împăratului* și amplasarea unităților de cercetare din anul 2014.

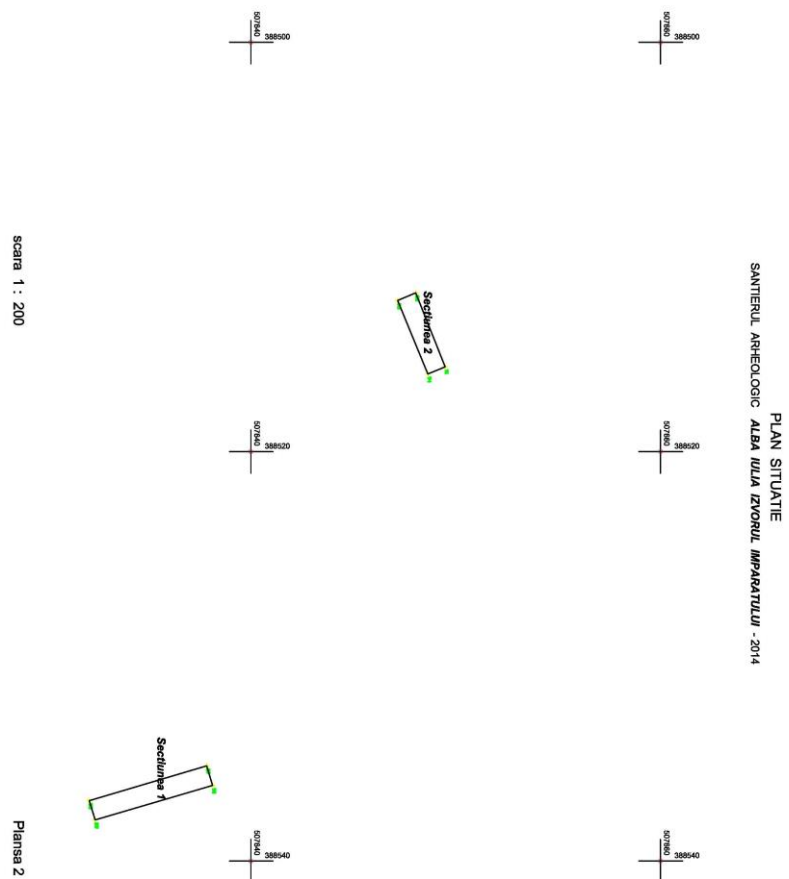


Fig. 2. Ridicare