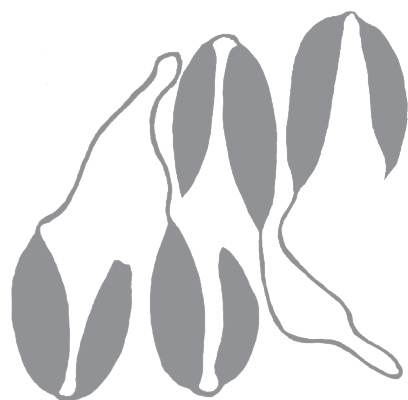


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On the early medieval fast wheel-thrown pottery (of late ancient tradition) (*Lazuri-Nuşfalău type finds*) from north-western Romania. Relative and absolute chronological landmarks*

Dan Băcuet-Crişan

Abstract: The early medieval fast wheel-thrown pottery discovered in north-western Romania has kindled the interest of the Romanian academic world and not only. To date, a significant number of such finds was recorded and it is likely their number will increase. The specialty literature comprises a series of scientific materials that have addressed the issue of early medieval fast wheel-thrown vessels, reporting existing settlements in north-western Romania characterised by such pottery material. Most recent research carried out in north-western Romania (especially in the Sylvania Basin) evidenced settlements characterized by the presence (in various quantities) among the archaeological goods of fast wheel-thrown vessels, while in order to more easily identify such find types we chose the conventional term of *Lazuri-Nuşfalău type pottery*.

Keywords: early medieval pottery; late ancient tradition; fast turning wheel; north-western Romania; *Lazuri-Nuşfalău type finds*; chronological landmarks.

a. North-western Romania and the *Lazuri-Nuşfalău type finds*

The early medieval fast wheel-thrown pottery discovered in north-western Romania has kindled the interest of the academic world and not only. A significant number of such finds has been recorded to date, their number being likely on the rise. The specialty literature comprises a series of scientific materials addressing the topic of early medieval fast wheel-thrown vessels, reporting the existence of settlements in north-western Romania characterised by such pottery material¹.

Most recent research performed in north-western Romania (especially in the Sylvania Basin) evidenced settlements characterised by the presence (in various quantities) among the archaeological goods of fast wheel-thrown vessels, while in order to more easily identify such find types we chose the conventional term of *Lazuri-Nuşfalău type pottery*². The formal and technical specificities of the fast wheel-thrown pottery are indicative of two classes differentiating by fabric and appearance of vessel wall surfaces³.

b. The technological and formal features of the fast wheel-thrown pottery

The clustering of such pottery finds in respective area (particularly in the Sylvania Basin) evidences the existence of a “fashion”/pottery making tradition of most definite late Antiquity descent. The fast wheel-thrown pottery is distinguished from among other pottery classes by a series of formal and structural peculiarities. The mouth of fast-wheel thrown vessels (namely the feet-turned wheel) is characterised by rims with simple or complex profiles. On internal wall surfaces (especially in the shoulder and base area) are visible grooves/rings owed to the vessel turning process⁴. These grooves/rings emerge when the clay is lifted and thinned with the aid of the fingers placed on the inside, a procedure by which the vessel is practically “built”.

* English translation: Gabriela Safta.

¹ Stanciu 2000, 150; Stanciu 2003, 262–266; Băcuet-Crişan 2005, 94–96.

² Băcuet-Crişan 2005, 94; Băcuet-Crişan 2006, 832.

³ Băcuet-Crişan 2007, 36; Băcuet-Crişan 2014, 111.

⁴ Stanciu 2000, 128; Băcuet-Crişan 2007, 36.

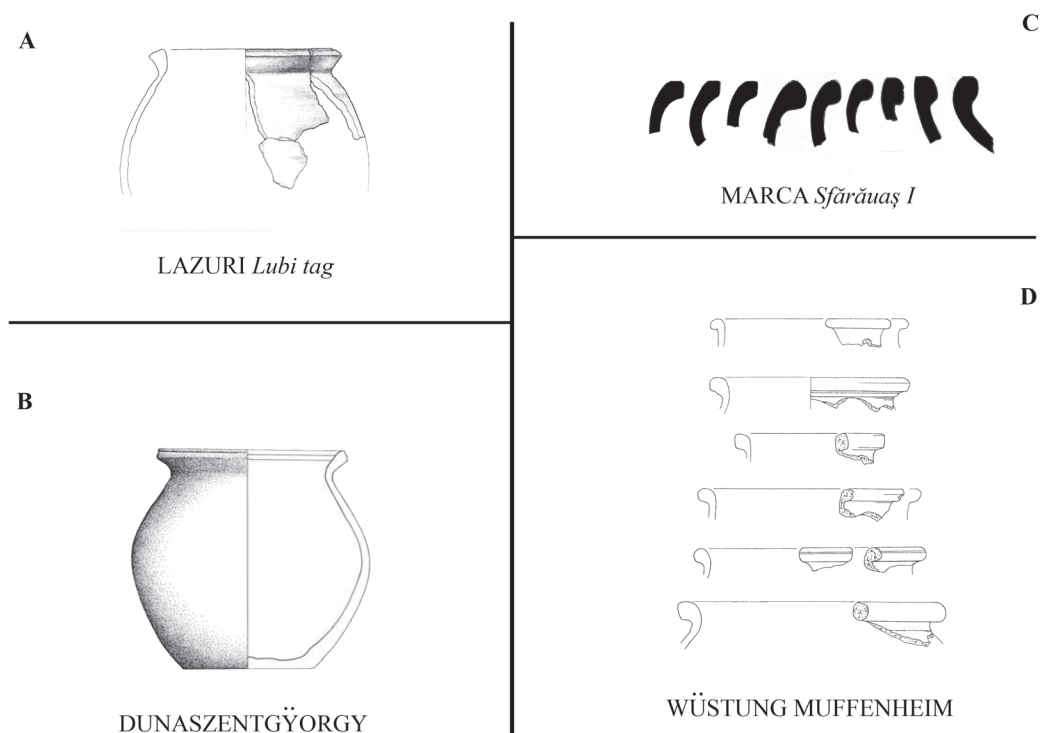


Fig. 1. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel: “triangular” rim profile (A – taken from *Stanciu 2016*; B – taken from *Kreiter et al. 2017*), thickened rim profile (C – taken from *Băcuet-Crișan 2017*; D – taken from *Gross 2007*).