topografică Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. S. 1 - S. 2.

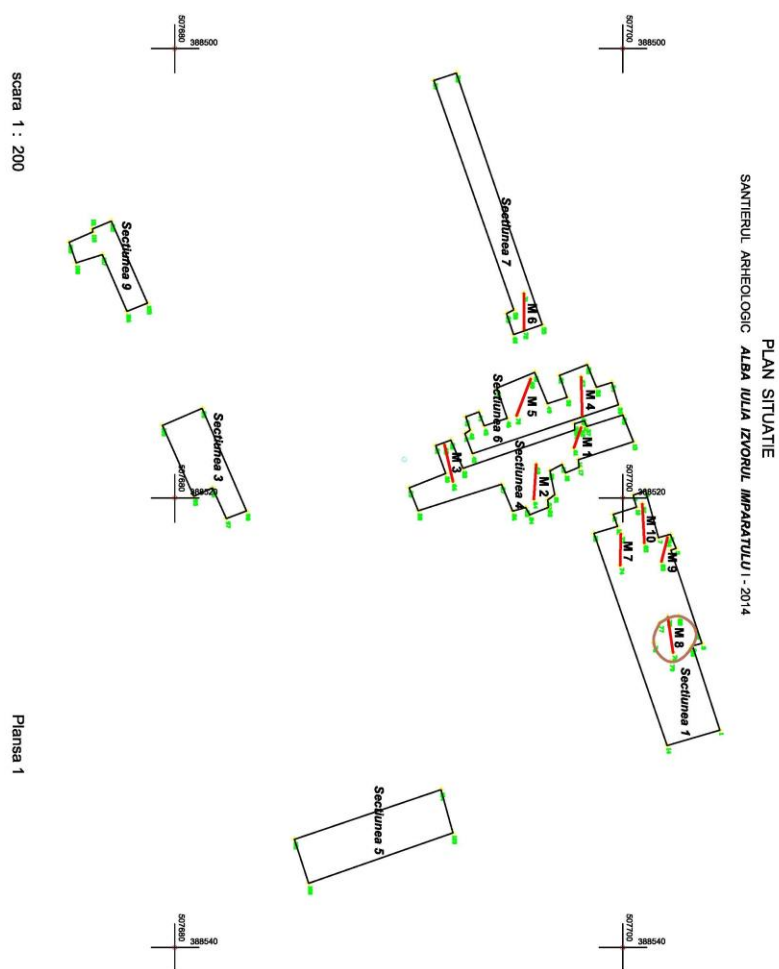
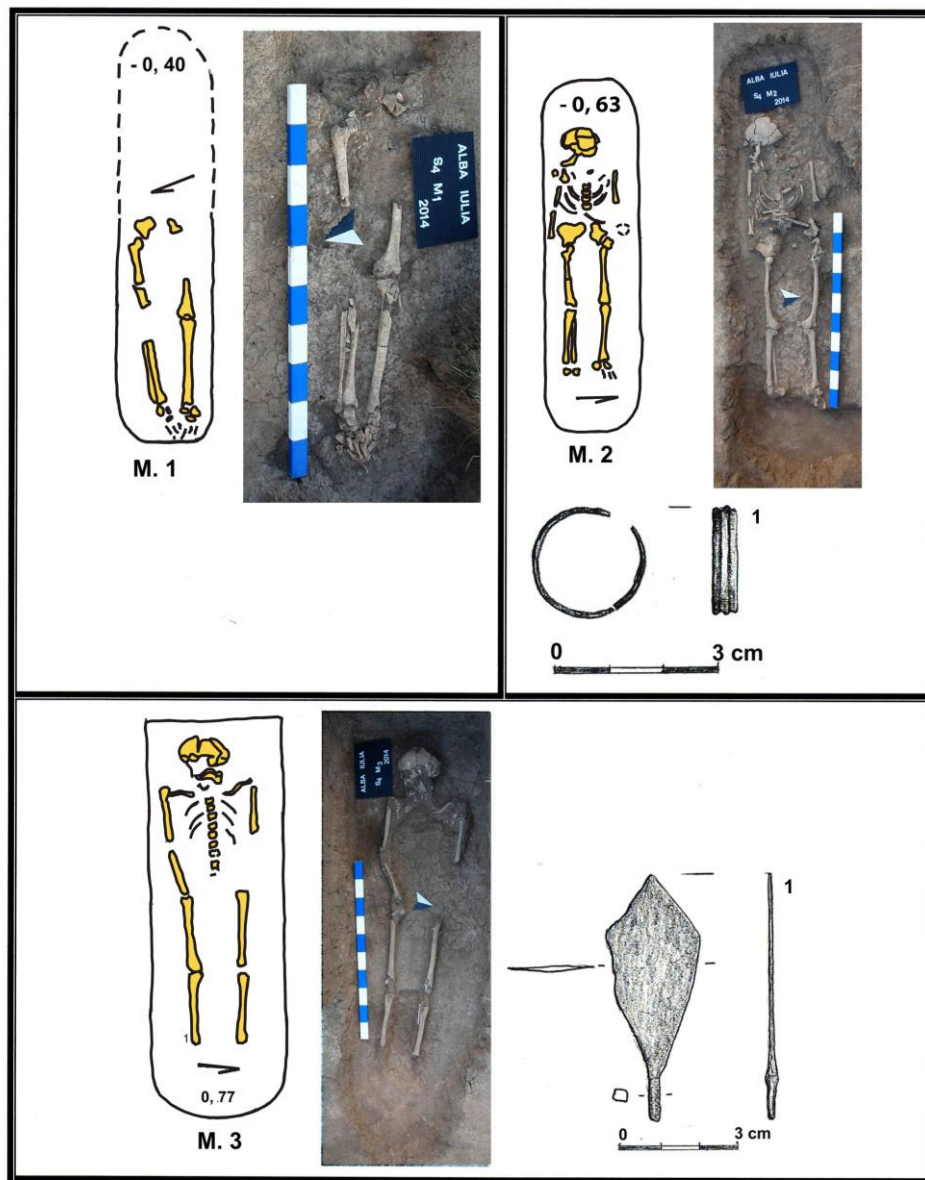
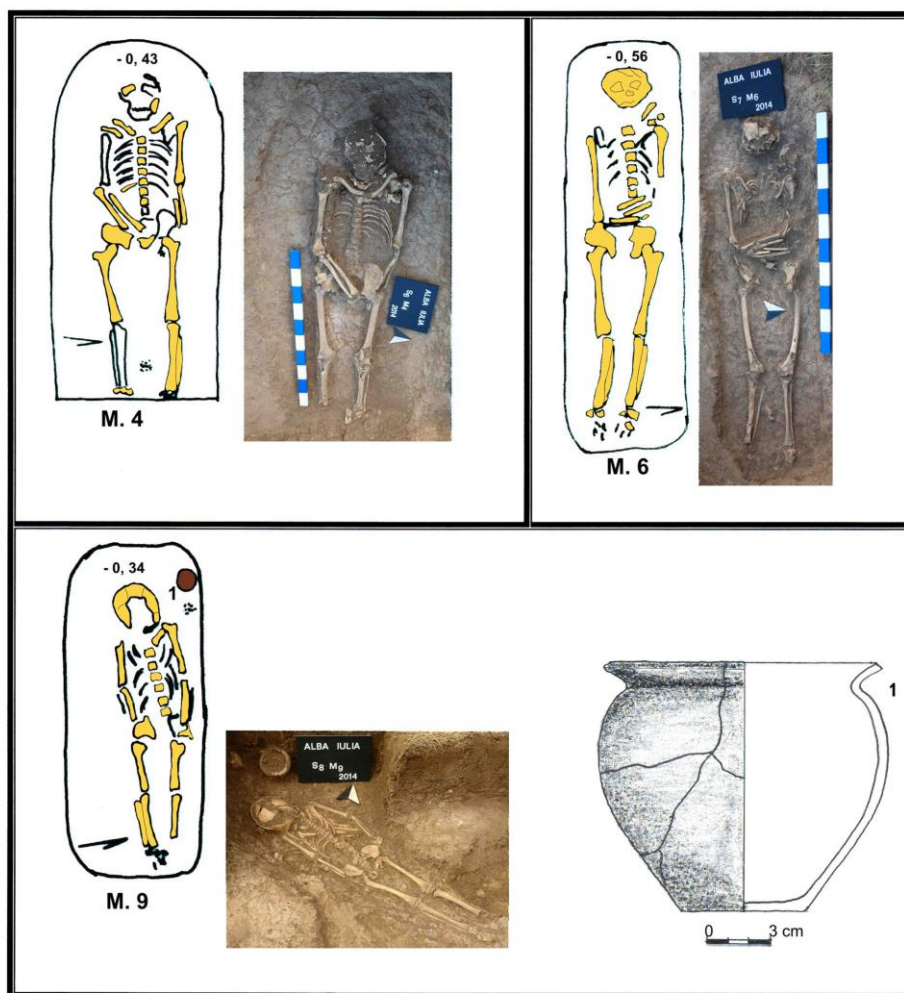


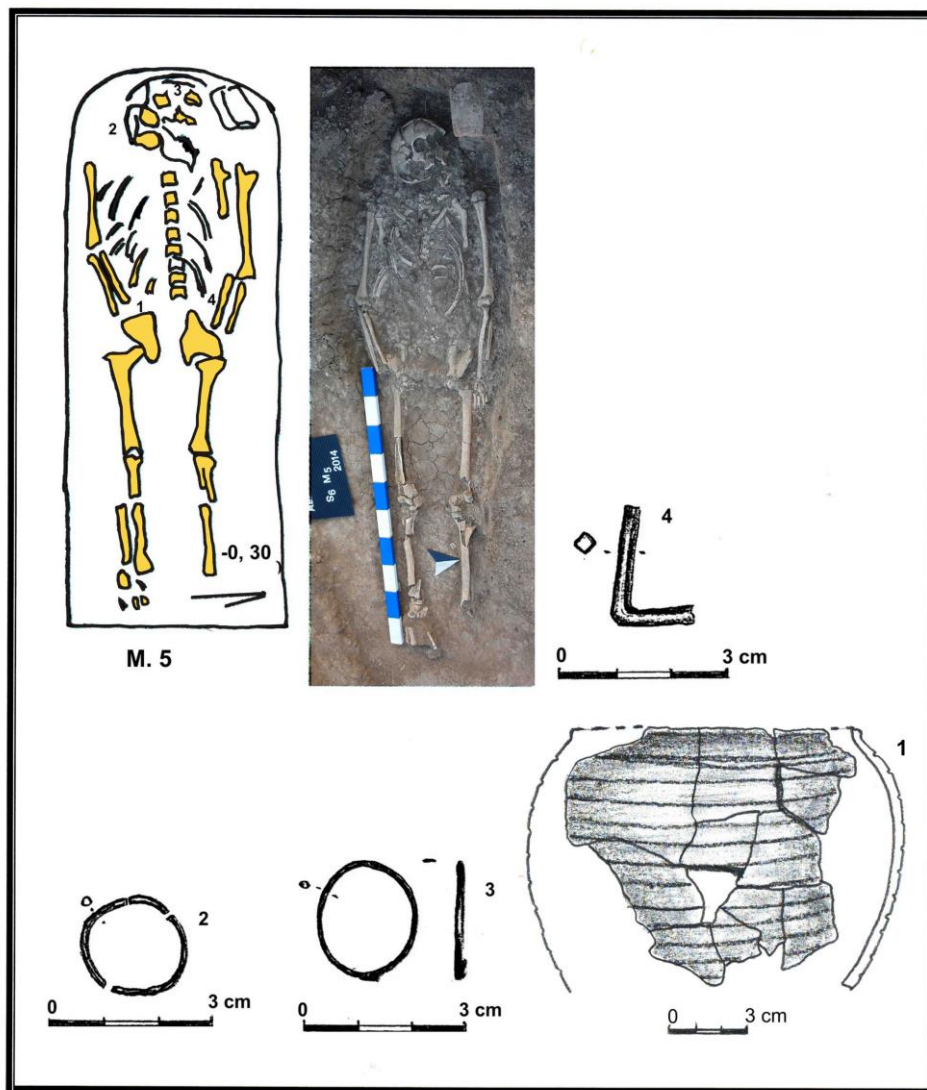
Fig. 3. Ridicare topografică Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. S. 3 - S. 7.



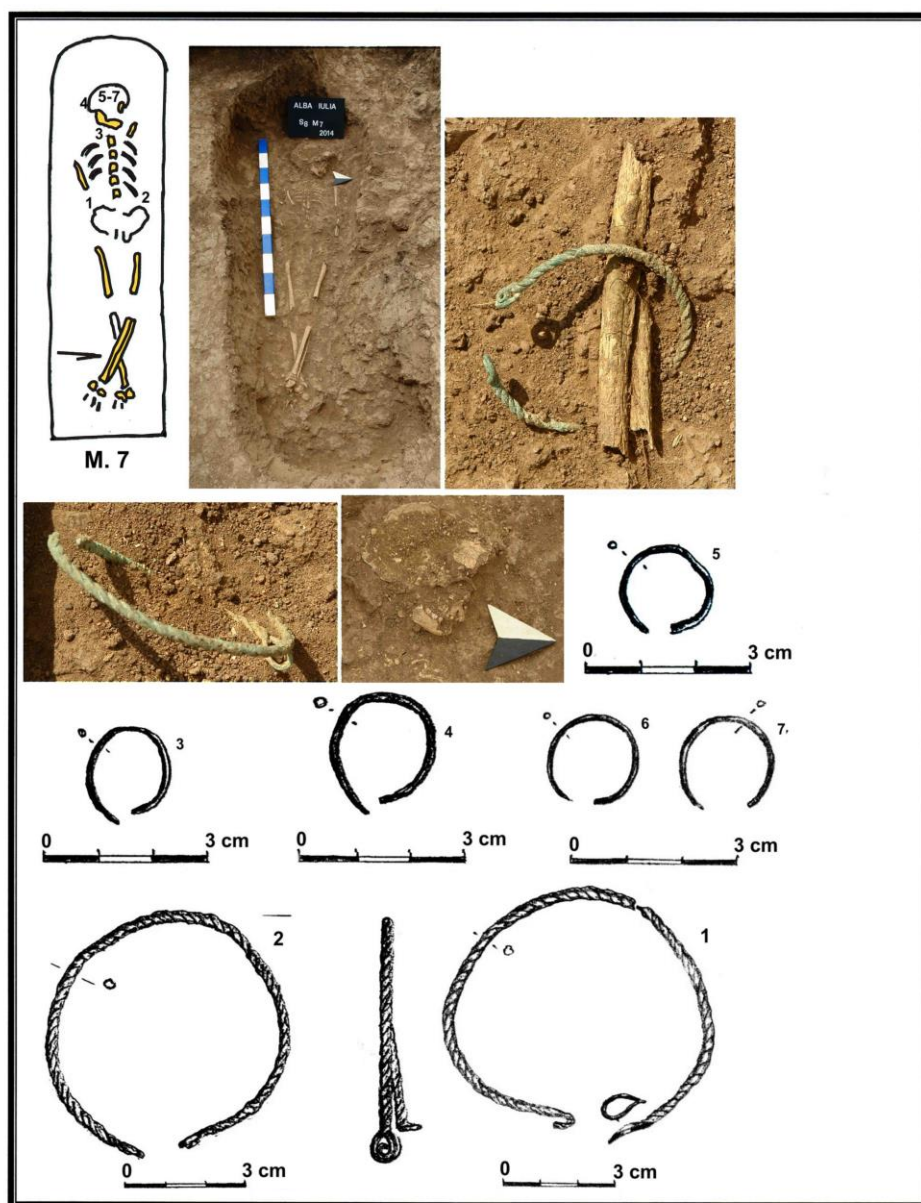
Pl. I. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 