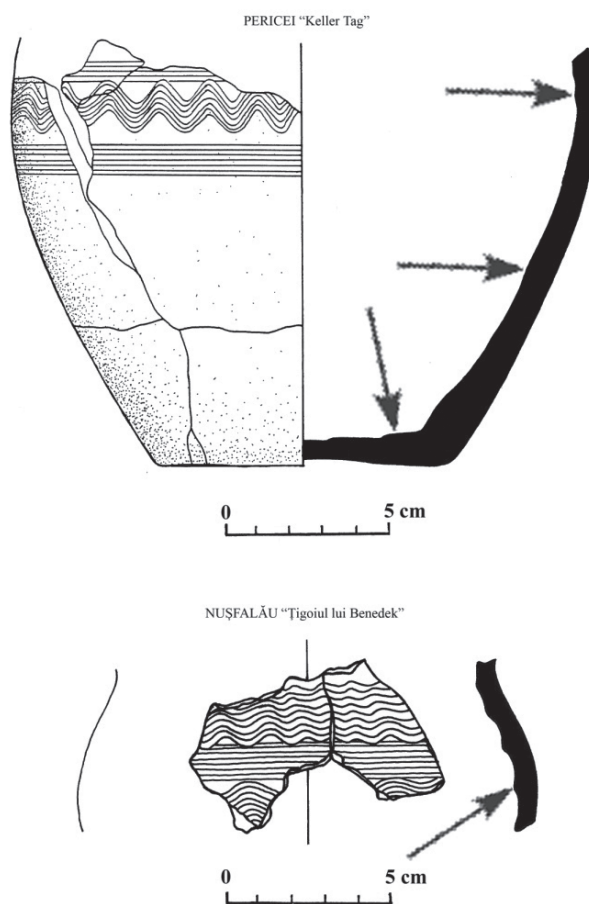


Fig. 2. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from north-western Romania (*Lazuri-Nușfalău-type pottery*) (taken from *Băcuet-Crișan 2007*). Stressing the grooves/rings on the inner surface of the pots.

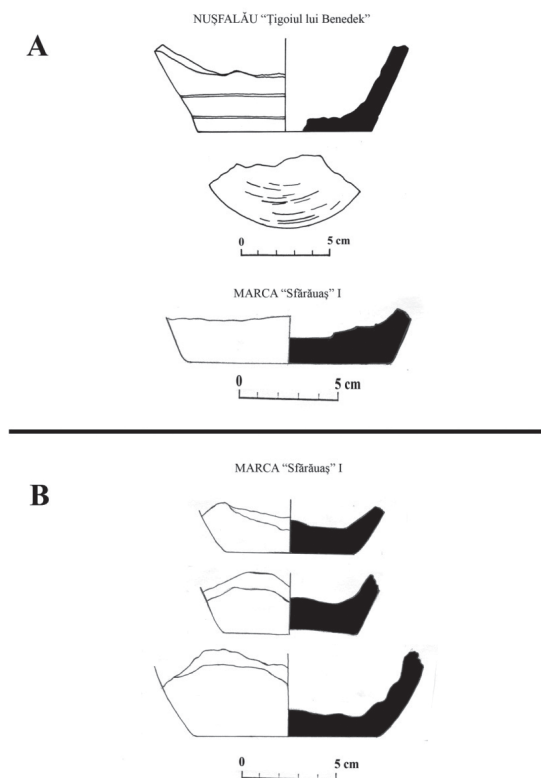


Fig. 3. Bases of pots modelled on the fast turning potters' wheel from north-western Romania (*Lazuri-Nușfalău-type pottery*). Formal features of the inner surfaces: A – convex type; B –concave/*umbo* type (Nușfalău Țigoii lui Benedek taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2004; Mark Sfărăuș I taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2017 and Băcuet-Crișan 2018).

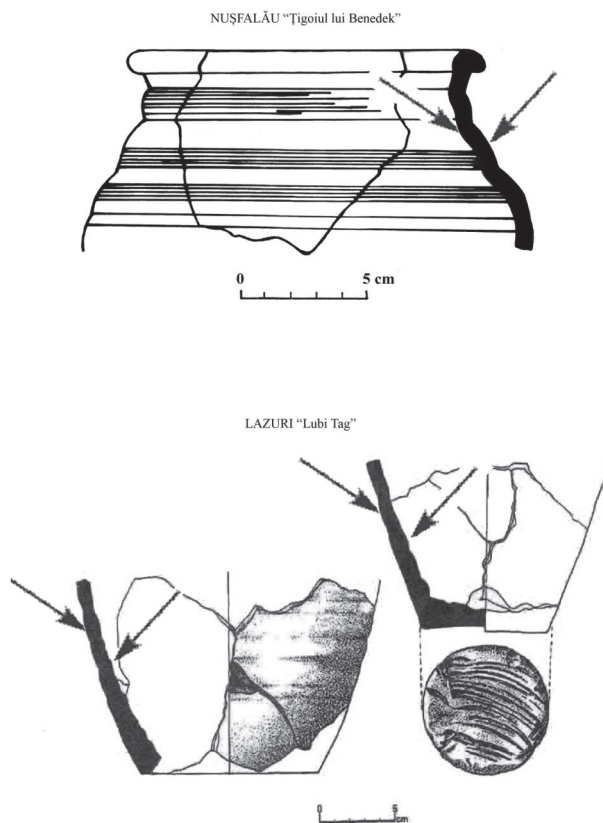


Fig. 4. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from north-western Romania (*Lazuri-Nușfalău-type pottery*). Stressing the grooves/rings on the inner and outer surface of the pots (Nușfalău Țigoii lui Benedek taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2014; Lazuri Lubi tag taken from Stanciu 2000).

The grooves/rings on the internal base surface form a spiral present either on a concave (*umbo* type) or a convex surface. Furthermore, in certain cases, the grooves/rings are also visible on the external vessel surface, both on upper and lower halves⁵.

Occasionally, walls are very thin and the internal grooves/rings are very fine, barely noticeable. Most likely, their visibility/invisibility is also due to the potter's experience and craftsmanship. There are though cases of pottery vessels that exhibit deformation and asymmetries, accidents caused either by the inaccurate/careless use of the potter's wheel or the latter's inexperience.

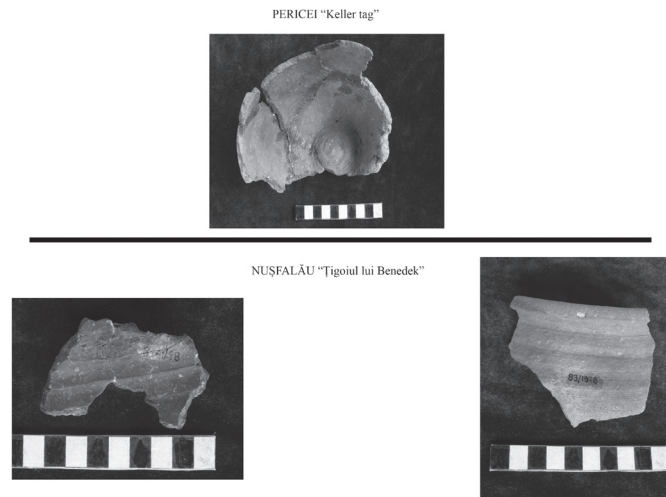


Fig. 5. Examples of pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from north-western Romania (*Lazuri-Nușfalău-type pottery*). Stressing the grooves/rings on the inner and outer surface of the pots (History and Art Museum Zalău, photo archive).