1 - M. 3.



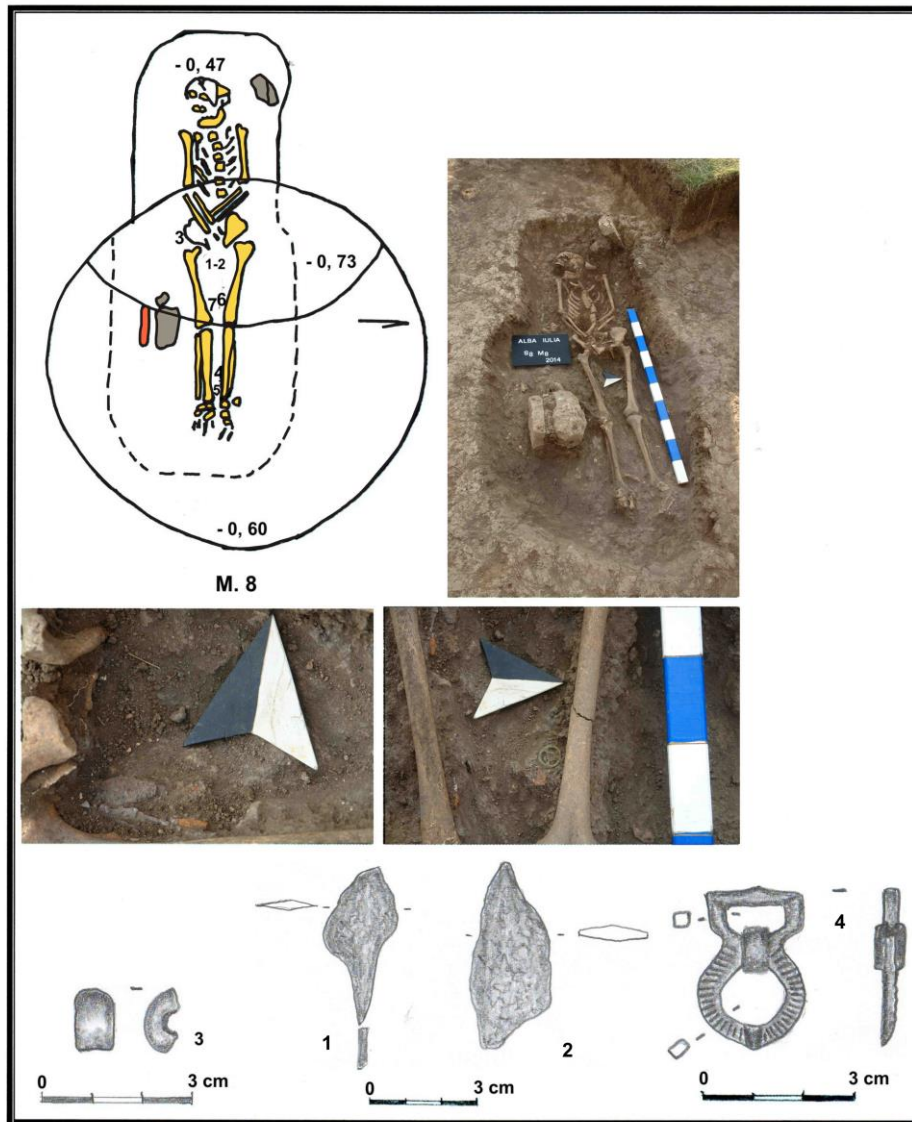
Pl. II. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 4, M. 6, M. 9.