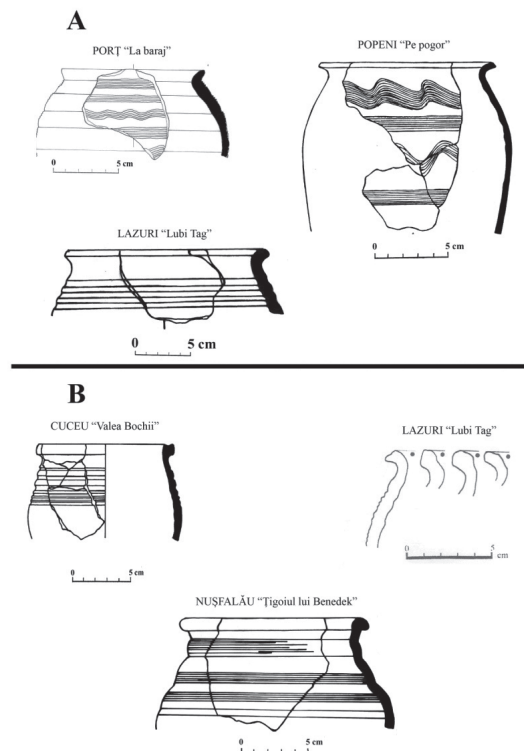


Fig. 6. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from north-western Romania (*Lazuri-Nușfalău-type pottery*). Rim profiles: simple and complex (Port *La baraj* taken from Matei, Băcueț-Crișan 2011; Popeni *Pe pogor* and Cuceu *Valea Bochii* taken from Băcueț-Crișan 2006a; Nușfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek* taken from Băcueț-Crișan 2014; Lazuri *Lubi tag* taken from Stanciu 2000).

⁵ Stanciu 2000, 128; Băcueț-Crișan 2007, 36.

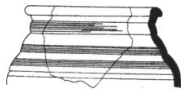
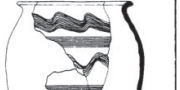
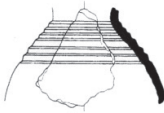
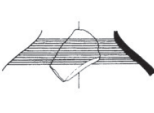

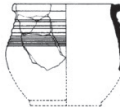
FORMA CERAMICĂ	CATEGORIA I	CATEGORIA II
Oală fără toarte		
Ulcior/Vas amforoidal		
Strachină		
Pahar/Cupă		

Fig. 7. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from Silvania Basin (*Lazuri-Nuşfalău-type pottery*). Classes and forms (taken from *Băcuet-Crişan, Bejinariu 2014*).

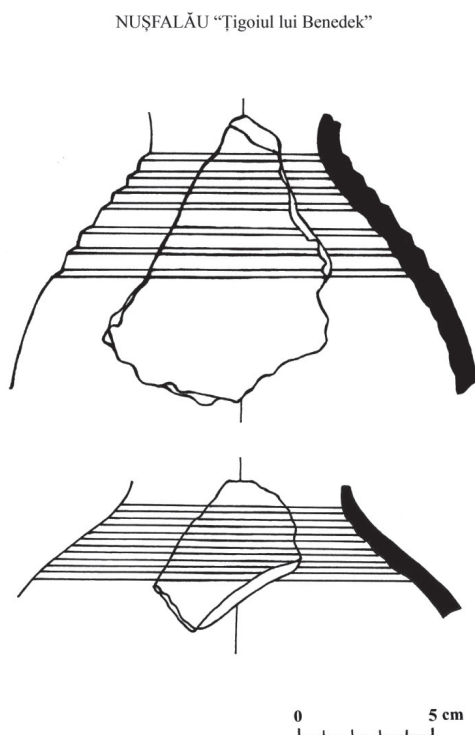


Fig. 8. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel from Silvania Basin (*Lazuri-Nuşfalău-type pottery*). Amphora type vessels (taken from *Băcuet-Crişan 2014*).

With respect to wall thickness, it may be constant/homogenous on both the upper and lower part of the vessel or could differ, thin on the upper half and thick on the lower half towards the base. If the vessel was detached from the potter’s wheel by string, its traces emerge on the external surface of the vessel base in the form of thick parallel semicircles⁶.

⁶ Stanciu 2000, 128.

Moreover, according to the temper structure incorporated in the clay of which vessels were modelled (at least in the case of the *Lazuri-Nușfalău* type pottery from the Sylvania Basin) we noted the existence of two main classes⁷:

- Class I – pottery with temper composed of sand with small pebbles and mica (coarse surface upon touch)
- Class II – fabric tempered with fine sand and mica flakes (fine surface upon touch).

Certain fast wheel-thrown vessels are characterised by the elongated neck (biconical body, see the specimen of *Nușfalău Țigoiul lui Benedek*), with origins in the late ancient tradition pottery according to the parallels (earlier) from Transylvania and not only⁸. For instance, in Transylvania are reported similarities with fast wheel-thrown vessels discovered in the settlements of Bratei – Settlement 1⁹ and Bezid – *Fâneța mare*¹⁰. Its formal features draw it close to the fast wheel-thrown pottery in group Csákberény/Group I D/b dated to the last third of the 6th century – mid 7th century¹¹. Also, we note they represented models/inspiration sources for potters, being replicated/copied through the making of handmade exemplars. Such a case exists in the north-western area of Romania, in the Sylvania Basin at *Bocșa Dealul Bancului*¹². Archaeological finds from Hungary, datable to the Avar period, evidence that vessels (wheel-thrown) with such formal features represented models/inspiration sources for handmade pottery. Related to T. Vida's typology, such handmade exemplars were included in Subgroup IIID8/a¹³.

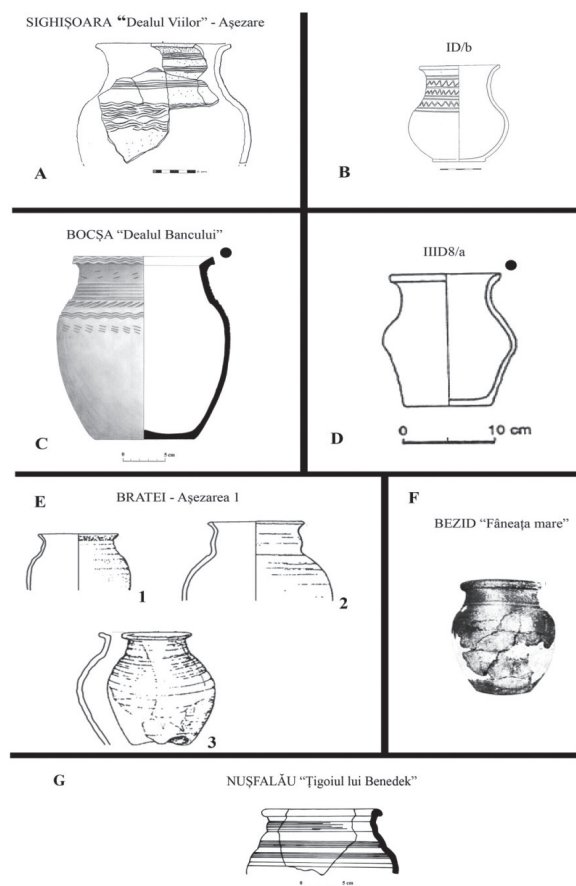


Fig. 9. Pots with prolonged neck, modelled on the fast-turning wheel or by hand (I) (A – taken from *Harhoiu, Baltag 2007*; B – taken from *Vida 1999*; C – taken from *Băcuet-Crișan, Bejinariu 2014*; D – taken from *Vida 1999*; E – taken from *Bărzu 1994–1995* and *Stanciu 2015*; F – taken from *Székely 1976*); G – taken from *Băcuet-Crișan 2014*).

⁷ Băcuet-Crișan 2007, 36; Băcuet-Crișan 2017, 193–194.

⁸ Stanciu 2015, Fig. 7.

⁹ Bărzu 1994–1995, Fig. 7/21.

¹⁰ Székely 1976, Pl. LV/1.

¹¹ Vida 1999, 76, Abb. 17.

¹² Băcuet-Crișan, Bejinariu 2014, 233, Fig. 4.

¹³ Vida 1999, Abb. 59.

As previously mentioned, the formal and technical features of the fast wheel-thrown pottery from the Silvania Basin are indicative of two existing classes differentiating by fabric and appearance of vessel wall surfaces¹⁴. The *Lazuri-Nuşfalău-type pottery*¹⁵ is made of good quality fabric, either fine or coarse and has a varied repertory of forms: handleless pot, porringer, amphora like vessel, lid, beaker/cup. Its formal, technical and technological specificities draw it much near to late ancient tradition pottery forms. The archaeological excavations conducted in north-western Romania (more extensively in the Silvania Basin) did not yet yield enough information in order to explain the mechanism/mechanisms by which such technological knowledge was transferred from late Antiquity to the early Middle Ages, therefore future research must clarify this aspect¹⁶ too.

c. The oxidised fast wheel-thrown pottery, a possible “identity card” of Romanic groups?

Until recently, pottery firing kilns dated to the early medieval period whose goods would contain fast wheel-thrown pottery have not been discovered in Transylvania. However, the situation changed subsequent to the excavation campaigns conducted in 2012–2013¹⁷ at *Viilor Hill Sighișoara* (sector *Cemetery*) which yielded the pottery firing kiln whose goods contained mostly fast wheel-thrown pottery. We have argued elsewhere there are many similarities between the *Lazuri-Nuşfalău* type pottery from north-western Romania and that from the potter’s kiln of *Viilor Hill Sighișoara* (sector *Cemetery*), the two belonging to the same pottery type of late ancient tradition¹⁸.

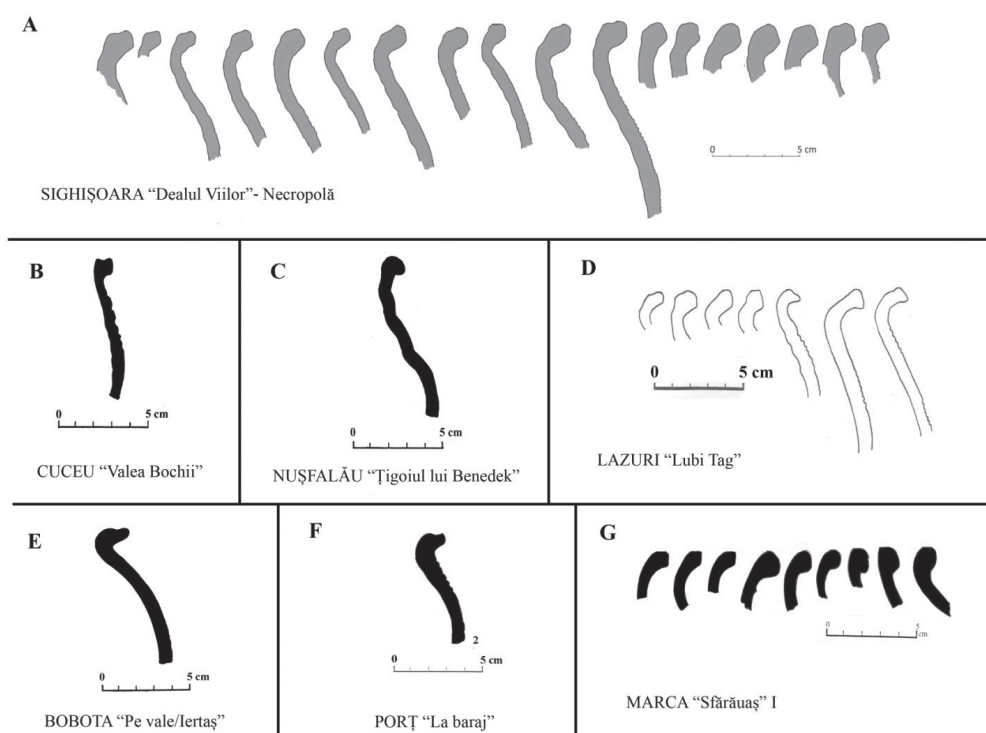


Fig. 10. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning potters’ wheel. Rims with complex profile (A – taken from Spănu, Gáll 2016; B – taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2006a; C – taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2014; D – taken from Stanciu 2000; E – taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2010; F – taken from Matei, Băcuet-Crișan 2011; G – taken from Băcuet-Crișan 2017).

¹⁴ Băcuet-Crișan 2007, 36; Băcuet-Crișan 2014, 111.

¹⁵ This pottery was object of several approaches dealing with its technical-formal specificities and chronology (Stanciu 2000, 145; Băcuet-Crișan 2007, 37; Stanciu 2013, 362; Băcuet-Crișan, Bejinariu 2014, 236).

¹⁶ Stanciu 2000, 146–150; Băcuet-Crișan 2014, 112.

¹⁷ Spănu, Gáll 2016, 177.

¹⁸ Băcuet-Crișan 2017, 189–209.