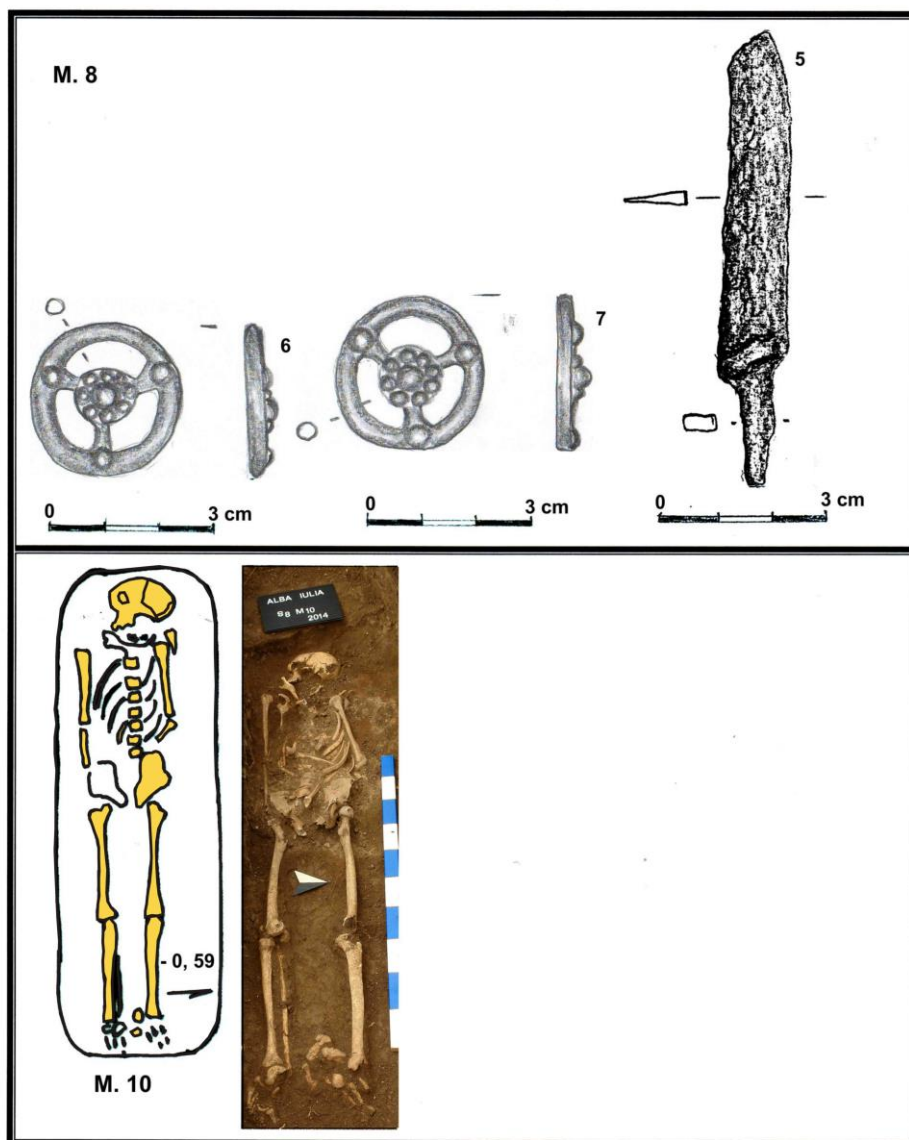
Pl. III. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 5.



Pl. IV. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 7.



Pl. V. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 8.



Pl. VI. Alba Iulia-Izvorul Împăratului 2014. M. 8, M. 10.