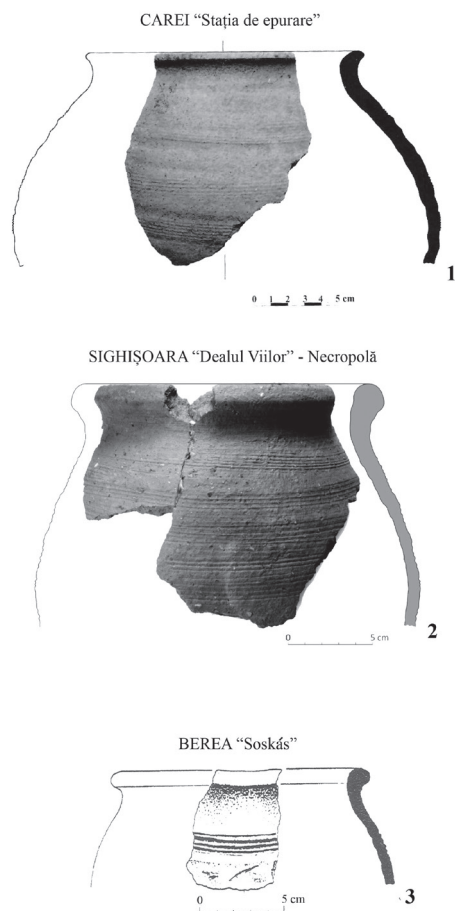


Fig. 11. Pots modelled on the fast-turning potters' wheel. Common formal features (1 – taken from Romát 2014; 2 – taken from Spânu, Gáll 2016; 3 – taken from Stanciu 2000).

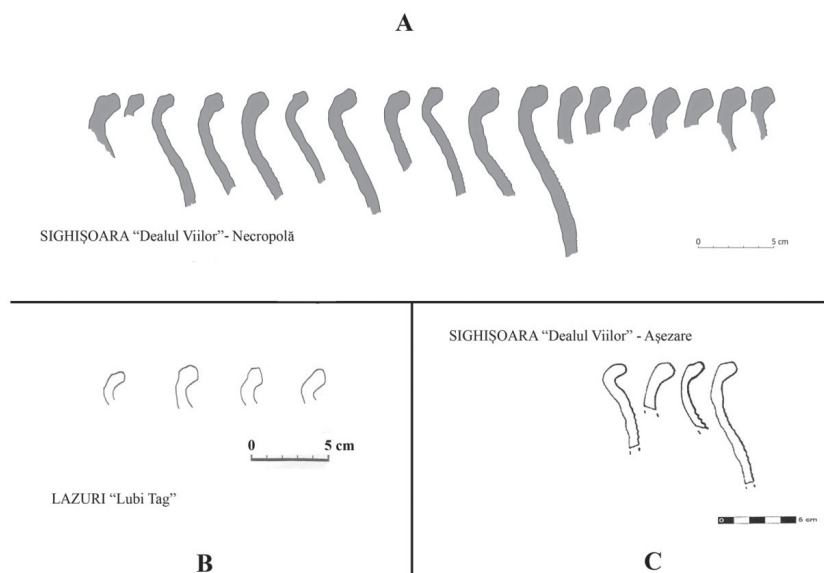


Fig. 12. Pottery modelled on the fast-turning wheel. Rims with complex profile. Common formal features (A – taken from Spânu, Gáll 2016; B – taken from Stanciu 2000; C – taken from Harhoiu, Baltag 2007).

Most interesting results were provided by the comparative analysis of pottery profiles from the potter's kiln of Viilor Hill Sighișoara (sector Cemetery) (including the fast wheel-thrown pottery from Sighișoara Dealul Viilor – (sector Settlement) with those identified in the settlement of Lazuri Lubi tag. Most rims with complex profiles among the pottery discovered in the potter's kiln of Viilor

Hill Sighișoara (sector *Cemetery*) (as well as certain rims of fast wheel-thrown vessels discovered at Sighișoara *Dealul Viilor* – (sector *Settlement*) are identical with certain specimens from the *Lazuri-Nușfalău* type pottery from north-western Romania¹⁹.

The similarities (technological, structural and formal) between the fast wheel-thrown pottery discovered at Sighișoara *Dealul Viilor* (in the potter's kiln discovered in the *Cemetery* sector and the contemporary habitation features identified in the *Settlement* sector) and the *Lazuri-Nușfalău* type fast wheel-thrown pottery from north-western Romania led to a series of questions:

- Do they have common origin?
- Are they contemporary?
- Are they a community product (or of several communities)?
- Is the ethnicity of the communities (from the two geographical areas) which produced this pottery type the same/different?

The pottery firing kiln of Sighișoara *Dealul Viilor* is an unquestionable argument in the support of the existence during the 7th – 8th century of a local pottery production (oxidised) modelled on the fast turning potter's wheel, a chronological (transition stage) also referenced by I. Stanciu²⁰. For the north-western area of Romania (implicitly also for the Sylvania Basin), a first argument of an existent local production (of fast wheel-thrown pottery) was provided by the results of analyses (of XRF and FTIR type) performed in 2018 on pottery fragments from the settlement at Nușfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek*²¹, which confirmed previous hypotheses regarding the existence in north-western Romania of a production and distribution centre/centres of fast wheel-thrown pottery²².

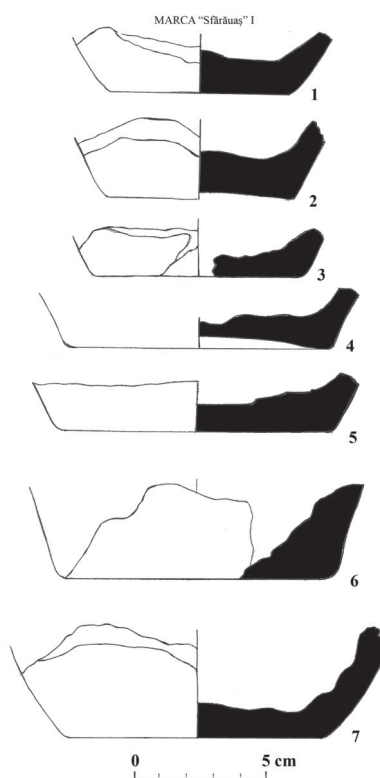


Fig. 13. Bases of pots modelled on the fast-turning potters' wheel, discovered in Marca *Sfărăuș I* (taken from *Băcuet-Crișan 2018*).

¹⁹ Băcuet-Crișan 2017, Fig. 12.

²⁰ Stanciu 2000, 150.

²¹ Five soil samples and six pottery samples were investigated by non-destructive analyses (XRF, FTIR). The analysed pottery fragments come of vessels modelled of local clay. The pottery firing temperature was around 800°C. The analyses were performed by I. Bratu, C. Maruțoiu, I. Kacso, V.C. Maruțoiu, Gh. Borodi (INCDTIM Cluj-Napoca and UBB Cluj-Napoca), whom I thank here too. Their results shall be published in detail (Băcuet-Crișan, Bejinariu 2020, 82).

²² For the presence of the fast wheel-thrown pottery in north-western Romania were issued two hypotheses: product of a local Romanic population or as the result of moving Romanic population groups from central Transylvania towards the north-western area (Stanciu 2000, 150; Băcuet-Crișan 2007, 38–39).

The archaeological facts (at least those established insofar) show that in the Avar period (the *middle and late horizon* included) by the periphery of the Avar Khaganate (the case of the potter's kiln of Sighișoara Dealul Viilor – the Cemetery sector) or outside its borders, in the neighbouring/boundary areas (the case of the north-western area of Romania and implicitly the Silvania Basin) there existed potter's workshops in which late ancient tradition pottery was still manufactured.

Regarding the continuation of the late ancient tradition pottery in peripheral areas, this time in the Kingdom of the Gepid's case, rather interesting is the situation of the orange-brick pottery (oxidised) modelled on the fast turning potter's wheel in a series of settlements from northern Transylvania (Bistrița-Năsăud county), at Ocnița (the 6th century – first decades of the 7th century AD)²³, Stupini *Vătaștină* (the 5th – 6th century), Stupini *Fănațele Archiudului*, Sânmihaiu de Câmpie *Ciorotei* or Sângeorzu Nou²⁴. The orange-brick pottery discovered in these settlements was interpreted either as a regional aspect or as possible indicator of a distinct ethnic group perpetuating the ancient tradition of making oxidised pottery²⁵. Furthermore, related to the continuation of the late ancient tradition pottery, it was maintained that the fast wheel-thrown gray pottery (either fine or coarse) was produced only until the first half of the 7th century²⁶, statement though invalidated by the presence of this pottery class in house L. 1/1994 (dated to the 7th century, possibly only the second half of the 7th century) in the settlement of Iernut/Sf Gheorghe (Mureș county)²⁷, which leads to the conclusion that the reduced (gray) fast wheel-thrown pottery was still produced also after mid 7th century, possibly until the last third of the 7th century²⁸.

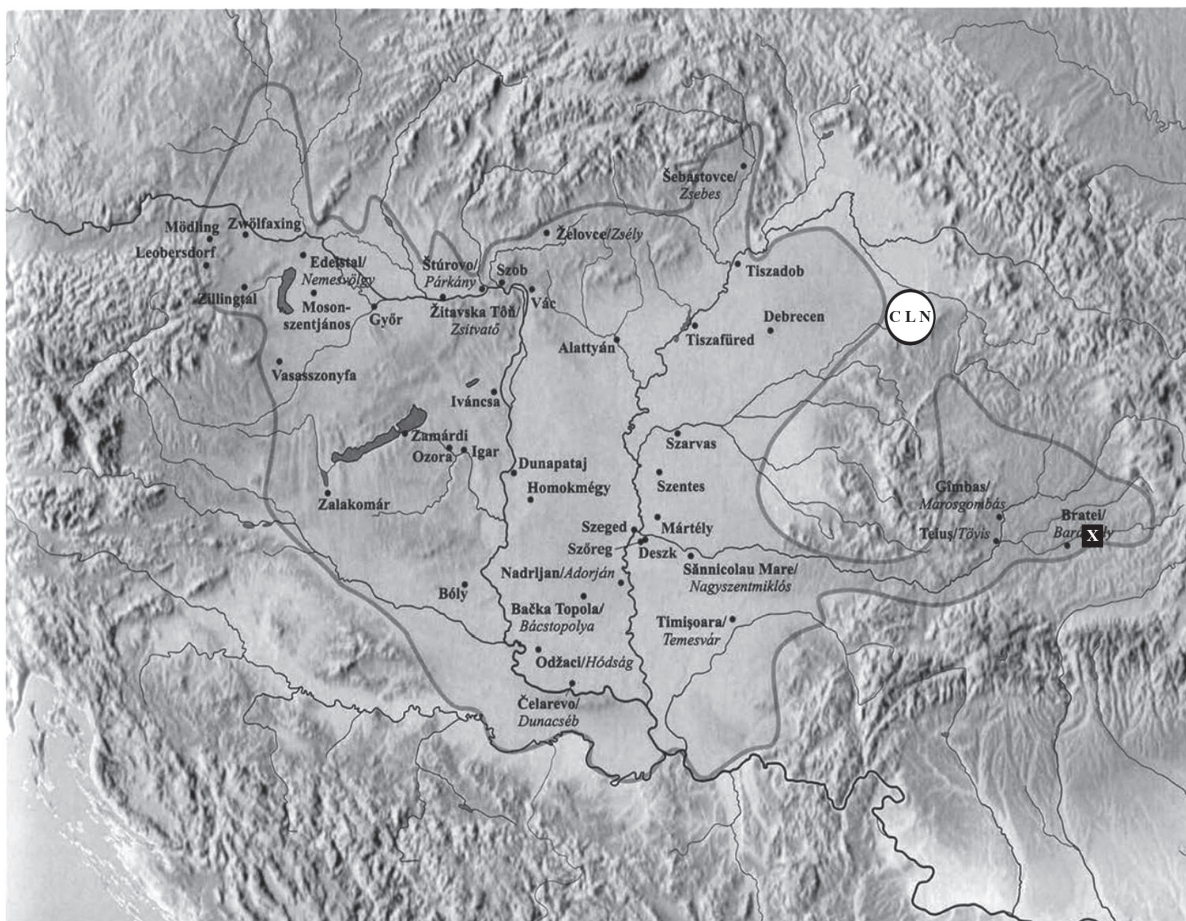


Fig. 14. The Avar Khaganate in the 8th century (graphic processing after Bodo et al. 2008). Location of the pottery kiln from Sighișoara Dealul Viilor (X) and the north-western area of Romania with Lazuri-Nuşfalău-type pottery (CLN).

²³ Gaiu 1994, 50–52.

²⁴ Gaiu 2002, 122.

²⁵ Gaiu 2002, 122.

²⁶ Harhoiu 2011, 25.

²⁷ Cosma 2014, 182–183.

²⁸ Stanciu 2000, 149.

The find of the potter's kiln at Sighișoara Dealul Viilor (Cemetery sector) which contained fast wheel-thrown pottery (oxidised) completes the information on the production/use of late ancient tradition pottery in the area of the former province of *Dacia* over the course of the early medieval period. However, as previously specified, the mechanisms by which the production of this pottery type continued until the early Middle Ages without losing late technological and formal features need to be explained. Obviously, the ethnicity of such pottery makers cannot be established only on the basis of archaeological artefacts (pottery fragments), nonetheless, one must keep in mind a few aspects: the oxidised fast wheel-thrown pottery is not specific to Germanic populaces, such a pottery making technique did not belong to the Slavic peoples²⁹, while the possibility that the Avars had been the promoters of this pottery production has already been questioned³⁰. Therefore, we believe one must also take into account the possibility that such oxidised fast wheel-thrown pottery represented “the identity card” of the Romanic population surviving in both the Kingdom of the Gepids and the Avar Khaganate, hypothesis supported elsewhere in the Romanian archaeological literature³¹, too.

Currently, the Romanian archaeological literature does not approach at all (with few exceptions) the survival issue of the “invisible” Romanic peoples³² (from ex *Provincia Dacia*) during the Migrations period and the early Middle Ages in the Gepidic, Slavic and Avar cultural environments³³, despite the fact that most recent archaeological investigations (particularly in the north-western part of Romania) led to the find of pottery artefacts exhibiting specificities suggesting late Antiquity reminiscences. Referring to the perpetuation of the ancient element and late ancient tradition pottery (*Group Csákberény*), T. Vida argued that “It is hard to imagine the transmission of such models without the physical survival of a Romanized population”³⁴ (“it is rather difficult to image that these models were passed on without the physical survival of the Romanized population”). Therefore, the existence/continuation/survival of the Romanized population (Romanic populace) on the territory of the former province of *Dacia* over the course of these historical periods is not singular given the archaeologically reported cases in other Roman provinces (*Pannonia*³⁵, on the *Norico-Pannonic limes*³⁶, Slovenia or the south-east Alpine area³⁷ and so on).

d. The Lazuri-Nușfalău type pottery. Relative and absolute chronological landmarks

With reference to the dating of the *Lazuri-Nușfalău* type pottery (which also included that from the settlement of *Marca Sfârâuș I*, whose monograph has been recently published³⁸) and the settlements where fast wheel-thrown vessels were identified, several chronological sequences have been suggested over the evolution of research. In 2000 the first analysis which also targeted the fast wheel-thrown pottery from north-western Romania was published, the finds from the *Lazuri Lubi tag* site being date to the 9th–10th century³⁹, despite the ancient tradition elements (otherwise noted in respective analysis), whose presence evidenced a chronological segment closer to late Antiquity. Intensified archaeological excavations in the *Silvania Basin* led to an increased number of finds of the type, these being conducted in the settlements of *Pericei Keller tag*, *Nușfalău Țigoiul lui Benedek*, *Bobota Pe vale/Iertaș*,

²⁹ Stanciu 2000, 148.

³⁰ Stanciu 2000, 148.

³¹ Stanciu 2000, 149–150; Băcuet-Crișan 2007, 38–39; Băcuet-Crișan 2017, 206.

³² Härke 2007, 57–67.

³³ There are also views according to which such topic is of nationalist nature and should no longer be discussed. Nevertheless, admittedly, the survival of the “invisible” Romanic peoples on the territory of the former Roman province of *Dacia* was not fully understood/explained. Evidently, such an approach should not be made allegedly patriotic (as erroneously occurring in the Communist era!), but by relation with methods/analyses/results obtained by the academic environment in countries where the topic of the Romanic peoples' survival is part of research paths concerned with the evolution of the former Roman provinces during the Migrations' period and the early Middle Ages (the “invisible/silent/inexistent” Romanic peoples, see Härke 2007, 57–67).

³⁴ Vida 2008, 36.

³⁵ Vida 2008, 36–41; Papeša 2012, 437.

³⁶ Gattringer, Grünwald 1981, 199–210.

³⁷ Perko 1995, 241–248; Rodriguez 1997, 153 and subsq.

³⁸ Băcuet-Crișan, Bejinariu 2020, 84.

³⁹ Stanciu 2000, 156.

Porţ *La baraj*, Marca *Primăria nouă*, Aghireş *Sub păşune*, Marca *Sfârăuaş I*, where such pottery was discovered (in various quantities). For some of the sites (Nuşfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek*, Marca *Sfârăuaş I*) an earlier dating (targeting mainly the 7th – 8th century)⁴⁰ was suggested. In 2003, the chronology of the site at Lazuri *Lubi tag* was revised, a dating to the 8th century – first half of the 9th century (possibly only the 8th century) being proposed and it was assumed this horizon (characterised by fast wheel-pottery) emerged suddenly (by mid or second half of the 8th century) through the arrival in the area of a new population group⁴¹. Further chronological assessments of the site were carried out on the basis of a bronze earring with stellar pendant dated to the end of the 8th century – first half of the 9th century⁴². With respect to the possibility of establishing an earlier lower (chronological) for this horizon (containing *Lazuri-Nuşfalău type pottery*) it was asserted that in north-western Romania, there are no arguments in favour of existing settlements (with frequently used fast wheel-thrown pottery) established in the second half of the 7th century⁴³, this production type starting in the 8th century, a local evolution being excluded⁴⁴. The most recent proposition of chronological framing of the Lazuri *Lubi tag* site (expressed in the site's archaeological monograph) encompasses the second half of the 8th – early or first half of the 9th century⁴⁵.

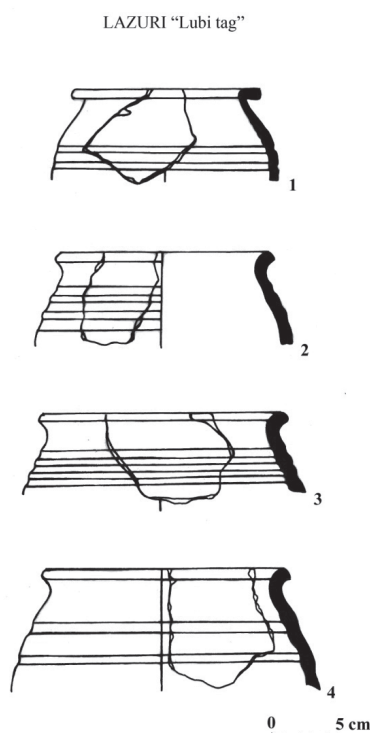


Fig. 15. Examples of pots modelled on the fast-turning potters' wheel, discovered in Lazuri *Lubi tag* (taken from *Stanciu 2000*).

Not much may be said on the set-up manner (structure and internal topography) of the Lazuri *Lubi tag* settlement (Satu Mare county), since of the total (estimated) site area only 5% was archaeologically investigated, 24 early medieval features being identified (a house, pits/house appurtenances, three wells), which, given their spatial distribution, evidence three areas (those "islands") which they

⁴⁰ Băcuet-Crişan 2014, 23-24; Băcuet-Crişan 2018, 600; Băcuet-Crişan 2019, 164.

⁴¹ Stanciu 2003, 263-264, 265.

⁴² Stanciu 2015a, 128.

⁴³ Stanciu 2016, 215.

⁴⁴ Stanciu 2016, 218.

⁴⁵ Still in the same monograph, the beginning of the fast wheel-thrown pottery in north-western Romania is referenced (the agreed time frame being the 8th century/possibly the second half of the 8th century) by relation to the original dating (erroneous, *nota bene!*) of the pots' firing kiln of Sighişoara *Dealul Viilor* (Stanciu 2016, 261), arguments, which in our view, are unconvincing.

occupied⁴⁶. Notably, within these “islands” there are also archaeological structures close in distance terms (like the case of house C. 40/2001 and appurtenance C. 39/2001) suggesting interconnection relations. It is interesting that all wells are set at a distance from habitation structures, being excavated within the same perimeter where the water source was identified. To the “island” where the three wells were excavated also belongs feature C. 54⁴⁷, which, according to the excavation manner seems to have functioned (at least at the beginning) as clay extraction pit, later changed into refuse pit (with several other possible pits composing it).

The layout interpreting of certain structures in the Lazuri *Lubi tag* settlement requires a number of observations, like for instance the clustering of the archaeological material in areas 9–11/1995 and 43/2002 (together with a multitude of postholes and posts of various diameters) which were supposedly part of a single complex (with even layout “variants” suggested)⁴⁸, however the route of some of the postholes indicates rather several walls in existence, pertaining to distinct archaeological structures and which, most likely, did not function concurrently. In general, the published pottery lot is characterised by a certain degree of homogeneity which is specific to all three pottery classes (hand-made, slow wheel-thrown and fast wheel-thrown). Nevertheless, there are later pottery fragments (the pottery from C. 113a/1997 and “deposition” 1/1993), strikingly odd compared to the rest of the pottery there, an unfortunately insufficiently argued⁴⁹ late chronological stage (markers of another settlement?). We believe⁵⁰ that the published early medieval archaeological material suggests the existence of at least two inhabitancy stages post the 6th – 7th century:

- The early stage, mainly argued by the fast wheel-thrown pottery (the 7th – 8th century, contemporaneous with the settlements of Marca *Sfârâuaş I* and Nuşfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek*).
- The late stage, which most likely belongs to another settlement (datable around 1000) evidenced (for now) by feature C. 113a/1997 and “deposition” 1/1993.

Obviously, the chronology of *Lazuri-Nuşfalău* type pottery sites, was drafted based on analogies/parallels noted in various cultural areas and milieus. Formal/structural similarities with the pottery lot from the potter’s kiln of Sighișoara *Dealul Viilor* (pottery that was not, by any means, mixed with strata from previous inhabitancy) of definite late ancient tradition features, suggests that the two pottery types were contemporaneous. In order to obtain more accurate landmarks on chronological stages, C 14 analyses were performed for Marca *Sfârâuaş I* (in 2020). In order to complete the chronological data, still in 2020 were performed C 14 tests also for the settlement of Nuşfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek*, the obtained absolute chronology data being as follows⁵¹:

- for Marca *Sfârâuaş I*: AD 662–776
- for Nuşfalău *Țigoiul lui Benedek*: AD 669–776

We are aware that the number of such analyses is small (for now), the obtained results failing to entirely settle the chronology of respective remains, however, absolute dates are finally available (after many debates in the academic literature), which (at least for the time being) confirm hypotheses expressed some time ago (in the Romanian literature) related to the early start (in the second half of the 7th century) of some settlements (from the Sylvania Basin) that belong to the horizon of *Lazuri-Nuşfalău* type finds⁵².

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⁴⁶ Stanciu 2016, 25-26, Fig. 7.

⁴⁷ Stanciu 2016, Pl. XXXVII.

⁴⁸ Stanciu 2016, Fig. 13.

⁴⁹ Stanciu 2016, 183, 255.

⁵⁰ Băcuet-Crişan, Bejinariu 2020, 85.

⁵¹ Băcuet-Crişan, Bejinariu 2020, 85.

⁵² Băcuet-Crişan, Bejinariu 2020, 86.

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Abbreviations

AEM	Archäologisch-epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn, Vienna.
AM	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași.
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău.
AMV	Acta Musei Varnaensis, Varna.
Angustia	Angustia. Revista Muzeului Național al Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sf. Gheorghe.
Anuarul MJIAP (S.N.)	Anuarul Muzeului de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova, Serie Nouă, Ploiești.
Antiquity	Antiquity. A review of world archaeology, Durham.
Archaeological Journal	Archaeological Journal. New Series. Chișinău.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.
ArchPol	Archaeologia Polona, Warsaw.
ArchRozhledy	Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha.
ASM	Archaeologica Slovaca Monographiae, Bratislava.
BAR (Int. S.)	British Archaeological Reports (International Series), Oxford.
Biharea	Biharea. Culegere de studii și materiale de etnografie și artă, Oradea.
BMG	Bibliotheca Musei Giurgiuvensis, Giurgiu.
BMJT	Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman. Seria Arheologie, Alexandria.
BMM	Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Târgu Mureș.
Budapest Régiségei	Budapest Régiségei Régészeti és Történeti Évkönyv. Budapest.
CA București	Cercetări arheologice în București, București.
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice, București.
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin.
CsSzME	A Csíki Székely Múzeum Évkönyve. Csíkszereda.
Dacia (N.S.)	Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Nouvelle serie. București.
Dolgozatok	Dolgozatok a Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem Archaeológiai Intézetéből. Szeged.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
Erdély	Erdély. Turistai, fürdőügyi és néprajzi folyóirat, Cluj-Napoca.
FontArchPrag	Fontes Archaeologici Pragenses, Prague.
Földtközl.	Földtani közlöny, Budapest.
HOMÉ	A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve, Miskolc.
ILD	C. C. Petolescu, <i>Inscripții latine din Dacia</i> , Bucharest 2005.
JAHA	Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Cluj-Napoca.
Jahrb. RGZM	Jahrbuch des Römisch Germanischen Zentralmuseums zu Mainz, Mainz.
JAMÉ	Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyiregyháza.
Karpatika	Karpatika, Uzhorod.
LMI	List of Historic Monuments, updated 2015.
Marisia	Marisia. Studies and Materials. Archeology. Târgu-Mureș.
MCA (S.N.)	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice Serie Nouă. București
MemAntiq	Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra Neamț.
NNA	Nordisk Numismatisk Årsskrift, Stockholm.
PAS	Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa, Rahden/Westf.
PAT	Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transylvanicum, Cluj-Napoca.
Paléo	PALEO – Revue d'archéologie préhistorique, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.
Pallas	Pallas. Revue d'études antiques, Toulouse.

PNAS	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Washington.
PZ	Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin.
RAN	National Archaeological Repertory.
RM	Revista Muzeelor, București.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SatuMareSC	Satu Mare Studii și Comunicări, Satu Mare.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, București.
SCȘMI	Studii și Comunicări Științifice ale Muzeelor de Istorie, București.
SIB	Studii de Istorie a Banatului, Timișoara.
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